

# Pronouns – Introduction and Specific Pronouns

Gramatika 1 - 07

# PRONOUNS

- As their name implies, they are **PROFORMS**, i.e. they replace **NOUNS**, or **full NPs**
- Pronouns constitute a **CLOSED (word) CLASS** system (NOUNS are open class)
- Many pronouns are morphologically different from nouns:
  - **Case-contrast** for **subjective/objective** case
  - **Person-distinction**: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - **Gender-contrast**: masculine/feminine/neuter
  - **Morphologically unrelated number forms**: I/we, he/they

# PRONOUNS – CASE

- **Case**

Nouns and most pronouns in English have only **2 cases**: common case (*children, somebody*) and genitive case (*children's, somebody's*).

However, **6 pronouns** have an objective case, thus presenting a three-case system:

- where '**common**' case is replaced by **subjective** and **objective case**. There is identity between *genitive* and *objective her* and partial overlap between *subjective* and *objective who*. The **genitives** of personal pronouns are, in accordance with grammatical tradition, called 'possessive pronouns'.

<b>PERSONAL</b>					<b>REFLEXIVE</b>
	<b>SUBJECTIVE C.</b>	<b>OBJECTIVE C.</b>	<b>GENITIVE C. (or POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS)</b>		

<b>SG:</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>me</b>	<b>my / mine</b>	<b>myself</b>
	<b>2nd</b>	<b>you</b>	<b>you</b>	<b>your / yours</b>	<b>yourself</b>
	<b>3rd</b>	<b>he</b>	<b>him</b>	<b>his / his</b>	<b>himself</b>
		<b>she</b>	<b>her</b>	<b>her / hers</b>	<b>herself</b>
		<b>it</b>	<b>it</b>	<b>its / its</b>	<b>itself</b>

<b>PL:</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>we</b>	<b>us</b>	<b>our / ours</b>	<b>ourselves</b>
	<b>2nd</b>	<b>you</b>	<b>you</b>	<b>your / yours</b>	<b>yourselves</b>
	<b>3rd</b>	<b>they</b>	<b>them</b>	<b>their / theirs</b>	<b>themselves</b>

# PRONOUNS – PERSON

- **Personal, possessive, and reflexive** pronouns have
  - 1<sup>st</sup> person = designate the speaker (singular ***I***, plural ***we***)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> person = the person(s) addressed (***you***)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> person = 'the rest', i.e. one or more persons or things mentioned (singular ***he/she/it***, plural ***they***)
- no difference between SG. and PL. number in the 2<sup>nd</sup> person except for **reflexive** pronouns
- 2<sup>nd</sup> person ***you*** is also used in the indefinite sense of '***one***', and 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural ***they*** in the sense of '***people in general***' :
  - ***You** can never hear what he's saying.*
  - ***They**'ve had no serious accidents this year.*

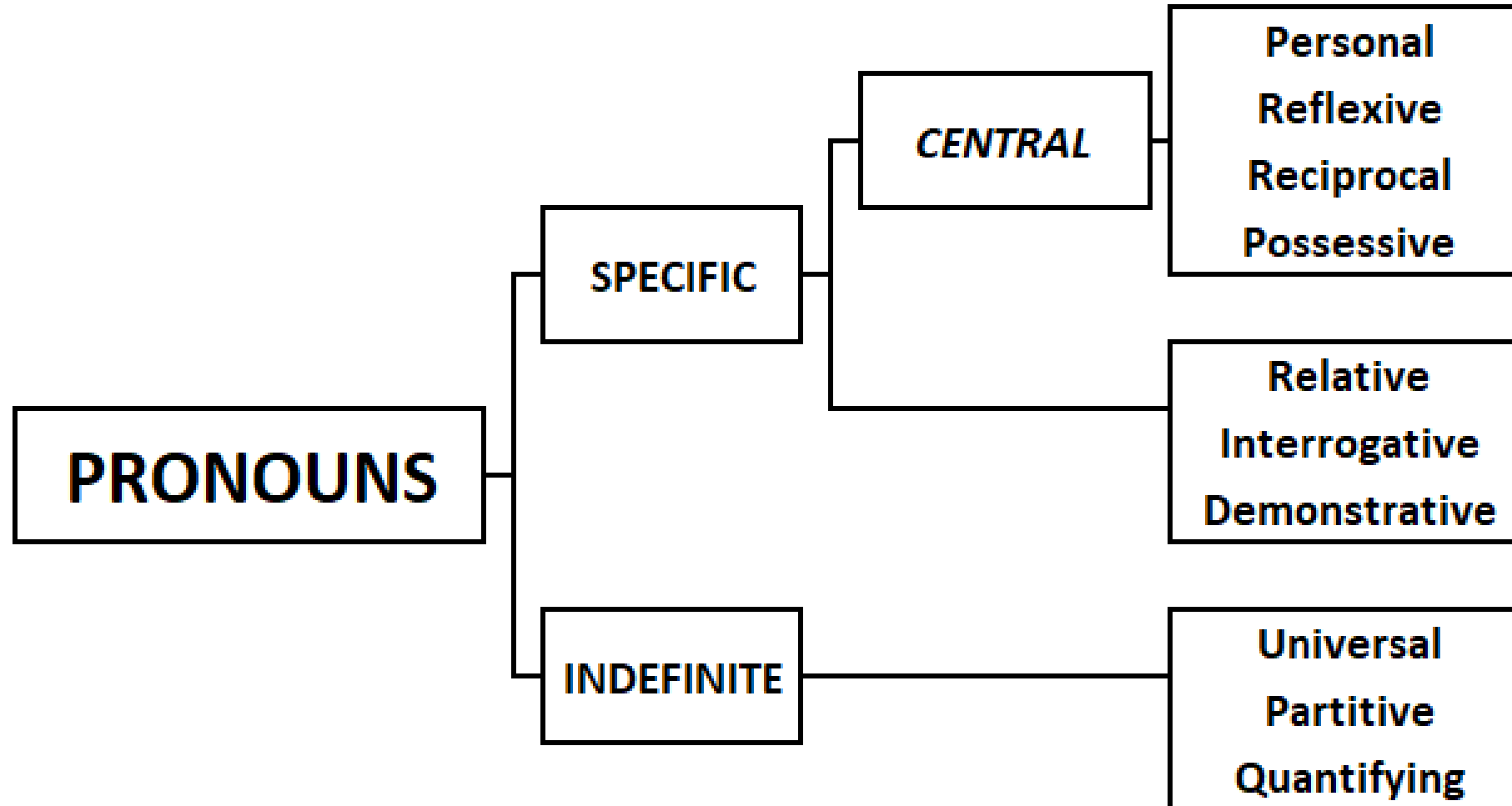
# PRONOUNS – GENDER

- **3rd person SG.**, the personal, reflexive, and possessive pronouns distinguish in **gender** between:
  - **masculine:** *he / him / himself / his*
  - **feminine:** *she / her / herself / hers*
  - **non-personal:** *it / itself / its*
- **Relative** and **interrogative** pronouns distinguish between personal (*who/whom/whose*) and non-personal gender (*which*).

# PRONOUNS - NUMBER

- Number: **singular / plural**.
  - But with a few exceptions (*one - ones, other - others, yourself- yourselves*) pronouns do not indicate the plural by the general plural inflection -(e)s.
- In personal pronouns: number is expressed by different words:  
*I – we*                      *he, she, it – they*
- The **personal pronoun we** does not denote *I + I (+ I + I + ...)* (cf. *the boys = the boy + the boy + ...*) but '***I + one or more other***' people.
- The **demonstrative pronouns** *this* and *that* have the plural forms *these* and *those*.
- There are pronouns which are **only singular** in meaning (*each, every, somebody, something, much, little*); others are **only plural** (*many, few, both, several*).
- Many pronouns have **one form** for the singular and plural meaning (*all, any, some, who, which*).

# CLASSIFICATION OF PRONOUNS





# SPECIFIC PRONOUNS - OVERVIEW

- **CENTRAL** (*personal, reflexive, reciprocal, possessive*)
  - Shared traits: marked for person, gender; determiners, i.e. need to have a noun
- **RELATIVE, INTERROGATIVE, DEMONSTRATIVE**

## PERSONAL Ps: subjective/objective c.

- *I/me, you, he/him, she/her, it, we/us, they/them*
- **Archaic** (poetic): *thou/thee*      *Thou* shall not kill.      I love *thee*.  
(Love *thy* neighbour ... *thine* = possessive ... *thyself* = reflexive)
- *We*, Elizabeth II, Queen of England = **royal we** (formal proclamations)
- Let's have a look = us (me)

# REFLEXIVE PRONOUNS

- Jane made herself breakfast    x    Jane made her breakfast
- Peter saw him in the mirror.    x    Peter saw himself in the mirror.

**NON-EMPHATIC** use: showing how verbal action passes from S back to S (nowhere else; S and O refer to the same person)

- I am teaching *myself* Latin. She saw *herself* in the mirror.
- The visitors helped *themselves* to the cakes.
- Different roles within a clause: Od, Oi, Cs
  - *He shaves himself. She bought herself a new hat. He cooked himself a good meal.*
  - *Ah, that's better. You are yourself again. She loves me for myself, not for my money.*

**EMPHATIC** use: often in apposition, stressed, mobile

- I wouldn't kiss her *myself*. I *myself* wouldn't kiss her. *Myself*, I wouldn't kiss her.

# RECIPROCAL PRONOUNS

- Fred and Jane blamed themselves. x Fred and Jane blamed each other.

## EACH OTHER, ONE ANOTHER:

- group-pronouns: *They help **each other*** means 'A helps B and B helps A'.
- ***Each other*** generally implies only 2; ***one another***, more than just 2:

*He put all the books **beside one another**.*

(... frequently not observed.)

*They gave presents **to each other**.      They are very fond **of one another**.*

*Tom and Jane met **each other** at work. Mark and Jane love **each other**.*

The reciprocal pronouns can be freely used in the genitive (possessive) case:  
***each other's, one another's***:

*The students borrowed **each other's** notes.*

*Peter and Sue often finish **each other's** sentences.*

# POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS

- Pervasive use of **PP** with body parts, items of personal use (as opposed to Czech)
- **ATTRIBUTIVE**: *my, your, ...* **DETERMINERS** (instead of ARTICLES)
- **NOMINAL**: *mine, yours, his, hers, ours, theirs*
  - *Mary's/my daughter's/her book is on the table.*
  - *The book is **Mary's/my daughter's/hers.***
  - *He stood at the door with **his** hat in **his** hand.*
- The possessive pronoun its is very rarely used, but it could be used in such a sentence as:
  - *The cherry tree gives **its** share of colour to the garden, and the lilac tree gives **its**.*

# RELATIVE PRONOUNS

- **who, whom, whose, which, that, what**; unmarked for number / gender, but personal / non-personal, restrictive / non-restrictive
- **Who, whom, whose, which:**    **persons**    **x**    **things/animals**
  - *The man **who** spoke was my brother.*
  - *He is one of the men **whom** I feel I can trust.*
  - *He is a man **whose** word is as good as his bond.*
  - *The dog **which** was lost has been found. X Our dog **Jock, who** ...*
- With collective nouns denoting persons, **which** is used if the noun is regarded as singular, **who(m)** if it is regarded as plural:
  - *The London team, **which** played so well last season, **has** done badly this season.*
  - *The team, **who are** just getting their tickets, will meet on the platform at 2.30.*
- **Which** is used when the antecedent (the grammatical item to which the relative pronoun refers) is a whole sentence:
  - *He invited us to dinner, **which** was very kind of him.*

- **That:**

- Persons / things; restrictive use:
  - *They live in a house **that** was built in 1600.*
- Only *that* (i.e. *who* or *which* would not be possible):
  - *His book is **the best that** has ever been written on that subject*
  - *There's not **much that** can be done.*
  - ***It's an ill wind that** blows nobody good.*

- **What:**

- Antecedant and relative pronoun in one: *what = [the thing] + [that]*
  - *Tell me **what** you want to know.*
  - *He is an interesting speaker, and, **what** is more important, he knows his subject.*
  - *You can have **what(ever)** you want.*

# INTERROGATIVE PRONOUNS

- **who, whom, whose, which, what:** forming questions; precede V
  - *What is the matter?*
- **WHO:** persons only; subjective, genitive, objective case
  - *Who saw you? No one.*
  - *Who(m) did you see? I saw George.*
  - *To whom did you give the letter? (Who(m) did you give the letter to?)*
    - ... *whom*: literary/formal (*who* in spoken English)
- **WHAT:** things (mostly); profession, character ... *What was he? A politician.*
- **WHICH:** things/persons (sg./pl.); which of meaning ... *Which do you prefer?*
  - *Who is he (what is his name)?*
  - *What is he (what is his profession)?*
  - *Which is he (point him out in the group)?*
  - *What about a cigarette? (= would you like; shall we have ...)*

# DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS

- **THIS, THAT, THESE, THOSE:** close / distant reference; also for time:
  - *That is what I thought last year, this is what I think now.*
- Reference to the previously mentioned:
  - *Compare these maps with those on the wall.*
- Refer to entire statement:
  - *I had a severe cold, that was my reason for not coming.*
- **SAME, SUCH** ('of this kind')
  - *I never saw such a beautiful colour.*
  - *It was no longer the same.*