

# Asuriní Possessive Pronouns

Preliminary Version

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\* The original version of this paper was made available in 1976 as No. 014 of the Arquivo Linguístico (Summer Institute of Linguistics, Brasília, DF). This is an edited version, modified in various ways to make it more readable and clearer; but the original data and analyses have been faithfully maintained.

A noun which can take a possessive pronoun affix can function as either the subject, object or locative of a clause.

There are two main sets of possessive pronoun affixes. The basic one is as follows:

se-	my	ore-	our (excl.)
ne-	your	sene-	our (incl.)
i-	his/her	pe-	your (pl.)
		i-	their

This set is used in all cases where the possessive pronoun is not coreferential with the person of the subject of the verb in the same clause, e.g.

Iaro <u>se</u> .ka'a.	pretty my.country
<u>Se</u> .ka'a-pe ara.ha.pota.	my.country-to we.go.will
	'We will go to my country.'
<u>Ne</u> .kyhe pa.	your.machete question

This set is modified when affixed to a noun which begins with a vowel (other than y), or with the consonant t. In the latter case the initial t on the noun is dropped, and the possessive pronoun affixes are as follows:

ser-	my	orer-	our (excl.)
ner-	your	sener-	our (incl.)
h-	his/her	pen-	your (pl.)
		h-	their

  

e.g.,	Iaro <u>ner</u> .aga.	pretty your.house
	Iwiseoho <u>h</u> .aga.	big_very his.house
	<u>H</u> .yroa a.esa.	his.cloth(tyroa) I.saw
	<u>Ser</u> .aga oro.apo.pota.	my house we.make.will
	<u>Ner</u> .yroa pa.	your.cloth(tyroa) question

This set is also modified when affixed to a noun which begins with a y, as follows:

se-	} (The <u>y</u> is pronounced as <u>i</u> .)
ne-	
is-	(The <u>y</u> retains the <u>y</u> sound.)

e.g., Se.ihara. my.canoe (yhara)

(This set of affixes, and the modified forms, are also used as the subject pronouns on Stative (Descriptive) Verbs.)

e.g., Se.pirahy. 'I am angry.'  
Ne.piri'ai. 'You are hot.'

The other main set of possessive pronoun affixes is used when the possessive pronoun on the noun is coreferential with the person of the subject of the verb of the same clause. This set of affixes is as follows:

oe-	my	oro-	our (excl.)
e-	your	sere-	our (incl.)
o-	his/her	pese-	your (pl.)

e.g.,	<u>O</u> e.ka'a-pe a.ha.pota.	my.country-to I.go.will
	<u>E</u> .koakyga ere.mowai.	your.finger you.cut
	<u>O</u> .ka'a-pe ihapotari.	his.country-to he.go.will
	A.mana <u>oe</u> .se'ega <u>oe</u> .mena-pe.	I.send my.speech my.husband-to
	Ere.mana <u>e</u> .se'ega <u>e</u> .mena-pe.	you.send your.speech your.husband-to

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**N.B.** This set of affixes is the same as the set of subject pronoun affixes which are attached to Intransitive Non-initiating Verbs. (See paper from last workshop.)

e.g.,	A.sahog.ta <u>oe</u> .ha.	I.bathe.will I.go
	Sa.ro.pyta yhara, <u>sere</u> .sahok.a ywyri.	we.with.stayed canoe we.bathed on_edge
	Kwe ara.ha <u>oro</u> .karo.pyy.o raka no.	there we.went we.ate.first truly again 'We first went to eat.'

The Non-initiating verb is coreferential with the person of the Initiating Verb in the same sentence. Hence one can see a correlation between the set of affixes used as the possessive pronouns of nouns (coreferential with the verb), and the same set used as the subject pronouns of Intransitive Non-initiating Verbs.

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This set is also modified when affixed to a noun which begins with a vowel (other than y), or with the consonant t. In the latter case the initial t is dropped and the following affixes are used:

oet-	my
s-	your
w-	his/her

e.g.,	<u>W</u> .yroa oesagokan seope.	his.cloth he_showed to_me
	<u>W</u> .aga o.kaapin.ta.	his.house he.clear_brush_around.will
	A.ha.pota <u>oet</u> .aga-pype.	I.go.will my.house-to
	<u>S</u> .opawa ere.si.	your.hammock(topawa) you.tie

The word aga, 'house' can also be modified in another way, i.e.

oe' -	my
e' -	your
o' -	his/her

e.g.,	<u>E'</u> .aga ere.apo.pota.	your.house you.make.will
	<u>Oe'</u> .aga a.apo.pota.	my.house I.make.will

The unmodified set of affixes is used with a noun which begins with a y, i.e. oe-, e-, o-, etc., but with the first and second person the y initial of the noun is pronounced as a i.

e.g.,	<u>Oe</u> .ihara a.mokato.	my.canoe(yhara) I.mend
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Noun root initial m:

With the affixation of the possessive pronouns (either set) this consonant is usually changed to its homorganic plosive p.

e.g.,	<u>Oe</u> .pyroa a.mokasym.	my.shoe( <u>my</u> roa) I.lost
	<u>E</u> .paapykwahawa ere.mokasym.	your.watch( <u>ma</u> apykwahawa) you.lost

However, note the change to s in the second person when the second set of affixes is used.

e.g.,	<u>S</u> .yroa ere.mokasym.	your.shoe( <u>my</u> roa) you.lost
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