



HAL
open science

Reflexive constructions in Bangime

Abbie Hantgan

► **To cite this version:**

Abbie Hantgan. Reflexive constructions in Bangime: Chapter 3. Katarzyna Janic; Nicoletta Puddu. Reflexive constructions in the world's languages, Zenodo; Language Science Press, pp.65-81, 2023, 978-3-98554-069-3. 10.5281/zenodo.7874926 . hal-04193953

HAL Id: hal-04193953

<https://hal.science/hal-04193953>

Submitted on 1 Sep 2023

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.



Distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License

Chapter 3

Reflexive constructions in Bangime

Abbie Hantgan

CNRS-LLACAN

Bangime, a language isolate spoken in Central Eastern Mali, has two ways to express coreference between clause participants. One strategy is through coordinated markers from one of the language's pronominal series. These markers can be considered to be the language's reflexive pronouns, though it is of typological interest to note that, in object position, an anaphoric pronoun of this series can be coreferential with the main clause's subject. Furthermore, Bangime displays the unusual property of aligning second persons singular and plural to the exclusion of all other persons. This chapter also discusses an additional coreference strategy, namely that of a possessed form of the noun 'head', an areally robust feature of West Africa.

1 Introduction

In Bangime, coreference between clause participants can be expressed in two ways. The first, as with many other West African languages (Heine 2011), including those of the Atlantic branch as well as surrounding Dogon languages, but excluding Mande, involves the noun 'head'. However, Bangime is different from neighboring languages in that, in Bangime, the person and number of the clause's subject are indexed (cf. Haspelmath 2013) on verbs and tense-aspect auxiliaries, and, in the case of the reflexive construction, on nouns. This is shown in (1), an excerpt from a narrative, where these indexes are glossed as lettered sets that are explained in §3.

- (1) *mèè à gò m=bògò-ēē ḡ=kārā ḡ=dēgē ḡ=kè*
but DEF man 3SG.B=big-DIM 3SG.B=find.3SG.PFV 3SG.B=head 3SG.B=PRF
'...but the old man [lit. 'little old man'] had found **himself** again.'
(Heath & Hantgan 2018: 10)



In the surrounding Dogon languages, reflexive constructions are formed with a possessed form of the noun ‘head’ so that ‘my head’ can be interpreted to mean ‘myself’. In Bangime, as will be discussed in detail in §4.1, the portion of (1) highlighted in bold differs from the language’s typical possessive construction.

The second method of expressing coreference between clause participants, as illustrated in (2–5) drawn from Heath & Hantgan (2018: 438), involves a pronoun (series) which is described as a reflexive pronoun here, but also occurs with other middle functions (§4.2). It is also of interest to note that the language opposes second persons to first and third persons plural, as well as third person singular, shown below in (7).

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>(2) <i>à dègù á</i>
 2SG.A hit.2SG.PFV 2SG.D
 ‘You hit yourself.’</p> | <p>(3) <i>àà dègū āà</i>
 2PL.A hit.2PL.PFV 2PL.D
 ‘You (plural) hit yourselves.’</p> |
| <p>(4) <i>nè n=dègù mīi</i>
 1PL.A 1PL.B=hit.1PL.PFV 1PL.D
 ‘We hit ourselves.’</p> | <p>(5) <i>nì n=dègù mīi</i>
 3PL.A 3PL.B=hit.3PL.PFV 3PL.D
 ‘They hit themselves.’</p> |

Furthermore, as shown in (6–7) drawn from Heath & Hantgan (2018: 401), pronouns for coreference and disjoint reference for third singular antecedents are identical and therefore potentially ambiguous in meaning.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>(6) \emptyset <i>dègū mīi</i>
 3SG.A hit.3SG.PFV 3SG.C
 ‘He/She_x hit him/her_y.’</p> | <p>(7) \emptyset <i>dègū mīi</i>
 3SG.A hit.3SG.PFV 3SG.D
 ‘He/She_x hit himself/herself_x.’</p> |
|--|--|

The fact that, in Bangime, an anaphoric pronoun in object position can be coreferential with the subject of its clause may be interesting from a typological perspective as discussed by Haspelmath (2023 [this volume]); this is explored further in §4. Furthermore, that the pronoun *mīi* serves to mark coreference and disjoint reference for the third persons singular and plural, as well as the first person plural to the exclusion of the second persons singular and plural and the first person singular is somewhat surprising; the corresponding first person singular reflexive pronoun is given in (8).

- (8) *ń dègù mí*
 1SG.A hit.1SG.PFV 1SG.D
 ‘I hit **myself**.’ (Heath & Hantgan 2018: 438)

This chapter seeks to explore means of coreference in Bangime through an exposition of the pronominal system in general. The next section, §2, provides a brief background on the speakers of Bangime and the language's status as an isolate. An overview of the language's pronominal system is given in §3. In §4, reflexive constructions in Bangime are presented, followed by a discussion of intensifier uses involving reflexive constructions in §5. A conclusion is given in §6.

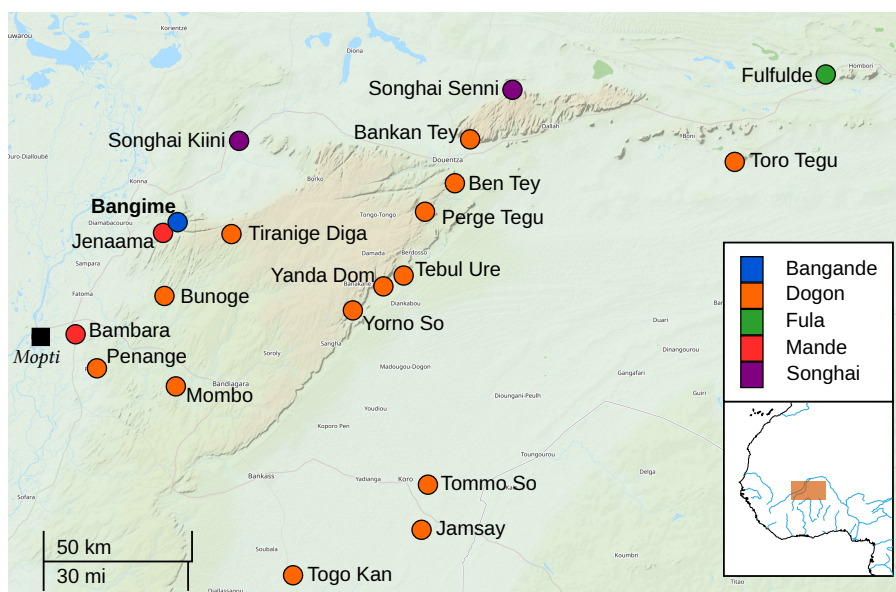
Data are drawn from both a published grammatical description and a doctoral thesis as well as unpublished textual sources and newly elicited examples. The questionnaire by Janic & Haspelmath (2023 [this volume]) provided guidance for the data compilation and analysis. Transcriptions are phonetic, following the IPA, and glossing follows Leipzig conventions with additions noted in the Appendix.

2 Background

Bangime is a language isolate spoken by around 1,500 people in seven small villages in a remote area of central-eastern Mali. The Bangime-speaking community, the Bangande, together with the Dogon ethno-linguistic group, are the sole inhabitants of the Bandiagara Escarpment, an arduous cliff range located east of the Niger River and south of the Sahara Desert (see Figure 1).¹ The Dogon languages were not well described until recently; it is only now apparent that there exist at least 21 different Dogon languages. Nevertheless, and despite the fact that the Bangande say that they and their language are Dogon, the linguistic divergences between Bangime and the Dogon languages separate them completely. Moreover, Bangime is not related at all to the other neighboring language, Jenaama, of the Bozo-Mande grouping.

Grammatical structures found in Bangime pertinent to this study include its almost complete lack of affixal morphology, a tripartite tonal system, and subject-initial clausal word order in non-focus constructions. Possessive pronouns and the definite article precede a noun in a noun phrase (e.g. *ā kùwò* 'the house', *māā kùwò* 'his/her house'), but adjectives follow the noun. With certain kinship relations, possession is expressed in a manner which differs from other possessed nouns, as discussed in §3.4 below. Verbs are divided into classes based on their morpho-phonological properties and thus follow different patterns of inflection therein. A verb phrase either consists of simply a verb stem (with inflectional marking on the verb itself), or it also contains a auxiliary specifying the aspect of the clause which either precedes or follows the verb stem depending on the

¹The map has been generated by the `lingtypology` package for R. Moroz G. (2017) `lingtypology`: easy mapping for Linguistic Typology (<https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=lingtypology>).



CC-BY-SA Abbie Hantgan-Songo, Sebastian Nordhoff, and OpenStreetMap contributors

Figure 1: Map of Bandiagara Escarpment spoken languages

aspect in question. It is relevant to note that pronoun forms precede both the verb stem and the auxiliary when present.

Major word classes in Bangime consist of nouns, verbs, numerals, adjectives, adverbs, and ideophones. Particles in the language include the determiner, postpositions, and a question marker. Word classes can be distinguished morphologically as well as syntactically. The small number of bound morphemes in the language are all suffixes or clitics including an agentive, diminutive, and plural markers on nouns and a causative and aspectual markers on verbs. Tone is both lexical and grammatical and the interaction between the two is intricate. The elaborate argument-indexing system is presented in the following section (§3). Constituent word order depends on the tense or aspect of the clause and is elaborated upon in §3.2.

3 Person forms

Bangime has a complex system of person forms, including both bound and free forms, which is essential to understand in order to evaluate the evidence put forth for the presence or absence of a special form that signals coreference, a reflexive

pronoun, in the language. The following subsection, §3.1, presents Bangime personal pronouns in terms of four sets, and §3.2 provides the slots into which these pronouns fit in a clause. §3.3 provides examples of personal pronouns and §3.4 illustrates two relevant ways of forming possessive constructions in Bangime.

3.1 Person form sets

Person and number marking in Bangime consists of both bound person indexes and free personal pronouns. The Bangime person forms consist of four sets depending on the phonetic (surface) realization and position in a clause, as listed in Table 1 and exemplified in §3.2 below. As already seen in (2–5) above, the members of Set D are used as reflexive pronouns.

Table 1: Bangime person forms

Person/Number	A	B	C	D
1SG	$\dot{n} \sim \emptyset$	n	$mí$	$mí$
3SG	\emptyset	n	$mí(i) \sim m\ddot{u}$	$m\ddot{u}$
1PL	$n\grave{e}$	n	$n\bar{e}\grave{e}$	$m\ddot{u}$
3PL	$n\grave{i}$	n	$n\ddot{u}$	$m\ddot{u}$
2SG	\grave{a}	\acute{a}	\acute{a}	\acute{a}
2PL	$\grave{a}\grave{a}$	\acute{a}	$\bar{a}\bar{a}(-r\acute{u})$	$\bar{a}\grave{a}$

As represented in Set A, singular first and third persons are either zero or, as in Set B, reduced to a nasal that assimilates in place to the initial consonant of the following constituent in the clause (there are few vowel-initial words in Bangime) and receives its tonal specification from the final tone of the preceding word. As was illustrated in §1, for Sets C and D, forms of the first and third persons plural are identical to that of the third person singular. Second person singular is the same for all sets (second person singular indexes are distinguished by tones alone) but second person plural is sometimes followed by one of the few suffixes in the language: a suppletive plural suffix ($-r\acute{u}$) that is also used with kin terms in the language. The following subsection demonstrates where each person form set occurs in the three main clausal paradigms presented in this chapter.

3.2 Person form slots

In Bangime, person and number marking occurs multiple times throughout a sentence by means of the person forms presented in Table 1 and tonal melodies on the verb stem. The simple perfective paradigm is shown first as it represents the language’s most basic clausal construction. The linear order of the verb and the object is reversed between a perfective (Tables 2 and 3) and an imperfective (Table 4) verb phrase.

Table 2: Simple transitive perfective clausal paradigm

(S)	S	S	V	O
(NP)	Pronoun Set A	Pronoun Set B	STEM	NP \wedge Pronoun Set C \wedge D

Table 3: Transitive perfective clausal paradigm

(S)	S	AUX	S	V	O
(NP)	Pronoun Set A	PFV	Pronoun Set B	STEM	NP \wedge Pronoun Set C \wedge D

Table 4: Transitive imperfective clausal paradigm

(S)	S	AUX	O	S	V
(NP)	Pronoun Set A	IPFV	NP \wedge Pronoun Set C \wedge D	Pronoun Set B	STEM

As mentioned above and can be seen from Tables 2–4, a personal pronoun or person index consistently precedes the verb stem and an auxiliary, if present. The next subsection gives concrete examples of the sets and slots presented here.

3.3 Personal pronoun examples

In general, intransitive verb stems are not preceded by person indexing; the verb ‘go’ is an exception. Examples in the perfective aspect featuring the verb *wōrè* ‘go’ (9–14) are drawn from Heath & Hantgan (2018: 273).

3 Reflexive constructions in Bangime

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>(9) η kóó η=wóré
 1SG.A 1SG.PFV 1SG.B=go.1SG.PFV
 ‘I had gone.’</p> | <p>(10) \grave{a} kwá á wóré
 2SG.A 2SG.PFV 2SG.B go.2SG.PFV
 ‘You had gone.’</p> |
| <p>(11) \emptyset kóó η=wōré
 3SG.A 3SG.PFV 3SG.B=go.3S.PFV
 ‘He had gone.’</p> | <p>(12) àà kwá á wōré
 2PL.A 2PL.PFV 2PL.B go.2PL.PFV
 ‘You (PL) had gone.’</p> |
| <p>(13) nè kóó η=wōré
 1PL.A 1PL.IPFV PL.B=go.1PL.PFV
 ‘We had gone.’</p> | <p>(14) nì kóó η=wōré
 3PL.A 3PL.PFV 3PL.B=go.3PL.PFV
 ‘They had gone.’</p> |

These examples illustrate person forms of Sets A–B. Set A occurs in subject position. Based on its tonal behavior (the nasal of Set B has no phonemic tone), I consider the nasal person index in Set B to be a proclitic. The person forms of Sets C and D are free personal pronouns. The perfective clausal paradigm further illustrates which what was mentioned above in §1: in Bangime, second persons singular and plural are marked almost identically, and in opposition to the other persons in the language.

Examples using the verb ‘bathe’ in the simple perfective, which are drawn from Heath & Hantgan (2018: 325), are given in (15–16) to illustrate person forms of Sets C–D.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>(15) \emptyset tùú mí
 3SG.A bathe.3SG.PFV 1SG.C
 ‘He/She bathed me.’</p> | <p>(16) \emptyset tùū mī
 3SG.A bathe.3SG.PFV 3SG.D
 ‘He/She bathed (him/herself).’</p> |
|---|--|

Although some person forms from Set C are homophonous with those from Set D, the former cannot be used together with those from Set A to express coreference between a subject and an object. That is, for those persons which differ in form, such as first and third persons plural, Set C cannot be interchanged with Set D; the former strictly marks disjoint reference between participants while the latter marks coreference.

Further adding to the ambiguity, syntactically, both person form Sets C and D occupy the same position, save for when an object pronoun is focalized as illustrated in (17–18).

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>(17) ∅ <i>mūwō</i> <i>mí</i>
 3SG.A like.NEG.3SG.IPFV 1SG.C
 ‘...he does not like <i>me</i>.’
 [Narrative, TB2008-07-12, Line 1]</p> | <p>(18) <i>mí</i> <i>ń=dègè</i>
 1SG.C 3SG.B=hit.3SG.PFV
 ‘It hit <i>me</i>.’
 [Survey, AD2012-08-06, Line 14]</p> |
|---|---|

In focused-object position, the expected word order for Bangime constituents is reversed yet again: a focused object appears after the verb in the imperfective aspect and before it in the perfective.

As shown in (19–20), the language does not require an object to be overtly expressed. Otherwise, as can be seen in (20) and Table 3, non-focused object noun phrases, like free pronouns, occur post-verbally in the perfective aspect.

- (19) *nì kóó j̄=ɣùrù*
 3PL.A 3PL.PFV 3PL.B=kill.3PL.PFV
 ‘They killed (him).’ (Narrative, Hantgan 2013: 394)
- (20) *nì kóó j̄=ɣùrù à dègè ñ=céé*
 3PL.A 3PL.PFV 3PL.B=kill.3PL.PFV DEF head.DEF 3SG.B=owner
 ‘They killed the chief [lit. ‘head owner’].’ (Narrative, Hantgan 2013: 477)

Persons other than third person singular may also be omitted in object position but with lower frequency. On the other hand, pronouns of Set D are obligatory in reflexive constructions.

The following subsection outlines two possessive strategies in the language as these will be crucial to the comprehension of the reflexive constructions presented in §4.

3.4 Possessive pronouns

There are two ways of marking possession in Bangime: most possessed nouns are preceded by a pronoun from Set A plus the possessive morpheme *maa* (a kind of genitive preposition). However, the second person singular possessive pronoun is simply [àà]. Examples provided in (21–24) are drawn from Heath & Hantgan (2018: 57).

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>(21) ∅ <i>máá kùwò</i>
 1SG.A 1SG.POSS house.POSS
 ‘my house’</p> | <p>(22) <i>āā kùwò</i>
 2SG.A.POSS house.POSS
 ‘your (sg) house’</p> |
|---|--|

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>(23) \emptyset <i>màā</i> <i>kùwò</i>
 3SG.A 3SG.POSS house.POSS
 ‘his/her house’</p> | <p>(24) <i>séédù</i> <i>màā</i> <i>kùwò</i>
 Seydou 3SG.POSS house.POSS
 ‘Seydou’s house’</p> |
|---|---|

Another means of expressing possession in Bangime is with the use of person forms alone. With certain kin terms, for example ‘father’ as shown in the following examples drawn from Heath & Hantgan (2018: 58–59), person forms of Set A may be used with the possessive morpheme (27), or alone (25–26), (28).

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>(25) \emptyset <i>bów</i>
 1SG.A father.1SG.POSS
 ‘my father’</p> | <p>(27) <i>séédù</i> <i>màā</i> <i>bów</i>
 Seydou 3.POSS father.POSS
 ‘Seydou’s father’</p> |
| <p>(26) <i>à</i> <i>bów</i>
 2SG.A father.2SG.POSS
 ‘your father’</p> | <p>(28) <i>séédù</i> <i>bów</i>
 Seydou father.3SG.POSS
 ‘Seydou’s father’</p> |

Note that each type of possessive marking influences the tone of the possessed noun differently; the possessive morpheme bears its own tone depending on the person and number of the possessee which triggers a kind of default tonal marking on the possessed noun. When the possessive morpheme is not present, the possessed noun represents the tone of the person and number of the possessee.

In addition to the constructions with the possessive morpheme *maa* (in 21–24) and with kin terms (in 25–28), there is a third possessive construction: similar to the kinship-type of possession, a possessive, often compound-like, construction in Bangime may be formed using the person indexes from Set B; compare (29) with (30).

- | |
|--|
| <p>(29) <i>míró</i> <i>ń=dégé</i>
 bee.INDF 3SG.B=head.3SG.POSS
 ‘bee’s head’</p> |
| <p>(30) <i>míró</i> <i>ń=págà</i>
 bee.INDF 3SG.B=container.3SG.POSS
 ‘apiary [lit. ‘bee’s container’]’</p> |

Somewhat curiously, body parts belonging to animals, particularly insects, are usually expressed using this construction while humans use the possessive morpheme. More about this and how it relates to reflexive constructions in Bangime will be said below in §4.1.

Now that an overview of person forms has been presented, the following section (§4) depicts the strategies found in the language to express coreference between clause participants.

4 Reflexive constructions

As stated in §1, there are two ways of expressing coreference between clause participants in Bangime.² Henceforth, these two constructions will be discussed as the ‘reflexive noun’ and ‘reflexive pronoun’, presented in §4.1 and §4.2 respectively.

4.1 Reflexive noun

The reflexive noun construction consists of the genitive construction with the noun *dege* ‘head’, of the possessed type presented above in §3.4, in non-focused object position of a transitive clause. That is, in the reflexive noun construction, the possessive is formed from Set B of the person forms provided in Table 1 above. The reflexive noun paradigm is illustrated with the following examples, (31–36), which are drawn from Heath & Hantgan (2018: 442–443).

- (31) *j̄n j̄agù n̄=dégé*
1SG.A cut.1SG.PFV 1SG.B=head.1SG.POSS
‘I cut myself.’
- (32) \emptyset *j̄agū n̄=dēgè*
3SG.A cut.3SG.PFV 3SG.B=head.3SG.POSS
‘He cut himself.’
- (33) *à j̄agù à dégé*
2SG.A cut.2SG.PFV 2SG.B head.2SG.POSS
‘You (SG) cut yourself.’
- (34) *àà j̄agū à dēgè*
2PL.A cut.2PL.PFV 2PL.B head.2PL.POSS
‘You (PL) cut yourselves.’

²I follow Haspelmath (2019: 2–3) in using the semantically-based term ‘clause participant’ rather than the syntactic ‘clause argument’ as the subject pronoun is not necessarily overtly expressed in Bangime.

(35) *nē j̄ jàgū n̄=dēgè*
 1PL.A 1PL.B cut.1PL.PFV 1PL.B=head.1PL.POSS
 ‘We cut ourselves.’

(36) *nì j̄ jàgū n̄=dēgè*
 3PL.A 3PL.B cut.3PL.PFV 3PL.B=head.3PL.POSS
 ‘They cut themselves.’

However, besides the possessive constructions as listed above in §3.4, possessed body parts are usually expressed with the possessive morpheme; compare (37) with (32) above.

(37) *j̄ jàgù màā kwāà*
 3SG.A cut.3SG.PFV 3SG.POSS throat.POSS
 ‘He slaughtered it (the sheep) [lit. cut its throat].’ [Narrative, NB2010-07-16, Line 41]

Therefore, as stated by Heath & Hantgan (2018: 442), *maa dege* translates to ‘possessor’s head’ while *n dege* is the equivalent of ‘X’s self’, and therefore the reflexive noun as depicted here.

Recall from Table 2–Table 4 that in perfective clauses, an object follows the verb, whereas in imperfective clauses, an object precedes the verb. As illustrated by (31–36) above and (38) here, the reflexive noun follows the expected word order and person marking pattern for genitive constructions.

(38) *ñ dá ñ=dēgē n̄=jìè*
 1SG.A 1SG.IPFV 1SG.B=head.1SG.POSS 1SG.B=see.1SG.IPFV
 ‘I see myself.’ [Survey, AD2020-01-15, Line 1]

Note that there is no specific reflexive possessive construction in Bangime. That is, ‘possessor’s (own) possessed’ is expressed the same as the regular possessive construction, unless a potentially semantic ambiguity may arise with the noun ‘head’. Compare examples using the verb *kara* ‘shave’ in (39–40).

(39) *ñ dá máá sémbō ñ=kàà*
 1SG.A 1SG.IPFV 1SG.POSS beard.POSS 1SG.B=shave.1SG.IPFV
 ‘I am shaving my beard.’ [Survey, AD2020-01-15, Line 5]

(40) *ñ dá máá ñ=dēgè ñ=kàà*
 1SG.A 1SG.IPFV 1SG.POSS 1SG.B=head.1SG.POSS 1SG.B=shave.1SG.IPFV
 ‘I am shaving my (own) head.’ [Survey, AD2020-01-15, Line 6]

While the possessive morpheme is sufficient to indicate that the subject is shaving his or her own beard in (39), in (40) the addition of the person index from Set B disambiguates disjoint-reference with the subject.

One other method of distinguishing coreference from disjoint reference is with the reflexive pronoun that is presented below in §4.2. While the person index preceding the noun ‘place’ in (41) could indicate either coreference or disjoint reference with the subject, the reflexive pronoun in (42) can only mean coreference with the subject.

- (41) *dòò* \emptyset *dà* *ɲàw̄w̄* $\bar{\eta}$ =*jàw*
 sleep.INDF 3SG.A 3SG.IPFV sleep.3SG.IPFV 3SG.B=place
 ‘S/He_x will sleep at his/her_{x,y} place.’ (Heath & Hantgan 2018: 441)

- (42) *dòò* \emptyset *dà* *ɲàw̄w̄* *mũ* *jàw*
 sleep.INDF 3SG.A 3SG.IPFV sleep.3SG.IPFV 3SG.D place
 ‘S/He_x will sleep at his/her_x place.’ (Heath & Hantgan 2018: 441)

This is the only use that I am aware of in the language of the reflexive pronoun in a possessive function. Note that locative positions such that *next to*, *besides*, *in front of*, etc. use the possessive morpheme followed by a postposition and not the reflexive noun (or pronoun).

For some reflexive constructions such as those given in (43–45), speakers preferred the use of the reflexive noun to that of the reflexive pronoun described in §4.2.

- (43) *ń* *dá* *dìqā* \bar{n} =*dīqā* \bar{n} =*dēgē* *wáj*
 1SG.A 1SG.IPFV talk.INDF 1SG.B=talk.1SG.IPFV 1SG.B=head.1SG.POSS RSLT
 ‘I am talking to myself.’ [Survey, AD2020-01-15, Line 11]

- (44) *ń* *jùrà* \bar{n} =*dēgè*
 3SG.A kill.3SG.PFV 3SG.B=head.3SG.POSS
 ‘S/he killed her/himself.’ [Survey, AD2020-01-15, Line 12]

- (45) *ń* *pónḁ* \bar{n} =*dégé*
 1SG.A hate.1SG.PFV 1SG.B=head.1SG.POSS
 ‘I hate myself.’ [Survey, AD2020-01-15, Line 13]

Thus, the reflexive noun is the favored coreference strategy when used with verbs that can be considered to be otherwise hetero-directed (cf. Puḁḁ 2021: 372, or the autopathic domain as defined by Haspelmath (2023: §8 [this volume])). In the following subsection, (§4.2), the reflexive pronoun is shown to be used with a middle type of meaning as depicted in Kemmer (1994).

4.2 Reflexive pronoun

The second strategy for indicating coreference between a participant in object role and its antecedent in subject role is to take a Set D form as indicated above in Table 1, which, in all persons except second, is *mi(i)*. Such reflexive pronouns can also be used in middle functions. As expected on the basis of Kemmer (1994), Bangime uses the reflexive pronoun with self-directed verbs such as bodily care, verbs of posture (or change of posture), motion, and emotion. Some examples of this type of verb are given in the third person singular form in Table 5.

Table 5: Middle-like verb phrases

Gloss	IPFV	PFV	PRF/RSLT
‘hide’	<i>mī ñ=dààndà</i>	<i>dààndà mī</i>	<i>n dāāndī mī ñ=kè</i>
‘stretch’	<i>mī ñ=bòrndà</i>	<i>bòrndà mī</i>	<i>m bōrndī mī ñ=kè</i>
‘scratch’	<i>mī ñ=kògòjò</i>	<i>kògòjò mī</i>	<i>kògòjì ñ=kè</i>
‘lie straight’	<i>mī m=bàràgà</i>	<i>bàràgà mī</i>	<i>m=bārgì wáj</i>
‘lean’	<i>m=pègè mī</i>	<i>pègèrè</i>	<i>pègèrè</i>
Gloss	VBLN	IPFV	PFV
‘bathe’	<i>mī ñ=tùrà</i>	<i>mī ñ=tùrà</i>	<i>tù mī</i>

In Bangime, these verbs obligatorily take the reflexive pronoun in object position. This type of reflexive or middle marking is discussed in Haspelmath (2023: §5.2 [this volume]) as belonging to the category of reflexive voice markers. The verbal noun ‘bathing’ also necessitates the presence of the reflexive pronoun and is identical to its use in the imperfective aspect; compare (46) with (47).

- (46) *à bòw dà mī ñ=tūrā*
 2SG.A father.2SG.POSS 3SG.IPFV 3SG.D 3SG.B=bathe.3SG.IPFV
 ‘Your father is bathing.’ [Survey, AD2020-01-15, Line 3]

- (47) *nè tù mī*
 1PL.A 1PL.B=bathe.1PL.PFV 1PL.D
 ‘We bathed.’ [Survey, AD2020-01-15, Line 4]

Although most of the verbs that are formed with the reflexive pronoun, or voice marker, are of the type described by Kemmer (1994), some idiomatic uses do involve more typically active verbs such as those depicted in (48–51).

- (48) *màà nów ñ=kóó ñ=tāyā mīi*
 3SG.POSS mouth.POSS 3SG.B=PFV 3SG.B=take.3SG.PFV 3SG.D
 ‘His mouth slipped [lit. took himself, fig. spoke inappropriately].’
 [Narrative, NB2010-07-16, Line 25]
- (49) *ā gòndi-èè ñ=kóó ñ=tāyā mīi ñ=kè*
 DEF jackal.DEF-DIM 3SG.B=PFV 3SG.B=take.3SG.PFV 3SG.D 3SG.B=PRF
 ‘The jackal has left [lit. has taken himself].’ (Narrative, Hantgan 2013: 401)

The pronoun *mii* appears throughout my corpus of texts in which it is translated with either a reflexive, as exemplified in (50), or a middle, (51), meaning.

- (50) *η kóó á bùyù-mí=ndè tígé nī η=kòò jèrò*
 3PL.B PFV DEF BOUNOU.DEF-DYM=PL also 3PL.A 3PL.B=PFV become.3PL.PFV
nùùwà mīi
 prepare.3PL.PFV 3PL.D
 ‘The people of Bounou, they also prepared **themselves**.’ [Narrative, SD2010-10-01, Line 10]
- (51) *à yōw máá mīi*
 DEF rain.DEF like.3PL.PFV 3PL.D
 ‘The rain (gods) were pleased.’ [Narrative, SD2013-03-29, Line 11]

To my knowledge, this example does not imply a reflexive reading such as ‘they, themselves, were pleased’. However, in the next section, (§5), focus and intensifying constructions using the reflexive noun are discussed.

5 Focus and intensifying constructions

The reflexive pronoun can be combined with the reflexive noun to convey an intensified meaning in the sense of König & Siemund (2000). Two textual examples are provided in (52–53).

- (52) *mī dégé jááti mī ñàà*
 1SG.C head.1SG.POSS definitely 1SG.C take.1SG.PFV
 ‘**Me, myself** definitely, I [lit. ‘it is me (who)’] married [lit. ‘took’] (her).’
 [Narrative, TB2010-10-20, Line 185]
- (53) *mī kéndé mā ñhà ā dégé kàmè*
 3SG.C say PROH say.2SG.PFV 2SG.B head.2SG.POSS slave.INDF
 ‘He said, “do not say that **you, yourself**, are a slave.”’ [Narrative, TB2010-10-20, Line 201]

As in English, another use of the reflexive noun is that of doing something for (54), or by (55–56), oneself.

(54) *m máárà à kùwò ñ=dégé wāj*
 1SG.A build.1SG.PFV DEF house.DEF 1SG.B=head.1SG.POSS DAT
 ‘I built the house **for myself**.’ [Survey, AD2020-01-15, Line 10]

(55) \emptyset *tòpòw ñ=dégé ñ=tērō màà*
 3SG.A alone 3SG.B=head.3SG.POSS 3SG.B=sit.3SG.PFV 3SG.POSS
kúwò ñ=kò
 house.3SG.POSS 3SG.B=LOC
 ‘He lived **by himself** in his house.’ [Survey, AD2010-10-30, Line 2]

(56) *mí ñ=dégé máárà à kùwò*
 1SG.C 1SG.B=head.1SG.POSS build.1SG.PFV DEF house.DEF
 ‘I built the house **by myself**.’ (Elicit, Heath & Hantgan 2018: 443)

Described by König & Gast (2002: 8–9) as adverbial uses of ‘self-forms’, this additional use of the reflexive noun is defined as the reflexive adverb in Haspelmath (2023: §5.4 [this volume]).

6 Conclusions

According to the criteria provided by Haspelmath (2023 [this volume]), Bangime utilizes two productive strategies for expressing coreference between clause participants: in all the persons except second singular and plural, a special morpheme *mii* is used which may be diachronically related to the third person singular object personal pronoun *m(i)i*. The other option in the language is to use a possessed form of the word for ‘head’, but this construction does not use the possessive morpheme that is usually used in the language but rather a pronominal index that is otherwise only found with kin terms for the purposes of possession. Frequency counts have not yet been obtained from the corpus; it appears that each option is robustly used, but, based on comments from speakers and observations put forth here, the two options seem to be semantically differentiated.

Bangime has a striking feature of multiple markers of subject throughout a phrase: subject marking occurs as the initial constituent of a clause, pre-verbally, and also, when present, before an auxiliary. Even if these markers are represented by null-morphemes, tones serve to signify the subject of the clause. Additionally, Bangime may be considered a pro-drop language in that object pronouns may be pushed to the end of a phrase or even omitted, but the reflexive pronoun remains intact to the clause in question.

Acknowledgments

This study has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement No. 758232), of which Tatiana Nikitina is the Principal Investigator. This research was also funded by US National Science Foundation grant BCS-0537435, “Dogon languages of Mali”, PI Jeffrey Heath. I am indebted to the villagers of Bounou with whom I conducted my fieldwork and to Adama Soh Dicko who provided additional data specific to this study on reflexives in Bangime.

Abbreviations

This chapter follows the Leipzig Glossing Rules (Comrie et al. 2008). Additional abbreviations used are:

AGENT	agentive	RSLT	resultative
DIM	diminutive	VLN	verbal noun
DYM	demonym		

References

- Comrie, Bernard, Martin Haspelmath & Balthasar Bickel. 2008. *The Leipzig glossing rules: Conventions for interlinear morpheme-by-morpheme glosses*. Department of Linguistics of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology & Department of Linguistics of Leipzig University. Leipzig.
- Hantgan, Abbie. 2013. *Aspects of Bangime phonology, morphology, and morphosyntax*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University. (Doctoral dissertation).
- Haspelmath, Martin. 2013. Argument indexing: A conceptual framework for the syntax of bound person forms. In Dik Bakker & Martin Haspelmath (eds.), *Languages across boundaries: Studies in memory of Anna Siewierska*, 197–226. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Haspelmath, Martin. 2019. Can cross-linguistic regularities be explained by constraints on change? In Karsten Schmidtke-Bode, Natalia Levshina, Susanne Maria Michaelis & Ilja A. Seržant (eds.), *Explanation in typology: Diachronic sources, functional motivations and the nature of the evidence*, 1–23. Berlin: Language Science Press. DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.2583804.

- Haspelmath, Martin. 2023. Comparing reflexive constructions in the world's languages. In Katarzyna Janic, Nicoletta Puddu & Martin Haspelmath (eds.), *Reflexive constructions in the world's languages*, 19–62. Berlin: Language Science Press. DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.7874925.
- Heath, Jeffrey & Abbie Hantgan. 2018. *A grammar of Bangime*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Heine, Bernd. 2011. Areas of grammaticalization and geographical typology. In Osamu Hieda, Christa König & Hiroshi Nakagawa (eds.), *Geographical typology and linguistic areas: With special reference to Africa*, 41–66. Tokyo: Tokyo University.
- Janic, Katarzyna & Martin Haspelmath. 2023. Questionnaire on reflexive constructions in the world's languages. In Katarzyna Janic, Nicoletta Puddu & Martin Haspelmath (eds.), *Reflexive constructions in the world's languages*, 847–853. Berlin: Language Science Press. DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.7874992.
- Kemmer, Suzanne. 1994. Middle voice, transitivity, and the elaboration of events. In Barbara Fox & Paul Hopper (eds.), *Voice: Form and function*, 179–229. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- König, Ekkehard & Peter Siemund. 2000. Intensifiers and reflexives: A typological perspective. In Zygmunt Frajzyngier & Traci S. Curl (eds.), *Reflexives: Forms and functions*, 41–74. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- König, Ekkehard & Volker Gast. 2002. Reflexive pronouns and other uses of *self*-forms in english. *Zeitschrift für Anglistik und Amerikanistik* 50. 225–238.
- Puddu, Nicoletta. 2021. Verbal vs. nominal reflexive constructions: A categorial opposition? In Luca Alfieri, Giorgio Francesco Arcodia & Paolo Ramat (eds.), *Linguistic categories, language description and linguistic typology*, 367–387. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

