

5.5 -a:ple as a Pronominal Termination

Another typical feature is the usage of the suffix -a:ple which is used as a kind of epicene pronominal termination. This suffix is used in such dubious cases as whether to use the honorific suffix or non-honorific suffix to the referent. When the speaker wants neither to honour nor to dishonour the referent, this suffix is used. The following are some of the examples :

annen enke po:na:ple?

'where did elder brother go?'

palanica:mi enna: conna:ple?

'What did Palanisamy say?'

5.6 Conclusion

5.6.1 Pronominal Termination : Pattern of Usages

From the data on the use of pronominal terminations collected for this study, an attempt has been made in the following passage to describe the pattern of use of pronominal terminations by the three social groups.