

Computer and Online-assisted Teaching, Learning of Tamil.

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Objective(s)

At the end of the presentation, participants will be able to:

- To know how to use open source tools for Tamil teaching and learning and to acquire knowledge and skills to promote Self-directed Learning (SDL) and Collaborative Learning (COL) through the use of open source tools in the teaching of Tamil Language.
- To bring classroom into the 21st Century by encouraging critical thinking and real world communication, with open source tools, where students are engaged outside the classroom.
- To create e-worksheets using open source tools and to create QR codes to access the



worksheets for smart phone devices.

- **Theoretical underpinning:**

Recognising the need to prepare our Tamil Language students for life in the 21st century, Enhancing the Teaching and Testing of Mother Tongue Languages (MTL) to nurture Active Learners and proficient users – MTL Review Committee released its recommendations to nurture students to be proficient users of the language. Great emphasis will be placed on helping students to like learning their MTLs and become proficient in using them in a variety of real-life settings to communicate effectively, and to leverage on students' increasing information communications technology (ICT) savvies. This includes a variety of interactive content, resources and activities to suit the different learning needs of students and MOE's vision is to make MTL a living language for students.

Research has shown that MTL teachers should explore the use of technology in engaging pupils to develop their ICT skills. Hence ICT tools have been used to engage the pupils to learn Tamil Language effectively.

Approach/Method/Design:

This presentation explores the various ways in which various ICT tools can be incorporated into the teaching of Tamil Language and centers on a project using online tool such as Google Docs. **Google Documents** (usually abbreviated "**Google Docs**") is a commonly used web-based word processing tool. Because of the collaborative nature of the application, it is especially important that your shared files are as accessible as possible, so that all users who need to access the document

can comprehend the content. Google drive is a useful tool to help you plan events, send a survey, give students a quiz, or collect other information in an easy, streamlined way. A Google form can be connected to a Google spread sheet. If a spread sheet is linked to the form, responses will automatically be sent to the spread sheet. Otherwise, users can view them on the “Summary of Responses” page accessible from the Responses menu. Mother Tongue teachers can use this kind of Google form to create online worksheets such as MCQ (தெரிவுவிடை கருத்தறிதல், அமைப்பு சொற்கள், மரபுத்தொடர்கள்) cloze passage, idioms & Phrases, Open ended, e-mail, etc

The image displays four sample Google Forms designed for Tamil language exercises. Each form includes a title, a brief introduction, and several multiple-choice questions (MCQs) with radio button options. The forms are arranged in a 2x2 grid.

- Sample - 1: மரபுத்தொடர்கள் இணைமொழிகள்** (Idioms and Phrases). It asks for the student's name and class, followed by two MCQs about idioms.
- Sample - 2: மரபுத்தொடர்கள்** (Idioms and Phrases). It asks for the student's name and class, followed by five MCQs about various idioms.
- Sample - 3: மரபுத்தொடர் / இணைமொழி பயிற்சி** (Idiom/Phrase Practice). It asks for the student's name and class, followed by four MCQs about idioms and phrases.
- Sample - 4: மரபுத்தொடர்கள்** (Idioms and Phrases). It asks for the student's name and class, followed by a cloze passage about a cow and a mother, and a final MCQ.



(Students using Smart devices to complete their e-worksheets)

Conclusion and Recommendations

In summary, we recognize the importance of providing Tamil Language students with the opportunity to learn creatively and engaged to take ownership of their learning using online open source tools. We found that the online assisted teaching could be used for home-based learning as the teacher is able to monitor the progress of the learning on-line or as a regular feature to promote further learning without sacrificing much curriculum time.