

MINISTRY OF HIGHER AND SECONDARY SPECIALIZED EDUCATION  
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The English Language and Literature department.

Ernazarov Sirojiddin 's qualification work on speciality 5220100, English  
philology on the theme:  
“The importance of articles in English”

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## **Introduction**

### **1.1. General characteristics of the work**

The theme of our qualification work sounds as follows: “The Peculiarities of Article Usage in Modern English” This theme seems as very actual and required by the following reasons. The first reason is traditional in its character: articles are used to be considered as the denotation of intellectuality of a speaker of English. So if we want to prepare the educational learners of English we should take into account this part of the English grammar. So the second reason of actuality of our work lies in the difficulties in practical usage of articles by foreign students caused by the non-existence of the latter in native language. It concerns both Uzbek and Russian learners at the same degree. Another one reason of my choice is adequate by my personal interest in this problem and I have some proposals which I would like to show in my qualification work.

Having proved by the all what has just been written above we claimed this qualification work to pursue the following practical goals:

1. To demonstrate the different ways of usage of the Modern English articles in alive and literary speech.
2. To show the practical significance of knowing the article by foreign speakers.
3. To prompt to the commonest mistakes done by foreign speakers in usage of articles.
4. To illustrate the problem of article inserting by means of the works of the outstanding English and American writers.
5. To analyze the opinions of the major English and Russian linguists concerning the problem discussed.
6. To summarize all the theoretical and practical material database collected by linguists on the question of articles.

Within the work held on the problem the latest results of the investigation were collected and analyzed. This information was borrowed from the internet sources mentioned by us at the bibliography list of our qualification work. In

particular, the viewpoints of the Russian scholar A.N. Samoa and the English linguist S. Hall were taken into consideration within our qualification work.

As we say about the practical meaningfulness of the work we can mention some of the majorly required:

1. The work can be especially useful for teachers of English at school where the problem of teaching articles stands on one of the most problematic places of study caused by insufficient number of methodological literature.
2. The work could find its reflection in every sphere of human activity where the perfect knowledge of foreign languages is required.
3. The work cannot but interesting for the students who want to make perfect in exemplary English.
4. We hope that our work will be well appreciated by every person who is especially interested in English.

As we speak about the scholars who were particularly interested in the subject of our investigation we can mention O. Jespersen, A.I. Smirnitsky, V.L. Kaushanskaya, A. Bloch, E. M. Gordon, R. Murthy etc.

Having said about the methods used by us in our qualification work we may say that the method of correlative and comparative investigation was used. We also took the method of typological research into our consideration.

Having spoken about the perspectives of the work we express our hopes to see its practical realization at schools, colleges, lyceums and other institutions of educational value.

### **2.1. What the article is and what are its functions.**

The article is a structural word specifying the noun. Hence the absence of the article, as opposed to its presence, also specifies the noun and has significance.

There are two articles in English which are called the definite article and the indefinite article.

The definite article has developed from the Old English demonstrative pronoun. It has one graphic form the in present-day English but two variants in pronunciation: [ ] before words beginning with a consonant (the book, the French book) and [ ]

before words beginning with a vowel (the incident, the interesting incident). When stressed it is pronounced [i]

The indefinite article, which originates from the Old English AN (one), has two forms: a [ə] before words beginning with a consonant (a book, a French book) and an [ən] before words beginning with a vowel (an incident, an interesting incident). When stressed they are pronounced [ei] and [sen].

The use of the articles, as well as their absence, has generally grammatical meaning and falls under definite rules. These rules will be dealt with in detail there are cases, however, in which the use of articles cannot be accounted for grammatically as it has become a matter of tradition. This is found in numerous set phrases as in: at night — in the night, in the distance — at a distance, as a result of — under the influence of, to take the trouble — to take care of, to be in danger — to be in a rage, to be on duty — to be on the beat, etc.

Yet a grammar, however detailed, cannot cover all set phrases. Therefore we shall deal here only with phraseological units which seem to contradict the general rules (e. g. the best coat — a best suit', the first day — a first night] or which are in extensive use in English (e. g. the use of such nouns as school, town, hand, day, night, etc, in phraseological units).

Besides, the traditional use of articles is found in other cases as well. Thus, names of countries are generally used without any article but the names of certain countries, or regions, owing to a well-established tradition, are associated with the definite article (the Crimea, the Caucasus, the Congo, the Sudan, the Tyrol, the Ruhr and some others). Names of mountain chains are used with the definite article (the Alps, the Tian-Shan, the Urals)<sup>1</sup> whereas names of single mountain peaks have generally no article (Mont Blanc, Elbrus, Vesuvius).

Although in the above mentioned cases the use of articles is based on tradition and cannot be accounted for grammatically, such traditional use of articles should be treated by grammar.

Thus, in dealing with the use of articles it will be necessary to divide all cases into

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<sup>1</sup> "World Book" part 4 MacMillian Publisher 1996

two groups which may be called "the grammatical use of articles" and "the traditional use of articles." The grammatical use of articles is dependent on the character of the noun, i.e. the functions (structural meanings) of the articles are connected with the different classes into which nouns fall.

Besides, the choice of articles is sometimes influenced by the syntactic relations in whom the noun occurs.

The use of articles in set phrases may be accounted for historically but it often appears arbitrary from the point of view of present-day English and there seems to be no point in analyzing such traditional combinations.

In order to describe the functions of the articles we need some classification of nouns upon which our description can be based. The following classification seems to be suitable for the purpose: proper names form a special category and the use of articles with them should be treated separately. With common nouns the use of articles is dependent on the relation of nouns to the category of count-ability. As will be shown, the division of nouns into concrete and abstract-ones is of importance for the use of articles only in the category of uncountable nouns.

Nouns belonging to the category of not having the category of accountability are neither countable nor uncountable as, on the one hand, like countable nouns they are associated with the idea of oneness and, on the other hand, the idea more-than-oneness is incompatible with them since they denote unique things or notions. Therefore it is best to regard them as being outside the category of countability. So far as real uncountable nouns are concerned, they cannot be associated either with the idea of oneness or more-than-oneness.

## **THE MAIN PART**

### **2.1. THE FUNCTIONS OF ARTICLES USED WITH COMMON NOUNS.**

#### **1.1.2. First of all we shall take into consideration the use of the indefinite article with common nouns**

1. With countable nouns, both concrete and abstract, the indefinite article is used when we want to name an object (thing, person, animal, abstract notion), to state what kind of object is meant:

e. g. He gave her a cigarette and lighted it.

There came a tap at the door, and a small elderly man entered the room, wearing a cloth cap. This function may be called the nominating function. It is the main function of the indefinite article with countable nouns.

But at the same time, owing to its origin from the numeral one, the indefinite article always implies the idea of oneness and is used only before nouns in the singular (including such words as alms, barracks, bellows, works, headquarters, etc. which may be singular in meaning).

Alongside of the above mentioned structural meanings the indefinite article may have some other functions, which are to be regarded as its additional meanings (or additional functions). As will be seen, they always result from the principal function. We may trace the following additional meanings in the indefinite article.

The indefinite article may express indefiniteness, since when we just name an object it is often indefinite in our mind.

e. g. He's got a job now.

She was going to tell us a story.

But this additional meaning is not necessarily expressed by the indefinite article. Thus we may hardly speak of the indefiniteness of the object in the following examples:

You're a scientist and your attitude should be realistic. I've a brother in Dorset and I could stay with him.

It should be born in mind that at the same time the indefinite article always carries out its main function — the nominating function. Whereas in the second sentence we already know that there was a girl behind the door and the new information contained in the sentence is that she now came in. The two variants differ in intonation: in the first sentence a young girl is marked by stronger stress whereas in the second one came in becomes more prominent.

Although the communicating function of the indefinite article is important and sometimes becomes very prominent, it is to be regarded only as an additional meaning: we may find sentences in "which a noun with an indefinite article does not serve as the centre of communication and is not marked by strong stress (a) and, vice versa, a noun with a definite article marked by strong stress may become the most important element of communication (b):

Cf.: a) A camel can carry heavy loads.

An engagement should come on a girl as a surprise, pleasant or unpleasant, as the case may be:

b) It was the first spring day.

Schumann was the composer he liked best.

When naming an object the speaker sometimes implies that any other representative of the class would do. Thus the indefinite article approaches to any in meaning:

e. g. Then he said: "I know it's not so easy for a woman to refuse a gift."

Under the circumstances a normal girl would be heartbroken, but not Betty.

A boy's first toy is very important. It colors his whole after-life. Occasionally the indefinite article acquires the additional meaning of a certain, which is also closely connected with its main function:

e.g. But James obscurely felt that he was committed to a line of action and must go through with it. "You're pretty confident up to a point, aren't you?" he asked<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> O.Jespersen Essentials of English Grammar L., Prosveshcheniye 1973 p.34-46, 79-82, 112-113, 165-166

The other additional meanings of the indefinite article are less important, as they are not often found and their use is, in the main, restricted to certain patterns and set phrases.

The indefinite article always implies the idea of oneness and it sometimes becomes quite prominent. The indefinite article is then said to be used with numeric force. It occurs in the following cases:

- a) a hundred, a thousand, a minute, a mile, etc.;
- b) after the negative not: not a word, not a trace, not a thought, etc.;
- c) in some set phrases: one at a time, at a draught (as in: he emptied his glass at a draught), a stitch in time saves nine, etc.

In certain patterns and set phrases the indefinite article acquires the meaning of the same, as in:

They are much of a size.

We are of an age.

Birds of a feather flock together.

In the following pattern the indefinite article is said to acquire distributive force: once a month, twice a week, three times a year, etc.

It should be pointed out that all the above mentioned additional meanings of the indefinite article result from its main nominating function and from the meaning of oneness which is always implied with countable nouns. Depending on the context those meanings may or may not be expressed by the article. Sometimes more than one additional function finds its expression in the sentence. Thus *in / am a teacher* the classifying and the communicating meanings are clearly seen; in *He bought a book* indefiniteness is expressed along with the communicating function. But it is only the nominating function alongside of the idea of oneness that is always uppermost when the indefinite article is associated with countable nouns.

2. With uncountable nouns the indefinite article serves to bring out a special aspect of the notion expressed by the noun. In this case its function may be called *aspective*.

e. g. *A dull burning anger rose in his chest. He had almost a supernatural courage.*

Her presence stirred him usually to a shy swift eagerness.

In this case the noun is usually qualified by an attribute which also brings out a special aspect, though occasionally it may be used without any attribute:

e. g. There was warmth between them, a sense of waiting.

In its aspective function the indefinite article is devoid of the idea of oneness, which may be proved by the fact that we do not find such plurals as burning angers or supernatural courage.

The aspective use of the indefinite article is mainly characteristic of literary style. In bringing out a special aspect of the notion expressed by the noun the author usually strives for expressiveness, 'desiring to attract the attention of the reader to this or that particular noun. With the attention focused on the noun, the latter generally becomes the centre of communication and thus the aspective function of the indefinite article is usually found side by side with its communicating function.

3. With nouns which have no reference to the category of countability (i. e. nouns denoting unique things and notions) the indefinite article has the same meaning as with uncountable nouns: it is used in its aspective function and at the same time its communicating function becomes very prominent.

e.g. The moon hung in the sky, a young silver moon in the pale summer night.

### **2.1.2. The Definite Article**

1. When used with countable nouns, both concrete and abstract, the definite article has two distinct functions!

a) It may be used with singular and plural nouns to show that the noun denotes a particular object (thing, person, animal, abstract notion) or a group of objects as distinct from the others of the same kind. We may also say that the definite article serves to single out an object or several objects from all the other objects of the same class. This function is called the defining function of the definite article.

e. g. Ann herself had no doubt of the reason behind Mr. March's invitation. I called at her house on my way home one night, just after we had all received the letters

asking us to dine; I found Ann alone. For the first time in the years I had known her, her courage would not answer her.

Cf. As we stood on the steps, we felt the smell of fallen leaves coming from the garden.

Sometimes the demonstrative force which is inherent in the definite article owing to its origin becomes quite prominent. This occurs in a number of phrases, such as nothing of the kind, at the time, at the moment, under the circumstances, etc.

As it has been said, the definite article serves to indicate that the noun with which it is associated is not the centre of communication, i. e. that the attention of the speaker is not focused on that object. But it has also been pointed out that the definite article may be associated with a noun which is the centre of communication.

b) The definite article may also have the generic function with countable nouns.

With nouns in the singular it serves to indicate that the noun becomes the symbol of the class that it is meant as its composite image:

e.g. The tiger has always had the reputation of being a man-eater. There was a streak of the gambler in her.

With nouns in the plural it is used in this function only when the idea of collectivity is emphasized:

e. g. "I shan't have time for your moral sensitivity," he said, "Until we've beaten the fascists and got a decent world."

E.g. The freedom-loving people of the world must prevent the warmongers from unleashing a new war.

E.g. The tiger has always had the reputation of being a man-eater.

2. With uncountable nouns the function of the definite article may be called restricting. The definite article restricts the abstract notion expressed by an uncountable noun to a concrete instance (a); it also restricts the material denoted by a concrete uncountable noun to a definite quantity, portion or to a definite locality (b): e. g. a) I did not wish to betray the anxiety I felt.

He rested in the certainty that his duty was done, b) "Robert," said Aunt Lin, coming in pink and indignant, "did you know that you left the fish on the hall table and it has soaked through to the mahogany?" As we came out into the cold damp air" shivered.

3. When the definite article is associated with nouns which have no reference to the category of accountability it has its defining function. It naturally refers to a definite object, as the noun denotes a thing or notion that is unique:

e. g. The moon set, and in the sky the countless stars shone with their terrifying brilliance.

We each knew that this quarrel was different from those in the past.

### **3.1.2. Ways of usage of the zero article together with common nouns.**

The absence of the article has only one function with common nouns and this is synonymous with the main structural meaning of the indefinite article: it is the nominating function.

This function of the absence of the article may be found with countable nouns in the plural, parallel to the use of the indefinite article with singular nouns. But while the indefinite article is associated with the idea of oneness, the absence of the article always implies more-than-oneness:

E.g. As Robert got out of the car Marion came round the corner of the house, wearing gardening gloves and a very old skirt.

E.g. When her friends came to tea, my mother would give me some pennies to buy apples or a magazine.

E.g. She sleeps very soundly. She had a splitting headache and took an aspirin and sleeping pills. The road led across a stream and then through woods and open clearings.

Like the indefinite article, the absence of the article may convey some additional meanings. It may sometimes express indefiniteness and perform the classifying and the communicating functions,

The nominating function of the absence of the article is also found with uncountable nouns, both abstract and concrete (names of materials):

E.g. Last night I felt friendship and sympathy for Henry, but today he has become an enemy.

E.g. If he is so interested in justice he might do something about that.

E.g. Winterbourne asked for water and drank thirstily. The place smelled of dust.<sup>3</sup>

Some grammars point out the introductory function of the indefinite article and the anaphoric function of the definite article. It is not correct, however, to regard the use of the indefinite article with nouns mentioned for the first time and the use of the definite article to refer back to an object which has already been mentioned as structural meanings inherent in the articles themselves. We rather deal with certain situations here in which the nominating function of the indefinite article and the defining function of the definite article are manifest.

The use of the articles depends on the character of the noun. But in English there are many polysemantic nouns which may be countable in one meaning and uncountable in another. As a result, the functions of the articles vary in accordance with the different meanings in which a noun appears.

## **2.2. Chapter 2. THE USE OF ARTICLES WITH COUNTABLE NOUNS**

### **1.2.2. GENERAL RULES OF USAGE.**

Countable nouns in the singular may be used with the 'indefinite article in its nominating function and with the definite article in its defining function:

E.g. They couldn't travel without a car there.

While her suit-case was being taken out of the car, she looked round.

I felt very comfortable in the armchair and only wanted a book.

She had not finished reading, but I wanted the book as I was leaving.

In the plural, countable nouns may be used without any article or with the definite article. The absence of the article has nominating force and the definite article is used in its defining function:

E.g. They couldn't travel without cars there.

While their suit-cases were being taken out of the cars, they looked round.

We felt very comfortable in the armchairs and only wanted books. She had not

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<sup>3</sup>. World Book Encyclopedia Vol.1 NY. 1993 pp.298-299

finished reading, but I wanted the books as I was leaving. Since the choice of articles is determined by the context or the general situation, attributes modifying the noun should be taken into consideration. Hence it is only natural to raise the question as to what bearing the attributes may have on the choice of articles.

Attributes are generally divided into two classes: limiting and descriptive<sup>1)</sup>. A limiting attribute indicates such a quality or characteristic of an object (or a group of objects) which makes it distinct from all other objects of the class:

e. g. That he should help a promising young man was perhaps the most important consideration of all.

A descriptive attribute is used to describe an object (or a group of objects) or give additional information about it. This kind of attribute does not single out an object (or a group of objects) but only narrows the class to which it belongs:

e. g. Give me a book.

Give me an English book.

Give me an interesting English book.

In the above examples an English book belongs to a narrower class than a book, and an interesting English book belongs to a still narrower class.

In the following example the class to which the object denoted by the noun (a girl] belongs, is made narrower and narrower by the subsequent mention of the three descriptive attributes:

There was a wedding picture of Glen and a tall arrogant dark girl.

We find the same in:

e. g. Gladys showed her an old album that contained pictures of some antiques.

Nouns modified by limiting attributes are used with the definite article.

Nouns modified by descriptive attributes may be used with either indefinite or definite articles, as the choice of articles for countable nouns is not affected by this kind of attribute.

However, the division of attributes into two classes is not very helpful for practical purposes, since most attributes are not limiting or descriptive by nature. In other words, they are neutral from the point of view of their structure and it is

only in the context that they acquire limiting or descriptive force. Thus the differentiation between limiting and descriptive attributes is rather semantic than grammatical:

e. g. He was going to build a new house.

Shortly after he moved to the new house, he fell ill. We shall take a road going through the forest as it won't be so hot there.

We shall take the road going through the forest as it is a short cut. This means that attributes cannot generally be regarded as:

1) Some grammarians (O. Jazzperson, H. Wilde, etc) instead of the term 'limiting' use 'individualizing', 'particularizing', 'specifying', 'defining', 'restrictive' and instead of the term 'descriptive' they use qualifying or classifying reliable criteria for the choice of articles. Nevertheless we find a number of attributes which are distinctly limiting owing to their form of expression. In order to set them apart we must survey the use of articles with countable nouns modified by all types of attributes.

The Use of Articles with Countable Nouns Modified by Adjectives.

Attributes expressed by adjectives are usually descriptive:

e. g. She drove an old car.<sup>4</sup>

His office was in a fine, gay, busy little street.

As was stated above, descriptive attributes do not affect the choice of articles. Thus we may find a noun modified by a descriptive attribute used with the definite article:

E.g. The woman looked at her shrewdly and there was a glint of humor in the dark eyes.

The definite article in this case is accounted for by the situation and not by the attribute. Adjectives become limiting attributes only in specially defined situations when contrast is implied. In this case they are marked by stronger stress:

E.g. Will you pack my things for me? I want the little suit-case as I'll be away only one night.

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<sup>4</sup> Gordon E.M., Krilova I.P. The Use of Articles in Modern English M. Foreign Relationship 1964 pp.20, 27-39, 43-48, 67-71,

Adjectives in the superlative degree, however, are always limiting attributes:

e. g. She was the smartest girl in the room.

"The most dangerous person of all is Forbes," the old man whispered.

We should notice the difference between the following constructions:

He's the most experienced doctor I know.

He's a most experienced doctor.

In the first sentence we find the superlative degree of experienced which accounts for the use of the definite article. In this combination both most and experienced are stressed. In the second sentence most is an adverb of degree (крайне, чрезвычайно), so the whole combination is a descriptive attribute and most is unstressed here.

E.g. Rather guiltily Eustace repeated in a most audible voice:

"I wish Nancy would be a good girl."

He had assumed that no one would show up at the centre that day and then she made a most welcome appearance.

We must also underline that the combination a best suit «выходной костюм» and a best seller «ходкая книга» are to be regarded as phraseological units.

Some adjectives, adjective-pronouns and adjectives participles always serve as limiting attributes. The most important of them are: right and wrong (in the meaning «tot» and «ne tot»), very, only, main, principal, central, left and right, same, coming (or forthcoming), following, former and latter (in the meaning «первый» and «последний»), present and, when used in postposition to the noun it modifies, concerned:

E.g. It just seems to be the wrong way to go about it. My chief is the right man in the right place. The questions you ask are the very questions I am putting myself etc.

Besides, there are other adjectives which commonly, though not always, serve as limiting attributes, e. g. proper, previous, opposite, necessary, so-called, alleged, adjacent, usual, involved (in postposition), etc.

## The Use of Articles with Countable Nouns Modified by Numerals

Cardinal numerals always serve as descriptive attributes:

e. g. He had refused three invitations to golf, his excuse to his cronies being that he had no time.

If a noun modified by a cardinal numeral is used with the definite article, this is accounted for by the situation or context:

E.g. By candlelight the two men seemed of an age if indeed not of the same family.

Ordinal numerals are usually limiting attributes:

E.g. It was the second week in October when she told him... On the third landing I saw some Australians coming up.

However, when ordinal numerals are not used to indicate order but acquire the meaning of one more or another the noun they modify is used with the indefinite article:

E.g. They must have a third race to decide who is the real winner.<sup>5</sup>

In the doctor's opinion the old woman was nit so weak! He said that she "would blow out a hundred candles one day without a second puff."

Note: The above mentioned rule does not apply to the numeral the first. The combination a first night «премьера» is to be regarded as a phraseological unit.

Notice that the combination a second cousin means «троюродный брат» (сестра).

It is important to remember the use of articles in the following patterns with nouns modified by cardinal and ordinal numerals: the third chapter but chapter 3 (three], the fifth volume but volume 5 (five).

## C. The Use of Articles with Countable Nouns Modified by Participles

Attributes expressed by participles are placed either in pre-position or in post-position to the noun they modify.

When they are placed in preposition, they are usually descriptive attributes, like adjectives:

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<sup>5</sup> Cronin A.J. The Citadel. - M., 1966. pp.235, 312

E.g. He looked at me with a mocking smile. I turned and saw a crying boy. They lived in a newly painted house. There was a faded photograph and an ash-tray on the desk.

The use of the definite article in this case is usually accounted for by the context or by the general situation: e. g. Watching their faces in the darkening kitchen, I felt distressed for my mother.

She could see the roofs of the houses on the rising hill. At the corner of the street there shone the lighted windows of a club. There was a glint of humor in the faded eyes.

In post-position we usually find participle phrases but not single participles. They may be either a) descriptive or b) limiting, according to the context or the situation

e. g. a) There was no answer and he sent a telegram saying that he needed some work done urgently. There in the sunshine, I felt peace come over me like a drug, steadying my heart, slowing my pulse, it was a very small room, overcrowded with furniture.

He took a medicine prescribed by the doctor.

b) He took the path leading to the lonely cottage.

The car stopped at the fence surrounding the orchard.

I adopted the tone used by my Uncle Henry.

At length I reached the sixth floor, and knocked at the door numbered thirty-two.

The definite article used with nouns modified by descriptive participles is accounted for by the context or by the general situation:

e. g. 'The narrow path winding among flowering bushes was steep and stony, The house, built in grey stone, looked very gloomy in the drizzling rain.

#### D. The Use of Articles with Countable Nouns Modified by Gerunds

A gerund in the function of an attribute is part of a prepositional phrase, the most common preposition being of, sometimes also at, for or others.

Gerundial prepositional phrases tend to be limiting attributes:

E.g. He could not bear the thought of leaving her in such a state. But he did not

like the responsibility of interfering and making people do things his way. "I am to have the privilege of sitting next to you," he said. Occasionally the indefinite article is also used with nouns modified by gerunds:

E.g. It is a question of instructing and training the new members of the staff. John had an odd way of looking at things. Sometimes there is a fluctuation in the use of the definite and indefinite articles with nouns modified by gerunds:

e. g. Their ascent was slow because Eustace had formed a habit of counting the steps.

In self-defense Eustace had formed the habit of postponing any unpleasant interview with his elders.

Note: To be in the habit of + gerund is a set phrase: e. g. They were in the habit of meeting at their uncle's house.

#### E. The Use of Articles with Countable Nouns Modified by Infinitives

Attributes expressed by infinitives tend to be descriptive:

e. g. Andrew had still an hour to spare.<sup>6</sup>

The claim will be considered again at a meeting to be held in March.

Jack is trying to find me a place to live for a few days. To the little girl he was a figure to be feared and avoided. He willingly accepted an invitation to spend the weekend out of town. I made an attempt to smile. He made an effort to collect himself. He suddenly felt an impulse to laugh.

Yet sometimes, depending on the situation or the context, the infinitive may become a limiting attribute. Typical examples of this kind are as follows:

He said that Remsen was the man to do it.

They still have the will to organize a democratic body.

They did not have the money to buy the house.

That's not the way to speak to your elders.

At last he forced himself to lie quietly on his back fighting the desire to move. She couldn't resist the temptation to try on the new hat. The attempt to persuade them

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<sup>6</sup> London I. Martin Eden. - M., 1954. Green G. Quiet Amerikan. - M., 1956.

left him exhausted.

#### F. The Use of Articles with Countable Nouns Modified by Appositive Clauses

Attributes expressed by appositive clauses are generally limiting:

e.g. "I am sorry," she said, and I had the impression that she meant it.

Occasionally, however, the noun modified by an appositive clause is used with the indefinite article<sup>1)</sup>

E.g. I had a sense that I had only to make a move and he would reply to it.

She had an impression that Charlie was speaking to his cousin rather than to her.

#### H. The Use of Articles with Countable Nouns Modified by Other Nouns in the Common Case

Attributes expressed by nouns in the common case are usually descriptive:

E.g. There was a glass door leading into the passage. A silver tray was brought in with tea cups on it. He sat on a kitchen chair.

Previously he had been employed in a small boot factory.

It was a marble clock, presented to him by the company when he had scored his twentieth year as secretary.

When the modified noun is used with the definite article 'this is accounted for by the situation, not by the attribute:

e.g. At the study door he stopped for a moment.

Lane looked at the dining-room window and smiled. At the conference they discussed the key proposal of the programme.

Sometimes, however, nouns in the common case may serve as limiting attributes:

e. g. At the Squaw Valley Winter Olympics the Soviet team won 21 medals.

The Hitler regime brought nothing but misery to the German people.

In this case the attribute is usually expressed by a proper name and serves to show that reference is made to a particular object.

#### H. The Use of Articles with Countable Nouns Modified by Other Nouns in the Possessive Case

The problem of the use of articles with nouns modified by other nouns in the possessive case is a specific one, since before speaking of the choice of the article

it is necessary to find out to which element of the combination it refers.

The relations between the noun in the possessive case and the head noun may be of two kinds:

This occasional use of the indefinite article seems to be due to the fact that the combinations to have an idea, to have an impression, to have a sense, to have a feeling, etc. are considered as parasitological units; in other cases the indefinite article appears to be used because of another descriptive attribute expressed by an adjective or a participle.

1) The noun in the possessive case may denote a particular person or thing, as in: my mother's picture, the man's voice, the river's bed.

In this case the article refers to the noun in the possessive case and is chosen in accordance with the general rules:

The boy's the boys' a boy's boys' Robert's - books

We must note here that when the noun in the possessive case is a proper name, there is naturally no article.

2) The noun in the possessive case may refer to the class of objects to which the person or thing denoted by the head noun belongs. Thus sheep's eyes are not the eyes of one particular sheep, but eyes of a certain kind.

Here are some more examples of this: a doctor's degree, a soldier's uniform, gent's clothes, a mile's distance an hour's walk.

In some cases such combinations have become set phrases: a giant's task, a fool's errand, a cat's paw. In all these cases the article refers to the head noun whereas the noun in the possessive case serves as a descriptive attribute. Hence the choice of the article depends on the context or situation: a butcher's shop — the butcher's shop, a mile's walk—the mile's walk, an hour's break — the hour's break, 3

E.g. We had not walked a mile's distance when we saw the river.

It was only a mile from the cottage to the nearest village but the mile's walk in the hot sun seemed very long to Jim.

Is there a butcher's shop in this street? "I am looking for the butcher's shop," he said, "that used to be here when I was a child."

As the article here refers to the head noun, the noun in the possessive case may have the plural form and yet be preceded by the indefinite article: a students' canteen, a girls' school, a three miles' walk, a fifteen minutes' break.

E.g. Would you like to go to a soldiers' canteen and get some food? The College has a two years' course.

I. The Use of Articles with Countable Nouns Modified by Prepositional Phrases Attributes may be expressed by nouns with various prepositions. Depending on the context or situation they may be either a) descriptive or b) limiting:

e. g. a) But you must know when you're being honest with yourself that a marriage with an Italian boy in a jazz band wouldn't have lasted a year. A man under those circumstances can be very helpless.

b) Someone ought to go downstairs to thank Otto and the people from the club. But he was not by any means ill at ease among the callers at his sister's house.

Within this type of attributes special consideration should be given to the so-called "of-phrase" which is very common. Unlike other prepositional phrases, the "of-phrase" offers some reliable criteria for discrimination between descriptive and limiting attributes.

Descriptive "of-phrases" are recognized by clear-cut meanings. Nouns modified by descriptive "of-phrases" usually take the indefinite article. But the definite article may also appear and then it is determined by the context or by the situation.

They denote:

quality— a book of interest a sense of humor a feeling of relief a question of importance

quantity or measure— a temperature of  $-20^{\circ}$ , a distance of three miles, a box of two tons

composition— a group of children a flock of birds a party of 12 people a team of hockey-players

material — a wall of glass, a ring of gold, a scarf of thick wool content — a cup of tea, a bottle of milk, a box of cigarettes

age — a boy of five, a man of middle age

size — a sailor of middle height, a building of enormous size

All other "of-phrases" are limiting (and consequently the head noun is used with the definite article). As they express a great variety of meanings there is no point in classifying them. See for example: the house of my neighbour, the wife of a miner, the foot of the mountain, the smoothness of a new machine, the shot of a gun, the hiss of a gas-ring, the development of science, the roaring of the ocean, the family of my friend, the collar of the shirt, the name of John, the position of a teacher, the colour of amber.

In some cases, however, the choice of the article is affected not only by the nature of the "of-phrase" but also by the following factors.

If the head noun denotes an object which is the only bearer of the property (признак) expressed by the "of-phrase", the definite article is used: the president of the club, the glow of a lamp, the murderer of Caesar, the monitor of the group, the justification of his behavior.

But if there are many objects of the same description, the indefinite article is used: a member of the club, a student of the group, a puff of wind, a justification of his behavior.

Sometimes the definite article is still used, alongside of the indefinite article, even if there is more than one object of the same description. This occurs when there are a definite number of component parts: the leg of the table, the wheel of the car, the ear of a dog.

We must notice here that sometimes one and the same combination of head noun + "of-phrase" may be interpreted in two different ways. Accordingly two different articles will be used with-it:

- a) a figure of a soldier is a figure like that of a soldier (i. e. a kind of figure is described),<sup>7</sup>
- b) the figure of a soldier is actually the figure of a particular soldier (i. e. possession is meant);

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<sup>7</sup> "World book" 1996y McMillian publisher.

- a) A portrait of my brother is one of his portraits,
- b) The portrait of my brother is the very portrait spoken about;
- a) A justification of his behavior means an attempt at justifying him,
- b) The justification of his behavior means the only real excuse justifying him.

### **2.2.2. SPECIFIC POINTS TO THE USE OF ARTICLES WITH COUNTABLE NOUNS.**

There are certain instances of the use of the definite article which are to be regarded as a matter of tradition. Thus we often find the definite article used by reason of locality, i.e. with reference to objects that surround the speaker or the people described by him. This usually refers to objects either indoors: the corner, the window, the table, the door, the wall, etc., or out-of-doors: the stars, the street, the river, the houses, the sea, the leaves, etc.

E.g. As I came up our street, I saw my mother and my brother waving from the window. The late sun streamed across the kitchen, and a patch of light, reflected from my mother's cup of tea, danced on the wall. A bee buzzed among the flowers. The trees swayed to and fro under the grey sky. The gulls flew low over the barges and the Tower stood black in the winter light.

It should be noted that this rule applies only to a limited number of nouns.

### **3.2.2. THE GENERIC FUNCTION OF THE DEFINITE ARTICLE**

1. A singular countable noun with a definite article may represent a whole class of objects, thus becoming the symbol of that class, a composite image of it (not a typical representative):

e. g. The horse is a useful domestic animal,

The violet is a lovely flower. The cuckoo is a lazy bird. The ant is industrious. The true botanist knows a tree as soon as he sees it. "How hard I've been trying to mould myself into the image of the typical society lady!" said Gamma.

The early twentieth century was sometimes called the age of the child. It is particularly important to observe the application of this rule to the field of grammar. Grammar terms are often used generically:

e. g. The main syntactic functions of the noun in the sentence are those of the

subject and object.

The article is a structural word specifying the noun. The verb has the following grammatical categories: person, number, tense, aspect, mood and voice. It is also sometimes possible to use the indefinite article in similar cases: e. g. A horse is a useful domestic animal. A verb is characterized by six grammatical categories. This use of the indefinite article is not to be identified, however, with the generic function of the definite article. The indefinite article is used here in its nominating function with the additional meaning of any. Hence the use of the indefinite article is not equivalent to that of the definite article when the noun is used as a symbol representing a whole class. Thus the indefinite article is not permissible in the following examples:

The telephone was invented by Bell.

The teacher said: "Today the topic of our lesson will be the elephant."

The tragedy and the comedy first appeared in Greece. Her testimony had sent her father to the electric chair.

In other cases, however, when any typical representative of a class, but not a composite image of that class is meant, only the indefinite article may be used:

e. g. A passenger is allowed to take 20 kg of hand luggage free of charge.

The generic article is also found with collective nouns denoting social groups and classes. The article serves to emphasize the idea of collectivity: the peasantry, the bourgeoisie, the aristocracy, the nobility, the gentry, and the clergy. When the noun man is used in a generic sense, no article is used:

E.g. Surely he had suffered everything that man can endure.

The noun woman in a generic sense may be used with the definite article or without any article:

E.g. He had always been interested in that mysterious being — the woman.

Woman is man's helpmate.

But when these nouns are modified by attributes they are invariably found with the definite article:

E.g. Inside the head-frame are housed the incredibly powerful machines that

operate the fantasy made real by the Soviet man.

The use of the generic singular is restricted in two ways:

1) Only a semantically limited group of nouns appears to be used generically. We mainly find here names of animals, plants, professions and occupations, the nouns man, woman and child, collective nouns denoting social groups and, last but not least, scientific terms. Yet it should be mentioned that the problem has not been properly investigated so far.

2) Generic singulars are mainly characteristic of scientific and literary prose where there is a call for generalization. That means that there is a stylistic restriction to the use of generic singulars.

2. The definite article is used with generic plurals but it is found only when the idea of collectivity i.e. definitely emphasized, suggesting "the whole body of": a) the Russians, the Germans, the Italians, the Americans; b) the peasants, the workers, the capitalists, the Tories, the aristocrats, the Liberals, the catholic.

e. g. "The workers have nothing to lose but their chains." The Tories will not lift a finger to help the workers.

As we see from the above examples, this use of the generic definite article is found with names of nationalities, representatives of political parties, classes, social groups and also religious beliefs.

Note, however, that there is no article when not "the whole body of" but separate representatives is meant:

e. g. Italians is often good singers.

Brazilians are generally keen on football.

Note: The noun people are used with the definite article when the idea of collectivity is emphasized:

e.g. (All) The people in our country are doing their best to ensure a lasting peace.

But if the idea of collectivity is not uppermost in the mind of the speaker, there is no article at all:

E.g. She was speaking with absolute certainty: "(All) people are selfish."

The same generic use of the definite article is found with partially substantivised

adjectives (and participles): the blind, the poor, the rich, the young, the old, (the unemployed, the wounded\*}. This is also the case with some names of nationalities: e. g. the British, the French, the Chinese, the Japanese, etc.

It must be noted that the number of adjectives thus substantivised is very limited.

Note that when not "the whole body of" but separate representative is meant, a noun should be added:

E.g. He smiled: "I expect you must have diagnosed T.B. for yourself. It's a romantic disease of the young, isn't it?"

"Ah, well! Young men can't help making nuisances of them," he said amiably.

It is necessary to stress that the use of generic plurals is still more restricted than that of generic singulars, as it is found with a still more limited number of semantic groups of nouns.

Note: The definite article in the combination adjective + ones often has generic force: e. g. "It isn't the pretty ones that become good wives and mothers," said Jack. "The little ones always know a good man from a bad one," said the old woman.

3. The definite article also has generic force when used with substantivised adjectives denoting abstract notions (they come under the group of uncountable nouns): the ordinary, the average, the beautiful, the unusual, the supernatural, the extravagant, the unknown, the regrettable, the normal, the grotesque, and the unbearable.

e. g. "It's your mother's fault for letting you think you're something out of the ordinary," she said. Blair realized with gratitude that he had shifted the whole discussion into the realm of the impersonal.

Note: It should be remembered that the generic use of the definite article is found only if there is some kind of generalization in the sentence, not when concrete instances are met.

### **Chapter3. THE USE OF ARTICLES WITH UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS**

#### **1.3.2. THE ARTICLES MODIFYING ABSTRACT NOUNS.**

1) Abstract nouns, like concrete nouns, fall into two classes: countable and

uncountable.

Among abstract countable nouns we find, e. g.: answer, belief, conclusion, doubt, effort, fact, government, holiday, idea, job, lie, mistake, opinion, plan, promise, question, reply, principle, sentence, visit, word, and many others.

Countable abstract nouns are class-nouns. They may be used in the singular and in the plural:

e. g. He had a brilliant idea.

He always had brilliant ideas.

He told me a lie.

He told me lies.

I like their method of work.

I like their methods of work.

The class of uncountable abstract nouns includes such nouns as: anger, beauty, curiosity, excitement, freedom, grace, happiness, impatience, jealousy, love, modesty, nervousness, pride, respect, strength, time, violence, work, and many others.

Uncountable abstract nouns are used only in the singular.

It is difficult to draw a line of division between countable and uncountable nouns. Some abstract nouns are used in one meaning as uncountables and in another as countables:

The division of nouns into these two classes is a matter of tradition and can hardly be accounted for either semantically or grammatically,

E.g. They walked in silence along the path. After a long silence he began his story. She spoke with decision.

You must carefully think before you take a decision. He is a wicked person who is insensible to kindness. If you write him you will be doing him a kindness. He has been doing this kind of work for many years, so he has a good deal of experience. It was an unpleasant experience and he didn't speak of it. There are also several abstract nouns which appear both as uncountables and countables without any noticeable change of meaning: pleasure, pity, fear, horror, terror, dis-

appointment, regret, comfort, etc.

E.g. I love this house because Jerome wanted it this way but I'm perfectly aware that architecturally it is a horror. It was horror that began to swamp all other considerations.

2) The use of articles with countable abstract nouns does not differ from their use with countable concrete nouns in the singular countable abstract nouns are used with the indefinite or the definite article; in the plural they are used without any article or with a definite article:

e.g. He told the child a story. He told the child stories. The child knew the story he told. The child knew the stories he told.

3) As a general rule, uncountable abstract nouns are used without any article:

e. g. Indifference and pride look very much alike, and he probably thought I was proud.

He knew that generosity would have been wasted on him.

When he was desorbed he had melancholia and had acquired the habit of talking to himself.

There was sharpness in her bones, sharpness in her voice, and sharpness in her eyes.

She had attached herself to youth and hope and seriousness and now they failed her more than age and despair.

The absence of the article serves the same purpose as the indefinite article: it performs the nominating function.

Whether the indefinite article or no article is used depends on the character of the nouns in question: the indefinite article is used with countable nouns both concrete and abstract whereas with uncountable nouns there is no article at all:

E.g. When in distress people look for a friend. When in distress people look for friendship. His desire was simply for a companion. His desire was simply for companionship. I would awake with a sense of pain, sometimes with pleasure.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Cramer R, et al. Language Illinois, 1989 pp.200-212

4) The definite article is used with uncountable nouns when they are modified by a limiting attribute, which may be expressed in different ways.

E.g. He was in a state of the greatest excitement.

They were surprised at the curious silence into which he had fallen.

The doctor felt it his duty never to be afraid of the danger of infection. He jumped at the abruptness of the question. Sometimes the limitation is clear from the context:

E.g. It was very still in the house. Suddenly a faint sound could be heard in the stillness.

A moment afterwards the lights round the garden suddenly went out. In the darkness we were left mystified. For a long time they walked without saying a word. Jim was the first to break the silence; the definite article is used here in its restricting function to denote a concrete instance of the notion expressed by the noun.

5) The indefinite article is used with; uncountable abstract nouns when they are modified by a descriptive attribute which brings out a special aspect of the notion expressed by the noun.

E.g. A dull anger rose in his chest.

His attitude to other children was tinged with a fearful joy.

There seemed to be a wonderful excitement everywhere in the world.

There was tenderness in his voice that moved her.

She felt a bitter contemptuous hatred so strong that it blotted every other sense and emotion.

She recognized a pleasant irony in his voice.

"Didn't you feel certain impatience?" they asked.

His face had a calmness that was new to her.

She had a natural grace that was very attractive.

He had a patience which amazed his friends.<sup>9</sup>

The little bouquet of violets filled the air with a wild fresh sweetness.

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<sup>9</sup> Hardy T. Tess of the d' Urbervilles. - M, 1950

His new experience filled him with a singular enthusiasm.

He was crushed by an overpowering sadness.

The indefinite article is used here in its aspective function.

As an exception the aspective indefinite article is sometimes used even when the noun has no attribute:

E.g. After a time a loneliness fell upon the two men.

As she saw Eric deep and happy in his work she was more aware than ever that there was an emptiness in her life. The room had a homely lived-in air and you felt that incredible jumble had a significance.

It should be noted that the use of the indefinite article with uncountable abstract nouns is typical of literary style (see the examples above).

6) Sometimes an uncountable abstract noun is used with an attribute and yet has no article. This seems to contradict the general rule, but it can actually be explained by one of the following reasons: a) the nature of the attribute; b) the nature of the noun.

a) In some cases the attribute does not bring out a special aspect of the notion expressed by the noun. The attribute may express degree (great, perfect, sufficient, etc.) or have some other meaning. Thus it may qualify the noun from the point of view of time (modern, ancient, impending), nationality (English, French), geography (Moscow, London), authenticity (real, genuine, authentic, symbolic) as well as give it a social characteristic (proletarian, bourgeois, capitalist, Soviet).

As these attributes do not express a special aspect, the nouns modified by them are used without any article:

e. g. I have perfect confidence in him.

She had great experience in her work.

I'm sure your work will give you complete satisfaction.

He had sufficient ability to carry out any complicated task.

There was something to be said for marriage and the family life, when it brought such happiness as filled the Morgan home.

Such a course has only symbolic value.

I didn't think it had real importance.

They talked about modern poetry.

He was conscious of impending danger.

It's three o'clock by Moscow time.

Willard was particularly interested in ancient sculpture.

Mrs. Peters, feeling instinctively that Byzantine architecture would leave her cold, excused her from the excursion.

At the University he took a course in English literature.

Note: But the definite article is used with the combinations French poetry, modern art, American literature, German philosophy, Soviet science, etc. if there is a limiting attribute, as in: the Russian literature of that period, the French poetry of the 19-th century.

b) Some nouns are never used with the indefinite article. They are nouns of verbal character denoting actions, activity, processes, such as: advice, assistance, encirclement, guidance, permission, progress, recognition, research, torture, work, information, etc.

This applies also to the following nouns: weather, money, news, luck, fun, nature, literature, music, prose, and some others.

e. g. I am not sure whether it is good news or bad.

He was anxiously waiting for permission to begin his experiment.

Autumn came, and I was restless, full of impatient expectation.

As I knew, Mr. March always expressed gloomy concern if one of his children had a sore throat.

He wondered whether her silence was tacit approval.

He felt honest admiration for his colleague.

7) Sometimes the use of articles with an uncountable abstract noun is affected by the syntactic function of the noun.

(1) Nouns in attributive prepositional phrases and in adverbial prepositional phrases have no article even if they have descriptive attributes. This seems to be due to the process of adjectivisation and adverbialisation.

Attributive prepositional phrases are usually introduced by the preposition of (other prepositions may also be found, but not often):

E.g. His flush of anger died as he began to listen more attentively.

An odd feeling of curiosity made him look through the keyhole.

He awoke with a feeling of sharp anticipation. His face bore a look of cold disapproval. He had an unsatisfied hunger for knowledge. Adverbial prepositional phrases are usually introduced by the preposition with, sometimes in (other prepositions may also be found in this case, but not often):

E.g. The old man looked at the boy with curiosity. He moved slowly, with deliberation. He turned round in annoyance, and then walked away. He began to speak with sudden heat. "You have seen it?" he asked with intense interest. Ann examined everything about her with great care. He looked at the boys with good-natured pity. "I'm so glad," she said with genuine pleasure. She kissed him with warm affection. She smiled in sudden shyness, embarrassed by what she had said to her professor. The tendency to use the noun in attributive and adverbial prepositional phrases without any article is so strong that sometimes even countable nouns have no article in these functions:

E.g. It is a question of principle, and it must be discussed before we take a decision.<sup>10</sup>

It was just a plain statement of fact.

He refused to help us without apparent reason.

They had allowed the matter to rest by silent agreement.

The book was thick, and each page had no more than one or two lines of explanation to every thirty lines of mathematics.

We live in an age when men treat art as if it were a form of autobiography.

He listened without remark while Robert poured out the story to him.

He felt a little uneasy at being the subject of conversation.

The young doctor was received in amiable fashion. The door closed without sound.

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<sup>10</sup> Dickens Ch. Adventures of Oliver Twist. - M., 1949.

Although the general tendency is to use abstract uncountable nouns in attributive and adverbial prepositional phrases without articles, occasionally both the definite and the indefinite articles may be found in this case.

The use of the definite article is generally associated with ' the use of limiting attributes modifying the noun:

e. g. "May I speak to you in the strictest confidence?" he asked.

In those days he was in a state of the greatest bitterness.

"No," said Eric after the slightest hesitation.

He watched him go from group to group, always with the same ease.

He trembled all over with the exertion of keeping himself upright.

With the utmost politeness he addressed the leader of the band.

The use of the indefinite article appears to be optional: it seems to depend on the desire of the author to lay particular stress on the special aspect expressed by the attribute modifying the noun. Thus it would be correct to use the nouns in the following examples without articles in accordance with the general rule:

He looked at her face and saw the distorting lines of a deep and anxious weariness.

It was a morning of an exceeding brightness.

The sun beat down on the plaza with a merciless splendor.

He smiled at him with a grave sympathy.

He laughed with an unbelievable freedom from care.

We went up in a solemn silence.

In some cases, however, the use of the indefinite article is obligatory (not dependent on the individual desire of the writer for expressiveness). This is the case in prepositional phrases in which the noun is modified either by the adjectives certain and peculiar or by an attributive clause:

e. g. The girl interrupted him with a certain impatience in her voice.

She spoke to strangers with a peculiar intimacy. He stared at John with a fascination which the other mistook for respect. He gripped his hand with an abruptness that revealed his emotion. He entertained with an originality that pleased.

(2) There is a tendency to use an uncountable abstract noun in the function of a predicative without any article even if the noun has a descriptive attribute. Evidently the same tendency is manifest here, as can be observed with certain semantic groups of countable nouns in this function.

E.g. The result of the experiment had been dismal failure. "It was righteous punishment," he exclaimed. "It is great foolishness to trust a woman," he said. When they were together it was pure happiness. Then I suspected that this was not just ordinary anxiety.

Prepositional phrases in the function of a predicative are usually phraseological units. Care should be taken to learn the use of the article in each case, e. g: to be in despair, to be in service, to be in power, to be of opinion, to be of importance, to be out of control, to be in danger, to be out of danger, etc.

In other phraseological units the indefinite article is used, e. g: to be in a rage, to be in a good (bad) humor, to be at a loss, to be in a hurry, etc.

### **2.3.2. THE USE OF ARTICLES WITH CONCRETE NOUNS (NAMES OF MATERIALS)**

1) Uncountable concrete nouns (names of materials) are generally used without any article. The absence of the article has the nominating function:

E.g. These sleeping pills should be dissolved in water.

She had nothing in the medicine chest but toothpaste and mouthwash and shampoo. We bought lettuce and rolls.

Unlike uncountable abstract nouns, names of materials are used without any article even if they are modified by a descriptive attribute:

E.g. She said: "I knit them myself of thick grey wool." I ticked off the names written in violet ink. He took out of his pocket an object wrapped in tissue paper. She was sitting recklessly on the wet seaweed which would give her a cold, if salt water could give one a cold.<sup>11</sup>

2) The definite article is used with names of materials if they are restricted in their

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<sup>11</sup> Ilyish B.A. Modern English Language M. High School 1975 pp.120, 124-125

quantity or by reason of locality.

E.g. The boss took up a pen and picked a fly out of the ink. "Butter tarts are no food for you. Besides, I don't think I have the butter," said Aunt Lin. Together they walked through the slush and mud. He observed everybody who came in, as they shook the thin watery snow from their hats and coats. It was quite chilly in the dining-room, but all the same she threw off her coat and the cold air fell on her arms.

3) Sometimes, owing to a change in meaning, names of materials become countable\* and as such they are used with articles in accordance with the rules for countable nouns. From this it follows that they may also have the indefinite article.

It occurs in the following cases:

a) when various sorts of food products are meant:

e. g. It was a good coffee and he was sipping it with pleasure. They've taken to giving you bad teas in the club.

b) when a portion of food or drink is meant:

e. g. "My boy wants an ice, sir, but I don't allow it in this weather," he shivered a little. We went into the pub at the top of the street and I ordered two whiskies. "She might give you a chocolate, though," said Hilda, hoping to appeal to Eustace's charity through his appetite. I ate what they gave me, drank a brandy and went out on the main street.<sup>12</sup>

c) sometimes the change of meaning is quite considerable: the noun comes to indicate an object made of a certain material:

e.g. A full glass of orange juice stood beside him which he did not seem to have touched. There was a tin of sardines on the table.<sup>13</sup>

In the waters of the Pacific or the snows of Kilimanjaro, the sands of the Sahara the plural does not signify any change in meaning but is purely a stylistic device.

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<sup>12</sup> Hardy T. Tess of the d' Urbervilles. - M, 1950

<sup>13</sup> Dickens Ch. Adventures of Oliver Twist. - M., 1949.

## **Chapter4. THE USE OF ARTICLES WITH SOME SEMANTIC GROUPS OF NOUNS**

1.4.2. There are certain semantic groups of nouns which are extensively used in English. These nouns are characterized by their unstable relation to the category of countability and, besides, they are often part of phraseological units. As a result, the use of articles with these nouns has considerable peculiarities.

They include the following semantic groups:

### **2.4.2. NAMES OF PARTS OF THE DAY**

To this group of nouns belong: day, night, morning, evening, noon, afternoon, midnight, dawn, dusk, sunrise, sunset, daytime, nightfall and the like.

1) When using these nouns the speaker often means a particular day, night, etc. and then naturally the definite article is used. The limitation is very often clear from the situation or the context but it may also be expressed with the help of a limiting attribute:

E.g. The night was warm and beautifully still.

He decided to spend the afternoon with his friends. The weather was very cold on the day of his arrival.

Sometimes we find a descriptive attribute with nouns denoting parts of the day, but the definite article will still be used if the above mentioned limitation holds good:

E.g. I could see a few faint stars in the clear night.

I was not in a hurry, and walked along, basking in the warm evening.

The definite article is also found with nouns denoting parts of the day used generically:

E.g. He used to spend the morning lying about the beach. I often sat up the night with him and read to him to ease the pain.

2) When nouns indicating parts of the day have a descriptive attribute and represent the new important element in the sentence,\* they are used with the indefinite article (in its aspective function):

E.g. On a hot September evening he strolled idly to the Embankment. It had been a

wet day; the pavements were glistening, though now the rain had stopped. It was a fine, warm night and Charles and I decided to walk home. We were having tea in my room on a cold January afternoon.

3) Nouns denoting parts of the day have no article when they are used as predicative:

E.g. It was evening when he decided to lay his books aside and take a walk. It was nearly midnight and neither of us had eaten for a long time. It was dusk but I could see Henry making across the field.

However, if these nouns are used predicatively with a descriptive attribute, the indefinite article is used (see point 2 for this).

But the article is not used with nouns denoting parts of the day if they are modified by one of the following adjectives and form close sense-units with them:

E.g. It was early morning. It was broad day. It was high noon. It was late evening..

4) In numerous cases the use of articles with nouns denoting parts of the day can hardly be accounted for, as i-t has become traditional. This is found in the following cases:

\* See about the communicating function of the indefinite article, p.II—12.

a) In some prepositional phrases either the definite article or no article may be found.

The definite article is used in: in the morning, in the evening, in the daytime, in the afternoon, in the night.

No article is used after the prepositions at, by, about, past, before, after, towards, till (until): at night, at dawn, by day (днем), by night (ночью), by noon (к полуночи), by midnight (к полудню), past noon, about midnight, before dawn, after sunset, etc.

e.g. I would take pills at night to make me sleep quickly, but I never found any pills that would keep me a-sleep till daylight. Rain was now falling in sheets as it so often did before dawn.

After midnight I walked to the beach with him, sad to see him leave so soon.

b) There is no article with the nouns morning, day and dawn when they are used as

subject to the verbs to break, to be at hand; the same is true of the nouns evening, night, dusk when they are followed by the verbs to fall, to gather, to set in, to be at hand:

e. g. Day was breaking when we set out.

The afternoon was overcast and dusk fell early. Dawn was breaking among the olives, silvering their still leaves.

c) There is no article with nouns denoting parts of the day when they are modified by the names of the days of the week and the words tomorrow and yesterday:

E.g. She was here yesterday afternoon.

I went to Aunt Millie's house on Friday evening.

He spoke to Lin on the telephone on Tuesday afternoon.

I shall see him tomorrow morning.

"I want to see you rather specially. I'll come round tomorrow night," said Charles.

Note: Compare: We met on Saturday night (Мы встретились в прошлую субботу вечером) and we met on a Saturday night (Мы встретились однажды суббота́тним вечером).

d) There is no article in the following phrases: all day (long) and all night (through) but we say: all through the night and all through the day; day after day, night after night; day in, day out; from morning till night; (to work) day and night; in the dead of night.

### 3.4.2. NAMES OF SEASONS

To this group of nouns belong: winter, spring, summer and autumn.

1) The definite article is used with these nouns when reference is made to a particular winter, spring, summer, or autumn, present, past or future, or to a season of a particular year. As a general rule, this limitation is clear from the situation or context, but it may also be expressed by a limiting attribute:

E.g. The winter passed. The summer was exceptionally trying in the town. . "We are so grateful that Meg can spend the summer with you," said Mrs. Brown. "Can't you wait until the winter?" Sam asked. The winter was very fine that year and we were very happy.

In the autumn young Ben was to go to a prep school. The summer of 1914 was very warm.

2) When these nouns are used in a general sense, without any reference to a particular winter, summer, etc., there is a fluctuation in the use of the article. They may be used either without any article or with the definite article. The absence of the article has nominating force; the definite article is used in its generic meaning: e. g. The sun in summer warms the skin, but in winter, when it appears, it warms the heart. He felt more at home in the winter than in the, summer, because in the winter there are firelights and drawn curtains and one's own company. Winter set in early and unexpectedly with a heavy fall of snow. The winter was coming on.

Note: Notice the absence of the article in the combination: (to work) winter and summer.

3) When these nouns have a descriptive attribute they are used with the indefinite article on its aspective function): e. g. We had a short summer. He had passed a sluggish winter and a lazy summer.

4) When these nouns are used as predicative they have no article:

E.g. It was winter. It was summer and the place broke up in red flowers.

However, when these nouns in their predicative function are modified by a descriptive attribute, the indefinite article is used (see point 3):

E.g. it has been a terrible summer," he said.

"It was a remarkably fine autumn," she added.

But the article is not used with these nouns if they are modified by the adjectives early or late and form very close sense-units with them:

E.g. It was early summer. . It was late autumn.

Note: Notice that in attributive "of-phrases" these nouns usually have no article: the warmth of spring, the dust of summer, three months of winter, the colors of autumn.

#### **4.4.2. NAMES OF MEALS**

The group includes the nouns: breakfast, lunch, dinner, supper and tea.

1) In the overwhelming majority of cases names of meals are used without any

article. The absence of the article has the nominating function:

e. g. Lunch is ready and we can go in. Dinner was at an end. I was having tea with her. He came in when we were eating breakfast. We finished dinner and went to the drawing-room to have our coffee. John came to lunch at the appointed time. They met for dinner.

In this case neither the function of the noun nor its being part of a phraseological unit is of any practical importance. So it is not necessary to describe phraseological combinations with these nouns separately.

We were talking about it before dinner.

His eyes still bored into me as they had done at tea.

2) The definite article is rarely found with names of meals. It is used in a clear case of back reference or if there is a limiting attributes: e. g. The supper was very different from the one of the evening before. The dinner was excellent, but Isabel noticed that John ate very little.

He was greedily eating the lunch his mother had given him.

3) The indefinite article is used when names of meals are modified by descriptive attributes. The indefinite article has its aspective function:

E.g. I'll try to give you a decent lunch. Walter wanted a very special dinner. You can get a good supper here. As soon as he was dressed, he went into the library and sat down to a light French breakfast.

4) Occasionally, owing to a change of meaning, names of meals become countable nouns. This occurs in the following cases:

a) when they denote "dinner-party", "tea-party", etc. Both the definite and the indefinite articles may be found here:

e. g. Fleur said: "We had a dinner last night."

I was having a wash and a brush-up before starting out to go to the luncheon Elliot had invited me to.

Each Friday night, when they were in London, Mr. March and his brothers took it in their turn to give a dinner to the entire family.

b) When they denote a portion. In this case the noun is used with the indefinite

article which has numeric force:

E.g. I have not enough money to buy a dinner at Lara's. He wheedled a few francs out of me for a dinner and a bed.

#### **5.4.2. SOME SPECIFIC POINTS**

There are a number of countable nouns in English which are often used without any article, as they undergo a change of meaning and become uncountable.

1) The nouns school, college, hospital, prison, fair, camp, church, court, bed and table are used without any article when, as part of phraseological units, they lose their concrete countable meaning and express the purpose which the objects denoted by these nouns serve. Compare:

E.g. After lunch Dr. Reilly went off to the hospital.

"How long were you in hospital with that wound? » she asked.

They had a hospital in the town during the war. Madame Ducker sat at the table darning socks. I asked her to tell me who all the people at table were. We had a table to ourselves, but those around us were soon filled. He would be sent to prison if he were caught. Perhaps he was in a German prison. The road to the prison was blocked by policemen. I softly drew the chair beside the bed and sat down, I found a bed made up for me, and placed the candles on the old-fashioned chest of drawers. He went to bed early, but lay awake, rehearsing a telephone conversation.

2) The noun town in some prepositional phrases is used without any article when it means the centre or business part of a town, or the nearest town to a country place:

E.g. She drove into town and drew up at the curb beside the drugstore. I called up and asked her if she wouldn't prefer to lunch in town. I thought that he would be out of town next week.

3) A considerable number of nouns of different character when used in adverbial prepositional phrases have no article. The absence of the article can be accounted for by the process of adverb-ionization, e. g. by train, by plane, by boat, by coach, by bus, by tram, by taxi, by air, by car, by sea, by post, by mail, by phone, by radio, by accident, by mistake, by hand, by chance, by letter, by land, by sight, at

hand, off hand in person, on board, on deck, on foot, on tiptoe, at sea, to sea, on hand, on leave, on business, on holiday, etc.

E.g. It was nearly eight o'clock, and I had to go to\_ Bryan-stone Square by taxi.

He could seldom talk of anything but the work in hand.

I had already told her by telephone the gist of my conversation with Keats.

4) There is no article in a number of combinations consisting of a preposition +- a noun +- a preposition. Such phraseological units are to be treated as compound prepositions, e. g. in addition to, in charge of, in contrast with, in regard to, in support of, in reply to, in connection with, on account of, in comparison with, in conformity with, under pretence of, in honor of, in memory of, in pursuit of, in favor of, in combination with, in answer to, on top of, in defiance of, with regard to, in recognition of, in return for, in place of, in relation to, in search of, by reason of, by way of, etc.

e. g. Mrs. Smith, moved by some belated instinct for convention, had donned a hat in honor of the occasion.

No doubt I was envious on account of my failure to cut any kind of figure in the world.

I rushed through the passage in search of my mother.

My father found himself in charge of a factory.

However, in other phraseological units built on the same pattern the definite article is found, e. g. under the influence of, in the centre of, on the invitation of, by the side of, in the middle of, on the initiative of, on the analogy of, etc.

Sometimes there is a fluctuation in the use of articles. Thus both forms are found in: under (the) cover of.

5) There is no article in some combinations consisting of a preposition +- a noun + a conjunction which are on the way to becoming compound conjunctions, e. g. for fear that, on condition that.

However, in some cases the definite article is found: on the ground that, for the reason that.

6) The definite article is used in the following set phrases: to the forest, in the

field(s), at the cinema, to the cinema, to the theatre, at the theatre, to the pictures.

(Notice that the nouns museum, picture gallery, exhibition do not form such set phrases).

E.g. I took Marian aside and asked her to come for a walk.

We went to the fields.

We had an early dinner and went to the theatre. "Oh," he said, «Sarah's come in. She's been to the pictures." I knew that Aunt Lin would not ring up because it was her afternoon at the cinema.

But whenever these nouns indicate a particular object, the articles are used with them in accordance with the general rules:

e. g. We found that the film was on at a cinema across the river.

Charles suggested that we should have a meal and go to a theatre.

The definite article is also used in the following set phrases: to play the piano, to play the violin, etc.

But no article is used in the combinations: to play volley-ball, to play hockey, to play golf, etc.

#### **6.4.2. THE PLACE OF THE ARTICLE.**

The article is always placed before the noun with which it is associated:

e. g. I was silent for a moment. Then I thought of the children.

If the noun is modified by an attribute (or attributes) placed before it, the article generally precedes them.

E.g. She had a pair of the most intelligent bright brown eyes Robert had ever seen.

In the train, we found an empty third-class carriage.

Yet there are a few attributes in English which affect the place of the article:

1) The indefinite article is placed after an adjective if that adjective is preceded by so, as, too and however:

E.g. We most of us hesitate to make so complete a statement.

They are as happy a couple as I've ever known: It was too good a chance to be missed. Traveling on however humble a scale is expensive in Scotland.

2) The indefinite article is placed after the following attributive phrases: any worse,

no less, too much of:

E.g. I've got a taste for thinking but I shouldn't be any worse a doctor if I were a much more stupid man. I was embarrassed by the notoriety of no less a person than Aunt Millie. It was too much of a temptation for George to resist saying it.

3) The place of the indefinite article is optional If the adjective which modifies the noun, is preceded by quite or rather: in this case the indefinite article may be placed between quite or rather and the adjective or before the whole phrase:

E.g. He seems quite a decent fellow; he made rather a surprising remark.

And also: It's a quite fundamental disagreement. He's a rather hard man.

4) The indefinite article is placed after such and the exclamatory what,- When the noun is modified by an adjective, the article is placed before that adjective:

e.g. "I never heard of such a thing," she said. I cannot make such a categorical statement. What a character he is! What a dusty road this is!

5) The indefinite article is placed after many (and in this case the noun is used in the singular):

e.g. He told me this many a time.

I have heard many a young girl say that.

Note: This construction is, however, typical of literary style. Generally we find: many times, many young girls, etc.

6) The definite article follows both, all, double and treble:

E.g. She was ill all the time she was abroad. Both the boys were late for dinner. I offered him double (treble) the amount, but he still refused.

It is noteworthy that the use of the definite article after both is optional:

E.g. Both (the) men were talking in low voices. He signed both (the) papers.

The use of the definite article after all is governed by the general rules:

E.g. All children like ice-cream.

All the children of the boarding school were in bed.

Note: Notice that when both is part of the correlative conjunction both ... and, any article may be found after it, i, e. In this case the article is chosen in accordance with the general rules:

E.g. He was both a scrupulous and a kind-hearted man.

7) The definite and the indefinite article follow half and twice:

E.g. Half the men were too tired to go. It took us half an hour to settle it. He paid twice the price for it. They used to meet twice a week.

Note 1; Notice the difference in meaning between twice followed by the definite article and twice followed by the indefinite article: twice the price, twice a week.

Note 2: Half may serve as the first component of a compound noun. In this case the article naturally precedes it, e. g. a half- brother, a half-truth, etc.

## **Conclusion.**

### **1.3. Summary to the work**

Article is one of the traditionally difficult themes for understanding by the foreign language speakers. This difficulty is caused by the absence of the similar or coinciding grammar component in grammars of Uzbek and Russian. That is why a lot of linguists dealt with this kind of linguistic problem during the whole period of development of Modern linguistics at all and its grammar branch in particular. In our qualification work we tried to take more light on this questionable problem having summarized in brief the investigations held by linguists during the last fifty years. In our work we also summed up the main ways of usage of the English articles having based upon two main criteria: from the point of their countability and semantic grouping. We also tried to mention the best famous literary examples coming across with the use of articles. Having written this control work we pursued the following major aim: to help the foreign learners of English with better understanding and correct installing of articles in colloquial speech. Having made a practical research in the mentioned theme we could achieve the following results:

- 1) We seem to analyse the problem with the structure easier for understanding and learning by foreign students.
- 2) The problem of usage of articles was investigated with the help of modern informational technologies: in particular, we widely used the materials from the Internet sources.
- 3) There were no any blank spaces in the use of articles among the most arguable questions.
- 4) The semantic structure of articles was particularly analysed.

We hope that our qualification work will be useful for all who is eager to make perfect in English.

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