The free word in the second part.

The echoed word in this section belongs to the first part and the free word to the second. Here the echoed part is proposed to the free word.

(1) Consonant + Vowel change.
Kōga is the echoed word of the free word māgam and it comes as attribute to pillai. This is the only case where one gets consonant plus vowel change.

kōgamānappillai ‘A marriage ceremony in which the bride presents the bridegroom with a doll representing a child which he returns to her.

(2) Loss of consonants.
Contrary to the echoed word with the free word as the first part, in these words the initial consonant of the free word is lost when echoed. There are 8 such words in this section.

akkampakkam ‘This way and that way’
āliṭittlaṭi ‘Unsteady swaying to and fro’
agakkapakka ‘With flurry’
aratimārati ‘Forgetfulness’
acakupiṇcu ‘Awkward predicament’
attikkuppotthi ‘Contradiction merely for the sake of contradiction’
ānakkukkopai...—do—

From the semantic point of view it is possible to make a distinction between primary and secondary onomatopoeia. “Its [Primary-onomatopoeia’s] primary form is the imitation of sound by sound. Here the sound is truly an ‘echo to the sense’: the referent itself is an acoustic experience which is more or less closely imitated by the phonetic structure of the word”. These are different from the “words which are having no direct relationship with the sound. The sound might have struck a listener at one time or from one feature of that object. But it is not its prominent feature.”

Primary onomatopoeia is determined by its imitative nature. Here a note of caution is needed. The sound imitated will not express fully the sound of the thing which it represents. Imitation is not only objective but also subjective. The same sound is heard and expressed differently by different speakers. For example to indicate the ringing of the bell many expressions are found in Tamil: kaṅṭir, kiptu, kinar, kigal. The barking of the dog is expressed as loj or val. Many examples can be cited to elucidate this point. So it is clear that,

i] The imitative expressions do not represent the natural sound hundred percent.

ii] The imitative expressions vary from person to person and so there are numerous expressions for a single natural

Onomatopoeia in Tamil

sound. A reason for the first fact, as Otto Jespersen has suggested, is that our speech organs are not capable of giving a perfect imitation of all unarticulated sounds and therefore the choice of speech sounds is to a certain extent accidental.

These imitatives have been arranged as per their form like single words, reduplicatives etc. They are 148 in number.

There are onomatopoeic words in Tamil relating to all the five senses:

- **pacapacappu** 
  "To grumble in a suppressed tone"
- **palapalappu**
  "Glittering"
- **curacurappu**
  "To be rough"
- **kamakamattal**
  "To be very fragrant"
- **kankanappu**
  "Ringing of bells" etc.; of the onomatopoeic words related to the ear will be imitatives.

There are a few sets of expressions which are not exactly imitative. But they have the characteristic sounds which create an atmosphere of the actual sounds. For example there are many words to denote whispering like kucukucutal, kicukicutal, pucupocutal. All the consonants here are voiceless and the sibilant [Phonetically] is invariably found. In actual whispering also there is no voiced sound and the vocal-cords constrict the air passage. Similarly the words denoting murmuring like muumunatal, moamaonatal etc. invariably have nasals.

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Onomatopoeia in Tamil

Crashing sound as of the breaking of earthen pots
--do--

THUMPING SOUND
--do--

Expr. of tapping

Rashness as in falling

SIGNIFYING THE SOUND OF A DRUM (see earlier)

Expr. of vibrating sound of a string musical instrument

Jumping sound as into water

Falling with a thumping noise

Expr. of the neighing of a horse

Expr. signifying shopping sound

Bursting as with sudden laughter; same as spitting, cracking;

Expr. signifying cracking or bursting of bones

--do--

Expr. denoting buzzing sound

Expr. signifying breaking suddenly as of cords

Expr. signifying the falling with a thud as of heavy fruits

 Expr. signifying tinkling sound

Gurgling of water in drinking

Gurgling noise

--do--

--do--

Expr. signifying calling

Expr. of breaking suddenly as a dry branch

Expr. signifying gulping

Expr. of dogs bark

Expr. of barking sound

An imitative sound

Tinkling as of a bell

Expr. of whirling sound as a stone whirled in the air

Expr. of noise of breaking


Creating sound

--do--

To make a burring sound

To cry out suddenly, to scream

--do--

Expr. of scaring away birds etc.

Chuckling as fowls

Signifying chirping as of lizards

Signifying rumbling sound

Signifying hallow sound

Expr. signifying tinkling sound

Expr. signifying peeping of chickens

Signifying clinking sound

Chirping sound; screaming sound as of birds

Expr. of chuckling

Expr. of a saw when cutting the timber

--do--

Expr. of rattling noise

Crackling noise as of flames; signifying jerking

Signifying tinkling sound as of anklets

Expr. signifying squalling; crying as of new born infant
Onomatopoeia in Tamil

kūkkavēnāl “Signifying crowing sound as of a cock”
keṭāṇēkkā́majēnāl “Palpitation of heart through fear”
kēttukkēttēnāl “Chirping, crackling sound as of a hen”
keruṭtuķkeruṭṭ “Hoarse sound or rattle as in difficult cult or hard breathing”
koraṭṭukkoraṭṭēnāl — do —
cakkakkaṭicakkakāṭi “Expr. of repeated thud”
cyēnāl
cakkucakkēnāl “Expr. signifying harsh dull sound”
caṭṭakkucaṭṭakk “Clacking as when walking with wooden sandals”
calācāraṇēnāl “Clinking as of ornaments”
takštēnāl “Tickling sound of a clock; the clattering noise of boots”
tapāṭapavegānāl “The sound of a drum”
tamāṭamāvegānāl — do —
takuntakumegegāl “Cracking sound of fire beating sound of a drum”
takkuttakkenāl “Expr. of repeated thumping sound”
tikkuttikkēnāl — do —
tiṭtukkitiṭtukkenāl “Expr. throb, thrum, or beating of the heart through fear”
timutimuvegānāl “Expr. of repeated or beating sound”
toṭṭopogegegāl “Expr. of the sound of drumming”
nōṭuikkunōṭuk “Expr. signifying slight tapping or knowcking noise”
nōṭannōvēnāl “Expr. signifying sound of speaking through nose, teasing”
pakkuppakkenēgāl “Expr. of throb, thrum, or beating as the heart through fear; bursting laughter”
maṟamaregāl “Expr. of crashing”
mocumoccegāl “Expr. of munching”
loṭuṭkuloṭuk “Expr. signifying shakiness as of a running carriage”

Primary Onomatopoeia or Imitatives

kiṭukkiṇuttal “To buzz as mosquitos; to hum as bees”
kūḷakūḷattal “Gurgling sound”
kōḷakōḷattal — do —
caṭṭaṭtaṭtal “Crash; beat of repeated sound”
cuvucuruttal “Signifying rapid burning as combustibles”
cuvucuruttal — do —
tapatattal “To totter from age, weakness etc.”
tatataṭtal “The sound caused by the discharge of watery stools”
tiṭuṭtiṭtal “Beating of the heart through fear”
nāṟunāṟuttal “Grinding the teeth”
nāṟanāṟattal — do —
neranerattal — do —
nerunneruttal — do —
potupoṭuttal “To snap as cords”
malamalattal “To crash, rattle sound loudly as branches in snapping”
motumotuttal “To rustle as dried skin, starched cloth etc.”
To rumble as bowels
loṭalōja “To become rickety; to be hollow or empty”

[2c] Reduplicatives with -pu.
kaṭaṭaṭappu “To become loose, clattering, rumbling”
kaṭaṭaṭappu “Ring of the bell”
kaṭaṭaṭappu “Loud and confused noise”
kaṭaṭaṭappu “Reiterative sound, crispness”
kalukilappu “Child’s rattle”
kuṭkuṭupp “Rattle”
kōṭkorappu “Rattling in the throat”
cuṭuṭappu “Sound of falling trees”
carucaaruappu “Rustling as of starched cloth”
ALLITERATION AND ASSONANCE

Sequences of alliteration and assonance are different from the echo words for both the parts in the former will occur in isolation. Two free words are combined together on the basis of formal and semantic similarity. So these words which come in a sequence are similar in phonemic shape and meaning.

Some times such combinations of free words develop a new meaning and the original meaning of each of the words is related in one way or other to the new meaning.

e.g. atipi ‘Quarrel’ Here ati means ‘beat’ and piti means ‘catch’ and the combination of ‘beating’ and ‘catching’ comes to mean quarrel.

Itakumatakku ‘Specious objection’
Here itakku means ‘Rudeness, incivility’ etc. and matakkku means ‘to bend or made him no more to continue his argument’ and both these meanings are related to the meaning of the combination ‘specious objection’.

In some other sequences both the words retain their meanings and the meanings of both the words are given one after another in the combination.

e.g. panchamachi ‘Scarcity and hunger’
moonaecam ‘Cheating and damaging’

In some other words meaning of any one of the free words is almost the same as the meaning of the combination of both the free words, the other free word comes to emphasise that meaning.

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[2d] Reduplicatives with other suffixes

kikini ‘Tinkling ornament for the anklet’
kijukili ‘Children’s rattle box’
kijukileppai ‘Child’s rattle’
kutukulkkai ‘Ripe cocanut in which the kernal rattles’
kutukuppaï ‘Anything making a rattling sound’

[3] Echo Words complete onomatopoeic

kapukupukkenal ‘Gurgling of water’
kakvegal ‘Expr. as in wailing’
kokkegal ‘Clucking’
ţakkutïkkenal ‘The tick tick’

Sound produced by sabots or slippers while walking

‘Expr. of patting sound’

Consonant + Vowel change.

katamutegal ‘Rattling, rumbling in the bowels’
kutumotegal ‘—do—’
kiccumucegal ‘Noiseness as of a house full of children’
caţapujattal ‘To make a cracking sound’
carakuppurakkengan ‘Creaking sound as of shoes’
calarpilrengan ‘Signifying clinking as of ornaments’

do—
calukkupplukkengan ‘Splashing sound’
calakkuppujakkengan ‘—do—’
calakkuppulakkengan ‘Bubbling as boiling water’
cilupvegal ‘—do—’
cilupvegal ‘—do—’
takkuppukkenal ‘Expr. of repeated thumping sound’
takkupokkenal ‘—do—’