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KINSHIP TERMS: AN ISSUE IN BILINGUAL LEXICOGRAPHY

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, we firstly critically compare the kinship terminology structures of English and Tamil dictionaries. Given that in traditional paper dictionaries, it was not possible for lexicographers to do justice textually to the description of complex kinship terms, we suggest an innovative design for an interactive dictionary with English as the source language and Tamil as the target that guides the user step-by-step through a sequence of selection processes, to the correct term. Such a design could result in a dynamic as well as a static system. Kinship terms are found across the world languages. Eac language has its idiosyncratic set of the kinship terms. Geography, caste, class, cultural, economy etc. may be the factors that bring in variation in the kinship terms in languages and societies. All of the societies seem to have quite a well-evolved system of kinship and relationships . The kinship system has been called the core of social organizations. In every society ties by blood and by marriage tend to be the basis for building the more intimate and essential social relation. The kinship relation involves not only the members of the family but also many others outside the family