The term appa: refers only to the male parent. Thus both
the classificatory and descriptive types of kinship terms are
found to be used.

6.3 Variations found in the Use of Kinship Terms

Kinship terms are used to address as well as to refer to a
particular person. In addition to that, the system of kinship
terms reflects the structure of the society in which they are
used within a language group. However, variations in the use of
some kinship terms with reference to various social groups are
also found. Some social or regional factors are involved in
these variations of the kinship terms. An attempt is made here
to analyse the variations in kinship terms used by various social
groups of this region, and to describe the nature of such vari-
tions. In this analysis the terms which exhibit variation alone
have been discussed, and the remaining terms which do not exhibit
variation have been left out.

6.4 Father

6.4.1 Forward Communities

The Tamil lexical item used to refer to father is appa:. In
the forward communities father is addressed as appa: with only one
exception.