

## Glossary of Recurring Terms

<i>abhiṣeka</i> (Skt.), <i>apiṣēkam</i> (Ta.)	ritual bathing of a deity
<i>alaṃkāra</i> (Skt.), <i>alaṅkāram</i> (Ta.)	ornamentation, ritual decoration of a deity
<i>amāvācai</i> (Ta.)	new moon day
<i>ammaṇ</i> (Ta.)	goddess, more common term than <i>ampāl</i>
<i>ampāl</i> (Ta.)	goddess, more Brahmanical term than <i>ammaṇ</i>
<i>aruḷ vākku</i> (Ta.)	oracular speech
<i>asura</i> (Skt.), <i>curaṇ</i> (Ta.)	demon
<i>āratī</i> (Skt.), <i>āratti</i> (Ta.)	ritual of circulating a burning lamp in front of a deity
<i>bhakti</i> (Skt.)	devotion
<i>cuṇṭal</i> (Ta.)	dish of pulses and legumes
<i>curasaṃhāra</i> (Ta.)	ritual fight between deity and a demon
<i>darśaṇa</i> (Skt.)	auspicious viewing
<i>homa</i> (Skt.)	fire sacrifice
<i>kalaśa</i> (Skt.), <i>kalacam</i> (Ta.)	pot
<i>kanyā</i> (Skt.), <i>kaṇṇi</i> (Ta.)	girl below the age of puberty
<i>kāppu</i> (Ta.) <i>raḷṣabandha</i> (Skt.)	protective cord tied around the wrist
<i>kolu</i> (Ta.)	tiered display of dolls
<i>kuṅkumam</i> (Ta.)	vermillion powder
<i>līlā</i> (Skt.)	divine play
<i>mūlamūrti</i> (Skt.), <i>mūlavar</i> , <i>mūlapēram</i> (Ta.)	lit. “root image”, immovable image of the deity installed in a temple
<i>nōṇpu</i> (Ta.)	ritual fast of women
<i>paṇḍal</i>	temporary structures set up for venerating a deity
<i>pomma</i> (Ta.)	doll
<i>prasāda</i> (Skt.), <i>piracātam</i> (Ta.)	food offered to a deity distributed to devotees for consumption
<i>pūjā</i> (Skt.), <i>pūcai</i> (Ta.)	ritual of devotional worship
<i>pūjāri</i> (Ta.)	officiating non-Brahmin priest in goddess temples
<i>Puraṭṭāci</i> (Ta.)	Tamil month September-October

<i>śakti</i> (Skt.), <i>catti, cakti</i> (Ta.)	feminine power, the supreme female energy
<i>śānta, saumya</i> (Skt.), <i>cāntam</i> (Ta.)	benevolent, peaceful, characteristic of the goddess
<i>śrīcakra</i> (Skt.)	three dimensional mystical diagram of the <i>Śrīvidyā</i> school
<i>Śrīvidyā</i> (Skt.)	auspicious wisdom, a tantric tradition of goddess worship
<i>sthalapurāṇa, māhātmya</i> (Skt.), <i>talapurāṇam</i> (Ta.)	texts that tell the origin of Tamil shrines, sub-genre of <i>purāṇas</i>
<i>sumaṅgalī, suvāsinī</i> (Skt.), <i>cumaṅkali</i> (Ta.)	auspicious married woman
<i>tāmpūlam</i> (Ta.)	offering of betel and auspicious gifts
<i>ugra</i> (Skt.), <i>ukkiram</i> (Ta.)	fierce, malevolent, characteristic of the goddess
<i>utsava</i> (Skt.), <i>urcavam</i> (Ta.)	religious festival
<i>utsavamūrti</i> (Skt.), <i>urcavapēram</i> (Ta.)	procession image of the temple deity
<i>vāhana</i> (Skt.), <i>vākaṇam</i> (Ta.)	vehicle (of the god)
<i>vrata</i> (Skt.), <i>viratam</i> (Ta.)	vow
Vijayadaśamī (Skt.), Vicayatacami (Ta.)	final commemoration day of the goddesses's victory
<i>yāgaśālā</i> (Skt.)	sacrificial hall