Part VII Pronominal Prefixes

TWO FEMININE GENDERS

Grammatical gender in Oneida is more complicated than in English because Oneida has two feminine genders. That is there are always two ways to translate *she* into Oneida. Technically, they are labelled *feminine-indefinite* and *feminine-zoic*. An Oneida speaker who wants to refer to a female has to decide which of the two genders to use. The difference between them is a bit tricky because not everyone agrees about the meaning. For some people it is a matter of age so that for referring to the very young and the old the feminine-zoic is appropriate and for the inbetween ages the feminine-indefinite is appropriate. For others it is a matter of size or daintiness with feminine-zoic being appropriate for referring to larger or less dainty females. Still others use the femine-zoic to indicate a special personal bond to some female where the feminine-indefinite indicates a more formal relation.

Speakers do, however, agree on one difference between the two genders and that is that both have a use in addition to referring to females. The feminine-indefinite is used to refer to someone whose gender is unknown or perhaps doesn't matter. If you want to ask who did something or refer to an object that belongs to someone or even talk about a child and in each case you don't know whether it is *he* or *she* but you have to use a pronoun prefix, then the feminine-indefinite is the pronoun to use. On the other hand if you are talking about animals, then the pronoun to use is the feminine-zoic. The feminine-zoic is also used for inanimate objects so it represents a neuter gender as well.

All the examples of *she* pronouns used so far in these lessons have been feminine-indefinites. The forms for feminine-zoic are:

ka- for subjective c-stems w- for subjective a-stems

yo- for objective c-stems and a-stems

Examples:

yehnekilha? she drinks; someone drinks

kahnekilha? she drinks; it drinks

yutekhu nihe? she is eating, someone is eating (feminine-indefinite)

watekhu·níhe? she is eating, it is eating (feminine-zoic)

yakonúhte she knows; someone knows

yonúhte she knows; it knows

I-STEMS

Not all noun and verb stems begin with -a- or a consonant. There are also some stems that begin with -i- and these require a slightly different set of pronoun prefixes.

The I-stem sound rule

For the most part the c-stems prefixes can be used with i-stems, but when the prefix ends in -a-, it combines with the -i- at the beginning of the stem to become -A-.

$$-a- + -i- = -\Lambda-$$

With prefixes ending in any other vowel the regular vowel drop rule applies and the -i- of the stem is dropped. There is also some variation in the subjective plural prefixes. Some people use the c-stem forms lati- for general plural and kuti- for females while others use the forms lan- for general plural and kun- for females.

-i·tás	be asleep objective	-ítsyaks eat fi	sh subjective
waki tás	I'm asleep	kítsyaks	I eat fish
yukni tás	we (2) are asleep	yaknítsyaks	we (2) eat fish (not you)
		tnítsyaks	we (2) eat fish
yukw^:tás	we all are asleep	yakwhtsyaks	we all eat fish (not you)
		twitsyaks	we all eat fish
sn·tás	you are asleep	sítsyaks	you eat fish
sni·tás	you two are asleep	snítsyaks	you two eat fish
swa·tás	you all are asleep	sw\u00e1tsyaks	you all eat fish
lo·tás	he's asleep	l\u00e4tsyaks	he eats fish
yako tás	she's asleep	yétsyaks	she eats fish
yo tás	she's asleep, it's asleep	k∧tsyaks	she eats fish, it eats fish
yoni tás	they (fem) are asleep	kunitsyaks	they (fem) eat fish
		or kutítysak	S
loni·tás	they are asleep	lnnítysaks	they eat fish
	_	or latítsyak	XS .

Some i-stem nouns:

-ityohkw-	crowd, gang, people	katyóhkwa
-itsy-	fish	kátsi (shortened form of kátsya)
-i?tal-	clan	o ⁹ ta·lá·

O-STEMS AND U-STEMS

There are also a small number of stems that begin with -o- and -u-. The pronoun prefixes for these stems are also slightly different:

meaning	subjective	objective
I	k -	wak-
we two (not you)	yakn-	yukn-
we two (you and I)	tn-	yukn-
we all (not you)	yaky-	yuky-
we all (and you)	ty-	yuky-
you (alone)	(h)s-	S-
you two	sn-	sn-
you all	tsy-	tsy-
she, someone	yak-	yaka-
she, it	y -	ya-
he	hl-	la-
they two (fem)	kn-	yon-
they two	(h)n-	lon-
they all (fem)	kun-	yon-
they all	lan-	lon-

Note several peculiarities in this set.

- 1. **yaky-**, **ty-**, and **tsy-** are all prefixes that occur in the set with a-stems but with a-stems they indicate dual number (two) and with o-stems and u-stems they indicate plural (at least three).
- 2. In the subjective form for he the h-1 rule is violated in that the -1- never disappears. The -h- disappears when it is at the very front of a word or when the accent falls on a vowel before it. The normal h-1 rule does apply to the objective he form.
- 3. With the objective forms yaka-, ya-, and la- the normal vowel drop rule is violated. Words occur with both the -a- and the -o- or -u- vowels together.

subjective examples

J	±		
-unhe-	be alive, live	-uni-	make
kúnhe	I'm alive	ku·níhe?	I'm making it
yaknúnhe	we're alive (two not you)	yaknu [,] níhe?	we're making it
tnúnhe	we're alive (you and I)	tnu·níhe?	we're making it
yakyú nhe	we're alive (not you)	yakyu nihe?	we're making it
tyúnhe	we're alive (all)	tyu·níhe?	we're all making it
súnhe	you're alive	su·níhe?	you're making it

snúnhe	you two are alive	snu·níhe?	you two are making it
tsyúnhe	you all are alive	tsyu·níhe?	you all are making it
yakúnhe	she's alive, someone's alive	yaku·níhe?	she's (or someone's) making it
yúnhe	she's alive, it's alive	yu·níhe?	she's making it, it's making it
lúnhe	he's alive	lu·níhe?	he's making it
knúnhe	they two (fem) are alive	knu·níhe?	they two (fem) are making it
núnhe	they two are alive	nu·níhe?	they two are making it
kunúnhe	they all (fem) are alive	kunu nihe?	they all (fem) are making it
l∧núnhe	they all are alive	l^nu·níhe?	they all are making it

objective examples

-ohsliyá·ku how old	requires na?te prefix-	-ókwa	taken out, removed
na ⁹ tewakohsliyá·ku	how old I am	wakókwa	I've taken it out
na ⁹ teyuknohsliyá·ku	how old we (2) are	yuknókwa	we two have taken it out
na ⁹ teyukyohsliyá·ku	how old we all are	yukyókwa	we all have taken it out
na ⁹ tesohsliyá·ku	how old you are	sókwa	you've taken it out
na ⁹ tesnohsliyá·ku	how old you (2) are	snókwa	you two have taken it out
na ⁹ tetsyohsliyá·ku	how old you all are	tsyókwa	you all have taken it out
na ⁹ teyakaohsliyá·ku	how old she is	yakaókwa	she's taken it out
na?teyaohsliyá·ku	how old she (it) is	yaókwa	she's (it's) taken it out
na ⁹ tehaohsliyá·ku	how old he is	laókwa	he's taken it out
na ⁹ teyonohsliyá·ku	how old they are	yonókwa	they've taken it out
na?tehonohsliyá·ku	how old they are	lonókwa	they've taken it out

If you want to ask someone's age, the question form is: to na?tesohsliyá.ku how old are you?

E-STEMS

The few e-stems in Oneida require their own set of pronoun prefixes, but there is considerable overlap with the other sets.

meaning	subjective	objective
I	k -	wak-
we two (not you)	yakn-	yukn-
we two (and you)	tn-	yukn-
we all (not you)	yakw-	yukw-
we all (and you)	tw-	yuk w-
you (alone)	(h)s-	S-
you two	sn-	sn-
you all	sw-	sw-
he	(h)l-	law-
she, someone	yak-	yakaw-
she, it	W-	yaw-
they two (fem)	kn-	yon-
they two	(h)n-	lon-
they all (fem)	kun-	yon-
they all	lan-	lon-

subjective examples:

they look for it

they (fem) look for it

néhsaks kunéhsaks

lnnéhsaks

As with o-stems and u-stems the subjective he pronoun is an exception to the h-l rule. Here the -1- never drops out.

-ehsaks	look for	-é·yale?	remember
kéhsaks	I look for it	ké yale?	I remember
yaknéhsaks	we two (not you) look for it	yakné yale?	we two (not you) remember
tnéhsaks	we two look for it	tné·yale?	we two remember
yakwéhsaks	we all (not you) look for it	yakwé yale?	we all (not you) remember
twéhsaks	we all look for it	twé·yale?	we all remember
séhsaks	you look for it	sé·yale?	you remember
snéhsaks	you two look for it	sné·yale?	you two remember
swéhsaks	you all look for it	swé·yale?	you all remember
léhsaks	he looks for it	lé·yale?	he remembers
yah tehléhsaks	he doesn't look for it	yah tehlé yale?	he doesn't remember
yakéhsaks	she looks for it	yaké·yale [?]	she remembers
wéhsaks	she (it) looks for it	wé·yale?	she (it) remembers
knéhsaks	they two (fem) look for it	kné·yale?	they two (fem) remember
néhsaks	they two look for it	né·yale?	they two remember

kuné yale?

lnné·yale?

they remember

they (fem) remember

objective examples:

-ehsa·kú has looked for -ehtáhkwa believe with cislocative wakehsa kú I've looked for it twakehtáhkwa I believe yuknehsa kú we two have looked for it tyuknehtáhkwa we two believe tvukwehtáhkwa yukwehsa kú we all have looked for it we all believe tesehtáhkwa sehsa·kú you've looked for it you believe snehsa·kú tesnehtáhkwa you both have looked for it vou both believe swehsa·kú you all have looked for it teswehtáhkwa you all believe lawehsa·kú he's looked for it thawehtáhkwa he believes vakawehsa kú tvakawehtáhkwa she's looked for it she (someone) believes yawehsa kú she (it) has looked for it tyawehtáhkwa she (it) believes yonehsa kú they (fem) have looked for it tyonehtáhkwa they (fem) believe lonehsa·kú thonehtáhkwa they believe they've looked for it

Short Verb Accent - a sound rule

Oneida has a special accent rule for very short stems. Whenever you put the required pieces of an Oneida verb together and you wind up with only a single syllable (single vowel) then the word is too short for the accent rules. In such cases a dummy syllable is added to the front of the word. The dummy syllable consists of just the vowel -i- and it adds no meaning; it just provides enough syllables for the accent rules to apply.

An important e-stem that happens to be very short is the stem -e- which means walk, go, or be somewhere. This stem is used without any aspect suffix to mean walking:

i'le he is walking (i dummy; -hl- pronoun; -e- verb stem)

ya·ké she is walking (yak- pronoun; -e- verb stem)

i'wé it is walking (i dummy; -w- pronoun; -e- verb stem)

The perfective aspect suffix for this stem is -nu and it changes the meaning to gone:

lawe·nú he's gone yakawe·nú she's gone

The serial suffix -hse? is used along with the partitive prefix (ni-) to mean be somewhere:

tho ní·lehse?

katsa? nu ní·lehse?

katsa? nu níhsehse?

where is he?

where are you?

The aorist prefix, which usually means past time, means current time with -e-:

katsa? wáhse where are you going?
Kanatá·ke wá·ke I'm going to Green Bay

FIRST PERSON TRANSITIVE PRONOUNS

Here is the complete set of pronoun prefixes for transitive verbs that involve the first person (I or we):

```
meaning
                    form
I to you
                    ku-
                          (kuy- for all vowel stems except i-stems)
I (we) to you
                    kni- (ky- for a-stems and kn- for e- and o-stems)
   (if there are two of either you or us)
                    kwa- (ky- for o-stems; yakwa- for i-stems; kw- for e-stems)
I (we) to you
   (if there are at least three of either you or us)
                    hi- (hiy- for all vowel stems except i-stems)
I to him
                    khe- (khey- for all vowel stems except i-stems)
I to her or them
I to it
you to me
                    sk- (skw- for a- and e-stems)
                    skni- (sky- for a-stems; skn- for e- and o-stems)
you to me (us)
   (if there are two of either you or us)
                    skwa- (sky- for o-stems; skwa- for i-stems; skw- for e-stems)
you to me (us)
   (if there are at least three of either you or us)
                    lak- (lakw- for a- and e-stems)
he to me
she or they to me
                    yuk (yukw- for a- and e-stems)
                              (shaky- for a-stems; shakn- for e- and o-stems)
we to him
                    shakni-
   (we = I \text{ and not you})
we to him
                    shakwa- (shaky- for o-stems; shakw- for e-stems)
   (we = at least three but not you)
                    hethni- (hethy- for a-stems; hethn- for e- and o-stems)
we to him
   (we = you and I)
                    hethwa- (hethy- for o-stems; hethw- for e-stems)
we to him
   (we = at least three including you)
                    shukni-
                              (shuky- for a-stems; shukn- for e- and o-stems)
he to us
    (us = just two of us)
                    shukwa-
                               (shuky- for o-stems; shukw- for e-stems)
he to us
    (us = at least three of us)
we to her or them yakhi- (yakhiy- for all vowel stems except i-stems)
    (we = two of us)
we to her or them yethi- (yethiy- for all vowel stems except i-stems)
    (we = at least three of us)
she or they to us
                    yukhi- (yukhiy- for all vowel stems except i-stems)
```

Notice an important ambiguity. The basic pronoun for I to you alone is **ku**-. This pronoun has a dual form **kni**- but it is not clear from the pronoun itself whether this means there are two of you or two of me (us) or both. In the plural form **kwa**- again it is not clear from the pronoun alone whether the plural refers to the agent (at least three of us doing something to you) or the patient (I doing something to at least three of you)

or both. A similar ambiguity happens in the dual and plural forms of the basic pronoun for you to me sk-.

SECOND PERSON TRANSITIVE PRONOUNS

meaning	form	
you to him	hets-	
you two to him	hetsni-	(hetshy- for a-stems; hetsn- for e- and o-stems)
you all to him	hetswa-	(hetshy- for o-stems; hetsw- for e-stems)
you to her or them	she-	(shey- for all vowel stems except i-stems)
you all to her or them	yetshi-	(yetshiy- for all vowel stems except i-stems)
he to you (alone)	(h)ya-	((h)yay- for e- and o-stems)
he to you two	hetsni-	(hetshy- for a-stems; hetsn- for e- and o-stems)
he to you all	hetswa-	(hetshy- for o-stems; hetsw- for e-stems)
she or they to you	yesa-	(yes- for e-stems; yesay- for o-stems)
she or they to you all	yetshi-	(yetshiy- for all vowel stems except i-stems)

Notice how, unless the pronoun for you is singular, the transitivity (who is doing what to whom) is reversible. **Hetswa**- can equally well mean that you all are doing something to him or that he is doing something to you all.

THIRD PERSON TRANSITIVE PRONOUNS

meaning	form	
he to him	lo-	(law- for e-stems; la- for o-stems)
he to her or them	shako-	(shakaw- for e-stems; shaka- for o-stems)
she or them to him	luwa-	(luway- for o-stems; luw- for e-stems)
she to it	kuwa-	(kuway- for o-stems; kuw- for e-stems)
she to her	yutat-	
she or they to them	kuwati-	(kuwan- for all vowel stems)
	luwati-	(luwan- for all vowel stems)
it to her or them	yako-	(yakwaw- for e-stems; yaka- for o-stems)
they to them	yakoti-	(yakon- for all vowel stems)
	shakoti-	(shakon- for all vowel stems)

Some examples:

shakonolúhkwa he loves her, he loves them
shukwanolúhkwa he loves us
shakotinolúhkwa they love them
kunolúhkwa I love you
sknolúhkwa ka do you love me?
khenolúhkwa I love her, I love them

hetswanoluhkwa he loves all of you, you all love him

RELATIVES

Since words for relatives are typically verbs, they require pronoun prefixes. The verb identifies the relationship and the pronoun identifies the people involved. So for example, the word for my father lake?níha is literally he is in the father relationship to me. The literal meaning raises a possible ambiguity when the verb is used as a noun for aspecific relative. Does the word lake?níha refer to him as the one who is my father or to me as the one who he is father of? The solution to this ambiguity is handled differently by different verbs. For example, there are two verbs that mean to be a grandparent of -hsótha and -atléha. The first one puts the focus on the doer pronoun so that laksótha (literally he is grandparent to me) is used for my grandfather. The second one puts the focus on the receiver pronoun so that iyatléha (literally I am grandparent to him) is used for my grandson. The conceivable words ihsótha I am grandparent to him and lakwatléha he is grandparent to me are seldom, if ever, used. The verbs for older sibling show a similar trade off in focus: -(h)tsíha has a focus on the doer pronoun and -?k/ha has a focus on the receiver pronoun so that laktsiha (literally he is older sibling to me) is used for my older brother and i?k\(\)ha (literally I am older sibling to him) is used for my younger brother.

The verb that means to be a parent of -ykha is more flexible and can focus on either the doer or the receiver pronoun, although for each word there is a more typical focus. Thus yukkha (literally they are parents to me) is used for my parents with a focus on the doer pronoun while iykha (literally I am parent to him) is used for my son with a focus on the receiver pronoun. The verbs that mean to be uncle/aunt to -nhwatkha and to be parent-in-law to -enhúsa have a similar flexibility.

However, the verbs that mean to be mother/aunt/uncle to -nulhá and to be father of -?níha focus on the doer pronoun, while the verb to be spouse to -kst/ha focuses on the receiver pronoun.

There is another complexity with the verbs for relatives. The normal pronoun yuk(w)- usually means they/she to me. With relative verbs this prounoun prefix is used to mean they to me and a new prefix ak(w)- is used just for she to me. Thus yukyhha means my parents while aknulhá means my mother. The usually pronoun prefix yako- also changes and becomes ako- with the relative verbs. There are also some relative verbs which are not transitive. The verb for cousin, for example, does not literally mean A is cousin to B, but rather simply they are cousins. The pronoun prefixes are dual or plural but they are not transitive. Thus yukyalá:se (literally we two are cousins) is used for my cousin. The verb for friend works exactly the same way: yukyata·ló (literally we two are friends) is used for my firend. Both of these are objective verbs. Two verbs that are subjective (not transitive) are -atahnut(e)le sibling and -i?t(e)lu spouse.

Yakyatahnútehle (literally we two are siblings) means my sibling and teyakní tehlu (literally we two live together) means my spouse.

Finally, there are a couple of relation verbs that take possessive prefixes the way English does rather than pronoun prefixes. The words for *girlfriend* -ya?tasé·tsli and *boyfriend* -nikʌhtlú·tsli are treated as nouns:

akya⁹tasé·tsli my girlfriend laoya⁹tasé·tsli his girlfriend aknik^htlú·tsli my boyfriend akonik^htlú·tsli her boyfriend

The words listed here are given in relationship to the first person I; the prefixes would have to change to indicate other people's relatives. Many of the relatives have special greeting forms used after **she**'k $\acute{\mathbf{u}}$.

		greeting form
aknulhá	my mother	nΛ
lake ⁹ ní <u>ha</u>	my father	láke
aktsí <u>ha</u>	my older sister	áktsi
laktsí <u>ha</u>	my older brother	láktsi
khe ⁹ kʎ <u>ha</u>	my younger sister	ku ⁹ k⁄
i ⁹ kʎ <u>ha</u>	my younger brother	ku?kʎ
aksót <u>ha</u>	my grandmother	áksot
laksót <u>ha</u>	my grandfather	láksot
aknulhá	my aunt	nΛ
laknulhá	my uncle	knulhá
yukyalá·se	my cousin	kyáhs <u>e</u>
kheyλ <u>ha</u>	my daughter	kул
iyʎ <u>ha</u>	my son	kул
teyakní teh <u>l</u> u	my spouse	
kheyenhúsa	my daughter-in-law	
iyenhúsa	my son-in-law	
akwenhúsa	my mother-in-law	
lakwenhúsa	my father-in-law	
kheyatlé <u>ha</u>	my granddaughter	kwáte
iyatlé <u>ha</u>	my grandson	kwáte
khey∧hwat∧ <u>ha</u>	my niece	wátn
iyahwatá <u>ha</u>	my nephew	wát∧
yukyat∧·l <u>ó</u>	my friend	kyatÁ

good day

CONVERSATIONAL VOCABULARY

Weather

yoyanlást<u>u</u>

ot niwehnisló·ta what kind of day is it? wehnisli yó good day bad day wehnisláks<u></u> yotho·lé cold yokano l<u>ú</u> raining yo⁹talí<u>h</u>A hot yotáhalot<u>e</u> sunny yowelu tú windy yota?klókwa snowy

swistohse? ka

AA, kwistohse

kwah i k tsi? kwistohse

ostúha kwistohse

are you cold?

yes, I'm cold

I'm very cold

I'm a little bit cold