

LINGUISTIC APPROACH IN TIRUNELVELI DIALECT

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1. Introduction

Communication by means of language may be referred to as linguistic communication. Initially the study of language started in India with a great linguist and grammarian named Pānini, in the 5th century. He formulated 3959 rules in Sanskrit morphology. The minute things of the language and its scientific study was called Linguistics. It consists of micro and macro levels. This level includes various sub disciplines. One of the major disciplines was sociolinguistics.

2. Sociolinguistics

Sociolinguistics is the study of the sociological aspects of the language. It deals with the relationship between the language and society. It also includes the various dialectal form of the language. Sociolinguistics attempts to isolate those features that are used in a particular situation and that mark the various social relationships among the participants and the significant elements of the situation. Influences on the age, education, sex, gender, race, occupation and peer-group identification among others. American linguist William Labov has called Socio Linguistics as 'Secular linguistics'. Socio linguistics includes anthropological linguistics, dialectology, discourse analysis, ethnography of language speaking, geo linguistics, language contact studies etc.

3. Dialectology

This study occurs as a result of geographic or social isolation and may affect vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation (accent). It began in the 19th century with the development in the Western Europe of dictionaries and grammars of regional dialect.

4. Dialect

It is a variety of language that signals where a person comes from. The notion is usually interpreted geographically (regional dialect), but it also has some application in relation to a person's social background (class dialect) or occupation (occupational dialect). The term dialect was first coined in 1577 from the ancient Greek word dialektos "discourse, language, dialect", which is derived from dialegesthai "to discourse, talk". is distinguished from other dialects of the same language by the feature of linguistic structure – pronunciation, grammar and its vocabulary.

5. Standard Dialect & Non-Standard Dialect

Standard dialect is a dialect that is supported by institutions. Such institutional support may include government recognition or designation. There may be a multiple standard dialect associated with a single language. A nonstandard dialect is like a standard dialect, has a complete vocabulary, grammar, and syntax, but is usually not the beneficiary of institutional support. The dialect test was designed by Joseph Wright to compare different English dialects with each other.

6. Classification of Dialects

1. Regional dialect
2. Social dialect
3. Caste dialect
4. Temporal dialect

7. Regional dialect

A regional dialect is a distinct form of a language spoken in a particular geographical area. It is also known as a **regiolect or topolect**. If the form of speech is transmitted from a parent to a child is a distinct regional dialect, that dialect is said to be the child's *vernacular*. In Tamilnadu, the regional dialect consists of four divisions.

- a) Western – Kovai, Salem, Erode, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Tirupur. The specific phoneme for the western dialect is (y) “**ɪ**”. It is also called as Kongu dialect.
- b) Central – Trichy, Thanjavur, Nagapattinam, Karaikal. The specific phoneme for the central dialect is (o) “**ɪ**”.
- c) North – Chennai, Chengalpattu, Vilupuram, Vellore. The specific phoneme for the north dialect is (a) “**y**”.
- d) South – Madurai, Tirunelveli, Ramanathapuram, Kanyakumari. The specific phoneme for the south dialect is (w) “**r**”.

8. Social dialect

Social dialect is a variety of language (register) used by a socioeconomic class, a profession, an age group, or other social group. Social dialect is also called Sociolect. William Labov gives an example: "he here" instead of "he's here".

9. Caste dialect

A dialect spoken by a specific hereditary classes in a society. Often the use of caste dialect marks the speaker as part of that particular class. A. K. Ramanujan, comparing the kinds of language innovation between Brahmin and non-Brahmin dialects of Tamil. Jules Bloch published a study on caste dialects in 1910. The linguistic aspects of caste differentiation were published by John J. Gumperz in 1960. In the mid 1960's – Labov added an interest in variation within the speech of a caste.

10. Temporal dialect

It is one of the classifications of dialect based on the user of the language. Temporal dialect refers to the linguistic variety related to the provenance of the language users and the message that has come into being in the time dimension (Catford, 1965, pp.85-89) which displays the language change overtime, such as “Old English”, “Middle English”, “Contemporary English”.

11. Data Analysis

The data collected are analysed mainly in three linguistic aspects such as phonological, morphological, and lexical analysis is finally shown. It also contains the consonant and vowel chart. The data is phonologically analysed with the variations in vowels, consonants, metathesis, and deletion of phonemes. In morphological level the noun morphology, and verb morphology would be analysed from the collected data. Finally, the lexical analysis is done with Tirunelveli dialectal words and their standard forms and the equivalent English meaning analysed from the collected data. This chapter mainly deals with the data findings, analysis and their answers, which it was given by the respondents. The conclusion can be derived from the collected data. This study mainly focuses on the phonological, morphological, and lexical analysis of the data collected from the people of Nellai regions. In Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation the informants would be chosen from the main taluks. The data was collected from the people of these two taluks in Tirunelveli city.

12. Phonological Analysis- Vowel Variation

Phoneme	Variable	Variants
/i/	(i)	[i~e~o~u]
/a/	(a)	[a~e~u]
/u/	(u)	[u~o]
/u:/	(u:)	[u:~o]

i > e

vilai > velai “price”
 viṛakku > veṛaku “wood”

i > o

piṛanta > poṛanta “birth”
 piṇam > poṇam “dead body”

i > u

tiṇi > tuṇi “cloth”
 viṭu > vuṭu “leave”

a > e

kaṭṭu > keṭṭu

“tie”

kati > keti

“happening”

13. Consonant Variation

Phoneme	Variable	Variants
/p/	(p)	[p~v]
/k/	(k)	[k~v]
/l/	(l)	[l~r]
/l/	(l)	[l~ɭ]
/r/	(r)	[r~ɭ]
/ɽ/	(ɽ)	[ɽ~k]
/y/	(y)	[y~v~c]

p > v

kopam > kovam

“anger”

āpattu > āvattu

“danger”

r > l

rappar > lappar

“rubber”

ɽ > k

me:ɽkka > me:kka

“west”

14. Metathesis

lāri > rāli

“lorry”

vāykkāl > kālvay

“drain/ drainage”

pavaḷamuttu > muttupavaḷam

“corals”

15. Deletion

/r/

aṭartti > aṭatti

“density”

ne:rittikaṭaṇ > ne:ttikkataṇ

“vow”

/t/

muṭukku > mukku

“intersection/ street corner”

e:ṭṭi > e:ṭi

“to call a girl”

/k/

varaku arici > varavarici

“husked grain”

16. Morphological Level

Morphological analysis is the study of the internal structure of words. The linguistic term ‘Morphology’ was coined by August Schleicher in 1859. It dates back to the ancient Indian linguist Panini. The main aim of this part is to identify how the tense markers can be changed at the morphological level. In the next level how the PNG markers changed. Finally, the pronouns are also classified. This chapter could be classified into Noun Morphology and Verb Morphology.

17. Noun Morphology

In the present tense marker ‘kir’ has changed into ‘kk’ in TVL dialect. And ‘kaḷ’ has changed into ‘yṅka’.

	Present tense	TVL dialect present tense
1 st singular	naṭikkire:n	naṭikke:n
2 nd singular	naṭikkira:y	naṭikka
3 rd masculine	naṭikkira:n	naṭikka:n
3 rd singular feminine	naṭikkira:l	naṭikkaḷuva
3 rd singular honorific	naṭikkira:r	naṭikkira:ru
3 rd singular irrational	naṭikkiratu	naṭikkutu
1 st plural	naṭikkiro:m	naṭikko:m
2 nd plural	naṭikkiri:kaḷ	naṭikka:yṅka
3 rd plural rational	naṭikkira:rkaḷ	naṭikkira:yṅka
3 rd plural irrational	naṭikkirana	naṭikkutu

Past tense markers such as t, n, ṅ, ṭ. TVL dialect could not change in these tense markers but ‘r’ could be changed into ‘t’.

	Past tense	TVL dialect past tense
1 st singular	pe:rre:n	pe:tte:n
2 nd singular	pe:rri:y	pe:tta:l
3 rd masculine	pe:rri:n	pe:tta:n
3 rd singular feminine	pe:rri:l	pe:tta:l
3 rd singular honorific	pe:rri:r	pe:tta:ru
3 rd singular irrational	pe:rri:tu	pe:tta:tu
1 st plural	pe:rri:m	pe:tta:m
2 nd plural	pe:rri:ka	pe:tta:ka
3 rd plural rational	pe:rri:ka:l	pe:tta:ka
3 rd plural irrational	pe:rri:na	pe:tta:na

There are no changes in future tense markers in the TVL dialect.

18. Verb Morphology

The conjugation of a verb is a regular arrangement of its moods, tenses, persons, numbers, and participles. In TVL dialect *l* and *n* has changed into half sound.

Number	Gender	Person		
		1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Singular	Masculine	e:n		a:n
	Feminine	e:n		a:l
	Neuter	atu, um		
Plural	Masculine	o:m	i:rka:l	arka:l
	Feminine	o:m	i:rka:l	arka:l
	Neuter			

19. TVL PNG MARKERS

Number	Gender	Person		
		1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Singular	Masculine	e:(n)		a:(n)
	Feminine	e:(n)		a:(l)
	Neuter	ccu		
Plural	Masculine	o:(m)	i:nka	yi:nka a
	Feminine	o:(m)	i:nka	lu:va

There is no difference between plural neuter and singular neuter in some morphemes“t” sound can be changed into ‘c’.

20. Pronouns

Standard Tamil	TVL dialect
na:n	na:(n)*
na:nkaɭ	na:nkaɭ
Nee	Nee
ni:nkaɭ	ni:nka(l)*
Atu	atu
Avai	avai
avan	ava(n)*
ava:l	ava:(l)*
avarkaɭ	aviya*
ivarkaɭ	iviya*

21. Lexical Analysis

Tirunelveli dialect	Standard tamil	English
aɳacal	Nerukkamaka vaippatu	poruṅkaɭai Store room
ayve:cu	celvam	Wealth
a:nka:ram	a:ttiram	Anger
celavuppeṭṭi	añcaṅaipetṭi	A box having five compartments for containing spices
naṅṅamma:	ne:ra	Straight
lo:tta:	ṅamɭar	Glass
a:kkanketṭatu	arivilla:ta	Unconditioned
Cirai	tollai	Trouble maker
kaṅṅakutti	ma:ṅai kaṅṅum kampu	Used to tie the rope
no:vutu	valikkutu	Aching
pocam	to:lpaṅṅai	Shoulder
neñcu kaɭakkiṅṅu	neñcuvali	Chest pain

Conclusion

This paper concludes that the word usage of Tirunelveli region people who are migrating to other places for seeking jobs, shifting to cities etc. The next generation may not have the knowledge about their own dialect. One of the major occupations of Tirunelveli region people is farming which is still being continued. The study confirms that most of the Tirunelveli dialect lexical terms which are in use are not even available in the dictionary.

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