

Typology of reflexives

Remember the first class when we discussed what kinds of reflexives are **not** attested in the known languages. We need a typology that can (i) account for what's possible and (ii) prohibit what's impossible.

See, for example, Government and Binding Theory: too restrictive; it predicts that reflexives and personal pronouns must always be in complementary distribution and does not comply with the real data.

Kiparsky's typology

Kiparsky, Paul. 2002. Disjoint reference and the typology of pronouns. In *More than Words*, ed. by Ingrid Kaufmann and Barbara Stiebels, 179-226. Berlin: Akademie Verlag.

**pronoun* = personal (plain) / reflexive pronoun

“Obviation” approaches vs. “Blocking” approaches:

The Obviation approach: Coarguments have disjoint reference. (see Principle B). ← *semantics*

Blocking: Anaphors are obligatory in their binding domain under the appropriate conditions, while the coreferential interpretation of pronominals is **blocked**. ← *syntax*

Kiparsky → **Faltz (1977)**: two dimensions to describe reflexives and reciprocals

- the size of the domain within which they must be bound
- the nature of the antecedent in the clausal domain.

*“binding domain” and “antecedent requirement” are lexical properties of individual anaphors, not a syntactic parameter of the language as a whole.

Kiparsky's two parameters:

- obviate or not (proximate);
- antecedent domain.

Examples:

English: pronouns – obviate, reflexives – proximate.

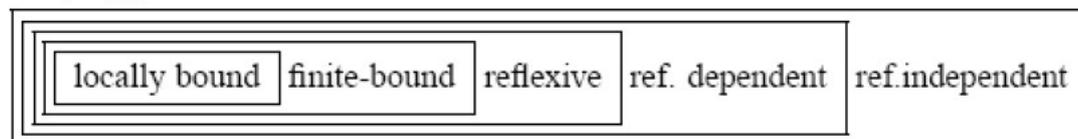
Swedish: proximate vs. obviate reflexives (*sig* vs. *sig själv*)

Generalization 1: An anaphor whose antecedent is a coargument has a bound variable reading but not a coreferential reading. ← *strict vs sloppy readings*

- (1) John hates himself, and so does Fred. (unambiguous)
 - a. ≠ Fred hates John too. (no “strict identity”, no coreference)
 - b. = Fred hates himself too. (“sloppy identity” only, bound variable reading)
- (2) John considers [himself competent], and so does Fred. (ambiguous)
 - a. = Fred considers [John incompetent] too. (“strict”)
 - b. = Fred considers [himself incompetent] too. (“sloppy”)

Generalization 2: A plural or conjoined DP which overlaps in reference with a coargument has a collective reading but not a distributive reading.

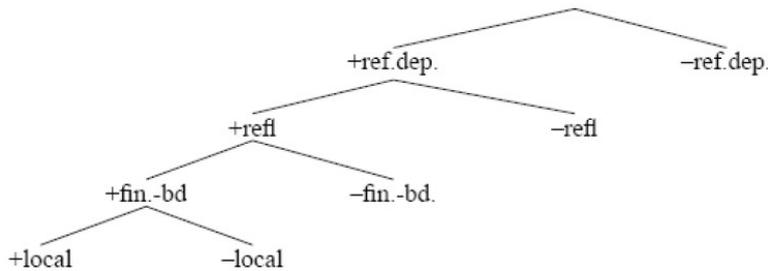
Antecedent domain (locality):



The category of a pronoun is defined by the maximum domain in which its antecedent may be found.

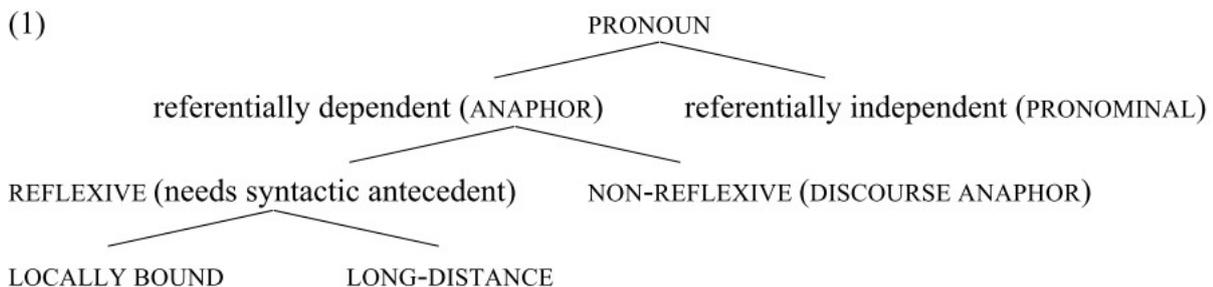
Diagnostic contexts:

- (3) a. Referentially independent: Allowed in:
 It's ____ !
 We need to talk about ____, ____, and ____.
- b. Referentially dependent:
1. Non-reflexive: Allowed in:
 John_i is here. I saw _____i. (discourse antecedent)
 2. Reflexive:
 - i. Non-finite-bound: Allowed in:
 John_i thought that I would criticize _____i.
 John_i was sad. Why didn't Mary love _____i? (logophoric in strict sense)
 - ii. Finite-bound:
 - A. Non-locally bound: Allowed in:
 John_i asked me to criticize _____i.
 - B. Locally bound:
 John_i criticized _____i. (reflexive)
 John_i showed Bill_j _____{i,j} in the mirror.
- + For each of them, add the obviation property [+/- Obviative].



[-O]:	<i>himself</i>	<i>sebja</i>	Icelandic <i>sig</i>	Turkish <i>kendisi</i>	—
[+O]:	—	Sw. <i>sig</i>	Marathi <i>aapaṅ</i>	Greek <i>o idhios</i>	<i>him</i>

Kiparsky 2012:



+ Aside from this typology: pure demonstratives (cannot be anaphoric).
 English *I* – pure demonstrative (deictic) or not? No, it can be anaphoric; cf. bound variable reading in (6).

- (4) I'm the only one who will admit when I'm wrong.

Swedish puzzle:

- (5) Han angrep **sig* 'He attacked himself.'
 sig själv
- (6) Han försvarade *sig* 'He defended himself.'
 sig själv

Remember that *sig* is [+obviative]. Why is (6) possible? → inherently reflexive predicates

Verbs requiring long reflexives as in (8): ‘hate oneself’, ‘prefer oneself’, ‘examine oneself’, ‘understand oneself’. Verbs allowing short reflexives as in (9): ‘wash (oneself)’, ‘shave (oneself)’, ‘hide (oneself)’, ‘save oneself’, ‘demean oneself’.

The proposed solution is that these verbs have the property that their objects are inherently proximate, i.e. [-obviative].

Logophors

Hagège (1974), initially for West African and Central African languages (e.g. Ewe, Igbo, Yoruba)

Pronouns that are used to refer to the entity in discourse who is the center of perspective and from whose point of view a situation is presented.

(10)

	IGBO				
a.	ó _i	siri	nà	ó _j	byàrà
	he _i	said	that	he _j	came
b.	ó _i	siri	nà	yá _i	byàrà
	he _i	said	that	he _i	came

Logophoricity hierarchy: communication > thought > psychological state > perception

Logophors are not identical to long distant reflexives: (i) long-distance reflexives are in the majority of cases found in object position whereas logophoric pronouns prototypically occur in subject position (cf. the examples given above). Secondly, long-distance reflexives enforce a stricter coreference relation. They require reflexive pronoun and corresponding antecedent to have identical extensions. Logophoric pronouns, by contrast, may refer to a set of which the referent of the relevant antecedent is an element.

English locally free, long distance bound reflexives:

- (11) a. John said to Mary that physicists like himself were a godsend.
b. John thinks that physicists like himself are a godsend.

A logophoric center is required:

- (12) a. *Mary heard about John that physicists like himself were a godsend.
b. *Mary said about John that there was a picture of himself in the post office.