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. kau, waang, and 3rd personal pronouns her/him (Inyo/nyo); (2) possessive pronouns my (ambo, awak, aden, (u)rang); and (3) reflexive 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 Ambo alun tantu bana lai tu.
   ‘What have been told by her, I think it was not correct yet.’
   → The choice lau/beliau instead of her is to give a respect to a woman/man (old).

2. Kami lah mangecek ka paja tu
   We have told to him/her that
   → Kami (inclusive), 2nd PP paja is used to junior not for senior. (impolite)

3. Kan lah awak/kito kecekan ka inyo
   Have we told to him/her
   → awak/kito (Plural Form/inclusive)

   Sorry, Idea your need be considered
   ‘Sorry, your idea needs to be considered’
   → pandapaek + angku (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: