

Syntactico-Semantic Study of Particles in Modern Malaysian Tamil

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Abstract

The present study investigates the structural and functional significance of particles in Modern Malaysian Tamil (MMT). It focuses on the syntactico-semantic explanation for the occurrence of particles in grammatical forms in syntax and discourse levels of MMT using the methods of syntax and semantics as well as discourse analysis. This study makes use of the data collected through field work undertaken by the investigators as well as those gathered from modern Tamil used in print, audio, visual media and those collected through observation methods. The analysis drawn is presented following the descriptive (structural) model with relevant illustrations and conditioning factors wherever necessary.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background of the study

There are traditional grammatical treatises as well as modern descriptive grammars in Tamil which present the grammatical descriptions of different structures (Tolkappiam, 1963). These descriptions though found to be moderately adequate and well formalized there are parts of speech such as particles and their structural and functional importance which have not been brought out in an explicit way in these descriptions. As modern Tamil is used in different types of discourse such as mass media, science and technology, administration, higher education, judiciary and so on, there is a need to modernize and enrich the textual presentation and different types of narrations, descriptions, reports and so on. This kind of presentation is needed in order to achieve better communication from the points of view of linguistic competence and performance. So, a study of this kind becomes linguistically relevant and socially significant.

1.2 Objectives of this study

- (i) To investigate all those particles free and bound and their occurrence with various noun and verb structures in MMT and explain their syntactico – semantic significance.
- (ii) To categorize the occurrence of particles - free and bound with one another among themselves in the above mentioned structures and their functional values.
- (iii) To identify all those factors which condition the occurrence of:

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- particles that occur only with noun grammatical forms
 - particles that occur only with verb grammatical forms
 - particles that occur with both noun and verb grammatical forms
 - particles which occur with some of the adverbs and adjectives.
- (iv) To explain the occurrence of different types of particles as initiators, continuators, connectors and closures in discourse types.
- (v) To explain the grammatical relationships found between words and the grammatical forms (found in phrases and sentences), and discourse.

1.3 Research Questions

- (i) What are the different types of particles which occur in various noun and verb phrases and sentences and their syntactico- semantic significance?
- (ii) What are the particles which go with one another in different phrases and sentences as well as in discourse and their syntactico-semantic significance?
- (iii) What are the conditioning factors which help to explain the occurrence of particles
- that occur only with noun grammatical forms
 - that occur only with verb grammatical forms
 - that occur with both noun and verb grammatical forms
 - that occur with some of the adverbs and adjectives ?
- (iv) What are the different particles which occur as initiators, continuators, connectors and closures in discourse types?
- (v) What are the grammatical relationships that help to achieve cohesiveness and coherency in discourse structures?

2.0 Study of Particles

2.1 Definition and brief description of Particles in Tamil

Particles are essential grammatical units in a language which are free morphemes or bound morphemes that immediately follow or precede a noun, verb, adjective, adverb or a phrase and their grammatical range can indicate various meanings and functions.

Rodney Huddleston and Geoffrey Pullum (2006), also say that particles are short words with just one or two exceptions are all prepositions unaccompanied by any complement of their

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own. Some of the most common prepositions belonging to the particle category, for example, are: ‘*along, away, back, by, down, forward, etc.*’

In grammar, a **particle** is a function word that does not belong to any of the inflected grammatical word classes (such as nouns, pronouns, verbs, or articles). It is a catch-all term for a heterogeneous set of words and terms that lack a precise lexical definition. It is mostly used for words that help to encode grammatical categories (such as negation, mood or case), or fillers or discourse markers that facilitate discourse such as *well, ah, anyway*, etc. Particles are uninflected. As examples, the English infinitive marker *to* and negator *not* are usually considered particles. (From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

Besides that, sentence connectors, tags or tag questions and conjunctions which connect to what has been said in a previous clause or sentence are also called particles. These three types of grammatical particles (similar to modal particles in some other languages) also reflect the speaker's mood and attitude toward what has come before in the conversation, or is likely to follow later.

On the other hand, in tonal languages like Chinese and Thai where the meaning is determined by the tone or pitch of the voice usually at the end of words of a sentence called **particle** to convey emotion and feelings.

So, particles can be defined as “a word that does not change its form through inflection and does not easily fit into the established system of parts of speech”

2.2 Background of the Study

In Tamil grammatical description the two main grammatical categories are Noun and Verb. These two categories consist of a number of sub categories. Tamil grammar has two main structural descriptions under morphology namely Noun Morphology and Verb Morphology. All those morphological sub categories enter into the phrase structure of Tamil referred to as Noun Phrase (NP) and Verb Phrase (VP) (Agesthalingom, 1967&1998).

Parts of speech such as adjective and adverb are dependent grammatical forms because they go with nouns and verbs respectively. In another words there is no function for these dependent categories without the occurrence of nouns or verbs. There is yet another part of speech called particles (including conjunctions etc.) in Tamil and these forms can go with noun grammatical forms or verb grammatical forms or both and can occur among themselves one after the other. They are also found to occur with adverbs but not with all the adjectives.

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The following illustrations show the grammatical forms in noun and verb structures and the occurrence of dependent parts of speech which occur in Tamil.

(i) Noun Structures

Example:

a:ciriyar (teacher)

a:ciriyaraip paRRi (about the teacher)

a:ciriyarkaLum (teachers also)

a:ciriyarkaLaip paRRiyum (about the teachers also)

(ii) Verb Structures

Example:

va: (come)

vanta:l (if one comes)

vanta:lum (even if one comes)

vantavarkaL (those who came)

vantavarkaLaip paRRi (about those who came)

vantavarkaLaip paRRiye: (about those who came (emphasis))

col (tell)

colla:mal (without telling)

colla:male: (without telling (emphasis)

colla:male:ku:Ta (even without informing)

(iii) Adverbial Forms with Verbs

Example:

o:Tu (run)

mella o:Tu (run slowly)

mika mella o:Tu (run very slowly)

ve:kama:ka o:Tu (run fast)

ve:kama:kavum o:Tuva:n (he can also run fast)

mika ve:kama:kavum o:Tuva:n (he can also run very fast)

eñke: kiTaikkum (where is it available?)

eñke:yum kiTaikkum (it is available everywhere)

(iv) Adjective Forms with Nouns

Except one or two sub categories of adjectives, all others do not take particles in Tamil. However, adjectival nouns can occur with particles. The same is the case with verbal nouns and participial nouns also.

Illustrations:

nallavan (one who is good)
nallavanaippaRRi (about one who is good)
nallavarkaLum (good people also)
nallavarkaLumku:Ta (good people also (emphasis))
 connavarkaLaikka:TTilum (than those who have said something)
 vantataippaRRi (about one's coming)
 vantataippaRRiya:vatu (at least about one's coming)

Some of the particles do occur with numeral adjective forms like ordinal numbers.

Example:

iraNTa:vatu (second)
 iraNTa:vatuku:Ta (second one also)
 iraNTa:vatum (second one also (emphasis))
 iraNTum (both)
 iraNTunta:n (both also (emphasis))

2.3 Historical Tamil Grammars and Study of Particles

A research on particles in languages like Tamil should take care of the historical linguistics - structural versus use of language in different sociocultural contexts, situations etc. as background information and relevance. This kind of background will direct a researcher to pursue the concerned research in a proper perspective. Tamil is an ancient language possessing rich grammatical heritage and tradition starting from the very early period of third century B.C. The earliest extant grammatical treatise now available namely Tolka:ppiyam in a separate section called *iTaiyiyal* to explain what exactly particles are and their functional and semantic significance in actual use. Particles (iTaiicol): (i) occur with nouns and verbs in appropriate places and denote meaning with the verb and noun with which they occur, (ii) all such forms cannot function independently without such grammatical forms (iii) whenever they occur with noun and verb forms they give adequate and full meaning of the grammatical forms concerned or to understand the contextual meaning fully well. Though there are certain explicit forms most of the particles occur with meaning. However in a poetical discourse we find some of the particles added without meaning also just for the purpose of due completion of the poetical discourse in perfect form. That's why Tolka:ppiyam explicitly explains in 12 sutras (rules of description and occurrence) the function and significance of the use of particles.

In the medieval grammatical treatises like Nannu:l also we find the description of particles with structure and function in 11 sutras. This description includes case suffixes, tense suffixes and link markers also as particles. The particles which occur in the poetical discourse show certain expletive forms like *amma, ya:, miya:* etc.

In the pre modern descriptions like that of Arden (1891) lists some of the particles and suffixes like *e:*, *a:*, *o:* etc. denoting emphasis, question or indefinite significance etc. However, there is a mention that the particle *-ta:n* is used with *-e:* which denotes emphasis.

Example:

añke:ta:ne: (in that very place only)

peNkaL ciRu vayatile:ye: vitavaiya:kiRa:rkaL (girls become widows at very young age)

There are a number of modern grammars following the traditional grammatical models and descriptive linguistics models which explain though not in an adequate way the structure of particles in different groups. However, there are descriptions which do not give much importance to the syntactico-semantic relevance of particles in different constructions. There are a couple of studies which discuss the syntactic function of place particles in Tamil as well as time denoting particles. From the point of view of language use it is found that particles do have syntactico-semantic significance in many of their occurrences. So, there is a need to make a fullfledged study of particles starting from the simple morphological description to complex discourse patterns.

2.4 Relevance of Particles in Grammar

Particles are quite relevant in grammar because they occur in different parts of speech and convey the meaning of an utterance precisely. A particle is a word normally uninflected and often has little clear meaning but has an important function in a phrase, sentence and therefore it is called a function word. It is distinct from other words in a sentence but may reflect the attitude or the mood of a speaker or narrator of the text, or may act as sentence connector or clause. Conjunctions are also particles because they act as connectors of sentences and phrases. For example: particles like *-a:* and *-um* are inflected forms and has little clear meaning but when they occur in phrases or sentences they perform an important function (as a function word).

ña:n o:Tine:n (I ran)

ña:num o:Tine:n (I also ran)

ña:ne: o:Tine:n (I ran myself and no one helped me)

In these examples one can identify not only the function of a particle but also the intention of the narrator or speaker. So, one can easily predict and understand the relevance and the functional importance of particles in larger constructions. For example,

ña:num avanum ñaNparkaL (he and I are friends)

ña:num avanum o:Tino:m (he and I ran)

avarkaL iruvurum o:Tina:rkaL (they both ran)

3.0 Research Methodology Used for the Study

3.1 Research Framework

- (i) Use of Structural Linguistics Methodology with particular reference to morphology and phrase structure.

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- (ii) Grammatical categories and their relationship with one another by applying the syntactico – semantic principles.
- (iii) Use of the concepts of cohesiveness and coherency for the analysis of discourse structures.
- (iv) Study of the contextual use of language [LU] in specific contexts.

3.2 Data for this study

3.2.1 Data Collection

Data collection through field work using a pre planned questionnaire required data were elicited from the native speakers of Malaysian Tamil in different regions in Malaysia. The collected data through field work were processed and classified in order to make them fit for the analysis. In addition to the collected data through field work, the investigators made use of different media to observe and select particles and their use in MMT (media such as print, audio and visual). As the investigators are native speakers of Tamil, they made use of their experience and their already acquired knowledge regarding the structure and use of Tamil in different levels or domains both formal and informal.

3.2.2 Pilot Study

The investigators conducted a pilot study with the sample data elicited and gathered, and made use of the same by applying the chosen methodology in order to make sure the validity and reliability of the framework.

3.2.3 Sample analysis of the Data

- (i) Structure: Verb phrase in imperative form as initiator or continuator
Example : use of பாருங்கள்
பாருங்க (ள்), எனக்கு நாளைக்குப் பத்து மணி வரை வேலை இருக்கிறது அதற்குப் பிறகுதான் அங்கிருந்து புறப்பட முடியும், அதனால் என்ன செய்ய வேண்டும் என்று புரியவில்லை.

அப்புறம், சொல்லுங்க (ள்)..... எதுக்காக வந்திருக்கீங்க! என்ன நடந்தது சொல்லுங்களேன்!(2)
- (ii) Structure: As sentence continuators

Use of the grammatical form வந்து/வந்துட்டு

Example : வந்து/வந்துட்டு நான் சொல்ல வந்தது
என்னவென்றால்

(iii) Use of anyone of the particles like அதாவது, பிறகு, அப்புறம், etc.

Example : இப்படித்தான் நம்முடைய பங்களிப்பு அமைய
வேண்டுமென்று நான் கருதுகிறேன். **அதாவது**, நாம்
எடுத்துக்கொண்ட முயற்சிகள் சமுதாயத்திற்கு நேரடியாகச் சென்று
சேர வேண்டும் என்று எதிர்பார்க்கிறேன்.

இந்தச் செயல்முறை பயனுள்ளது மற்றும்ன்றி ஆற்றல்
மிகுந்ததும் கூட. **அதனால்** இந்தச் செயல்முறை பின்பற்றப்பட்டது.

கண்ணன் மிக நல்ல மனிதர் என்னுடைய நெருங்கிய
நண்பரும் கூட. **இன்னும் சொல்லப் போனால்** எனக்காக எதையும்
செய்யக்கூடியவர்.

(iv) Use of இனியாவது அல்லது இனிமேலாவது

(அ) இதுவரை எதுவும் நல்லபடி அமையவில்லை. இனியாவது
/ இனிமேலாவது எல்லாம் நல்லபடி அமைய வேண்டும் என்று
எதிர்பார்க்கலாம்.

The above samples show all those particles used in different structures and their functions in discourse of different types. The particles are found to occur as initiators like பாருங், followed by little pause and well formed discourse. The function of பாருங்க(ள்) in this context is initiating the conversation. In the same discourse there is a sentence in which என்ன நடந்தது **சொல்லுங்களேன்!**(2). This usage functions as a continuator and explains the contextual meaning namely, politeness-request-closeness between the speaker and the hearer.

In the same way there are particles such as அதாவது, ஆனால், இன்னும், இன்னும் சொல்லப்போனால் used to achieve both **cohesiveness and coherence** in linguistic competence and performance. So, the sample analysis helps us to make sure of the validity and reliability of the methodology chosen for this study.

4.0 Data Analysis and Findings

4.1 Role and Function of Particles in Morphological, Phrasal, Sentential and Discourse Levels

The present research focuses on the following:

(i) Investigating the place of occurrence and role of particles of different types in morphological constructions, noun and verb phrases (including adjectival and adverbial usages), different sentence patterns and discourse of different kinds.

(ii) As particles are not basic grammatical formations, this section tries to identify all those free and bound particles which go with the morphological inflections and derivations.

All these inflectional and derivational morphological forms occur with particles as follows:

i) Inflected forms

Noun Forms

tampiya:vatu (at least younger brother)

avarunta:na:? (does he also?)

Verb Forms

paTitta:l (if one learns)

paTitta:lunta:n, paTitta:luñku:Ta (even if one learns)

Adjectival Inflection

nalla (good)

nalla+paTi > nallapaTi (in a good way)

nalla + paTiye: > nallapaTiye: (in a good way only (emphasis))

nalla + paTi+ta:n > nallapaTita:n (in a good way only (emphasis))

Adverbial Inflection

mella (slowly)

mellave: (slowly (emphasis))

mellata:n, mellatane: (only slowly)

uTane: (immediately),uTane:ya: (is it so soon?)

ii) Derived Forms

Noun + Adverbial Suffix Derivation

alaku(beauty)

alka:ka (beautifully)

alaka:kave: (beautifully (emphasis))

alaka:katta:n (beautifully(emphasis))

alaka:ka maTTum (beautiful (only))

Adjectival Forms

uyaram(tallness)

uyarama:na (tall)

uyarama:natu (that which is tall)

uyarama:nate: (something which is tall (emphasis))

uyarama:natuta:n (it is tall (emphasis))

uyarama:natuta:na: (is it a tall one?)

Verb + Derivative Suffixes

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There are nouns derived from verbs which can occur with particles of different types.

ke:L (ask)

ke:Lvi(question)

ke:Lviyai (question objective case)

ke:LviyaiTa(than the question)

ke:Lviyaippo:l (similar to a question)

ke:lviyaippo:lave: (like the question only)

ke:Lviyaippo:lave:ta:n (like the question only (emphasis))

Adjective + Noun Derivative Suffixes

nallavan (one who is good (masc.)

nallavanai (good person with objective case)

nallavanaippaRRi (about the good person)

nallavanaippRRiye: (about the good person (emphasis)

nallavanaippaRRiye:ta:n(only about the good person (emphasis))

nallavanaippaRRi maTTum (it is only about the good person)

nallavanaippaRRi maTTunta:na: (is it only about the good person (emphasis)?)

periya (big)

perumai (greatness)

perumaiyaiTa (than the excellence)

perumaiyunta:n (greatness emphasis)

perumaiyunta:ne: (greatness double emphasis or exclamatory)

perumaiyunku:Ta (it is also great)

4.2 Particles and their occurrence in phrasal constructions

i) Occurrence of Particles with Noun Phrases

Noun Phrases include adjectival and possessive case forms also. As adjectives precede nouns in Tamil phrases, intensifiers occur before adjectives to enhance the quality of the adjectives.

Example:

a₁aka:na paTam ‘beautiful picture’ *mika* precedes the adjective a₁aka:na and denotes ‘very’. This kind of Immediate Constituent (IC) relationship makes the phrase more cohesive in nature and helps to achieve the needed coherency in meaning.

There are other phrasal types in Tamil which show the occurrence of particles with possessive case forms.

Example:

atu e₁kaLuTaiya vi:Tu (it is our house)

There are particles which can go with these phrases.

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atuvum eńkaLuTaiya vi:Tu(that also is our house)
atu eńkaLuTaiya vi:Tuta:n (it is our house (emphasis))

ii) Occurrence of Particles in Verb Phrases

Verb phrase in Tamil at least should have a finite verb as in sentences

ni: po: (you (sig.) go)

avar paTikkiRa:r (he (hon.) reads something)

The finite form of these sentences comes under imperative and tense denoting forms. It is possible to add particles to these finite verbs and expand them or give additional meaning to them.

Example:

ni: po:ye:n (you (sig.) go) (it conveys meanings with three semantic or contextual functions: namely politeness, closeness with speaker and hearer and more request)

ni: ańke: po:ye:n (expanded sentence ‘you go there’ with the same components)

avar paTTikkiRa:ro: (oh! is he reading (doubtful or ridiculing)

By adding these particles *-e:n* and *-o:* after the finite verbs give meanings such as more politeness, request, showing closeness in one example and exclamation and surprise or ridiculing in another. There are adverbs and case forms of different types which occur in verb phrases and help to expand them and also to add additional meanings through them.

Example:

avar ne:RRu ińke: vańta:r (yesterday he came here)

avar ne:RRuta:n ińke: vańta:r (he came here only yesterday)

avar ne:RRuta:n inke: vańta:ro: (he came here only yesterday (exclamation))

avar ne:RRa:vatu ińke: vańtare: (at least he came here yesterday)

avar ne:RRu ka:laiyilta:n ińke: vańta:ra:m (išt seems he came only yesterday morning)

avar ne:RRuk ka:laiyiluma: ińke: vańta:r (did he come here yesterday morning also?)

avar enno:Tuta:n vańta:r (he came only with me)

avar enno:Tuta:ne: vańta:r (he came with me (emphasis))

avar mika ve:kama:ka vańta:r (he came very fast)

avar mika mika ve:kama:ka vańta:r (he came too fast)

Likewise, there are a number of particles which occur in verb phrases of different types in modern Tamil which make sentences more cohesive in nature. In other words, the grammatical relationships are well maintained between phrases in sentences and also between sentences in a discourse. And thus, proper coherency is achieved to make the performance level or comprehension successful or more adequate. In this way the role and function of particles are well maintained at the morphological and phrasal levels (Karunakaran, 2001).

The above discussed occurrences of morphological forms and phrases enter into larger constructions like sentences and discourse. However, the occurrence of particles in these levels shows different functional importance and grammatical relationships. The sentence level usages present the following functional importance. At the sentence level they are used as follows:

(i) As sentence initiators ii) as connectors and iii) as continuators which help to expand the discourse

Examples:

atana:lta:n na:ńkaL ello:rum ińke: puRappaTTu vanto:m
ni:ńkaLum vantirunta:l nikałcci innum ciRappa:ka amaintirukkum
atu sari. sari na:m aTutta talaippukkuc celvo:m.

In these examples, we find the role and function of particles at the sentential and discourse levels and enable the readers to understand the meaning by interpreting the sentences found in discourse in a more appropriate way. This kind of appropriateness brings out the syntactico semantic value of discourse structure in modern Tamil. So the role and function of particles are spread throughout the language structure starting from the simple morphological forms up to the larger discourse. At each level one can understand the important role played by the use of particles.

4.3 Occurrence of Particles with Nouns, Verbs, Adjectives, Adverbs and among themselves

4.3.1 Particles which occur with different grammatical parts of speech

List of particles with illustrations:

i) **-a:valu** (at least) . It has a variant **- a:ccum** occurring in spoken Tamil)

Example:

ni:ya:valu varala:me: (at least you (sg.) can come, can't you?)
ni:iya:ccum colliyirukkala:m (STa.) (at least you should have told me)

ii) **-a:valu a:valu** (and ... or....or)(either ...or)

Example:

krishnana: gopala: varala:m (either Krishnan or Gopal may come)
amma:vo: appavo: u:rukkup po:va:ńka (either father or mother
will go to India) (In the occurrence of o: o: there is an element of doubt
in their going.)

iii) **-um (also)***

Example:

avanum po:na:n (he also went)
ovvoru kampattilum (in each village)

There is a particle **ku:Ta** in spoken Tamil to convey the same meaning.
avanku:Ta vantitirunta:n (he also had come)

iv) -um....-um (and)

Example:

na:num tampiyum (me and little brother)

va:laippalamum ma:mpalamum ca:ppiTTe:n (I ate both banana and mango)

enna:l naTakkavum o:Tavum muTiyum (I can walk and run)

v)a:m (reporting or quotative)

Example:

avaru ne:RRu vanta:ra:m (it seems he came yesterday or I was told by somebody that he also came yesterday)

vi) -paRRi / kuRittu (about)

Example:

avaraippaRRi / avaraikkuRittu nanku teriyum (I know him very well)

vii) -po:la / ma:tiri (like/similar to)

Example:

anta poNnu amma: ma:tiriye: irukkiRa:L (The girl looks like her mother)

*There is another expression with **um** denoting the same meaning but this form with **um** should be preceded by **ovvuru**.

Example : ovvuru na:TTilum (in each/every country)

viii) -viTa / ka:TTilum (than)

Example:

ennaikka:TTilum avar mu:ttavar (he is older than me)

ix) -e: and -ta:n occur together one after the other and function as double emphatic.

Example:

avane:ta:n muTitta:n (he only completed it)

But if the order of occurrence of -e: and -ta:n changed as **avanta:ne: ceyta:n** in actual use it refers to uncertainty to some extent.

x) -ma:tiri/ paTi / va:Ru (after Nouns ma:tiri /pati occur in free variation)

Example:

atuma:tiri naTantukoL (behave as instructed)

There is another particle **-va:Ru** which occurs in free variation with **-paTi** and **-ma:tiri** after the relative participle forms.

Example:

na:n connapaTi cey (behave as I instructed)

na:n connama:tiri cey

na:n connava:Ru cey

xi) -mi:tu (over / on)

Example:

en mi:tu avarukkuk ko:pama:? (Is he angry with me?) It occurs sometimes in free variation with **-me:l**.

Example:

avan me:l pa_{li} vi_luntatu (he was blamed for that)

xii) -mu:lam (through)

There are three variations namely va:yila:ka, va_{li}ya:ka, iTamiru_{ntu}

Example:

avar mu:lam teriya va_{nt}atu (came to know through him). In this context one can substitute the particle **-mu:lam** using **-va:yila:ka or -va_{li}ya:ka**

The particle **-iTamiru_{ntu}** occurs as **avariTamiru_{ntu} kaRRukkoNTe:n** (I learned from him)

4.3.2 Place particles and their occurrence

There are around ten particles which occur under this group.

(i) in /inside/ inner

There are three forms uL /uLLe:/uLLukku

uL occurs as an adjective before the nouns.

Example:

uL pakuti (inner portion)

The other two forms occur as adverbs in a verb phrase.

uLLe: va: (come in), innum uLLukku po: (go inside little further)

(ii) out /outer / outside

There are three forms **veLi / veLiye: / veLiyil**

The form veLi occurs as an adjective before the noun.

Example:

veLip pakuti (outer portion)

The other two forms veLiye: and veLiyil occur in free variation as follows:

Example:

veLiye: poka:te: (don't go outside)

atu veLiyil irukkiRatu. (it is outside.)

(iii) up/ above/ on

There are two forms **me:l** and **me:le:** to denote this meaning.

The form me:l occurs as an adjective before the nouns.

Example:

me:l pakuti (upper portion)

The other form **me:le:** occurs as an adverb in the verb phrase.

Example:

avarkaL me:le: po:na:rkaL (they went up)

o:raLavukku me:le: ke:TkamuTiya:tu (It is not possible to request beyond certain level)

(iv) **end / edge**

There are two forms **o:ram** and **o:ra** to denote this meaning.

The form o:ra occurs as an adjective before nouns.

Example:

o:rak kaNNa:l pa:rtta:n (he looked at side long)

o:rap pa:rva: (side look)

o:ram po: (move to the side / edge)

(v) **low / beneath / down / under**

These meanings are denoted by **ta:l** and **ta:la**

The form ta:l occurs as an adjective before nouns.

Example:

ta:l nilai (low level)

e:Ratta:la (approximately)

ta:lakkudi (name of a place)

The form ta:la occurs as an adverb in a verb phrase.

Example:

ta:lap paRantatu (it flew very low)

5.0 Conclusion

There are other types of particles such as time particles, manner particles, etc., which need to be studied from the points of view of their structural and functional importance, applying the syntactico-semantic relationships and relevant usages.

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