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

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 it</u>** 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.