

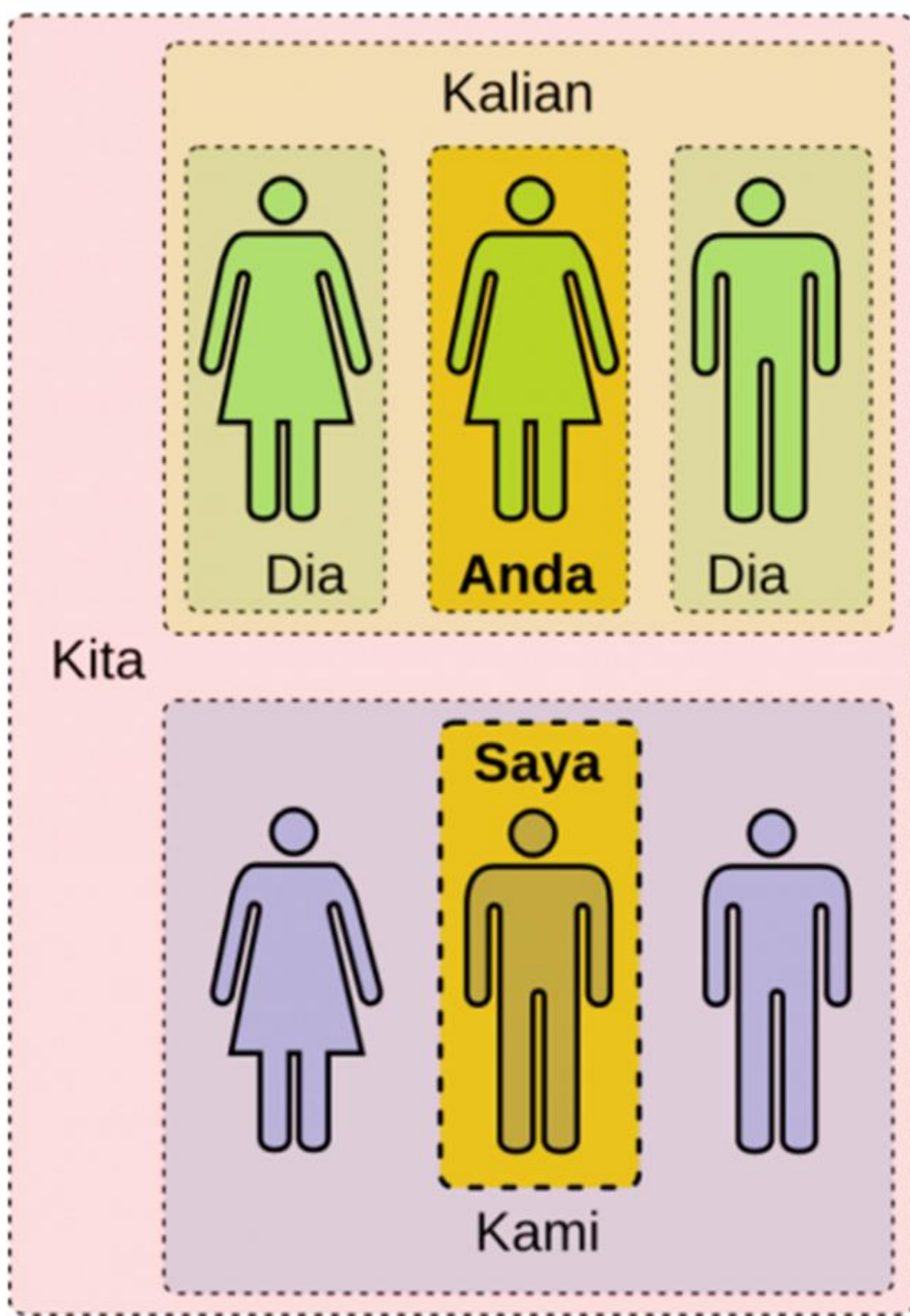
Pronouns

1. saya	I, me, my
2. aku -ku	I, me, my (informal use with friends – best to use saya in lessons) my (shortened form of aku)
3. kamu -mu	you, your (informal or for people the same age or younger) your (shortened form of kamu)
4. anda	you (formal/polite) It is more common to use a person's name or their title e.g. Ibu/Bapak
5. dia -nya	he, she, him, her, his his, her, their, its – possessive suffix
6. mereka	they, their, them
7. kami	we, our, us (excluding person spoken to)
8. kita	We, our, us (including person spoken to)

To indicate possession, the qualifying pronoun or name is placed after the object noun. Notice there are also two common methods used.

rumah saya (my house)
kantor kamu (your office)
tas Bapak (your bag)
keluarga dia (his family)
toko mereka (their store)

mobilku (my car)
kantormu (your office)
tasnya Bapak (his bag)
keluarganya (his family)



Indonesian pronouns

Saya/aku

I, me, mine

Anda/kamu

You, your, yours

Dia

She/he, hers/his

Kami

We (excl.)

Kita

We (incl.)

Kalian

You (plural)

Mereka

They/Them

Formal/informal

Pronoun Substitutes

The use of second-person pronouns is very tricky. **Engkau, kau** and **kamu** can only be used to address a younger person, one's subordinate or among good friends. Because of this kinship terms are used as pronoun substitutes.

Saudara, Saudari **Saudara** for male and **saudari** for female, like *anda*, is widely used for 'you' to people of one's own age or younger. It has impersonal tone, and it generally used to whom the speaker is not well acquainted.

Bapak, Ibu These are respectful forms used to older people or to any adult of marriageable age. As pronoun substitutes **bapak** and **ibu** can also mean 'I'. They are restricted to use by older people to younger people, whether their own children or not.

Bapak tinggal di sini?	Do you live here?	<i>said to an older man</i>
Ini anak ibu?	Is this your child?	<i>said to an older woman</i>
Ibu mau ke pasar.	I am going to the market.	<i>said by a woman to someone younger</i>
Berikan buku itu pada bapak!	Give that book to me.	<i>said by a man to a younger person</i>

Pak and **bu** are the abbreviated forms of **bapak** and **ibu**, but they can not be used alone as pronoun substitutes. However, in combination with a name they can be used as terms for reference to a third person or in addressing a second person as pronoun substitutes.

Pak Hasan mau makan sekarang?	Do you want to eat now, Mr. Hasan?	<i>as pronoun substitute</i>
Pak Hasan mau makan sekarang?	Does Mr. Hasan want to eat now?	<i>reference to a third person</i>

Personal Names

Personal names are commonly used as substitutes for 'I' and 'you', particularly among children.

Dina mau ikut.	I want to come.	<i>said by a girl named Dina</i>
Dina mau ikut?	Do you want to come?	<i>addressed to a girl named Dina</i>
Ini untuk Dina	This is for you.	<i>said to a girl named Dina</i>

Total avoidance or -nya

When there is uncertainty about how a person should be addressed, Indonesians have a number of strategies for avoiding offense. They may avoid using a pronoun altogether, or use third person-**nya**. In this case '-nya' is not used as a third person pronoun but as a second-person pronoun.

Tinggal dimana?	Where do (you) live?	<i>avoid using a pronoun</i>
Dimana rumahnya?	Where do you live?	<i>use -nya as a second-person pronoun</i>

Other Terms

Pronoun Substitutes	Meaning	Application
gue, gua;	I, my, me;	Colloquial Jakartan, only used among very closed friends informal, neutral, singular, to older male informal, neutral, singular, to younger person for older person, more informal than <i>bapak</i> , <i>ibu</i> informal, polite, can be used to older or younger people
elo, elu, lu	you	
abang	big brother	
adik	younger brother/sister	
om; tante	uncle; aunt(Dutch)	
mas; mbak	older brother; older sister(Japanese)	

Reference: *Indonesian Reference Grammar* by James Neil Sneddon, 1996.