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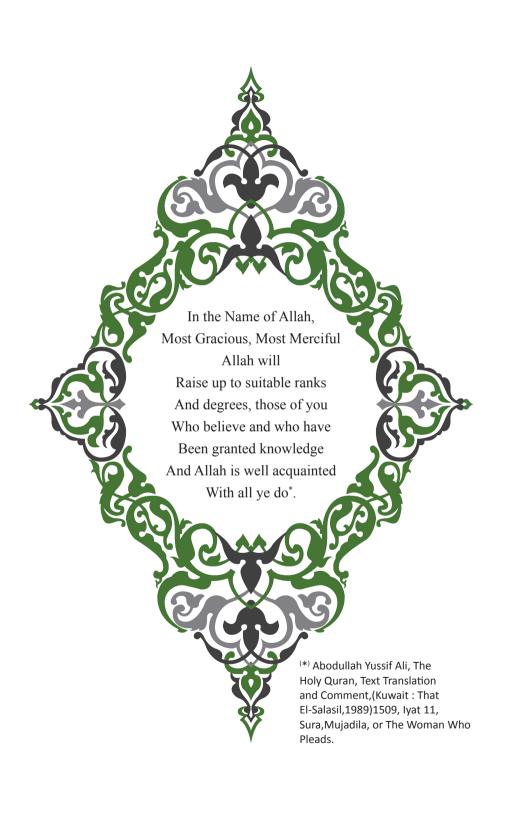
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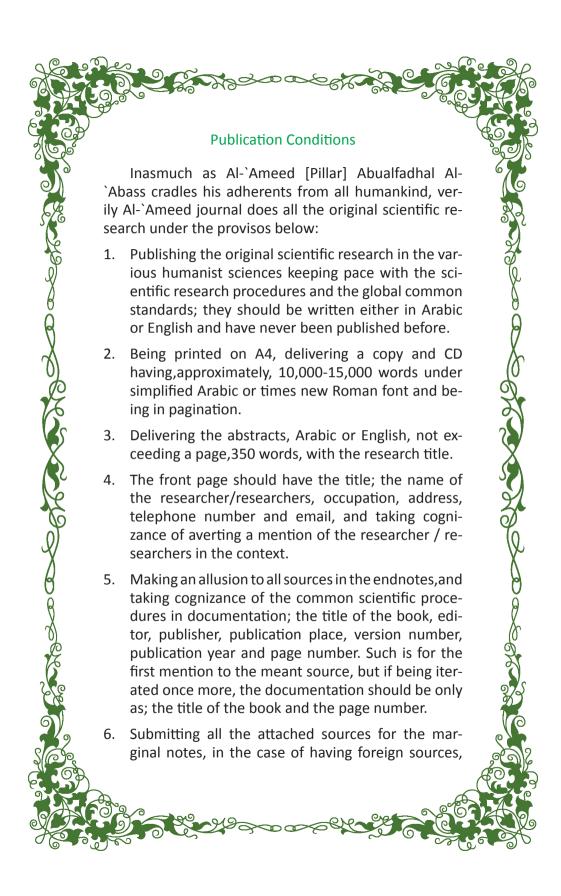
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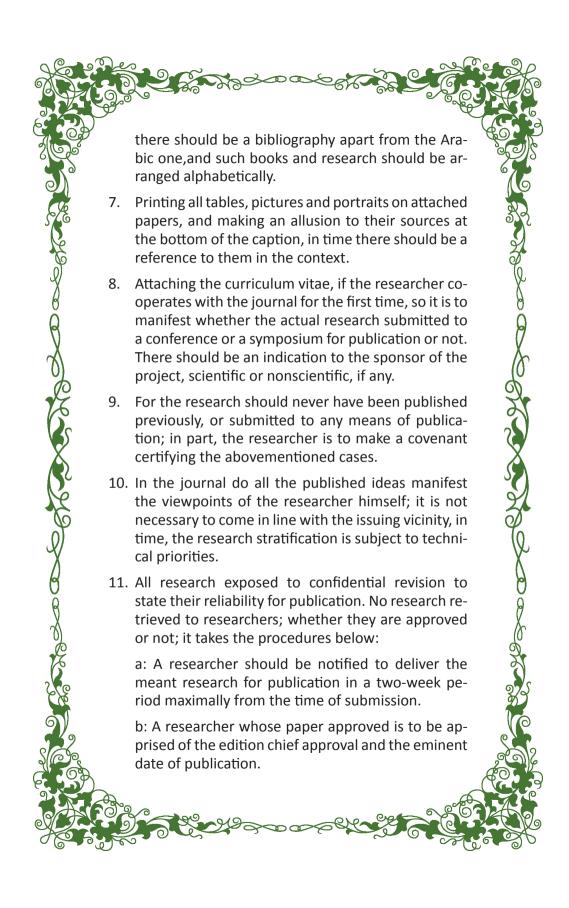
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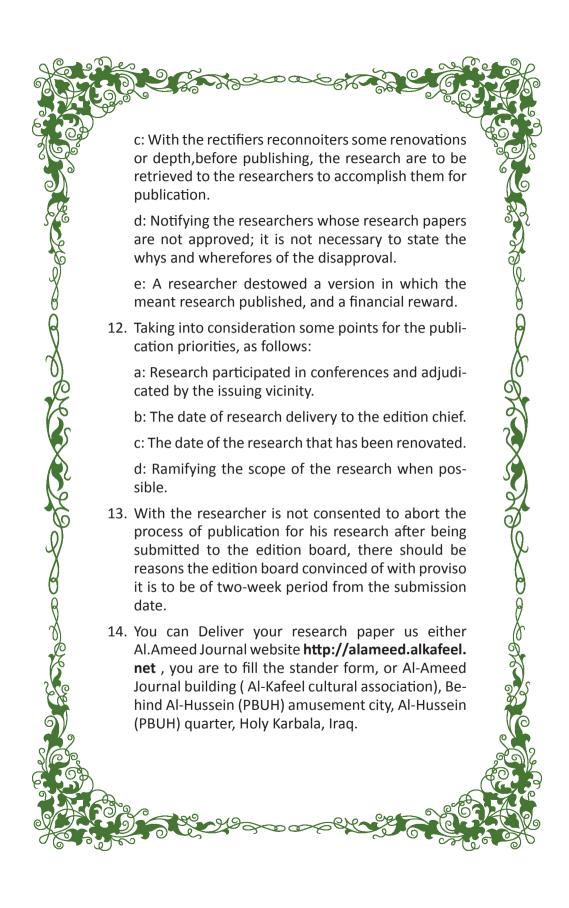
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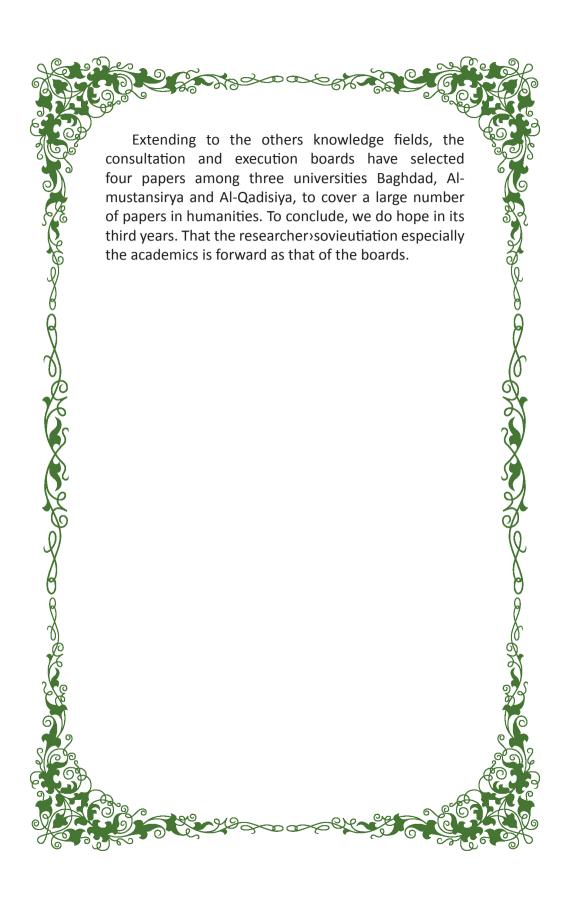
In the Name of the High

... Fdition word ...

To look at any text in a third eye, that is a very deep investigation. Here lies the file of the current journal of Al-Ameed. The first perspective of reading is of heritage. The second one is that of modernism and what follows it. We gather them both in one basket to reproduce a third perspective bounded by the glorious text of the purified Alal (Peace be upon them all).

As such, we term the file «From Ahl-Albait fruition in shepherding Discourse». It consist of three studies. The first study is entitled, «The Argumentation structure in Al-Zahra a speeches». The second is entitled, Al-Zahra a two speeches: A Pragmatic study in the Speech Act Theory». The third is «The rhetoric of convincing: An Argumentation Reading in Imam Al-Hussein's Speeches».

Back to the step we adopted in the province edition in publishing the papers of the first Al-Ameed Global Academic Conference we decorate this edition with three papers of three different field knowledge. Prof. Dr. Adel Muhammad Ziyarah of college of Archeology, University of Cairo wrote papers on < The Archeology of Aal-Al-Bait in Cairo and their glory by Egyptian. Asst. Prof. DrAbid Al-KhaliqHadiTawaaf of Oman University wrote a research papers on <The Administration Ethics from an Islamic Perspective>. Asst. Prof. Dr. Misbaah Al-Shaibani from Tunisia wrote about <The Tunisia Revolution and Social Justice: The Absent Agreement>.





The Application of Proximity Principle to Conversational Texts

تطبيق مبدأ المجاورة على نصوص المحادثة

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Abstract

One of the graces of Allah, the Almighty, is that of (gladness). In this study the term Alu'ns has been investigated semantically. This includes its etymologies in the ancient and modern dictionaries as well as its derivatives in the Glorious Quran with all the relevant terms such as: love, friendliness, goodness, hostility, kindness, friendship, honesty, cooperation, brotherhood, mercy, reformation, dignity, forgiveness, happiness, loyality and many others.

This paper focuses on the semantic collocation of this term which is studied syntactically but not semantically. The term has been studied in linguistics, the Glorious Quran, and in semantics.

ملخص البحث

تنبثق معوقات التوافق حالما يكون هناك صراع بين التوافق النحوي ومبدأ التقريب. يشير مبدأ التقريب إلى التوافق بين الفعل مع إيه من الاسم أو الضمير الذي يسبقه، شيء ما في تفضيل توافقا معينا مع كلمه الأساس للعبارة. لذا يقدم هذا المبدأ من وجه النظر النحوية.

تتضمن الدراسة جزئين: يقدم الجزء الأول نظره عامه حول مبدأ التقريب. وكذلك يوضح حالات مختلفة ويرتبط البعض منها مع هذا المبدأ بينها يمر البعض الأخر بالمشكلات التي تتعارض مع التوافق النحوي. يكرس الجزء الثاني لتحليل التقارب في نصوص معينه مأخوذة من حوارات يوميه. وأخيرا تشتمل ألخاتمه على استنتاجات الدراسة الحالية.



1.0 Principle of Proximity: An Overview

Principle of proximity, also termed (attraction), is the tendency of the verb to agree with a noun that is closer to the verb, typically in postmodification, but which is not the head of the subject noun phrase. This means that a preverbal local noun disagrees in number with the subject head noun. It reflects the role of intervening local noun, i.e., a noun that is embedded in a prepositional phrase or in a clause which modifies the subject that shows disagreement with the subject head noun:

1. The influence of some contemporary writers and fashions are allowed to enter.

Example (1) illustrates how proximity, as being the principle of closeness, results from «an incorrect unification» between the verbal segment (are) and the plural local nouns (writers) and (fashions) rather than the nominal segment (the influence) (Bock and Cutting, 1992:100).

Jespersen(1933: 345) proposes the first processing account of principle of proximity with a preverbal local noun, venturing the hypothesis that «if the verb comes long after the noun, there is no more mental energy left to remember what was the number of the person.» This suggests that the probability of finding proximity concord rather than grammatical concord increases with the distance between the subject and the verb in the uttered sentence. Such an account supposes that in cases where the subject and the verb are discontinuous, mental energy is required to keep track of the information about the agreement source until the target becomes available:

2. He had experience of producing voice-overs of the guises under study on national television and the naturalness of the particular recordings were validated in pilot studies.

So, the verb (were) in (2) agrees with (recordings) rather than the singular object (experience).

According to Fayol etal.(1994: 37), subject- verb agreement is computed automatically on the basis of spreading activation of the number feature from the closest preceding noun to the verb. In





most cases, the subject noun immediately precedes the verb; this ensures correct and rapid agreement because it is automatic. However, when there is a preverbal local noun, activation will spread from this, too. In order to guarantee correct agreement with the head noun, a noun-automatic checking mechanism is assumed to be activated, which consumes working memory resources. A concurrent memory load task would reduce resources available for the checking procedure, and therefore increase the probability of agreement of the verb with a local noun.

1.1. Cases of Principle of Proximity

1.1.1. Coordinated Subjects

Alexander (1988: 79) points out that a singular verb may be chosen in agreement with the closest of a sequence of coordinated noun phrases:

3. Although the room and the whole house was full of really good stuff made or renovated by Daddo, secretly he valued nothing more than this bust.

It shows that, under appositional coordination, the verb (was) agrees with (the whole house) since the reference is to something which can be viewed as a single entity, notion or concept ,i.e. (the room) is one part of (the whole house).

Concerning non-appositional coordination, Quirk et al. (1985: 762) maintain that grammatical concord is clear when each member of noun phrases or clauses which are coordinated with (either.....or) or (whether..or) has the same number ,singular or plural. However, a dilemma arises when one member is singular and the other is plural. Notionally, (or) is disjunctive so that each member is separately related to the verb rather than the two members being considered one unit. Because the dilemma is not clearly resolvable by the principle of grammatical concord or notional concord, recourse is generally to the principle of proximity; whatever phrase comes last determines the number of the verb:







- 4. a. Either your eyesight or your brakes are at fault.
 - b. ?Either your brakes or your eyesight is at fault.

In this case, principle of proximity solves a problem especially in reference to a subject which consists of coordinated noun phrases that are different in number.

Apparently, <neither – nor> can easily be perceived as a negative conjunction, which would explain the slight preference for the plural form. Personal pronouns, as similar to noun phrases of different numbers, pose special problems when used with correlatives. The rule of proximity would solve such problems when someone produces, for example, <neither I nor he is...> or <neither you nor I am...>, etc. In such cases, one can resume to principle of proximity to make the verb agree with the nearest pronoun of coordinated personal pronouns which are different in number:

- 5. a. Neither you nor he is able to answer the question.
 - b. Neither he nor you are able to answer the question.

(Celce- Murcia and Larsen- Freeman, 1999: 41)

Subject noun phrases may be linked by quasi-coordinators, i.e. prepositions(such as (as well as, rather than, as long as)) which are semantically similar to coordinators. Occasionally, the principle of notional concord, sometimes combined with principle of proximity, prompts the plural verb, especially in loosely expressed speech:

- 6. The president, together with his advisors, are preparing a statement on the crisis.
- 7. An old man, as well as several women, were at home.

Here, one can see plural concord occurs between the verbs (are) in (6) and (were) in (7) and the nearest noun phrases following quasi-coordinators (Biber et al., 1999:190).

1.1.2 Indefinite Pronouns

Quirk and Greenbaum (1973: 179) maintain that proximity may lead to plural concord even with indefinites such as each, every, anybody, everybody and nobody; or indefinite phrases including





everyone or anyone which are otherwise unambivalently singular:

- 8. Nobody, not even the teachers, were pleased.
- 9. Every member of the vast crowd of 5000 people were pleased to see him.

Such sentences might be well uttered in causal speech, most people regard them as ungrammatical because they flatly contradict grammatical concord.

In addition, when the subject is a noun phrase that is composed of call of.., some of..., half of.., etc>, the number of the verb is determined by the noun in the of- phrase. This indicates that its number is influenced by proximity principle. This is also true of clots of, heaps of, scads of , plenty of> plus a noun:

10. All of the cargo was lost.

11. Lots of people were waiting outside.(Quirk et al., 1985:764)

Quirk and Greenbaum (1973:179) maintain that if a prepositional phrase with a plural complement follows the indefinite construction such as <none of...> or <either of...> , a plural verb is favored not only because of notional concord but because of principle of proximity:

12. None of them are clever.

Other, more acceptable, instances arise with expressions involving (group) and (number) followed by (of) plus a plural noun. Usually the verb is singular since (number) or (kind) is preceded by the definite article (the). However, principle of proximity plays its role in the sense that the verb is plural since the noun (number) or (kind) is preceded by an indefinite article:

13. A number of people were present. (Alexander, 1988:46)

Similarly, Biber et al.(1999: 190) point out that proximity principle often operates together with notional concord. It reinforces the use of plural concord with quantifying expressions including <of>plus a plural noun phrase. A similar case is the use of plural concord with species nouns such as <kind of> or <type of>:

14. It remains to be seen what precise kind of words are agreed by





the 12 heads of government.

Such a plural concord indicated by the verb (are) is probably due to proximity and partly to the idea that expressions with species nouns act in some respects like determiners.

Quirk et al. (1985: 763) present another case saying that the mixed expressions (one or two) and (one and two) follow principle of proximity in having plural concord:

15. One or two reasons were suggested.

Similarly, the construction (one and) plus a fraction, decimal or percentage has a plural concord since the notion of plural applies not to at least two, but more than one. The selection of the number of the verb in the following example is also reinforced by proximity principle:

- 16. One and a half years have passed since we last met.
- 17. Nearly 50% of doctors are women.

1.1.3 Existential There

Usually a singular form of the verb (be) follows a singular noun phrase in written English. However, in spoken conversation, one frequently finds a singular form of the verb (be) followed by plural noun phrases. The verb is regularly contracted and attached to the preceding existential (there):

18. Gary, there if you want.

In fact, such an example is somewhat more common in conversation than the standard constructions with plural verb plus a plural noun phrase. The explanation of there's is as follows: Because of the contraction, there's tends to behave as a single invariable unit for the purpose of speech processing. The connection is farless close with <there was which is not reduced to single syllable in speech and is not contracted in writing(Biber et al, 1990: 186).





1.1.4 Subject- Verb Inversion

Biber et al(1999:190) state that in subject-verb inversion, the verb agrees with the first noun of a series of coordinated noun phrases:

19. Among the toads was an alcoholic field called Richard's Deane, a Divisionaire- a very high rank in the Swiss army, which only has a general in time of war- called Krueger, an international lawyer named Kips, a tax advisor, Monsieur Belmont, and an American woman with blue hair called Mrs. Montgomery.

Here, the verb (was) agrees with the first noun phrase (an alcoholic field) only when there is subject- verb inversion.

Quirk et al.(1985:763) point out that there are certain examples which are far more problematic. It is not always clear which singular element in the sentence triggers the singular verb form. In many cases, the supposed triggering element is not very near. Also, not only the apparent triggering element is not very near, it is separated from the verb by a plural element, too:

- 20. I rather suspect that these speculations about the otherwise quite surprising appeal of environmentalist views has more than a little truth to it.
- 21. Examples of such tasks, including some from the previous list of life tasks, is displayed in Table 11.1.

So, one can assume that <appeal> in (20) and in (21) account for the singular verb, despite the greater proximity of plural expressions.

1.1.5 Possessive Pronoun/ Antecedent Concord

Proximity principle can be also seen in relation to pronoun/ antecedent concord which is analogous to subject- verb agreement. Basically, the pronoun and its antecedent must agree in number, person and gender. The problem with pronoun / antecedent agreement occurs with sentences of coordinated phrases:

22. Either some cats or a dog has made its home in this area.







When pronouns antecedents are joined by (either ---- or) or (neither --- nor), the possessive pronoun must agree with the closest antecedent. So, the pronoun (its) in (22) agrees with the nearest noun (a dog) according to number (Bock and Miller, 1991: 3).

1.1.6 Relative Pronoun/ Antecedent Concord

One feature of the explicitness of relative clauses lies in the specifying power of the relative pronoun which shows concord with its antecedent, i.e. the preceding part of the noun phrase of which the relative clause is a post-modifier. Quirk et al.(1985: 1245-46) illustrate that gender contrast is neutralized when wh-series is replaced by (that) or a zero relative pronoun. With coordinated antecedents of mixed gender, the choice of the relative pronoun may create a problem. Such a problem does not arise when (that) or zero pronoun is chosen. With wh-pronouns, principle of proximity seems to be favored:

23. a. She likes the people and things which amuse her most.

b. She likes the things and people who amuse her most.

Fowler (1968: 402) illustrates that there are certain sentences which are troublesome:

1. a. He is one of the best men that have ever lived.

It is troublesome as the relative pronoun can in itself be singular or plural. In (24 a.), there are two words which could serve as antecedent to (that), namely, (one) and (men). This sentence can be re-written as:

b. Of the best men that have ever lived, he is one.

This shows how (have) agrees, according to principle of proximity, with (men). It also shows how wrong (has) would be if it is used instead of (have).





2. Data Analysis

This section deals with the application of what has been presented in the first section. Its aim is to analyze certain English conversational texts to see how principle of proximity works and to clarify cases in which this principle is acceptable or not. The texts are chosen from conversations since principle of proximity is widely expressed in this field.

Text No.1

«Celia: Hi, Don. Where will your father spend his vacation?

Don: He will go to Hawaii.

Celia: Are you going to travel with him.

Celia: I>m not sure. Either my sister or I am going to go with

him.»

(Richards, 2005:47)

In this text, one can see that the positive correlative (either .. or) connects two subjects in which the first subject is a noun phrase and the second one is a personal pronoun. In this case, the verb suits the preceding noun phrase or pronoun, whether first, second or third. As such, one can resume to principle of proximity to solve such a problem.

Text No. 2

«Ryan: Working on movies must be really exciting.

Nina: Oh, yes. Can you tell me which type of movies and people

you like more?

Ryan: Well, I like people and movies which give me an advice.»

(Richards, 2005: 8)

Usually the choice of the relative pronoun should agree with its antecedent according to gender. Principle of proximity can solve a problem which arises with wh- pronouns following two noun phrases of different genders. So, which in Ryan's speech agrees with the closest antecedent movies rather than people.

Text No. 3

«Anne: I want to get a gift for a friend. Have the prices changed. Assistant: Neither the prices nor the quality has changed.»





(Harris, 2002: 90)

Here, the problem arises with the negative correlative (neither... nor) while connecting two subjects which are different in number. So, if one of the subjects is singular and the second is plural, the verb will agree with the nearest subject to solve this problem. As such, principle of proximity solves this problem.

Text No. 4

«Tom: Look! A group of people are talking in the street. Why are they moving everybody out of those houses? Christina: I>m not sure. Perhaps they are going to paint the houses.»

(Richards and Long, 1979: 38)

The plural verb (are) in text (4) agrees with the preceding noun (people) rather than the singular subject. So, once the plural noun is preceded by an indefinite article plus (number, kind or group) and the preposition (of), the verb agrees with the plural noun rather than (a group of) which is by itself singular.

Text No. 5

«Mrs. Thomas: We>d prefer to live out of town a little. We don>t want to live right in the middle of town.

Mr. Thomas: Yes, but it should be too far. Ind prefer not to have driven too far to get to my office.

Agent: Well, I think I can show that one or two places are suitable.»

(Richards and Long, 1978: 55-56)

This text shows that the mixed expression (one or two) follow principle of proximity in having plural concord.

Text No. 6

«A: What would you like to have?

B: I d like two steak sandwiches and an orange juice with its pipe, please.

A: Ok. Sit down and I>II get them.»

(Ockenden and Jones, 1982: 82)





This text shows the role of proximity in solving a problem that occurs between the possessive pronoun and two antecedents of different numbers once they are connected by the coordinator (and). So, (its), as a singular possessive pronoun, agrees with the number of the nearest antecedent (an orange juice) rather than (steak sandwiches).

Text No. 7

«Manager: A lot of foreign tourists come into our shop.

Miss Smithies: Can you speak any other foreign languages,

apart from English?

Jenny: Well, I can speak French, and a little Japanese.»

(Richards and Long, 1978: 112)

Here, the number of the verb <come> matches the number of <tourists>. When the subject is composed of <a lot of> plus a noun phrase, the number of the verb is determined by this noun phrase. This shows the influence of proximity principle.

Text No. 8

Anne: Look! The hat and the gloves are really nice.

Sue: Which colour do you prefer?

Anne: I prefer the red one.

Seller: Can you tell me whether the hat or the gloves are red?

(Richards, 2005: 19)

In this text, one can see that the verb takes the number of the nearest alternative the hat or the gloves / the gloves or the hat. Principle of proximity in this case is workable since it solves the problem of disjunction of noun phrases that have different numbers. Here, either nouns could potentially control agreement.





Conclusions

Principle of proximity is the tendency of either the verb to agree with the nearest noun phrase or pronoun functioning as a subject in terms of number, or the relative/ possessive pronoun to agree with the closest antecedent according to gender and number.

Conversational texts reveal that one can resume to principle of proximity in the following cases: First, when the coordinator and, the disjunctive or, and the correlatives either...or, whether... or and neither ...nor connect two noun phrases or pronouns that are different in number, the verb agrees with the closest(preceding) noun or pronoun. Here, proximity is operative and is a must. Consequently, when there is a possibility to choose one of two coordinated antecedents which differ in gender, one can select the relative or possessive pronoun that goes with the gender of the nearest antecedent.

Second, principle of proximity has plural concord with a prepositional phrase that has a plural noun once this phrase is preceded by the indefinite article plus <number, kind, form, group, etc. Similarly, there is a plural concord with indefinite expressions such as <ne or two>, <ne and two>, and <ne and> plus a fraction, a decimal or a percentage.

Third, when the subject consists of one of the indefinite pronouns such as all of, none of, neither of, either of, some of, half of, heaps of, lots of, plenty of, or scads of plus a noun, the number of the verb is determined by the number of the noun following of. So, recourse is generally to principle of proximity.





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