

5.2.4 Feminine Plural

- a:lu(n)ka is the suffix used to denote the feminine non-honorific plural in the modern language use.

avalu(n̄)ka ciricca:lu(n̄)ka 'they (Fem. Non Hon. Pl.) laughed'
 avalu(n̄)ka cirikkira:lu(n̄)ka 'they (Fem. Non Hon. Pl.) laugh'
 avalu(n̄)ka cirippa:lu(n̄)ka 'they (Fem. Non Hon. Pl.)will laugh'

5.2.5 Epicene Plural

If the subject has nouns of both the genders, then the verb has the suffix denoting the epicene plural. Epicene plural is common to both masculine and feminine genders. Hence, there is no distinction between masculine and feminine genders in the representation of epicene plural. Tolkappiar cites suffixes such as -a:r, -ar, -pa, ma:r etc. as those denoting epicene plural.

In the middle Tamil -ar, -ma:r, -a:r, -o:r, -pa, -arkal, a:rkal and o:rkal are used as the epicene plural suffixes and in the modern spoken Tamil, -a:nka suffix is used.

amma:vum appa:vum ka:ttukkup po:na:nka

'mother and father went to the farm'