

A Contrastive Study of Personal Pronoun Usages: An Analysis of Multilingual Folktales

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I Introduction

In this study, we will conduct a contrastive analysis of personal pronouns. It seems natural for speakers to use personal pronouns in both English and German. However, there are also languages such as Japanese and Hungarian in which personal pronouns are seldom used in conversation¹⁾.

In other words, although personal pronouns exist in all languages, their usage varies across different languages. By comparing them, we can clarify aspects of personal pronouns and person deixis. In this study, we utilized parallel texts in several languages to explore the differences in the use of personal pronouns. We argue that these differences are not solely due to grammatical rules but also reflect certain cultural norms and constraints (Zwicky, 1974).

We examined the use of personal pronouns in world fairy tales (*Snow White*, *Hansel and Gretel*, and *Three Little Pigs*; the original text was a bilingual English-Japanese text by Woodward (2006)) translated into the Amele language of Papua New Guinea and Tok Pisin (an English-based creole).

Section 2 will introduce foundational research on personal pronouns and the method of parallel text analysis. In Section 3, we will summarize the usage of personal pronouns in Japanese, English, Tok Pisin, and Amele through an analysis of parallel texts. Section 4 will attempt to explain the usage of personal pronouns in Amele and Tok Pisin from both grammatical and sociolinguistic perspectives. Finally, Section 5 will present the conclusion.

¹⁾ The difference between Japanese and Hungarian lies in whether the inflection of person and number appears in the verb. In Hungarian, the verb “megy” (to go) inflects according to person and number: *1sg: megyek*, *2sg: mész*, *3sg: megy*, *1pl: megyünk*, *2pl: mentek*, *3pl: mennek*. Therefore, even without a personal pronoun for the subject, we can identify who or what the verb refers to by

II Purpose of this study and related studies

This section will introduce the basics of personal pronouns and previous research. We will then provide an overview of the situation in Japanese, English, Amele, and Tok Pisin, which are the languages covered in this study. Next, we will present the parallel text analysis method used in this study.

Personal pronouns belong to the category of person and correspond to concepts such as “I”, “you”, and “he/she”. For example, if two people, A and B, are having a conversation, the personal pronouns “I” and “you” are used depending on which person is speaking, either A or B. If A is “I”, then B will be “you”, and vice versa. Personal pronouns are an essential element of the natural languages spoken by humans.

We provide here an overview of previous research on pronouns. Mülhäusler and Harré (1990) conducted research on the use of pronouns, focusing on languages of the Pacific region. In the field of linguistic typology, Bhat (2004) and Cysow (2003) analyzed the patterns of pronoun behavior in terms of person and number. In the area of sociolinguistics, the use of pronouns is well-known in studies concerning honorifics and familiar terms. Specifically, this refers to the different forms of second-person personal pronouns (singular and plural) observed in European languages. The following (1) illustrates some examples of the differences in respect observed in the usage of personal pronouns across various European languages (Brown & Gilman, 1960; Meyerhoff, 2015).

(1) a. French:

2nd person singular: *tu*

focusing on the inflected form of the verb. In contrast, the Japanese verb “iku” (to go) does not inflect for person or number, so using “iku” alone does not indicate who is performing the action. Instead, we determine who is performing the action by inferring from the context and situation. However, this study does not examine the relationship between personal pronouns and verb in-

- 2nd person plural (with respect): *vous*
 b. Hungarian:
 2nd person singular: *te*
 3rd person singular (polite): *ön, maga*

For example, in (1), the French use of Tu/Vous (the 2nd person singular “tu” is used to address someone you are close to (familiar), and the 2nd person plural “vous” is used to address someone older or whom you have just met (polite)) is well known (Brown & Gilman, 1960). Although it is not an Indo-European language, the Uralic language Hungarian is slightly different in that the third-person singular form “ön, maga” is respectful. However, in English, which is ostensibly a European language, the second person singular and plural are “you”, and there is no distinction in respect based on usage. A discussion of the use of honorifics in Amele languages can be found in Nose (2024).

The following section introduces the personal pronouns of the languages covered in this study: English, Tok Pisin, Amele, and Japanese. English is the most widely spoken language in the world, and this is widely recognized. Tok Pisin is an English-based creole, meaning its pronouns are partly similar to those in English.

2.1. English

1SG: I
2SG: You
3SG: He/She
1PL: We
2PL: You
3PL: They

flexions.

English has forms of personal pronouns that are already widely known. Historically, the second person plural was “Thou.” Today, the second person is “You,” both singular and plural. In addition, there is a distinction between “He” and “She” in the third person singular. However, due to the political correctness movement since 2000, there are opinions that the third person singular should also be “They”²⁾.

2.2. Tok Pisin

1SG: Mi
2SG: Yu
3SG: Em
1PL/DUAL: Mipla/ Yumi
2PL: Yupla
3PL: Olpela

Tok Pisin is a creole language spoken in Papua New Guinea, and its vocabulary is partly based on English. For this reason, personal pronouns such as “mi” (I, derived from “me”), “yu” (you), and “em” (derived from “him”) are borrowed from English. However, the third person singular form is “em,” which refers to both men and women. In addition, there are two personal pronouns for the plural form: “yumi,” which includes only “I and you” in the first-person plural, and “mipla,” which means “we” in general³⁾.

2.3. Amele

1SG: Ija
2SG: Ina
3SG: Uqa
1PL/DUAL: Ege/ Ele
2PL/DUAL: Age/ Ale
3PL: I age

The Amele language, a New Guinea language spoken in the Madang Province of Papua New Guinea, has a population of around 5,000 to 6,000 speakers. As part of the New Guinea languages, Amele features a particularly complex grammatical structure, with verb morphology incorporating tense, person, and number information within the inflectional elements of the verb (Foley, 2000; Roberts 1987, and Nose 2020). The Amele language is particularly famous for the richness of its past tense forms (Nose 2020), which include not only the past tense of today, the past tense of yesterday, and the distant past tense of before that, but also the negative past tense and the habitual past tense. The singular personal pronouns in Amele are relatively simple, with the third-person singular “uqa” referring to both men and women. In the plural, there is a so-called dual form, where “ele” refers to “we two” and “ale” refers to “you two.”

2.4. Japanese

1SG: Watashi (general/female), boku (male)
2SG: Anata (polite), kimi (neutral)
3SG: Kare (male), Kanojo (female)
1PL: Watashitachi (female, polite), Wareware (general)
2PL: Anatatachi (polite), Kimitachi (neutral)
3PL: Karera

Finally, Japanese personal pronouns require some explanation. First, Japanese people do not use personal pronouns as frequently as English speakers do in everyday life. In particular, second and third person forms are rarely used in casual conversation (in many cases, the third person singular form “kare” does not mean a

2) According to the following tweet/X post, there is an observation that the second-person pronoun “you” is avoided in modern English-speaking America. “This ‘you avoidance’ trend in the U.S. feels a bit excessive lately. Sometimes a waiter will ask, ‘Did we decide what to order?’ and I can’t help but laugh, thinking, ‘No, you’re not deciding what I’m ordering.’”

<https://x.com/YuriMunchkin/status/1903856268986728756> (March 24, 2025)

3) However, the results of this study show a dual form in Tok Pisin, with the forms mi dupla (‘we two’) and yu dupla (‘you two’) being frequently used.

personal pronoun, but rather “boyfriend,” and “kanojo” means “girlfriend”). Additionally, the form of the personal pronoun changes depending on whether the speaker is male or female, and different forms may also be utilized based on the level of politeness⁴⁾.

This study will conduct an analysis using parallel texts. Parallel texts are collections of texts written in different languages on the same subject, such as Rosetta Stone. Rosetta Stone contains the same content written in hieroglyphics (sacred inscriptions), demotic (popular script; an abbreviated form of hieroglyphics), and Greek characters. When one character is deciphered, the meanings of the other characters can also be understood. In the same way, by using parallel texts, it is possible to compare actual sentences in each language, making the differences in grammar used in each language clear. Previous studies of parallel texts include Cysow and Wälchli (2007), Nose (2010), and Stolz (2007). In fact, the parallel texts used in previous studies include “the New Testament,” “Harry Potter,” and “The Little Prince”. These parallel texts clearly show how sentences with the same content are written and expressed in each language.

(2) Matthew 35:

English:

For she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon’s wisdom, and now one greater [than] Solomon is here.

Japanese:

Kono jouou-wa Solomon-no chie-wo kuku-tameni, chi-no hatekara kitakara dearu. Kokoni, Solomo-ni [masaru] mono-ga aru.

4) The diversity of first-person pronouns in Japanese has been pointed out by Mülhäusler and Harré (1990). In addition, the following discussion appeared in a recent online article.

“Japanese is a language rich in first-person pronouns, so it is possible for everyone in a class to use different first-person pronouns. ‘This is just a small part of the truth.’

Tok Pisin:

Dispela kwin i stap long arere tru bilong graun, na em i kam harim Solomon i autim gutpela save bilong em. Tasol man i stap hia, em i [winim] Solomon.

For example, let us examine the comparative sentence structure contrast examples (2) in Nose (2010) regarding the New Testament. The English comparative degree “greater than” becomes the “masaru” (exceed-type) verb structure in Japanese, while in Tok Pisin it transforms into “winim” (exceed-type). In this way, by comparing parallel texts for specific grammar, we can clearly observe the differences in grammatical features.

In this study, we will utilize the parallel texts of fairy tales by Nose and Neret (2015). This bilingual book of fairy tales (Snow White, Hansel and Gretel, and the Three Little Pigs) is written in Japanese and English, with translations into Amele and Tok Pisin provided by Woodward (2006). Consequently, we can compare the four languages—Japanese, English, Amele, and Tok Pisin—for the three fairy tales.

III | Contrastive Data of Pronoun Usages

Table 1 below presents the results of a study on the use of pronouns in parallel texts by Nose and Neret (2015) and Woodward (2006).

Looking at Table 1, we see that in English, pronouns are used evenly in the first, second, and third person, both singular and plural (the pronouns are only in the nominative case, and forms like “my” and “me” are excluded; the second person “you” was classified as singular or

‘One of my classmates used ‘Pochama’ as their first-person pronoun.’” <https://togetter.com/li/2541308> (April 21, 2025)

Table 1. Number of pronouns observed in Nose and Neret (2015)

	English	Tok Pisin	Amele	Japanese
1SG	23	43	18	3
2SG	11	26	16	6
3SG (he/she)	33/70	196	75	0
1PL	13	13	ege10/ ele3	0
2PL	9	8	age21/ ale16	4
3PL	40	5	i age 1	0

plural based on manual confirmation). In English, the third person singular forms are “he” and “she”, with 30 examples of “he” and 70 examples of “she”. In languages other than English, there is no distinction in formality based on gender. Tok Pisin has a high frequency of pronoun usage, largely because the first person singular “mi” in Tok Pisin shares the same form for the nominative, objective, and possessive cases, leading to frequent use. Similarly, in Tok Pisin, the form for “his/her” in the third person singular, “em”, becomes “bilong em,” which is reflected in the figures in Table 1. In Amele, the same number of pronouns are used as in English, with the addition of a dual form. However, there are few examples of the third person plural form (because the Amele pronoun “age” shares the same form as the second person plural and third person plural, 21 examples include both). Finally, as expected, we found that pronouns are used infrequently in Japanese, with zero examples of the third person singular and plural. Let us examine example (3) for each language, which compares some parallel texts of Snow White.

(3) Snow White

a. English:

What **Snow White(i)** did not know was that the cottage belonged to seven dwarfs. Each day the **dwarfs(ii)** would leave to dig for gold and silver in the mountains, and each night **they(ii)** would return to eat and drink and sleep. They didn’t notice that Snow White was there that night, until They climbed into bed, and one shouted:

“Oh, there’s something here!”

“What is it? What is it?” whispered the dwarfs as They gathered around.

“It’s a girl, **I(iii)** think,” said one.

“Is she dead?”

“No, **you(iv)** idiot, **she’s(v)** asleep.”

“Poke her. Wake her up.”

b. Amele:

Snow White Uqa(i) bedoor uju yo uju nac-bataak agena. **Nacbataak Age(ii)** deel gaid-na bahu bili gold ac silver ac hunuroik. **Age(ii)** yo uju-na sab nu wa nu uus niju qaig on himec noroik.

Sain uju-na witic memen nacbataak age jona haun eselin. Yo dunu limeek nacbataak oso mei imec Snow White bed-na uus ninijen fimec otuguur mac aden aya oso iji-niya.

Odocob oso sisiil en, (iii)

Aar meya foc, odocob otik oso madon qee aar-mel uus niya. (iv)(v)

Ihoc dumeek tri doc on waseja oso odi maden.

c. Tok Pisin

Snow White(i) i no save olsem em haus bi-long ol sevenpla dwarf. Wan wan day ol **dwarf(ii)** bai i go long digim gold na silver insait long ol maunten na wan wan nait ol(ii) bai kambak long kaikai na drin na sleep.

Ol i no save olsem Snow White em i stap long dispela nait, taim ol go insait long bed na wanpla singaut.

Hay, wanpla i stap hia.

Wanem samting wanem samting ol dwarf toktok olsem yet na ol kam bung.

em mas meri, **mi**(iii) ting wanpla tok olsem.

em in dai o?

No gat (iv). **em**(v) sleep.

Sutim sait long em. Na kirapim em.

d. Japanese

Shirayukihime-wa(i) shiruyoshimo ari-masendeshita-ga, koya-wa 7-nin-no kobito-no monodeshita. **Kobito-tachi-wa**(ii) mainichi, yama-ni kin-ya gin-wo horinidekaketeiki, maiban, modottekuruto tabetari nondari-shite nemuruno-deshita. Nedoko-ni mogurikomou-to-shita-toki, kobito-tachi-wa youyaku nemutteiru Shirayukihime-ni kiduki-mashita. i-ri-ga sakebimashita.

Oya, nani-ka iruzo.

Nanda, nanda? Chiisana-koe-de sasayakinagara, hoka-no-kobito-mo yotte-kimashita.

Musume-san-no youda.(iii)

Shindeiru-no kana?

Iya, baka danaa.(iv) Nemutteiru-dake dayo.(v)

Tsutsuite miro. Okoshite-yarou.

Let us examine the examples of pronoun use in each language in (3). In (3-i), the English version is “Snow White,” and no pronoun is used. The same is true for Tok Pisin and Japanese. However, in Amele, it is “Snow White uqa,” with the third person singular pronoun “uqa” intentionally added after “Snow White.” This “proper noun + pronoun” structure is a characteristic of Amele. In (3-ii), the third person plural is represented by “They,” which follows

the dwarfs in the previous sentence. In Amele, it appears in the “proper noun + pronoun” structure of “Nacbataak Age,” expressed using only the third person plural pronoun age. In Tok Pisin, it first appears as “ol dwarf” and then as the pronoun “ol”; “ol dwarf” shares the same structure as the Amele “proper noun + pronoun.” Finally, in Japanese, it is simply “kobito-tachi-wa,” which uses only the proper noun without a pronoun. In (3-iii), “I (think)” is used in the first person singular. In Tok Pisin, the first person singular “mi (ting)” appears, but in Amele and Japanese, no pronoun is utilized. (3-iv) presents the second person singular “you,” but there is no use of pronouns in languages other than English. The final (3-v) employs the third person singular “she”; however, there is no gender distinction in languages other than English. Thus, although the third person singular form “em” appears in Tok Pisin, any pronoun is not used in Amele and Japanese. To summarize the observations in (3), while Tok Pisin tends to use pronouns in parallel with English, Amele and Japanese do not use pronouns very often. However, both Amele and Tok Pisin exhibit a “proper noun + pronoun” form, where the proper noun is presented first, followed by the pronoun. In English, there is a gender distinction in the third person singular forms of “he/she,” but in other languages (Amele, Tok Pisin, Japanese), no such distinction exists. However, in Japanese, it is particularly possible to indicate a gender difference by using a proper noun, such as “Shirayuki-hime” (Snow White: “hime” in Japanese means “princess (female gender)”).

IV Discussion

This section will conduct a more in-depth analysis of each pronoun. Through this discussion, we will observe the trends of pronouns in each language, noting the clear differences between them, and attempt to explain the use of pronouns behind these differences. We will also examine the contrast between the first person, the second person and the third person, as well as the differences between singular and plural forms.

First person singular

(4) Snow White

E: I cannot live without you

Am: Ija uqa kec bahic gabigina.

Tp: Mi no inap i stap suppose yupla no givim mi.

Jp: **Watashi-wa** kono-kata-nashi-niwa ikit-eikenani.

The word “I” in English corresponds ideally to the Amele word “ija,” the Tok Pisin word “mi,” and the Japanese word “watashi.” However, in the texts, the first-person pronoun is used in only four cases in Japanese, compared to twenty-three cases in English.

First person plural

(5) Hansel and Gretel

En: We have to take the children out into the forest and leave them there.

Am: Ele siim-na edihei berimo bahuben-na uwado-on,

Tp: Bai **mi dupla** kisim ol pikinini i go na lusim long big bush.

Jp: Mori-ni kodomo-tachi-wo tsurete-itte, soko-ni oitekurun-dane. no pronoun

Next, the first-person plural form, which is ‘we’ in English, is not used in Japanese (there is 0 example in Japanese compared to 13 examples of “we” in English). (5) is an example from the fairy tale Hansel and Gretel, and this “we” refers to a conversation between Hansel and Gretel’s parents. For this reason, in Amele, the plural form of the first person plural is “ele”, and in Tok Pisin, there is also a form meaning “mi dupla” (I, two people). In the parallel texts we investigated, there is no usage of the first person plural for two or more people, nor any other usage beyond the plural. However, in the following (6) of the Snow White text, an example of “we” is not plural.

(6) Snow White

En: we would love to have you here

Am: ege ha ina oofhic usa doc nu.

Tp: **mipla** bai hamamas long yu i stap want-aim mipla.

Jp: daikangei-dayo ; no pronoun

In (6), when the subject is a non-dual group (seven dwarves), the Amele language uses “ege”, while the Tok Pisin language uses “mipla”.

Next, let us look at examples of the second person. In English, the second person is ‘you’ for both singular and plural, but in the Amele and Tok Pisin languages, the dual form of the second person is also observed. First, the example of the second person singular is (7) below.

Second person singular

(7) Snow White

En: **You** can stay with us then,

Am: Ois **ina** ege gaun nije nu

Tp: **Yu** ken i stap wantaim mipla

Jp: Sorenara koko-ni ireba-ii no pronoun

In Example (7), Japanese does not use any pronoun; however, in Amele and Tok Pisin, “ina” and “yu” are used respectively. Next, an example of the second person plural is shown below (8).

Second person plural

(8) Hansel and Gretel

En: it’s my house **you’re** nibbling at.

Am: go-ire-isu igi ijan yo **ale** bata-wesina

Tp: **dupla rat** ia brukim haus bilong mi

Jp: kajitte-iruno-wa watashi-no ie-sa. no pronoun

In Example (8), Hansel and Gretel are eating the gingerbread house. Thus, for English “you”, the Amele language is translated as “ale,” the second person plural form, and in Tok Pisin, no pronoun is used, instead it is translated as “dupla rat” (two mice). In Japanese, no pronoun is used. However, as shown in (9) below, the second person plural pronoun “omae-tachi” is used in Japanese (in a total of four cases).

(9) Hansel and Gretel

En: “That’s enough for **you children**,”

Uju ihoc memega: no pronoun

Em inap **yu dupla** woking fire long haap

Jp: **omae-tachi** sonogurai-de juubun dayo

There are two types of pronouns for the third person singular in English: “he” and “she”. Ex-

ample (10) illustrates the use of “he”, while example (11) demonstrates the use of “she”.

Third person singular

(10) Three little pig: “he” usage

En: I’ll roast them slowly over a fire, **he** said

Am: Ija bila yana gorinaak ugi-on en, odi maden. no translation

Tp: Bai mi roastim ol isi-isi antap long fire, **em** tok olsem.

Jp: no translation, no pronoun

In Tok Pisin, the pronoun “em”, which can be used by both men and women, serves as a substitute for the English word “he”. However, in Amele and Japanese, pronouns are not utilized. Among the parallel texts examined in this study, the pronoun “em” appeared most frequently in Tok Pisin. This is because, in Tok Pisin, the word “em” corresponds to all the English words “he, his, him, she, her, her,” altogether.

(11) Snow White: “she” usage

En: **She** opened her eyes and sat up and saw the prince.

Am: Odocob **uqa** ameeq osoc dumeq wasi bilen odimeq King melac tatajen fen.

Tp: **Em** opim eye na kirap sindaun na lukim prince

Jp: **Shirayukihime-wa** me-wo hiraki, okiagatte, ouji-wo mitsume-mashita no pronoun

In Example (11), the pronoun “uqa” is used in Amele, and the pronoun “em” is used in Tok Pisin, while the English word “she” is employed. In the last example of Japanese, the

proper noun “Shirayukihime” (Snow White) is utilized instead of the third person pronoun. In Japanese, we observed many instances where personal pronouns were not used, and instead, proper nouns were repeatedly employed or the subject or pronoun was omitted. As a result, the frequency of pronoun use in Japanese is low.

Finally, here is an example of the third-person plural they (12). In Amele, the third-person plural pronoun “age” (the same form as the second-person plural pronoun) is used, in line with English “they”. In Tok Pisin, the pronoun “ol” (derived from English “all”) is utilized, but in Japanese, it becomes “otagai” (each one) and is not a personal pronoun.

Third person plural

(12) Three little pig

En: And so **they** lived happily, writing to each other and meeting for tea

Am: Odocob **age** garei-biriroik odimeik paas yabto-ob oroik, odimeik gaban-dumeik tea wa ha osoben yoroik.

Tp: Nau **ol** save i stap hamamas writim long yet na bung wantaim long drink tea.

Jp: Soshite, **otagai** tegami-wo kaki-attari, atte isshoni ocha-wo nondari-shite shiawase-ni kurashi-mashita no pronoun

The following (13) summarizes the use of personal pronouns in each language.

(13) Summary of pronoun usage:

1sg: I-ija-mi-watashi

1du/pl: we-ele(dual)-mi dupla-no pronoun

2sg: you-ina-yu-(omaesan)

2du/pl: you- ale- (yupla)- (omae-tachi)

3sg(male): he-uqa-em- no pronoun

3sg(female): she-uqa-em- no pronoun

3pl: they-age-ol-no pronoun

In (13), personal pronouns and singular/plural usage are shown in the order of English, Amele, Tok Pisin, and Japanese. In the first person, personal pronouns are used in all four languages; however, in the second person, dual usage appears in Amele and Tok Pisin. In the third person, there is a difference in the singular form of “he/she” in English. Japanese does not generally use a pronoun, but there are a few examples of usage in the first and second person. (14) summarizes the overall frequency and tendencies in the parallel texts examined in this study.

(14) Overall frequency and tendency:

- 3rd person >>> 1st person >>> 2nd person
- Dual usage in Amele and Tok Pisin
- “Proper noun- personal pronoun” order in Amele and Tok Pisin
- Rare pronoun use in Japanese

In the examples, there is significant use of third-person pronouns and first-person pronouns, with less emphasis on second-person pronouns. This is also related to the genre of the texts, which is a fairy tale (including a few conversational parts). Since there are two characters in the fairy tale (Hansel and Gretel, along with their parents), the dual form is often observed in Amele and Tok Pisin. Additionally, the sequence “proper noun + personal pronoun” (“Snow White uqa”) was noted in Amele and Tok Pisin. This pattern may also be evident in other New Guinea languages. Final-

ly, as we initially assumed, the use of personal pronouns in Japanese is rare. When personal pronouns were omitted, there were instances where they were represented using proper nouns, or where no indication was provided.

V Conclusion

In this study, we analyzed multilingual texts and found that pronoun usage differs between English and other languages. Tok Pisin's grammar is relatively similar to English, so it tends to use pronouns. We found that the third-person singular form "em" of Tok Pisin is used very frequently. In contrast, personal pronouns are not always used in Japanese; in the parallel texts we investigated, they were the least frequently used. In both Tok Pisin and Amele, the dual form (we-two form) was observed. Even when a specific person's name appears as the subject, the unique grammar of "proper noun + personal pronoun" is employed, where the pronoun "uqa" is added after the subject, such as "Snow White + uqa". The frequency of pronouns in parallel texts is 3rd person > 1st person > 2nd person, and the frequency of third-person pronouns is high. This is likely because there is a motivation to refer to a character in the text of the fairy tale. The first and second person forms appear in the conversational parts of the parallel texts. As a result, their frequency is relatively low.

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Abbreviations:

SG/sg: singular, DU/du: dual, PL/pl: plural, 1,2,3 first person, second person, third person, respectively

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A Contrastive Study of Personal Pronoun Usages: An Analysis of Multilingual Folktales

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If we look at the languages of the world, we find that some languages, such as English and Chinese, make extensive use of personal pronouns, while others, such as Japanese, use them much less. In this study, we used parallel texts from several languages to investigate the differences in personal pronoun usage. We argue that these differences are not only due to grammatical rules but also reflect cultural rules and constraints.

In this study, we investigated the use of personal pronouns in world fairy tales (Snow White, Hansel and Gretel, and the Three Little Pigs; the original text was a bilingual English-Japanese text), specifically in the Amele language of Papua New Guinea and Tok Pisin (an English-based creole).

In (1) below, English is a language that uses personal pronouns extensively, and Tok Pisin also uses personal pronouns extensively because some parts of its grammar are based on English grammar.

(1) Snow White: 3rd person “she”

- English: as she sat sewing at her window,
- Tok Pisin: em sundaun na sanap long window bilong em,

In (1) Tok Pisin, the personal pronoun “em” corresponds to the English “she/her.” However, the third-person singular personal pronoun “em” is the same for both males and females, so it can refer to either “he” or “she.”

(2) Snow White: 2nd person “you”

- English: No, you idiot, she's asleep.
- Japanese: Iya, baka danaa, nemu-tteiru da-ke-dayo.

In (2), the English personal pronouns “you” and “she” do not appear in the corresponding Japanese text. Generally, Japanese is a language that tends to avoid personal pronouns.

(3) Snow White: Person name

- English: What Snow White did not know was that the cottage belonged to seven dwarfs.
- Amele: Snow White uqa bedoor uju yo uju nacbataak agena.

In (3), we look at an example from the Amele language spoken in Papua New Guinea. In English, the third-person singular is expressed by the name Snow White, but in Amele, after introducing the name Snow White, the third-person singular personal pronoun “uqa” is used, creating a parallel with “Snow White uqa.”

In this study, we analyzed multilingual texts and found that the usage of pronouns differs between English and other languages. Notably, personal pronouns are frequently used in languages other than Japanese, which we investigated this time.