

SEMANTIC FEATURE OF PRONOUNS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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There are a variety of distinguishing features of English Pronouns. For easy understanding and comprehension, the elements are classified into four maxims, according to Abia (2013). They include: (a) Person, (b) Number, (c) Gender, (d) Case

(a) **Person**. In the context of the Pronouns, character truly refers to the roles played by using entities in a speech activity. In other words, this implies that in any speech situation, there are three (3) observable characters (the first person, 2nd character, and the 0.33 person) and their roles such as (speaking, listening, and reference).

According to Okunowo (2014), the first person is considered as the man or woman talking i.e., the speaker. Example: (I, me, my, mine and we, us, our, ours) ; the 2nd man or woman is viewed as the man or woman spoken to i.e the listener. Example: (you, you, your, yours) and the 0.33 individual is seen as the person being spoken about i.e., the referred. Example: (it, they, them and it, their, theirs).

(b) **Number**. The number refers to the numerical difference 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 additionally categorized according to the sex of the characters worried in the speech activity. By gender, four instructions have been identified: the masculine (male), the female (female), the neuter (for unspecified gender, non-human and at times, babies), and the prevalent (used for both male and female in cases of generalizations as nicely as for proper nouns personal names of specific people, places, things or events).

For example:

Masculine: He, Him

Feminine: She, Her

Neuter: I, me, It, Its

Generic: His, Her

Examples of widely widespread instances include:

Everyone must carry forth his pen

Nigeria received her independence in 1960

Solarian will be convoking her postgraduate college students in November

(d) **Case.** In the pronominal class, the case refers to the modifications a word undergoes in line with its syntactic relationship with different words in the sentence. The case also expresses possession in a word. Akinbode (2006) defines the case as the relationship a noun or Pronoun indicates with different phrases (especially verbs) inside a sentence. There are great kinds of cases in Pronouns. They are:

Subjective (nominative) - when a Pronoun serves as the situation 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 crew of phrases being spoken about the subject.

E.g.: I own it

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

Objective (accusative) – when in the objective case, the Pronoun is used as the object of the sentence. It is frequently referred to as accusative due to the fact it suffers or receives the action of the verb in a sentence immediately or indirectly.

E.g.: He gave me the letter

(In the above sentence, He is subjective and I am the goal for being the accused and receiver of the motion of the verb gave).

Possessive (Genitive) – the Pronoun is stated to be in a possessive case when it is used for categorical ownership or possession relationship, consequently the term genitive.

E.g.: a) The e-book is his

b) Let me have my food

c) That is the man whose infant died

(In the above sentences, the underlined Pronouns his, and my, point out possession of the following objects: book, meals, and infant respectively).

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

The Pronouns and Parsing. Parsing refers to the grammatical workout involving the description of sentences and words. Parsing, Friend, (1976) observes is performed by using giving names to the grammatical categories of a range of elements, for example, subject, predicate, verb, object, number, case, gender, person, etc. To parse a phrase really skills to observe it from two extraordinary perspectives: (i) what part of speech it is, and (ii) what part it performs in the construction of a sentence.

How to Parse Pronouns. To parse a Pronoun, one has to exhibit 5 exceptional things

concerning it:

(a) of what kind it is whether Personal, Possessive, Demonstrative, Relative (i.e., Conjunctive), or Interrogative.

(b) of what gender it is whether Masculine, Feminine, Generic, Common, or Neuter.

(c) of what quantity it is whether or not Singular or Plural.

(d) of what man or woman, it is whether or not first, second, or third

(e) in what case it is whether Nominative, objective, genitive

For example, to parse the Pronouns in the sentence:

I have written down your names in my book

The following analysis applies:

<i>I have written down your names in my book</i>					
					Nominative case – subjective to the verb have written.
					Possessive case – indicating possession of ‘names’.
					Possessive case (possessive adjective qualifying the noun ‘book’).

12 commandments in the usage of English Pronouns

1) The Pronoun should agree with the Noun in number, gender, and person.

Example: Bayo is my friend. He is in the hospital

Bukola is my friend. She loves me much

My pals are very kind. They helped me much

2) When two Nouns are linked with the aid of and refer to the identical man or woman or thing, the Pronoun has to be Singular.

Example:

The writer and editor posted his poems

Buying and promoting are his business

3) If the Nouns are mixed using and refer to two tremendous folks or things, a Plural Pronoun must be used.

Example:

The President and the Party Chairman had their interview on T.V. yesterday.

The teacher and the necessary delivered their speeches at the function.

4) If the Nouns are linked with the resource of every and every, the Pronouns ought to be singular.

Example:

Every man and boy has paid his fee

Every female and girl has presented her book

5) If Pronouns are blended with the aid of or, both or, neither nor, the Pronoun has to be singular.

Example:

Either Victoria or Abike has left her handbag.

Neither Caroline nor Funmi has performed her work.

Adaobi or Amina aired her views about marriage.

6) If a singular Noun is blended with a plural Noun by the use of or, nor, either-or, neither- nor, the Pronoun has to be plural.

Example:

Neither the fundamentals nor the instructors are involved in their duties.

Either Kayodeor the distinctive college students have helped their teacher.

7) The right form of Pronouns (subjective and goal case) has to be used after than or a verb.

Example:

She loves me multiplied than I love her

She invited my pal and me (not I) to the function.

8) The desirable order of Pronouns and their human beings ought to be maintained.

Example:

You and I shall go there.

My mother and I consulted the doctor.

9) Double possessives may moreover be used correctly.

Example:

Caroline is a buddy of mine.

We have an e-e-book of yours.

10) After a preposition and the verb, the Pronoun has to be in the goal case.

Example:

Nobody but Victoria helped me. (not I)

She loves none on the other hand me. (not I)

11) Reflexive Pronouns ought to through the use of no capacity be used as topics or objects.

Example:

My sister and I edited a film yesterday. (wrong)

My sister and I edited a film yesterday. (right)

I met the Manager. (wrong)

I met the Manager. (right)

Yourself broke the chair. (wrong)

You broke the chair. (right)

12) Reflexive Pronouns might also in addition be used after prepositions.

Example:

He seemed after himself

He quarreled amongst them himself

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