

forward communities use -a:nka in formal situations, otherwise, -ccu and -a: are used.

5.4.1.5.2 Backward Communities

In the backward communities, the wives are referred to by using the pronouns ava, avunka and atu by their husbands. The pronominal terminations used for the wives are -a:, -a:nka and -ccu or -um.

ava is a term used to refer to the wife when the husband is referring to her while speaking with the close relatives. The pronominal termination used in this context is -a:. In formal situations, wife is referred to by using the honorific pronoun avunka and the pronominal termination -a:nka.

However, the low income agricultural labourers and service caste people refer to their wives by the term atu and the pronominal termination used for them is -ccu/-u/-um.

5.4.1.5.3 Scheduled Communities

In the scheduled communities, the wives are referred to by the terms ava, atu and avunka. The pronominal terminations used for the wives are -a:, -ccu/-u/-um and -a:nka.