

- (e) *We* may occasionally be used also in reference to a 3rd person (= *he*, *she*). For example one secretary might say to another with reference to their boss:

We're in a bad mood today.

- Note [a] The virtually obsolete 'royal *we*' (= *I*) is iraditionally used by a monarch, as in the following examples, both famous dicta by Queen Victoria:
We are not interested in the possibilities of defeat. *We* are not amused.
 [b] In nonstandard use, plural *us* is commonly used for the singular *me*, as in:
 Lend *us* a fiver.
 [c] On the generic use of *we* and other personal pronouns, cf 6.21.

Anaphoric and cataphoric reference

- 6.19 Examples already given in 6.15–16 have illustrated the anaphoric use of personal pronouns. Cataphoric reference occurs less frequently, and under limited conditions. Where it does occur, anaphoric reference is also possible, so that we can equate two synonymous sentences such as [1] and [1a] in which the positions of pronoun and antecedent are reversed:

{ Before *he* joined the Navy, *Gerald* made peace with his family. [1]
 { = Before *Gerald* joined the Navy, *he* made peace with his family. [1a]

On the whole, cataphoric reference such as that in [1] is associated with formal written English. Also, it generally occurs only where the pronoun is at a lower level of structure than its antecedent (where 'level' is understood by reference to levels of branching on a tree diagram, as in 2.7 ff). Thus, in [2] and [3] the pronoun is a constituent in a relative clause:

Those who most deserve *it* rarely seem to suffer defeat. [2]
 Melville well knew that to the men who sailed in *her*, a whaler was anything but a pleasure boat. [3]

And in [4], the cataphoric pronoun appears as part of the complement of an initial prepositional phrase:

On *his* arrival in the capital, *the Secretary of State* declared support for the government. [4]

When this condition of subordination is not fulfilled, there is no equivalent of the kind illustrated in [1] and [1a]:

{ *Jacqueline* thinks *she* understands me. [5]
 { ≠ *She* thinks *Jacqueline* understands me. [5a]

While *she* can easily corefer to *Jacqueline* in [5], such coreference is impossible in [5a], so that here *she* and *Jacqueline* must be understood to refer to two different people.

The conditions under which a pronoun can have coreference to another constituent can be summarized as follows. The constituent to which coreference is made must have precedence over the pronoun in one of two senses:

- (i) It must precede the pronoun, or

- (ii) it must have a higher position in the constituent structure (cf 2.7) of the sentence than the pronoun.

With cataphoric pronouns, the first condition fails, and so the second condition must obtain.

Note [a] The above summary is not without exceptions. In journalistic writing, in particular, there is occasional use of cataphoric pronouns which appear in noninferior positions:

Failure of *his* latest attempt on the world record has caused heavy financial loss to the backers of daredevil balloonist *Felix Champ*.

[b] Personal pronouns cannot make cataphoric reference to part or all of a subsequent sentence, except for debatable cases such as:

It should never have happened. *She went out and left the baby unattended*.

Here, it appears that *it* refers to the whole content of the succeeding sentence. But perhaps this is not true cataphoric reference, but a special rhetorical device, found in popular narrative, whereby the writer assumes the reader is already 'in the know' at the beginning of the story.

Modification and determination of personal pronouns

6.20 Another use of pronouns which may be called cataphoric is illustrated in:

He who hesitates is lost. ['The person who . . .'; a proverb]
She who must be obeyed. ['The woman who . . .']

Here *he* and *she* are cataphoric in that their meaning is defined by the following postmodifier, which is a restrictive relative clause (cf 17.13). Their function is hence parallel to that of the cataphoric definite article (cf 5.32). *He* or *she* followed by a relative clause belongs to a literary and somewhat archaic style. Present-day English prefers the use of the plural demonstrative in such contexts (cf 12.19). *They* cannot be used:

Those } *who* work hard deserve some reward.
 **They* }

There is no similar use of cataphoric *it* for nonpersonal reference; a nominal relative clause (cf 15.8f) is used instead:

What } stands over there is a church.
 **It that* }

In modern English, restrictive modification with personal pronouns is extremely limited. There are, however, a few types of nonrestrictive modifiers and determiners which can precede or follow a personal pronoun. These mostly accompany a 1st or 2nd person pronoun, and tend to have an emotive or rhetorical flavour:

(a) Adjectives:

Silly me!, *Good old you!*, *Poor us!* <informal>

(b) Apposition:

we doctors, *you people*, *us foreigners* <familiar>

(c) Relative clauses:

we who have pledged allegiance to the flag, . . . <formal>

you, to whom I owe all my happiness, . . . <formal>

(d) Adverbs:

you there, we here

(e) Prepositional phrases:

*we of the modern age**us over here* (familiar)*you in the raincoat* (impolite)

(f) Emphatic reflexive pronouns (cf 6.28):

you yourself, we ourselves, he himself

Personal pronouns do not occur with determiners (**the she, *both they*), but the universal pronouns *all, both, or each* may occur after the pronoun head (cf 5.16, 6.50):

We all have our loyalties.*They each* took a candle.*You both* need help.

Note [a] The *he who . . .* and *she who . . .* constructions can in principle be varied by the substitution of other forms of personal and relative pronouns. But such variations strike the modern reader as decidedly unidiomatic:

?I dedicate this work *to him to whom it owes its conception.*

[b] Informally, *he* and *she* are converted to nouns when *he = male* and *she = female*. This accounts for the cooccurrence of the article with *he* and *she* in:

What a darling puppy! Is it *a he* or *a she*?

Generic uses of personal pronouns

6.21 Apart from the stylistically limited construction *he/she who . . .* in 6.20, a number of generic uses of personal pronouns need to be discussed and illustrated.

First, 3rd person pronouns can be used in anaphoric and cataphoric reference to generic noun phrases, in the normal way. The following example shows the generic use of *he* in coreference with a singular generic noun phrase (cf 5.54 Note, 6.9f):

Ever since *he* found a need to communicate, *man* has been the 'speaking animal'.

It is the pronoun which is used if we want to corefer to a singular generic noun phrase with zero article, whereas *they* is used if the zero article accompanies a plural:

A: Do you like *caviar*? B: I've never tasted *it*.

Music is my favourite subject. Is *it* yours?

Truffles are delicious, but *they*'re very expensive.

Second, apart from the special generic pronoun *one* (cf 6.56), plural pronouns of all persons can function generically with reference to 'people in general':

Science tells *us* that the earth goes round the sun. [1]

We live in an age of immense changes. [2]

You can never tell what will happen. [3]