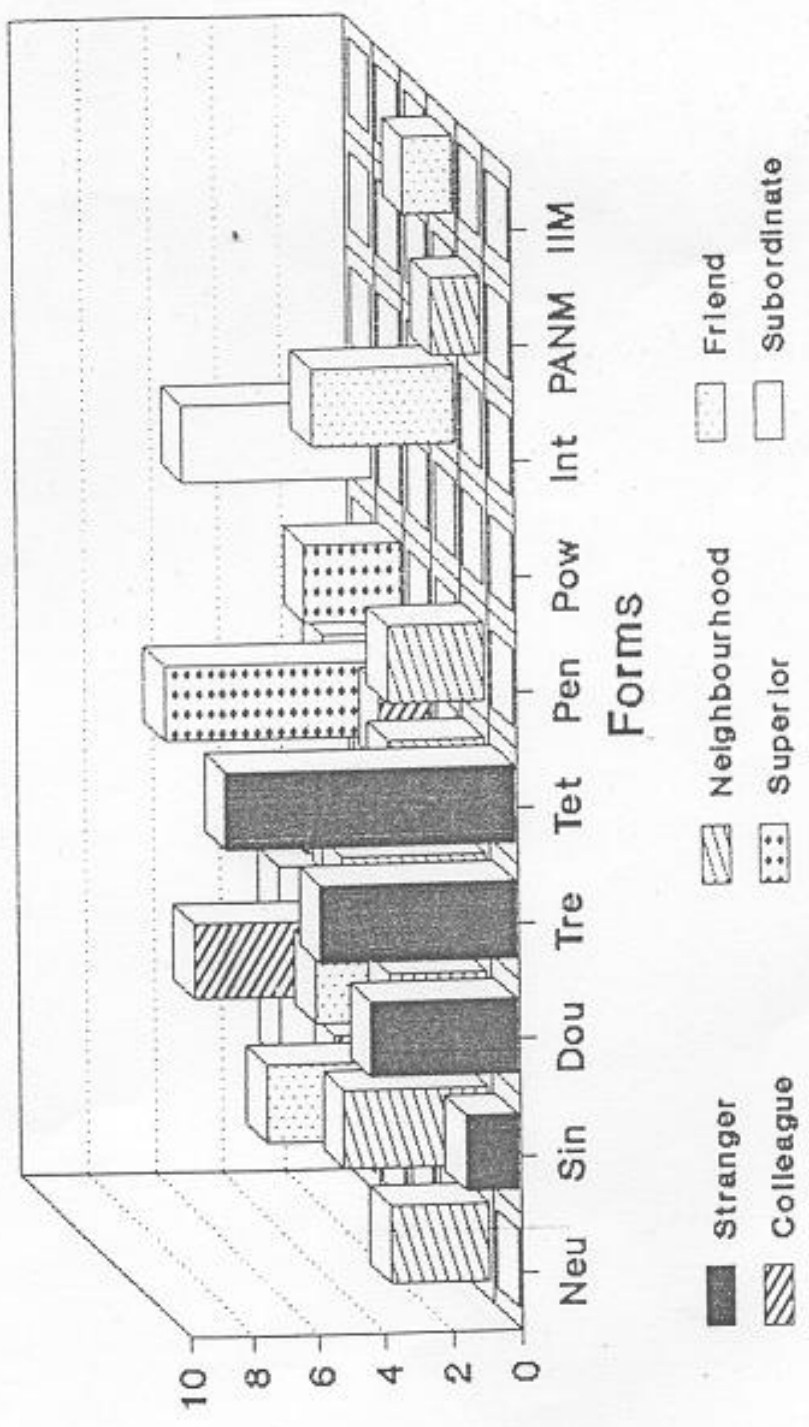


BACKWARD COMMUNITY : REQUEST PATTERNS

Forms	Stranger	Neighbour	Friend	Colleague	Superior	Subordinate
Neutral	-	2.9	-	-	-	-
Single	1.5	4.3	5.8	2.9	-	2.9
Double	4.3	2.9	4.3	7.2	1.5	2.9
Treble	5.8	4.3	-	2.9	2.9	-
Tetra	8.7	2.9	-	1.5	7.2	1.5
Penta	-	2.9	-	-	2.9	-
Power	-	-	-	-	-	5.8
Intimacy	-	-	4.3	-	-	-
PANM	-	1.5	-	-	-	-
IIM	-	-	1.5	-	-	-

Backward Community Request Patterns (in percentage)

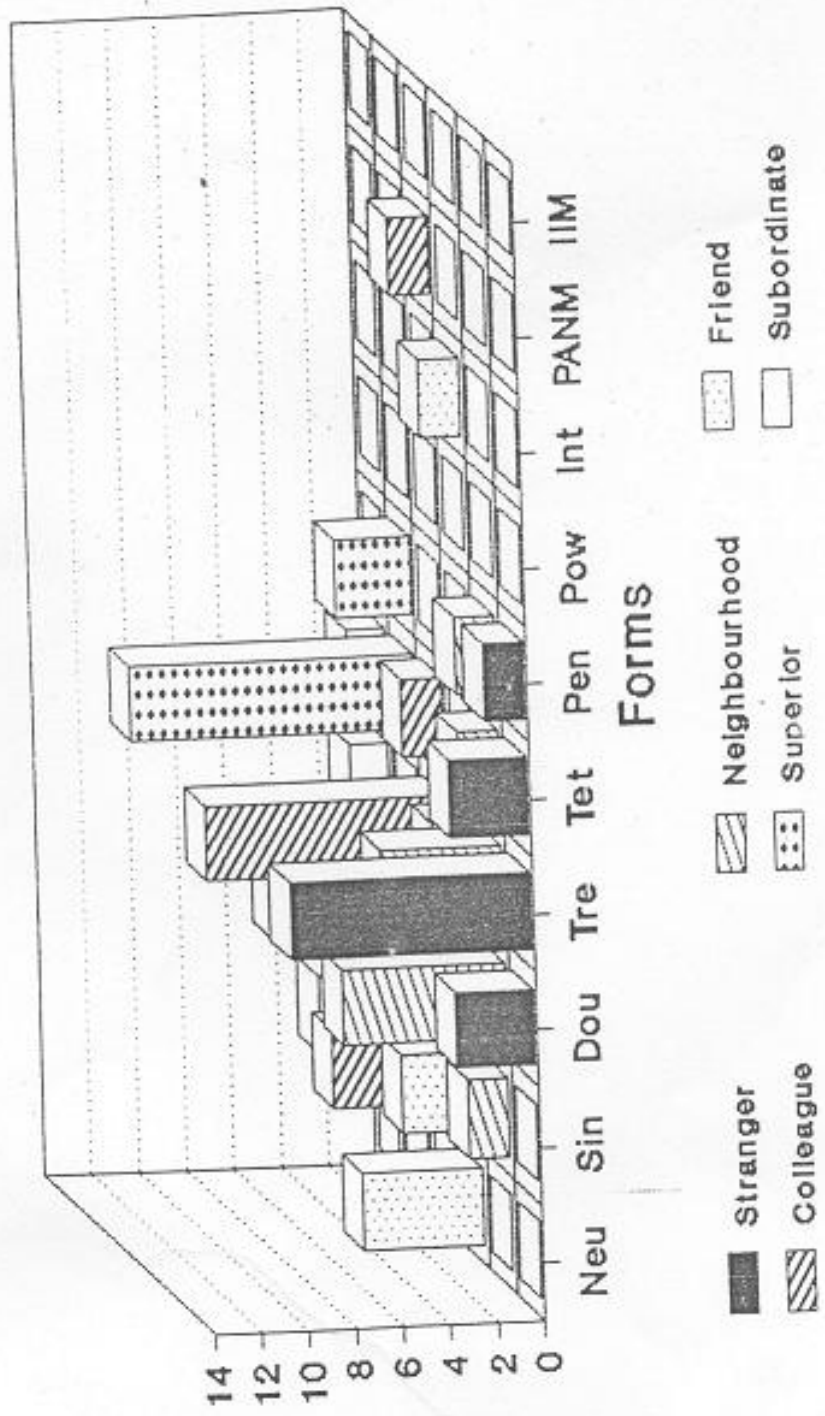


Forms

SCHEDULED COMMUNITY : REQUEST PATTERNS

Forms	Stranger	Neighbour	Friend	Colleague	Superior	Subordinate
Neutral	-	-	5.1	-	-	-
Single	-	1.7	3.3	5.1	-	3.3
Double	3.3	6.9	5.1	1.7	-	5.1
Treble	10.2	5.1	1.7	10.2	-	1.7
Tetra	3.3	1.7	-	1.7	12.0	1.7
Benta	1.7	1.7	-	-	3.3	-
Power	-	-	-	-	-	-
Intimacy	-	-	1.7	-	-	-
PANM	-	-	-	1.7	-	-
IIM	-	-	-	-	-	-

Scheduled Community Request Patterns (in percentage)



An analysis of the percentage wise occurrences of patterns of request gives us certain interesting conclusions. The clarification of data on the basis of the number of occurrences of politeness markers and also on the basis of the nature of the request type shows that in all the social groups the use of penta marked request pattern is comparatively less whereas the use of tetra marked request pattern is prevalent. This shows that only in certain extraordinary situations the highly deferential penta marked request patterns are used. Treble and tetra marked constructions are found in all the three communities with minor differences. The highly deferential penta marked constructions are used mostly while making a request to the superiors. The absence of single, double, treble marked request patterns and the high percentage of occurrences of tetra and penta marked constructions in the scheduled community closely corresponds and correlates with their low social status. It means that the individuals of the scheduled community interact less with other individuals in their social network.

Single and double marked request constructions are prevalent among friends, colleagues and neighbours. The higher percentage of occurrences of single, double and treble marked constructions in three social groups clearly indicate the close relationship that these groups have with their friends, neighbours and colleagues.

A stranger has been defined as a person having the look of middle age with middle income and of unknown caste. That strangers

of above description are given due respect by all the three social groups becomes clear by the high scoring in the treble, tetra and penta marked request constructions. This explains the polite nature of the rural people of the Kongu region.

Another important conclusion is that treble, tetra, and penta marked request constructions, have less frequency in the context of interaction with subordinates among the forward and backward communities, but it has a higher frequency in the case of individuals belonging to the scheduled community.

As far as the use of power language is concerned, the forward and backward community informants have higher frequencies in the use of power language while scheduled community informants have less frequency in such use. Moreover, the use of power language is attested only while the informants are in interaction with their subordinates.

The use of 'power avoidance neutral marker' and 'intermediate intimacy marker' in requests is not at all found among the scheduled caste informants while they are found among the remaining two communities in the context of interaction with neighbours, friends and colleagues.

From the above analysis, it becomes clear that strangers and superiors are ranked as equals on the one hand while neighbours, friends and colleagues are ranked as equals on the other hand. Use of intimacy markers in requests is attested only among friends.