

PERPUSTAKAAN UNIVERSITI MALAYA

ACU 2000

INTS.2/100-108

**THE CURRENT RELEVANCE OF NANNUL COLLATIKARAM
IN MODERN TAMIL**

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**A dissertation submitted in fulfillment of the
requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts**

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Kuala Lumpur
2000**

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A510575550

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I would like to thank the Ministry of Education, Malaysia, for granting me a scholarship and twenty four months of study leave to enable me to undertake this research. I would like to express my appreciation to the then principle of Temenggong Ibrahim Teacher's Training College, Johore Bahru, for supporting me for the scholarship.

I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude to my supervisor Dr. K. Thilagawathi, who was so kind enough to guide and supervise my research during the past few years. It was a great pleasure and great privilege to have studied under her. If not for her invaluable guidance, I am sure that the present thesis would not have taken this shape.

It is my pleasure to acknowledge my indebtedness to Prof. Pon. Kothandaraman for his help and encouragement throughout the duration of this study directly or indirectly. I also thank Dr.S P.Thinnappan ,for suggesting me this wonderful topic .

Finally, to my dear wife, S.S. Punnitha Devi, for being the source of moral encouragement through-out this study and helping to type this report, and my dear children Manjeri, Kehsiga and Raseega for their patience, I give my special thanks.

ABSTRACT

This study is about a Tamil grammatical treatise, *Nannūl*, written by Sage Pavaṇanti, about seven hundred years ago. This book has two main divisions, one on phonology and the other on morphology and syntax.

This book is written in verse forms, known as *sūtra*. There are 462 *sūtras* in the book. Many commentators have written commentaries for *Nannūl*, without which the present generation will find it very difficult to comprehend, Sage Pavaṇanti's grammatical theories and rules.

This study concentrates on the second part of the book; but one chapter, 'pataviyal', from the first part on phonology is also taken for the analysis since it speaks about the morphology of Tamil words.

The portion on morphology or collatikāram has 205 sūtras and 'pataviyal' has 23 sūtras. So, this study elucidates 228 sūtras to find out about Sage Pavaṇanti's concepts about Tamil morphology and syntax.

The second portion, 'collatikāram', deals with Tamil grammatical categories like nouns, verbs, non-root forms (iṭaicol) and root forms (uricol).

The main aim of this study is to identify Pavaṇanti's grammatical theories and analyse the contents in order to evaluate their current relevance for modern Tamil.

Content analysis is the methodology used in this study, i.e. sutras were read referring to commentaries of the well known commentators; this was done in the light of the modern linguists' views in order to get most appropriate interpretations. Consequently, the author

was able to sort out sutras which seem obsolete , those which are partially irrelevant, those which can be relevant when they are modified,etc.

Only a few of the nurpas are totally obsolete. A few nūr̄pas need modifications. Approximately, 95% of the nūr̄pas are still applicable.

There are some new grammatical elements which are extensively used today but are not mentioned in old grammar. These need recognition in modern Tamil grammar.

ABSTRAK

Kajian ini adalah mengenai satu buku tatabahasa Tamil, *Nannūl*, yang dikarang oleh seorang sami bernama Pavananti, pada tahun 1200 - 1300 A.D. Buku ini ada dua bahagian besar iaitu fonologi dalam bahagian pertama dan morfologi serta sintaksis dalam bahagian kedua.

Buku ini ditulis dalam bentuk sajak. Ia mengandungi 462 sūtra. Ramai pengulas telah menghasilkan ulasan dan keterangan mengenai buku *Nannul* yang telah menyenangkan jenerasi kini untuk memahami sutra-sutra yang terdapat dalam buku *Nannūl* serta teori-teori dan peraturan-peraturan penulis buku *Nannūl*.

Kajian ini menumpukan kepada bahagian kedua yang memperkatakan tentang morfologi dan sintaksis. Satu tajuk, 'pataviyal', daripada bahagian pertama juga diambil kira sebab ini memperkatakan struktur

morfologi kata-kata Tamil. Bahagian ini mengandungi sebanyak 23 sutra manakala bahagian kedua mempunyai sebanyak 205 sūtra. Lantaran itu, sejumlah 228 sutra telah dikaji untuk memahami konsep penulis buku ini tentang tatabahasa Tamil.

Bahagian kedua, 'Collatikāram', membincangkan tentang bahagian-bahagian tatabahasa seperti katanama, katakerja, gantinama dan lain-lain.

Tujuan kajian ini adalah untuk menilai betapa relevannya bahagian kedua dalam buku Nannūl, bagi bahasa Tamil moden.

Metodologi yang digunakan adalah analisis tentang kandungan buku Nannul. Kaedah membaca kesemua sutra dengan teliti dengan bantuan ulasan-ulasan serta panduan dari ahli-ahli bahasa masa kini telah membantu memahami sutra-sutra yang terdapat dalam buku ini.

Hanya sejumlah bilangan kecil sutra daripada sutra-sutra yang dikaji didapati tidak boleh digunakan sekarang. Lebih kurang 95% daripada sutra-sutra yang dikaji merupakan sangat berguna sehingga masa kini.

Didapati juga elemen-elemen baru tatabahasa Tamil yang muncul di dalam bahasa Tamil moden yang tidak terdapat dalam tatabahasa tradisi. Adalah tuntutan masa kini bagi mewujudkan peraturan-peraturan baru untuk menerima elemen-elemen baru ke dalam tatabahasa Tamil moden.

ABBREVIATIONS

Nan - Nannūl

Tol - Tolkāppiyam

TC - Tolkāppiya Collatikāram

Cen - Cēnāvaraiyar

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SCHEME OF TRANSLITERATION

அ	- a	க	- k	ல	- l
ஆ	- ā	ங	- ṅ	வ	- v
இ	- i	ச	- c	ழ	- ḷ
ஈ	- ī	ஞ	- ṅ	ள	- ḷ
உ	- u	ட	- ṭ	ற	- ṛ
ஊ	- ū	ண	- ṇ	ன	- ṇ
எ	- e	த	- t		
ஏ	- ē	ந	- n		
ஐ	- ai	ப	- p		
ஓ	- o	ம	- m		
ஔ	- ō	ய	- y		
ஔள	- au	ர	- r		
ஶ	- ṣ				