Onomatopoeia in Tamil

calacalappu
- 'To rustle'
- 'Splashing as of rain'
calacalappu
- 'Roughness as of woolen cloth'
malamalappu
- 'Snapping noise'
mutamutappu
- 'Cracking noise'
mrumurappu
- 'Forming cracking in the mouth'
mottamottappu
- 'Rattling sound as of dried skin'
moromorappu
- 'Rustling'

[2d] Reduplicatives with other suffixes
kiñkini
- 'Tinking ornament for the anklet'
kiwikili
- 'Children's rattle box'
kiwikileppai
- 'Child's rattle'
kutukutukkai
- 'Ripe cocanut in which the kernal rattles'
kutukutuppai
- 'Anything making a rattling sound'

[3] Echo Words complet onomatopoeic
kapukukupukkenal
- 'Gurgling of water'
kakvegal
- 'Expr. as in walling'
kokkovegal
- 'Clucking'
țakkutikkenal
- 'The tick-tack sound'
- Sound produced by sabots or slippers while walking'
- 'Expr. of patting sound'

tăpapatenal

Consonant + Vowel change,
kațamutengan
- 'Rattling, rumbling in the bowels'
- do-
kațumotengan
- 'Noisiness as of a house full of children'
- 'To make a cracking sound'
kiccumuceegal
- 'Creaking sound as of shoes'
- 'Signifying clinking as of ornaments'
cațapuțatal
- do-
carakupurakkengan
- 'Splashing sound'
- do-
calarpilaregal
- 'Bubbling as boiling water'
- do-
calukuppilukkenal
- 'Expr. of repeated thumping sound'
- do-
cațakuppuțakkenal
- 'Expr. of repeated thumping sound'
- do-
cișupuțegal
- 'Cheating and damaging'
- do-
țakkupukkenal
- 'Scarcity and hunger'
- do-
țakkupokkengan

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 the two 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. ati pi 'Quarrel'. Here ati means 'beat' and pi means 'catch' and the combination of 'beating' and 'catching' comes to mean quarrel.

îțakkumâțakkku
- 'Specious objection'
Here îțakku means 'Rudeness, incivility' etc. and mâțakkku 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. pâncampaci
- 'Scarcey and hunger'
mooșâćeam
- '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.
Alliteration and Assonance

(2) Assonance.

If the second or non-initial syllable is repeated in the other word, it is called assonance. In some cases particularly when the first word ends in m, the final nasal is lost and it becomes an attribute to the following word. Here also most of the second words begin with bilabials. In one case only the consonant of the second syllable is repeated and the vowel of that syllable is different.

e.g. iṣṭakkumūṭakkku, ‘Difficult circumstances’

This seems to be a combination of two words belonging to two different combinations. For there are two other expressions:

iṣṭakkuṭakku ‘Specious objection’
and iṣṭakkumūṭakku ‘Narrow corner’

where the whole second syllable is repeated.

aṭiṭi ‘Quarrel’
aṭaikurai ‘Incompleteness’
saṭaikkuṇakoaṭai-kkum ‘Through out the year at all seasons’
iṣṭakkumūṭakku ‘Specious objection’
iṣṭakkumūṭakku ‘Difficult circumstances’
iṣṭakkumūṭakku ‘Narrow corner’
illātutampollāta ‘False hood’
tum ‘Uncertainty’
irukkeṇṛukkam ‘Interval’
līkṣcaṇam ‘Kith and kin’
īgattārcaṇṭṭar ‘Logmatic retort or tit for tat’
karamram ‘Threat and persuasion’
kaṭrupaṭu ‘Loss, damage’
caṇḍalpigal ‘Entanglement, confusion’
cantupontu ‘Nook and corner’
curūmmurrum ‘All around’
cantuvaṭu ‘Cunning, artfulness’
taṭtapiṭam ‘Food wasted on useless persons’
ONOMATOPOEIC SIGNIFICANCE
OF PARTICULAR SOUNDS

There are onomatopoeic expressions which are similar in form but with a single difference of vowels or consonants. In those cases this particular difference of a vowel or a consonant gives two different onomatopoeic values. Such contrasting sounds have to be taken as having onomatopoeic significance. This contrast is found in quality and quantity of vowels and consonants.

(i) Contrast in the quality of the vowel.

The alternation between u and i, u and e, u and a gives two different meanings of the onomatopoeic expressions which are otherwise similar in form.

- u→i
  - kulukuluttal 'Boiling'
  - kulikulittal 'To be delivered of a child'

- u→e
  - cânuvengal 'Silencing urging dogs to attack'
  - cçççayengal 'Expr. of contempt, used in driving as of animals'

- u→a
  - murumuruttal 'To murmur'
  - muramurattal 'To become rough'