



NOUNS' SIGNS OF HELONG LANGUAGE

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ABSTRACT: This article shows and analyses forms, meaning and functions of nouns' signs of Helong language. The method used in this research is field method with taking note technique and recording. The results of this research shows that there are three nouns' signs of Helong language that are categorized into: basic forms, combine forms and gemination forms (due to phonological process). There are three basic noun forms of some relative distances, those are -a (that/close to the speaker); -ia (this/close to the speaker) and -ua (far from the speaker). There are three forms of positions' signs due to the combination of preposition -ne and nouns, those are: nia (ne + -a), nua (ne + ia, = ni) and nua (ne + -ua). There are fifteen forms of nouns gemination due to phonological process are: nga, ngua, ngia, sia, sia, sua, tia, ta, tua, pa, pia, pua dan ra, ria, rua.

Keywords: noun, sign, Helong language.

INTRODUCTION

Helong language is one of local languages in Timor Island. There are three dialects in Helong language those are Mainland Helong, Island Helong (Semau) and Funai Helong. The populations of Helong's speakers are 14.000-20.000 (Bowden: 2006). Helong language is a unity language of its' people daily life that has two functions First, Helong language is used as first language of its' community as their daily language. Secondly, it is known as second language for people who used Kupang Malay as their first language that was affected by education, occupations, and other social aspects. This diversity on the other hand has become a threaten for Helong language. Research about Helong language is very few in numbers so far. This research is done to identify forms, meaning and functions of nouns' signs of Helong language.

The research about nouns was done by Marafat (2015) in a proceeding with the title "Nouns' signs of Muna Language". This research used distributional study that showed there are two categories of Muna Language those are: basic forms and combination forms. The uniqueness of combination forms are combination forms of nouns' signs. In its meaning, nouns' sign that close to the speaker and far from the speaker. There are also nouns' signs that show it is far, high, and grammatically can show common nouns, time nouns, unseen nouns, seen nouns, near and far nouns.

Tauk (2016) in the thesis "Phonology of Helong" stated that phonological process in Helong language consists of nineteen steps for its segmental

process. Furthermore, in this research, there are also fourteen phonological rules for words on words (post-lexical) that show all the process. This process is examined in its phonological and syntax surroundings (phrase and sentence). Some words in Helong language can take some rule continuously. These phonological steps show process of phonological changes from abstract to concrete derivative.

The writing of a book "The Guideline of Helong Language and Short Grammar" by Language and Culture Agency of East Nusa Tenggara Province stated in its short explanation of demonstrative pronouns said there are three relative distances those are -ia, -a, -ua (that are linier *this, that, that*). These demonstrative pronouns are used to refer to 1) location, 2) time and 3) referent tracking in discourse. The adding of -s at the end of word changes singular to plural, for instance in the word *kia* → *kias*. The demonstrative pronouns also can have the additional -ng and -m that have its rules.

The differences of first article with this research is on its object of research. While second research has the same object, that is Helong language with different topics. This research focused on demonstrative pronouns (morphology) that examined through phonological process. Furthermore, third research focused on presenting demonstrative pronouns while in this research it is important to examine deeply about forms, meaning and functions based on morphonology study.

METHODS

This is qualitative research that describes forms, meaning and functions of nouns' signs of Helong language. Qualitative methodology is done to show how to collect descriptive data, people's own words, and records of people's behavior. (Taylor et al, 4). The approach method used is field study with taking note technique and recording. Directed and focused interviewed were done in taking the data. The interview is the "favored digging tool" of social researchers (Taylor et al, 102). The data analysis is divided into three stages those are 1) collecting the data; 2) dividing the data based on its meaning and functions and 3) analyze the data. The analyzing of the data then divided into three steps: 1) Helong language data, 2) literal translation and 3) proper translation. The data then analyze using morphological study.

DISCUSSIONS

Forms of noun's sign Helong language consists of common sign form those are: *a*, *ia*, and *ua* also *la*, *lia*, *lua ka kua*, *kia* form of position sign sue to the combination of preposition and noun those are : *nia*, *nea*, *nua*. Form of noun's sign gemination due to phonological process are: *nga*, *ngua*, *ngia*, *sia*, *sia*, *sua*, *tia*, *ta*, *tua*, *pa*, *pia*, *pua* dan *ra*, *ria*, *rua*. Furhermore will be discussed based on its meaning, and function of noun's sign of Helong language as follows:

1. Basic form are: *ia*, *a*, *ua*

a. Form *-ia* (this)

Noun's sign *ia* has the meaning that noun refers to is close to the speaker and a bit far from far from interlocuter. The function of noun's sign *-ia* is used for common noun.

Data:

- 1) 'kil ia'
'Take this'
- 2) 'ngat ia'
Look at this
- 3) Uikdale ia
Devil this
'This devil'
- 4) Lelelon ia ku se ola?
Days these you where
'Where have you been these days?'
- 5) 'Un nikit baut ia'
3Sg- V - N – this
He/She lifts up stone this
'He/she lifts up this stone'

b. Basic form *-a* (that)

Noun's sign *-a* has the meaning that noun refers to is close to interlocuter and a bit far

from speaker. The function of noun's sign *- a* is used refers to common noun.

Data:

- 1) Hela a
Chopper that
'that chopper'
- 2) Mukit a
Animal that
'that animal'
- 3) a asa?
That what
'What is that?'

c. Basic Form *-ua* (that)

Noun's sign *-ua* has the meaning that noun refers to is a bit far from the speaker and interlocuter. The function of noun's sign *-ua* is used to refer to common noun.

Data:

- 1) Um ua
House that
'that house'
- 2) Boko ua
Mountain that
'that mountain'
- 3) Del ua
Chair that
'that chair'

d. Form of */la/* (that)

Noun's sign */la/* has the meaning that noun refers to is far from speaker and close to interlocuter. The function of noun's sign */la/* refers to common noun and occurs to basic words and to words that does not have metathesis that end with vowels.

Data:

- 1) Ngae la pesang ne hopo dapa
Corn-that-keep-at-attic-up
'That corn is kept at the attic'
- 2) Uma la
Rumah that
'that house'
- 3) Batu la
stone that
'that stone'

e. Form of */lia/* (this)

Noun's sign */lia/* has the meaning that noun refers to is close to speaker and far from interlocuter, the function of noun's sign */lia/* refers to common noun that placed after noun and for the words with no assimilation process or metathesis

Data:

- 1) Uma lia tuan
House this big
'this house is big'
- 2) batu lia hoen
stone this broken
'this stone is broken'
- 3) Ngae lia hoso
rice this stale
'this rice is stale'

f. Form of /lua/ (there)

Noun's sign /lua/ has the meaning that noun refers to is far from speaker and interlocuter, the function of noun's sign /lua/ refers to noun of place and it is put after noun and words without metathesis.

Data:

- 1) Meja lua batas isi
table there too long
'the table there is too long'
- 2) Bahi lua mate
pig that died
'the pig there is dead'
- 3) Tana kua lea
child that fall
'the child there fell'

g. Basic Form ka (that)

Noun's sign ka shows that noun is not close to the speaker and interlocuter but to mention about noun that has been mentioned before. The function of noun's sign ka refers to common noun.

Data:

- 1) Auk in hir mia ka
1Sg- conj-v-2Pl-that
which already I promise you that
'That what I have promised you'
- 2) Auk in tek mia ka noan
1Sg-conj-v-2Pl-that-which
Which I tell you that which
'that what I told you'
- 3) Mia in leko ka pes ola
2Pl-conj-that-until-when
'Where is the kindness of yours?'

h. Form of /kia/ (this)

Noun's sign of /kia/ does not refer to noun that close to the speaker or interlocuter but to state that something will happen and has been mentioned before. The function of noun's sign /kia/ refers to common noun.

Data

- 1) Auk in hir mia kia

1Sg- conj-v-2Pl-that

Which already promised you this
'this what I have promised you'

- 2) Auk in tek mia kia noan
1Sg-conj-v-2Pl-that-which
I which tell you this which
'This what I have told you'

- 3) Mia in leko kia pes ola
2Pl-conj-that-until-where
You that this until where
What is the extend of your kindness?

i. Form of /kua/ (there)

Noun's sign /kua/ does not refer to noun that is close speaker or interlocuter but to show that something had happened before. The function of noun's sign /pia/ refers to noun of place.

Data:

- 1) Un in leko kua pes ola
3Sg-Prep-beautiful-there-until-where
'What is her beauty look like?'

2. Combined Form

a. Nua (there)

Noun's sign of /nua/ is noun's sign that is the combined of preposition *ne* + noun's sign *-ua* becomes common noun → *nua*. This common noun's sign becomes noun's sign of place. As noun's sign of place, *-nua* has the meaning that noun refers to is far from the speaker and a bit closer to interlocuter

- 1) /asu la butun ua/
[asu la butun nua]
Cow that tied up there
'that cow is tied up there'
- 2) /atuling nga mate nua/
[atuling ŋa mate nua]
Person that died there
'That person died there'
- 3) /ai la ka nua/
[ai la ka nua]
Fire that burned there
'that fire burned there'

b. Combined Form of *nea* (here)

Noun's sign of *nea* is a noun's sign that a combination of preposition *ne* + *a* → *nea*. This sign of common noun has changed into noun's sign of place. As nun's sign of place, *nea* has the meaning that noun refers to is far from speaker a bit close to interlocuter.

- 1) /turi ka pesang nea/
[turi ka pesang nea]
Knife that keep here
'that knife is kept here'

- 2) /sisi la tai nea/
[sisi la tai nea]
Meat that hang here
‘the meat is hung here’
 - 3) /motor ra pesang nea/
[motor ra pesang nea]
Motorbike that keep here
‘the motorbike is kept here’
3. Form noun’s sign due to gemination of phonological process of consonants those are: *nia, nga, ngua, ngia, sa, sia, sua, tia, ta, tua, ra, ria, rua, pa, pia, pua*

- /atuling a/
[atuling ŋa]
person that
‘that person’
- 2) /bekobeng a/
[bekobeng ŋa]
Man that
‘that man’
- 3) /auk baneng nga/
[1Sg baneng ŋa]
brother that
‘that brother’

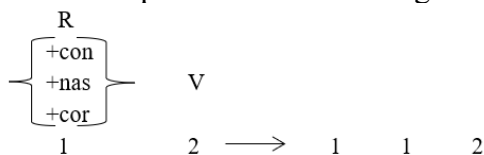
a. Combined Form *nia* (here)

Noun’s sign *nia* is a noun’s sign that the combination of *ne + ia* → *nia*. This common noun’s sign has become noun’s sign of place. This noun’s sign has the meaning that noun refers to is close to the speaker and far from interlocuter. The function of noun’s sign *nia* refers to noun of place and due to gemination process, an adjustment of sound at post-lexical level if a noun ends with consonant /n/ [+con + nas+ cor].

Data:

- 1) /nia/
/baun munan ia mate/
[baun munan nia mate]
Child eldest this died
‘the eldest child died here’
- 2) /nahan ia nutus/
[nahan nia nutus]
Slipper this broken
‘this slipper is broken’
- 3) /laen nia hua/
[laen ia hua]
Goat this gave birth
‘This goat gave birth’

Gemination of post-lexical noun’s sign



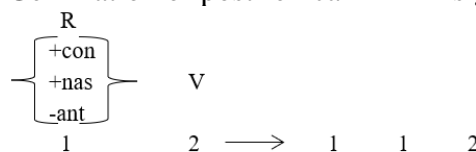
b. Form of *nga* (that)

Noun’s sign of *nga* has the meaning that noun refers to is far from speaker and a bit close to interlocuter. The function of noun’s sign *nga* refers to common noun and happened due to gemination process, an adjustment of sound at post-lexical if a noun ends with consonant /ŋ/ [+con + nas -ant].

Data:

- 1) /atuling nga/

Gemination of post-lexical noun’s sign



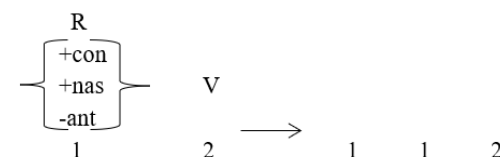
c. Form of *ngua* (there)

Noun’s sign of *ngua* has the meaning that noun refers to is far from speaker and far from interlocuter. The function of noun’s sign *ngua* refers to noun of place and due to gemination process, an adjustment of sound at post-lexical level if a noun ends with consonant /ŋ/ [+con + nas -ant].

Data:

- 1) /behatang ua leok isi/
[behatang ŋua leok isi]
lady there beautiful very
‘the lady there is very beautiful’
- 2) /bikumang ua hoso/
[bikumang ŋua hoso]
Snail there stale
‘the snail there is stale’
- 3) /atuling ua ngat ku/
[atuling ŋua ngat ku]
Person there look at you
The person there is looking at you’

Gemination of post-lexical noun’s sign



d. Form of *ngia* (this)

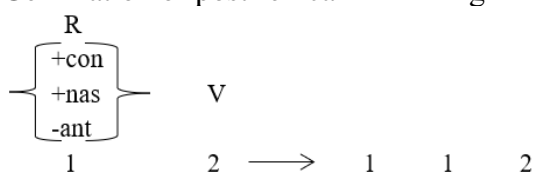
Noun’s sign of *ngia* has the meaning that noun refers to is close to the speaker and far from interlocuter. The function of noun’s sign *ngia* refers to common noun and due to gemination process, an adjustment of sound at post-lexical

level if a noun ends with consonant /ŋ/ [+con +nas -ant].

Data:

- 1) /bahang ia papa/
[bahang ŋia papa]
Mouth this wound
'this mouth has wound'
- 2) /kobang ia hoen/
[kobang ŋia hoen]
Cover this broken
'this cover is broken'
- 3) /atuling ia banan/
[atuliŋ ŋia banan]
Person this kind
'this person is kind'

Gemination of post-lexical noun's sign



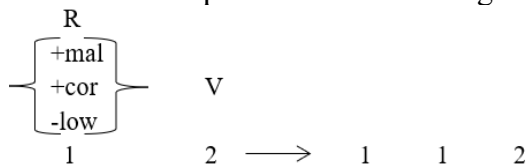
e. Form of *sa* (that)

Noun's sign *sa* has the meaning that noun refers to is far from speaker and a bit closer to interlocuter. The function of noun's sign *sa* refers to common noun and due to gemination process, an adjustment of sound at post-lexical level if a noun ends with consonant fricative /s/ [+mal +cor -low].

Data:

- 1) /lales ia mate/
[lales sa mate]
Fly that die
'that fly is died'
- 2) /lingis ia buin dat/
[liŋis sa buin dat]
Cockroach that smell bad
'that cockroach has bad smell'
- 3) /batus a kan loo/
[batus sa kan loo]
Snail that not eat
'that snail is not eaten'

Gemination of post-lexical noun's sign



f. Form of *sia* (this)

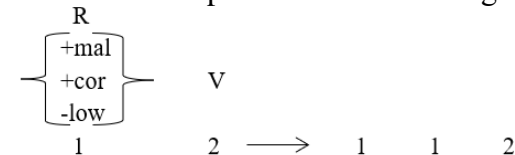
Noun's sign *sia* has the meaning that noun refers to is close to the speaker and far from

interlocuter. The function of noun's sign *sia* refers to common noun and due to gemination process, an adjustment of sound at post-lexical level if a noun ends with consonant fricative /s/ [+mal +cor -low].

Data:

- 1) /lales ia pungi/
[lales sia pungi]
Fly this breed
'this fly is breeding'
- 2) /lingis ia buin dat/
[liŋis sia buin dat]
Cockroach this smell bad
'this cockroach has bad smell'
- 3) /batus sia kan loo/
[batus sia kan loo]
Snail this not eat
'This snail is not eaten'

Gemination of post-lexical noun's sign



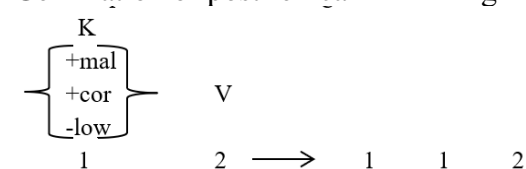
g. Form of *sua* (there)

Noun's sign of *sua* has the meaning that noun refers to is far from speaker and far from interlocuter too. The function of noun's sign *sua* refers to noun of place and due to gemination process, an adjustment of sound at post-lexical level if a noun ends with consonant fricative /s/ [+mal +cor -low].

Data:

- 1) /lales ua mate/
[lales sua mate]
Fly there die
'The fly over there is dead'
- 2) /lingis ua buin dat/
[liŋis sua buin dat]
Cockroach there smell bad
'the cockroach over there has bad smell'
- 3) /batus ua kan loo/
[batus sua kan loo]
Snail there not eat
'the snail over there is not eaten'

Gemination of post-lexical noun's sign



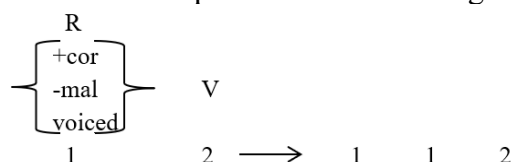
h. Form of *tia* (this)

Noun's sign of *tia* has the meaning that noun refers to is close to the speaker and far from interlocuter. The function of noun's sign *tia* refers to common noun and due to gemination process, an adjustment of sound at post-lexical level if a noun ends with consonant resistor /t/ [+cor -mal voiced].

Data:

- 1) /lukat ia mamō isi/
[lukat tia mamō isi]
Dirt this too much
'this dirt is too much'
- 2) /duit ia bubuit isi/
[duit tia bubuit isi]
Money this too little
'This money is not enough'
- 3) /hadut ia mate/
[hadut tia mate]
Lamp this off
'This light is off'

Gemination of post-lexical noun's sign



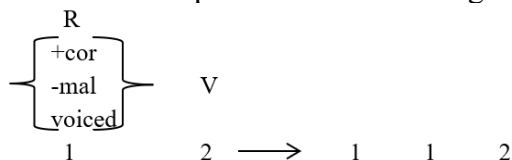
i. Form of *ta* (that)

Noun's sign of *ta* has the meaning that noun refers to is far from speaker and close to interlocuter. The function of noun's sign *ta* refers to common noun and due to gemination process, an adjustment of sound at post-lexical level if a noun ends with consonant resistor /t/ [+cor -mal voiced].

Data:

- 1) /lukat a/
[lukat ta]
dirt that
'that dirt'
- 2) /hadut a mate/
[hadut ta mate]
Lamp that off
'that lamp is off'
- 3) /mukit a boen son/
[mukit ta boen son]
Animal that already tired
'that animal is already tired'

Gemination of post-lexical noun's sign



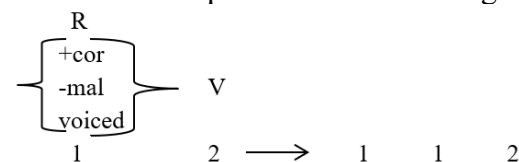
j. Form of *tua* (there)

Noun's sign of *tua* has the meaning that noun refers to is far from speaker and interlocuter. The function of noun's sign *tua* refers to noun of place and due to gemination process, an adjustment of sound at post-lexical level if a noun ends with consonant resistor /t/ [+cor -mal voiced].

Data:

- 1) /lukat ua/
[lukat tua]
Dirt there
'the dirt is there'
- 2) /hadut ua mate/
[hadut tua mate]
Lamp there off
'the lamp there is off'
- 3) /mukit ua boen son/
[mukit tua boen son]
Animal there already tired
'the animal there is already tired'

Gemination of post-lexical noun's sign



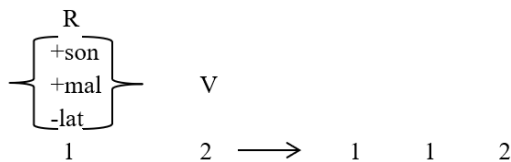
k. Form of *ra* (that)

Noun's sign of *ra* has the meaning that noun refers to is far from speaker and close to interlocuter. The function of noun's sign *ra* refers to common noun and due to gemination process, an adjustment of sound at post-lexical level if a noun ends with consonant with vibrant /r/ [+mal +son -lat].

Data:

- 1) /motor a/
[motor ra]
motorcycle that
'that motorcycle'
- 2) /bocor a/
[bocor ra]
'leak that'
'that leak'
- 3) /botor a hoen/
[botor ra hoen]
bottle that broken
'that is a broken bottle'

Gemination of post-lexical noun's sign



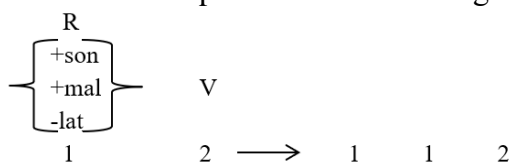
l. Form of *ria* (this)

Noun's sign of *ria* has the meaning that noun refers to is close to the speaker and close to interlocuter. The function of noun's sign *ria* refers to common noun and due to gemination process, an adjustment of sound at post-lexical level if a noun ends with consonant with vibrant /r/ [+mal +son -lat].

Data:

- 1) /motor ia/
[motor ria]
motorcycle this
'this motorcycle'
- 2) /bocor ia/
[bocor ria]
leak this
'this leak'
- 3) /botor ia hoen/
[botor ria hoen]
botle this broken
'this bottle is broken'

Gemination of post-lexical noun's sign



m. Form of *rua* (there)

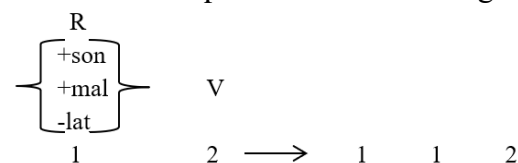
Noun's sign of *rua* has the meaning that noun refers to is far from speaker and close to interlocuter. The function of noun's sign *rua* refers to noun of place and due to gemination process, an adjustment of sound at post-lexical level if a noun ends with consonant with vibrant /r/ [+mal +son -lat].

Data:

- 1) /motor ua/
[motor rua]
motor there
'the motor is there'
- 2) /bocor ua/
[bocor rua]
leak there
'the leak is there'
- 3) /botor ua hoen/
[botor rua hoen]
bottle there broken

'the bottle there is broken'

Gemination of post-lexical noun's sign



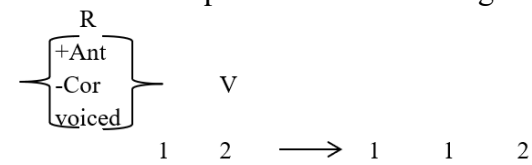
n. Form of *pa* (that)

This noun's sign does not refer to that noun is close to the speaker or interlocuter but to state that something has been mentioned before. The function of noun's sign *pa* refers to common noun and due to gemination process, an adjustment of sound at post-lexical level if a noun ends with consonant /p/ [+Ant, -Cor, voiced].

Data

- 1) /haep a lius son/
[haep pa lius son]
invitation that already arrived
'the invitation has been received'

Gemination of post-lexical noun's sign



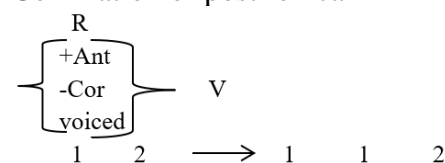
o. Form of *pia* (this)

This noun's sign does not refer to a noun that close to the speaker or interlocuter but to state that something had been mentioned before. The function of noun's sign *pia* refers to common noun and due to gemination process, an adjustment of sound at post-lexical level if a noun ends with consonant /p/ [+Ant, -Cor, voiced].

Data:

- 1) /haep ia lius bi/
[haep pia lius bi]
invitaion this not yet arrive
'the invitation has not been received'

Gemination of post-lexical noun's sign



p. Form of *pua* (there)

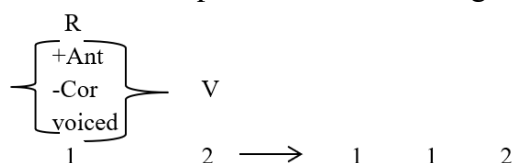
This noun's sign does not refer to noun that is close to the speaker or interlocuter but to state

about something that had been mentioned before. The function of noun's sign *pa* refers to common noun and due to gemination process, an adjustment of sound at post-lexical level if a noun ends with consonant /p/ [+Ant, -Cor, voiced].

Data.

- 1) /haep ua lisu/
[haep pua lisu]
Invitation there arrived
'the invitation has arrived'

Gemination of post-lexical noun's sign



CONCLUSION

Referring to the statement of Herring that nouns are words that identify or name people, places, or things. Nouns can function as the subject of a clause or sentence, an object of a verb, or an object of a preposition. In Helong language, noun's signs not only show the number of nouns, distances between speaker or interlocuter and nouns about also about the aspect that had been mentioned before.

Noun's sign of Helong language consists of three forms, those are: three basic noun's sign (-a -ia -ua); 14 phonological forms (gemination) those are: nga, ngua, ngia, sia, sua, tia, ta, tua, pa, pia, pua and ra, ria, rua and three combined forms (morphophonology) those are nia, nea and nua . Noun's sign of Helong language has the meaning that noun which refer to are 1). Close to the speaker, and far from interlocuter 2). A bit far from speaker and far from interlocuter 3). close to interlocuter and far from speaker 4). close to speaker and a bit far from interlocuter 5). far from speaker and far from interlocuter 6). A bit closer to interlocuter and close to speaker, 7). To mentioned about what had been said before.

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