

SEMINAR 8B – PRONOUNS 2 (SGEL 6.13 – 6.20)

(Chalker: ex. 61, 65 - 66, GRAMMAR I – ex. 204 – 232 (all kinds of pronouns))

- **reflexive** (basic v. emphatic use) - **reciprocal** pronouns (*each other, one another*) – **possessive** pronouns — **relative** pronouns – **interrogative** pronouns – **demonstrative** pronouns

I. REFLEXIVE PRONOUNS

- are always co-referential with a noun or another pronoun and agree with it in *gender, number* (i.e. end with *-self* or *-selves*) and *person*
- there is also an indefinite reflexive pronoun *oneself*
- they have **two distinct uses**:

a) **basic** – e.g. *They helped themselves.*

She allowed herself a rest.

He is not himself today. (= He doesn't feel well)

The café pays for itself.

I cut myself shaving this morning.

Talking to oneself is the first sign of madness.

I love you for yourself, not for your money.

b) **emphatic** – *We couldn't come ourselves.*

We ourselves couldn't come.

Myself, I feel quite happy about the plan.

The house itself was nice, but the garden was rather small.

A) Basic use

- the basic reflexive pronoun **always co-refers to the subject** of its own clause
- it may function as **an object, a complement** or **a prepositional complement**, but cannot itself be a subject!

Compare: He saw *himself* in the mirror. (reference to the subject)

He saw *him* in the mirror. (reference to some other person)

He and his wife poured *themselves* a drink.

He and his wife poured *them* a drink.

Kathy begged Jane to look after *her*. (=Katy)

Kathy begged Jane to look after *herself*. (= Jane)

- the **imperative** clauses are understood to involve **2nd person**

e.g. Look at *yourself* in the mirror.

Help *yourselves*. / Help *yourselves* to some more cake.

- in **nonfinite clauses** the reflexive '*oneself*' may be used

e.g. Voting for *oneself* is unethical. (also: *yourself*)

Pride in *oneself* was considered a deadly sin. (also: *yourself*)

Obligatory reflexive pronoun

Many verbs are not reflexive in English, but their equivalents are reflexive in Czech:

e.g. *Hurry.*
Try to *concentrate*.
We *met* a few days ago.
I *feel* nervous. I can't *relax*.

Also: The book *is selling* well.
Suddenly the door *opened*.

Some verbs are reflexive only in some contexts, e.g. *hurt sb* and *hurt oneself*. If you are not sure whether to use the reflexive pronoun with a particular verb, you have to consult a good, preferably monolingual dictionary.

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1) Some **verbs** require the reflexive pronoun:

a) **reflexive verbs** – have a reflexive object

e.g. *She* always *prides herself* on her academic background.

absent oneself (from) – e.g. He absented himself from a meeting.

avail oneself (of) - e.g. I availed myself of this opportunity to improve my English.

demean oneself (formal) – e.g. Don't demean yourself by answering him.

b) **semi-reflexive verbs** – the reflexive pronoun may be omitted with little or no change of meaning

e.g. *Behave yourself* now!

Behave now!

adjust (oneself) to

hide (oneself)

wash (oneself)

dress (oneself)

identify (oneself) with

prove oneself (to be)

Compare: Jane's mother dresses *her* before 8 a.m. (=Jane)

Jane's mother dresses (*herself*) before 8 a.m. (= mother)

She is old enough to dress *herself*.

c) **nonreflexive verbs** – verbs which are transitive but are not particularly associated with the reflexive pronoun – e.g. *blame, accuse, admire, amuse, dislike, feed, dry, hurt, persuade, introduce, defend, etc.*

e.g. Williams publicly blamed *himself* for the accident.

Nobody blamed *him* for the accident.

You have to be able to defend *yourself* if somebody attacks you.
Who will defend *us*?

She introduced *her*. v. She introduced *herself*.
This will amuse you. v. I'll be able to amuse *myself* for a few hours.
We fed the *dogs*. V. The baby will soon learn to feed *himself*.

Note:

Many verbs can have different constructions, e.g. *enjoy*:

e.g. I enjoyed *myself*. (=I had a good time)
I enjoyed *the party*. (= I took pleasure in it.)
I enjoyed *the guests*. (=liked, esp. AmE)

2) Some **prepositions** require reflexive pronouns

a) with prepositional objects, where the preposition has a close relationship with the verb:

e.g. Mary stood *looking at herself* in the mirror.
Do *look after yourselves!*
He *thinks too much of himself*.
Janet *took a photo of herself* (=Janet) x Janet took a photo of *her*. (*someone else*)
She is very pleased with *herself*. X. She is very pleased with *her*. (*someone else*)

b) with prepositional phrases following a noun which refers to a work of art, a story, etc:

e.g. Every writer's first novel is basically *a story about himself*.
Rembrandt painted *many remarkable portraits of himself*.
Do you have *a recent photograph of yourself*?

Optional reflexive pronoun (= it may be replaced by objective pronouns)

a) in some **spatial prepositional phrases**

e.g. She's building a wall of Russian books *about her*. (*herself*)
He stepped back, gently closed the door *behind him* (*himself*), and walked down the corridor. (= the reflexive expresses emphasis)

But: many prepositional phrases that are **adverbials of space or time** require the **object** pronoun:

e.g. He looked *about him*.
She took her dog with *her*.
Have you any money *on you*?
I have my wife with *me*.
She pushed the cart *in front of her*.
We have the whole day *before us*.

On the other hand, there are **idiomatic phrases** where we must use the **reflexive**:

e.g. They were *beside themselves with rage*.
I was sitting *by myself*. (=alone)

b) after the prepositions '*like, than, as, but (for), except (for), as for*'- both forms are possible, reflexives are quite common

e.g. For someone like *me / myself*, this is a big surprise.
Except for *us / ourselves*, the whole village was asleep.
According to the manager, no one works as hard as *him (himself)*.

c) when a reflexive pronoun is coordinated with another phrase

e.g. They have never invited Margaret and *me / myself* to dinner.
There will be four of us at dinner: Robert, Alison, Jane and *me / myself / I*.

B) Emphatic use

- reflexive pronouns in emphatic use occur in apposition and have nuclear stress
- may be used in different positions:

e.g. I *myself* wouldn't take any notice.
I wouldn't take any notice *myself*. → all these mean - *speaking personally*
Myself, I wouldn't take any notice of her.

- in other context, the meaning can be '*X and nobody else*':

e.g. Do you mean that you spoke to *the President himself*?

II. RECIPROCAL PRONOUNS

- i.e. *each other* (= more common in informal style) and *one another* (more common in formal contexts (it is preferred in general statements and when we are not talking about particular people))

e.g. Meg and Bill are very fond of *each other*.
All the children trust *one another*.
The party leaders promised to give *each other* their support.
They *each* blamed *the other*.
The passengers disembarked *one after another*. (or *one after the other*)

- they have genitive forms

e.g. The students can borrow *each other's / one another's* books.
They will sit for hours looking into *each other's* eyes.

- express a 'two-way reflexive relationship' but have a different meaning than reflexive pronouns

Compare:

Adam and Eve blamed <i>themselves</i> .	X	Adam and Eve blamed <i>each other</i> .
(A. blamed himself, E. blamed herself).		(he blamed her, and she blamed him)

III. POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS

- differ in form – may function as **determiners**: my, your, his, her, its, our, their
- or as **independent items**: mine, yours, his, hers, (its), ours, theirs

Compare:

These are <i>her</i> books.	These books are <i>hers</i> .
That is <i>my</i> bicycle.	That bicycle is <i>mine</i> .
Which are <i>their</i> clothes?	Which clothes are <i>theirs</i> ?
Is this <i>his</i> car?	Is this car <i>his</i> ?

- '*its*' is extremely rare in independent function
- the independent possessive also occurs as prepositional complement in:

e.g. I have been talking to a friend *of yours*. (= one of your friends)
The only opera *of his* I know is

- **the only form of modification** of possessive pronouns is '*own*'

e.g. This book doesn't belong to the library – it's *my own* copy.
Sam cooks *his (own)* dinner every evening. (=cooks dinner for himself)
Do you like this cake? It's *my own* recipe.

- the combination '*your own, her own*' etc. can follow '*of*' in:

e.g. I would like to have *a home of my own*.
Have you got a *car of your own / your own car*? (but not: ~~an own car~~)
He's got *no ideas of his own*.

- there is **no difference** between **determiner** and **independent** function:

e.g. That is *my own* car. That car is *my own*. (not: ~~mine own~~)

IV. RELATIVE PRONOUNS

- introduce relative clauses: *who (whom), whose, which, that, (-) = zero*

e.g. The man *who* we met at the party was Jane's cousin.

I'd like to come and see the house *which / that* you have for sale.

I'd like to come and see the house you have for sale. (=zero)

We distinguish **two basic types of relative clauses**:

- a) **restrictive (or defining / identifying) – define** the person or thing they refer to; can contain all kinds of relative pronouns or *zero*; do not have commas

e.g. *The man who / that* was standing on the corner was waiting for his friends.

- b) **nonrestrictive (or non-defining / non-identifying) – describe but do not define** the person or thing; can contain 'who, which, whose' **but not 'that', or zero**; contain commas

e.g. Mary's father, *who is a writer*, is very famous. (there is only one such person, so it is not necessary to define him)

Compare:

John's sister, *who lives in Prague*, is expecting a baby. (=his only sister)

John's sister *who lives in Prague* is expecting a baby. (= one of his sisters whose name I can't remember, so I define her by saying that she lives in Prague).

The pronouns

- *who / whom* - personal gender

e.g. The man *who* greeted me is a neighbour. (who = subject)

The man *who / whom* I greeted is a neighbour. (who / whom = object)

The man *to whom* I spoke is a neighbour.

The man (who) I spoke to is a neighbour.

whom – is largely restricted to formal style when it functions as the object of the relative clause, **but (!)** it must be used if a preposition follows (e.g. 'to whom' ~~not~~ 'to who')

- *which* – non-personal gender
- *whose* – usually personal, but can also be non-personal

e.g. That is *the doctor whose* number I gave you.

That is *the hospital whose* phone number I gave you.

(= That is the hospital *the number of which* I gave you.)

- **that** – has no reference to gender but **cannot be preceded by a preposition** and can be used **only in restrictive relative clauses**

e.g. The *play that* pleased me is new to London.

The *actor that* I admired

The *play that* I told you *about* was (but not: ~~*about that*~~ I told you)

- ‘**that**’ is especially common and more natural after: ‘*all, every (thing), some(thing), any(thing), no(thing), none, little, few, much, only*’ and also after *superlatives*:

e.g. Is this *all that*’s left?

Have you got *anything that* belongs to me?

It’s *the best film that*’s ever been made on this subject.

All that you need is here. (not: ~~*what*~~)

I hope *the little that* I’ve done has been useful.

- *pet animals* can be regarded as ‘personal’ esp. by their owners:

e.g. Rover, *who* was barking, frightened the children.

- human babies can be regarded (although rarely by their parents) as non-personal

e.g. This is the baby *which* needs inoculation.

- *collective nouns* can be regarded personal (+ plural verb) or non- personal (+sg verb):

e.g. The *committee who were* responsible for this decision

The *committee which was* responsible for this decision

Zero = omitting the pronouns

- we can leave out the relative pronoun, but **only when it refers to the object** and only in **restrictive relative clauses**

e.g. The man (*who*) I phoned didn’t help me at all.

The girl (*who*) he came with was very attractive.

The story (*that*) he told me was really incredible.

But! The man **who** phoned in the morning wanted to order some goods. (subject)

The girl **who** was waiting for me was my sister. (subject)

Further notes:

- ‘*when*’ and ‘*where*’ can be used after nouns referring to times and places instead of ‘*at which*’ or ‘*in which*’:

e.g. I know a wood *where* you can find wild strawberries.

Can you suggest a time *when* it will be convenient to meet?

the day when = *the day on which*

a shop where = a shop at which
the reason why = the reason for which

- sometimes the relative clause refers not just to the noun before it, but to the **whole sentence** before:

compare: He showed me a photo *that* upset me. (=the photo was upsetting)

He tore up my photo, *which* upset me. (the fact that he tore it up was upsetting)
i.e. **which** = **což**

- with determiners (e.g. *all, many, few, none*) we can use 'of whom':

e.g. It's a family of eight children, *all of whom* / *two of whom* / *some of whom* are studying music.

We tested three hundred types of boot, *none of which* is completely waterproof.

V. INTERROGATIVE PRONOUNS

= *who, whom, whose, which, what*

- **who, whom, whose** – refer only to items of personal gender
- 'whom' can function only as the objective case
- 'who' can be both subjective and objective except after a preposition

e.g. *Who* owns this house?
Who(m) does this house belong to?
To whom does this house belong (=formal!) / *Who* does this house belong to?
Whose is this house?

- 'which' – reference can be personal or non-personal

e.g. Of these cars, *which* is best?
Of these students, *which* do you like most?
Which of us (not! ~~who of us~~) is going to do the washing up?

- 'what' used as a pronoun – the reference is assumed non-personal
e.g. *What* is in that box?

But! **What** and **which** can also be **determiners** – in this function the noun phrase can be personal or non-personal, 'which' assumes a limited choice of known answers:

e.g. *What* doctor(s) would refuse to see a patient?
Which doctor(s) gave an opinion on this problem? (i.e. of those we are discussing)

Also: *Which* is you? (a person looking at an old photo)
Which of the three girls is the oldest? (= 'of' phrase indicates definite number)

Compare:

Who is his wife? – The novelist Felicity Smith.

What is his wife? – A novelist.

Which is his wife? – The woman nearest the door.

VI. DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS

- ‘*this / these*’ – suggest relative proximity to the speaker
- ‘*that / those*’ – suggest relative remoteness
- they can refer both to countable and uncountable nouns

e.g. We shall compare *this* (picture) here with *that* (picture) over there.

We shall compare *these* (pictures) here with *those* (pictures) over there.

- they can be used as **pro-forms** as substitutes for a noun phrase:

e.g. This chair is more comfortable than *that*. (or *that one*)

Those apples are sweeter than *these*. (or *these ones*)

I attended to *that* patient but not *this* (one).

- they can refer to some **unspecified object(s)**:

e.g. Come and have a look at *this*.

Have you heard *this*? (=this joke, this piece of news)

Can I borrow *these*? (i.e. these books)

- the demonstrative pronouns can be a **subject of a ‘be-clause’**:

e.g. *That* is my kitten.

These are the children I told you about.

This is Mr. Jones.

That’s my stepmother. (*pointing to a photograph*)

This is Sid. Is *that* Paul? (*on the telephone*)

- ‘*this v. that*’ can refer not only to **space**, also **time**

e.g. *this morning* (refers to today)

that morning (refers to a more distant morning, past or future)

- ‘*this / these*’ tend to be associated with **cataphoric** reference

e. g. Watch carefully and I’ll show you: *this* is how it’s done.

This is the news . / *Here is* the news.

- ‘*that / those*’ with **anaphoric** reference:

e.g. So now you know: *that’s* how it’s done.

And *that* was the six o’clock news.

- **'that'** refers to degree or measurement in contexts such as:

e.g. My brother is six feet tall, but yours must be even taller than *that*.

Note:

Especially in informal English '*this / these*' tend to indicate the *speaker's approval*, whereas '*that / those*' indicate the speaker's *disapproval*

e.g. How can *this intelligent girl* think of marrying *that awful bore*?
Did she bring *that husband of hers*?

I don't like *that new boyfriend of hers*. X Tell me about *this new boyfriend of yours*.