
Tamil Verbs and its different forms

— வினைச்சொற்களின் வகைகள் —



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The role of Tamil verbs

The verbs take on suffixes and change their form to explain the gender/number/tense and mood of the action.

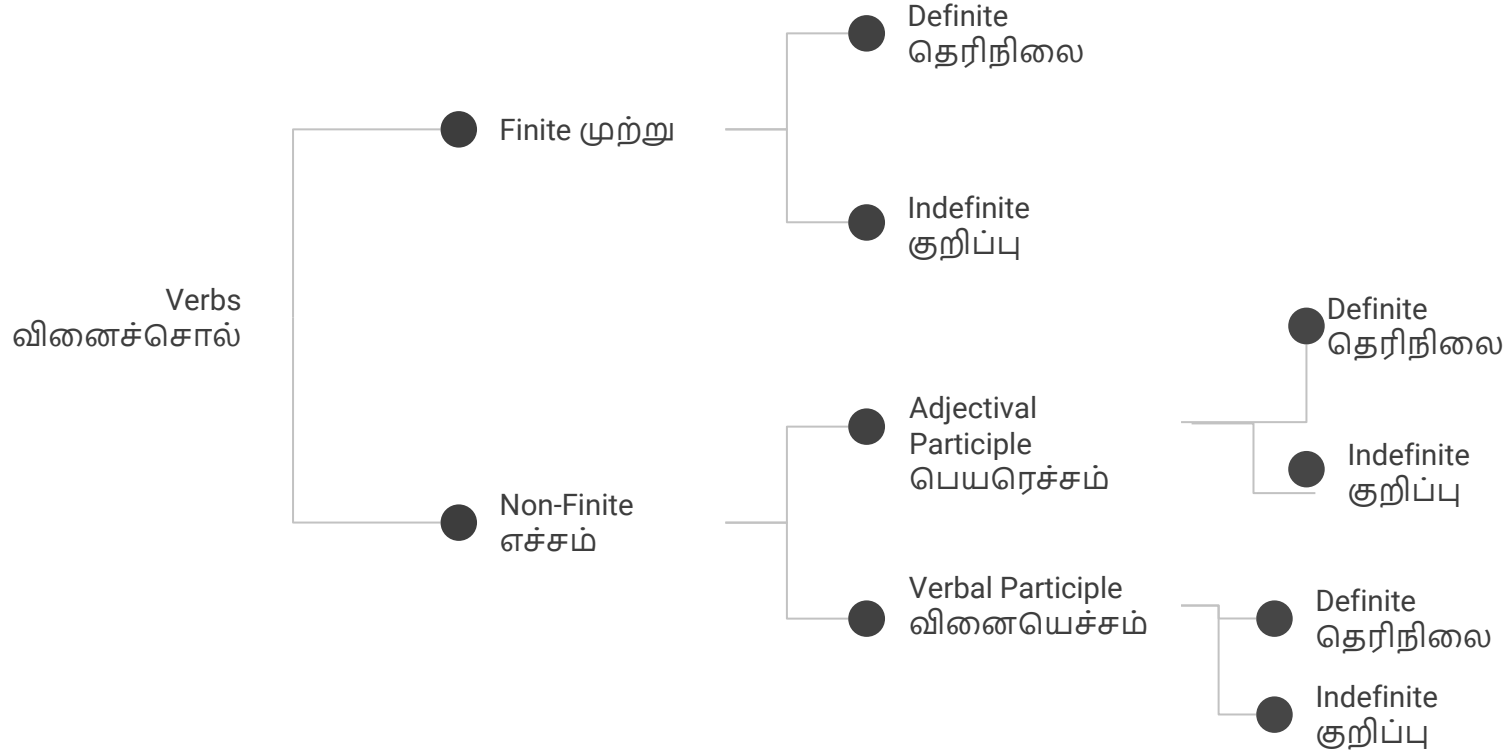
The mood is whether it is Indicative, Imperative or operative.

In the next slide we will look at the kinds of Tamil verbs



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Types of Tamil verbs



1. Finite Verb - வினைமுற்று

The verb will be completed giving the action, the tense, the gender and number.

அவன் செய்தான் /Avaṅ ceytāṅ (He did)

This gives us the following information:

அவன் - masculine, third person, singular,

செய்தான் -past tense, (he did)

The finite verb is divided into two let us see this in the next two slides



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1.1 Definite Verb தெரிநிலை வினைமுற்று

These give us the subject, gender, tool, place, act, tense and object.

செல்வி பாடம் படித்தாள் /Celvi pāṭam paṭittā! (selvi studied/read the lesson)

Subject: Selvi (ள் female, singular tense marker name of female)

Tool: Eye (needed for reading traditionally)

Act: Read (படி/pati)

Tense : Past (த்தா tense marker)

Objective : Studying (reading)



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1.2 Indefinite verb குறிப்பு வினைமுற்று

These do not show the tense it describes only the subject.

அவன் உழவன் (avan uzhavan) (He is a farmer)

அவன்: Male singular

உழவன் = உழவு (farming)+ வன் (male singular used to indicate profession)

The verb shows the noun as masculine. There is no other suffix attached showing that this could be in all three tenses. He was a farmer, he is a farmer and he will be a farmer.

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2. Non-Finite Verb வினையெச்சம்

These verbs do not give us the complete meaning of the action clearly. There is something that is left out and this is called “echam” எச்சம் in Tamil.

செய்தான் - Finite (he did)

செய்த - Non -Finite (did)

Here the first word gives us all the information but the second word is incomplete. This is further divided into two kinds Adjectival and verbal participles. Let us see that in the next slide.



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2.1 Adjectival Participle பெயரெச்சம்

When an non-finite verb is followed by a noun that completes it becomes a “peyarecham” பெயரெச்சம் or Adjectival participle.

செய்து பெண்/seitha pen, Here we see that the verb is now complete. Giving the meaning “The woman/girl that did it” .

This is further divided into Definite and Indefinite.



2.1a Definite adjectival participle தெரிநிலை பெயரெச்சம்

When a non finite verb ends with a noun and it shows the tense it is called a definite participle.

செய்த பெண் This same example we saw in the last slide,tells us that this is past tense.

செய் - to do

த - past tense marker

பெண்- Female (women/girl)

2.1b Indefinite adjectival participle குறிப்பு பெயரெச்சம்

When the Non finite verb that is completed with a noun does not show us the tense then it is a குறிப்பு பெயரெச்சம் or Indefinite adjectival participle.

அழகிய வீடு azhakiya veedu/ beautiful house

Here we do not have tense shown. We assume this is for all the three tense.



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2.2. Verbal Participle வினையெச்சம்

When a nonfinite verb ends with another finite verb (auxiliary verb) it is called a Verbal Participle or வினையெச்சம். This second verb will complete the first one and give all the meaning needed.

பார்க வந்தான் Paarka vandan, he came to see

This is again divided into two Definite and indefinite verbal participle.



2.2a Definite Verbal Participle தெரிநிலை வெனையெச்சம்

When the verb that ends the non finite verb compleats it by showing the tense/gender/number it is called a Definite Verbal Participle or தெரிநிலை வெனையெச்சம். The way the first verb ends indicated the tense for the next verb to follow and complete it.

வந்து போனான் vandhu nindran (he came and stood)

Shows us the tense/gender and number and completes the meaning that this phrase conveys.



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2.2b Indefinite Verbal Participle குறிப்பு வினையெச்சம்

When the added verb does not show the tense but gives us a meaning through an attribute it is called a indefinite Verbal Participle ஓர் குறிப்பு வினையெச்சம்.

மெல்ல நடந்தான் mella nadanthan (He walked slowly)

Here it does not specify when he walked slowly.



Affirmative and Negation

All of the Finite and Non finite verbs as well as the Adjectival participle and the verbal participle can be a affirmative or a negation. The suffixes of negation like + ஆத, + ஆமல், +ஆதே, +வில்லை can be added to make them into negation.



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Other suffixes a verb can take on

The Tamil verb takes on the following suffixes

1. Conditional - affirmative and negation
2. Immediate
3. Cohesiveness of fact
4. Concessiveness of supposition

In the mood form it can take on suffixes for

1. Imperative - Affirmative and negation
2. Permissive
3. Potential

The ending of these differ based on the number/gender/polite/impolite



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