Pragmatics of Omission and Inclusion of Personal Pronouns in Utterances in Myanmar

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Abstract

In any language, personal pronouns are used to refer to the addresser, the addressee and the other(s), and as they are used in different socio-cultural groups, their uses differ from one language to another. Generally, these differences are culturally determined rather than linguistically determined. The Myanmar pronoun system is different from that of English and the omission and inclusion of personal pronouns in the Myanmar language is one of the overriding factors that governs the culture and tradition of Myanmar society. Therefore, this paper attempts to explore whether the omission and inclusion of personal pronouns depends on the relationship between the interlocutors and the meaning of the utterances. The data were collected from the everyday Myanmar conversations and the results show that the deliberate omission and inclusion of personal pronouns has some effects on the relationship between the addresser and the addressee and the meaning of the utterances. Moreover, it also reflects the culture and the society of Myanmar.

Key words: pragmatics, omission, inclusion, interlocutors, deixis, effects

Introduction

In any language, an utterance is meaningful only when it is uttered in a particular context and in any utterance, one usually uses personal pronouns to refer to the addresser, the addressee or the other(s). However, as each language is used in a different socio-cultural group, the use of personal pronouns, which comprises three categories of pronouns: first person, second person and third person, differs from one language to another. In the English language, the same set of personal pronouns are used without taking into consideration the age, rank, status, familiarity, etc. of the addresser, the addressee and the other(s). However, in Myanmar, a wide range of personal pronouns are used depending on the relationship between the two interlocutors and there are more ways to express one's feelings or attitudes towards others or the relationship with others by switching from one form of personal pronoun to another. Moreover, it is seen that Myanmar people sometimes deliberately leave out and sometimes deliberately include the personal pronouns to have some effect on the relationship between interlocutors.

Objectives of the Study

Though studies have been done concerning the person deixis in the field of pragmatics, Levinson (1983) and Yule (1996), dealt with how the choice of one form will reveal something about the speaker's view on his or her relationship with the addressee. Thomas (1995) touched upon the occurrence of ambiguities or problems of reference assignment due to the removal of personal pronouns from the original context of reference, especially the third person deixis as they have an infinite number of possible referents. In the Myanmar language, utterances can be produced with or without using person deixis and they are generally omitted in informal situations. Therefore, it is worth exploring the pragmatics of omission and inclusion of person deixis in utterances in Myanmar.

This research is carried out with two main objectives: to look for omission and inclusion of the personal pronouns in Myanmar utterances and to explore the effect due to the omission and inclusion of personal pronouns.

Scope of the Study

This research will focus only on the omission and inclusion of personal pronouns in Myanmar utterances but not on other pronouns like possessive pronouns, reflexive pronouns, demonstrative pronouns. Moreover, as omission and inclusion of personal pronouns are found more in spoken language than in written language, the occurrences in the written language will not be addressed in this study. Among spoken utterances, only utterances which consist of verb sentences, i.e. independent verb clause in O'Kell's (1969) term will be dealt with.

Review of Related Literature

Although research on a linguistic study of Myanmar pronouns and the address systems which can be used in place of pronouns have been carried out, not much study has been done in the pragmatic study of pronouns not only in Myanmar, but also in English. Locally, a small scale pragmatic study of Myanmar personal pronouns which studies the factors that determine the choice of personal pronouns in social exchange such as age, sex, status or rank, the attitude of the addresser towards the addressee, and the mood of the addresser at that particular moment has been done and this research is an attempt to fill the space in this area.

Concerning the Myanmar language, Myanmar grammar usage and sentence construction are dealt with in ചെയ്യുന്നു. അത്രാക്ക് വെയ്യുന്നു and three characteristics of literary style: period, personality, mood of the author and different kinds of style depending on the purpose, content, and audience are discussed by Maung Khin Min (1979) in his book കറാക്കു ഒര ത്രിയാരുന്നു. പ്രത്രാക്ക വരുന്നു വരുന്നുന്നു വരുന്നു വരുന

Differences between English and Myanmar Pronoun System

In addition to having different sets of personal pronouns in English and in Myanmar, the differences in the use of person deixis in English and Myanmar utterances can be found in the following:

English

Myanmar

്യ ഭാദാജ്ജുക്കീടും വാറ 'ാട

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After he returned from his work, he had his bath and went out to meet his friend at the airport.

ဆညာထော့တေရ ဧါ့ထဘဏ်ားမေ ေသာ့ ခြ (န်ကြားမြား ဆွညာ ့ရုက္ဘော်အားထျ ်ဧ့ဆူသီတ်ပြ .့သ

In Myanmar, once a personal pronoun is mentioned, it is not necessary to repeat it or its other forms e.g., consider subjective case and the same person. In typical Myanmar, the same pronoun to refer to the same person is not repeated though it is grammatically correct (Khin Min, 1986).

Differences between the English and Myanmar Sentence Structures

In every language, the verb is the nucleus of a sentence and it indicates action or possession or state. Therefore, when a verb is mentioned, a person who does the action is usually mentioned. However, in Myanmar, the doer of the action is often omitted in an utterance and this can be seen in the four basic types of sentences: namely, statement, question, command and exclamation. In English the subject pronouns are rarely omitted except for commands or requests as in the following sentences:

	English	Myanmar
Statement:	I am not feeling well.	စလဘံခာလဘံချ အာလဘံ္ခ ≌ာ လယ်ဖဲ့အဂ ဘ်လြံဖုံအဖြဲ မောလဘံခာလဘံချ အာလဘံ္ခ ≌ာာ
Question:	Have you had your dinner?	നും ⇒ന ധാഗാകുക്കോത്തോടാകാക
		o မ၁ ၀ ၁
Command:	Come here. Finish your tea.) တိကာသေနµာထတ္ဋတ္(စ့ ဏ်ဴာ∋ေလည္ခဆဘ ာ ္၁
Exclamation:	How stupid you are!	ങ് ⇒റെ ാററോടുങ്ങായാ തുല്ല
		ခပ ၁့ခပ ၁့လာဆင်္ခအေနာက္ကာ ၁နာမျာခ

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According to Pe Maung Tin (1956), there are four conditions where subject pronouns can be omitted.

Subjects can be omitted when

- (1) the emphasis is placed on the action, not on the doer of the action.
- (2) the subject is mentioned in the initial sentence.
- (3) the doer of the action can be retrieved from the verb.
- (4) the subject of the second sentence is the object of the first sentence.

In brief, subjects or objects, especially subject pronouns and object pronouns can be omitted without any effect on the meaning of utterances in Myanmar if they can be retrieved from the context. However, there are occasions when they are intentionally added or omitted to have certain effect on the meaning of the utterances and this will be dealt with in the next section.

Methodology

In doing this study, data were collected from the utterances made by people in their daily life and certain relevant dialogues from some magazine articles. In doing the analysis, first the omission and inclusion of first, second and third subject pronouns on the meanings of the utterances were studied and this is followed by the effects of the omission and inclusion of first, second and third person object pronouns.

The following abbreviations and symbols are used in analysing the data.

(x)	omission of personal pronouns	
[IS]	omission of first person subject pronoun	
[IIS]	omission of second person subject pronoun	
[IIIS]	omission of third person subject pronoun	
[IO]	omission of first person object pronoun	
[IIO]	omission of second person object pronoun	

[IIIO] omission of third person object pronoun

Analysis and Discussion

The Effect of Omission and Inclusion of Personal Pronouns

In this section, what determines the use and omission of pronouns in utterances will be analyzed and discussed. As the Myanmar Buddhist community is influenced by the teachings of the Buddha, in Myanmar culture in general, age distinction asserts more power than any other distinction like wealth, social status or rank, etc. The young should be polite and also pay respect to the elders. Therefore, among the first person pronouns, such as တူတုအား ထက်သော အားသည် အ

Dialogue between Hla Hla and her teacher

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ထက္ေ ေျ (ဒီဃာာ်ဆာါ ခတည္ ဆထာထသဆာ

[Hla Hla How are you, Sayagyi?]ေ

ျ (ဒီဃာာ်ဆ ေ ခလဆာေါ ခတည္ ဆ ့သည္ကြာ . ့ သူ သည္ဟာ အာည္က်ကာစာ

[Sayagyi Yes, I am fine. Where are you going?]ေ
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တံတစ် စ လီများနာ္တိမာမောင်္သောအာည်မှာကေ

[Hla Hla We are going to the market.]

Dialogue between a grandmother and a grandchild

ခုအက ဋ္ဌာဆ္ဌာဆဖ အုံ့ ဆာဏာဏာတသာဝ

[Grandchild Have you had your meal, Grandma?]o

ဋ္ဌာဆ္ဌာဆ မသဏ္မ်ာဏီဘုရာ ရာအေ ၁၀၁ဆဏ်မ်ာဏီတာသဆာဝ

[Grandma Yes, I have. Have you had your meal, child? (What about you, child?)]

ခူအမာ ဆဒ်ဴာအားသန္ ခဆ[ိ] ဆာဆေဒ်ဴာတေအောအာည့် ၅၂၂လေပ ညာဆောည့် ဂူလေမည့် ၅ ပ သစ

[Grandchild No, I haven't. I'm waiting to have it with mother and the others.]

In addition to kinship terms to refer to oneself, one can address himself or herself, or one can be addressed, using only a part of his or her name. This is one of the reasons for omitting the personal pronouns. In the following utterance, the addresser uses part of her name instead of the first person pronoun c_{α} d_{α} c_{α} .

[He/ She is very fond of me. He/She and I are from the same town.]

In the following dialogue between husband and wife, the kinship term " \mathfrak{sapp} " is used to refer to the husband and " $\mathfrak{g}_{\mathfrak{n}}$ " to refer to the wife.

ခအာ္ ေ ခ ျချ နာါ့ ဆူသခားညွ်**ကု ်ဘိ** ညွာမွတ္ခ်တာမိုု့ ဘ

[Husband Are you going to the clinic? What's wrong with you?] \circ

ချ_။ဓ ဓ ချ^{ို့} ဘာ့အားျာဋ္ဌမ္းဇင် **ဆား**စေအာသုံ့ တြကြားချ ဆာကျသားမဲ့ အာည့်ကျား

[Wife There's nothing wrong with me. I'm going to take you for a routine medical

check-up.jo

ခေအာ့စ ဓ) g ်(ု့ e) လပ္ျပာ့ချေျမ်ပ့္နဏာ်ကာ့ခပ ခြားအော့ လြပ္ျပာ့ခိ အာ့နညေး ခြားေ

[Husband In that case, rest assured. Don't worry about me.]

ന്ത്യ)? മറ്റ_ം ചെട്ടുകളുട്ടും ക്രAspilets from Faces Magazine. No. 19, Jan, 2003)

However, personal pronouns are sometimes omitted among interlocutors who are of the same age and among intimates.

Questions Responses

(X)လ်ဒုဃ**ာ**တ**ု** ဏီဗဏီာာ ၁ဆာ ခလ=ာ(X) ဏီဗဏီာာ

Have you finished your homework? Yes, <u>I</u> have.

(X) . ့ဆူသန္ဘာည်ကြား (X) လခလ-ဆူသန္ဘာသဘဲ့အာ၌က

Where are you going? We 're going to have some cold drinks.

အုံ =လဋ္မသဆ(သခါ ခတည့် = ျထသဆာေ ခလ=ဆ(X) ခတည့် = X ့သ ဓ

How is your Grandma? Yes, she is fine.

Therefore, there is no doubt that the omission and inclusion of personal pronouns has certain effects on the relationship between the speaker and the hearer: omission to show familiarity and inclusion to pay respect.

Among personal pronouns, first and second person pronouns are most frequently omitted in utterances, especially in adjacency pairs produced in informal situations.

A dialogue between Mg Mg and his brother

ခဏာခဲ့အော် (x) ့ ခါ ခေလ ကာဴ =အား ခုန္ ဘာ ဘာေ

[Mg Mg: Aren't you going to school today?]

စ်စစ်ဓ 'ု့လြွှ-ဆာ(X)အားရှေသိ⇒ ညာဆေတေက္ာ့≕ခ်ပ့ပ.့သခ

[Brother: No. <u>I</u>'m not. Today is a holiday.]

The above mentioned utterances usually occur in informal situations and they are usually made among those who are of the same age, rank or status or among intimates.

Omission and Inclusion of Subject Pronouns

In Myanmar, people usually greet each other saying "(x) ခါ ခတ္သာ့ ∮ျထသာ" [How are you?] or "(x) မသစ်းဆော်သာသာ" [Have you had your meal?] However, when the addressee is someone who is higher in rank or status, it is more polite to use the personal pronouns or honorific terms in utterances as in "၂ (သစ္ သရု ေႏြာက္ခၿပ သြတ္သြတ္သညာ" [Are you going back, Sayadaw?] or "၂ (သဘာာ်ဓတ္ကုတ္သားသာ်တာ့နွို့အခော္ ခထား" [I will see you off, Teacher] or "တူကဲ့အသိအာသခ အာသာသားထား" [I've finished my homework.]ခ

It is arguable that some of the utterances are polite because of mitigating devices like "according to the speaker and the hearer is great and the tone of the speaker is another factor to be taken into consideration. Nevertheless, it cannot be denied that pronouns are used more in a formal context than in an informal context. The more informal language one uses, the more one is likely to omit pronouns in utterances.

Omission and Inclusion of First Person Subject Pronouns

As mentioned earlier, first person pronouns are most frequently omitted in Myanmar utterances in informal situations without much effect on the utterance. However, there are occasions when they are used to create certain effects on the meaning of the utterance.

The utterance "ຕູ້ຕຸ້ນສອບ ລຸສຸ່ ເພ ຸ ວ" [I apologize.] is assumed to be more emphatic than the following utterance "[IS] ອບ ລຸສຸໄ ເພ . ວ" [I apologize.] which seems to be spoken flippantly without really feeling sorry for one's misconduct. Similarly, in the following pair of utterances, the first utterance has more bearing on the meaning than the second one.

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အု =ာ္ခ်ကာ်စာ ခါ ျ etutorial ခုင္ဆ ( အ ့တ္ခ်က္ အောက္ခတ်စာ ှိ ဆာသဆာ အု =ာ္ခ်ကာစာ ခါ ျ etutorial ခုင္ဆ ( အ ့တ္ခ်က္[IS ] အားကာတ်စာ ှိ ဆာသဆာ [Didn't \underline{I} tell you that you have a tutorial today?]ခ
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Sometimes, subject pronouns are omitted due to time constraint and this can be seen in the following utterances.

$$[IS]$$
 ထိစာ့အ ့ဆ $[IS]$ ထိစာ့အ ့ဆ $[\underline{I}'ll$ come along.]

(The utterance uttered by a passenger who is going to take a bus that is starting to move.)

$$[IS] \infty$$
 ∞ $max [IS] \infty$ $max [I'm coming.]$

(The utterance uttered by a house wife to show her impatience to her husband who is nagging her to hurry.)

First person pronouns are rarely used when one is muttering away to oneself or thinking aloud while he is alone as in

[IS] ရက္ဆော်တာ့ပ သဆ $[\underline{I}]$ feel bored.]

[IS] လ်နေ့ကွည်တာ့ပ သာ $[\underline{I}]$ feel sleepy.]စ

[IS] မိပ ္စ မွတ္ခ်က္ရပ္ သာ့[I feel depressed.]ခ

In academic interview, the subject pronoun used to refer to the interviewer is usually omitted as he takes the role of interviewer on behalf of readers or audience. So, the interviewer avoids using the pronoun to make the interview become more impersonal. However, in most personal interviews, the subject pronouns are usually used to show one's personal feelings, or air one's views, likes or dislikes. They can be seen in the following:

Academic interview

Interviewer: မ်ပ္ဧစ သိ သာသေ\(့တ်ေမာ လက်ကြားေတြ၊ လေဆဲနာကျ်က်ားေတြ မွှတ်အားမြူ သား သာပ္မှု (ဧလ .့သ တူနာနာတာာ့ ((ှု့ \circ [IS] ဆ်နှက္ဧလ .့သ

© [We have seen that psychology is divided into two categories: Theoretical Psychology and Applied Psychology. What <u>I/ We</u> want to know is if there is any difference between them. ©

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Interviewee:) ထားကျားဆြာသည် ၃ ဆမေ ေလာက်အေထေတြသာင္း ဆု ့ခြဲစြားည္းဆုံးေတြ ခု ေလာက်ေၾက . ့သ

- o [So, I want to say that everyone should study psychology.]o
- မေ ကိမ္ ဧစ သာခစ္ဓာည္ ဆ ဆိခတည္ ဆ(သာ 50th Anniversary Magazine. Yangon University.+မ

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However, in a personal interview with a singer or a movie star, the interviewee is addressing her fans through the interviewer stating that she wants to thank them and wants them to keep on supporting her, and this promotes the direct personal relationship between the interviewee and the fans.

Personal interview

Interviewer ဆင်္ဘာလခါ ျှေမြေႏွပ်္သေပ့ိ တ်ံးဆာတို့ ဘာကာမွာ ေနာက္ခဆဆများ

o [What would you like to say to your fans?]o

o [I would like to say "Thank you" to my fans for their support and request them to continue supporting me.]

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The inclusion of the first person subject pronouns and their effects can be seen more in the following utterances.

Lin Lin and her friends are chatting in the room when her aunt entered the room. All of them have had their meal except Lin Lin.

Aunt: Have you had your meal?

Lin Lin: No. I haven't.o

In this dialogue, Lin Lin deliberately uses the personal pronoun of in this context to distinguish herself from the rest who have had their meal.

When one is very angry or one is threatening someone, subject pronouns are usually used.

In the following utterance, the mother is furious with her son who keeps going to the Internet café and the pronoun c is deliberately used to have emphatic meaning.

[How many times have I told you not to go to that Internet café?]

In the following utterance, the mother is threatening her child who keeps playing with water in spite of being told not to do so.

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ထောက်ားမှာ ထောက်ာော[I'm coming.]
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Omission and Inclusion of Second Person Subject Pronouns

The omission of first person and second person pronoun seems to be based, to a large extent, on what the speaker assumes that the listener knows. Therefore, in everyday face-to-face interaction, in which interlocutors have shared visual context, the second person pronouns are sometimes dropped in Myanmar utterances like

[IIS] လထ**ာ**့တူ ဧါ့ ထသၨာာေသဆာinstead ofဆုံ ≠ာ္သီမလေထာ္နတူ ဧါ့ ထသၨားသေဆာ [Have you returned from work?]

Sometimes, when one wants to make potential accusations less direct or to make a potentially personal issue seem to be an impersonal one, the use of second person pronoun is avoided.

[IIS] ဧမွစ ့ဆာ်မှာ ညေခဏာ်မှ ျှာ၏ ဖ သညားခါ သား
$$(\underline{You})$$
 return the thing after use.] $[IIS]$ တိာ လြန်ာတာ့တိာ ့ (ု့ ဆူသညားခါ သား $[(\underline{You})$ clean up before you leave.]

However, when these utterances are uttered with the inclusion of second person pronouns, they have more bearing on the meaning.

On some occasions, one has to address to someone, especially a stranger, without knowing exactly which would be the best term to address that person. In this kind of situation, the choice or use of pronouns depends, to a greater extent, on one's psychological state of mind. If one doesn't want to be friendly or want to be psychologically distant from that person, he will say:

[Who do <u>you</u> want to see? Wait outside for a moment.]

On the other hand, when one wants to be psychologically close to that person, he might use kinship terms and say like ္ပံုဳး ခလ္မို ေဆည္သြုံးလူဟု သာစုာ လူ ဧ့ အာ့ နေျ ခမည္ခါ ဧထ"[Who do you want to see, Uncle? Wait outside for a moment.]

Omission and Inclusion of Third Person Subject Pronouns

The third person pronoun is used to refer to the person(s) who is (are) not personally involved in the conversation; so it is not normally omitted in utterances unless it has been mentioned in the context once. It is possible that the reference will not be successful and the meaning will be vague unless both the speaker and the listener have the same role in thinking about what is in each other's mind.

In the following utterances, the pronoun omitted in each utterance can be the first or second or third person depending on whom one is addressing in the context. Therefore, third person pronouns are rarely omitted in utterances.

$$(x)$$
 လျ ု့ ဆု မှု ဋ္ဌာမှ င်္ကောသဆာ[Is/ Are (x) ready?] ခ

However, sometimes third person pronouns are intentionally left out to create a situation which only the two interlocutors can understand.

In the following dialogue, if the utterance is said in full, i.e. without omitting any pronoun, her mother might get a hint or inkling, and might ask who wis. It is natural that if one uses vague terms with the company with front of people, they would be more interested in and more curious about it.

Kyaw Kyaw asked his friend, Nwe Nwe to tell his girlfriend, Wai Wai to wait for him at the usual place that evening. So Nwe Nwe came to see Wai Wai but as her mother was around, she just said the following:

Nwe: [IIIS] အဲ တဲ့တစ[IO] ရွှာ်္ခုံ တဲ့ပ . ့သ<u>ြော</u> phoned <u>me</u> this morning.]စ

- ဓ စ ခါ ခ[IIO] နယ်္ဂာ့=ခါ (သားများ `အာ္တ္ကြာ[IIIS] ခူဧသ . ့သဆ
- e [He said he would meet you at the same place this evening]e

Omission and Inclusion of Object Pronouns

Omission of object pronouns is not found as often as that of subject pronouns and if they are omitted, the referent can become vague and the utterance will be senseless. Therefore, object pronouns are rarely omitted in utterances. However, there are some cases where object pronouns are left out and have certain effect on utterances. In the following utterances, the primary effect is vagueness.

$$(x)$$
 ှိ ခါ့ ျထသအာ ့ထွ်ကြာရူ ဧသာပူသား . ့သ

[He/ She/ I/ You said he/ she/ I/ you would come today.]

$$(X)^{\circ}$$
 . $(X)^{\circ}$. $(X)^$

[I don't know where I can look for him/ her/ you.]

Omission and Inclusion of First Person Object Pronouns

First person object pronouns are dropped when one intentionally makes the meaning of the utterance to be vague and this can be seen in the following utterances.

Mu Mu and her sisters went to their cousin's birthday party. The mother asked Mu Mu to come back early and let her sisters stay behind if they wish. About one hour after they arrived, the party became so crowded and she did not want her sisters to stay behind. So she said:

[Mother asked me/ us to come back home early.]

Though it is the addresser alone whom her mother wants to come back home earlier, the addresser can make all go back home by exploiting the vagueness of meaning due to the omission of the first person object pronoun.

If the utterance is like လခအားခု တြာခမ**ာ**ညာါ့ ထာသွာ်အာ့တ်စားပ .့သာ[Mother asked <u>me</u> to come back early.], the meaning is quite clear and it is not possible for her to take her sisters back together with her.ခ

Omission and Inclusion of Second Person Object Pronouns

Though second person pronouns can be omitted in utterances, they are sometimes included to put emphasis on the addressee. In the following, the second utterance is more emphatic than the first one and is used to make a confirmation.

- (a) [IS] [IIO] မသာမှာ ဧါ့ ခ=ော်စာဂုဏ်ဆါ သာ[<u>I</u> have given your book back to <u>you</u>.]ဝ
- (b) ဂု ငမ္ဘော့ ဆော်စာမှသာမှာ ဧါ့ ခန္ဓော်စာဂုဏ်ခါ ့သာ[<u>I</u> have given your book back to you.]ဝ

Sometimes, an utterance without the second person pronouns is used to make the meaning vague as in the following utterance made by one of the staff who got a message from the phone duty officer and who deliberately dropped the second person object pronoun to make the meaning vague. It is not clear whether Sayamagyi wants her or all staff to wait for her.

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ျ ( ဘီးဘာ်≕တဆေျှအား ့ထဘာ ့သ[IS] [IIO] [IIIO] ခမည္ခြါ ထွိမှာ့သော . ့၁
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[Sayamagyi said she would come back. She said to wait for her.]

Omission and Inclusion of Third Person Object Pronouns

When the two interlocutors share the same knowledge and/ or they don't want others to know or notice what they are talking about, third person object pronouns are dropped and this has the same effect as omission of first person object pronouns: ambiguity in meaning of utterances. The omission of third person pronouns can be seen in the following utterances.

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ဆေးသုံး ခု =[IIIO] ဤ ချုံ ကုဏ်များကောသဆာ
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[Thura: Have you phoned him?]

ခဏ်ခေတ်ာ္က က လာဗ်ာ
$$[IS]$$
 $[IIIO]^{||}$ လ် အူဆဏ္ဍာအ

[Zaw Zaw: Yes, I have (phoned him).]

[May: Have you asked him to post the letter?]

[Thin: No, I haven't. Sayamagyi has asked him to type a letter.]

(In these utterances, first person and second person pronouns are also omitted.)

Conclusion

From this study, it is obvious that Myanmar people omit first and second person pronouns in most of their utterances and this clearly shows that Myanmar people attenuate their egoism or self-importance, which may seem to be the influence of Buddha's philosophy in which most of them believe. Moreover, the use of kinship terms in place of personal pronouns shows that Myanmar is a close-knitted society. Therefore, it can be said that the differences in person deixis between the two languages – Myanmar and English – are culturally determined rather than linguistically determined and they show the differences in social ties in the two societies.

As Myanmar maintains an extended family system, the spirit of the team or group work and close social ties are reflected in the use of pronoun system. Therefore, it can be firmly stated that the omission and inclusion of personal pronouns is one of the overriding factors that governs the culture and tradition of the Myanmar society. This cross-cultural pragmatic study of the two languages, English and Myanmar, indicates that Myanmar has the high-contact culture characterized by a high degree of spatial and psychological closeness of the society.

As personal pronouns are omitted in Myanmar, some Myanmar EFL learners are sometimes confused about the use of personal pronouns and some tend to omit them when they use them in the English language. Since this study also reveals the differences between the uses of personal pronouns in the English language and the Myanmar language, it will contribute to English language teaching and learning in Myanmar. It is hoped that this preliminary study on the omission and inclusion of personal pronouns in Myanmar would be an inspiration for those who are interested in the uses of personal pronouns in Myanmar to research deeper into this particular area of both English and Myanmar grammar to gain more insight into it.

It is the belief of the researcher that as English language teachers, they must be fully aware of the mother-tongue influence and interference in the use of English. Thus, teachers of English would also need to master both languages and be fully aware of the differences in the two language systems. This will enable them to discover why their students make the kind of errors they should not make. As a result, they will be able to teach their students not only very efficiently but also most effectively.

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န ့အ ့ အေးဆား ဆုံးး က မူအဲ့ အာဆာ) ထားသဲဆာ ။ ဆားသေး ပေး မှာ အေးသား ရှင်း မှာ အာဆာပုံ အာဆာပွဲ အာဆာပွဲ