

Technical Terms and Thirugnana Sambandhar

S. Subbulakshmi

Director, School of Music and Fine Arts, Vels University, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

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Abstract

The Technical Terms are the specific terms that are used in each particular subject. For example, Light, Heat, Sound, Thermal, Electrical, Magnetic are some for Physics and Acid, Base, Salt, Metal, Ore are some for Chemistry. Like this, the specific terms used only in Music and Dance are abundantly seen in Sambandhar Thevaaram, which belongs to the 7th Century. These Technical Music Terms are high-lighted in this article.

Keywords: Hymns, Pann, Padham, Geetham, Sandham, Cosmic dancer, Therapeutic, Pioneer Art, 64 Arts, Viththagar, Swaram, Layam, Musicology, Iyal, Nadam and Arangam

Thirugnana Sambandhar Thevaaram is one of the ancient poetic forms that belongs to Bhakti Literature. This belongs to the 6th Century AD. Thirugnana sambhar was the first Tamil Composer who composed hymns in many Pans that is Raga. He is a versatile person, and he speaks about Music, Pann. Musical Instruments, Thaalam, (Sandham) Rhythm, Musical Forms like Padam, Gautam, and many Musical Technical Terms. Here we are going to analyze some Musical Technical Terms used by Thirugnana Sambandhar.

Technical Terms

These are the terms used in each subject that will have specific meaning for that subject. For example, some of the Technical Terms used in Chemistry are ‘Metals, Alkali. Ore, Salt, Acid, etc., Some of the Technical Terms used in Physics are ‘Sound, Light, Electricity, Magnetism, and so on. Like this, many Technical Terms which are used in Music and Dance are abundantly seen in Thirugnana Sambandhar Thevaaram.

Fine - Art

There is an old saying, “Aaya Kalaigal Arubathinaangu.” That is, the Total Art forms are 64 in Number. Sambandhar uses the Term “Kalai” for Art. He praises Lord Nataraja (Cosmic Dancer) as Kalaiyan - 2.22.31, 1.89.2,3.48.4, Kalaiyane - 2.15.5, Kalaiyanaar - 3.26.9 Kalaiyaar - 2.73.9, and so on.

Arts Variety

He also mentions about varieties of Arts.

- 1) Narkalai - Good Art (1.20.11)
- 2) Migu Kalai - Enormous Art (1.13.5)
- 3) Palkalai - Numerous Art. The name University originated from this, which is having many Arts Departments (3.61.11)
- 4) Nala Kalai - Therapeutic Art, which gives mental and body strength (1.19.5)
- 5) TholKalai - Pioneer Art - It is an ancient or Pioneer and oldest one (1.47.2)
- 6) Munnia Kalai - First formed Art. It is the origin of all Art.
- 7) Chattak Kalai – Art Of Law – (3.15.4)

Sixty Four (64) Arts

Thirugnana Sambandhar speaks about 64 Arts. He explains in terms of Maths ie., $8 \times 8 = 64$

- 1) Ettodu ettu Kalai (1.26.6) Here he says 8×8 forms 64
- 2) Ettirunkalai (1.79.3). Here he explains Kalai as two eights $8 \times 8 = 64$
- 3) Sattak Kalai Ettu Varu Mettum (3.15.4). He explains 8, followed by $8 \times 8 = 64$. Thus he explains 64 Arts.

Viththagar

As he is proficient in all Arts, he is referred to as Viththagar (Artist). Viththai is another name for Arts. So the best performer or scholar in Arts is called Viththagar. It is a General Term for all kinds of Arts. So he had used the Technical Term generally to a good performer of any Art. In one Hymn, he mentions God as Teacher and Viththagar (the best performer). Automatically a good performer becomes a good Teacher.

- 1) Viththagarakia En Guruve - 3.113.4
- 2) Viththagar has been mentioned in many Hymns - 3.88.1, 3.81.8.

In one Hymn, he is praised as Veda Teacher - 3.98.10 (Marai Viththagar) In some Hymns, he praises him as Viral Viththagar that he is good in Arts, which uses fingers (Viral). Drawing, painting, pottery, playing musical Instruments will come under this. As he is well versed in Veena and Yazh, which are played with fingers, he is praised as Viral Viththagar (3.116.10, 2.58.1), As he is the best cosmic Dancer, he uses his fingers for Dance Abinaya. Thus he is another type of Viral Viththagar - 2.102.7, 1.36.6; his hands and Fingers show beautiful artistic Effects.

Musical Technical Terms

Thirugnana Sambandhar has used many technical terms that are specific for Music in his Hymns. They are Swaram, Pann, Gitam, Layam and so on.

Swaram

Thirugnana Sambandhar mentions the Swaras Gaandhaaram, Rishabam as Thutham, Panchamam as ili Nishadam as Thaaram in his Hymns.

1. Rishabam; It is called as Thuththam in Tamil. Vandinam Thuththam nindru Pann seiyum 2.98.10. Thuththam nalla innisai Vandu Paadum 3.100.3.
2. Gaandhaaram; It is mentioned as Gaandhaaram in his Hymns. "Gaandhaaram isai yamaiththu 1.130.6.
3. Panchamam; It is called as Ili in Tamil. Ili paadum insolinaargal - 2.68.3
4. Nishaadam; This is called as Thaaram in Tamil. Paadukindra Pann Thaaram - 3.116.3.

Other than this he has used two Panns with swara names

- Ghaandhaara Panchamam - This is a Pann with 2 swara names Ghaandhaaram and Panchamam
- Piyandhai Ghaandhaaram - This is a Pann with one swara name Ghaandhaaram
- Thuththam Pann – This is a Pann with the Tamil swara name Thuththam (Rishabam)

Pann

Sambandhar has used 22 Panns in his Hymns. Other than this there are some Pann names seen in his Hymn which can be treated as a Technical Term for new Panns.

1. Nerisai - This is a kind of Pann mentioned in ancient Texts. Neresaiyaam panel arupadham - 2.53.10. Nerisai arupadham murandru - 1.75.3
2. Kaamaram - This is a Pann seen in ancient texts. Kaamaram Vandisaippa - 1.47.3
3. Kurinji - It is a Pann sung in the land of Kurinji Madavaar Kadi Kurinji yadu Paadi - 1.12.10
4. Panjuram - It is a Pann for Raga Shankaraparanam. Panjuram payitru Paigneeeli - 3.14.3, Panjuram Maadi - 3.104.4.
5. Marul - It is a Pann with Five swaras; Vandu Marul Paada – 1.46.1, Marulai Surumbu paadi - 1.66.8, Vandu Marul paadi - 3.74.5.
6. Muzhavapann; It is seen in Venguru Padhigam Muzhava Pann thigalvaaya paadi.
7. Vaaimuri - It is also a Pann like Yazhmuri Mudira vor vaimuri paadi - 1.44.5

Gitam

This is one of the Musical Forms which belongs to Abyasagana in Karnatic Music. Thirugnana Sambandhar mention this Gitam in many Hymns

- 1) Gidhattai miga paadam - 2.43.5
- 2) Gitam Vanda vaimayaal - 2.52.7
- 3) Gita mamarai paadu - 2.89.3
- 4) Paadu Githatthaan - 2.100.3
- 5) Gitamodu paadu vaana - 3.73.6
- 6) Veenaiyodu Gitamodu - 3.74.4
- 7) Sola vala Gitam - 1.98.8.

Layam

It is a Technical Term used in Thaalam. It is one of the Thaala Dasa Pranas. This Term Layam is used by Thirugnana Sambandhar in Perumpuliur Padhigam Aadal layam Udaiyaar Paadal layam Udaiyaar Peedal layam Udaiyaar - 2.67.4

Musicology

In Tamil, it is called Isai Iyal. Thirugnana Sambandhar is the First person to mention Musicology in his Hymns. He says he is also a Musicologist that is Iyal Gnana Sambandhar - 2.18.11. Isai Iyal is mentioned in many Hymns.

- 1) Ezhe Ezhe Naale mundu - Iyal Isai, Isai Iyal Paa 1.26.11
- 2) Isai vara vitthu Iyal Ketpithu - 3.9.6
- 3) Iyal Isai ennum porulin - 3.3.1
- 4) Iyal Isai Porulgalaagi - 3.79.1

Here Sambandhar explains God as the meaning of Isai Iyal.

Iyal Varieties

Thirugnana Sambandhar mentions about many new varieties of Iyal in his Hymns. Here by we are getting new Isai Iyal Technical Terms that is Iyal varieties. Thirugnana Sambandhar deals with many varieties like Pan Iyal, Pal Iyal, Isai Iyal, Paa Iyal, Periyal, Inniyal, Thaniyal, Paan Iyal and so on.

- 1) Pan Iyal - The Iyal talks about Pann Pan Iyal paadalinaan - 3.113.11, 1.180.6
Pan Iyal Kochchai Padhi - 1.113.11
Pan Iyal Paadal - 1.8.1
Pan Iyal Tamil - 3.51.5
Pan Iyal maalai - 3.87.5
- 2) Pal Iyal - It means Varieties of Iyal Palliyal Paani Paaridam - 1.101.3
- 3) Isai Iyal - It deals with Music Isai Iyal Kilavi Paada - 3.81.3
- 4) Paa Iyal - It deals with Poetic nature

- Paa Iyal Paadal - 1.8.4
- 5) Periyal- It is a enlarged part of Music Periyal in Tamil - 1.64.11
- 6) Inniyal - It is a melodious part of Music Inniyal Kazhumalen - 1.123.11
- 7) Than Iyal - It deals with Therapeutic part of Music Thanniyaal Kalai vala - 1.123.11
- 8) Pann Iyal - It deals with Poem (songs) Karudhi paadiya Paan Iyal - 2.1.9
- 9) Thirugnana Sambandhar praises Tamil Language itself Iyal Vaala Isaimali Tamil - 1.22.11.

Technical Terms in Dance

Thirugnana Sambandhar speaks about many varieties of Dance. Nadam and Nattam are the General Terms that explain Dance, which also has many varieties.

1. **Nadam:** Thirugnana Sambandhar explains the Dance of Lord Natarajar with these varieties 1) Maa Nadam; A Dance which cannot be performed by any ordinary person. It is very Ferocious and Fast.
 - Maa Nadam aada airplane - 3.115.3
 - Maa Nadam Aada valla - 2.51.3
 - Mandru maanadam aadi - 3.22.7
 - Maa Nadamaadi – 2.29.4
 - Puyangaraaja maanadam aadi - 1.53.8
 - Maanadamaadam viththagan - 2.102.7
2. **Kadu Nadam:** A very difficult performance
 - Kadu Nadam Seiyum Kaalan - 3.116.6
3. **Peru Nadam:** It is a Dance which cannot be compared
 - Peiyaayina paada - Perunadamaadiya – 1.15.3
4. **Sadir:** A Dance variety (ancient Name)
 - Sadirinaar vala Nagar - 3.27.8
 - Jathi vazhi varuvador Sadire - 3.98.2
5. **Paandarangam:** It is one of the varieties of Thaandavam
 - Paandarangarkku en nilaimai - 1.60.1
 - Paandarangan - 2.6.2, 2.13.9
 - Paandarangan Paada - 3.102.1
6. **Koothu:** It is one of the ancient names for Dance
 - Kaali than Periya Koothu - 1.15.6
 - Kaaliyaar gunam sei koothudaiyon - 3.119.1
7. **Eri Aadal:** Dancing in between burial Ground
 - Eri yaadi - 3.107.2
 - Anjudar aeri aaduvur - 3.102.4

- Purangatidai nindreri yaadi - 2.35.1, 2.33.2
- 8. Chokkaattam:** It is also one of the ancient Dance
- Chokkattha nirutham - 1.79.5
- Chokkamadu aadiyum - 3.9.9
- 9. Vattanai aadal:** It is a Dance with rotating movements, fast-rolling movements
- Vattanai aadalodu - 2.11.8
- 10. Nattam:** It is a common Term for Dance. Thirugnana Sambandhar speaks about its varieties
- Aru Nattam - beautiful Dance - 2.107.2
- Pagal Nattam - Dance during Day Time - 1.13.7
- Andhi Nattam - Dance during evening time - 1.24.2
- Veengirul Nattam - Dance during mid night - 3.122.1
- Maalai Nattam - Dance during evening time - 2.62.6
- Nallirul Nattam - Dance during dark night - 3.102.7
- Perum Pagal Nattam - Dance During mid-noon - 8.114.6
- 11. Aarangam:** This is the stage where the Dancers will perform their Dance
- Kaadu arangaaha - 3.124.4, 3.9.7, 2.69.4

- Aadu arasin - 2.88.5
- Purangaadu arangaa nadam - 3.92.4.

Thus Thirugnana Sambandhar of the 7th Century is furnishing many Technical Terms related to Music and Dance In his Hymns. This shows his Profound knowledge of Fine-Arts.

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Author Details

Dr. S. Subbulakshmi, Director, School of Music and Fine Arts, Vels University, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India,
Email ID: kavinthree@gmail.com.