

## SEMINAR 6B – NOUNS – GENDER and CASE

### QUESTIONS (to answer after you have studied the seminar handout carefully)

1. Explain how English and Czech differ in gender (i.e. *notional* v. *grammatical* gender, *covert* v. *overt* g.).
2. Gender is reflected in pronouns – which types of pronouns? Give examples.
3. Give examples of *animate* and *inanimate* gender.
4. Give examples of personal nouns which are morphologically (i.e. in form):
  - a) *unmarked* for gender
  - b) *marked* for gender
5. To avoid sexual bias certain *sex-neutral nouns* have been invented and are becoming more and more common. Give examples.
6. Explain what ‘*dual*’ gender is, and give examples of the so called *gender markers* with these nouns.
7. Which 3 nouns have the so called ‘*common*’ gender? Explain how we use them and what pronouns can refer to them.
8. *Collective* nouns can take both singular and plural verbs. Explain when and why.
9. Give examples of ‘*higher*’ and ‘*lower*’ animals. What pronouns are used to refer to them? What about pets?
10. Which two *cases* do we distinguish in English?

11. The spoken form /girlz/ can have three different meanings clear from the written form. Which ones?

Is it the same with 'irregular' plural nouns (e.g. child)?

12. Use the following phrase in the plural and with the possessive case

*the Queen of England*

13. What is the so called 'zero genitive'? Give examples.

14. Sometimes both the genitive construction and the *of*- construction are possible, but often only one of the two forms is preferred. Give examples.

15. a ) Name various meanings of the genitive + give examples.

b) The noun phrase in 'It's *John's picture.*' can have 3 different meanings – which ones?

16. These nouns frequently take the genitive. Give examples:

- a) personal names
- b) personal nouns
- c) animal nouns
- d) collective nouns
- e) geographical nouns
- f) temporal nouns

17. The phrase "*children's shoes*" can have two meanings. Which ones?

18. Give examples of the '*independent genitive*'.

19. What is the so called 'double genitive'? Explain how and why it is used.

20. How do we use the possessive case with compounds?

e.g. *relatives + our daughter-in-law*