

Conflicts and Problems in New Word-Formation: A Study on Malaysian Tamil Newspaper

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ABSTRACT--- *This study is about Tamil language word-formation in Malaysian context. The study gives in-depth findings on two research objectives. The objectives are, to identify the conflicts and problems in newly formed words in Tamil language found in Malaysia newspaper and to provide solutions for the problematic newly formed words in Tamil language. Data for this study were collected from Malaysia Nanban newspaper, a popular daily Tamil newspaper in Malaysia. The study used qualitative method of research and also classified as descriptive study. The main instrument used in this study is the Sura's Tamil – Tamil – English Dictionary. The findings show that ambiguity in words, forming additional words, forming words for special purpose, inappropriate and unknown meanings for the newly formed words in Tamil language are the problems that identified.*

Keywords--- *Tamil Linguistics, Word-Formation, New-Words, Morphology, Language Planning*

I. INTRODUCTION

Tamil is one of the ancient languages in the world and is spoken mainly in Tamilnadu (India), Srilanka, Malaysia, Singapore and Mauritius. It has its own scripts and vocabularies. Tamil language requires more and more new words to comply the needs of language user (13). As well aware there are plenty of gaps to be filled up in the growth of Tamil language in term of new word formation with proper morphological methodology (18, 19). The language suffers with non-standardized word formation activity across the globe (10).

Word-formation is frequently discussed as a part of grammatical method in Tamil language. There are very few studies conducted on Tamil new word formation as a separate discipline. This makes the problems faced by language user are never took into consideration in the process of forming words (12). Therefore, this study is to realize the word formation in Tamil language in users' perspective.

The purpose of the study: to identify the conflicts and problems in newly formed words in Tamil language found in Malaysia newspaper and to provide a solution for the identified conflicts and problems in the newly formed words in Tamil language.

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II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The previous works done in the area of word-formation in Tamil language are few. The researcher studied those works and described its essence here. Klegr, Ales (2018) (7) has published an article entitled, 'Self-presentation Function of Word-Formation' and has described about word-formation approaches. The paper discussed the approaches of word –formation and its functions. The article is based on two case studies. Further, a list of lexical processes likely to nonce-formation is provided. Creation of new words is an essential component in language use. In any case, the reasons why new words are created, for example the function(s) of word- formation seem, by all accounts, to be more mind boggling than is frequently expected (7).

Another article was published similar to the above article by Gizi, Maharramova M.A. (2018). The title of the article is, 'Word Formation in German Linguistics: Theoretical and Methodological Analysis.' This article defines the peculiarities of word formation in German language. Also, the article discusses how to enrich the verbs in word-formation and the models of word-formation in Modern German language. It is common in a language where the words vanishing, reappear with other meaning and get adjusted in the elaborate status (3).

Maharaj, Mohsine (2018) has published an article entitled, 'Teaching Technical Vocabulary through Word Formation Rules.' The objective of this study is to identify whether word-formation rules will be helpful for the Moroccan engineering students to learn and to recognise the words related to their fields. The results of the study revealed that most of the engineering students are not aware of the word-formation rules before they were introduced by the researcher. Therefore, the language users found difficulty in identifying and distinguishing vocabularies (8).

Word formation processes are principally used to make new expressions of lexical classes: things such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs (2). According to Muniisvaran (2014) (11, 12), word formation is a process of creating words with comply some grammatical rules of a particular language by using proper word formation processes. His study entitled, 'Most frequently used word –formation processes in Malaysian Tamil newspapers', focusses on the current scenario of word-formation in Tamil language in the Malaysian context. Finally, in finding, the study identified Tamil language words which are formed by combining more than one process.

Jayadevan (2009) (4), added that the grammatical rules may differ according to languages and its' nature. Bauer (1983) (1) believes that researches on word-formation was imbalanced. As indicated by him there is no standard set up guideline in this field and it because of this theoreticians to propose hypotheses all alone. In any case, the investigation of word-formation relentlessly created and the greatness of research embraced has continuously expanded in assorted languages.

Be that as it may, the investigation of word- formation has never been executed as a self-ruling discipline in Tamil language from a more extensive point of view. Word- formation was perceived as a part of grammatical procedures and not as an independent section. In the ongoing past, researchers from Tamil Nadu in India, for example, Paavaanar, Churatha, Radha Cellappan, Sivalingam, Thanga Manian, Rajendran and Subamanikkar have added to the field of word- formation in Tamil language through their exploration contemplates. Though these are related to Tamil language, the present study deviated from this focussing on the Tamil daily newspaper in Malaysia (5, 14).

Exercises through websites and social media, ie. Facebook are being carried out by a portion of the specialists and scholarly bodies in Tamil Nadu. Though, the methods attempted failed to give a positive effect. Henceforth, this investigation is foreseen to contribute towards word- formation in Malaysian Tamil setting.

III. METHODOLOGY

This study is a qualitative mode with descriptive style. This study is basically about the investigation of words and their utilization. This research has been planned well step by step to achieve the targets of the study.

For this study, the data was collected from the Malaysia Nanban newspapers from first of January 2019 until end of June 2019. The data have been scrutinized and the potential words were collected manually. The potential words have been checked with Sura's Tamil – Tamil – English Dictionary. The words found in this lexicon was rejected from the data list considering they are not new words any more (17). The words which were not recorded in the lexicon have been retained as data for this research and marked as new words. The identified data have been analysed further for this study (15, 16).

IV. RESEARCH FINDINGS

Based on the objectives of the study, data were collected from the Malaysia Tamil newspaper and analyzed. The researchers identified five problems in the new word-formation found in the Tamil language Malaysia newspaper. They are,

- i) Words with ambiguity
- ii) Forming word for existing word
- iii) Word-formation for special purpose
- iv) Inappropriate meaning and
- v) Unknown meaning.

All the above elements which were identified as problems in the new word-formation were described here with appropriate illustrations. Moreover, based on the second objective, solutions have been provided for the identified five conflicts and problems of the new word-formation.

1.1 Words with Ambiguity

One of the significant issues found from this study is ambiguity in meaning of words. This issue can be divided into two classes. The discussion of the two classes is as per the following:

a. One Meaning for Few Words

There are two class viz. i) 'one meaning for few words' and ii) 'one word for few meanings'. The first class is about the unstandardized where more than one word used for same meaning.

Table 1: One meaning for few words

No.	Concept	New Word
1	Facebook	[<i>mukanu:l</i>]

		[<i>mukapputtakam</i>]
		[<i>mukappakkam</i>]
2	Mobile phone	[<i>alaipe:ci</i>]
		[<i>kaitolaipe:ci</i>]
3	Smart phone	[<i>vive:kat tolaipe:ci</i>]
		[<i>tiranpe:ci</i>]
		[<i>vive:kak kaittolaipe:ci</i>]
		[<i>vive:kappe:si</i>]

Table 1 demonstrates sample for 'same meaning given to few words'. A sum of 38 entries have been recognized for the above mentioned problem. This circumstance plainly demonstrates that the words are shaped by different people with no discussion among them. The words are shaped with no standard reference and prompts this contention.

b. One Word for Few Meanings

The subsequent class is inverse to the first where more than one meaning given to one word.

Table 2: One word for few concepts

No.	New Word	Concept
1	[<i>ci:runtu</i>]	Patrol car
		Car
2	[<i>miṅ tu:kki</i>]	Crane
		Lift
3	[<i>ca:lait taṭuppu</i>]	Road divider
		Road block

Table 2 demonstrates sample words under the class of 'single word couple of meanings'. Contrasted with the class of 'one meaning for few words' this class records not many entries. The words in this classification will in general give uncertainty of significance. These words are additionally not standardized for their meanings.

1.2 Forming Word for Existing Word

The problem of forming word for existing word is because of forming of a new word where there is a current word with a similar meaning. The sample words with this contention are as per the following:

Table 3: Forming Word for Existing Word

No	Concept	Existing Word in Dictionary	Newly formed word
1	Commission	[<i>a:ṅaiyam</i>]	[<i>a:ṅaiyakam</i>]
2	SMS	[<i>kuṛuntakaval</i>]	[<i>kuṛuṅceyti</i>]
3	Compact disc	[<i>kuṛuntakaṭu</i>]	[<i>kuṛuntaṭṭu</i>]

A sum of 15 out of 496 words has been identified with this kind of contention. This is around 3.0% from the aggregate. This circumstance may get trouble the normal utilization of language to distinguish an institutionalized word for a specific meaning.

It is clear to see that institutionalized words which have lexicon sections are practical and reasonable contrasted with the recently formed words. As solution, a twofold check of availability of words for a specific meaning is important to be held before forming new words.

1.3 *Word-formation for Special Purpose*

The third problem identified through this study is the words formed for particular purposes despite the fact that word for a similar meaning are accessible in Tamil language. This circumstance demonstrates a slight difference from the previous problem. The second problem shows words framed without the knowledge of the presence of words for a meaning. However, this problem is occurred where a new word formed with full awareness to the accessibility of existing words, yet the new word framed deliberately. This is to mirror their personality and portray their self inimitably. Identified sample words in this contention are as per the following:

Table 4: Word Formation for Special Purpose

No.	New Word	Concept with Special Purpose
1	[<i>tunainala oppanta viḷa:</i>]	Wedding as referred by anti-religious perspective
2	[<i>varuvikka uṟṟana:!</i>]	Birthday as referred for saint Ramalingga Vallalar
3	[<i>ka:ri</i>]	Saturday as used by [<i>Taṇit Tamil</i>] movement which is against Sanskrit words in Tamil language use.

The data shows only 0.6% occurred with this problem. The size of the problem is considerably small. It is because only very few individual or group using this style. These types of words should be not formed by those individual or group in public media such as newspaper. The newspaper editors also should avoid to publish this type of words. It is because these words create ambiguity in meaning and creating difficulty in understanding the meaning of the word by readers.

1.4 *Inappropriate meaning*

Meaning of a word should be predictable based on its components and grammatical class in a given context. If a word stimulates different meanings other than what is intended then the word is considered ambiguous. Such words were identified and are as follows:

Table 5: Inappropriate Meaning

No.	Word	Contextual Meaning	Stimulating Meaning
1	[<i>variuntu</i>]	Taxi	Vehicle which paid as tax
2	[<i>mu:ṭuva:kaṇam</i>]	Van	Vehicle that closing door

3	[vacippīṭa arai]	Living room	Room of residency
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The words in the above list are formed with a reason to mirror a specific idea. Be that as it may, they failed to mirror their intended idea. This is the main drawback of these words. What's more, the subsequent disadvantage is these words invigorate wrong meaning which they don't expect to mean. This circumstance will prompt misconception among the language users.

To overcome this problem, those individual or group who intended to form a word with a particular meaning, should consult linguistic expert. The experienced linguist might help to create proper and more suitable words.

1.5 *Unknown meaning*

An ultimate purpose of a word is to express an idea. Without a significance to be fathomed the word is seen as worthless. During the data collection process a couple of words have been perceived where significance of those words are erratic. The words are:

Table 6.: Unknown Meaning

No.	Word
1	[a:kaḷai]
2	[me:ṅkaṛi]
3	[paṅmukak ku:ṭal]

The meanings for the above words are unknown. This investigation proposes that a word must be formed where it can animate the significance of the word and can be seen effectively.

V. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Though there are many newspapers for Tamil language in Malaysia, the study is limited to only Malaysia Nampan daily newspaper due to the time constraint. Moreover, the data collection for this study is limited to the Malaysia Nampan daily newspapers starting from the first of January 2019 to the end of June 2019. The collected data were checked with the Tamil to Tamil to English dictionary and is limited to Sura's Tamil-Tamil-English Dictionary because it is a standard dictionary and have more users in Malaysia.

VI. CONCLUSION

Word formations in languages are not a new process. The development of a language can be seen only through the coinage of new words and its usage among the language speakers. Or else, the language will be considered as unalive language and gradually it leads to a dead language. This study identified the conflicts and problems of word-formation in Tamil language found in the Malaysia Nampan daily newspaper (5). Moreover, it provided solutions and suggestions for the conflicts and problems of word-formation. The study utilized the the Sura's Tamil-Tamil-English Dictionary for the confirmation of the new-formed words. The findings show that ambiguity

in words, forming additional words, forming words for special purpose, inappropriate and unknown meanings are the problems identified for the newly formed words in Tamil language found in daily newspaper in Malaysia.

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