

and number, there is an archaic system of pronouns where other 2nd person pronouns survive in restricted situations, especially in religious language, as shown in Table 6.12:

Table 6.12 Archaic system of pronouns

	SUBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVE	REFLEXIVE	POSSESSIVE	
SINGULAR ( <i>th</i> -forms)	<i>thou</i> /ðəʊ/	<i>thee</i> /ði:/	<i>thyself</i>	<i>thy</i>	<i>thine</i>
PLURAL ( <i>y</i> -forms)	<i>ye</i> /jɪ:/	<i>you</i> /ju:/	<i>yourselves</i>	<i>your</i>	<i>yours</i>

While we present this system of religious usage, it should be pointed out that there is a great deal of variation in current religious practice. There is a trend towards the adoption of present-day pronoun forms (cf verb forms, 3.4 Note [b]). For example, the traditional use of *th*-forms in Quaker usage seems to be no longer current. In some dialects of BrE, particularly in the north of England, forms deriving from the earlier singular *thou/thee* are still current also in nonreligious contexts.

**Subclasses of pronouns**

6.13 The class of pronouns includes a number of heterogeneous items, many of which, as we have already seen, do not share all of the above contrasts. For example, *somebody* (being 3rd person) has no corresponding 1st and 2nd person distinction, no subjective/objective contrast, and no masculine/feminine contrast. Yet it is included among our pronouns, as it incorporates its own determiner, is a closed-class item, and has the kind of generalized meaning we associate with pronouns. The point we want to make here is that the characteristics which single out the pronoun class from the noun class are not shared by all its members. Figure 6.13 shows the different subclasses of pronouns and gives references to sections where they are discussed:

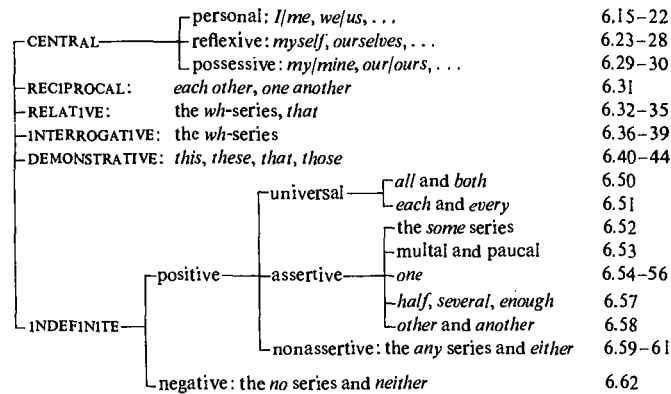


Fig 6.13 Pronoun subclasses

Personal, possessive, and reflexive pronouns may be called the CENTRAL PRONOUNS, since they share those features we have mentioned as being

particularly characteristic of pronouns, *viz* contrast of person, gender, and subjective/objective case. Although these central pronouns fulfil different syntactic functions, they have obvious morphological resemblances. This is also the reason why the possessives *my*, *your*, etc have been grouped with central pronouns, although such possessives, being determinative in function, cannot function alone instead of nouns, but only together with nouns (*cf* 6.29).

### Central pronouns

- 6.14 The central pronouns have in common the distinctions of person (1st, 2nd, and 3rd), gender (masculine, feminine, and nonpersonal), and number (singular and plural) that have already been discussed. In addition, most personal pronouns have distinctions of case. The various forms of the central pronouns are displayed in *Table 6.14*:

*Table 6.14* Personal, reflexive, and possessive pronouns

	PERSONAL PRONOUNS		REFLEXIVE PRONOUNS	POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS	
	subjective case	objective case		determinative function	independent function
1ST PERSON					
singular	<i>I</i>	<i>me</i>	<i>myself</i>	<i>my</i>	<i>mine</i>
plural	<i>we</i> <i>cf</i> Note [a]	<i>us</i>	<i>ourselves</i>	<i>our</i>	<i>ours</i>
2ND PERSON <i>cf</i> Note [b]					
singular	<i>you</i>	<i>you</i>	<i>yourself</i>	<i>your</i>	<i>yours</i>
plural	<i>you</i>	<i>you</i>	<i>yourselves</i>	<i>your</i>	<i>yours</i>
3RD PERSON					
singular masculine	<i>he</i>	<i>him</i>	<i>himself</i>	<i>his</i>	<i>his</i>
singular feminine	<i>she</i>	<i>her</i>	<i>herself</i>	<i>her</i>	<i>hers</i>
singular non-personal	<i>it</i>	<i>it</i>	<i>itself</i>	<i>its</i>	
plural	<i>they</i>	<i>them</i> <i>cf</i> Note [c]	<i>themselves</i>	<i>their</i>	<i>theirs</i>

- Note [a] On the 'editorial *we*' and other special uses of the 1st person plural pronoun, *cf* 6.18.  
 [b] Apart from *you*, there are the rare and/or restricted 2nd person pronouns *thou*, *you-all*, etc (*cf* 6.12 Notes [b] and [c]).  
 [c] *Them* is sometimes replaced by *'em* /əɪm/ in familiar use, as in *Kick 'em out!*  
 [d] *Us* is the only pronoun that has a contracted form ('s) in standard English (*cf* App II.9): *Ler's go*.