Indo-Aryan Loanwords in Caṅkam Tamil

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One of the often-debated issues is the influx of Sanskrit and Prākrit vocabulary on the lexicon of early Classical Tamil literature. Surprisingly, one thing missing to this day are reliable statistics which show the lexical items that are actually to be found in the corpus. All the more surprising are the more or less categorical denials of such influences as are current in secondary literature. This presentation, based on statistics for at least part of the corpus, will address various aspects of the problem in hand:

1) How many words are to be found, how often and where in the corpus?

2) Which of those items can we identify with confidence?

3) What are the types of words that tend to be borrowed?

4) How is the relation between the loanwords and the formulaic repertoire?