

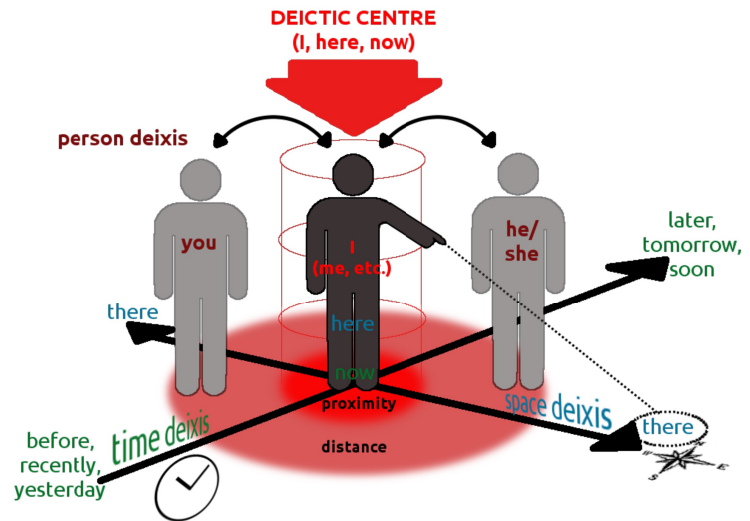
## Chapter 7. Deictics

Nwehu Nuswei (NN) has 3,840 lexical items beginning with  $\text{t--- H---}$  dedicated to words whose purpose is to “point to” something in the context of the MESSAGE – whether in space and time, DISCOURSE participants, or IDEAS in the MESSAGE itself.

DEICTICS are words whose semantics are fixed, but whose denotation depends on the context of the MESSAGE or DISCOURSE in which they are used. “The term’s origin is Ancient Greek:  $\delta\epsilon\acute{\iota}\xi\iota\varsigma$ , romanized: *deixis*, lit. ‘display, demonstration, or reference’. To this, Chrysippus (c. 279 – c. 206 BCE) added the specialized meaning *point of reference*.” (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deixis>, accessed 2024-05-20).

$\mathcal{D}_p$  7.1 illustrates the different types of words known in linguistics as “deictics”. This provides a good conceptualization, though the NN DEICTICS is organized somewhat differently.

In addition to pointing to entities or concepts used in a discourse, NN DEICTICS are used to clarify aspects of messages which may be handled differently in other languages – concepts such as FOCUS, ROLE, ANIMACY, and NUMBER, which some languages assign to nouns, adjectives, “particles”, or verbs. This chapter discusses the common features of NN DEICTICS as well as the characteristics of the four types of DEICTICS: PERSONAL PRONOUNS, RELATIVE PRONOUNS, ARTICLES, and LOCATIVE DEICTICS. We close with a discussion of “deictic” concepts which are handled by other words in NN.



$\mathcal{D}_p$  7.1: Scheme showing three kinds of deixis (person deixis, space deixis, time deixis), as well as the relation of proximity and distance of the deictic center. (This file, *Deixis.png*, is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license, by Wikimedia contributor Wesn.)

### 7.1. Deictic Words

NN DEICTICS are members of the  $\text{t--- H---}$  FAMILY; in fact, all words in that family are DEICTICS except the species beginning with  $\text{t--- Hu--}$ , which are FUNCTIONALS (discussed in the chapter, “Functional Words”).

#### 7.1.1. Word Function

DEICTICS in general serve two overarching purposes:

- to link ideas within a discourse to one another and to external entities and ideas;
- to reduce required communication energy

In addition to these general functions of DEICTICS, NN DEICTICS can be used to clarify and enhance the meanings of other words in a MESSAGE. They are particularly useful for conveying concepts that other words in NN do not convey, such as grammatical ROLE, FOCUS, and NUMBER; but which many languages incorporate into other types of words.

#### 7.1.1.1. Deictic Links

Each of the four types of DEICTICS has a specialized role in linking IDEAS. They are the same (or similar) in NN and English:

- PERSONAL PRONOUNS link to the speaker, “I”, the hearer “you”, and others “they”.
- RELATIVE PRONOUNS link to entities in subordinate parts of a MESSAGE, “Pierre, who came to dinner, wore a blue suit”, “The house that Jack built was simple.”
- ARTICLES link to entities which have been referred to or are generally known, as opposed to those not previously referred to in previous parts of a DISCOURSE or not specifically known: “A man came to the door. The man knocked”.
- LOCATIVE DEICTICS link to places and times: “Nick lives here, but Patricia lives there”, “Socrates taught then, but Angelou teaches now”.

Each of the underlined words above points to a particular type of IDEA, but none are fixed to one particular person, place, or IDEA. For their specific denotation they depend entirely on DISCOURSE context – on the speaker, hearers, places, previously mentioned IDEAS, and so forth.

#### 7.1.1.2. Reducing Communication Energy

Each step in the communication process requires energy, both for the sender and the receiver. Humans naturally try to reduce this expenditure of energy, and one way to do so is to use expressions which are both shorter and more general without losing the ability to convey intended meaning. Once it’s reasonably clear that a specific person, place or time is meant, substituting a DEICTIC in the DISCOURSE saves energy, and often time.

- “John Robert Smith currently serves as Chairman of Transportation for America. Prior to John Robert Smith’s role there, John Robert Smith served as Mayor of Meridian, Mississippi for 16 years.”

In the context of a DISCOURSE, substitution of PERSONAL PRONOUNS his and he rather than repeating the name can save energy without losing meaning.

- “Pierre came to dinner. Pierre wore a blue suit.” Using a subordinate clause and RELATIVE PRONOUN (as in the example in §7.1.1.1), rather than repeating the name, saves time and energy.
- “Nick lives at 43897 Grand Boulevard, but Patricia lives at 43892 Grand Boulevard.” If the DISCOURSE takes place at 43897 Grand Boulevard, it’s much easier to say “here”; if Patricia lives across the road, it’s easier to point using the DEICTIC “there”.

### 7.1.2. Word Formation

NN DEICTICS, as noted, all begin with ɬ--- H---. The other three letters serve as follows:

Referent (DEFINITE/INDEFINITE) and ROLE are shown in the **second letter**, a vowel:

- REFERENT
  - DEFINITE: ɬɪ i
  - INDEFINITE: ɬɥ w
- FOCUS ɬɥ. ɥɪ wi
- ROLE in MESSAGE:
  - ACTOR ɬɪ o
  - OBJECT ɬɥ e
  - BENEFACTIVE ɬɪ a
  - (unspecified) - -

The type of DEICTIC is indicated by the **third letter**, a consonant’s place of articulation:

- **Velar:** ARTICLES ɪ ɾ ɥ ɥ *h r k g*
- **Palatal:** RELATIVE PRONOUNS ɬ ɬ ɥ ɥ *x y c j*
- **Apical:** LOCATIVE DEICTICS ɬ ɬ ɥ ɥ *s n t d*
- **Labial:** PERSONAL PRONOUNS ɬ ɬ ɥ ɥ *f m p b*

The **third letter** also indicates the four degrees of ANIMACY distinguished by NN using manner of articulation:

- INANIMATE: voiceless stops ɬ ɬ ɥ ɥ *k c t p*
- QUASI-ANIMATE: voiced stops ɬ ɬ ɥ ɥ *g j d b*
- ANIMATE: voiced approximants ɾ ɾ ɥ ɥ *r y n m*
- unspecified: voiceless approximants ɬ ɬ ɥ ɥ *h x s f*

The **fourth letter**, a vowel, indicates NUMBER and DISTANCE:

- NUMBER:
  - SINGULAR ɬɪ i
  - PLURAL ɬɥ w
  - GROUP ɬɥ wi
  - (unspecified) - -
- DISTANCE in locative DEICTICS – PERSON in pronouns:
  - NEAR – first person ɬɥ e

- MID – second person                      ɾ                      a
- FAR – third person                        ɸ                      o
- (unspecified)                              -                      -

## 7.2. Concepts Represented in All Deictics

The list in the previous section (§7.1.2) implies that all DEICTICS convey the concepts represented in their vowels, letters two and four; as well as ANIMACY, which is embodied in letter three along with the type of DEICTIC. In this section, we discuss the uses of these concepts in the formation of MESSAGES, for each type of DEICTIC.

REFERENT	FOCUS	ROLE	ANIMACY	NUMBER	DISTANCE   PERSON
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

In several situations, there are MARKERS which serve parallel purposes, but are more limited in the meanings they express. Using a MARKER may be preferable to using a DEICTIC, if the sender of the message believes the more limited meaning and shorter form of the MARKER would be simpler – that is, require less communicative energy.

In other situations, the DEICTIC may save energy by encoding more of the concepts the sender believes are useful to include in the MESSAGE.

### 7.2.1. Referent (Definite/Indefinite)

REFERENT	FOCUS	ROLE	ANIMACY	NUMBER	DISTANCE   PERSON
✓					

DEFINITE is signaled by a ɓ i in the first vowel, INDEFINITE by ɥ w (except when both ɓ i and ɥ w form part of the same vowel, in which case they signal FOCUS).

The concept of REFERENT is applied somewhat differently in the different kinds of DEICTICS, as discussed in the following paragraphs.

#### 7.2.1.1. Articles

NN ARTICLES are placed before nouns in a NOUN PHRASE. The primary purpose of ARTICLES in languages that use them is to link IDEAS under discussion throughout a DISCOURSE. The DEFINITE ARTICLE indicates that an entity or concept has already been introduced in a DISCOURSE. This is explained in more detail in the chapter, “Discourse”, §9.1.

INDEFINITE ARTICLES are used for general concepts and newly introduced IDEAS or entities.

There are no MARKERS in NN that can be used as substitutes for the DISCOURSE-linking function of ARTICLES. However, there are other strategies for providing DISCOURSE-linking, discussed in the “Discourse” chapter.

### 7.2.1.2. Pronouns

PRONOUNS (both PERSONAL and RELATIVE) normally use the DEFINITE REFERENT form. These refer to specific entities which the MESSAGE SENDER assumes are known to all parties in a DISCOURSE.

INDEFINITE PERSONAL PRONOUNS are used when referring to unspecific entities, much like English “somebody”, “anybody”. The use of INDEFINITE PERSONAL PRONOUNS in the FIRST PERSON would be unusual, as would INDEFINITE RELATIVE PRONOUNS. So  $\text{I}\text{L}\text{L}\text{P}$  *himo* is ‘he, she’ and  $\text{I}\text{V}\text{L}\text{P}$  *hwmo* is ‘someone else’.

### 7.2.1.3. Locatives

The normal form of LOCATIVE DEICTIC is DEFINITE. INDEFINITE locatives in NN are similar in meaning to English “somewhere”, “anywhere”, with the additional possibility of indicating an estimated distance.

## 7.2.2. Focus

REFERENT	FOCUS	ROLE	ANIMACY	NUMBER	DISTANCE   PERSON
	✓				

In general, MESSAGES take a particular IDEA and attempt to provide new information about it. The IDEA about which new information is provided is what we term the **FOCUS** of the MESSAGE.

NN does not require that the FOCUS be marked in any way, so long as the MESSAGE uses the default SVO structure (see the chapter on Structure) in which the FOCUS is normally in the first noun phrase. But even using the default structure, it may be helpful to identify the FOCUS for clarity or emphasis.

FOCUS in DEICTICS is expressed with  $\text{v}$  *wi* in the first vowel (including  $\text{y}$  *wei*,  $\text{w}$  *wai*,  $\text{y}$  *woi*). When a DEICTIC is used, it is optional to activate the  $\text{v}$  *wi* vowel when the phrase it’s in is the FOCUS.

Two SPECIES of MARKERS provide alternative ways of signaling FOCUS in a phrase. If only ROLE and NUMBER are needed, a one-syllable MARKER from SPECIES  $\text{H}\text{L}$ - *Hux*- and  $\text{H}\text{X}$ - *Hub*- can be appended to nouns rather than preceding it with a two-syllable ARTICLE. All  $\text{H}\text{L}$ - *Hux*- MARKERS indicate FOCUS, while all  $\text{H}\text{X}$ - *Hub*- MARKERS indicate lack of FOCUS. The last vowel of MARKERS in each species indicate NUMBER (SINGULAR, PLURAL, COLLECTIVE, unspecified) and ROLE (ACTOR, RECIPIENT, BENEFACTIVE, unspecified).

Owing to the structure of the  $\text{t--- H---}$  FAMILY, it is not possible to express FOCUS and REFERENT in the same DEICTIC. As a result, if a DEFINITE or INDEFINITE ARTICLE occurs in a noun phrase which should also mark FOCUS (as explained above), the ARTICLE must express its REFERENT and a  $\text{t}_{\text{L}}$ - *Hux-* MARKER is appended to express FOCUS (or FOCUS and ROLE).

### 7.2.3. Role in Messages

REFERENT	FOCUS	ROLE	ANIMACY	NUMBER	DISTANCE   PERSON
		✓			

Grammatical role in messages is discussed in detail in the “Structure” chapter. In particular, §4.9.3 “Options for Signalling Roles in a Message”, gives an overview of the concept of ROLE and MARKERS that can be used to signal ROLE.

As discussed in §7.2.2 above, SPECIES  $\text{t}_{\text{L}}$ - *Hux-* and  $\text{t}_{\text{X}}$ - *Hub-* can be used as MARKERS to indicate the ROLE of nouns in a MESSAGE: ACTOR, RECIPIENT, BENEFACTIVE. From a somewhat different perspective, MARKERS from SPECIES  $\text{t}_{\text{A}}$ - *Hus-* can be used to indicate the level of activity (ACTIVE, MIDDLE, or PASSIVE) of an IDEA in a MESSAGE, along with its status as WAVE, FIELD, or PARTICLE.

Since all DEICTICS have the option of signalling ROLE, any DEICTIC in a noun phrase can be used to indicate the ROLE of the noun phrase, and MARKERS would not be needed unless some other aspect of a MARKER is desired.

On the other hand, NN does not require that ROLE be marked in a phrase unless the word-order departs from the default SVO. For those learning NN whose native language does not mark ROLES, it is certainly simpler to leave that aspect of DEICTICS unspecified. However, when DEICTICS are used in “literary” or “educated” NN, it may be best for them to use the vowel for the appropriate ROLE rather than leave it “unspecified”.

### 7.2.4. Animacy

REFERENT	FOCUS	ROLE	ANIMACY	NUMBER	DISTANCE   PERSON
			✓		

Most languages distinguish in some way between ANIMATE and INANIMATE entities. NN offers a third option, QUASI-ANIMATE, in addition to the option of leaving ANIMACY unspecified. (The definitions that follow are illustrated with the most general PRONOUN form ‘any’ and the FUNCTIONAL forms which can be used as MARKERS.)

- **ANIMATE: Entities that are “alive”, are capable of independent decision-making, and follow some sort of biological life and reproductive cycle.**

PRONOUN:  $\text{t}_{\text{A}}\text{L}$  *hwmu*; FUNCTIONAL:  $\text{t}_{\text{X}}\text{L}$  *supi*

- **INANIMATE: Entities without life-force, biological life-cycle, lacking independent decision-making capability.**

PRONOUN: ɪɥɿ hwpu;    FUNCTIONAL: ɿɿɿ supw

- **QUASI-ANIMATE: Entities that seem to meet some, but not all, of the characteristics of living organisms.** Computers, zombies, or anything that doesn't seem to have biological life but appears to make decisions independently.

PRONOUN: ɪɥɿ hwbu;    FUNCTIONAL: ɿɿɿ supwi

- Unspecified:

PRONOUN: ɪɥɿ hwfu;    FUNCTIONAL: ɿɿɿ supu

Deictics are one of the primary ways NN expresses degrees of ANIMACY. Although indicating ANIMACY is not required and can be skipped by beginners, best practice in “literary” NN is for DEICTICS to indicate it. Two MARKER SPECIES are also available.

The first is GENUS ɿɿ- *Sup-*, which combines ANIMACY levels with energy levels (see §8.2.22). This SPECIES is primarily aimed at expressing a basic survival function of the brain: the rapid evaluation of threat-levels when encountering situations that may include animate entities. This evaluation function quickly feeds inputs to pre-conscious instinctive survival tactics (fight-or-flight, etc.) by categorizing situations or entities according to threat levels and potential for harmful results. The NN words available can be used simply to express ANIMACY levels, without needing to express energy levels, so they can be used as a single-syllable MARKER to avoid using a two-syllable DEICTIC.

The second MARKER species is ɿɿ- *Hum-*, ‘Bio-Social Status’ (see §8.2.8). As the name suggests, it combines biological and social factors in its vocabulary. It is exclusively about types of ‘people’, so using words from this SPECIES indicates ANIMATE entities and offers age and gender categories in addition.

### 7.2.5. Number

REFERENT	FOCUS	ROLE	ANIMACY	NUMBER	DISTANCE   PERSON
				✓	

When a DEICTIC is used as part of a phrase, it is the primarily way of expressing NUMBER (SINGULAR, PLURAL, COLLECTIVE, formally defined in §7.3.4.2 below.) in NN. The “unspecified” option is available for “basic-level” NN, but if known, NUMBER should be expressed in well-formed NN.

As an alternative to DEICTICS for those who want to express NUMBER in one syllable, SPECIES ɿɿ- *Hux-* is the simplest choice (see §8.2.2). As discussed in §7.2.3, this SPECIES also enables expression of ROLE and FOCUS.

A related alternative is to append a marker from SPECIES  $\lambda\tau\gamma$ - *Sun-*, ‘Inclusion and selection’. This SPECIES expresses concepts such as ‘all’, ‘none’, ‘only’, ‘some’, ‘several’. Details are in §8.2.18.

### 7.2.6. Distance

Since DISTANCE encompasses space-time and PERSON, each sense has different alternatives.

#### 7.2.6.1. Space-Time Distance

REFERENT	FOCUS	ROLE	ANIMACY	NUMBER	DISTANCE
					✓

LOCATIONAL DEICTICS make three levels of distance available: NEAR ‘here’  $\text{I--}\downarrow$  *h--e*, MID ‘there’  $\text{I--}\Gamma$  *h--a*, and FAR ‘yonder’  $\text{I--}\downarrow$  *h--o*. These are gauged by the MESSAGE SENDER in relation to self or the RECIPIENT. Several alternatives are available:

- SPECIES  $\downarrow\Gamma$ - *Hur-* offers MARKERS to express both DISTANCE and ordered sequence (see §8.2.5). As is usual in NN, each concept can be expressed independently of the other, or together. Attached to a word as a MARKER, they express distance of the HEADWORD from the SENDER or FOCAL entity.
- FAMILY  $\lambda---$  *S---* offers a wide variety of locational words in multiple dimensions, including time. these are discussed in the chapter, “Space and Time”. They are free-standing words, not MARKERS.

#### 7.2.6.2. Distance from Sender – Pronoun Alternatives

REFERENT	FOCUS	ROLE	ANIMACY	NUMBER	PERSON
					✓

It is expected that the PRONOUNS would be frequently and extensively used NN, as they are in most languages. However, in many languages, some or all pronoun-like words in daily use are derived from expressions of social relationships. Some express respect, others friendship, and still others social distance based on age or class. One such example is Spanish, in which the polite form of the second-person pronoun “Usted” is a contraction of “Vuestra Merced”, ‘Your Grace’. For those who feel a social need to reflect relative status, NN offers several types of words which can be used as pronouns, although most do not offer the ability to show ROLE or NUMBER. (These are offered without prejudice, simply because many human social systems use language to express and bolster social relations.)

- “Bio-Social” terms, SPECIES  $\downarrow\Gamma$  *Hum-* (mentioned in §7.2.4 above and discussed in detail in §8.2.8) expresses age and gender. Gender is used as a DISCOURSE link in many languages to clarify the reference of a pronoun. For NN speakers who prefer to use of gender (‘he’, ‘she’, ‘it’) for DISCOURSE-



linking, words of this SPECIES can be used as alternative PRONOUNS. Relative age is important in some societies, and can also be expressed with this GENUS.

- “Social MARKERS” are available in GENUS 𐄂𐄃- *Huj*-. This expresses three levels of respect and three levels of skill which, of course, can be used independently or in combination with each other.
- Practitioners of skills or professions can be referred to by the name of their profession, like “Engineer” or “Doctor”, optionally followed by a Bio-social or Social MARKER. (NN terms for skills and professions have not been developed as of this writing.)
- Family members can be referred to by their relationship, like 𐄂𐄃𐄄 *mume* ‘mother’.

#### 7.2.6.2.1 Note

Turning now to details of each type of DEICTIC, it is worth noting that with 3,840 DEICTIC word forms, it is not practical to list them all in this introduction to NN. Instead, there is provided a “basic set” of each type followed by examples of more “advanced” sets of words. The “basic” set should be perfectly functional for communication at the beginner level or for using NN as an “inter-lingua”. The more “advanced” words would be appropriate for NN as a fully expressive language in its own right. Though not all words are listed, the systematic patterns on which NN is built make it relatively simple to derive those not shown.

## 7.3. Personal Pronouns

DEICTICS are differentiated from one another by the place of articulation of the second consonant. (Second consonant voicing indicates degrees of ANIMACY.) Before diving into PERSONAL PRONOUNS, here’s a quick look at the differentiation of GENUS of DEICTICS by the second consonant:

• ARTICLES	the second consonant is	velar	𐄂 𐄃 𐄄 𐄅	<i>h r k g</i>
• RELATIVE PRONOUNS		palatal	𐄆 𐄇 𐄈 𐄉	<i>x y c j</i>
• LOCATIONAL DEICTICS		apical	𐄊 𐄋 𐄌 𐄍	<i>s n t d</i>
• PERSONAL PRONOUNS		labial	𐄎 𐄏 𐄐 𐄑	<i>f m p b</i>

PERSONAL PRONOUNS link to the speaker, “I”, the hearer “you”, and others “they”. Their meaning derives from context rather than from fixed definition. The referent shifts freely between people in group conversations: “I” is whoever is speaking at any given moment, while “you” and “they” similarly shift rapidly from one person to another. The concept of PRONOUNS is complex, and different enough from other kinds of words that certain learning disabilities make it difficult to learn to use them correctly.

### 7.3.1. Basic Sets

The very most basic introductory Nwehu Nuswei requires only these three PERSONAL PRONOUNS:

REFERENT	FOCUS	ROLE	ANIMACY	NUMBER	DISTANCE
					✓

- 1st person    ɪɥɿɿ    *hife*    'I, me, we'
- 2nd person   ɪɥɿɿ    *hifa*    'You'
- 3rd person   ɪɥɿɿ    *hifo*    'He/She/It/they'

For Basic Nwehu Nuswei, these nine Personal Pronouns are recommended:

REFERENT	FOCUS	ROLE	ANIMACY	NUMBER	DISTANCE
~	~		~	~	✓

- 1st Person    Animate    Singular                    ɪɿɿɿ    *himei*    'I, me'
- 1st Person    Animate    Plural    Exclusive    ɪɿɿɿ    *himwe*    'They & I'
- 1st Person    Animate    Group    Inclusive    ɪɿɿɿ    *himwei*    'You & I'
- 2nd Person    Animate    Singular                    ɪɿɿɿ    *himai*    'You, Thou'
- 2nd Person    Animate    Plural                        ɪɿɿɿ    *himwa*    'Y'all'
- 3rd Person    Animate    Singular                    ɪɿɿɿ    *himoi*    'He/She'
- 3rd Person    Animate    Plural                        ɪɿɿɿ    *himwo*    'They (people, animals)'
- 3rd Person    Inanimate    Singular                    ɪɿɿɿ    *hipoi*    'It'
- 3rd Person    Inanimate    Plural                        ɪɿɿɿ    *hipwo*    'They (things)'

#### 7.3.1.1. *Inclusive and exclusive 1st person plural*

NN does not require NUMBER to be expressed in PRONOUNS, but when it is, the difference between INCLUSIVE and EXCLUSIVE 'we' is important to note. This is explained in the section on pronoun number, §7.3.2.1 below.

Meaning ↓	Person ↓	Number ↓	Any Role		Actor		Object		Benefactive	
			in- definite	definite	-	definite	-	definite	-	definite
People	Any Person	Any number	Hwmu	Himu	Homu	Hoimu	Hemu	Heimu	Hamu	Haimu
Anybody	Any person	Singular	Hwmi	Himi	Homi	Hoimi	Hemi	Heimi	Hami	Haimi
Everybody	Any person	Plural	Hwmw	Himw	Homw	Hoimw	Hemw	Heimw	Hamw	Haimw
Plural Inclusive "You, me, and them"	Any person	Group	Hwmwi	Himwi	Homwi	Hoimwi	Hemwi	Heimwi	Hamwi	Haimwi
<b>1st Person General Exclusive</b> "People like me"	1st person	Any number	Hwme	Hime	Home	Hoime	Heme	Heime	Hame	Haime
1st Person Singular "I", "me", "myself"	1st person	Singular	Hwmei	Hime	Homei	Hoime	Hemei	Heime	Hamei	Haim
1st Person Plural Exclusive "them & me"	1st person	Plural	Hwmwe	Himwe	Homwe	Hoimwe	Hemwe	Heimwe	Hamwe	Haimwe
<b>1st Person Inclusive</b> "Our group (you & me)"	1st person	Group	Hwmwei	Himwei	Homwei	Hoimwei	Hemwei	Heimwei	Hamwei	Haimwei
<b>2st Person General</b> "People like you"	2nd person	Any number	Hwma	Hima	Homa	Hoima	Hema	Heima	Hama	Haima
2nd Person Singular "You", "Thou"	2nd person	Singular	Hwmai	Himai	Homai	Hoimai	Hemai	Heimai	Hamai	Haimai
2nd Person Plural Specific "You", "You-all"	2nd person	Plural	Hwmwa	Himwa	Homwa	Hoimwa	Hemwa	Heimwa	Hamwa	Haimwa
2nd Person Collective "You", "People like you"	2nd person	Group	Hwmwai	Himwai	Homwai	Hoimwai	Hemwai	Heimwai	Hamwai	Haimwai
<b>3rd Person General</b> "Others"	3rd person	Any number	Hwmo	Himo	Homo	Hoimo	Hemo	Heimo	Hamo	Haimo
3rd Person Singular "He/she"	3rd person	Singular	Hwmoi	Himoi	Homoi	Hoimoi	Hemoi	Heimoi	Hamoi	Haimoi
3rd Person Plural "They, them"	3rd person	Plural	Hwmwo	Himwo	Homwo	Hoimwo	Hemwo	Heimwo	Hamwo	Haimwo
3rd Person Collective "People in that group"	3rd person	Group	Hwmwoi	Himwoi	Homwoi	Hoimwoi	Hemwoi	Heimwoi	Hamwoi	Haimwoi

ᐃᐁ 7.2: Personal Pronouns expressing Person, Role, Number, Definite

### 7.3.2. Advanced Sets

#### 7.3.2.1. Expressing Role and Number

REFERENT	FOCUS	ROLE	ANIMACY	NUMBER	DISTANCE
~	✓	✓		✓	✓

ᐃᐁ 7.2 charts a set of PRONOUNS varying by PERSON, ROLE, NUMBER, and REFERENCE (DEFINITE/INDEFINITE). To determine the meanings, use the row and column labels. For example:

- in the upper left, *Hwmu* means 'Any PERSON, any NUMBER, in any ROLE, INDEFINITE REFERENCE' (thus 'whoever');
- in the lower right, *Haimwoi* means '3rd PERSON COLLECTIVE (GROUP) BENEFACTIVE DEFINITE' (or 'to People of that group').

When **ROLE** is not expressed in **PRONOUNS**, they must express either **DEFINITE** or **INDEFINITE**. In other words, **PRONOUNS** can never have **ɛ u** in the first syllable. The reason for this is the structure of the **ɛ--- H---** FAMILY, which reserves **ɛɛ-- Hu--** for **FUNCTIONALS**.

So if **ROLE** is specified, the option of leaving **REFERENCE** unspecified remains available. Examples will help make this clear:

ɛɛɛɛ	<i>Hwmei</i>	:	PRONOUN, FIRST PERSON, SINGULAR, <b>unspecified role</b> , INDEFINITE
ɛɛɛɛ	<i>Himeɛ</i>	:	PRONOUN, FIRST PERSON, SINGULAR, <b>unspecified role</b> , DEFINITE
ɛɛɛɛ	<i>Humeɛ</i>	:	FUNCTIONAL, 'female youth'
ɛɛɛɛ	<i>Hwomeɛ</i>	:	PRONOUN, FIRST PERSON, SINGULAR, ACTOR, INDEFINITE
ɛɛɛɛ	<i>Hoimeɛ</i>	:	PRONOUN, FIRST PERSON, SINGULAR, ACTOR, DEFINITE
ɛɛɛɛ	<i>Homeɛ</i>	:	PRONOUN, FIRST PERSON, SINGULAR, ACTOR, <b>unspecified</b> REFERENCE

### Number in NN

Ɖp 7.2 also shows the four options for expressing **NUMBER** in pronouns: **SINGULAR**, **PLURAL**, **GROUP**, and **unspecified**. These **NUMBER** options are expressed in the final vowel of several **SPECIES** in **NN**, as defined here. The most general **PRONOUN** **ɛɛɛɛ** *hwmu* 'any' serves to illustrate the pattern of the final vowel.

- |  |      |             |
|--|------|-------------|
| • <b>SINGULAR: one item or entity</b>  | ɛɛɛɛ | <i>hwmi</i> |
| • <b>PLURAL: two or more items or entities</b>                                   | ɛɛɛɛ | <i>hwmw</i> |
| • <b>GROUP or COLLECTIVE: two or more items or entities considered as a unit</b> | ɛɛɛɛ | <i>hwmi</i> |
| • <b>Unspecified number</b>  | ɛɛɛɛ | <i>hwmu</i> |

**NN** does not distinguish between different classes of entity in numbering them, as is done in some languages; all entities, regardless of shape, **GENDER** or **ANIMACY**, use the same **NUMBER** forms. **ANIMACY** can be expressed in **PRONOUNS** and other species, but separately from **NUMBER**. In **DEICTICS**, animacy is expressed in the second consonant; see §7.2.4 above.

As mentioned previously, more diffuse number-related concepts can be expressed using **SPECIES** **ɛɛɛɛ** *Sun-* 'Inclusion and selection', §8.2.18.

#### 7.3.2.1.1 Inclusive and Exclusive 'we'

In some languages, including English and other Indo-European languages, the **PRONOUN** for first-person plural 'we' is ambiguous: it can either include or exclude the hearer. In **NN**, this distinction must be made, as there is no ambiguous form exactly equivalent to English 'we'.

So:

- **EXCLUSIVE:** **ɛɛɛɛ** *Himwe* (and related forms) means 'me plus one or more other people, but not you (the listener)'; this is the **PLURAL** form.
- **INCLUSIVE:** **ɛɛɛɛ** *Himwei* can mean 'you only and me', or 'you only and my people', or 'your people and my people'. this is the **GROUP** form.

Expressing Animacy

As defined in §7.2.4 above, there are four options for expressing ANIMACY in NN.

REFERENT	FOCUS	ROLE	ANIMACY	NUMBER	DISTANCE
~			✓	✓	✓

These are illustrated in *Dp* 7.3.

V2 Meaning ↓	V2 Person ↓	V1 Role ⇒ V1 Number ↓	Unspecified Animacy Definite	Animate Definite	Inanimate Definite	Quasi- animate Definite
<b>Entities</b>	Entry Entities	Any number	ᎠᎠᎠ Hifu	ᎠᎠᎠ Himu	ᎠᎠᎠ Hipu	ᎠᎠᎠ Hibu
<b>Anything</b>	Entiy	Singular	ᎠᎠᎡ Hifi	ᎠᎠᎡ Himi	ᎠᎠᎡ Hipi	ᎠᎠᎡ Hibi
<b>Everything</b>	Every entity	Plural	ᎠᎠᎢ Hifw	ᎠᎠᎢ Himw	ᎠᎠᎢ Hipw	ᎠᎠᎢ Hibw
Plural Inclusive “You, me, and them”	Every entity in a group	Group	ᎠᎠᎣ Hifwi	ᎠᎠᎣ Himwi	ᎠᎠᎣ Hipwi	ᎠᎠᎣ Hibwi
<b>1st Person General Exclusive</b> “Entiy or Entities like me”	1st person	Any number	ᎠᎠᎤ Hife	ᎠᎠᎤ Hime	ᎠᎠᎤ Hipe	ᎠᎠᎤ Hibe
1st Person Singular “I”, “me”, “myself”	1st person	Singular	ᎠᎠᎥ Hifei	ᎠᎠᎥ Himei	ᎠᎠᎥ Hipei	ᎠᎠᎥ Hibei
1st Person Plural Exclusive “them & me”	1st person	Plural	ᎠᎠᎦ Hifwe	ᎠᎠᎦ Himwe	ᎠᎠᎦ Hipwe	ᎠᎠᎦ Hibwe
<b>1st Person Inclusive</b> “Our group (you & me)”	1st person	Group	ᎠᎠᎧ Hifwei	ᎠᎠᎧ Himwei	ᎠᎠᎧ Hipwei	ᎠᎠᎧ Hibwei
<b>2st Person General</b> “Entity(ies) like you”	2nd person	Any number	ᎠᎠᎨ Hifa	ᎠᎠᎨ Hima	ᎠᎠᎨ Hipa	ᎠᎠᎨ Hiba
2nd Person Singular “You”, “Thou”	2nd person	Singular	ᎠᎠᎩ Hifai	ᎠᎠᎩ Himai	ᎠᎠᎩ Hipai	ᎠᎠᎩ Hibai
2nd Person Plural Specific “You”, “You-all”	2nd person	Plural	ᎠᎠᎪ Hifwa	ᎠᎠᎪ Himwa	ᎠᎠᎪ Hipwa	ᎠᎠᎪ Hibwa
2nd Person Collective “You”, “Entities like you”	2nd person	Group	ᎠᎠᎫ Hifwai	ᎠᎠᎫ Himwai	ᎠᎠᎫ Hipwai	ᎠᎠᎫ Hibwai
<b>3rd Person General</b> “Other(s)”	3rd person	Any number	ᎠᎠᎬ Hifo	ᎠᎠᎬ Himo	ᎠᎠᎬ Hipo	ᎠᎠᎬ Hibo
3rd Person Singular “He/she”	3rd person	Singular	ᎠᎠᎭ Hifoi	ᎠᎠᎭ Himoi	ᎠᎠᎭ Hipoi	ᎠᎠᎭ Hiboi
3rd Person Plural “They, them”	3rd person	Plural	ᎠᎠᎮ Hifwo	ᎠᎠᎮ Himwo	ᎠᎠᎮ Hipwo	ᎠᎠᎮ Hibwo
3rd Person Collective “Entities like them”	3rd person	Group	ᎠᎠᎯ Hifwoi	ᎠᎠᎯ Himwoi	ᎠᎠᎯ Hipwoi	ᎠᎠᎯ Hibwoi

*Dp* 7.3: Personal Pronouns with Animacy, Person, Number

## 7.4. Relative Pronouns

RELATIVE PRONOUNS in NN are identified by the palatal place of articulation of the second consonant:  $\_L \_C \_Y \_C$   $xy \_c j$ .

They link to entities in subordinate parts of a MESSAGE: “Pierre, who came to dinner, wore a blue suit”, “The house that Jack built was simple.” As explained in §7.1.1.2 above, their use reduces communication energy by folding two statements about one topic together. The examples given each consist of two facts about one focal entity:

Example: “The house that Jack built was simple.”

Fact A. Jack built a house

Fact B. Jack’s house was simple

Example: “Pierre, who came to dinner, wore a blue suit.”

Fact A. Pierre came to dinner

Fact B. Pierre wore a blue suit

Relative pronouns clarify the linkage by reflecting basic facts about the FOCAL entities. That (generally) refers to inanimate entities, and houses are (generally) inanimate. Speakers of standard English would not say,

\*“The house who Jack built was simple”

because who refers to animate entities. Likewise,

?“Pierre, that came to dinner, wore a blue suit”

is not considered standard English.

RELATIVE PRONOUNS, like other NN deictics, can optionally express ANIMACY, NUMBER, ROLE, FOCUS, and DISTANCE. We’ll start with the basics and discuss the more esoteric features in due course.

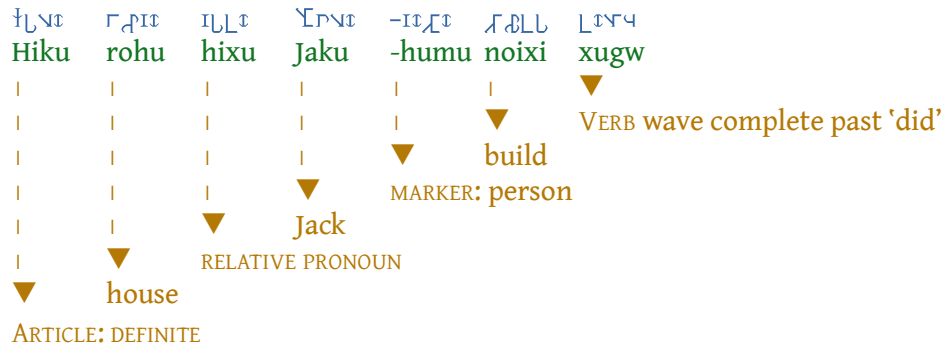
### 7.4.1. Basic Set: Relative Pronoun

The simplest RELATIVE PRONOUN is  $\_L \_L \_t$  **hixu**. It doesn’t specify anything except that it’s a RELATIVE PRONOUN.

REFERENT	FOCUS	ROLE	ANIMACY	NUMBER	DISTANCE
----------	-------	------	---------	--------	----------

--	--	--	--	--	--

ᎠᎵ 7.4: “The house that Jack built”



This version of the nursery rhyme example uses a single relative pronoun, “that”, similar to the NN ᎠᎵᎵᎵ *hixu*, showing that in English it is possible to construct an intelligible narrative using only the most simple relative pronoun form:

This is the maiden all forlorn  
 That milked the cow with the crumpled horn  
 That tossed the dog that worried the cat  
 That killed the rat that ate the malt  
 That lay in the house that Jack built.

This discourse is simple, in that each embedded phrase refers only to the previous one. In more complex situations, it is helpful to use more specific relative pronouns to clarify possible confusion.

7.4.2. Advanced Sets: Relative Pronoun

Of the aspects it is possible to express with relative pronouns, the most useful are likely to be number and animacy.

REFERENT	FOCUS	ROLE	ANIMACY	NUMBER	DISTANCE
~			✓	✓	

These are illustrated in ᎠᎵ 7.4b.

	Referent ↓	Number ↓	Unspecified Animacy (Definite)	Animate (Definite)	Inanimate (Definite)	Quasi-animate (Definite)
-	Any referent	Any number	𐌸𐌹𐌺𐌻 <i>Hixu</i>	𐌸𐌹𐌺𐌽 <i>Hiyu</i>	𐌸𐌹𐌺𐌿 <i>Hicu</i>	𐌸𐌹𐌺𐌾 <i>Hiju</i>
1	One referent	Singular	𐌸𐌹𐌺𐌺 <i>Hixi</i>	𐌸𐌹𐌺𐌺 <i>Hiyi</i>	𐌸𐌹𐌺𐌺 <i>Hici</i>	𐌸𐌹𐌺𐌺 <i>Hiji</i>
2+	Multiple referents	Plural	𐌸𐌹𐌺𐌶 <i>Hixw</i>	𐌸𐌹𐌺𐌶 <i>Hiyw</i>	𐌸𐌹𐌺𐌶 <i>Hicw</i>	𐌸𐌹𐌺𐌶 <i>Hijw</i>
Group	Group of referents	Group	𐌸𐌹𐌺𐌷 <i>Hixwi</i>	𐌸𐌹𐌺𐌷 <i>Hiywi</i>	𐌸𐌹𐌺𐌷 <i>Hicwi</i>	𐌸𐌹𐌺𐌷 <i>Hijwi</i>

ᵈᵖ 7.4b: Relative Pronouns with Number and Animacy

### 7.4.3. Expressing Other Aspects of Relative Pronouns

The structure of NN allows RELATIVE PRONOUNS to express features that are not commonly found in the relative pronouns of most languages. This section discusses the meanings and uses for these aspects:

REFERENT	FOCUS	ROLE	ANIMACY	NUMBER	DISTANCE
✓	✓	✓			✓

REFERENT can be either DEFINITE 𐌹𐌺-- *hi--* or INDEFINITE 𐌹𐌶-- *hw--*, or it can be left undefined as long as the ROLE is included. The usual purpose of RELATIVE PRONOUNS is to connect DEFINITE referents to each other, so 𐌹𐌺-- *hi--* is the more common form. If the referent is vague or general, it is appropriate (though optional) to use the indefinite form, as in “People who come late should sit in the back” 𐌹𐌶𐌺𐌶 *hwywi*.

FOCUS 𐌹𐌶-- *Hwi--* can optionally be expressed in RELATIVE PRONOUNS to provide emphasis. In subordinate MESSAGE structures, the RELATIVE PRONOUN is almost always the FOCUS, so it is generally unnecessary to use the heavier vowel for clarification.

ROLE in PERSONAL PRONOUNS can be used to express the grammatical function of the entity in the subordinate structure. Though English relative pronouns express ROLE, it seems most English speakers find the distinction unimportant. The distinction between “who” and “whom” is currently used (or understood) by only a small proportion of English speakers. English “whose”, on the other, hand appears to be faithfully maintained. Here are three example sentences with NN equivalent RELATIVE PRONOUNS:

- The person who met me was friendly.      𐌹𐌺𐌺𐌺      *hoiyi*
- The person whom I met was friendly.      𐌹𐌺𐌺𐌺      *heiyi*
- The person whose eyes were green was friendly.      𐌹𐌺𐌺𐌺-𐌹𐌺𐌺𐌺      *hiyi-hufe*

In the third example, the MARKER 𐌹𐌺𐌺𐌺 *hufe* is used to indicate (inalienable) possession, since NN PRONOUNS have no inflection for “genetive case”. This is further mentioned in §7.2.2, with full detailed given in §8.2.4.



7.4.3.1. *Pronoun Conflation*

7.4.3.2. In NN pronouns, the DISTANCE aspect is interpreted as PERSON (1st, 2nd, 3rd). This allows RELATIVE PRONOUNS to serve simultaneously as PERSONAL PRONOUNS through **pronoun conflation**. For example, sentences like “He who hesitates is lost” can combine the PRONOUNS into one word:

	𐄎𐄎𐄎	<i>Hwmoi</i>	PERSONAL PRONOUN INDEFINITE ANIMATE 3RD PERSON SINGULAR ‘anyone’
+	𐄎𐄎𐄎	<i>hwoyi</i>	RELATIVE PRONOUN INDEFINITE ACTOR ANIMATE SINGULAR ‘who’
=	𐄎𐄎𐄎	<i>Hwoyoi</i>	RELATIVE PRONOUN INDEFINITE ACTOR ANIMATE SINGULAR ‘anyone who’

7.5. Articles

Among DEICTICS, ARTICLES are identified by velar articulation of the second consonant: 𐄎 𐄎 𐄎 𐄎 *h r k g*. The meaning and use of articles is discussed in more detail in the chapter, “Discourse”, §9.1.2.

7.5.1. Basic Sets

To be useful in their primary role as DISCOURSE links, the essential ARTICLE forms for beginners are the REFERENT variations.

REFERENT	FOCUS	ROLE	ANIMACY	NUMBER	DISTANCE
✓					

- DEFINITE REFERENT – entity referred to earlier: 𐄎𐄎𐄎 *hihu*
- INDEFINITE REFERENT – entity not referred to earlier: 𐄎𐄎𐄎 *hw hu*

PARTICLE WORDS (nouns) do not change to indicate NUMBER, so this must be indicated elsewhere within the noun phrase. Although this can be done with MARKERS in the 𐄎𐄎 - *Hux*- SPECIES, if an ARTICLE is used fewer syllables are required to indicate NUMBER within the ARTICLE. Thus the next basic level of ARTICLE mastery adds NUMBER. This is shown in 𐄎 7.5.

REFERENT	FOCUS	ROLE	ANIMACY	NUMBER	DISTANCE
✓				✓	

Referent	Number		
Definite	any number	ɥɔɪɪ	Hihu
Definite	Singular	ɥɔɪɪ	Hihi
Definite	plural	ɥɔɪɪ	Hihw
Definite	group	ɥɔɪɪ	Hihwi
Indefinite	any number	ɥɔɪɪ	Hwhu
Indefinite	Singular	ɥɔɪɪ	Hwhi
Indefinite	plural	ɥɔɪɪ	Hwhw
Indefinite	group	ɥɔɪɪ	Hwhwi

Ƨp 7.5: Basic Articles showing Referent and Number

### 7.5.2. Advanced Sets

ARTICLES are a very handy tool for indicating several characteristics of entities and noun phrases, so learning how to use their many features – or their alternatives – should happen fairly early in the language acquisition process. (Although probably the most useful alternative to speakers not familiar with the concept of ARTICLES is the FUNCTIONAL ɥɔɪɪ - *Hux-*, which indicates ROLE and NUMBER.)

#### 7.5.2.1. Expressing Focus and Role

FOCUS is the topic of a MESSAGE. It is normally understood by position at the start of the MESSAGE. In the ARTICLE, it is indicated by the presence of ɪ i in the first vowel; however, due to the structure of the ɥ---H--- FAMILY, REFERENT and FOCUS are mutually exclusive. Only one of these aspects can be shown.

ROLE is also indicated in the first vowel:

ACTOR:	ɔ	o
OBJECT:	ɔ	e
BENEFACTIVE:	ɔ	a

ROLE vowel usage is consistent with FUNCTIONAL ɥɔɪɪ - *Hux-*.

Ƨp 7.6 combines REFERENT, FOCUS, and ROLE.

REFERENT	FOCUS	ROLE	ANIMACY	NUMBER	DISTANCE
✓	✓	✓			





### 7.6.1. Basic Set

REFERENT	FOCUS	ROLE	ANIMACY	NUMBER	DISTANCE
~					✓

The basic set of LOCATIVE DEICTICS expresses DISTANCE without specifying any other aspect. This is done with the final vowel, which matches the final vowel of ARTICLES.

- NEAR, HERE                   ɗ       e
- MID, THERE                 ɾ       a
- FAR, YONDER               ɗɾ     o
- unspecified                 ɪ       u

Thus the basic set is:

- HERE, THIS                 ɪɓɗɗ    *hise*
- THERE, THAT              ɪɓɗɾ    *hisa*
- YONDER, YON             ɪɓɗɗɾ   *hiso*
- unspecified               ɪɓɗɛ    *hisu*

Although this basic set is acceptable for all-purpose use by beginners, the forms listed above normally apply to places or locations (here, there, yon) rather than items at the corresponding locations (this, that, yonder). Adding an animacy level specifies that it is an item rather than a location.

### 7.6.2. Advanced Sets

LOCATIVE DEICTICS, like the other GENI in the FAMILY, can potentially play a role in discourse connection as well as their locative function. While the basic set indicates DISTANCE, it may be helpful to further specify other characteristics of items, such as how many and their ANIMACY. For speakers who prefer to indicate REFERENCE and ROLE, LOCATIVE DEICTICS can serve that purpose in a noun phrase as well.

#### 7.6.2.1. Expressing Number and Animacy

REFERENT	FOCUS	ROLE	ANIMACY	NUMBER	DISTANCE
~			✓	✓	

ɗɾ 7.9 shows LOCATIVE DEICTICS displaying NUMBER, and ANIMACY. Due to space constraints, this display does not show DISTANCE, but that aspect can be added by changing the final vowel.

Number	Distance	-	Animate	Inanimate	Quasi-animate		
singular	-	ᐱᐱᐱ	hisi	ᐱᐱᐱ	hiti	ᐱᐱᐱ	hidi
plural	-	ᐱᐱᐱ	hisw	ᐱᐱᐱ	hitw	ᐱᐱᐱ	hidw
group	-	ᐱᐱᐱ	hiswi	ᐱᐱᐱ	hitwi	ᐱᐱᐱ	hidwi
-	near	ᐱᐱᐱ	hise	ᐱᐱᐱ	hite	ᐱᐱᐱ	hide
singular	near	ᐱᐱᐱ	hisei	ᐱᐱᐱ	hitei	ᐱᐱᐱ	hidei
plural	near	ᐱᐱᐱ	hiswe	ᐱᐱᐱ	hitwe	ᐱᐱᐱ	hidwe
group	near	ᐱᐱᐱ	hiswei	ᐱᐱᐱ	hitwei	ᐱᐱᐱ	hidwei
-	mid	ᐱᐱᐱ	hisa	ᐱᐱᐱ	hita	ᐱᐱᐱ	hida
singular	mid	ᐱᐱᐱ	hisai	ᐱᐱᐱ	hitai	ᐱᐱᐱ	hidai
plural	mid	ᐱᐱᐱ	hiswa	ᐱᐱᐱ	hitwa	ᐱᐱᐱ	hidwa
group	mid	ᐱᐱᐱ	hiswai	ᐱᐱᐱ	hitwai	ᐱᐱᐱ	hidwai
-	Far	ᐱᐱᐱ	hiso	ᐱᐱᐱ	hito	ᐱᐱᐱ	hido
singular	Far	ᐱᐱᐱ	hisoi	ᐱᐱᐱ	hitoi	ᐱᐱᐱ	hidoi
plural	Far	ᐱᐱᐱ	hiswo	ᐱᐱᐱ	hitwo	ᐱᐱᐱ	hidwo
group	Far	ᐱᐱᐱ	hiswoi	ᐱᐱᐱ	hitwoi	ᐱᐱᐱ	hidwoi

ᐃᐁ 7.9: Locative Deictics showing number and distance

7.6.2.2. Expressing Referent, Focus and Role

REFERENT	FOCUS	ROLE	ANIMACY	NUMBER	DISTANCE
✓	✓	✓			

Finally, ᐃᐁ 7.10 shows locative deictics inflected for REFERENT, FOCUS and ROLE.

Referent	Focus	Role	Meaning: pointing to...	unspecified animacy	
-	-	-	(not a deictic: a functional)	-	-
definite	-	-	a certain...	𐄂𐄃𐄄	Hisu
neutral	-	object	object	𐄂𐄃𐄄	Hesu
definite	-	object	the object	𐄂𐄃𐄄	Heisu
neutral	-	benefactive	to entity	𐄂𐄃𐄄	Hasu
definite	-	benefactive	to a certain entity	𐄂𐄃𐄄	Haisu
neutral	-	actor	actor	𐄂𐄃𐄄	Hosu
definite	-	actor	a certain actor	𐄂𐄃𐄄	Hoisu
indefinite	-	-	something	𐄂𐄃𐄄	Hwsu
neutral	focus	-	object with focus	𐄂𐄃𐄄	Hwisu
indefinite	-	object	an object	𐄂𐄃𐄄	Hwesu
neutral	focus	object	object with focus	𐄂𐄃𐄄	Hweisu
indefinite	-	benefactive	to object	𐄂𐄃𐄄	Hwasu
neutral	focus	benefactive	to object with focus	𐄂𐄃𐄄	Hwaisu
indefinite	-	actor	an actor	𐄂𐄃𐄄	Hwosu
neutral	focus	actor	an actor with focus	𐄂𐄃𐄄	Hwoisu

Table 7.10: Locative deictics showing Referent, Focus, and Role

## 7.7. What's Left Out

NN DEICTICS supply a rich assortment of words covering many situations – but not all. Many languages' DEICTICS offer or require expression of aspects such as gender, possession, and time. These will be discussed briefly here.

### 7.7.1. Gender

Public discussion of dissatisfaction about gender issues came to prominence during the early years of NN's development. The 1970s and 1980s witnessed ever more strident outcries against (among other issues) the English language's requirement that all animate singular pronouns specify gender. Those outcries have, if anything, become more insistent in the ensuing years. One of the very earliest decisions made about NN was to completely exclude gender from its PRONOUNS, and hence from its DEICTICS altogether.

However, no amount of discussion will remove or significantly decrease in importance of gender in human life and society. Any language must be prepared to handle it. NN's names for family relationships, as well as biological species, reflect gender; in all instances though, the expression of gender is optional.

The primary means of expressing gender with DEICTICS is the FUNCTIONAL and MARKER SPECIES 𐄂𐄃- *Hum-* 'Bio-Social Status'. This SPECIES expresses three GENDER options, 𐄂𐄃𐄄 *hume* 'female', 𐄂𐄃𐄅 *huma* 'flex', and 𐄂𐄃𐄆 *humo* 'male', together with the option to leave GENDER unspecified. As explained elsewhere in this document, 'flex' GENDER can be used for any situation in which the dicotomy between male and female doesn't fit the person.

Age-range is also important in many societies, and is expressed in SPECIES 𐄂𐄃- *Hum-* either together with GENDER or separately. 𐄂𐄃𐄇 *humi* 'youth', 𐄂𐄃𐄈 *humwi* 'adult', or 𐄂𐄃𐄉 *humw* 'elder'. With neither gender nor age specified, 𐄂𐄃𐄊 *humu* simply means 'person'.

So for those who prefer to express GENDER or age with their PRONOUNS, these words can be appended as MARKERS – for example, 𐄂𐄃𐄋-𐄂𐄃𐄄 *himo-hume* /hi'mə,mɛ/ 'she'; 𐄂𐄃𐄋-𐄂𐄃𐄈 *himo-humwai* /hi'mə,mwaj/ 'flex-gendered elder' (no direct English equivalent). The SPECIES 𐄂𐄃- *Hum-* is discussed in more detail in §8.2.8.

### 7.7.2. Possession

English, like many other languages, offers a set of deictics with built-in possessive forms, like “his, hers, theirs, whose”. In NN, the BENEFACTIVE role expresses both “dative” (‘to me’) and “genetive” (‘my’) cases.

Given this dual role, the possibility of ambiguity may arise in some contexts. To clarify, speakers of NN have the option of using MARKERS of the 𐄂𐄃- *Huf-* species 'Relationals': 𐄂𐄃𐄌-𐄂𐄃𐄊 *himo-hufu* /hi'mə,fə/ 'his/hers/theirs'. This SPECIES offers a far greater specificity of types of “possession” including alienable and inalienable possession, possession-by another entity, and belonging to a group; details in §8.2.4.

### 7.7.3. Time

In general, NN treats time as a DIMENSION of space, and has full sets of words expressing distances in time, in parallel with DIMENSIONS of space. However, there is no set of NN DEICTICS specifically expressing DISTANCE in time in parallel with the LOCATIVE DEICTICS.

Instead, NN offers at least three strategies for expressing distances in time.

- LOCATIVE DEICTICS are intended to indicate distances in time as well as space. If that causes ambiguity, one of the following techniques can be used.
- A LOCATIVE DEICTIC indicating a DISTANCE can be followed by the word 𐄂𐄃𐄍 *sinu* 'period of time' to clarify that it's a time DISTANCE.



- A word from the 𐀓𐀓𐀓- *Sen*- or 𐀓𐀓𐀓- *Sed*- SPECIES can be used to indicate distance in time: 𐀓𐀓𐀓𐀓 *sede* 'near to present', 𐀓𐀓𐀓𐀓𐀓 *seda* 'mid-distance from present', or 𐀓𐀓𐀓𐀓𐀓𐀓 *sedo* 'distant from present'.

1. This concludes the discussion of Nwehu Nuswei DEICTICS.