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MORPHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND GENERAL PECULIARITIES OF THE NOUN

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Abstract: English grammar is a wide sphere including many nuances. This article analyzes the issues about the morphological and general peculiarities of the noun. Many examples are provided in order to give an explanation about the noun concept regarded to the topic.

Keywords: morphology, noun, language, words, linguists, semantics, function, peculiarities.

One reason for studying morphology is simply that it is there: it is a facet of language that has to be described and is a source of absorbing practical knowledge [3]. The term morphology is a greek-based (the study of forms) [2, 3].

First of all, words are divided into certain categories according to the concepts they signify. Words in a language differ from each other not only in the precise meanings they signify but also in their grammatical features. The largest groups of words characterized by common semantic and grammatical features are called word categories.

"Linguists debate over the criteria and attributes by which words are classified. Among them the following questions are main subject of mutual disputes:" [1, 22]

- *Whether words should be classified into categories or not?*
- *What are the types of categories of words?*
- *Which of the categories of words are identified as independent or auxiliary?*
- *What principles in categorizing words should be relied upon?*

The reasons for such issues are the followings:

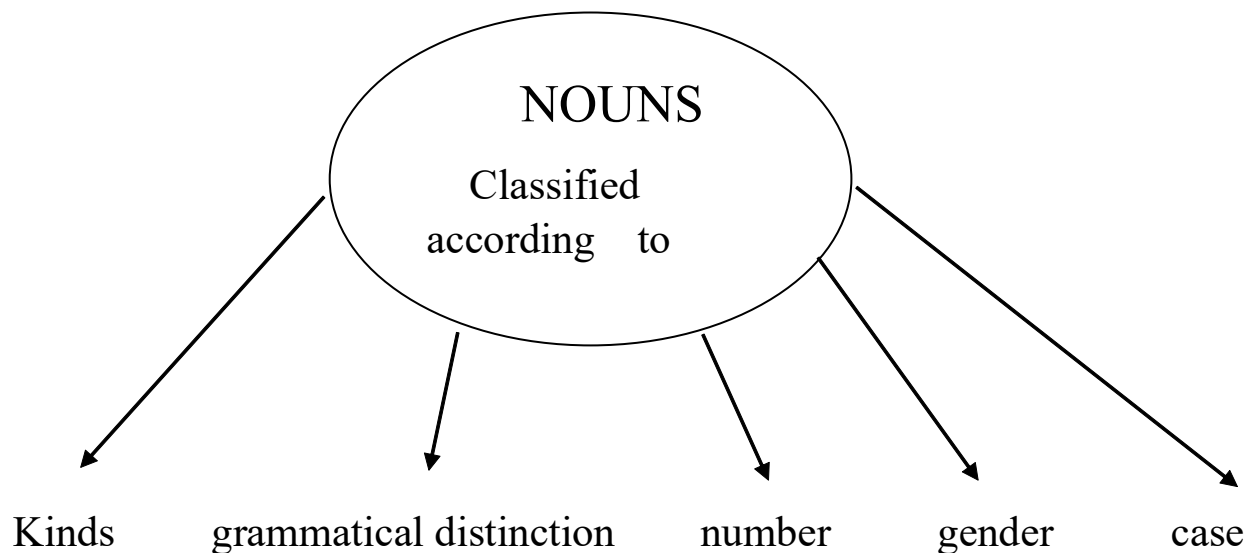
The existence of words that are difficult to include in their categories.e.g., participle is an amalgamation of the properties of both verb and adjective.

Explanation: A duck is sitting or sitting duck. This can be done with any verb that directly describes an action or state. It works with almost any verb except for copulative verbs.A past participle can be used as an adjective indicating that something has the property that would be described by making it the object of the verb, often but not necessarily in the past or present perfect tense. "A braised turkey" is a duck that has been braised (i.e., "the turkey has been braised").

The constant transition of words from one category to another.

Linguist Kachalova divides word categories into the following: "noun, adjective, numeral, pronoun, verb, adverb, preposition, conjunction, interjection" [4, 5]. The part of speech indicates how the word functions in meaning as well as grammatically within the sentence. An individual word can function as more than one part of speech when used in different circumstances. Understanding parts of speech is essential for determining the correct definition of a word when using the dictionary.

The noun, adjective, numeral, pronoun, verb and adverb are significant (independent) parts of speech. They denote objects, their qualities, actions, etc. and are regarded as parts of speech.



Nouns are names of objects, things, human beings, animals, materials and abstract notions (e.g. table, house, man, girl, dog, lion, snow, sugar, love, beauty) [3, 259]. Nouns are usually accompanied by articles or other qualifiers and are often combined with prepositions. The articles and other qualifiers as well as prepositions are features of a noun: a dog, the dog, this dog, in the classroom, with answers.

The Gender of Nouns. Cognitive function of the noun gender category.

The cognitive function of the noun gender category is to express the gender of the denoted noun as one of the subject features.

"The cognitive function of the noun gender category, which consists in expressing the gender of the denoted object as one of the subject attributes by means of feminine and masculine forms, contributes to the formation of an objective linguistic picture of the world" [5, 24].

"The category of gender is a complex hierarchical phenomenon" [6, 49].

In accordance with their meaning nouns may be classed as belonging to the masculine, feminine and neuter gender. Names of male beings are masculine (e.g. man, husband, boy, son, ox, cock), and names of female beings are feminine (e.g. woman, wife, girl, daughter, cow, hen). All other nouns are said to be neuter (e.g. pen, flower, family, rain, opinion, bird, horse, pride). Gender finds its formal expression in the replacement of nouns by the pronouns he, she or it.

However, there are nouns in English which may be treated as either males or females (e.g. cousin, friend). They are said to be of common gender. When there is no need to make a distinction of sex, the masculine pronoun is used for these nouns.

Nouns come in simple, derivative, and complex forms. Simple nouns include nouns that have no prefixes or suffixes. They have neither prefixes nor suffixes in their composition: ship-kema, town-shahar, book-kitob, wheat-bug'doy.

Derived nouns include nouns that have a suffix or prefix in their structure or nouns that have both suffixes or prefixes.

E.g. Darkness-ness suffix, misprint-mis prefix, unemployment-un prefix and ment suffix is added.

The most characteristic suffixes of derivational nouns are the following:

age: marriage, passage

ance, ence: resistance, difference

dom: kingdom, wisdom, freedom

er: worker, writer, freelancer

hood: childhood, brotherhood, neighborhood

ion: restriction, connection

ment: development, government

ness: happiness, kindness, baroness

ship: friendship, leadership

ty: safety, certainty

ure: departure, pleasure

Nouns have almost no characteristic prefixes. The prefixes of nouns mostly coincide with those of verbs and adjectives. Nouns formed from these prefixes are: reconstruction, disarmament, uneasiness, inequality.

Compound nouns are nouns that are made by combining two words into one concept. They will be written with a conjunction or with a hyphen. Hyphen (dash): bedroom, newspaper, dining-room. Some compound nouns consist of two words with a preposition between them: commander-in chief, mother-in-law.

With compound nouns it is usually the final component that is made plural (e.g. bookcase - bookcases, writing table - writing tables, tooth brush-tooth brushes, handful - handfuls, drawback - drawbacks, forget-me-not - forget-me-nots, postman - postmen, Englishman - Englishmen). In a few nouns the first component is made plural (e.g. father-in-law - fathers-in-law, commander-in-chief - commanders-in-chief, passer-by - passers-by).

When the first component is man or woman, the plural is expressed twice (e.g. man servant - men servants, woman doctor - women doctors).

The Case of Nouns. Case is the form of the noun which shows the relation of the noun to other words in the sentence. English nouns have two case forms - the common case and the genitive case, e.g. the child - the child's father, an hour - an hour's walk.

The genitive case is formed by means of the suffix -s or the apostrophe (-').

The suffix -s is pronounced [z] after vowels and voiced consonants, e.g. boy's, girl's; [s] after voiceless consonants, e.g. student's, wife's; [ɪz] after sibilants, e.g. prince's, judge's. The -'s is added to singular nouns (see the examples above) and also to irregular plural nouns, e.g. men's, children's, women's.

The apostrophe (-') alone is added to regular plural nouns, e.g. soldiers', parents', workers', and also to proper names ending in -s,

e.g. Archimedes' Law, Sophocles' plays, Hercules' labours.

Some other proper names ending in -s may also take the suffix -'s,

e.g. Soames' (Soames's) collection. Burns' (Burns's) poems, Dickens' (Dickens's) novels, Jones' (Jones's) car, etc. The common pronunciation of both variants appears to be [...ɪz], but the common spelling - with the apostrophe only.

The number of nouns which may be used in the genitive case is limited. The -'s genitive commonly occurs with animate nouns denoting personal names (John's bed, Mary's job, Segovia's pupil, etc.), personal nouns (my friend's visit, the boy's new shirt, the man's question, etc.), collective nouns (the party's platform, the team's victory, the government's policy, etc.) and higher animals (the dog's barking, the lion's cage, etc.).

In principle, the -'s genitive is also possible with certain kinds of inanimate nouns and abstract notions. For example, it is regularly found with temporal nouns (a day's work, a few days' trip, a two years' absence, a moment's pause, a seven months' pay, etc.) and with nouns denoting distance and measure (a mile's distance, a shilling's worth, etc.). Sometimes it is used with geographic names of continents, countries, cities, towns, and universities (Europe's future, the United States' policy, London's water supply, etc.), locative nouns (the island's outline, the city's white houses, the school's history, etc.) as well as a few other nouns (the sun's rays, the ship's crew, the play's title, Nature's

sleep, etc.).

There are also a considerable number of set phrases in which all sorts of nouns are found in the genitive case, e.g. in one's mind's eye, a pin's head, to one's heart's content, at one's finger's end, for goodness' sake, at one's wit's end, out of harm's way, duty's call, a needle's point.

A noun in the genitive case generally precedes another noun which is its head-word. This may be called the dependent genitive. The relations between the noun in the genitive case and its head-word may be of two kinds:

1) The noun in the genitive case may denote a particular person or thing, as in my mother's room, the man's voice. This kind of the genitive case is called the specifying genitive. The more common meanings of the specifying genitive are the following:

a) possession

e.g. Mary's suitcase (=Mary has a suitcase)

the children's toys (=the children have toys)

b) subjective genitive

e.g. that boy's answer (=the boy answered)

the parents' consent (=the parents consented)

c) genitive of origin

e.g. the girl's story (=the girl told the story)

the general's letter (=the general wrote the letter)

d) objective genitive

e.g. the boy's punishment (=somebody punished the boy)

the man's release (=somebody released the man)

The specifying genitive may be replaced if necessary by an of phrase, e.g. the father of the boys, the room of my brother who is in hospital, etc. With proper names, however, the genitive case is the rule, e.g. John's parents, Mary's birthday, Byron's first poems.

2) The noun in the genitive case may refer to a whole class of similar objects. This kind of the genitive case is called the classifying (descriptive) genitive, e.g. sheep's eyes (which means eyes of a certain kind but not the eyes of a particular sheep), a doctor's degree (=a doctoral degree), cow's milk (=milk from cows), a women's college (=a college for women), a soldier's uniform, a summer's day, a doll's face, a planter's life, gents' clothes, lady's wear, an hour's walk, a mile's distance, etc.

In some case such combinations have become set phrases, e.g. a spider's web, the serpent's tooth, the bee's sting, a giant's task, a fool's errand, a cat's paw, child's play and others.

The classifying genitive is generally not replaced by a phrase, except for the genitive indicating time and distance.

e.g. o three days' absence -> an absence of three days a

two miles' distance -> a distance of two miles

The suffix -'s may be added not only to a single noun but to a whole group of words. It is called the group genitive. We find various patterns here, e. g. Smith and Brown's office, Jack and Ann's children, the Prime Minister of England's residence, the Prince of Denmark's tragedy, somebody else' umbrella, the man we saw yesterday's son.

Sometimes we find the use of -'s and of together. This is called a double genitive.

e.g. He was an old business client of Grandfather's (=one of Grandfather's clients).

A noun in the genitive case may be used without a headword. This is called the

independent genitive. The independent genitive is used with nouns denoting trade and relationship or with proper names. It serves to denote a building (e.g. a school, a house, a hospital, a church) or a shop. It is mainly found in prepositional phrases.

e.g. I was in the grocer's and I heard some women say it. He asked her how she liked living at her daughter's. They were married at St. Paul's. Mrs White ran the confectioner's very competently. He asked her to choose a restaurant and she suggested Scott's.

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