PRONOUNS IN MAO

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ABSTRACT

Maobelongs to Tibeto-Burman language family, spoken mainly in the Senapati district of Manipur, north eastern region of India.The language is a subject, object, verb (SOV) word-order. This language is not much studied as far as the knowledge of the present writer goes. The present paper to attempt the study of pronoun system in Mao with the help of pronoun category put forward by Bath (2007). Establishedthe pronoun by analysis from Mao it is found that thereare six categories of pronouns viz; Personal pronoun, Demonstrative pronoun, Interrogative pronoun, Reflexive pronoun, Possessive Pronoun and Indefinite pronoun. Detail analysis will focus on the functioning of pronoun and its categories that stand in place of noun and the act of conjoining with number markers.

Key Words
Pronoun, Tibeto-Burman, Mao, personal pronoun, number markers.

1.   INTRODUCTION

Mao is one of the Naga tribe; inhabited the northern part of Manipur state of India. The Mao is also known as Memei (pronounce as /me!mə≅i/) in their own language. The term Mao is used to refer both the people and the language. Mao is surrounded by similar Naga tribes such as the Angami and Chakeshang Naga tribes in the north, the Maram and Zeme Naga tribes in the west and south, and the Tangkhul and Poumai Naga tribes in the east. Their population is about 80,000 according to (1997) census record given by the government of Manipur. Maos are Mongoloid race.
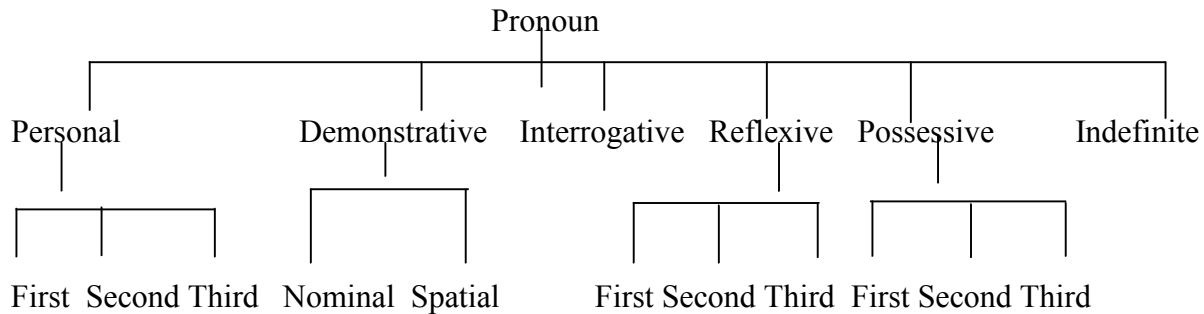
In the classification of Tibeto-Burman languages of the Sino-Tibetan family, Mao is located in a separateKuki-Chin group by Grierson (1903-1928).

The present paper attempts to study the pronouns system in Mao (with examples). Lyons, J(1968) and several grammarians mentioned that it is not just 'nouns' that pronouns stand for, but rather 'noun phrase'. Michal Strumpf (2008: 191) "It is impossible not to understand pronouns. Look in your dictionary and you'll quickly discover that the prefix **pro**-means "in place of", "in favor of", "supporting", or "acting as". Paradigmatically pronouns belonging to the

same category of nouns but do not fulfill all the characteristics of Nouns. Pronouns may take number or case markers, but cannot take other attributes.

In Mao, pronouns act in place of noun,similar to the other languages. In order to manifest the pronouns of Mao, we shall consider the work of Bath (2007), in his work 'pronoun' as a category. He term 'pronoun' is generally used for referring to several different sets of words as personal pronoun, demonstrative, interrogative, indefinites, relatives etc.By applying this analysis linguistically, Mao pronouns can convey six numbers of distinct at the morphological level. The figure 1 shows the categories of pronouns in Mao.

Figure 1: *Categories of Pronouns in Mao*

Pronoun

Personal   Demonstrative   Interrogative   Reflexive   Possessive   Indefinite

First Second Third   Nominal Spatial   First Second Third   First Second Third

Now, let us see how each of these pronouns functions in different ways.

1.1   PERSONAL PRONOUN

Personal pronouns in Mao comprised of three persons such as first, second and third. Each of them has singular, dual and plural number with no gender distinction marked in any number.

 (i)   First person

Mao has three first personal pronouns and they all share the same base *a-*. The base *a-* always requires a number marking to establish full form of verb. Thus, it has three distinct number marking; *-ji∃* 'singular', *-həi* 'dual' and *-khru* 'plural'. It is to be noted that *-khru* carries the meaning of plural. However, whenever it is used for human number it require *-mə≅i* to occur after it. The first person singular marker *-ji*is deleted when it takes dual and plural numbers unlike the second and third person singular as in (1. a, b, & c).

(1)   a.   aji≅   'I'
         b.   ahəi   'we two'
         c.   akhrumə≅i   'we' (PL)

(ii)   Second person

Examples (2) show that, in the case of second person pronoun, a free morpheme *ne* is indicated person and it can occur along with all the number markers.

(2)   a.   ne   'you'
         b.   nehəi   'you (two)'
         c.   nekhrumə≅i   'you (PL)'

(iii)   Third person

The third person pronoun is indicated by morpheme pfo∃. Similarly, it can occur along with the number markers. In (3b), the morpheme *pfo∃* is attached with dual number marker *-həi* and also to indicate plural, the number marker *-khru*is added to the pronoun which is then followed by marker *-mə≅i*which denotes only to 'person'. Examples are given below:

(3) a. pfo∃   'he/she'
     b. pfo∃həi   'they (DUL)'
     c. pfo∃khrumə≅i 'they (PL)'

As mentioned earlier that the plural number *-khru*needs to carry the morpheme *-mə≅i*for human. In all other cases it does not take *-mə≅i* as shown in (4. a & b).

	Human		**Non-Human**	
(4) a.	akhrumə≅i	'we'	lɔ∃kha∃khru	'bags'
b.	ɔmə≅ikhrumə≅i	'persons'	la≅rɨ!bvɨkhru	'books'

We have already seen in the above (1-4) that regular affixing of number markers to the personal pronouns.

1.2.   DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUN

Demonstrative pronouns in Mao refer to persons, things, or location specifically by pointing it out. Demonstrative pronouns can express numbers such as singular, dual and plural. It may be classified into (i) nominal demonstrative, and (ii) spatial demonstrative. There are four demonstrative roots that give anaphoristic expression and have listener-speaker proximate and remote references and also deictic and non-deictic relations are present in this language. Indication of proximate, remote references and deictic and non-deictic relations are mentioned in (5).

(5) a. he□   'Proximate'
     b. le∨   'Remote'
     c. ṭi□   'Deictic'
     d. sɨ□   'Non-deictic'

1.2.1. NOMINAL DEMONSTRATIVE

Nominal demonstrative pronoun in Mao refers to point it out the person and things. This pronoun immediately suffixed by the number markers *-na□*'singular', *-Nh↔i* 'dual', and *-khru* 'plural' to the demonstrative pronouns *he□* 'proximate', *le∨*'remote', '*ṭI□*'deictic' and *sɨ□* 'non-deictic'.

(i)   Proximate

Proximate denotes the person or things that are near to the speaker. In this case, demonstrative marker *he□*occurs after the number markers *-na□*'singular', *-Nh↔i* 'dual'and –*khru* 'plural'are shown under.

     Singular

(6) a. □m↔□i-na□ he□   'this man'
         person-SGDEM

     b. la≅rɨ!bvɨ∃-na□ he   'this book'
         book-SGDEM

Dual

(7) a.   □m↔□i-həi he□   'these (two) man'
           person-DULDEM

     b.   la≅rɨ!bvɨ∃-həi he   'these (two) books'
           book-DULDEM

Plural

(8) a.   □m↔□i-khrum↔□i he□   'these persons' (Pl)
           person-PLDEM

     b.   la≅rɨ!bvɨ∃∃-khru he   'these books'(Pl)
           book-PLDEM

The above examples (6-8) shows clearly that persons or things requireto take number inflections todenote them.

   (ii)   Remote
        In case of remote the person or things may be far from the speaker but can be viewed. In a reverse way of proximate, the remote marker *le*∨ occurs before the number markers -*na*□, -*Nh*↔*i,* and–*khru*as mentioned in (9-11).

Singular

(9) a.   □m↔□i le!-na□   'that man'
           personDEM-SG

     b.   tebe≅l le!-na□   'that table'
           tableDEM-SG

Dual

(10) a.   □m↔□i le!-həi   'those (two) man'
           personDEM-DUL

     b.   tebe≅l le!-həi   'those (two) table'
           tableDEM-DUL

Plural

(11) a.   □m↔□i le!-khrumə≅i 'those person' (Pl)
           personDEM-PL

     b.   tebe≅l le!-khru   'those tables' (Pl)
           tableDEM- PL

   (iii)   Deictic

Deictic pronouns refer to persons or things that the speaker or the addressee have seen in the past, but the referred persons or things are not present when the speaker pointing it out to the listener. The deictic marker *ṭi* occurs after the number markers *-na□, -Nh↔i,* and *-khru* as in (12-14).

Singular
(12) a. □m↔□i-na□ṭi≅   'that man'
          person-SGDEM

b. la≅rɨ!bvɨ∃-na□ṭi≅   'that book'
          book-SGDEM

Dual
(13) a. m↔□i-həiṭi≅   'those (two) man'
          person-DULDEM

b. la≅rɨ!bvɨ∃-həiṭi≅   'those (two) books'
          person-DULDEM

Plural
(14) a. ɔm↔□i-khrumə≅iṭi≅   'those persons' (Pl)
          person-PLDEM

b. la≅rɨ!bvɨ∃-khruṭi≅   'those books'(Pl)
          person-PLDEM

  (iv)   Non-Deictic
      In reverse to the deictic, the non-deictic refers to the persons or things that the speaker or the listener have not seen, but referring person or things is present in the speaker's mind. The non-deictic marker *sɨ* occurs after the number markersas in (15-17).

Singular
(15) a. □m↔□i-na□sɨ□   'that man'
          person-SGDEM

b. ka≅r-na□sɨ□   'that car'
          car-SGDEM

Dual
(16) a. □m↔□i-həisɨ□   'those (two) man'
          person-DULDEM

b. ka≅r-həisɨ□   'those (two) cars'
          car-DULDEM

Plural

(17) a.   □m↔□i-khrumə≅isɨ□ 'those man'(Pl)
                  person-PLDem

      b.   ka≅r-khrusɨ□   'those car'(Pl)
                  car-PLDEM

We have already seen in (6-8), (12-14) and (15-17) that the numbers inflections immediately attached to the persons or things when denoting them, whereas, in (9-11) the number inflections immediately attached to the demonstrative marker.

1.2.2.   SPATIAL DEMONSTRATIVE

Spatial demonstrative pronouns talk about denoting the location or the space. This pronoun takes spatial morphemes such as *p↔∨i* 'implies of side',*phα□*'implies the side of dissection', and*bve∨* 'implies point of location'. The spatial markers *pə!i, pha≅* and *bve!*immediately attached to the demonstrative morphemes *he□* 'Proximate', *le∨* 'Remote', *ṭI□*deictic' and *sɨ□* 'non-deictic to denote spatial demonstrative.

(i)   Proximate
        Proximate here, talks about the side which is near to the speaker.

(18) a.   he□-p↔!i   'this side'
                  DEM-side

      b.   he□-pha   ≅   'this part of dissection'
                  DEM-size

      c.   he□-bve∨   'this point of location
                  DEM-point

The data in (18) mentioned that spatial demonstrative bound morphemes -*p↔∨i*, -*pha≅*and -*bve!*suffixed to the demonstrative marker *he□* to denote proximity.

(ii)   Remote
        The speaker pointed it out the side which is distant to him but may be near to the listener.

(19) a.   le!-p↔!i   'that side'
                  DEM-side

      b.   le! -pha≅   'that part of dissection'
                  DEM-size

      c.   le!-bve!   'that point of location'
                  DEM-point

The example (19) showed that the spatial demonstrative marker -*p↔∨i, -pha≅*and -*bve!*suffixed to the demonstrative marker *le!* to denote remote distance same as the above mention in proximity.

(iii)   Deictic
Spatial deictic pronouns refer the side that the speaker or the listener have seen in the past, but the refer sides are not seeing when the speaker pointing it out to the listener. In (20) presented the spatial deictic bound morphemes marker -*pə≅i,-pha*□and-*bve!*suffixed to the demonstrative marker*ʈi*□ to denote deictic.

(20)   a.   ʈi□ -p↔!i   'that side'
                DEMside

        b.   ʈi□-pha≅   'that part of dissection'
                DEM-size

        c.   ʈi□-bve!   'that point of location'
                DEM-point

(iv)   Non-Deictic
The spatial non-deictic refer to the sides that the speaker or the listener have not seen yet, but referring the sides in the speaker's mind. In the similar manner of functioning to the above mentioned proximate, remote and deictic (17, 18,19& 20), the spatial demonstrative marker -*p↔∨i, -pha*□and-*bve!*suffixed to demonstrative pronoun *sɨ∃* to denote non-deictic.Examples are given below.

(21)   a.   sɨ∃∃-p↔∨i   'that side'
                DEM-side

        b.   sɨ□-phα□   'that part of dissection'
                DEM-size

        c.   sɨ□-bve!   'that point of location'
        DEM-point

We have already seen in the above (17-21) how demonstrative pronouns   function   in Mao. Now let us observe how interrogative pronoun function in Mao.

1.3.   INTERROGATIVE PRONOUN
Mao has two types of bound morphemes interrogative pronoun root such as *a*□- and *ka∨*- They required some words to compound with in order to form interrogative pronouns. The interrogative pronouns can also take the dual number -*ŋhəi*, and not the other number markers such as singular -*na∃* or plural -khruas shown under.

(22)   a.   *a∃thə!ina∃   'who' (SG)

b.   *a∃thə!ikhrumə≅i 'who' (PL)
c.   a∃thə!iŋhəi 'who' (DUL)

Mao interrogative pronouns a∃thə!i 'who' is restricted to take other number markers apart from dual as mention in (22.c).

Interrogation can be conveyed in many ways by using varied interrogative pronouns in Mao like the other neighbouring Naga languages. The basic interrogative forms in Mao are a∃thə!i' who', a☐d↔vi'what', kavna☐e☐'which', kavle☐ 'where'.

Interrogative pronoun a☐thə!isignifying the meaning'who',a☐thə!i-ŋhiv 'to whom', a☐th↔!i-zhi☐ 'whose', and a☐th↔!i-nɔ∃ 'by whom'.

(23)   a.   a☐th↔iv
                 INTR
                 'Who?'

         b.   a☐th↔vi-nhi!
                 INTR-LOC
                 'To whom? '

         c.   a☐th↔!i-zhi☐
                 INTR-GEN
                 'Whose?'

         d.   a☐th↔!i-nɔ∃
                 INTR-NOM
                 'By whom?'

From the above (23) we find that the interrogative pronoun a☐th↔!i denote only to person but not to any other things.

Interrogative pronoun a☐d↔vi 'what' signifies the persons or things. To differentiate the indications between persons and things is marked by marker -mə≅i attached to interrogative pronoun that denote person as in (24a).

(24)   a.   a☐d↔vi-m↔☐ikɔe   'What community?
                 INTR-PERQFM

         b.   he≅ a☐d↔vikɔe   'What is this?'
                 DEMINTRQFM

Interrogative pronoun kavna☐e☐'which' implies the particular persons or things. Examples are given below.

(25)   a.   ɔmə≅ikavna☐-e☐   'Which person?' (among many people)
                 PER INTR-QFM

         b.   ɔbu!kavna☐-e≅   'Which seat?' (among many seat)

seatINTR-QFM

The examples (25) displayed that Mao interrogative pronoun *ka∨na□-e□*'which' may be used to interrogate by picked out particular person or thing among many numbers or in the groups.

This interrogative pronoun *ka∨le□* 'where' is use to interrogate the location of persons or thing as shown in example (26)given below.

(26). a   neka∨le□bu≅-e≅   'Where are you?'
               he/sheINTRthere-QFM

       b.   ne cɨ≅ka∨le⊒bu≅-e≅   'Where is your house?
               your INTRthere-QFM

In Mao, some interrogative pronouns can occurs in reduplicative form by their final sound repeatedly. Examples are given below.

(27)   a.   a□the∨-the∨   'Who and who'
        b.   a□də∨i-dəi∨   'What and what'
        c.   ka∨le□-le□   'Where and where'
        d.   ka∨mə□i-mə□i   'Which and which'

1.4.   REFLEXIVE PRONOUN

In English, reflexive pronouns are form by adding either bound morphemes **-self** or -**selves** to the appropriate possessive pronoun. However, in the case of Mao, reflexive pronouns are marked by a bound morpheme *-la∨*'self' that usually occurs after the number markers are shown in the examples (28-30) below.

First Person

(28)   a.   aji≅-la!   'Myself'
                1stPERREFL

        b.   a -həi- la!   'Ourselves (two)'
                1st PER -DULREFL

        c.   a -khrumə≅i- la!   'Ourselves (PL)'
                1stPER -PL-REFL

Second person

(29)   a.   ne≅-la!   'Yourself'
                2nd PER -REFL

        b.   ne-həi-la!   'Yourselves'
                2ndPER -DUL-REFL

        c.   ne-khrumə□i-la   !   'Yourselves'

2ndPER -PL-REFL

Third Person

(30)   a.   pfo☐-la!   'Himself/Herself'
                 3rdPER -REFL

       b.   pfo☐-həi-la!   'Themselves'
                 3rdPER DUL-REFL

       c.   pfo☐ -khrumə☐i-la!   'Themselves'
                 3rdPER-PL-REFL

        We are cleared from the above (1.a) that the first person singular marker *-ji*is deleted when it takes dual and plural numbers unlike the second and third person singular. In the same wayas in (28. a) the first person marker final word *-ji* is dropped when takes the dual *-hei* and plural *–khru,*whereas, the second and third person singular are freely takes any numbers.

1.5.   POSSESSIVE PRONOUN
        Possessive pronouns in Mao are derived by suffixing possessive bound morpheme *zhi∃* to the personal pronouns. This morpheme *-zhi∃* is suffixed to personal pronouns *a* 'first person' *ne≅* 'second person', and *pfo* 'third person'.Sometimes possessive markers attached to the numbers in the situation when person markers take the number as in (31.b&c)). Illustrations are mentioned below.

       First person
(31)   a.   a-zhi☐ la≅rɨ!bvɨ∃   'My book'
                 1stPER-POSSbook

       b.   a-həi-zhi∃ la≅rɨ!bvɨ   'Our book' (DUL)
                 1stPER-DUL-POSS book

       c.   a-khrumə☐i-zhi la≅rɨ!bvɨ∃   'our (PL)'
                 1stPer-PL-Poss book

       Second Person
(32)   a.   ne-zhi☐ la≅rɨ!bvɨ∃   'your book'
                 2ndPER-POSSbook

       b.   ne-həi-zhi☐ la≅rɨ!bvɨ∃   'your book'(DUL)
                 2ndPER-DUL-POSS book

       c.   ne-khrumə≅i-zhi☐ la≅rɨ!bvɨ∃ 'your book'(PL)
                 2ndPER-PL-POSS book

Third Person

(33)   a.   pfo☐-zhi☐ la≅rɨ!bvɨ∃   'His/Her book'
                3rd PER-POSS book

         b.   pfo-həi-zhi☐ la≅rɨ!bvɨ∃   'their book'(DUL)
                3nd PER-DL-POSS book

         c.   pfo-khrumə≅i-zhi☐ la≅rɨ!bvɨ∃   'their book'(PL)
                3nd PER-PL-POSS book

     Moreover, possessive pronouns can be interpolated by the morpheme *th☐☐pfɨ´* 'all together/everything' is used as an independent word to show as possessive pronoun without specifying the person.

(34)   a.   he≅ʈh☐☐pfɨ☐ a-zhi☐
                DEM all together 1st PER-POSS
                'These are all mine'

         b.   he≅ʈh☐☐pfɨ☐ ne-zhi☐
                DEM all together 2nd PER-POSS
                'These are all yours'

         c.   he≅ʈh☐☐pfɨ☐pfo∃-zhi☐
                DEMall together 3rd PER-POSS
                'These are His/hers'

     The examples (34.a-c) showed that the possessive pronoun*th☐☐pfɨ´* 'all together/everything' is used in the situation when there is no require particularize the possessor.

1.6.   INDEFINITE PRONOUN

     Earlier grammarians and scholars of Mao expressed the indefinite pronouns as an independent word, function independently as a subject or an object in the morpho-syntactic level. At the same time, even some scholars declared that some indefinite pronouns words are expressed by phrases. For instance, *Mao Naga Grammar*P.P.Giridhar, (1994, p.174) mentioned such as 'somebody', 'something' 'everybody' and 'everything', expressed by phrases.

     We may considered Kapfo's work in Khezha, *The Ethnology of the Khezhas and The Khezha Grammar*, (2005:112) where he mentioned that the adjective pronoun occurs in place of noun and provides indefinite number of participants. Thus, whenever indefinite pronoun occurs, it implies a minimum number of two participants. I agree with Kapfo's view, as the same is available in Mao. The indefinite pronouns in Mao are mentioned below.

(35)   a.   ʈh☐☐pfɨ☐   'everyone/all/everything/'
         b.   ka≅pɔ∃kɔ   'some (out of many'
         c.   kamə☐ik☐   'somebody'/'someone'
         d.   cɔ∃ŋhɔ!kɔ   'something'

e.	ka☐ta☐	'any'/ whoever/whichever/whatever'
f.	kakrɨ	'other'
g.	ka∃ʈə≅i	'tiny'
h.	kɔ∃tu≅	'few'
i.	kɔ≅prɔ!	'many'

It may be cleared from the above mentioned examples (35. a-i) that the quantifiers function independently as an indefinite pronouns are readily anticipated that the participants or elements are more than one.

CONCLUSION

It is understood from the above explanation that pronouns act in place of noun in Mao as similar to the other languages. It is interesting to know that pronoun in Mao do not have gender distinction. The language can conveyed six numbers of distinct pronouns at the morphological constructions. They are personal pronouns which comprised three persons such as first, second and third. Each of them comprises singular, dual, and plural numbers. The demonstrative pronouns; refers to persons, things, or locations specifically by pointing it out. It is the same way as personal pronouns expresses numbers such as singular, dual and plural. It may be classified into (i) nominal and (ii) spatial demonstrative. Demonstrative roots have listener-speaker proximate and remote references also deictic and non-deictic relations present in Mao. Interrogative pronoun has three types of bound morphemes root such as *a∃-, ka!-* and *ci≅-*. They need some words to compound with in order to form interrogative pronoun words. Reflexive pronoun is denoted by bound morpheme *-a∃la!* 'self' that suffixed to the personal pronouns. It can occur with the numbers such as singular, dual and plural like the same as personal and demonstrative pronouns. Indefinite pronouns functions independently and they are anticipated that the participants or an elements are more than one.

NOTES

(i)   Bath (2007) generally referred several different sets of pronoun words.

(ii)   Personal Nouns: This personal pronoun does not show gender distinctions like the other languages.

(iii)   Plural marker -khru: Plural *-khru*carries *-mə≅i*whenever denote for human but not for other plural.

(iv)   Interrogative pronouns: This pronouns *a∃thə!i* 'who' takes only the dual number *-həi*, moreover some interrogative pronouns occurs in reduplicative form by their final sound repeatedly.

(v)   Possessive Pronoun: Possessive pronouns markers are suffixed to the person markers. Sometimes possessive markers attached to the numbers in the situation when person markers take the number.

(vi)

ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

SG	singular
DUL	dual
PL	plural
PER	person
DEM	demonstrative
INTR	interrogative
QFM	question form
REFL	reflexive
POSS	possessive
1st	first
2nd	second
3rd	third
!	high tone
≅	high mid tone
∃	low tone

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