

Pro-forms and ellipses

Handout

bojo@fedu.uniba.sk

1. Explain the notion of antecedent.

2. identify pro-forms in the following sentences:

Cindy was by far the best speaker and everybody expected her to win the price.

When the children entered, each was given a small present.

Some equipment has been damaged but none has been lost.

Both of the engines had been hit and neither could be relied upon to bring us safely home.

Her cousins go to the same school as she did and all want to become doctors.

This year we produced more coal but sold less.

I read his first novel and that was boring too.

Can I get a cup of black coffee with sugar? Give me the same, please.

I wish, I'd bought a few jars of honey. Did you notice the ones they were selling?

3. Which of these pro-forms can also be regarded elliptical and why?

4. What are possible pro-forms for clauses and / or clause constituents? Give example and use them in sentences to demonstrate their function.

5. Give an example of a possible pro-form for adverbials, complements and object that clauses. Use them in sentences to demonstrate their function.

6. Decide whether the following ellipses are situational, structural or textual. Comment on their recoverability.

- "...In trouble?"

- "...Anybody in?"

- "I believe (that) you are mistaken"

- "I'm happy if you are..."

7. Decide whether the following ellipses are elliptical noun phrases or ellipses of the predication in finite clauses.

- "...my own camera, like Peter'sis Japanese."

- "I'm happy if you are..."

- "They claim that the Danish butter is the finest () in the world..."

- "...Tom will be playing but I don't think Martin will...."

8. Explain and give an example of an appended clause"