

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:

...Telugu.....	...Pronunciation in RTS.....	..Example...
	nEnu	I
1	nu-vvu	you (familiar mode)
	mE-mu	we (excluding the person spoken to)
	ma-naM	we (including the person spoken to)
	mI-ru	you (respectful)

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

Telugu.....	...Pronunciation in RTS.....	..Example...
	vA-Du	he (familiar mode; not respectful)
A	adi	(1) she (familiar mode; not respectful) (2) it
A	a-ta-nu	he (neutral mode; toward a younger / equal-ranked person)
	A-ya-na	he (respectful / toward a elder person)
	A-me	she (neutral)
	A-vi-Da	she (respectful)
	vA-ru	(1) he (respectful); (2) they (neutral)
1	vA-LLu	they (plural object; neutral in respect);
A	a-vi	they (non-human objects)

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)

<i>singular</i>	nE-nu	I
<i>plural</i>	mE-mu	we (exclusive)
<i>plural</i>	ma-naM	we (inclusive)

Examples

<i>singular</i>	ü ³ ☉	nE-nu gO-pi-ki Da-bbu i-ccE-nu	I gave Gopi money
<i>plural</i>	ü ³ ☉	mE-nu gO-pi-ki Da-bbu i-ccE-mu	We gave Gopi money
<i>plural</i>	ü ³ ☉	ma-naM gO-pi-ki Da-bbu i-ccEM	We gave Gopi money

1.2 First Person: Possessive (oblique stem)

Singular:	nA	my
<i>singular object</i>	nA-di	mine
<i>plural object</i>	nA-vi	mine
Plural:	mA	our
<i>singular object</i>	mA-di	our
<i>plural object</i>	mA-vi	ours

Examples

	³	i-di nA Da-bbu	This is my money
	³	I Da-bbu nA-di	This money is mine
	þ š	I ku-kka-lu nA-vi	These dogs are mine
	³	i-di mA Da-bbu	This is our money
	þ š	i-vi mA ku-kka-lu	These are our dogs
	þ š	I ku-kka mA-di	This dog is ours
	þ š	I ku-kka-lu mA-vi	These dogs are ours

1.3 Second Person: (basic stem)

<i>singular</i>	nu-vvu / nI-vu	you (familiar / intimate)
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<i>singular</i>	mI-ru	you (respectful)
<i>singular</i>	ta-ma-ru	you (honorific)
<i>plural</i>	mI-ru	you

Pronoun as subject:

½ ü ³ ☺	nu-vvu gO-pi-ki Da-bbu i-ccE-vu	You gave money to Gopi
ü ³ ☺	mI-ru rA-dha-ki Da-bbu i-ccE-ru	You gave money to Radha

Pronoun as object:

p ³ ☺	rA-dha mI-ku Da-bbu i-cciM-di	Radha gave you money
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1.4 Second Person: Possessive (oblique stem)

Singular:	nI	yours (familiar / intimate)
<i>sing. object</i>	nI-di	yours (familiar / intimate)
<i>plu. object</i>	nI-vi	your (familiar / intimate)
Plural:	mI	your, yours (respectful)
<i>sing. object</i>	mI-di	yours (respectful)
<i>plu. object</i>	mI-vi	yours (respectful)
Singular:	ta-ma	yours (honorific)
<i>sing. object</i>	ta-ma-di	yours (honorific)
<i>sing. object</i>	ta-ma-ri-di	yours (honorific)
<i>plu. object</i>	ta-ma-vi	yours (honorific)
<i>plu. object</i>	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

ü	i-di nI kA-ru	This is your car
ü	I kA-ru nI-di	This car is yours
-ü	I pu-sta-kA-lu nI-vi	These books are yours

	᳚	i-di mI pu-sta-kaM	This is your book
	᳚	I pu-sta-kaM mI-di	This book is yours
	᳚	I pu-sta-kA-lu mI-vi	These books are yours .
	᳚	i-di ta-ma kA-ru	This is your car
	᳚	I kA-ru ta-ma-di	This car is yours

and so on for the remaining three cases.

Pronoun as object (familiar person)

᳚ ᳚᳚ ᳚ gO-pi nI-ku Da-bbu i-ccE-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		vI-Du	he (familiar / intimate)
		i-ta-nu	he (neutral)
		vI-ru	he (respectful)
		I-ya-na	he (respectful)
		I-ya-na-gA-ru	he (mockingly respectful)
Singular: Feminine		i-di	she (familiar / intimate)
		I-me	she (neutral)
		vI-ru	she (respectful)
		I-vi-Da	she (respectful)
		I-vi-Da-gA-ru	she (mockingly respectful)
Plural:	᳚	vI-LLu	these people (familiar)
		vI-ru	these people (neutral)

Pronoun as subject:

᳚ ᳚᳚ ᳚ I-me gO-pi-ki Da-bbu i-cciM-di **She** gave money to Gopi.

Pronoun as object: (respectful person)

᳚ ᳚᳚ ᳚ gO-pi vI-ri-ki Da-bbu i-ccE-Du Gopi gave money to them

Possessive Pronoun:

l Dabbu i-di dI-ni Da-bbu This is **her** money

3 I Da-bbu dI-ni-di This money is hers

1.6 Third Person: Remote (basic stem)

Singular: Masculine		vA-Du	he (familiar / intimate)
	A	a-ta-nu	he (neutral)
		vA-ru	he (respectful)
		A-ya-na	he (respectful)
		A-ya-na-gA-ru	he (mockingly respectful)
Singular: Feminine	A	a-di	she (familiar / intimate)
		A-me	she (neutral)
		vA-ru	she (respectful)
		A-vi-Da	she (respectful)
		A-vi-Da-gA-ru	she (mockingly respectful)
Plural:	$\frac{1}{4}$	vA-LLu	those people (familiar)
		vA-ru	those people (neutral)
<i>Singular: Non-human</i>	A	a-di	this (neuter>
<i>Plural: Non-human</i>	A	avi	those (neuter)

Pronoun as subject:

ü 3 | ☺ A-me gO-pi-ki Da-bbu I-cciM-di She gave money to Gopi.

Pronoun as subject:

Pronoun as object: (respectful person)

ü 3 | ☺ gO-pi A-me-ki Da-bbu i-ccE-Du Gopi gave money to her

Possessive Pronoun:

l Dabbu i-di dI-ni Da-bbu This is **her** money

3 I Da-bbu vA-Di-di This money is his

Summary

<i>Singular</i>	...Nominative...	...Objective...	...Possessive...
1st Person		p , °	,
	nE-nu	nA-ku, na-nnu	nA, nA-di
2nd Person	,	$\frac{1}{2}$ p , °	,

	nI-vu, nu-vvu	nI-ku, ni-nnu	nI, nI-di
		ḡ, ḡ°	,
3rd Person	mI-ru	mI-ku, mi-mma-lni	mI, mI-di
		ü	,
	vA-Du	vA-Di-ki	vA-Di, vA-Di-di
	A ,	ü ü	, , ,
	a-di, A-me	dA-ni-ki, A-me-ki	dA-ni-di, A-me-di
	l ,	ü ü	, , ,
	i-di, i-me	di-ni-ki, I-me-ki	dI-ni-di, dI-ni-di, I-me, I-me-di
		ü	,
	vA-ru	vA-ri-ki	vA-ri, vA-ri-di

...Plural... ...Nominative... ...Objective... ...Possessive...

1st Person		ḡ	,
	mE-mu	mA-ku	mA, mA-di
2nd Person		ḡ	,
	mI-ru	mI-ku	mI, mI-di
		ü	
	ta-ma-ru	ta-ma-ki	ta-ma-di
3rd Person	-	ü	,
	vA-ru	vA-ri-ki	vA-ri, vA-ri-di
		ü	,
	vI-ru	vI-ri-ki	vI-ri, vI-ri-vi
	A	ü	,
	a-vi	vA-Ti-ki	vA-Ti, vA-Ti-vi

2. Demonstrative Pronouns

Other examples of demonstrative pronouns are: , A those l , i-di this l , i-vi these , I these

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

A , l , a-dO, i-dO = either that or this

A- , l - , a-vO, i-vO = either those or these

3. Reflexive Pronouns

In Telugu, the closest to the English reflexive pronouns, such as myself, yourself, etc. is constructed

using variations of , ta-nu, , ta-nE, , tA-nE in the singular and , ta-mu and , tA-mu, in the plural.

Examples of *reflexive* pronouns are:

- ☛ , ta-nu va-cciM-di = She came (familiar)
- / ☛ , ta-nE/ tA-nE va-cciM-di = She herself came (familiar)
- / ☛ , ta-nE/ tA-nE va-ccEru = She herself came (respectful)
- ☛ , ta-nu va-ccE-Du = He came (familiar)
- / ☛ , 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.

- l ☛ , A-ya-na i-ccE-ru = He gave
- l ☛ , A-ya-nE i-ccE-ru = He himself gave
- ౩ ప ° = He hurt himself.

Here is 'he', ౩ is 'injury.' In ప ° , the stem is 'touch', l is reflexive suffix and ప ° 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 A , A A , A

¼A , etc. to the pronoun and doing the appropriate *sandhi*.

౩ ప ° = He hurt himself.

¼A ¼A ? = Can they come by themselves? In Telugu, the universal pronoun, can be effectively applied to both genders. See the last example given below. Examples of *intensive* pronouns are:

ü Ì ౩ = He himself was not hurt.

ü Ì ౩ = S/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,

(b) singular, masculine, familiar: he,

(c) singular, masculine, sneering: he,

(d) singular, masculine, possessive, familiar: his,

(e) singular, masculine, possessive, respectful: his, _____,

(f) singular, feminine, respectful: she, _____,

(g) singular, feminine, familiar: she, A

(h) singular, feminine, sneering: she,

(i) singular, feminine, possessive, familiar: her,

(j) singular, feminine, possessive, respectful: her,

(k) singular, neuter: that, A

(l) plural, respectful: they, those,

(m) plural, familiar: they, those, VA

(n) plural, neuter: those, A

Third person: Possessive, Remote.

singular, respectful: their, _____,

plural, respectful: their, _____,

Third person: Possessive, Proximate.

singular, respectful: their, _____, vI-ri; _____, vI-ri-di

plural, respectful: their, _____, vI-ri; _____, vI-ri-vi

4. In the following assume that the pronoun is correct. Find and correct the one error of concordance in the verb.

(a) **ü 3| ¢** , (b) **ü 3| ¢** , (c) **ü 3| ¢** , (d) **ü 3| ¢** ,

5. Correct any errors in the following sentences.

(a) **ü 3| ¢** , (b) , (c) **ü 3| ¢** .

6. Read the following Telugu sentences and then translate them into English.

(a) **pl** U ° . (b) **üA š @| » U** (c) **-ü @ » U °** , (d) , (e) **š** , ! E U ° ? A **p** ? (f) , » A **p** ! (g) **l** U ° .

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

p ± = He told me

° A = He asked me

pA = ??

° **±** = ??

9. A number of possessive pronouns are shown below. In each case, identify the correct English equivalent.

, nA,

nA-di, (singular object)

- , nA-vi, (plural object)

nIdi, - , (, **œ 0**)

< > , nI-vi, (familiar, plural object)

, vA-Di-di, (familiar, singular object)

, A-me-di, (singular object)

, vA-Di-vi, (familiar, plural object)

, A-me-vi, (plural object)

, vA-ri-vi, (plural object)

, dA-ni-ni, (singular object)

, dI-ni-ni, (plural object)

, mI-di, (respectful)

, mI-vi, (respectful, plural object)

, ta-ma-di, (honorary, singular object)

, ta-ma-vi, (honorary, plural object)

, mA-di , (exclusive, singular object)

, mA-vi, (exclusive, plural object)

, ma-na-di , (inclusive, singular object)

, ma-na-vi , (inclusive, plural object)

, vA-ri-di, (singular object)

, vA-ri-vi, (plural object)

Some times possessive pronouns are used as adjectives.

l »

p

5. Answers

4.

(a) **ü ³| ☺** . Here **ü** is a first person pronoun and **l ☺** is a verb in the second person.

There is no concordance between the pronoun and the verb. So change the verb to **l ☺** , i-ccE-nu.

(b) **ü ³| ☺** , Here **ü** is a third person pronoun in the familiar style and **l ☺** 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 **l ☺** , i-ccE-Du.

(c) **ü ³| ☺** , Here **ü** is in the honorary style and **l ☺** is a verb in the familiar style. There is no concordance between the pronoun and the verb. Change the verb to **l ☺** , i-ccE-ru.

(d) **ü ³| ☺** , Here **ü** is feminine and **l ☺** 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 $\text{I } \text{☞}$, i-cciM-di or to the respectful $\text{I } \text{☞}$, i-ccE-ru. The latter usage is recommended.

5.

(a) $\text{ü } \text{³| } \text{☞}$: Here $\text{ü } \text{³|}$ is masculine pronoun in the familiar tone. The verb $\text{I } \text{☞}$ should have a corresponding masculine ending with a familiar tone. So it must be $\text{I } \text{☞}$

(b) $\text{ü } \text{³|}$. Here $\text{ü } \text{³|}$ is plural. $\text{I } \text{☞}$ is a personal pronoun in the singular. Either $\text{I } \text{☞}$ should be changed to the singular $\text{I } \text{☞}$ or the possessive pronoun should be changed to plural. So either you should say

$\text{ü } \text{³|} \text{ , I Avu nAdi} = \text{This cow (is) mine}$

or, you should say

$\text{ü } \text{³|} \text{ , I Avulu nAvi} = \text{These cows (are) mine.}$

(c) $\text{ü } \text{³|} \text{ ☞}$. Here $\text{ü } \text{³|}$ is honorary pronoun, and $\text{I } \text{☞}$ is an action verb in the singular.

All honorary pronouns behave like plural pronouns. So the associated verb should also be in plural, namely $\text{I } \text{☞}$. So the correct answer is:

$\text{ü } \text{³|} \text{ ☞}$.

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) A $\text{ü } \text{³|}$? (b) $\text{ü } \text{³|}$ A $\text{ü } \text{³|}$? (c) $\text{ü } \text{³|}$? (d) $\text{ü } \text{³|}$? (e) $\text{I } \text{☞}$? (f)

E $\text{ü } \text{³|}$? (g) $\text{I } \text{☞}$ ($\text{ü } \text{³|}$, $\text{I } \text{☞}$) E $\text{ü } \text{³|}$?

9.

$\text{ü } \text{³|}$, nA, my

$\text{ü } \text{³|}$ nA-di, mine (singular object)

- $\text{ü } \text{³|}$, nA-vi, mine (plural object)

nIdi, - $\text{ü } \text{³|}$ ($\text{ü } \text{³|}$, $\text{ü } \text{³|}$)

< > $\text{ü } \text{³|}$, nI-vi, yours (familiar, plural object)

$\text{ü } \text{³|}$, vA-Di-di, his (familiar, singular object)

- , A-me-di, hers (singular object)
 - , vA-Di-vi, his (familiar, plural object)
 - , A-me-vi, hers (plural object)
 - , vA-ri-vi, theirs (plural object)
 - , dA-ni-ni, that (singular object)
 - , dI-ni-ni, this (plural object)
 - , mI-di, yours (respectful)
 - , mI-vi, yours (respectful, plural object)
 - , ta-ma-di, yours (honorary, singular object)
 - , ta-ma-vi, yours (honorary, plural object)
 - , mA-di, ours (exclusive, singular object)
 - , mA-vi, ours (exclusive, plural object)
 - , ma-na-di, ours (inclusive, singular object)
 - , ma-na-vi, ours (inclusive, plural object)
 - , vA-ri-di, theirs(singular object)
 - , vA-ri-vi, theirs (plural object)
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