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English Grammar

## ENGLISH AND ARMENIAN PRONOUN SYSTEM: DIACHRONIC PERSPECTIVE

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**Բանալի բառեր:** դերանուն, քերականություն, լեզվաբանություն, խոսքի մաս, ձևաբանություն, տեքստ, թվականներ, նախդիր, կոնտեքստ, սեռի, հոլովի, թվի, կատեգորիաներ:

**Ключевые слова:** местоимение, грамматика, лингвистика, часть речи, морфология, текст, числительное, предлог, контекст, категория рода, числа и падежа, диахроническое развитие.

### Ա.Հայրապետյան

#### Անգլերենի և հայերենի դերանունները՝ տարածամանակյա հեռանկարը

Հոդվածը նախատեսում է գիտելիքներ դերանունների մասին իրենց գորության երեք ժամանակաշրջաններում անգլերենում ու հայերենում և օգնում է մեզ կարծիք կազմել դերանունների հին շրջանից միջին և ժամանակակից շրջանի անցման մասին: Հոդվածը փորձում է ցույց տալ դերանունների համակարգը և՛ անգլերենում, ինչպես գերմանական լեզուների անդամ, որից հին անգլերենը ժառանգել է իր ձևերը, և՛ հայերենում, որը մեր մայր լեզուն է:

### А.Айрапетян

#### Система местоимений в армянском и английском языках в диахронической перспективе

В статье представлены три этапа диахронического развития местоименной парадигмы в английском и в армянском языках и описаны изменения произошедшие в местоименной системе. В статье была предпринята попытка показать систему местоимений как в английском языке, являющимся ветвью германских языков, из которых старый английский унаследовал формы, так и в армянском языке, который является нашим родным языком.

The article presents pronouns in 3 periods of their existence in the English and Armenian languages and helps to form a view on the transition of pronouns from Old period into the Middle and Modern English periods. In the article an attempt to show the pronoun system in both the English language, as a member of Germanic languages from which Old English inherited its forms, and the Armenian language which is our mother tongue is made.

A pronoun usually refers to something already mentioned in a sentence or a piece of text. It is a word that substitutes a noun or noun phrase used to prevent repetition of the noun to which they refer. Pronouns are traditionally defined as small words that take the place of nouns and noun phrases. Pronoun is one of the basic parts of speech, along with nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs. It is the part of speech that substituting for nouns or noun phrases designates persons or things asked for, previously specified, or understood from the context.

A distinguishing characteristic of pronouns is that the nouns and noun phrases they stand for can be identified only in the context of the sentence in which they are used. The peculiarity of pronouns as a class of words is that they are united by the way they denote reality: they denote it indirectly. Their number is strictly limited, and their meanings are acquired from the context.

Pronouns are very important for speech, for communication. In every speech we undoubtedly use a great number of pronouns. In speech different types of pronouns are treated in different ways, so one must know ways of treatment in order not to make mistakes in his speech.

A great number of linguists and grammarians devoted their works to the revealing of the historical development of the essence and correct concept of pronouns in the English and Armenian languages and the pronoun system is still at the heart of hot discussions in both languages.

Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary defines a pronoun as a word used, usually after a verb or preposition, to refer to the person speaking or writing. L. Valeika and J. Buitkienė put forward the idea that pronouns deputize for other parts of speech: nouns, adjectives, numerals and adverbs.<sup>1</sup>

In the words of V. Kaushanskaya the pronoun is a part of speech which points out objects and their qualities without naming them.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Valeika, L., Buitkienė, J. *An Introductory Course in Theoretical English Grammar*. Vilnius Pedagogical University. Department of English Philology, 2003. - 125, 129 pp.

V. Arakin defines pronouns as possessing the demonstrative function almost to a complete exclusion of the significative function, i.e. they only point out, and they do not impart any information about the object pointed out except for its relation to the speaker.<sup>2</sup>

V. Gabrielyan defines pronouns as words that are used instead of nouns, adjectives, numerals in speech. No noun is used after a pronoun, except for special expressions such as he-wolf, she-wolf, he-bear, she-bear, you-student.<sup>3</sup>

Famous Armenian scholar of the 19th century A. Aytinyan regards pronouns as a part of speech used to avoid repetitions of nouns.<sup>4</sup> Another Armenian scholar S. Palasanyan maintains that pronouns are used instead of nouns and adjectives.<sup>5</sup> A. Kharibyan defines pronouns as words used in speech instead of nouns, adjectives, numerals and adverbs.<sup>6</sup>

H. Ghazaryan writes: “Those parts of speech, having material meaning, that include words that having common meaning do not name things or qualities, but show them in some relation, are called pronouns”.<sup>7</sup>

According to M. Asatryan in modern Armenian grammar pronouns involve word groups possessing quite different meanings, semantic and syntactic peculiarities. Based on the fact that pronouns have no generality and unification of grammatical features and that their different groups express different peculiarities concerning the belonging to a certain part of speech, some linguists define the pronoun as a part of speech distributing them within the nouns, adjectives (numerals) and adverbs. Suchlike ideas can be found in the works of Russian linguist A. Pechkovskiy and in the works of Armenian linguist M. Abeghyan. However, both of the linguists stated that pronouns are words that express certain meaning.<sup>8</sup>

Any typology attempts to classify the individual entities under discussion, in our case pronouns. In some typological works classification seems to be the main rationale.

Different scholars have suggested various types of classifications. W. Swinton divides pronouns into three groups: personal, relative and interrogative.

W. Baskervill and W. Sewel give the following classification of pronouns: personal, interrogative, relative, indefinite, adjective pronouns.<sup>9</sup>

O. Jespersen and N. Rayevskaya divide pronouns into: 1) personal (*I, you, he, she, it, we, they*); 2) possessive (*my, your, his, her, its, our, their – mine, yours, his, hers, its, ours, theirs*); 3) reflexive (*myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, ourselves, yourselves, themselves*); 4) demonstrative (*this/these, that/those, the same, such*); 5) interrogative-relative (*who, what, which, that*); 6) reciprocal (*one another, each other*); 7) indefinite-negative (*some, somebody, any, anybody, anyone, anything, another, other, no, no one, none, nobody, nothing*); 8) generalizing (*all, each, every, everything, either, both*); 9) quantitative (*much, many, few, several, some*). It is clear, however, that some points in this classification are not grammatical at all.<sup>10</sup> Thus, if we say, for example, that a pronoun is indefinite we do not characterize it from a grammatical but from a semantic point of view.<sup>11</sup>

V. Gabrielyan in her book “*A Modern English Practical Grammar*” divides the pronouns into *personal, possessive, demonstrative, reciprocal, emphatic, reflexive, interrogative, conjunctive, indefinite, definite and negative*. In the Armenian language according to classical definition the pronouns can be divided into following classes: *անձնական (personal), ցուցական (demonstrative), փոխադարձ (reciprocal), հարցական (interrogative), հարաբերական (relative), որոշյալ (definite), անորոշ (indefinite), ժխտական (negative)*.

According to the nature of relations they show, H. Ghazaryan classifies Armenian pronouns into the following groups: *personal, demonstrative, reflexive, defining, indefinite and interrogative*.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Каушанская В. Л. *A Grammar of the English Language*. Ленинград: Просвещение, 1973. - 53-70 сс.

<sup>2</sup>Аракин В. Д. *История английского языка*. Физматлит, 2003. - 73-75 сс.

<sup>3</sup>Գաբրիելյան Վ., *A Modern English Practical Grammar*. - Ստեփանակերտ, Դիզակ Պլյուս, 2007. - 99-141 էջ:

<sup>4</sup>Սյուրնեան Ա., *Քննական քերականություն, աշխարհաբարի կամ արդի հայերեն լեզուի*. Վիեննա. 1866: Բ, էջ 38.

<sup>5</sup>Պալասանյան Ս. *Ընդհանուր տեսություն արևելյան նոր գրավոր լեզվի հայոց*. -Թիֆլիս. - 1870. - 54 էջ:

<sup>6</sup>Ղարիբյան Ա., *Հայոց լեզվի քերականության դասագիրք*, *VնՄԻ դասարանների համար*. - Երևան, 1935. - 54 էջ:

<sup>7</sup>Ղազարյան Ս. Ղ. *Հայոց լեզվի համառոտ պատմություն*. - Երևան, ԵՊՀ, 1981. - 246-251 էջ:

<sup>8</sup>Ասատրյան Մ., *Ժամանակակից հայոց լեզու*. - Երևան, ԵՊՀ, 1983. - 174, 180, 181, 191, 192, 201-204 էջ:

<sup>9</sup>Baskervill, W., MSewell, J. *An English Grammar*. 1896. - 40 p.

<sup>10</sup>Раевская Н.М. *Modern English Grammar*. Киев: Высшая школа, 1976. - 58, 160-163 с.

<sup>11</sup>Jespersen, O. *Growth and Structure of the English Language*. Chicago, 10th ed. University of Chicago Press: 1982. - 73, 102 pp.

<sup>12</sup>Ղազարյան Հ. Ս., *Լեզվաբանական տերմինների համառոտ բառարան*. - Երևան, Հայաստան, 2004. - 6, 21, 68 էջ:

In the words of S. Abrahamyan pronouns are grouped into: personal (generally denoting the distinction of person); demonstrative (expressing the meaning of a thing or quality in time and space), reflexive (indicating things connected with one another by state or action), definite (showing the quantity of a class of things or of a thing taken separately), indefinite (pointing put at one or some of the things), interrogative-relative (one used to ask a question and the other to connect clauses, sentences). He states that none of the parts of has such syntactical diversities as pronouns.

Some Armenian scholars, as for example S. Abrahamyan, N. Parnasyan, H. Ohanyan, classify pronouns into the following groups according to the meaning they express: personal, demonstrative, reflexive, definite, indefinite, interrogative, relative.<sup>1</sup>

In the words of M. Asatryan the pronoun system of the modern Armenian grammar does not present a united group. However, one cannot also deny that the separate groups included in the pronoun system differ from other word groups by their peculiar grammatical features. They are mainly personal, reflexive, demonstrative and interrogative-relative pronouns. In fact, just these pronouns present the “real” pronoun system. As for indefinite, definite and negative pronouns, they do not possess peculiar grammatical features. M. Asatryan gives the following classification of pronouns: personal, demonstrative, reflexive, interrogative, relative, definite, indefinite and negative.<sup>2</sup>

Armenian pronouns, as well as English ones, have the categories of person, case (էս – ինձ, դու – քեզ) and number (ով – ովքեր, ինչ – ինչեր). From the point of view of declension Armenian pronouns, as well as English ones, are of two types; those that can be declined and those that cannot. It must be noted that in English only personal pronouns can be declined, yet in Armenian pronouns of this type can be termed as possessive pronouns (*էս – իմ, դու – քո*).<sup>3</sup> In Armenian, like in English, the pronouns are marked differently for each case. In particular, the Accusative and Dative cases are marked the same way and the Nominative and Genitive forms are marked differently from the other two.

According to the ways Armenian pronouns are declined they can be grouped into: 1) pronouns declined by pronounal declension (*personal singular դու, նա, ինքը, plural մենք, դուք, demonstrative pronouns սա, դա, նա, reflexive pronoun իրար, relative pronoun ով*); 2) pronouns declined by nounal declension (*most of the pronouns*); 3) pronouns that are not declined (*ոքուկ, երբևիցե*).<sup>4</sup>

From the point of view of the category of number, in Armenian as well as in English the number of a pronoun is either singular, if it refers to one thing, or plural, if it refers to more than one thing (if the pronoun is the subject, then its number will also affect the verb).

E.g. She is concerned about this issue. They are concerned about this issue.

In both languages there are pronouns that have both singular and plural forms (*I – we, he/she/it – they; էս – մենք, դու – դուք*) and pronouns that have only singular form (*myself, himself, one another, such, same, none; այսպես, այնտեղ, որևէ*).<sup>5</sup>

In Armenian pronouns have no category of gender as, in the words of M. Blokh and some other scholars, it can be partially observed in English in the 3rd person singular, as he/she.

Many pronouns are characterized by double syntactical use (they may be used as subject, predicative, object, and the same time as attribute). Here belong demonstrative pronouns, possessive pronouns and others.

Դա պետք է, որ շատ հետաքրքիր լինի: (subject)

Այդ նա է, ով ցանկ ացել էր ձեզ հետ խոսել: (predic.)

Տուր ինձ սա, և էս քեզ կաս եմ ինչպես օգտվել դրանից:(object)

It must be mentioned that both English and Armenian pronouns possess the categories of person, case and number. English pronouns have also the category of gender, which is not observed in the Armenian pronoun system.

Pronouns were the only part of speech in Old English that preserved the dual number in declension; this means that in OE, besides singular and plural personal pronouns, there are also dual pronouns for the 1st and

<sup>1</sup>ԱբրահամյանՍ. Գ., ՊառնասյանՆ. Ա., ՕհանյանՀ. Ա., *Ճամանակակից հայոց լեզու*. - Երևան, Հայկական ՍՍՀԳԱ հրատարակչություն, 1974. - 207, 208, 223-234 էջ:

<sup>2</sup>ԱսատրյանՍ., *Ճամանակակից հայոց լեզու*. - Երևան, ԵՊՀ, 1983. - 174, 180, 181, 191, 192, 201-204 էջ:

<sup>3</sup>ՂազարյանՀ. Ա., *Լեզվաբանական տերմինների համառոտ բացատրան*. - Երևան, Հայաստան, 2004. - 6, 21, 68 էջ:

<sup>4</sup>ԱբրահամյանՍ. Գ. *Դերանուն*. - Երևան. 1959. - 99, 116, 117, 131, 132, 146-148, 155 էջ:

<sup>5</sup>ԱբրահամյանՍ. Գ., ՊառնասյանՆ. Ա., ՕհանյանՀ. Ա., *Ճամանակակից հայոց լեզու*. - Երևան, Հայկական ՍՍՀԳԱ հրատարակչություն, 1974. - 207, 208, 223-234 էջ:

2nd persons, as *we – wít*, whereas modern English, as well as Armenian personal pronouns have two numbers, singular and plural (*he/she/it – they; դու – դուք*).

Originally, there were two demonstrative pronouns in OE *þes* for this and *sē* for that. In Middle English there was a three-grade system of demonstrative pronouns, namely this - next to me, this – next to you and that – far from both of us. But the Modern English language left only two of them, simplifying the structure to just this and that. Similarly, demonstrative pronouns in Armenian are formed by means of the root sounds *u* (indicating position near to the speaker), *η* (indicating position near to the listener) and *ի* (indicating position near to a third person), as *այս, այդ, այն*.

OE personal pronouns had a well-expressed category of gender, e.g. the Modern pronoun *he* had the following forms in OE: *hē* for masculine gender and *hēo* for feminine. In Modern English according to some scholars the category of gender exists in the 3rd person singular, as *he/she/it*. Armenian pronouns are devoid of this category.

OE pronoun system is marked by the absence of the possessive pronouns, and that meaning was conveyed by the genitive case of the personal pronouns, as *my book, his car*. But Modern English has a separate pronouns type termed possessive pronoun. On the contrary, Grabar had a separate form of possessive pronouns, as *իւ, քն, մեր, ձեր*. Whereas in Modern Armenian the meaning of possessive pronoun is rendered by means of the Genitive case of the personal pronouns, e.g. *Տուր ինձ քն գրիչը*. Except for the Nominative and Genitive cases, other cases of Armenian pronouns are translated into English by means of prepositions, as e.g. *մեզնով – by us, մեզնում – in us, and so on*.

OE pronouns had a five-grade category of case including some Instrumental forms. It was greatly simplified during the Middle English period when the Accusative and Dative cases merged into a single Objective pronoun *me*. In Modern English pronouns have two cases, but while some pronouns have Nominative and Objective cases, as *he-him*, others have Common and Genitive cases, as *somebody-somebody's*. In Armenian the seven grade category of case was reduced to five, which included the Instrumental forms, as *Ահա բանային, դու պետք է ւրանով բաց ես դուրը*: Armenian pronouns are declined both by nounal and pronounal declension, unlike English pronouns that are declined only by pronounal declension.

In the works of many scholars we can see that together with structural changes there naturally occurred a number of phonetic changes, e.g. in OE the personal pronoun *I* had another form (*ic*) and was pronounced as *[ik]*, or the possessive pronoun may also had a different structure (*mīn*) and was pronounced as *[min]*. Similarly in Armenian instead of the pronoun *քն* in Grabar was used the form *քնյ*, or instead of the pronoun *ինչ* in Grabar was used the form *գինչ*, and many other similar examples.

Summing up, we can see in the article that most of both English and Armenian linguists and grammarians give nearly the same definition; the same is with the classification of pronouns. Based on various English and Armenian scholars' viewpoints, pronouns are classified into: personal, possessive, demonstrative, reflexive, interrogative, relative, definite, indefinite, and negative. It must be mentioned that both English and Armenian pronouns possess the categories of person, case and number. English pronouns have also the category of gender, which is not observed in the Armenian pronoun system.

So, the article shows the historical development of English pronouns in three periods of the language development and comparison of English and Armenian pronoun systems.

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