

## Reflexive markers across languages: Some additional observations

### 1. Attributive reflexives

- Languages with identical expressions for intensifiers and reflexive markers typically use these expressions also in attributive position (Mand. *zìjǐ*, Turk. *kendi*, Japan. *zibun no*, etc.)
  - (1) Zhangsan pīpíng-le zìjǐ-de pengyou. 'Zhangsan criticized his own friend.'  
Zhangsan criticize-le SELF-de friend
- some European languages have a special attributive/possessive reflexive, contrasting with the regular possessive pronoun (Scandinavian: *sin* vs. *hans/hennes*, Russian: *svoj* - *ego*, Latin: *suus* - *eius*)
  - (2) a. Lena<sub>i</sub> tvättar hennes<sub>j</sub> bil. 'Lena washes her car.'  
b. Lena<sub>i</sub> tvättar sin<sub>i</sub> bil. 'Lena washes her own car.'
- In most European languages there are no such possessive reflexives anymore; in these languages intensifiers are used in combination with the usual possessive pronouns; if the normal intensifiers are not admissible in these attributive positions, special intensifiers are used: Engl. *own*; Germ. *eigen*; French *propre*;
- That these expressions are intensifiers is shown by the following facts:
  - (i) **No possessive meaning** in many contexts anymore ( → bleaching):
    - (3) His own death surprised us even more than that of his children.
    - (4) His own losses were substantial.
  - (ii) Clear **contrastive** meaning (surprising co-reference), otherwise not admissible:
    - (5) a. He is tall for his (\*own) age. He lost his (\*own) temper.  
b. He likes to be together with children his own age.  
c. John is his own coach.
  - (iii) Can be **paraphrased** by regular intensifiers
    - (6) a. A poem from Shakespeare's own pen – a poem from Shakespeare himself  
b. I built this house with my own hands. = I built this house myself.
  - (iv) Can be **strengthened** and emphasized
    - (7) Engl. I'm gonna love you like my **very own** son
    - (8) Germ. Das ist in deinem **ureigensten** Interesse. 'This is in your very best interest.'
- In varieties of Dutch the relevant adjective is also used as a **general reflexive marker**:  
DUTCH (BRABANTS, etc.)
  - (9) a. Hij maakt zijn eigen de meesten zorgen over zijn eigen.  
He makes his own the most worries over his own  
'Most of all he worries about himself.'  
b. Hij wast zijn eigen. 'He is washing.'

## 2. Logophors

- Term due to Claude Hagège (1974) "Les pronoms logophoriques", *BSLP* 69: 287-310.
- Def. : "A phenomenon, whereby the perspective of an internal protagonist of a sentence or discourse, as opposed to that of the current external speaker, is being reported by some morphological and/or syntactic means."

EWE (pre-verbal clitics)

(10)a. Kòfí bé yé-dzó. 'Kofi<sub>i</sub> said that he<sub>i</sub> left.

Kofi say LOG-leave.

b. Kòfí bé é-dzó. 'Kofi<sub>i</sub> said that he<sub>2</sub> left.'

Kofi say 3SG-leave.

- Logophors in English ? (long-distance binding)

(11)a. She perceived him soon afterwards looking at herself, and speaking familiarly to her brother.

b. Vain indeed must be all her attentions, vain and useless her affection for his sister and her praise of himself, if he were already self-destined to another.

c. He opened the drawer. In the leftmost corner was a letter addressed to himself.

- logophoricity is one of the relevant conditions for using intensifiers

(12)a. His attentive behavior to herself and his sisters convinced her that their welfare was dear to him, and, for a long time, she firmly relied on the liberality of his intentions.

b. She was not immediately able to say anything, and even when her spirits were recovered, she debated for a short time on the answer it would be most appropriate to give. The real state of things between Willoughby and her sister was so little known to herself, that in endeavoring to explain it, she might be as liable to say too much as too little.

c. To her great horror she noticed that the intruder was much taller than herself.

- preferences: Obj > Subj

Prep O > Obj

1st, 2nd person > 3rd person

- logophors in Mandarin (similarly in Japanese, Korean)

(12) Xiaoming shuo mama yihuir hui lai kan ziji.

Xiaoming say mum soon will come see self

'Xiaoming says that mum will soon come to see him.'

(13) Xiaoming tingjian Xioahua zai piping ziji.

Xiaoming hears X. DUR criticize self

'Xiaoming hears Xioahua criticize him.'

## 3. The ecology of multiple reflexive markers

- Polish: *się* vs. *siebie*
- German: *sich* vs. *sich selbst*
- French: *se* vs. *soi*

(14) French

a. Il s'est suicidé. 'He committed suicide.'

- b. Il s'est tué en voiture. 'He killed himself/he got killed in a car.'  
 c. Il s'est fait tuer dans un accident de voiture.  
 He REFL BE.3P done kill in an accident of car  
 'He got killed in a car accident.'

- **sensitivity to antecedent**

- (15) *Vi snakket om det å beundre en selv.* Norwegian (generic)  
 we talked about it to admire one self  
 'We talked about admiring oneself.'  
 (16) *On attend toujours des gens qu'ils disent du bien de soi.* French  
 'One always expects of people that they say good things about one (?self)'  
 (only possible in generic sentences; long-distance binding)  
 (17) a. R-yu'lààa'z *Gye'eihlly Gye'eihlly.* San Lucas Quiaviní (habitual)  
 HAB-like Mike Mike Zapotec  
 'Mike likes himself.'  
 b. *Yra'ta' ra bxuuhahz b-ghuty-rih la'arih.* (binding by quantifier)  
 Every PL priest PERF-kill-3PL.DIST 3PL.DIST  
 'Every priest killed himself.'

**4. Arguments and adjuncts**

- (18)a. John aimed the gun at himself. (somebody else) (argument position; contrast is possible)  
 b. The intruder had a gun with him. (\*with Paul). I have no money on me. (no contrast)  
 c. He pushed the brandy away from him/from himself. (from Mary)  
 (neutral observer vs. protagonist's perspective; contrast is possible)

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