

## SEMINAR 7B – PRONOUNS – INTRODUCTION + PERSONAL PRONOUNS

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

1. Give a few examples of the following pronouns:

- a) relative
- b) interrogative
- c) demonstrative
- d) personal
- e) possessive
- f) indefinite assertive
- g) indefinite non-assertive
- h) indefinite universal
- i) reflexive
- j) reciprocal

+ Which of them are called ‘*central pronouns*’?

2. Which *morphological categories* do pronouns have that are not found with nouns?  
Give examples.

3. Which of the following sentences are right (consider the *order of the pronouns*):

- a) She and he were late for the meeting.
- b) I and you can work together on the project.
- c) She and her children were invited to a party.
- d) His wife and he are fluent in English.
- e) Did they tell you and her about the meeting?
- f) Why don't I and you go away for the weekend?

4. Sometimes we do not know the gender. How can we solve this problem?

e.g. *A good student will spend a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ time doing homework.*

Which *personal pronoun* is common to use with *indefinite pronouns*?

- e.g. Every person made \_\_\_\_\_ own travel arrangements.  
Has everybody got \_\_\_\_\_ ticket / tickets?  
Not every drug addict can solve \_\_\_\_\_ problem so easily.  
Someone died here yesterday, didn't \_\_\_\_\_?

5. Explain the terms ‘*subject*’ and ‘*object territory*’. How is this distinction important with pronouns? Is it the same with nouns?

6. Is there any difference between the following reactions? Are they both correct?

*Who's that? – It's I. / It's me.*

7. Change the following sentences using *a more formal way*:

- a) My sister is nearly as tall as *me*.
- b) I can run faster than *her*.

8. What forms do we use after 'except' and 'but (used as a preposition)? Choose the correct form:

- a) Everybody but *I/me* understood.
- b) Everybody except *he/him* can come.
- c) We are all ready except *she/her*.
- d) Nobody but *she/her* would do such a thing.

9. Do the following sentences contain *anaphoric* or *cataphoric* reference?

- a) When he finished his work, John went home.
- b) George was the best student, so he was expected to pass the exam with flying colours.
- c) On his arrival in the capital, the Secretary of State declared support for the government.
- d) Jacqueline thinks she understands me.
- e) She thinks that Jacqueline understands me.

Consider the meaning of d) and e) – do they mean the same?

10. The following sentence is *ambiguous*. Explain why and suggest how we could avoid ambiguity here:

e.g. When Carol arrived in Mrs White's house, she was so upset that she couldn't get to sleep, so she had to give her a sleeping pill.

11. Write sentences using the pronouns 'we, you, they' as *generics* (= pronouns with a generic reference).

12. Give examples of sentences where the pronoun 'it' is used as an 'empty' (or 'prop') subject.

13. Give examples of *modification* of pronouns by:

- a) adjective
- b) appositive noun
- c) 'here'
- d) 'there'
- e) prepositional phrase
- f) a universal pronoun
- g) a relative clause

