

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION: FINDINGS –OBSERVATIONS – RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter presents a brief description with reference to the findings – observations made and includes some of the recommendations and suggestions for future research in the study of pronouns, and other parts of speech in the Malaysian Tamil in general and that of Malaysian Spoken Tamil in particular in greater depth, applying the sociolinguistics methodology.

The presentation has been made in three sub-sections viz,

- I. Findings and observations made through the analysis
- II. The achievement of the goals and objectives set-up
- III. Suggestions and recommendations for future research in the area of LS and LU w.r.t. MST

5.1 Findings and observations made through this research study

I. Occurrence of honorific Singular Forms

Second Person: only ni:ńka (l) / ni:ńke with variants óńka (l) -/ ońke –

There is no intermediate honorific singular ni:r ‘you’ (hon.sg.) – 2nd level as found in other varieties of Tamil or its alternants om-/um- with case suffixes or pronominal endings like –um, –i: r, etc (in finite verb forms imperatives or others)

The pronunciation of the forms in second person, especially before the word boundary (#) shows /-e/ (phonetically -E)

ni:ńka(l)	—————→	[ni:ńgɛ] #	‘you’ (hon.sg.)
ni:ńkaɭum	—————→	[ni:ńgaɭt]	‘you(hon.sg.) also’

Third Person Pronouns

Human plural → Epicene Plural (used as human honorific singular also)

But, these forms are common for both masculine and feminine.

avańke	/	avańka(l) –	
ivańke	/	ivańka(l) -	‘they’ + hum.hon.sg

avañke #	/	ivañke #	
avañkaḷe	/	ivañkaḷe #	'him/her (hon.)

(Human) Masculine Honorific Singular

The forms avar(u) / ivar(u) are exclusively used to denote the masculine honorific singular in Malaysian Spoken Tamil. The same type of conditionings applies to the variants viz. avar - / avaru are the final / u/ is invariably pronounced as [i] word finally and the third person pronouns are formed with a- and i-. The two demonstrative bases. G.N. suffixes viz., -van , -vaḷ , -tu , -var(u) , -vañka(l) / -vañke # are added to these bases. However, the suffixes -vañka(l) / -vañke when they occur with these two bases denote human honorific singular in third person.

There is no suffix to denote non-human plural at all. The singular pronoun forms are used to denote plural (non-human) also. There is a pattern of plural expression with the addition of collective pronoun forms ella:m [ella:] after the G>N>SUFFIX /-tu/.

atu -	ella:m	>	atella:m	[adella:]	'all those'
itu -	ella:m	>	itella:m	[idella :]	'all these'

Occurrence of Reflexive Pronoun Forms

There are reflexive pronouns in MST. They are: i) ta:n / tan

and

ii) ta:ńka(l)- / tańkał-

However, the frequency of occurrence of ta:ńka(l) is relatively very low.

The occurrence of reflexive verb forms is found as an auxiliary verb construction.

- i. The auxiliary verb forms used are : -ko: / -ko:ńge that occur with the imperative constructions
- ii. There are alternants such as -ku-/ -ki- before tense suffixes

The occurrences of constructions such as

- i. tanakku ta:ne:
- ii. tanakku ta:ne: -ceńcukira:n
ref ref. verb
- iii. aven tanakku ta:ne: ceńcukira:n
 [avɛ tanakku ta:ne: senjukira:]

‘He does (everything) for by himself’

This kind of usage (tanakku / ta:ne:) is common for both masculine and feminine.

First Person Plural Forms

There are two plural forms to denote first person viz. exclusive and inclusive in MST. The inclusive plural forms na:mpa(l) / nampa(l) are:

- i. quite frequently and commonly used
- ii. these two variants are in free variation and occur as subjects
- iii. the base na:mpa(l)- occurs as the case base

The exclusive plural na:ńka(!) - / na:ńke is not that common or frequent. It is used in the careful speech style of the informants (conscious about using more standard Tamil forms, especially those found nearer to the modern written Tamil forms). It is possible to identify a kind of convergence taking place in the use of these two plural viz. exclusive and inclusive. The convergence is more towards the inclusive form.* This seems to be an interesting on –going process in the use of language but an in-depth research is needed to establish this kind of convergence and the loss of one plural in the spoken variety.

* This is what happened in the Jaffna Tamil in which the convergence/ merger is towards the exclusive plural (na:ńka! / eńka!-)/.

Subject – Predicate Agreement

There is perfect agreement in the syntactic structure of Tamil between the subject and predicate. This very well holds good for

	i) NP+NP sentences
and	ii) NP+VP sentences,

in the simple sentence structure. In compound sentences also there is a kind of agreement between subjects and predicates.

N1 + N2 \longleftrightarrow NP Pl.

N1 + N2 \longleftrightarrow VP (in plural)

Or (NP1 + NP2)

In non human, however there is no difference between singular and plural subjects or predicate forms. However, sometimes / ella:m / [ella:] is added to the singular

pronouns / nouns when they occur as subjects. Eventhough / ella:m/ is added to the subjects, no explicit suffix is added to the verb form in the predicate.

eg: atu vaṅṅicci 'it came' (they (non.human.) came)

atella:m vaṅṅicci 'they(non.human.) all came'

Use of pronouns in different socio-cultural contexts/ situations/ politeness expressions

1. Use of ~ńka(l) / -ńka

~ńka(l) is used as a suffix added to many grammatical forms, especially in conversations to show respect/ honour or to be polite to the other participants in conversation.

eg : avaru - ńka	'it is he(hon.) sir, please'
varuva:ru - ńka	'he (hon.) will come (here) sir'
nanri - ńka	'thank you sir'
nallatu -ńka	'that is good/ fine , please'
ya:ru -ńka	'who is it?' (politeness)
e:n - ńka > e:ńka	'what sir?'
ille -ńka > illeńka	'no/ it is not sir'

Sometimes, it is added after the plural or G.N. Suffixes like -ńka (l), -a:ńka(l)

vanda:ńka - ńka 'he/she(hon.) came sir' (polite way)

avańka - ńka

‘he/she (hon.)’ (with politeness)

There is a peculiar construction in the MST in which no such subject-predicate agreement is found. This is because of the absence of the possessive noun suffix –tu after the possessive case form. The possessive case form functions as the possessive noun form – a finite form.

eg : atu enno:te vi:tu

> a tu enno:te ‘it/that is mine’

itu avaro:te ka:ti

> itu avaro:te ‘it is his car’/ ‘it is his’

Even in the interrogative sentences, one could find this type of occurrence

eg: itu ya:ro:te ?

‘whose one is this/it’/?

> itu tampiyo:te

‘it is younger brother’s’

5.2 Achievement / accomplishments of the objectives set up

The researcher was able to identify all types of pronouns occurring in the MST in different linguistic environments (in morphological and syntactic structures). All these pronoun forms with their alternants have been conditioned in a systematic way following the principles of structural linguistics.

All such morphological forms and their alternants enter into larger constructions like phrases and sentences. These constructions have been analysed using the phrases structure and syntactic rules to explain their distributions. In addition to the linguistic environment (conditions), the contextual occurrences of such forms also have been identified and explained using the sociolinguistics methodology. The structural differences between the MWT and MST have been made as a statement with reference to the pronouns.

So the study presented here on pronouns is relatively a more adequate, well organized and formalized description.

5.3 Suggestions and Recommendations for future research

Through this short term research provides a fairly adequate description, still there are a number of unexplored contextual usages. This needs lot more data and that too genuine data for analysis using the sociolinguistics as well as discourse methodologies.

So, there is ample scope for undertaking research in the following areas:

- i. Social stratification of structure and use of spoken Tamil in the Malaysian situation
- ii. Study of sociolinguistic variations is different levels of language such as phonetic, phonological, morphological, syntactic, etc.
- iii. Study of the functional importance of language – linguistic and contextual with reference to different types of discourse in Tamil
- iv. Modernization of Tamil from the points view of language use in formal domains(such as education, administration, mass media, science and technology, etc.)

- v. Study of Tamil Diglossia and its present day significance from the points of view of language use and language structure.