

A Study of Socio-Linguistic aspects of Kin behaviour among the Yerukala Tribe in Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT Yerukala is one of the principal tribe groups inhabiting the southern part of the Andhra Pradesh, generally known as Rayalaseema comprising the revenue of districts of Chittoor, Cuddapah, Anantapur and Kurnool. The Kin behaviour plays an important role in understanding the social structure of a society and the relationship between individuals. There is a close correlation between the language and kin behaviour among the Tribes and one such a tribe is Yerukala of Andhra Pradesh. For the present study Ahobilam, a well known religious place, adjacent to Nallamala forests in Kurnool District is selected. There are altogether 30 kinship terms in Yerukala kinship terminology. Of the 30 terms, 27 are classificatory and the 3 are denotative. It may be pointed out here that the classificatory terms are extended to both consanguineal and affinal kin, including primary kin. Denotative terms, on the other hand, are used exclusively to denote a set of affinal kin. The way of behaviour is expressed towards various kinsmen in terms of Respect Reserved, Informal, Intimate, Avoidance and Joking. The kin behaviour of Yerukala shows consistency with their kinship terminology and marriage practices.