

amma:vum appa:vum ka:ttukkup po:ra:ñka

'mother and father go to the farm'

amma:vum appa:vum ka:ttukkup po:va:ñka

'mother and father will go to the farm'

In old Tamil, the suffix -ka was used to denote non human plural only. Later -ka was used to denote human beings also. Agesthalingom (1980 a) and Ramani (1988) have pointed out that to differentiate the plural forms from honorific forms, -ka is added in the nouns which end with -a:r. This has lead to double plural forms in Tamil. The following are some of the examples :

eluтина:rka

'they wrote'

elutukira:rka

'they write'

elutuva:rka

'they will write'

In spoken Tamil, the plural suffix -a:rka is changed into -a:ñka.

elutuna:ñka

'they wrote'

elutura:ñka

'they write'

elutuva:ñka

'they will write'