Personal pronouns as markers of spatial deictic anchors:  
The case of the demonstrative system in Kikai Ryukyuan

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Introduction: In several dialects of Kikai Ryukyuan (KR), proximal demonstratives can form a compound with personal genitive pronouns (e.g. daa-uri 2SG.GEN-this, waa-uri 1SG.GEN-this, daa-uma 2SG.NHON.GEN-here, waa-uma 1SG.GEN-here, daa-un 2SG.GEN-this(ADN), waa-un 1SG.GEN-this (adnominal), see Shirata 2018). In such compound constructions, a demonstrative functions as the head, while an incorporated personal pronoun indicates whom the referent of the demonstrative is close to, instead of marking the possessor of the referent (see (1)). If the second person genitive daa attaches to the proximal demonstrative uri, for example, the whole construction refers to the object close to the addressee. The first person genitive waa can alternatively be used to refer to the object close to the speaker, while uri alone is also felicitous in the same context because it is speaker-oriented by itself. This paper examines the demonstratives in KR with a focus on the number and honorific/non-honorific distinctions in the personal pronouns incorporated into demonstratives. All the data shown in this paper are those from the Shitooke dialect (SKR), though similar phenomena have also been observed in the Onotsu and Araki dialects (OKR and AKR).

(1) \(\text{Daa}-\text{uri}=e \ waa \ \text{mun}=\text{doo.} \) (Waa-\text{uri}=e \ daa \ \text{mun}=\text{doo.})  
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{2SG.GEN}-\text{this}=\text{TOP} & \quad \text{1SG.GEN} \text{ thing}=\text{ASRT} \\
\text{(1SG.GEN)} & \text{this}=\text{TOP} & \quad \text{2SG.GEN} \text{ thing}=\text{ASRT}
\end{align*}
\]
"That (in your hand) is mine. This (in my hand) is yours.

Background: KR is an endangered Ryukyuan language spoken on Kikai island, which is located at the northeastern edge of the Ryukyuan-speaking area.

According to the previous studies (Iwakura 1941 and Uchima 1978), demonstratives in KR had a three-way formal deictic distinction: hu- (proximal), u- (medial) and a- (distal) series. However, some dialects (including SKR, OKR and AKR) have lost the hu- or u- series and transitioned to a two-way distinction system.

Table 1: Basic Demonstratives (SKR)  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Noun</th>
<th>Proximal</th>
<th>Distal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thing / Human</td>
<td>uri</td>
<td>ari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place</td>
<td>uma</td>
<td>ama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adnominal</td>
<td>un</td>
<td>an</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Personal Genitive Pronouns (SKR)  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SG</th>
<th>PL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>waa</td>
<td>wannaa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>daa</td>
<td>dannaa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HON naami=nu</td>
<td>naača=nu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additive plurality: When the speaker is talking to multiple people (especially those who are acting separately), the second person plural form dannaa is required to be used in the compound deictic expression to refer to the objects close to the multiple addressees (see (2a)). In cases where the speaker uses some other expression to clarify that he/she is talking to more than one person, however, the singular form daa turns out to be felicitous even with multiple addressees (see (2b)).
[2] Some people are helping the speaker move. The speaker finds that they are about to move the speaker’s belongings to the wrong location.

a. **Dannaa-ure=e jaa=kai mučči ikyun=či=yo?**
   2PL.GEN-this=TOP where=to have.NPST=QUOT=WHQ
   “Where are you going to bring those?”

b. **Danna=ya dāa-urī=ba jaa=kai mučči ikyun=či=yo?**
   2PL=TOP 2SG.GEN-this=ACC where=to have.NPST=QUOT=WHQ
   “Where are you going to bring those?”

**Associative plurality:** Personal genitive plural pronouns incorporated into demonstratives can also denote the group of people represented by the speaker or addressee. In (3), for example, the speaker on the island is talking on the phone with the addressee on the mainland, therefore **wanntaa(1PL)** and **dannaa** (2PL) refer to those who are living on the island and those who are living on the mainland, respectively.

(3) The speaker is talking on the phone with a person living on the mainland.

**Honorification:** When the addressee is older than the speaker and unfamiliar to him/her, the use of **daa** (non-honorific second person pronoun) is avoided even in compound deictic expressions, and honorific expressions including **naami** (honorific second person pronoun) are used instead (as in (4)).

(4) The speaker is talking to the elder unfamiliar person.

{ **Naami=ya muččun muno=o / Naami=nu-ure=e** }

2 SG.HON=NOM have.PROG.NPST thing=TOP 2 SG.HON=GEN-this=TOP

**wan naamu deddoo.**

1SG.GEN thing COP.HON.NPST.ASRT

“That (in your hand) is mine.”

**Discussion:** The incorporation of second person pronouns into demonstratives has also been reported in some other languages such as Siwi (a Berber language), with a focus on ‘addressee agreement’ in demonstratives (e.g. **wok** “that (near you(M.SG))”, **wom** “that (near you(F.SG))”, **werwom** “that (near you(PL))”, see Souag 2014). In KR too, demonstratives with incorporated second person pronouns (at least apparently) agree with the addressee(s) in some occasions (as in (2a) and (4)). However, based on the fact that first person pronouns can also be incorporated into demonstratives (as in (1) and (4)), and given that there are cases where second person singular/plural forms are used irrespective of the number of the addressee(s) (as in (2b) and (3)), the data shown above cannot be accounted for by referring only to the possibility of ‘addressee agreement’. Alternatively, we argue that the compound constructions consisting of a personal pronoun and a proximal demonstrative in the above data designate the proximity of the referent(s) to the person(s) referred to by the incorporated personal pronoun because the personal pronoun functions as a marker of the referent(s) to the person(s) referred to by the incorporated personal pronoun because the personal pronoun anchors, so that the demonstratives refer to the objects close to the persons denoted by the pronouns.

**Conclusion:** We examined demonstratives with incorporated personal pronouns in KR and found that not only singular and non-honorific forms but also plural and honorific forms of personal markers can appear in demonstratives. In our analysis, the incorporated personal pronouns mark spatial deictic anchors, so that the demonstratives refer to the objects close to the persons denoted by the pronouns.

References