

TAMIL PHONETIC READER

S RAJARAM

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CIIL INSTITUTE OF INDIAN LANGUAGES

MYSORE-6

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TAMIL PHONETIC READER

CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF INDIAN LANGUAGES
PHONETIC READER SERIES-3

Editor
H. S. BILIGIRI

CIIL Phonetic Reader Series - 3

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सत्यमेव जयते

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Foreword

The Central Institute of Indian Languages was set up on the 17th July, 1969 with a view to assisting and co-ordinating the development of Indian Languages. The Institute was charged with the responsibility of serving as a nucleus to bring together all the research and literary out-put from the various linguistic streams to a common head and narrowing the gap between basic research and developmental research in the fields of languages and linguistics in India.

The Institute and its four regional centres are thus engaged in research and teaching which lends to the publication of a wide-ranging variety of materials. Materials designed for teaching / learning at different levels and suited to specific needs is one of the major areas of interest in its series of publications. Basic research relating to the acquisition of language and study of language in its manifold psycho-social relations constitute another broad range of its interest. These materials will include materials produced by the members of the staff of the Central Institute of Indian Languages and its Regional Language Centres and associated scholars from Universities and Institutions both Indian and Foreign.

The Central Institute of Indian Languages has initiated the Phonetic Reader Series in Indian languages with a view to presenting the range of Phonetic variation obtaining in this sub-continent and demonstrating the closeness of languages on the basis of Phonetic patterning. These Readers are biased towards learning the sound systems of languages. Thus it is hoped that this series will be of interest to both scholars who are interested in Phonetic studies and to practical learners of languages who wish to make a beginning in their language study.

The language instructors in our Regional Language Centres who had to produce the instructional material while teaching intensive courses of $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours a day deserve to be treated with sympathy. Through their dedicated work these young scholars have made contributions which will go a long way in the emotional integration of the country. If this series even partially fulfils its objectives then our efforts will be amply rewarded.

Central Institute of Indian Languages
Manasagangotri, Mysore-6
22nd March 1972

D. P. PATTANAYAK
Director

Preface

Acquisition of a good pronunciation forms an important part of language learning, especially so if the learner is expected to teach the language he has learnt, to others. Firstly, the learner must acquire the capacity to recognise readily without any error the various speech sounds occurring in the language he is learning. Secondly, he must acquire the capacity to produce them with the help of his own vocal organs. Thirdly, he must acquire the capacity to produce the individual speech sounds he has learnt in sequences. In addition to these three skills, which may be sufficient to gain a good pronunciation, the learner, depending on his needs, has to get a mastery over the orthography of the language he is learning. This involves developing automatic associations between written forms and speech sounds.

The phonetic readers in this series have been designed with the above points in view. They are mainly intended to meet the needs of teachers who receive training in an Indian language other than their mother-tongue at the Regional Language Centres of the Central Institute of Indian Languages. These teachers are expected not only to learn the languages in question but also be able to teach it to their students when they return home.

Each reader consists of a brief exposition about the organs of speech and their functions. It also introduces some technical terms. Then each speech sound is described in detail giving the movements of the vocal organs. Each description is rounded off by the technical term for that sound. Certain sounds which may prove difficult to persons with certain language backgrounds are emphasised. The readers also contain drills for practice. A brief phonemic statement which meaningfully groups the sounds described in the preceding sections is also appended. A statement

about the correspondences between the phonemes of the language studied and the letters used in the conventional orthography comes at the end.

These readers have been tried out on two batches of teacher-trainees and have been revised in the light of experience that has been gained. It may be too much to claim that they are perfect. There are lacunae still to be filled up. The most conspicuous of these is the lack of any information on intonation. Suggestions for improvement are welcome and will be incorporated in the subsequent editions.

Though it is true that certain features of pronunciation can only be learnt with the aid of a teacher, the utility of such readers cannot be underestimated. It is hoped that these readers will be useful to even persons other than those for whom they are specifically intended. ~

H. S. BILIGIRI

Acknowledgement

This little book is primarily intended as a guide to those whose mother tongue is not Tamil. The technical terms and symbols that are not much familiar to all educated people have been ignored as far as possible. The chapter on 'phonemics' is not exhaustive and complete in describing all the sounds in the fashion of phonetic science though it covers the possible distribution of all the sounds in Tamil.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Dr. D. P. PATTANAYAK, Director, Central Institute of Indian Languages for his constant encouragement and guidelines. Dr. H. S. BILIGIRI, Deputy Director, Central Institute of Indian Languages and Dr. U. P. UPADHYAYA, Principal, Southern Regional Language Centre have read this book in manuscript and their suggestions have improved it in many ways. I am grateful to their guidance and supervision. My thanks are also due to Dr. M. S. THIRUMALAI, Research Officer and Mr. V. GNANASUNDARAM. Needless to say that the responsibility is mine alone for any defects found in this Reader.

Thanks are also due to Mr. H. L. N. BHARATI for seeing this book through the press and to Mr. V. B. SATYAN of the Kapila Power Press, Nanjangud, for the neat printing.

S. RAJARAM

Contents

Foreword	...	v
Preface	...	vii
Acknowledgement	...	ix
Introduction	...	1
1 The Organs of Speech	...	3
2 The Speech Sounds of Tamil Language	...	7
3 Tamil Sounds	...	11
3.1. Front Vowels	...	11
3.2. Central Vowels	...	13
3.3. Back Vowels	...	14
3.4. Stops	...	17
3.5. Fricatives	...	25
3.6. Nasals	...	27
3.7. Laterals	...	32
3.8. Flap	...	35
3.9. Trill	...	36
3.10. Frictionless continuants	...	37
4 Phonetic drills	...	39
4.1. Some general remarks	...	39
4.2. Vowels	...	40
4.3. Consonants	...	53
4.4. Clusters	...	57
5 Phonemics	...	65
6 Graphemics	...	67
Bibliography		

Introduction

This Phonetic Reader aims at teaching the pronunciation of Tamil sounds to those whose mother-tongue is not Tamil, in particular to the native speakers of Indo-Aryan languages. This Reader does not present an exhaustive study of Tamil sounds with minute details of a thorough phonetic analysis. However, it describes all the sounds employed in Tamil language in such a way as to make the beginners familiar with the processes involved in the production of the sounds and to draw their attention to sequences of sounds which may be difficult for them to identify and pronounce correctly.

The sounds in this Phonetic Reader are described according to the conventions of phonetics. The description of each sound consists of the following details :

- (i) the movements of the speech organs during the production of a sound,
- (ii) the phonetic description of the sound,
- (iii) the distribution of the sound,
- (iv) examples and
- (v) notes, if any, to the students.

The phonetic drills are given separately in the fourth chapter. This does not mean that the drills are administered only after the completion of the description. Whenever a new sound is introduced in the classroom contrastive pairs involving that particular sound are given for practice.

A brief outline of phonemic analysis is given in the fifth chapter. Besides, a brief note on graphemics of Tamil is given in the sixth chapter. It also consists of a section on the phoneme-grapheme correspondences.

I The Organs of speech

1.1. To simulate more effectively the processes involved in the production of speech sounds described here, it is necessary that the students have a knowledge of the names and functions of speech organs. It is also necessary that the students are familiar with some basic terminology used in the description of Tamil sounds.

1.2. A profile is given below to make the student familiar with the organs of speech.

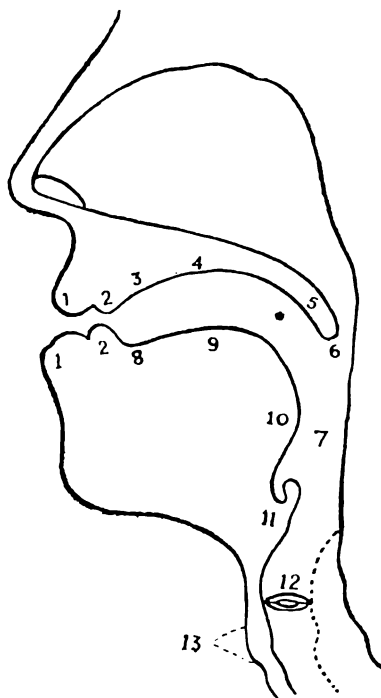


Fig. 1

1 Lips

2 Teeth

The roof of the mouth : The roof of the mouth is divided into teeth ridge, hard palate and soft palate.

3 Teeth ridge

It is a convex part of the roof of the mouth. It is immediately behind the teeth.

4 Hard palate

It is a concave part of the roof of the mouth. It is in the central part of the roof of the mouth.

5 Soft palate

It is situated in the back part of the roof of the mouth. It can be lowered or raised. When it is lowered, the air stream from the lungs has access to the nasal cavity. When it is raised the passage to the nasal cavity is closed.

6 Uvula

It is in the ending part of the soft palate.

7 Pharynx

It is situated in the throat.

The surface of the tongue : The surface of the tongue is divided into three parts namely the blade of the tongue, the front of the tongue and the back of the tongue.

8 Blade of the tongue

It lies opposite to the teeth ridge. It includes the tip of the tongue.

9 Front of the tongue

It lies opposite to the hard palate.

10 Back of the tongue

It lies opposite to the soft palate.

11 Epiglottis

This is drawn over the windpipe when swallowing.

12 Vocal cords

The larynx contains two lip like elastic membranes which are physiologically called vocal cords. When these two lip like elastic membranes are brought close together during the sound production, they vibrate and produce a buzzing noise. This is technically called the voice and the particular sound is termed as a voiced sound. A sound produced without such vibrations in the vocal cords is a voiceless sound.

13 Larynx

It is the upper part of the windpipe. It protects the vocal cords.

1.3. The speech organs are classified mainly into articulators and points of articulation. The articulators are movable whereas the points of articulation are, relatively speaking, stationary. The articulators are lower lip, tip of the tongue, blade of the tongue, front of the tongue and back of the tongue. The points of articulation are upper lip, upper teeth, teeth ridge, hard palate and soft palate.

2 The speech sounds of Tamil language

2.1. Speech sounds are divided generally into vowels and consonants. Vowels are typically voiced sounds. In their production the air passes through the mouth in a continuous stream without any obstruction in the mouth. These sounds are subclassified into front vowels, central vowels and back vowels on the basis of the part of the tongue raised.

Front vowels

[i] [ii] [e] and [ee] are called front vowels because in the production of these four vowels in Tamil the front of the tongue is raised towards the front of the hard palate.

Central vowels

Central vowels [a] and [aa] are intermediate between the front and the back. In their production the central part of the tongue is raised towards the middle of the palate.

Back vowels

[u] [uu] [U] [o] and [oo] are back vowels. In their pronunciation the back of the tongue is raised towards the soft palate.

2.2. In the production of all the vowels the soft palate is in its raised position and the vocal cords are in vibration.

2.3. Consonants are classified into stops, fricatives, nasals, laterals, flap, trill and frictionless continuants.

Stops

The stop consonants are produced by blocking the air stream at some point in the oral cavity by the lips or by the tip of the tongue or by the back of the tongue and then released with explosion.

Tamil has twelve stop sounds, namely

[p] [b] [t] [ɖ] [t̪] [d] [t̪] [ɖ] [c] [j] [k] and [g]

If the stops are released with weak explosion those may be called lax stops. In Tamil there are three lax stops, namely [P] [T] and [K]

Fricatives

Fricatives are produced when the air stream is pushed through a narrow opening where it causes friction of various kinds.

Tamil has three fricatives, namely [s] [ʃ] and [h]

Nasals

Nasals are produced when the oral passage is closed and the soft palate is lowered and the air is directed through the nasal cavity.

Tamil has altogether six nasals, namely [m] [ɲ] [ŋ] [ɳ] [ɳ̌] and [n]

Laterals

Laterals are pronounced by a complete blockade of air in the middle of the mouth but leaving a free passage for the air to pass through both sides of the tongue.

Tamil has three laterals, namely [l] [ɭ] and [ɭ̌]

Flap

It is produced by a single quick flap of the tongue. The tip of the tongue is slightly curled back and made to contact the alveolar arch in its production.

The breath escapes between the tip of the tongue and palate.

Tamil has a flap [ɾ]

Trill

It is produced by the rapid vibrations by the tip of the tongue against the alveolar ridge.

Tamil has a trill [ɽ]

Frictionless Continuants

These are produced with the position of the organs same as that for a fricative but with a weak breath force so that no friction is heard.

Tamil has two frictionless continuants, namely [v] and [y]

3 Tamil sounds

3.1. Front Vowels

3.1.1. [i] In its production the lips are spread and the front of the tongue is raised as high as possible towards the hard palate without making any sort of constriction. The tip of the tongue touches the lower part of the teeth. The vocal cords are vibrated during its production. The soft palate is raised. The formation of this sound may be described shortly by defining it as a high front unrounded short vowel. In Tamil it occurs in all the positions in a word.

Example :

<i>Initial</i>		<i>Medial</i>	
1. ilay	‘leaf’	2. kaḷippU	‘rejoice’
iTal	‘petal’	tolil	‘work’
inpam	‘pleasure’	miccam	‘remainder’
isay	‘music’	niral	‘programme’
irakkam	‘mercy’	aḷivU	‘destruction’
<i>Final</i>			
3. tooli	‘girl friend’		
vali	‘path’		
kooli	‘hen’		
poḍi	‘powder’		
ceḍi	‘plant’		

3.1.2. [ii] The movements of the speech organs are almost the same as those for its corresponding short vowel [i] except the length of duration. This sound is known as the high, front,

unrounded, long vowel. It also occurs in all the positions in a word.

Example :

<i>Initial</i>		<i>Medial</i>	
1. iitt̥i	‘spear’	2. ciir	‘dowry’
iiram	‘wet’	niir	‘water’
iinam	‘baseness’	viiram	‘bravery’
iid̥U	‘compensation’	viiḍ̥U	‘house’
iisal	‘winged white-ant’	niiḷam	‘length’
<i>Final</i>			
3. t̥ii	‘fire’		
cii	‘exclamation of contempt’		

3.1.3 [e] In its production the lips are slightly spread. The front of the tongue is slightly raised towards the hard palate but not as high as in the case of [i] described above. The vocal cords are vibrated during its production. The soft palate is raised. This sound may be described as mid, front, unrounded, short vowel. In Tamil it does not occur in the word final position.

Example :

<i>Initial</i>		<i>Medial</i>	
1. eṭṭ̥U	‘eigt’	2. peyar	‘name’
cccil	‘saliva’	meḷUKU	‘wax’
eT̥irol̥i	‘echo’	veḷ̥iyiiḍ̥U	‘publication’
eḷ̥Uvaay	‘subject’	melivU	‘weakness’
cri	‘to burn’	keḍ̥U	‘to spoil’

3.1.4. [ee] The articulatory movements required for the production of this sound are about the same as those required for the short vowel [e] except the length of duration. This sound is known as the mid, front, unrounded, long vowel. It occurs in all the positions in a word.

Example :

<i>Initial</i>		<i>Medial</i>	
1. ee <u>l</u> u	‘seven’	2. kee <u>l</u> vi	‘question’
ee <u>r</u> i	‘lake’	mee <u>K</u> am	‘cloud’
ee <u>ṇ</u> i	‘ladder’	tee <u>l</u>	‘scorpion’
ce <u>m</u> a <u>a</u> ḷi	‘fool’	teen	‘honey’
ce <u>r</u> a <u>a</u> ḷam	‘abundance’	kee <u>ḷ</u> ikkay	‘sports’
<i>Final</i>			
3. a <u>ṇ</u> gee	‘there’		
i <u>ṇ</u> gee	‘here’		
e <u>ṇ</u> gee	‘where’		
ee <u>r</u> kanavee	‘already’		
enavee	‘so’		

The speakers of Indo-Aryan languages will have difficulty in making the distinction between the short vowel [e] and the long vowel [ee]. Drills are given in the fourth chapter to help them overcome this difficulty.

3.2. Central Vowels

3.2.1. [a] In its production the lips are kept in neutral position. The tongue is kept as it is in the normal position and the vocal cords are vibrated. The soft palate is raised. This sound is called the low, central, unrounded, short vowel. It occurs in all the positions in a word.

Example :

<i>Initial</i>		<i>Medial</i>	
1. aKalam	‘breadth’	2. kani	‘fruit’
anal	‘fire’	naKam	‘nail’
aṇivU	‘knowledge’	maram	‘tree’
aṇṇan	‘elder brother’	kalay	‘art’
ambU	‘arrow’	maṇḷu	‘dew’

Final

3.	vara	'to come'
	pooKa	'to go'
	naḍakka	'to walk'
	taḷḷa	'to push'
	aḍa	'Hey !'

3.2.2. [aa] The articulatory movements are about the same as those required for the production of its corresponding short vowel [a] except the length of duration. It may be described as a low, central, unrounded, long vowel. It occurs initially, medially and finally.

Example*Initial*

1.	aaKaaram	'food'
	aaKaayam	'sky'
	aaḷam	'depth'
	aaṇḍavan	'God'
	aaParaṇam	'jewel'

Medial

2.	paambU	'snake'
	paasam	'affection'
	paavam	'sin'
	maalay	'garland'
	caayam	'colour'

Final

3.	nilaa	'moon'
	palaa	'jack tree'
	maa	'mango tree'
	naa	'tongue'
	cuṛaa	'shark'

3.3. Back Vowels

3.3.1. [u] It is produced with close lip rounding. The back of the tongue is raised as high as possible towards the soft palate but not to the extent of causing any constriction. The sides of the tongue are in contact with the teeth and the tip of the tongue is somewhat retracted from the lower part of the teeth. The

vocal cords are vibrated in its production. The soft palate is raised. The formation of this sound may be described shortly by defining it as a high, back, rounded, short vowel. It occurs initially and medially.

Example :

<i>Initial</i>		<i>Medial</i>	
1. ulaKam	'world'	2. muḍi	'hair'
ulakkay	'pestle'	kuḍay	'umbrella'
uṛakkam	'sleeping'	kuṇam	'character'
uṇarcci	'feeling'	pujam	'shoulder'
ulay	'furnace'	tuṛay	'department'

In its production the lips are rounded fairly closely but not so closely as for the long [uu].

3.3.2. [uu] The manner and the point of articulation are about the same as those required for the production of its corresponding short vowel [u] except the length of duration. It is a high, back, rounded, long vowel. It occurs initially, medially and finally.

Example :

<i>Initial</i>		<i>Medial</i>	
1. uukkam	'courage'	2. kuuṛay	'roof'
uuKam	'guess'	kuuli	'wages'
uunam	'defect'	puuTam	'demon'
uur	'town'	nuul	'thread'
uusi	'sewing needle'	muuṭṭay	'bed bug'

<i>Final</i>	
3. puu	'flower'
kuu	'cooing'
tuu	'Fie ! an exclamation of contempt'
cuu	'sound uttered when setting a bird on'

3.3.3. [U] It is produced by pronouncing [u] with spread lips. The lips are spread as in the production of the high front unrounded short vowel [i]. The back of the tongue is raised towards the soft palate and the vocal cords are vibrated. The soft palate is raised. This sound may be described as a high back unrounded short vowel. In a word it occurs finally and medially other than in the initial syllable.

Example :

<i>Medial</i>		<i>Final</i>	
1. karUttU	'opinion'	2. paambU	'snake'
kurUttU	'sprout'	taṇḍU	'stalk'
virUṇḍU	'feast'	ṭappU	'mistake'
varUṇḍU	'to feel'	mokkU	'flower bud'
marUṇḍU	'medicine'	urU	'image'

It is to be noted that it has no long vowel correspondingly.

3.3.4. /o/ In its production the lips are rounded with considerable protrusion. The back of the tongue is raised towards the soft palate but not as high as in the case of [u]. The soft palate is raised. This may be described as a mid, back, rounded, short vowel. It occurs only initially and medially.

Example :

<i>Initial</i>		<i>Medial</i>	
1. oṭṭaKam	'camel'	2. kolay	'murder'
oppam	'signature'	koḍay	'gift'
oli	'sound'	poTi	'bundle'
oḷUkkam	'conduct'	cokkaay	'shirt'
oppaṇḍam	'agreement'	ṭollay	'disturbance'

3.3.5 [oo] The movements of the speech organs are about the same as those for its corresponding short vowel [o] except the length of duration. This sound is known as the mid back, rounded long vowel. It occurs in all the positions in a word.

Example :

<i>Initial</i>		<i>Medial</i>	
1. ootṭam	'running'	2. kooṭṭay	'fort'
ooviyam	'picture'	kooḍay	'summer'
oolay	'palm leaf'	kooḍi	'ten millions'
oolam	'roar'	nookkam	'purpose'
ooḍU	'tile'	poorvay	'blanket'
<i>Final</i>			
3. poo	'to go'		
ṭoo	'calling a dog'		
coo	'name of a comedian actor in Tamil film'		

3.4. Stops

3.4.1. [p] In its production the lips are closed and the soft palate is raised to close the nasal passage. When the lips are opened the air suddenly comes out with explosion. There is no vibration in the vocal cords. This sound may be described as a voiceless bilabial stop. It occurs initially and medially.

It occurs medially as the first member of a consonant cluster, as the second member of a consonant cluster and in an identical consonant cluster.

Example :

1. paKal	'day time'	2. aptam	'year'
paavam	'sin'	aptapuurtṭi	'the anni- versary of an event'
puli	'tiger'		
payan	'advantage'	aapkaanistaan	'Afgan'
pul	'grass'	paapkaan	'popcorn'

3. arpuTam	'wonder'	4. kappal	'ship'
arpan	'a mean fellow'	appaa	'father'
puṣṣam	'flower'	veppam	'heat'
veṭṭam	'hotness'	ṭappU	'mistake'
parasparam	'mutually'	uppU	'salt'

3.4.2. [b] The movements of the speech organs are exactly the same as those for its corresponding voiceless variety [p] except for the vibration of the vocal cords. In Tamil it occurs initially in some of the borrowed words and medially after the nasal [m]. This may be described as a voiced bilabial stop.

Example :

1. balam	'strength'	2. kambam	'post'
baavam	'gesticulation'	ambU	'arrow'
bimbam	'image'	cembU	'copper'
bakṭi	'devotion'	kombU	'horn'
bajanay	'bajan'	nambU	'to believe'

3.4.3. [P] In its production the lips are closed slightly and the soft palate is raised to close the nasal passage. When the lips are opened the air stream is pushed through with a weak plosion. There is slight vibration of the vocal cords during its production. This sound is described as a lax bilabial stop. It occurs only in between vowels.

Example :

1. aPayam	'shelter'
uPaayam	'trick'
aPaayam	'danger'
laaPam	'profit'
kaPam	'phlegm'

3.4.4. [t] It is produced when the tip of the tongue touches the upper teeth. The soft palate is also raised so that the air cannot

get through the nasal cavity in its production. When the tip of the tongue is released from the upper teeth the air suddenly escapes through the mouth. There is no vibration in the vocal cords. This sound may be described as a voiceless dental stop. It occurs initially and medially.

It occurs medially as the first member of a consonant cluster, as the second member of a consonant cluster and in an identical consonant cluster.

Example :

- | | | | |
|------------|------------------------|-----------|--|
| 1. taṭṭU | 'plate' | 2. aaṭmaa | 'soul' |
| taṭkaram | 'sheet
made of tin' | taṭruuPam | 'exact
resemblance' |
| taamaray | 'lotus' | itṭyaaTi | 'and the rest be-
ginning with these
etc.' |
| tuṭray | 'department' | | |
| teevay | 'needs' | | |
| 3. puṭaKam | 'book' | 4. paṭṭU | 'ten' |
| sulṭaan | 'Sultan' | kuuṭṭU | 'drama' |
| aṣṭi | 'ashes' | kaṭṭi | 'knife' |
| aṣṭivaaram | 'foundation' | viṭṭU | 'seed' |
| amiṭam | 'nectar' | eṭṭanay | 'how many' |

3.4.5. [ḍ] The movements of the speech organs are exactly the same as those for [ṭ] except for the vibrations in the vocal cords. This may be described as a voiced dental stop. In Tamil it occurs initially in some of the borrowed words and medially after the nasal [ṇ].

Example :

- | | | | |
|----------|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| 1. ḍiKil | 'terror' | 2. paṇḍam | 'torch' |
| ḍaaram | 'wife' | viṇḍay | 'art of magic' |
| ḍaavaṇi | 'upper garment' | kaṇḍay | 'patched cloth' |
| ḍaaPam | 'thirst for
abstract thing' | caṇḍU | 'lane' |

3.4.6. [T] It is produced by the tip of the tongue raised against the upper teeth. The soft palate is raised so that the air cannot get out of the nose during its production. When the tip of the tongue is released from the upper teeth the air stream passes out with a weak plosion. There is slight vibration of the vocal cords during its production. This sound may be described as a lax dental stop. It occurs medially as a single consonant between two vowels and as the second member of a cluster with [y].

Example :

1. kaTay	‘story’	2. neyTal	‘maritime region’
vaaTam	‘argument’	caayTal	‘leaning’
maaTam	‘month’	veeyTal	‘thatching’
maTi	‘to honour’	kaayTal	‘drying’

3.4.7. [t] In its production the tip of the tongue is placed against the alveolar ridge. The sides of the tongue are in contact with the teeth firmly. The soft palate is also raised so that the air cannot get through the nasal cavity. There is no vibration in the vocal cords. When the contact is released the air escapes through the mouth. This sound may be described as a voiceless alveolar stop. In Tamil it always occurs medially as an identical consonant cluster.

Example :

1. muttam	‘courtyard’
netti	‘forehead’
kattay	‘bundle’
vetti	‘success’
pattU	‘attachment’

3.4.8. [d] The movements of the speech organs are exactly the same as those for its corresponding voiceless alveolar stop [t] except for the vibration of the vocal cords. This sound is known as the voiced alveolar stop. In Tamil it always occurs medially after the voiced alveolar nasal [n].

Example :

1. andU	'that day'
indU	'to-day'
endU	'when'
nandi	'gratitude'
pandi	'pig'

3.4.9. [ɖ] It is produced by the tip of the tongue curved towards the back and making contact at the roof of the mouth. The soft palate is raised as in the production of other stops. There is no vibration in the vocal cords. When the contact is released the air escapes through the mouth. So the formation of this sound may be described as a voiceless retroflex stop. It occurs initially in some of the borrowed words.

Medially it occurs as the first member of a consonant cluster, as the second member of a consonant cluster and in an identical consonant cluster.

Example :

1. ɖin	'tin'	2. caaɖci	'witness'
ɖikkeɖɖU	'ticket'	avaɖcaɖam	'ugliness'
ɖan	'ton'	veɖpam	'heat'
ɖappaa	'tin'	uɖkaar	'to sit'
ɖamaaram	'a kind of drum'	aaɖpaɖU	'to become a slave'
3. ɖirUɖɖi	'the evil eye'	4. aɖɖay	'leech'
kaɖɖam	'difficulty'	vaɖɖam	'circle'
kuɖɖam	'leprosy'	kooɖɖay	'fort'
kooɖɖi	'crowd'	eɖɖU	'eight'

3.4.10. [ɖ] In its production the movements of the speech organs are the same as those for its corresponding voiceless variety [t̪] except for the vibration in the vocal cords. This

may be described as a voiced retroflex stop. It occurs initially in some of the borrowed words and medially between two vowels and after the homorganic nasal [ŋ].

Example :

1. aḍay	‘to close’	2. kaṇḍam	‘throat’
kaḍay	‘shop’	aṇḍam	‘world’
vaḍay	‘smell’	vaṇḍU	‘beetle’
kaḍan	‘loan’	vaṇḍal	‘black mud’
ṭaḍay	‘jaw’	toṇḍU	‘service’

3.4.11. [c] In its production the blade of the tongue touches the back part of the alveolar ridge and the soft palate is raised as in the production of the other stops. The blade of the tongue moves away from its position slowly and comes to the position of its homorganic fricative. There is no vibration in the vocal cords. This sound is known as the voiceless palatal affricate. It occurs initially and medially.

It occurs medially as the second member of a consonant cluster and in an identical consonant cluster.

Example :

1. carakkU	‘goods’	2. kaṭci	‘party’
caḍay	‘plaited hair’	muyarci	‘effort’
cevi	‘ear’	varaṭci	‘dryness’
ceeval	‘cock’	miiṭci	‘rescuing’
cumay	‘burden’	kaaṭci	‘show’
3. paccay	‘green’		
accam	‘fear’		
kuccU	‘small stick’		
ṭaccan	‘carpenter’		
miccam	‘remainder’		

3.4.12. [j] The movements of the speech organs are the same as those for [c] except for the vibrations in the vocal cords during its production. This sound may be described as a voiced palatal stop.

It occurs initially in the borrowed words. Medially it occurs as a single consonant between two vowels, as the second member of a consonant cluster with its homorganic voiced palatal nasal [ɲ] and in an identical consonant cluster.

Example :

1. jaaTi	‘caste’	2. pujam	‘shoulder’
jannal	‘window’	kejam	‘yard’
jooḍi	‘pair’	puujay	‘worship’
jaamiin	‘bail’	roojaa	‘rose’
jamiingdaar	‘land lord’	bajanay	‘bajan’
3. kañji	‘gruel’	4. pajji	‘a dish’
pañjU	‘cotton’	lajjay	‘shyness’
nañjU	‘poison’		
lañjam	‘bribery’		
mañjaḷ	‘yellow’		

3.4.13. [k] In its production the air stream is blocked by the back of the tongue while it is in firm contact with the soft palate. The soft palate is in raised position so that no air escapes through the nasal cavity. When the back of the tongue is released suddenly the air comes out of the mouth with explosion. There will be no vibration of the vocal cords during its production. This sound may be described as a voiceless velar stop. It occurs initially and medially.

Medially it occurs as the second member of a consonant cluster and in an identical consonant cluster.

Example :

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| 1. kaḍal | 'sea' | 2. iyaṟkay | 'nature' |
| kaḍan | 'loan' | uṭkaar | 'to sit' |
| kaṇakkU | 'account' | veṭkam | 'shame' |
| kaṇṇaaḍi | 'mirror' | ceyaṟkay | 'unnatural' |
| kay | 'hand' | teṟkU | 'south' |
| | | | |
| 3. pakkam | 'side' | | |
| eekkam | 'craving' | | |
| ṭayakkam | 'hesitation' | | |
| paakkU | 'arecanut' | | |
| nookkam | 'aim' | | |

3.4.14. [g] The movements of the speech organs for its production are exactly the same as those for [k] except for the vibrations in the vocal cords. This sound may be described as a voiced velar stop. It occurs initially in the borrowed words and medially after the homorganic nasal [ṇ] in the native words.

Example :

- | | | | |
|----------|-----------------------|-----------|----------------|
| 1. gurU | 'teacher' | 2. vaṅgam | 'Bengal' |
| gili | 'fear' | ṭaṅgam | 'gold' |
| girUPay | 'benevolence' | paṅgU | 'share' |
| geTay | 'a kind of
weapon' | maṅgaḷam | 'happy ending' |
| gaṇaPaTi | 'Lord Ganesha' | saṅgam | 'association' |

3.4.15 [K] In its production also the air stream is blocked by the back of the tongue while it is in contact with the soft palate. But the contact is not so firm as in the production of [k]. When the back of the tongue is released from the soft palate the air stream is pushed through the opening with weak plosion. There is slight vibration of the vocal cords during its production. This sound may be described as a lax velar stop.

It occurs medially as a single consonant between two vowels, as the second member of a cluster with [r] as the second member of a cluster with [l] and as the second member of a cluster with [y].

Example :

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| 1. paKa | 'day time' | 2. avarKa | 'they' |
| aKam | 'house' | aarKali | 'the sea' |
| maKan | 'son' | maarKa | 'the name of a month' |
| veeKam | 'speed' | teerKa | 'chariots' |
| aaKaayam | 'sky' | kaarKa | 'cars' |
| 3. palKalaykka aKam 'university' | | | |
| olKU 'to grow weak' | | | |
| alKU 'to diminish' | | | |
| nalKU 'to give' | | | |
| elKay 'boundary' | | | |
| 4. ceyKay 'action' | | | |
| poyKay 'fountain' | | | |
| vayKay 'name of a river' | | | |
| kayKa 'hands' | | | |
| payKa 'bags' | | | |

3.5. Fricatives

3.5.1. [s] In its production the blade of the tongue is positioned very close to the alveolar ridge. The air squeezes out with friction through a narrow passage between the alveolar ridge and the tip of the tongue. The vocal cords do not vibrate. The soft palate is raised. This may be described as a voiceless alveolar fricative. It occurs initially and medially.

Medially it occurs as a single consonant between two vowels and as the second member of a consonant cluster.

Example :

1. sarasvaTi	'Goddess Saraswathi'	2. viisay	'a kind of measurement'
soppanam	'dream'	ṭasay	'flesh'
sorkkam	'heaven'	visay	'force'
suTaṇḍiram	'independence'	pasay	'gum'
suuriyaṇ	'sun'	kaasU	'coin'
3. aṣṭivaaram	'foundation'		
kisṭi	'land revenue'		
aasṭi	'property'		
pasmam	'ashes'		
parasparam	'mutually'		

3.5.2. [ṣ] In its production the tip of the tongue is curved slightly towards the hard palate. But this curving does not make a complete closure. The air stream passes through the narrow passage between the hard palate and the tip of the tongue. The vocal cords do not vibrate. The soft palate is raised. This sound is known as the voiceless retroflex fricative.

It occurs medially as a single consonant between vowels and as the first member of a consonant cluster.

Example :

1. viṣam	'poison	2. puṣpam	'flower'
pooṣaKan	'one who nourishes'	kaṣṭam	'difficulty'
paaṣaṇam	'poison'	naṣṭam	'loss'
		uṣṇam	'heat'
		kuṣṭam	'leprosy'

3.5.3. [h] In its production the mouth is kept as in the production of vowels. The air stream passes through the wide open glottis with weak friction. The soft palate is raised. This

sound may be described as a glottal fricative. It occurs initially and medially.

Example :

- | | | | |
|------------|---------------|------------|-----------|
| 1. hanUman | 'Hanuman' | 2. kiraham | 'planet' |
| haaram | 'garland' | palahaaram | 'snacks' |
| hari | 'Lord Vishnu' | kirahaṇam | 'eclipse' |

3.6. Nasals

3.6.1. [m] In its production the lips are closed. The soft palate is lowered and the air stream comes freely through the nasal cavity. The vocal cords are vibrated during its production. In short, the articulatory movements for [m] are the same as for [b] except that the soft palate is lowered and the air is emitted through the nasal cavity. So the formation of this sound may be described shortly by defining it as a voiced bilabial nasal. It occurs initially, medially and finally.

Medially it occurs as a single consonant between two vowels, as the first member of a consonant cluster, as the second member of a consonant cluster and in an identical consonant cluster.

Example :

- | | | | |
|---------------|--|-----------|------------------------|
| 1. maram | 'tree' | 2. cumay | 'burden' |
| maaTam | 'month' | puumi | 'earth' |
| makkaḷ | 'people' | amay | 'arrange' |
| miin | 'fish' | amar | 'to sit' |
| meel | 'on' | umi | 'husk of
the grain' |
| 3. suyamvaram | 'selection of her
husband by a
princess from
among suitors
in an assembly' | 4. aanmaa | 'soul' |
| paambU | 'snake' | aṇmay | 'nearness' |
| cembU | 'a brass vessel' | aaṭmaa | 'soul' |

kaambU	'stalk'	nirmuulam	'destruction'
veembU	'margosa tree'	ceeymay	'distance'
5. ammaa	'mother'	6. vaanam	'sky'
tummal	'sneezing'	kaanam	'forest'
pommay	'doll'	laaPam	'profit'
ammi	'grinding stone'	toottam	'garden'
kammal	'ear ornament'	paḍam	'picture'

3.6.2. [ŋ] In its production the tip of the tongue is raised against the upper teeth. The soft palate is lowered and the air escapes freely through the nasal cavity. There is vibration in the vocal cords. In short, the movements of the speech organs are the same as those for [d] except that the air stream passes through the nasal cavity. So this sound may be described as a voiced dental nasal. It occurs only medially followed by its homorganic voiced dental stop [d].

Example :

1. taṇḍam	'ivory'
ponḍU	'hole'
caṇḍU	'lane'
virUṇḍU	'feast'
arUṇḍU	'to drink'

3.6.3. [n] In its production the tip of the tongue is made to contact the alveolar ridge. The soft palate is lowered and the air stream is pushed through the nasal cavity. The vocal cords are vibrated. The articulatory movements for this sound are exactly the same as those for the alveolar voiced stop [d] except that in the production of [n] breath is emitted through the nasal passage. This sound may be described as a voiced alveolar nasal. It occurs initially medially and finally.

Medially it occurs as a single consonant between two vowels, as the first member of a consonant cluster, as the second member of a consonant cluster and in an identical consonant cluster.

Example :

1. naan	'I'	2. manam	'mind'
naaḍi	'pulse'	ḍanam	'property'
nandi	'gratitude'	veenal	'summer'
naTi	'river'	panay	'palmyra'
naKam	'nail'	manay	'house'
3. aanmaa	'soul'	4. karnaḍa-	'the Kannada
kundU	'hill'	Kam	country'
naankU	'four'	karnuul	'Karnul'
noonpU	'religious fasting'		
anpU	'love'		
5. kannam	'cheek'	6. aṇṇan	'elder-brother'
jannal	'window'	vaṇṇaan	'dhoby'
annam	'swan'	kuulikka-	'coolie'
minnal	'lightning'	aran	
panniir	'rose water'	rasiKan	'fan'
		naṇpan	'friend'

3.6.4. [ṇ] In its production the tip of the tongue is curled and made to contact the roof of the mouth. The soft palate is lowered as in the production of other nasal and the air stream escapes freely through the nasal cavity. The vocal cords are vibrated. The articulatory movements for this sound are the same as those of [ḍ] except that in the production of [ṇ] the soft palate is lowered and the air stream is emitted through the nasal cavity. So this sound may be described as a voiced retroflex nasal. It

does not occur in the initial position. Medially it occurs as a single consonant between two vowels, as the first member of a consonant cluster, as the second member of a consonant cluster and in an identical consonant cluster.

Example :

1. maṇam	'fragrance'	2. naṇpan	'friend'
maṇal	'soil'	paṇpU	'nature'
tuṇay	'help'	vaṇḍU	'beetle'
kaṇay	'arrow'	taṇḍU	'stalk'
kuṇam	'character'	apaṇḍam	'false slander'
3. viṣṇU	'Lord Vishnu'	4. aṇṇan	'elder brother'
nirṇayi	'to determine'	vaṇṇaan	'dhoby'
kaṇam	'village officer'	paṇṇay	'farm'
vaṇam	'color'	taṇṇiir	'water'
uṣṇam	'heat'	kaṇṇaaḍi	'mirror'
5. maṇ	'sand'		
paṇ	'music'		
aaṇ	'male'		
peṇ	'female'		
kaṇ	'eye'		

3.6.5. [ṇ] In its production the front of the tongue touches the hard palate and the soft palate is lowered. The air escapes freely through the nasal passage as in the production of other nasal sounds. The vocal cords are vibrated. The articulatory movements for this sound are the same as those for the articulation of [j] except that in the production of [ṇ] the soft palate is lowered and the air passes through the nasal cavity. This sound may be described as a voiced palatal nasal.

It occurs initially and medially. Medially it occurs as the first member with its homorganic stop [j] and in an identical consonant cluster.

Example :

1. ñaaPaKam	'memory'	2. viññaani	'scientist'
ñaayirU	'Sunday'	aññaanam	'ignorance'
ñaalam	'universe'	meññaanam	'knowledge'
ñaanam	'wisdom'	aññaavaasam	'living without being recognised by others'
ñaani	'wiseman'	aaññay	'order'
3. añjal	'post'		
añjali	'worship'		
pañjU	'cotton'		
kañjan	'miser'		
mañjaḷ	'yellow'		

3.6.6 [ñ] In its production the air stream is blocked by the back of the tongue while it is in firm contact with the soft palate as in the production of [g]. The soft palate is lowered and the air passes through the nasal passage. The vocal cords are vibrated. This sound may be described as a voiced velar nasal. It occurs only in the medial position with its corresponding voiced velar stop.

Example :

1. aṅgee	'there'
iṅgee	'here'
ṭaṅgam	'gold'
aṅgam	'organ'
baṅgam	'deformity'

3.7. Laterals

3.7.1. [l] In its production the tip of the tongue has contact with the alveolar ridge in such a way that there is complete blockade of air in the middle of the mouth. The soft palate is raised so that the air cannot get through the nasal cavity. The air is allowed to pass by the sides of the tongue since they are not in contact with the sides of the palate. The vocal cords are vibrated during its production. This sound may be described as a voiced alveolar lateral. It occurs in all the positions.

Medially it occurs as a single consonant between two vowels, as the first member of a consonant cluster and in an identical consonant cluster.

Example :

- | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------|---------------|
| 1. laaḍam | 'horse shoe' | 2. ilay | 'leaf' |
| laaPam | 'profit' | valay | 'net' |
| laKU | 'lightness' | alay | 'wave' |
| lañjam | 'bribery' | maalay | 'garland' |
| laṭcaṇam | 'personality' | jalām | 'water' |
| 3. haviltāar | 'a sergeant' | 4. ṭollay | 'trouble' |
| saalvay | 'upper garment' | mullay | 'jasmine' |
| alKU | 'to diminish' | allal | 'suffering' |
| palKalayak | 'university' | kollay | 'backyard' |
| kaḷaKaṁ | | | |
| sulṭaan | 'Sulṭan' | calli | 'small stone' |
| 5. kal | 'stone' | | |
| pal | 'tooth' | | |
| maṇal | 'soil' | | |
| vil | 'bow' | | |
| cel | 'to go' | | |

3.7.2. [ɭ] The tip of the tongue is slightly curved and made to contact the middle of the palate. The air stream is completely

blocked in the middle of the mouth. The soft palate is in raised position so that no air escapes through the nasal cavity. The air is allowed to pass by the sides of the tongue since they are not in contact with the sides of the palate. The vocal cords are vibrated during its production. This sound is known as the retroflex lateral. It occurs medially and finally. Medially it occurs as a single consonant between two vowels, as the first member of consonant cluster and in an indential consonant cluster.

Example :

1. u j	'chisel'	2. ka van	'thief'
u avU	'secret'	kee vi	'question'
ka añjiyam	'store house'	vee vi	'yaaga'
caa aram	'window'		
va ayal	'bangle'		
3. ka an	'male thief'	4. ava	'she-that'
ka i	'female thief'	tee	'scorpion'
ta U	'to push'	ka	'toddy'
a U	'to take up a handful'	vaa	'sword'
pa an	'a man of the Palla caste'	kee	'to hear'

3.7.3. [l] In its production the tongue is curled back and the tip of tongue is placed very near the roof of the mouth but not touching it. The air stream is allowed to pass through the sides of the tongue as well as in between the tip of the tongue and the roof of mouth. The vocal cords are vibrated. The soft palate is raised. This sound may be described shortly as a voiced retroflexed palatal lateral. It occurs medially and finally. Medially it occurs as a single consonant between two vowels, as the first member of a consonant cluster and as the first member of a three consonant cluster.

Example :

1. pa am	'fruit'	2. aa vaar	'one of the twelve chief devotees of Lord Vishnu'
a UKay	'weeping'		
to UKay	'worshipping'		
ka UvU	'to wash'		
tooli	'girl friend'		
3. kii	'down'	4. vaa kkay	'life'
kuu	'thick gruel'	maki cci	'joy'
taa	'bolt'	vaa ttu	'greetings'
paa	'ruin'	kaa ppU	'enimty'

The retroflexed palatal lateral [ɭ] is not found in Indo-Aryan

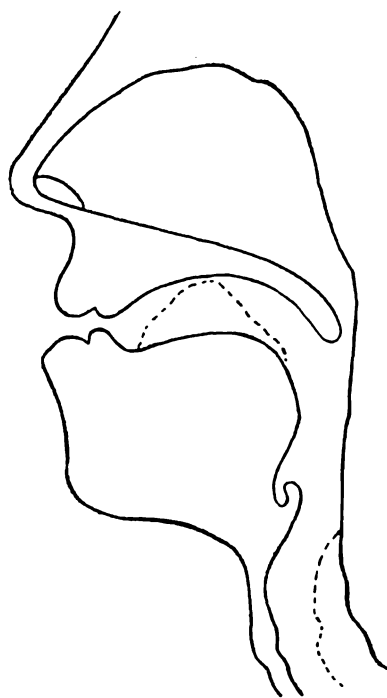


Fig. 2

languages and English. This is an area of difficulty where the Indo-Aryan as well as English speakers face a phonetic problem. The above diagram shows how this particular sound is produced. Drills are given in the fourth chapter.

3.8. Flap

3.8.1. [r] It is produced by a single quick flap of the tongue at the alveolar arch. The breath escapes between the tip of the tongue and palate. The vocal cords are vibrated. The soft palate is raised. This sound is known as the voiced alveolar flap. It occurs in all the positions. It occurs medially as a single consonant between two vowels, as the first member of a consonant cluster, as the second member of a consonant cluster and as the first member of a three consonant cluster.

It is to be noted that the lips are rather rounded, especially when it is at the beginning of words.

Example :

- | | | | |
|------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------|
| 1. raaKam | 'tune' | 2. aram | 'file' |
| raaṭṭinam | 'wheel' | maram | 'tree' |
| raKasiyam | 'secret' | ṭaram | 'quality' |
| raajiyam | 'country' | paaram | 'weight' |
| rambam | 'file' | caaram | 'summary' |
| 3. nirṇayi | 'to determine' | 4. ṭaṭruuPam | 'exact resemblance' |
| nirmuulam | 'destruction' | | |
| aTirvU | 'vibration' | | |
| amirṭam | 'nectar' | | |
| varṇam | 'colour' | | |
| 5. arṭṭam | 'meaning' | 6. avar | 'he (hon)-that' |
| arppaṇam | 'dedication' | uṇavinar | 'relatives' |
| aṭircci | 'shock' | ṭoolar | 'friend' |
| maarkkam | 'way' | ṭeer | 'car' |
| varkkam | 'race' | moor | 'butter milk' |

3.9. Trill

3.9.1. [r] It is produced by the rapid vibrations by the tip of the tongue against the middle of the alveolar ridge. The soft palate is raised to close the nasal passage. The vocal cords are vibrated. This may be described as a voiced alveolar trill. It occurs in the word medial position as a single consonant between two vowels and as the first member of a consonant cluster.

Example :

1. arivU	'knowledge'	2. karṇaṇḍU	'sugar candy'
arUvaḍay	'harvest'	eerpaḍU	'arrangement'
karay	'stain'	karpU	'chastity'
tuṛay	'department'	iyarkay	'nature'
kuṛay	'defect'	urcavam	'temple festival'

The alveolar trill [r] is not found in Indo-Aryan languages

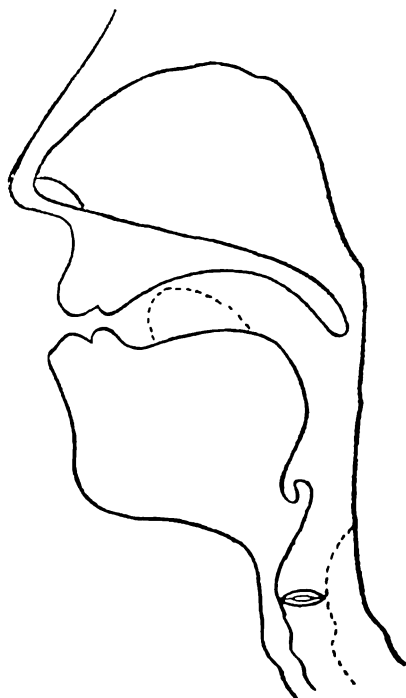


Fig. 3

and English. This is an area of difficulty for the Indo-Aryan as well as English speakers. The above diagram shows how this particular sound is produced. Drills are given in the fourth chapter.

3.10. Frictionless continuants

3.10.1. [v] In its production the lower lip is very close to the upper front teeth. The soft palate is raised. The air stream passes through the 'stricture' without audible friction. The vocal cords are vibrated. This may be described as a voiced labio-dental frictionless continuant. It occurs initially and medially. It occurs medially as a single consonant between the vowels, as the second member of a consonant cluster and in an identical consonant cluster.

Example :

- | | | | |
|------------------|---|------------|------------------|
| 1. vaaram | 'week' | 2. avan | 'he-that' |
| vaanam | 'sky' | kavalay | 'worry' |
| varUKay | 'coming' | ṭavam | 'meditation' |
| vaalay | 'banana tree' | uTavi | 'help' |
| vaṭṭam | 'circle' | kaḷUvU | 'to wash' |
| 3. aTirvU | 'trembling' | 4. avvaarU | 'in that manner' |
| aayUr-
veeTam | 'the science of
medicine evolved
by the Hindus' | ivvaarU | 'in this manner' |
| aayvU | 'research' | ivvaḷavU | 'this much' |
| aarvam | 'desire' | avvaḷavU | 'that much' |
| puTalvan | 'son' | evvaḷavU | 'how much' |

3.10.2. [y] The lips are spread in its production. The front of the tongue is raised towards the hard palate. The soft palate is raised as in the production of all the sounds other than the nasals. The air stream passes through the 'stricture' and the vocal cords are made to vibrate. This is known as the voiced palatal frictionless continuant. It occurs in all the positions. It occurs in the

word medial position as a single consonant between two vowels, as the first member of a consonant cluster, as the second member of a consonant cluster and in an identical consonant cluster.

Example :

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|------------|---|
| 1. yaanay | 'elephant' | 2. ayarcci | 'weariness' |
| yuttam | 'war' | aayaasam | 'fatigue' |
| yuvaTi | 'young woman' | aayiram | 'thousand' |
| yaaKam | 'sacrifice' | aayUTam | 'weapon' |
| 3. neyTal | 'maritime region' | 4. ityaaTi | 'and the rest beginning with these etc.,' |
| aayTam | 'the letter' | | |
| aayvU | 'research' | | |
| ceyKay | 'action' | | |
| 5. ayyar | 'Iyer (name of a caste)' | 6. paaray | 'rock' |
| payyan | 'boy' | kaaJay | 'bullock' |
| mayyam | 'centre' | paanay | 'pot' |
| ayyam | 'doubt' | veelay | 'work' |

4 Phonetic drills

4.1. Some general remarks

As a learner's useful aid to the phonological system of the 'target' language, a phonetic reader should be the one which greatly concentrates on the area where the learner feels much difficulty. It is important to be noted because the learners who learn the second language are always highly influenced by the 'source' language in the class room. So it is quite natural that the learner will be substituting a sound of the target language by the sound of the source language with reasonable degree of accuracy. A detailed description of a sound, its potential equivalent in the source language and drill for intensive oral practice to control substitutions will enable the teacher to solve the phonetic problems of the learners in second language teaching.

Being a reader to the phonological system of the Tamil language it is indispensable on its part to spot out the areas of difficulty. Some of the common phonetic problems encountered by the native speakers of the Indo-Aryan languages are pointed out and adequate remedial exercises are given under phonetic drills (4.2.).

The Indo-Aryan speakers do not have the short and long distinction between [e] and [ee] and [o] and [oo]. This is the area where the Indo-Aryan speakers substitute the both short and long vowels by the tense vowels of their language. When a great deal of emphasis is placed to show the contrast between [o] and [oo] the short [o] is wrongly identified with short [u] in the initial syllable.

The long vowel in the initial syllable is relatively longer than the long vowels in the consecutive syllables in Tamil. The long

vowels other than in the initial syllable are mostly replaced by the tense vowels. The learners who are newly introduced to this language pronounce all the long vowels equally in all the syllables.

The new sounds such as the voiced palatal retroflex lateral [ɭ], the voiced alveolar trill [ɽ] are the areas of difficulty where the Indo-Aryan speakers face a serious phonetic problem. Those sounds are described with facial diagrams and adequate drills for intensive oral practice are framed.

The presence of the voiced palatal nasal [ɳ] in Tamil focuses a distributional problem. It is however, so familiar to Indo-Aryan speakers the usage is extended to different environments in Tamil. It is always pronounced in Indo-Aryan languages before the homorganic stop [c] or [j]. In Tamil it can have the occurrence initially in a word and medially in the form of -C₁ C₁- and -C₁ C₂-. -C₂ is always [c].

However the substitutions with reasonable degree of accuracy and mispronunciations are unavoidable. It is taken care of here with much attention and suitable phonetic drills are given.

4.2. Vowels

4.2.1. High front unrounded short vowel [i] and High front unrounded long vowel [ii]

inam	'race'	iinam	'baseness'
iɖu	'to put'	iiɖU	'mortgage'
iɽU	'to filter'	iiɽU	'the gums of teeth'
isay	'music'	iisal	'winged white ant'
iɳjU	'inch'	iiɳjU	'datepalm'
miTi	'to step'	miTi	'remainder'
piɖi	'to hold'	piiɖi	'beedi'
viTi	'fate'	viiTi	'street'

visay	'force'	viisay	'a kind of measurement'
siTay	'to scatter'	siiTay	'name of a women'

4.2.2. High front unrounded vowel [i] and Mid front unrounded vowel [e]

iŋge	'here'	eŋgee	'where'
iɖU	'to put'	eɖU	'to take'
iɖUppU	'waist'	eɖUppU	'taking'
iɖay	'waist'	eɖay	'weight'
ivvaɭavU	'this much'	evvaɭavU	'how much'
nil	'to stop'	nel	'paddy'
pin	'back'	peɳ	'women'
piy	'to tear off'	pey	'rain'
viɖi	'to dawn'	veɖi	'explosion'
vil	'bow'	vel	'to conquer'

4.2.3. High front unrounded vowel [i] and low central unrounded vowel [a]

iɖay	'waist'	aɖay	'to close'
ilay	'leaf'	alay	'wave'
ivan	'he-this'	avan	'he-that'
isay	'music'	asay	'to move'
imay	'eye-lid'	amay	'to arrange'
viri	'to blossom'	vari	'tax'
viɖU	'to leave'	vaɖU	'scar'
miTi	'to step'	maTi	'to respect'
kiɭi	'parrot'	kaɭi	'pasty pottage of flour'
kirUmi	'worm'	karUmi	'miser'

4.2.4. High front unrounded vowel [i] and Mid back rounded vowel [o]

iḍi	'thunder'	oḍi	'to break'
iḍUkkU	'a corner'	oḍUkkU	'to subdue'
irU	'two'	orU	'one'
iḷivU	'baseness'	oḷivU	'ending'
iṟU	'to filter'	oṟU	'to punish'
sikkU	'to be caught'	sokkU	'to be fascinated'
tiKay	'to be bewildered'	toKay	'sum'
tiṇḍU	'pillow'	toṇḍU	'service'
piḍi	'to hold'	poḍi	'powder'
kiṇḍi	'drinking vessel with a spout'	koṇḍi	'pin on which a door swings'

4.2.5. High front unrounded vowel [i] and High back rounded vowel [u]

iḍay	'waist'	uḍay	'clothes'
ilay	'leaf'	ulay	'furnace'
iṇḍi	'Hindi'	uṇḍi	'navel'
iḍU	'to put'	uḍU	'to put on'
iṟay	'God'	uṟay	'cover'
kiḷavi	'old woman'	kuḷavi	'the pestle of mortar'
kili	'a small cotton bag'	kuḷi	'pit'
sinay	'embryo'	sunay	'mountain pool'
tiṇḍU	'pillow'	tuṇḍU	'piece'
titiṭṭU	'to scold'	tuṭṭU	'money'

4.2.6. Mid front unrounded short vowel [e] and Mid front unrounded long vowel [ee]

eɖU	'to take'	eeɖU	'book of palmyra leaves'
ey	'discharge an arrow'	eey	'addressing a person'
ettU	'eight'	eeɸU	'constable'
eri	'to burn'	eeri	'lake'
eɭU	'to wake up'	eeɭU	'seven'
keɖU	'to spoil'	keeeɖU	'ruin'
ceɾi	'to be digested'	ceeri	'village'
cel	'to go'	ceel	'a kind of fish'
teri	'to know'	teeri	'sandial'
teɾkU	'south'	teekkU	'teak tree'

4.2.7. Mid front unrounded vowel [e] and High front unrounded vowel [i]

erU	'manure'	irU	'to sit'
erUmbU	'ant'	irUmbU	'iron'
eɭU	'to wake up'	iɭU	'to pull'
erappU	'begging'	irappU	'death'
cvar	'who'	ivar	'he (hon)-this'
ceri	'to be digested'	ciri	'to laugh'
teɾU	'street'	tiɾU	'beauty'
neKiɭ	'to relent'	niKaɭ	'to happen'
veɾUppU	'aversion'	virUppU	'desire'
veɾi	'drunkenness'	viri	'to blossom'

4.2.8. Mid front unrounded vowel [e] and Low central unrounded vowel [a]

eṅgee	‘where’	aṅgee	‘there’
even	‘which person’	avan	‘he-that’
eḍay	‘weight’	aḍay	‘to reach’
eṇṇam	‘thought’	aṇṇam	‘roof of the mouth’
eri	‘to burn’	ari	‘Lord Vishnu’
eli	‘rat’	ali	‘hermaphrodite’
enpU	‘bone’	anpU	‘love’
evvaarU	‘in which way’	avvaarU	‘in that way’
eḷU	‘to wake up’	aḷU	‘to cry’
evay	‘which things’	avay	‘those things’

4.2.9. Mid front unrounded vowel [e] and Mid back rounded vowel [o]

eṭṭU	‘eight’	oṭṭU	‘to paste’
erU	‘manure’	orU	‘one’
erUmay	‘buffalo’	orUmay	‘singular’
eli	‘rat’	oli	‘sound’
ellay	‘border’	ollay	‘in a short time’
keḍU	‘to spoil’	koḍU	‘to give’
kembU	‘ruby’	kombU	‘horn’
ceṛi	‘to be dense’	coṛi	‘itching’
ṭennay	‘coconut tree’	tonnay	‘a cup made of leaf’
neḍi	‘stench’	noḍi	‘moment’

4.2.10. Mid front unrounded vowel [e] and High back rounded vowel [u]

eṅgaḷ	‘our’	uṅgaḷ	‘your’
eccari	‘to warn’	uccari	‘to pronounce’
eḍay	‘weight’	uḍay	‘clothes’
eṇ	‘number’	uṇ	‘to eat’
eTir	‘to oppose’	uTir	‘to wither’
keṅjU	‘to beg humbly’	kuṅjU	‘young one of a bird’
cekkU	‘oil press’	cukkU	‘dried ginger’
ceḷi	‘to be prosperous’	cuḷi	‘whirling’
teḷi	‘to become clean’	tuḷi	‘drop’
meṭṭU	‘tune’	muṭṭU	‘to butt’

4.2.11. Low central unrounded vowel [a] and low central unrounded long vowel [aa]

aḍi	‘to beat’	aaḍi	‘name of a month’
aḷi	‘to destroy’	aaḷi	‘ocean’
asay	‘to move’	aasay	‘desire’
amay	‘to arrange’	aamay	‘tortoise’
aḷU	‘to cut’	aaḷU	‘river’
maḍi	‘lap’	maaaḍi	‘upstairs’
naḍi	‘to act’	naaaḍi	‘pulse’
vanam	‘forest’	vaanam	‘sky’
maTam	‘religion’	maaaTam	‘month’
panay	‘palmyra tree’	paanay	‘pot’
ṭara	‘to give’	ṭaaraa	‘duck’

kiḍa	‘to lie down’	kiḍaa	‘he-goat’
naḍa	‘to walk’	naaḍaa	‘cotton tape’

4.2.12. Low central unrounded vowel [a] and High front unrounded vowel [i]

aḍam	‘adament’	iḍam	‘place’
aṇayppU	‘embracing’	iṇayppU	‘joint’
arUmbU	‘a bud’	irUmbU	‘iron’
aṟU	‘to cut’	iṟU	‘to filter’
aray	‘to grind’	iray	‘food’
ṭaray	‘floor’	ṭiray	‘wave’
paṟay	‘small drum’	piṟay	‘crescent’
sari	‘yes’	ciri	‘to laugh’
ṭasay	‘flesh’	ṭisay	‘direction’
nanavU	‘reality’	ninayvU	‘thought’
vara	‘to come’	vari	‘tax’
kaṟa	‘to milk’	kaṟi	‘curry’
ṭara	‘to give’	ṭari	‘loom’
maṟa	‘to forget’	mari	‘lamb’
ṭeeḍa	‘to search’	ṭeeḍi	‘having searched’

4.2.13. Low central unrounded vowel [a] and Mid front unrounded vowel [e]

aKaram	‘the alphabet a’	eKaram	‘the alphabet e’
aṅgU	‘there’	eṅgU	‘where’
aḍU	‘to cook’	eḍU	‘to take’
aḍUppU	‘oven for cooking’	eḍUppU	‘taking’

aTir	'to tremble'	eTir	'to oppose'
kañji	'gruel'	keñjU	'to beg humbly'
kaṇḍi	'to reprove'	keṇḍi	'a water pot with a spout'
caṇḍay	'quarrel'	ceṇḍay	'combinations of musical notes sung as exercise'
caṭṭi	'pot'	ceṭṭi	'person of merchant caste'
carUKU	'dried leaf'	cerUKU	'to insert'

4.2.14. Low central unrounded vowel [a] and Mid back rounded vowel [o]

aḍi	'to beat'	oḍi	'to break'
aṛU	'to cut'	oṛU	'one'
ali	'hermaphrodite'	oli	'sound'
ali	'to perish'	oli	'to destroy'
aḷUṅgU	'to be spoiled'	oḷUṅgU	'discipline'
kaḍay	'shop'	koḍay	'gift'
kalay	'art'	kolay	'murder'
saṇḍam	'sound'	soṇḍam	'relationship'
carUKU	'dried leaf'	corUKU	'to insert'
ṭaḍUppU	'obstacle'	toḍUppU	'discharging'

4.2.15. Low central unrounded vowel [a] and High back rounded vowel [u]

aḍU	'to cook'	uḍU	'to wear'
alay	'wave'	ulay	'furnace'
amay	'to arrange'	umay	'a Goddess'
aram	'file'	uram	'manure'

aḍay	‘to close’	uḍay	‘to break’
kaḍay	‘shop’	kuḍay	‘umbrella’
camay	‘to cook’	cumay	‘burden’
caram	‘garland’	juram	‘temperature’
kalay	‘art’	kulay	‘to dismantle’
maḍi	‘lap’	muḍi	‘hair’

4.2.16. Mid back rounded short vowel [o] and Mid back rounded long vowel [oo]

oṭṭU	‘to stick with paste’	ooṭṭU	‘vote’
oṭṭan	‘man belong to a caste of diggers’	ooṭṭam	‘running’
oli	‘sound’	oolay	‘palm leaf’
koḍay	‘gift’	kooḍay	‘summer season’
koḷ	‘to receive’	kooḷ	‘planet’
ṭoKay	‘sum	ṭooKay	‘tail feathers of a peacock’
ṭoḍU	‘to touch’	ṭooḍU	‘ear ornament’
noṇḍU	‘to limp’	nooṇḍU	‘to stir up’

4.2.17. Mid back rounded vowel [o] and High front unrounded vowel [i]

oḷi	‘to destroy’	iḷi	‘to descend’
orUvan	‘one man’	irUvar	‘two persons’
orUmay	‘singular’	irUmay	‘dual’
oḷUkkU	‘cause to fall in drops’	iḷUkkU	‘deformity’
oḍi	‘to break’	iḍi	‘thunder’
koḍay	‘gift’	kiḍay	‘to be obtained’

kottU	'to beat the drum'	kittU	'to attain'
cori	'to rain down'	ciri	'to laugh'
poray	'tolerence'	piray	'crescent moon'
poy	'lie'	piy	'to tear off'

4.2.18. Mid back rounded vowel [o] and Mid front unrounded vowel [e]

orU	'one'	erU	'manure'
oli	'sound'	eli	'rat'
orUmay	'singular'	erUmay	'buffalo'
ottU	'to stick with paste'	ettU	'eight'
ollay	'in a short time'	ellay	'border'
konjU	'prattle and lisp'	kenjU	'to beg humbly'
konđi	'pin on which a door swings'	kenđi	'a water pot with spout'
sokkU	'to be fascinated'	sekkU	'oil press'
tonđU	'service'	tenđU	'to beg'
porUmay	'tolerence'	perUmay	'greatness'

4.2.19. Mid back rounded vowel [o] and Low central unrounded vowel [a]

oli	'sound'	ali	'hermaphrodite'
ođi	'to break'	ađi	'to beat'
oļi	'to destroy'	aļi	'to perish'
orU	'one'	arU	'to cut'
olUngU	'discipline'	alUngU	'to be spoiled'
poттU	'a round mark on the forehead'	paттU	'silk'

poḍi	‘powder’	paḍi	‘to read’
poTi	‘bundle’	paTi	‘to fix’
mokkU	‘flower bud’	makkU	‘dull fellow’
moṭṭay	‘shaven head’	maṭṭay	‘leaf stalk of a palm tree’

4.2.20. Mid back rounded vowel [o] and High back rounded vowel [u]

oppU	‘signature’	uppU	‘common salt’
orUvan	‘a man’	urUvam	‘image’
orU	‘one’	urU	‘image’
oTi	‘Indian ash tree’	uTi	‘to rise, as sun’
oḷi	‘to hide’	uḷi	‘chisel’
koṟi	‘to nibble’	kuṟi	‘to mark’
koṇṇjU	‘to prattle and lisp’	kuṇṇjU	‘young one of a bird’
koṭṭU	‘to beat the drum’	kuṭṭU	‘striking on the head with hand’
sokkU	‘to be fascinated’	sukkU	‘dried ginger’
ṭoṇḍU	‘service’	ṭuṇḍU	‘piece’

4.2.21. Hig back rounded short vowel [u] and High back rounded long vowel [uu]

uḍal	‘human body’	uuḍal	‘lover’s quarrel’
uṇ	‘to eat’	uuṇ	‘food’
ural	‘mortar’	uural	‘skin irritation’
uḷi	‘chisel’	uuḷi	‘time of end of the world’

umay	‘a Goddess’	uumay	‘dumbness’
kuḍal	‘intestine’	kuuḍal	‘assembling’
muḍi	‘hair’	muuḍi	‘lid’
puṇ	‘wound’	puuṇ	‘to wear’
punay	‘to decorate’	puunay	‘cat’
mukkU	‘corner’	muukkU	‘nose’

4.2.22. High back rounded vowel [u] and High front unrounded vowel [i]

uḍUppU	‘shirt’	iḍUppU	‘hip’
uḍay	‘dress’	iḍay	‘waist’
umay	‘a Goddess’	imay	‘eyelash’
ulay	‘furnace’	ilay	‘leaf’
uṛakkam	‘sleeping’	iṛakkam	‘slope’
ṭuṇi	‘cloth’	ṭiṇi	‘to stuff’
puri	‘to understand’	piri	‘to separate’
mun	‘in front of’	min	‘to glitter’
muḍUkkU	‘to urge’	miḍUkkU	‘pride’

4.2.23. High back rounded vowel [u] and Mid front unrounded vowel [e]

uṇṇal	‘eating’	eṇṇal	‘numeration’
uṇṇU	‘to eat’	eṇṇU	‘to count’
uri	‘to peel’	eri	‘to burn’
urU	‘image’	erU	‘manure’
uḷU	‘to plough’	eḷU	‘to wake up’
kuṭṭi	‘young one of an animal’	keṭṭi	‘firmness’
surUkkU	‘to reduce’	serUkkU	‘pride’

suli	‘whirl’	seli	‘to be prosperous’
tuḷi	‘drop’	teḷi	‘to become clean’
puyal	‘storm’	peyal	‘raining’

4.2.24. High back rounded vowel [u] and Low central unrounded vowel [a]

ucci	‘top’	accU	‘mould’
uḍUppU	‘shirt’	aḍUppU	‘oven for cooking’
uḍayppU	‘breaking’	aḍayppU	‘closing’
uṇmay	‘truth’	aṇmay	‘nearness’
utti	‘trick’	aṭṭi	‘a fig tree’
kuḍi	‘to drink’	kaḍi	‘to bite’
kuṇam	‘character’	kaṇam	‘moment’
suṅgam	‘tax on imported goods’	saṅgam	‘assembly’
suṭṭi	‘an ornament’	saṭṭi	‘earthen vessel’
tuḷḷU	‘to jump’	ṭaḷḷU	‘to push’

4.2.25. High back rounded vowel [u] and Mid back rounded vowel [o]

uTi	‘to rise, as sun’	oTi	‘Indian ash tree’
uppU	‘common salt’	oppU	‘signature’
urU	‘image’	orU	‘one’
urUvam	‘image’	orUvan	‘a man’
uḷi	‘chisel’	oḷi	‘to hide’
kulay	‘to dismantle’	kolay	‘murder’
kuTi	‘to jump’	koTi	‘to be heated’
sukku	‘dried ginger’	sokku	‘to be fascinated’

sukkaan	'rudder of ship'	sokkan	'Lord Siva'
tuṇḍU	'piece'	toṇḍU	'service'

4.2.26. High back unrounded vowel [U] and High front unrounded vowel [i]

aḍU	'to cook'	aḍi	'to beat'
paḍU	'to lie down'	paḍi	'to read'
kaṇU	'node'	kaṇi	'to calculate'
toḍU	'to touch'	toḍi	'bangle'
viḷayaḍU	'to play'	viḷayaḍi	'having played'

4.2.27. High back rounded vowel [U] and Low central unrounded vowel [a]

ṭarU	'to give'	ṭara	'to give'
aṛU	'to cut'	aṛa	'to cut'
eḷU	'to wake up'	eḷa	'to wake up'
aḷU	'to weep'	aḷa	'to weep'
viḍU	'to leave'	viḍa	'to leave'

4.3. Consonants

4.3.1. Voiceless bilabial stop [p] and Voiced bilabial stop [b]

palam	'akind of measurement'	balam	'strength'
paavam	'sin'	baavam	'gestigation'

4.3.2. Voiceless dental stop [t] and Voiced dental stop [d]

ṭaram	'quality'	ḍaaram	'wife'
ṭaḍi	'log of wood'	ḍaaḍi	'beard'
ṭavam	'penance'	ḍaaPam	'thirst for abstract thing'

4.3.3. Voiceless retroflex stop [ɻ̠] and voiced retroflex stop [ɻ̠]

ɻ̠in	‘tin’	aɻ̠ay	‘to close’
ɻ̠ikkɛɻ̠ɻ̠U	‘ticket’	kaɻ̠ay	‘to churn’
ɻ̠an	‘ton’	vaɻ̠ay	‘smell’
ɻ̠appaa	‘tin’	kaɻ̠an	‘loan’
ɻ̠amaaram	‘a kind of drum’	ɻ̠aaɻ̠ay	‘jaw’

4.3.4. Voiceless dental stop [t̪] and voiceless retroflex stop [ɻ̠̠]

aɻ̠ɻ̠ay	‘aunt’	aɻ̠̠ay	‘leech’
koɻ̠̠U	‘a bunch’	koɻ̠̠U	‘to beat, as drum’
eɻ̠̠U	‘to reach’	eɻ̠̠U	‘eight’
paɻ̠̠U	‘ten’	paɻ̠̠U	‘silk’
kaɻ̠̠U	‘to shout’	kaɻ̠̠U	‘to tie’

4.3.5. Voiceless dental stop [t̪] and Voiceless alveolar stop [t̪]

paɻ̠̠U	‘ten’	paɻ̠̠U	‘desire’
viɻ̠̠U	‘seed’	veɻ̠̠U	‘empty’
kaɻ̠̠U	‘to shout’	kaɻ̠̠U	‘having learned’
maɻ̠̠U	‘churning rod’	maɻ̠̠a	‘other’
piɻ̠̠U	‘madness’	peɻ̠̠U	‘having given birth a child’

4.3.6. Voiced alveolar stop [d] and voiced retroflex stop [ɻ̠]

kaɻ̠dU	‘calf’	kaɻ̠ɻ̠U	‘having seen’
aɻ̠dU	‘that day’	aɻ̠ɻ̠am	‘world’
iɻ̠dU	‘to-day’	iɻ̠ɻ̠U	‘here’
naɻ̠di	‘gratitude’	naɻ̠ɻ̠U	‘crab’

4.3.7. Voiceless palatal stop [c] and Voiced palatal stop [j]

caavi	‘key’	jaaTi	‘caste’
caḍay	‘plaited hair’	jaaḍay	‘resemblance’
cooTi	‘to test’	jooTi	‘light’
cilay	‘statue’	jalām	‘water’

4.3.8. Voiceless velar stop [k] and Voiced velar stop [g]

kurU	‘pimples’	gurU	‘teacher’
kiḷi	‘parrot’	gili	‘fear’
kaTay	‘story’	geTay	‘a kind of weapon’

4.3.9. Voiceless alveolar fricative [s] and voiceless retroflex fricative [ʂ]

pasay	‘gum’	pooṣakan	‘one who nourishes’
visay	‘force’	viṣam	‘poison’

4.3.10. Voiceless velar stop [k] and voiced glottal fricative [h]

kaaram	‘poignancy’	haaram	‘garland’
kari	‘charcoal’	hari	‘Lord Vishnu’

4.3.11. Voiced bilabial nasal [m] and voiced alveolar nasal [n]

kamaḷ	‘to smell’	kanal	‘cinder’
kaamam	‘love’	kaanam	‘forest’
maaman	‘uncle’	maanam	‘dignity’

4.3.12. Voiced alveolar nasal [n] and retroflex nasal [ɳ]

manam	‘mind’	maṇam	‘fragrance’
ḍanam	‘property’	ṭaṇal	‘cinder’
kani	‘fruit’	kaṇi	‘to calculate’

4.3.13. Voiced retroflex nasal [ɳ] and voiced palatal nasal [ɲ]

aṇṇan	‘elder brother’	aññaanam	‘ignorance’
viṇṇakam	‘celestial world’	viññaanam	‘science’

4.3.14. Voiced alveolar lateral [l] and voiced retroflex lateral [ɭ]

valay	‘net’	vaɭay	‘bangle’
kalay	‘art’	kaɭay	‘weed’
vilay	‘price’	viɭay	‘to grow’
kaalay	‘morning’	kaaɭay	‘bullock’

4.3.15. Voiced alveolar lateral [l] and voiced retroflexed palatal lateral [ɭ]

ṭalay	‘head’	ṭalay	‘tender leaf’
malay	‘mountain’	maɭay	‘rain’
ilay	‘leaf’	iɭay	‘to arrange as beads’
vaalay	‘furnace’	vaaɭay	‘plantain tree’

4.3.16. Voiced retroflex lateral [ɭ] and voiced retroflexed palatal lateral [ɭ]

kuɭam	‘pond’	paɭam	‘fruit’
muɭay	‘sprout’	maɭay	‘rain’
kaɭay	‘weed’	kaɭay	‘bamboo’
ṭalay	‘tying’	ṭalay	‘tender leaf’

4.3.17. voiced alveolar flap [ɾ] and voiced alveolar trill [r]

aram	‘file’	aɾam	‘moral and religious duty’
maram	‘tree’	maɾam	‘bravery’
karay	‘shore’	kaɾay	‘stain’
kari	‘charcoal’	kaɾi	‘curry’

4.3.18. Voiced labio-dental frictionless continuant [v] and voiced palatal frictionless continuant [y]

vaanam	'sky'	yaanay	'elephant'
vaar	'robe'	yaar	'who'
vaa i	'bucket'	yaa i	'a kind of animal which is commonly found in Indian sculpture'
kavalay	'worry'	kayilay	'Himalayan mountain'
ɭavir	'to avoid'	ɭayir	'curd'

4.4. Clusters

The students may not be familiar with some of the consonant clusters. The following words are given for practising such sound combinations.

4.4.1. Stop₁ + Stop₂

[tʃ]		[pt]	
saaɽci	'witness'	aptam	'year'
kaɽci	'party'	aptapuurtɽi	'first anniversary of an event'
maaɽci	'pride'		
aɽcaTay	'unbroken rice mixed with turmeric used in worship of benediction'		
avalaɽcaɽam 'ugliness'			
[tp]		[tk]	
naɽpU	'friendship'	uɽkaar	'to sit down'
kooɽpaaɽU	'principle'	veɽkam	'shame'
veɽpam	'heat'		
ɭaɽpam	'cold'		
aaɽpaɽU	'to become a slave'		

4.4.2. Stop + Nasal

[tm]		[tr]	
aaṭmaa	'soul'	ṭaṭruuPam	'exact resemblance'
mahaatmaa	'great man'		

4.4.3. Stop + Palatal frictionless continuant

[ty]	
it̪yaaTi	'and the rest beginning with these, etc'

4.4.4. Nasal₁ + Naaal₂

[ṇm]		[nm]	
aṇmay	'nearness'	aanmaa	'soul'
aaṇmay	'bravery'	manappanmay	'mental attitude'
vaṇmay	'generosity'	vanmam	'revenge'
ṭaṇmay	'coldness'		
veṇmay	'whiteness'		

4.4.5. Nasal + Stop

[mb]		[nd]	
paambU	'snake'	aKaṇḍay	'arrogance'
pambaram	'spinning top'	paṇḍU	'ball'
kambam	'post'	caṇḍU	'small lane'
kombU	'horn'	poṇḍU	'small hole'
eḷUmbU	'bone'	niṇḍU	'to swim'
[ṇḍ]		[ṇj]	
vaṇḍU	'beetle'	aṇṇjal	'post'
maṇḍU	'dull-headed'	maṇṇjam	'mattress'
ceṇḍU	'a bunch of flowers'	kaṇṇji	'gruel'

taṇḍU	'leaf stalk'	pañjU	'cotton'
peṇḍir	'ladies'	añjU	'to fear'
[ṅg]		[ṇp]	
aṅgUsam	'elephant goad'	aṇpal	'upper teeth'
taṅgam	'gold'	naṇpan	'friend'
vaṅgam	'Bengal'	paṇpU	'nature'
saṅgam	'association'	maṇpU	'pride'
maṅgaḷam	'auspiciousness'	kaṇpi	'to show'
[np]		[nd]	
noonpU	'religious fasting'	nandi	'gratitude'
anpan	'friend'	pandi	'pig'
anpU	'love, affection'	kandU	'calf'
		caandiTaḷ	'certificate'
		nandU	'good'

4.4.6. Fricative + Stop

[st]		[sp]	
asṭivaaram	'foundation'	parasparam	'mutual'
aasṭi	'property'		
kisṭi	'land revenue'		
pustaKam	'book'		
kusṭi	'wrestling'		
[ʃp]		[ʃt]	
puṣpam	'flower'	ṭirUṣṭi	'evil eye'
puṣpavaTi	'matured girl'	kuṣṭam	'leprosy'
		kooṣṭi	'crowed'
		veeṣṭi	'dhoti'

4.4.7. Fricative + Nasal

[sm]		[ɕn]	
pasmam	‘ashes’	siiTooɕɳanilay	‘climate’
		uɕɳam	‘hotness’
		viɕɳU	‘Vishnu’
		uɕɳamaani	‘thermometer’

4.4.8. Flap + Lax Stop

[rK]	
avarKaɭ	‘they (pl)’
aarKali	‘the sea’
veerKaɭ	‘roots’

4.4.9. Flap + Nasal

[rɳ]	
varɳam	‘colour’
karɳam	‘village accountant’
nirɳayi	‘to determine’

[rm]	
nirmuulam	‘destruction’

[rn]	
karnaaɖaKam	‘the Kannada Country’
karnuul	‘Karnul’

**4.4.10. Flap + Labio-dental
frictionless continuant**

[rv]	
aasiirvaaTam	‘blessing’
aarvam	‘desire’
poorvay	‘blanket’
aTirvU	‘trembling’
aTarvaɳam	‘the fourth Veda’

4.4.11. Lateral + Stop

[lt]	
sulɭaan	‘Sultan’
haviɭtaar	‘a sergeant’

4.4.12. Lateral + Lax stop

[lK]	
alKU	‘to diminish’

**4.4.13. Lateral + Labio-dental
frictionless continuant**

[lv]	
saalvay	‘upper garment’

oIKU	‘to grow weak’	alvaa	‘halva, a sweet’
naIKU	‘to give’	puṭalvan	‘son’
elKay	‘boundary’		
palKalayk-	‘university’		
kaIaKam			
	[Iv]		[Iv]
kaIvan	‘thief’	aalvaar	‘one of the twelve chief devotees of Lord Vishnu’
keeIvi	‘question’		
veeIvi	‘sacrifice’		

4.4.14. Trill + Stop

	[rp]		[rk]
nuurpaa	‘Sutra’	kaṛkaṇḍU	‘sugar candy’
kaṛpU	‘chastity’	iyarkay	‘nature’
eerpaṇḍU	‘arrangement’	ceyarkay	‘unnature’
kaṛpakam	‘kalpaka, one of the five celestial trees’	ṭerku	‘south’
urpaṭṭi	‘production’	kaṛkaI	‘stones’

4.4.15. Palatal frictionless continuant + Lax Stop

	[ɾc]		[yT]
urcavam	‘temple festival’	neyTal	‘maritime region’
urcaaKam	‘happiness’	aayTam	‘a letter’
muyarci	‘effort’	caayTal	‘leaning’
cuIarci	‘rotation’	veeyTal	‘thatching’
aIarci	‘irritation’	kaayTal	‘drying’

**4.4.16. Palatal frictionless
continuant + Lax Stop**

[yK]

ceyKay	‘action’
poyKay	‘fountain’
vayKay	‘name of a river’
kayKaɭ	‘hands’
payKaɭ	‘bags’

**4.4.17. Palatal frictionless
continuant + Nasal**

[ym]

ceeymay	‘distance’
taaymay	‘motherhood’
tuuymay	‘purity’
vaaymay	‘truth’
poymay	‘lie’

**4.4.18. Palatal frictionless continuant + Labio-dental frictionless
continuant**

ooyvU	‘rest’
aayvU	‘research’
uyvU	‘escaping from danger’
kaayvU	‘drying’

4.4.19. Frictionless continuant + Stop₁ + Stop₂

[ykk]

aykkiam	‘union’
vaykkam	‘name of a place’
maykkaa	‘mica’
vaykkool	‘straw of paddy’

[ycc]

aaraaycci	‘research’
alayccl	‘wandering’
viḷayccal	‘yield’

[yɪɪ]

kalayɪɪtal	‘dismantling’
karayɪɪtal	‘dissolving’
arayɪɪtal	‘grinding’
camayɪɪtal	‘cooking’
vaḷayɪɪtal	‘bending’

[ypp]

kaḷayppU	‘tiredness’
aḷayppU	‘invitation’
aṇayppU	‘embracing’
iṇayppU	‘joint’
kanayppU	‘neighing of horse’

4.4.20. Flap + Stop₁ + Stop₁

[rkk]		[rcc]	
varkkam	'race'	arccanay	'offering flowers etc, along with recitation of the holy names of a deity'
maarkkam	'way'	arccaKan	'a priest in a temple'
ceerkkay	'association'	uṇarccci	'feeling'
kuTarkkam	'fallacious argument'	aTirccci	'shock'
tiirkkam	'long vowel'	ayarccci	'tiredness'
[rtt]		[rpp]	
artttam	'meaning'	arppaṇam	'dedication'
vaartttal	'moulding'	tiirppU	'verdict'
paartttal	'seeing'	tuvarppU	'astringency'
kaartttiKay	'name of a star'	vaarppU	'moulding'
taKarttal	'demolishing'	uvarppU	'saltish taste'

4.4.21. Palatal retroflex lateral + Stop₁ + Stop₁

[lkk]		[lcc]	
vaalkkay	'life'	maKiḷccci	'joy'
ciilkkay	'whistling'	cuuḷccci	'plan'
		niirviiḷccci	'waterfalls'
[l tt]		[l pp]	
vaal ttU	'greetings'	taal ppaaḷ	'bolt'
viiḷ ttU	'to defeat'	kaaḷ ppU	'strong hatred'
taal ttU	'to bow down'	yaalppaanam	'Ceylon'

5 Phonemics

5.1. There are thirtyone segmental phonemes in Tamil of which ten are vowels and twentyone are consonants. The vowel phonemes are given in the following chart.

	Front		Central		Back	
High	i	ii			u	uu
Mid	e	ee			o	oo
low			a	aa		

Length is phonemic in this language. The high back rounded short vowel /u/ has two allophones [u] and [U]. [u] occurs only in the initial syllable of a word whereas the high back unrounded short vowel [U] occurs finally and medially other than in the initial syllable. The short vowels /i/ and /a/ are little longer in the word final position.

5.2. The consonant phonemes are given in the chart below:

	Bila- bial	Labio- dental	Dental	Alveo- lar	Retro- flex	Pala- tal	Velar	Glottal
Stops	p		t̪	t	ʈ	c j	k	
Fricatives				s	ʂ			h
Nasals	m			n	ɳ	ɲ		
Laterals				l	ɭ	l*		
Flap				r				
Trill				ɾ				
Frictionless continuant		v				y		

*Voiced retroflexed palatal lateral

There are twentyone consonant phonemes in Tamil of which seven are stops. The voiceless stop phonemes /p, t, t̪, ʈ and k/

have allophones [b], [ɖ], [d], [ɗ] and [g] which occur initially in the borrowed words and medially after the homorganic nasals [m], [ɲ], [n], [ɳ] and [ɳ̌] respectively. The voiceless stop phonemes /p, t/ and /k/ have lax allophones correspondingly which mostly occur between vowels. The distribution of [P], [T] and [K] is stated below.

- /p/ has three allophones namely [p], [b] and [P]. [p] occurs in the initial position of a word. [P] occurs between vowels (See 6.4.)
- /t/ has three allophones namely [t], [ɖ] and [T]. [t] occurs initially in a word. [T] occurs in the word medial position between vowels and after the palatal frictionless continuant [y] (See 6.4.)
- /k/ has also three allophones namely [k], [g] and [K]. [k] occurs in the initial position of a word. [K] occurs medially between vowels, after the alveolar flap [r], alveolar lateral [l] and the palatal [y] (See 6.4.)
- /n/ has three allophones namely [n], [ɲ] and [ɳ̌]. [n] occurs initially, finally and medially between vowels, before [ɲ], [ɖ], [k] and [p] and after [r]. [ɲ] occurs before the homorganic voiced dental stop [ɖ]. [ɳ̌] occurs before the homorganic voiced velar stop [g].

6 Graphemics

6.1. Tamil graphemic system is generally syllabic in nature. It includes graphemes for twelve vowels, eighteen consonants and four grantha consonants. In Tamil graphemes are more in number than the phonemes. There are some phonemes which have two or three graphemes representing the allophonic variants. For example, the alveolar nasal /n/ has three variants and all of them are represented by different graphemes. On the contrary, instances of a single grapheme being used to denote two or more sound manifestations of a single phoneme are also present in this graphemic system. The /k/ has a grapheme 'க' which represents [k] in the initial position of a word, [K] in the medial position of a word and [g] after the homorganic voiced velar nasal [ŋ]. Above all, there are also instances of one grapheme representing more than one phoneme. The grapheme 'ற' is used to represent the alveolar stop [t] in gemination, the voiced alveolar stop [d] after the voiced alveolar nasal [n] and the voiced trill /r/ between two vowels.

6.2. The graphemes 'ச' and 'ஸ' are invariably used to represent the phonemes /c/ and /s/. The grapheme 'ஸ' is obligatorily used in the medial position of a word either as the first member of a consonant cluster or as the second member of a consonant cluster.

6.3. Tamil graphemes have a long history. In a sequence Tamil graphemes are arranged from left to right. Allographs are generally added somewhat higher or lower than the primary graphs. Some of the allographs are appended to the primary graphs on both sides.

6.4. The phonemes and their corresponding graphemes are listed below. The allophones of the phonemes and their positions of

occurrence are also given in the columns two and three respectively. The number that follows the slash refers to the examples listed under the description of every sound in (3).

Phonemes	Allophones	Distribution	Graphemes
/i/	[i]	i- (3.1.1/1) -i- (3.1.1/2) -i (3.1.1/3)	இ
/ii/	[ii]	ii- (3.1.2/1) -ii- (3.1.2/2) -ii (3.1.2/3)	ஈ
/e/	[e]	e- (3.1.3/1) -e- (3.1.3/2)	எ
/ee/		ee- (3.1.4/1) -ee- (3.1.4/2) -ee (3.1.4/3)	ஏ
/a/	[a]	a- (3.2.1/1) -a- (3.2.1/2) -a (3.2.1/3)	அ
/aa/	[aa]	aa- (3.2.2/1) -aa- (3.2.2/2) -aa (3.2.2/3)	ஆ
/u/	[u]	u- (3.3.1/1) -u- (3.3.1/2)	உ
		(Medially in the initial syllable)	
/uu/	[uu]	uu- (3.3.2/1) -uu- (3.3.2/2) -uu (3.3.2/3)	ஊ
/U/	[U]	-U- (3.3.3/1)	

(Medially other than the initial Syllable)

/o/	[o]	-U (3.3.3/2)	ॐ
		o- (3.3.4/1)	
		-o- (3.3.4/2)	
/oo/	[oo]	oo- (3.3.5/1)	ॐ
		-oo- (3.3.5/2)	
		-oo (3.3.5/3)	
/p/	[p]	p- (3.4.1/1)	ॠ
		-pC- (3.4.1/2,4)	
		C indicates [t], [k] and [p]	
		-Cp- (3.4.1/3)	
		C indicates [t], [r], [ʃ] and [s]	
	[b]	b- (3.4.2/1)	
		-Cb- (3.4.2/2)	
		C indicates [m]	
	[P]	-P- (3.4.3/1)	
/t/	[t]	t- (3.4.4/1)	ॡ
		-tC- (3.4.4/2,4)	
		C indicates [m], [r], [y] and [t]	
		-Ct- (3.4.4/3)	
		C indicates [s], [l] and [r]	
	[d]	d- (3.4.5/1)	
		-Cd- (3.4.5/2)	
		C indicates [n]	
	[T]	-T- (3.4.6/1)	
		-CT- (3.4.6/2)	
		C indicates [y]	
/t/	[t]	-tC- (3.4.7/1)	ॢ

		C indicates [t]	
	[d]	-Cd- (3.4.8/1)	
		C indicates [n]	
/ɾ/	[ɾ]	-ɾ- (3.9.1/1)	
		-ɾC- (3.9.1/2)	
		C indicates [k], [p] and [c]	
/t/	[t]	t- (3.4.9/1)	த
		-tC- (3.4.9/2,4)	
		C indicates [c], [p] and [k]	
		-Ct- (3.4.9/3)	
		C indicates [ɟ]	
	[ɟ]	-ɟ- (3.4.10/1)	
		-Cɟ- (3.4.10/2)	
		C indicates [ɲ]	
/c/	[c]	c- (3.4.11/1)	ச
		-cC- (3.4.11/3)	
		C indicates [c]	
		-Cc- (3.4.11/2)	
		C indicates [t] and [ɾ]	
/j/	[j]	j- (3.4.12/1)	ஜ
		-j- (3.4.12/2)	
		-Cj- (3.4.12/3)	
		C indicates [ɲ̃]	
		-jC- (3.4.12/4)	
		C indicates [j]	
/k/	[k]	k- (3.4.13/1)	க
		-Ck- (3.4.13/2)	
		C indicates [ɾ] and [t]	
		-kC- (3.4.13/3)	

		C indicates [k]	
	[g]	g- (3.4.14/1)	
		-Cg- (3.4.14/2)	
		C indicates [ŋ]	
	[K]	-K- (3.4.15/1)	
		-CK- (3.4.15/2,3,4)	
		C indicates [r], [l] and [y]	
/s/	[s]	s- (3.5.1/1)	ஸ
		-s- (3.5.1/2)	
		-sC- (3.5.1/3)	
		C indicates [t], [m] and [p]	
/ʃ/	[ʃ]	-ʃ- (3.5.2/1)	ஷ்
		-ʃC- (3.5.2/2)	
		C indicates [p], [t] and [ŋ]	
/h/	[h]	h- (3.5.3/1)	ஹ்
		-h- (3.5.3/2)	
/m/	[m]	m- (3.6.1/1)	ம்
		-m- (3.6.1/2)	
		-mC- (3.6.1/3,5)	
		C indicates [v], [b] and [m]	
		-Cm- (3.6.1/4)	
		C indicates [n], [ɳ], [t], [m] and [y]	
		-m (3.6.1/6)	
/ɳ/	[ɳ]	-ɳC- (3.6.2/1)	ந்
		C indicates [ɖ]	
	[ɳ]	n- (3.6.3/1)	ன்
		-n- (3.6.3/2)	
		-nC- (3.6.3/3,5)	
		C indicates [m], [d], [k], [p] and [n]	

		-Cn- (3.6.3/4)	
		C indicates [r]	
		-n (3.6.3/6)	
	[ṇ]	-ṇC- (3.6.6/1)	ṇ
		C indicates [g]	
/ṇ/	[ṇ]	-ṇ- (3.6.4/1)	ṇ
		-ṇC- (3.6.4/2,4)	
		C indicates [p], [d] and [ṇ]	
		-Cṇ- (3.6.4/3)	
		C indicates [ṣ] and [r]	
		-ṇ (3.6.4/5)	
/ṇ/	[ṇ]	ṇ- (3.6.5/1)	ṇ
		-ṇC- (3.6.5/2,3)	
		C indicates [j] and [ṇ]	
/l/	[l]	l- (3.7.1/1)	ல
		-l- (3.7.1/2)	
		-lC- (3.7.1/3,4)	
		C indicates [t], [v], [k] and [l]	
		-l (3.7.1/5)	
/l/	[l]	-l- (3.7.2/1)	ள
		-lC- (3.7.2/2,3)	
		C indicates [v] and [l]	
		-l (3.7.2/4)	
/l/	[l]	-l- (3.7.3/1)	ழ
		-lC(C)- (3.7.3/2,4)	
		C indicates [v] and	
		CC indicates [kk], [cc] and [pp]	
		-l (3.7.3/3)	
/r/	[r]	r- (3.8.1/1)	ர
		-r- (3.8.1/2)	

-rC(C)- (3.8.1/3,4,5)

C indicates [ṛ], [ṁ], [ṡ] and [ṭ]

and CC indicates [kk], [cc] and [pp]

-r (3.8.1/6)

/v/ [v] v- (3.10.1/1) வ்

-v- (3.10.1/2)

-Cv- (3.10.1/3)

C indicates [r], [y] and [l]

-vC- (3.10.1/4)

C indicates [v]

/y/ [y] y- (3.10.2/1) ய்

-y- (3.10.2/2)

-yC- (3.10.2/3,5)

C indicates [ṭ], [ṡ], [K] and [y]

-Cy- (3.10.2/4)

C indicates [ṭ]

-y (3.10.2/6)

6.5. Allographs are not dealt with separately in this Reader. Examples are given in such a way to familiarize readers with the allographs (See Colum 3).

Phonemes	Graphemes	Examples		
/a/	அ	/alay/	அலை	'wave'
		/arivu/	அறிவு	'knowledge'
		/anal/	அனல்	'fire'
/aa/	ஆ	/aalay/	ஆலை	'factory'
		/aavi/	ஆவி	'vapour'
		/aasay/	ஆசை	'desire'
/i/	இ	/ilay/	இலை	'leaf'
		/isay/	இசை	'music'

		/iṭal/	இதழ்	'petal'
/ii/	ஈ	/iisal/	ஈசல்	'winged white ant'
		/iinam/	ஈனம்	'baseness'
		/iit̪u/	ஈடு	'compensation'
/u/	உ	/ulakam/	உலகம்	'world'
		/ulay/	உலை	'furnace'
		/ulakkay/	உலக்கை	'pestle'
/uu/	ஊ	/uunam/	ஊனம்	'deformity'
		/uur/	ஊர்	'village'
		/uukkam/	ஊக்கம்	'courage'
/e/	எ	/eṭṭu/	எட்டு	'eight'
		/eccil/	எச்சில்	'saliva'
		/eluvaay/	எழுவாய்	'subject'
/ee/	ஏ	/eeri/	ஏரி	'lake'
		/eeni/	ஏணி	'ladder'
		/eemaal̪i/	ஏமாளி	'fool'
/ay/	ஐ	/aynt̪u/	ஐந்து	'five'
		/ayyam/	ஐயம்	'doubt'
		/ayyar/	ஐயர்	'Iyer'
/o/	ஒ	/oli/	ஒலி	'sound'
		/oṭṭakam/	ஒட்டகம்	'camel'
		/oppam/	ஒப்பம்	'signature'
/oo/	ஓ	/oolay/	ஓலை	'palm leaf'
		/ooṭu/	ஓடு	'tile'
		/ooṭṭam/	ஓட்டம்	'running'
/av/	ஔ	/avvayaar/	ஔவையார்	'name of a Tamil poetess'

Example :

/k/	க்	/kalam/	கலம்	'vessel'
		/kaakam/	காகம்	'crow'

		/kiḷi/	கிளி	'parrot'
		/kiiri/	கீரி	'mangoose'
		/kuṛi/	குறி	'aim'
		/kuuṭu/	கூடு	'cage'
		/keṭu/	கெடு	'to spoil'
		/keel/	கேள்	'to ask'
		/kay/	கை	'hand'
		/koṭu/	கொடு	'to give'
		/kooṭu/	கோடு	'line'
		/kavri/	கௌரி	'name of a girl'
/n/ (ṇ)	ங்	/kanku/	கங்கு	'cinder'
/c/	ச்	/caṭṭam/	சட்டம்	'law'
		/caaṭci/	சாட்சி	'witness'
		/civappu/	சிவப்பு	'redness'
		/ciir/	சீர்	'wealth'
		/cuṭu/	சுடு	'to be hot'
		/cüuṭu/	சூடு	'hotness'
		/ceṭi/	செடி	'plant'
		/cēṭam/	சேதம்	'damage'
		/cayniyam/	சைனியம்	'army'
		/coṭṭu/	சொட்டு	'drop'
		/coṭanay/	சோதனை	'inspection'
		/cavkariyam/	சௌகரியம்	'convenience'
/ṇ/	ஞ்	/ṇamali/	ஞமலி	'dog'
		/ṇaanam/	ஞானம்	'knowledge'
		/ṇimir/	ஞிமிர்	'to stand erect'
		/ṇelikool/	ஞெனிகோல்	'piece of wood for producing fire by rubbing'

/t/	ட்	/tappaa/	டப்பா	'tin'
		/taami/	டாமி	'Tomy'
		/tin/	டிண்	'tin'
		/tii/	டீ	'tea'
		/etu/	எடு	'to take'
		/tuur/	தூர்	'tour'
		/teevit/	டேவிட்	'David'
		/tay/	டை	'tie'
		/tokku/	டொக்கு	'an onama-topoeic expression'
/n/	ண்	/toopi/	டோபி	'dhoby'
		/panam/	பணம்	'money'
		/anaa/	அனா	'anna'
		/anil/	அணில்	'squirrel'
		/kaniir/	கணீர்	'an onema-topoeic expression'
		/anu/	அணு	'atom'
		/enpur/	எண்ணூர்	'name of a place'
		/manṇenṇay/	மண்ணெண் மண்ணெண்	'kerosene'
		/anṇee/	அண்ணே	'oh brother'
/t/	த்	/anay/	அணை	'dam'
		/kanṇotu/	கண்ணோடு	'with eye'
		/manṇootu/	மண்ணோடு	'with soil'
		/takaval/	தகவல்	'information'
		/taakam/	தாகம்	'thirst'
		/tinam/	தினம்	'day'
		/tiipam/	தீபம்	'lamp'
/t/	த்	/tuyil/	துயில்	'sleep'

		/tuuram/	தூரம்	'distance'
		/teru/	தெரு	'street'
		/teer/	தேர்	'car'
		/tay/	தை	'the Tamil month Thai'
		/toṭu/	தொடு	'to touch'
		/tooṭu/	தோடு	'an ear ornament'
/n/ (n)	ந்	/nakar/	நகர்	'town'
		/naakam/	நாகம்	'snake'
		/niṛam/	நிறம்	'colour'
		/niilam/	நீலம்	'blue'
		/nuṇal/	நுணல்	'frog'
		/nuul/	நூல்	'thread'
		/ney/	நெய்	'ghee'
		/neecam/	நேசம்	'affection'
		/nay/	நை	'to crush'
		/noṭi/	நொடி	'a second'
		/nooy/	நோய்	'disease'
/p/	ப்	/pakal/	பகல்	'day time'
		/paaṭam/	பாடம்	'lesson'
		/piṭi/	பிடி	'to hold'
		/piiṭi/	பீதி	'fear'
		/pukay/	புகை	'smoke'
		/puu/	பூ	'flower'
		/perumay/	பெருமை	'greatness'
		/peccu/	பேச்சு	'speech'
		/pay/	பை	'bag'
		/poṭi/	பொடி	'powder'
		/poo/	போ	'to go'
		/pavṛṇami/	பௌர்ணமி	'full moon day'

/m/	ம்	/maṭi/	மடி-	'to fold'
		/maaṭam/	மா,தம்	'month'
		/minnal/	மின் னல்	'lightning'
		/miin/	மின்	'fish'
		/mun/	முன்	'infront'
		/muuntu/	மூன்று	'three'
		/mel/	மெல்	'to chew'
		/meel/	மேல்	'on'
		/mayl/	மைல்	'mile'
		/mokku/	மொக்கு	'flower bud'
		/mookam/	மோகம்	'infatuation'
		/maṇṇam/	மௌ னம்	'silence'
/y/	ய்	/yaṇṭiram/	யந்திரம்	'machine'
		/yaanay/	யானை	'elephant'
		/mayil/	மயில்	'peacock'
		/yukam/	யுகம்	'ages'
		/yuukam/	யூகம்	'conjecture'
		/piratṭyeeka/	பிரத்தியேக	'separately'
		/yookam/	யோகம்	'fortune'
/r/	ர்	/rakam/	ரகம்	'variety'
		/raakam/	ராகம்	'tune'
		/riṣi/	ரிஷி	'an ascetic'
		/riiṭi/	ரிதி	'manner'
		/ruci/	ருசி	'taste'
		/ruupam/	ரூபம்	'shape'
		/rayṭ/	ரைட்	'right'
		/reṭi/	ரெடி-	'ready'
		/reetiyoo/	ரேடியோ	'radio'
		/rokkam/	ரொக்கம்	'cash'
		/rookam/	ரோகம்	'disease'

/l/	ல்	/lakkam/	லக்கம்	'number'
		/laaṭam/	லாடம்	'horse'
		/vali/	வலி	'to pain'
		/leekiyam/	லேகியம்	'an electuary of medicinal pre- paration to be taken by lick- ing'
		/lookam/	லோகம்	'metal'
		/lavkiikam/	லௌகீகம்	'world lines'
/v/	வ்	/valay/	வலை	'net'
		/vaalay/	வாலை	'furnacc'
		/viri/	விரி	'to spread'
		/viiriyam/	வீரியம்	'strength'
		/iivu/	ஈவு	'kindness'
		/paravuur/	பரவூர்	'Paravur'
		/verī/	வெறி	'passion'
		/veer/	வேர்	'root'
		/vay/	வை	'to place'
		/maalaavoṭu/	மாலாவொட்டு	'with Mala'
		/vooṭṭu/	வோட்டு	'vote'
		/vavvaal/	வௌவால்	'bat'
/ḷ/	ழ்	/paḷam/	பழம்	'fruit'
		/aḷaatu/	அழாது	'without crying'
		/aḷi/	அழி	'to destroy'
		/paḷu/	பழு	'to ripe'
		/kuḷuuu/	குழூஉ	'group'
		/kiḷlee/	கீழே	'below'
		/kaḷay/	கழை	'pole'
		/ṭaaloṭu/	தாழொட்டு	'with bolt'
		/ṭaaloṭu/	தாழோடு	'with bolt'

{/ɽ/} {/t/}	ள்	/kuɭam/	குளம்	'pond'
		/vaaɭaal/	வாளால்	'with sword'
		/vaaɭi/	வாளி	'bucket'
		/paɭiir/	பளீர்	'an on- amatopoeic expression'
		/paɭu/	பளு	'weight'
		/aaɭuur/	ஆனூர்	'name of a place'
		/aaɭeɽu/	ஆளெடு	'to select persons'
		/vaaɭee/	வாளே	'the sword only'
		/paaɭay/	பாளை	'spathe of palm trees'
		/vaaɭoɽu/	வாளொடு	'with sword'
	ற்	/taaɭooɽu/	தாளொடு	'with paper'
		/maram/	மறம்	'bravery'
		/cuttam/	சுற்றம்	'relatives'
		/iraal/	இரூல்	'prawn'
		/ari/	அறி	'to know'
		/netti/	நெற்றி	'forehead'
		/aru/	அறு	'to cut'
		/pattu/	பற்று	'desire'
		/cittuur/	சிற்றூர்	'small village'
		/vaareen/	வாறேன்	'(I) won't come'
/n/[n]	ன்	/katteen/	கற்றேன்	'(I) studied'
		/karay/	கறை	'stain'
		/kattay/	கற்றை	'bundle'
		/rooɽu/	ரோடு	'road'
		/avattoɽu/	அவற்றெடு	'with them'
		/manam/	மனம்	'mind'
		/aanaal/	ஆனால்	'but'
		/ini/	இனி	'hereafter'

		/teenii/	தேனீ	'honey bee'
		/manu/	மனு	'application'
		/kunnuur/	குன்னூர்	'name of a place'
		/panneṭun- kaalam/	பன்னெட்டுங் காலம்	'long time'
		/pinnee/	பின்னே	'afterwards'
		/taanay/	தானை	'army'
		/avanoṭu/	அவனோடு	'with him'
		/avanooṭu/	அவனோடு	'with him'
/j/	ஜ்	/jalam/	ஜலம்	'water'
		/jaalam/	ஜாலம்	'magic'
		/jillaa/	ஜில்லா	'district'
		/jiiivanam/	ஜீவனம்	'life'
		/juvaalay/	ஜுவாலை	'flame'
		/juulay/	ஜூலை	'July'
		/jepi/	ஜெபி	'to utter Manthras'
		/jeepi/	ஜேபி	'pocket'
		/jaynam/	ஜைனம்	'Jainism'
		/joli/	ஜொலி	'to shine'
		/jooṭi/	ஜோடி	'pair'
/s/	ஸ்	/sarasvaṭi/	ஸரஸ்வதி	'Sarasvathi'
		/saakasam/	ஸாகசம்	'pretence'
		/sinimaa/	ஸினிமா	'cinema'
		/siin/	ஸீன்	'scene'
/ṣ/	ஷ்	/viṣam/	விஷம்	'poison'
		/aaṣaa/	ஆஷா	'Asha, a per- sonal name'
		/riṣi/	ரிஷி	'an ascetic'
		/ṣuu/	ஷூ	'shoe'

/h/	ஹ	/hari/	ஹரி	'Lord Vishnu'
		/haaram/	ஹாரம்	'garland'
		/hirutayam/	ஹிருதயம்	'heart'
		/palahiinam/	பலஹீனம்	'illnes'
		/husuur/	ஹீசூர்	'addressing Mogal King'
		/heema/	ஹேமா	'Hema'
		/hoomaa/	ஹோமம்	'holy fire'

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23 A-7A

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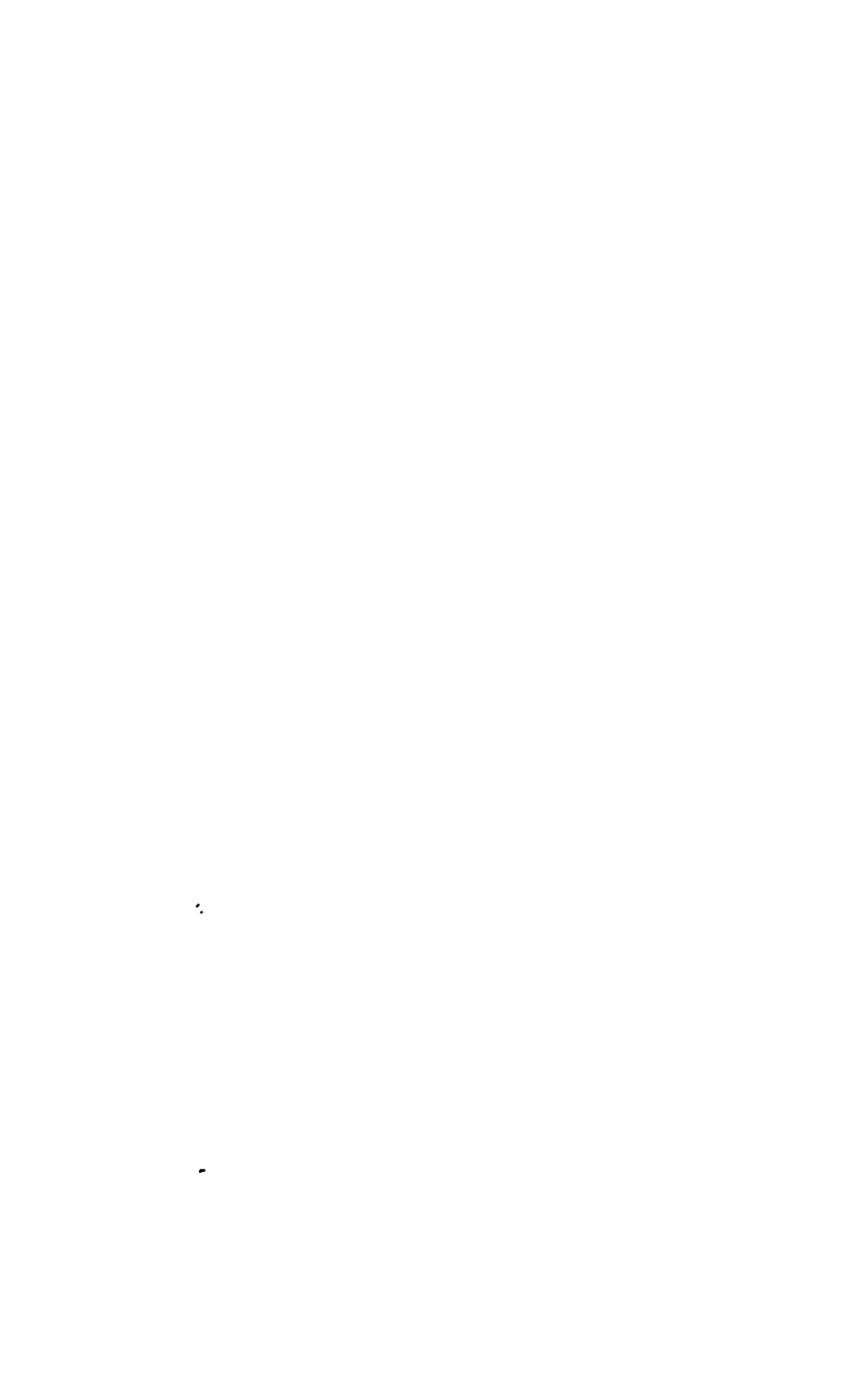
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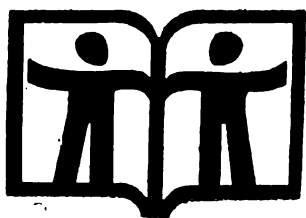
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