

4.4 Kin Network Level

4.4.1 Father

Most of the informants belonging to the forward and backward communities address their father using the pronoun ni:nka. Father is the head of the family and hence he enjoys supremacy among the other members of the family. Hence the wife as well as the children address him using the honorific pronoun ni:nka(l) 'you - pl'. However, lower income group informants in scheduled caste and some of the backward castes address their father using the pronoun ni: 'you - sg.' which is a non-honorific one. This may be because they are employed as menials or as daily wagers. These blue collar labourers enjoy no status in the society and hence they are addressed as ni: 'you - sg.' by their kins as well as others.

The educated informants of backward and scheduled communities use ni:nkal 'you - pl.' honorific pronoun to refer to their fathers. Here, it has to be observed that the variable education plays a vital role in changing the usage of pronoun. Thus the educated individuals of the scheduled community as well as the backward community use ni:nkal 'you - pl.' to refer to their fathers.