A Comparative Study of First Person Pronouns in Korean Language and Myanmar Language

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Abstract

In socializing among community, language plays the vital role. There will be successful communications among individual only when pronouns for first person, second person and third person are used correctly. Thus this paper presents comparatively the usages of first person pronouns in Korea Language and Myanmar Language. The findings show that there is no gender difference in using first person pronouns in Korean Language but Myanmar Languages does, and specifications for fixed sentence endings are there after first person pronouns of Korean Language 저,나, on the other hand, Myanmar Language does not have (Kyanaw,Kyama,Ngar). Moreover, although there are specific plural forms of first person pronouns in Korean Language(The plural form of "저,나" are "저희,우리"), the lack of it can be found in Myanmar Language. Adding of "tot, myar, tway" turn first person pronouns in Myanmar as plurals.This present paper fosters for language learning by comprehending similarities and differences on the usages of first person pronouns in Korean Language and Myanmar Language.

Keywords: first person pronouns in Myanmar Language, first person pronouns in Korean Language, grammar comparative study

Introduction

In daily life, communication among one after another are via utterances. In communication among individual, pronouns are used according to age, rank, and social status. In there, the right pronouns used are important. Usage without gender differences is in the Korean Language while Myanmar Language has gender difference in using first person pronoun. In this paper, it is aimed for students learning Korean Language to use first person pronouns in Korean Language correctly and to know different usage of first person pronouns in Myanmar and Korean Languages. There are first person pronoun, second person pronoun, and third person pronoun in Myanmar Language and also for Korean Language. This paper studies and presents only the first person pronouns in Korean Language and Myanmar Language.

Research Questions

1. How are first person pronouns used in Korean Language and Myanmar Language?
2. How same and different are first person pronouns used in Korean Language and Myanmar Language there?

Literature Review

In 원프엉증(2004)'s "A Comparative Study of Personal Pronouns in Korean Language and Vietnamese Language", two languages' personal pronouns' meanings, distinctive features, and specifications are emphasized and analysed. It is presented that although there is specifically possessive word "의", the mentioned word "의"are used in using first person pronoun, and there is also a usage of " 내" ,"우리" which is a specific word.

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In 왕금하(2007)'s "A Comparative Study of Personal Pronouns in Korean Language and Chinese Language", it is found that two languages' distinctive features of first person pronoun, second person pronoun, and third person pronoun are analyzed and their sameness and difference are mainly compared. It is presented that two ways of using first person pronoun – normal and polite. There is a specific word in transforming singular form to plural form. It is also presented that first person pronouns can be exempted depending on the speaking context.

In 루탄투이(2010)'s "A Comparative Study of Personal Pronouns in Korean Language and Vietnamese Language", two languages' first, second and third personal pronouns' plural forms, usages, and their exemptions in speaking context are presented. Pronouns of two languages are compared by exampling bountiful sentences.

In 우유(2013)'s "A Comparative Study of Personal Pronouns in Korean Language and Chinese Language", two languages' first, second and third personal pronouns' are presented via examples. It is presented that "저희"   is the plural form of "저"and "우리"is the plural form of "나", and respective suffixes are there after " 저,나,저희,우리".

Ma SoeSoeMyint (2007)'s "A Study of transactional speech acts in Myanmar Language from the point of Pragmatics" presents pragmatics, in-directional meaning, direct utterances, polite ways, study of speech act analysis. It is found that the different presentation of speakers, listeners, and others in the reference of person.

In Ma Aye MiAung (2012)'s "Reference words in Myanmar Language", daily used utterances are studied and analysed as personal reference word, locational reference word, time reference word, and coherence reference word with examples.

MaungKhinMhin (Danuphyu) (2015)'s "Myanmar Sar, Myanmar Discussion" explains "Ko" which is a word of first person pronoun. "Ko" is used to describe first person just like "Kyanaw" and "Kyama". The meaning is the same between "ငါပြောချင်တာက" and "ကျွန်တော်ပြောချင်တာက". In the past, "Ko" was used as second person pronoun. There were usages like "ကိုယ်တို့လုပ်ရက်ပါပေတယ်"and " ဒီကိစ္စကိုယ်သိ ရဲ့လား". It is also presented that "Ko" means the meaning of "body". By placing the "Ko" in the middle, it can also be used by adding the same word as prefix and suffix: "ငါ့ကိုယ်ငါ" and "သူ့ကိုယ်သူ".

MaungKhinMhin (Danuphyu) (2015)'s "Speech Ocean, Literature Ocean", the rise of the word "Ngar" is explained in detail. By using "Ngar" widely by Myanmar People, later the words were coined like "Kyanaw", "Kyama", "Knyout" and "KyanawMyo, KyanawMyoGyi, PhayarKyanaw" by means of humbling as a servant. In the past, Myanmar people used "Ngar" widely to refer them. It was presented out of the evidences in Bagan Era stone scripts.

Aim

It is aimed for students learning Korean Language to know and use first person pronouns in Korean Language correctly. It is also aimed to foster in

language learning of students learning Korean Language by comprehending the sameness and different usage of first person pronoun in Korean Language.

Data collection and Research Methodology

Data presented in the paper are from Korean Dictionary, Korean Grammar book, Korean research paper, Korean curriculum and syllabus, Myanmar Dictionary, Myanmar Grammar book, Myanmar novels, Myanmar research paper. A comparative method is used in compiling the paper.

Table (1): The comparison between First Person Pronouns in Korea and Myanmar

First person pronoun	Korea	Myanmar
Does the use of first person pronoun have gender difference?	✘	✔
Is there a specific plural form in first person pronoun?	✔	✘
Is there any plural form of first person pronoun?	✔	✔
Different types of first person pronouns depending on age, intimacy, and social status of the first person and the second person.	✔	✔
Does the form of original word change when adding subject preposition after first person pronouns?	✔	✘
Is there any specification to sentence final ending related with first person pronouns?	✔	✘
Does the usage of first person pronoun flourish?	✘	✔

The above table shows the comparison between First Person Pronouns in Korea and Myanmar. Gender difference cannot be found in using first person pronoun in Korean Language while Myanmar Language does. The first person pronouns in Korean Language have their specific plural forms but Myanmar one does not. The similar one is that plural form of first person pronouns can be added with words indicated plural form. The kinds of first person pronouns are differently used depending on the situation of age, social status, and intimacy of the first and second persons in Korean and Myanmar Languages. The form of original word changes when subject preposition is added to first person pronoun in Korean Language. Myanmar Language does not have such kind of change. Although the use of first person pronouns in Korea Language has the specifications what will come at the final ending of the sentence, Myanmar Language does not have such specifications. The use of first person pronoun in Korean Language has not been flourished till in this era while Myanmar Language has a flourished use of first person pronoun.

Findings and Discussion

In Korean Language, first person pronoun is defined as "the thing directed while speaking".[1] First person pronouns in Korean Language are "   저, 나, 저희, 우리".

"저"

"저" is used when the first person is younger or inferior than the second person, when speaking with the elders, in the ceremonies, when speaking with the strangers, or speaking with humble.[2]There is no gender difference. When " 저" is used, " 저" which are the polite utterances have to use at the end of the sentence. "가" is used by adding subject preposition "제" after "ㅂ 니다/습니다,아,어,여요,으십시오".[3]

Example (1)-저는학생입니다.ကျွန်တော်ကတော့ကျောင်းသားဖြစ်သည်။

Example (2) - 저는학생입니다.ကျွန်မကတော့ကျောင်းသူဖြစ်သည်။

It is found that " 저" solely is used in order to indicate "Kyanaw, Kyama" since there is no different use of "Kyanaw, Kyama".

Example (1)-제방에책생이없어요.ကျွန်တော်၏အခန်းမှာစားပွဲခုံမရှိပါ။

Example (2) -제방에책생이없어요.ကျွန်မ၏အခန်းမှာစားပွဲခုံမရှိပါ။

In describing possessive word in Korean Language, fix subject preposition has to use. In Myanmar Language, by adding "ei" or "out-ka-myint", it becomes possessive word. There is a specification in Korean Language that adding polite ways at the end of first person pronouns " 저, 제" contained sentences.

"나"

"나" is used when talking with the same age or the people who are younger than the first person.[4] There is no gender difference. At the end of the sentence in which " 나" is used, " 는다/ㄴ다" are added. After " 나", "가" is used by adding subject preposition " 내". "나" is used among friends, people in the same age, spouses, and between teacher and pupils, and between mother in law and daughter in law.

Example 1- 나는학교에간다.ငါကတော့ကျောင်းကိုသွားတယ်။

In this sentence, the meaning is "ငါ ကျောင်းသွားတယ်" when telling directly in Myanmar. In Korean Language, there is a specification that subject preposition like "ကတော့၊ကို" are added.

Example 2-그시계는내것이아니다.အဲဒီနာရီကတော့ငါ့ ပစ္စည်းမဟုတ်ပါ။

In describing possessive word in Korean Language, fix subject preposition has to use. In Myanmar Language, by adding "ei" or "out-ka-myint", it becomes possessive word.

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[1]우형식(2014),학습활동을겸한한국어문법론,부산외국어대학교출판부.p.112
[2]국립국어연구원 (1999) "표준국어대사전",p-5274
[3]왕금하 (2007) ,"한국어와중국어의인칭대명사대조연구,석사학위논문.p11
[4]국립국어연구원 (1999) "표준국어대사전",p-1044

" 저희"

" 저희"is the plural form of "저". "저희" is used with the meaning of including all interlocutors like second person or first person, and both as well. The first person speaks humbly so it can be in the context without second person.[1] After "저희",it can also be used by adding merely plural form" 들".

Example1   저희부모님께서는부산에사세요.ကျွန်တော်တို့.မိဘတွေကတော့ဘူဆန် မှာနေပါတယ်။

Although there is a plural word "들" in Korean Language, there is a specific plural word " 저희" for "저". In Myanmar Language, adding of " တို့.၊များ၊တွေ" transforms into plural forms.

"우리"

"우리" is the plural form of " 나". "우리" is used as the meaning in the context of first person and second person, the first person and all people excluding second person, and all people including first and second person.[2]Moreover, it is also used when the first person is dealing with the persons who are not more superior to him. The usage adding the specific plural word "우리", after "들" is also possible. "우리" has a variety of usages in first person pronoun of Korean Language. In the usages like "my father, my mother, and my husband", "우리" is used personal noun (singular form).[3]

Example1   장미씨,우리좀쉬었다가할까요?မနင်းဆီရေငါ.တို့.တွေ့ခဏနားပြီးမှလုပ် ကြစို့.။

Although there is a plural word " 들" in Korean Language, there is a specific plural word " 우리" for " 나". In Myanmar Language, adding of " တို့.၊များ၊တွေ" transforms into plural forms.

In Myanmar Language, first person pronoun is defined as "phrase used on the behalf of the first person".[4]The first person pronouns in Myanmar Language are "Kyanaw, Kyama, Ngar, Kyanoak, Ko, Tapaetaw". First person pronouns in Myanmar Language are differed depending on first person and second person's age, social status, and the extent of chemistry.

"Kyanaw"

"Kyanaw" is the word that males refer to him selves.[5] However, females also use "Kyanaw" in communication. Especially, it is widely used in the upper Myanmar region and its related areas. It is used when the second person is more superior in terms of age and rank than the first person, and also for in the situation

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[1]국립국어연구원 (1999) "표준국어대사전",p-5292

[2]국립국어연구원 (1999) "표준국어대사전",p.4646

[3]고영근.그본관(2015),"우리말문법론"p.73

[4]Department of Myanmar Examination (2013), Myanmar Grammar, Second published, Yangon, Universities Press.p.114

[5]Department of Myanmar Examination (2008), Myanmar Dictionary, Second published, Yangon, NayLin Press.p.44

even second person is younger but superior in terms of rank. The pronoun "Kyanaw" can be used in male, female, and every age.

Example 1 -မနက်ဖန်ကျွန်တော်ရှစ်နာရီအရောက်လာခေါ်ပေးပါမယ်လို့ပြောပေးပါ။

(This usage describes the boy refers to himself.)

Example 2- ကျွန်တော့်ကိုအထင်မသေးစေတဲ့အပြင်အထင်ကြီးသွား   စေဦးမယ်၊ လောင်းမလား။

(This usage of "Kyanaw" in this sentence is from the description of girl.) (This is citied from the novel called "Fruit hidden by leaves" by MyaPalaeKhin.)

"Kyama"

"Kyama" means the reference work used by females for her selves.[1] With the mean of gentle, tranquil, and having confidence, it is used in workplace. It is also used in dealing with the superior officers, the older person with lower rank, and the unfamiliar person younger and lower in terms of rank.

Example1–"ကျွန်မကြီးလာလျှင်ကျောင်းဆရာမကြီးလုပ်မည် "ဟုမဝိုင်းကပြောသည်။

"Ngar"

"Ngar" is the reference work showing oneself in dealing with the younger by the older, and the same aged person.[2] It can be used by males or females. It will be a rude meaning when "Ngar" is used in dealing with the one who is older, and superior in rank or social status.

Example 1 – ငါကအေပရုပ်ဆီလေး   မှာလိုက်ဖို့မေ့သွားတာအေ့။

(This describes the sentence which speech is from the older to the younger.)

"KyaNoak"

"KyaNoak" is the word that referred oneself. It is usually used in the written language.[3] It can be found in slogans, articles, and newspaper headlines.

Example 1 – ကျွန်ုပ်တို့သည်တိုင်းပြည်နှင့်လူမျိုးအပေါ်တွင်သစ္စာရှိကြရမည်။

"Kyoak"

"Kyoak" is defined as the speech form of "KyaNoak" in Myanmar Dictionary.[4] It is used by every age, gender, and place, mostly used in rural areas. Whether the second person is younger, older, and lower or higher in terms of social status, it is used to refer oneself. Most of the spouses are also used it as the familiar term.

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[1]Department of Myanmar Examination (2008), Myanmar Dictionary, Second published, Yangon, NayLin Press.p.44

[2]Department of Myanmar Examination (2008), Myanmar Dictionary, Second published, Yangon, NayLin Press.p.82

[3]Department of Myanmar Examination (2008), Myanmar Dictionary, Second published, Yangon, NayLin Press.p.44

[4]Department of Myanmar Examination (2008), Myanmar Dictionary, Second published, Yangon, NayLin Press.p.31

Example 1 – "ကျွပ်တို့.ရွာကိုလာလည်ပါဦး"ဟု မကျည်းတန်ကဖိတ်ခေါ်သည်။

"Ko"

"Ko" is the reference word in speech form to indicate oneself in Myanmar Dictionary.[1] It is the meaning of "Kyoak" and "Ngar". "Ko" is used as first person pronoun and second person pronoun as well.

Example –"ကိုယ်မနက်ဖန်မောင်ရင်တို့အိမ်ကိုလာခဲ့ဦးမယ်"ဟု ဖိုးအေးကပြောသည်။

"Tapaetaw"

"Tapaetaw" is the humble reference word to oneself with one after another by monks, nuns, and from the layman to the monk.[2]

Example –"တပည့်တော်ပြန်ပါရစေဦးဘုရား"ဟု ဆရာတော်ကြီးအား ဒကာကြီး ဦးတင်ကခွင့်ပန်သည်။

Communication among people in the society relies on context, time, age and social status. Since pronouns have been used in dealing like this, it is important to correct the pronouns used. First person pronoun use in the Korean Language does not have gender difference. The usage of Myanmar Language's first person pronoun differs according to gender. For Male, "Kyanaw" is used and "Kyama" is for female. In Korean Language, "저,제   " are used for all genders.

There is a specific word "저희,우리" for the plural form of " 저,나"in the Korean Language. There is no specific word for plural form of "Kyanaw, Kyama, Nagar" in Myanmar Language. If they were used as the plural form, the solely word "Tot,Myar,Tway" are added to them. Like "Tot,Myar,Tway" in Myanmar Language, Korean Language has the word that can be used as plural form"들". Thus, it is found that there are usages of "Kyanaw tot tway, Kyama tot tway" in Myanmar Language by adding "tway" (the plural suffix) after "Kyanaw and Kyama". Likewise, in Korean Language, by adding the word (plural suffix) "들" after"저희,우리", there are usages like"저희들,우리들".

It is found that different first person pronouns are depending on the situation of age, social status, and intimacy. Especially in Myanmar Language, "Kyanaw, Kyama" is used when talking in a way of polite, with unfamiliar persons, in a working place, and with the persons who are superior in terms of age, rank and social status. For that, in Korean Language, there is " 저,제".

In Myanmar Language, there is a "Ngar" word when first person is the same age with the second person, or friendship or the relationship between spouses or teacher and pupil while Korean Language has " 나". After adding the subject preposition "가" to the first person pronoun "저,나 " in the Korean

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[1]Department of Myanmar Examination (2008), Myanmar Dictionary, Second published, Yangon, NayLin Press.p.22

[2]Department of Myanmar Examination (2008), Myanmar Dictionary, Second published, Yangon, NayLin Press.p.142

Language, the original form of the word changes but in Myanmar Language, there is no such change.

There are specifications where the use of "저,나" ,the first person pronouns in Korean Language, are added at the end of "ㅂ니다/습니다.아,어,여요/는다,ㄴ다"sentence. There is no specification to use sentence ending in "Kyanaw, Kyama, Nagar" in Myanmar Language.

First person pronouns have been widely using in Myanmar Language till to at present, but there is now widely use of it in Korean Language. This paper makes well-comprehension and re-exploitation of similarity, difference, and usage of first person pronouns in Korea and Myanmar Languages for the students learning Korean Language.

Conclusion

For the students learning language, it is important to apply by correct and concrete comprehension on the language they are learning. This paper provides the students learning Korean Language comprehend the first person pronoun usage from the basic and apply in practical. Language learning will be reinforced by realizing similarities and differences on the usage of first person pronouns in Korea and Myanmar Languages. It also fosters the careers like translation and interpretation. It is crucial not to have misunderstanding by the pronouns in communicating depending on age, social status, and intimacy. It is also noticed to use the first person pronouns correctly from the cultural difference between one country after another. This paper is, it is hoped, mainlybe supportive for the people learning Korean Language. Moreover, the comparative study on similarities, differences, and usage of first person pronouns in Korea and Myanmar Languages can be done.

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