

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 variations. 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.