

They, dey, iel, elle

A cross-linguistic description of post-binary grammar

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Philosophical framework

Institutional heterosexuality

Heterosexuality as patriarchal and capitalist system, operating primarily through the family structure.

2026

Near future (10 - 20 years)

Post-binarism (Circlude, 2024)

The complete recognition of multitudes of gender identities at the social and institutional level. Meant as a transitional phase, not a finality

Distant future (post-capitalism)

Gender abolition

The abolition of sex and gender categories. A natural consequence of post-binarism and the abolition of social classes (Marxist utopia)

Outline

Pronouns

- a. Singular and plural ‘they’
- b. Pronoun dropping
- c. Neopronouns

Suffixes

- a. Neosuffixes
- b. Suffix removal
- c. Agreement relegation

Pronouns

Singular they

1. I hung out with my friend, they brought champagne.

Plural they

1. Они будут

They.3PL will.3SG

1. Я пошл-и

I.1SG went-3PL

Pronoun dropping

4. "How is (deadname)? Is she doing well?"

"Yeah, pretty well. Got into (University)."

5. "Alex quiere una bebida. Alex prefiere agua."

6. "die Person, die... macht"

Neopronouns

1) Norwegian

han/hun (he/she) » hen

1) German

er/sie (he/she) » dey

1) French

il/elle (he/she) » iel (alt. ael, ellui)

1) Spanish

el/ella (he/she) » elle

Suffixes

Neosuffixes

Available vowels

- 7. Voy con mi amigue
- 8. sono andatə in università
 sono andatu in università

Special characters

- 9. Ich telefoniere mit dem/der Tierärzt:in
- 10. sono andat*i in università
- 11. iel veut que vous soyez tous.ites présenteux

Suffix removal

12. sono andat- $\emptyset$ in università
I went to university.
13. tanárnő (teacher, f) --> tanár- $\emptyset$
14. Die* Studi gehen in die Uni.
The student goes to the university.

Agreement relegation

15. Tu es intelligent/intelligente
You are intelligent.M/F

Tu es un-e personne intelligent-e
You are a-F person.F intelligent-F
You are an intelligent person

16. Sono andato-o da Marco
Be.1SG gone.PPART-M to Marco

Ho visitato Marco
Have.1SG visited.PPART Marco

‘I visited Marco’

Next steps

This research

- Analysis of interview data
- Categorisation of all strategies
- Discussion of results

Future research

- Geographical and genetic diversification
- Further consideration of culture, society and political context
- Public access to the data

Thank you

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