PRONOMINAL MODIFIERS

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In this talk I will discuss two types of modificational constructions that modify pronouns, rather than common nouns or noun phrases: the Pron-N construction (1) and the Pron-RC construction (exemplified in (2) for Italian).

- (1) [We linguists] are different from [you engineers] Pron-N construction
- (2) a. [Noi che siamo linguisti] dovremmo capirlo. Pron-C [we that are linguists] should get it.b. [Voi che incontrate sempre Carla], ditemi di lei.
 - b. [Voi che incontrate sempre Carla], ditemi di lei. [you that always meet Carla] tell me about her.

These constructions do not seem to fit comfortably in the definition of either restrictive or appositive modifiers. In the case of Pron-N, a strong cross-linguistic restriction to 1rst and 2nd person plural cases has often been observed.

(3) a. $*\{I/you/he\}$ linguist distinct from the appositional "I, Claudius" b. $\{we/you_plur/*they\}$ linguists

In the talk I will review the special properties of Pron-N and Pron-RC, arguing that both constructions are best understood as presupposition-inducing elements. The restrictions in (3) will be show to follow directly from a theory of what it means for a pronoun to be "plural".