9. Pronouns –I : Personal and Demonstrative

A pronoun is a word used in the place of one or more nouns. Pronouns are of seven types: personal, reflexive, intensive, relative, interrogative, demonstrative, and indefinite. As Telugu has only two genders, masculine and non-masculine, the demonstrative pronoun has two forms in the singular, one for males and one for females, and two forms in the plural, one for male/female persons and one for animals and things. Pay attention to this distinction carefully as you read the following section.

1. Personal Pronouns

Personal pronouns in Telugu come in three 'persons': First person, Second person and Third person. These pronouns are different in singular and plural numbers. It is very important to remember that third person plural personal pronouns are routinely used to address individuals of higher social rank or educational status. This distinction is indicated below by the terms "familiar" and "respectful". It is very difficult to convey the subtleties of the social conventions and one only learns these conventions with experience. The pronoun used also depends upon how far the subject is from the person doing the talking. This distinction is indicated by the terms "proximate" and "remote". These permutations and combinations make this topic one of the more difficult things to master. To sort this jungle of personal pronouns and navigate through them is not a trivial exercise and may require several passes.

Examples of personal pronouns (in the nominative case) are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Telugu</th>
<th>Pronunciation in RTS</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>అను</td>
<td>nEnu</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>నువ్వు</td>
<td>nu-vvu</td>
<td>you (familiar mode)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>మము</td>
<td>mE-mu</td>
<td>we (excluding the person spoken to)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>మన్</td>
<td>ma-naM</td>
<td>we (including the person spoken to)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>మీరు</td>
<td>mI-ru</td>
<td>you (respectful)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examples of demonstrative pronouns (in the nominative case) are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Telugu</th>
<th>Pronunciation in RTS</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>అడి</td>
<td>vA-Du</td>
<td>he (familiar mode; not respectful)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>అడి (1)</td>
<td>vA-Du (2)</td>
<td>she (familiar mode; not respectful) (2) it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>అడి (1)</td>
<td>vA-Du (2)</td>
<td>he (neutral mode; toward a younger / equal-ranked person)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>అడి</td>
<td>A-ya-na</td>
<td>he (respectful / toward a elder person)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>అడి</td>
<td>A-me</td>
<td>she (neutral)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>అడి</td>
<td>A-vi-Da</td>
<td>she (respectful)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>అడి</td>
<td>vA-ru</td>
<td>(1) he (respectful); (2) they (neutral)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>అడి</td>
<td>vA-LLu</td>
<td>they (plural object; neutral in respect);</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>అడి</td>
<td>a-vi</td>
<td>they (non-human objects)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These and others are now presented in various systematic categories. Illustrative examples on the use of
these are given following these categorical listings.

1.1 First person: Nominative (basic stem)

*singular* ȝE nE-nu  I

*plural* ȝH mE-mu we (exclusive)

*plural* y zm ma-naM we (inclusive)

Examples

*singular* ȝE ȝG ȝI r ȝE nE-nu gO-pi-ki Da-bbu i-ccE-nu  I gave Gopi money

*plural* ȝH ȝG ȝI r ȝE mE-nu gO-pi-ki Da-bbu i-ccE-mu We gave Gopi money

*plural* y zm ȝG ȝI r ȝE ma-naM gO-pi-ki Da-bbu i-ccEM We gave Gopi money

1.2 First Person: Possessive (oblique stem)

**Singular:** RuleContext  nA my

*singular object* RuleContext nA-di mine

*plural object* RuleContext nA-vi mine

**Plural:** RuleContext mA our

*singular object* RuleContext mA-di our

*plural object* RuleContext mA-vi ours

Examples

I RuleContext RuleContext RuleContext RuleContext i-di nA Da-bbu  This is my money

« RuleContext RuleContext RuleContext RuleContext RuleContext RuleContext I Da-bbu nA-di  This money is mine


I RuleContext RuleContext RuleContext RuleContext RuleContext i-di mA Da-bbu  This is our money

I RuleContext RuleContext RuleContext RuleContext RuleContext i-vi mA ku-kka-lu These are our dogs

« RuleContext RuleContext RuleContext RuleContext RuleContext RuleContext I ku-kka mA-di  This dog is ours

« RuleContext RuleContext RuleContext RuleContext RuleContext RuleContext I ku-kka-lu mA-vi These dogs are ours

1.3 Second Person: (basic stem)

*singular* nu-vvu / nl-vu you (familiar / intimate)
Pronoun as subject:

Sing. mI-ru you (respectful)
Sing. ta-ma-ru you (honorific)
Plur. mI-ru you

Pronoun as object:

Sing. mI-ru you
Sing. ta-ma-ru you (honorific)
Plur. mI-ru you

1.4 Second Person: Possessive (oblique stem)

Sing.:  nl yours (familiar / intimate)
Sing. obj.: nl-di yours (familiar / intimate)
Plur. obj.: nl-vi your (familars / intimate)
Plur.:  ml your, yours (respectful)
Sing. obj.: ml-di yours (respectful)
Plur. obj.: ml-vi yours (respectful)
Sing.:  ta-ma yours (honorific)
Sing. obj.: ta-ma-di yours (honorific)
Sing. obj.: ta-ma-ri-di yours (honorific)
Plur. obj.: ta-ma-vi yours (honorific)
Plur. obj.: ta-ma-ri-vi yours (honorific)

and so on for the remaining three cases. Notice how the verb ending in Telugu changes with the pronoun used. The beginner need not worry much about the honorific modes shown in the last five lines above.

Example

I  nl kA-ru  This is your car

This car is yours

I pu-sta-kA-lu nl-vi These books are yours
and so on for the remaining three cases.

**Pronoun as object (familiar person)**

\[
\text{I ù ǂ} \ H\text{ďw} \text{m} \ i-di \ mI \ pů-sta-k\text{a}M \ \text{This is your book}
\]

\[
\text{« H\text{ďw}mþ} \ ũ \ I \ pů-sta-k\text{a}M \ mI-di \ \text{This book is yours}
\]

\[
\text{« H\text{ď}gh \ ě \ Ž} \ \text{I pu-sta-k\text{a}-lu} \ mI-vi \ \text{These books are yours.}
\]

\[
\text{I Ŷny ĵ Ŷ} \ i-di \ ta-ma \ kA-ru \ \text{This is your car}
\]

\[
\text{«  ĵ Ŷ ny ũ} \ i-kA-ru \ ta-ma-di \ \text{This car is yours}
\]

and so on for the remaining three cases.

**Pronoun as object (familiar person)**

\[
\text{I ù} \ \text{gO-pi nI-ku Da-bbu i-cciM-Du Gopi gave you money}
\]

**1.5 Third Person: Proximate (basic stem)**

In the third person, make a note of the basic stem used when the person addressed is “close” and notice how it changes in the next section where the person addressed will be assumed to be “far.”

**Singular: Masculine**

\[
\text{I nO} \ i-ta-nu \ \text{he (neutral)}
\]

\[
\text{êY} \ vI-ru \ \text{he (respectful)}
\]

\[
\text{« ĵ z} \ I-ya-na \ \text{he (respectful)}
\]

\[
\text{« ĵ zij Ŷ} \ I-ya-na-gA-ru \ \text{he (mockingly respectful)}
\]

**Singular: Feminine**

\[
\text{I Ŷ} \ i-di \ \text{she (familiar / intimate)}
\]

\[
\text{« ŏ} \ I-me \ \text{she (neutral)}
\]

\[
\text{êY} \ vI-ru \ \text{she (respectful)}
\]

\[
\text{« ŏŠ} \ I-vi-Da \ \text{she (respectful)}
\]

\[
\text{« ŏŠ Ŭ Ŷ} \ I-vi-Da-gA-ru \ \text{she (mockingly respectful)}
\]

**Plural:**

\[
\text{ã ě à} \ vI-LLu \ \text{these people (familiar)}
\]

\[
\text{ãY} \ vI-ru \ \text{these people (neutral)}
\]

**Pronoun as subject:**

\[
\text{« ŏ} \ \text{gO-pi-ki Da-bbu i-cciM-di She gave money to Gopi.}
\]

**Pronoun as object: (respectful person)**

\[
\text{I Ŷ gO-pi vI-ri-ki Da-bbu i-cciE-Du Gopi gave money to them}
\]

**Possessive Pronoun:**
1.6 Third Person: Remote (basic stem)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular: Masculine</th>
<th>Pronoun as subject</th>
<th>Singular: Feminine</th>
<th>Pronoun as subject</th>
<th>Plural:</th>
<th>Pronoun as subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>d ƃ</td>
<td>vA-Du</td>
<td>a-di</td>
<td>she (familiar / intimate)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AŋO</td>
<td>a-ta-nu</td>
<td>a-ŋ</td>
<td>she (neutral)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d Ź</td>
<td>vA-ru</td>
<td>d Ź</td>
<td>she (respectful)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a Ź z</td>
<td>A-ya-na</td>
<td>a Ź ij Ź</td>
<td>A-ya-na-gA-ru he (mockingly respectful)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a Ź z</td>
<td>A-ya-na-gA-ru he (mockingly respectful)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular: Non-human</th>
<th>Pronoun as subject</th>
<th>Plural: Non-human</th>
<th>Pronoun as subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A ŋ</td>
<td>a-di</td>
<td>A ŋ</td>
<td>this (neuter)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>av</td>
<td>vA-Lu</td>
<td>av</td>
<td>those people (familiar)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vA-ru</td>
<td>vA-ru</td>
<td></td>
<td>those people (neutral)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pronoun as object: (respectful person)

A-ŋ O-ki Da-bbu I-cciM-di She gave money to Gopi.

Possessive Pronoun:

I ū Ť Da-bbu i-di dl-ni Da-bbu This is her money

Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Nominative</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Possessive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Person</td>
<td>Ž Ō</td>
<td>k ƃ, z Ŷ Ō</td>
<td>Ŷ, k ŕ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>nE-nu</td>
<td>nA-ku, na-nnu</td>
<td>nA, nA-di</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Person</td>
<td>oŋ, ŕ</td>
<td>oŋ, ŕ Ŕ ŕ</td>
<td>ŕ, ŕ ŕ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

http://geocities.com/vnagarjuna/vemuri.html?200527
2. Demonstrative Pronouns

Other examples of demonstrative pronouns are: అం, A those ఇ, I this ఇవి, I these

Some of the above demonstrative pronouns can be combined to form "either, or" type of expressions by suffixing them with an ఓ, O as shown below.

A అడు, A-me diన అడు, A-me-di
i ఇడు, I-me diన ఇడు, I-me-di
d డిడు, d-Me ki డిడు, d-Me-ki
v వడు వాన కి వడు, vA-ru వడు, vA-ru-di

3. Reflexive Pronouns

In Telugu, the closest to the English reflexive pronouns, such as myself, yourself, etc. is constructed...
using variations of నీ, ta-nu, నీ, ta-nE, నీ, tA-nE in the singular and నీ, ta-mu and నీ, tA-mu, in the plural.

Examples of reflexive pronouns are:

నీ వెంకంపు, ta-nu va-cciM-di = She came (familiar)

ం/ ం నీ వెంకంపు, ta-nE/ tA-nE va-cciM-di = She herself came (familiar)

ం/ ం నీ వెంకంపు, ta-nE/ tA-nE va-ccEru = She herself came (respectful)

ం వెంకంపు, ta-nu va-ccE-Du = He came (familiar)

ం/ ం వెంకంపు, ta-nE/ tA-nE va-ccE-Du = He himself came (familiar)

Notice in the above two sets, ం, ta-nE and ం, tA-nE are completely equivalent.

ఇ జారి కొనిని ఆయన ఇంచి రాకుండా వచ్చినది = He gave

ం/ జారి కొనిని ఆయ రాకుండా వచ్చినది = He himself gave

ద ర ఉనూ కాండం గుడు ఎరు = He hurt himself.

Here ర is 'he', ఉనూ is 'injury.' In జారి గుడు ఎరు, the stem కే is 'touch', ఒరు is reflexive suffix and ఎరు is present perfect suffix. This construction comes close in meaning to the original English sentence.

A more explicit way of achieving the same result is to append the suffix ఆరు ర, ఆరు ఆంటు ఆరు, etc. to the pronoun and doing the appropriate sandhi.

ద జారి ఉనూ కాండం గుడు ఎరు = He hurt himself.

ద కుందా ఉనూ అంది వియు = Can they come by themselves? In Telugu, the universal pronoun, నీ can be effectively applied to both genders. See the last example given below. Examples of intensive pronouns are:

ద పారు ఉనూ కాండం పారు = He himself was not hurt.

ద పారు ఉనూ కాండం పారు = He herself/himself was not hurt.

The use of relative pronouns to construct subordinate clauses is not as common in Telugu as it is in English.

4. Exercises

1. In Section I, Example 1, write the sample sentences for the remaining four cases.
2. In Section I, Example 2, write the sample sentences for the remaining five cases.

3. In Section I, Examples 1 and 2, simply copy the underlined words, in the order they appeared in each sentence. Collect all these pairs of words and read them. They exhibit verb-pronoun concordance.

4. In each of the following cases, what is the suitable Telugu pronoun?

(a) singular, masculine, respectful: he, ఆయన
(b) singular, masculine, familiar: he, శు
(c) singular, masculine, sneering: he, ఆయని
(d) singular, masculine, possessive, familiar: his, శత
(e) singular, masculine, possessive, respectful: his, శట్ట
(f) singular, feminine, respectful: she, ఆష
(g) singular, feminine, familiar: she, ఆక
(h) singular, feminine, sneering: she, ఆషి
(i) singular, feminine, possessive, familiar: her, ఉష
(j) singular, feminine, possessive, respectful: her, శట్ట
(k) singular, neuter: that, ఆల
(l) plural, respectful: they, those, శత
(m) plural, familiar: they, those, ఉష
(m) plural, neuter: those, ఆల

Third person: Possessive, Remote.

singular, respectful: their, ఉషా ఉషా
plural, respectful: their, ఉషా ఉషా

Third person: Possessive, Proximate.

singular, respectful: their, ఉషా ఉషా; ఉషా ఉషా, v1-ri-di
plural, respectful: their, ఉషా ఉషా; ఉషా, v1-ri-vi

4. In the following assume that the pronoun is correct. Find and correct the one error of concordance in the verb.
5. Correct any errors in the following sentences.
(a) cr L 6G3I xl r AE, (b) cr L 6G3I xl r AE, (c) ny 6G3I xl r AE, (d) cr L 6G3I xl r AE,

6. Read the following Telugu sentences and then translate them into English.
(a) k ʒl 3 ʔũ k q.uk ʔr, (b) Ḟc ʒl 3 ʔũ 3 p.uk ū, (c) Ḟc ʒl 3 ʔũ 3 p.uk ū.

7. Translate the following English sentences into Telugu.
(a) What is that? (b) What is your name, sir? (c) What is your work? (d) What are these papers? (e) Which is your house? (f) Who is she? (g) Who is this?

8. Compare the following and explain the difference in the constructions
k ʒl ʔũ ʒl ʒl ʔũ = He told me
k ʒl ʒl ʒl ʔũ = He asked me
k ʒl ʒl ʔũ = ??

9. A number of possessive pronouns are shown below. In each case, identify the correct English equivalent.
ṣ, nA,
ṣ ũ nA-di, (singular object)
ṣ -ũ, nA-vi, (plural object)

nldi, q-ũ, (Y3 l🌿 ʌd ditch) <r>qũ, nI-vi, (familiar, plural object)
d ʒPũ, vA-Di-di, (familiar, singular object)
ª 遴, A-me-di, (singular object)
d ʒPũ, vA-Di-vi, (familiar, plural object)
ª 遴, A-me-vi, (plural object)
Some times possessive pronouns are used as adjectives.

5. Answers

4.

(a) Ҭ Ǒ ʈ ǞǤǤǤ ʈ ԛ ʇ ǞǞǞ. Here Ҭ is a first person pronoun and ԛ is a verb in the second person. There is no concordance between the pronoun and the verb. So change the verb to ԛ i-ccE-nu.

(b) ʞ Ǒ ʈ ǞǤǤǤ ʈ ԛ ʇ ǞǞǞ, Here ʞ is a third person pronoun in the familiar style and ԛ is a verb in the second person, but in the respectful style. There is no concordance between the pronoun and the verb. So change the verb to ԛ i-ccE-Du.

(c) ǟʬ Ǯ ʈ ǞǤǤǤ ʈ ԛ ʇ ǞǞǞ. Here ǟʬ Ǯ is in the honorary style and ԛ is a verb in the familiar style. There is no concordance between the pronoun and the verb. Change the verb to ԛ i-ccE-ru.

(d)  Çalış ʈ ǞǤǤǤ ʈ ԛ ʇ ǞǞǞ, Here  Çalış is feminine and ԛ is a verb in the masculine. There is no
suggestion of the level of respect to be given to Sita. So you can change the verb either to the familiar I ČČM-di or to the respectful I ĀY, i-ccE-ru. The latter usage is recommended.

5.

(a) d R L ĠGśI x l ĀY: Here d R is masculine pronoun in the familiar tone. The verb l Ē should have a corresponding masculine ending with a familiar tone. So it must be l ĀE.

(b) « a ěk ā. Here a ěk is a personal pronoun in the singular. Either a ěk should be changed to the singular a ě or the possessive pronoun should be changed to plural. So either you should say « a ěk ā, I Avu nAdi = This cow (is) mine

or, you should say

« a ěk ā, I Avulu nAvi = These cows (are) mine.

(c) nāy ČČM-di x l ĀY. Here nāy ČČM is honorary pronoun, and l Ē is an action verb in the singular. All honorary pronouns behave like plural pronouns. So the associated verb should also be in plural, namely l Ā. So the correct answer is:

nāy ČČM-di x l Ā.

6.

(a) Now my son is in Vizag. (b) He has a big house there. (c) Your books are on this large table. (d) He is my grandfather. (e) Hello! Sita, how are you? (respectful tone) Is everyone OK? (f) Uh. Uh. With your grace, everyone is ok. (g) Prasad sir, is in that room.

7.

(a) Aū ±E? (b) 3 ĖÀ±E Arô? (c) 3 ĖÀ±E Arô? (d) « ĖÀ±E Arô? (e) 3 Ė À±u? (f) ʷE? (g) l ā(« d, l ʷÔ) ĖEy?

9.

k, nA, my

k ūnAdi, mine (singular object)

k -e, nA-vi, mine (plural object)

nIdi, q-ü, Ô ~(Y3 Ê `Gh x~ÔÔ)`

< r > g, nI-vi, yours (familiar, plural object)

c ʷPū, vA-Di-di, his (familiar, singular object)
a ndũ, A-me-di, hers (singular object)
d’ōθ, vA-Di-vi, his (familiar, plural object)
a ndθ, A-me-vi, hers (plural object)
d ōθ, vA-ri-vi, theirs (plural object)
ũ qqq, dA-ni-ni, that (singular object)
ũqqq, dl-ni-ni, this (plural object)
3 ũ, mI-di, yours (respectful)
3 ə, mI-vi, yours (respectful, plural object)
ny ũ, ta-ma-di, yours (honorary, singular object)
ny ə, ta-ma-vi, yours (honorary, plural object)
ţ ũ, mA-di, ours (exclusive, singular object)
ţ ə, mA-vi, ours (exclusive, plural object)
y zũ, ma-na-di, ours (inclusive, singular object)
y zə, ma-na-vi, ours (inclusive, plural object)
d ōũ, vA-ri-di, theirs (singular object)
d ōθ, vA-ri-vi, theirs (plural object)