

Among the above mentioned terms, e:nunka and ennanka are found in the middle and old age groups and e:nka is found in the middle aged lower income, school educated groups.

The husbands are referred to by the terms ayyar, avunka and avar also. The caste name ayyar which itself has a honorific suffix is used to refer to the husbands. This is found in the speech behaviour of the wives of lower income, middle aged temple priests.

6.7.2 Backward Communities

In the backward communities, husbands are addressed as e:nunka. This word is predominantly found in all the social groups of this region. This form is found mostly in all the caste groups cutting across economic, age as well as educational criteria. However, the college educated high income group informants use a slightly different form viz., e:nka.

Husbands are referred to as avaru 'he - honorific' kavuntar 'a man of Gounder caste' and vi:ttukka:rar 'master of the house'.