

5.2.6 Honorific Singular

There are separate suffixes to denote singular honorific in the third person. In old Tamil, the suffixes such as -ar, -a:r, -o:r, -pa, etc. were used as honorific suffixes. In the modern Tamil also -a:r and a:rka:l are used as honorific suffixes.

appa: to:ttattukku po:yirukka:r/po:yirukka:nka

'father has gone to the farm'

appa: to:ttattukku po:ra:r/po:ra:nka

'father goes to the farm'

appa: to:ttattukku po:va:r/po:va:nka

'father will go to the farm'

5.2.7 Non-Human Singular

When non-human singular nouns occur as subject in a sentence, then the predicate will have a non-human singular marker. If it is plural, then plural-suffix will be used. Tolkappiar cites suffixes such as -tu and ru as singular non human suffixes. In old Tamil, -atu, -tu, -ru, -Ø, -u, etc. were used to denote non-