

PLOSIVE SOUNDS IN JAFFNA SPOKEN TAMIL

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Abstract

Tamil language is one of the world languages. Tamil belongs to Dravidian language family and classical language. This language is divided into two varieties. That is written and spoken languages. Regional and regional has differences in spoken Tamil. There are number of regional and social dialects existing in Sri Lankan Tamil. However, spoken Tamil Jaffna region is treated as the standard Tamil. This paper attempts to analysis the plosive sounds described the Jaffna Tamil. This present is descriptive methodology. How do the pronunciation of the voiced initially, intervocally and in consonant sequences. This paper bases its investigation on the data collected from a pretested questionnaire. Additional information was obtained by personal interviews. Furthermore data was gathered from some journals and articles. This study will support to the preparation study for second language and learning and dialects study.

Key words; descriptive, Dravidian family, Jaffna spoken Tamil, dialects, written Tamil.

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Introduction

Tamil is one of the four major literary languages of Dravidian language family. It belongs to the south Dravidian group of languages and considered as the earliest of the Dravidian language. Tamil is a highly Diglossic language. Even from early period. And it continues to be so even today. Two distinct varieties namely, written and spoken varieties are used in mutually exclusive contexts. There are several varieties of Tamil geographical as well as social within Sri Lanka. However, spoken Tamil Jaffna region is treated as the standard Tamil in Sri Lanka. The variety of Tamil described in this paper is that Jaffna spoken Tamil. This paper described what the plosive is, how do the production, Jaffna Tamil plosive sounds, distribution stops phonemes, allophones and clusters.

Plosive is a manner of the articulation. Plosive consonant are produced by complete blocking of the airflow through the oral cavity for brief period are called stops/plosives. A plosive is a consonant articulation with the following characteristics; first one; articulator is moved against another or two articulators and moved against each other. So as to form a stricture that allows no air to escape from the vocal tract. The stricture is then total. Second one; after this stricture has been formed and air has been compressed behind it, it is released that is air is allowed to escape. Third one; if the air behind the stricture is still under pressure when the plosive is released it is probable that the escape of air will produce noise loud enough to be heard. This noise is called polison. Finally; there maybe voicing during part all of the plosive articulation. To give a complete description of a plosive consonant we must describe what happens at each of the following four phases in its production .The first phase is when the articulator move to form the stricture for the plosive. We call this the closing phase. Second one when the compressed air is stopped from escaping we call this the compression phase .third one is the articulators used to form the stricture are moved so as to allow air to escape. This is the release phase. Finally, what happens immediately the post release phase.

Plosive sounds of spoken Tamil.

These sounds are / p /, / t̪ /, / T/, / t /, / k /, / č /, of the spoken Tamil. These are phonemes. Stop phonemes show a five way contrast for place of articulation Labial, dental, alveolar, retroflex, and velar. / č / is phonetically an affricative , but its distribution phonemic as well as allophonic is similar to those of stop phonemes. A phoneme is the small contrastive unit in the sound system of a language. Allophones have these stop phonemes. Allophones different are given; this sound is / p /.It has three allophones in Jaffna Tamil. First one;[p] it is bilabial voiceless stop. Occurs word initially, middle and intervocalic position. For examples are

Word initially [paTTam] - 'kite'; word middle [naTɪ] - 'friendship'; and intervocalic sequence [appa:] - 'father'. Second one; [b] .it is a bilabial slightly voiced fricative. Occurs after / m, n, n / nasals sounds for examples; [kambi] -'stick'; [paṅbi] -'culture';[ɛnbi] - 'love'. Finally,[β]. This is a bilabial fricative sound. Word intervocalic position and after / l /and /r/.example; [viβatt̪i] - 'accident'; [ma:rβi] -'chest';[iyalβi] -'nature'; this types are speaks of Jaffna Tamil.

/ t̪ / is a phoneme. It has three allophones in Jaffna Tamil. This sound is the dental voiceless stop. Occurs word initially, middle and intervocalic. For examples are; initially [t̪ampi]-'brother'; middle [paṭma:]-'personal name'; intervocalic [ta:t̪ta:] - 'grandfather' ; second one, [d̪] . It is the dental voiced stop. That is after nasal sound only / n /. Example is / pan̪t̪i /-[pan̪d̪i]-'ball'. Next one, [ð̪] voiced dental fricative in intervocalic and after the consonants / r / and /y / Ex; [maðam] -'region', [ceyði]- 'news', [mu:rði]- 'personal name'. Retroflex voiceless stop is /T̪ /. It has three allophones. That word initially uses the modern Tamil spoken and pronounced the loan words. For example is [Tappa:] 'tin', word middle and intervocalic position for examples; [taTTam]-'plate', [naTɪ] -'friendship'. [d̪] Voiced retroflex plosive in the - nT- ex; [van̪d̪i] - 'chart', finally, [ɣ̪] retroflex voiced flap. Occurs only intervocalic level for example; [pa:ɣam] -'subject'.

/ t / is a phoneme. It has one allophone level. Type one is the [t] alveolar voiceless stop in the sequence of another consonant. For example; [ta:sa:]-'personal name', [metam]-'tree'. This sound is / k / phoneme. It has three allophone positions. First, [k] is the velar voiceless stop in utterance initial, middle and intervocalic position. For instance; [kaTɛ]-'shop', [pakkam]-'page', [t̪etku]-'south'. Second, [g] is velar voiced plosive occurs medially in the sequence -nk-. As example I can give; [van̪gi]- 'bank', [paṅgi]-'share'. Third one; velar voiceless fricative [x] in intervocalic position and after the consonant r, l, l, and y. examples are; [ka:xam]-'crow', [ma:rxali]- 'December', [kalxi]- 'Tamil magazine name', [koLxay]- 'principal',[seyxe]-'action'. Final phoneme is /č/. It can be divided into four allophones positions. First level,[č̪] is palatal voiceless plosive in utterance initial and middle position for instance, [pač̪č̪ɛ] -'green', [č̪aTTɛ]- 'frock'. Second level is [j] palatal voiced stop. Occurs only after / ñ/. Example is [pañji]-'cotton'. Third level is [s] alveolar voiceless fricative occurs initially and intervocalic position for examples; [pase]-' gum', [seri]-'alright', last one, [š̪] this sound is palatal voiceless fricative plosive in before consonant T and ɳ . For examples; [kaštam]- 'poor', [višnu]-'god'.

Therefore, voiced sounds are comes word initially uses the loan words current period. The word finally do not comes native words of plosive sounds. Word initial and final does not the plosives clusters of Tamil. However, Word middle intervocalic and heterogeneous clusters of Tamil. As examples I can give; / -kk-/- / pakkam / -'page'; /-pp-/-/appa: /-'father'; /- t̪t̪ - /- / ta:t̪ta: /-'grandfather'; /-TT-/- / taTTam /-'plate'; next one, has the Heterogeneous clusters. Some clusters are given; /-tp-/-/ atpuðam /-'surprise'; /-Tc- / -/ kaTci /-'group'.Finally, plosive sounds can be identified of Jaffna Tamil. These plosive sounds have little differences between Written and spoken Tamil. Some features are specific in Jaffna. First one; plosive clusters does not they finally of Jaffna Tamil. But this feature comes a few clusters in Indian Tamil. Alveolar voiceless stop is absent in Indian Tamil.

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