



Comparison of Pronominal Systems in Yapen Languages

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ABSTRACT

Pronominal systems are different from language to language, even in the same area, and this is particularly the case in the Yapen languages. The purpose of this study is to investigate the pronominal systems of five related languages. These languages are related in the sense that they are Austronesian languages, but typologically they differ in their pronominal systems. Regarding the purpose of the study, we investigate four issues; firstly, we compare independent subject pronouns and bound pronouns among the related languages of the Yapen Island; secondly, we examine subject bound pronouns of V-initial verbs and C-initial verbs among these related languages; thirdly, we examine the similarities and differences in the pronominal systems of the Yapen languages; and fourthly, we examine the possible origins of the forms of these pronominal system among these related languages. We apply a comparative method on the pronominal systems of the Yapen languages and we also use bibliographical or documentary techniques for data acquisition. This study reveals that the languages have multiple complex pronominal forms. Each language has regular and irregular form of bound pronouns depending on the vowel of V-initial verbs and consonants of C-initial verbs. Finally, regarding the possible origin of these forms, the languages belong to the same language family and have also been in direct contact, which means they tend to borrow features from one another.

Keywords: Austronesian Languages, Yapen Languages, Pronominal Systems, Comparison, Typology.

1. INTRODUCTION

Anceaux (1961) stated that there are 14 languages located in the Yapen Island, and these 14 languages belong to the Papuan and Austronesian language families. From the total number of Yapen languages, the primary languages surveyed in this paper are *Ambai*, *Serui-Laut*, *Ansus*, *Pom* and *Wooi*. Geographically, *Ambai* is located in South Yapen, while *Ansus*, *Pom* and *Wooi* are located in West Yapen.

To date, some linguists have worked on the Yapen languages such as Anceaux 1961, Price & Silzer 1991 and Donohue 2004. These works focused in particular on some branches of linguistic study such as Phonology, Phonetics and Morphology. There is, however, very little research comparing from a typological perspective the pronominal systems of these languages. The aim of this paper is to do exactly that. In relation to this study, Foley (2006) presented several structural characteristics of New Guinea languages and one of the characteristics relates to pronouns. Particularly, he explained that “many

languages in the region are notable for the reduction and skewing of their pronominal systems, resulting in systems not commonly found elsewhere. He also said the set of distinctions in person and number may vary across the pronominal systems of a given language. Also, he gives examples of pronominal systems in which more distinctions are made for independent pronouns than in the bound pronominal affixes or vice versa. In general, Foley’s survey represented some languages which have distinctions in independent pronouns and distinction in the number, and also some which lack a distinction in the number and exhibit no number contrast. For instance, languages which have four to six independent pronouns are the *Kumau* and *Dani* languages. *Kumau* has four independent pronouns, with a number distinction only in the first person: *na* (SG, PL). Second person is *ene* (SG,PL) and third person is *ye* (SG,PL). In addition, the bound verbal subject pronominal prefixes distinguish three numbers. Whereas the *Manem* language’s simplest pronominal system has no number contrast as shown by forms such as first person *ga*; second person *sa*, and

third person, the *Chimbu* language only has first person *na* and second person *I'*".

Hence, based on description of pronominal systems given by Foley, we conclude that they differ from the pronominal system in the five related languages we survey. In fact, these languages have complex independent pronouns, and they distinguish number (singular, dual, trial and plural), person (first, second, and third) and clusivity (exclusive/inclusive we) categories. Interestingly, these five related languages share a similar third person singular form *i*.

Finally, by considering and comparing the pronominal systems of Yapen languages, it can be observed that the pronominal systems are different from language to language, even in the same area. We show this by investigating in this paper the pronominal systems of the above mentioned five related languages. These languages are related in the sense that they are all Austronesian languages, but typologically they differ in their pronominal systems. In particular, this paper sets out these four aims : (1) to compare the independent subject pronouns and bound pronouns among the related languages in the Yapen Island; (2) to examine subject bound pronouns for V-initial verbs and C-initial verbs among these related languages; (3) to examine the similarities and differences in the pronominal systems of the Yapen languages. (4) to examine the possible origin of the forms of the pronominal systems of these related languages.

2. METHODOLOGY AND DATA

- We use a comparative study methodology which means we compare two or more languages, in particular to find out the similarities and differences among related languages. Thus, this study refers to Crystal (1997 in Wulandari, 2021) in which "a comparative study as a study which compares the characteristics of different languages". In addition, this study also refers to Campbell (2004) "the comparative method is a method (a set of procedures) which compares forms from related languages, cognates, which have descended from a common ancestral

language (proto language), to postulate, that is to reconstruct, the form in ancestral language".

- Regarding all pronominal systems, we use primary data and secondary data. In particular, we use secondary data in which all data that we collect are based on bibliographical or documentary techniques. Therefore, in secondary data we appointed to Subroto (1992 in Wulandari 2021) in which "in the bibliographical technique, data is collected from the written sources. In addition, we also refer to Sukardi (2003 in Wulandari 2021) "the documentary technique as a technique of data collection by gathering all information forms, written forms pictures, or remarkable creation of someone. Hence, for data acquisition of all pronominal systems of five related languages, we use some sources such as:
 - Data collected by us
 - Ambai: Master thesis of Sara Karubaba, (2008, Leiden University)
 - Ansus: Poom and Wooi: Undergraduate thesis of Lina Kadang, (2012, Universitas Papua).
 - Wooi: Doctoral thesis of Yusuf Sawaki, (2016, Australian National University).
 - Ansus: A paper from Mark Donohue, (2014, National University of Singapore).
- In analysing independent subject pronouns and bound pronouns among four related languages of the Yapen Island (Ansus, Poom, Wooi and Serui-Laut); and subject bound pronouns of V-initial verbs and C-initial verbs among these related language, we primarily refer to Karubaba (2008) and Karubaba & Gutman (2010).

3. FREE PRONOUNS IN FIVE RELATED LANGUAGES

The theory of Karubaba (2008) and Karubaba & Gutman (2010) was chosen for analysing free pronouns in four related languages which is presented in table 1 regarding the Ambai language.

3.1. Ambai Language

Table 1. Free Pronouns and Relation to Numeral System

	Singular	Dual	Trial	Plural
1 st EXC	ja:u	a:uru	antoru	amea
1 st INC		туру	totoru	tata
2 nd	wa:u	murу	muntoru	mea
3 rd	i	uru	coru	ea
Numerals	boiri	boru	botoru	boa

Ambai has 4 number categories, and 4 person categories

- Karubaba (2008) and Karubaba & Gutman (2010) suggest *bo* is a classifier for inanimate nouns
- According to Karubaba (2008), “there is no formal relationship between singular forms of free pronouns and numeral *boiri* (one). The relation of numerals and free pronouns can be seen rather in the dual forms (-ru ending), and trial forms (-toru ending) and plural forms commom ending being-a”.

- According to Karubaba (2008), the free pronouns show that “the 1st EXC dual, trial and plural begin with a, can be related to Proto-Central Malayo Polynesian(PCMP) - ami, while 1st INC dual, trial, and plural begin with t can be related to Proto-Central Malayo Polynesian (PCMP) - ita. The 2nd dual, trial and plural beginning with m can be related to Proto-Central Malayo Polynesian (PCMP) -miu”.

Table 2. Free Pronouns and Relationship to the Numeral System

	Singular	Dual	Trial	Plural
1 st EXC	ja:u	a:uru	antoru	amea
1 st INC		туру	totoru	tata
2 nd	wa:u	murу	muntoru	mea
3 rd	i	uru	coru	ea
Numerals	boiri	boru	botoru	boa
	mansiri	mandu	mantorumana	

- It is found that there are two forms of numeral systems using for animate and inanimate nouns.
- Numerals *mantoru*, and *mana* have the relation to the free pronouns. The relation of numerals (*mantoru* and *mana*) and free pronouns can be seen in trial forms (-toru ending) and the plural forms (a- ending).

- *boiri*, *boru*, *botoru*, *boa* are used for inanimate nouns.
- *mansiri*, *mandu*, *mantoru*, *mana* indicate animate nouns and it is only used for numerals one to four.
- All numerals contain prefix *bo-* and prefix *man-*.
- *boru* and *mandu* show phonological condition (alveolar sounds in *-ru* ending and *-du* ending)

3.1.1. Diachronic Analysis

In presenting Diachronic analysis for four related languages (Ansus, Poom, Wooi and Serui-Laut) in the

following discussion, we refer to Karubaba (2008) and Karubaba and Gutman (2010). Thus, the following

explanation of Diachronic analysis for Ambai Free Pronouns are as follow:.

- According to Karubaba (2008), the free pronouns in table 1 show that the 1st EXC dual, trial and plural begin with *a*, can be related to Proto-Central Malayo Polynesian(PCMP) - *ami*, while 1st INC dual, trial, and plural begin with *t* can be related to Proto-Central Malayo Polynesian

(PCMP) - *ita*. The 2nd dual, trial and plural beginning with *m* can be related to Proto-Central Malayo (PCMP) -*miu*.

- Tabel 3 shows Diachronic analysis of free pronouns in Ambai language (Karubaba and Gutman (2010).

Table 3. Diachronic analysis

PAN		Singular	Dual	Trial	Plural
* aku, *(k)ami	1 st EXC	ja:u	a:uru	antoru	amea
*(ki) ta	1 st INC		туру	totoru	tata
* (ka) mu	2 nd	wa:u	murу	muntoru	mea
* iDa	3 rd	i	uru	coru	ea
*buaq ‘fruit’	Numerals	boiri	boru *Dusa	botoru *telu	boa *iDa

3.2. Ansus Language

Table 4. Free Pronouns

	Singular	Dual	Trial	Plural
1 st EXC	yau	andu	-	ama
1 st INC		taru	-	tata
2 nd	wa:u	maru	-	mia
3 rd	i	asaru	-	ya

- Ansus has 3 number categories, and 4 person categories
- Kadang suggests 3 number categories (singular, dual, and plural) for Ansus Language.

- Donohue (2014) found that there is trial form of Ansus language such as *antoru*, *totoru*, *mintoru*, *itoru*.

- For analyzing diachronic analysis of Ansus free pronouns, we refer to Karubaba (2008) and Karubaba & Gutman (2010) in which the diachronic analysis of Ansus free pronouns shows that the 1st EXC dual and plural begin with *a*, can be related to Proto-Central Malayo

Polynesian (PCMP) *-ami*, while 1st INC dual, and plural begin with *t* can be related to Proto Central Malayo Polynesian (PCMP) *-ita*. The 2nd dual and plural begin with *m* can be related Proto Centr Malayo Polynesia (PCMP) *-miu*.

Table 5. Relationship to the Numeral Sytem

	Singular	Dual	Trial	Plural
1 st EXC	yau	andu	antoru	ama
1 st INC		taru	totoru	tata
2 nd	wau	maru	mintoru mia	
3 rd	i	asaru	itoru	ya
Numerals	koiri	kodu	toru	manua

- In Ansus language, there is no formal relationship between singular forms of free pronouns and numeral koiri (one). The relation of numerals and free pronouns can be seen in the dual forms (*-ru/-du* ending), and trial forms (*-toru* ending) and plural forms (*-a* ending).

- Forms like *andu*, *taru* and *kodu* indicate phonological condition (alveoral sounds) in *-du* ending and *-ru* ending.
- Numerals “one” and “two” contain prefix *ko-*.

3.3. Poom Language

Table 6. Free Pronouns

	Singular	Dual	Trial	Plural
1 st EXC	yau	aru	-	antoru
1 st INC		туру	-	totoru
2 nd	au	murу	-	mintoru
3 rd	i	hurу	-	tioru

- Poom has 3 number categories, and 4 person categories.

- The free pronouns of Poom language show that the 1st EXC dual and plural begin with *a*, can be related to Proto-Central Malayo Polynesian (PCMP) *-ami*, while 1st INC dual, and plural begin with *t* can be related to Proto Central Malayo Polynesian (PCMP) -

ita. The 2nd dual and plural begin with *m* can be related to Proto Central Malayo Polynesia (PCMP) *-miu*.

Table 7. Relationship to the Numeral System

	Singular	Dual	Trial	Plural
1 st EXC	yau	aru	-	antoru
1 st INC		туру	-	totoru
2 nd	au	murу	-	mintoru
3 rd	i	huru	-	tioru
Numerals	tosiri (tokorisi)	koiru	toru	(toru) aat

- In Poom, there is no formal relationship between singular forms, and plural forms of free pronouns and numeral *torisi* (one) and *aat* (four). The relation of numerals and free pronouns can be seen in the dual forms (-ru ending).

3.4. Wooi Language

- Trial forms become plural forms and it is only the case in Poom language.
- Numeral “aat” “four” can be related to PCEMP **pat*, **pati*.
- Further analysis is needed.

Table 8. Free Pronouns

	Singular	Dual	Trial	Plural
1 st EXC	yau	aru	-	ama
1 st INC		taru	-	tata
2 nd	au	maru	-	mia
3 rd	i	haru	-	hinia

- Wooi has 3 number categories, and 4 person categories.

- The free pronouns in wooi shows that the 1st EXC dual and plural begin with *a*, can be related to Proto-Central Malayo Polynesian (PCMP) -

ami, while 1st INC dual, and plural begin with *t* can be related to Proto Central Malayo Polynesian (PCMP) -*ita*. The 2nd dual and plural begin with *m* can be related to Proto Central Malayo Polynesia (PCMP) -*miu*.

Table 9. Relationship to the Numeral System

	Singular	Dual	Trial	Plural
1 st EXC	yau	aru	-	ama
1 st INC		taru	-	tata
2 nd	au	maru	-	mia
3 rd	i	haru	-	hinia

Numerals	korisi	koru	toru	mua
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- In Wooi, there is no formal relationship between singular forms of free pronouns and numeral *korisi* (one). The relation of numerals and free pronouns can

be seen in the dual forms (-*ru* ending), and plural forms (-*a* ending).

- Numerals “one” and “two” contain prefix *ko*-.
- Sawaki (2016) suggests that 3 person plural is *hia*.

3.5. Serui-Laut Language

Table 10. Free Pronouns

	Singular	Dual	Trial	Plural
1 st EXC	yau	andu	antoru	ama
1 st INC		taru	totoru	tata
2 nd	wau	maru	mintoru ma	
3 rd	i	saru	itoru	sa

- Serui Laut has 4 number categories, and 4 person categories

- In Serui-Laut language, the form *sa* is used for 3 plural subject.

. According to Karubaba (2008), the form *sa* in Ambai language is used for 3 plural object.

be related to Proto-Central Malayo Polynesian (PCMP) *-ami*, while 1st INC dual, and plural begin with *t* can be related to Proto Central Malayo Polynesian (PCMP) *-ita*. The 2nd dual and plural begin with *m* can be related to Proto Central Malayo Polynesia (PCMP) *-miu*.

- The free pronouns of Serui-Laut Language shows that The 1st EXC dual and plural begin with *a*, can

Table 11. Relationship to the Numeral System

	Singular	Dual	Trial	Plural
1 st EXC	yau	andu	antoru	ama
1 st INC		taru	totoru	tata
2 nd	wau	maru	mintoru ma	
3 rd	i	saru	itoru	sa
Numerals	boiri	boru	botoru	boa

- There is no formal relationship between singular forms of free pronouns and numeral *boiri* (one). The relation of numerals and free

pronouns can be seen in the dual forms (-*ru* /-*du* ending), and trial forms (-*toru* ending) and plural forms (-*a* ending).

- Forms *andu*, *taru* and *boru* indicate phonological condition (alveoral sounds)

- All numerals contain prefix *bo-*.

4. Bound Pronouns in Five related languages

addressed our analysing by using Karubaba (2008), and Karubaba & Gutman (2010) for the Ambai language which is presented in table 12.

- Regarding bound pronouns in four related languages (Ansus, Poom, Wooi and Serui-Laut , we primarily

4.1. Ambai Language

Table 12. Bound Pronouns

	Singular	Dual	Trial	Plural
1 st EXC	J- / je- / i-	a:ur- /a:u- /a:u	antor- / anto- / anto-	amet- /ame- /ame-
1 st INC		tur- / tu- /tu-	tor- / to- /to-	tat- /ta- / ta-
2 nd	b- / bo- / <u>	mur- /mu- / mu-	muntor- /munto- / munto-	met- /me- / me-
3 rd	d- / de- / <i>, <y>	ur- /u- /u-	cor- /co- /co-	et- / e- / e-

- 3 sets of bound pronouns based on the vowel of V-initial verbs and consonants of C-intial verbs.
- Ambai has 4 number categories, and 4 person categories.
- Singular, dual, trial and plural forms of bound pronouns appear as prefixes.
- Second person singular and third person singular of bound pronouns appear as prefixes and infixes.
- For infixation forms in five related languages in the Yapen Island, we refer to Donohue (2014) in which

“there is possibility why 2SG and 3SG inflection are infixal. It is because “the infixes reflect the Malayo-Polynesian infixes *um/mu* and *in/ni*, which were (and are) used to mark voice choices in these languages. Hence, Donohue stated that “these infixes have become part of the agreement paradigm in Yapen”.

- The infixation forms are found in second and third person singular and it appeared in five related languages in the Yapen island.

4.2. Ansus Language

Table 13. Bound Pronouns

	Singular	Dual	Trial	Plural
1 st EXC	e- / e- / y- / e-	u- / un- / ut- / um-	-	ama- /ama- /mat- /am-
1 st INC		tu / tun- /tut-/tum	-	ta- /tan- / tat- /tam-
2 nd	b- / m- / e-/m	mu /mun- /mut- /mum-	-	me- /me- / met- /mem-
3 rd	<i>/ b- / d- / b-	hu- /hun- /hut- /hum	-	e- / en- / et- / em

- 4 sets of bound pronouns based on the vowel of V-initial verbs and consonants of C-intial verbs.
- 1 regular form, 3 irregular forms.
- 3 number categories, 4 person categories.
- Singular, dual, trial and plural forms of bound pronouns appear as prefixes.

- Second person singular and third person singular of bound pronouns appears as prefixes and infix.
- Apart from the infix <I> for 3sg in Ansus language, Donohue (2014) also suggests 2sg and 3sg in Ansus appear as infix such as *-bu-* / *-di-*. He sated that “the infixes reflect to Malayo Polynesian Infixes *um/mu* and *in/ni*.

4.3. Poom Language

Table 14. Bound Pronouns

	Singular	Dual	Trial	Plural
1 st EXC	y-/ e- / i-ur-/ un-/ un-	-	-	ar-/aman-/ an-
1 st INC		tur / tun- /tun-	-	tar- /tan- /tan-
2 nd	w- / b- / m-	mur /mun- /mun-	-	mir- /men- /min-
3 rd	<i>/ <i>/<i>-	hur- /hun- /hun-	-	tir- / en- / tin-

- 3 sets of bound pronouns based on the vowel of V-initial verbs and consonants of C-intial verbs.
- 3 irregular forms .
- 3 number categories, 4 person categories.

- Singular, dual and plural forms of bound pronouns appear as prefixes.
- Second person singular and third person singular of bound pronouns appear as prefixes and infixes.

4.4. Wooi Language

Table 15. Bound Pronouns

	Singular	Dual	Trial	Plural
1 st EXC	r-/ h-/ y-/ m-	un-/ u-/ ur- / um- -	man- /ma- /mat- /mam-	
1 st INC		tun / tu- /tur-/ tum-	-	tan- /ta- / tat- /tam-
2 nd	<u>- /<u>- /<u>- / <m>	mun /mu- /mur- mum	-	men- /me- / met- /mem-
3 rd	<i>/<I>-/ i- / m-	mun /mu- /mur- mum	-	hen- / he- / het- / hem-

- 4 sets of bound pronouns based on the vowel of V-initial verbs and consonants of C-intial verbs.
- 1 regular form, 3 irregular forms.
- 3 number categories, 4 person categories.

- Singular, dual and plural forms of bound pronouns appear as prefixes.
- Second person singular and third person singular appear as prefixes and infixes.

4.5. Serui-Laut language

Table 16. Bound Pronouns

	Singular	Dual	Trial	Plural
1 st EXC	y-/ ya-	antu-/ antu-	anto- /anto-	ame- /ame-
1 st		tu- / tu-	to- / to-	tat- /ta-
2 nd	w-/ w-	mu /mu-	minto- /minto-	met- /me-
3 rd	d- / <i>-	u- / r-	ito- / ito	et- / e-

- 2 sets of bound pronouns based on the vowel of V-initial verbs and consonants of C-intial verbs.
- 2 regular forms.
- 4 number categories, 4 person categories.

- Singular, dual, trial and plural forms of bound pronouns appear as prefixes.
- Second person singular and third person singular of bound pronouns appear as prefixes or infix.

5. Subject bound pronouns of C-intial verbs dan V-intial verbs in Five related Languages

- As regard of the analysis of subject bound pronouns in four related languages (Ansus, Poom, Wooi and

Serui-Laut , we also pick Karubaba (2008) and Karubaba & Gutman (2010) for the Ambai language which is presented in table 17.

Table 17. Ambai subject bound pronouns for C-initial Verbs and V-initial Verbs

Person / Number	“drink”	‘wait’	‘sit’
	V-initial (Irregular)	C-initial (regular)	C-initial (regular)
1sg	j-unung	je-mang	i-minohi
2sg	b-unung	bo-mang	m<u>nohi
3sg	d-unung	de-mang	m<I>nohi
1dl.EXc	a:ur-unung	a:u-ramang	a:u-minohi
1dl.Inc	tur-unung	tu-ramang	tu-minohi
2dl	mur-unung	mu-ramang	mu-minohi
3dl	ur-unung	u-ramang	u-minohi
1trl.EXc	antor-unung	anto-ramang	anto-minohi
1trl.Inc	tor-unung	to-ramang	to-minohi
2trl	muntor-unung	munto-ramang	munto-minohi
3trl	cor-unung	co-ramang	co-minohi
1pl.EXc	amet-unung	ame-ramang	ame-minohi
1pl.Inc	tat-unung	ta-ramang	ta-minohi
2pl	met-unung	me-ramang	me-minohi
3pl	et-unung	e-ramang	e-minohi

- 1 regular form, 2 irregular forms.
- 1 V-initial verb, 2 C-initial verbs.
- Singular, dual, trial and plural forms of bound pronouns appear as prefixes.

Table 18. Ansus subject bound pronouns of C-initial verbs and V-initial Verbs

Person/ Number	“stand”	‘laugh’	‘eat’	‘make’
	C-initial (regular)	C-initial (irregular)	V-initial (irregular)	V-initial (irregular)
1sg	e-yoa	e-yori	y-ang	e-mari
2sg	b-oa	m-ori	e-ang	m-ari
3sg	d<i>oa	b-ori	d-ang	b-ari
1dl.EXc	u-soa	un-bori	ut-ang	um-ari
1dl.Inc	tu-soa	tun-bori	tut-ang	tum-ari
2dl	mu-soa	mun-bori	mut-ang	tum-ari
3dl	hu-soa	hun-bori	hut-ang	hum-ari
1trl.EXc -	-	-	-	-
1trl.Inc	-	-	-	-
2trl	-	-	-	-
3trl	-	-	-	-
1pl.EXc	ama-soa	ama-bori	mat-ang	am-ari
1pl.Inc	ta-soa	tan-bori	tat-ang	tam-ari
2pl	me-soa	men-bori	met-ang	mem-ari
3pl	e-soa	en-bori	et-ang	em-ari

- 1 regular form. 3 irregular forms. - Singular, dual, trial and plural forms of bound
 - 2 V-initial verbs, 2 C-initial verbs. pronouns appear as prefixes.

Table 19. Poom subject bound pronouns of C-initial Verbs and V-initial Verbs

Person/ Number	“run”	‘read’	‘laugh’
	V-initial (irregular)	C-initial (irregular)	C-initial (irregular)
1sg	y-apai	e-yota	i-muri
2sg	w-apai	b-oto	m-uri
3sg	d<I>apai	d<I>oto	h<I>uri
1dl.EXc	ur-apai	un-doto	un-duri
1dl.Inc	tur-apai	tun-doto	tun-duri
2dl	mur-apai	mun-doto	mun-dori
3dl	hur-apai	hun-doto	hun-dori
1trl.EXc	-	-	-
1trl.Inc	-	-	-
2trl	-	-	-
3trl	-	-	-
1pl.EXc	ar-apai	aman-doto	an-duri
1pl.Inc	tar-apai	tan-doto	tanduri
2pl	mir-apai	men-doto	minduri
3pl	tir-apai	en-doto	tin-doto
- 3 irregular forms			

- 1 V-initial verb, 2 C-initial verbs. - 3 person singular of bound pronoun appears as
 - Singular, dual and plural forms of bound pronouns infixes in V-initial verb and C-initial verb.
 appear as prefixes.

Table 20. Wooi subject bound pronouns of C-initial Verbs and V-initial Verbs

Person/ Number	“sing”	‘cry’	‘run	laugh’
	V-initial (irregular)	C-initial (regular)	C-initial V-initial (irregular)	(irregular)
1sg	r-ai	h-ai	y-apai	m-ari
2sg	r<u>ai	h<u>ai	b-opai	m-ori
3sg	r<I>ai	h<I>ai	t-epai	m-eri
1dl.EXc	un-doi	u-sai	ur-apai	m-eri
1dl.Inc	tun-foi	tu-sai	tur-apai	tum-ari
2dl	mun-doi	mu-sai	mur-apai	mum-ari
3dl	hun-doi	hu-sai	hur-apai	hum-ari
1trl.EXc	-	-	-	-
1trl.Inc	-	-	-	-
2trl	-	-	-	-
3trl	-	-	-	-
1pl.EXc	man-doi	ma-sai	mat-apai	mam-ari
1pl.Inc	tan-doi	ta-sai	tat-apai	tam-ari
2pl	men-doi	me-sai	met-apai	mem-ari
3pl	hen-doi	he-sai	het-apai	hem-ari

- 3 irregular forms, 1 regular form.
- 2 C-initial verbs, 2 V-initial verbs.
- Singular, dual and plural forms of bound pronouns appear as prefixes.

- 2sg and 3sg of bound pronouns appear as infixes and prefixes.

Table 21. Serui-Laut subject bound pronouns of C-initial Verbs and V-initial Verbs

Number	“drink” Person/ (Irregular)	V-initila (regular)	‘cook’ (regular)	C-initial
1sg	y-unung		ya-rang	
2sg	w-unung		w-ang	
3sg	d-unung		r<I>ang	
1dl.EXc	antu-unung			antu-rang
1dl.Inc	tu-unung			tu-rang
2dl	mu-unung			mu-rang
3dl	?unung		?rang	
1trl.EXc	anto-unung		anto-rang	
1trl.Inc	to-unung			to-rang
2trl	minto-unung			minto-rang
3trl	ito-unung			ito-rang
1pl.EXc	amet-unung			ame-rang
1pl.Inc	tat-unung			to-rang
2pl	met-unung			me-rang
3pl	et-unung		e-rang	

- 1 regular form , 1 irregular form.
- 1 V-initial verb, 1 C-initial verb.

- Singular, dual, trial and plural forms of bound pronouns appear as prefixes.
- 3sg appears as prefix and infix.

6. COMMONALITIES AND DIFFERENCES

Table 22. Commonalities

Ambai, Ansus, Poom, Wooi, and Serui-Laut

- Verbal Morphology : Subject attaches to the verb.
- Complex Pronominal system.
- Pronominal forms : Free vs bound forms.
- The free pronouns and bound pronouns distinguish singulat, dual, trial, and plural.
- 4 person categories.
- 3 number categories or 4 number categories(singular,dual, (trial) and plural).
- The forms of pronominal show an exclusive and inclusive.
- Regular and irregular form of subject bound pronouns.
- V-initial and C-initial verbs of subjcet bound pronouns.
- Relationship of free pronouns to the numeral systems.
- 3 or 4 sets of bound pronouns.
- 2sg and 3sg appear as infixes or prefixes.
- There is no gender distinction for 3sg. The form “i” is used for 3sg in five related languages.
- Singular, dual, trial, and plural forms of bound pronouns appear as prefixes.
- The infixes become agreement paradigm in five related languages (see table 17 to 21).

Table.23. Differences

Ambai, Ansus, Poom, Wooi, and Seuri-Laut	
-	Trial form is not found in three languages (Ansus, Poom and Wooi)
-	The three languages only have singular, dual and plural forms (Ansus, Poom, and Wooi).
-	In dual, trial, and plural forms, two or three languages share the same forms of pronouns.
-	Trial forms become plural forms only in one language (Poom language).

6. POSSIBLE ORIGINS OF THE FORMS

6.1. Common property from their common ancestor

- Five related languages of the Yapen island belong to South Halmahera-West New Guinea (SHWNG).

- The five related languages share the similarities because of their common genetic origins (Austronesian)
- The relationship between five Austronesian languages is about relationship of inheritance (see table 24).

Table 24. The Independent subject pronouns

Number/ Person	PAN	Ambai	Ansus	Poom	Wooi	Serui-Laut
1sg	* aku,	ja:u	yau	yau	yau	yau
1dlExc	*(k)ami	a:uru	andu	aru	aru	andu
1trl.Exc		antoru	-	-	-	antoru
1pl. Exc		amea	ama	antoru	ama	ame
1dl.Inc	*(ki) ta	turu	taru	turu taru	taru	
1trl.inc		totoru	-	-	-	totoru
1pl. Inc		tata	tata	tatoru	tata	tata
2dl	*(ka) mu	muru	maru	muru	maru	maru
2trl		muntoru -	-	-	mintoru	
2pl		mea	mia	mintoru	mia	ma
3sg	s-ia,	i	i	i	i	i
3dl	* iDa	uru	Hinia	huru	haru	saru
3trl		coru	-	-	-	itoru
3pl		ea	ya	tioru	hinia	sa

6.2. Areal contact

Geographically, these languages close to each other.

The five related languages share or borrow phonological or morphological features.

Table 25. Phonological and Morphological Features

Features	Ambai, Ansus, Poom, Wooi and Serui-Laut
-	Regular form of bound pronouns: CV (1dl.Inc, 1trl.inc , 3trl, 1pl.inc and 2pl)
-	Irregular form of bound pronouns: CVC (1dl Inc, 2dl, 2trl, and 2pl.inc)
-	Cases of morphems function as bound pronouns or subject prefixes and infixes (table 7 to 11)
-	Cases of verbal prefixes or verbal paradigma appear in five related languages (table 7 to 11).

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