

Reconstruction of the Proto-Southern Mande pronominal system

All Southern Mande languages have rich pronominal systems; number of pronominal series in some of them may exceed 20. In Mano, Dan, Gban, Beng, Goo, there are “pronominal predicative markers” (PPM), entities which are different from true pronouns by their syntactic function, however, for the purposes of the proto-language reconstruction, they can be considered together. Most often, the pronominal and the PPM series result from fusion with auxiliary words (predicative markers, postpositions, possessive markers) at the level of individual languages, however, in some cases, the fusion can be dated back to the level of subgroups within the Southern Mande group, and in some others, it can be reconstructed for the Proto-Southern Mande level.

So far, the following Proto-Southern Mande forms can be reconstructed.

Series	Singular			Dual	Plural			
	1	2	3	1 incl.	1 incl.	1 excl.	2	3
Subjective	* \bar{N}	* \bar{i}/\bar{e}	* \bar{e}	* $k\bar{o}/k\bar{v}$	* $k\bar{o}á$	* $y\bar{i}/\bar{o}$	* $k\bar{a}$	* $w\bar{o}$
Subjunctive	* \acute{N}	* \acute{i}	* \acute{e}	* $k\acute{o}/k\acute{v}$	* $k\acute{o}á$	* $y\acute{i}/\acute{o}$	* $k\acute{a}$	* $w\acute{o}$
Imperative	–	* $b\bar{e}$	–	* $k\bar{o}/k\bar{v}$	* $k\bar{o}à$	–	* $k\bar{a}$	–
Non-subjunctive	* \bar{N}	* \bar{i}/\bar{e}	* \bar{a}	* $k\bar{o}/k\bar{v}$	* $k\bar{o}á$	* $y\bar{i}/\bar{o}$	* $k\bar{a}$	* $\bar{a}n\bar{u}$
Reflexive	* \bar{N}	* \bar{i}/\bar{e}	* \bar{e}	* $k\bar{o}/k\bar{v}$	* $k\bar{o}á$	* $y\bar{i}/\bar{o}$	* $k\bar{a}$	* $w\bar{o}$
Focalized	* $m\bar{a}$	* $b\bar{i}/y\bar{i}$	* $y\bar{e}$	* $k\bar{o}/k\bar{v}$	* $k\bar{o}á$	* $y\bar{i}/\bar{o}$	* $k\bar{a}$	* $w\bar{o}$
Portemanteau	* $m\bar{a}$	* $b\bar{i}/y\bar{i}$	* $y\bar{a}$	* $k\bar{o}/k\bar{v}$	* $k\bar{o}à$	* $w\bar{a}$	* $k\bar{a}$	* $w\bar{a}$

In my presentation I am going to provide the details of this reconstruction.