Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education
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Foreign Languages Faculty

"Nonphilological foreign languages"
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Synopsis

Theme: The Proper Noun

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I. Introduction.

The noun is the central lexical unit of language. It is the main nominative unit of speech. According to the type of nomination they may be **proper** and **common**. There are many approaches to study the types of nouns, especially to the study of the proper noun. In this work I give some of them. First of all we must point out the aim of the work, the practical value of the work etc.

The Aim of the Work- According to the aim of the work I set the following tasks:

- to overview literature dedicated to the literature of the Noun of the English language;

- to study materials on noun of the English language;

- to study the traditional classification of the noun;

- to study the differences between the proper noun and the proper names of the English language;

- to study the capitalization proper nouns and proper names;

- to define the;

- to study the Use of Articles with the proper nouns:

- to review the Idioms and Proverbs with Proper names;

The practical value of the work is the benefit of examining the morphemic structure of the English language during the English lessons. The materials of the work are also of great benefit to students of the English language departments. Materials and results of the work may serve as an additional material for students to write their reports, synopsis and self- independent works on the English Grammar.

Materials used in the Work- Basic information of the work are given from the manuals of great scholars such as: "The Structure of Modern English "by B. Ilyish, "A Course in Theoretical Grammar" by M. Blokh, and "Fundamentals of theoretical Grammar"E. Morokhovskaya etc. Besides above mentioned manuals I took extra information from Internet and from World Book Encyclopedia.

The structure of the work- The work consists of Introduction, Main Part, Conclusion, and the list of the used literature.

In the introduction I give brief overview of the characteristics of the work done.

The Main Part is mainly about the definition of the proper noun, deals with the differences between the proper nouns and the proper names, capitalization and proper nouns and proper names.

In the conclusion I give my conclusion according to the informations given above.

The list of the used literature consists of more than 20 names and titles of literature and sources used in the work

II. Main Part.

2.1. General characteristics.

The noun is the central lexical unit of language. It is the main nominative unit of speech. As any other part of speech, the noun can be characterised by three criteria: **semantic** (the meaning), **morphological** (the form and grammatical categories) and **syntactical** (functions, distribution)[1].

Semantic features of the noun. The noun possesses the grammatical meaning of thinness, substantiality. According to different principles of classification nouns fall into several subclasses:

1. According to the type of nomination they may be **proper** and **common**;

2. According to the form of existence they may be **animate** and **inanimate**. Animate nouns in their turn fall into **human** and **non-human.**

3. According to their quantitative structure nouns can be **countable** and **uncountable.**

This set of subclasses cannot be put together into one table because of the different principles of classification.

Morphological features of the noun. In accordance with the morphological structure of the stems all nouns can be classified into: simple, derived (stem + affix, affix + stem – *thingness*); compound (stem+ stem – *armchair*) and composite (the Hague). The noun has morphological categories of number and case. Some scholars admit the existence of the category of gender.

Syntactic features of the noun. The noun can be used in the sentence in all syntactic functions but predicate. Speaking about noun combinability, we can say that it can go into right-hand and left-hand connections with practically all parts of speech. That is why practically all parts of speech but the verb can act as noun determiners. However, the most common noun determiners are considered to be articles, pronouns, numerals, adjectives and nouns themselves in the common and genitive case.

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[1] B. Ilyish "The Structure of the Modern English"

2.2. The definition of the proper noun.

There are many approaches to study the types of nouns, especially to the study of the proper noun. Here given some of them:

A noun belonging to the class of words is used as names for unique individuals, events, or places are called proper noun.

Nouns name people, places, and things. Every noun can further be classified as common and proper[1]. A proper noun has two distinctive features:

1) It will name a specific (usually a one of a kind) item.

2) It will begin with a capital letter no matter where it occurs in a sentence.

By the following examples we can see the differences between the common nouns and the proper nouns:

Common nouns	Proper nouns
Writer	Herman Melville
Teacher	Mrs. Hacket
Cookie	Snoop
City	Oreo
Restaurant	Orlando
Document	Tito's Taco Palace
School	University of Virginia

For example, Tina offered Antonio one of her mother's homemade oatmeal cookies but only an Oreo would satisfy his sweet tooth.

Cookie= common noun; Oreo= proper noun.

Charlie had wanted an easy teacher for his composition class, but he got Mrs. Hacket, whose short temper and unreasonable demands made the semester a torture.

Teacher= common noun; Mrs. Hacket=proper noun.

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[1] 1997-2012 by Roblin L. Simmons

Gloria wanted to try a new restaurant, so Richard took her to Tito's Taco Palace, where he no one dips into the hot sauce until the drinks have arrived at the table.

Restaurant= common noun; Tito's Taco Place.

A proper noun is a noun that in its primary application refers to a unique entity, such as London, Jupiter, Sarah, or Toyota, as distinguished from a common noun, which usually refers to a class of entities (cities, plants, persons, corporations), or non-unique instances of certain class (a city, another planet, these persons, or corporations). Some proper nouns occur in plural form and then they refer to groups of entities considered as unique (the Henderson's, the Azores, the Plerades).Proper nouns can also occur in the secondary applications, e.g. modifying nouns (the Mozart experience; his Azores adventure or as de facto common nouns (he's no Pavarotti; they drive Toyotas). The detailed definition of the term is problematic and to an extent governed by convention.

Not all nouns that refer to a unique entity are proper nouns. Blackness and chastity are common nouns, even if blackness and chastity are considered unique abstract entities.

2.3 The Differences between the proper nouns and the proper names

Proper nouns are words that name a specific person, place, thing or idea. Proper nouns are capitalized so the reader can tell them apart from common nouns.

Common nouns do not name the specific person, place, thing or idea. Vo9mmon nouns are not capitalized unless they are at the beginning of a sentence or part of title. For example:

Proper- George Washington

Common- man

Proper- White House

Common- building

Proper- United States Constitution

Common- document

Proper names are distinguished from proper nouns by some linguistics. When that distinction is made, proper nouns are limited to single words only (possibly with "the"), while proper names include all proper nouns (in their primary application) as well as noun phrases such as United Kingdom, North Carolina, Royal Air Force, and The White House.

United Kingdom e.g. is the proper name, with the common noun Kingdom as its head and North Carolina is headed by the proper noun Carolina. Especially as the titles of works\, but also as nicknames and the like, some proper names contain no noun and are not formed as noun phrases (the film Being There, Hi DE HO as a nickname for cab Calloway and as the title of a film about him).

Though the term common name is not much used in this context, it would mean a noun (or a noun phrase) that is not a proper name (Swiss cheese, and the common noun bluebird, are both common names in this sense). Sometimes proper names are called simply names; but that term is often used more broadly (as in "chair is the name for something we sit on").

Few proper nouns or proper names have only one possible referent there are various towns named London; Jupiter may be a planet, a god, a ship, or a symphony; there are many people named Sarah; there are companies, towns, and people named Toyota; and there have been various United Kingdoms in the history of the world. But within the appropriate context, each of these names will be understood as referring to one unique case.

In English, proper nouns and names in their primary application cannot normally be modified by an article or other determiner (such as any or another), although some may be taken to include the article "the ", as in The Gambia, The Roaring Forties or the Rolling Stones. A proper noun or name may be used without regard to any descriptive meaning apparently attached to it; or if it had once been descriptive, it may no longer be so. For example, a woman named

"Rose" is not claimed to be a flower, and a city called "Newtown" may now be quite old.

In many languages proper names, are words derived from them, are associated with capitalization; but the details vary (compare French Lundy, Canadian, and Canada with English Monday, Canadian, and Canada). Capitalization choices in English are often irregular or arbitrary (Socratic and Freudianism). Words derived from proper nouns and names are sometimes called proper adjectives (and so on); but not in mainstream linguistic theory. Not all proper nouns or proper names are capitalized (April, Lent; but summer, winter); and not all words that are capitalized are proper nouns or proper names (Dr, Spaniard, Christian, Baptist, African, Africanize, and Africanism are not proper nouns).

The study of proper nouns and proper names is sometimes called on mastics or onomatology, for a survey of detailed and pragmatic issues in naming see Name Rigorous analysis of the semantics of proper nouns and names is the matter for philosophy of language.

2.4 Capitalization and proper nouns and proper names

In languages that use alphabetic scripts and that distinguish lower and upper case, there is usually an association between proper names and capitalization. (A prominent exception is German in which all nouns are capitalized.) The details vary sharply from language to language for proper nouns and proper names, and also for other words and phrases. For example, the days of the week and 5he month are capitalized in English but not in Spanish, French, Swedish, or Finnish, though they may be understood as proper nouns in all of these. Languages differ in whether most elements of multiword proper names are capitalized (American English has House of Representatives, in which lexical words are capitalized) or only ion the initial element (as in Slovenian Drzavnizbor, "National Assembly"). In Czech, multiword settlement names are capitalized throughout, but non-

settlement names are only capitalized in the initial element, though with many exception. In most alphabetic languages brand names and other commercial terms that are nouns or noun phrases are capitalized whether or not they counts as proper nouns. Microsoft is the proper noun, referring to a specific company (English does not allow these phrases, unless Microsoft is treated non-standard, as a de facto common noun: Microsofts, The Microsoft, and another Microsoft). But Corvette (referring to car) is not a proper noun it can be pluralized (French and English Corvettes); and it can take a definite article or other determiner or modifier.

In English most proper names are capitalized; and words and phrases derived from proper nouns and proper names are generally capitalized, even when they are not themselves proper nouns or names. For example, Londoner is capitalized because it derives from the proper noun London, but it is not itself proper nouns (it can be limited: the Londoner some Londoners). When "the" is the part of a proper name, as in the White House, it is not normally capitalized unless it is the formal part of title (of a book, film or other artistic creation as in The Keys of the Kingdom). Adjectives, verbs, and derived common nouns that are capitalized (Swiss in Swiss cheese, Anglicize, Calvinistically, Patrarchism) are sometimes loosely called proper adjectives (and so on), but not in mainstream linguistics. Which items are capitalized may be merely conventional (Saturday, April, Easter, Abrahamic, Hollywoodize, and Regonomics are capitalized; summer, quixotic, bowdlerizes, and pasteurization is not;
Aeolian and alpinism may be capitalized or not).

Nouns and noun phrases that are not proper may be uniformly capitalized to indicate that they are definitive and regimented in their application (compare brand names discussed earlier). For example, Mountain Bluebird does not identify and unique individual, and it's not a proper name but a so-called common name (somewhat misleadingly, because this is not intended as a contrast with the term proper name). Such capitalization indicates that the term is conventional

designation for exactly that species, not for just any bluebird that happens to live in the mountains.

Capitalization in English today depends on uniqueness within an implicit context. Thus London, Jupiter, Sarah, and Toyota are understood as being unique within their context. However, in instances where a context shift is possible, and the context shift causes a shift from uniqueness, the capitalization decision may become a matter of perspective. Sometimes a word can function as either a common noun or a proper noun, depending on context. They have no universally agreed names, but the terms "capitonym" and "specific designator" have some currency.

Proper nouns may be used as common nouns, as member of the unique class of common nouns. For example, the corporation Toyota builds vehicles which are colloquially called Toyotas; the fact that the latter is a common can be seen in how it can be modified: a Toyota, my Toyota, many Toyotas. Such uses typically arise through ellipsis or metonymy: a car masde4 by Toyota- a Toyota car- a Toyota. Similarly with nationalities and members of religions: America and Christ are proper nouns, American and Christian is not, but retains the capitalization of the proper nouns they are based on. In many languages, such derivations lose the capitalization.

2.5 The Use of Articles with the proper nouns.

We do not use "the" before:

Continents: Africa

Countries: Italy, France, Mexico, Bolivia

Cities: London, Paris, Miami

But there are some exceptions: the Netherlands, the Dominican Republic, and the Philippines.

We can not use the with the names of the streets: Fifth Avenue, Washington Bvld., Main St., Sheppard Rd., Broadway

With the names of lakes, bays and falls: like the Great Lakes, and the Lake of Constance, the Lake of Lucerne.

With the names of single mountains: Mount, Everest, and Bear Mountain

There are also some exceptions: ranges of mountains like the Andes or the Rockiest or unusual names like the Matterhorn.

We do not use" the" with the names of islands: Coney Island, Key West, and Long Island.

There are some exceptions: island chains like the Hawaiian Islands, the Hebrides, or the Canary Islands.

With the names of languages and nationalities: Chinese, English, Spanish, and Russian.

With the names of the academic subjects: mathematics, biology, history, computer science.

With the names of universities: Yale University, Columbia University, and Oxford University.

There are some exceptions: of forms the University of Michigan, the University of Hawaii.

We use the before names of all bodies of water(except lakes, buy and falls): the Nile, the Pacific, the Mediterranean Sea, the English Channel, the Gulf of Mexico, the Straight of Gibraltar…

With the names of the deserts, forests, peninsulas and archipelagos: the Black Forest, the Iberian Peninsula, and the Malay Archipelago.

Points of the globe: the Equator the North Pole.

Names of geographical areas: the Middle East, the West, the Near East.

Names composed on common nouns plus proper nouns: the Dominion of Canada, the New York City, and the United States.

Names of buildings, hotels, libraries: the Empire State Building, the Niagara Falls Hotel, the Metropolitan museums, the Library of Congress.

Names of theories, effects, devices, scales, and so on modified by a proper noun used as an adjective: the Doppler Effect, the Hubble telescope, the Kelvin scale.

But: when proper noun is used on possessive form, no article is used; Einstein's theory of relativity, Boca's area, Wegener's hypothesis.

Translation decision.

The common meaning of the words constituting a proper noun may be unrelated to the object to which the proper noun refers. For example, someone might be named Tiger Smith despite being neither a tiger nor a smith. For this reason, proper nouns are usually not translated between languages, although they may be transliterated. For example, the German surname Roemer becomes Roemer in English. However the translation of place names and the names of monarchs, popes, and non-contemporary authors is common and sometimes universal. For instance, the Portuguese word Lisboan becomes Lisbon in English; the London becomes Lenders in French, Portuguese and Spanish; and the Greek Aristotle becomes Aristotle in English.

Generally, modern times brought abandonment of translation people names and surnames of significant abatement of translation of names of places, organizations, companies, projects, objects etc. the main reason is that the verbatim form and wording of the official name become a fixed identifier of the named subject, contrary to the past time when they were more variable and not normallyst5abilized.

2.6 Idioms and Proverbs with Proper names

English proper nouns include peoples names and surnames (John Smith, Mary Brown), geographical names (Africa, the Thames), names of institutions (the United Nations, the British Museum), places ion the city (Central Perk, Fifth Avenue. And there are many idiomatic expressions that contain proper names. The

some as other idioms they come from people's everyday life, folklore, prose and poetry, myths, fairy tales, fables, songs, slang and other sources.

Quite a few idioms with proper nouns are familiar to people of different nationalities, and it's natural that a student of English wants to know how to say those colorful expressions in English. It should be stressed, though, that idioms with proper names are not used in speech or writing often. For example, we all know such expressions as Pyrrhic victory; as the wise as Solomon; Uncle Sam. But how often do we actually use them? Generally, we prefer more neutral phrases in everyday speech.

Also, some idioms containing people's names, names of nationalities, cities or countries may be perceived as offensive stereotypes and clichés, and should be avoided.

The list below illustrates some English idioms with proper names. They include idioms that are still in use as well as some bookish or outdated expressions. Use the lists for studying and understanding idioms not for active use.

Idioms with people's names

Barbie Doll- an attractive but mindless person (man or woman):

Before you could say that Jack Robinson- very quickly.

Doubting Thomas- a skeptic; a person who refuses to believe clear proof:

Very Tom and Harry- any/ every ordinary man:

GI Joe –an American soldier:

Jack allows the trades- a person who is able to do many manual jobs:

Joe Blow/ Joe Doakes an average citizen:

John Bull- a typical Englishman: the English people:

John Doe- 1. An unnamed person in legal proceedings: 2. an anonymous average citizen:

Idioms with the names of month and days

April Fool- the victim of a joke played on April fool's Day:

As mad as a March here-a mad or peculiar person:

May Queen- a girl crowned with flowers and honored as queen on May Day:

Blue Monday- Monday as depressing workday after Sunday:

Black Friday- any Friday on which financial or other misfortunes happen:

Girl Friday- a low- ranking office assistant with various duties:

Man Friday- a true servant:

A month of Sundays- a very long time:

Sunday best/ Sunday clothes- one's best clothes for special occasions:

Sunday driver- an inexperienced driver:

Idioms from mythology and ancient history

Achilles heel- the most vulnerable spot;

As wise as Solomon- a very wise person;

Cut their Gordian knot- I solve the difficult problem quickly:

The Proverbs with proper names.

A few proverbs with proper names a listed below. Notice that proverbs may exist in several variants: I fear the Greeks even when bringing gifts; I fear the Greeks bringing gifts: I fear the Greeks bearing gifts. Because proverbs are widely known, people often say just part of a proverb: Greek gifts; Greek gift.

Jack is no judge of Jill's beauty:

Jack of all trades is master of none;

March comes in like in lion and goes out like a lamb;

III. Conclusion

At the end of the work I can say that the first of all I studied the Noun and its types by the type of the nomination.

According to the type of the nomination I divided the noun into the common and the proper noun.

I studied the approaches according to the proper noun. There are so many approaches to studying the proper noun.

A noun belonging to the class of words is used as names for unique individuals, events, or places are called proper noun.

I gave some information according to the differences between the common and proper noun. So that I can say that there are so many differences between them. The proper nouns are limited to single words only (possibly with "the"), while proper names include all proper nouns (in their primary application) as well as noun phrases such as United Kingdom, North Carolina, Royal Air Force, and The White House.

In my work I studied also the problem of the capitalization. According to the problem of the capitalization I have a conclusion such as: In English most proper names are capitalized; and words and phrases derived from proper nouns and proper names are generally capitalized, even when they are not themselves proper nouns or names.

I tried also to solve the problem of the usage of the articles with the proper nouns.

I learnt the usage of the idioms with the proper nouns.

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