

## PRONOUNS - INTRODUCTORY - SUMMARY

### Lesson 19

Kiribati uses a number of sets of pronouns which must be mastered for a command of the language. Fortunately, their interrelationship is fairly transparent in most cases, and so familiarity with one provides a mnemonic clue to the others. These sets are dealt with individually in the following chapters, but they are presented here altogether, both as a reference and as a clue to their interrelationships.

	<u>SINGULAR</u>		<u>PLURAL</u>	
1. <u>emphatic</u>	ngai	me	ngaira	us
	ngkoe	you	ngkamii	you
	ngaia	him, her, it	ngaiaa	them
2. <u>subject</u>				
	I, N	I	ti	we
	ko	you	kam	you
	e	he, she, it	a	they
3. <u>object</u>				
	-ai	me	-ira	us
	-ko	you	-ngkamii	you
	-a	him, her, it	-ia, i	them
4. <u>possessive</u>				
	au	my	ara	our
	am	your	amii	your
	ana	his, her, its	aia	their
5. <u>possessive suffix</u>				
	-u	my	-ra	our
	-m	your	-mii	your
	-na, -n	his, her, its	-ia	their

6. relative

ae	who, which	aika	who, which
ane	"	akana	"
are	"	ake	"
teuāe	he who	uaaka	they who (masc.)
teuāne	"	uaakana	"
teuāre	"	uaake	"
neie <sup>e?</sup>	she who	naaka	they who (m & f)
neiene	"	naakana	"
neiere	"	naake	"
te bae <sup>e?</sup>	the thing	baikai	the things which
te baene	which	baikana	"
te baere	"	baike	"

7. demonstrative

aei	this	aikai	these
ʼaanne	that	akanne	those
ʼaarei	that	akekei	those
teuāei	this man	uaakai	these men
teuaanne	that man	uaakanne	those men
teuaarei	that man	uaakekei	those men
neiei	this woman	naakai	these people
neienne	that woman	naakanne	those people
neierei	that woman	naakekei	those people
te baei	this thing	baikai	these things
te baenne	that thing	baikanne	those things
te baerei	that thing	baikekei	those things

## LESSON 19

You will notice a close relationship in the form of the pronouns with the adverbs of time and place:

a. relative time

ngkae	when
ngkana	"
ngke	"

b. relative place

ike	where
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c. demonstrative time

ngkai	now
ngkanne	then
ngkekei	"

d. demonstrative place

ikai	here
ikanne	there
ikekei	"



- A. Examine the emphatic pronouns of set one. What do they all have in common?
- B. Compare these with the subject pronouns in set 2. What relationships can you find between the two sets?
- C. Compare set 1 with set 3. Now what relationships do you find?
- D. Compare sets 4 and 5, the independent and suffixed possessive pronouns. These have a very direct relationship. What is it?
- E. Compare all the forms of the relative pronouns of set 6. What features do they share in common. Can you isolate the part which mean 'he', 'she', 'it'?
- F. Do the same for the demonstratives, set 7. Do the forms recur here? What are the differences?
- G. Compare the relatives and demonstratives, sets 6 and 7. What is the main difference?
- H. Examine the adverbs of time and place. Can you find the relationship between these and the relative and demonstrative pronouns? Between the relative and demonstratives of time?

A recognition and understanding of the relationships between these various pronoun sets will help you to remember them, as well as provide clues as to how the language is structured. Try listing similar forms together to compare their differences. See if you can discover similar correspondences in other areas of the language.