Noun classification in Pnar
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1 Introduction

1.1 Pnar: Overview
Subgrouping (Nagaraja et. al., 2013)

- 480,000+ speakers
- Related to Khais, but with some differences (Daladier, 2011; Nagaraja, 1993)
- Grammar of Khais (Rabel, 1961)
- Phonetic/phonemic analysis (Ring, 2012)
- No published grammatical description
- ≈ 14 hours of recorded speech
- 8 hrs transcribed/translated
- Male and female speakers
- Variety of domains, types
- Time-aligned, annotated via Toolbox
- 33 texts to date (5min to 1:30min)

1.2 Sound System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>labial</th>
<th>alveolar</th>
<th>palatal</th>
<th>velar</th>
<th>glottal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>p</td>
<td>t, l</td>
<td>k</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td>d, j</td>
<td>? *</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m</td>
<td>n *</td>
<td>? *</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>h</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s</td>
<td>l</td>
<td>j *</td>
<td></td>
<td>(y)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Consonant phonemes (*orthographic)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>close</th>
<th>central</th>
<th>back</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>[i]</td>
<td>u</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>[e]</td>
<td>o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>æ, ø</td>
<td>[æ, ø]</td>
<td>* (a) * (oo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Vowel Phonemes (*orthographic)

Pnar syllable structure

1.3 Basic grammatical structure

NP -> PN or gCl=N (Mod)   S -> V NP   CS -> V S / V A O

(1) (a) u
3SG.M
‘he’
(b) u=chup (hwk)
M=basket
‘the/a big basket’

(2) (a) bam u
eat 3SG.M
‘he eats’
(b) bam =bru
M=person
take 3SG.M
‘he/took the basket’

(3) (a) yap u
die 3SG.M
‘he dies’
(b) dat u
hit 3SG.M 3SG.F
‘he hits her’

‘Default’ Sentences

(4) (b) keñ u u=chup
take 3SG.M M=basket
‘he took the basket’ [PP05KO_009]

(5) (a) poi ka=blang [ha-jen sof]
take F=goat LOC-near fruit
‘the goat comes near the fruit’ [MPST_010]

Topicalization Sentences

(6) (a) ka=pm-spong toh u=xem ka
F=Nnz-wrap right NF=have 3SG.F
‘the turban is necessary’ [TACJ_133]

(b) to u=xaloy hadem, ong u...
NVS M=donkey hadem say 3SG.M
‘so the Hadem Daloi.
(lit. ‘the turban, is right to have it’) he said...’ [PP05KO_025]

1.4 Word formation

The word in Pnar is minimally one syllable and can be identified based on phonological and grammatical criteria as per Dixon and Aikhenvald (2003)

Phonological criteria:

- Segmental – pauses allowed before and after the word.
- Prosodic – stress in a word is on the final syllable.
- Phonological – vowel sequences within a word often form diphthongs.

Grammatical criteria:

- Cohesiveness – root or stem (optional prefixes, proclitics and/or enclitics).
- Fixed order – must occur together in a fixed order.
- Coherence and meaning – conventionalized coherence and meaning.
- Isolatability – can be used or discussed on its own and in response to questions.
- Immutability – subdivision results in loss of meaning.
2 Types of nominal categorization

2.1 Gender

Table 3: Pnar personal pronouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1sg</td>
<td>nga</td>
<td>o</td>
<td></td>
<td>o</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2sg</td>
<td>me</td>
<td>mi</td>
<td>pha</td>
<td>mi</td>
<td>pho</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3sg</td>
<td>oo</td>
<td>ka</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>u</td>
<td>ko</td>
<td>i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1pl</td>
<td>i</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>i</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2pl/formal</td>
<td>phi</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>phi</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pl</td>
<td>ki</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ki</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4: Pnar gender markers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Noun Class</th>
<th>Marker</th>
<th>Noun</th>
<th>Gloss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>masculine</td>
<td>u</td>
<td>masi</td>
<td>'male cow'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>feminine</td>
<td>ka</td>
<td>masi</td>
<td>'female cow'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>neutral/diminutive</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>masi</td>
<td>'small/neuter cow'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plural</td>
<td>ki</td>
<td>masi</td>
<td>'plural cow'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2 Deixis

Deictic demonstratives

Figure 5: Pnar spatial deixis

(7) (a) ka=ni  ka=kyntein
      F=PRX  F=female
      'this woman (proximal)' [MPSRJ_044]

(b) u=te  u=bru
      M=MPRX  M=person
      'that man (m-proximal)' [KNI_004]

(c) ka=tu  ka=blang
      F=MEDL  F=goat
      'that goat (medial)' [MPMSM_013]

(d) u=tai  u=loom
      M=DIST  M=hill
      'that hill (distal)' [PP4SKO_036]

(e) u=tu  u=bru
      M=NVIS  M=person
      'that man (non-visible)' [MPSRJ_052]

2.3 Number

Table 5: Pnar numeral classifiers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number Class</th>
<th>Classifier</th>
<th>Plural</th>
<th>Noun</th>
<th>Gloss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human</td>
<td>ar</td>
<td>ngut</td>
<td>ki=bru</td>
<td>'two CLP.HUM PL=person'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-human</td>
<td>san</td>
<td>tylli</td>
<td>ki=soh</td>
<td>'five CLP.NH PL=fruit'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measure</td>
<td>ynniau</td>
<td>kyntein</td>
<td>ki=kwai</td>
<td>'seven SET.PL=areca'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 6: Local measure terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local term</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>chi hali</td>
<td>'eight pieces of fruit'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chi buah</td>
<td>'packet of about 50 paths (paan) leaves'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chi song</td>
<td>'four buah'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chi kani</td>
<td>'four hundred kwai (areca) nuts'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chi sarr</td>
<td>'a weight, slightly less than one kilo'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chi mon</td>
<td>'100 kilograms'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u mon</td>
<td>'40 sær'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chi kati</td>
<td>'basket weighing ~2.5 sær'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chi kkt</td>
<td>'handful, i.e. 10 (kkt means hand)'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chi kyntein</td>
<td>'a set of betel nut, lead, and lime'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chi</td>
<td>'a/an, one, set'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.4 Movement, direction, location

Table 7: Pnar case markers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>S-arg.</th>
<th>Case</th>
<th>Obl.</th>
<th>Gloss</th>
<th>Function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Intransitive)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lai</td>
<td>u=bru</td>
<td>ya</td>
<td>bei</td>
<td>the man goes for/due to (his) mother</td>
<td>[BEN]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lai</td>
<td>u=bru</td>
<td>da</td>
<td>kars</td>
<td>'the man goes by car'</td>
<td>[INST]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sah</td>
<td>u=bru</td>
<td>ha</td>
<td>yung</td>
<td>'the man sits at home'</td>
<td>[LOC]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lai</td>
<td>u=bru</td>
<td>cha</td>
<td>yung</td>
<td>'the man goes to (his) house'</td>
<td>[ALL]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lai</td>
<td>u=bru</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>yung</td>
<td>'the man goes from (his) house'</td>
<td>[ABL]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3 Number revisited

3.1 Number at the word level

singular vs. plural vs. unspecified

(8) (a) u=deiñ M=tree
   ‘tree’ [TACJ_344] [+singular, +specific, +masculine]

(b) dain i ki=deiñ
cut 1PL PL=tree
   ‘we cut trees’ [PP11NC_006] [-singular, +specific]

(c) dain deiñ i
   cut tree 1PL
   ‘we tree-cut’ [BMPJ_032] [-+specific]

3.2 Number at the phrase level

singular vs. plural agreement vs. classifiers

(9) (a) iñ burn
    ka=tu F=medl
    ka=yung F=home
   ‘that home burned’ [FPAHM_036] [+unique]

(b) æm have
    ki=ni PL=prox
    ki=yung PL=home
    ki 3pl wa
    nmz he-i=tæ loc -N=nvis
   ‘there are these homes which are there’ [PP14MF_098]

(c) u=chæm nfin =meet 2PL two CL.NONH PL=tree
   ‘you will find two pieces of wood’ [BPVM_012]

3.3 Number at the clause level

chi - an operator that allows for clausal modification

(10) (a) ynuu sein ha ka chi tu gau
    six time LOC 3SG.F set CL.WK week
   ‘six times in one week’ [AIJ_046]

(b) rah u chi kvrah
    carry 3SG.M set basket
   ‘he carried a basket’ [FPSM_018]

(c) ksoh u chi ksoh
    hold 3SG.M set hold
   ‘he held her tightly’ [PP05KO_010]

classifier phrases - variable members within a clause

3.4 Syntactic constraints on Pnar classifier phrases

Elicited examples:

‘Default’ pre-head vs post-head modification

(11) (a) e [ar tyli] ki=kwai
give two CL.NONH PL=areca
   ‘give two kwai (to me/him/her)’ [Imperative]

(b) e u ki=kwai [ar tyli]
give 3SG.M PL=areca two CL.NONH
   ‘he gives/gave two kwai (to me/him/her)’

Noun-incorporation with CP

(12) (a) e kwai ar tyli
give areca two CL.NONH
   ‘kwai-give two (to me/him/her)’ [Imperative]

(b) e kwai u ar tyli
give areca 3SG.M two CL.NONH
   ‘he kwai-gives/gave two (to me/him/her)’

Topicalization with CP (pre- and post-head)

(13) (a) ar tyli ki=kwai e u ya nga
    two CL.NONH PL=areca give 3SG.M BEN 1SG
   ‘two kwai he gives/gave me’

(b) ki=kwai ar tyli e u ya nga
    PL=areca two CL.NONH give 3SG.M BEN 1SG
   ‘two kwai he gives/gave me’

Topicalization of CP (default vs. incorporation)

(14) (a) ar tyli e u ki=kwai
give areca two CL.NONH give 3SG.M PL=areca
   ‘two kwai he gives/gave me’

(b) ar tyli e kwai u
give areca two CL.NONH give arca 3SG.M
   ‘two he kwai-gives/gave’

Incorporation with afterthought CP

(15) e kwai u (ya nga), ar tyli
give areca he BEN 1SG two CL.NONH
   ‘he kwai-gives (to me), two’
Disallowed constructions

(16)  (a) ??e u ki ar tylli ki=kwai
give 3SG.M 3PL two CP NONH PL=areca
‘he gives the two pieces of kwai’

(b) *e u ki ar tylli kwai
give 3SG.M 3PL two CP NONH areca
‘he gives two kwai’

(c) *ki=kwai e u ar tylli
   PL=areca give 3SG.M two CP NONH
   ‘two kwai he gives/gave (to me/him/her)’

Conclusions:
• tendency for CP to occur with the NP-head
• pre- or post-head modification is allowed
• classifier allows for disambiguation
• marking the CP with gender is dispreferred

4 Nominal classification/categorization in Pnar: Summary

Three syntactic levels of nominal organization:
• Word
• Phrase
• Clause

Four (or five) functional/semantic domains/categories:
• Gender
• Deixis
• Number (gender-based number [+singular] vs. CP [+numeral])
• Movement/Direction/Location

Table 8: Pnar noun classification
(function in terms of syntactic realization)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>gNum</th>
<th>Deixis</th>
<th>cNum</th>
<th>MDL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Word:</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phrase:</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clause:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

References


