

THE PRONOMINAL AFFIX SYSTEM IN KHALING

Sueyoshi Toba

Khaling is one of the languages of the East Himalayish section of the Tibeto-Burman language family. It is spoken by approximately 12,000 people in the Solu Khumbu and Khotang districts of Sagarmatha Zone in the kingdom of Nepal.

1. Personal pronouns

Khaling personal pronouns are presented in Table 1. Three persons are distinguished in form. As to number, three distinctions are made, namely, singular, dual, and plural. Dual is marked by *su*, plural by *häm*. The first person pronouns further distinguish inclusive and exclusive forms for dual and plural. Gender is not reflected in the third person pronouns.

Table 1: Personal pronouns

	singular	dual	plural
1st person	<i>ung</i>		
inclusive		<i>ici</i>	<i>ik</i>
exclusive		<i>ocu</i>	<i>ok</i>
2nd person	<i>in</i>	<i>eci</i>	<i>en</i>
3rd person	<i>am</i>	<i>amsu</i>	<i>amhäm</i>

2. Pronominal affixation in verbs

Khaling is a pronominalized language. This means that the personal verb endings reflect closely the forms of the personal pronouns. This applies to subject (agent) markers as well as to object (goal) markers. Pronominalized verb forms parallel the case system in Khaling.

David Bradley, Eugénie J.A. Henderson and Martine Mazaudon eds,
Prosodic analysis and Asian linguistics: to honour R.K. Sprigg, 201-204.
Pacific Linguistics, C-104, 1988

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201

Khaling verbs have separate sets of endings for transitive (agentive) and intransitive (non-agentive) forms. The latter include also body functions. The whole system reflects the ergative structure of Khaling.

Table 2: Synopsis of pronouns and verb endings

	ergative pronoun	non-agentive verb ending	agentive verb ending
1st person singular	<i>ung-aa</i>	<i>-ngaa</i>	<i>-u</i>
incl.	<i>ici-ä</i>	<i>-yi</i>	<i>-si</i>
dual			
excl.	<i>ocu-ä</i>	<i>-yu</i>	<i>-su</i>
incl.	<i>ik-ä</i>	<i>-ki</i>	<i>-ki</i>
plural			
excl.	<i>ok-aa</i>	<i>-kaa</i>	<i>-kaa</i>
2nd person singular	<i>in-ä</i>	∅	<i>-ü</i>
dual	<i>eci-ä</i>	<i>-yi</i>	<i>-si</i>
plural	<i>en-ä</i>	<i>-ni</i>	<i>-ni</i>
3rd person singular	<i>am-ä</i>	∅	<i>-ü</i>
dual	<i>amsu-ä</i>	<i>-su</i>	<i>-su</i>
plural	<i>amhäm-ä</i>	<i>-nu</i>	<i>-nu</i>

3. Ranking order rules

The person hierarchy is dominant. It is strongly speaker oriented, which means that first person ranks highest, second person ranks higher than third, and third ranks lowest. Beside the person hierarchy, a number hierarchy functions in such a way that the higher number receives priority over the lower.

Goal is marked with the prefix *i-* when a first or second person is acted upon by a lower-ranking person. In other forms, goal is marked by morphologically changing suffixes.

The strong precedence of first person appears in yet another way, namely, when second person is agent, a first person goal is marked by both *i-* and the suffix. When first person is agent and third person is goal, goal is only marked when it is higher than agent in number, i.e. for first person singular as agent with third person dual or plural goal. In this case, the agent is marked by a separate suffix as well.

Examples:

First person singular Goal, second or third person Agent:

in-ä ung i-bi-ngaa
 you-Ag I G-give-1SG
 You give me.

am-ä ung i-bi-ngaa
 he-Ag I G-give-1SG
 He gives me.

First person singular Goal, second or third person plural Agent:

en-ä/am-häm-ä ung i-bi-ngaa-nu
 2PL-Ag/3-PL-Ag I G-give-1SG-2/3PL
 You/They give me.

Third person singular Goal, first person singular Agent: A marked

ung-aa am bi-ngaa
 I-Ag he give-1SG
 I give him.

Third person singular Goal, first person plural Agent: A marked

ok-aa am bi-kaa
 1PLexcl-Ag he give-1PLexcl
 We give him.

Third person plural Goal, first person singular Agent: A and G marked

ung-aa am-häm bi-ngaa-nu
 I-Ag 3-PL give-1SG-3PL
 I give them.

Third person plural Goal, first person plural Agent: A marked

ok-aa am-häm bi-kaa
 1PL-Ag 3-PL give-1PL
 We give them.

Table 3: Synopsis of verb affixes referring to Goal (G) and Agent (A)

	Goal: 1st person			2nd person		3rd person			
	sing.	dual	plur.	sing.	dual	plur.	sing.	dual	plur.
Agent									
1 sing.				?	-G	-G	-A	-AG	-AG
1 dual				-A	-G	-G	-A	-A	-A
1 plur.				-A	-G	-G	-A	-A	-A
2 sing.	i-G	i-G	i-G				∅	-G	-G
2 dual	i-GA	i-G	i-G				-A	-A	-A
2 plur.	i-GA	i-G	i-G				-A	-A	-A
3 sing.	i-G	i-G	i-G	i-∅	i-G	i-G	∅	-G	-G
3 dual	i-GA	i-G	i-G	i-∅	i-G	i-G	-A	-A/G	-G
3 plur.	i-GA	i-G	i-G	i-∅	i-G	i-G	-A	-A	-A/G