

11. Reflexives

English has lexical and analytic reflexives. Certain English verbs can be classified as lexical reflexives in that when a direct object is omitted, the normal interpretation is reflexive:

- (89) a. The barber shave-d John 'El peluquero afeitó a Juan.'
DEF peluquero afeitar-PAS Juan
- b. John shave-d. 'Juan se afeitó.'
Juan afeitar-PAS
- (90) a. Mary dress-ed the baby. 'María puso ropa al bebé.'
María poner:ropa-PAS DEF bebé
- b. Mary dress-ed. 'María se puso ropa.'
María poner:ropa-PAS

The lexical reflexives in 89b and 90b are, of course, formally intransitive since there is no overt direct object.

The analytic reflexive is much more productive, occurring with almost any transitive verb. Analytic reflexives are formed by the suffix *-self* attached to the non-nominative pronoun that refers to the subject argument:

- (91) a. John shav-ed him-**self**. 'Juan se afeitó.'
Juan afeitar-PAS 3SG:M:NN-REFL
- b. Mary saw her-**self**. 'María se vió.'
María ver:RAS 3SG:F:NN-REFL

From these examples it is clear that analytic reflexives in English do not reduce valence, as the direct object remains a distinct formal argument of the verb.

Examples 91a and 91b illustrate prototypical reflexive constructions in which the reflexive suffix, *-self*, indicates coreference between A and P. In addition to this standard usage, reflexives in English can also be used to indicate coreference between A or S and a Dative or Oblique argument:

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(92) a. They worri-ed about them-**selv**-es
3PL:NOM preocuparse sobre 3PL:NN-REFL-PL
'Ellos se preocuparon por si mismo.'

b. She dedicat-ed the monument to her-**self**.
3SG:F dedicar-PAS DEF monumento a 3:SG:NN:F-REFL
'Ella dedicó el monumento a sí misma.'

Finally, the reflexive suffix can also be used to express intensification (ex. 93a) and exclusivity (93b):

(93) a. John him-self prepar-ed this main dish.
Juán 3SG:NN:M-REFL preparar-PAS DEMO1 mayor plato
'Juán mismo preparó este plato principal.'

(94) b. Mary did it all by her-self.
María hacer:PAS 3NH todo por 3SG:F-REFL
'María misma lo hizo (sin que alguien le ayudara).'