

## Chapter 1, Problem 2: Reciprocals

A. Yes. All antecedents of reciprocals are plural, while reflexives can have either singular or plural antecedents (depending on whether the reflexive expression is singular or plural):

- (1) a. We saw each other.  
b. \*I saw each other.  
c. They saw each other.  
d. \*She saw each other.
- (2) a. We saw ourselves.  
b. I saw myself.  
c. They saw themselves.  
d. She saw herself.

B. Like reflexives, reciprocals require a preceding correferential expression:

- (3) a. We like each other.  
b. \*She likes each other.  
c. ?\*Nobody likes each other.  
d. \*Each other likes us.  
e. \*Each other likes each other.

(3b,c) are unacceptable because *she* and *nobody* are not possible antecedents for *each other* (see Part A). (3d,e) are unacceptable because the sentence-initial *each other* doesn't have any preceding expressions. It doesn't help that the second *each other* in (3e) does have an antecedent, because both instances of *each other* must be licensed.

Like antecedents of reflexives, antecedents of reciprocals do not have to be subjects, but they must still precede the reciprocal:

- (4) a. \*She voted for each other.  
b. We voted for each other.  
c. We gave each other presents.  
d. We gave presents to each other.  
e. We gave each other to the cause.  
f. Nobody told us about each other.  
g. \*Nobody told each other about us.  
h. \*Nobody told each other about each other.

Like reflexives, reciprocals generally require their antecedents to be in the same clause (but see example (ix) in Problem 1):

- (5) \*We think that nobody likes each other.

It appears that reciprocals behave like reflexives with respect to the sorts of examples that motivated Hypotheses I-II.

Examples of the sort that motivated Hypothesis III also show that reciprocals behave like reflexives.

- (6) a. \*Our friend likes each other.
- b. \*Those pictures of us offended each other.
- c. \*We found a letter to each other in the trash.

Based on these data, it appears that reciprocals (like reflexives) must be an argument of a verb that has another preceding argument with the same reference. (But see Part D below.)

- C. Yes, the behavior of reciprocals is similar to that of reflexives in imperative and *appear/appeal* sentences.

(7) Vote for each other!

- (8) a. \*We appealed to him to vote for each other.
- b. He appealed to us to vote for each other.

- (9) a. We appeared to him to vote for each other.
- b. \*He appeared to us to vote for each other.

Since English only has one reciprocal expression for all persons, the example in (7) only point to an unexpressed plural argument of *vote*. This is consistent with the implied second person plural of *Vote for yourself!*

- D. The acceptability of examples like *They lost each other's books* shows that reciprocals do not obey Hypothesis III as formulated. This is because *They* and *each other* are not arguments of the same verb. In fact, *each other* in this example is not an argument of any verb.