

Lesson 10 / Handout 10a – Pro-forms (substitution) - key

Study the handout and fill in missing letters:

SUBSTITUTION

= the use of **pro-forms** in place of the **repetition** of a linguistic unit

= a grammatical relation, where one linguistic item **substitutes** for a longer one

- usually, we speak about three main kinds of substitution: 1. **nominal** 2. **verbal** 3. **clausal**

Anaphora = anaphoric reference

= **backward** pointing; the use of a pro-form as a substitute for a previous linguistic unit when referring back to the thing, person, happening, etc., denoted by the latter

- pronouns and other pro-forms are frequently used anaphorically to **avoid** repetition:

Old Mother Hubbard went to the cupboard to get her poor dog a bone;

*But when **she** got **there**, **the** cupboard was bare, and so **the** poor dog had none.*

*Fred bought a radio and a video-recorder; but he returned **the** radio.*

Cataphora = cataphoric reference

= **forward** pointing; the use of a pronoun or other pro-form to point forward to a later word, phrase, or clause:

*What I want to say is **this**. Please drive carefully.*

*If you see **him**, will you ask Bob to telephone me?*

NOMINAL SUBSTITUTION:

- involves the substitution of a noun as head of a NP, or of a whole noun phrase

- the most obvious pro-forms for NPs are the 3rd person **pronouns** and **determiners**, eg *she, he, it, they, their, them, her, his, ...* but also other items, such as *the same, one, ones, some, that, those, ...*

the same: can be a pro-form for a NP, but it can also substitute for a PP, or an AdjP:

A: *Can I have a cup of black coffee with sugar, please?* B: *Give me the same, please.*

Yesterday I felt under the weather and today I feel the same.

The Denison house is small but comfortable, and ours is just the same.

one: there are 2 pro-forms *one*:

one has the plural **some**, and the other has the plural **ones**

Both (*some* and *ones*) are always unstressed, and both substitute for phrases with count nouns as heads:

1. **one** / **some** is a substitute for an indefinite NP:

Can you give me a few nails? I need one. I'll get you some soon.

Compare: *I need a nail. = I need one. X I need some nails. = I need some.*

2. **one** and **ones** are substitutes for a NOMINAL EXPRESSION, a noun phrase head with or without one or more modifiers (NOT the whole NP): *Have you got any knives? I need a sharp one.*

I wish I'd bought a few jars of honey. Did you notice the ones they were selling?

The equivalent pro-form for noncount nouns is *some*: *Shall I pass the butter? Or have you got some already?*

VERBAL SUBSTITUTION:

- By means of **do** and it substitutes for the **lexical** verb, eg *Did you see Tom last week? – 'I **did** on Thursday' / 'I might have **done**.'*

- **do** is a pro-form for the predicate: *Martin drives a car, and his sister **does**, too.*

- By means of **do so** that functions as a pro-form for the **predicate** or **predication**:

*They planned to reach the top of the mountain, but nobody knows if they **did (so)**.*

*You can take the train back to Madrid, but I shouldn't (**do so**) until tomorrow morning.*

- By means of **do it**, **do that** that function as a pro-form for the **predicate** or **predication**:

*Is Mary still trying to light the stove? – 'She should have **done it** by now.'*

*Are you trying to light the stove with a match? – 'I wouldn't **do that**.'*

- *do that* gives more prominence to the object *that* which is stressed. The *it* of *do it*, on the other hand, is always unstressed.

CLAUSAL SUBSTITUTION:

- By means of **so** and **not** as pro-forms for 'object *that*- clause'

*A: 'Will Oxford win the next boat race?' B: 'I hope **so** (= that Oxford will win..) / I hope **not** (= that Oxford will not win...)*

- **so** substitutes for a **positive** clause, **not** for a **negative** one:

*A: 'Is there going to be a snowfall?' B: 'They say **so**. / They say **not**.'*

- verbs that allow **so** and **not** include: *believe, guess, hope, imagine, reckon, suspect, expect, hope, presume, suppose, think*

!!! A) **so** as pro-form for predication X B) initial **so** with subject-operator inversion !!!

A) Initial **so** can be pro-predication in a construction consisting of **so** followed by the subject and the operator = **So+S+op**:

(1) *You asked me to leave, and **so I did**.* = indeed I did. *It's starting to snow.* - '**So it is!**'

- **so** in the sentences above is equivalent to the **so** in **do so**:

(2) *You asked me to leave, and I **did so**.*

B) In the construction **So+op+S** **so** is not a pro-form at all, but an additive adverb equivalent in meaning to *too* or *also*, and the construction is elliptical. **So** here is parallel to the negative adverbs *neither* and *nor*, which similarly take subject-operator inversion:

*You asked him to leave, and **so did I**.* = I asked him to leave, too.

*The corn is ripening, and **so are the apples**.* = and the apples are ripening, too.

*The corn isn't ripening, and **neither / nor are the apples** (ripening).*

Other types of pro-forms:

Pro-forms for adverbials:

here and **there** can be pro-forms for **place adverbials**, **then** for **time adverbials**:

*Between London and Oxford there is a famous inn called the George and Dragon. **Here** we stopped for lunch.*

*If you look in the top drawer, you'll probably find it **there**.*

*One morning the captain invited us to the bridge. He told us **then** about his secret orders.*

- **there** is the unmarked place pro-form, whereas **here** specifically denotes closeness to the speaker.

References:

Greenbaum, S. and R. Quirk (1990) *A Student's Grammar of the English Language*. Harlow: Longman. Chapter 12, pp. 247-255.