

Ordering of Pronouns in Formosan Languages

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In Huang, et al. (1999), pronominal systems of some Formosan languages are examined. Several issues relating to the personal pronouns are investigated, including:

- (1) How many sets of personal pronouns each language has;
- (2) How each set of personal pronouns is classified;
- (3) Whether the personal pronouns in a language are free or bound forms;
- (4) Among bound personal pronouns, whether they are affixes or clitics, and whether they are prefixes/suffixes, or enclitics/proclitics;
- (5) If two or more personal pronouns co-occur, in what order they appear.

However, due to the limited data being collected, some of the above-mentioned issues are not thoroughly and satisfactorily examined, for example, the ordering of the pronouns.

In the present paper, we will reexamine the relative ordering of the personal pronouns of the Austronesian languages spoken in Taiwan, including Amis, Atayal, Saisiyat, Thao, Pazeh, Seediq, Bunun, Tsou, Kanakanavu, Saaroa, Rukai, Paiwan, Puyuma, Kavalan, and Yami (distributed from North of Taiwan to South, from West to East). We will examine pronominal ordering from different perspectives, phonological (monosyllabic vs. disyllabic, cf. Liao 2005), morphological (prefix vs. suffix), syntactic (subject vs. non-subject, person, number), and semantic (semantic role) in order to determine which of these factors are the most predominant. It is hoped that through such a thorough investigation, the typology of the personal pronouns, especially that of the bound pronouns, of the Formosan languages will be successfully illustrated. Furthermore, a comparison between the ordering of Formosan

personal pronouns and that of extra-Formosans (e.g. Yami and Tagalog) will be presented.

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