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APPENDIX 14.

A further note on

Conjunctive Pronouns in Kpelle

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Mr. John Wealar has prepared a paper on expressions for joining substantives (not including the joining of propositions, however; see the paper preceding this). His analysis of the grammatical status of /dà, kà, kwà/ as pronouns is entirely correct. For the non-native speaker of Kpelle who may be concerned about this, however, a somewhat fuller statement may be desirable, including particularly an addition concerning the use of /-ni/ in conjunctive constructions.

Only the plural pronouns occur with conjunctive forms (ending in /-à/); these forms indicate the personal category of the total which is composed of the conjoined parts. Thus if "I" or "we" is included in the total, the total is also "we", /kwà/. If the first person is excluded but "you" (singular or plural) is included, then the total is also "You" (plural), /kà/. If neither a first nor a second person is included, then the total is "they", /dà/.

The appropriate conjunctive pronoun joins two singular substantives to make a total of two and no more. If one of the substantives is itself plural, so that the total is more than two, then /-ni/ is suffixed to the second substantive.

If the conjunctive expression begins with the conjunctive pronoun, the first substantive is, by implication, of the person indicated by the conjunctive pronoun.

Independent pronoun forms are commonly used in conjunctive expressions. The independent pronoun forms are:

I:	nyá	we:	kwá
you (sg.):	yá	you (pl.):	ká
he/she/it:	nya	they:	dia

All possible types of combinations are illustrated in the following sentences, in all of which the predicate is "went". The restrictions are systematic: the only personal sequences are 1-2, 1-3, 2-3, 3-3. English equivalents are given in normal English syntax, not to represent the Kpelle structure.

kwà yá kú lì.	You (sg.) and I went.
kwà nya kú lì.	He (she) and I went.
kà nya ká lì.	You (sg.) and he (she) went.
dà nya dí lì.	He (she) and she (she) went.
dà Sumo dí lì.	He and Sumo went.
Sumo dà Tòkpa dí lì.	Sumo and Tokpa went.
kwà ká-nì kú lì.	You (pl.) and I went.
	<u>or</u> You (sg. or pl.) and we went.
kwà dia-nì kú lì.	They and I went.
	<u>or</u> He and we went.
	<u>or</u> They and we went.
kà dia-nì ká lì.	You (pl.) and he went.
	<u>or</u> You (sg. or pl.) and they went.
dà dia-nì dí lì.	He and they went.
	<u>or</u> They and they went.
dà Sumo-nì dí lì.	They and Sumo went.
núu feere dà Sumo-nì dí lì.	Two people and Sumo went.

In many cases, of course, more normal English equivalents would be of the type "You went with us" or "We went with you"; in this construction, any distinction implied between these two English sentences is not expressed in Kpelle. A few further observations may help to sharpen the picture of this Kpelle construction:

The labels "first person, second person, third person"

have a real validity for Kpelle, arbitrary as they may have been in their origin as grammatical terms.

If the total referred to is two items and no more, then the second member of the conjunctive expression must, of course, be singular.

If the total is more than two, then the second member, if a pronoun, must be the plural independent pronoun -- even though, in the real situation described, only one member of that personal category is included.

If the total is more than two, /-ni/ must be used. In the second member, therefore, independent pronoun members can only be singulars without /-ri/ or plurals with /-ni/.

In the above examples, the conjunctive expressions are used as subjects. To use them as objects, only the conjunction of two nouns can be used before the verb; and even here it is possible to split the construction:

dí Sumo dà Tòkpa kàa. They saw Sumo and Tokpa.
or dí Sumo kàa, dà Tòkpa.

In all other cases, the first member occurs as the object pronoun before the verb, and the remainder of the construction is placed after the verb. For example:

dí ógàa kwà yá. They saw you (sg.) and me.
dí ógàa kwà òya. They saw him (/her) and me.
dí ógàa kwà ká-nì. They saw you (pl.) and me.
dí ógàa kwà dia-nì. They saw them and me.

In these combinations, the first pronoun (as in all of the above) may be singular as well as plural, whereas in the subject construction there is no way to specify the singularity of one member if the total is more than two. Thus there is a larger number of possible combinations in object expressions. For combinations totalling two, the possible sequences are XXXXX in any order; for combinations totalling more than two, the first pronoun may be either singular or plural.

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