12. Reciprocals

As with reflexives, English has lexical and analytic reciprocals, though there is never ambiguity between the two. Certain English verbs can be classified as lexical reciprocals in that when a direct object is omitted and the subject is plural, the normal interpretation is reciprocal:

(95)  a. John kissed Mary. 'Juán besó a María.'
      Juán besar:PAS María

b. John and Mary kissed. 'Juán y María se besaron.'
      Juán y María besar:PAS

(96)  a. John fought Mary. 'Juán peleó con María.'
      Juán pelear:PAS María

b. John and Mary fought. 'Juán y María se pelearon.'
      Juán y María pelear:PAS

Examples 95b and 96b are the lexical reciprocals of 95a and 96a respectively.

Analytic reciprocals are formed with the special nominal each other in the position of the direct object:

(97)  a. We saw each other. 'Nos vimos uno a otro.'
      1PL ver:PAS RECIP

b. John and Mary hugg-ed each other.
      Juán y María abrazar:PAS RECIP
      'Juán y María se abrazaron.'

Like analytic reflexives, analytic reciprocals in English do not reduce grammatical valence.