

# The usage of marker –*i* in Cenderwasih Bay languages



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# The usage of marker *-i* in Cenderawasih Bay languages

## 0. Introduction

Some Austronesian languages such as *Ambai*, *Serui-Laut*, *Ansus*, *Busami*, *Wooi*, *Poom*, *Biak*, *Roon*, *Wandamen* are located in Cenderawasih Bay in the two provinces ; Papua and West Papua. As Austronesian languages, these languages have classified by Blust (1993) as cited in Foley (2006) in which these languages belong to South Halmahera-West-New Guinea (SHWNG). Particularly, *Ambai* , *Ansus*, *Wooi*, *Poom*, *Biak*, *Roon* are also classified as Sarera group or Sarera Bay or Cenderawasih Bay languages (Anceaux, 1961).

Based on the explanation of the classification of the languages, the presentation in the table 1 shows the general description of Sarera group or Sarera bay (Cenderawasih Bay) languages.

Table 1. General description of languages (Anceaux , 1961 , Karubaba, 2008, Rumere, 2019 and Ayamiseba, 2019)

Number	Name of Languages	The speakers	Location	City and Villages
1.	Ansus	4.000	- West Yapen -Miousnum Island -	Serui, Ansus, Kairawi, Yamprum
2.	Wooi	1.300	- West Yapen -Miousnom	Wooi, Woinap, Yenyari
3.	Poom	More than 700	-West Yapen -Miousnum	Poom, Serewen, Yetuairau
4.	Serui_Laut	Morethan 1000	-Yapen Islan -Nau Island	Serui-laut, Mariarotu, Aromarea, Areiepi
5.	Busami	350	-West Yapen	-Mariarotu, Kamanap, Sasawa and Kaonda
6.	Ambai	9000-10.000	South Yapen	Ambai I, Ambai II, Baisore, Mambawi, Rondepi, Kawipi, Wamori, Aduwipi, Manawi, Atiri, Ransanoni, Roifi,

				Randawaya I, Randawaya II and Waita. Moreover, Ambai is also spoken in the larger towns in the province like Serui, Jayapura, Manokwari and Sorong.
7.	Biak	40.000	Biak	All villages
8.	Roon	1,200	Roon	All villages
9.	Wandamen	8.000	Wasior	All villages

Above all, this paper will focus on the usage of marker-/ in Cenderawasih Bay languages. Furthermore, the discussion will examine two research questions as follow; (1) How the marker –/ is used in the sentences? (3) Why are these similarities may exist in Cenderawasih Bay languages?

## 1. Methodology

### 1.1. Pronoun

This section presents the theories of pronoun based on syntactical and morphological point of view. To begin with, the theories of pronoun based on syntactical point are presented below.

According to Crystal (2003: 376) in (Krey, 2019), Pronoun is one of part of speech used in grammatical classification refers to the closed items which can be used for noun phrase or single noun. It means that there is a term that commonly used in a language to indicate noun as the number and gender.

Besides, Crystal (2003) mentions that pronoun consist of several types with its variation between grammars. The types of pronoun are subjective pronoun, objective pronoun, possessive pronoun, demonstrative pronoun, interrogative pronoun, reflexive pronoun, indefinite and relative pronoun. The following explanation of each term is presented below.

#### **a. Subjective Pronouns**

Subjective pronouns are referred to the subject of a sentence such as; *I, You, She, He, It, We, They*.

*(I) I read a book*

#### **b. Objective Pronouns**

Objective Pronoun are pronouns which refer to direct object, indirect object and also object of preposition in sentence, such as *me, you, him, her, it, us, them*.

(2) *They hit **me**.*

### **c. Possessive Pronouns**

Possessive Pronouns are used to show the ownership of something, such as *mine, yours, his, her, its, ours, theirs.*

(3) *Her father*

### **d. Demonstrative Pronouns**

Demonstrative Pronouns are pronouns which explain or show something that are near or far from us, such as *this, these, those, that.*

(4) ***This** bag*

### **e. Interrogative Pronouns**

Interrogative Pronouns are used to ask about something to get more information such as, *what, which, who, whom, whose, whatever, and so on.*

(5) ***What is your name?***

### **b. Reflexive Pronouns**

Reflexive Pronouns are used to identify ourselves or others, such as *myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, ourselves, themselves.*



(6) *She will be do it by herself*

### **c. Indefinite Pronouns**

Indefinite Pronouns are used to ask about someone exist, such as *any, anyone, anybody, anything* and so on.

(7) ***Anything** else ?*

### **d. Relative Pronouns**

Relative Pronouns are used to characterize the noun phrase and by the extension to the clause as a whole. such as *who, whom, whose, which, what, that*.

(8) *The kid **who** was given ice cream was happy.*

Apart from the explanation of those types of pronouns , O’Grady (2006) in Krey (2019) stated Personal Pronoun as words refers to the speakers ( *I, me*), the person spoken to (you) and other person things whose referents are presumed to be clear from context ( *he, him ,she, they and them* ).

Besides, in morphological point of view, pronouns can be divided into free pronoun and bound pronoun. Further explanations of both terms are presented below.

#### **a Free Pronoun**

Free pronoun refers to morphemes that function as subject, object and possessive, and also those morphemes can stand alone. Table 2 shows English free pronouns (Burung and Kuan (2005).in Krey , (2019).

Table 2. Free Pronouns

<b>Person</b>	<b>Singular</b>			<b>Plural</b>		
	Subject	Object	Possessive	subject	Object	Possessive
1	I	Me	My	We	Us	Our
2	You	You	Your	You	You	Your
3 Male	He	Him	His	They	Them	Their
Female	She	Her	Her	They	Them	Their
Neuter	It	Its	Its	Thet	Them	Their

The example of free pronouns is presented in number (9) below.

*Ambai*

9. Jau     J-ampa  
   1sg   1sg-eat rice  
      “I eat rice”

#### **b. Bound Pronoun**

Bound Pronouns are pronouns that can not stand alone and always attach to the verb.

*Ambai*

(10). J - ampa  
      1sg-eat rice  
      “I eat rice”

## 1.2. Typological and Historical Point of View of Languages

Comrie et.al (1981) stated that if we observe similarities between two languages, in principle, there are four reasons why these similarities may exist; Firstly, they could be due to chance. Secondly, they could stem from the fact that the two languages are genetically related, and have inherited the common property from their common ancestor. Thirdly, the two languages could be in areal contact: one language could have borrowed the property from the other, or both could have borrowed it from some third language, either directly or through the mediation of yet other language. Fourthly, the property could be a language universal, either absolute or a tendency.

In addition, Comrie (1981) pointed out that languages do a contact, they tend to borrow the lexical items and languages are intimately shared the similarities in a wide range.

Finally, both theories of pronoun based on syntactical and morphological point of view and typological point of view will use to examine the usage of marker-*i* in Cenderawasih Bay languages.

## 2. Discussion

### 2.1. The usage of marker-*i* in the sentences

The using of marker-*i* is referred to pronoun. It can be as the first person singular as in subject of bound pronoun. Whereas, it can be stand alone as free pronoun as in the third person singular of subject and as object pronoun which is found in Cenderawasih Bay languages.

Thus, the following discussion below presents the table of how the marker - *i* occurs in the sentences. Particularly, this marker appears in the beginning of the sentences as subject bound pronouns in the languages.

Table 3. The usage of marker –*i* in Cenderawasih Bay languages as subject bound pronouns

Number/ person	<i>Ambai</i>	<i>Ansus</i>	<i>Poom</i>
1sg	i-minohi 1sg-sit 'I sit'	i-ra 1sg-go 'I sit'	i-towa buku 1sg-read book "I read a book'
Number/ person	<i>Roan</i>	<i>Wandamen</i>	<i>Serui -laut</i>
1sg	i-mun myaf 1sg-kill dog I kill a dog'	i-tapu pimuna 1sg-catch pig 'I catch pig"	i-ra 1sg-walk

Further, the next table below only presents the singular form of pronouns in this case to see how languages have the same pronouns; particularly, it happens in the third person singular. Also, the phenomena of the languages show that the third person singular can function as subject and object pronouns in the languages.

Table 4. Singular form of Pronouns

Numbe /person	Ambai	Ansus	Poom	Wooi	Busami	Serui-Laut	Biak	Roan	Wandamen
1sg	jau	yau	yau	yau	ya	yau	aya	ya	ja
12sg	wau	au	au	au	au	wau	au	au	au
3sg	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	i

Note that, the presentation of the pronouns in the table 4 only present singular forms of pronouns in Cenderawasih Bay languages.

## 2.2. The marker *-i* as third person singular and as the object pronoun in the sentences

Based on languages survey, it is shows that there are three functions of marker-*i* in the sentences that happen in Cenderawasih Bay languages. The first function of marker-*i* is as free subject pronouns for the third person singular. The second is as subject bound pronoun for first person singular in which if the verb attaches to this subject, the verb always begin with initial consonant.

Third, the using of marker *-i* is an ‘object’. The examples of Cenderawasih Bay languages below show the three functions of marker-*i* in the sentences.

*Ambai*

- (11)    *i*            *d-ena*  
          3sg    3sg-sleep  
          “He sleeps”

The marker-*i* in number (11) is referred to the third person singular of the subject pronoun.

- (12)    *i-minohi*  
          1sg-sit  
          “I sit”

In the example (12), the marker-*i* is applied for first person singular of subject pronoun.

- (13)    *i- boi*        *i*  
          1sg-hit    him  
          “I hit him”

In (13), the marker *-i* function as subject of the verb and as object pronoun of the verb when it stands alone.

In fact, It clearly shows the differences in number (11) ) is free pronoun, while number (12) and {13} are bound pronouns when the verb attach to the subject .

Interestingly, the marker-*i* in Ambai language functions also as object pronoun which attach to people name’s which ending by consonant or vowel.

- (14). Martinus    *-i*            *d-ampi*        *pa*  
          Martinus    -3sg:subj    3sg-eat        rice  
          “Martinus eats rice”

Thus, the marker-*i* is referred to the third person singular or to Martinus or Maria which are presented in (14) and (15).

- (15). Maria-*i*                    *d-*                    *ena*  
          Maria-1sg:subj    1sg:subj -        sleep  
          “Maria sleeps”

Ansus

- (16) I d<i>oto weraung wadi (Kadang,2012)  
3sg 3sg.read book  
“She/he reads a book”

*Wooi*

- (16) i t-eto buku  
3sg 3sg-read book  
“He/She reads a book”

*Poom*

- (17) I d<i>owa buku  
3sg 3sg.read book  
“He/she reads a book”

*Roon*

- (18) *i-mar* (Ayamiseba, 2019)  
3SG-die  
‘he die’

*Biak* (Dimara,2019)

- (19) *i d-enef*  
3sg 3sg-sleep  
‘He/she sleeps’



### **3. Typological and Historical Point of View of Cenderawasih Bay Languages**

All languages are genetically related languages in the sense that they are Austronesian languages. Table 1 shows similarities with one another. Besides, table2 shows that all languages have the same pronoun “i” for third person singular. Geographically, the all languages could be in areal contact, so they share similarities regarding the pronoun system.

#### 4. Conclusion

Typologically, the nine Austronesian languages show similarities in terms of using pronoun. These languages only have one marker to show the first person singular and the third person singular. Further, this marker has some positions when appear in the sentences; { 1 } it can be as subject free pronoun and bound pronouns in the sentences and { 2 } it can also be as object pronoun when appear at the end of the sentences or after people name's.

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