

A. Pronominal Clitics

While endings on the verb indicate the person and number of the subject of the verb, unstressed PRONOMINAL CLITICS are used to indicate the person and number of the object and/or referent of a verb. Even non-finite verbs (those that do not indicate a subject) may have pronominal clitics. In Table 2.2 notice that in the third person, referents are distinguished from objects, while for the first and second persons the same form is used for both referent and object clitic.

	Referent	Object
Singular		
1st person	më	
2nd person	të	
3rd person	i	e
Plural		
1st person	na	
2nd person	ju	
3rd person	u	i
Reflexive		
Any person and number	u	

Often two clitics are used together, the first denoting the referent, the second denoting a third person object. Most of these combinations have undergone phonetic and orthographic changes, resulting in the dropping of the ë in më and të, the appearance of a instead of e (and i) in some forms, and certain other changes (see Table 2.3).

		Object		
		Singular 3rd person e	Plural 3rd person i	Reflexive u
1st Sg	më	ma	m'i	m'u
2nd Sg	të	ta	t'i	t'u
3rd Sg	i	ia	ia	iu
1st Pl	na	na e	na i	na u
2nd Pl	ju	jua	jua	ju
3rd Pl	u	ua	ua	ju

NOTES

- Similar changes occur when pronominal clitics follow the conjunctive clitic të. The combination të + e becomes ta; before any other clitic beginning in j or a vowel, të becomes t'. TA mësosh mirë 'that you learn IT well', T'I shkruash letër familjes 'that you [TO THEM] write to the family', T'U thuash që jemi mirë 'that you tell THEM we're fine', do T'JU shkruaj letër 'I will write TO YOU', M'U lavdërua 'he bragged ("praised himself") TO ME', T'U lavdërua 'he bragged TO YOU'. Other combinations of të with pronominal clitics and their combinations are:

Conjunctive Clitic	+	Pronominal Clitic(s)	=	Combination
të		më		të më
		ma		të ma
		m'i		të m'i
		të		të të
		ta		të ta
		t'i		të t'i
		e		ta
		i		t'i
		ia		t'ia
		na		të na
		na e		të na e
		na i		të na i
		ju		t'ju
		jua		t'jua
		u		t'u
		ua		t'ua

2. In colloquial Albanian, the non-standard form **i** is often used instead of the standard form **u** to mark a third person plural referent:
Pionierët I (instead of **U**) **dhuruan miqve buqeta me lule**. 'The pioneers [i.e. boy scouts] presented bouquets of flowers TO their friends.'
 Similarly, the non-standard form **u** is used in place of the standard form **ju** to mark a second person referent:
Juve U dhashë të drejtë. 'I agreed with YOU.' in place of **Juve JU dhashë të drejtë**.
U mblodhëm dhe, si diskutuam, vendosëm t'U (instead of **t'JU**) **shkruajmë me shpresë se do t'U** (instead of **t'JU**) **vijë pak keq**. 'We convened and, after discussing things, decided to write to YOU, in the hope that YOU will feel some slight compassion.'
3. The combinations **i + e** and **i + i** are written **ia** in proclitic position. But in enclitic positions **ia** is written with **j** instead of **i**: **jepja, merrja**.
4. Especially in colloquial narrative, a verb may be preceded by the frozen proclitic form **më** or the frozen clitic combination **më të** to signify the approval or interest of the speaker in what is sometimes called the "ethical dative" relation). Since the verb itself may be preceded by other pronominal clitics in such cases, the effect may be to produce a sequence of two or three apparent referent proclitics:
Pas tij, MË T'IU përvesh prapë Vasili ynë. 'After him, our Vasil really ("FOR ME FOR YOU FOR HIM") went at him again.'
Po të paskan tharë krahët që MË IU thaftë ajo gjuhë M'IU thaftë! 'May that tongue of his shrivel up, for they have beaten you black and blue. ("But they have really dried up your arms, so may that tongue FOR ME FOR HIM be dried up").'

A.1 Clitic Position

Pronominal clitics may appear before verb forms of any tense and mood (for the special position with imperative verbs see below):

Unë i them se MË MERR malli dhe ajo MË VËSHTRON me dhëmshuri dhe tund kokën. 'I tell her that I get nostalgic ("nostalgia TAKES ME"), and she LOOKS AT ME with compassion and shakes her head.'

MË PAÇ në qafë, po MA PUNOVE si radhën e parë. 'I'll be damned if I'll let you do that to me again ("MAY YOU HAVE ME in neck if YOU WORKED ME like the first time").'

Mos më vono se po MË PRET im atë. 'Don't make me late because my father is EXPECTING ME.'

When a pronominal clitic or combination of clitics is used with verb constructions with the formative particles **të** 'to', **do të** 'will', **për të** 'to', **duke** 'by', **pa** 'without', etc., it appears between the particle and the verb:

Stavri shtriu krahët për t'IU hedhur t'et në qafë dhe u mat të thërriste. 'Stavri stretched out his arms to embrace ("throw HIMSELF TO HIM in the neck") his father, and almost cried out.'

Pa E bërë të gjatë, shpalosi tantellën e përthyer të këmishës. 'Cutting it short ("without making IT long"), he unfolded the pleated lace of his shirt.'

With imperative mood verbs, however, pronominal clitics have two possible positions. When the verb is in the negative imperative, the pronominal clitics always appear between the negative particle and the verb:

-- **Mos MË shiko ashtu sikur nuk kupton, -- foli Argoni, -- po hajde ta tokim, se kemi qenë miq dhe miq e shokë do të jemi gjer në fund**. "Don't look AT ME as if you do not understand me," Agron spoke, "but let's shake hands, for we've been friends, and friends and comrades we shall be to the end."

Mos MA thuaj atë fjalë, Bardha. 'Don't say that word TO ME, Bardha.'

With imperative verbs, only pronominal proclitics and combinations of the first, third, and reflexive persons are used. In the positive imperative these proclitics may appear before or after the verb (except for the clitic **e**, which rarely precedes the verb stem in positive imperatives). In the positive plural imperative they usually precede the stem; but they may also appear as enclitics, coming between the stem and the ending, and that whole sequence is written as a single word: **NA thoni** 'tell US', **NA shkruani** 'write US', **MË shkruani** 'write ME', **shkruaMËni** 'write ME'; **MË thuaj** 'tell ME', **thujMË, të lutem** 'tell ME, please'; **MA hap derën** 'open the door for ME', **hapMA derën** 'open the door for me ("open IT FOR ME the door")'

A.2 Uses of Pronominal Clitics

In general, the appearance of a pronominal clitic indicates that the verb has a direct or indirect object. Whenever the verb has an indirect object, a referent clitic in the same person and number as that object must appear, whether or not that indirect object is present in the sentence.

Kur t'I skruash (atij) I bëj të fala. 'When you write TO HIM, give HIM my regards.'
-- **Kjo, -- tha, MA mbush zemrën me gëzim të madh.** "This," he said, "fills MY heart with great joy."

Tani në fillim do të TË dhembë pak, njësoj sikur të pritesh padashur me brisk, po pastaj do ta kesh më lehtë se vendi do të mpihet vetvetiu. 'At first it will hurt YOU a little, just like cutting yourself unwittingly with a razor, but later it will be easier on you, because the place will become numb automatically.'

Kështu na kishte ndodhur edhe në Zgërdhesh, me të vetmin ndryshim se atje, kur pushonin, fshatarët NA sillnin grushte me kumbulla, kurse këtu nisën të NA sjellin grushte me mana. 'This is what happened to us in Zgërdhesh as well, the only difference being that over there, when the peasants took a break, they would bring US handfuls of plums, whereas here they began to bring US handfuls of mulberries.'

If the indirect object is present in the sentence, it is expressed as a noun or pronoun in the dative case. In Albanian, indirect objects indicate the involvement of the noun or pronoun with the clause in some relation other than as subject or object. It thus has a far wider use than indirect objects in English:

-- **E ç'më duhet! -- ia priti Blerta, SË CILËS, në atë gjendje shpirtërore që ishte, nuk mund t'I pëlqente një gjë e tillë.** "What use is it to me!" shot back Blerta, TO WHOM, considering the spiritual state she was in such a thing could not be pleasing (FOR HER).'
KËTYRE, xha Vangjel, -- iu përgjegj Viktoria, U lipsen shumë dërrasa, jo vetëm një.

"FOR THESE, uncle Vangjel," replied Viktoria, "many slabs, not just one are needed (FOR THEM)."

The referent clitics of the first and second person singular and first person plural are also used, especially in colloquial Albanian, to indicate the emotional involvement of the speaker in the action of the clause, rather than a syntactic relationship to the verb:

Pa MË T'u bë ai fiku sa një shtëpi e madhe e pa MË T'I bënte ato kokrrat na...sa një ftua. 'That fig tree just grew ("FOR ME FOR YOU") as big as a house, and produced ("FOR ME FOR YOU THEM") figs, wow...the size of a quince.'

Nëno moj, mbaj zi për vëllanë/ me tre plumba NA I ranë/ Na e vran e na e shanë/ Na i thanë tradhëtar. 'Mother/ mourn for our brother/ with three bullets they felled him ("FOR US TO HIM they fell")/ They killed him and insulted him/ They called him traitor.'

The pronominal clitics of the first and second person must be used when the verb has a first or second person direct or indirect object, whether or not that object is also expressed elsewhere in the sentence:

Unë i them se MË merr malli dhe ajo MË vështron me dhembshuri dhe tund kokën. 'I tell her that I become nostalgic ("nostalgia takes ME"), and she looks at ME with compassion and shakes her head.'

When the speaker wants to emphasize the object, a pronoun in the appropriate case is used, usually either before the pronominal clitic or after the verb:

Përse i bën të gjitha këto? Sepse koha NA mësoi NE e TË mësoi TY shumë gjëra. 'Why are you doing all these things? Because time taught US and taught YOU many things.'

Fundja, NA ke dhe NE këtu. 'After all, you have US too here.'

The pronominal third person object clitics may or may not appear when the verb has a third person direct object expressed by a noun, pronoun or dependent clause, but must appear if the verb has an object otherwise unexpressed. In general, the presence of a third person object clitic *e* or *i* implies that the identity of the direct object is known to the audience:

Shumë nga kooperativistët E dinin që ishte njeri i mirë prandaj E donin. 'Many of the cooperativists knew (IT) that he was a good man, so they liked HIM.'

Ç'kërkoni? -- E pyeti përsëri burri me gjyzykë duke i hedhur të porsaardhurit një vështrim të dyshimtë. "What do you want?" the man with eyeglasses asked HIM again, casting a suspicious glance at the newcomer.'

Sikur të mos ishte përzhitja e zjarrit, që IA pati bërë FAQET lulukuq, as ajo vetë s'do të dinte ku TA fuste FYTYRËN. 'Were it not for the scorching fire, which had made [THEM FOR HER] HER CHEEKS red as poppies, she herself wouldn't have known where TO hide [IT] HER FACE.'

Ti e di SE PËR KU ËSHTË NISUR NËNA, ndaj mos pyet. 'You know WHERE MOTHER IS HEADED FOR, so don't ask.'

SE ÇKA ME MUA, as unë s'E di. 'WHY HE IS PEEVED AT ME, even I don't know [IT].'

When a form of *të gjithë* 'all' or *të tërë* 'all' is the direct object, an object clitic is required:

Dajë Kurti I di TË GJITHA. 'Uncle Kurti knows EVERYTHING ("knows THEM ALL").'

Pastaj partizanët I nxuarrën TË TËRA. 'Then the partisans brought THEM ALL out.'

Ja I ke TË GJITHË nëpër tavolina, në valle, te banaku i bufesë. 'There, THEY are ("you have THEM") ALL at the tables, dancing, at the buffet counter.'

Note that the third person object clitic is not used when the direct object, bearing the phrase accent to indicate that it conveys new information, is not expected to be identifiable to the audience: