

THE SYNTACTIC PROPERTIES AND DISTRIBUTIONS OF PERSONAL PRONOUNS IN SAMBORI LANGUAGE

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Abstract

This article aims at describing the syntactic properties and distributions of Personal Pronouns in Sambori Language, a language spoken by the people who occupy Sambori Village and others nearby villages in Lambitu, a mountainous district of Bima Regency. Sambori Language is claimed to be a different language from Bima Language due to its characteristic of which sounds are different from those of Bima Language. This fact is used by the people of Sambori to legitimate their existence by referring the language they speak as Inge Ndai. However, no research documentations have proved that Sambori Language belongs to a single language which is classified into a particular group or sub group under the Austronesian Language group. This study deals with the documentation of the syntactic properties and distributions of Sambori Language which focuses on describing the personal pronoun system of the language, describing types of personal pronouns and their syntactic properties and distributions. The data of this study were taken from elicitation, interview, and documentation. The result of the study shows that Sambori Language has a set of morphologically independent personal pronouns (full pronouns) and a set of clitics. These two sets of personal pronouns show a different syntactic properties and distributions. Only full pronouns which can occur as independent clausal arguments of both intransitive and transitive constructions. In addition to their distributions, clitic pronouns cannot occur with numerals, relatives, demonstratives, and NPs as the full pronouns can. This syntactical evidences show that Sambori language is different from Bima Language.

Keywords: *personal pronoun, clitics, syntactic distribution, Sambori Language*

Abstrak

Artikel penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menjelaskan tentang ciri dan distribusi sintaksis pronomina persona Bahasa Sambori. Bahasa Sambori merupakan sebuah bahasa yang digunakan oleh masyarakat yang Desa Samboridan desa-desa sekitar di pegunungan Lambitu yang juga merupakan salah satu kecamatan di Kabupaten Bima. Bahasa Sambori diklaim sebagai Bahasa tersendiri yang berbeda dengan Bahasa Bima. Hal ini disebabkan karena Bahasa Sambori memiliki ciri yang berbeda dari Bahasa Bima. Fakta ini memperkuat penutur Bahasa Sambori untuk mengidentifikasi eksistensi mereka dengan menamai bahasa yang mereka tuturkan dengan Inge Ndai. Akan tetapi, belum ada penelitian yang membuktikan Bahasa Sambori sebagai bahasa yang berbeda dari Bahasa Bima dan dikelompokkan kedalam kelompok atau subkelompok bahasa-bahasa Austronesia. Penelitian ini menitikberatkan pada deskripsi tentang

sistem pronomina persona Bahasa Sambori, yakni menjelaskan jenis-jenis dan ciri serta distribusi sintaksis pronomina persona Bahasa Sambori. Data dalam penelitian ini diambil dengan cara elisisitasi, wawancara, dan dokumentasi. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Bahasa Sambori memiliki dua perangkat pronomina persona yang secara morfologis bersifat mandiri. Kedua perangkat ini memiliki ciri sintaksis yang berbeda. Pronomina persona dapat menjadi argumen klausa independen pada kalimat intransitif dan transitif, sedangkan klitik pronomina tidak bisa menjadi argumen klausa independen. Sementara itu, dalam hal distribusi, klitik pronomina tidak dapat diikuti oleh numeralia, relatif, demonstratif, dan frasa nomina (FN), sebagaimana pronomina persona. Bukti sintaksis ini menunjukkan bahwa Bahasa Sambori berbeda dari Bahasa Bima.

Kata kunci: *pronomina persona, klitik, distribusi sintaksis, Bahasa Sambori*

1. Introduction

Sambori Language has not been grouped into a particular group or subgroup in the Bima-Sumba-Flores Subgroup by Blust (2008). This is because the Sambori Language is not proven to be the separated language from Bima Language. However, the speakers of Sambori Language claim it as a different language from Bima Language although no evidences support their claim. Moreover, Yusra (2016) argued that Sambori Language is a dialect of Bima Language. He argued that Sambori Language tends to use the old lexicons of Bima Language which is also used in almost all regions of Bima Language speakers. The difference is only found in the form of pronouns.

The documentations of Sambori Language are lack of adequacy both in the quantity and also quality. The documentations are so sporadic that the results are not fully valuable as the bases of doing the next related research on the language. The documentations about the status of Sambori Language was done by Mahsun in 2005. Mahsun (2005) argued that Samboari Language is a sub-dialect of Maria dialect of Bima Language. However, Yusra (2015) doubted this reasearch because the data used in the research were taken from the speakers of the language in Tarlawi village located near Maria Villlage. The reconstruction of Sambori Language involving a massive research about all aspects of linguistics is needed to clearly give a precise description of the language. Yet, this paper tries to describe the syntactic distribution and properties expected to contribute to the documentation of the language, highlighting the types of pronouns, their properties and clauses distributions.

2. Research Methods

The data used in this article were mainly gained from elicitations, interviews, and also documentations, especially the data from the previous research. The elicitations were done to get the real data of the language. The results of elicitations were then assessed to the key informants by conducting some interviews. The data from the previous related research are also used in this research as the secondary data.

2.1 Review of Related Literature

2.1.1 Pronouns

Pronouns are words used to refer other nouns (Alwi, dkk., 2003, p.249). In other words, they are used to replace people and things as their functions to replace the nouns (see also Chaer, 1998, p.91). In fact, pronouns can take sebject, object, and also predicate. Another characteristic of pronouns is respected to their references which are flexible depending on

who speaks to whom or who speaks what (Alwi, et.al., 2003, p.249).

Djajasudarma (2010: 40-43; Keraf, 1984, p.66) categorized pronouns into (1) personal pronouns, (2) possessive pronouns, (3) demonstrative pronouns, (4) interrogative pronouns, (5) relative pronouns, and (6) indefinite pronouns.

2.1.2 The Syntactic of Pronoun

Pronouns are linguistic units to replace the full noun phrases. Therefore, they take syntactic positions similar to what the noun phrases do (Baggaley, 1998, p.1). Further, Baggaley (1998, p.1) stated that exploring the syntactic categories of pronouns does not merely observe their properties which are suspected to behave like nouns, but also their possibility to derive from other grammatical categories (see also Abney, 1987; Guilfoyle, 1990; Ritter, 1991).

2.1.3 Personal Pronouns Paradigm

Pronouns exhibit the alternation regarding to their forms (morphemes). In this case, they may realize into *full pronouns*, *reduced pronoun*, *orclitic pronouns* and even in form of dependent affix. This linguistic phenomena are common in Austronesian Languages, such as, Rote Ndao (Balukh, 2015) and Bima Language (Arafiq, 2017). In Rote Ndao, the personal pronouns can occur as independent arguments, except for the clitic *nga*, the first plural exclusive pronoun and two variants of third singular clitics. Meanwhile, in Bima Language, a set of morphologically independent personal pronouns (full pronouns) and a set of clitics show the same syntactic properties and distributions. These two sets of personal pronouns are able to occur as independent clausal arguments of both intransitive and transitive constructions. These two sets of personal pronouns can occur with numerals, relatives, and NPs. However, only full personal pronouns can combine with demonstratives.

2.1.4 Distributions of Pronouns

Like the distributions of other linguistic unit, things to observe in the distributions of pronouns are their positions in morphosyntactical context and setting. Based on this view, the distributions of pronouns are their co-occurrences with other categories. In Japanese, pronouns are to co-occur with the plural nouns and adjective.

1. a. *Watasi-tati gengogakusya*
 1pl linguist
 ‘We are linguists’
- b. *anata-tati ronrigakusya*
 2pl logician
 ‘You are logicians’
- c. *kare-ra tetugakusya*
 3mpl philosopher
 ‘They are philosopher’
2. a. *Tissai kare*
 small 3msg
 ‘small he’
- b. *sinsetuna anata*
 king 2sg
 ‘kind you’ (Baggaley, 1998, p.53-55)

Based on the above data (1a, b, and c), Japanese has *single class pronouns*. Meanwhile, 2a & 2b show that Jaanese pronouns can actively co-occurances with adjectives.

3. Findings and Discussion

3.1 Personal Pronoun Paradigm in Sambori Language

Sambori Language has two sets of personal pronouns. The first set of personal pronouns is full pronouns which are morphologically independent. Meanwhile, the second set of personal pronouns consist of clitics which are not independent. Full personal pronouns appear to exhibit in one to two words, while clitic personal pronouns exhibit in one syllabic morphemes which occur before the predicates (preclitic) and after the predicates (enclitic). The paradigm of these pronouns are shown in table 1 below.

Table 1. Sambori Language Personal Pronoun Paradigms

	Pron.	Full	Clitics	
			Preclitic	Enclitic
First	1SG	<i>Rae</i>	<i>ka-</i>	<i>-nggu</i>
	1PL-Excl	<i>Ame (re)</i>	<i>ma-</i>	<i>-ma</i>
	1 PL-Incl	<i>Inta</i>	<i>ta-</i>	<i>-ta</i>
Second	2SG	<i>Oe</i>	<i>ma-</i>	<i>-ma</i>
	2PL-hon	<i>Eme</i>	<i>ta-</i>	<i>-ta</i>
Third	3SG	<i>re e</i>	<i>na-</i>	<i>-na</i>
	3PL	<i>Re er(a)</i>	<i>na-</i>	<i>-na</i>

The table shows that the pronouns are distinguished into two categories; person and number. Sambori Language has first, second, and third number. The first person is distinguished between singular and plural, but the first plural is not distinguished between exclusive and inclusive. Honorific is only distinguished in the second. Gender in Sambori Language is not distinguished. Generally, clitic pronouns and full pronouns do not show any similarities in forms. However, the 2SG-hon and 2PL-hon clitic pronouns seem to reflect the form of the full pronouns. This suggests that the historical relations between full pronouns and clitics are restricted to certain pronouns.

3.2 Pronouns and Argument Position

Personal pronouns in Sambori Language can substitute full NPs as clausal arguments, either as subject (S) or object (O), or as the complement of preposition. The followings provide a discussion of full pronouns and their distribution in argumen position.

3.3 Full Pronoun as S of Intransitive Predicates

Intransitive constructions in Sambori Language can take verbal and no-verbal predicates which have only one core argument. With such predicates, additional arguments are marked, for example with preposition. The S argument of intransitive predicates may involve different semantic roles, depending on the meaning or semantic properties of the verbs; S may be an agent or patient. Example (1) through (3) below show that full pronouns can occur in the S argument position of intransitive verbs. In (1) and (2) the semantic role of S is agent, while in (3), S is a patient. In (1) an additional argument is marked with preposition *kai* 'LOC', which is optional in the clause (1c).

- (1) a. *Rae lao nggu kai Mbojo*
1SG go-1SGCLTLOC Mbojo
'I went to Mbojo'
- b. *Kai mbojo rae lao -nggu*
LOC Mbojo 1SG go -1SGCLT
'I went to Mbojo'
- c. *Rae lao -nggu*
1SG go -1SGCLT
'I went'
- (2) a. *Ambora rae tu'u (lao) nggu*
Day time after, 1EX/Pl start -1SGCLT
'The day after, I started'
- b. *Ame tu'u lao -nggu ambora.*
1EX/Pl start -2EXCLT/Pl day time after,
'The day after, we started'
- (3) *Ree ne wouti mate.*
3S art already die
'He/she died already'

The "S" argument in Sambori Language tends to be so flexible for it can take pre-verbal position or post-verbal position. In example (4), the verb *mate* 'die' is intransitive verb, which syntactically requires a single patient core argument. This evidence suggests that Sambori Language operates the split alignment properties of the verbs, since the intransitive "S" argument looks like a transitive "O" argument in terms of syntactic position (cf. Dixon, 2010a, p.140).

- (1) *Mate te rae ina e*
dieart -1SG mother - INTEN
'I would be in difficulty, mother' (I die, mother)

As already mentioned above, Sambori Language allows non-verbal predicates. The non-verbal predicates in Sambori Language can express attributes, location, and existence. In terms of syntactic category, the predicates can be headed by a noun, adjective, adverb, numeral, or preposition (Pyne, 1997, p.111-125). The "S" argument for intransitive non-verbal predicates does not have a fixed position in sentences. It can come before and after the predicates. The example (5) through (7) are non-verbal predicates which occur with a full pronoun as "S" argument.

- (1) a. *Ree ne[dou Dompu]_{NP}*
3SG art people Dompu
'He is Dompunese'
- b. *[Dou Dompu]_{NP} Ree ne*
People Dompu 3SG
- (2) a. *Ree[ndili ne]_{PP}*
3SG south
'She/he is at the south'

or

Ree [untu ndili ne]_{PP}
 3SG [LOC south]
 ‘She/he is at the south’

b. [Ndolo ne] ree
 [LOC south] 3SG
 ‘She/he is at the south’

or

[Untu ndolo ne]_{PP} ree
 LOC side south 3SG

- (3) a. Ree[na’e]_{Adj}
 3SG big
 ‘She/he is big’
 b. [Na’e]_{Adj} Ree
 Big 3SG

3.4 Full Pronoun as Argument Transitive Predicates

In Sambori Language, transitive verbs can appear as single or serial verbs. Like intransitive, the arguments of transitive verbs do not have fixed position. Both argument “S” and “O” can take pre-verbal or post-verbal positions interchangeably. Observe the following examples:

- (1) Rae ro- kasepu nggu pou
 1SG PERF-pick 1SG/CLT/PAST manggo
 ‘I picked manggo’
 (2) Pou ro kasepu nggu Rae
 Manggo PERF-pick -1SG/CLT/PAST 1SG
 ‘I picked manggo’
 (3) Ame nono-nggu oi mpoa
 1PL-Ex drink -1PL/CLT water only
 ‘We only drank water’
 (4) Oi mpoa ame nono nggu
 wateronly 1PL/CLT 1PL-EX drink KLT1PL
 ‘We only drank water’

3.5 Clitic Pronouns

Like full pronouns, clitic pronouns in Sambori Language can take the initial positions (pre-verbal) and final positions (post-verbal) in clauses, both in intransitives and transitives. The position where the clitic occurs also marks the aspects or tenses of sentences. In intransitive constructions, the clitic of argument “S” takes a pre-verbal position indicating that the construction has a futurative aspect/tense. However, when it takes the post-verbal position, the clitic shows resultative aspect/past tense. Clitic pronouns in Sambori Language must be cooccurrence with the subjects of the sentences. The following examples illustrate this phenomenon.

- (1) Rae sui ka lao
 1SG FUT CLT-1SG go
 ‘I will go’

- (2) *Lao nggu rae*
Go CLT-1SG 1SG
'I went'
- (3) *Oe kasepu – mu pou*
2SG pick CLT-2SG manggo
'You picked manggoes'
- (4) **Mu kasepu pou*
CLT-2SGpick manggo
'You picked manggoes'

3.6 Pronoun and Other Constituents

This subsection describes the distributions of pronouns in the constructions with other constituents in a clause. The constituents are seen as demonstratives, numerals/quantifiers, relative clauses, and Noun Phrases (NPs)

3.7 Pronouns with demonstratives

Like full NPs, full pronouns in Sambori Language are allowed to take demonstratives as modifiers. These demonstratives are in turn used by speakers to evaluate and appraise oneself. The demonstratives follow the full pronouns both in "S" and "O" positions. All personal pronouns can take modifiers whatever the number they exhibit. All types of full pronouns with their plural counterparts can go with demonstratives. Third person singular *Ree* 'she/he' and its plural counterpart *Ree (re)* 'they', first person singular *Rae* 'I' and its plural counterparts *Ame* 'we', *Oe* 'you' and its plural counterpart *Eme (re)* 'you' can go well with demonstratives *ne*, 'that' and *nde* 'this' as seen in the followings.

- (1) *Ree ne ara ka nau na sanepa taho inta toi ne*
3SG Dtf NEG able 3SG/CLT forget good 1Ink past Det
'She cannot forget our good conduct in the past'
- (2) *Ree ra ne ara kanau na sanepa taho inta toi ne*
3PL Det NEG able 3SG/CLT forget good 1Ink past Det
'They cannot forget our good conduct in the past'
- (3) *Rae nde ana dou ma da -wara*
1SG Det child person REL NEG-rich
'I am a poor person'
Ame nde ana dou ma da -wara
1Eks Det child person REL NEG-rich
'We are poor persons'
- (1) *Oe ne ari nggu rae*
2SG Det young sibling CLT/1SNG 1SG
'You are my young brother'
- or
- Oe ne ari nggu*
2SG Det young sibling CLT/1SNG
'You are my young brother'
- (2) *Eme re ne ari nggu rae*
2PL Det young sibling CLT/1SG 1SG
'You are my young brothers'

Unlike the full NPs, the pronoun clitics in Sambori Language can not go along with Demonstratives. As shown in (23a), the full pronoun 3SG is modified by demonstrative *ne*. If the full pronoun is replaced with the clitic *na* ‘3SG’, as in (23b), the sentence is judged ungrammatical. The sentence is also ungrammatical although the clitic *na* ‘3SG’ is not modified as shown in (24c).

- (3) a. *Ree re ne ara ka nau na sanepa taho inta toi ne*
 3SG Det NEG able 3SG/CLTforget good 1PL-Inc past det
 ‘She/he cannot forget our good conduct in the past’
- b. **Na ne ara ka nau sanepa taho inta toi ne*
 3SG/CLT Det NEG able 3SG/CLT forget good 1PL-Ink past
 ‘She/he cannot forget our good conduct in the past’
- c. **Na ne ara ka nau na sanepa taho inta toi ne*
 3SG/CLT able 3SG/CLT forget good 1PL-Ink past
 Na nau ka sanepa taho inta toi ne

3.8 Pronouns with Numerals/Quantifiers

Only full NPs of pronouns which can take numerals in Sambori Language. In Sambori Language the NPscan co-occur with numerals and qauntifiers without regarding their number. In other words, both plural and singular pronouns can take numerals. The first plural pronoun *Ame* ‘we’ takes numeral *dua* ‘two’ as its midifier in (22). The first singular *Rae* ‘I’ and *Re e* ‘she/he’ each takes numeral *mesa* ‘the one’ as their modifiers in (23) and (24).

- (1) *Ame dua malao tiwa Lombok*
 1PL-Eks two CLT-1PLExc go prep Lombok
 ‘Two of us will go to Lombok ‘ (Lit: We, two are going to go to Lombok)’
- (2) *Rae mesa mpa ma da- wara piti*
 1SG alone only REL NEG-have money
 ‘I am, the only one who does not have money’
- (3) *Ree mesa ne na lao tiwa lombok*
 3SG alone Det 3CLT go Prep Lombok
 ‘She/he is alone who is going to go to Lombok’

3.9 Pronouns with Relative Clauses

In Sambori Language, only full NPs which can be followed by relative clauses. The relative clauses are marked with *ma* ‘REL’. However, this relative marker needs further and deeper analysis regarding its syntactic property that signs both relative and progressive. As a relative, *main* (25) follows the full pronoun 2SG ‘*Oe*’ and with the verbal clause. However, as a progressive marker of a verb, *ma* does not require any verbal clause to construct a good sentence as shown in (26).

- (1) *Oe[ma kai kababu monca] mai ince ndia.*
 2SG [REL wear shirt yelow] come prep here.
 ‘You who are wearing the yellow shirt, come here, please?’
- (2) *Oe[ma kai kababu monca]*
 2SG Prog wear shirt yelow
 ‘You are wearing a yellow shirt’

3.8 Pronouns with NPs

The occurrence of personal pronouns with the NPs is governed by discourse situation. This situation suggests the speakers to employ the construction to avoid the contextual ambiguity considering that only the speakers themselves who are able to identify the references. All types of personal pronoun (full personal pronouns) behave similarly regarding to their occurrences with NPs. *La Duruin* (30) and (31) require an NP to precede or to follow it as a topic of the construction. Similarly, the second plural pronoun *Ree re* 'you' and the first plural pronoun *Inta* 'we' require *Dou wine ne inge dou one ne* 'Those girls and those boys' as shown in (32) and (33) and *dou one* 'The male' as shown in (34) and (35) below.

- (1) [La duru]Ree ne ara kanau-na ka lao tese ile abu-na
[La duru] 3SG Dem NEG able -CLT-3SG go LOC see abu-3POS
'La Duru, he cannot go to see his father'
- (2) Ree ne[La Duru]ara kanau -na kalao tese ile abu-na
3SG Dem [La duru] NEG able -CLT-3SG go LOC see abu-3POS
'He, La Duru, he cannot go to see his father'
- (3) [Dou wine ne inge dou one ne]Ree re ne wunga
[Personfemale Demwith people maleDe] 3PL DemPROG
paresa-na
speak -CLT-3PL.
'The female person and the male person, they are talking'
- (4) Ree re [Dou wine ne inge dou one ne]wunga paresa-
3PL [Personfemale Demwith personmaleDem] PROG speak-na
3PL/CLT
'They, the female person and the male person are talking'
- (5) Inta[dou one]na- kari -kai -ku ba dou ara ti
1PL-inc [person male] 3SG-lough-CAUS-INT AGT other NEG COND
kanau kangguhu
able farming
'We, as male will be loughed by others if we cannot do farming'
- (6) [Dou one] Inta na- hari -kai -ku ba dou ara ti
[person male] 1PL-ink 3SG-lough-CAUS-INT AGT other NEG COND
kanau kanggihi
able farming
'As the male, we will be loughed by others if we cannot do farming'

4. Conclusion

Personal pronouns in Sambori Language are realized into two forms, namely full pronouns and clitic pronouns. Both full pronouns and clitic pronouns can occur in any position in sentences, both as argument subject and object. Clitic pronouns cannot occur as an independent NP argument. The clitic pronouns can only serve as crossferences of the full NPs. However, in discourses, clitic pronouns can occur as an independent NP argument where the reference is already introduced at the beginning part in a discourse, or mentally understood. Only pronouns can co-occur with demonstratives, numerals/quantifiers, relative clauses, and other NPs but not the clitics.

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