
Demonstratives in Silt'e

Rawda Siraj

Abstract

This article intended to describe the system of demonstratives in Silt'e. According to their distribution, forms and functions, demonstratives in Silt'e categorize in to pronominal, adverbial and manner. Pronominal demonstratives have two forms: free and complex. The free and complex forms have two distinctions: proximal and distal. The free demonstrative pronouns have neutral and focused form. The complex demonstrative pronouns occur with preposition *la-*, *ta-* and *ba-*, which indicate a dative, ablative or comitative and instrumental or locative case of demonstrative pronouns respectively. Adverbial demonstratives are formed by affixing morphemes to basic demonstratives. Manner demonstratives are discourse deictic, they formed by a combination of basic demonstrative pronoun and simulative morpheme *-ku*, 'like.'

1. Introduction

Demonstratives are deictics. Deictic expressions are linguistic elements whose interpretation makes crucial reference to some aspect of the speech situation (Diessel 1999: 35). All languages have demonstratives but they defer according to their forms, functions and meaning. Therefore the concept demonstratives vary from language to language. However, Diessel (1999:2) points out three criteria that are relevant to define the notion of

demonstratives. First, demonstratives are deictic expressions serving specific syntactic functions. Second, it serves specific pragmatic function. (i.e. demonstratives are often used to keep track of prior discourse participants and to activate specific shared knowledge. Third demonstratives are characterized by specific semantic features.

This study attempts to describe the morphosyntactic features of Silt'e demonstratives. Demonstratives are categorized into pronominal, adverbial, and manner according to their distribution, form and functions.

Silt'e is spoken in Silt'e zone within the 'Southern peoples, Nations and Nationalities regional state' (SPNNRS) of Ethiopia. According to 2007 population census, the number of Silt'e people is 940,766. Linguistically Silt'e is classified as East-Gurage, which belongs to the Ethio Semitic language family. The name Silt'e refers to both the people and the language. The Silt'e people call their language *yäslam af* 'language of the Islam' (Drewes 1997:72). In addition the language is called *səltəñña* by Amharic speakers and *yäsəlt'e af* by Silt'e speakers (Gutt 1983:37), (Bruktawit 2001:45).

2. Pronominal Demonstratives

Demonstrative pronouns are used as an independent pronoun and as modifier of a noun. In some languages demonstrative that used as independent pronoun and as modifier of a noun have the same forms, in contrast in some others they have different forms (Diessel 1999:17). In Silt'e the demonstratives that used as subject of noun phrase and as a

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modifier of nouns have the same forms. Thus, both of them are treated under pronominal demonstrative.

The pronominal demonstrative has two forms: free and complex forms.

2.1 Free demonstrative pronouns

Semantically demonstrative pronouns in Silte have two distinction: proximal (i.e. the referent entity is near to the speaker) and distal (i.e. the referent entity is far from the speaker). The proximal and the distal demonstrative pronouns have the free forms **(h)ii** and **(h)ai** respectively, the occurrence of the initial glottal fricative **h-** is optional. The proximity and distal are indicated by demonstrative root **-i** and **-a** vowels respectively, the last vowel **-i** is marked for definiteness. These forms are considered as neutral forms (cf. Baye and Rawda 2007:142).

Then free forms of demonstrative pronouns may have a focused form by attaching the focused marker **-tta-** (Baye & Rawda 2007: 140). The focused marker occur before the definite marker **-i** and the feminine gender marker **t(e)**. The free forms of the demonstrative pronouns are inflected for number, gender, and case. The paradigms of the neutral and focused form of demonstrative pronouns are illustrated in the following tables.

Table 1 neutral form of demonstrative pronouns

		singular	Plural
Proximal		(h)i-i	(h)i-i sur
Distal	m	(h)i-t(ə)	(h)a-i sur
	f	(h)a-i	
	m	(h)a-t(ə)	
	f		

Table 2 focused form of demonstrative pronoun

		Singular	plural
Proximal	m	(h)i-tta- i >	(h)i-tta-i sur > (h)ittay sur
	f	(h)ittay	
Distal	m	(h)i-ttə- t(e) > ((h)a-tta-i sur > (h)ittay sur
		h)ittət(e)	
	f	(h)a-tta-i >	
		(h)attay	
		(h)a-ttə -t(e) >	
		(h)attət(e)	

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The free forms of demonstrative pronouns are used as a subject of noun phrases and as a modifier of nouns. The focused form may be used for singling out 'this one, this one here, that one, that one here' as in Amharic - *ɲɲaw*. (Leslaw 1995:68) Consider the following examples.

- (1) hattay bellə iri alləy

ha-tta-y bəllə iri allə-y

that-foc-DEF:3sm many cattle has-AGR:3sm

'That one has many cattle'

- (2) hii gaar mənje

hi-i gaar mən-e

this-DEF house build:PV-3sm

'This one built a house'

- (3) hittət mift bozint

hi-ttə-t mift boz-n-it

this-FOC-DEF:3sf woman bad-COP-3sf

'This woman is bad'

In examples (1) and (2) the demonstrative pronouns are used as subject of the noun phrase, while in example (3) it is used as a modifier of a noun phrase.

Demonstrative pronouns may occur with the element *sur* to denote associative entities in relation to the addressee. The element *sur* is the association marker which occurs with proper nouns, kinship terms, third persons, and demonstratives. The element *sur* is used when the demonstrative pronoun is a subject of noun phrase. Consider the following examples:

- (5) hattay sur bellə iri alləymu
 ha-tta-y sur bəlla iri allə-ymu
 that-foc-DEF ASC many cattle have-3pl
 ‘Those have many cattle’
- (6) hii sur bozinimu
 hii sur boz-in-imu
 these ASC bad-COPL-3PL
 ‘These are bad’
- (7) hii adəntfa bəsərey bəlu
 hi-i adən-tfa bəsər-ə-y bəl-u-y
 this-DEF:3sm cat-PL meat-ACC-DEF eat:PV-S3PL-O3s
 ‘Those cats eat the meat’
- (8) hai iri hullim jəfəmsutə
 ha-i iri hullim jə-fəmsu-tə

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that-DEF:3sm cattle all GEN-ʃəmsu-FOC

‘All those cattle belongs to Shemsu’

(9) * hii sur adəntʃa bəsərəy bəlu

As the above examples illustrate the element *sur* occurs only in examples (5) and (6) where the demonstrative pronouns are used as a subject, Example (9) is ungrammatical because the element *sur* should be occur only when the demonstrative pronoun is a subject, but in this case it occurs with the modifier demonstrative pronoun.

2.2 Third person used as demonstrative pronouns

Third person personal pronoun can also be used as demonstrative pronouns to refer entities, which are far from the speaker and addressee. The third person personal pronouns are inflected for gender, number and case.

Table 3 third person pronouns

3sm	uha	He/it	that
3sf	ɨʃa	she	that
3pl	uhun/uhun sur	they	those

The following examples illustrate the syntactic context of these pronouns:

(10) uha yaabrar abotin

uha ya-abrar aboti-n

he GEN-abrar father-COPL:3sm

‘He/that is Abrar’s father

- (11) ifa haml awəkəbtaat
ifa haml awəkəb-t-aat
she cabbage sell:PV-3sf-AUX:3sf
‘She/that has sold cabbage’
- (12) uhun sur gaar mef-u naar
uhun sur gaar mət-u naar
they ASS house go:PV-3pl be:Pv
‘They/those were came to the house’
- (13) uha ginzo bullin
uhua ginzo bulli-n
he axe sharp-COPL:3sm
‘He/ that axe is sharp’

In examples (10-12) third person pronoun is used as subject of noun phrases; in example (13) the function of the pronoun is a modifier of the noun.

2.2.1 Case of demonstrative pronouns

The demonstrative pronouns are inflected for nominative, accusative, genitive, ablative, dative and instrumental cases.

2.2.1.1 Nominative case

A nominative case of demonstrative pronoun in Silt'e is unmarked. In all of the above examples the demonstrative pronouns have the unmarked nominative cases.

2.2.1.2 Accusative case

The demonstrative pronouns in the accusative case have the forms *hinnəy* for proximal and *hannəy* for distal. Baye and Rawda, (2007:147) claimed that the accusative marker is *əy*, but this study argue that the accusative case marker is *-nə*, not *əy*. The morphemes *-y* and *-tə* are definite marker of masculine and feminine as in *hannətə* 'that one (f) respectively. Thus a demonstrative pronoun in accusative case is formed by suffixing the accusative marker *-nə* to basic demonstrative pronoun stem *hi-* and *ha-*. In this processes the phoneme *n* become long. The function of demonstrative pronouns in accusative case is illustrated as follows.

(14) dawəto hinnəy mərəkə ləmərīkə ewədey

Dawəto hi-nnə-y mərəkə lə-mri-kə ewəd-ə-y

Dawoto this- ACC-DEF:3sm problem PP-friend-POSS tell:PV-S3sm-O3sm

'Dawoto told this problem to his friend'

(15) ʃəmsu hannətə laam awəkəbet

ʃəmsu ha-nnə-tə laam awəkəb-e-t

ʃəmsu that-ACC-DEF:3f cow sell:PV-S3sm-O3sm

'shemsu sold that cow'

The accusative case in third person pronouns is marked by a morpheme *-nə* as in (16.)

- (16) uhanə bert wusəd
 uha-nə bərt wusəd
 he- ACC stick take:IMP-2sm
 ‘Take this stick’

2.2.1.3 Genitive case

The genitive case of demonstrative pronoun is marked by the morpheme *yə-* which is prefixing to demonstrative pronouns.

- (17) yittəte miŋt tʃulo ibətʃan
 y-i-ttə-te miŋt tʃulo i-bətʃʷ-aan
 GEN-this-FOC-DEF:3sf women son IMP:3sm-cry:PRS AUX:3sm
 ‘The son of this woman is crying’

The rest cases: ablative, dative and instrumental are treated as complex demonstrative pronouns,

2.3 Complex demonstrative pronouns

The complex demonstratives pronouns are constructed when the prepositions *la-*, *ta-*, and *ba-* affixed to the demonstrative pronouns. Meyer (2000: 168), calls this kind of construction as complex demonstrative pronouns, and this study is also uses this term. Complex demonstratives

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with *la-*, *ta-*, and *ba-* denote dative, ablative or comitative and instrumental or locative case of demonstrative pronouns respectively. The complex demonstratives have variant forms depending to the occurrence of the prepositions. The occurrence of the prepositions can be initially or medially in demonstrative pronoun. The following table shows the complex demonstrative pronouns with their variant forms.

Table Complex demonstratives in Silt'e

Case	proximal	distal
Dat	<i>(h)illii/ (h)illitaay</i>	<i>(h)allii/(h)allitaay</i>
	<i>lii/ littaay</i>	<i>lai/ laittaay</i>
	<i>lillii/lillitaay</i>	<i>lalli/llallitaay</i>
Abl	<i>(h)ittii/ittitaay</i>	<i>(h)attii/hattitaay</i>
	<i>tii/tittaay</i>	<i>tai/ taitaay</i>
	<i>tittii/tittitaay</i>	<i>tatti/tattitaay</i>
Inst/Loc	<i>(h)ibbii/(h)ibbitaay</i>	<i>(h)abbii/(h)abbitaay</i>
	<i>bii/ bittaay</i>	<i>bai/ baitaay</i>
	<i>bibbii/bibbitaay</i>	<i>babbi/bbabbitaay</i>

The complex demonstratives in Silt'e syntactically can be a subject or a modifier of noun phrases. These demonstratives are inflected for number and gender, as illustrated in the following examples.

(18) lii sur dinət waabə

l-i-i sur dinət waab-ə

to:this-DEF PL money give:PST-S3sm

‘he gave money to these (Asso)’

(19) sirəyəy tattitaay dʒunyə dibələy

Sirəy-ə-y tattitaa-y dʒunyə dibəl-ə-y

Wheat-ACC- DEF:3sf with:that-DEF sack put:JUS-O3sm-DEF:3sm

‘Put the wheat into that sack’

(20) baittəte k’uɲe isətʃe allə

ba-ittə-te k’uɲe isətʃe allə

with-that-DEF:3sf jug butter there is:3sm

‘There is butter with that jug’

3. Adverbial demonstratives

Adverbial demonstratives are used to express location, direction, movement, and time. Adverbial demonstratives in Silt’e are formed by affixing morphemes to basic demonstrative pronoun or complex demonstrative stems. In addition to that, there are lexicalized demonstratives which function as adverbial demonstratives. The adverbial demonstratives distinguished into proximal and distal referent of area and time in relation to a deictic center.

3.1 Adverbial demonstrative that refers to location

The adverbial demonstratives that indicate location are formed by suffixing *-e* and *-f* to accusative form.

hinne 'here' *hanne* 'there, yonder'

hinnif 'here' *hannif* 'there'

The later form has additional meaning, it express the closeness of location in relation to the speaker or addressee. Furthermore, this form may have the concept of diminutive (cf. Baye and Rawda: 2007: 145) the morpheme *-f* is a feminine marker in Silt'e. The feminine marker is used to express smallness or diminutiveness as in Amharic *izitf* (cf. Leslau, 1995:65). Consider the following examples.

(21) *hinne nəmu*

hinn-e *nə-mu*

This-ADV come:IMP-2pl

'Come here!'

(22) *kəltay hannif naarə*

kəlt-a-y *hanni-f* *allə*

axe:3m DEF That-ADV exist:3sm

'The axe was there '

(23) hinniḥ təgubəl

hinni-ḥ sit

this-ADV sit: IMP:2sm

‘Sit just here’

Furthermore, location is expressed by lexicalized demonstratives.

hinniḥteet *hinniḥteet*

hibbiḥteet *habbiḥteet*

hibbeet *habbeet*

The first one is a combination of demonstrative adverb and a lexeme *eet* ‘place’. Consider the following illustrations.

(24) hinniḥteet yənaarəy miḥ ayne heedə

hinni-ḥ-t-eet yə-naar-ə-y miḥ ayne heed-ə

this-ADV-FOC-place REL-be:PST-3sm-DEF:3sm man where go:PST-3sm

‘Where did the man go who was here (in this place)’

(25) t’ayəy habbiḥteet igədəy

t’ayə-y habbi-ḥ-t-eet igəd-ə-y

sheep-DEF that:LOC-ADV-FOC-place tie:IMP:2sm-S3sm-O3sm

‘Tie the sheep at that place!’

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(26) səbi habbeet təsbəsəbaan

seb-i habb-eet təsbəsəb-aan

people –DEF that:LOC-place gather-AUX:3sm

‘The people are gathered at that place ’

3.2 Adverbial demonstratives that express movement or direction

Adverbial demonstrative are used to indicate the referent is moving in a certain direction relative to the deictic center (Diesse 1999:45). In Silt'e movement or direction can be express in various forms: by suffixing the morpheme -f to a dative of demonstrative pronoun. demonstrative pronoun in accusative case plus *azər* ‘side’, adverbial demonstrative plus *dzaango/dziingo* ‘up to’ and adverbial demonstrative plus *fono* ‘towards’, As it seen in the following examples.

(27) Aman gaarəkə hallif heedə

aman gaar-ə-kə halli-f heed-ə

aman house-3sm-POSS:3sm that:DAT go:PST-S3sm

‘Aman went to his house in that way’

(28) hinnə azər yək'aanəney mij randzin

hinnə azər yə-k'aanən-ə-y mij randzi-n

This:ACC place REL-stand-3sm-DEF man thief-COP:3sm

‘The man who stands to this side is thief’

- (29) hanne dzaango bəməkina hiid
hanne dzaango bə-məkina hiid
there up to by-car go:IMP
‘Go to there by car!’
- (30) Wedzi hinne fono mət’u
Wedz-i hinne fono mət’-u
Children-DEF here towards came-2pl
‘The children came towards here’
- (31) hinne azər bəllə gaar təməḥḥaan
hinne azər bəlle gaar təməḥḥ-aan
here side many house build:PASS-AUX:3sm
‘Many houses have built to this side’

3.3 Adverbial demonstratives that express time

Adverbial demonstratives of time indicate a temporal reference in relation to the time of speech event. In Silt’e the accusative form of demonstrative pronoun expresses a time of referent, when it occurs with *ayaama* ‘day’, *nəgə* ‘day’, *wəktə* ‘time’, *zəman* ‘this year’ *ginə* ‘time’ *jiingo* ‘until’. As follows some of the listed illustrate.

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(32) hannə nəgə ihe tilmətʃ bəgaari bəllə səb naarə

hannə nəgə ihe ti-l-mətʃ bə-gaar-i bəllə səb naar-ə

that:ACC day I when-1s-came in- house-DEF many people be:PST-3sm

‘At that day when I came to the house there were many people’

(33) hinnə zəman ikli fəyyəko bək’əl-aan

hinnə zəman barley fəyyəko bək’əl-aan

this:ACC year ikli well grow:PV-AUX:3sm

‘This year the barley has grown well’

(34) hinnə dʒaango ləmin ijneh

hinnə dʒaango ləmin ijne-h

this:ACC until why sleep-2sm

‘Why you sleep until now?’

In Silt'e time is also expressed by complex demonstrative which is accompany by *k'ədə* ‘before’.

(35) hinnəy mij hibbi k'ədə aanzehuyahu

hinnəy mij hibbi k'ədə aanze-hu-ya-hu

this:ACC man this:LOC before see:PST-1s-O3sm-1s

‘I saw this man before’

4. Manner demonstratives

Manner demonstratives are discourse deictics. In Silt'e manner demonstrative has the form *hiinku* for proximal ስጎ ስጎ *haanku* for distal, which is a combination of basic demonstrative pronoun and a simulative morpheme *-ku* 'like'. The vowel *-i-* and *-a-* in the *hinn-* and *hann-* become long when it occurs with simulative *-ku*. In this process the phoneme *n* is deleted. The function of manner demonstratives illustrated in the following examples.

(36) hiin-ku tægubəl

hiin-ku tægubel

This-SIM sit

'Sit here (right here)!or sit like this'

(37) hiinku afaane wədəroy inz

Hiin-ku afaane wədəro-y inz

This-SIM sit rope-DEF hold

'Hold the rope like this'

Summary

Demonstratives in Silt'e categorized in to pronominal, adverbial, manner and demonstrative identifiers. The pronominal demonstratives have two forms: free and complex. The free demonstrative pronouns have the forms *(h)ii* and *(h)ai* for proximity and distance respectively. These forms can be focused when the focus

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marker *-ttə-* attached to them. The demonstrative pronouns inflected for cases, number and gender. The nominative case of demonstrative pronoun is unmarked, while the accusative case of demonstrative pronoun is formed by suffixing the accusative marker *-n* to the basic demonstrative pronoun stem *hi-* and *ha-*. Preposition marker *lə-*, *tə-*, and *bə-* indicate the dative, ablative and instrumental cases of demonstrative pronoun when the attached to the basic form of demonstrative pronoun. These forms can be termed as complex demonstrative pronoun.

Adverbial demonstratives are used to express location, direction, movement and time. Adverbial demonstrative that indicate location is formed by suffixing the morpheme *-e* and *-f* to accusative of demonstrative pronoun. There are also lexicalized demonstrative pronouns that form by adding the lexeme *eet* 'place' to adverbial demonstrative and the complex form of demonstratives pronoun. Adverbial demonstratives that indicate direction or movement is expressed in different ways: by suffixing *-f* to the dative of demonstrative pronoun, by adding the lexeme *azer* 'side' to the accusative of demonstrative pronoun, and by adverbial demonstrative plus *dzaango/dziingo* 'up to' and *fono* 'towards'.when the accusative case of demonstrative pronoun occurs with *ayaama* 'day', *nəgə* 'day', *wəktə* 'time', *zəman* 'this year' *ginə* 'time' and *jiingo* 'until', expresses adverbial demonstratives that express time. Manner demonstratives marked by suffixing simulative marker *-ku* 'like' to the accusative form demonstrative pronoun.

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