The patterns of request available in a language have been studied by some scholars (Ervin-Tripp, 1976; Levinson, 1987; Blum-Kulka, 1984 and 1985).

The language of power has been studied from the pragmatic point of view (Thomas, 1985). In Tamil, the semantics of the verbs vaa 'come' and poo 'go' has been studied by Annamalai (1975 a). Imperative in old Tamil has been studied by Agesthialingom (1980 b). Verbs and auxiliaries have been studied by many scholars (Agesthialingom, 1980 a; Karthikeyan, 1981; Muthushanmugan, 1986; Ramani, 1988 and others).

There has been some studies on the status of a person and his speech behaviour (Muthushanmugan, 1967; Suseendirarajah, 1970; Bean, 1974; Karunakaran, 1975 a; Sivashanmugam, 1979; Anandarajan, 1980; Meenakshisundaran, 1980; Karunakaran and Sivashanmugam, 1981; Yesudason, 1981; Thirumalai, 1987 a and Perumalsamy, 1988 a).

1.5 Significance of the Study

Since language and society are two sides of a coin, and linguistic study has to take into account the society where language is used. Any attempt to neglect or overlook the social settings will be incomplete and inadequate. This particular study has attempted to study the significance in the linguistic usages not only from the