A comparison of speech act participant referring expressions in Malay and Japanese

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1. Introduction

Pronoun substitutes

Pronoun substitutes (McGinn1991): Non-pronominal expressions used to refer to interlocutors (= speech act participants) in contexts which personal pronouns (e.g., I, you) are used in languages such as English.

- Pronoun substitutes often include specific classes of expressions such as kinship terms and profession names.

Malay: *ibu* 'mother', *cikgu* 'teacher', etc.

Japanese: okaasan 'mother', sensei 'teacher', etc.

Pronoun substitutes

- Pronoun substitutes are used to refer to interlocutors (speaker or addressee) instead of pronouns.
- (1) [Context: A mother notices her son is back and says to him.]
 Ibu tak sedar yang kamu dah balik. (Malay)

'Mother (= I) didn't realize you were back.'

(2) [Context: A student says to his professor.]

Esok pagi saya akan hantar tugasan itu ke bilik **prof**. (Malay)

'Tomorrow morning I will turn in the assignment to professor's (= your) room.'

What we do in this study

- We report results of our research on pronoun substitutes in East/Southeast Asian languages according to a common questionnaire by Okano et al. (2022).
- We compare the distributions of pronoun substitutes in Malay and Japanese and point out similarities and differences between the two languages.
- In particular, we discuss:
 - [1] Prominent distribution patterns of pronoun substitute functions
 - [2] Different functions of family and fictional family expressions
 - [3] Unattested distribution patterns
- We discuss what kinds of expressions are eligible for which functions.

Outline

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Four functions and distribution
- 3. Data collection method
- 4. Results
- 5. Findings
- 6. Summary

2. Four functions and distribution

Four functions

- Pronoun substitute can refer to the speaker (3) or the addressee (4).
- (3) *Ibu tak sedar yang kamu dah balik*. (Malay)

'Mother (= I) didn't realize you were back.'

(4) Esok pagi saya akan hantar tugasan itu ke bilik **prof**. (Malay)

'Tomorrow morning I will turn in the assignment to professor's (= your) room.'

Four functions

- Also, expressions of pronoun substitutes are often used as address terms (5) and as titles (6).
- (5) Selamat pagi, **cikgu**! 'Good morning, Sir/Madam!' (Malay)
- (6) *Cikgu Abu* 'Mr. Abu' (Malay)

Distribution

- Different expressions have different features. Some can only be used as particular pronoun substitutes. Others don't have such function at all.
- For example, *sensei* 'teacher' (Japanese) can be used by the speaker like a first person pronoun, whereas *kyooju* 'professor' cannot.
- (7) [Context: Teacher speaking to his students]
 sensei=ni syukudai=o dasite kudasai. (Japanese)
 teacher=to homework=ACC submit.please
 'Please hand in your homework to teacher (= me).'
- (8) [Context: Professor speaking to his students]

*kyooju=ni syukudai=o dasite kudasai. (Japanese)

professor=to homework=ACC submit.please

Intended meaning: 'Please hand in your homework to professor (=me).'

Goals

- What we want to achieve is to demonstrate what kinds of expressions are eligible for which functions.
 - Are there any regularities in regard with what expressions can be used as pronoun substitutes?
 - What are some common characteristics among the expressions that have particular distribution patterns?

How to achieve it

- We discuss distributions of pronoun substitutes from a cross-linguistic perspective.
 - We compare Malay and Japanese.
 - We analyze the similarities and differences between the two and point out the characteristics of expressions that can be used as a pronoun substitute.

3. Method of Data Collection

Common questionnaire

- The data were collected based on a common questionnaire for investigating pronoun substitutes and address terms (Okano et al. 2022).
- The questionnaire contains 147 nominal/pronominal concepts that can potentially function as pronoun substitutes and address terms cross-linguistically.

ID	Concept	ID	Concept
9	mother	69	husband
26	child	72	boss
62	teacher	85	doctor
68	friend	105	two people

Examples of the concepts in the questionnaire

Categories

- The questionnaire classifies the concepts into 16 categories.
- The categories can be defined either semantically or morpho-syntactically.

Categories	#		Examples		Categories	#		Examples	
Age	6	little boy	little girl	child	Anaphor	2	self	personal name + self	
Family	27	mother	uncle	grandchild	Quantifier	3	everybody	two people	both persons
Finctional family	27	mound	uncie	grandernid	Demonstrative	9	this	those	here
Education	6	teacher	professor	student	Proper name	7	personal name	personal name + title	
Relationship	10	friend	husband	boss	Modified NP	13	your father	these three people	radio listener
Position	7	president	principal	chairperson	Misc	3	idiot	ladies and gentlemen	rich person
Service	8	doctor	driver	soldier	Personal pronoun	9	I	you	he/she
Spiritual	4	monk	sultan	priest				,	
Royal	5	your majesty	queen	prince		IVIC	orphosyntacti	c distinctions	

Semantic distinctions

'Fictional family': kinship terms are used to refer to someone who is not an actual family member.

E.g., [Context: Speaking to a random elderly woman.] obaachan=no ouchi=wa doko desu-ka? grandmother=GEN house=TOP where COP-Q 'Where is grandmother's (= your) house?'

Categories Examples little boy Age 6 little girl child 27 Family Q mother uncle grandchild 27 Finctional family D Education professor student 6 teacher Ρ Relationship friend husband 10 boss N Position 7 president principal chairperson N Service 8 doctor driver soldier P Spiritual monk sultan priest 4 Royal 5 your majesty queen prince

Categories	#		Examples	
Anaphor	2	self	personal name + self	
Quantifier	3	everybody	two people	both persons
Demonstrative	9	this	those	here
Proper name	7	personal name	personal name + title	
Aodified NP	13	your father	these three people	radio listener
/lisc	3	idiot	ladies and gentlemen	rich person
Personal pronoun	9	I	you	he/she

syntactically.

Morphosyntactic distinctions

Semantic distinctions

Common questionnaire

- We chose up to 3 expressions for each concept.

Concept	ID	Exp	pressions	5	Language
'mother'	9	emak	ibu		Malay
mound	9	okaasan	mama	haha	Japanese
'teacher'	62	cikgu	guru		Malay
leachei	62	sensei			Japanese

Illustration of how we chose expressions

Common questionnaire

- Then, we examined whether a given expression has any of the four functions (i.e., 1st and 2nd person pronoun substitutes, address term, title).

cikgu (Malay)	Example
1st	Cikgu bagi awak masa satu hari lagi untuk hantar kerja rumah.
151	'Teacher (= I) will give you one more day to submit your homework.'
2nd	Esok pagi saya akan hantar kerja rumah itu ke meja <mark>cikgu</mark> .
2110	'Tomorrow morning I will turn in the homework to the teacher's (= your) desk.'
Address term	Cikgu, maaf, saya belum siap kerja rumah.
Address term	'Sir/Ma'am, I'm sorry, I haven't finished my homework.'
Title	Cikgu Abu
Title	'Mr. Abu'

emak (Malay)	Example
1st	N/A
2nd	Boleh saya ikut <mark>emak</mark> ke pasar?
2110	Can I go to the market with mum (= you)?'
Address term	N/A
Title	N/A

Data

- The common questionnaire and the full data are available online.

https://github.com/matbahasa/ProSub

- common_questionnaire.tsv
- data_all_v1.0.json
- data_all_v1.0.tsv

4. Results

Results

- The questionnaire has a total of 147 concepts.
- A total of 171 and 236 expression types were chosen for Malay and Japanese, respectively.



Function distribution

- The function distribution is expressed by a four-digit number.
- 1 means a given function is available and 0 means it is not.
- From left to right, the number indicates the availability of
 - [1st (speaker) 2nd (hearer) address term title]

cikgu (Malay)	Example	emak (Malay)	Example
1st	Cikgu bagi awak masa satu hari lagi untuk hantar kerja rumah.	1st	N/A
151	'Teacher (= I) will give you one more day to submit your homework.'	2nd	Boleh saya ikut <mark>emak</mark> ke pasar?
2nd	Esok pagi saya akan hantar kerja rumah itu ke meja <mark>cikgu</mark> .	ZIIG	Can I go to the market with mum (= you)?'
2110	'Tomorrow morning I will turn in the homework to the teacher's (= your) desk.'	Address term	N/A
Address term	<mark>Cikgu</mark> , maaf, saya belum siap kerja rumah.	Title	N/A
Address term	'Sir/Ma'am, I'm sorry, I haven't finished my homework.'		<u>^</u>
Title	Cikgu Abu		
The	'Mr. Abu'		
	Expres	sion Pattern [1111]	

emak

[0100

Function distribution (Malay)

Abbreviation for [1st-2nd-address term-title]

"1" indicates that a given expressions has the usage whereas "0" means it does not. E.g., [0010] means it only can be used as an address term.

	Pattern [1st-2nd-ad-tl]			<u> </u>							pinitual P								Staria Sco
	[0000]	73	4	17	2	5	8	5	6	1		2	2	7	1	8	1	4	
	[1000]	6										1		2				3	
	[0100]	3		1								1						1	
\geq	[0010]	19	3	9	2											4	1		
	[0001]	7				2				1	4								
	[1100]	0																	
	[1010]	0																	
	[1001]	0																	
	[0110]	13			37 - 28		2	3			1	2	1	8.5	3	1	1	1	
1	[0101]	0																	
	[0011]	4		2	2														
	[1110]	28		15	10		1								2				
	[1101]	0																	
	[1011]	0																	
	[0111]	7			2	1			1	2					1				
	[1111]	5		2	2	1													
	Incomplete	6				4			1						1				
	Sum	171	7	46	20	13	11	8	8	4	5	4	3	9	8	13	3	9	



Function distribution (Japanese)

			/	[]	s tarri	aucatic P	sr elation	ship		110	/	not	uantifit D	ernones	traine	name odifier	MR R	Storia Dia
Pattern [1st-2nd-ad-tl]	Sum	1	\$/4	arrity	×/4	Anco/	elai	osition	eraice	piritua P	012	naphot	131	erro	68 N	odily	15/2	550
[0000]	70	4	25	\square	2	11		2	2	\square			17	1	4		2	ſ
[1000]	2												2					
[0100]	5				×						2	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	2		1			
[0010]	9				1			5							1	2		
[0001]	7							2	3					2				
[1100]	7														2		5	
[1010]	0																	
[1001]	0																	
[0110]	41	1	3	6		3						3		7	7	1	10	
[0101]	0																	
[0011]	2							2										
[1110]	14		4								1	1		4	2		2	
[1101]	0																	
[1011]	0																	
[0111]	19	2			1	1	7	1		7								
[1111]	60	2	28	28	2													
Incomplete	0																	
Sum	236	9	60	34	6	15	7	12	5	7	3	4	21	14	17	3	19	



5. Findings

Findings

- [1] **Prominent distributions**: Malay and Japanese showed different distribution patterns in terms of what kinds of functional distribution are prominent.
- [2] **Family and Fictional family**: Family-related expressions display different behaviors between Malay and Japanese.
- [3] **Unattested distributions**: Some distribution patterns were not found in neither of the languages.



[2] Family and Fictional family

- **Malay:** Different lexical items may be used for the corresponding concept in the two categories (e.g., *ayah* & *bapa* (family) vs. *pak* (fictional family) for 'father').
- Both languages: Most expressions exhibited identical distributions across the categories, but in some cases, Fictional family items behaved independently from their Family counterparts.
 e.g., *mak* 'mum' (M) [1110] for Family but [0001] for Fictional family *otoosan* 'dad' (J) [1111] for Family but [0111] for Fictional family
- We will discuss how morphology affects the availability of functions.

Parents

	Ν	lalay				Japa	anese		
Family	Pattern	Fic_Family	Pattern	Translation	Family	Pattern	Fic_Family	Pattern	
ayah	[1110]				titi	[0000]			
bapa	[1110]				oyaji	[0110]	oyaji	[0110]	•
pak	[1110]	pak	[0001]	father	otoosan	[1110]	otoosan	[0110]	
							otoosama	[0110]	
					papa	[1110]			
emak	[0100]				haha	[0000]			
ibu	[1110]			mother	okaasan	[1110]	okaasan	[0110]	
mak	[1110]	mak	[0001]	moulei			okaasama	[0110]	
					mama	[1110]	mama	[0110]	

Different expressions are used for the corresponding concept between Family and Fictional family. Some expressions do not have any of the functions despite the fact that they are frequently used in other contexts.

The same expression behaves differently depending on whether it refers to an actual family member or not. The expressions for parents cannot be used as a pronoun substitute for the first person.

Uncle/aunt, grandparents

	Mal	ay				Jap	anese	
Family	Pattern	Fic_Family	Pattern	Translation	Family	Pattern	Fic_Family	Pattern
bapa saudara	[0000]				oji	[0000]		
pak cik	[1110]	pak cik	[1110]	uncle	ojisan	[1111]	ojisan	[1111]
					ojichan	[1111]	ojichan	[1111]
ibu saudara	[0000]				oba	[0000]		
mak cik	[1110]	mak cik	[1110]	aunt	obasan	[1111]	obasan	[1111]
					obachan	[1111]	obachan	[1111]
tuk	[0010]	tuk	[0010]		sofu	[0000]		
		datuk	[0000]	grandfather	ojiisan	[1111]	ojiisan	[1111]
					ojiichan	[1111]	ojiichan	[1111]
nek	[0010]	nek	TBD		sobo	[0000]		
nenek	[1110]	nenek	[1110]	grandmother	obaasan	[1111]	obaasan	[1111]
					obaachan	[1111]	obaachan	[1111]

Most of the Japanese expressions allow for the full usages.

	Mala	iy				Japa	nese	
Family	Pattern	Fic_Family	Pattern	Translation	Family	Pattern	Fic_Family	Pattern
abang	[1111]	abang	[1111]		aniki	[0110]		
bang	[0011]	bang	[0011]	older brother	oniisan	[1111]	oniisan	[1111]
					oniichan	[1111]	oniichan	[1111]
kakak	[1111]	kakak	[1111]		aneki	[0110]		
kak	[0011]	kak	[0011]	older sister	oneesan	[1111]	oneesan	[1111]
					oneechan	[1111]	oneechan	[1111]
adik	[1110]	adik	[0111]	vounger brother	otooto	[0000]		
dik	[0010]	dik	TBD	younger brother				
adik	[1110]	adik	[0111]	voungereister	imooto	[0000]		
dik	[0010]	dik	TBD	younger sister				
anak	[0000]			child	ko	[0000]		
nak	[0010]			Crilla				
anak	[0000]			000	musuko	[0000]		
nak	[0010]			son				
anak	[0000]			daughtar	musume	[0000]		
nak	[0010]			daughter				
cucu	[0000]			grandchild	mago	[0000]		
menantu	[0000]			daughter-in-law	yome	[0000]		
menantu	[0000]			son-in-law	muko	[0000]		
anak saudara	[0000]			nephew	oi	[0000]		
anak saudara	[0000]			niece	mei	[0000]		
sepupu	[0000]			cousin	itoko	[0000]		

Siblings and others

	Mala	ay					_								
Family	Pattern	Fic_Family	Pattern Translation Short forms tend to have fewer functions. Siblings and others [1111] older brother onusan [1111] onusan [1111] [0011] older brother onusan [1111] onusan [1111] others [1111] Some differences between Family and Fictional family. [1111] [1111] onteechan [1111] onteechan [1111] onteechan [1111] others others [0111] younger brother otooto [0000] Kinship terms for younger family members show a contrast. Japanese does not allow for any of the usages (Suzuki 1973, Takubo 1997), whereas Malay does (Nomoto et al. 2021). Son musuko [0000] Other concepts, hierarchically equal or lower, do not have any of the function. grandchild mago [0000] Other concepts, hierarchically equal or lower, do not have any of the function.												
abang	[1111]	abang	[1111]	fu	inctions.					•					
bang	[0011]	bang	[0011]	older brother	oniisan	[1111]	onii	san	[1111]	others					
				Como	lifferences	hotwoor	Lomi	il. /	[1111]						
kakak	[1111]	kakak	[1111]				ггаш	iiy							
kak	[0011]	kak	[0011]	ol and Fic	tional tamil	[1111]									
					oneechan	[1111]									
adik	[1110]	adik	[0111]	vounger brother	otooto	[0000]		Kinsł	nip term	ns for younger family					
dik	[0010]	dik	TBD	younger broater				mem	bers sh	now a contrast. Japanese					
adik	[1110]	adik	[0111]	vounger sister	imooto	[0000]		does	not all	ow for any of the usages					
dik	[0010]	dik	TBD	youngor clotor											
anak	[0000]			child	ko	[0000]		•							
nak	[0010]			orma											
anak	[0000]			son	musuko	[0000]		2021	<i>.</i>						
nak	[0010]			0011											
anak	[0000]			daughter	musume	[0000])								
nak	[0010]			ddugntoi											
сиси	[0000]			grandchild	mago	go [0000] Othe									
menantu	[0000]			daughter-in-law	yome	[0000]				lo not have any of the					
menantu	[0000]			son-in-law	muko	[0000]		funct	ion.						
anak saudara	[0000]			nephew	оі	[0000]									
anak saudara	[0000]			niece	mei	[0000]									
sepupu	[0000]			cousin	itoko	[0000]				34					

Morphological distinctions

- Morphology plays a role in how kinship terms behave.
- In Japanese, more formal expressions do not have any of the usages. Less formal, endearing expressions are used instead.

Expressions that have the pronoun substitute usages often involve the *-san* or *-chan* suffix, which encodes social meanings such as honorificity, closeness, etc.

		Japa	anese	
Translation	Family	Pattern	Fic_Family	Pattern
father	titi	[0000]		
lation	otoosan	[1110]	otoosan	[0110]
mother	haha	[0000]		
mouner	okaasan	[1110]	okaasan	[0110]
uncle	ојі	[0000]		
uneic	ojisan	[1111]	ojisan	[1111]
aunt	oba	[0000]		
Gunt	obasan	[1111]	obasan	[1111]

More formal expressions (which usually do not have bound morpheme) do not have any of the uses.

Morphological distinctions

- In Malay, short forms and full forms behave differently.

Short forms such as *kak* 'older sister' tend to have fewer usages that its full forms such as *kakak*.

	Ν	lalay		
Family	Pattern	Fic_Family	Pattern	Translation
abang	[1111]	abang	[1111]	older brother
bang	[0011]	bang	[0011]	
kakak	[1111]	kakak	[1111]	older sister
kak	[0011]	kak	[0011]	older sister
adik	[1110]	adik	[0111]	younger brother
dik	[0010]	dik	TBD	younger brother
adik	[1110]	adik	[0111]	voungor sistor
dik	[0010]	dik	TBD	younger sister

[3] Unattested distributions

- Certain patterns were not attested in either of the two languages.
- It may suggest that certain combinations of usages are not compatible cross-linguistically.

			/	/		3/10	s / 3	ship			/	1		5/3	L'alive	name	3	100
Pattern [1st-2nd-ad-tl]	Sum	/*	\$/4	arrity		Sucolin P		osition osition	erice	piritua	ON ²	naphot	uaning	ernone	LODEL N	odifie	N 2 2	ersonal S
[0000]	73	4	17	2	5	8	5	6	1		2	2	7	1	8	1	4	
[1000]	6										1		2				3	
[0100]	3		1								1						1	
[0010]	19	3	9	2											4	1		
[0001]	7				2				1	4								
[1100]	0																	
[1010]	0																	
[1001]	0																	
[0110]	13					2	3			1		1		3	1	1	1	
[0101]	0																	
[0011]	4		2	2														
[1110]	28		15	10		1								2				
[1101]	0																	
[1011]	0																	
[0111]	7			2	1			1	2					1				
[1111]	5		2	2	1													
Incomplete	6				4			1						1				
Sum	171	7	46	20	13	11	8	8	4	5	4	3	9	8	13	3	9	

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Pattern [1st-2nd-ad-tl]	Sum	/*	\$/4	arrilly	s parti	Sucstic	elation of	os Hor	arite S	pintus	over a	naphot	uanting	ernone	COR N	name odified	12 0 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
[0000]	70	4	25		2	11		2	2				17	1	4		2
[1000]	2												2				
[0100]	5										2		2		1		
[0010]	9				1			5							1	2	
[0001]	7							2	3					2			
[1100]	7														2		5
[1010]	0																
[1001]	0																
[0110]	41	1	3	6		3						3		7	7	1	10
[0101]	0																
[0011]	2							2									
[1110]	14		4								1	1		4	2		2
[1101]	0																
[1011]	0																
[0111]	19	2			1	1	7	1		7							
[1111]	60	2	28	28	2												
Incomplete	0																
Sum	236	9	60	34	6	15	7	12	5	7	3	4	21	14	17	3	19

6. Summary

Summary

- We have presented the results of our cross-linguistic research on pronoun substitutes and their related phenomena, i.e., address terms and title.
- Based on the data we have collected using the common questionnaire, we have shown the distributions of the four functions and compared Malay and Japanese.
- We have demonstrated common characteristics and differences between the two languages regarding distributional patterns, behaviors between Family and Fictional family, and unattested distributions.
- In the ongoing research, we aim to further refine the data and do cross-linguistic comparisons on a larger scale (with 8 East and Southeast Asian languages).

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