Lesson 10 / handout 10a – Pro-forms (Substitution) and Ellipsis

Study the handout and fill in missing letters:

SUBSTITUTION

= the use of **pro-forms** in place of the r_ p _ t _ t _on of a linguistic unit

= a grammatical relation, where one linguistic item _u _ sti _ u _es for a longer one

- usually, we speak about three main kinds of substitution: 1. _ _mi _ al   2. _ _ r _ al   3. _ _ au _ al

Anaphora = anaphoric reference

= _ _ _ _ward 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 a _ o _ d 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

= _ _ _ward 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?*

_ _ MI _ AL SUBSTITUTION:

- involves the substitution of <u>a noun as head of a NP</u>, or of <u>a whole noun phrase</u>

- the most obvious pro-forms for NPs are the 3rd person _ _onou _ s and d_ _er _ iners, 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 <u>a cup of black coffee with sugar</u>, please?*   B: *Give me <u>the same</u>, please.*

Yesterday I felt <u>under the weather</u> and today I feel <u>the same.</u>

The Denison house is <u>small but comfortable</u>, and ours is just <u>the same.</u>

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 <u>one.</u>   I'll get you <u>some</u> soon.

Compare: *I need <u>a nail</u>. = I need <u>one</u>. X I need <u>some nails</u>. = I need <u>some</u>.*

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 <u>knives</u>? I need a sharp <u>one</u>.*
I wish I'd bought a few <u>jars of honey.</u> Did you notice the <u>ones</u> they were selling?
The equivalent pro-form for noncount nouns is *some: Shall I pass the <u>butter</u>? Or have you got <u>some</u> already?*

_ _R _ AL SUBSTITUTION:

o   By means of _ _ and it substitutes for the l_ _ _cal verb, eg *Did you see Tom last week? –*
   *'I **did** on Thursday' / 'I might have **done**.'*
- _ _ is a pro-form for the predicate: *Martin drives a car, and his sister **does**, too.*

o   By means of ***do so*** that functions as a pro-form for the _re_ _cate or _re_ _ ca_ _on:
*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.*

o   By means of ***do it, do that*** that function as a pro-form for the _re_ _ cate or _re _ _ca _ _on:
*Is Mary still trying to light the stove? – 'She should have **<u>done</u> it** by now.'*
*Are you trying to light the stove with a match? – 'I wouldn't **do <u>that</u>**.'*
-   *do that* gives more prominence to the object *that* which is stressed. The *it* of *do it*, on the other hand, is always unstressed.

_ _AU _ AL SUBSTITUTION:

o   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 <u>not</u> win…)*
- ***so*** substitutes for a _ _sit_ _ e clause, ***not*** for a _ _ga _ _ve 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 _la_e **adverbials**, ***then*** for _ _me **adverbials**:

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

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

*<u>One morning</u> 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.