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Relative Compounds in Tamil

A. Boologarambai, Ph.D.

RELATIVE COMPOUNDS IN TAMIL

A. Boologarambai, M.A., Ph.D.

Introduction

Compounds are the combination of two words. In grammar, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, etc. are combined together to form compounds. Tolkaappiyar in his traditional grammar *Tolkappiyam* classified the compounds into six types. In Tamil, there is another compound which is named as *Doublets* by P. S. Subramanyam (1984), *Relative Compounds* by K. Rangan, and *ina aTukkuccoRkaL* by A. Srinivasan.

The purpose of this paper is to high light the syntactic structures of the Relative Compounds and the semantic meanings conveyed by them.

In the Relative Compound construction, the combination of the words may be Noun+Noun, Noun+Verb, Verb+Noun and Verb+Verb. The following are the examples for this type of compounds.

- i) viiDu vaasal - Noun+Noun viiDu means “House” and vaasal means “the front portion of the house”. These two are combined together to frame a compound to give the meaning “Property,” which is new to the basic meaning of the component words.
- ii) uppu cappu - Noun+Verb. Uppu means “salt” cappu means “To lick.” These two are combined together to frame a Relative compound which means “Taste,” which is completely different to the basic meanings of the constituent words.
- iii) koTTu meeLam - Verb+Noun. koTTu means “To beat or tap with knuckles.” meeLam means “One kind of musical instrument used in various celebrations”. These two words are combined together to frame a compound which gives the meaning “The publicity for the celebration”.
- iv) ONDi Othunki - Verb+Verb. ONDi means “To hide or be alone.” Othunki means “To leave aside”. These two are combined together to frame a

Compound, which indicates the meaning “Without oneself getting involved in anything”.

The Noun+Noun construction is further divided into

- i) Parallel Nouns combination,
- ii) Opposite Nouns combination,
- iii) Related Nouns combination
- iv) Small + Big Nouns combination
- v) Big + Small Nouns combination
- vi) Body parts Nouns combination
- vii) Resultive nouns combination
- viii) Different nouns combination and
- ix) Opposite nouns combination etc.

Like the above, the Verb+Verb construction also has sub divisions as

- i) Parallel verbs combination
- ii) Related verbs combination
- iii) Different verbs combinations and
- iv) Resultive verbs combination etc.

The combination of Noun+Verb and the vice versa combination are very rare occurrences. So they do not have any subdivisions.

The above types of Relative compounds convey Idiomatic meaning, Totality meaning, Adverbial meaning, and Adjectival meaning, etc.

The following present the examples for the above:

avaL vaayum vayirumaaka iruntaaL
“She is pregnant” (Idiomatic meaning)

avanukku kaaDu karai ellaam irukku
“He owns so much of wealth” (Totality meaning)

kaLLam kapaDam illaatavan
“He is innocent” (Adverbial meaning)

antap puuvellaam vaadi vathankip pooyiRRu

“The flowers are fathered away” (Adverbial meaning)

The sections that follow explain the remaining constructions elaborately.

Noun+Noun construction is further divided into

- i) Parallel Nouns combination,
- ii) Opposite Nouns combination,
- iii) Related Nouns combination,
- iv) Small + Big Nouns combination,
- v) Big + Small Nouns combination,
- vi) Body parts Nouns combination,
- vii) Resultive nouns combination,
- viii) Different nouns combination and
- ix) Opposite nouns combination, etc.

i) In the parallel noun combination, both the nouns are parallel to one another.

Examples for the parallel Nouns combination

1. IiDu iNai “Comparison”
AtaRku iiDu iNai eethumillai “There is no comparison for that”

In this compound the first part Noun iiDu means “Equal” and the second part Noun iNai means “Pair” but the compound in total means that “Comparison” which is different from the basic meaning of the words.

2. Miccham miidhi “The remaining”
AvaLukenRu miccam miidhitaan irukkum “The last one or the wasted one is for her”

In this *miccham* means “Remaining one” and *miidhi* also means “Remaining one” but the combination of these two words gives the meaning “wasted one”.

Like this the nouns iivu irakkam “Pity-ness”

ii) In the Related noun compound both the nouns are related to one another.

Examples for the Related Nouns combination

3. ViiDu Vaasal “The house and the portico”

In it viiDu means “House” and vaasal means “the front portion of the House” These two combined together to frame a compound viiDu vaasal and give the meaning in the sentence avanukku viidu vaasal ethuvum illai “He doesn’t have anything (Wealth)”

4. TuNi maNi “The dresses and the ornaments” In it TuNi means “Cloth” and MaNi means “Ornaments” both are combined to frame a compound TuNi maNi and give the meaning in the sentence avan tunimaNi ellaatthaiyum eTuttu vai “Take all of his things”

Like this cooRu taNNi, “the food and the water”

iii) In the small+big noun combination the first part of the noun is the small one and the second part of the noun is the big one.

Example for the small+big noun combination

5. Kaasu PaNam “The rupee and the change” In it kaasu means “Change” and PaNam means “Rupee” Both are combined together to frame a compound in the sentence avanukku kaasu paNamellaam kiDaiyaadu “There is no money for him” means “Money”

6. CaTTi MuTTi “The small vessel” and the big one” In it CaTTi means “The small vessel” and MuTTi means “The big vessel” Both combined together to frame a compound Pooliisukaaran caTTi MuTTi ellaam uTaittaan “The Police broke all the things” Here CaTi MuTTi means things.

Like this kallu karaDu “The stone and the rock”, paayum paDukkaiyum “The mate and the bed”, veyilum venkanalum “The day light of the sun and the heavy fire”

iv) In the Big+Small nouns combination the first part of the compound is the big one and the second part of the noun is the small one.

Examples for the Big+Small nouns combination

7. Kaalam Neeram “Time” In it Kaalam means “the time and the season” Neeram

means “the particular time” combined together to frame a compound in the sentence which means “Particular time” avanukku kaalam neeramellaam keDaiyaadu “There is no particular time for him”

8. Nakai NaTTu “The ornaments and the etc things” Here Nakai means “Ornaments” naTTu means the “Screw or bolt” both are combined together to frame a compound in the sentence PoNNukku nakai naTTellaam pooTTaaccia? “Did you wear the ornaments and the other things to the bride?”

Like this the compounds mazhai tuLi “The rain and the drops”, MuuTTai muTiccu “the big package and the small package”, uur Deesam “The village and the state”, maaDu kannu “The Cow and the small cow” kulam koottiram “The caste and the particular division of the caste”.

v) In the body parts Nouns combination both the parts of the compound are the body parts which give completely different from the basic meaning of the parts.

Examples for the body parts nouns combination

9. vaayum vayirum “Both the mouth and the stomach” In it vaay means “Mouth” and vayiRu means “Stomach” both are combined together to frame a compound in the sentence avaL vaayum vayiRumaa irukkiRaaL which means “She is pregnant” . This meaning is completely different from the basic meanings of the parts which are idiomatic meaning.

10.muukkum muzhiyum “Both the nose and the eyes” In it muukku means “Nose” and the muzhi means “Eye” both are combined together to frame a compound in the sentence avaL muukkum muzhiyumaaga irukkiRaaL “She is very beautiful” which is different from the basic meaning of the body parts. (Idiomatic meaning)

vi) In the Resultive noun combination either the first part of the noun may be the result of the second one or the second part of the compound may be the result of the first one.

Example of the Resultive compounds

11.Contam pantam “The relatives and the relation among them” In it contham means the “Relatives” pantham means “the connection between one to the other”. Both are combined together to frame a compound which means “Relatives” in the sentence

contham panthamellaam vantu vaazhthunkaL “All the Relatives Come! and bless”. Because of the relatives the relation will come.

12. Kuttam KuRai “The fault and the remaining thing” In it Kuttam or kuRRam “The fault” and kuRai “The in completed one” both are combined together to frame a compound in the sentence avan kuttam kuRai eethum ceyallee “He is not committing any mistake or the other thing” which is different from the basic meaning of the parts of the compound.

Like this cottu sukam “The property and the convenience”

vii) In the different nouns combination Nouns of different kinds are joined together to frame a compound.

Examples for the Different nouns compound

13. kaNNum karuttum “Most consciously” In it kaNNum means “Eye” and karuttu means “Content” Both are combined together and frame a compound in the sentence avan kaNNum karuttumaagap paarttaan “He looked it very carefully or consciously” which is different from the basic meaning of the nouns.

14. maNNum mayiRum “The sand and the hair” In it maNNum means “sand” and mayiRu means “Hair” both are combined together to frame a compound in the sentence athilee ore maNNum mayiRumaaga irukku “In it full of dirties”

viii) In the opposite nouns combinations both the nouns are opposite to one another.

Examples for the opposite Nouns compound

15. kuNTum kuzhiyum “The Up and Down” In it the first noun KuNDu means the Upward portion of the path” and kuzhi means “The downward digging portion” Both are combined together to frame a compound in the sentence intap paathai kuNTum kuzhiyumaaga irukkiRatu. “The path is not a regular one”

16. TaNNiir Venniir “Cold water and the Hot Water” The first noun TaNNiir is opposite to the second Noun venniir . Both are combined together to frame a compound in the sentence avan TaNNiir Vennii illaamal cettaan “He died without taking anything”

The Verb+Verb construction also has subdivisions as i) Parallel verbs combination, ii) Related verbs combination, iii) Different verbs combinations, iv) Resultive verbs combination v) Opposite verbs combination, etc. The combination of Noun+Verb and the vice versa combination are very rare occurrences. So, they are not having subdivisions.

i) In the parallel verbs combination both the parts of the compound are the same meaning but each one is parallel to one another.

Examples of Parallel verbs compound

1. muuTi MaRaittu “To hide” muuTi “To cover” and maRai “To hide”. These two are combined together to frame a compound in the sentence avan ethaiyoo muuTi maRaittaan “He hid something” (Idiomatic Expression).
2. puuci mezhuki “To made neat” puuci means “To smear” and mezhuki also means “To smear”. These two are combined together to frame a compound in the sentence avan puuci mezhukinaan “He manages the thing” (Idiomatic meaning).

Like this muTTi moothi “To Hit” muTTi means “To hit” moothi means “To hit”

ii) In the Related verbs combination, both parts of the compound are related to one another.

Examples of Related verbs compound

3. kazhuvi mezhuki “To make neat and clean” kazhuvi means “To clean by water” and mezhuki means “To smear by cow dung or some other smearing things”. These two verbs are combined together to frame a compound in the sentence avaL viiTTaik kazhuvi mezhukinaaL “She cleaned the house neatly”.
4. KiNTi kiLaRi “To mix it nicely” KiNTi means “To mix” KiLaRi means “To mix” These two verbs combined together to frame a compound in the sentence poolisu kiNTikkiLaRi uNmaiya vaankiyadhu “Police tried so much and get the truth” (Idiomatic meaning).

iii) In the different verbs combination both parts of the compound are completely different from one another and conveyed a meaning which is different from the basic meaning of the verb when they occur as individually.

Examples of Different verbs compound

5. kuuDi kulaavi “To gether and enjoy” kuuDi means “To gather” or “To join” kulaavi “To enjoy”. These two verbs are combined together to frame a compound in the sentence avarkaL kuuDik kulaavinaarkaL “They combined together and enjoyed like anything”.
6. AadippaaDi “To enjoy” aaDi means | “To dance” paaDi “To sing”. These two verbs join together and frame a compound in the sentence avaL aaDipaaDi makizhntaaL “She enjoyed like anything”.

iv) In the resultive verbs compound the first part of the verb compound or the second part of the verb compound may be the result of the other one.

Examples of Resultive verbs compound

7. tappi tavaRi “Incidentally”. tappi means “wrongly” and tavaRi means “Wrongone” Both the verbs combined together and give the meaning in the sentence raaman tappittavaRi ceytiTTaan “Rama has done it incidently”. The conveyed meaning by this compound is adverbial.
8. vaaDi vatanki “withered away”. vaaDi means “To dry” vatanki “To fry”. Both are combined together to frame a compound in the sentence puu vaaDi vatankippooccu “The flower withered away completely”. Here it conveys the adverbial meaning.

v) In the opposite verbs compound, both the parts of the compound are opposite to one another are combined together and give a separate meaning which is not related to the basic meaning of the verb.

Examples of opposite verbs compound

9. oTTiyum veTTiyum “Intelligently” In it oTTi means “Relatedly” veTTiyum means “Differently”. These two are combined together and frame a compound in the sentence avan oTTiyum veTTiyum peecinaan “He is talking very cleverly.”
10. kuuTTi kuRaittu “Not in a proper way” the first verb kuuTTi means “adding to” and kuRaittu means “by deleting”. Both are combined together to frame a compound in the sentence avan kuuTTik kuRaittu visayattaic connaan “He reported the news with some additions and deletions.” That is, not in a proper way.

The compounds of the type Noun+Verb and verb+Noun are very rare in Tamil.

The above types of Relative compounds conveying the Idiomatic meaning, Totality meaning, Adverbial meaning Adjectival meaning etc

The following are the examples for the above:

AvaL vaayum vayirumaaka iruntaaL “She is pregnant” (Idiomatic meaning)

Avanukku kaaDu karai ellaam irukku “He owns so much of wealth” (Totality meaning)

KaLLam kapaDam illaatavan “He is innocent” (Adjectival meaning)

Antap puuvellaam vaadi vathankip pooyiRRu “The flowers are fathered away”
(Adverbial meaning)

It is possible from the above four types of compounds that both the parts of the compound may have meaning; only the first part may have some meaning; only the second part may have some meaning and both the parts may not have any specific meanings.

The following are the examples for the above said types:

1. Avanukku viiDu vaasal ellam irukku “He owns all kinds of wealth” In it the first part viiDu means “House” and the second part vaasal means “The front portion of the house”. This is a Noun compound. aval puuci mezhukinaaL “She filled the house by smearing and covering”. In it both the first part and the second part have meanings. Puucu means “To cover” and mezhku means “To smear”. This is a verb compound.
2. vaNDi vaasi vantaalum poogalaam “If the cart and the remaining or the etc is coming, we will go”. Here the first part VaNDi has the meaning “Vehicle” but the second part has no specific meaning.
3. avan veLLaiyum coLLaiyumaa kiLampiTTaan “He goes neatly.” Here the second part does not have any specific meaning. The first part veLLai means “White” But the compound VeLLaiyum coLLaiyum means “Neatly” which is an adverbial meaning.

4. avan kaaccumuuccunnu kattinaan “He shouted like anything”. Here both kaaccu muuccu do not have meaning. But the compound kaaccu muuccu has the meaning “terribly” or “noisily”

Conclusion

- i) Relative Compounds mostly occur in the colloquial language.
- ii) The order of the compound is mostly not changing. Sometimes it may change.

A. Boologarambai, M.A., Ph.D.
Department of Tamil Language & Translation Studies
Dravidian University
Kuppam – 517 425.
Andhra Pradesh, India
arpudha_1@yahoo.co.in