

MINISTRY OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH

# **Pronouns in Nomaande**

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## PRONOUNS (section 4.2 of the grammar sketch)

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### 0. Introduction

Personal pronouns in Nɔmaándé distinguish between first, second and third persons; and between singular and plural (more than one). In the third person there are also distinct pronouns for each noun class. Nɔmaándé does not distinguish exclusive/inclusive, social rank or sex in the pronouns.

### 1.0 Subject pronouns

The subject pronouns occur in a verb complex with a tense-aspect marker and varying grammatical tones on the pronouns and on the verb. The basic verb complex/phrase consists of the following elements: a pronoun, a tense-aspect marker followed by a second subject pronoun, then a verb root. When there is a nominal subject PRO 1 is optionally absent. In addition there are some optional intervening elements (adverbs and object pronouns):

+ PRO 1 (T/A)\* (ADV) (PRO 2) (DO Pro) + V

\*The presence or absence of a tense-aspect marker is determined by the tense used.

Here are the subject pronouns; there are two variants because each harmonizes with the advanced or retracted tongue position of the verb root:

or an adverb like the adverb **cáŋa**, first, in the example given below:

|                 |                                  |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| without adverb  | with adverb                      |
| <u>advanced</u> | <u>retracted</u> <u>advanced</u> |
| tu ŋe sú súéte  | tɔ ŋa cáŋa esú súéte             |
| we P3 left      | we P3 first we left              |
| "We left."      | "We left first."                 |
| without pronoun | with pronoun                     |

|                       |                             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| retracted             | advanced retracted          |
| <b>nɔ ŋa nó aamba</b> | <b>nu ŋe nú beébe aamba</b> |
| you(pl) pres want     | you pres them want          |
| "You want."           | "You want them."            |

This is to show how the normal advanced-tongue vowels of the pronouns before the advanced root are affected by the intervening adverb or pronoun. In one form of the present progressive tense, which is a 'frozen' form in which no other words can intervene, the pronouns do not harmonize with the verb (which occurs in the infinitive form), and the tense-aspect marker occurs in a different position (after PRO 2).

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| retracted root           | advanced root           |
| <b>Nuanó ŋa ɔ ɔfaaya</b> | <b>Nuanó ŋa obíkéti</b> |
| you(pl) pres come        | you(pl) PRES think      |
| "You are coming."        | "You are thinking."     |

## 1.1 Optionality

It was stated above that in the verb phrase as a whole PRO 2 is optional. In some tenses or moods it is not present, nor is the tense/aspect marker. For example, in the subjunctive mood only PRO 1 occurs, without PRO 2:

**bé mi kutéke bá ŋa bó ɔba ɔleca**  
they me shave they they go see  
*"If they shave me, they will see(what happens)!"*

In a series of verbs the verb in the dependant clause can also be considered like a subjunctive. When the second verb has the same subject, whether in sequential or simultaneous actions, the second pronoun and tense-aspect marker are dropped:

**bá ŋá nyíáka bú soomoko**  
they P3 eat c14 be delicious  
*"They ate and it was delicious!"*

The tone of the pronouns, except for third person plural, is determined by the tense of the verb. Third person plural is always high tone, regardless of the tense.

## 1.2 Indefinite reference

| <u>PRO 1</u> | <u>PRO 2</u> |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1s i/ɛ       | mi/mɛ        |
| 2s o/ɔ       | o/ɔ          |
| 3s u/ɔ       | e/a          |
| 1p tu/tɔ     | su/sɔ        |
| 2p nu/nɔ     | nu/nɔ        |
| 3p bé/bá     | bé/bá        |

For third person singular, PRO 1 varies according to noun class while PRO 2 is invariable except for vowel quality. The personal pronouns come from classes 1 and 2 of the class system as is usual for narrow Bantu languages. The subject pronouns (PRO 1) for these noun classes\* are the following:

| <u>Class</u>    | <u>Pronoun</u> | <u>Class</u> | <u>Pronoun</u> |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| SINGULAR PLURAL |                |              |                |
| 1               | o, ɔ           | 2            | be/ba          |
| 3               | o              | 4            | ci/cɛ          |
| 5               | nyi/nye        | 7            | ce/ca          |
| 7               | yi/ye, e/a     | 8            | bi/be          |
| 11              | nu/nɔ          | 13           | tu/tɔ          |
| 9,10            | ci/cɛ          | 6            | ce/ca          |
| 14              | bu/bɔ          | 8            | bi/be          |
| 16              | he/ha          | 8            | bi/be          |
| 6a              | me/ma          |              |                |
| 19              | hi/hɛ          | 13           | tu/tɔ          |

\*See the section on noun classes for further discussion.

For each pronoun there are two alternate forms because they are affected by vowel harmony. They agree in tongue root position with a controlling element in the verb phrase, the next non-clitic word -- either the verb or an intervening element, either an adverb or an object pronoun. In the above lists, the first form cited above is tongue root advanced and the second is tongue root retracted. The following example shows first advanced then retracted verb roots and their effect on the pronouns:

| <u>advanced</u>      | <u>retracted</u>    |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>I ɲe mí hiite</b> | <b>ɛ ɲa mé tóma</b> |
| I pres take          | I pres send         |
| "I am taking"        | "I am sending"      |

Notice that the tense-aspect marker is also affected by the position of the verb root. In the above example both pronouns have the same vowel height. They will, however, have a different tongue root position, either from the verb root or from each other, where a word with a different position intervenes, such as an indirect object pronoun,

The indefinite reference subject pronouns are class 2 **ba** and class 9 **ci**. Class 2 is only used for human referents while class 9 can be used for objects too. They have the meaning 'someone', unspecified, or they can take on an indefinite meaning (which could be translated with a passive in English or French) as in the following example:

**bé** **ŋe** **wuúci** **tóma**  
 they P3 him sent  
*"They sent him." or "He was sent."*

## 2.0 Object Pronouns

The object pronouns are :

|                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1s <b>mi,mε</b>       | 1p <b>basó</b>  |
| 2s <b>kuɔŋó, o/ɔ*</b> | 2p <b>banó</b>  |
| 3s <b>wuúci</b>       | 3p <b>beébe</b> |

\*The second form of 2s, **o** or **ɔ**, seems to occur interchangeably with **kuɔŋó**.

In addition to the personal object pronouns, of which third singular and plural are classes 1 and 2 of the noun class system, the other classes have the following pronouns:

| <u>Class</u> | <u>Pronoun</u> | <u>Class</u> | <u>Pronoun</u> |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1.           | wuúci          | 2.           | beébe          |
| 3.           | wuúci          | 4.           | ciíci          |
| 5.           | nyíinyí        | 6.           | ceéce          |
| 6a           | meéme          |              |                |
| 7.           | yíiyi          | 8            | bííbi          |
| 11           | nuúnu          | 13           | tuútu          |
| 14           | buúbu          | 8            | bííbi          |
| 16           | heéhe          | 8            | bííbi          |
| 19           | hííhi          | 13           | tuútu          |

The object pronouns, whether their meaning is direct or indirect, normally occur preverbally (although nominal objects occur after the verb), unless the pronoun is focalized and right-dislocated. For example, normally 'him' as indirect object occurs before the verb:

**u** **ŋe** **wuúci** **íinǰje** **mɔɔnyé**  
 he P3 him give money  
*"He gave him money."*

The indirect object 'him' can be emphasized by right-dislocating it:

u ɲe íɲjɛ ne wuúci mɔɔnyé  
 he P3 give to him money  
*"It's to him he gave money."*

The object pronouns affect the tongue root position of the subject pronouns, as stated in 1.2, with the exception of the pronoun of first person singular, **mɛ** and second person alternate form, **o/ɔ**. These pronouns are affected by vowel harmony themselves, taking on the tongue root position of the verb before which they occur. For example:

|                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| i ɲe mí o tóɲɪnyi  | ɛ ɲa mé ɔ léca |
| I PRES you show    | I PRES you see |
| "I am showing you" | "I see you"    |

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| bá ɲa bó mɛ ɔɔlɛta | bé ɲe bú mɪ súbe |
| they P3 me help    | they P3 me hit   |
| "They helped me."  | "They hit me."   |

### 3.0 Emphatic Pronouns

The emphatic pronouns are :

|          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1s yaɲó  | 1p basó  |
| 2s kuɔɲó | 2p banó  |
| 3s wuúci | 3p beébe |

They are used for emphasis; they occur before the noun or pronoun being emphasized:

**Beébe**, bá bóɲa nɔ mɔɔnyé, **yaɲó**, ɛ tɛ á bá nɔ mɔɔnyé  
 them they are with me I ING am with money  
*They are the ones with money, me, I have no money.*

**Yaɲó** ya mé ɲa ɔɔɔ u buúse  
 Myself I I pres person c1 first  
*"It's I who am the winner (who came in first) ."*

They are also used to specify combinations of persons either in subject or object position:

tu ké su séɲɪnyɪnyi na **yaɲó** na kuɔɲó  
 we fut race and I and you  
*"You and I will race together."*

## 4.0 Demonstrative Pronouns

### 4.1 Deictic

Here are the demonstrative pronouns, which consist of a long vowel (either ee or oo) followed by a suffix which marks the noun class of the thing referred to:

| <u>Class</u> | <u>Pronoun</u> | <u>Class</u> | <u>Pronoun</u> |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1.           | oóci           | 2.           | eébe           |
| 3.           | oóci           | 4.           | eéci           |
| 5.           | eényi          | 6.           | eéce           |
| 6a           | eéme           |              |                |
| 7.           | eéye           | 8            | eébi           |
| 11           | eénu           | 13           | eétu           |
| 14           | eébu           | 8            | eébi           |
| 16           | eéhe           | 8            | eébi           |

The demonstrative pronouns, which occur as adjectives or nouns, can fill nominal or adjectival slots in the phrase. They have a three-way distance distinction, marked by the tone of the pronoun and by a suffix. The pronoun with rising tone means 'this' and low tones means 'that', at some distance, and the pronoun with an extra suffix -enyié means 'that', at an even greater distance:

oóci "this"                  ooci "that"                  oocinyié "that (far away)"

They occur either in conjunction with that noun or without it. For example:

| <u>demonstrative as adjective</u> | <u>demonstrative as noun</u> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| o-túmbe oó-ci                     | té cáŋa oó-ci                |
| c3-walking stick DEM-c3           | not it is DEM-c3             |
| "This is a walking stick."        | "It's not this one."         |

For unspecified referents, classes 9 or 14 seem to be used interchangeably:

ciɔwɔ eé-ci                  and                  bu-ɔwɔ eé-bu                  both mean "This is yours."  
c9-yours DEM-c9                  c14-yours DEM-c14

### 4.2 Anaphoric pronouns

In discourse there is an anaphoric pronoun (although the deictic pronouns can also be used anaphorically). This pronoun, -áta, takes a noun class prefix (see the section on noun classes for the complete list):

ci-áté ε-nyama  
c9-that c9-animal  
"that animal"

I ti n̄ee menyì ci-áté.

I NG pres know c9-that

"I don't know that one." (previously referred to)

### 4.3 Locative pronouns

The locative pronouns are taken from the demonstratives of class 16, a very limited class which is in fact locative in origin. The three demonstrative pronouns, with the noun place, are:

**ha-ála ee-he**  
c16-place this-c16

**ha-ála ee'he**  
c16-place that-c16

**ha-ála ehenyíé**  
c16place that (far)

The three locative adverbs are:

**aaha**  
here

**aáha**  
there

**ehenyíé**  
over there

The first two locatives are the same as the demonstrative except for vowel height, while the third is the same.

## 5.0 Possessive Pronouns

### 5.1 Adjectives

There are two kinds of possessives, one kind taking a noun class prefix which agrees with the possessed object and the other whose form does not vary with the noun class of the possessed object. These are the pronoun roots:

|          |         |
|----------|---------|
| 1s -ámé  | 1p -ásó |
| 2s -óówó | 2p -ánó |
| 3s -ayé  | 3p -abó |

For example,

**bu-onyia bu-ámé**  
c14-yam c14-my  
"my yam"

**ε ma mε nyíaka bu-ámé**  
I Po 1s ate c14-mine  
"I ate mine. (yam)"

These pronouns may precede or follow the noun they modify. If they follow the noun they can optionally take the tongue root position of the noun. For example:

**y-áyé e-kendinyi** (may also be pronounced) **y-éyí e-kendinyi**  
c7-his c7-friend



The other possessive adjective is formed by the marker/prefix **a**, a pronominal marker and another **a**:

**a-yé** a ekendinyi  
my-c7 friend  
*"His friend"*

**a- mé** a bu-nɔŋɔ  
my-c8 c8-village  
*"My village"*

## 5.2 Substantives

### 5.2.1 Possessive/replacive?

This is a class 14 simple possessive pronoun used as a noun, with the meaning 'one's (people)':

U ŋa hálómóna a **bú-áyá**  
he P3 returned to c14-hers  
*"She returned to her (village)."*

This pronoun is found in all the persons, i.e., mine, yours, etc.; the prefix **ná** is followed by:

|          |         |
|----------|---------|
| 1s -ámé  | 1p -ásó |
| 2s -óówo | 2p -ánó |
| 3s -áyá  | 3p -ábó |

### 5.2.2 Locative/benefactive?

These pronouns have the meaning to or for someone, or to someone's place like the French 'chez'. They are formed from the possessive/ replacive root pronoun, preceded by the prefix or preposition **ná**, 'towards/ at':

yóo cɔba **ná-áyá**  
he goes LOC-his  
*"He is going home" (= to him).*

i me mi iinjie **ná-ánó**  
I P3 gave to-yours  
*"I gave it to you."*

## 6.0 Relative Pronouns

These pronouns have the meaning 'who' or 'which' and consist of the relative marker a plus a noun class associative marker. For example:

ha-ála **a-há** ɔ ŋɔ́ lɛca  
c16-place REL-c16 you P3 saw  
*"The place that you saw"*

There are relative pronouns which are used for indirect reference, that is when the thing referred to is not specified. Found so far:

pronoun class refers to

**abó** c14 thing; as in **bákɔ**, thing  
**ayé** c7 event; as in **asana**, palaver/affair  
**awó** c1 person; as in **ɔɔɔɔ**, person

For example:

**l ti ɲé mi menyí a-bó ɔ ɲɔ́ kɔɔna**  
I not PRES know REL-c14 you PRES say  
*"I don't know what you're talking about."*

**a-wó kɔ ɲɔkɔ okoti bɔɔbɛ́ FUT wuúci hálbmónɛna**  
REL-c1 FUT break law evil will him come back to  
*"Whoever breaks the law, evil will come back on him."*

## 7.0 Interrogative Pronouns

The simple interrogative pronouns occur optionally sentence-initial or final:

**aate** "what"  
**aanyɛ** "who"  
**nyíenyi** "when"  
**hányɛ** "where"  
**anyána** "how"  
**anyiaté** "why"; also **asana í aaté**, literally which affair?

In addition there are interrogatives for identification ("which") and quantity ('how much' or 'how many') which vary according to the noun class of the referrant. The identification interrogative is formed in one of two ways: first, with a noun class prefix /connective/ associative marker followed by the word **yáate**, 'which' (not used for humans):

**Bɔ-sóma bú yaáté ɔ ɲɔ́ faaya ɔkɛla e**  
c14-errand c14 which you P2 come to do INT  
*"What (errand) did you come to do?"*

Secondly, from the relative pronoun **a** + **ncl** and the word **hányɛ**, *where*, (human or any other category). For example,

**bɛ-tana abé hányɛ e** "Which monkeys?"  
c8-monkeys REL-c8 which INT

The quantity interrogative has only a noun class prefix plus **-éényi**: (human or other)

bɛ-tana      **bi-éényi**      e      "How many monkeys?"  
c8-monkeys c8-how many INT

### 8.0 Indefinite pronoun

There are two indefinite pronouns, **ɔmɔté**, 'one', and **etémbi**, 'other'. The indefinite pronoun **ɔmɔté** has the core meaning 'one'; as an indefinite pronoun it means 'some' or 'someone'. It appears in a noun phrase of noun + relative pronoun + **ɔ-mɔté**, C1 prefix-one( number). For example:

ɔ-ɔcɔ      awó      **ɔmɔté** ba-acc      abá      **ɔmɔté**  
c1-person REL-c1 one      c2-people REL-c2 one  
"Some person"      "some people"

The word **etémbí**, 'other', also has the meaning 'empty'. It occurs in a noun phrase of noun + noun class connective + **etémbí**.

ɔcɔcɔ      ú **etémbí**      baacc bé **etémbí**  
person c1 other      people c2 other  
"Other person"      "other people"

### 9.0 Coreferentiality

Coreferentiality is marked in the verbal morphology by the prefix **bí-**, the same for all persons. It can be reinforced by an emphatic pronoun plus the pronouns. Reflexive meaning is represented by **bémuáta**, onesself; and reciprocal and benefactive by using the emphatic pronouns;

#### REFLEXIVE

u ɲaá **bé-sóa**  
he P3 REF-wash  
"He washed himself."

they P3 REF-wash  
"They washed themselves."

u ɲaá **bé-sóa**      wuúci **bémuáta**  
he P3 REF-wash him      self  
"He himself washed himself."

bá ɲa **bé-sóa**      beébe **bémuáta**  
they P3 REF-wash they      self  
"They themselves washed themselves."

#### RECIPROCAL

This kind of coreferentiality is also marked in the verbal morphology by the suffix **-an** and can be reinforced by the emphatic pronouns.

With the verb -laana, tell:

Nó ɲa nó laan-**an**-a bɛsana banó bɛfendí  
you P3 you tell- RC secrets you two  
*You two told each other secrets.*

with the verb -hɔa, be like:

bá ɲa bó hɔá-**ánán**-a ne wuúci ne o-nyíinyí  
they PRES appear-RC with him with brother  
*"He looks like his brother."*

#### APPLICATIVE (BENEFACTIVE)

When the indirect object of a verb could conceivably be the direct object, the verb needs a applicative suffix, **-in / -ɛn**, to indicate the presence of a pre-verb pronominal object.

i ɲe mí wuúci tó**m-éna** kalatɛ  
I P3 him send-AP letter  
*"I sent him a letter."*

Otherwise, the emphatic pronoun is used for the indirect object:

ɛ ɲa mé tó**ma** kalatɛ ne wuúci  
I P3 send letter to him  
*"I sent a letter to him."*