Kalaignar Contribution into Tamil


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Abstract: Karunanidhi’s explanation for his concerns regarding social justice and federalism came from literature, namely from his perusal of certain Tamil writings. Nearly all of the accolades made to M. Karunanidhi in the days that followed his passing included the words “social justice” and “Tamil literary enthusiast.” This is not unexpected. Up to almost the very end of his life, Karunanidhi took great pride in his work as a writer. He contributed nearly every day to Murasoli, the DMK newspaper. His letters to his legion of brothers-in-arms. Naturally, his greatest-known credit is that of a stage and movie writer. However, he wrote in a variety of genres, including poetry, short stories, literary essays, novels about history and society, and sharp journalism. He had also been an actor in his teens. He had an extensive understanding of music. Writing was an integral part of Karunanidhi’s politics. His literary and cultural works, which primarily drew on the Sangam corpus of poetry, were celebrations of the value of Tamil civilization, which was one of the key ways in which his writerly personality informed his political selfhood. His capacity to refer to this poetry and even quote directly from them during social or political speeches made him a respectable heir to a bygone era free from the taint of caste and Brahminical Hinduism. His evident pleasure in reading Tamil works from antiquity to the present day, as well as the speed with which he articulated it, distinguished him as a mentor and an exemplary figure for his fellow Tamils.

Keywords: DMK, Karunanidhi, Chmmozhi, Tamil Cavalier

1. Introduction

Since the beginning of his political career, Kalaignar has been developing several programmes in various fields for the benefit of people. He has accomplished remarkable things for the benefit of Tamils in the areas of education, literature, social development, and economy, as well as raising the Human Development Index (HDI) of Tamil people to the upper echelons of society. The wide-ranging welfare and development schemes that Kalaignar devised and implemented during his reign, as well as those included in the 10th and 11th five-year plans, have demonstrated his status as the architectural synergist.

2. Advancement of Tamil

The people who have contributed so much to the progress of our mother tongue, Tamil, are Muthamizh Belespirit, Thangatamizhan, who sparked the enthusiasm for Tamil, Cavalier of the Tamil Vernacular, and Sovereign, who sculpted the throne of Semmozhi Tamil.

“Piranattu Nalarignar Saathirangal
Thamizhmozhiyil Peyarthal Vendum
Irava Pugazhudaiya Pudhu Noolgal
Tamizhmozhiyil iyatral Vendum.”
Bharati

By the words of the Tamil poet Bharati, Kalaignar has worked diligently to elevate Chmmozhi Tamil which is regarded as the ambrosia of the Tamil community to a royal throne ever since he took over as head of state.1

3. A Sovereign Who Mounted Chmmozhi Tamil on Regal Throne

Tamil has developed into a sophisticated language that is praised by many multi-linguists and has given us a unique identity in the international sphere. It is regarded as the mother of all languages, rich in ancient civilization and renowned literary heritage as Semmozhi. Such is our mother's speech, which Kalaignar has correctly described as “Chmmozhi”.

Researchers and scientists de facto believe that language is a tool used by individuals to build connections and communicate. While praising the distinctiveness of language, Kalaignar emphasises that language is the single thing that unites the affluent and the poor.2

The three different phases - Past, Present and Future are linked through language. The Tamil language gained historical eminence by the draft of its epic Tholkappiyam as early as 3000 years back. Even as Tholkappiyam dates back 3000 years, it would not go amiss to say that Tamil Literature originated even before that. Typically, only after a language originates, do the literary works based on the language sparsely derive and then the structure and grammar evolve to make the language complete. Hence it can be inferred that the Tamil language had evolved even 87 years before 3000 years as Tholkappiyam is replete with Tamil structure and grammar.

Tirukkural is another asset we proudly own, one that is much sought after globally and is regarded as a world-renowned gospel. We also own the Tamil language. It is around two millennia old. “Marai, Keerthi Vaindha Ilakkana Ilakkiyangalaukku Naam Sondhakkarargal Yenbadhai Nilainaattukjndra Adayaalangalakadhan Tholkappiyamum Tirukkuralum Nilavukinrana,” Kalaignar astutely stated at the occasion of a Singapore Writers’ Literary Association ceremony, emphasising the secular nature of Tamil literature.4

Such is the mother tongue that Kalaignar so eloquently described as Chmmozhr. The ability of the Tamil word “mozhi” to function as both a noun and a verb makes Tamil distinct. Even worldwide languages lack this distinctive quality. According to Kalaignar, Tamil is the most ancient language spoken worldwide. When he says this, he is not being showy. But he’s only stating the obvious. “Any child is dear to his mother.” Not only is Kalaignar adamant about repeating this proverb, but Tamil is a priceless child. Our mother tongue is a really old language. Kalaignar uses such poetic phrases to praise Tamil. “Tamizh vaazha naam vaazhvom, Tamizh taazha naam taazhvom” is the creed that Kalaignar, who has Tamil as his lifeblood, lives by. His life’s work is to help the Tamil people. Kalaignar has contributed a great deal of respect and pride to the Tamil people via his many selfless actions.5

Within the world of literature, Kalaignar has carved out a place for himself. His literary works on Tholkappiyam to Tirukkural praise his creative abilities. In Chennai, a centre for advanced study on classical Tamil is being constructed. There are plans to award the top Tamil scholars with presidential awards in Tiruvalluvar and Tholkappiyar’s names.

4. Tamil Cavalier who upheld the Tamil Language

“A language retains its uniqueness - its treasure trove of literary works, a wealth of poetry, mind relishing wise thoughts, its branch of heart rendering art and culture, its sustenance through ages without being stained by the foreign languages - using grammar formed out of antiquity of the language”, Perasiriyar writes.

Tirukkural was not as great as Tholkappiam. It is widely acknowledged that Tholkappiam is an unparalleled grammatical script. Kalaignar has gained recognition as the Cavalier of the Tamil language for providing Tholkappiam with a literary shape while maintaining its readability for laypeople.6

He wrote 135 poetry-based songs inspired by classic literature for “Sanga thamizhi”. He constructed “Kuralovium” by grouping particular couplets from Tirukkural. He composed ‘Tholkappia Poonga’ by selecting lyrics from Tholkappiam and labelling each one as a flower.
In this way, Kalaignar has been a champion of Tamil and has helped to make the language understandable to everybody. Arigpar Anna had already praised 89 Kalaignar’s devotion to Tamil even a decade ago. From that point on, Kalaignar has been carrying out noble actions to promote and preserve Tamil.

5. Father of Art of Speech

Kalaignar is an excellent speaker. No one can match him on an equal footing. He has experience using his gift for oratory to beat opponents in the legislative assembly and other political arenas. During his first speech on “friendship” in a school elocution competition, Kalaignar received a lot of applause. His Tamil instructor Dhandapani Desikar gave him several speech suggestions, and he was able to make his speech well since he had committed his themes to memory well in advance. According to Kalaignar, the key to his highly praised speeches is the regular rehearsal he does at home before giving them. A comprehensive investigation of the topic or subject of the lecture provides the basis of Kalaignar’s oratory, whether it be at a speech conference, book release, or legislative assembly. Kalaignar discussed the problem of Nangavaram Agriculturists in his first speech to the Legislative Assembly. Before he departed for the Legislative Assembly, he was contacted by Navalar and Madhiyazhagan, who requested clarification on the matter of Nangavaram farmers.

During breakfast, Kalaignar gave both of them a thorough explanation of the situation. “You might think Karunanidhi is explaining to you on the issue, but he is rehearsing his talk for the legislative assembly,” Arignar Anna said to Navalar upon observing this. This demonstrates Kalaignar’s constant belief in being ready for every speech. Anna once said, “Any speech of quality has been well prepared.” He fervently believes this. Kalaignar places a high value on speech sensitivity. He takes care to avoid doing any harm to other people. He has a remarkable talent for tactfully summarising other people’s shortcomings. He has a remarkable talent for tactfully summarising other people’s shortcomings. His sense of comedy is usually evident in his talks. When Mayiladurai Kittappa asked a long-standing question when would Mayiladurai get its long-petitioned airport? She received a proper response. With a unique sense of humour, Kalaignar responded to this by saying, “Since the questioner is known as Kittappa, I would phrase my right answer to say - Kittappa! Kittaadhappa, adhu ippodhu!” The pun he meant would be amused by people who knew Tamil.

At numerous news conferences and address meetings, Kalaignar uses a lot of comedy in his remarks. Journalists’ engagement and interest in Kalaignar speech conferences and press conferences are comparable. They would be excited to take notes during his speech, but they would get so captivated by his delivery that they would forget everything but pay attention. It is clear from one of Kalki Rajendran’s comments that Kalaignar’s speech is seen as more than just a straightforward lecture rather, it serves as a means of acquiring fresh instances, tales, and insightful ideas. Numerous notable figures have expressed admiration for Kalaignar’s speaking abilities.

6. A scholar who Professed Structure for Journals

According to Kalaignar, I have been writing for more than 50 years. As a result, Murasoli began as a scrap and gradually developed into a weekly that was published on Mondays. Later, it changed into a daily for which I have written countless articles - a variety of articles, short stories, poems, epics, and movie scripts - and since it is still a work in progress, I am unable to list them all here. My handwritten journal from higher secondary school was recognized as an omen that the universe was directing me to strive harder for my passion.

7. Conclusion

Kalaignar has shaped himself into a thought sculptor thanks to his advancements in the domains of education, social assistance from his political savvy and literary skill in the Tamil language, which is now known as Semmozhi- Classical Tamil. Several political heavyweights and Tamil academics have commented on the prominent figure of Kalaignar in the chapter that follows. Kalaignar’s self-proclamations are also included, along with a structural analysis of them.

End Notes
5 Kalaignar, Urimai Kural, Thamizhaga Arasu Seidhi Mattrum Vilambaraththurai VeUyeedu, 1974.
6 Kalaignar, Oozhal Naayagam, Anjugam Padhippu, Madurai.
8 Kalaignar, Odhikkiya Nidhiyai Odhikkiyadhu Yevaro, 1986.