

# Homework 4

## Will Theuer

### 1 Possession

There are two different strategies for possession in Amharic.

#### 1.1 Suffixes

Possession is marked with noun suffixes. Second and third person singular suffixes distinguish between male and female, but the plural forms are not gendered.

- (1) *doro-é* ‘my chicken’  
*doro-i* ‘your (m) chicken’  
*doro-ish* ‘your (f) chicken’  
*doro-u* ‘his chicken’  
*doro-wa* ‘her chicken’

All plural suffixes begin with *ach-*. These suffixes may be further analyzable as *-ach-in*, *-ach-un*, and *-ach-ew*.

- (2) *doro-achin* ‘our chicken’  
*doro-achun* ‘your (pl) chicken’  
*doro-achew* ‘their chicken’

#### 1.2 Contrast forms

Table 1: Contrast forms

<i>yené ij</i>	‘my hand’	<i>ij-é</i>	‘my hand’
<i>yante ij</i>	‘your (m) hand’	<i>ij-ih</i>	‘your (m) hand’
<i>yanchí ij</i>	‘your (f) hand’	<i>ij-ish</i>	‘your (f) hand’
<i>yesu ij</i>	‘his hand’	<i>ij-u</i>	‘his hand’
<i>yeswa ij</i>	‘her hand’	<i>ij-wa</i>	‘her hand’
<i>yenya ij-och</i>	‘our hands’	<i>ij-och-achin</i>	‘our hands’
<sup>-1</sup>	-	<i>ij-och-achun</i>	‘your (pl) hands’
<i>yenesu ij-och</i>	‘their hands’	<i>ij-och-achew</i>	‘their hands’

Possessive forms like ‘Rachel’s hand’ are constructed similarly. As in (4), these constructions do not work with the suffix forms in the previous section.

- (3) *je Rachel ij* ‘Rachel’s hand’
- (4) \**Rachel ijwa* ‘Rachel’s hand’
- (5) *je Abe ij* ‘Abe’s hand’

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<sup>1</sup>There was no example of a contrast form for the second person plural (you all).

## 2 Pronouns

Table 2: Pronouns

<i>iné</i>	I
<i>ante</i>	you (m)
<i>anchí</i>	you (f)
<i>isu</i>	he
<i>iswa</i>	she
<i>inya</i>	we
<i>inante</i>	you (pl)
<i>inesu</i>	they

(6) *ihé k'ey wef new* ‘This is a red bird’

(7) *inezí k'ey wefoch nachew* ‘These birds are red’