

terms have been mainly classified into two types as classificatory system and descriptive system. The variations found in the use of some of the important kinship terms have also been discussed.

The changes that have taken place in the social structure are very well reflected in the usage of kinship terms. With the universalization of education, spread of literacy, phenomenal development in the fields of mass communication such marked kinship terms as anna: 'father', cinnanna: 'elder brother', cinnamma: 'aunt', etc. have lost their currency among the young aged educated informants which reflects the process of modernization in the linguistic usages taking place.

Another interesting finding is that the linguistic usages which are related to a particular community are loosing their currency gradually and some sort of standardization is taking place. For instance, the use of Brahminical kinship terms is found in certain cases of Brahmin informants only, while other Brahmin informants tend to use non-Brahminical kinship terms only.

Of all the kinship terms, significant variations have been attested in the case of six items only, namely, the words referring to (1) father (2) father's mother (3) father's father (4) mother's younger sister (5) mother's mother and (6) mother's father. The