Pronoun Second Position in Comanche as an Archaic Survival
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Steele (1977: 550, 558) posits that Comanche created second position pronouns relatively recently.

A contrary position is taken here: Pronoun second position in Comanche is a relic, which has an unbroken genetic relationship with other Numic languages.

Comanche has:
• “Independent” pronouns
  – These occur in SOV order (about as rigidly as English follows SVO).
• Second position pronouns
  – These occur after the first word or after the first phrase.

The SOV ordered pronouns and the second position pronouns have identical morphemes in 1st and 2nd person. The SOV pronouns are anaphoric, used in connected speech. The second position pronouns are exophoric, used in isolated utterances.

Table 1 Comanche: SOV ordered and 2nd position ordered pronouns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Dual</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1P Nom.</td>
<td>ni</td>
<td>ta-kwį (incl)</td>
<td>tani (incl)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ni-kwį (excl)</td>
<td>nini (excl)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2P Nom.</td>
<td>inni</td>
<td>mimi-kwį</td>
<td>mimi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. (a) Tiasí-se ní tìhka. (d) Tìhka ní, eat 1P eat 1P
   Again I ate.            I ate.
   (b) Ní-se tìhka. (e) *Tìhka-se ní.
   1P-DM eat 1P吃 1P
   I ate.                 I ate.
   (c) *Ní Tìhka.
   1P eat
   I ate.

• Distinctions in the selection of morphemes between SOV pronouns and second position pronouns arise in third person. There are three sorts of SOV ordered subject pronouns:
  a. Uninflected deictic pronouns,
  b. Nominative/emphatic -sí inflected pronouns, and
  c. Nominative -tì inflected pronouns

Uninflected Deictic Pronouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proximal</th>
<th>Medial</th>
<th>Distal</th>
<th>Scattered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>o*</td>
<td>u</td>
<td>e**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

-sí Inflected Pronouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proximal</th>
<th>Medial</th>
<th>Distal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i-sí</td>
<td>o-sí</td>
<td>u-sí</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2  Third person SOV ordered pronouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Dual</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proximal</td>
<td>s-i-t</td>
<td>s-i-t kwí</td>
<td>s-i-tí</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medial</td>
<td>s-o-t</td>
<td>s-o-t kwí</td>
<td>s-o-tí</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distal</td>
<td>s-u-t</td>
<td>s-u-t kwí</td>
<td>s-u-tí</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scattered</td>
<td>s-e-t</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>s-e-tí</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. U-se sohoto’i-tí.  
3P/DIST-DM climb-IMPF  
He/she/that’s climbing.

3. U-si-se sohoto’i-tí.  
3P/DIST-N-DM climb-IMPF  
He/she/that’s climbing.

4. S-u-tí-se sohoto’i-tí.  
DEF-3P/DIST-N-DM climb-IMPF  
He/she/it’s climbing.

Definite pronouns like that in (4) are exclusively anaphoric.

Table 3  Third person second position subject pronouns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Dual</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3P Nom. In vicinity</td>
<td>ma</td>
<td>ma-tí kwí</td>
<td>ma-tí</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3P Nom. Distal</td>
<td>u</td>
<td>u-tí kwí</td>
<td>u-tíí</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comanche second position pronouns are exclusively exophoric.

5. Sohoto’i-tí u climb-IMPF 3P/DIST[subj]  
He/she/that’s climbing.

6. Sohoto’i-tí ma climb-IMPF 3P[subj]  
He/she/that’s climbing.

“He (mule) must have forgotten something.” (Miller 1972: 75)

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5. Sohoto’i-tí u climb-IMPF 3P/DIST[subj]  
He/she/that’s climbing.

6. Sohoto’i-tí ma climb-IMPF 3P[subj]  
He/she/that’s climbing.

“The demonstratives built on ma- are not used in the subjective, …” (Crum and Dayley1993: 26)

*Note: uninflected deictics found in Comanche have not been observed in Shoshone.

However, there is in fact Shoshone data with ma subject:

Western Shoshone:
6. Ke ma sumpanai-n.  
NEG 3P know-PF  
He doesn’t know.

(Gosite Shoshone:
PROX-LOC[=here] PROX-like 3P happen QUOT DEF-3P/DIST-N  
“It happened like this,” he said. (Miller 1972: 59)

8. “Hinna kia ma noo nasuah-t-hkwa” me.  
something.A INF 3P must forget-DIR(away) QUOT  
“He (mule) must have forgotten something.” (Miller 1972: 75)
"Ke," me u niikwi-nna, "hinna kia ma tiasí neg QUOT 3P,A tell-PROG something,A INF 3P again
nasuahtsi-hkwa," me u-niikwi-nna.
forget-DIR(away) QUOT 3P/DIST-tell-PROG

"No," he said, "he must have forgotten something else again," he said. (Miller 1972: 75)

I-kkihi Tsits Rents u i-nankwa i-kkih.
PROX-LOC PN 3P[subj] PROX-over.at PROX-LOC
It was here this side of Church Ranch. (Miller 1972: 89)

Waihyanna u niáiyu tokai supe s-u-kkan tapeni
burn-PROG 3P[subj] blow-IMPF exactly then DEF-3P-A day
u patuuwammi-nku niáiyu-wih.
3P[obl] get.water-SR blow-IMPF-?

There was burning on that day, it was blowing; when he went to get water it was blowing. (Miller 1972: 66)

Absence of plural morphology:
12. Nuun kia-ma u hupia-pai, me.
must INF-3P[subj] 3P[poss] song-have QUOT
“They must have songs of their own.” (Miller 1972: 79)

13. ke ma sumpanai-nna.
NEG 3P[subj] know-PROG
“they don't know anything.” (Miller 1972: 45)

Uninflected deictic pronouns are the source for 3rd Person 2nd Position.

With the reconstruction of second position in Central Numic, second position is attested in all three branches of Numic.
• Western Numic (at least 1st Person reconstructable)
  – Northern Paiute (1st Person only)
  – Mono (3rd Person dems. Appear to be recently added)
• Central Numic
  – Comanche (yes, extensive)
  – Shoshone (residual)
• Southern Numic
  – Ute (yes, extensive)
  – Kawaiisu (unsure - verbal pron. clitics derived from second position?)

However, Central Numic and Western Numic seem to differ from Southern Numic in certain conspicuous ways.
• A number of the pronoun second morphemes are different in Ute.
Ute allows second position to co-occur with other non-second position pronouns (this property is consistent with other a number of other UA languages outside Numic, and is probably a property that should be reconstructed).

*Ute does not maintain an opposition between anaphorically accessible pronouns and exophorically accessible pronouns, as Comanche does.

Each difference is not nearly as significant as it seems at first glance.

*Some of the pronoun second morphemes are virtually the same.

Ute:

1Psg  
-\(\text{n}\) (sometimes occurs as -\(\text{ni}\)

   e.g. Givón 1985: 16, 46, 54, 58, 62, 79, 106.

   This 1Psg is consistent throughout Numic)

3Psg  
-\(\text{u}\)

(3Psg  
-\(\text{a}\) is the same as the P-C. Numic medial
deictic (Comanche \(\text{o}\)) among the
uninflected
pronouns, which were posited as the source
for 2\(^{nd}\) Position Prons. in third person)

When examining the first two cycles of Givón’s *Ute Traditional Narratives*, it can be seen that co-occurrence with other non-second position pronouns is relatively uncommon.

Ute texts show that a significant disparity exists between third person narrative and character direct speech, such that the odds of getting a second position pronominal is much greater inside direct speech than outside direct speech.

“…one must remember that these pronouns are still similar to anaphora in one crucial respect: They are most normally used to refer to topic-NP’s that have been last mentioned in the directly preceding clause in discourse, or in a similarly proximate preceding exchange” (Givón 1980: 310).

The following quantitative study examined the first two cycles in Givón (1985), the Sinawav Cycle and the Coyote Cycle. The study hinges upon the central observation that exophoric references have no opportunity to occur in narrative except as contained within the direct speech of a character.

The study ignored:

*Object clitics
*Subordinate clauses
*Subject pronominals found in the framing of characters’ direct speech (except in Table 6, where it became the object of study).

**Table 4** Second position versus independent pronouns in third person in & out of character direct speech.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2Pos</th>
<th>Indep.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3P in DS</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3P outside DS</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N = 345, \(df = 1\), \(\chi^2 = 9.1119\), \(p < .01\)

**Table 5** First person inside direct speech versus third person outside direct speech.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2Pos</th>
<th>Indep.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1P in DS</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3P outside DS</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N = 384, \(df = 1\), \(\chi^2 = 16.5356\), \(p < .001\)
Table 6  A comparison between pronominals inside & outside the framing of direct speech. (Note: the data shown in the PowerPoint were incorrect in a glaringly obvious fashion. This prevented this point from being properly presented in the talk. The data as given below within Table 6 of this handout are correct.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2Pos</th>
<th>Indep.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3P in framing of DS</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3P outside both DS &amp; framing of DS</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[ N = 427, \; df = 1, \; \chi^2 = 5.2912, \; p < .05 \]

**Conclusion**

- **Residue of pronoun 2nd position occurs in Shoshone.**
  
  -- so there is no discontinuity between Comanche and the rest of Numic.

- **2Pos pronouns can be reasonably reconstructed in all three branches of Numic.**

- **A plausible pathway from Ute to Comanche is at hand.**
  
  -- The pragmatics of pronoun selection in Comanche is comparable to some of the tendencies for pronoun selection in Ute narrative.

  -- The lack of a pronoun second option in the framing of direct speech in Comanche is reflected in the very strong tendency to avoid it in Ute.

**References**


