

4.3.2 Alternants of Second Person Pronoun in Tamil

Form	Meaning
ni:	you - singular
ni:r	you - neutral (dialectal)
ni:nka _l	you - plural as well as you - honorific singular
ta:nka _l	you - plural as well as highly deferential honorific singular used in formal situations

In this chapter the variations in the use of the second person pronouns ni: and ni:nka(l) have been taken up for discussion. Since the pronoun ni:r is not found to be used in this area and since the pronoun ta:nka_l is used only in certain highly formal situations, they have not been considered for this study. The use of ni: and ni:nka_l is controlled by various factors such as power or distance, solidarity or intimacy which vary according to the age, education, economy, role relationship, caste, etc. of the persons involved in speech act.