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Attributive Pronouns in the Even language

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The article discusses the problem of the status of attributive pronouns in the grammatical system of the Even language and analyses their semantic and functional features. The determination of the place of pronouns in the parts of speech system and the issue of their singling out as a separate part of speech remains controversial. Attributive pronouns include consolidative and distinguished words with dissimilar semantics: the qualifiers of the subject and object of the action, consolidation and differentiation, totality and completeness, which are categorically correlative with adjectives, nouns and adverbs. The author shows the lexical and semantic differences of attributive pronouns in the dialects of the Even language, indicates the forms of attributive and attributive-possessive pronouns in the Western dialects that are absent in the Eastern dialects of the Even language.

Keywords: Even language, morphology, semantic level of pronouns, attributive pronouns, pronominal words.

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The problem of pronouns is one of the most difficult problems of modern linguistics. Their status pronominalis, place in the parts of speech system, the question of their singling out in a separate part of speech remains debatable. The traditional view on the pronoun as a special part of speech is challenged by many linguists. The discord arises from the different understanding of semantics of pronominals and their grammatical functions. According to Iu. L. Vorotnikov, “pronouns in the language are a special and, if anything, one of the most enigmatic class of words around which lively linguistic debate evolves, but to this day, many

questions of their semantics and functioning in the statement remain controversial” (Vorotnikov, 2001, 42). As a rule, the pronoun is defined as the part of speech indicating objects, features and amounts, without naming them (**ngi** – “who”, **he** – “you”, **erek** – “this”, **ady** – “vul” / **ady-gul** – “a few”). Many researchers of Russian grammar (A.M. Peshkovskii, N. Iu. Shvedova, E.N. Sidorenko, O.E. Rudenko et al.) consider this definition not enough complete and tend to treat the pronoun as a special part of speech, categorically related to nouns, adjectives, numerals, adverbs, impersonal-predicative words, which “having a

special pronominal method of objective reality representation” (Sidorenko, 2005, p. 31).

Based on the main lexical and semantic functions of pronominals and their grammatical function in the Even language, we can distinguish the following types:

1) pronouns, correlative with nouns: **bi** – “I”, **hi** – “you”, **ngi** – “who”, **iak** – “what”, **ngi-de** – “nobody”, **ngi-vul** – “someone”, **chelen** – “all”, “iak-ta” – “nothing”, **erek** – “this”, etc.;

2) pronouns, categorically correlative with adjectives: **irek** – “which”, **irek** – “what”, **errochin / erbochon** – “such, like”, **tarrochin / tarbochon** – “such”, **erek-kul** – “some, certain”, **irek-kul** – “a kind of, some”, **tarak** – “that one”, **erek** – “this”, **irek-te** – “no one, every”, **irek-tarak** – “anyone, anyone else, another”, and so on;

3) pronouns, categorically correlative with numerals: **adi** – “how many, how much”, **tardin** – “so many”, **ady-vul (ady-gul)** – “any, some”;

4) pronouns, correlative with adverbs: **ile** – “where”, **irteki / irtiki** – “where to”, **iduk** – “where from”, **on** – “how”, **ok** – “when”, **iami** – “why”, **ahun** – “for how many, far”, **tala** – “there”, **ele** – “here”, **erteki / ertiki** – “to here”, **taduk** – “from there”, **iami-vul / iami-gul** – “for some reason”, **hadun** – “sometimes”, **ereger** – “always”, and so on.

Semantic classification of pronouns, which the compilers of textbooks adhere to, includes the following types:

1. personal: **bi** – “I”, **hi** – “you sg.”, **nongan** – “he”, **mut** (inclusive form), **bu** (exclusive form) – “we”, **hu** – “you pl.”, **nongartan** – they.

2. reflexive: **meeni** (sg.), **meenur, meerbur** (pl.) “self”; and reciprocal: **meen meenur / meer meerbur** – “each other”.

3. personal-possessive in the short and long forms: **min** (**bi** in the lamun. dialect), **minngi** – “my”, **hin** (**he** in the lamun. dialect), **hinngi** – “your, someone’s, his, her, their,

our, your”, which are formed from the stems of personal and reflexive pronouns by adding the affix **-ngi**. Unlike the literary language possessive pronouns in some dialects, such as Lamunhinskii, are formed from stems of attributive pronouns **bey-** and **meen-**. Thus, in this dialect there are three groups of possessive pronouns: personal-possessive, reflexive-possessive, attributive-possessive.

In contrast to the sub-dialects of the eastern dialects, non-independent forms of personal-possessive pronouns 1 p., 2 p. sg. and pl. are not used in Lamunhinskii dialect. These pronouns include **min** – “my”, **hin** – “your”, **mun** – “our” (inclusive), **bun** – “your” (exclusive) and many others. Independent forms are based on these stems with adding the affix **-ngi** (except **mun-**): **minngi, hinngi, hunngi**. Personal-possessive pronoun 1 p. pl. is formed from the stem of **mut**: **mutngi** – “our”; 3 p. sg. and pl. are formed from the stem **nong-**: **nongngin** – “his”, lit. – **nongarngitan**, lam. – **nonngitnan**, in the okhot. dialect – **nongngitan** meaning “their”. Possessive forms in the Even language form other pronouns types by adding the possessive suffix **-ngi**: **er-ngi** – “belonging to this”, **erel-ngi** – “belonging to these”, etc.

4. Demonstrative: **tar** – “this one”, **tarak** – “that one”, **tavara** – “yonder”, **er** – “this very”, **erek** – “this”, **errochin / erbochon** – “such as this”, **tarrochin / tarbochon** – “such as that one”, **tardin** – “how many, much”, **tala** – “there”, **ele** – “here”, **tartaki** – “there”, **erteki** – “to here”, **taduk** – “from there”, **eduk** – “from here”, **tachin** – “so”, **tarakam** – “then”, **tarit** – “after”, **tiemi** – “because, so”, **tachikan** – “insomuch”.

5. Interrogative: **ngii** – “who” (about a person), **iak** – “who, what”, **irrochin / irbochon** – “what”, **niingi** – “whose”, **irek** – “which”, **avug** – “which one”, **adi** – “how many, much”, **ahun** – “which” (in size, volume, etc.), “to what extent”, **ile** – “where”, **irteki** – “to where”, **iduk** – “from

where”, **on** – “how”, **ok** – “when”, **iami** – “for what reason, why”.

6. Interrogative pronouns by adding particle **-da** become negative in sentences with a negative predicate: **ngi-de achcha** – “there is no one”.

7. Indefinite pronouns are formed by adding particles **-ul / -vul / -gul**, **-da / -de** to the interrogative pronouns.

8. Attributive pronouns, which are the subject of this article.

Pronominal words, which are traditionally called attributive, do not have common semantic content. They are categorical correlative with different parts of speech and perform the corresponding functions. On the basis of this, some linguists (A.M. Peshkovskii, E.N. Sidorenko, O.E. Rudenko, E.V. Paducheva) offer to call them generalizing, or generalizing-exclusive pronouns.

Attributive pronouns in the Even language, as well as in Russian, “provide a means of clarifying the object in question, they give it a value or generalize it” (Russian grammar corpora, <http://rusgram.ru>). Their main semantic feature is the ability to specify, based on the already mentioned or known facts. In this case there is necessarily an element of comparison, a comparison and contrast. By virtue of their ability to indicate through already said or known, attributive pronouns are often used as anaphors, while generalizing pronominal words perform a quantifying function. Attributive pronominal words, categorically correlative with names, tend to decline, but not all pronouns have a full paradigm of declension, including possessive forms. In addition, they form plurals and possessives. In sentences these pronouns are subjects, objects, attributes, different adverbials. Pronouns **eeidu**, **meenken** do not decline.

In the Even language the attributive pronouns include:

1) **Pronouns with universal-quantifying** meaning: 1) pointing to the entire set, “meaning aggregate, generalization and complete coverage of anything” (Lebedev, 1982, p. 66): **eeidu** – “whole, all”, **bekech** – “completely, full”, **bekechen** – “all”, **bekechchur** – “everyone”, **cheele**, **cheelen** – “all, the whole, entire, every”, **kubechen** – “every, all, whole”, **kubechchur** – “everybody”, **butun / butunni** – “whole, full”.

2) Pronouns, pointing to an arbitrary object in the set: **kubech**, **giaki**, **giakitang** – “anyone, anybody, anything, different”, **beiteen** – “each person”, **irek-tarak** – “any, every”. In the Okhotsk dialect V.D. Lebedev discovered the pronominal words **chiistan** – “all”, borrowed from the Russian language: “Chiistan okooskal avatlal” (All windows have been washed) (Lebedev, 1982, p. 66). Pronouns with exclusive meaning are also formed from the interrogative pronouns: **ngii** – “who”, **iak** – “what”, **irek** – “which” by adding the definitive particle **-ta / -te**, **-da / -de**, **-tta / -tte**: **irek te** – “no one, everyone”, **ngi-de** – “anyone, anybody”, **iak-ta** – “anything, either”.

2) **Amplifying** and **exclusive** words derived from different stems and semantically heterogeneous. Derived from reflexive pronoun **meen-** words **meenken** – “by oneself, alone” **meerker** – “by themselves, alone” are used for the accentuation of an active person and have the meaning of “self-sufficiency” (**bi meenken ele emrem** – “I came here myself” – without crutches) and “significant personal involvement” (**nongan meenken ele emren** – “He came here” – instead of sending someone). The described category also includes: **beiu** – “myself” (in Lamunhinskii dialect it has a complete paradigm of declension), **beid’i** – “self”, **beiteen** – “each” (person), **tarak** – “that one”, **erek** – “this one”, **erdin** – “the same as this one (in size, volume, and so on), **haan** – “some, partial”, **adykun / adukun** – “little, a small amount”, **abal** – “little”, **hooia** – “many, much”. The pronoun **beiteen** –

“every” (person) is used without main noun, as its semantics bears the meaning of a person (**bei**): Tavar ngin **beiteendu** eten horre (That one dog will not go to **everybody**).

In Lamunhinskii dialect of the western dialect of the Even language there are other than those listed attributive pronouns, which have no analogues both in the literary language and in the eastern dialects. It is interesting that the Evenk language has the same pronouns. These attributive

Lam. Sg.	Evenk.	
1 p. meen-du-vu	men-duv	<i>to myself</i>
2 p. meen-du-s	mendus	<i>to yourself</i>
3 p. meen-du-n	mendun	<i>to himself</i>
Pl.		
1 p. – (exclusive)	merduvun	<i>to ourselves</i>
1 p. meen-du-t (incl.)	merdut	<i>to ourselves</i>
2 p. meen-du-hnen	merdusun	<i>to yourselves</i>
3 p. meen-du-tnen	merdutyn	<i>to themselves</i>

In the western dialects such definitive pronouns are formed from the synonymous stem **bei-/boi-**. In contrast to pronouns, formed from the stem of the reflexive pronoun **meen-**, pronominals, formed on this stem (**bei-/boi-**), have a complete paradigm of declension with personal-possessive affix. Attributive pronoun with the stem **bei-/boi-** (self) is found not only in Lamunhinskii dialect, but also in the Okhotsk dialect. The presence of similar attributive pronouns in these two dialects is a proof of their proximity. V.D. Lebedev in his work “The Okhotsk Dialect of the Even language” indicates the genetic relationship of the stems **bei-** and **meen-** and gives examples of the **bei-** usage with the meaning of attributive

Even
1 p. bei-u
2 p. bei-es
3 p. bei-en

pronouns are formed from the stem **meen-** (reflexive pronoun) by adding dative and locative case affixes and personal-possessive affixes. Their meaning is close to the reflexive pronouns in dative and locative cases: **meendi**, **meendulei**, **meendur** / **meenduvur** / **meendulevur**. While reflexive pronouns are impersonal, attributive pronouns indicate the person. In addition, in sentence they refer not only to the subject, but also to indirect object in dative case:

pronoun in indirect cases: “On the basis of the data of all Tungus languages I assume that the stem of reflexive and attributive pronouns **meen-** (self) is a phonetic modification of the older stem ***beien**. In this alleged form **i** dropped, two vowels contracted in long **e**, anlaut **b** was modified and became **m** under the influence of the subsequent **n**, i.e. **beien** ***> *been** **> *meen** (Lebedev, 1982, p. 67). “It is interesting to note that in the Manchu language words **bei** “self” or **beise** “themselves” are used as reflexive pronouns” (Lebedev, 1978, p. 78). The stem **bei-** or **beien** is common for the Altai languages. For example, the Yakut language (the Turkic group) has attributive pronouns formed from the stem **bei-**, cf.:

Yakut
bei-em *myself*
bei-eng *yourself*
bei-ete *himself*

In the Midwestern dialects pronoun **bei-** may be used in conjunction with personal pronouns, dependent on them in number, case and person. In

Lamunhinskii dialect this dependence is optional, as this dialect has lost harmonization of attributive word-combinations (Fedorenkova, 2010, p. 104).

Sg.		Pl.	
1 p. bi beiu / boiu	<i>myself</i>	mut beiet/boiot	<i>ourselves</i>
2 p. he beies / boi-os	<i>yourself</i>	hu beiesen/boiohnon	<i>yourselves</i>
3 p. nongan bei-en /boi-on	<i>himself</i>	nongartan beietnen/boiotnon	<i>themselves</i>

These pronouns decline as possessive stems ending with a consonant. It should be noted that the meaning of the pronoun **bei / boi** “self” in the dative

1 p. beidu-vu/ meendu-vu *to myself*, 2 p. beidu-s/ meendu-s *to yourself*, 3 p. beidu-n/ meendu-n *to himself*.

case coincides with the meaning of the pronoun derived from the stem **meen-**. The latter does not have a complete paradigm of declension, for example:

In some Even dialects in Yakutia (in Dogdo-Chebogalahskii, Momskii, Lamunhinkii) and in the Okhotsk dialect there are attributive-possessive pronoun similar to the Evenk ones.

Sg. Lam.,	Okhotsk	Evenk	
1 p. meen-ngi-v(u)	men-ngi-v	<i>my own</i>	
2 p. meen-ngi-s	men-ngi-s	<i>your own</i>	
3 p. meen-ngi-n	men-ngi-n	<i>his own</i>	
Pl. Lam.	Okhotsk	Evenk	
1 p. –	meen-ngi-vun	men-ngivun/ mer-ngi-vun	<i>our own</i>
1 p. meen-ngi-t	meen-ngi-t	men-ngi-t / mer-ngi-t	<i>our own</i>
2 p. meen-ngi-hnon	meen-ngi-sni/ meen-ngi-sen	men-ngi-sun/ mer-ngi-sun	<i>your own</i>
3 p. meen-ngi-tnon	meen-ngi-tni meen-ngi-ten	men-ngi-tyn / mer-ngi-tyn	<i>their own</i>

Forms of attributive-possessive pronouns are derived from the reflexive stem **meen-** by adding the affix **-ngi** followed by the personal affix, for instance:

But in contrast to the Okhotsk dialect and the Evenk language, in the Lamunhinskii dialect attributive- possessive pronouns are formed

Sg.		Pl.	
1 p. boi-ngi-vu	<i>my own</i>	boi-ngi-t	<i>our own</i>
2 p. boi-ngi-s	<i>your own</i>	boi-ngi-hnon	<i>your own</i>
3 p. boi-ngi-n	<i>his own</i>	boi-ngi-tnon	<i>their own</i>

not only from the stem **meen-**, but also form attributive pronouns with the stem **bei-**,

3) **Pronouns, indicating the equivalence** of subjects on various parameters: size, length, volume, width, height, etc. These are pronouns, formed from demonstrative pronouns: **er** – “this one”, **tar** – “that one” by adding affixes **-rochin /**

-rbochon , -dyn / -din: er-rochin / er-bochon – “the same as this”, **tarrochin / tarbochon** – “the same as that one”, **er-din** – “the same as that (in size, volume, etc.)”, **tar-din** – “the same as that (in size, volume, etc.)”. In the Even dialect in Berezovka

V.A. Robbek finds personal- possessive pronouns **er****din**, **tard****din**: “Suffix **-din** forms attributive pronoun pointing to objects of equal size... Attributive pronouns **er****din**, **tard****din**, apparently, are historically complex, as they consist of words **er** – “this”, **tar** – “that” and **di** – “size, volume, height”. In attributive pronouns vowel **i** is short, and the word **di** is always used with personal-possessive suffixes (**di-n**, **di-s**, **di-v**) (Robbek, 1989, p. 126). In the Lamunhinskii dialect there remained one form with the possessive 3 p. affix **-n**: **er****di-n**, **tard****di-n**. In the literary language and Eastern dialects these attributive pronouns have a complete paradigm of simple declension in singular and plural. In the Lamunhinskii dialect substantive pronouns decline only when they are subjects or objects, while being a component of attributive phrases they do not decline, so they are adjacent to the main noun (Fedorenkova 2010, p. 104). Attributive pronouns **er****rochin**, **tar****rochin** “were formed by the fusion of the demonstrative pronoun **er** / **tar** and the word **urechin** – “similar”: **er****rochin** <er + **urechin** and **tar****rochin** <tar + **urechin**” (Dutkin, 1995, p. 42).

4) **Pronominal words meaning “different”**: **gia** – “another, different”, **hoonte** / **huunte** – “another, strange”, **gaad** – “the other, one of the pair”, **haan** – “the other” (about a part, some), **angili** – “different, different from others”.

Semantic and functional heterogeneity of attributive pronominal words complicates the definition of their grammatical status. These words are correlative with nominal parts of speech, adverbs and pronouns. V.D. Lebedev considers

attributing some words to the attributive pronouns erroneous: “The closeness of meanings of attributive pronouns to adverbs and names makes us be careful concerning attribution of certain words. When one places attributive pronouns in special category, one must take into account the context. For example, some grammatical works on the Even language enlist mistakenly some nouns among the attributive pronouns in the literary language (**haan** – “a part of smth, sb”; **hooya** – “a large amount of smth, a lot”), and also adjectives (**gee** – “another, second”; **hoonte** – “another, strange, alien”; **abal**, **adikun** – “incomplete, insufficient, little”) (Lebedev, 1982, p. 68).

Not only in the Even language pronominal attributive words cause difficulties in classification. The authors of some classifications are moving away from the term “attributive pronouns”. A.M. Peshkovskii places these pronouns in three categories: generalizing, aggregate and exclusive (Peshkovskii, 2001, p. 157). V.N. Migirin calls attributive pronouns negatively generalizing and positively generalizing (Migirin, 1973, p. 218). Semantic heterogeneity of attributive pronouns, as they perform different syntactic functions (not only those of adjectives), being subjects, objects or adverbial modifiers, necessitating the change of the term “attributive pronouns”. Based on their nature and meaning, E.N. Sidorenko proposes to call them generalizing-exclusive (Sidorenko, 2005, p. 45). Yet, difficulties in determining the place of attributive pronominals in the grammatical system of the Even language, their functional-semantic and dialectal features require further comprehensive research.

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Определительные местоимения

В ЭВЕНСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ

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В статье рассматриваются проблемы статуса определительных местоимений в грамматической системе эвенского языка, анализируются их семантические и функциональные особенности. Определение места прономинативов в системе частей речи, вопрос их выделения в особую часть речи остается дискуссионным. К определительным местоимениям относятся обобщительно-выделительные слова с разнородной семантикой: уточнители субъекта и объекта действия, обобщения и выделения, совокупности и полноты охвата чего-либо, категориально соотносительные с именами прилагательными, существительными и наречиями. Автор статьи показывает лексико-семантические различия определительных местоимений в говорах эвенского языка, указывает на наличие в западных говорах форм определительных и определительно-притяжательных местоимений, отсутствующих в восточном наречии эвенского языка.

Ключевые слова: эвенский язык, морфология, семантические разряды местоимений, определительные местоимения, местоименные слова.

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