The Central Pronouns of Minangkabau Language

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Abstract

Personal Pronoun is a group of pronouns used to refer back to the people or things we are talking about. Personal Pronouns can refer to the 1st person (the person speaking or writing), the 2nd person (the person being addressed) and the 3rd person (the people or things that are being talked about). [Cobuild, Colins. 1990]. This paper deals with the various forms of central Pronoun in Minangkabau language. According to Quirk. *et all* (1985) Central Pronouns is one of subclasses of pronouns that consist of (1) 1st personal pronouns (PP), e.g. I (*ambo, awak, aden, denai* and various forms such as *den, deyen, wak den, (u)rang*; 2nd personal pronouns you e.g. k*au, waang*, and 3rd personal pronous her/him (*Inyo/nyo*); (2) possessive pronouns my (*ambo, awak, aden, (u)rang*); and (3) reflexsive pronouns, myself (*ambo/awak surang*), himself (*waang/inyo surang*), herself (*kau/inyo surang*), The central pronouns have in common the distinction of gender like *waang* 'you' (male), *kau* 'you' (female) and number (singular and plural), for example we *(kito, kami, awak).* The choice of Pronouns are influenced by social factors such as to whom we speak (participants), where we speak (setting), topic, and function. Look at the examples below:

1. Nan   **lau (baliau**) kecekan   tadi   rasonyo dek <u>Ambo</u> alun tantu bana lai tu.
    That   Inyo   told   previously   feel   I   have no   correct
    'What have been told by her, I think it was not correct yet.'
    → The choice *lau/beliau* instead of her is to give a respec to a woman/man (old).
2. ***Kami***   *lah mangecek ka*   ***paja***   *tu*
     <u>We</u>   have told   to   <u>him/her</u>   that
    'We have told him/her'
    → Kami (inclusive), 2nd PP ***paja*** is used to junior not for senior. (impolite)
5.   Kan lah   ***awak/kito*** kecekan ka <u>inyo</u>
          Have   <u>we</u>   told   to   <u>him/her</u>
        → awak/kito (Plural Form/inclusive)
6. Maaf,   Pandapek ***angku***   paralu dipatimbangkan.
     Sorry,   Idea   your   need   be considered
      'Sorry,   <u>your</u> idea   needs to be cosidered'
     → pandapaek + <u>angku</u> (possessive Pronoun)

In order to create the good relationships with others, one should choose the various forms of pronouns based on the parameters-age,social status-social distance, setting, function-referential, affective)

References:

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