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أسم المحاضرة التاسعة باللغة العربية: الضمائر

أسم المحاضرة التاسعة باللغة الانكليزية: pronouns

Contents of the ninth lecture

There are several features that pronouns have in common, which distinguish them from nouns:

- 1- They do not admit determiners: we can't say the he, a you .
- 2-They often have an objective case: him, her, them .
- 3- They often have person distinction: I for first person singular, we for plural first person, he, she, it, they for third person, you for plural second person or singular
- 4- They often have overt gender contrast: he, him, himself for masculine, she, her, hers, herself for feminine, it, its, itself for inanimate
- 5- Singular and plural forms are often not morphologically related: they, you, we not like girl-girls

The features are categorized into four maxims. They include:

(a) Person (b) Number (c) Gender (d) Case

(a) Person

In the context of the Pronouns, person simply refers to the roles played by entities in a speech activity. In other words, this implies that in any speech situation, there are three (3) observable characters (the first person, second person, and the third person) and their roles such as (speaking, listening, and reference).

the first person is viewed as the person speaking i.e., the speaker. Example: (I, me, my, mine and we, us, our, ours); the second person is viewed as the person spoken to i.e., the listener. Example: (you, you, your, yours) and the third person is viewed as the person being spoken about i.e., the referred. Example: (it, they, them and it, their, theirs).

(b) Number

Number refers to the numerical distinction made to the characters involved in the speech activity. In this way, we have the singular and the plural. For example: (I and we; me and us; he, she, it and they; you and you respectively).

(c) Gender

The English Pronouns are also categorized according to sex of the characters involved in the speech activity. By gender, four classes have been identified: *the masculine* (male), *the feminine* (female), *the neuter* (for unspecified gender, non-human and at times, babies) and *the generic* (used for both male and female in cases of generalizations as well as for proper nouns personal names of specific people, places, things or events). For example:

Masculine:	<i>He, Him</i>
Feminine:	<i>She, Her</i>
Neuter:	<i>I, me, It, Its</i>
Generic:	<i>His, Her</i>

Example of generic cases include:

- (a) Everyone should bring forth his pen
- (b) Nigeria gained her independence in 1960
- (c) Solarin will be convoking her postgraduate students by November

(d) Case

In the pronominal class, case refers to the changes a word undergoes in line with its syntactic relationship with other words in the sentence. Case also expresses ownership in a word. We can define the case as the relationship a noun or Pronoun shows with other words (especially verbs) within a sentence. There are outstanding kinds of case in Pronouns. They are:

- 1) **Subjective (nominative)** - when a Pronoun serves as the subject of the sentence, the case is subjective i.e., being the actor or performer or doer. In this case, that Pronoun is the word or group of words being spoken about the subject.

(I, we, she, he, they)

The subject pronoun is used

1-when it is the subject of a verb:

Ex: They live south of the equator

2- when the subject of the two clauses are compared

Ex: They are more protected against the cold than we

3. after the verb to be:

Ex: It is he with the eggs

4- after as and then:

Ex: she is not as tired as he

E.g.: *I own it*

(In the above sentence, I is a subjective and it, objective)

- 2) **Objective (accusative)** – when in the objective case, the Pronoun is used as the object of the sentence. It often referred to as accusative because it suffers or receives the action of the verb in a sentence directly or indirectly. **(Me, us, you, him, her, it, them)**

The object pronoun is used:

1- when it is the direct object of the verb:

Ex: She gives him the eggs

2- after prepositions: when she returns, she takes over the eggs from him.

But when the preposition introduces a new clause, the subject pronoun must be used because the pronoun is now the subject of the new clause: He leaves after she returns after prepositions: when she returns, she takes over the eggs from him.

3- when the objects of two clauses are compared:

Ex: It is easier for them than us

E.g.: *He gave me the letter*

(In the above sentence, He is subjective and me is objective for being the accused and receiver of the action of the verb gave).

- 3) **Possessive (Genitive)** – the Pronoun is said to be in a possessive case when it is used to express ownership or possession relationship, hence the term genitive.

Possessive pronouns (adjectives): they are also called attributives or determiners:

(My, our, your, his, her, its, their)

The possessive attributive adjectives or pronouns are used:

1- to modify a noun and show ownership:

Ex: They lay their eggs about fifty miles from the coast

2- to refer to parts of the body:

Ex: He broke his leg

3- to modify a gerund:

Ex: We are surprised by their nesting in such harsh condition

- E.g.:
- a) The book is his
 - b) Let me have my food
 - c) That is the man whose child died

(In the above sentences, the underlined Pronouns his, my, whose indicate possession of the following objects: book, food and child respectively).

Possessive pronouns: nominal (Mine, ours, yours, his, hers, its, theirs)

The possessive pronouns are used:

1- to replace a possessive adjective and a noun:

Ex: She takes her turn, and he takes his (his turn)

2- after the verb to be:

Ex: the egg is hers

3- To replace the second possessive adjective and noun when they are being compared:

Ex: Their life seems more difficult than ours

A tabular display of the pronominal case types in English language and their examples are given on table below:

Subjective Case (Nominative)		Objective Case (Accusative)		Possessive Case (Genitive)	
<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>	<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>	<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>
I	We	Me	Us	My, Mine	Mine
You	You	You	You	Our	Ours
He	Him	Him	Them	Your	Yours
She	Her	Her	Her	Their	Theirs
It	It	It	It, they, them	Her	Hers
One	One	One	One	His	His
They	Them				

Types of Pronouns

There are many types and subtypes of Pronouns in English. This paper shall identify and discuss with copious examples, eleven (11) types of Pronouns. They are as follows: the personal, possessive, relative, partitive, reflexive, demonstrative, interrogative, indefinite, distributive, universal and reciprocal Pronouns.

- 1) **Personal Pronouns:** The personal Pronouns include: (I, you, he, him, we, us, me, she, her, it, they and them). They are referred to as personal because refer to the person speaking or being spoken to. The following are examples of personal Pronouns within the sentence structure.
 - a) I reported the case to the police
 - b) The doctor told me I will be fine
 - c) Leave us alone, we will survive the storm
 - d) She told her the secret
 - e) He rarely eats sugar
 - f) It is sunny today; I am sure they will go visit them

- 2) **Possessive Pronouns:** The possessive Pronouns include: (my, our, your, their, her, his and mine, ours, yours, theirs, hers, his). They are referred to as possessive because they function in genitive case (i.e., they indicate ownership and express possession relationship) to the person speaking or being spoken to. The following are examples of possessive Pronouns in sentences.
 - a) Our teachers are working hard.
 - b) Theirs is to eat and mine, to buy.
 - c) Should the pen be his, the book is ours.
 - d) His mother is my friend
 - e) Her car is dirty, she needs yours.

- 3) **Relative Pronouns:** Relative Pronouns are used to relate an adjectival or describing clause to the noun or Pronoun it describes. They show relationship between two or more sentence elements. They include: (who, whom, whose, which, that, what, when, why, so and how). The relative Pronouns who and whom according to relate or refer to person, i.e. when the antecedent is animate whereas which is used when the antecedent is inanimate, such as things, objects, events etc. The following are examples of relative Pronouns in sentences.
 - a) Look at the man who killed his mother.

- b) Let me have the book that I asked you to buy.
- c) The students lack the idea about how they failed the test.
- d) Meet my son in whom I am well pleased.

4) Partitive Pronouns: These are Pronouns which refer to parts (not the whole) of the antecedents (what they represent). They include: (any, some, something, no, nothing, anything). Examples of partitive Pronouns include:

- a) Please give me some plain sheets
- b) There must be something wrong with Jane.
- c) Students don't read anything lengthy.

5) Reflexive Pronouns: Reflexive Pronouns are those which refer directly to the nouns or the noun phrase.), reflexive Pronouns indicate co-referential relationship, i.e., when the subject and object are the same referent. Such Pronouns include: (myself, themselves, itself, yourself, himself, herself, ourselves, yourselves). Examples of reflexive Pronouns include:

- a) They themselves are the evil doers
- b) If you come yourself, he may be lenient
- c) She solved the problem herself
- d) The goat delivered an offspring itself
- e) I can drive the car myself

A reflexive Pronoun is one which shows that the action in the sentence has its effect on the person or thing that does the action. However, some personal Pronouns are joined with the word self (singular) or selves (plural) to form what is known as reflexive Pronouns.

6) Demonstrative Pronouns: These Pronouns are used to indicate or point out the person or thing being referred to. The English language has four basic demonstrative Pronouns. They are: *this, those, that and these*. They can be classified on two basis nearness [this] and distance [that] as well as singular [this] and plural [these]. Examples of are given below:

- a) Are these the gifts from John?
- b) This is my pen.
- c) That may not be my property.
- d) Excuse me gentleman, those boots are not yours.

7) Interrogative Pronouns: As the name implies, interrogative Pronouns are used to ask questions. More often than not, they appear as the first words in sentences

terminating in a question. Interrogative Pronouns have morphological shapes suggestive of relative Pronouns. The difference between the duo, however, lies in the structural and functional characteristics. For instance, interrogative Pronouns regularly ask questions. They include: (who, what, which and who). Illustrations are provided below.

- a) What is your name?
- b) When is the event?
- c) Which of the clothes are yours?
- d) Who provided you the keys?

8) Indefinite Pronouns: Indefinite Pronouns refer to unspecified referents. This category of Pronouns often functions as adjectives. They include: *each, every, anybody, anyone, anything, both, nothing, another, all, any, anybody, everyone, everybody, everything, few, many, some, nobody, none, no one, one(s), other, several, somebody, someone, something etc.*

<i>somebody</i>	<i>someone</i>	<i>something</i>	<i>somewhere</i>
<i>anybody</i>	<i>anyone</i>	<i>anything</i>	<i>anywhere</i>
<i>nobody</i>	<i>no one</i>	<i>nothing</i>	<i>nowhere</i>
<i>everybody</i>	<i>everyone</i>	<i>everything</i>	<i>everywhere</i>

SOMEBODY, SOMEONE, SOMETHING, SOMEWHERE

These words refer to a person, thing or place, without identifying which person, thing or place.

somebody / someone: an unidentified person

something: an unidentified thing

somewhere: an unidentified place

Alice says 'there's something I want to ask you.' She is saying that she has a question, but she hasn't yet identified the topic of the question. When she says: 'There's somebody else, isn't there?' this is a positive statement, followed by a question tag. Alice is saying that she believes that Paul is seeing another woman, but she doesn't know who.

More examples:

Somebody called yesterday, but I don't know who it was.

He had something to eat before he went home.

Have you seen my phone? I put it down somewhere and now I can't find it.

ANYBODY, ANYONE, ANYTHING, ANYWHERE

These words are used in questions and negative sentences, to refer to a person, thing or place, without identifying which person, thing or place.

anybody / anyone: an unidentified person

anything: an unidentified thing

anywhere: an unidentified place

Are you seeing anybody else?

I've just moved to a new town, and I don't know anyone.

'any-' words are also used to express conditions:

'You can park anywhere' = 'if you need a place to park, use one of these spaces.

'It's easy to find. Ask anyone' = 'if you can't find it, ask someone: everybody knows where it is.'

NOBODY, NO-ONE, NOTHING, NOWHERE

These words are used in positive sentences, but they have negative meanings: they refer to an absence of people, things or place.

No-one is written with a hyphen between the two 'o's.

Nobody knows where it is.

No-one came to the party.

He says he knows nothing about the crime.

They are homeless. They have nowhere to live.

EVERYBODY, EVERYONE, EVERYTHING, EVERYWHERE

These words are used to refer to all people, things or places. Everybody and everyone have the same meaning. Everybody likes chocolate.

Everything closes at the end of the holiday season.

We need to tidy up. There's rubbish everywhere.

9) Distributive Pronouns: These are Pronouns used to talk about each and every person separately. They include: *each, either, none, both, everyone, every, neither, any, one, everybody, everything*). Examples of such Pronouns include:

- a) Each of us has a car
- b) Every Nigerian is corrupt
- c) Everything good will come

- d) Either of them is beautiful
- e) Neither of my parents is educated

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10) Reciprocal Pronouns: These are Pronouns used to talk about mutual relationship. They are those Pronouns which demonstrated share or common relationship or action. reciprocal Pronouns somehow are similar to the reflexive Pronouns but with slight differences. While the reciprocal Pronoun relates to the action, the reflexive relates to the person. There are basically two types of reciprocal Pronouns in English namely: *each other and one another*. Example:

- a) John and Mary love each other
- b) The teacher talked about examination and the students looked at each other
- c) They cheated one another in their business.