The evolution of pronominal constructions with 4 and more components in English

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Abstract: The study deals with structural, functional, stylistic and genetic features revealed by the pronouns in their context formed by based on subordinate or coordinate connections between pronouns and other components of the 4- and more component structure. The frequency of usage and the nature of these connections are also taken as factors influencing the structure.

Keywords: pronominal constructions, vector of connection, subordinate connection, coordinate connection, multi-component, ability to combine.

With cognitive studios being dominated by anthropocentric approach, more and more attention is being paid to nominal parts of speech, namely the pronoun as its nature influences the functional and stylistic loading of the pronominal phrases. In turn, diversity of approaches to pronominal characteristics represented in traditional and modern linguistics makes it difficult to choose one of the theories proposed by D. Buring (pronoun should be considered as referential component), Charles Pierce, U. Weinreich, R. Wells (deictics), Z. Harris (discourse marker), C. Fillmore, R. Langacker (text-making components), L. Bloomfield (substitutes).

At the same time the recent interest in linguistics may be called a revival of Lucien Tesnière theory of valence [4]. Modern studies distinguish valence and combination within three aspects: 1) vector (one-vectored for valence, two-vectored for combination); 2) universality (valence is a type of combination); 3) realization (valence is just an opportunity, option, while combination is the actual realization of the opportunity) [1; 2; 3; 5].

Combining the approaches and urgent questions of modern linguistics special attention recent publications are concerning the problem of pronoun combination with other words (parts of speech or members of sentence) in different aspects: pragmatics level (G. Attardi, H.P. Grice, C. D. Mortensen), grammar level (D. Buring, N. Evans, E. Konig), syntactic level (A. Carnie, Z. S. Harris), diachronic studies (M. Leitinen).

The aim of this paper is to study the relations of pronoun within the multi-component structures, defining the types of structures and their development through the period of 18th-20th centuries. The subclasses of pronoun under study in this article do not include interrogative and relative ones because thorough analysis demands another type of publication.

The material of the study comprises four English novels from the 18th-20th centuries freely available on Internet sites: "Memoirs of a Cavalier" by Daniel Defoe, "A Study in Scarlet" by A. C. Doyle, "Firetongue" by Rohmer Sax.

The methods of our study involve both general scientific (description, deductive and inductive analyses) and special linguistic ones (contrastive, transformation and typological analyses, reconstruction technique, intermediate components analyses).

The course of the analysis is as follows:

1.) to find all the pronouns and referring to them words, thus defining the limits of the structure under study;

2.) indentify the type of structures according to the number of components, vector of connection, functional loading if possible;

3.) compare and contrast the types through different stages of modern English languages.

The 18th century text revealed four types of multi-component structures with pronoun as one of the components. It is noteworthy that the multi-component structures comprise only demonstrative pronouns which form three 4-component and one 5-component structures, each of them being used only once.

The structure **Pr** + **Ving** + **Pr** + **V** represents extremely complicated type of connection and can be illustrated by the following example where all the elements referring to the pronoun are in bold:

*In this the justice of Providence seemed very conspicuous, that **these having pushed** all things by violence against the king, and by arms and force **brought** him to their will, **were** at once **both robbed** of the end, their Church government, and punished for drawing their swords against their masters, by their own servants drawing the sword against them; and God, in His due time, punished the others too* [6].

Another structure presented in the text of the 18th century is **(Pr + prep + N) + ( ) + V** where ( ) stands for subordinate clause referring to the pronoun under study. This is exemplified by:

Those of foot that escaped got into Bristol, and Waller, with the poor remains of his routed regiments, got to London <...> [6].

In this type of structure pronoun *those* forms a semantically and syntactically indivisible unit with the noun *foot* with the help of preposition *of*. Next, this unit is expanded by subordinate clause *that escaped*. The last is the direct connection between the initial pronoun-noun unit which performs the function of the subject and the predicate of the sentence *got*. All the other words do not refer to the pronoun and are of no interest to us in this study.

The third type of the structure found in the text is **V + prep + (Pr + Pr) + ( )** where the pronoun *those* forms three types of connections: with another pronoun *all* forming a syntactically and semantically indivisible unit, with the subordinate clause *whom they had down <...>* referring to the pronoun-pronoun unit and the syntactical correlation between the verb *seize* which is the predicate with the help of preposition and pronoun-pronoun unit which is the object.

<...> and, following their blow, march to London, place regiments of foot at the Parliament-house door,

*and, as the members came up, **seize upon all those whom they had down in a list as promoters of the settlement and treaty**, and would not suffer them to sit <...>* [6].

Even more complicated structure with 5 components altogether, one of them being pronoun, is (**Pr** + **Pr**) + **prep** + **Pr** + ( ) + **V**:

***Those few of us that had seen the wars, and would have made a short end of this for him, began to be** very uneasy <...>* [6].

In this structure demonstrative pronoun *those* has the first-level connection (the closest one) with pronoun *few* and altogether they form a connection with personal pronoun *us* with the help of preposition *of*. This 3-component unit is the subject of the sentence that coordinates with the sentence predicate *began to be uneasy*. Furthermore, the pronoun phrase is defined by the subordinate clause *that had seen the wars* being subordinate to it. So the demonstrative pronoun *those* has four-vector connection with other components of the structure.

The very existence of these structures may be explained by the style of the text itself, which belongs to what may be distinguished as "medieval wartime manuscripts" encoded in the personal memoires. This type of writing is characterised by long sentences of complicated syntactic structure, abundance of subordinate clauses and non-finite constructions. Whether this was a feature of 18-th century English, author's style or stylistic means is yet to be studied.

These structures being used in the text (once each) are the evidence of pronoun ability to form multiple-compound relations within one utterance and reflect the tendency towards forming more complex structures within the text under study compared to the texts of modern English analysed further. Another consideration to be paid attention to is that all the pronouns forming such multi-component structures belong to demonstrative subclass. The components referring to the pronoun under study are of nominal nature, such as nouns, pronouns, verbs, subordinate sentences. This fact is explained by the nature of the pronoun that was developed in English as the article then involving the syntactical functions of the noun.

The 19th century multi-component structures number 8 types (6 types of 4-component structures and 2 types of five-component structures), all except one being found only once, all of them containing indefinite pronoun as the central pronoun.

The structure presented in the text under study twice is **V** + (**Adv** + **Pr**) + **prep** + **N**:

*I'm not going to **tell** you **much more of the case**, Doctor* [7].

*You know a conjuror gets no credit when once he has explained his trick, and if I **show** you **too much of** my **method** of working, you will come to the conclusion that I am a very ordinary individual after all* [7].

Syntactically and semantically indivisible unit represented by the adverb and pronoun functions as determining part for the noun and altogether being the object of the sentence are subordinate to its predicate expressed by the verb.

The next structures though each used only once in the text still are of great importance to our study because they prove the variety and diversity of the relations formed by pronoun. The first one (in random order) is **Adv** + **Aux** +

(**Pr** + **Adv**) + **P.P.V.** where P.P.V. stands for Past Participle form of the Verb (non-finite forms of the verb) and Aux for auxiliary, which we consider rather as a means of combining the words in analytical languages (such as English) than separate component of the structure.

*If **there was nothing else left** to him, he could at least devote his life to revenge* [7].

The structure **Adv** + **Aux** + (**Pr** + **P.P.V.**) + **V** can be called the invariant as it duplicates the general composition omitting the adverb but adding the infinitive as a part of complex object:

***There is nothing left** for me **to hope** for, or to desire* [7].

Despite all the changed elements the grammatical composition is somewhat the same.

Another invariant is represented by the structure **Pr** + **Aux** + (**Adv** + **Pr**) + **prep** + **Pr**:

*If **they are too many for us** we shall take two or three of them with us* [7],

where instead of non-finite form of the verb the component referring to the pronoun-adverb unit is another pronoun, joined with the help of preposition. It is important to mention that only the indefinite pronoun here, like in other cases forms more three-vector connection with other components of the structure, whereas other pronouns being analyzed will show fewer connection.

The structure representing another multi-tiered scheme is **V** + (**Pr** + **Adv**) + **V**, where so far traditional unit of pronoun and adverb being the complex object thus coordinate to the predicate (the notional verb) is further defined by the non-finite form of the verb (the Infinitive):

*I **have as much more to add** to it* [7].

The 19th century text is also the source of 5 component structures (one component being pronoun) which can be explained by the genetically inherited function of pronoun to perform as a noun, thus forming the connections with all other parts of speech serving as attributes (adjective, numeral, determiner, pronouns). These structures are (**Pr** + **conj** + **Det** + (**Adj** + **Pr**)) + **Aux** + **Pr**:

*<...> **me and that little un are all** that's left o' twenty-one people* [7]

and **N** + **prep** + (**Num** + **Adj** + **Pr**) + **prep** + **N**:

*He came here with his victim in a four-wheeled cab, which was drawn by a **horse with** three old shoes and **one new one on** his off fore leg* [7].

In each case connection formed between pronoun and each of the components is initial to the very pronoun thus forming multi-tiered pyramids of syntactically and semantically indivisible units.

So the 19th century English text also illustrates the formal ability of pronoun to be combined with three or more components within the pronominal dependent structure, although statistically these types of grammar constructions are not very common in language. Another important feature is that all the structures use only one subclass of pronoun, namely indefinite, just like 18th century texts use only demonstrative. The components referring to the pronoun can be defined as nominal group (adjective, pronoun, determiner, numeral and verb in subordination or coordination), or verbal group (adverb).

The 20th century constructions consisting of 4 and more components comprise 12 types (11 of them for indefinite pronouns and 1 for possessive). Out of 12 con-

structions formed by indefinite pronoun there is a structure **N + (Aux + (Pr + Pr) + prep + N)** which multiple usages (4 times) stress the emphatic functional loading and the stylistic means of parallelism:

*Instinct told him that the pretty **girl** with whom Ormuz Khan was deep in conversation **could be none other than Phil Abingdon**, but the identity of her companion he could not even guess. On the other hand, that this poisonously handsome **Hindu**, who bent forward so solicitously toward his charming travelling companion, **was none other than the** dreaded **Fire-Tongue**, he did not doubt* [8].

The syntactically and structurally similar structure **Pr + (Aux + (Pr + Pr) + prep + N)** used within the same discourse serves the same functions as aforementioned constructions:

This** proved **to be none other than** Phil Abingdon's elderly **companion [8].

Another structure used more than once, namely twice in the 20th century text, is **Adv + Pr + ( ) + V**:

***Only one who has heard it can understand and appreciate** all it means* [8].

***Only one who knew him very well could have detected** the fact that anxiety was written upon that Sioux-like face* [8].

It should be noted that this structure performs functions quite different from the one defined in the previous case, as the sentences belong to different to different parts of the text, and thus it is not a stylistic means but rather a figure of speech used by the author reflecting the of structures available in the English language and so making the language in the text more varied.

Invariant structure is **Adj + Pr + ( ) + V** where adjective substitutes the adverb is pretty much the same from the point of view of grammar, functional loading and style:

*A low carved table, **the only one which the apartment boasted, displayed an excellent English breakfast laid upon** a spotless cover* [8].

The construction **V + prep + Pr + (Pr + Pr)**, found in the text only once, represents the interrelations existing between possessive pronoun *his* that firstly forms a syntactically and semantically indivisible unit with another pronoun *own* (Pr + Pr) and at the same time with the pronoun *both* Pr + (Pr + Pr), altogether being subordinate to the verb with the help of conjunction V + prep + Pr + (Pr + Pr):

*Paul Harley discovered her little gloved hand to lie **clasped between both his own*** [8]

Next construction consisting of 4 components is N + Pr + prep + N + V in which every component has a primary connection with demonstrative pronoun and only then having formed a unit they go on expanding with other elements:

*For presently at a fork in the road he saw that the driver of the limousine had swung to the left, taking the low **road, that to the right offering** a steep gradient* [8].

The following structures are analyzed in random order, each one being used in the text only once.

(Adv + Pr + prep + N) + V represents the adverbial modifier expressed in its core by the indefinite pronoun forming two vectors of connection with defining adverb and noun as a part of syntactically and semantically indi-

visible unit and then being in subordinate connection with the predicate of the sentence expressed by the verb:

*The boy departed, grinning, and **little more than half an hour** later a respectable-looking man **presented** himself at Savoy Court, inquiring of the attendant near the elevator for the apartments of "his excellency," followed by an unintelligible word which presumably represented "Ormuz Khan"* [8].

V + (Pr + Pr + prep + Pr) represented by *Although he recognized that he was taking desperate chances, he **inspected each one of them** closely* [8] shows the coordinate connection between the predicate of the sentence expressed by the verb and its object expressed by the sequence of pronouns in semantic and syntactic sense undivisible.

Pr + (Aux + Adv + Pr + prep + .. + N) is a highly complex structure where 3 different components have the connection with the pronoun in the core:

*Indeed, on close inspection, I saw that **it was little more than a** thin **curtain** of water, partly concealing what looked like the entrance of a cave* [8].

In this case pronoun *more* is a part of compound nominal predicate where auxiliary is a means of expressing the relation in analytical language. Thus as a part of predicate it has a coordinate connection with the subjects of the sentence expressed by the personal pronoun *it*. On the other hand the pronoun under study is further defined adverbial phrase. Still on the other vector of valence there is the part of noun phrase which syntactically and semantically can not be split from the core pronoun.

The structure in *"Then," continued Innes, "there is something else which you should know* [8] can be represented in **Adv + (Aux + Pr + Adv) + ( )** formula while *And **is this positively all you remember?**[8] having the same components (parts of speech) organised syntactically in a different way forms the **Pr + Aux + (Adv + Pr) + ( )** type of structure. The reverse word order in the initial example is determined by the grammar structure common for the interrogative sentences in English and can not be defined as a relevant factor influencing the composition of the utterance represented in the formula.

The exquisite usage of these types of constructions still shows that such kind of multiple level organization exists and can be used in modern English with the pronoun being the centre of this part of the structure.

Altogether the text of the 20th century showed more diversity speaking of pronominal constructions, namely: 1) pronouns forming the multi-component structures belong to different subclasses; 2) the structures involve both connection with the adverb and the subordinate clause, while aforementioned analysis of 18th and 19th century texts revealed the tendency to choose one of these; 3) stylistic importance of complex constructions is clearly shown by frequent usages and more obvious stylistic loading of parallel structures.

Noteworthy is the fact that with each century the variety of possibly used constructions is widened with new junctions.

The results of the study assume that the initial potency of pronouns to set connections with other words (parts of speech) revolutionized from the initial genetic-based functions of substituting the nominal parts of the speech to the more advanced functioned developed in the process

of speech evolution, such as deictic and anaphoric functions, emphasis, logical stress, and other stylistic means which help to organize the utterance according to the aim of the author.

Concluding the results presented in the study we can state that ability to form multi-vector connection is not limited by some pronouns only and definitely varies from period to period and from author to author which may be the object of further studies.

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Эволюция 4-х и более компонентных конструкций с местоимениями в английском языке
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Аннотация: Данная работа рассматривает структурные, функциональные, стилистические и генетически-обусловленные особенности местоимений, которые раскрываются в окружении из подчиненных и сочиненных связей между самими местоимениями и другими компонентами в 4х и более компонентных конструкциях. Частота использования и природа связи выделяются как фактора влияния на структуру конструкций.

Ключевые слова: местоименные конструкции, направленность связи, сочиненная связь, подчиненная связь, многокомпонентный, способность к соединению.