

### 5.3 Use of Pronominal Terminations

Thus, in Tamil there are eight categories of pronominal terminations in third person according to the nature of the noun used in the subject. However, variations are found to occur in the usage of pronominal terminations based on the intimacy or power between the speaker and the hearer.

#### 5.3.1 Non Human Singular Form Denoting Human Singular

Sometimes, the non human pronominal terminations such as -u, -ccu and -um are used to denote epicene singular. Thus, the non human singular forms replace the human singular pronominal terminations -a:n, -a:l and -a:r. These non human terminations are used to humans in order to show a moderate respect to the referent. The non human pronominal termination suffixes have been used depending upon the tense and aspect.

amma: ka:ttukkup po:yirukkutu

'mother has gone to farm'

amma: ka:ttukkup po:kutu

'mother goes to farm'

amma: ka:ttukkup po:kum

'mother will go to farm'