

Dependent and Independent Pronouns in SCLZ

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1. Introduction

SCLZ has rich verbal morphology. Prefixes on the verb denote tense/aspect and suffixes reflex the features of the subject (or also the object in some cases, see section 2). For example, the suffix *-beh* is used in (1a) when the verb has a third person singular subject. This suffix does not co-occur with a post-verbal DP subject in (1b) but can co-occur with pre-verbal DP subject as in (1c).

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|--------|---|-----------------------------|
| (1) a. | b-rèhd- béh béhku nrà | (no independent DP subject) |
| | PAST-see-3sg dog DEM | |
| | ‘S/he saw that dog.’ | |
| b. | b-rèhd(*- beh) béhdu béhku nrà | (*post-verbal DP subject) |
| | PAST-see-*3sg Pedro dog DEM | |
| | ‘Pedro saw that dog.’ | |
| c. | béhdù(-n) b-rèhd- béh béhku nrà | (pre-verbal DP subject) |
| | Pedro-FM PAST-see-3sg dog DEM | |
| | ‘Pedro saw that dog.’ | |

There are two possible analyses for the suffixes of this type: agreement or dependent pronouns (or as usually called, clitics). The fact that they cannot co-occur with a post-verbal DP subject suggests that they might occupy the same syntactic position as those post-verbal DP subjects, and hence they might be clitics. A potential problem arises in example (1c), in which this suffix can co-occur with a pre-verbal subject and appears more like a subject agreement than a subject clitic. However, at a closer look, the pre-verbal subject might actually be in the left periphery of the sentence because it can be attached with a focus marker (FM) *-n*. Even in cases where the FM *-n* does not occur, the pre-verbal subject might be a topic (with a zero-form topic marker). If the pre-verbal ‘subject’ is in the left periphery, the subject suffix on the verb might be the real subject and in that case, the clitic/dependent pronoun approach is better than the agreement analysis. The debate between these two analyses needs to be further investigated with more data. For convenience, this squib will refer to these suffixes as ‘dependent pronouns’ or ‘clitics’ as opposed to agreement. The dependent pronouns in SCLZ will be described and discussed in Section 2.

SCLZ can also use independent pronouns as the subject or object in the sentence. A pronoun is considered independent if it can occur preverbally or in isolation (i.e., as an answer to a question), such as *nada* ‘I’ in (2).

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|--------|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (2) | (nada (-n)) b-rèhd-a béhku nrà | | |
| | I-FM PAST-see-1sg dog DEM | | |
| | ‘I saw that dog.’ | | |
| (3) a. | Question: nuu-nx p-sara port | | b. Answer: nada (-n) |
| | who-FM PAST-open door | | I-FM |
| | ‘Who opened the door?’ | (from Christine’s handout) | ‘Me.’ |

The independent pronoun system will be described in Section 3. At the end, Section 4 summarizes this squib and discusses future study directions.

2. Dependent Pronouns in SCLZ

2.1. Subject and Object Clitics in SCLZ

As previously shown in (1), dependent pronouns in SCLZ are suffixes to the verb. Most dependent pronouns we have encountered in elicitation are subject clitics, denoting the person, number, and animacy features of the subject. For example:

- (4) a. u-bísy-a b. u-bísy-u c. u-bísy-beh
 PAST-fall-SUB:1sg PAST-fall-SUB:2sg PAST-fall-SUB:3sg.informal
 'I fell.'
- e. u-bísy-tu f. u-bísy-reh g. u-bísy-gak-beh
 PAST-fall-SUB:1pl PAST-fall-SUB:2pl PAST-fall-SUB:pl-SUB:3rd
 'We fell.'
- h. béhku nra u-bisy-ba
 dog that PAST-fall-SUB:animal
 'The dog fell.'
- i. gáx nra u-bisy-n
 box that PAST-fall-SUB:inanimate
 'The box fell.'

Table 1 demonstrates the subject clitics in SCLZ. The first and second person clitics differ with the other ones as they have unique plural forms, *-tu/-dyu* and *-reh*, while the plurality of other clitics is realized by adding the morpheme *-gak* to the singular form.

Table 1. The Subject Clitics in SCLZ

			Singular	Plural
Animate	Human	1 st person	-a	Exclusive: -tu Inclusive: -dyu
		2 nd person	-u	-reh
		3 rd person (informal)	-beh	-gak-beh
		3 rd person (formal)	-eh	-gak-eh
	Animal	-ba	-gak-ba	
Inanimate			-n	-gak-n

We have observed one object clitic in SCLZ so far, *-n* for the singular inanimate objects, which is the same form as the corresponding subject clitic *-n*, as shown in (5).

- (5) a. bà-b-dí-à-n
 PERF-PAST-thread-SUB:1sg-OBJ:inanimate
 'I threaded it.'
- b. bà-ú-tàú-gák-ì-n
 PERF-PAST-eat-SUB:PL-SUB:3rd-OBJ:inanimate
 'They ate it.'

Whether there are other object clitics in SCLZ (or whether this *-n* suffix is indeed an object clitic) remains a puzzle for further studies.

2.2. Dependent pronouns in Possession

Besides in the verbal domain, the paradigm displayed in Table 1 is also found in the possessive constructions. There are two ways to denote possession in SCLZ: One is to add a possessor suffix to the possessed NP (and these possessor suffixes are basically the same as the dependent pronouns in Table 1). The other is to add these clitics to the possessive marker *ty(eh)*, which is parallel to the English *of*-possession constructions. The first way is usually used in inalienable possession, with few exceptions.¹ For instance:

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|--------------|----------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| (6) a. zík-a | 'my shoulder' | b. zík-a-tu | 'our (exclusive) shoulders' |
| | | c. zík-a-dyu | 'our (inclusive) shoulders' |
| d. zík-u | 'your shoulder' | e. zík-a-reh | 'your (pl.) shoulders' |
| f. zík-a-béh | 'his shoulder (informal)' | g. zík-gak-béh | 'their shoulders (informal)' |
| h. zík-éh | 'his shoulder (formal)' | i. zík-gak-éh | 'their shoulders (formal)' |
| j. zík-bá | 'its (an animal) shoulder' | k. zík-gak-ba | 'their (animals) shoulders' |

Table 2 summarizes the possessor suffixes on the possessed NP. Note that the inanimate possessors cannot be realized as suffixes to the possessed NP. Instead, the inalienable possession of an inanimate possessor (such as 'the house's door') is always expressed with a *ty(eh)*-phrase, for example:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------|-------|
| (7) bórt | tyèh | jó' |
| door | POSS | house |
| 'the door of the house' | | |

These possessor suffixes can also be found on *ty(eh)* in the *ty(eh)*-possession constructions, as shown below:

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|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| (8) a. manxsánx ty-jà | 'my apple' | b. manxsánx tyèh-tu | 'our (excl.) apples' |
| | | c. manxsánx tyèh-dyu | 'our (incl.) apples' |
| d. manxsánx ty-jù | 'your apple' | e. manxsánx tyèh-reh | 'your (pl.) apples' |
| f. manxsánx tyèh-béh | 'his apple (infl.)' | g. manxsánx tyèh-gak-béh | 'their apples (infl.)' |
| h. manxsánx tyèh-géh | 'his apple (fl.)' | i. manxsánx tyèh-gak-éh | 'their apples (fl.)' |
| j. manxsánx tyèh-bá | 'its (animal) apple' | k. manxsánx tyèh-gak-bá | 'their (animals) apples' |

Table 3 demonstrates the possessor suffixes on *ty(eh)*. For phonological reasons, there is gliding in *ty-ja* and *ty-ju*, and stop ([g]) insertion in *tyeh-geh*. Otherwise, the possessor suffixes on *ty(eh)* are the same as those on the possessed NP's. Also, the inanimate possessor cannot be a suffix on *ty(eh)*; instead a full NP possessor is used:

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|----------------------|------|-----|------|
| (9) dápá | tyèh | lát | nra |
| lid | POSS | jar | that |
| 'the lid of the jar' | | | |

¹ Some alienable possession can also be realized this way. For example:

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|------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| (i) a. zrà | 'my shirt' | b. zrà-tù | 'our (excl.) shirts' |
| c. zrà-teh | 'your (pl.) shirts.' | d. zrà-gak-beh | 'their (infl.) shirts.' |

Table 2. The Possessor Suffixes on the Possessed NP

			Singular	Plural
Animate	Human	1 st person	-a	Exclusive: -tu Inclusive: -dyu
		2 nd person	-u	-reh
		3 rd person (informal)	-beh	-gak-beh
		3 rd person (formal)	-eh	-gak-eh
	Animal	-ba	-gak-ba ²	
Inanimate			--	

Table 3. The Possessor Suffixes on *ty(eh)* in the *ty(eh)*-Possession Constructions

			Singular	Plural
Animate	Human	1 st person	ty-jà	Exclusive: tyèh-tu Inclusive: tyèh-dyu
		2 nd person	ty-jù	tyèh-reh
		3 rd person (informal)	tyèh-béh	tyèh-gak-béh
		3 rd person (formal)	tyèh-géh	tyèh-gak-éh
	Animal	tyèh-bá	tyèh-gak-bá	
Inanimate			--	

3. Independent Pronouns in SCLZ

The independent pronoun system in SCLZ is demonstrated in Table 4. Comparing the independent and depend pronouns in SCLZ, we can find many connections.

Table 4. The independent pronouns in SCLZ

			Singular	Plural
Animate	Human	1 st person	nadá	Exclusive: néhtu Inclusive: dyô
		2 nd person	léh	léh-reh
		3 rd person (informal)	léh-beh/bínra	léh-gak-beh
		3 rd person (formal)	li	léh-gak-eh
	Animal	léh-ba	léh-gak-ba	
Inanimate			léh-n	léh-gak-n

Néhtu, the first person exclusive plural, might have a *-tu* suffix in it, which is its corresponding suffix form. However, the meaning of the remaining part *neh* is opaque. Therefore, I do not treat the pronoun *néhtu* as a bi-morphemic word. The inclusive first person plural, *dyô*, seems to be related to its corresponding dependent pronoun, *-dyu*, since they share the same onset *dy* and the vowels *o* and *u* are both back.

Most independent pronouns (shaded in Table 4) can certainly be further decomposed into two or more morphemes except the first person pronouns and the singular second and third

² In the example below, the suffix for a plural animal possessor was produced as *-gak-n*, which might be a production error or elicitation error. If more examples like this are observed, we might say that the plural independent pronoun of an animal can also be *-gak-n* (especially when the inanimate possessors cannot be realized as suffixes to the NP).

(i) a. jaro-ba 'its (animal) eyes' b. jaro-gak-n 'their (animal) eyes'

(formal) person pronouns. Those independent pronouns have the corresponding dependent pronouns as suffixes, e.g., the *-reh* suffix for the second person plural, *-beh/-eh* for the third person, *-ba* for animals, *-n* for inanimate subjects, and *-gak-* indicating plurality for the third person and non-human pronouns. Taking out these suffixes, the remnant morpheme in these pronouns is of the same shape as the second person singular pronoun *léh*, which suggests that the pronouns shaded in Table 4 either have the same source as the second person singular pronoun *léh* or directly derive from it. The *léh* in those decomposable pronouns is the pronominal stem.

Besides *léh-beh*, a third person singular pronoun can also be *bínra* in informal contexts, as shown in the table. Note that the orthographic spelling *bínra* is unfortunately ambiguous between [bí.řa] and [bín.ra]. For clarification, the phonetic shape of this informal third person singular pronoun is [biřa], which appears as a combination of two morphemes, *bi* ‘person’ and *nra* ‘that (demonstrative)’. If this is the case, SCLZ uses the expression ‘that person’ to refer to a singular third person in informal contexts.

4. Summary

This squib demonstrated the independent and dependent pronouns in SCLZ. The dependent pronouns used in the verbal domain and the possessive constructions are the same system below:

Table 5. The dependent pronoun system in SCLZ

			Singular	Plural
Animate	Human	1 st person	-a	Exclusive: -tu Inclusive: -dyu
		2 nd person	-u	-reh
		3 rd person (informal)	-beh	-gak-beh
		3 rd person (formal)	-eh	-gak-eh
	Animal	-ba	-gak-ba	
Inanimate (only realized as suffixes in the verbal domain)			-n	-gak-n

Moreover, this paradigm is partially used in the composition of independent pronouns. The independent form of the second person singular is *léh*, which also functions as the pronominal stem in many SCLZ pronouns. More specifically, the non-first person plurals and the singular forms of the informal third person and non-human pronouns can all be derived by combining the pronominal stem *leh* with the suffixes (dependent pronouns) of the corresponding animacy level, person and number. For example, the independent pronoun for the informal third person plural is *léh- + -gak-beh*.

Besides the debate on the syntactic nature of the so-called ‘dependent pronouns’ in the introduction section, there are many other remaining puzzles regarding the independent and dependent pronouns in SCLZ, for example: Is the *-n* suffix in (5) really an object clitic? If so, are there any other object clitics in SCLZ? If not, what is it? Why are the dependent pronouns used in possessive constructions? What are their syntactic positions? All of these questions need to be answered in future studies.