DISCRETENESS AND CONTINUITY OF SOME OF
THE USAGES IN TAMIL SPEECH

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Introduction

Despite the general orientation of the field towards the study of language in isolation, there have been a number of situations where linguists have hoped to obtain confirmation from the study of speech (Labov, 1972:187).

It is common for a language to have several alternate ways of expressing a particular thing or meaning. Some usages like *ca:pputu* and *tinnu* seem to have the same referent (eat) in Tamil; others have two or more pronunciations like *namma* and *nampa* 'our' (incl.) or *amma:* and *amme* 'mother'. There are certain syntactic options such as:-

i) *ya:ro:te avan pe:cikittirukkara:n* or *avan ya:ro:te pe:cikittirukkra:n* 'to whom is he talking?',

ii) *pe:cratu ya:rukkum culapam(or)ya:rukkum pe:cratu culapam* 'it is easy for anybody to talk' etc. In each of these cases, we have the problem of deciding the exact nature and significance of the speech variation in the sociolinguistic structure of Tamil.

Study of Variation

The problem of explaining language variation according to Labov (ibid. 1) seems to resolve itself into three separate issues viz., i) the origin of linguistic variation, ii) the spread and propagation of linguistic variation and iii) the regularity of linguistic variation. The model which underlies the three — way division requires as a starting point a variation in one or several words (or usages) in the speech behaviour of one or two individuals. These variations may be induced by the process of assimilation or differentiation, by analogy, borrowing, fusion, contamination, random variation, or any number of processes in which the language system interacts with the physiological or psychological characteristics of the individuals concerned. Most such variations occur only once, and are extinguished as quickly as they arise. However, a few recur, and, in a second stage, they may be imitated more or less widely, and may spread to the point where the new forms are in contrast with the older forms along a wide front. Finally, at some later stage, one or the other of the two forms or usages usually triumphs, and regularity is achieved.

Study of Variation in Tamil Speech

Variations found in the different spoken varieties of Tamil have been studied both by the dialectologists and sociolinguists. The dialectologists have described the dialects by preparing dialect grammars, dialect dictionaries, dialect maps, and also have done considerable reserach work on the comparative study of the dialectal usages — both regional and social. Shanmugam Pillai (1965) has identified certain 'caste isoglosses' which distinguish the Tamil varieties spoken by different castes who live in a particular village. Zvelebil (1961), Bright and Ramanujan (1964) and Karunakaran (1981) have analysed the sociolinguistic variation and language change with reference to Tamil speech varieties. Zvelebil (1964), Shanmugam Pillai (1967), Karunakaran (1970, 1971) and Srinivasa Varma and Sakthivel (1978) have classified the regional dialects of Tamil on the basis of the 'isoglosses' (including the bundles of isoglosses, inclusive vs. exclusive isoglosses, etc.) which they were able to identify through their research.

Sociolinguists on the other hand have made certain sociolinguistic descriptions for some of the Tamil speech varieties.[1] They have studied some of the speech varieties of Tamil which are in use in the rural, semi-urban (industrial) and urban areas of Tamilnadu. They have identified the variations which are diagnostic and significant, and conditioned the same with the help of the 'sociolinguistic correlations' which they were able to establish (by correlating the linguistic features and social parameters). They have formalised and presented the sociolinguistic correlations in the form of a series of rules known as 'variable rules' which explain the variations conditioned by the social variables like educational status, social status (caste or class), age, sex, occupational status, economic status, etc. Some of the variable rules given by them also take into consideration the linguistic conditioning along with the social ones.

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[1] Gnanam, M. (1980). 'Social Stratification of Tamil in the Neyveli Township (Industrial) Area' (Unpublished Ph.D. thesis submitted to the Annamalai University).

Irulappan, K.M. (1979). 'Dialect Differences and Social Stratification in a Tamilnadu Village'. (Unpublished Ph.D. thesis submitted to the Annamalai University).

Karunakaran, K. (1975). 'Social Stratification of Tamil Dialects'. *Ayvukkovai* - 7.2, p. 189.

Muthuswamy Pillai, P. (1981). 'Social Differentiation of Tamil in Madurai City'. (Unpublished Ph.D. thesis submitted to the Annamalai University).

Sivashanmugam, C. (1981). 'Social Differentiation of Tamil in Coimbatore' (Unpublished Ph.D. thesis submitted to the Annamalai University).

Yesudhason, C. (1977). 'Sociolinguistic Study of Kanyakumari Tamil Dialects (with special reference to Vilavencode)'. (Unpublished Ph.D. thesis submitted to the Annamalai University).

Sociolinguists also have stratified and differentiated the speech varieties used by the different social groups which live in a particular place or area.[2] They have also brought to light the social significance of speech as well as the social meaning of language[3].

Present Study
Scope of the Study

The scope of the present study is that to understand the exact nature and development of a linguistic variation one has to necessarily take into consideration the social life of the speech community in which the variation occurs. As Labov (1972:3) puts it "Social pressures are continually operating upon language, not from some remote point in the past, but as an immanent social force acting in the living present".

Aim of the Study

The aim of the present study is to add a new dimension to the study of speech behaviour. By making use of the two concepts viz., i) *continuity* and ii) *discreteness,* the present study tries to explain the variations found in the different levels (phonological, morphological and lexical) of the Tamil speech varieties.

Though there are variations in speech, various social (caste) groups which speak Tamil are able to understand each other and interact with one another, and in this way they continue to use their language both in the formal and informal contexts with all these existing variations. So there is a continuity as far as many of the usages are concerned, but at the same time there are some distinct discrete changes also which are found in some of the speech varieties of Tamil.

Concepts, 'Continuity' and 'Discreteness'
The Concept of Isogloss

The concept of 'isogloss' in the study of *dialect geography* just helps us to demarcate the dialect areas ie., to distinguish one dialect area as different from the other. There are certain inclusive isoglosses (Karunakaran, 1971) which help us to indentify two or more dialect areas sharing some of the linguistic features found in the different levels of the language.

[2]Labov, W. (1966). *Social Stratification of English in the New York City.* CAL : Washington, D.C.

Trudgill, P. (1974). *Social Differentiation of English in Norwich.* CUP : London.

[3]Platt, J.T. and Platt, K.H. (1975). *The Social Significance of Speech.* NHBC : Amsterdam.

Pride, J.B. (1970). *The Social Meaning of Language.* OUP : London.

Ex. i) /r/ isogloss (exclusive) which separates the Kanyakumari Dialect Area from all other dialect areas of Tamilnadu.

ii) /ə/ isogloss (exclusive) which separates the Kanyakumari Dialect Area from the remaining dialect areas.

iii) /-ra/ isogloss (exclusive) which separates Coimbatore Dialect Area from all other areas.

iv) /-vaccu/ isogloss (inclusive) which is shared by the Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli regions of the Southern Dialect Area.

v) /-a:ŋṭe/ and /-aŋṭe/ isogloss (inclusive) which is shared by the Northern Dialect Area and some regions of the Western Dialect Area.

There are bundles of isoglosses which are also helpful in demarcating the Kanyakumari dialect area as a focal area[4]. The following are some of the exclusive isoglosses found in the Kanyakumari Tamil Speech, and all these isoglosses have the same centre viz., Kanyakumari Dialect Area. So this area is called a focal area.

4.3.1.1 *Phonological Level*

i) Use of /r/   Ex. /ka:rru/ 'air'

ii) Use of /ə/   /terrə/ 'mistake'

iii) Use of /ṇ/   /vaṇṇa:n/ 'came-he'

4.3.1.2 *Morphological Level*

i) Use of the instrumental case suffix - ṭṭu
Ex. kattiṭṭu 'with knife'

ii) Use of the genitive case suffix - (u) kke

(a)

Ex. avanukke 'his'
enakke 'my'

iii) Use of the ordinal suffixes — a:matte and —a:matu
Ex. na:la:matte   'fourth'
mu:na:matu   'third'

iv) Use of the emphatic marker - a:kkum
Ex. avana:kkum vanta:n 'it is he who came and not anybody else'

v) Absence of the present tense suffix - (k)r-
Ex. o:ṭa:n 'runs-he'
paṭikka:n 'reads-he'

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[4]Hockett, C.F. (1958). *A Course in Modern Linguistics.* p. 481. 'A region bounded by a group of concentric isoglosses and enclosing a center of probable prestige, is called a focal area'.

vi) Use of the second person singular termination   -e: *l*
      Ex. pa:tte:ḷa: 'did you (sg.) see?'
vii) Use of the conditional marker -a:kki
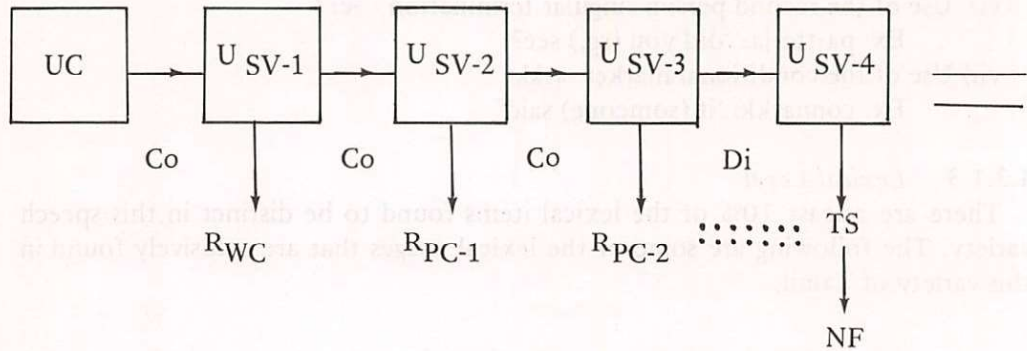   Ex. conna:kki 'if (someone) said'

4.3.1.3 *Lexical Level*

There are atleast 10% of the lexical items found to be distinct in this speech variety. The following are some of the lexical usages that are exlusively found in this variety of Tamil.

a:cce/	
a:ḷce	'day'
paṭikkam	'spittoon'
pakaram	'instead of'
teṟṟə	'mistake'
to:kku	'gun'
cemma:n	'cobbler'
cammanti	'a relish for food'
canṭu	'chaff'
ca:ṭu	'jump'
ca:ṭṭam	'jumping'
mḷa:	'a wild animal'
	etc.,

The diversity phenomenon as explained above with the help of the isoglosses doesn't explicitly say anything about the nature of the variations found in language use. So it has now become obligatory on the part of the sociolinguists to explain the nature of the variations as part of the sociolinguistic description.

The concepts viz., 'continuity' and 'discreteness' will explain the exact nature of the variations found in the speech varieties concerned. Continuity explains the process of continuum of a particular feature or usage in speech. The shape or quality of the feature continues to be the same in use either without any change (retained without change) or sometimes with a partial change (retained with partial change). Because of this process of retention, continuity is found in the usages concerned.

'Discreteness' explains the process of a total shift in the shape or quality of a particular feature or usage in speech. Due to this process a new feature comes into the speech variety and replaces the old one. There are several extra linguistic reasons for this type of process to take place. The following diagram explains the process.

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$$\boxed{UC} \rightarrow \boxed{U_{SV-1}} \rightarrow \boxed{U_{SV-2}} \rightarrow \boxed{U_{SV-3}} \rightarrow \boxed{U_{SV-4}}$$

Co   Co   Co   Di

R_{WC} R_{PC-1} R_{PC-2} TS

NF

The concepts viz., *continuity* and *discreteness* are also useful to explain the regularity of change/variation as well as the incidence of the partial and total shifts in usages. We are able to notice that the total shifts that have taken place in Tamil speech are not sudden and partial changes are gradual.

Abbreviations:

UC	—	Usage Common
U	—	Usage
SV	—	Speech Variety
R	—	Retention
WC	—	Without Change
PC	—	Partial Change
TS	—	Total Shift
NF	—	New Feature
Co	—	Contunuity
Di	—	Discreteness

The interpretation of some of the total shifts reflects the interference of the contacting language(s) (with the mother tongue) especially in the linguistic border areas. This is clear from the usages found in the Kanyakumari speech variety (Tamil-Malayalam bilingual area) and the Dharmapuri speech variety (Tamil-Kannada-Telugu-Urdu multilingual area).

4.3.2 *Continuity and Discreteness in Tamil Speech*
4.3.2.1 *Phonological Level*
4.3.2.1.1 *Use of /l̤/*

$$\text{R.1} \quad (\underline{l}) \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \underline{l} \sim \underline{l} \sim l \end{bmatrix}_{\text{Co}}$$

$$\text{Co} \longrightarrow R_{WC} \longrightarrow R_{PC\text{-}1} \longrightarrow R_{PC\text{-}2}$$

Ex. pa$\underline{l}$am $\longrightarrow$ pa$\underline{l}$am $\longrightarrow$ pa$l$am $\longrightarrow$ palam   'fruit'

$$\text{R.2} \quad (\underline{l}) \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \check{s} \sim y \end{bmatrix}_{\text{Di}}$$

$$\text{Di} \longrightarrow \text{Di}_{TS\text{-}1} \longrightarrow \text{Di}_{TS\text{-}2}$$

Ex. tiruv$\underline{l}$a: $\longrightarrow$ tiruvša: $\longrightarrow$ 'festival'
   pa$\underline{l}$am $\longrightarrow$ payam   'fruit'.

4.3.2.1.2 *Use of /k/ in the intervocal position*

$$\text{R.1} \quad (k) \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \dfrac{k}{\text{Co}} \sim \underbrace{\upsilon \sim y}_{\text{Di}} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{Co} \longrightarrow R_{WC}$$

Ex.   pake $\longrightarrow$ pake   'enmity'

$$\text{Di} \longrightarrow \text{Di}_{TS\text{-}1} \longrightarrow \text{Di}_{TS\text{-}2}$$

Ex. makan $\longrightarrow$ mavan $\longrightarrow$ mayan   'son'

4.3.2.1.3 *Use of /ṇ/ in the intervocal position*

$$R.1 \quad (ṇ) \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} ṇ & \sim & n \end{bmatrix}_{Co}$$

$$Co \longrightarrow R_{WC} \longrightarrow R_{PC}$$

Ex. maṇi ⟶ maṇi ⟶ mani   'beed'
    taṇṇi ⟶ taṇṇi ⟶ tanni   'water'

4.3.2.1.4 *Use of /m/ and /v/*

$$R.1 \quad (m) \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} m & \sim & v \end{bmatrix}_{Co}$$

$$Co \longrightarrow R_{WC} \longrightarrow R_{PC}$$
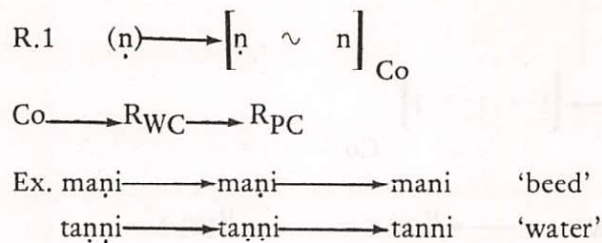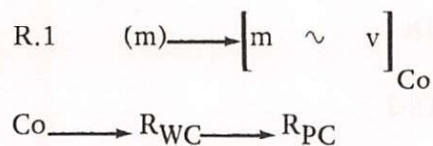
As /m/ and /v/ are labial sounds, the change is considered as partial.

Ex. mi:ce ⟶ mi:ce ⟶ vi:ce   'moustache'

The converse is also possible in this case.

$$R.2 \ (v) \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} v & \sim & m \end{bmatrix}_{Co}$$

$$Co \longrightarrow R_{WC} \longrightarrow R_{PC}$$

Ex. kuvi ⟶ kuvi ⟶ kumi   'heap'

4.3.2.1.5 *Use of /n/*

$$R.1 \quad (n) \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} n & \sim & m \end{bmatrix}_{Co}$$
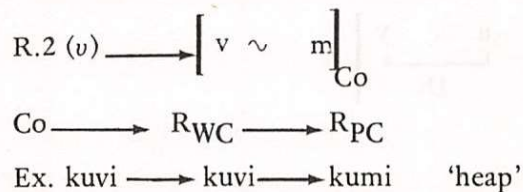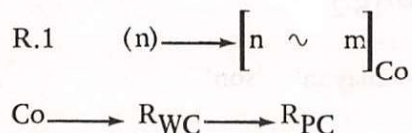
$$Co \longrightarrow R_{WC} \longrightarrow R_{PC}$$

As /n/ and /m/ are nasals, and as assimilation takes place due to the following sound, the change here is considered as partial and continuous.

Ex. anpu ⟶ anpu ⟶ ampu   'affection'

4.3.2.1.6 *Use of /r/*

R.1. $(r) \longrightarrow \left[\dfrac{r \sim 1}{Co} \sim \dfrac{n}{Di} \right]$

$Co \longrightarrow R_{WC} \longrightarrow R_{PC}$

Ex. rattam $\longrightarrow$ rattam $\longrightarrow$ lattam   'blood'

$Di \longrightarrow Di_{TS\text{-}1}$

Ex.   rattam $\longrightarrow$ nattam   'blood'
      rompa $\longrightarrow$ nompa   'much'

As /r/ and /l/ are liquid sounds, the change is considered here as partial.

4.3.1.2.7 *Use of /ḷ/*

R.1 $(ḷ) \longrightarrow \left[ḷ \sim 1 \right]_{Co}$

$Co \longrightarrow R_{WC} \longrightarrow R_{PC}$

Ex. vaḷe $\longrightarrow$ vaḷe $\longrightarrow$ vale   'bend'

muḷḷu $\longrightarrow$ muḷḷu $\longrightarrow$ mullu   'thorn'

4.3.2.1.8 *Use of /ṟ/*

R.1. $(ṟ) \longrightarrow \left[\dfrac{r \sim r}{Co} \sim \dfrac{t}{Di} \right]$

$Co \longrightarrow R_{WC} \longrightarrow R_{PC}$

Ex. a:ṟu $\longrightarrow$ a:ṟu $\longrightarrow$ a:ru   'six'

$Di \longrightarrow Di_{TS\text{-}1}$

Ex.   ka:ṟṟu $\longrightarrow$ ka:ttu   'air'
      u:ṟṟu $\longrightarrow$ u:ttu   'spring'

4.3.2.2 *Morphological Level*
4.3.2.2.1 *Instrumental Case Suffix*

$$R.1 \quad (a{:}le) \longrightarrow \left[a{:}le \sim a{:}la \right]_{Co}$$

$$Co \longrightarrow R_{WC} \longrightarrow R_{PC}$$

Ex. avana:le) 'by him'
    avana:la)

$$R.2. \ (a{:}le) \longrightarrow \left[vaccu \sim e{+}vaccu \sim koṇṭu \sim ṭṭu \right]_{Di}$$

$$Di \longrightarrow Di_{TS\text{-}1} \longrightarrow Di_{TS\text{-}2} \longrightarrow Di_{TS\text{-}3} \longrightarrow Di_{TS\text{-}4}$$

$$Di \underset{TS}{\longrightarrow} \begin{pmatrix} vaccu \\ e{+}vaccu \\ koṇṭu \\ \\ ṭṭu \end{pmatrix}$$

Ex. kattivaccu)
    kattiyevaccu)
    kattikoṇṭu) 'with knife'
    kattiṭṭu)

4.3.2.2.2 *Sociative Case Suffix*

$$R.1 \quad (o{:}ṭe) \longrightarrow \left[o{:}ṭe \sim o{:}ṭa \right]_{Co}$$

$$Co \longrightarrow R_{WC} \longrightarrow R_{PC}$$

Ex. avano:ṭe ⟶ avano:ṭe ⟶ avano:ṭa   'with him'

$$R.2 \ (o{:}ṭe) \longrightarrow \left[ku{:}ṭe \sim ku{:}ṭa \right]_{Di}$$

$$Di \longrightarrow Di_{TS\text{-}1} \longrightarrow Di_{TS\text{-}2}$$

Ex. ra:mano:ṭe ⟶ ra:manku:ṭe ⟶ ra:manku:ṭa   'with Raman'

4.3.2.2.3 *Genitive Case Suffix*

R.1. $(o:te) \longrightarrow [o:te \sim o:ta \sim ota \sim uta]$
$$Co$$

$$Co \longrightarrow R_{WC} \longrightarrow R_{PC\text{-}1} \longrightarrow R_{PC\text{-}2} \longrightarrow R_{PC\text{-}3}$$

Ex. enno:te $\longrightarrow$ enno:te $\longrightarrow$ enno:ta $\longrightarrow$ ennota
$\longrightarrow$ ennuta 'my'

R.2 $(o:te) \longrightarrow [ra \sim te \sim (a) kke \sim u]$
$$(u) \qquad Di_.$$

$$Di \longrightarrow Di_{TS\text{-}1} \longrightarrow Di_{TS\text{-}2} \longrightarrow Di_{TS\text{-}3} \longrightarrow Di_{TS\text{-}4}$$

Ex. enno:te $\longrightarrow$ enra $\longrightarrow$ ente $\longrightarrow$ enakke
$\longrightarrow$ ennu 'my'
avanukke 'his'

4.3.2.2.4 *Accusative Case Suffix*

R.1. $(e) \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} e & \sim & eye \end{bmatrix}_{Co}$

$$Co \longrightarrow R_{WC} \longrightarrow R_{PC}$$

Ex. nammale)
nammaleye) 'us' (incl.)

4.3.2.2.5 *Dative Case Suffix*

R.1. $\begin{pmatrix} (a) \\ (u) \end{pmatrix} kku \end{pmatrix} \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \dfrac{(a)}{(u)} kku \\ \overline{Co} \end{bmatrix} \sim \dfrac{e^5}{Di} \end{bmatrix}$

[5] The suffix —e (occurring as in *vi:ṭṭe, u:re*, etc, representing the dative case) is found to occur only with place nouns in the South Arcot District of Tamilnadu.

$$Co \longrightarrow R_{WC}$$

Ex. avanukku   'to him'
     enakku   'to me'
     atukku   'to it'

$$Di \longrightarrow Di_{TS-1}$$

Ex. vi:ṭṭukku ———→ vi:ṭṭe   'to the house'
     u:rukku ———→ u:re   'to the village'

4.3.2.2.6 *Purposive Case Suffix*

R.1.
$$\begin{bmatrix} (a) \\ (u) \end{bmatrix} kka:ke \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} (a) \\ (u) \end{bmatrix} kka:ke \sim \begin{bmatrix} (a) \\ (u) \end{bmatrix} kka:ka \end{bmatrix}_{Co}$$

$$Co \longrightarrow R_{WC} \longrightarrow R_{PC}$$

Ex. unakka:ke ——→ unakka:ke ——→ unakka:ka   'for you' (sg.)
     avanukka:ke ——→ avanukka:ke ——→ avanukka:ka   'for him'
     ya:rukka:ke ——→ ya:rukka:ke ——→ ya:rukka:ka   'for whom'

R.2
$$\begin{bmatrix} (a) \\ (u) \end{bmatrix} kka:ke \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} ko:cam \sim ko:caram \end{bmatrix}_{Di}$$

$$Di \longrightarrow Di_{TS-1} \longrightarrow Di_{TS-2}$$

Ex. avanukka:ke ——→ avanukko:cam ——→ avanukko:caram 'for him'
     enakka:ke ——→ enakko:cam ——→ enakko:caram 'for me'
     ya:rukka:ke ——→ ya:rukko:cam ——→ ya:rukko:caram 'for whom'

4.3.2.2.7 *Locative Case Suffix*

R.1. $(kiṭṭe)^6 \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} kiṭṭe \sim ṭe \end{bmatrix}_{Co}$

$$Co \longrightarrow R_{WC} \longrightarrow R_{PC}$$

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[6] This suffix occurs only with human nouns.

Ex.   payyankiṭṭe   )
) 'with the boy'
        payan+ṭe   )

R.2   (kiṭṭe) ⟶ $\left[\text{anṭe} \quad \sim \quad \text{a:nṭe} \right]_{Di}$

Di ⟶ Di$_{TS-1}$ ⟶ Di$_{TS-2}$

Ex. ennanṭe   )
) 'with me'
    enna:nṭe   )

4.3.2.2.8 *Present Tense Suffix*

R.1.   ((k) r) ⟶ $\left[\dfrac{(k)r \sim (k)ar}{Co} \sim \dfrac{t \sim \phi}{-Di-} \right]$

Co ⟶ R$_{WC}$ ⟶ R$_{PC-1}$

Ex.   o:ṭra:n ⟶ o:ṭra:n ⟶ o:ṭara:n 'runs-he'
      paṭikkra:n ⟶ paṭikkra:n ⟶ paṭikkara:n "reads-he'

Di ⟶ Di$_{TS-1}$ ⟶ Di$_{TS-2}$

Ex.   o:ṭra:n ⟶ o:ṭuta:n ⟶ o:ṭa:n 'runs-he'
      paṭikkra:n ⟶ paṭikkuta:n ⟶ paṭikka:n 'reads-he'

4.3.2.2.9 *Past Tense Suffix*

R.1   (t) ⟶ $\left[\dfrac{t}{Co} \sim \dfrac{s \sim \tilde{nc}}{Di} \right]$

Co ⟶ R$_{WC}$

Ex.   vayta:n ⟶ vayta:n   'scolded-he'

Di ⟶ Di$_{TS-1}$ ⟶ Di$_{TS-2}$

vayta:n ⟶ vassa:n ⟶ vañca:n   'scolded-he'

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4.3.2.2.10 *Future Tense Suffix*

$$\text{R.1} \quad (pp) \longrightarrow \left[\frac{pp}{Co} \sim \frac{uv}{Di} \right]$$

$$Co \longrightarrow R_{WC}$$

Ex. naṭappa: $\longrightarrow$ naṭappa: 'will walk-she'

$$Di \longrightarrow Di_{TS\text{-}1}$$

naṭappa: $\longrightarrow$ naṭakkuva: 'will walk-she'

4.3.2.2.11 *Negative Suffix*

$$\text{R.1} \quad (a{:}t) \longrightarrow \underset{Co}{\left[a{:}t \sim a{:}\underset{.}{t}t \right]}$$

$$Co \longrightarrow R_{WC} \longrightarrow R_{PC}$$

Ex. ceyya:ta)
　　　　　　　) 'not done' (adj.)
　　 ceyya:tta)

Though the change is partial, the occurrence of the suffix *-a:tt-* in the Kanya-kumari Tamil Speech is due to the interference of the Malayalam negative suffix *-a:tt-.*

4.3.2.2.12 *Verbal Participle Suffix*

$$\text{R.1} \quad (mal) \longrightarrow \underset{Co}{\left[mal \sim ma \sim me \right]}$$

$$Co \longrightarrow R_{WC} \longrightarrow R_{PC\text{-}1} \longrightarrow R_{PC\text{-}2}$$

Ex. vara:male:　'even without coming'
　　 vara:meye:　'even without coming'
　　 vara:ma　　 'without coming'

R.2   (te) $\longrightarrow$ $\begin{bmatrix} \text{te} \sim \text{ta} \end{bmatrix}$
                                    Di

Di $\longrightarrow$ Di$_{\text{TS-1}}$ $\longrightarrow$ Di$_{\text{TS-2}}$

Ex. colla:te $\longrightarrow$ colla:te $\longrightarrow$ colla:ta 'without saying'

4.3.2.2.13 *Pronominal Terminations*
4.3.2.2.13.1 *Second Person Plural*

R.1   (i:nka) $\longrightarrow$ $\begin{bmatrix} \text{i:nka} \sim \text{i:ka} \sim \text{i:ya} \sim \text{i:yo} \quad \sim \text{i:nko} \end{bmatrix}$
                                                                                    Co

Co $\longrightarrow$ R$_{\text{WC}}$ $\longrightarrow$ R$_{\text{PC-1}}$ $\longrightarrow$ R$_{\text{PC-2}}$ $\longrightarrow$ R$_{\text{PC-3}}$ $\longrightarrow$ R$_{\text{PC-4}}$

Ex.   pa:tti:nka)
       pa:tti:nko)
       pa:tti:ka) 'saw-you' (pl.)
       pa:tti:ya)
       pa:tti:yo)

R.2   (i:nka) $\longrightarrow$ $\begin{bmatrix} \text{e:}\underset{.}{l} \end{bmatrix}$
                                    Di

Di $\longrightarrow$ Di$_{\text{TS-1}}$

pa:tti:nka $\longrightarrow$ pa:tte:$\underset{.}{l}$ 'saw-you' (pl.)

4.3.2.2.13.2 *Third Person Epicene Plural*

R.1   (a:nka) $\rightarrow$ $\begin{bmatrix} \text{a: nka} \sim \text{a:nko} \sim \text{a:ka} \sim \text{a:va} \sim \text{a:} \end{bmatrix}$
                                                                                    Co

Co $\longrightarrow$ R$_{\text{WC}}$ $\longrightarrow$ R$_{\text{PC-1}}$ $\longrightarrow$ R$_{\text{PC-2}}$ $\longrightarrow$ R$_{\text{PC-3}}$ $\longrightarrow$ R$_{\text{PC-4}}$

Ex. po:na:nka)
    po:na:nko)
    po:na:ka) 'went-they' (hum.)
    po:na:va)
    po:na:)

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4.3.2.2.13.3 *Third Person Neuter Singular*

R.1 (utu)——►[utu $\sim$ atu $\sim$ u]
Co

Co——►R_{WC}——►R_{PC-1}——►R_{PC-2}

Ex. vantutu)
vantatu) 'came-it'
vantu)

R.2 (utu)——► [icci $\sim$ cci]
Di

Di——►Di_{TS-1} Di_{TS-2}

Ex. vantutu——►vanticci 'came-it'
po:nutu——►po:cci 'went-it'

4.3.2.2.14 *Pronoun Bases*

4.3.2.2.14.1 *First Person Singular*

R.1 (en)——►[en $\sim$ e $\sim$ e: $\sim$ ne[7]:]
Co

Co——►R_{WC}——►R_{PC-1}——►R_{PC-2}——►R_{PC-3}

Ex. enakku)
ekku)
e:kku) 'to me'
ne:kku)

---

[7]The first person singular pronoun base *ena*— becomes *ne:*— after the operation of the metathesis rule ie., $V_1C_1V_2$——►C_1V_1: ——►. Therefore *ena*———►*ne:*—.

4.3.2.2.14.2 *Second Person Singular*

R.1 $(un) \longrightarrow [un \sim on \sim u \sim u: \sim no^8:]$

Co

$Co \longrightarrow R_{WC} \longrightarrow R_{PC-1} \longrightarrow R_{PC-2} \longrightarrow R_{PC-3} \longrightarrow R_{PC-4}$

Ex. unakku)
 onakku)
 ukku) 'to you' (sg.)
 u:kku)
 no:kku)

4.3.2.2.15 *Gender-Number Suffix (Third Person Epicene Plural)*

R.1 $(vanka) \longrightarrow$ [vanka $\sim$ vanko $\sim$ viya $\sim$ vuka $\sim$ vinka $\sim$
va:(!) $\sim$ ʋo]

Co

$Co \longrightarrow R_{WC} \longrightarrow R_{PC-1} \longrightarrow R_{PC-2} \longrightarrow R_{PC-3} \longrightarrow R_{PC-4}$

$\longrightarrow R_{PC-5} \longrightarrow R_{PC-6}$

Ex. avanka $\longrightarrow$ avanko $\longrightarrow$ avinka $\longrightarrow$ aviya $\longrightarrow$ avuka

$\longrightarrow$ a va:(!) $\longrightarrow$ avo   'they' (hum.)

4.3.2.2.16 *Ordinal Suffix*

R.1 $(a:m) \longrightarrow [a:m \sim a:matte]$

Co

$Co \longrightarrow R_{WC} \longrightarrow R_{PC-1}$

Ex. raṇṭa:m)
)   'second'
 raṇṭa:matte)

---

[8]The second person singular pronoun base *ona–* becomes *no:–* after the operation of the matathesis rule ie., $V_1 C_1 V_2 \longrightarrow C_1 V_1: –$. Therefore *ona–* becomes *no:–*.

R.2 (a:vatu)→[a:vatu ∿ a:matu]

$$\text{Co}$$

Co → R_{WC} → R_{PC-1}

Ex. na:la:vatu)
) 'fourth'
    na:la:matu)

4.3.2.2.17 *Temporal Marker*

R.1 (appo) ⟶ [appo ∿ appa ∿ appe ∿ acce ∿ atte]

$$\text{Co}$$

Co R_{WC} → R_{PC-1} → R_{PC-2} → R_{PC-3} → R_{PC-4}

Ex. ceyrappo)
    ceyrappa)
    ceyrappe) 'while doing'
    ceyracce)
    ceyratte)

4.3.2.3. *Lexical Level*

There are a number of lexical items which show variation in use. As lexical usages are less resistant towards change, we find relatively more number of variations when compared to those features in the other levels. The following list shows some of the lexical variations found in the Tamil speech varieties. Apart from the social conditionings, one can also find the interference and impact of the contacting languages in the bilingual/multilingual areas, situations, etc. There are considerable number of assimilated forms (borrowings from other languages) which have come into Tamil due to the various developments that have taken place in different realms of the social activity.

4.3.2.3.1 *Lexical Variations*

S.No.	Common Usage	Variations	Meaning
1.	ivlavu	ivvalavu, imma:m, imputtu, ivlavu	'this much'
2.	empatu	empatu, emplatu, enpatu	'eighty'

3.	enke	enke, eñce	'where'
4.	appa:	appa:, appa:ru, ayya:, ayyan, nayna:, to:ppana:r, aṇṇan	'father'
5.	amma:	amma:, amme, a:tta:, a:yi	'mother'
6.	aṇṇi	aṇṇi, manni, matani, mayni, aṇṇamuṇṭi	'elder brother's 'wife'
7.	appo	appo, appa, appe, apḷe	'then'
8.	pa:ṭṭi	pa:ṭṭi, appatta:, amma:yi, a:ya:, a:tta:, pa:cca:yi ammamma:	'grand mother'
9.	poñca:ti	poñca:ti, poṇṭa:ṭṭi, camsa:ram, a:mpaṭaya:, u:ṭṭukka:ri	'wife'
10.	purusan	purusan, a:mpaṭaya:n, u:ṭṭukka:ran, u:ṭṭukka:rar	'husband'
11.	tiṭṭu	tiṭṭu, vayyi, e:cu	'scold'
12.	ta:tta:	ta:tta:, pa:ṭṭan, ayya:, ciyya:n, pa:ccappan	'grand father'
13.	tikku	tikku, tece, lakku, pakkam	'direction'
14.	ta:li kaṭṭu	ta:li kaṭṭu, tiruppu:ṭṭu	'tie the sacred marriage badge'
15.	came	came, a:kku, ponku	'cook'
16.	ca:ppuṭu	ca:ppuṭu, tunnu, tinnu, unku, kuṭi	'eat'
17.	kaṭale	kaṭale, kalle, koṭṭe, ve:rkkaṭale, malla:ṭṭe	'ground nut'

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18.	kelavi	kelavi, keyvi	'old woman'
19.	ko:ylu	ko:yilu, ko:ylu, ampalam, cece	'temple'
20.	varuma:nam	varuma:nam, varavu, varumpati, varava:ci	'income'
21.	na:lu	na:lu, kelame, a:lcce, a:cce	'day'
22.	atta:n	atta:n, attimpe:r, macca:n, maccunen, aytta:n	'brother-in-law'

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