

## Pronoun substitution in Javanese, Indonesian, and Malay

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The phenomenon of pronoun substitutes as well as pronoun ellipses in Asian languages have been studied from sociolinguistic points of views and grammatical feature point of views (Ewing 2014, Lestari 2020, Utsumi 2020). This study will discuss pronoun substitution in three languages, i.e., Javanese, Indonesian, and Malaysian. Sixteen different categories of nouns have been investigated to see whether each of the nouns can be used to substitute pronouns. The sixteen categories are: age differences, kinship and family terms, fictional kinship terms, occupations related to education, occupations in service industry, or occupation related to religion such as priest, personal relations, social status, royal status, as well as 6 grammatical categories, i.e. quantifiers, demonstrators, personal pronouns, proper names, modifier + noun, and others. Having examined whether each of the terms can be used as substitutes for 1) 1<sup>st</sup> person pronoun, 2) 2<sup>nd</sup> person pronoun, 3) address term, and 4) title, our current studies show that terms for family or kinship are the most frequently observed nouns which can substitute personal pronouns.

Discussing Malay, Nomoto reports that family and kinship terms include the most nouns which can be used both as address terms and second person pronoun substitutes, and nouns which can be used not only as address terms & second person pronouns, but also as the first person pronouns (Nomoto 2022).

Although Indonesian and Javanese show a similar trend, that is, family and kinship terms are most frequently used as pronoun substitutes for the second person, address terms, as well as title, they show a distinctive difference from Malaysian family and kinship terms in fictional uses, that is, family or kinship terms are used for non-family or kin members. Malay terms for mother and father, i.e. *bapa*, *ayah*, *ibu emak*, and a term for child, that is, *anak/nak* cannot be fictionally used neither as address terms, pronoun substitutes or titles—those terms are used only for ‘actual’ family members. On the other hand, an Indonesian term for father *bapak* (not a Malay origin *ayah*) and *ibu* ‘mother’ can be fictionally used as pronoun substitutes and titles, or rather, those terms are the most frequently used pronoun substitutes as well as address terms for adults.

Terms for older siblings, i.e. *abang*, *kakak/kak* in both Malay and Indonesian can be fictionally used. In Javanese, *mas* ‘older brother’ and *mbak* ‘older sister’ are the most commonly used pronoun substitutes for young men and women.

We will discuss why a strong correlation is observed between address terms and second person pronouns. We will also discuss what kinds of factors block certain nouns from substituting pronouns such as shortened forms, newly coined terms, politeness, etc.