

THE NOUN GROUP AND ITS GRAMMATICAL CATEGORIES

Eshbekova Madina

540-21-group student

Abstract; This article describes in detail about the Noun word group and its grammatical categories, usage order, and rules in the studied language.

Key words: noun, talk structure, rule, structure, independent word groups, singular, plural, basic.

Language is a social phenomenon and every language has its own grammar. For many centuries such famous scholars as B. Illyish, M. Y. Blokh, O. Jespersen and many others had investigated the problem of parts of speech, that causes great controversies both in general linguistic theory and in the analysis of separate languages. And the main question that had interested them was noun as a part of speech.

Nouns are the most numerous class of words (42% of all words). Professor A.S. Ahmanova in her dictionary of linguistic terms gives the following definition of the noun or the substance is the part of speech characterized by the categorical meaning of thingness, by the lexico-grammatical category of gender, by the grammatical categories of number and case, by the syntactical functions of subject, object and predicate and by the developed of word formation models. The noun is a word expressing substance in the widest sense of the word. In the concept of substance we include not only names of living beings (e.g. boy, girl, bird) and lifeless things (e.g. table, chair, book), but also names of abstract notions, i.e. qualities, states, actions (kindness, strength, sleep, fear, conversation, fight), abstracted from their bearers. In speech these types of nouns are treated in different ways, so one, who does not know ways of treatment, can make mistakes in his speech. No speaking is possible without the knowledge of using nouns and so, we have chosen the theme "Nouns and their grammatical categories".

Word classes (parts of speech) were described by Sanskrit grammarians from at least the 5th century BC. In Yāska's Nirukta, the noun (nāma) is one of the four main categories of words defined.

The Ancient Greek equivalent was *ónoma* (ὄνομα), referred to by Plato in the *Cratylus* dialog, and later listed as one of the eight parts of speech in *The Art of Grammar*, attributed to Dionysius Thrax (2nd century BC). The term used in Latin grammar was *nōmen*. All of these terms for "noun" were also words meaning "name". The English word noun is derived from the Latin term, through the Anglo-Norman noun.

The word classes were defined partly by the grammatical forms that they take. In Sanskrit, Greek and Latin, for example, nouns are categorized by gender and inflected for case and number.

Many European languages use a cognate of the word substantive as the basic term for noun (for example, Spanish *sustantivo*, "noun"). Nouns in the dictionaries of such languages are demarked by the abbreviation *s.* or *sb.* instead of *n.*, which may be used for proper nouns or neuter nouns instead. In English, some modern authors use the word substantive to refer to a class that includes both nouns (single words) and noun phrases (multiword units, also called noun equivalents). It can also be used as a counterpart to attributive when distinguishing between a noun being used as the head (main word) of a noun phrase and a noun being used as a noun adjunct. For example, the noun *knee* can be said to be used substantively in *my knee hurts*, but attributively in *the patient needed knee replacement*. Nouns have sometimes been defined in terms of the grammatical categories to which they are subject (classed by gender, inflected for case and number). Such definitions tend to be language-specific, since nouns do not have the same categories in all languages.

Nouns are frequently defined, particularly in informal contexts, in terms of their semantic properties (their meanings). Nouns are described as words that refer to a person, place, thing, event, substance, quality, quantity, etc. However this type of definition has been criticized by contemporary linguists as being uninformative.

There have been offered several examples of English-language nouns which do not have any reference: *drought*, *enjoyment*, *finesse*, *behalf* (as found in *on behalf of*), *dint* (in *dint of*), and *sake* (for the sake of). Moreover, there may be a relationship similar to reference in the case of other parts of speech: the verbs *to rain* or *to mother*; many adjectives, like *red*; and there is little difference between the adverb *gleefully* and the noun-based phrase *with glee*.

Nouns fall under two classes:

- proper nouns;
- common nouns.

- Proper nouns are individual, names given to separate persons or things. As regards their meaning proper nouns may be personal names (Mary, Peter, Shakespeare), geographical names (Moscow, London, the Caucasus), the names of the months and of the days of the week (February, Monday), names of ships, hotels, clubs, etc.¹

Proper nouns may change their meaning and become common nouns: «George went over to the table and took a sandwich and a glass of champagne. (Aldington)

- Common nouns are names that can be applied to any individual of ad ass of persons or things (e.g. man, dog, book), collections of similar individuals or things regarded as a single unit (e. g. peasantry, family), materials (e. g. snow, iron, cotton) or abstract notions (e.g. kindness, development).
1. Class nouns denote persons or things belonging to a class. They are countable and have two. numbers: singular and plural. They are generally used with an article.

«Well, sir», said Mrs. Parker, «I wasn't in the shop above a great deal.» (Mansfield)

2. Collective nouns denote a number or collection of similar individuals or things as a single unit. Collective nouns fall under the following groups:
 - ✓ nouns used only in the singular and denoting-a number of things collected together and regarded as a single object: foliage, machinery.

It was not restful, that green foliage. (London)

- ✓ nouns which are singular in form though plural in meaning: police, poultry, cattle, people, gentry. They are usually called nouns of multitude. When the subject of the sentence is a noun of multitude the verb used as predicate is in the plural:

The weather was warm and the people were sitting at their doors. (Dickens)

- ✓ nouns that may be both singular and plural: family, crowd, fleet, nation. We can think of a number of crowds, fleets or different nations as well as of a single crowd, etc.
3. Nouns of material denote material: iron, gold, paper, tea, water. They are uncountable and are generally used without any article.
 4. Abstract nouns denote some quality, state, action or idea: kindness, sadness, fight. They are usually uncountable, though some of them may be countable.

¹ <https://poisk-ru.ru/s44394t3.html>

Therefore when the youngsters saw that mother looked neither frightened nor offended, they gathered new courage. (Dodge) Thus there are different groups of common nouns: class nouns, collective nouns, nouns of material and abstract nouns.

Grammatical category is a class of units (such as noun and verb) or features (such as number and case) that share a common set of grammatical properties.

Grammatical category is a linguistic category which has the effect of modifying the forms of some class of words in a language. The words of everyday language are divided up into several word classes, or parts of speech, such as nouns, verbs

and adjectives. It often happens that the words in a given class exhibit two or more forms used in somewhat different grammatical circumstances. In each such case, this variation in form is required by the presence in the language of one or more grammatical categories applying to that class of words.

English nouns are affected by only one grammatical category, that of number: we have singular dog but plural dogs, and so on for most (but not all) of the nouns in the language. These forms are not interchangeable, and each must be used always and only in specified grammatical circumstances. And here is a key point: we must always use a noun in either its singular form or its plural form, even when the choice seems irrelevant; there is no possibility of avoiding the choice, and there is no third form which is not marked one way or the other. This is typically the case with grammatical categories.

The grammatical category of number is the linguistic representation of the objective category of quantity. The number category is realized through the opposition of two form-classes: the plural form: the singular form. The category of number in English is restricted in its realization because of the dependent implicit grammatical meaning of countableness/uncountableness. The number category is realized only within subclass of countable nouns. The grammatical meaning of number may not coincide with the notional quantity: thenoun in the singular does not necessarily denote one object while the plural form may be used to denote one object consisting of several parts.

In other words, the category of gender should not be confused with the category of sex, because sex is an objective biological category. It correlates with gender only when sex differences of living beings are manifested in the language

grammatically (e.g. tiger – tigress). Still, other scholars (M.Blokh, John Lyons) admit the existence of the category of gender. Prof. Blokh states that the existence of the category of gender in Modern English can be proved by the correlation of nouns with personal pronouns of the third person (he, she, it) [10]. Accordingly, there are three genders in English: the neuter (non-person) gender, the masculine gender, the feminine gender.

So, nouns is very important because its structure is used in every day conversation. The more you practice the subject, the closer you get to mastering the English language. But first we need to know what the role of nouns is in the structure of the grammar in English and also know their grammatical categories.

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