Pronominal negation in Kalamang

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Methodology
Questionnaire, corpus, fieldwork with native speakers

About Kalamang
Papuan, TNG?
SOV
little inflection
seems to have a pronominal prohibitive

Data

Standard verbal negation
(1a) ma yuon-at konat nin
3SG see-3SG see-NEG
′He didn't see the sun.′
(1b) ma yuon-at konat nin
3SG see-INAN see-NEG
′He saw the sun.′

Standard imperative
(2a) ka ewa-te
2SG speak-IMP
′You speak!′

Prohibitive with Pron–mun
(3a) ka-mun tirire laut behas-lo
2SG-PROH sail sea open-LOC
′Don't you sail to open sea!′
(3b) ka-mun tirire laut behas-lo
2SG-PROH sail sea open-LOC
-in suffix blocked by
locative?

Prohibitive with Pron–mun and V–in
(5a) ka-mun se redai ewa-in
2SG-PROH PRF much talk-PROH
′Don't you talk a lot!′

Elision of –mun
(7a) napakin bo kueret tik-in
subject understood
use go bring long-PROH
′Don't [you] bring it for a long time!′

–mun on noun is ungrammatical
(8a) esa ka-mun sara-in
father-PROH go.up-PROH
′Father, don't you go up!′

Other fun negation: inherently NEG
verbs
mambon EXT avaak NEGL EXT
′not eat′
gongging kwanlomualal ‘not know′
lo ‘can′

Other fun negation: iamitives, nondums and inherent negativity
(1a) tumon tok muap
child still eat
′The child is still eating.′
(2a) tumon tok muap-nin
child yet eat-NEG
′The child hasn't eaten yet.′
(3a) tumon tok mambon
child still eat
′The child is still there.′

(1b) tumon se muap
child pari eat
′The child has already eaten.′
(2b) tumon se muap-nin
child pari eat-NEG
′The child won't eat anymore.′
(3b) tumon se mambon
child pari eat
′The child is already there.′

Conclusions

Kalamang′s prohibitive is made with at least
• a pronominal suffix –mun
but possibly also requires
• a verbal suffix –in

This is a strategy different from both standard negation
and the standard imperative in Kalamang (cf. WALS).

Pronominal prohibitive –mun cannot be suffixed to
nouns. The noun has to be combined with a
pronoun+–mun to make a prohibitive. So –mun is truly
pronominal. But is it a true negator?

–mun is found on all personal pronouns. That raises
questions in how far it is analyzable as a prohibitive. Cf.
example (4). Are these recommendations? Cf. also
mamun ‘leave (be)’. Even if –mun is not a prohibitive, it is
truly negative. It is the only pronominal suffix of its kind

Sources
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