

SINGLE WORDS

The onomatopoeic expressions which are neither reduplicatives nor echoes are called single onomatopoeic words. They have some characteristic features. They are not conjugated. If at all they are made into verbs, the verb *en-* that occurs with them is conjugated.

e.g. *kaṇṇ enrumaṇi aṭittatu*
'the bell rang producing the sound *kaṇṇ*'

Or the auxiliary verbs *iṭu* or *uṇu* is added to them and these verbs are conjugated.

e.g. *tiṭukkittāṇ, tuṇukkurrāṇ* 'he was startled'

Nouns are derived from the single words very rarely. One finds only a few instances like *cillippu* 'chiliness', *tiṭukkittu* 'startling'.

These onomatopoeic words introduce new distribution of phonemes in the language. In Tamil the phonemes *ʃ*, *l*, etc; will not occur in the initial position of a word. But in onomatopoeic words one finds occurrences like *ṭannen-al* 'expression signifying the sound of a bell', *lapakken-al* 'expression signifying suddenness (as in snatching away) or gulping'. Plosives come in the final position like *tak* 'thudding sound'.

The syllabic pattern of these single words is (C1) *v* or (C1) VC2 or (C1) VC2 V C3. It is to be noted that the vowel is always short in the closed monosyllabic words and in the

initial syllable of the dysyllabic words. Though C1 is given as optional it is found in most of the cases. The final consonant is doubled in Sandhi before a vowel when the preceding vowel is short.

i. With en-

All the single onomatopoeic words can occur with this verb en- which means 'to say'. This verb is usually used for quotes. Other verbs or suffixes cannot occur with all the single words. Such words which do not occur with other verbs or suffixes but occur only with en form a majority. They are 163 out of 181 single words.

ammennal	1. 'Experiment of humming.'
	2. 'Experiment of filling or over flowing as of water'
ollennal	'Sounding in a certain way'
ovenal	'Sounding' 'Experiment of signifying absolute darkness'
kaṇṇennal	'ringing as bell'
kapukkenal	'sounding impetuously'
kammenal	'being silent'
kalukkenal	'Experiment of loud sharp sound as when laughing'
kāvenal	'crowing as crows'
kiṇṇenal	'tinkling sound'
kiṇṇennal	'Experiment of signifying ringing sound'
kiṇṇennal	—do—
kiṇṇennal	—do—
kiṇṇenal	1. 'Experiment of being full and tight'
	2. 'Signifying tinkling clinking sound'
kiṇṇennal	'Creaking noise'
kupilennal	'Singing burning, fiercely, rushing suddenly'
kupirenal	—do—

kummenal	'Signifying being over whelmed as by excessive darkness'
kulukkenal	'Signifying laughter'
kūvenal	'bawling, screaming'
kayenal	'Experiment of signifying shouting'
koppennal	'Moving quickly'
kommennal	'Expression denoting luxuriance'
kollennal	'Per an out burst of laughter'
kolennal	'Signifying the sound of a drum or other musical instruments'
kōvenal	'Expression of bewailing making loud music, crying'
cakkenal	'Harsh dull sound'
caṭakkenal	'Clacking as when walking with wooden sandals'
caṭārenal	'Crackling sound'
caṭṭennal	'Haste'
cappennal	'Insipidity'
cammenal	'Majestic bearing, rushing sound'
carāṭṭennal	'Moving quickly'
carārenal	'Suddenness, haste'
carālenal	—do—
carukkenal	'Expression of quickness, haste'
calārenal	'Clinking as of ornaments'
cavakkenal	'Being flexible or elastic'
calakkenal	'Splashing sound'
caḷakkenal	'Crashing sound'
caḷārenal	'Splashing'
callenal	'Growling with anger'
ciṇukkenal	'Worrying with frequent crying'
cillenal	'Rapidity, being noisy'
civiṭkenal	'Being impatient, being quick'
civilenal	'Being jealous'
cukrenal	'Rustling as of palmyra leaves; spreading fire'
cukkrenal	—do—

cuppenal	'Signifying the quick absorption of liquid'
cummenal	'Signifying breathing'
cūṟṟenal	'Stinging; hissing as water when in contact with fire'
curukkenal	'Stinging being smart'
cūḷenal	'Expr. of sternness, severity or pun of hay'
cūṟukkenal	'Signifying quickness, stinging'
cūvenal	'Silencing urging dogs, to attack'
cāyenal	'Expr. of contempt'
caiyenal	—do—
coṭakkenal	'Cracking noise'
coṭukkenal	'Sharp sound as of a stroke with a cane or a smack with a whip'
cōṭṇenal	'Sound as that of coconut falling on the ground'
cottenal	'Expression of signifying repeated sound as of coconuts falling on the ground one after another'
cōvenal	'Pattering of rain'
nerērenal	'Expr. of haste; suddenness'
nerēḷenal	—do—
nelḷenal	'An imitative sound',
noḷḷenal	—do—
ṭaṇṇenal	'The sound of a bell or gong'
ṭapakkenal	'The sharp sound as in sudden dropping'
ṭapārenal	'The cracking sound'
ṭāpirenal	'Sound produced in firing a gun'
ṭamārenal	'Crashing sound as of the breaking of earthen pots'
ṭammenal	—do—
ṭaiyenal	'Determined opposition among persons'
takkenal	'Thumping sound'
ṭaṇṇenal	'Expr. of tapping'

tapukkenal	'Expr. signifying haste, rashness as falling'
tavvenal	'Expr. denoting shrinking, withering, fading'
tikkenal	'Expr. throbbing or beating of the heart through fear'
tiṭukkenal	—do—
tiṭṟenal	'Onom. Expression of falling etc.,'
tiṭumenal	'Signifying the sound of a drum etc.,'
tiṇṇenal	1. 'Expr. of vibrating sound, of a string musical instrument.'
	2. 'Expr. of being firm'
tuṭukkenal	'Expr. of fear rashness'
tuṭumenal	'Expr. of roaring; jumping sound as into water'
tuṇukkenal	'Expr. of being afraid'
tunṇenal	'Expr. of startling'
turḷenal	'Expr. of suddenness'
toppenal	'Falling with a thumbing noise'
tommenal	'Expr. of drum beat'
narakkenal	'Expr. of suddenness, abruptness'
naḷḷenal	'An expr. denoting a sound'
nikiyenal	'Expression of the neighing of a horse'
nevērenal	'Expr. of suddenness'
nerukkenal	—do—
nerukkenal	'Expr. signifying speed of hastiness'
noytēnal	'Expr. signifying quickness 'briskness' nimbleness'
novvenal	'Expr. signifying haste or quickness'
pakḷenal	'Expr. signifying the state of being greatly terrified'
pakṟenal	—do—
pakkenal	'Bursting as with sudden laughter; splitting, cracking being sudden'
pacakkenal	'Expr. signifying suddenness'

pacārenal	'Expr. signifying greenness'
paccenal	'Expr. of being green'
paṭārenal	'Expr. signifying cracking or brusting noise'
paṭīrenal	—do—
paṭukkenal	'Expr. signifying breaking suddenly as of cords quickness'
paḷiccenal	'Expr. signifying flashing'
paḷīrenal	—do—
paṟārenal	'Expr. of burring sout'
picukkenal	Expr. signifying stickiness or viscosity'
pummenal	'Expr. denoting buzzing sound'
pulleṇal	'Expr. of sourness of taste'
peṭṭenal	'Expr. signifying quickness'
pokkenal	'Expr. signifying suddenness abruptness'
pocukkenal	—do—
poṭukkenal	'Expr. signifying breaking suddenly as of cords; quickness, suddenness'
poṭṭenal	'Expr. signifying quickness'
pottenal	'Expr. signifying the falling with a thud as of heavy fruits'
pommenal	'Expr. signifying tinkling sound being thick or crowded; being sudden or rapid'
porērenal	'Expr. signifying suddness'
porukkenal	'Expr. signifying swiftness or quick- ness'
pollenal	'Expr. signifying suddenness'
poṟkenal	'Expr. of suddenness'
maṭakkenal	'Expr. of signifying gurgling water in drinking'
maṭārenal	'Expr. signifying crashing noise'
maḷārenal	'Expr. signifying crashing; cracking'
maḷārttiyenal	—do—
maḷukkenal	—do—

māvenal	'Expr. signifying calling'
mūcenal	'Expr. of breathing hard'
mettenal	'Expr. signifying being smooth or soft'
melleṇal	—do—
moyyenal	'Expr. signifying slowness (cuṭāmani; soareness (Coloq.))
moukkenal	'Expr. of breaking suddenly as a dry branch being greasy' (akam)
lapakkenal	'Expr. signifying: suddenness; gulping'
lavakkenal	—do—
loḷḷenal	'Expr. of dog's bark'
vatakkenal	'Under boiled or under fried as greens'
vallenal	'Expr. signifying hardness or seve- rity'
valikkenal	'Expr. signifying clearness'
vaḷumenal	'Expr. of smoothness'
vaḷḷenal	'Expr. of barking sound'
varkenal	'Expr. signifying becoming harde- ning'
vikavenal	'Expr. of swift movement'
viccenal	'Expr. indicating aversion'
	'Expr. denoting silence'
vicukkenal	'Expr. of quick movement'
viṭalenal	'An imitative sound'
vinṇenal	'Expr. signifying tinkling as of a bell; throbbing as the eye'
vimmenal	'Expr. of becoming tight'
viḷumenal	Expr. signifying slipperiness'
virrenal	'Expr. of whirring sound as a stone whirled in the air'
veccenal	'Expr. of being hot; becoming heated'
vetkenal	'Expr. of shallowness, superficiality'
vetpenal	'Expr. of harshness; violence'

vetukkenal	'Expr. of noise of breaking; quick-ness'
veytenal	'Expr. signifying being hot; being haste, being cruel'
velumenal	'Expr. of being smooth to touch'
vellenal	'Expr. of becoming white, becoming clear drawing of day'
velarenal	—do—
verrenal	'Expr. of being empty'
vericcenal	'Expr. of being vacant or empty as a place devoid of inhabitants'
jammenal	'Expr. being fine, being comfortable'
jovenal	Expr. of being tumultuous'

ii. With other auxiliary verbs

(a) iṭu

The auxiliary verb iṭu means 'to put, place'.

This is added with 9 words. Though this is comparatively a smaller group, it comes next to the en-group. By lengthening the short vowel of this auxiliary verb, the verb is made into a noun.

e.g. tiṭukkiṭu tiṭukkiṭu

kiricciṭu	'Expr. signifying creaking sound'
kiṛicciṭu	'To creak as new shoes a wheel, an oil mill'
cilliriṭu	'Being chill of getting the goose skin'
cilliṭu	'Being chill of getting the goose skin'
tiṭukkiṭu	'to be startled'
paṛariṭu	'to make a burring sound'
vaṛkiṭu	'Expr. signifying becoming hardening'
vīriṭu	'To cry out suddenly; to scream'
vīriṭu	—do—

(b) uṛu

The other auxiliary verb is uṛu, that means 'to experience'. It is added to only one word viz. tuṇuk-uṛu 'to be startled'

(c) Other verbs.

Other verbs like kāṭṭu 'to show', viṭu 'to leave' are added to a particular word cū which is an animal command to set on dogs for attack. When the verb koṭṭu is added it is the expression of assent. It shows that by adding different verbs to an onomatopoeic word different meanings are got.

cūkāṭṭutal	'To set dogs on; to drive away with the sound 'cū', as dogs'
cūkkoṭṭutal	'To express assent with the sound cū'
cūviṭutal	'To set on as dogs to attack'

iii (a) with nominal suffix.

A very few of the single words are made into nouns by adding nominal suffixes. While many of the reduplicated words take the nominal suffixes. It is comparatively rare with reference to the single words.

cillippu	'Chilliness'
jillippu	—do—

(b) With other suffixes.

Two words have come with other suffixes.

cummai	'Sound noise, musical note'
kiṛiccan	'Whatch man's rattle; child's rattle'

iv. As attributes.

A few single words come as attributes of nouns.

cilloli	'Shrill; sipulak'
moḷukkaṭṭai	'Stout person'