

TITLES OF MODERN TAMIL CREATIVE WRITINGS – ‘A LINGUISTIC STUDY’

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General:

Language is a tool for communication. Communication is possible even without language to some extent. For example without opening our mouth we express certain things by our facial expressions or by certain body movements. Sometimes, even by refraining from speaking or isn't keeping silence we express certain ideas. But powerful communication is possible only by language.

Origin of language:

We do not usually think of speaking as similar to chewing, licking and sucking, but, like speaking; all of these actions involve movements of the mouth, tongue and lips in some kind of controlled way. So, perhaps this connection is not as improbable as it first sounds. It is an example of the type of observation that can lead to interesting speculations about the origins of spoken language. They remain, however, speculations, not facts. We simply don't know how language originated.

Aim

Aim of my title is to find single word, two words

Objectives of the study:

The present study envisages the following objectives.

- 1) To pool the popular titles of the Tamil creative writings of modern days.
- 2) To unearth the creative strategies being followed in Tamil titling.
- 3) To understand the common system being followed by the creative writers for giving titles.

Language is Naming:

In every language we find words and sentences. They name objects or actions. Naming is done to everyone when a child comes to this earth. He or she is named. That is

used to refer to a particular individual. The individual will use his / her name of an individual for various purposes (for example to refer to or to address). Similarly in language, each object or action is named using a word or phrase or sentence. Generally a sentence is the name given to a course of action or series of objects. In personal name sometimes we try to give a name which describes the total features of an individual. Similarly, a sentence will describe the whole features of an object or series of objects or an actions or chain of actions. So every word or phrase or sentence is a name given either to an object and / or its related features or to an action and / or its related features and there are some words or phrases which are all names given to grammatical feature / function and / or grammatical relationship between and among the member words of the sentence.

Creative writings:

Writings are of many types viz, Technical writings, popular writings, creative writings etc. The creative writing is otherwise known as creative literature. In the creative literature, everything, either content or form, is creative. The creative writers exploiting their imaginary power and linguistic talent articulate the concepts in a creative fashion which will appeal the readers. There are some literatures which are enjoyed not because of the contents they possess but because of the way in which those concepts are said or expressed. So, in creative writings, language gains importance rather than the content. In creative writings everything must be creative literature so that they will be acclaimed.

Methodology:

The present study adopts descriptive approach for describing the process of titling being followed by the creative writers. It also adopts the comparative method to generalize the titling processes being followed in different types of creative writings.

Data Analysis:

The data collected have been analyzed applying linguistic principles and unearthed the system available in those titles. Although titles are given by different authors, it is possible to understand certain commonalities among them.

ANALYSIS

Single word titles:

By analyzing the titles of Modern Tamil creative writings namely novel, short story, modern poetry, it is understood that titles are two types based on the number of words occur in the titles. They are single word title and another one is multiple words titles. Here are some of the single word titles.

Example:

1. fhjy; (kadhal) / ka:tal /
2. bkSDK; (Mounam) / mavnam /

Two words titles:

There are plenty of titles in which only two words are found to exist. Of them the first word will be adjective or attribute and second word would be noun. It is understood that the combination of adjective plus noun is found to occur frequently. The combination of Adverb plus verb is not found. Sometimes more than one attributes are also found which make the titles as three member or four member words titles. The combination will be sometimes, complex word or some time compound words.

The complex word is a word in which one or two bound morphemes occur along with one free morpheme.

Example:

1. ele;j fij(Nadandha Kadhai) / naTanta katai /
2. ,y; bkhHp (Ill Mozhli) / ilmoLi /
3. ed; kuk(Nan Maram); / nanmaram /

Compound word is the word in which two free morphemes are found to occur or sometimes, two free morphemes and one or two bound morphemes are found to occur.

Example:

1. fhjy; njhy;tp (Kadhal tholvi) / ka:tal to:lvi /
2. Mapu';fhy; kz;lgk; (Ayiram kal Mandabam) / a:yiranka:l maNTapam /

Elliptical titles:

Creative writing is now – a – days viewed from the readers point of view rather than writers point of view. Thanks to Derrida who introduced the concept of ‘deconstruction’. The job of the writer is over as soon as his act of writing is over and it is upto or left to the reader to ‘make meaning’ from the writings of an author. Therefore when they write they leave, certain things for readers imagination. This happens not only in the main text of creative writing but also in the very title of the creative writing.

A reader can fully understand the full meaning of the title while he goes through the entire creative writing. Such suspension is maintained in the title. So, some authors prepare to give elliptical titles in their creative writings.

Here are some examples:

1. ek;Kila fhjiy (Nammudaiya kadhalai) / nammuTaya ka:talai /
2. ehs; KGJk; mtSf;fha; (Naal Muluvathum Avalukai) /na:LmuLutum avaLukka:y /
3. mtsplk; ngRtjw;fhf (Avalidam pesuvatharkaga) /avaLiTam pe:suvatarkka:ka /

Personal Name:

One of the important features identified through this study that some creative writings bears personal names as titles. Of them most of the time feminine names are used predominately as titles.

Here are some examples:

1. v!;. v!;. nkdfh (S.S.Menaka) / s.s. me:naka /
2. re;jpukjp (chandramadhi) / cantiramati /

Spoken title:

Modern days, although Tamil is diglossic language the dialectal and sociolectal features are found to embellish the written language. So, the titles of creative writings also carry the spoken titles. This phenomenon is very limited.

Following are some of the example:

1. thHhbt!;o jhdlh (Vazhalavetti thanada) / va:La:veTTi ta:naTa/
2. vd;d cyfklh>>> (Enna Ulagamada) / enna ulakamaTa /

Foreign words as title:

The impact of English or Sanskrit over the Tamil language is inevitable. Sometimes, speakers of Tamil language, whether they are monolinguals or bilinguals or literates or illiterates, heavily avail the elements from either English language or Sanskrit language. The elements from those two languages have got internalized and speakers of Tamil language are not aware of the technique of differentiating the pure Tamil elements from that of foreign languages. In some contexts, availing foreign vocabulary or linguistic element in Tamil enhances the communicability of the Tamil language.

Here are some examples:

1. kp!;l; fhy; (Missed call) / missutu ka:l /
2. bry;@ngdh; (cellphone) / celpo:n /

Phrases and sentence:

Some creative writings in Tamil carry the phrases or sentences as titles. It is a known fact that in spoken language, we use only phrases that is to say that the chain of phrases make the spoken language. The meaning is obtained by the listener not mere analyzing the phrase, but relying upon the contexts at which they appear. That is the reason the authors deliberately avail phrases in their writing as title. The sentences are able to independently express the meaning. Therefore, the others use both phrases and sentences as titles.

Here are some examples:

1. mJ xU fhyk;(Athu oru kalam) / atu oru ka:lam /
2. nfyp bra;jjpd; tpist[(Keli seithathin vilaivu) / keli ceyratin viLaivu /

Interrogatives:

Question is one of the important types of sentence pattern. Tamil question sentences are sometime realized not as question. For example vtd; kjpf;fpwhd;> is not really question. It otherwise says the statement that 'nobody respects (me), not who is respecting (me). So, Question sentence plays a very important role in Tamil language use. The authors have used questions as titles.

Here are some examples

- vdf;fhf capiuf; bfhLg;ghah>(enakkaga uyirai kudupaya)
/ enakka:ka uyirai koTuppa:ya /
,d;gkh Jd;gkh ePna brhy; ifngrp>(Enbama Thunbama neyae soll Kaipesi)
/ inpama tunpama ni:ye col kaipesi /

Change of word order:

It is a well-established fact that style is nothing but deviation from general norms. The creative writers in order to achieve certain stylistic features in their writing sometimes differently use the language. Take for example in kambaramayanan, kambar uses 'fz;nld; rPijia' instead of saying 'rPijiaf; fz;nld;'. This is a deviation from general norms.

Here are some examples:

1. bfhLj;Jtpl;nld; mtSf;F(Koduthuviten avalluku) /koTuttuviTTe:n avaLukku /
2. vid eP mrj;Jfpwha;...* (Ennai ne asathugirai) / enaini: asattukiRa:y /

Old saying:

Certain titles of Tamil creative writings are mere duplication of already existing popular saying. Certain phrases, or sentences are families or popular among the Tamil speakers. This happens either because of film songs or classical literature. Those expressers are borrowed by the writers and are used different connotative meaning as titles. This will attract the readers greatly. That is the reason they choose to use them. Here are some of such old sayings.

1. thd kiH eP vdf;F (vana mazhai ne enaku) / va:namalai ni: enakku /
2. Rthpy;yh rpj;jpuk;(suvar illa sithiram) / suvarilla: cittiram /

Um suffix:

The suffix um is used two times in the titles.

Here are some examples:

1. u';fuh\$Dk; u';fehjDk;* (rangarajarum ranganadharum) /rankarajanum
rankanatanum/
2. mu';fKk; me';ju';fKk; (Arangamum andharangamum) / arankamum
antarankamum /

Mathematical notation like:

Rarely some other uses certain words like a mathematical notation as title. Here is an example:

1. fhjy; ehlfk; = eoj;j fhjyp + Joj;j fhjyd; / ka:tal na:Takam = naTitta ka:tali +
tuTittakatalan /

Ungrammatical:

Creative writers have every right to break the traditionality. Sometimes, they break the grammatical rules of language. For example Shakespeare when he says about the beauty of Cleopatra, he says 'her beauty is beyond compare'. He uses compare instead of comparison. Similarly, the Tamil poet pa.vijai in his one of the filmsongs, he writes 'xt;bthU g{f;fspYk;' instead 'xt;bthU g{tpYk;'. Some another with this type of tempo gives ungrammatically formed sentence as title. For example:

1. Fjpiu ngr kWf;fpd;wd / kutirai pe:sa marukkinRan /

Conclusion

The findings of the present study are summed up here. By analyzing the titles of Modern Tamil creative writings namely novel, short story, modern poetry, it is understood that titles are two types based on the number of words occur in the titles. They are single word title and another one is multiple words titles. There are plenty of titles in which only two words are found to exist. Of them the first word will be adjective or attribute and second word would be noun. It is understood that the combination of adjective plus noun is found to occur frequently. Creative writing is now -a - days viewed from the reader's point of view rather than writer's point of view. Thanks to Derrida who introduced the concept of 'deconstruction'.

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