Chapter 4

The Characteristic Features of Compound Verbs
4.1. Introduction

Generally, verbs are known as temporal words or action denoting elements. They are different from other parts of speech because of their outstanding qualities. Compound verbs (CVs) being a part of the verbal system, play a significant role in imparting powerful expressive ability to the language concerned. Today they play an important role in the development of Tamil prose. This may be seen from the viewpoint of the scholar, K.Thilagawathi. She remarks that these terms have grown to a sophisticated level to make the Tamil language an effective communicative medium (1995 : 77). Having the knowledge of its characteristic features would enable us to use them correctly in future.

Basically, Tamil CVs can be classified under two groups, viz.:

i. CV that has idiomatic meaning
ii. CV that has non-idiomatic meaning

This study is more concerned about the CVs that belong to the non-idiomatic metaphors and only reveal their characteristic features only.

This chapter is designed to identify the characteristic features of compound words in general, and compound verbs in particular, in order to distinguish the specific qualities of CVs from their counterparts. First, of all CVs and compound words are compared. A number of methods are used to distinguish the CVs from other compound forms. As there is a difficulty in identifying these formations, as seen in
the Review of Related Literature, a number of methods and tests are used to alleviate the confusion. Before sorting out compound verbs from their counterparts it is useful to know the characteristics that are common to all compound forms. Defining the existing co-relationship between them thus becomes necessary. Finally, a number of forms that are misunderstood as CVs are also taken note of. Although such structural forms seem like CVs, they do not have any of the characteristic features of CVs. This chapter uses a number of tests to identify the CVs, thus enabling one to recognize the characteristic features of CVs.

4.2. What is a compound?

Before proceeding further, let us consider the views of some linguists about a compound. It will help us to understand the actual meaning of compound verbs. The Webster's Third New International Dictionary defines that a compound has two interpretations:

4.2.1. To form or make up (as a composite product) by combining different elements, ingredients or parts.

4.2.2. To put together (as elements or forms) to form a whole

(Webster's Third New International Dictionary, 1977: 77)

It states that a compound construction must have two or more elements. It is necessary to achieve a close relationship between the constituents to reveal a
meaning (for the whole structure). G. Scheurweghs, a western scholar also has a similar opinion. He says:

... a compound is a word consisting of two or more words that are so united that they form a new unit and are equivalent to a single word.  

(G. Scheurweghs, 1959: 411)

Zandvoort, another Western scholar has a different viewpoint. He remarks that a combination of two homographs at random does not form any compound words. Instead, compound words are:

... vocable, which though felt and used as single words, are made up of two or more elements, each of which may also be used as a separate word.  

(R.W. Zandvoort, 1957: 277)

Compared to others, Zandvoort has a different stand regarding the compound words. He points that the nature of the corresponding constituents in the compounding process must be taken into account. But the others merely focus on the cohesive nature of the compounding process, which involves the combination of two or more words to produce a single meaning.
4.3. **What is a Compound verb?**

Having known about the compound, let us now determine the meaning of CV. A. Karthigeyan, a scholar who has made observations on noun + verbalizer form of CVs defines:

A CV consists of a base and a verbalizer. The verbalizer and the base are joined together, and they function as a single unit. (A. Karthigeyan, 1984: 21)

His explanation is simple. It reflects the characteristic features of CVs based on their structure and semantics. Most scholars seem to agree with his definition and his general analysis. (Hence, the first element of CV structure will be known as the base and the second constituent as verbalizer).

As we had seen earlier, a structure known as a compound word must have two or more constituents. It is known as a single unit of lexicon, which produces a single meaning. Similarly, a compound verb also possesses qualities as that of a common compound word. The only exception is that the second constituent of a CV must be a verbalizer. This means that the first constituent may belong to any parts of speech. Since the verbalizer is always a verbal root, it imparts verbal notions to the CVs. These formations are thus named CVs and, considered as single units of lexicon with verbal natures. Furthermore, Howard Jackson clarifies:
Metaphors or idioms named as compound verbs in English, are treated as single units of lexicon. They firmly become institutionalised as fixed phrases with idio-centric meanings. Their collaboration has a different meaning from the usual usage form. (Howard Jackson, 1985: 2)

Accordingly, CVs that are considered as single units of lexicon may have two meanings: - idio-centric or non idio-centric. His observation is applicable to Tamil CVs, too. Thus Tamil CVs may be classified into two classes:

i. Form which consist of two words, generally, known as CVs (non-idio centric CVs that have a base + verbalizer),

ii. Phrasal construction forms CVs with idio-centric meanings.

Contemporary observations on the growth of Tamil prose indicate that both classes have obtained wider and important role in written as well as spoken Tamil. To be more specific, our concern is about the CVs which exclusively belong to the first class.

4.4. The reasons to name them as CVs

First of all, it is necessary to explain the reasons for naming the compounded verbal forms as CVs. This could be done by comparing CVs with compound words that share the same structural form with the former. For instance, a compound noun, which consists of two nouns, could be examined.
E.g.  icaimazai -  musical extravaganza
      paLLikkuuTam-  school

Structurally and semantically they are nouns. Both the nouns that function as the constituents equally determine the new meaning in the structure. But in the case of a CV construction, besides verbs, other parts of speech, such as noun and particle are also conjoined with a verbalizer.

We can produce two possible solutions for naming them as CVs. First, as defined earlier, structurally CV consists of two constituents, base and verbalizer. While the base can be a noun, particle or verb, the verbalizer is always a verbal root. Although the bases render some specific meaning, the verbalizers imparts the verbal quality to the compound forms. In some cases, both the bases and the verbalizers equally contribute to the semantic nature of the structure. Their structures may be defined as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Noun</th>
<th>+ verbalizer &gt;</th>
<th>NV type of CV</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Particle</td>
<td>+ verbalizer &gt;</td>
<td>PV type of CV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verb</td>
<td>+ verbalizer &gt;</td>
<td>VV type of CV</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Though varied in structures, they are labelled as CVs as long as they deliver a new verbal meaning to the corresponding compound forms. The verbalising process seems necessary for some nouns and particles to derive verbal meaning from them. Consider the two examples:
E.g.1. Form of noun

- **irul** 'dark'
- **makiz** 'be happy'

**Verbal form of the noun**

- **iruNTatu** '(it) became dark'
- **makizndtatu** '(it) was happy'

E.g.2. Form of Noun

- **tunpam** 'suffering'
- **varuttam** 'sadness'

**Form of CV**

- **tunpappatu** 'suffer'
- **varuttappatu** 'be sad/regret'

Example 1 indicates that certain nominal roots function as verbal roots, too. However, not all nominals can also function as verbal roots. Example 2 exhibits some nouns, which rely on verbalizers to produce verbal meanings.

Apart from it, for a word to function effectively in a language, it should be:

1. complete;
2. based on consistent and uniform criteria;
3. without unnecessary complications; and
4. useful for describing how utterances are formed in the language.

(IATR, 1966: 590)

CVs also seem to fulfil these basic requirements. Without any doubt, we can claim that CVs meet these basic requirements and function as an effective word system in Tamil.
4.5. The characteristic features of CVs

Invention of new terms either with or without intention to fulfil the expressive strength contributes towards making a language to become an effective communicative system. CVs, considered as the most outstanding, amongst new introductions have attained a unique place in Tamil prose. Therefore, this section particularly aims at examining the special characteristic features of CVs based on the followings:

4.5.1. The structure of CVs
4.5.2. CV as a single unit of verb
4.5.3. CV to convey a new verbal meaning
   4.5.3.1. entire new verbal meaning
   4.5.3.2. partial new verbal meaning

4.5.4. Classification of CVs based on semantic nature
   4.5.4.1. idio-centric CV (marapu CV)
   4.5.4.2. non idio-centric CV (marapalaa CV)

4.5.5. Cohesiveness between the components of CV
4.5.6. Interchanging the constituents of CV is not possible
4.5.7. Characteristic features of verbalizers

4.5.1. Characteristic structure of CVs

As we have defined earlier, a CV structure must consist of a base and a verbalizer. Those CVs identified in the present research show that nouns play a vital role in the construction of CVs. Mostly nouns are used as bases for CV structures compared to others. A detailed information is provided in Chapter Four (The Structural Analysis of CVs) which studies the nature of the bases and verbalizers.
As defined earlier, a CV may have a compounded form or a phrasal structure. However, it may require some transformational grammar rules to distinguish their characteristic features. The existence of phrasal type of CVs may easily be noted in idioms. The following may be considered:

a.  \textit{vaayi\tilde{p} ooTT\tilde{u}k k\textsl{ol} (Idiom)}
'cheat s.o.'

b.  \textit{mayiraik kaTT\tilde{t}i mala\tilde{y}ai izu (Idiom)}
'attempt to accomplish s.t. with very little effort'

These structures may be accepted as CV forms too. (c.f. Thomas Lehmann, 1989: 45 - 75). As stressed earlier, this present research gives special concern to compound forms only. Thomas Lehman has written a brief account on phrasal type of CVs. One could refer to his work for more details on the phrasal forms of CVs (c.f. 2.1.15).

4.5.2. CVs are considered as a single unit of verb

This distinction is based on the ability of CVs to exhibit a new meaning. Even though structurally the base of a CV may come from various parts of speech, the CV is considered to be a single unit of verb. The following, which consist of bases belonging to different parts of speech, may be cited to illustrate the foregoing statement:
type of CV

- *aaraycci cey* ‘do research’ NV type of CV
- *pinparru* ‘follow’ PV type of CV
- *kaNTupiti* ‘discover’ VV type of CV

It is interesting to note that, although CVs have various types of bases, they never fail to produce a new verbal meaning. The ability to produce a new verbal meaning has become an important criterion to decide whether a particular sequence of two or more words is to be called a CV or not.

4.5.3. CVs must deliver new verbal meaning

The ability to provide a new verbal meaning is essential to distinguish CVs from other counterparts. The distinction is measured upon the ability of CVs to provide new verbal meaning as said earlier. CVs made up of both structures, compound and phrase are considered as single units as long as they convey a single verbal meaning. However, the degree of ability to exhibit the meaning may vary. Nevertheless, they must exhibit either entirely or partly, a new meaning. Any structure unable to exhibit this feature is not a CV and is known as pseudo forms of CVs. Based on this semantic classification, the entire CV structures found in Tamil may be divided into two groups, viz., idio-centric, and non-idio centric CVs (This will be discussed later under section 4.5.4.). According to the ability to produce the new verbal meaning they may be divided into two groups:
4.5.3.1. entire new verbal meaning.
4.5.3.2. partial new verbal meaning.

4.5.3.1. Entire new verbal meaning

The present study shows that majority of CVs, which produce entire new meanings, belong to the idio-centric types of CVs. However, there are a number of non-idio-centric CV constructions, which convey new meanings. The following examples consist of both types of CV:

i. Non-idio-centric forms of CV

a. Base (verb) + verbalizer > CV

\[ \text{ndaTandtu} \ + \ \text{koL} \ > \ \text{ndaTandtukoL} \ \text{‘behave yourself’} \]
\[ \text{kaNTu} \ + \ \text{piTi} \ > \ \text{kaNTupiTi} \ \text{‘discover’} \]

b. Base (Noun) + verbalizer > CV

\[ \text{azaippu} \ + \ \text{viTu} \ > \ \text{azaippuviTu} \ \text{‘send an invitation’} \]
\[ \text{vaatu} \ + \ \text{aaTu} \ > \ \text{vaataaTu} \ \text{‘argue’} \]

This proves that bases like nouns and verbs (ceytu type of verbal participle) and noun produce CVs with new meanings entirely.

ii. Phrasal type of idio-centric CV

a. Base (Noun) + verbalizer > CV
Note that the nouns indicating parts of body provide idio-centric term of CVs in these structures.

4.5.3.2. Partial new verbal meaning.

While the bases retain their principal meanings, the verbalizers would impart verbal meaning to the entire structure. This inter-dependency enables them to produce only a partial new meaning. In these structures, the bases would determine the basic meanings. The following examples belong to such types of CVs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Base</th>
<th>+</th>
<th>Verbalizer</th>
<th>&gt;</th>
<th>CV</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Noun</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>Verbalizer</td>
<td>&gt;</td>
<td>CV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>koopam</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>kol</td>
<td>&gt;</td>
<td>koopangkol ‘become angry’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tunpam</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>paTu</td>
<td>&gt;</td>
<td>tunpappaTu ‘suffer’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Particle</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>Verbalizer</td>
<td>&gt;</td>
<td>CV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mun</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>eeRu</td>
<td>&gt;</td>
<td>munneeRu ‘advance’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pin</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>tangku</td>
<td>&gt;</td>
<td>pintangku ‘regress’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Observe that only nouns and particles associate with the verbalizers to produce a partial new verbal meaning.
4.5.4. **Classification of CVs based on semantic nature**

It has been stressed for quite some time that the ability of CVs to provide new verbal meanings is the only criteria to differentiate the actual CV from its pseudo forms. The semantic understanding of them would enable us to divide CVs into two groups:

4.5.4.1. idio-centric CV  
4.5.4.2. non idio-centric CV

**(marapu CV)**  
**(marapalaa CV)**

4.5.4.1. **Idio centric CVs**

Before proceeding further, it would be better to know the meaning of *marapu* – ‘established usage’. Traditional grammarian, Nannuulaar stresses that *marapu* means:

\[
\text{epporul eccollin evvaaRu uyam-toor} \\
\text{ceppinar appadic cepputal marapee}
\]

Tradition (*marapu*) means, to refer to certain things in a particular way using particular terms as used by our ancestors.  
(Nannul sutra 38 (Nannul kandikaiyurai, collatikaaram, 1997 : 290 )

The sutra stresses that the established tradition in naming a particular thing should be followed the way it had been practised. For instance, the following may be noted as examples:
kiirippillai  ‘mongoose’
maankuTTi  ‘baby deer’
pacukkanRu  ‘calf’
pulikkuTTi  ‘cub’
yaanalikuTTi  ‘baby elephant’

(Potko. 1997: 131-132)

In contrast, the above terms cannot be alternatively said/written as,

*kiirikkuTTi
*maanpiLLai
*pacukkuTTi
*pulikkanru
*yaanapiLLai

Nevertheless, the terms marapu and maraput toTar are not used with such meanings, in this work. It is accepted that idio-centric type of CVs are traditionally established and known for their semantic nuances in spoken and written languages. However, in actual usage, there are a number of such idio-centric phrasal types of CVs rendering common meaning, besides their idio-centric meanings. The idio-centric or non-idio-centric meanings of CV constructions can be identified contextually. The occurrence of both types of CVs in literature is evident in contemporary prose as well as in Sangkam literature. The following example may explain this:

talaiyeTu ‘grow’ 1. talaiyal ndiikkutal ‘rid off’ (Kambaramayaam)
   2. meempaTutal / pukazuRutal ‘progress’ (Manimekalai)
      (Maruthur Arangaracan, 1994: 336)

The example indicates that two different meanings are given to the single idio-centric CV - talaiyeTu. Among them, only the second application is treated as idio-
centric meaning. The first meaning in the example does not have any idio-centric implication. It renders meaning according to the main terms. The following are further examples for these types of CVs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CV</th>
<th>meaning of CV (Idiomatic)</th>
<th>usual meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>kaikoTu</td>
<td>‘help’</td>
<td>‘shake your hand’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>talaiyeTu</td>
<td>‘develop’</td>
<td>‘cut off the head’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tandtyaTi</td>
<td>‘be scared’</td>
<td>‘send telegram’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The idiomatic or non-idiomatic use of such forms depends on the mood or intention of the speaker. Their exact meaning will be understood in a syntactic context. Although some of them may seem ungrammatical, yet they play a vital role in delivering certain senses. This quality enables them to survive in Tamil since the days of Sangkam Literature. However, the scientific field, which requires only the direct meanings, has denied their usage.

4.5.4.2. Non-idio centric CVs(*Marapallaa Vakaik KuuTTuvinaikaL*)

It is significant to note that a majority of idio-centric CVs with noun bases also function as non-idio-centric CVs. Besides particles and verbal roots, nouns are used as bases to form this kind of CVs. Such CVs provide partial new verbal meaning. These types of CVs occupy a major portion of Tamil prose. It is assumed that in future its role and number may increase as the need arises. The following examples may give a clear picture about these forms.
As stated earlier these formations are slightly different from idio-centric CVs in terms of their cohesiveness and semantic nuances. C.f. 3.7 – 3.7.5.

### 4.5.5. Cohesiveness of the constituents of CVs

As observed earlier, CVs possess various bases such as verbs, nouns and particles. The combination of these words with a verbalizer produces a new meaning. Besides being divided into idio-centric and non idio-centric categories, CVs can also be divided in other ways. The first is based on their meanings (cf.:3.5.2). Secondly, they can be classified according to the cohesive nature between the two constituents. Namely, they can be divided into:

- a. Strong CVs
- b. Loose CVs

Normally, the strong CV exists in compounded form and is written as a word. They are named as compound verbs (CVs). The second classification is the phrasal structure. This form might have two or more words in the construction and the constituents may be written with gaps in between them. In other words, the strong
CVs have internal ties, *ULLoTTu*, while the loose CVs external ties, *veLIyoTTu* (S.Rajendran, 1994: 76-77).

Every CV that produces a new meaning is included under the category of CVs. The first group produces a typical form which gives that giving entire new semantic notion (c.f. 4.5.3.1. and 4.5.4.), while the second type generates partial new meaning. However, this form is widely found in CV formation (c.f. 4.5.3.2. and 4.5.4). Moreover, a verbalizer combined with nouns and particles usually gives rise to this type of CVs.

4.5.6. **Impossible to interchange the constituents of CVs**

According to Tamil grammar, a combination of two words is termed as a compound word. Hence, there are a number of interpretations for these terms in Tamil dictionaries. For instance, *uuRukaay* ‘pickle’, *vaLarpIRai* ‘waxing moon’ etc. are easily noticeable in contemporary dictionaries. In fact, these formations do not create any ambiguity in understanding their relevant meaning. Nevertheless, compound forms such as *uraiyaTu* ‘discuss’ and *tandtiyaTI* ‘send telegram’, having two semantic possibilities may cause some difficulty in getting their relevant meanings. This type of constructions usually have idio-centric and non idio-centric meanings.

These constructions consist of two or more elements, but give a single meaning. Having a single meaning hardly allows any changes to be made in that compound
structure. If the constituents are interchanged, the newly formed form would be an ungrammatical one. The following examples would clarify this point:

**Grammatical order of CV**

- *aaNaïyiTu* ‘give order’
- *kaTaïpiTi* ‘follow’
- *kuTipeyar* ‘immigrate’
- *muRiyaTi* ‘overcome (a problem)’
- *vaTikaTTu* ‘strain (grain)’

**Ungrammatical order**

- *TiTu aaNaïi*
- *pïTi kaTaïi*
- *peyrkuTi ñ*
- *aTimuRi*
- *kaTTuvaTTi*

However, it is amazing to note that such interchanging is possible in any other elliptical or compounded forms, without any defects. The following compound nouns may be considered:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original form</th>
<th>reshaped form</th>
<th>meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>vinaimuRRu</td>
<td>muRRuvinai</td>
<td>‘finite verb’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vinalyeccam</td>
<td>eccavinaï</td>
<td>‘infinitive verb’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These examples indicate that both forms, the original and reshaped, share the same meaning. On the contrary, a CV construction does not allow such interchanging activity.

### 4.5.7. Characteristic features of verbalizers

There are a number of characteristic features possessed by verbs which function as verbalizer compared to other terms. These distinctive features of verbalizers not only
contributed towards the growth of CV in prose. More information about verbalizers has been given in the fourth chapter under section 4.3.

4.6. **Verbalizers and auxiliaries**

It is understood that the verbalizers and auxiliaries originate from the same base, main verb. This similarity has caused confusion in differentiating their function, even among some scholars. The unclear information witnessed earlier (in Chapter Two: Review of Related Literature) may be cited as evidence. Therefore, there is a need to distinguish the nature of their functions.

The understanding of their functions would help us to differentiate the 'base-verbalizer' construction from the 'main verbs – auxiliary' construction. To simplify the process, the following criteria have been used to study their differences:

4.6.1. the number of constituents  
4.6.2. the type of first constituents  
4.6.3. the function of the second constituent  
4.6.4. the nature of the constituents

4.6.1. **The number of constituents**

The number of constituents in a compound structure may be used to study the distinction between auxiliaries and verbalizers. Practically, there is no limit to the
number of components included in an auxilation process. It is possible for them to have two or more words. Examine the given auxiliary phrase:

peecikkoNTeeyirukka veeNTiyirundtatu
'it was necessary to keep on talking'

In this auxiliary structure, the ceytu type of verbal participle combines with auxiliaries such as koNTu 'having', iru 'be', veeNTum 'need', and iru 'be' once again. The inclusion of four auxiliaries is simply to explain a particular temporal aspect that occurs in a restricted circumstance. Generally auxiliary structures, do not have a fixed number of components. On the other hand, a CV generally consists of two or more words and conveys a single meaning. Consider the following examples:

\[
\begin{align*}
kuTi & + & peyar & > & kTupeyar & \text{ 'shift'} \\
ndaTandtu & + & koL & > & ndaTandtu koL & \text{ 'behave yourself'} \\
ural & + & aaTu & > & uraayaaTu & \text{ 'discuss/converse'}
\end{align*}
\]

4.6.2. Type of first constituent

The first constituents in the both structures, CV and auxiliary, have their individual characteristics. Usually, the first component of an auxiliary structure will be exclusively a verbal participles or infinitive, i.e., in an auxiliary form the verbal participle will be either the ceytu or ceyya type of verbal participle forms (c.f. 5.2.3). Consider the following examples:
cenRu + koNTiru → cenRu koNTiru keep on moving’
verbal participle of ceytu type

cellaviiTu → cellaviTu ‘let go’
verbal participle of ceyya type

But this formula is not applicable to the CV constructions. Along with the ceytu and ceyya types of verbal participles, CV also takes nouns, particles and, verbal roots as bases. In fact, CVs made of ceyya type of verbal participle are rarely found in Tamil prose. On the contrary, a number of idio-centric CVs seem to have ceyya type of verbs. Examine the following examples for this claim.

| Base       | + verbalizer | >  | CV
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pangku</td>
<td>+ kol</td>
<td>&gt;</td>
<td>pangkukol ‘participate’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(noun)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mun</td>
<td>+ eeRu</td>
<td>&gt;</td>
<td>muneeru ‘advance’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(particle)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ezundtu</td>
<td>+ iru</td>
<td>&gt;</td>
<td>ezundTiTu ‘wake up’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ceytu type of verbal participle)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caaka</td>
<td>+ aTi</td>
<td>&gt;</td>
<td>caakaTi ‘kill’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ceyya type of verbal participle)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aRu</td>
<td>+ paTu</td>
<td>&gt;</td>
<td>aRupaTu ‘be cut into pieces’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(CV with verbal root as base)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.6.3. Characteristic features of the second constituent

Generally, Tamil verbal roots are capable of taking additions such as temporal and PNG (person-number-gender) markers and there are a number of suffixes to render aspectual nuances as well as other grammatical notions (Refer to 1.3.1). Since auxiliaries and verbalizers are derived from main verbs, both are capable of exhibiting the whole or a part of the grammatical characteristics exhibited by the verbal roots. Syntactically, the verbal roots would occur as verbal infinitives and participles. According to S.Agasthialingom, (1986 : 44) they differ in terms of quality and quantity also. He stresses that in Tamil, the number of verbal roots functioning as auxiliaries is limited to forty while the verbalizers would be more than eighty.

The functions of verbalizers are different from auxiliaries. The claim by some scholars that verbalizers are products of the extended use of auxiliaries does not seem valid. The CVs render new verbal meanings, while the auxiliaries impart a grammatical / modal shade to the main verbs, namely aspectuality, modality, perfective and temporal nuances (c.f. 1.3.1). Examine the following instances.

\[
\begin{align*}
  cenRuvITTaar & \quad \text{\textasciitilde(he)has gone\textasciitilde} & & \text{\textasciitilde(completeness\textasciitilde} & & \text{aspectual} \\
  poovirukkiraar & \quad \text{\textasciitilde(he)has gone (there)\textasciitilde} & & \text{\textasciitilde(perfectness\textasciitilde} & & \text{perfective} \\
  pootttolai & \quad \text{\textasciitilde(get lost\textasciitilde} & & \text{\textasciitilde(disgusted stage\textasciitilde} & & \text{modality}
\end{align*}
\]

On the contrary, CVs produce new meanings. Nevertheless, CVs may also exhibit the various aspects, modes, etc. by taking some auxiliaries. Consider the following:
E.g. CVs with aux.

\textit{k\text{a}T\text{a}i\text{pi}T\text{t}}} 'follow' \hspace{1cm} \textit{k\text{a}Ta\text{ip}iT\text{ttupa}t\text{a}r\text{ak}aL} 'tried to follow (they)'
\textit{k\text{a}N\text{t}u\text{pi}T\text{t}} 'discover' \hspace{1cm} \textit{k\text{a}Nd\text{u}p\text{i}T\text{ttuv}iTT\text{a}a\text{r}} 'has discovered (he)'

Conversely, these auxiliaries may also function as verbalizers to give new meanings. This will be discussed under section 4.4.7. Note that this difference clearly distinguishes the construction of CVs and auxiliary forms. (c.f. 4.5.1. and 4.6.4. for more details).

\textbf{4.6.4. Manner of naming the second constituents}

Actually, the structure of CV is based on a simple fixed rule, i.e., having a base and a verbalizer. The verbalizer may only take the second place in the construction. This rule is important to determine their ability to produce a new meaning. However, this rule is not applicable to auxiliary forms. Practically, the auxiliaries may exchange their positions, and may occur as main verbs. But this is not possible for CVs. The following examples may clarify:

E.g. 1. auxiliary structures

\textit{c\text{e}n\text{R}u\text{v}i\text{T}u} 'go away' - \textit{\textit{v}i\text{T}u} 'leave' - auxiliary
\textit{p\text{o}ol\text{t}t\text{i}l\text{a}i} 'get lost' - \textit{\textit{t}o\text{l}a\text{i}} 'lose' - auxiliary
\textit{t\text{a}l\text{i}n\text{d\text{t}u\text{p}}} 'get lost' - \textit{\textit{t}o\text{l}a\text{i}} 'be lost' - main verb
\textit{\textit{v}i\text{T}u\text{c} \text{c}\text{e}l} 'leave and go' - \textit{\textit{v}i\text{T}u} 'leave' - main verb
2. CV constructions

\[
\begin{align*}
kaNTu\,Ti & \quad \text{‘discover’} & \quad piTi & \quad \text{‘catch’ – verbalizer} \\
*\,pi\,Ti\,kaNTu & \quad \text{–} & \quad \text{–} & \quad \text{–} \\
uru\,va\,akku & \quad \text{‘form (s.t.)’} & \quad aakku & \quad \text{‘make’ – verbalizer} \\
*\,aakku\,ur & \quad \text{–} & \quad \text{–} & \quad \text{aakku ‘make’ – main verb}
\end{align*}
\]

From the examples, it is evident that changes made to CV constructions would result in ungrammatical constructions. However, the auxiliary structures would produce grammatical meanings either way. On the other hand, the possibility of auxiliaries being used for various grammatical purposes also makes them common and familiar in Tamil prose when compared to verbalizers. Let us examine this claim with the help of a verbal root, \(piTi\, ‘catch’\), which may function as an auxiliary as well as verbalizer.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Verb + auxiliary } & \quad piTi ‘catch’ & \text{Base + verbalizer } & \quad piTi ‘catch’ \\
iruk\,kap\,p\,ti & \quad \text{‘hold tightly’} & \quad kaNTu\,ti & \quad \text{‘discover’} \\
pa\,ap\,tu\,mi\,ti & \quad \text{‘hold carefully’} & \quad ka\,T\,p\,t\,i & \quad \text{‘follow’} \\
tee\,tip\,ti & \quad \text{‘choose and select’} & \quad \text{–} & \quad \text{–} \\
u\,a\,t\,ip\,ti & \quad \text{‘hold at a higher level’} & \quad \text{–} & \quad \text{–} \\
v\,a\,li\,tip\,ti & \quad \text{‘hold bending’} & \quad \text{–} & \quad \text{–} \\
v\,ti\,tp\,ti & \quad \text{‘give and take’} & \quad \text{–} & \quad \text{–}
\end{align*}
\]

This shows that the auxiliaries freely combine with any type of verbal bases. Since the construction of CV is meant to produce new meanings, the verbalizers are more selective in taking their first constituents compared to auxiliaries.
4.7. The methods to identify the formation of CVs

At the beginning stage of this research, our view towards CVs was totally immature. It was expected then, that CVs would have some fixed structural aspects and genuine grammatical forms like kaNTupiTí 'discover', tandtiyaTí 'send telegram', and ndaTandtukol 'behave yourself'. However, this idea began to melt with the progress of the research. As we proceeded with the research, it was found that CVs could also possess structures other than the one mentioned earlier. To identify CVs the following methods were designed:

4.7.1. The number CV constituents
4.7.2. Insertion of a new word
4.7.3. The possibility of adding the second case marker –ai
4.7.4. Replacing the bases

4.7.1. The number of CV constituents

Like a compound word, the CV consists of two or more words. Although two is not a fixed criterion, it is compulsory for a compound verbal form to have at least two constituents in order to be known as a CV. In addition, the final constituent must be a verbalizer. Thus, any compounded structure without a verbalizer as the second/final constituent may be denied as a CV. However, the minimum requirement of two words is not a fixed criterion because the number of constituents can be more than two.
4.7.2. Insertion of a new word

As compound words are bound by certain conditions, CVs also have certain prerequisites. This helps them to acquire a highly cohesive formation with distinctive new meanings. Any insertion in between the constituents of CVs would affect the established relationship and the cohesiveness among them. Besides, CVs will also lose the new semantic nuances. Consider the following examples:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{kuTiyeeru} & \quad \text{'emigrate'} \\
\text{kuTipeyar} & \quad \text{'migrate'}
\end{align*}
\]

The relationship and cohesiveness between the constituents of CVs enable them to bring forth a new meaning (as given in English). Let us insert a new word, \textit{angku} ‘there’ and \textit{ingku} ‘here’ in between the constituents. It will produce some phrasal forms like:

\[
\begin{align*}
* \text{kuTiyangku peyar} \\
* \text{kuTiyingeeRu}
\end{align*}
\]

Note that these forms besides losing their name as CVs also lose their new specified meaning. Moreover, these forms are unacceptable from the syntactic point of view.

E.g. i. \textit{raaman oru vipattil maranuRRaan.}  \\
‘Raman died in an accident.’

ii. *\textit{raaman vipattil maranuNam angku uRRaan.} (ungrammatical structure)
The second sentence seems to be ungrammatical. In English it more or less sounds as follows:

Raman encountered death there in an accident.

It is evident that the cohesive relationship between the components determines the presence of a new meaning and provides a grammatical status for CVs.

4.7.3. The possibility of adding the second case marker –ai

There is another method to determine whether a particular form is a CV or not. It is done by adding a second case marker ai, to the first base of the compounded structure. Upon addition, the structure will turn out to be ungrammatical or it will be transformed to be a phrase. The new meaning in this form would also slightly differ from its original meaning. Examine the following examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CVs</th>
<th>CVs with the insertion of ‘ai’</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pangkeTu ‘take part’</td>
<td>*pangaiyeTu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kuNappatuttu ‘cause s/o to heal’</td>
<td>*kuNattaip paTuttu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kuTiyeeRu ‘shift in’</td>
<td>*kuTiyalyeeRu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>candtoshappaTu ‘be happy’</td>
<td>*canthoshattaippaTu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These examples indicate that the addition of a second case marker to CV produces ungrammatical order of words in some cases. Others turn out to be phrasal forms.
The pseudo forms allow the insertion of ‘ai’ without any change of meaning: - ‘ai’ is suffixed to the first constituent which is a noun. Consider the following: -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compound Form</th>
<th>Compound forms with the insertion of ‘ai’</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>muTi VeTTu</td>
<td>muTiayi veTTu ‘cut your hair’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>paaNai Cey</td>
<td>paaNaiayi cey ‘make a pot’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tuNi tuvai</td>
<td>tuniyait tuvai ‘wash your clothes’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>viiTu kaTTu</td>
<td>viiTaitaik kaTTu ‘build a house’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the above examples, both forms are also grammatical. One can deny easily that these formations are not CVs. However, there are some exceptional words, which do not abide by these restrictions. In particular, some idiomatic type of CVs can take ‘ai’ with their first constituent, and still be considered as valid CV forms. The following examples are among them: -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>kaatukaTi</th>
<th>kaataik kaTi</th>
<th>‘tell a secret’</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>kaiPiTi</td>
<td>kaiyaPiTi</td>
<td>‘get married’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kazuttundiiTTu</td>
<td>kazuttai ndiittu</td>
<td>‘involve in an activity’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

They seem to be grammatical and can be used without any ambiguity. Since they have a verbalizer as the second constituent, and convey a new idiomatic meaning, they can be accepted as CVs. This criterion distinguishes non-idiomatic CVs from idiomatic CVs.
4.7.4. **Replacing the bases with their synonyms**

The method that replaces bases of CVs with words having equivalent meanings plays an important role in getting a clear understanding about the actual formation of CVs. Inducing any changes towards the constituent, such as replacing the bases, would distort the form and the meaning of CVs. For instance, let us apply this method to a selected compound verb, *kaNTupiT* ‘discover’.

The term, *KaNTupiTi* is made up of two words. A base with a *ceytu* type of infinitive verb, *KaNTu* ‘having seen’ conjoins with *piTti* ‘catch’ a verbalizer. The base, *KaNTu*, in fact has some equivalent synonyms such as *paarttu*, *n-ookki* and *vizittu* ‘see’. If *KaNTu* is replaced with *paarttu*, which has the same meaning, a new combination namely, *paarttuppiti* ‘see and catch’ or ‘hold carefully’ is obtained. This structure besides differing from the meaning rendered by the original CVs, viz., *kaNTupiT* ‘discover’, also loses its status as a CV. Moreover, it may allow any insertion or addition in between the constituents.

However, this criterion is only applicable to the first constituent but not for the second, which is the verbalizer. This is because there are some synonymous verbalizers, which can be used interchangeably as the second constituent of a CV. The following examples may clarify.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Base</th>
<th>+ verbalizers</th>
<th>&gt;</th>
<th>CV</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>vicaaraNai</em></td>
<td>+ <em>cey</em></td>
<td>&gt;</td>
<td><em>vicaaraNai cey</em> ‘investigate’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>vicaaraNai</em></td>
<td>+ <em>paNNu</em></td>
<td>&gt;</td>
<td><em>vicaaraNai paNNu</em> ‘investigate’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
b. koopam + aTai > koopamaTai ‘become angry’
koopam + uRu > koopamuRu ‘become angry’
koopam + paTu > koopappaTu ‘become angry’

However, this is not true for all available verbalizers. There are some verbalizers, which cannot be replaced by any of their synonyms. This will be discussed in Chapter Six.

4.8. CVs and verbal compounds

Tamil grammar speaks about six kinds of tokalcol (compound words) which are actually, compound nouns. One of the six is called vinatokai (verbal compound), which is a kind of compound noun, where the first constituent is a verbal root and the second is a noun. Hence, the verbal compound must not be mistaken to be a kind of compound verb. Examples of verbal compounds are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tamil Word</th>
<th>English Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cuTaviti</td>
<td>‘the sparkling eye’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cuTukaTu</td>
<td>‘crematorium’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cuTundilir</td>
<td>‘the boiled water’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vaLarpiRai</td>
<td>‘waxing moon’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.9. Pseudo forms of CVs

There are a number of compound formations, which have the structural forms similar to that of CVs in Tamil. In this study, they are named as pseudo forms of CVs because they do not render either partial or entire new meanings like CVs. Let us examine a number of pseudo forms of CVs.

The genuine CVs can be categorized as constructions not invented by regular rules of grammar. They are rule oriented and grammatically organized as far as the Grammarians are concerned. There are some underlying reasons for this claim. For instance,

\[ \text{pooy} + \text{iruntaan} \rightarrow \text{pooyiruntaan} '(he) has gone' \]
(Muthu Shanmugam, 1982: 94-115)

\[ \text{tolaintdu} + \text{vITTaan} \rightarrow \text{tolaintdu vITTaan} '(he) was lost' \]
(K.Meenakshi, 1986: 432)

These two forms are noted as CV constructions by the authors. In fact, there are auxiliary formations, which produce some aspectual, modal and temporal nuances. If a distinction is not drawn between this type of forms and CV constructions, we would be confused.

Besides the said forms, there are a number of elliptical forms considered as single unit of words. Such formations, which have originated from old Tamil, is prevalent even in contemporary Tamil. They are avoided in the present study. For instance, we can produce the following as evidence for it. Thus:
ANNaandaan
‘looked up’
eemaandaan
‘was cheated’
vilaiyaatu
‘play’
caappiTu
‘eat’
mukkuLi
‘dive’

Moreover, there are some compound forms directly translated from other languages and used as technical terms in Tamil. Their existence and usage in Tamil are limited. The present study has recorded a number of such introductions in Tamil prose. These pseudo types of CV have been neglected in this study.

On the other hand, forms like kaRRuNamdaan, kantartindaan, paaritetzutinaan are also not accepted as part of CV formations. They may look like CVs. These are logically verbal phrases consisting of adverbial participle and finite verb. These types of formation are still capable of taking an insertion as can be seen in the following:

kaRRup pin UNarndtaan
knDu nanku UNarndtaan
paartrup pizaiyaRa ezutinaan

These terms may allow insertion of a new word in between their components. It is because their ties are loose. They are pseudo CVs.

Next to this, some compound verbal forms, which take morphemes like, ida, ee, etc. are also skipped in this study. They are:- iruntiTavee, tirantiTavee, paTittTTu, koTuttiTa. They may seem like CVs but, they do not produce any new meaning.
Besides, Tamil has a number of repetitive or reduplicated words. These homographs are widely acknowledged for their usage since the era of Sangkam Literature. For instance, Tolkappiyar the traditional grammarian stresses that:

\[ \text{iraTTaik kilavi pirinticaliyaa} \]

'Repetitive words always occur as single units.'
(Sutra 48, Tolkappiyam Collatickaram Cenavaraiyam, 1996: 147)

Repetitive words are also known as compound words. Nevertheless, repetitive words are not classified as CVs. The following are some of the repetitive forms that are not included in this study.

\[ \text{aTTaTiyena} \]
\[ \text{kala kalattatu} \]
\[ \text{kiTu kiTuttatu} \]
\[ \text{minu minuttatu} \]

However, some scholars have classified these terms as CVs. It is true that they will not give a clear meaning if separated. However, it is too ambitious to acknowledge them as CVs, too. As defined by M. Varataracan, repetitive words, which help to reveal meaning more clearly, should be addressed as repetitions (M. Varataracan, 1957: 128), to avoid any confusion. Besides these words, terms like \text{aTTtup pITTtuv}, \text{arakkap paRakka}, \text{taTTuttaTummaari}, \text{tikkittiNar}, and \text{paTTup paTaamal} also function as repetitives. They are not accepted as CV constructions. They only stress the action and do not produce a new meaning.
Last but not least, suffixes such as, *ittu, tu, vittu, vi, i*, etc. that combine with stems to form new verbal roots are also neglected. It is true that these formative additions help the bases to be transformed into new semantic units. They never take a verbalizer to produce the new meaning. These additions are named as bound morphemes. According to the objective of the present study, a verbalizer must occupy the second component of the CV structure. Thus, the new meaning given by these formative additions are different. These types of formation evolve with less than two components. Therefore, the following instances like,

\[
\begin{align*}
  \text{kaatal} & \quad + \text{i} \quad - \quad \text{kaatali} \\
  \text{payiRRu} & \quad + \text{vi} \quad - \quad \text{payiRRuvi}
\end{align*}
\]

are not taken to be CV constructions, in this study.

### 4.10. Conclusion

This chapter provides us with some ways of identifying CV formations as against the pseudo forms. This would enable us to distinguish CV constructions from others, although there are some similarities that exist between those two. Hence, it is expected that these guidelines will enable us to identify the genuine CVs in future thus reducing the existing complications that exist in writing verbal phrases.