

3.6 Network Analysis

Linguistic studies employ the analysis of the personal communication network using the informant as the axis and plotting all possible channels of communication or links to others both inside and outside the community. Some studies have been carried out by linguists through network system in urban and rural areas. Notable among them are the works of Milroy (1980) and Lippi - Green (1989). As far this study is concerned, the networks may be mainly classified into two levels, namely, (1) Kin network level and (2) Social network level.

3.6.1 Kin Network Level

In the kin network level, the informant's possible kinship relatives may be selected for a study. On the basis of generation, five generations such as grand father, father, ego, son, and grand son may be selected. The relatives may be classified as either consanguinal/parallel or affinal/cross relatives. Again both the sexes may be included in the above said classification. All possible kinship relations may be taken up for study. As far this study is concerned, fifty kinship categories have been identified and included in the kin network level for the purpose of analysing their linguistic behaviour.