**1-1-2 Pronouns**

Pronouns are used in place of a noun that has already been mentioned or that is already known, often to avoid repeating the noun. For example:

Kate was tired so **she** went to bed.

Michael took the children with **him**.

Kieran‟s face was close to **mine**.

**That** is a good idea.

**Anything** might happen

* Pronouns are used in place of nouns referring to specific people or things, for

example I, me, mine, you, yours, his, her, hers, we, they, or them. They can be divided into

various different categories according to their role in a sentence, as follows:

* Subjective pronouns
* Objective pronouns
* Possessive pronouns
* Reflexive pronouns
* Demonstrative pronouns
* Relative pronouns
* Interrogative pronouns
* Indefinite pronouns
* Reciprocal pronouns

Subjective pronouns

The personal pronouns I, you, we, he, she, it, we, and they are known as subjective pronouns

because they act as the subjects of verbs:

**She** saw Catherine.

**We** drove Nick home.

Objective pronouns

The objective (or accusative) case pronouns are me, you (singular), him/her/it, us, you (plural), them and whom. (Notice that form of you and it does not change.) The objective case is used when something is being done to (or given to, etc.) someone. The sentences below show this use of the objective case:

Give the chocolate to **me**, please!

Why should I give it to **you**?

You could give it to **him** instead.

Please share it with all of **us**.

Do we have to share it with **them**?

Possessive pronouns

The personal pronouns mine, yours, hers, his, ours, and theirs are known as possessive

pronouns: they refer to something owned by the speaker or by someone or something

previously mentioned. For example:

That book is **mine**.

John’s eyes met **hers**.

**Ours** is a family farm.

Reflexive pronouns

Reflexive personal pronouns include myself, himself, herself, itself, ourselves, yourselves, and

themselves. These are used to refer back to the subject of the clause in which they are used:

I fell and hurt **myself**.

Daisy prepared **herself** for the journey.

The children had to look after **themselves.**

Demonstrative pronouns

Demonstrative pronouns point out specific person/people or things; they are: this and that (for singular) and these and those (for plural).

Example: **These** books are ours

**That** man is our teacher of English.

Relative pronouns

Relative pronouns are usually seen in sentences at the beginning of an adjectival clause (an adjectival clause functions as an adjective, modifying nouns and pronouns).

An adjective clause starts with either a relative adverb: where, when, and why or a relative pronoun such as that, who, whom, whose, or which.

Example: Mary loves the chocolate **that** I bought.

The police arrested a man **who** Jill worked with.

We went to the village **that** Lucy recommended.

Interrogative pronouns

An interrogative pronoun is a pronoun which is used to make asking questions easy. There are just five interrogative pronouns. Each one is used to ask a very specific question or indirect question. Some, such as “who” and “whom,” refer only to people. Others can be used to refer to objects or people.

1. **What**: Used to ask questions about people or objects. Examples:

What do you want for dinner?

I wonder what we’re doing tomorrow.

1. **Which**: Used to ask questions about people or objects. Examples:

Which color do you prefer?

Which of these ladies is your mother?

1. **Who**: Used to ask questions about people. Examples:

Who is that?

Who was driving the car?

1. **Whom**: This interrogative pronoun is rarely seen these days, but when it shows up, it is used to ask questions about people. Examples:

Whom did you speak to?

Whom do you prefer to vote for?

1. **Whose**: Used to ask questions about people or objects, always related to possession. Examples:

Whose sweater is this?

Whose parents are those?

1. **Where:** Used to ask questions about places. Examples:

Where are you?

1. **When:** Used to ask questions about time. Examples:

When do you finish work?

Indefinite pronouns:

Indefinite pronouns to refer to people or things without saying exactly who or what they are. We use pronouns ending in -body or -one for people, and pronouns ending in -thing for things: Everybody enjoyed the concert.

I opened the door but there was no one at home.

It was a very clear day. We could see everything.

Reciprocal pronouns:

Reciprocal pronouns ‘each other’ and ‘one another’ are used when two or more people do the same thing.

Peter and Mary helped each other.

= Peter helped Mary and Mary helped Peter.

We sent one another Christmas cards.

= We sent them a Christmas card and they sent us a Christmas card.