Non-Personal Pronouns

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Abstract

The present study focuses on the non-personal pronouns. It is a brief survey of the pronouns which do not come in the category of the personal pronouns. The focus of this study is on the languages like- Hindi, Punjabi, English as they function in the society. The information is collected from the native speakers of the given languages. While investigating the data, certain statements are formed on the basis of preliminary estimates which profitably helped me understanding different elements and making certain inferences.

Keywords: Pronouns, Non-Personal Pronouns, English pronouns, Hindi, Punjabi.

1.0   INTRODUCTION

Pronominals or Pronouns differ in a number of respects from nouns and adjectives. Pronouns are the words which deal with person or number or gender. This work examines the different ways of analyzing the morphological and syntactic variations in non-personal pronominal system of Hindi, English and Punjabi languages. The methodology which I have adopted to carry out this study was based on the fieldwork which I did in my M.A. Part II (in 1999)[1] for preparing my term paper.

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[1] This research paper is based on my M.A. Term paper(2000) 'Pronominals in Ladakhi. but it has been considerably modified and updated with the additional information [1].

The methodology adapted for this work can be further classified into the following facts:

    1. Data collection

    2. Data analysis

2.0   POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS

The Possessive pronouns could group with 'pronoun'. The possessives belong to two groups. Two groups are:

    (1)   **The Attributives**, like-my, your, his etc.

    (2)   **The Predicatives**, like-mine/yours etc.

Unlike many other languages, English uses possessives with reference to parts of the body and personal belongings, as well as in several other expressions.

e.g.

En.

(1)   My book.

En.

(2)   The book is mine.

En.

(3)   Don't lose your balance.

Possessive pronouns precede nouns in Hindi and Punjabi (same as in English). The syntactic formations are almost similar to English except Attributive and Predicative distinction because the lexical elements are same for these two groups.

e.g.

Pn.

(4)   ε   meri: kita:b   ε

    'this'   'my'   'book'   'is'

        [POSSESSIVE]

            or

        [POSS]

       "This is my book"

Pn.

(5)   ɛ   kita:b   meri: ɛ

    'this'   'book'   'my'   'is'

                [POSS]

      "This book is mine"

Pn.

(6)   apni: kita:b   lɛ   ja:o (lo)

    'your' 'book' 'take' 'go (IMP)'

    [POSS]

       "Take your book"

apni: is used in place of **tùa:Di:** in the imperative constructions (as in example 24).

Table 1: Attributive Possessive Pronouns in English

NUMBER / *PERSON*	*SINGULAR*	*PLURAL*
I	My	Our
II	Your	Your
III	His/Her/Its	Their

Table 2: Predicative Possessive Pronouns in English

NUMBER / *PERSON*	*SINGULAR*	*PLURAL*
I	Mine	Ours
II	Yours	Yours
III	His/Her	Theirs

2.1 Demonstrative Pronouns

A Demonstrative pronoun is one which points out the object to which it refers. Demonstrative pronoun emphasizes a person, place, or idea. The Demonstrative pronouns are – this, that, these, those.

For examples:

En.

(7)   I   like   this

[DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUN]

or

[DEMO]

En.

(8)   This is an apple.

[DEMO]

En.

(9)   Those are mangoes.

[DEMO]

They may be used as nouns, but are usually more effective when we use them as Demonstrative adjectives, as:

En.

(10)   This   chair   is   wet.

[DEMONSTRATIVE ADJECTIVE]

            or

        [DEMO ADJ]

En.

(11)   Those   towels are dry.

        [DEMO ADJ]

In case of Punjabi and Hindi, **ɛ** and **o** are used as the Demonstrative pronouns and Demonstrative adjectives.

e.g.

Pn.

(12)   o   šer   ɛ

        'that'   'lion'   'is'

        [DEMO]

            "That is a lion"

Pn.

(13)   ɛ   manukk^h baRa: lamba: ɛ

        'this'   'man' 'very' 'tall' 'is'

        [DEMO ADJ]

            "This man is very tall."

2.2   Interrogative Pronouns

Interrogative pronouns are those pronouns which are almost identical with the Relative pronouns and which ask questions (introduce questions).

For examples:

En.

(14)   Who   broke   this   desk?

[INTERROGATIVE PRONOUN]

                or

            [INTER]

En.

(15)   What do you want?

        [INTER]

All **who–** question words come under the category- Interrogative pronouns.

Interrogative pronouns in English are:

1. **Who**

2. **Which**

3. **What**

4. **Why**

5. **Whom**

6. **Whose**

7. **How**

8. **Where**

9. **When, etc.**

Hindi or Punjabi has **K-** form of Interrogative pronouns like; kaon, kaesā, kahã̃ etc.

e.g.

Hn.

(16)   vahã̃ː   kaon   kʰaRaː   hɛ

        'there' 'who'   'stand'   'is'

                [INTER]

            "Who is standing there"

Hn.

(17)   vah   vahã: kaese   a:ya:

       'he'   'here'   'how'   'came'

                  [INTER]

           "How did he come here"

2.3   Relative Pronouns

A Relative pronoun is one that not only refers to a noun or pronoun going before but also joins two sentences. In other words it refers to an immediately preceding noun, noun phrase, clause, or sentence and which serves to introduce attributive subordinate (relative) clauses. Hence it does the work of both a pronoun and a conjunction. The noun or pronoun to which the Relative pronoun refers is called its antecedent.

e.g.

En.

(18)   We   love   those   persons   who   are   kind   to   us.

                      [RELATIVE PRONOUN]

                         or

                      [REL]

In example (18), **persons** is the antecedent of the Relative pronoun 'who'.

In English, Relative pronouns include who, which when, whom, what, that etc.

In contrast to Hindi and Punjabi, the Relative pronouns do not start with **K-** forms as in the case of Interrogative pronouns of Hindi and Punjabi but in English Relative pronouns and Interrogative pronouns (excep. **that**) belong to the same **Wh-** family.

e.g.

Hn.

(19)   ham   un   logõ   ko   pya:r   karte   hɛ̃   jo   hama:re   prati

      'we' 'those' 'people' 'to' 'love' 'do' 'are' 'who'   'us'   'towards/for'

      daya: drshTi: rakʰte   hɛ̃

      'kind' 'vision 'put'   'are'

                 [REL]

        "We love those people who are kind"

2.4   Indefinite Pronouns

Indefinite pronouns refer to those entities which are not capable of specific identification i.e. they serve to represent a person or thing without specifying the gender (one, every one, some-one) and/or number (everyone, some, no-one), their reference, however, may be definite (eg. every one, no one). 'Every one' and 'some one' function only as noun poweres, while 'something', 'all' and 'some' can occur alone or combined with nouns.

e.g.

En.

(20)   All   were   present.

[INDEFINITE PRONOUN]

          or

          [IND]

En.

(21)   All   gold glitters.

          [IND]

There is a fluid border between Indefinite pronouns and Indefinite numerals (all, several, few). Indefinite pronouns in English are: such, any, some, each, all, either, none, one, somebody, something etc.

Indefinite pronouns in Hindi and Punjabi do not take any negative element or attachment unlike En. nothing, none etc. Although words like; **kuch, koi** etc. do reflect the negative nature of the sentence.

e.g.

Hn.

(22)   un   mẽse   koi: nahi: a:ya:

          'them' 'in' 'from' 'someone/something' 'not' 'came'

                                   [IND]

          "None of them has come"

2.5   Reflexive Pronouns

Reflexive pronouns are formed by adding – **self** (or **selves**) to Personal pronouns. They include 'myself', 'himself', 'themselves', 'itself' and so on. A Reflexive pronoun is co-referential with the subject of the clause it is used in, for example:

En.

(23)   He   defended   himself.

[REFLEXIVE PRONOUN]

or

[REF]

2.5.1   *Use of a Reflexive Pronoun*

Reflexive pronouns are used in three main situations:

1.   When the subject and object are same (in identity)-

e.g.:

En.

(24)   I hurt myself.

[REF]

En.

(25)   The call themselves 'Indians'.

[REF]

En.

(26)   He shot himself.

[REF]

2.   As an object of a preposition, referring to the subject-

e.g.

En.

(27)   I bought a present for myself.

[REF]

En.

(28)   You did it by yourself (alone).

[REF]

En.

(29)   He is talking to himself.

[REF]

3. **When you want to emphasize the subject i.e. in emphatic sense-**

e.g.

En.

(30)   I'll do it myself. (No-one else will help me.)

                [REF]

En.

(31)   They ate all the food themselves. (No-one else had any.)

                    [REF]

[One usage you may encounter that can look like an error but isn't in imperative sentences. e.g. ---**1.** Do it yourself, **2.** Don't stab yourself by accident, **3.** Get another drink for yourself if you're thirsty. These sentences are correct, even though they don't appear to have antecedent nouns or pronouns. How come? Imperative sentences (also called **commands**) don't have visible subjects but the subjects are understood by the reader (or listener). So the understood meanings of the above examples are: - **1.** You do it yourself. **2.** Don't you stab yourself by accident. (Or "You, don't stab yourself by accident.") **3.** You get another drink for yourself if you're thirsty.

(http://teenwriting.about.com/cs/grammar/a/ReflexPro.htm) [3]]

Reflexive pronouns are often handled as special cases in Personal pronouns, since in many languages they have the same grammatical forms. Many languages can use Reflexive pronouns to describe reciprocal relationships and actions, where English uses Reciprocal pronouns such as **each other** or **one another**.

In Punjabi and Hindi words; **apna:** and **apne a:p** are used as the Reflexive pronouns.

e.g.

Hn.

(32)   vah   apne liye ka:r   kʰari:d kar   la:ya: hɛ

        'he' 'himself' 'for' 'car' 'having bought' 'brought' 'is'

            [REF]

                "He bought a car for himself"

Hn.

(33)   us   ne   apne a:p ko   ma:r   Da:la:

        'he (ERG)'   'himself' 'to' 'kill' 'put (Past)'

                [REF]

                "He killed himself"

Table 3: Reflexive Pronouns in English

NUMBER / *PERSON*	*SINGULAR*	*PLURAL*
I	Myself	Ourselves
II	Yourself	Yourselves
III	Himself/Herself/Itself	Themselves

3.0   CONCLUSIONS

The analytical portion of this work is focused on different kinds of non-personal pronouns and all have been discussed by giving suitable examples from the collected data. It has been proved by analyzing the data that pronouns are sensitive to gender, however, there is no gender marking in the case of English verb phrases. It has been also noticed that reflexive 'apne' and 'apne a:p' are used as the reflexive pronoun in Hindi and Punjabi which is not the case with English. In the present work an effort has been made by me to fill up this lacuna in the existing knowledge by giving explanations of every change in the pronominal system within the given languages.

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[3]   http://teenwriting.about.com/cs/grammar/a/ReflexPro.htm