CHAPTER - IV

USE OF PRONOUNS

4.1 General

There are some linguistic choices, the usages of which
bring out the social relationship existing between the addresser
and addressee. One way of looking at the relationship existing
between them is to examine the pronoun exchange. There are two
second person pronouns in Tamil. One is ni: 'you – singular' and
the other one is ni:ṅka(ḷ) 'you – plural'. The latter one is used
to address a single person also as a mark of honour or deference.
When persons of unequal status interact in the speech event, a kind
of pronoun system which is non-reciprocal in nature may be used.
If persons of equal status interact, then they exchange the same
kind of pronouns which are said to be reciprocal in nature. Thus,
based upon the relationship between the two persons and the status
of the participants involved in the speech event, the choice of
pronouns is made. This chapter deals with the study of the use of
pronouns by the speaker in the kinship as well as social network
level and also upon the factors which influence the use of such
pronouns.

4.2 Nouns

Nouns are those which can take or are capable of taking case