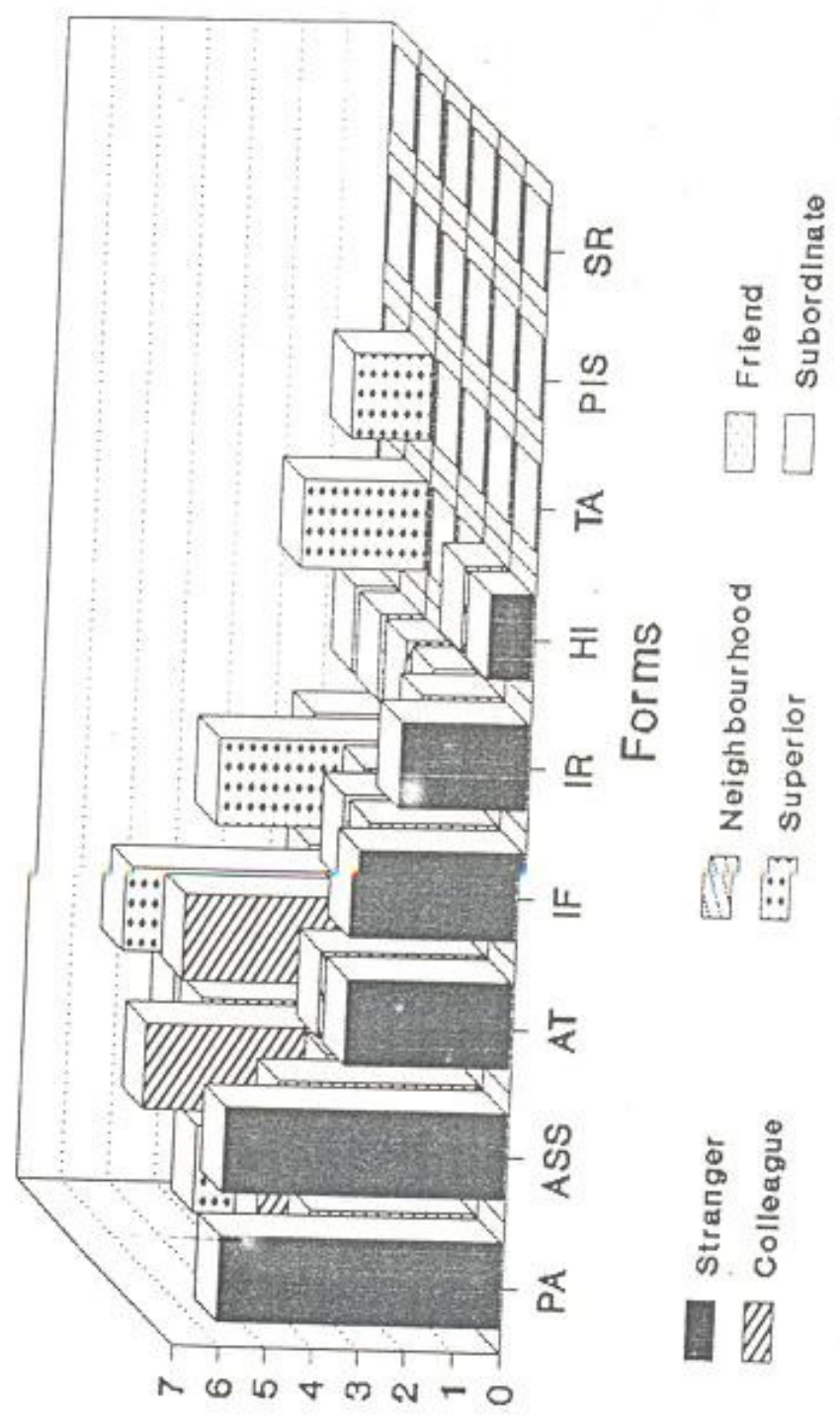


Scheduled Community Politeness Features (in percentage)



Of the nine politeness features identified in this study, the strategies of pausing and repeating the sentence have not been attested among the backward and scheduled community informants while it is found among the forward community informants. The use of time adverbial as a technique of politeness expression is found in all the three communities especially when they are in interaction with superiors and colleagues. However, the frequency of occurrence of this strategy is found to be less in this case. Therefore, the above three techniques may be treated as sparingly used techniques. The other six techniques are found to be used by the informants when they are in interaction with individuals of all the social networks with minor differences in their percentage of occurrences. The use of the persuasive adverb koñcam has higher frequency of occurrence in all the three communities. This shows that the persuasive adverb koñcam is frequently used as a politeness feature.

9.6 Exercising Authority Through Language Use

The difference in social relationship between the requester and requestee contributes to the difference in language use. When the role relationship between the participants in the speech event concerned differs, then use of linguistic structure also differs. This part of the study describes the following :

- a) asking someone not to indulge in some activity which may impinge upon one's right or which may be an encroachment into one's right
- b) the reaction of an individual when he is put into some inconvenience, as explained above, by the action of another person.

The informants have been asked to make a request to the following specified persons not to park their cycles/cars in front of the informant's house. The specified persons in this study are the following :

- (1) community leader (2) neighbour (3) friend (4) colleague
- (5) superior and (6) subordinate

9.6.1 Status and Language Use

While making a request not to park the cycle/car in front of the house, the speaker uses the language depending upon the status of the specified person. For instance, the following linguistic strategies may be applied in making the request by the speaker :

1. he may use power language to some group of persons
2. he may use softening linguistic mechanisms to some group of persons though he uses a powerful language
3. he may use polite language to some group of persons.

Thus depending upon the relationship, intimacy level, caste group, profession, age, economic status, education, etc. of the individual, the speakers use the language.

9.6.2 Structure of the Sentence

While making a request not to park the bicycle, the speakers may use sentences which may consist of the following three features, viz.,

1. attention callers/address terms
2. authoritative features
3. linguistic devices which convert the powerful request into a soft request

9.6.2.1 Attention Callers

Attention callers used may be divided into four categories as, (1) attention callers per se (2) address terms (3) kinship terms and (4) attention caller per se + address terms.

9.6.2.1.1 Attention Callers Per se

The relationship between the speaker and hearer decides the choice of a particular attention caller. The intimacy/distance relationship, caste, age, education, economic status and profession

of the speakers contribute to the variation in the selection of the attention callers. The following attention callers have been collected from the data :

ennāṅka	- hello + honorific suffix
e:nuṅka	- hello + dialect honorific suffix
ennappa:	- hello + pseudo kin term (father)
yo:v	- hey (non-honorific)
e:ppa:	- hello + pseudo kin term (father)
e:mpa:	- hello + pseudo kin term (father)
appa:	- father (pseudo kin term)
aṭe:	- hey (non-honorific)
e:nṭa:	- hey (non-honorific)
e:nṭa: de:	- hey (non-honorific)
de:	- hey (non-honorific)

The above said attention callers are used by persons belonging to various status groups.

9.6.2.1.2 Address Terms

Sometimes, address terms may also be used to draw the attention of the hearer. The address terms used by various informants as attention callers are :

ayya:	- 'father' (honorific)
periyavare:	- 'old man' (honorific)