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:
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
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) (Agesthialingom, 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.
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 paRRiyu: (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)

eńkē: kiTaikkum (where is it available?)
eńkē: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)
nallavananippaRRi (about one who is good)
nallavarkaLum (good people also)
nallavarkaLumu: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 extent grammatical treatise now available namely Tolka:ppiyam in a separate section called iTaiiyal to explain what exactly particles are and their functional and semantic significance in actual use. Particles (iTaiccol): (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 \textit{e:}, \textit{a:}, \textit{o:} etc. denoting emphasis, question or indefinite significance etc. However, there is a mention that the particle \textit{-ta:n} is used with \textit{-e:} which denotes emphasis.

Example:
\textit{a\textit{\textasciitilde}nke:ta:ne:} (in that very place only)

\textit{pe\textit{nkaL ciRu vayatile:ye: vitavaiya:kiRa:rk\textit{\textasciitilde}aL} (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 \textit{-a:} and \textit{-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).

\begin{verbatim}
na:n o:Tine:n (I ran)
n\textasciitilde{a}:num o:Tine:n (I also ran)
n\textasciitilde{a}:ne: o:Tine:n ( I ran myself and no one helped me)
\end{verbatim}

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,

\begin{verbatim}
na:num avanum naNparkaL (he and I are friends)
n\textasciitilde{a}:num avanum o:Tin\textasciitilde{o:m ( he and I ran)
avarkaL iruvurum o:Tina:rkaL ( they both ran)
\end{verbatim}

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.
(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 மடவடிய (ஏர்) ...... பேண்கள் முன்னரும் பாகத்து முன்னரும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்கள் மற்றும் பாகத்து மற்றும் மேற்கும் பேண்
Example: என்று/என்று தோன்றி இல்லட்டு அங்கு நிற்போனாம்

(iii) Use of anyone of the particles like என்று, என்னு, என்று, etc.

Example: ஒரு பெண்களும் இருப்பதாய் மட்டுமிட்டு அவற்றின்
விளக்கம் செய்யாமல் தெரியும். அவ்விலக்கம் போயும்
என்னும் குற்றினருக்கு பயன்படுத்தும் இன்று இந்த பெண்கள் தெரியாது
செய்யப்படும்.

(இ) இயல்பான மத்திய பயன்பாட்டு அவருக்கு
பிரிந்து பெரியட்டு. அவர்கள் இயல்பான பயன்பாடு
தோன்றும்.

(iv) Use of ஒரு பெண்கள் என்று ஒரு பெண்கள்

(அ) இயல்பான மத்திய பயன்பாடு. அவர்கள்
/ ஒரு பெண்கள் தெரியும். அவர்கள் இயல்பான மத்திய
செய்யப்படும்.

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 என்று, followed by little pause and well formed discourse. The function of என்று in this context is initiating the conversation. In the same discourse there is a sentence in which என்று என்று என்று என்று என்று (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 என்று, என்று, என்று, என்று 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)
avaru

Verb Forms

paTitta:l (if one learns)
paTitta:lu

Adjectival Inflection

nalla (good)

Adverbial Inflection

mella (slowly)

ii) Derived Forms

Noun + Adverbial Suffix Derivation

alaku(beauty)

Adjectival Forms

uyaram(tallness)

Verb + Derivative Suffixes
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 maTTuña:na: (is it only about the good person (emphasis)?)
periya (big)
perumai (greatness)
perumaiyaiTa (than the excellence)
perumaiyuñta:n (greatness emphasis)
perumaiyuñta:ne: (greatness double emphasis or exclamatory)
perumaiyuñku: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:
alaka:na paTam ‘beautiful picture’ mika precedes the adjective alaka: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 enkaLuTaiya vi:Tu (it is our house)

There are particles which can go with these phrases.
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:
i: 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)
i: anke: 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 -en 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 inke: vanta:r (yesterday he came here)
avar ne:RRuta:n inke: vanta:r (he came here only yesterday)
avar ne:RRuta:n inke: vanta:ro: (he came here only yesterday (exclamation))
avar ne:RRa: vatu inke: vanta:are: (at least he came here yesterday)
avar ne:RRu ka:laiylta:n inke: vanta:ra:m (it seems he came only yesterday morning)
avar ne:RRuk ka:laiyluma: inke: vanta:r (did he come here yesterday morning also?)
avar enno:Tuta:n vanta:r (he came only with me)
avar enno:Tuta:ne: vanta:r (he came with me (emphasis))
avar mika ve:kama:ka vanta:r (he came very fast)
avar mika mika ve:kama:ka vanta: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:
ni:kaLum vantirunta:l nika:leci innum ciRappa:ka amaigtirukkan
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:vatu (at least). It has a variant - a:ccum occurring in spoken Tamil)
Example:
ni:iya:vatu varala:me: (at least you (sg.) can come, can’t you?)
nii:iya:ccum colliyirukkal:a:finally mi (STa.) (at least you should have told me)

ii) -a:vatu ..... a:vatu (and … or….or)( either …or)
Example:
krishnano: gopalo: varala:m (either Krishnan or Gopal may come)
amma:vo: appavo: urukkup po:va:nka (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 vanittirun'ta:n (he also had come)

iv)  *-um....-um* (and)
Example:
na:nu num tampiyum (me and little brother)
va:lippalamum ma:mpalamum ca:ppiTTe:n (I ate both banana and mango)
enna:1 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 / avaraikuRittu nan ku teriyum (I know him very well)

vii)  *-po:la / ma:tiri* (like/similar to)
Example:
an'a 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 *ovvuRi*.
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 naTantuikoL (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 paţi viñntatu (he was blamed for that)

xii) **-mu:lam (through)**
There are three variations namely **va:yila:ka, vaḷiya:ka, iTamiruntu**
Example:
avar mu:lam teriya vañntatu (came to know through him). In this context one can substitute the particle **-mu:lam** using **-va:yila:ka or -vaḷiya:ka**

The particle **-iTamiruntu** occurs as **avariTamiruntu 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 uLLukkup 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:

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me:l  pakuti (upper portion)

The other form me:le: occurs as an adverb in the verb phrase.
Example:
avarkaL me:le: po:na:rkak (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:rvai (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:laikkudi (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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