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### PERSONAL PRONOUNS IN BUA LANGUAGES

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**Abstract:** Bua languages in general are poorly documented and many aspects of their morphosyntax are still undescribed. The purpose of this paper is to outline a state of the art concerning the structure and operation of the personal pronoun systems. Largely based on unpublished or restricted documentation, it systematically reviews the systems of eight languages, commenting on both the identity of persons and the types of functional paradigms. Despite numerous shortcomings and uncertainties, interesting observations can be made concerning the 1st person plural 'exclusive' / 'inclusive' contrast, the logophoric pronouns, the tonal polarity of Subject and Object pronouns, and different types of personal possessive constructions.

**Key words:** personal pronouns, 1<sup>st</sup> pl. exclusive/inclusive, logophoric, reflexive, same referent, tonal polarity, possessive construction, Bua languages, Adamawa languages

### 1. Introduction

The Bua languages are spoken by small communities living in southern Chad. They comprise some 13 units, some of which are now extinct but known through limited wordlists collected in the 1970s. Further details — and a map — concerning this language group may be found in this volume (Boyeldieu, Kastenholz, Kleinewillinghöfer & Lionnet 2020).<sup>1</sup>

The aim of the present paper is to provide insight into the forms, organization, and behaviour of the personal pronouns of the Bua

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For a more extensive presentation, see also Boyeldieu, Kastenholz, Kleinewillinghöfer & Lionnet 2018 (henceforth BKKL 2018).

languages. However, the uneven nature — in both quantity and quality — of the sources available will make the goal necessarily modest: not all languages are documented for our purpose and the transcription of some data happens to be rather approximate (as a general rule I am following the orthographic choices made by the authors).

Out of the 13 units below, only the eight languages in bold will be considered here (endonyms are in italics; extinct languages are indicated in square brackets):

- Lua or Nielim, Niellim
- [*Cini*]
- Tun or Tunya, Tounia
- [*Perim*]
- [*Lɔɔ* or Noy]
- **Ba** or Bua, Boua
- Kawãwãy or Korom (?)
- Kulaal or Iro Gula, Goula d'Iro
- Kulaale or Eyle, Fanya, Fanian
- Zan Gula, Goula de Zan (Mərɛ)
- Bon Gula, Goula de Bon (Eeni)
- **Bolgo** (including *Terew*, *Bolgo*, *Bormo*)
- Koke

Personal systems will be presented and commented for each language before offering a short comparative overview in a concluding section.

Despite the above-mentioned limits of the documentation, the presentation and comparison of the systems prove to be useful, specifically with regards to the following most salient features:

- 1. Identity of persons:
  - Inclusive/exclusive contrast for 1st person plural
  - Reflexive and/or Logophoric
- 2. Paradigms:
  - Subject/Object as main contrast
  - Tonal polarity of Subject/Object
  - Possessive constructions

Table 1

It should be mentioned here, once and for all in this paper, that no language shows gender distinction in personal pronouns. In particular, 3<sup>rd</sup> pers. sg. always has the full value of 'he/she/(it), him/her/(it), or his/her/(its)', even if the two (three) complementary meanings are not expressly mentioned in any given example.

### 2. Lua

Sources: (Boyeldieu 1985: 406–407, 409–413; unpubl. documentation; Testut 1978: 1–12; Vanderkooi 2000<sup>2</sup>).

Lua personal pronouns<sup>3</sup>

Object, preposition-**Emphatic** Subject Self governed, possessive 1s nìñ 'n ń măn 2snìm măm m m ŕ ŕ nír 3s*mår* (animate)  $mar \sim may \sim mani$  (inanim.) nìr ŕ ŕ mar (màr?) LOGS í **1**PE nìníí í măy ì nìi ì mày 1рт í í 2Р níí măy mǎ ~ màná (anim. & inanim.) náá á á 3<sub>P</sub> LOGP | nàà<sup>3</sup> à à

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Despite its appealing title "Cohesion and Salience in Niellim Narrative: A look at discourse particles and participant reference", this MA thesis is of little use for our purpose given the fact that tones are usually not marked and the Logophoric forms are overlooked.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The form is adapted from Testut *nyà* 'Réfléchi pluriel' (1978/3: 9) for which I postulate a long vowel by comparison with 3P.EMPH *náá*.

### 2.1. Persons

In general, the 3<sup>rd</sup> person pronouns (sg. or pl.) may refer to animates as well as to inanimate entities.

Lua has a contrast of 'exclusive/inclusive'  $1^{st}$  pers. pl. pronouns  $(1_{PE}/1_{PI})$ .

Logophoric pronouns are attested for both sg. and pl.<sup>4</sup> Note that, in all paradigms, Logs and LogP differ from the corresponding  $3^{rd}$  pers. pronouns by tone only.

As illustrated in (1), the Logophoric pronouns may refer to the reported speaker(s) within the sequence of reported speech:

(1) [...] málɨm m jàà [...] dá<u>n</u> páā jág tà leg=time some different then marabout det say.ind бō jāā pāār бā hínā à ĒÈ LOGS.SBJ FUT COME.VN LOGP.SBJ FUT WORD tell.VN eh! pàý kāỳ INTERR what?

a. '... the marabout said [...], another time *he* would come [and] *they* would talk, isn't it?'

b. '... the marabout said [...]: "another time, *I* will come [and] *we* will talk, isn't it?" (Text: I, 63-64)

Both translations as indirect (a.) or direct (b.) speech are equally well-founded but the latter is usually more comfortable when a reference to the co-reported speaker is mentioned within the reported speech. Indeed this co-reported speaker is normally referred to, in Lua, not by a 3<sup>rd</sup> pers. pronoun, as is more often the case, but by a 2<sup>nd</sup> pers. pronoun, a situation that makes the logophoric discourse closer to a direct speech (in English terms).<sup>5</sup> This principle is illustrated in (2):

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The logophoric plural forms were unfortunately ignored in Boyeldieu (1985: 406–407).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> About different types of reported speech and configurations of personal reference in reported speech in some African languages, see (von Roncador 1988: 289–293; Boyeldieu 2013: 27–34).

(2)  $\int ... \int d\vec{e} m d\vec{l} n d\vec{r}$ kāv gì á ?ùrà and price REL LOGS.EMPH put.IND to 3P.PG pass.IND dùgà pàý ní á ná á nìm̄ 3P.OBJ head COORD 3P.SBJ go back.IND SUSP INTERR 2S.EMPH liām ř m ã m̀ бáá càw̄ match.IND LOGS.POSS child marry.vn det 2s.sbj INTERR [The chief is speaking to a young man who wants to marry his daughter.]

'[The chief said: "...] and the price that **I** set for them [i.e. the former suitors] went beyond them (lit. passed their head) and they went back, and **you**, **you** are able to marry **my** daughter?"' (Text: 413-25)

Logophorics, however, are not limited to the context of reported speech but, as in (3)–(4), they may also function as reflexive — or 'same referent' — possessives in the frame of one and the same clause.<sup>6</sup> The term *logophoric* then has to be taken here in a wide sense.<sup>7</sup>

- (3) f  $t\bar{t}$  f l g r súl  $d\bar{a}an$ 3s.sbj stay.ind 3s.sbj look\_at.ind looks.poss head middle

  'He stayed (and) thought about (lit. looked at his own head's middle).' (Text: 409-10)
- (4)  $\acute{a}$   $w\grave{o}$   $6\bar{u}r$   $t\bar{t}$   $\grave{a}$   $d\bar{a}an$   $2\acute{t}n$  [...]

  3P.SBJ PROG ask at LOGP.POSS middle thus

  'They were asking among themselves (lit. in the middle of themselves) thus...' (Text: II, 5)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Lua therefore proves to be a "mixed logophoric language" — as opposed to a "pure logophoric language" — in the sense of Culy (1994: 1056).

<sup>7</sup> If the principle of coreference undoubtedly works in such examples of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> If the principle of coreference undoubtedly works in such examples of spontaneous speech as (3) and (4), it is often not observed in elicited sentences where a 'same referent' interpretation is, however, indisputable, e.g.  $f'(\vec{t})$  (not ...  $f'(\vec{t})$ ) {3s.poss / eye} (not {... / Logs.poss / eye}) 'S/he is opening her/his (own) eyes wide.'

### 2.2. Paradigms

Lua has a limited contrast between subject pronouns and pronouns that function as object, preposition-governed adjuncts, and possessive. The two paradigms are identical except for 1s and 2s that have opposite tones (Low for subject *vs.* High for object-possessive).

### 2.2.1. Subject

As in (5), subject pronouns are preposed to the verb (tonally marked as either indicative or injunctive) or, in case of complex forms, to one of the three aspect markers  $w\dot{\delta}$  'Progressive',  $b\bar{\delta}$  'Future', or  $k\acute{a}$  'Obligative' (Boyeldieu 1985: 353–355).

(5) a.  $\hat{r}$ sì 3s.sbj go.IND 'S/he goes.' b ŕ si 3s.sbj go.INJ 'S/he should go, s/he has to go.' c. **ŕ** wò sāál 3s.sb.i **PROG** go.vn 'S/he is going.'

### 2.2.2. Object

Object pronouns are postposed to the verb as in (6)–(7), but they precede the verbal noun form in case of complex verbal forms (8). Note that in (7), both objects, directly postposed to  $k\dot{a}$  'make' and  $n\bar{a}$  'give', do not refer to a patient, but to a benefactive.

(6) — [...] ná níí mǎy lõg nèn jāā пă then 2P.EMPH 2P.SELF look at.INJ word DEM INTERR бáá pǎy **nìr** nā jāā dúna child INTERR LOGS.EMPH with word life[Ar.]

**lŏl**  $\hat{a}$ Neg interr

- $b\bar{s}$   $2\bar{g}\bar{g}$   $b\bar{s}$   $b\acute{g}\acute{g}$   $2\dot{u}r\dot{a}$  m  $m\hat{e}$   $p\dot{a}\acute{y}$   $k\bar{s}\acute{y}$  QUOT yes QUOT child exceed.IND **2s.obj** but[Fr.] INTERR what? [the chief is speaking to his people, commenting on the wisdom of the young suitor]
- '— [The chief said: "...] then, you (pl.), yourselves, look at these words! didn't the child defeat **me** with his words of wisdom [lit. of life]?
- [the people said:] yes! the child defeated **you**, didn't he?"" (Text: 419-54/55)
- (7) bấấ tĩ bā tĩ Pùūl sì sì tén wàn kà child fall.ind at way go.ind go.ind find.ind chief make.ind  $\acute{r}$  lápyā á nā  $\acute{r}$  ndúu ní 3s.obj greeting[Ar.] 3p.sbj give.ind 3s.obj water coord  $\acute{r}$   $\acute{n}$ ì 3s.sbj drink.ind

'The child took the road, he went, he went, he found the chief and greeted **him** [lit. made greetings (to) **him**].

They gave him water and he drank.' (Text: 411-16/17)

(8) [...] wò nè ta 65 m 2an ní [...]

person REL then FUT 2s.OBJ escort.VN COORD

tèní [...]

not\_be.IND

'[...] there is nobody [...] who will escort you [...].' (Text: 413-33)

### 2.2.3. Preposition-governed

As for preposition-governed pronouns, they follow the preposition they are governed by as shown in (9):

(9) á dō gì ŕ kuàl ní ŕ tī

3P.SBJ throw.IND to 3s.PG mat COORD 3S.SBJ stay.IND
'They gave him a mat and he had a rest.' (Text: 411-18)

### 2.2.4. Possessive

Possessive pronouns precede the head noun. As illustrated in (10), this is the only possible construction with a personal modifier (there are more if the modifier is a noun). In particular Lua does not make any distinction corresponding to the so-called 'alienable/ inalienable' contrast.

(10) a. <b>ń</b>	líī	b. <b>ń</b>	lõg
1s.poss	house	1s.pos	s house.pl
'my house	,	' <b>my</b> h	ouses'
c. <b>á</b>	líī	d. <b>á</b>	lə́g
3p.poss	house	3P.POS	s house.pl
'their house'		<b>'their</b>	houses'
e. <b>ń</b>	súl	f. <b>á</b>	súl
1s.poss	head	3P.POS	s head
'my head'		<b>'their</b>	head'

### 2.2.5. Emphatic

In comparison with the preceding paradigms, Emphatic pronouns formally result from the prefixation of an irregular sequence p. Although the choice of these 'heavy' or 'long' forms is not always clear, they obviously may function as topic, as in (2) pim {2s.emph} 'you!'. But sometimes also, the emphatic nature of the pronoun seems to make it the preferred form for a logophoric: see for instance pir {Logs.emph} instead of a simple subject form in (2), or instead of a simple object form in (6).

### 2.2.6. Self

This last paradigm is not well known. The self pronouns, normally preceded by an emphatic pronoun (e.g.  $n\acute{t}r$   $m\check{a}r$  's/he him/herself') or by a noun ( $l\acute{s}g$   $m\check{a} \sim l\acute{s}g$   $m\grave{a}n\acute{a}$  'the houses themselves') are chiefly made up of pronouns similar to the object, preposition-governed and possessive ones but preceded by an element  $m\grave{a}$ - that is unidentified. Yet this principle does not explain all forms, especially the  $3^{rd}$  person pronouns, some of which may refer specifically to inanimate objects.

Table 2

### 3. Tun

Sources: (Palayer 1975), [L2 document] (unpubl.).

Tun personal pronouns

	Subject (Perfective)	Subject (Intentional)?	Object	Possessive
1s	กē, กō, (กōó, กó)	лà	лè	лè
2s	mā, (māá, má)	?	mò	mà
3s	ì	?	dō	dā
1 <sub>PE</sub>	bō, (bōó, bó)	?	bù	bà
1рі	jì	?	jì	jì
2Р	ī	?	ì	ì
3Р	mà	?	$\bar{e}$	$\bar{e}$

### 3.1. Persons

Tun has an 'exclusive/inclusive' contrast for the 1st pers. pl. forms.

No logophoric has been recorded but the existence of such a pronoun cannot be excluded since the data are limited and no text is available.

### 3.2. Paradigms

The subject (intentional) paradigm is uncertain.

Object and Possessive should probably be considered only one paradigm. They only display some vocalic variants (o/a for 2s-3s and u/a for 1PE) that are probably explained by their position regarding the governing lexical unit — following the verb (object) but preceding the noun (possessive) — and a difference of resulting syllable stress.

If we except 1PI and 3P, all the other persons show a tonal contrast of Mid tone for Subject — at least Perfective — vs. Low tone for Object / Possessive.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> It should be noted that basically no High tone appears in the Tun personal pronouns, a possible clue for a former two-tone system (see converging data in BKKL 2018: 100)

Examples (11) to (13) illustrate the position of subject (Perfective), object, and possessive pronouns respectively. As in Lua, there is only one construction for what could be, elsewhere, 'alienable' and 'inalienable possession'.

- (11) a. **nē** tūú **1s.sBJ** eat.PF 'I have eaten.'
- (12) a. î sōy **pè**3s.sbj hit.pf **1s.obj**'S/he has hit **me**.'
  - c. ì  $d\bar{o}\bar{o}$   $n\dot{e}$ 3s.sbj touch.pf **1s.obj**'S/he has touched **me**.'
- (13) a. **nè** sáȳ 1s. poss house 'my house'
  - c. **nè** sīī 1s.poss head 'my head'

- b. **mà**  $t\bar{u}\acute{u}$  **3P.SBJ** eat.PF **'They** have eaten.'
- b. *i* sōy **ē**3s.sbj hit.pf **3p.obj**'S/he has hit **them**.'
- d.  $\hat{i}$   $d\bar{o}\bar{o}$   $\bar{e}$  3s.sbj touch.pf 3p.obj 'S/he has touched them.'

Table 3

- b.  $\bar{e}$   $s\acute{a}\bar{y}$  3P.POSS house 'their house'
- d.  $\bar{e}$   $s\bar{\imath}\bar{\imath}$  3P.POSS head 'their head'

4. Ba

Sources: (Boyeldieu, pers. doc.; Lionnet, pers. doc.).

Ba personal pronouns

	Independent	Subject	Object	Possessive
1s	6ĭ	è	é	é
2s	b <del>ì</del> m, bòm	m̀	ḿ	ḿ
3s	bīrā (bīrā?)	ā, ārā	ā, rā	ā, rā, ārā
LOGS	6ì	6ì	(ì, bì?)	ì, bì
1Р	6òẃ	ù (ò?)	ú (ó?)	ú (ó?)
2Р	6èý	ì (è?)	í (é?)	í (é?)
3 <sub>P</sub>	<i>6è6é</i>	bé	бé	bé
LOGP	6òw	6òw	(ù, bòw?)	ù, bòw

### 4.1. Persons

According to both sources, there seems to be no 'exclusive/inclusive' contrast in the 1<sup>st</sup> pers. pl.

Singular and plural logophoric pronouns are present in all paradigms. As in Lua, they operate within the reported speech (14a-b) but also, like reflexive pronouns, within one and the same clause (15a-b):

- (14) a.  $\bar{a}$   $l\bar{t}g\bar{a}$   $b\bar{a}$   $\bar{a}$   $l\dot{a}$   $w\bar{u}n$  3s.sbj say.ind Quot 3s.sbj see.ind thing 'S/he, said that s/he, saw something.'
  - b.  $\bar{a}$   $l\bar{t}g\bar{a}$   $b\bar{a}$   $b\hat{t}$   $l\hat{a}$   $w\bar{u}n$  3s.sbj say.ind quot **Logs.sbj** see.ind thing 'S/he, said that s/he, saw something.'
- (15) a.  $\bar{a}$  sòw  $\bar{a}$  sìlí

  3s.sbj catch.ind 3s.poss head
  'S/he, took his/her, head.'
  - b.  $\bar{a}$  sòw  $\hat{i}$  (~  $\hat{b}$ i) sìlí

    3s.sbj catch.ind Logs.poss head
    'S/he, took his/her, head.'

### 4.2. Paradigms

Ba has four paradigms of personal pronouns — Independent, Subject, Object, and Possessive — but the last two would probably show as one paradigm with the help of more complete data. Variations between the vowels  $u\sim o$  (1P) and  $i\sim e$  (2P) reflect inconsistency between sources (Boyeldieu ~ Lionnet).

Here again there is a tonal contrast of Low tone for Subject *vs* High tone for Object/Possessive in 1s, 2s, 1<sub>P</sub>, and 2<sub>P</sub>.

Let us now briefly comment on and illustrate the behaviour of these different paradigms.

### 4.2.1. Independent

The independent pronouns formally result from the prefixation of a  $\delta V$ -type sequence to the forms displayed in the other paradigms. The main

function that has been noted is as topic. Example (16) illustrates this use with cases of topicalization of a subject pronoun that may be doubled (or not), at least in the case of 1s.sbj and 3p.sbj.

c. ...  $b\bar{a}$   $b\hat{o}w$   $l\hat{a}$ QUOT LOGP.INDP see.IND

'... (say) that themselves saw.'

### 4.2.2. Subject

The Subject pronoun precedes the verb.

(17) a.  $\grave{e}$   $l\grave{a}(g)$   $w\bar{u}n$  b.  $\acute{b}\acute{e}$   $l\grave{a}(g)$   $w\bar{u}n$  1s.sbj see.ind thing 'I saw something.' 3p.sbj see.ind thing 'They saw something.'

c. ...  $b\bar{a}$  **bòw**  $l\grave{a}(g)$  wūn

QUOT **LOGP.SBJ** /see.IND thing

'... (say) that **themselves** saw something.'

### 4.2.3. Object

The Object pronoun follows the verb (examples with a logophoric object have not been checked as such):

- (18) a.  $\bar{a}$  làg  $\acute{e}$  b.  $\bar{a}$  làg  $\acute{b}\acute{e}$  3s.sbj see.ind 3s.obj 'S/he saw me.' 3s.sbj see.ind 3p.obj 'S/he saw them.'
  - c. ...  $b\bar{a}$   $\bar{a}$   $l\grave{a}g$   $\grave{u}$ QUOT 3s.sbj see.ind **logp.obj**'... (say) that s/he saw **themselves**.'
  - d.  $\bar{a}$   $n\bar{e}$   $\acute{e}$  e.  $\bar{a}$   $n\bar{e}$   $\acute{b}\acute{e}$  3s.sbj chase.ind 1s.obj 'S/he chased me.' 3s.sbj chase.ind 3p.obj 'S/he chased them.'
  - f. ...  $b\bar{a}$   $\bar{a}$   $n\bar{e}$   $\hat{u}$ QUOT 3s.sbj chase.ind Logp.obj

    '... (say) that s/he chased **themselves**.'

### 4.2.4. Possessive

The Possessive pronoun precedes the head noun. This is the only pattern and Ba does not make any contrast of an 'alienable/inalienable' relation.

(19) a. **é** b. *6é* mīn mīn thing.PL thing.PL 1s.poss 3P.POSS 'my things' 'their things' c ù  $\sim$   $6 \hat{o} w$ mīn mīn thing.PL thing.PL LOGP.POSS LOGP.POSS 'their own things' e. *6é* d. **é** sìlí sìlí 3P.POSS head 1s.poss head 'my head' 'their head' sìlí f. **ù** sìlí ~ bòw LOGP.POSS head LOGP.POSS head 'their own head'

### 5. Kulaal

Sources: (Pairault 1966; 1969; unpubl. documentation).

Table 4 **Kulaal personal pronouns (incomplete, labels mine)** 

	Independent	Subject	Object	Preposed possessive	Postposed possessive	Self	Focalized
1s	?	ñó, n-	ñò	ñò, (n?)	ñò-n	ñòmmé	<ul><li>ñsò,</li><li>ñsààsò,</li><li>ñsòmòsò</li></ul>
2s	?	mó, m-	mò	mò	mò-n	mòmmé	mòsò
3s	ŋké, ŋkérì, ŋkéṭì	á	È, nè	à	pè(è)	?	ń̃sź, ń̃sźmòsż
LOGS	<i>е</i> ŋкеrı	έn	ὲn	?	ènn-è		?
1PE	púmmèrì, púmmèyùùrì	pύ		?	pìn	pómè	?
1рі	émmèrì, émmèyùùrì	én	èn	?	èn (*ènn-è)	?	?

End of Table 4

	Independent	Subject	Object	Preposed possessive	Postposed possessive	Self	Focalized
1рі	émmèrì, émmèyùùrì	én	èn	?	èn (*ènn-è)	?	?
2Р	ímmèrì, ímmèyùùrì	í	ì	ì	ìn (ì-n?)	?	?
3Р	mmérì, mméyùùrì	ú, é	ὺ, (m)mè	ὺ		?	?
LOGP	?	món	mònnè	?	món, mónnè (mónn-è?)	?	?

Giving a picture of the Kulaal pronouns is a challenge since no systematic paradigm is available and information has to be gathered from different parts of Pairault's works. Moreover, most Kulaal texts lack glosses or word-by-word translations and the interpretation of sentences based on their global translation happens to be a difficult task. Glosses are mine throughout this section.

### 5.1. Persons

Kulaal has an exclusive/inclusive contrast for the 1st person plural pronouns (1PE/1PI).

It has also both sg. and pl. pronoun forms that Claude Pairault defines as reflexive 3rd pers. pronouns of the "indirect style" (Pairault 1969: 262, 270), and that clearly represent logophoric forms (Logs/LogP). While there are clear examples of use in reported speech, as in (20)–(21), the logophoric apparently does not work as reflexive within one clause:

(20) á kól á wífl téé-à pè "én tín lóópìl,
3s come\_back 3s tell father-3s QUOT LOGS.SBJ find sacred\_stone
lóópìl mètè á sòò èn tak."
sacred-stone this[?] 3s follow LOGS.OBJ [COMPLETION?]
'As he came back, he told his father: "I found a sacred stone. This
stone is following me." ['De retour, il dit à son père : « J'ai trouvé
une pierre sacrée. Cette pierre me suit. »'] (Pairault 1969: 162–163/
line 10-4-11)

(21)  $\acute{o}$ -pè  $\acute{a}$   $\acute{h}\`{o}\`{o}p\acute{a}$ -pè  $\acute{m}\acute{o}nn\grave{e}$  tuk-kè-m $\acute{o}nn\grave{e}$ , 3p-quot 3s wash-[completed?]  $\emph{logp.obj}$  all-[?]- $\emph{logp.poss}$   $\grave{a}$   $\acute{m}\acute{o}n$   $\grave{l}l\acute{a}\acute{a}$ -n $\grave{e}$ .

'They say: "Wash all of us. Then we will show you." ['Ils disent: "Lave-nous tous. Ensuite nous t'indiquerons. " (lit. they say that he has to wash themselves all of themselves; then themselves will show him.) (Pairault 1969: 242–243/line 12-2-59)

### 5.2. Paradigms

### 5.2.1. Independent, Self and Focalized

Some of the above formally complex paradigms are incomplete and not explained. The plural independent forms probably include the noun  $y \partial v(t)$  ( $\varepsilon$ ) 'body'. As for the three focalized forms ('I am, you are, s/he is the one who...'), they contain a s3 element that could represent a former, frozen agreement determiner for nouns denoting 'humans' (see BKKL 2018: 77–78).

### 5.2.2. Subject

Subject pronouns, which precede the verb (e.g.  $\tilde{n}\delta$   $p \tilde{\alpha} \tilde{\alpha} \tilde{t}$  'I do'), may undergo some variations when themselves preceded by one of the two aspect markers  $l \tilde{t}$  'Progressive' (e.g.  $l \tilde{t}$   $\tilde{n}\delta$   $p \tilde{\alpha} \tilde{\alpha} \tilde{t}$  'I am doing') and  $l \tilde{a}$  'Near future' (Pairault 1969: 90):

Table 5
Kulaal Subject pronouns and variants
in the context of aspect markers li and  $l\acute{a}$ 

	Subject	+ Progressive lì	+ Near future lá
1s	ñó, n-	lì ñò, lì n-	lá ñó
2s	mó, m-	lì mò, lì m-	lá mó
3s	á	lìì	láá
LOGS	έn	?	?
1 <sub>PE</sub>	pύ	lì-pò	lá-pớ

End of Table 5

	Subject	+ Progressive lì	+ Near future lá
1рі	én	lèn	lá-én
2Р	í	lìì	lá-í
3Р	ú, é	lờ	lá-ú
LOGP	món	lì mòn	?

5.2.3. Object

Object pronouns follow the verb, see (20)–(21) above.

### 5.2.4. Possessive

Possessive pronouns may be either preposed or postposed to the head noun. In the latter case, the possessive itself is suffixed with a connective element that is mainly realized as -n (after vowel) or -e (after consonant). The semantics of this contrast is unclear but, as suggested by (22), it has apparently nothing to do with an 'alienable/inalienable' opposition.<sup>9</sup>

(22) a. <b>ñò</b> -húl	b. <b>à-húl</b>
1s-head	3s-head
'my head'	'his/her head'
c. <i>húl-l</i> è- <b>ñò-</b> n	d. <i>húl-lè-<b>pè</b></i>
head-DET-1s-CONN	head-det-3s.conn
' <b>mv</b> head'	'his/her head''

Other examples are (23) for a preposed construction, as well as (24)–(25) for postposed constructions:

### (23) à tîl-è àmpúk 3s name-DET Ampuk 'Its name (is) Ampuk [a type of beer].' (Pairault 1969: 96–97/line 7-3-13)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> The hyphenation principles adopted by Claude Pairault are not always consistent and should not be given too much significance.

- (24) ñó wáák- $\hat{\epsilon}$  tòŋ-kỳ-pèè-rı 1s keep-3s house-DET-3s.CONN-in 'I keep it in her [referring to a woman] house.' (Pairault 1969: 114–115/line 8-77)
- (25) wòsà pèè lì-n-ṭáŋé tòráà-kò èn-nè somebody QUOT PROG-[18.SBJ!?]-want cubit-DET LOGS-CONN '[...] whoever wants [it] can deliver one's full potential (lit. wants one's cubit).' ['[...] quiconque le veut peut donner sa mesure.'] (Pairault 1969: 126-127/line 8-211)<sup>10</sup>

Finally the two nouns  $\grave{e}\grave{e}$  'mother' and  $t\acute{e}\acute{e}$  'father' display complex and irregular possessive paradigms that I mention here for the record only:

Table 6 Kulaal Possessive paradigms of èè 'mother' and téé 'father'

	'mother'	'mothers'	'father'	'fathers'
1s	ñò'èèkípèè	ñò'èèkípèè-m-pù	ń téé à	ǹ-téé à-m-pờ
2s	èèkùm	mò'èèkípèè-m-pù	téé ùm	mò-téé à-m-pù
3s	èèkípèè,èè-kí-pè(è)	à'èèkípèè-m-pù	téé à	<i>a-tέέ</i> à-m-pờ [tone ?]
LOGS	èèkì-ñ	?	téé-ñ	?
1рЕ	pờ'èèkípèè (1pe?)	pờ'èèkípèè-m-pờ (1pe?)	pù téé à	<i>pὺ-tέέ à-m-pὺ</i> (1 <sub>PE</sub> ?)
1рі	?	ìn'èèkípèè-m-pù (1pi?)	?	ìn-téé à-m-pù (1pi?)
2Р	ì'èèkípèè	ì'èèkípèè-m-pù	ì téé à	ù-téé à-m-pù
3 <sub>P</sub>	ù'èèkípèè	ù'èèkípèè-m-pù	ù téé à	ù téékúm
LOGP	?	?	?	?

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> *lì-n* might in fact represent not only the progressive form of the 1<sup>st</sup> pers. sg. ({PROG-1s.sbJ}) but also that of the Logophoric singular ({PROG-LOGS.SBJ}), which is not illustrated in Table 5 above.

### 5.2.5. Tonal contrast in Subject vs. Object & Possessive

Whereas all subject forms have High tone, most pronouns in the object and the two possessive paradigms have Low tone. The only one exception is LOGP among the postposed possessives. (Note also that High tones of subject pronouns are systematically converted to Low in presence of the Progressive marker li, see Table 5 above.)

### 6. Kulaale

Source: (Lionnet 2018; pers. com.).

Lionnet (pers. com.) completes Table 7 as follows:

- There are two series of subject pronouns: one used with indicative verb forms, the other with subjunctive verb forms.
- Although object and possessive pronouns are formally identical, the former follow the verb predicate while the latter precede the head noun.
- The emphatic possessive pronouns are postnominal, and are likely historically derived from a connective construction conn + pronoun '(the one) of me/you...'. The connective is  $k\acute{\varepsilon} \sim k\acute{\varepsilon}$  in the singular,  $t\acute{o} \sim t\acute{o}$  in the plural.
  - There is no inclusive/exclusive distinction in 1P.
- The logophoric pronouns do not seem to be used outside of reported speech, e.g. to express reflexive possession (e.g.  $\emph{m} \check{a} \emph{m} \emph{m} \check{a} t_i$   $\emph{w} \acute{e} \grave{e} m \grave{e} \emph{e}_{i/j} / {}^* \grave{n}_i k \acute{n} \acute{m} \acute{a}$  'Mahamat<sub>i</sub> came with  $\emph{his}_{i/j}$  knife'). This will need to be further investigated.
- 1s subject  $\acute{N}$  undergoes place assimilation with following consonant:  $[\acute{n}, \acute{p}, \acute{m}]$ .
  - All pronouns are [-ATR] except 2P, which is always [+ATR].
- Tonally, all independent pronouns are LH; indicative subject pronouns are all H except  $1P\ \delta$ ; subjunctive subject pronouns are all L; Object/possessive pronouns are all L, except  $3s\ \acute{\varepsilon}$ ; Emphatic possessive pronouns are all HLH.

Table 7

Kulaale personal pronouns

			•			
	Independent /	Subject	Subject	Object /	Possessive	Possessive
	Emphatic		(subjunctive)	Possessive	emphatic sg.	emphatic pl.
18	2ìnún~2ènín	Ń	Ň	ş	káàyé	τάὰγέ
2s	mìní	mí	mì	mì	káàmí	táàmí
38	Zíní	Ø	Ø	3	káàbé	táàbé
SDOT	<i>2ìnìŋ</i>	íŋ	ż	ìў	káàyíŋ	tádyíŋ
11	?òní∼?ònó	ç	Ş	ç	káàwó	τάὰνν
2P	<i>?ini</i> [+atr]	<i>t</i> [+ATR]	<b>ì</b> [+ATR]	<i>i</i> [+ATR]	káàyí [+ATR]	tádyí [+atr]
3Р	бо̀т	60	бѝ	бу	káàbú	táàbú
LOGP	бупи́т	бо́л	ż	$\hat{u}$	(káàbú)	(táàbú)

### 7. Zan Gula<sup>(1)</sup>

Source: (Ahmat & Weiss 2010).

It happens that different sources concerning the same language — or what is supposed to be the same language — do not match properly. Such cases may namely result from dialectal divergence, heterogeneous descriptive approaches, or complementarity in the features selected by the authors. In such a situation it would be both difficult and risky to combine the data into one and the same presentation. Rather, I will treat these cases as independent sources in different sections, that is §7 Zan Gula<sup>(1)</sup> and §8 Zan Gula<sup>(2)</sup>, as well as §10 Bolgo<sup>(1)</sup>, §11 Bolgo<sup>(2)</sup>, and §12 Bolgo<sup>(3)</sup>.

Table 8 **Zan Gula**<sup>(1)</sup> personal pronouns

	Independent	Subject	Direct object	Indirect object	Possessive
1s	по	nì / a nì	-п, пе	пее	μì
2s	то	mi	-т, то	тоо	mi
3s	lô	ìì	-l, le	lee	nί
LOGS (?)		(ka) le ?			
1PE	bυ / <b>bô</b>	bi	bu	ьии	bi
1рі	wô	úú	wu	พบบ	ú
2Р	Ye / <b>îyo</b>	í	yi	yii	i
3Р	bu / <b>uwo</b>	ù	bu / <b>wu</b>	ьии	ù

Data and comments concerning Zan Gula are extremely cursory. I do not know whether the uppercase Y in Independent 2P is relevant and I do not understand the value of the boldfaced variants in the Independent and Indirect Object paradigms. Tones are usually not marked

### 7.1. Persons

There is clearly an 'exclusive/inclusive' contrast in the 1<sup>st</sup> pers. pl. pronouns.

Relying on example (26a-b), the authors speculate on the existence of a Logophoric pronoun *ka le* or *le* (?).

- (26) a. *Mûusa sôm baa a kîro*Moussa say conn **he** come

  'Moussa says that **he** (i.e. somebody else) will come.'
  - b. Mûusa sôm baa kale kîro
     Moussa say conn he come
     'Moussa says that he (i.e. Moussa) will come.'

If so, the same form could perhaps be identified in a further example with intentional value (27) (?):

(27) Hassan à yôw le rôo fara
Hassan he go [himself?] sow sorghum
'Hassan is going to sow sorghum.' [lit. H. is going, [intending] that himself will sow sorghum (?)]

The authors also speculate on the existence of a 'serial' (i.e. 'sequential'?) 3s pronoun (with verbs in the past). This form is not mentioned in Table 8 above.

(28) Alî lî saale mi oki faade mi yôw kedde
Ali eat paste he[?] go\_out enclosure he[?] go hunting
'Ali ate the paste, then he got out of the house, and he went hunting.'

### 7.2. Paradigms

### 7.2.1. Subject

The subject pronoun, which is dependent on the TAM markers (no illustration), precedes the verb:

(29) **a** ni ôle noso -so

I see thing unknown

'I see something.'

(30) **i** ne neme Nûura -lee **he** give meat Nuura to\_her '**He** gives meat to Nuura.'

### 7.2.2. Direct & Indirect object

The direct (31a-b) or indirect (32) object pronoun follows the verb. Note that the -CV and -C variants of the singular direct object are complementarily suffixed to consonant-final and vowel-final verbs:

- (31) a. *i* sôŋi-n he pricks-me 'He pricks me.' b. *i* fom-no
  - b. i fom-no he loves-me 'He loves me.'
- (32) i ne -lee neme he give to\_him meat 'He gives him meat.'

### 7.2.3. Possessive

There is only one syntactic structure for modifying the noun with a possessive pronoun and there is no contrast such as 'alienable/ inalienable possession':

(33) a.  $\vec{n}$  too b.  $\vec{n}$  tôy c.  $\vec{n}$  mûu my house my houses my mouth 'my house' 'my houses' 'my mouth'

### 8. Zan Gula<sup>(2)</sup>

Source: (Rendinger 1949: 184-190).

Although Rendinger (1949), an older source on Zan Gula, is of limited reliability, I have to mention here the fact that the author makes a clear distinction between two possessive constructions. The first one

	Zan Guia <sup>(-)</sup> personai pronouns					
	Personal pronouns	Emphatic				
1s	n'e, n'o, n'	n'o n'on'o, n'e nò				
2s	mó, am, m	mó nò				
3s	o, n'i, mó n'i, sa, lō gé	n'i nò, mó n'i nò				
1p	buoni	?				
2p	yémi (< bié mi?), yemigo	?				
3n	San	9				

Table 9 Zan Gula<sup>(2)</sup> personal pronouns

is illustrated in (34): as in Zan Gula<sup>(1)</sup>, the Possessive pronoun is prefixed to the head noun, without any specific marker (glosses are mine):

(34) a. <b>n'a</b> -ha	b. <b>n'a</b> -hālé	c. <b>n'é</b> -félé
1s.poss-wife	1s.poss-neck	1s.poss-nose
'my wife'	'my neck'	'my nose'
d. <b>n'i</b> -gin'é	e. <b>n'u</b> -dullé	
1s.poss-teeth	1s.poss-knee	
'my teeth'	'my knee'	

In the second construction, a different form of the possessive pronoun follows the head noun, which is itself followed by an invariable connective  $b\acute{e}$  ("particule indiquant la possession"):

(35) a.	sulé	nén'i	bé	b.	sulé	mam	bé
	head	1s.poss	CONN		head	2s.poss	CONN
	'my hea	ď'			'your (sa	g.) head'	
C	ha	nan'i	hé	А	ha	mam	bé
٠.	nu	nun ı	DE	u.	nu	mum	DC
٠.		1s.poss		u.		2s.poss	CONN

Nothing is said concerning the respective value of each construction. Since both (34)–(35) illustrate kinship or body part terms only, it is likely that no distinction of the 'alienable/inalienable' type is involved.

### 9. Bon Gula

Sources: (Roberts 2004; 2010).

Bon Gula personal pronouns

Table 10

	Independent	Subject of Past	Subject of Present	Relative Subject?	Object (suffixed to -V / -C)
1s	поојо	пі	ຼກiŋ	an	- <u>n</u> / - <u>n</u> o
2s	тоојо	mi	miŋ	am	-(u)m / -mo
3s	yeejo	[i?]	iŋ	а	-y / -ye
1 <sub>PE</sub>	beebe	be	beŋ	b	-be
1рі	e-eni	e VB-(e)n	eŋ VB-(e)n	e VB-(e)n	eni
2Р	îibe	î	îŋ	ay	î
3 <sub>P</sub>	uube	и	иŋ	aw	-u / -wu

	Possessive	'Possessive pronouns' (singular / plural possessed object)
1s	пі	no no / ne ne
2s	mi	mo no / me ne
3s	yi	ye no / ye ne
1pe	ba	be no / be ne
1pi	а	eni no / eni ne
2p	î	î no / î ne
3p	и	u no / u ne

Bon Gula sources consist of two SIL working papers that still contain some unsolved analyses and inconsistent transcriptions. They are nevertheless worthwhile in the absence of other documents. The main source used here is (Roberts 2010), unless otherwise specified. Note that glosses are mine throughout this section.

### 9.1. Persons

Bon Gula has an 'exclusive/inclusive' contrast for the 1<sup>st</sup> pers. pl. pronouns. On the other hand, no logophoric pronoun — or specific pronoun of indirect speech — is mentioned.

### 9.2. Paradigms

### 9.2.1. Independent

When compared with the object pronouns that are suffixed to final consonant verbs (-C), independent forms are clearly suffixed with -jo in the singular and with -be in the plural. The only exception is 1PI e-eni, which should perhaps be compared with the endonym Êeni 'Bon Gula language' (Roberts 2004: eeni).

As suggested by **no** 'me' in example (36) below, there might exist 'short' forms of this paradigm.

### 9.2.2. Subject(s)

The contrast 'Subject of Past' vs. 'Subject of Present' is not clear and apparently not supported by the rare examples available, which only illustrate 1s 'I' in (36) or the discontinuous 1pi 'we (excl.)' in (37)–(38):

- (36) no ni yerki haw kîr 1s.INDP[?] 1s.sbj.PAST[!?] listen\_to dog bark 'Me, I listen to the barking dog.'
- (37) e-eni, e bôô-n bala 1PI.INDP 1PI.SBJ.PAST[!?]... tie-...1PI.SBJ goat 'We (incl.), we (incl.) tie the goat.'
- (38) e-eni, e um-en dokil-lo
  1PI.INDP 1PI.SBJ.PAST... kill-...1PI.SBJ leopard-DEF
  'We are the ones who (we, incl.) have killed the leopard.'

More complete paradigms may be found in Roberts (2004), e.g. (39) and (40) (hyphenation and glosses are mine). Note that, again, despite the translation, the preposed forms are often the ones belonging to the 'Subject of Past' paradigm. Also, there is only one 1st pers. pl.

here, probably the 1<sup>st</sup> pl. 'exclusive', but with forms (*pa*, *paŋ*) that differ from Table 10 above (*be*, *beŋ*). In addition, the form **i-wòy** 'S/ he goes out' in (40) suggests that the 'Subject of Past' 3s is *i*- rather than <--->, as indicated in Table 10 above (based on Roberts 2010).

```
drink-INF
                                       'to drink'
(39)
         kul-in
     1s nu-kuli
                   1s.past[!?]-drink
                                       'I drink.'
     2s min-kuli 2s.pres[?]-drink
                                       'You (sg.) drink.'
     3s ìŋ-kùlì
                   3s.pres[?]-drink
                                       'S/he drinks.'
     1P pàn-kùlì 1P.PRES[?]-drink
                                       'We drink'
     2p íŋ-kùlì
                   2P.PRES[?]-drink
                                       'You (pl.) drink.'
     3p úŋ-gùlì
                   3P.PRES[?]-drink
                                       'They drink.'
(40)
         wэу-еп
                   go out-INF
                                        'to go out'
                                       'I go out.'
     1s กบ-พวy
                   1s.past[!?]-go out
                   2s.past[!?]-go out
                                        'You (sg.) go out.'
     2s mɔ-wɔy
     3s ì-wòy
                   3s.past[!?]-go out
                                        'S/he goes out.'
                   1P.PAST[!?]-go out
                                        'We go out.'
     1р ра̀-wɔ̀y
                   2P.PAST[!?]-go out
     2p í-wу̀у
                                        'You (pl.) go out.'
                                        'They go out.'
     3P ὑ-wὸy
                   3P.PAST[!?]-go out
```

Finally, the existence of a "Relative Subject" paradigm is suggested by Roberts (2010) on the evidence of limited examples like (41)–(42):

- (41) kûm an hellenu flour 1s.rel buy 'the flour that I have bought'
- (42) Amate in haykî lal a hêllo
  Amat 3s.present[?] think millet 3s.rel burn
  'Amat(, he?) is thinking of the millet that (it) has burnt.'

### 9.2.3. Object

Object pronouns are suffixed to the verb, except for 1pi and 2p, which are said to be postposed (and not hyphenated). Singular object pronouns have complementary forms -C or -CV according to the final segment —

vowel or consonant — of the verb. Note that the independent pronoun may also work as object, as happens for 3P in (43a).

```
(43)
a. 1s Ali dû-n
                                             'Ali surpassed me.'
                     Ali / surpass-1s.obj
  2s Ali dû-m
                     Ali / surpass-2s.obj
                                             'Ali surpassed you.'
  3s Ali dû-y
                     Ali / surpass-3s.obj
                                             'Ali surpassed him/her.'
                                             'Ali surpassed us (excl.).'
  1pe Ali dû-be
                     Ali / surpass-1PE.OBJ
   1рг Ali dû eni
                     Ali / surpass / 1PI.OBJ 'Ali surpassed us (incl.).'
  2p Ali dû î
                     Ali / surpass / 2P.OBJ
                                             'Ali surpassed you (pl.).'
  3P Ali dû ûûbe Ali / surpass / 3P.INDP 'Ali surpassed them.'
b. 1s Ali hul-no
                     Ali / hit-1s.or.
                                             'Ali hit me'
  2s Ali hul-mo
                     Ali / hit-2s.obj
                                             'Ali hit you.'
   3s Ali hul-le
                                             'Ali hit him/her.'
                     Ali / hit-3s.obj
   1pe Ali hul-be
                                             'Ali hit us (excl.).'
                     Ali / hit-1pe.obj
                                             'Ali hit us (incl.).'
   1рт Ali hul eni
                     Ali / hit / 1pl.obl
  2<sub>P</sub> Ali hul î
                     Ali / hit / 2P.OBJ
                                             'Ali hit you (pl.).'
  3p Ali hul-lu
                                             'Ali hit them'
                     Ali / hit-3p.obj
```

### 9.2.4. Possessive

Possessive constructions are commented in Roberts (2010), who indicates only one syntactic pattern, in which the modifier precedes the head (44a–b). There is apparently no contrast between so-called 'alienable/inalienable' constructions.<sup>11</sup>

(44) a.	1s	<b>ni</b> ton	1s.poss / house	'my house'
	1рі	<b>a</b> ton	1PI.POSS / house	'our (incl.) house'
	3 <sub>P</sub>	<b>u</b> ton	3P.Poss / house	'their house'
	1s	<b>ņi</b> tônde	1s.poss / house.pl	'my houses'
	1рі	<b>a</b> tonde	1PI.POSS / house.PL	'our (incl.) houses'
	3 <sub>P</sub>	<b>u</b> tônde	3p.poss / house.pl	'their houses'

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 11}$  One can wonder, however, about the precise semantics of a phrase like 'my heads' in (44b).

b. 1s	<b>ṇi</b> hûl	1s.poss / head	'my head'
1рі	<b>a</b> hûl	1PI.POSS / head	'our (incl.) head'
3 <sub>P</sub>	<b>u</b> hûl	3P.Poss / head	'their head'
1s	<b>ṇi</b> hûn	1s.poss / head.pl	'my heads'
1рі	<b>a</b> hûn	1pi.poss / head.pl	'our (incl.) heads'
3 <sub>P</sub>	<b>u</b> hûn	3p.poss / head.pl	'their heads'

9.2.5. "Possessive pronouns"

Finally Roberts (2010) identifies a double paradigm of "Pronoms possessifs (objet possédé au singulier)" and "Pronoms possessifs (objet possédé au pluriel)" (Possessive pronouns for singular/plural possessed object). The forms are not glossed, not translated and not illustrated. However, sg. *no* / pl. *ne* is identified elsewhere as a connective ("connectif") in such noun phrases as in (45) (glosses are still mine):

```
(45) a. hûl
                 hala
                            no
                 goat
                            the one (of)
       head
       'the goat's head'
    h. 111
                 maama
                            no
                 child
                            the one (of)
       ear
        'the child's ear'
    c. tíî
                maama
                            ne
                            the one (of).PL
                child
       ear PL
       'the child's ears'
    d. ton
                mîne
                            no
       house
                child PL
                           the one (of)
       'the children's house'
     e. tônde maama
       house PL child
                            the one (of).PL
        'the child's houses'
```

The complex forms of the 'Possessive pronouns' paradigm would then read *no no* {1s.[?]/the one (of)} 'the one of me, mine (sg.)' /pl.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 12}$  Remember, though, that the document was elaborated with and for Bon Gula speakers.

ne ne {1s.[?]/the\_one\_(of).PL} 'the ones of me, mine (pl.)', etc. However, the pronoun forms that precede the connective are not the possessive forms but are rather similar to the object forms that are suffixed/postposed to consonant-final verbs. So, the question remains open as to which personal pronouns are really involved here.

### 10. Bolgo(1)

Source: (Kastenholz 2017: 13-14, 20-21).

Table 11 **Bolgo**<sup>(1)</sup> **personal pronouns** 

Subject	Object	Possessive
лī	-Vn	лī
mām	-Vm	?
jō	-V	?
wāw	-Vw	?
уē	-Vy	?
бāb	-V6	?
	nī mām jō wāw yē	mām         -Vm           jō         -V           wāw         -Vw           yē         -Vy

The variety of Bolgo described by Kastenholz (2017) is that spoken by people who call themselves *Bólgò* (glossonym *Bólgònî*), a subgroup of the so-called Bolgo 'Kubar'.

### 10.1. Persons

Bolgo has only one form of 1<sup>st</sup> pers. pl. and no 'exclusive/inclusive' contrast. It also has no Logophoric pronoun.

### 10.2. Paradigms

10.2.1. Subject

The pronoun precedes the verb (46) or the auxiliary (47):

(46)  $j\bar{o}$   $j\bar{o}r = r\hat{a}$   $b\hat{i}\hat{i}$  3sg.sbj call=PF people 'He has called the people.'

(47)  $n\bar{t}$   $k\hat{a}$   $j\bar{o}r$   $b\hat{u}$  1sg.sbj fut call people 'I will call the people.'

### 10.2.2. Object

All the forms have been identified only in the context of a preceding (C)VC verb. The behaviour of the personals is not documented after verbs of the (C)V type.

Example (48) illustrates some vocalic variations of the clitic object according to the vocalic identity of the preceding lexical base (cp.  $\bar{o}l$  'see',  $\acute{e}l$  'hit, strike'):

- (48) a. Brahim  $\delta l = um = n \hat{a}$ B. see=2s.obj=PF 'Brahim has seen you (sg.).'
  - c. Brahim  $\delta l = \mathbf{o} = r \hat{\mathbf{a}}$ B. see=3s.obj=pf 'Brahim has seen him.'
  - e. Brahim  $\delta l = ub = r\grave{a}$ B. see=3P.OBJ=PF 'Brahim has seen them'
- b. *Brahim él* = *im* = *n*à
  B. hit=2s.obj=PF
  'Brahim has hit **you** (sg.)'
  - d. Brahim  $\acute{e}l = e = r\grave{a}$ B. hit=3s.obJ=PF 'Brahim has hit him.'
- f. Brahim él=i6=rà
  B. hit=3P.OBJ=PF
  'Brahim has hit them'

### 10.2.3. Possessive

The Possessive pronoun precedes the head noun (the only form documented, 1s.poss, is the same as in the Subject paradigm):

(49) Hasib nī bứn
H. 1sg.P brother.sg
'Hasib is my brother.'

### 11. Bolgo<sup>(2)</sup>

Source: (Tikka 2019: 93-99, 106-112, 114-115).

Tikka's work is based on the linguistic variety spoken by a subgroup known as Bolgo 'Dugag' (endonym *Terew*). Minor variations appear in comparison with Bolgo<sup>(1)</sup> in the preceding section.

		boigo per	sonar pronouns	
	Subject	Suffix	'Possessive form' (?)	Possessive
1s	ກາງ ~ ກາ	-(V)ŋ	abuŋ	ງນາງ
2s	maj ~ ma	-(V)m	abum	maj
3s	<sub>3</sub> ој ∼ 30	-a, -V, -Ø	aba	<del>ј</del> ој
1р	waj ~ wa	-(V)w	abuw	waj
2Р	jej ~ je	-(V)j	abij	jej
3р	boj ~ bo	-(V)b	abub	boj

Table 12 Bolgo<sup>(2)</sup> personal pronouns

It has to be noted that the author's transcriptions strictly follow the IPA principles: in particular j stands for [j] and j for [j]. Unfortunately, and although the author is quite aware of the role of tone that she marks for lexical terms, she does not mark any tone on grammatical units, in particular not on pronouns.

### 11.1. Persons

Like Bolgo<sup>(1)</sup>, Bolgo<sup>(2)</sup> has no 'exclusive/inclusive' contrast in the 1<sup>st</sup> plural, and no specific Logophoric pronoun.

### 11.2. Paradigms

### 11.2.1. Subject

Subject pronouns all have a full and a short form. Full forms may be used as subject but speakers tend to favour the short variants (without final consonant), especially in the case of the 1<sup>st</sup> Pers. sg. *pt*.

One and the same 3<sup>rd</sup> sg. form is used for 'he', 'she', and 'it'.

### 11.2.2. Suffix

The actual realisation of the Suffixes results from complex rules involving the word shape of the preceding morpheme (final consonant or vowel) as well as its vocalic identity. The most diverse allomorphs — including free variants — are found with the 3s Suffix. This is shown

in (50), which displays but a selection of (surface?) realisations (Tikka 2019: 96–98):

```
(50) Stem > + 3s Suffix
     kāŋgí
                 [kanga]
                                         'to mix'
     tārf
                 [tɔrɔ]
                                         'to love'
                                         'to hit with downward motion'
     tūlớ
                 โtบไวไ
                 [hulgo] ~ [hulga] 'to stir'
     hūlgí
                 [d\epsilon\eta g\epsilon] ~ [d\epsilon\eta ga] 'to insult'
     dēηgέ
                 [hoba]
                                         'to hide'
     hòbā
     nìlē
                 [nile]
                                         'to push'
                                         'to take'
     tō
                 [tɔ̄]
                 ſtèè1
     tèè
                                         'to find'
```

Pronominal Suffixes are used for all types of object. However, except for the case of some common ditransitive verbs like  $n\hat{a}$  'give' (52) or  $t\hat{u}m\bar{o}$  'send', indirect objects and benefactives are followed by the specific 'dative marker' di as in (53)–(54):

- (51) *joj ōló-ŋ*3s.sbj see-1s.obj
  'He sees **me**'
- (52) boj nà-ŋ nól
  3P.SBJ give-1s.oBJ honey
  'They are giving me some honey.'
- (53) *Joj tērí-ŋ dr nām* 3s.sbj buy-1s.obj DAT meat 'She buys meat for **me**.'
- (54)  $s\bar{a}w$   $k\bar{a}j\acute{a}$ - $\eta$  dr ra  $\jmath n\'{l}$  dog destroy-1s.obj DAT already broom 'The dog destroyed my broom.'

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> This 'dative marker', as named by the author, is not illustrated after nouns but it is not clear whether its use is restricted to pronouns. It is not clear either whether it has to be analysed as a postposition or as an applicative marker somehow depending from the verb. In agreement with Sabine Littig (pers. comm.), I doubt we have to deal here with a case marker, a type of grammatical morpheme uncommon in Adamawa languages.

Furthermore the same suffixes appear in a specific paradigm of 'possessive forms', based on an *ab*- unit and used in such constructions as (55) (glosses are mine):

However, as stated by the author, these constructions as well as the 'possessive forms' they involve are not well understood:

"It seems that the pronominal suffixes have a dative function in these sentences, but it is unclear at this point whether the word to which they are attaching is a verb, a preposition, or something else." (Tikka 2019: 114–115).

### 11.2.3. Possessive

The full forms of the Subject paradigm — but not the short ones<sup>14</sup> — also work as possessives, which precede the head noun, e.g.:

### **12.** Bolgo<sup>(3)</sup>

Source: (Rendinger 1949: 179–184).

Table 13 **Bolgo**<sup>(3)</sup> personal pronouns

	Personal pronouns	Possessive (a)	Possessive (b) and Emphatic
1s	n'é, n'a, nãṇ	n'ẽṇ, nan n'ẽṇ	n'ena, n'eno
2s	may, ma, iéy (rare)	mām	mā no
3s	géya, giyo di, ma ri	oldio	diō no

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Tikka (2019: 94, footn. 30), however, comments on some other forms possibly used as possessives.

	Personal pronouns	Possessive (a)	Possessive (b) and Emphatic
1p	way	wao, way	wa na
2p	ié di	iéy	ié no
3p	(bi si 'those people')	_	_

End of Table 13

Although Rendinger's (1949) data have limited value (see §8 above), it is remarkable that the author, just as he did for Zan Gula<sup>(2)</sup>, identifies two distinct possessive constructions in Bolgo.<sup>15</sup> In the first case the possessive pronoun precedes the head noun (glosses are mine):

In the second pattern, which is reminiscent of both Kulaal (§5) and Zan Gula<sup>(2)</sup> (§8), the possessive pronoun comes after the head noun and is itself followed by a connective  $no^{16}$  as in (58):

Finally, this latter pattern has an 'Emphatic' variant, characterised by an undefined element gi, inserted between the head noun and the possessive:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Despite the limited quality of the source, I tend to trust the author on this point, as I did for Zan Gula. The fact that Bolgo<sup>(1)</sup> and Bolgo<sup>(2)</sup> have only one possessive construction may be explained by a difference of linguistic varieties: the author of Bolgo<sup>(3)</sup> worked with people from Bolgo 'Dugag' and from Koke (Tikka 2019: 11). Another point that gives consistency to Général de Rendinger's analyses is simply the fact that similar syntactic constructions have been identified in Kulaal by Claude Pairault (see §5.2.4) and in Kulaalɛ by Florian Lionnet (see §6).

 $<sup>^{16}</sup>$  This resembles, of course, the connective sg. no / pl. ne of Bon Gula (see end of  $\S 9$  above).

These are all the illustrations presented by the author. Examples (57) and (58) would not contradict the assumption that the distinction, whose semantics is not commented, is of an 'alienable/inalienable' nature ('brother' vs 'gourd' and 'spear') but such a view is apparently not compatible with the lexical units involved in (59) ('brother' and 'spear').

### 13. Comparative overview

### 13.1. Persons

### 13.1.1. 1st plural 'exclusive/inclusie'

The opposition of 1<sup>st</sup> pers. pl. 'exclusive' vs. 'inclusive' is dominant: it is well attested in Lua, Tun, Kulaal, Zan Gula, and Bon Gula. It is apparently absent from Ba, Kulaalɛ, and Bolgo. Where it exists, the contrast 1PE vs. 1PI is present in every paradigm, i.e. it goes through the whole pronominal system.

### 13.1.2. Logophoric

Logophoric pronouns are attested in Lua, Ba, Kulaal, Kulaale, and, questionably, Zan Gula. Because of the limits of the data currently available, their existence is not excluded in Tun. They most probably do not exist in Bon Gula and Bolgo. Logophorics, where they appear, are also well integrated in their system: they have singular and plural forms, and are attested in every paradigm.

In both Lua and Ba, logophorics are used in the domain of reported speech (logophoricity *stricto sensu*) as well as in simple clauses (same referent). In Kulaal and Kulaale, however, they are seemingly limited to the former function.

### 13.2. Paradigms

### 13.2.1. Subject/object

Although the number of distinct paradigms differs markedly from one source to another, there is a clear tendency for the whole group to contrast two major sets, namely Subject and Object, the Possessive pronouns often looking as a variant of the latter (Tun, Ba, Kulaal), if not being even identical (Lua, Kulaalɛ). Objects, however, are usually postposed or suffixed to the verb, whereas possessives always are — or may be — preposed to the head noun.

In Lua, Tun, Ba, Kulaal, and Kulaalɛ, the major division Subject/ Object is chiefly marked by tone contrasts. As shown in Table 14 below (grey cells), the segmental identity of pronouns is very similar in both paradigms, whereas tonal differences, if any, are as follows:

- Subject = Low vs. Object = High
  - Lua: 1s and 2s only (other persons are identical)
  - ▶ Ba: 1s, 2s, 1p, and 2p (other persons are identical or similar)
- Subject = High (Tun Mid) $^{17}$  vs. Object = Low
  - Tun: 1s, 2s, 1pe, and 2p (other persons have different forms)
  - Kulaal: all persons (except 1PI, which is not known for Object)
  - ▶ Kulaalɛ (indicative subject only): 1s, 2s, 2p, and 3p (1p is always L-toned, and 3s Subject/Object have different forms and same tone)

For the time being nothing can be said concerning Zan Gula, Bon Gula, and Bolgo, in which the tonal identity of personals is still missing.

### 13.2.2. Possessive constructions

All languages have a possessive construction that follows the pattern {PRON.POSS / head\_noun}. For most of them this is the only way to specify a noun with a personal reference. But Kulaal, Kulaale, Zan Gula<sup>(2)</sup>, and Bolgo<sup>(3)</sup> have an additional pattern {head\_noun / PRON.POSS /

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Remember that only Low and Mid tones appear in the Tun personal pronouns (see above, §3, footn. 10).

CONN}, which can probably be explained as a former topicalized, appositive construction (lit. \*'the house/head, the one of me' > 'my house/head'), at least if we assume that the connective marker was in fact a possessive (or associative) *pronoun* or *substitute*: 'the one (of)', similar to that which has been observed in Bon Gula (see end of §9 above). It is, however, not clear which semantic value is attached to either modifying pattern in the latter three languages. At least a correlation with the so-called 'alienable/ inalienable possession' seems to be excluded.<sup>18</sup>

### 13.3. Summary and conclusions

### 13.3.1. Compared features

The different features that have been mentioned with respect to persons or paradigms are summarized in Table 14 below.

Table 14

Distribution of structural features

	Lua	Tun	Ва	Kulaal	Kulaale	Z. Gula	B. Gula	Bolgo
1P excl. vs 1P incl.	+	+	_	+	_	+	+	_
Logophoric (± refl.)	+	?	+	+	+	?	_	_
Object ≃ Possessive	+	+	+	+	+	_	_	_
Tonal polarity Subject/Object	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	?
'Preposed' possessive	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
'Postposed' possessive	-	_	_	+	+	+	_	+

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> The so-called 'possessive' (or associative) constructions definitely deserve a specific study that should take in account both pronominal and nominal modifiers. Unfortunately, such constructions as 'the one (of)' are not often documented in linguistic descriptions, and even less in grammatical sketches or limited surveys.

The conclusions that can be drawn from such a chart are necessarily limited. It is possible, however, to emphasize the two following points:

- i) the principle of a tonal polarity between Subject and Object paradigms (Table 17 below) is not *a priori* ruled out in Zan Gula, Bon Gula, and Bolgo, and could finally prove to be a distinctive structural feature of the historical system of personal pronouns common to all Bua languages,
- ii) in the same historical perspective, the early existence of a 'possessive' construction following the pattern {PRON.POSS / head\_noun}, which is present in all (described) present-day languages, is highly likely. This does not imply that it was necessarily the only one.

### 13.3.2. Segmental forms

Finally Table 16 below shows that several phonic recurrences indicated in grey cells — can be observed, from language to language, in both Subject and Object paradigms. These constant features are summarized in Table 15 in the form of pseudo-reconstructions. They concern only 1s, 2s, 1PE, 2P, and 3P. No attempt has been made to reconstruct the other persons, which display a more pronounced formal diversity. It is known that 3<sup>rd</sup> pers. singular pronouns may be easily replaced by elements of varied origin (determiners, deictic pronouns, lexical units like 'person' or 'body'). Logophoric pronouns also may have various origins (emphatic, self, neuter or inanimate 3<sup>rd</sup> pers. pronouns, definite or anaphoric marker) and they often show a marked diversity of forms and structures even across closely related languages (Boyeldieu 2013). As for the 1st pers. pl. pronouns, the interpretation of the present data is uncertain, if not contradictory: obvious recurrences in 1PE suggest that the 'inclusive' 1PI forms, which are more varied, are also more recent. But if the assumption was right, we would also expect similar forms to 1PE bu/e/i in the languages — Ba, Kulaale, and Bolgo — that have no 'exclusive/inclusive' contrast, which is not the case.

 ${\it Table~15} \\ {\it Pseudo-reconstructions~of~historical~forms~(based~on~Table~16~below)}$ 

°n/n(i/o)	°m(o/i)	i	ż
18	2s	38	LOGS

°bu/e/i	i	°i/y	$n(q/g)_{\circ}$	i
1PE	1PI	2Р	3Р	LOGP
3	9	ij		

# Phonic recurrences in 'Subject' and 'Object' paradigms

Table 16

Subject pronouns

, and come	amanad safana	2						
	Lua	Tun	Ва	Kulaal	Kulaale (Indic.) Zan Gula Bon Gula Bolgo <sup>(1)</sup>	Zan Gula	Bon Gula	Bolgo <sup>(1)</sup>
1s	'n	лē, лā	è	ñó, n-	Ń	ũj/a ũj	ũi	јлі
2s	m	еш	m	то, т-	mí	mi	mi	mām
38	ŕ	ì	ā, ārā	á	Ø	ü	ø [i?]	jō
FOGS	ŗ	i	<i>ig</i>	ųз	íŋ	kale?	i	_
1PE	í	<u>e</u> q	7	pú	~	bi	be	115011
1PI	į	jì	n	én	C	úú	e VB-n	WUW
2Р	í	ī	į	í	i [+ATR]	í	î	yē
3ь	$\dot{a}$	em	9g	ΰ	60	ù	n	q p g
LOGP	à	3	мод	món	би́з	j	i	-

## End of Table 16

Object (+possessive) pronouns

,	7	, , ,						
	Lua	Tun	Ba	Kulaal	Kulaale	Zan Gula Bon Gula	Bon Gula	$\mathbf{Bolgo}^{(1)}$
1s	ń	лè	é	ñò	3	-ũ, ñe	oũ- / ũ-	$u_{\Lambda}$ -
2s	ń	mò	m	mò	mì	-т, то	ow- / w(n)-	-Vm
38	ŕ	$d\bar{o}$	$\bar{a}, r\bar{a}$	È, nè	ş	-l, le		Λ-
FOGS	ŗ	į	(j, bi?)	к'n	ìŋ	5	5	_
1PE	í	bù	';	ż	~(	nq	-pe	71
1ы	ì	jì	n	èn	C .	WU	eni	- V W
2Р	į	į	į	ì	i [+ATR]	yi	ĵ	-Vy
3Р	á	$\bar{e}$	<i>bé</i>	Ù	ρŷ	nm/nq	nм- / n-	9/-
				(m)mè				
LOGP	à	<i>د</i> ٠	(ù, bòw?) mònnè		бой	;	٠.	I

Table 17

Tonal polarity of 'Subject' and 'Object' paradigms (H/L contrast or reverse, Tun M/L)

Subject pronoun

	Lua Tun		Ba	Kulaal	Kulaale (Indic.)   Zan Gula   Bon Gula   Bolgo <sup>(1)</sup>	Zan Gula	Bon Gula	Bolgo <sup>(1)</sup>
1s	ņ	лē, лā	è	ñó, n-	Ń	ũj / a ũj	ĩũ	лī
2s	m	еш	m	mó, m-	mí	mi	mi	mām
38	ŕ	ì	$\bar{a},\ \bar{a}r\bar{a}$	á	Ø	ü	[i5] ø	jō

End of Table 1

	Lua	Tun	Ba	Kulaal	Kulaale (Indic.)	Zan Gula	Bon Gula	Bolgo <sup>(1)</sup>
LOGS	ř	ż	įg	źn	íŋ	kale?	5	
1PE	í	<u>eq</u>	4	pú	~6	bi	be	100
1PI	ļ	jì	n	én	0	úú	e VB-n	Waw
2Р	í	ī	ì	í	í [+ATR]	í	î	yē
3Р	á	mà	9 <i>ę</i>	ύ	bú	ù	n	6āb
LOGP	à	خ	мод	món	búŋ	خ	5	1
Object (	+posse	Object (+possessive) pronouns	sunoi					
	Lua	Tun	Ba	Kulaal	Kulaale (Indic.)	Zan Gula	Bon Gula	Bolgo <sup>(1)</sup>
1s	ń	лè	é	ñò	ξ	-ũ, ñe	oũ-/ ũ-	-Vjn
2s	ń	mò	ń	mò	mì	-ш, то	-(u)m / -mo	-Vm
38	ŕ	$d\bar{o}$	$ar{a},\ rar{a}$	s, nè	3	əl 7-	-y /-ye	Λ-
FOGS	ř	٠	(j; 6j;2)	ųҙ	ìŋ	į	ن	I
1PE	í	bù	\;	ن	~6	nq	-be	174.1
1PI	į	jì	n	иę	6	ΩМ	eni	M /-
2Р	í	ì	í	į	i [+ATR]	yi	î	-Vy
3Р	á	ē	рę	Ú	60	nm/nq	nм-/ n-	9.1-
				(m)mè				
LOGP	à	<i>د</i> .	(ù, 6òw?)	то̀ппѐ	бо̀л	5	خ	I

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### **Abbreviations**

1PE — 1st person plural exclusive 1PI — 1st person plural inclusive 1s — 1st person singular 2p — 2<sup>nd</sup> person plural

2s — 2<sup>nd</sup> person singular 3<sub>P</sub> — 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural

3s — 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular

Ar. — Arabic

CONN — connective coord — coordinative DAT — dative marker

DET — determinate, determiner

EMPH — emphatic excl. — exclusive Fr. — French FUT — future incl. — inclusive IND — indicative

INF — infinitive INJ — injunctive

INDP — independent

INTERR — interrogative

LOGP — logophoric plural

Logs — logophoric singular NEG — negative ов — object PAST — past

pers. — person PF — perfective

PG — preposition-governed

pl., PL — plural POSS — possessive PRES — present PROG - progressive PRON — pronoun

QUOT — quotative REL — relative sbj — subject sg., sg — singular

SUFF — suffix susp — suspensive

VN — verbal noun

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