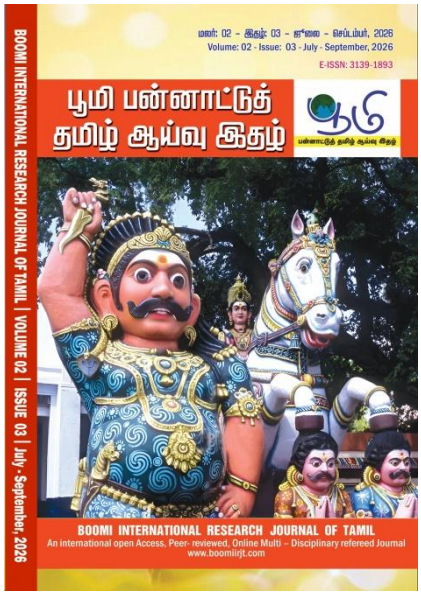
A Comparative Study of the *In* Sāriyai and the *In* Case Marker in the Tamil Grammatical Tradition

தமிழ் இலக்கண மரபில் இன் சாரியை – இன் வேற்றுமை ஒப்பாய்வு



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AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES

Dr.S.Sriraman
Post-Doctoral Fellowship (ICSSR), Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvarur. Email: **smsriram92@gmail.com**
Dr.G.Ramesh
Professor, Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvarur. Email: **grameshtu@gmail.com**
முனைவர் செ.ஸ்ரீராமன்
முதுமுனைவர் பட்ட ஆய்வாளர், தமிழ்நாடு மத்தியப் பல்கலைக்கழகம், திருவாரூர். மின்னஞ்சல்: smsriram92@gmail.com
முனைவர் க.ரமேஷ்
பேராசிரியர், தமிழ்நாடு மத்தியப் பல்கலைக்கழகம், திருவாரூர். மின்னஞ்சல்: grameshtu@gmail.com
.
Corresponding Email: **smsriram92@gmail.com**
Mobile No: 8800455294

Abstract

The concepts of ***in* as a sāriyai (linking element) and *in* as a case marker** are considered significant in the Tamil grammatical tradition. In Tamil grammar, the concept of *sāriyai* is primarily associated with phonological and morphological aspects, whereas case markers are associated with syntactic relationships between words. Since the grammatical element ***in*** functions both as a *sāriyai* and as a case marker, it can be identified as an important subject of investigation in this study.

Therefore, this article examines the changes and functions associated with the grammatical element ***in*** when it occurs both as a *sāriyai* and as a case marker in the Tamil grammatical tradition. The study focuses on the usage and grammatical explanations of ***in* as a sāriyai and *in* as a case marker** as found in the major Tamil grammatical works, namely *Tolkāppiyam, Vīracōḻiyam, Nannūl, Tonnūl Viḷakkam, Muttuvīriyam,* and *Tamil Nūl*. Through an examination of these works, the article seeks to explain the distinctive functions and grammatical transformations associated with ***in*** in its roles as both a *sāriyai* and a case marker.

Keywords

Tamil Grammar, *In*, Sāriyai, Case Marker, Case Grammar, Morphology, Syntax, Historical Grammar, Comparative Grammar, Tamil Grammatical Tradition.

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