

**From pronouns to agreement:  
diachrony and typology of pronominal clitics**

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Weak Words Workshop, Freudental

15 April 2005

(1) **Northern Talyshi (Northwest Iranian, Indo-European; Azerbaijan)**

(Schulze 2000: 35 ex. 25a, 37 ex. 28, 55 ex. 80, 53, ex. 72f)

**Floating clitics:**

Ergative enclitic person marker can occur on the verb, see (a), or on a preverbal nominal part of complex predicates, see (b), but the most commonly on the preverbal element, marking focus on this element, see the question-answer pair (c, d). Incidentally, the clitic is also found on the first element of the clause, see (e).

- a. *av-on mʌ-ni-š voğānd-ʌšon-e*  
3SG.PRON-PL 1SG.PRON-ACC send-3PL-AUX  
'They sent me.'
- b. *tʌ mʌ-ni konžo bagam-ʌ kard-e*  
2SG.PRON 1SG.PRON-ACC where love-2SG make-AUX  
'Where did you fall in love with me?'
- c. *de čič-ʌ epišt-a?*  
2SG.PRON what-2SG tie up-PERF  
'What did you tie up?'
- d. *čay lʌng-on-ʌm epʌšt-a*  
3SG.POSS leg-PL-1SG tie up-PERF  
'I tied up his leg.'
- e. *albahal-ʌm tifang ba po pekʌrn-i*  
this moment-1SG rifle to down take up-AOR  
'In this moment I took up the rifle from below.'

(2) **Konjo (South Sulawesi, Austronesian; Indonesia)**

(Friberg 1996: 141-2 exs. 10-12, 151 ex. 47)

**Non-obligatory affixes:**

Obligatory cross-reference between verb and following noun phrases, see (a). In contrast, topicalised noun phrases in preverbal position do not get cross-reference, see (b, c). A preposed element with cross-reference on the verb is possible, though only if it is 'outside' the regular sentence structure, see (d).

- a. *na-kanre-i Amir loka-ku*  
3ERG-eat-3ABS NAME banana-1POSS  
'Amir ate my banana.'

- b. *Amir ang-kanre-i loka-ku*  
 NAME VOICE-eat-3ABS banana-1POSS  
 ‘(It is) Amir (who) ate my banana.’
- c. *lokaku na-kanre (Amir)*  
 banana-1POSS 3ERG-eat NAME  
 ‘(It was) my banana he (Amir) ate.’
- d. *manna Baco’ , suang-a na-tulung*  
 even NAME BREAK often-1ABS 3ERG-help  
 ‘Even Baco’, he often helps me.’

(3) **Lotuho (Southern Nilotic, Nilo-Saharan; Sudan)**  
 (Tucker & Bryan 1966, 469-70; Muratori 1938: 72, 174)

Subject suffixes and independent pronouns identical:

	Pronoun	Suffix
1 SG	(n)áni	...-ne, ni
2 SG	íyé	...-ie
3 SG	ínyí	...-inyi
1 PL	xóxoɪ	...-xoxoɪ
2 PL	ítái	...-tai
3 PL	ìsì	...-isi

If the independent pronoun is used for emphasis, this independent pronoun *precedes* the verb, and the subject suffix is *not* used. This complementary distribution of independent pronoun and suffixal pronoun indicates recent cliticization of the independent pronoun. In the other Nilotic languages, that are regularly VSO (i.e. all except Bari), the independent pronoun *follows* the verb for emphasis. Maybe this emphatic construction with the pronoun following has become unmarked in Lotuho, leading to an eventual cliticization. (Note: The occurrence of a pronominal suffix leads to the unusual fact that the same referent is referred to twice on the same predicate, as there is also a subject prefix.)

- a. *nani á-bwaxa*  
 1SG.PRON 1SG-dig  
 ‘I (emphatic) am digging’
- b. *á-bwaxa-ni*  
 1SG-dig-1SG  
 ‘I (normal) am digging.’

(4) **Southwestern Iranian, Indo-European**  
 (M. Dabir Moghaddam 2004, p.c.)

Naini: preverbal enclitics

- me kutab-om iriy*  
 1SG.PRON book-1SG buy.PAST  
 ‘I bought the book.’

Lari: verbal prefixes

*mæ*      *ketab*    **om-se**  
 1SG.PRON book    1SG-buy.PAST  
 ‘I bought the book.’

(5) **Padoe (Bungku-Tolaki, Austronesian; Indonesia)**

(Vuorinen 1995: 107 ex. 54, 109 ex. 66)

The ergative person markers are found as prefixes, but as enclitics after initial *ako* (‘because’), *ba* (‘if’, ‘when’), *ka* (‘so that’), *la* (negation), *aambo* (‘not yet’)

- a. *umari sie ku-nahu-o*  
 finish that 1SG-cook-3SG  
 ‘After that I cooked it.’
- b. *la-ku to’ori-o name-no*  
 NEG-1SG know-3SG name-3SG.POSS  
 ‘I do not know his name.’

(6) **Cypriot Greek (Greek, Indo-European; Cyprus)**

(Terzi 1999)

Unmarked position of reduced pronoun is postverbal (a, b), preverbal/second position:

- after factive complementizer *pu*
- after subjunctive marker *na*
- after sentential negation *en*, see (c)
- after wh-pronouns *pjos* ‘who’, *ti* ‘what’, see (d)
- after focused initial constituents, see (e)

- a. *poli anthropi panda kamnoun to sosta*  
 many people always do.3PL it correctly  
 ‘Many people always do it correctly.’
- b. *touto to vivlio dose tou!*  
 DEM ART book give.IMP 3SG.DAT  
 ‘Give this book to him!’
- c. *en ton iksero*  
 NEG 3SG.ACC know.1SG  
 ‘I don’t know him.’
- d. *pjos ton idhe?*  
 who 3SG.ACC saw  
 ‘Who saw him?’
- e. *tuto to vivlio su edhoken i Maria*  
 DEM ART book 2SG.ACC gave.3SG ART name  
 ‘THIS BOOK Mary gave to you.’

(7) **European Portuguese (Romance, Indo-European; Portugal)**

(Madeira 1992; Barbosa 1996; Rouveret 1999)

Unmarked position of clitics is postverbal, though preverbal:

- in embedded clauses: after complementizer *que* “that”
- after indefinite subjects: *ninguém* “no one”, *alguém* “someone, see (c)”
- after quantified subject: *todos [X]* “all X”, *poucos [X]* “few X”, see (b)
- after NPs with focus particle: *só [X]* “only X”, *até [X]*, “even X”, see (d)
- after preverbal adverbials: *já* “already”, *nunca* “never”
- with sentential negation *não*
- after focussed constituents, see (d)
- after initial WH-pronouns: *quem* “who”, *onde* “where”, *que* “which”, *o que* “what”

- a. *os rapazes ajudaram-me*  
 ART boys help.3PL.PAST-1SG.ACC  
 ‘The boys helped me.’
- b. *todos os rapazes me ajudaram*  
 all ART boys 1SG.ACC help.3PL.PAST  
 ‘All the boys helped me.’
- c. *alguém me ajudou*  
 someone 1SG.ACC help.3SG.PAST  
 ‘Someone helped me.’
- d. *até o Pedro me deu uma prenda*  
 even DEM name 1SG.DAT give.3SG.PAST ART present  
 ‘EVEN PEDRO gave me a present.’

(8) **Ngumpin languages (North-central Australia)**

- A: Original pattern was second position cliticization
- B: Innovation 1: pronominal clitics are added to a base (‘auxiliary’) forming an independent word. This word occurs in various positions, though it appears to favour first or second position.
- C: Innovation 2: pronominal clitics are added to verb, independent of the position of the verb in the sentence

Innovation 1:	clitics on auxiliary	clitics on first constituent
Bilinara	never	always on first constituent
Ngarinyman	never	negation, focus, ...
Djaru, Gurindji	regularly	negation, WH-pronouns, focus, ...
Mudbara	(almost) always	(very rarely first constituent)

(9) **Djaru (Ngumpin, Pama-Nyungan; Australia)**

(Tsunoda 1981: 125, 256)

Conservative cliticization on first constituent (not on auxiliary):

- after conjunction *æaŋga*
- after modal adverb *ɲara* ‘possible’
- after negation *wagura*, see example below
- after WH-pronouns
- after focused NP (only rarely found)

*wagura-lija*    *ɲara-man-inura*    *ɲura*    *gaarara*    *ganimbara*  
 NEG-1DU.EXCL    know-PAST-NARR    camp    east    down creek  
 ‘We did not know the camp east down the creek.’

(10) **Gurindji (Ngumpin, Pama-Nyungan; Australia)**

(McConvell 1996: 308-309, 318-319)

Conservative cliticization on first constituent (not on auxiliary):

- after subordinator/complementizer *nyamu*
- after sentential negation *kula*
- after initial wh-pronouns
- after contrastive focus on first constituent, see (b)
- in swearing (not-literal conservative utterances)

a.    *yirrap-ma*    *ngu=rna-yina*    *parik*    *wanyja*    *VRD-la*  
 one mob-TOP    AUX=1SG.S-3PL.O    leave    leave.PAST    VRD-LOC  
 ‘One lot I left at VRD.’

b.    *yirrap-ma=rna-yina*    *wart*    *ka-nya*    *murla-ngkurra*  
 one mob-TOP=1SG.S-3PL.O    back    take-PAST    here-all  
 ‘THE OTHER LOT I brought back here.’

(11) **Ngarinyman (Ngumpin, Pama-Nyungan; Australia)**

(My analysis of fieldnotes kindly made available to me by E. Schulze-Berndt)

Conservative cliticization on first constituent in the following. Otherwise enclitic to the verb:

- after negations
- after initial full pronouns
- after initial demonstratives
- after focussed NP (only rarely found)
- after modal adverb *ngaja* ‘maybe’
- after *dumaji* ‘too much’ (a Kriol word)

Innovation 2:

verb attracts clitics:

Mudbara	optional in imperative/hortative
Bilinara, Djaru, Gurindji	always in imperative/hortative
Malngin (Western Gurindji)	in imperative/hortative, future and past irrealis
Ngarinyman	always, except in negation, focus etc.

- (12) **Mudbarra (Ngumpin, Pama-Nyungan; Australia)**  
(McConvell 1980: 90)

*yali-ma pupa-ma wara æaŋ-ka-li*  
that-TOP fire-TOP care see-IMP-2P  
'You lot watch out for that fire.'

- (13) **MALNGIN (Ngumpin, Pama-Nyungan; Australia)**  
(McConvell 1980: 92)

*kayira yan-ku-lu-(ŋa)*  
north go-GUT-3P-(DOUBT)  
'They will (possibly) go north.'

- (14) **UDI (Lezgian; Caucasus)**

Udi (Harris 2000: Ch. 3, 6) is exceptional among other Lezgian languages in having clitics (cf. Haspelmath 1993). Udi adds clitics either on (in!) the verb or on the preverbal constituent.

The default position is on the verb. But enclitics are attached on preverbal constituent after:

- negative particle (in some conditions postverbal), see (a)
- questioned constituent
- other focused constituents, see (b), (c), (d)

a. *nana-n te-ne buyab-e p'a ačik'alšey*  
mother-ERG NEG-3S find-AOR two toy.ABS  
'mother did not find two toys'

b. *äyel-en p'a eš a-ne-q'-e*  
chiled-ERG two apple take-3S-take-AOR  
'the child took two apples'

c. *äyel-en p'a eš-ne aq'-e*  
chiled-ERG two apple-3S take-AOR  
'the child took TWO APPLES'

d. *äyel-en-ne aq'-e p'a eš-n-ux*  
chiled-ERG-3S take-AOR two apple-OBL-DAT  
'THE CHILD took two apples'

However, verbs in the imperative, future II and subjunctive attract the clitics also in those circumstances (Harris 2000: 118)

- e. *baba-n eš nut eč-al-le k'wa*  
 father-ERG apple.ABS NEG bring-FUT-3S house.DAT  
 'father will not bring apples to the house'

(15) **SULEIMANIYE KURDISH (Iranian, Iraq)**

(Edmonds 1955: 497-499; McCarus 1958: 104; MacKenzie 1961: 78; Bynon 1979: 216 ff.)

The clitic is attached to the verb, but in transitive clauses the enclitic is found attached to the first word, though not all words can function as hosts. Possible hosts:

- negation, see (a)
- WH-pronouns, see (b)
- adjectives, pronouns, adverbs, preverbs can function as hosts (focus?), but not subject, prepositional phrases, interjections, conjunctions, see (c)

- a. *war-tan nagirt (leman)*  
 NEG-2S obtain (from us)  
 'you did not obtain is (from us)'

- b. *cón-tan zaní*  
 how-2S know  
 'how did you know?'

- c. *márek-im kũšt*  
 snake-1S kill  
 'I killed a snake'

(16) **SANDAWE (Khoisan ??, Tanzania)**

In the realis (the situation in the irrealis is much more complicated), the pronominal clitic is attracted to the focus, see (a) (Elderkin 1986; 1991; Eaton 2001; 2002). The WH-pronoun also appears to attract the clitic, see (b). The situation with negation and imperatives is unclear in the sources.

- a. *nam hótshò-sà à:mè*  
 NAME what-3FS break  
 'what did Nam break?'

- b. *nam sómbá úte-sà thimè*  
 NAME fish yesterday-3FS cook  
 'Nam cooked the fish YESTERDAY'

## (17) GUTOB (Munda, India)

(Zide 1997: 317-323)

Subject marking enclitic to the verb, see (a), except enclitic to these preverbal constituents:

- some WH-pronouns *ũdoj* “when”, *monoʔ* “where”, *may* “why”, see (B)
- some adverbs *eke* “here”, *aʔ* “now”, *begi* “quickly”, *dapre* “afterwards”

- a. *jom-lai*            *bu-oʔ-NIŋ*  
 NAME-ACC    beat-PAST-1S  
 ‘I will beat up Jom’
- b. *NIŋ*            *ũdoj-NIŋ*    *sorpei-oʔ-beʔ-tu*  
 1S.PRON    when-1S    hand over-PAST-AUX-FUT  
 ‘When will/do I hand over (the girl to the tiger)?’

## (18) SANTALI (Munda, India)

(Neukom 2001: 113-114, 146-150)

Unmarked position of person marking is on the preverbal constituent (including negation, see (a)), except when there is no preverbal constituent, see (b), and in imperatives, see (c).

- a. *ba-ko*    *badae-a*  
 NEG-3P    know-IND  
 ‘they don’t know’
- b. *met-a-pe-kan-a-æ*  
 say-APPL-2SO-IPFV-IND-1S  
 ‘I tell you’
- c. *mase*    *mit’*    *gh,ri*    *dyhy-æũg-eæ-pe!*  
 PTCL    one    moment    put down-little-1SO-2P  
 ‘put me down for a moment’

## (19) SONORA YAQUI (Uto-Aztecan, Mexico)

Second position clitics, except in imperatives, in which the verb attracts the clitics (Dedrick &amp; Casad 1999: 242, 60, 92, 98).

- a. *tú’uli-s-e’e*            *’áa*            *hi’ohte*  
 pretty-ADV-2S    able            write  
 ‘you can write beautifully’
- b. *kát-te*            *bit-wa-k*  
 NEG-1P            see-PASS-PRF  
 ‘we were not seen’

- c. *hai-sa-te*      *án-nee*  
 how-Q-1P    do-FUT  
 ‘what shall we do?’
- d. *bín-a’abo*              *katé-‘em*  
 this direction-here come-2P  
 ‘You (plural), come here!’

## (20) PÁEZ (Isolate, Colombia)

(Gerdel 1976, Jung 1989, Rojas Curieux 1991, Nieves Oviedo 1991)

‘An important feature of certain discourse and paragraph types is the front-shifting of the subject referent clitic whose function within the clause is to indicate person, number, and gender. In that the usual order of clause constituents is SOP, the predicate normally occurs finally with the subject referent in final position following that verb. However, on the event-line in Narrative and in Expository (Activity subtype) Discourse the subject referent may shift forward giving *prominence* to whatever clause level tagmeme it is attached to (it is phonologically bound). ... The phenomenon of front-shifting does not occur when the future tense or imperative is used. It may occur in direct quotes, but does not occur in background or secondary information.’ (Gerdel, 1976: 269-270)

Some examples from Nieves Oviedo (1991: 129):

- a. *mis’-a*                      *carlos-a’s*                      *wa’k’-ku-k*  
 cat-3?                      NAME-OBJ                      bite-REC.PAST-3SG  
 ‘El gato mordió a Carlos.’
- b. *mis’-ku-k*                      *carlos-a’s*                      *wa’k’*  
 cat-REC.PAST.3SG NAME-OBJ                      bite  
 ‘Fue el gato el que mordió a Carlos.’
- c. *mis’-a’*                      *carlos-a’s-ku-k*                      *wa’k’*  
 cat-3?                      NAME-OBJ-REC.PST-3SG bite  
 ‘Fue a Carlos a quien mordió el gato.’
- d. *yat-te-ku-k*                      *mis’-a’*                      *Carlos-a’s*                      *wa’k’*  
 casa-INES-REC.PAST-3SG cat-3?                      NAME-OBJ                      bite  
 ‘Fue en la casa donde el gato mordió a Carlos.’

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