Katu Personal Pronouns

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0. Introduction.

The purpose of this paper is to present the personal pronoun system of Katu[1]. There are eleven regular pronouns in Katu, as shown on chart 1, divided by number (singular, dual, and plural) and person (first, first-second, second, and third). The first-second person (first person inclusive) occurs only in dual and plural.

Of particular interest is the way that the dual and plural pronouns can be broken down into meaningful components (see sec. 1). Also noteworthy is the use of affixed locational words as personal pronouns (sec. 4).

A personal pronoun in Katu is a word which can generally be used in place of a noun while retaining the meaning of the noun. It functions syntactically like a noun, with the following restrictions. A pronoun cannot

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[1] Katu [ktəu] is a member of the Mon-Khmer language family and is spoken by an estimated thirty thousand people in Quang-Nam province of Vietnam.

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be possessed. It cannot be modified by adjectives as nouns can. A pronoun cannot occur in the complement position of an equational expression.

1. Components of Pronouns.

As we examine the eight forms of the Katu dual and plural pronouns, it becomes apparent that they are composed from seven components as shown in chart 2.

	Singular	Dual	Plural
1st person	ku/dai	yɯa	yi
1st-2nd person		nhang	he
2nd person	mai	nhɯa	pe
3rd person	(dó)[2]	nhi (dó)	pi (dó)

Chart 1. Regular Animate Pronoun Forms

	Dual		Plural	
1st	y	ɯa	y	i (e)
1st-2nd	nh	ang	h	e
2nd	nh	ɯa	p	e
3rd	nh	i	p	i (e)

Chart 2. Pronoun Components

nh-   marks dual and is present in all dual forms except first person.[3]

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2 In this paper, symbolization generally follows Vietnamese orthography with these exceptions :
   q indicates a final glottal stop

   ɓ and ɗ indicate preglottalized b and d respectively,
   d indicates a simple voiced alveolar stop.
   doubled vowels indicate length.
   The vowel phonemes of Katu are (high to low): front i, ê, e ; central ɯ, ơ, â, a ; back u, ô, o, ó. All vowels can be long or short. (See J. M. Wallace, ' Katu Phonemes ', to be published.)

3 Saundra K. Watson, ' Personal Pronouns of. Pacóh ', in *Mon Khmer Studies I*, Saigon, 1964. *nh-* also marks dual and *-e* marks plural in the pronouns of Pacóh. This article was very helpful because of the many similarities between Pacoh and Katu.

-e   marks plural and is present in all four plural forms. *-e* morphophonemically becomes *-i* in first person and third person (see *y-* and *-i* below).

y-   marks first person in both dual and plural forms. This initial *y-* is apparently the conditioning factor causing the *e-* 'plural' in the expected *ye* 'first person plural' to become *-i*, forming *yi*.

-i   marks third person in both dual and plural forms. The vowel *-i* in the plural form is apparently a portmanteau from the *-e* plural and *-i* third person components. The expected *'pei* becomes *pi*.

p-   marks non-first persons in the plural.

-ɯra   marks in dual number the inclusion of a third person either with first or with second person, i e. 'he and I' or 'he and you'.

-ang, h- are unique components marking first-second person in dual and plural, respectively.

2. Description of Animate Pronouns.

The term 'animate' is used here to refer to humans and animals and to exclude plants and non-living objects. (cf. secs 3.4)

ku   'I' (first person singular). *ku chô* 'I return' *ku* has a less used allomorph *dai* which can occupy any place *ku* can. *dai chô* 'I returns'. The function of *dai* is not yet clear but may be to focus attention on the speaker. It is often but not always used in quotation.

mai   'you' (second person singular). *mai chô* 'you return'.

dô   'he, she, or it' (third person singular). *dô chô* 'He, she, or it returns'. Because *dô* functions somewhat differently from the other animate pronouns, it is charted in parentheses on chart 1. Besides functioning as a simple pronoun, *dô* also occurs, frequently in complex pronouns with *nhi* and *pi*, resulting in *nhi dô* 'those two' and *pi dô* 'they. (plural)'.

yɯra   'I and someone else' (first person dual) *yɯra chô* 'He and I return'.

nhang   ,I and you' (first-second person dual). *nhang chô* 'You and I return'.

nhɯra   'you and someone else' (second person dual). *nhɯra chô* 'You and he return'.

nhi   'he (she or it) and someone else' (third person dual). *nhi dô chô.* Those

two return'. *nhi* is a bound pronoun and the limitations on its occur-
rence are discussed below.

yi   'I and others' (first person plural). *yi chô* 'We (I and others) return'.

he   'I, you, and one or more others' (first-second person plural). *he chô* 'We (I, you, and others) return'.

pe   'you and others' (second person plural). *pe chô* 'You and others return'.

pi   'he (she or it) and others' (third person plural). *pi dʋ chô* 'They return'. *pi* is a bound pronoun.

The two pronouns *nhi* 'third person dual' and *pi* 'third person plural' are bound to *dó*, the third person singular form, forming the complex pronouns *nhi dó* 'they two' and *pi dó* 'they plural'. When *nhi* or *pi* occurs in subject position, *dó* can be omitted, but it is not possible to focus on the pronoun or to extract it from the clause without restoring *dó*. *nhi* and *pi* cannot take normal pronoun expansions in their contracted (without *dó*) forms.

ᶎ *oʼor* 'two' can replace *dó* after *nhi* 'third person dual' and act the same as *dó*. *nhi dó*, *nhi boʼor* 'they two'. This is the only occurrence of a number functioning in this way.

3. Inanimate Pronoun.

dó is the only one of the above pronouns which can be used in referring to plants or non-living objects and it can be used indiscriminately for both singular and plural number. *puan nlóóng yaal* 'four trees (are) tall' can be replaced by *dó yaal*. Although plural is not usually distinguished from singular in inanimate pronouns, it can be shown by the use of *nôq*, a general pluralizer. *nôq dó yaal* 'They (are) tall.'

4. Locational Pronouns.

Locational pronouns are locational words, such as *di* 'here' and *dek* 'there (nearby)', which when affixed can function in the place of third person pronouns. To do this, they are prefixed by *a-*. If nothing further is added, the *a-* form is singular. *adi* 'this one (here).' For dual or plural number, the singular *a-* prefixed form is further prefixed by *nh-* or *p-*, the dual and plural pronoun components, forming *nhadi* 'these two'

or *paɗi* 'these (plural)'. Plural can also be shown by using *nôq* 'plural' (sec. 5) before the singular form, as *nôq aɗi* 'these (plural).'

> *ɗi* 'here.'
>
> *aɗi chô* 'he (she or it) (here) returns.'
>
> *nhaɗi chô* 'These two (here) return.'
>
> *paɗi chô* 'They (here) return.'
>
> *nôq aɗi chô* 'They (here) return.'
>
> *ɗek* 'there (nearby)'
>
> *aɗek chô* 'He (she or it) (there) returns.'
>
> *nhaɗek chô* 'Those two (there) return.'
>
> *paɗek chô* 'They (there) return.'
>
> *nôq aɗek chô* 'They (there) return.'

The singular form of locational pronouns can be used for plural non-human referents. 'Non-human' includes animals, plants, and non-living objects. (This is different from the animate-inanimate distinction in regular pronouns which groups animals and humans in the same category (sec. 3).)

> *puan jong gamak* 'Four back-baskets (are) large.'
>
> *aɗi gamak* 'These (are) large.'

Although number is not usually distinguished for non-human locational pronoun forms, it can be specified by a preceding numeral. This also contrasts with the inanimate regular pronoun which can show number only by the use of the pluralizer *nôq*.

> *puan aɗi gamak* 'These four (are) large'.

The locational words which function like *ɗi* and *ɗek* that have been found so far are :

> *ɗi, ɗik* 'here'
>
> *ɗek* 'there (nearby)'
>
> *tôôh, tôk* 'there, level with the speaker'
>
> *têêh, chik* 'there, upward from the speaker'
>
> *chooh, chok* 'there, downward from the speaker'

5. Pronoun Expansions.

Possible expansions of the animate and locational pronouns are given

in the following maximum formula: (Inanimate and locational non-human pronouns can be expanded only as given in secs. 3.4.)

± number	± classifier	± focus	± pronoun	± specific referent
pe	*nak*	*a-*	*yi*	*adi*	*ano*
three	(person cl.)	(focus)	we	brothers	sisters

'we three, brothers and sisters'

(a) The *number* slot can be filled by numerals, *bot* 'all', or *ŧok* 'many'.

pe yi   'we three'

bot yi   'all of us'

ŧok yi   'many of use'

ŧok 'many' may be expanded by intensifiers *long* or *kuaq*.

ŧok long yi   'very many of us'

ŧok kuaq yi   'very many of us'

(b) The *classifier* slot can be filled by *nak* 'person classifier' or *panong* 'animate classifier'. Classifiers are used only after numerals and *ŧok* 'many', but not after *bot* 'all'. They are not obligatory and do not alter the meaning.

pe nak yi   'we three'

ŧok nak yi   'many of us'

pe panong pi dó   'three of them (animals)'

(c) The focus slot can be filled by *a-* 'focus marker' or *nôq* 'plural'. *a-* 'focus marker' can occur as a prefix on any pronoun in any syntactic usage and will mark that pronoun as the center of attention or focus of the sentence.

ayi   'we'

ayi chô   'we (emphasized) return'

anuq chô leq ayi   'the dog returned with us (emphasized)'

nôq 'pluralizer' can optionally precede plural pronoun forms, possibly indicating emphasis. It never precedes an *a-* prefixed pronoun form except an *a-* prefixed locational pronoun.

nôq yi   'we (emphasized plural)'

nôq dó   'they (emphasized plural for either animate or inanimate)'

nôq adi   'they'

nôq can also be used before a person's name or *mai* 'second person singular' with the meaning of 'that person and his group (family, friends, or those with him)'.

nôq Kimêêt   'Kimêêt and his group'
nôq mai   'you and your group'

(d) *Specific referent* specifies more precisely the individuals being referred to by the pronoun. It can be filled by a noun or pronoun phrase or a *du* phrase and can occur after any pronoun. The *du* phrase can contain adjectives but these are referents, not modifiers.

yi, adi ano, chô   'we, brothers and sisters, return'

dó, du yaal, chô   'he, the tall one, returns'

dó, du plak yung, chô   'he, the one who broke his foot, returns'

With two pronouns, *nhưa* 'you and someone else' and *yưa* 'I and someone else', the specific referent can specify both the individuals included or only the 'someone else'.

nhưa, mai Kimêêt, chô   'you two, you and Kimêêt, return'

nhưa, Kimêêt, chô   'you two, (you and) Kimêêt, return'

6. Syntactic Functions of Pronouns.

(a) Pronouns can be the subject of the verb. *dó leng manuih* 'He killed the man'.

(b) Pronouns can be the object of the verb. *manuih leng dó* 'The man killed him'.

(c) Pronouns can be the object of a preposition, *manuih chô leq dó* 'The man returned with him'.

(d) Pronouns can be possessors. *manuih dó* 'his person' (his wife); *akoon mai* 'your child'.

(e) Pronouns can be the subject of a noun or modifier complement. *dó manuih* 'he (is) a man'; *dó yaal* 'he (is) tall'.

(f) Pronouns can replace the names in the following relationship idioms ;

harau Krêp diq Kimêêt 'What is Krêp's relationship to Kimêêt ? ' (lit. what Krêp to Kimêêt).

harau dó diq mai   'What is her relationship to you?' (lit. what she to you).

Krêp, ama diq Kimêêt 'Kimêêt is Krêp's father.' (lit. Krêp father to Kimêêt).

dó, ama diq ku   'I am her father.' (lit. she, father to I).

(g) Prestatement of the pronoun subject, with a temporal or adverbial element between the two occurrences of the pronoun subject.

yi, ƀoʼoʼr pe jaal yi chô   'We, two or three times we returned'.

dó, dâh dó gamak   'He, quickly he becomes big'.

7. Other Pronoun Forms

Three seldom used pronoun forms have been found: *ngeh* 'first person singular', *meh* 'second person singular or plural', and *peh* 'third person plural'. The informant considers these forms 'old' and is unable to make impromptu sentences using them.