

# The long and short about personal pronouns in Maltese

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In this talk we discuss the variation in form of personal pronouns in Maltese. All three persons in the singular possess two variants: one long (1) and one short (2) form (jien/jiena, int/inti, hu/huwa, hi/hija).

- (1) *Jiena wrejt il-kapulavur tiegħi lill-kbar*  
1SG show:1SG.PFV DEF-masterpiece POSS:1SG to:DEF-big:PL  
'I showed the masterpiece to the adults [...]'
- (2) *Jien ma rrid-x iljunfant ġo boa.*  
1SG NEG want:1SG.PFV-NEG elephant inside boa  
'I don't want an elephant inside a boa.'

We try to investigate the variation in form by correlating it to variation in person, gender and polarity. The data used to this end are twofold. One part of the data is an annotation of three contemporary literary works in Maltese. This kind of the data allows an in-depth qualitative analysis of how the form of pronouns varies in coherent texts. The second part of the data is the MLRS corpus of Maltese. With this corpus it is possible to conduct quantitative analyses of the features of personal pronouns and their distribution across genres.

## References

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