

LINGUISTIC HARMONY NOTES

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The single note that appears here, dated November 1, 1967, was circulated as photocopies and, like Postal's "Linguistic Anarchy Notes", was distributed to Postal's drinking companions. No other notes are known to belong to the series; however, in view of Kuroda's introductory note and the uncertainty as to what works of Postal's belong to the "Anarchy Notes", it is conceivable that other works by Kuroda should be considered to belong to the "Harmony Notes". Indeed, if I am interpreting Kuroda's introductory note correctly, Kuroda (1970) constitutes "Linguistic Harmony Notes. Series A. Number 1".

SERIES A. Charms of Identity¹

Number 2. *A Proof That Pronominalization Is Not A Transformation*

Assume pronominalization is a transformation. Assume time adverbials follow the main part of the sentence when pronominalization applies. Without loss of generality we can assume John says,

*I had finally divorced my wife in 1957,
only one year before I married her sister.*

The underlying form of this sentence would be

*I had finally divorced my wife in 1957,
only one year before I married my wife's
sister.*

But, of course, "to marry his wife's sister", that is precisely what John wanted to avoid.

Assume time adverbials precede the main part of the sentence when pronominalization applies. We can assume John says,

*In 1958, only one year after I had finally
divorced my wife, I married her sister.*

The underlying form of this sentence would be

*In 1958, only one year after I had finally
divorced my wife, I married my wife's sister.*

But, of course, "to marry his wife's sister", that is precisely what John wanted to avoid. Q.E.D.

Remark

Postal's celebrated alligator (Postal, 1967) refers by the pronoun *it* to *my tail*, which is qualified to be called *my tail* but which is not physically identical with the entity that is referred to by the noun *my tail*, which apparently pronominalizes *my tail*. Our favorite John refers by the pronoun *her* to *my wife*, who is not qualified to be called *my wife*, but who is physically identical with the entity that is referred to by the noun *my wife*, which apparently pronominalizes *my wife*.

NOTES

¹The "Linguistic Harmony Notes" are arranged into series that will stand in a natural one-to-one correspondence with the series of Postal's "Linguistic Anarchy Notes". Since the names of the series and the assignment of notes to a series will be predictable by a trivial rule, series titles will henceforth be omitted as superfluous.