

Shorter Notes

HIERARCHY IN SEMANTIC REPRESENTATION

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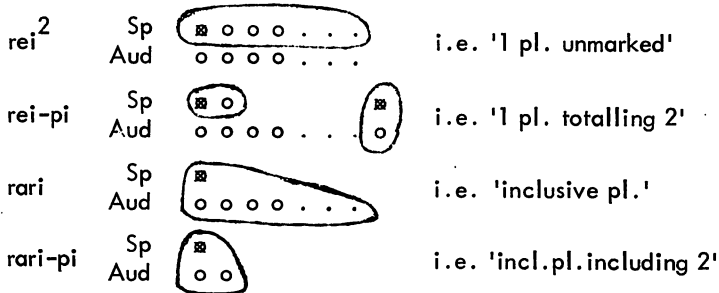
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Alan Pence analyzes the pronouns of Kunimaipa in a fashion that depends centrally on regarding reipi as two homophonous forms: 'thou and I' and 'we two (excl.)'.<sup>1</sup> There is no quarrel, of course, with the fact that this phonological shape may refer ambiguously to these two pronominal situations, or sets. The question is whether semantically the two situations are categorized just that way, i.e. as one cell each of a 3 x 2 matrix, in Kunimaipa. I would like to propose tentatively for discussion a different possibility.

From an inspection of the surface shapes of the pronouns, it is clear that all will be simplest if we can regard dual as a sub-species of plural, and not as coordinate. (This would accord with what we also find in Australia). That is:

- 1 reipi = rei + pi
- incl. rariipi = rari + pi
- 2 aripi = ari + pi
- 3 parupi = paru + pi, or '(pron.) non-sg. + 2'

Following this line of thought and continuing to observe the surface shapes, we may schematize the various non-singular involvements of 1 (or ne) as follows:



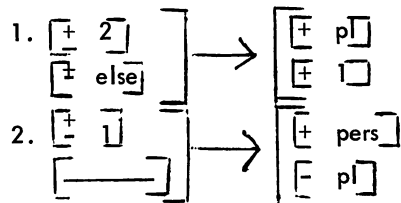
Now if we consider the syntactic features minimally needed to link pronominal reference to aspectual paradigms, we see from Figure (4), p. 110, that 3rd person may be specified against all others simply by the features [- pers], and 1/2 du. and pl. by [+ pers]; that 2 sg is specified by [- 1], and 1 sg / inclus. by [+ 1]. From Figure (3) we then find that additionally we must distinguish 1 sg as [- else] from inclus. as [+ else]. Applying these features, then to the pronouns, we must recognize:

sg.	pl. [-2]	du. [+2]			
1st	1st	1st	[- else]	[+ 1]	[+ pers]
incl.	incl.	incl.			
2nd	2nd	2nd			
3rd	3rd	3rd			

It will be found by experiment that the extraction of these features supports Pence's discrimination of two reipi's. The specification of the above pronouns is, then:

rei	[- 2, - else]
reipi incl.	[+ else]
reipi excl.	[+ 2, - else]
rari	[- 2, + else]
raripi	[+ 2, + else]

Redundancy rules fill in the remaining specifications:



Certain of these features are spelt out phonologically in very simple fashion.

$\left[ + 2 \right]$	$\rightarrow$	- pi
$\left[ - pers \right]$	$\rightarrow$	p (i)-

The rest have no such simple relation.

### Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> Kivung 1.109f., 1968.

<sup>2</sup> Sp = Speaker's constituency; Aud = Audience. Speaker is indicated by a cross.