Chapter 1

Introduction
1.1. Introduction

Living creatures on this earth are interdependent for their survival. This behaviorism is not restricted to living creatures alone. Languages too, possess this interdependent behaviorism. Such a mutual relationship may fail to render best results among human beings, but never in the case of languages. As a result, many new elements were introduced to the field of languages. Compound verbs (CVs) may be cited as an example of a positive result that has arisen from language contact.

The bilateral relationship between the corresponding grammatical categories of two different languages establishes an efficient communicative system. Language, which is considered as a medium of communication, has two major channels. The first one is oral communication and the other named as literary form is the written language. Both channels provide scope to pursue researches to explore the uniqueness of individual languages. However, compared to written forms, spoken forms play a vital role in exhibiting the efficiency of language in communication. The following statement of Light Foot (1989: 22) may explain this:

Language is used in many ways for transmitting information, expressing thoughts, for lying, for play, for establishing personal relations, for creative activities like poetry, to arouse emotions, to indicate class backgrounds, and more.

Accordingly, language has become an important expressive asset to human beings. It assists people to express and share their thoughts, feelings and creative thinking.
At the same time, indirectly, it enables to create a platform to establish greater understanding between them.

It is important to remember that a language requires a considerable period of growth to attain such a growth. At a highly developed stage, it becomes a sophisticated medium of communication, and functions as a reflex arc indicating the intellectual achievement of a particular society. The following expression of Caldwell (1957: 9) is to be considered. He says:

> Even though a language hardly has a set of principles which would mould its growth in selected path in early days, the existing literary works of local geniuses in that language never fail to indicate the particular community’s lingual dignity, superiority and their excellence clearly. Tamil has been praised thus.

Classical works borne from the innovative minds of local geniuses are not merely literary contributions. Above all, they may be considered as a measuring rod to sum up the historical evolution and achievement of the corresponding linguistic community. For instance, Sangkam Literature can be referred to as the best evidence for his statement. Similarly, every remarkable feature of grammar found in a language would also contribute towards the dignity of the whole society.

Mu. Varataracan (1955 : 273-281) says that a highly developed language would provide better performance of communication in three ways. Language as a medium of communication:
1. helps to share views,
2. helps the development of creative thinking, and
3. acts as an instrument to preserve memory which is not easily erased.

Studies show that most grammarians agree with his opinion that a combination of these three roles necessitates a language to become a communicative tool. However, the effectiveness depends on the collective force of certain categories of a particular subordinates. Tamil distinguishes them into a number of groups, among which word formation plays a vital part. Word formation is considered as an important process that generates new words in order to fulfil the need for satisfactory communication. It is believed that this process would occur in two major ways - derivation and combination. Each process in turn has a few subordinates within itself. There are altogether nine of them as listed by C.Saktivel (1994:70):

1. **k uuTTaakkam** - compounding
   E.g. *tirai + paTam > tiraippaTam* ‘cinema’

2. **munnoTTaakkam** - prefixing
   E.g. *a + caataaraNam > acaataaraNam* ‘uncommon’

3. **pinnoTTaakkam** - suffixing
   E.g. *peeccu+ aaLar > peeccaaLar* ‘speaker’

4. **maaRRam** - change
   #E.g. *ndaaRRam* ‘smell’ > today used to indicate ‘bad smell’

5. **pinvTaTTaakkam** - back forming/reverse formation
   E.g. *pootanai > pooti* ‘teach’

6. **kattarippaakkam** - syncope
   E.g. *ceyalaar > ceyalar* ‘secretary’

7. **kalappaakkam** - combining
   E.g. *rayil + ndilaiyam > rayilndilaiyam* ‘railway station’
8. talaipezuttaakkam - acronym
   E.g. ki. mii. > kiloomiiTTar 'kilometer'

9. col uruvaakkam - derivation
   E.g. iNaiyam 'internet'

Even though all of them are means of new word formation, only a few of them are applied freely in present days. Among them compounding of words are effectively used to form new words. In this present study, only the formation of compound verb is taken into account.

Compounding is understood to be a process involving the combination of two elements - base and verbalizer. Practically there are a number of verbalizers found in Tamil, such as morphemes, suffixes, verbal stems, etc. The present research only deals with verbal stems functioning as verbalizers in a definite formula:

\[
\text{E.g. Base} + \text{Verbalizer} \\
iiTu + paTu > iiTupaTu 'involve' \\
KaNTu + piTI > kaNTupiT 'discover'
\]

It is imperative to note that the new formation produced as a compound product consists of a base and a verbalizer. The compound product always results in a new verbal meaning and they are termed as compound verbs (CVs). This approach generates a number of new words in Tamil to favour an effective communicative process and helps to enrich the vocabulary as well as enhance the efficiency of the language.
1.2 Expressive use of language and the role of Compound Verbs (CVs)

English tertiary education massively implemented by the British throughout their colonies has created special impact upon the literary forms of the native languages. It has favoured the adoption of literary genres of English Literature by the native languages. Tamil too has received this impact deeply. The impact which began around the middle of the 19th century slowly developed into a larger scale and currently has reached a sophisticated level. Their growth can be easily witnessed in the fields of novels, short stories and journalism today. Due to the changes in the literary field, Tamil language also began to undergo a number of changes, thus acquiring new features. One such feature is CV, which is the product of the extended dynamism of verbs in Tamil.

There are a number of reasons, which contributed towards the creation of CVs in Tamil. Since the outbreak of the Scientific Revolution in the middle of the 17th century, many great changes have taken place in this world. Every move taken by the scientific innovation had an extensive impact on arts and literary works. This has caused a special inter-dependency between the scientific and literary fields. The innovations of science and technology intend to produce a delightful environment for life while the creative works of arts and literature help man to experience inner satisfaction. Both contribute towards the harmonious life of human beings. To fulfil these demands, both fields require an adequate mastery of language at the basic level. An adequate mastery of language usually permits the flow of creative thoughts from other languages, too. Among them, CVs allow such a flow. This phenomenon is
easily noticed in all the languages of the world. The following illustrations as observed by A.Viberg may be cited as examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Example (Compound Verbs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Persian</td>
<td>(a) negah kardan ‘look (N) make’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(b) dast zandan ‘hand beat’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>(a) ka’n jia’n ‘look-perceive’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(b) ga^n-ju’e da’a ‘feel-think-reach’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>(a) catch sight of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(b) take a smell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnamese</td>
<td>(a) zem tha’y ‘look perceive’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(b) cham tha’y ‘feel perceive’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>(a) azimi o suru ‘taste make’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(b) azi o miru ‘taste see’ (A.Viberg, 1984 : 28-135)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These examples indicate that the CV forms have become a medium, which permits new concepts in a language. Moreover, such an ability to accept changes within their structure also clearly shows the inherent flexibility possessed by those languages. Furthermore, these are the languages recognized as highly integrated medium of communication across the world. Hence, this study is specially designed to analyse the effective role of CVs.

The traditional grammar of Tamil shows that it has advocated the compound approach as an important means to cultivate new words. There is evidence for this claim in traditional Tamil grammar. For instance, Tolkappiyar claims:
Accordingly, compound words consisting of two elements are considered as single units as long as they produce new meanings. Thus compound words were recognized, and appreciated as single form of words by traditional grammarians. Though the traditional grammarians spoke of compound nouns in particular, their definition applies to CVs as well. The traditional grammarians did not speak about CV. This does not mean that CVs were not available in old Tamil. Mention has been made of them indirectly.

In an era where prose plays a vital role, dynamic extension of compound approach has yielded the rapid growth of CVs, hence making it impossible to deny their significant existence. However, history of Tamil language shows that the combination or compounding process did not accidentally take place in Tamil. Combining morphemes to form meaningful words and compounding words to form clauses and phrases for effective communication had been adopted since man started to communicate. But, their significant roles become revealed clearly only after Tamil prose became popular.

The development of Tamil prose, which began in early 19th century, has introduced new forms of literature in Tamil. Today the usage of various types of sentences has begun to overtake the role of prosodic usage generally. An attempt to convey message in a proper manner has stimulated the formation of powerful compound
verbs. Note that these creations are termed as compound verbs but not as new verbal formations or verbal compounds.

It is undeniable that the formation of CV in Tamil has had a long historical growth before it reached its present level of perfection in its forms and semantic functions. Meanwhile, this also indicates that the language pioneers have exploited this medium wisely to overcome the disability and insufficiency of language and achieve efficient communication skills (c.f. 2.1.5). The present study discusses the factors that enabled such transformation.

1.3 Verbs as Auxiliaries and Verbalizers

It is important to remember that auxiliary verbs, and verbalizers are semantically identical (Agesthialingom, 1980 : 2). It is the verbal roots that function as auxiliaries as well as verbalizers. This relationship creates ambiguity when used widely by the people. However, compared to verbalizers, auxiliaries play a more significant role with clear functions in Tamil. Therefore, it has become important to draw a distinction between these two categories to differentiate their roles. It would help to avoid malfunctions or misinterpretations in future. Thus, this section aims at distinguishing the function of verbalizers and auxiliary verbs.
1.3.1 Auxiliary verbs

It is undeniable that the auxiliary verbs impart expressive strength to Modern Tamil. This has drawn the interest of many contemporary scholars to explore its nature. Although worthy accounts have been given for the Tamil verbal system, none of them talk about auxiliaries directly (Meenakshisundram, 1974: 40). The old Tamil grammarian, Tolkappiyar, and the later grammarian, Nannulaar, have concealed its characteristic features between the explanation of verbs. However, the usage of Tamil verbal system has expanded into almost every written form of Tamil. This has changed the perception of modern linguists towards auxiliary verbs. It has become an additional base for a number of researches on Tamil.

On the basis of the occurrences, Pon. Kothandaraman has classified auxiliary verbs into four main terms:

a. Conjunctive participle + aux.
b. Infinitive participle + aux.
c. Verbal root + aux.
d. Gerundial + aux.

(Agesthialingom, ed., 1980: 59-78)

As defined earlier, Tamil has a huge range of auxiliary verbs. But statistics show that about 75 of them function effectively (Agesthialingom, 1980: 26-63). These selected auxiliary verbs play a vital and frequent role to render proficiency in expression.
The auxiliary verbs combine with the *ceytu* or *ceyya* type of verbal participle forms of main verbs to bring about various modal and aspectual meanings, as can be seen in the following examples:

i. Verbal participle form of *ceytu* + aux.

\[ \text{pooy} + \text{tola} > \text{pooytola} \text{ 'get lost' (disgust mood)} \]
\[ \text{viRRu} + \text{viTTaar} > \text{viRRuviTTaar} \text{ 'has sold (he)' (perfective)} \]

ii. Verbal participle form of *ceyya* + aux.

\[ \text{ceyya} + \text{paar} > \text{ceyyap paar} \text{ 'try to do' (trial permissive)} \]
\[ \text{pooka} + \text{viTu} > \text{pookaviTu} \text{ 'allow one to go' (trial)} \]

Generally most grammarians accept that auxiliaries are derived from main verbs. The synonymous qualities of them give several meanings during compounding processes. In some cases, they may retain both functions, as a main as well as auxiliary verb. This can be seen from the following:

\[ \text{irundtirukkiRaar} - \text{'he had been there'} \]

This phrase literally consists of two forms of ‘*iru*’- auxiliary and main verb. Besides there are a number of verbal roots like:

\[ \text{iru} - \text{ 'be (there)'} \]
\[ \text{koL} - \text{ 'possess' / 'have it'} \]
\[ \text{vai} - \text{ 'place (s.t.)'} \]
\[ \text{viTu} - \text{ 'leave'} \]
which function as auxiliary as well as main verbs. As verbal root, their meanings are clear and straightforth as shown in the illustrations. Their meaning may be modified when preceded by any verbal participles. This is clarified by the following illustrations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>verbal root</th>
<th>mv</th>
<th>aux. preceded with verbal participle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>iru</td>
<td>irundtaan</td>
<td>pooyirundtaan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'be'</td>
<td>'(he)was there'</td>
<td>'he had gone'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>viTu</td>
<td>viTTaan</td>
<td>tirandtu viTTaan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'leave'</td>
<td>'(he)left'</td>
<td>'he opened'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>koL</td>
<td>koNTaan</td>
<td>eTuttukkoNTaan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'have'</td>
<td>'(he)possessed'</td>
<td>'he took (for himself)'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vai</td>
<td>vaittaan</td>
<td>eTuttu vaittaan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'place s.t./put'</td>
<td>'(he)placed (s.t.)'</td>
<td>'he kept it aside'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Tamil, many auxiliary verbs are clearly recognized for their effective features. They are used in Tamil prose to exhibit the aspectual and modal functions. In a syntactic structure, they exhibit the voice and tense features. Accordingly to Pon. Kothandaraman, they may be named as follows based on the predominant meaning of the aspectual auxiliary:

1. Asceptual notions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aux.</th>
<th>meaning</th>
<th>aspectual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>iru</td>
<td>be'</td>
<td>'perfective'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kaaTTu</td>
<td>show</td>
<td>'demonstrational'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>koL</td>
<td>have (it)'</td>
<td>'reflexive/reciprocal'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>koNTiru</td>
<td>keep on doing'</td>
<td>'progressive'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>paar</td>
<td>see'</td>
<td>'trial'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>aux.</th>
<th>meaning</th>
<th>modality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>illai</td>
<td>'no'</td>
<td>'factual negative'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iru</td>
<td>'be there'</td>
<td>'declarative'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kuuTu</td>
<td>'join'</td>
<td>'probabilitative'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maaTTu</td>
<td>'never'</td>
<td>'negative (mode)'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>muTi / iyal</td>
<td>'can'</td>
<td>'capabilitive'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>paar</td>
<td>'see'</td>
<td>'attemptive'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poo</td>
<td>'go'</td>
<td>'inceptive'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>veeNTu</td>
<td>'need/request'</td>
<td>'obligatory'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

He adds that auxiliaries may also mark voices such as:

i) **Passive voice**

avan aTikkap paTTaan - 'He was beaten'

ii) **Middle voice**

kannan piTippaTTaan - 'Kannan was arrested'

iii) **Causative**

naan meecaiyai ozungku ceyteen - 'I arranged the tables'

(Agesthialingom, ed., 1980 : 59-78)
Apart from these three main functions (hence they are termed as grammatical functions), auxiliary verbs also take tense markers to indicate tense features. This will be dealt later under section 5.4.. They are capable of exhibiting these features in a syntactic structure according to their appearance with selected preceding verbs. The following explanation about the verb *kol* ‘have it’ would summarize in detail its important roles. *kol* the verbal stem is believed to display some grammatical functions:

I. In its finite form
   
   A. Ego directional function
      i. Reflexive
      ii. Intensive and positive resultative
      iii. Self endeavour ‘Indirect’
   
   B. Reciprocative (dual directional)

II. In its non-finite form its functions are:
   
   a. Progressive
   b. Simultaneous
   c. Instrumental

III. Occurrence in Compound Verb

(K.Thilagawathi, 1981 : 112-115)

There may be many auxiliaries having such variegated role as *kol*. Unfortunately, most of them remain unexplored. However, our concern is on the third grammatical function of *kol*, (*i.e.*) its function as a verbalizer. For more detailed information on verbalizers one can refer to *Auxiliaries in Dravidian*. It has a number of essays on auxiliary verbs in Tamil. Perhaps it would render a clear information about these auxiliaries (Agesthialingom, ed., 1980).
1.3.2. Verbalizers

As defined by the term itself, verbalizer is a verbal form that is used to generate verbal complexes. As for instance, simple verbs combine with bases (noun, particle and verb) to form compound verbs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Base</th>
<th>+</th>
<th>Verbalizer</th>
<th>&gt;</th>
<th>CV</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>kaTai</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>piTI</td>
<td>&gt;</td>
<td>kaTaipiTI 'follow'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pin</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>paRRu</td>
<td>&gt;</td>
<td>pinpaRRu 'follow'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mun</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>mozi</td>
<td>&gt;</td>
<td>munmozi 'propose'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vazi</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>mozi</td>
<td>&gt;</td>
<td>vazimozi 'second'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hence verbal complexes with auxiliaries should be differentiated from those with verbalizers. A detail study about the verbalizers is done in the chapter Four and Six. C.f. 4.6. and 6.5.

1.4. Difficulties in the use of Compound Verbs

Data collected show that the rapid growth of CVs in Tamil prose has given rise to a new era in communicative science. Introduction of such new grammatical features in order to have an expressive message through the transmitting tool has also led to continuous confusions and misconceptions in language use and analysis. Using such new grammatical features without identifying their grammatical status would give rise to grammatical errors while using them.¹

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¹ A local scholar, Mannar Mannan, recently conducted a research to study the misconceptions of compound formations among trainee teachers. As a result, some valuable information were revealed. Though the research was done on morphophonemics, some of the examples given clearly indicate the misconception and malfunctions of CVs. See, Marutai Mannar Mannan, *An Analysis of Written Errors of Tamil Teacher Trainees*, Unpublished Dissertation, Fakulti Bahasa dan Linguistik; Universiti Malaya, 1994. p. 69.
Analysis done shows that these weaknesses in developing languages like Tamil has two important implications (S. Corder, 1982 : 45). First of all, a solution must be found to overcome weakness in order to produce a language which will be simple and straightforward for communication. Secondly, it is important to have a clear grammatical data for the new grammatical features. Such a stage, besides revealing the 'dry' information, focuses on the need to erase the malfunctions of the language. For an instance, Pon. Kothandaraman, a prominent Tamil linguist, has reaffirmed this claim on many occasions and stressed for worthy researches related to contemporary evolution of Tamil language (K. Thilagawathi, 1995 : Preface). Accordingly, such updated researches on existing information would render a significant recognition to the uniqueness of Modern Tamil. It may also become a reference source to avoid misconceptions and pave for the advancement of the Tamil language.

The same affirmation has been consolidated in a forum on ikkaalat Tamizil payanpaaTTu ilakkaNam 'Applied Grammar in Contemporary Tamil', (ikkaalat Tamil. 1994 : 69 ), which was held in Malaysia recently. It is hoped that this study would throw some light to overcome the ongoing misconceptions about verbal complexes.
1.5. Rationale of the study

Rapid development of Tamil prose has permitted a wider scope for CV. The vigorous development of Tamil has imparted a distinctive function for CV in enriching the Tamil prose. The lack of studies to examine the rapid growth of Tamil prose in general and CVs in particular, has led to misinterpretations and malfunctions, specially of Tamil verbal system. It is to be noted here that even some well-known scholars are keen to avoid discussing this feature, i.e. CVs, in detail in their studies. They have denied the status of CV and accepted it as a grey part of Tamil grammar because it leads to deficiency of language rather than efficiency. For instance, N. Jules Bloch states clearly that:

Indian Languages are not rich in verbal inflection.
(Jules Bloch, 1954: 51-96)

Such a statement of a well-known scholar is deeply disappointing. His accusation indirectly mean that Tamil verbal system is ineffective due to unclear grammatical system. This allegation, however, may be due to his scanty observation of Tamil verbal inflection. In fact, the allegation does not carry any validity. It is undeniable that verbal inflections are the power generating agents in Tamil prose.
Actually, a deep observation of his narrow linguistic perceptions reveals two important points clearly. Firstly, the need to stimulate researches on modern Tamil which would indicate its rapid growth and identify the occurrence of new elements, especially those based on verbal inflections. In addition, it demands that the findings in this field be made easily available for researcher in any part of the world. Inadequate efforts to overcome this deficiency will fail to eradicate the ongoing confusions. Generally, the view has been accepted by most of the well-known scholars.  

Secondly, it indirectly forecasts the need to identify the exclusive grammatical functions of CV. It is due to the rapid growth of Tamil prose that the number of CVs as well as their grammatical functions have increased considerably. Even though a number of researches have been carried out in this field, they have failed to present sufficient interpretation and grammatical classifications. It might be a challenging task to overcome the disabilities and deficiencies at once in this study; but it is hoped that at least it would bring out some solution and guidance. Therefore, whatever work aimed at revealing the function of verbal inflection in Tamil becomes important and unavoidable.

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2 Generally, most contemporary linguists agree that any researches involving Tamil and its elements should not be done in an isolated state from the description of modern linguistics. They believe that such an attempt might be short-lived.
1.6 Pioneer research

There are twenty-two essays and a monograph written with different aims in this field. Some of them are intended to distinguish the relationship between verbalizers and auxiliary verbs, while the others are written to show the presence of CVs in the languages of the Dravidian family. Such unfocused and diverted scope of studies (expect the research paper by A.Karthigeyan, 1984) have left us in confusion. Even in the research paper itself, no solutions are suggested to overcome the existing problems. It is designed to give a list of CVs and their special semantic functions analytically.

These works, instead of providing a solution to overcome the problems, have caused misinterpretations of the existing guidelines. Therefore, this study is expected to give some clear guidelines for the use of CVs. It also aims at including all available information about CVs. It is hoped that this work will reduce the existing misconceptions and provide new premises for future researches. A brief survey of these preliminaries is given under Related Literature Review.
1.7 Purpose and the scope of the study

There is a general view that the grammar of a language is postulated from remarkable works by local geniuses in the community. Literary works that have undergone a considerable period of growth attain maturity to create such a postulation. Now, after decades of growth, CVs too, have reached the level of maturity to provide a clear grammatical order in Modern Tamil. This study is thus framed as follows:

1. Collecting and listing a number of CVs from selected reading sources.
2. Grouping them based on bases and verbalizers.
3. Justifying the grammatical status of CVs and analyzing their criteria.
4. Sorting out CVs according to their fields and periods.
5. Sorting out CVs based on the verbalizers and identifying the similarities between them.
6. Proposing a number of reasons and solutions to overcome misconceptions in future.

Today, the study of language has become a part of linguistics. Thus, this thesis is entitled, *A Linguistic Analysis of Compound Verbs in Tamil*. Some widely accepted traditional grammatical functions will also be referred to make this study more significant. The growth of CVs is parallel to the development of language. Presently, the emergence of CVs, and its functions have reached a sophisticated level. This influence is notable in literary works, colloquial, dialects, and regional languages. It is impossible to study all such CVs. Thus, the selection of CV is based on frequent usage in literary Tamil. Existing CVs in colloquial languages, dialects, and regional languages are not taken into account.³

³ There were a few form of dialogues and dialect applied widely in some selected novels. For instance, Sivashangari’s, *ndatiyin veekattoo Tu*, and Aklan’s, *Vaanamaa? Boomiya?*. Bhramin dialect is widely used in the earlier work while many colloquial words are applied in the later.
Although this study emphasizes CVs in Modern Tamil, whenever necessary the evolution process is stated. To make this study more comprehensive, in some cases, terms such as idioms are also referred for a better understanding.

This study has permitted a number of CVs which came into existence around the era when Tamil prose began to develop. They are still widely used in contemporary literature. The following illustrations may be noted:

- *kaiviTu* - 'abandon'
- *putaiyuNTaan* - 'he got buried'
- *talaiyeTuttaan* - 'he began to establish'

The examples listed above seem to be more colloquial, but they are widely used in recent writings. In some cases, these CVs are studied because of their significant function in Literary Tamil. The scope of present study will be dealt clearly under Chapter Four.

### 1.9 Research sources

Tamil consists of three major aesthetic collections, viz, *iyal* - Literary, *icaI* - Music and *ndaatakam* - play. *iyal* has expanded into various fields for communicative purposes. This has been the base for the growth of creative thinking in the era of information technology.⁴

⁴ Theoretically, Tamil prose is divisible into three main categories in general, viz. intellectual, emotional and practical. CVs also can be divided into the three categories.
The data available indicate that CVs have drawn the interests of many contemporary scholars. Their interests prove that CVs and their functions are well recognized in Tamil. It is rather surprising to note that most of the studies are scanty observations. Most of them provide important information about auxiliary verbs and verbalizers. Even though this information helps to justify the existence of CVs, it does not explain characteristic functions of the latter. This must be due to their objectives of study. The compound verbs have been included to support their arguments and not as data for analysis. However, the present study too does not emphasize on formative additions such as bound morpheme, \( i (kaatal \text{ (noun)} \rightarrow kaatali \text{ (verb)}) \). Due to time constraint and requirements of a M.A. dissertation, the scope of study has been limited.

This study is planned to identify the CVs and their grammatical features. In addition, a brief study on the historical growth is made in order to make the study more comprehensive. Collection of data has been based on various fields like sociology, language, linguistics, science, arts, etc. Essays, short stories and novels, written by well-known authors have been used for the purpose. ⁵ Besides, a series of local newspapers have also been used. Due to the quantity of the available sources, a selection criterion was set.

⁵ These selected sources may be categorized under four main groups as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>articles</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>books (novels &amp; short stories)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>newspaper editions</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>translated articles (science &amp; fictions)</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In fact, these selected sources belong to various fields, such as,

- rational thinking
- history
- grammar
- psychology
- science
- travelling, and

- language
- biography
- literature
- philosophy
- fiction
- commentaries.

- linguistics
- philology
- research papers
- experience
- fantasy
A definite number of pages (approx. 5000 words) was read to extract CVs. However, this is applicable to the list of essays only. This was done to trace the rate of growth of CVs with the passage of time. A full list of the bibliography used for this selection is attached (see Appendix 1).

1.10 Methodology of the Research

To collect the necessary data and information of CVs a number of methods have been applied. They are:

1. Collection
   - to obtain a set of CVs from selected bibliography.

2. Historical Analysis
   - to trace the historical growth of CV and its role in various fields.

3. Classifying Technique
   - to classify the collected CVs according to verbalizers.

4. Descriptive Method
   - to explain CVs according to their structure, in order to distinguish CVs from their compound forms of verb.

5. Semantic Approach
   - to study the meaning of CVs; with reference to verbalizers and the interchangeability of some verbalizers and to see whether the interchanging makes any difference in the overall meaning of CVs.
1.11 Classification of chapters

The findings of the present research have been presented under the following topics:

1. Introduction
2. Review of Related Literature
3. A Brief Historical Survey of Compound Verbs
4. The Characteristic Features of Compound Verbs
5. The Structural Analysis of Compound Verbs
6. A Semantic Study of Compound Verbs
7. Conclusion

Bibliography
Tables
Glossary

1.12. Conclusion

In Tamil, there are not many researches done on CVs. In addition, there are not many updated works in the same field. Thus, this study is hoped to give some insight on CVs. This could only be done through fresh researches. A number of researches with clear information about CVs have been carried out; but most of these works concentrate on a particular aspect of CVs. None of them can be considered to be exhaustive and comprehensive. Therefore, any work done would be a contribution
toward a better understanding of CVs. Based on these needs, this study is expected to give a basis for CVs, and to produce an acceptable source to draw a new set of grammatical order in the future (K. Mahalingam, 1986: 247 – 252).