Pronoun
Primer!
Familiarize
Yourself with
New Pronouns

Spivak Pronouns

Text © 2020 Clorinspats

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/ or send a letter to Creative Commons, PO Box 1866, Mountain View, CA 94042, USA.

This pamphlet is meant to provide free education to people who need it. Acquiring this pamphlet should not cost you anything. Citations are in text.

Excerpts are used under protection of fair dealing and are highly recommended resources in order to expand on the content expounded.

This pamphlet was created in Canada, in the traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh people.

Pronoun Primer! Familiarize Yourself with New Pronouns: Spivak Pronouns

ISBN 978-1-989943-02-1

The digital edition of this pamphlet comes with a free foldable minizine. Please feel free to print and distribute as needed.

For minizine folding instructions, please visit: **How to Fold A Minizine** (clickable link)



What are the Spivak pronouns?

Spivak pronouns are the pronouns used by Michael Spivak in his work "The Joy of Tex", published in 1990.

The "Joy of TEX" is not the first instance of the Spivak pronouns being used, but where they were sourced in the future.

E/Eim/Eir etc were first proposed in the 1890s, from James Rogers in response to the suggestion of using "thon" as the genderneutral pronoun to replace the he/she binary.

pourth is had not read the war and the

Rogers, James "That Impersonal Pronoun." Editorial.

Comp. William Henry Hills The Writer Boston. Jan. 1890,

4th ed.: 12-13. Google Books. Google. Web.

Accessed 6 May, 2020.

Spivak's Explanation

" [...] But I hate having to say
"he or she" or "his or her" or
using awkward circumlocutions.
Numerous approaches to this problem
have been suggested, but one strikes
me as particularly simple
and sensible. Just as 'I' is the
first person singular pronoun,
regardless of gender, so 'E'
will be used in this book as the
third person singular pronoun
for both genders. Thus, 'E' is the
singular of 'they'.

Accordingly, 'Eir' (pronounced to rhyme with 'their') will be the possessive, and 'Em' (rhymes with 'them') will stand for either 'him' or 'her'."

Spivak, Michael. The Joy of TEX: a Gourmet Guide to Typesetting Technical Text by Computer: with Numerous Explicit Illustrations. American Mathematical Society, 1982.

The Popularization of the Spivak Pronouns

The Spivak pronouns were picked up by programmer Roger Crew to test the pronoun programming of a game called LambdaMOO.

He had named the "Spivak gender" for Michael Spivak, a mathematics professor who used gender-neutral pronouns for his textbooks. Crew never dreamed that "spivak" would catch on, attributing its success to its intensive use by several particularly active individuals.

[&]quot;Origins of Gender Options." CyberSociety 2.0: Revisiting Computer-Mediated Communication and Community, by Steve Jones, Sage Publications, 1998, p. 141.

"Some gender identities, however, are less transferable to the flesh although they do have physical resonances. The best example of this is what's known as the spivak gender.

Spivak is more representative of an emotional and intellectual state than of a physical configuration. And although the sexuality available to a spivak is a bonus online, it's not the raison d'etre.

Rather, it's a subtly gender-free condition. It's not androgynous. It's not unisexual.

It's simply ambiguous."

Thomas, S., 2003. Sue Thomas: Spivak. [online] Barcelonareview.com. Available at: http://barcelonareview.com/35/e_st.htm [Accessed 6 May 2020].

Conjugation & Examples

Subject: E

E is feeling nice today.

Object: Em

I gave em a high-five.

Possessive Adjective: Eir

Eir day is going great!

Possessive Pronoun: Eirs

That dog is eirs.

Reflexive: Emself

E decided to treat emself.

Practice!

and the second of the second o
The best way to adjust to
new pronouns is to practice.
Let's give the Spivak pro-
nouns a shot!
is having a great time.
Excuse me, but that seat is
Duke dyed hair and it looks great!
Lucille enjoys buying
new socks.
You know, I really enjoy
company.

Answers: E, eirs, eir, emself, eir



get more minis at
gumroad.com/clorinspats

print them and share em for free



Pronouns Spivak

Yourself with New Pronouns Familiarize Pronoun Primer



Explanation Spivak's

What are

the Spivak pronouns?

have been suggested, but one strikes Numerous approaches to this problem for both genders. Thus, 'E' is the will be used in this book as the and sensible. Just as 'I' is the first person singular pronoun, using awkward circumlocutions. "he or she" or "his or her" or third person singular pronoun [...] But I hate having to say regardless of gender, so 'E' me as particularly simple singular of 'they'.

they were sourced in the future. pronouns being used, but where first instance of the Spivak The "Joy of TEX" is not the

work "The Joy of Tex", published

in 1990.

Spivak pronouns are the pronouns

used by Michael Spivak in his

Spivak, Michael. The Joy of TEX: a Gourmet Guide to Typesetting Technical Text by Computer: with American Mathematical Society, 1982. Explicit Illustrations

Accessed 6 May, 2020.

4th ed.: 12-13. Google Books. Google. Web

Comp. William Henry Hills The Writer Boston. Jan. 1890, Rogers, James "That Impersonal Pronoun." Editorial.

he/she binary.

of using "thon" as the gender-

in response to the suggestion

neutral pronoun to replace the

E/Eim/Eir etc were first proposed

in the 1890s, from James Rogers

Accordingly, 'Eir' (pronounced to rhyme with

their') will be the possessive,

and 'Em' (rhymes with 'them')

will stand for either 'him' or 'her'."

new socks. I really enjoy company

know,

You

Answers: E, eirs, eir, emself, eir

clorinspats

hair and it looks great Duke dyed

Lucille enjoys buying

Excuse me, but that seat is

print them and share em

for free

time. is having a great

nouns a shot!

The best way to adjust to new pronouns is to practice Let's give the Spivak pro-

Practice!

of the Spivak Pronouns

The Popularization

were picked up by programmer Roger Crew to test the pronoun pro-The Spivak pronouns gramming of a game called LambdaMOO.

would catch on, attributing its individuals. by several particularly active success to its intensive use pronouns for his textbooks. professor who used gender-neutral for Michael Spivak, a mathematics He had named the "Spivak gender" Crew never dreamed that "spivak"

Community, by Steve Jones, Sage Publications, 1998, p. 141. Revisiting Computer-Mediated Communication and "Origins of Gender Options." CyberSociety 2.0:

> E decided to treat emself. Reflexive: Emself

That dog is eirs.

Possessive Pronoun: Eirs

Possessive Adjective: Eir Eir day is going great!

I gave em a high-five.

E is feeling nice today.

Object: Em

Subject: E

W Conjugation Examples

this is what's known as the spivak resonances. The best example of although they do have physical are less transferable to the flesh "Some gender identities, however,

state than of a physical raison d'etre. sexuality available to a spivak configuration. And although the an emotional and intellectual Spivak is more representative of is a bonus online, it's not the

It's simply ambiguous." It's not unisexual. condition. It's not androgynous. Rather, it's a subtly gender-free

Thomas, S., 2003. Sue Thomas: Spivak. [online] Barcelonareview.com. Available at: [Accessed 6 May 2020]. http://barcelonareview.com/35/e st.htm