

5. *yiə?* *kə?* 'my grandmother'
grandmother my
6. *piə?* *kə?* 'my father'
father my

Sometimes *kə?* co-occurs with *ne?* 'ours', but still preserves its original meaning. For example,

7. *piə* *kə?* *ne?* 'my father'
father my our

This is a set of allomorphs with the general form $C_1V_1?$ also meaning 'my'. The C_1 duplicates the C_f (final consonant) of the preceding word and the V_1 duplicates the V of the preceding word. The preceding noun may be either a noun or *yuh* 'of'.

8. *kuən* *so?* *ʔo?* 'my grandchild'
grandchild my
9. *pu?* *ʔu?* 'my younger sibling'
younger sibling my
10. *kuən* *nə?* 'my child'
child my
11. *naŋsi* *yuh* *hu?* 'my book'
book of my
12. *mai* *yuh* *hu?* 'my money'
money of my

When the preceding word is an open syllable the C_1V_1 become *yə*.

13. *hməo* *yə?* 'my friend'
friend my
14. *phre* *yə?* 'my brother'
brother my

This $C_1V_1?$ form for 'my' is often used in the answer to a question.

15. A: *mə* *ʔaot* *to?* *thoŋ* *pə?* *se*
what located in bag you that
'What is in your bag?'
- B: *naŋsi* *yuh* *hu?*
book of my
'My book.'

16. A: *hei mah pui*
 this be who
 ‘Who is this?’

B: *hməo yə?*
 friend my
 ‘My friend.’

nei? is used instead of *?ai?* ‘I’ when the speaker wishes the hearer to do something for him. It probably means ‘to me’ and often occurs in the imperative clause.

17. *həic nei?* ‘Come to me.’
 come

18. *kiəh nei?* ‘Give to me.’
 give

19. *tui sut nei?* ‘Bring the mosquito
 bring mosquito net net to me.’

mo ?e? is used as a plural first person pronoun ‘we’. Sometimes *mo* ‘group’ is dropped and *?e?* remains alone. Normally, it occurs in the subject or object positions but not in the possessor position.

20. *mo ?e? rəot təo ləpuŋ* – subject
 we dare not speak
 ‘We dare not speak.’

21. *ma? kə? puh mo ?e?* – object
 mother my hit we
 ‘My mother hit us.’

ne? ‘our’ occurs only as the possessor. It is used when the speaker refers to himself and his family.

22. *khvak ne?* ‘our buffalo’
 buffalo our

23. *kuən so? ne?* ‘our grandchild’
 grandchild our

tə? is used as either first or third person pronoun. It refers back to the subject of the action no matter if it is singular or plural [see sec. c)].

b) Second person pronouns

me? 'you' is used basically between men who are related to each other on the female side. For example, when a man speaks to his wife's brother, he can address him as *me?*. In other cases, it is used between men who are not acquainted with each other to show respect. If *me?* occurs in the final position of a question, it usually appears as the open syllable *me*.

24. *sə həo me? kəmə*
will go you where
'Where will you go?'

25. *mə sə yuh me*
what will do you
'What will you do?'

pa? 'you sg.' normally occurs in the subject or object positions. When it is sometimes in the possessor position, it indicates emphasis on the possessor.

26. *leic yuh pa?*
pig of you
'your pig, not the pig of the other'

pə? 'you' normally occurs as the possessor but not as the subject or object in a statement clause. But in a question, it can be the subject. It can be either singular or plural in the possessor position.

27. *pəna? yuh pə?*
orange of your
'your orange'

28. *sə həo pə? kəmə*
will go you where
'Where will you go?'

pə? differs from *pa?* (when they occur as the possessor and *pə?* is singular) in that *pa?* is used when the possessor is emphasized.

29. *ɲiə? pə?*
house your
'your house'

30. *ɲiə? pa?*
house your
'your house, not the house of another'

mo pe? normally means ‘you [plural]’ but it is sometimes used as a singular conversationally between two youthful speakers or between a husband and a wife. It can be the subject, the object or the possessor.

31. *ʔai? hrak mo pe?* – object
 I love you(singular)
 ‘I love you.’
32. *mo pe? sə hɔic niəmmə* – subject
 you will come when
 ‘When will you come?’
33. *pəna? yuh mo pe?* – possessor
 orange of you
 ‘your orange’

Sometimes only *pe?* by itself follows *niə?* ‘house’ as *niə? pe?* ‘your house’, and *niə? pe?* is often used as attribute of the preceding noun. ♣

34. *ʔe niə? pe?*
 chicken your house
 ‘chickens of your house’
35. *broic niə? pe?*
 chilli your house
 ‘chillies of your house’

There is no major difference between *pə?* ‘you (plural)’ and *mo pe?* ‘you (plural)’ when they occur in the possessor position. But it seems that *pə?* is more general than *mo pe?*.

36. *khvak yuh pə? / mo pe?*
 buffalo of you [plural]
 ‘your buffalo’

c) Third person pronouns

In Lawa there are no simple third person pronouns. The pronouns *tə?* and *ʔi* may be first or third person depending on their referent.

tə? refers back to the subject of the action no matter if it is singular or plural. It occurs as the possessor; it can also as the subject of the second clause of a complex sentence.

37. *ʔai? sə ʔejn niŋ niə? tə?* – possessor
 I will return to house my
 ‘I will go to my house.’

38. *mo se həo ?mai ma? tɛ?* – possessor
 group that go with mother their
 ‘They went with their mother’
39. *mi? ju? rə?aom ka som tɛ?* – subject
 Mi drink water before eat she
 ‘Mi drinks water before she eats rice.’

Sometimes *tɛ?* is preceded by *ti?* ‘one’ to mean ‘self’. It occurs only as the subject of the second clause of a complex sentence.

40. *?ai? kət təo ti? tɛ? sə həic*
 I think not myself will come
nij rəyum
 to Mae Sariang
 ‘I have never thought that I would come to Mae Sariang.’

?i refers back to the subject of the action no matter if it is singular or plural. It occurs not only as the possessor but also as the subject in a complex sentence or a question.

41. *mi? həo həŋhiən ma? ?i paŋmə buk*
 Mi go school mother her but ride
pu? həo khiən to? kat
 prog. mk. go bicycle in market
 ‘Mi went to school but her mother is riding a bicycle to the market.’
42. *dɛŋ ka som ?i maic ?i ju? rə?aom*
 Daeng before eat he must he drink water
 ‘Before Daeng eats, he must drink water.’

?i differs from *tɛ?* in that:

- 1) *?i* can be only a third person pronoun,
- 2) *?i* can occur after a preposition but *tɛ?* cannot.

43. *dah dɛŋ cho? leic se sə hloh*
 if Daeng sell pig that will get
mai nij ?i həon
 money from it many
 ‘If Daeng sells that pig, he will get much money.’

3) *tɛ?* refers back to its subject. But *tɛ?* can be replaced by *?i* in the possessor position, if *?i* is understood to refer to another by the speaker and the hearer.

44. *mi?* *hrak* *ma?* *tɛ?*
 Mi love mother her
 ‘Mi loves her mother.’
45. *mi?* *hrak* *ma?* *ʔi*
 Mi love mother his,her,their
 ‘Mi loves the other’s mother’

4) *ʔi* can occur as the subject in question but *tɛ?* cannot.

46. *mi?* *mə* *pɔn* *ʔi*
 Mi what eat she
 ‘What did Mi eat rice with?’

Demonstrative phrases may also be used as pronouns, especially in the combinations *pui* ‘person’ or *mo* ‘group’ plus *hei* ‘this’, *se* ‘that (near)’, or *sət* ‘that (far)’. These phrasal pronouns may be used in subject, object, or possessor functions. *Pui se* and *mo se* are more often used than the others. But in normal speech people are usually referred to by name or by a *ə*gero rather than by a pronoun.

47. *piə?* *pui* *se* *ʔaot* *kəmə*
 house person that located where
 ‘Where is his/her house?’
48. *mo* *se* *ʔaot* *təo* *niŋ* *piə?*
 group that located not at house
 ‘They don’t stay at home.’

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