

Chapter 14

Demonstratives

Demonstratives are used to refer to entities that the speaker wishes to identify and are usually used to state their distance from the speaker. Demonstratives must agree with the noun they qualify and can be used as either adjectives or pronouns. There are two types of demonstratives: Demonstrative of Proximity (this, these) and Demonstrative of Distance (that, those). When referring back to someone or something that has already been discussed in proximity or distance, the Demonstrative of Reference for Proximity and the Demonstrative of Reference for Distance are used respectively.

Section A: Demonstrative of Proximity

The Demonstrative of Proximity (this, these) denotes someone or something that is close to the speaker. The Demonstrative of Proximity is formed by:

Letter “*h-*” + Vowel of the affirmative subject prefix +
Affirmative subject prefix

As you can see in Table 14.1, all the Demonstratives of Proximity begin with the letter “*h-*” and end with the affirmative subject prefix of that particular noun class. The intermediate vowel is a duplicate of the vowel from the affirmative subject prefix. The only exceptions are the singular M-/WA- Class and the inside locative for the PA- Class. The Demonstrative of Proximity for the M-/WA- Class for the 1st person and 2nd person singular and plural do not exist. We would expect the 3rd

person sing. to be formed using the affirmative subject prefix *a-* but it instead uses *-yu* to become *huyu*. Since the affirmative subject prefix for the inside locative for the PA- Class *m(w)-* does not have a vowel, the vowel *u* is used.

TABLE 14.1
Demonstrative of Proximity Table

Noun Class	Letter 'h-'	Duplicated vowel	Affirmative Subject Prefix	Demonstrative Of Proximity	
M- 1 st Person	<i>h-</i>	-	<i>ni-</i>	-	
2 nd Person	<i>h-</i>	-	<i>u-</i>	-	
3 rd Person	<i>h-</i>	<i>-u-</i> (exception)	<i>a-</i>	<i>huyu</i>	
WA- 1 st Person	<i>h-</i>	-	<i>tu-</i>	-	
2 nd Person	<i>h-</i>	-	<i>m-</i>	-	
3 rd Person	<i>h-</i>	+	<i>-a-</i>	+	<i>wa-</i> = <i>hawa</i>
M-	<i>h-</i>	+	<i>-u-</i>	+	<i>u-</i> = <i>huu</i>
MI-	<i>h-</i>	+	<i>-i-</i>	+	<i>i-</i> = <i>hii</i>
JI-	<i>h-</i>	+	<i>-i-</i>	+	<i>li-</i> = <i>hili</i>
MA-	<i>h-</i>	+	<i>-a-</i>	+	<i>ya-</i> = <i>haya</i>
KI-	<i>h-</i>	+	<i>-i-</i>	+	<i>ki-</i> = <i>hiki</i>
VI-	<i>h-</i>	+	<i>-i-</i>	+	<i>vi-</i> = <i>hivi</i>
N-	<i>h-</i>	+	<i>-i-</i>	+	<i>i-</i> = <i>hii</i>
N-	<i>h-</i>	+	<i>-i-</i>	+	<i>zi-</i> = <i>hizi</i>
U-	<i>h-</i>	+	<i>-u-</i>	+	<i>u-</i> = <i>huu</i>
U-	<i>h-</i>	+	<i>-i-</i>	+	<i>zi-</i> = <i>hizi</i>
PA-	<i>h-</i>	+	<i>-a-</i>	+	<i>pa-</i> = <i>hapa</i>
KU-	<i>h-</i>	+	<i>-u-</i>	+	<i>ku-</i> = <i>huku</i>
M-	<i>h-</i>	<i>-u-</i> (exception)	<i>m(w)-</i>	=	<i>humu</i>
KU-	<i>h-</i>	+	<i>-u-</i>	+	<i>ku-</i> = <i>huku</i>

Here are few examples using the Demonstrative of Proximity:

Ua hili ni zuri. – This flower is nice.

Maua haya ni mazuri. – These flowers are nice.

Paka huyu alilala. – This cat was asleep.

Paka hawa walilala. – These cats were asleep.

As taught in previous chapters, below is the word order when demonstratives are used:

Noun, personal possessive, adjective,
quantity, demonstrative and possessive.

Example:

Visu vyangu vikubwa vitano hivi vya kale. – These five big ancient knives of mine.

Practice Exercise A

Translate the following sentences into Swahili.

1. These green apples.
2. These tall boys are running.
3. This old building was destroyed.
4. These long rivers.
5. This young fat lion has been asleep.
6. This beautiful place is the presidential palace.
7. These long readings are lovely.
8. These short walls are black.
9. These utensils of ours are from France.
10. This cloth of the neighbour will not dry.

Section B: Demonstrative of Reference for Proximity

When the Demonstrative of Proximity is used to refer to someone or something that has already been discussed, we use the Demonstrative of Reference for Proximity. The Demonstrative of Reference for Proximity is formed by:

First syllable of Demonstrative of Proximity + Relative particle

As you can see in Table 14.2, all the Demonstratives of Reference for Proximity begin with the first syllable of Demonstrative of Proximity for that particular noun class. This first syllable is attached to the relative particle for that particular noun class. The only exception is the singular M-/WA- Class. The Demonstrative of Reference for Proximity for the M-/WA- Class for the 1st person and 2nd person singular and plural do not exist. We would expect the 3rd person sing. to be formed using the relative particle *-ye-* but it instead uses *-yo* to become *huyo*.

Here are few examples using the Demonstrative of Reference for Proximity.

Hilo ua ni zuri. – This (referred to) flower is nice.

Hayo maua ni mazuri. – These (referred to) flowers are nice.

Huyo paka alilala. – This (referred to) cat was asleep.

Hao paka walilala. – These (referred to) cats were asleep

As you can see from the examples above, the Demonstrative of Reference for Proximity usually precedes the noun it refers to. However, the Demonstrative of Reference for Proximity is placed immediately after the noun when there is an adjective. For example:

Ua hilo jeupe ni zuri. – This (referred to) white flower is nice.

Maua hayo meupe ni mazuri. – These (referred to) white flowers are nice.

When a Demonstrative of Reference for Proximity is used with a personal possessive and an adjective, the personal possessive is placed immediately after the noun. The Demonstrative of Reference for Proximity follows the personal possessive and finally, the adjective follows the Demonstrative of Reference for Proximity.

Ua langu hilo jeupe ni zuri. – This (referred to) white flower of mine is nice.

Maua yangu hayo meupe ni mazuri. – These (referred to) white flowers of mine are nice.

TABLE 14.2
Demonstrative of Reference for Proximity Table

Noun Class	First Syllable of demonstrative of proximity	Relative Particle	Demonstrative Of Reference for Proximity
M- 1 st Person	-	-ye-	-
2 nd Person	-	-ye-	-
3 rd Person	hu-	-ye- (exception)	huyo
WA- 1 st Person	-	-o-	-
2 nd Person	-	-o-	-
3 rd Person	ha-	+ -o- =	hao
M-	hu-	+ -o- =	huo
MI-	hi-	+ -yo- =	hiyo
JI-	hi-	+ -lo- =	hilo
MA-	ha-	+ -yo- =	hayo
KI-	hi-	+ -cho- =	hicho
VI-	hi-	+ -vyo- =	hivyo
N-	hi-	+ -yo- =	hiyo
N-	hi-	+ -zo- =	hizo
U-	hu-	+ -o- =	huo
U-	hi-	+ -zo- =	hizo
PA-	ha-	+ -po- =	hapo
KU-	hu-	+ -ko- =	huko
M-	hu-	-mo- =	humo
KU-	hu-	+ -ko- =	huko

Practice Exercise B

Translate the following sentences into Swahili.

11. These (referred to) projects started last year.
12. This (referred to) elbow of mine is hurting.
13. This (referred to) near place (indefinite) is not safe.
14. These (referred to) heavy blankets are theirs.
15. This (referred to) mountaineer is not wise.
16. This (referred to) green plant will grow next week.
17. This (referred to) singing is bad.
18. The (referred to) secondary school did not buy these tables of yours.
19. These (referred to) truths are self-evident.
20. This (referred to) food of the relative smells good.

Section C: Demonstrative of Distance (that, those)

The Demonstrative of Distance (that, those) denotes someone or something that is far from the speaker. The Demonstrative of Distance is formed by:

Affirmative subject prefix + “le”

As you can see in Table 14.3, all the Demonstratives of Distance begin with the affirmative subject prefix of that particular noun class. The affirmative subject prefix is followed by the suffix *-le*. The only exception is the singular M-/WA- Class. The Demonstrative of Distance for the M-/WA- Class for the 1st person and 2nd person singular and plural do not exist. We would expect the 3rd person sing. to be formed using the affirmative subject prefix *a-* but it instead uses *yu-* to become *yule*.

Here are few examples using the Demonstrative of Distance:

- Ua lile ni zuri.* – That flower is nice.
Maua yale ni mazuri. – Those flowers are nice.
Paka yule alilala. – That cat was asleep.
Paka wale walilala. – Those cats were asleep.

TABLE 14.3
Demonstrative of Distance Table

Noun Class	Affirmative Subject Prefix	Suffix -le				Demonstrative Of Distance
M- 1 st Person	<i>ni-</i>					-
2 nd Person	<i>u-</i>					-
3 rd Person	<i>a-(exception)</i>		<i>-le</i>			<i>yule</i>
WA- 1 st Person	<i>tu-</i>					-
2 nd Person	<i>m-</i>					-
3 rd Person	<i>wa-</i>	+	<i>-le</i>	+	=	<i>wale</i>
M-	<i>u-</i>	+	<i>-le</i>	+	=	<i>ule</i>
MI-	<i>i-</i>	+	<i>-le</i>	+	=	<i>ile</i>
JI-	<i>li-</i>	+	<i>-le</i>	+	=	<i>lile</i>
MA-	<i>ya-</i>	+	<i>-le</i>	+	=	<i>yale</i>
KI-	<i>ki-</i>	+	<i>-le</i>	+	=	<i>kile</i>
VI-	<i>vi-</i>	+	<i>-le</i>	+	=	<i>vile</i>
N-	<i>i-</i>	+	<i>-le</i>	+	=	<i>ile</i>
N-	<i>zi-</i>	+	<i>-le</i>	+	=	<i>zile</i>
U-	<i>u-</i>	+	<i>-le</i>	+	=	<i>ule</i>
U-	<i>zi-</i>	+	<i>-le</i>	+	=	<i>zile</i>
PA-	<i>pa-</i>	+	<i>-le</i>	+	=	<i>pale</i>
KU-	<i>ku-</i>	+	<i>-le</i>	+	=	<i>kule</i>
M-	<i>m(w)-</i>	+	<i>-le</i>		=	<i>mle</i>
KU-	<i>ku-</i>	+	<i>-le</i>	+	=	<i>kule</i>

Demonstratives of Distance follow the same word order as Demonstratives of Proximity.

Practice Exercise C

Translate the following sentences into English.

21. *Matufaha kijani yale.*
22. *Vijana warefu wale wanakimbia.*
23. *Jengo lile la zamani lilivunjika.*
24. *Mito mirefu ile ni myembamba.*
25. *Simba kijana mnene yule amelala.*
26. *Mahali pazuri pale ni kasri la rais.*
27. *Kusoma kurefu kule kunapendeza.*
28. *Kuta fupi zile ni nyeusi.*
29. *Vyombo vyetu vile vimetoka Ufaransa.*
30. *Nguo ile ya jirani haitakauka.*

Section D: Demonstrative of Reference for Distance

When the Demonstrative of Distance is used to refer to someone or something that has already been discussed, we use the Demonstrative of Reference for Distance. When using the Demonstrative of Reference for Distance, the demonstrative used is the same as the Demonstrative of Distance. However, unlike the Demonstrative of Distance which comes after the noun, the Demonstrative of Reference for Distance usually comes before the noun.

Here are few examples using the Demonstrative of Reference for Distance:

- Lile ua ni zuri.* – That (referred to) flower is nice.
Yale maua ni mazuri. – Those (referred to) flowers are nice.
Yule paka alilala. – That (referred to) cat was asleep.
Wale paka walilala. – Those (referred to) cats were asleep.

When the Demonstrative of Reference for Distance is used with an adjective, the Demonstrative of Reference is placed immediately after the noun. For example:

- Ua lile jeupe ni zuri.* – That (referred to) white flower is nice.
Maua yale meupe ni mazuri. – Those (referred to) white flowers are nice.

When a Demonstrative of Reference for Distance is used with a personal possessive and an adjective, the personal possessive is placed immediately after the noun. The Demonstrative of Reference for Distance follows the personal possessive and finally, the adjective follows the Demonstrative of Reference for Distance.

Ua langu lile jeupe ni zuri. – That (referred to) white flower of mine is nice.

Maua yangu yale meupe ni mazuri. – Those (referred to) white flowers of mine are nice.

Practice Exercise D

Translate the following sentences into English.

31. *Ile miradi ilianza mwaka jana.*
32. *Kiko changu kile kinauma.*
33. *Mahali kule mbali si salama.*
34. *Mablanketi yale mazito ni yao.*
35. *Yule mpanda mlima si busara.*
36. *Mmea ule kijani utaota wiki ijayo.*
37. *Kule kuimba ni kubaya.*
38. *Shule ya sekondari haikununua meza zako zile.*
39. *Zile kweli ni wazi.*
40. *Kile chakula cha jamaa kinanukia.*

New Vocabulary

anza: start, begin
blanketi/ma-: blanket(s)
busara: wise
-eupe: white
-eusi: black
-fupi: short
ijayo: next
jengo/ma-: building(s)
kale: ancient
kasri/ma-: palace(s)
kauka: dry
kiko/vi-: elbow(s)

mpanda/wa- mlima: mountaineer(s)
mradi/mi-: project(s)
mwaka jana: last year
ota: grow, dream
pendeza: beautiful, pleasant, attractive, fancy
tufaha/ma-: apple(s)
Ufaransa: France
uma: bite, hurt
wazi: obvious, self evident
wiki: week(s)
zamani: long ago, old (for non-living things)
-zito: heavy, severe

Key to Exercises

Answers to Practice Exercise A

1. *Matufaha kijani haya.*
2. *Vijana warefu hawa wanakimbia.*
3. *Jengo hili la zamani lilivunjika.*
4. *Mito mirefu hii.*
5. *Simba kijana mnene huyu amelala.*
6. *Mahali pazuri hapa ni kasri la rais.*
7. *Kusoma kurefu huku kunapendeza.*
8. *Kuta fupi hizi ni nyeusi.*
9. *Vyombo vyetu hivi vimetoka Ufaransa.*
10. *Nguo hii ya jirani haitakauka.*

Answers to Practice Exercise B

11. *Hiyo miradi ilianza mwaka jana.*
12. *Kiko changu hicho kinauma.*
13. *Mahali huko karibu si salama.*
14. *Mablanketi hayo mazito ni yao.*
15. *Huyo mpanda mlima si busara.*
16. *Mmea huo kijani utaota wiki ijayo.*
17. *Huko kuimba ni kubaya.*
18. *Shule ya sekondari haikununua meza zako hizo.*
19. *Hizo kweli ni wazi.*
20. *Hicho chakula cha jamaa kinanukia.*

Answers to Practice Exercise C

21. Those green apples.
22. Those tall boys are running.
23. That old building was destroyed.
24. Those long rivers are narrow.
25. That young fat lion has been asleep.
26. That beautiful place is the presidential palace.
27. That/Those long reading(s) is/are lovely.
28. Those short walls are black.
29. Those utensils of ours are from France.
30. That cloth of the neighbour will not dry.

Answers to Practice Exercise D

31. Those (referred to) projects started last year.
32. That (referred to) elbow of mine is hurting.
33. That (referred to) far-away place is not safe.
34. Those (referred to) heavy blankets are theirs.
35. That (referred to) mountaineer is not wise.
36. That (referred to) green plant will grow next week.
37. That (referred to) singing is bad.
38. The (referred to) secondary school did not buy those tables of yours.
39. Those (referred to) truths are self-evident.
40. That (referred to) food of the relative smells good.

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