

GRAMMATICAL CATEGORIES OF MODERN ENGLISH

Shokirova Marxabxon

Head teacher of English language and literature faculty, Fergana State University

Yaxyoyeva Sevaraxon Xayotjon qizi

The student of English language and literature faculty, Fergana State University

ABSTRACT

This article discusses the classification of word groups in modern English primary grammatical categories, the division of existing words in each specific language into specific groups, lexical and lexical-grammatical, morphological forms according to their meanings to the generality of words belonging to a particular group.

Keywords: development, laws, worldview, aspirations, thinking, genres, figures, fraternal tribes, during the reign, tribal languages.

INTRODUCTION

Words of every language are divided into several word classes, or parts of speech, such as nouns, verbs and adjectives etc. The words of a given class exhibit two or more forms in somewhat different grammatical circumstances. These forms are not interchangeable and each can be used only in a given grammatical situation. This variation in form is required by the existence of a grammatical category applying to that class of words. Thus a grammatical category is "a linguistic category which has the effect of modifying the forms of some class of words in a language". For example, English nouns have the grammatical category of number. Thus the singular 'dog' and the plural 'dogs' exist but are not interchangeable in a sentence. A noun can be used only in its singular or plural form as there is no possibility of another form. English adjectives vary for degree; verbs for tense; pronouns for case etc. grammarians divide the words of English into eight classes or parts of speech- noun, pronoun, adjective, verb, preposition, conjunction, adverb, etc. Grammatical category is an analytical class within the grammar of a language, whose members have the same syntactic distribution and recur as structural unit throughout the language, and which share a common property which can be semantic or syntactic.

Grammatical Category

The term "grammatical category" refers to specific properties of a word that can cause that word and/or a related word to change in form for grammatical reasons

(ensuring agreement between words). There are various grammatical categories like number, case, gender, person, tense, aspect, mood, voice, degree.

Number

Number is a property of nouns and pronouns and indicates quantity. Number has two values. The values of number are singular (one) and plural (two or more).

The book is interesting.

The books are interesting.

In sentence 1, "book" is in its basic form, giving its "number" the value of singular. There is one book and the related auxiliary verb "to be" is in the singular form (is).

In sentence 2, the form of "book" has changed to "books", giving its "number" the value of plural. There is more than one book and the related "to be" is in the plural form (are).

In the above example, the "number" of "book" influences the form of book, and also influences the form of a related word (be). "Number" is a "grammatical category".

Case

Case is a grammatical category whose value reflects the grammatical function performed by a noun or pronoun in a phrase, clause, or sentence. In some languages, nouns, pronouns and their modifiers take different inflected forms depending on what case they are in. English has largely lost its case system, although case distinctions can still be seen with the personal pronouns: forms such as I, he and we are used in the role of subject ("I kicked the ball"), while forms such as me, him and us are used in the role of object ("John kicked me").such as Ancient Greek, Latin, Sanskrit, Russian and Finnish have extensive case systems, with nouns, pronouns, adjectives and determiners all inflecting (usually by means of different suffixes) to indicate their case. A language may have a number of different cases (Latin and Russian each have at least six; Finnish has 15). Commonly encountered cases include nominative, accusative, dative and genitive. Cases should be distinguished from thematic roles such as agent and patient. They are often closely related, and in languages such as Latin several thematic roles have an associated case, but cases are a morphological notion, while thematic roles are a semantic one. Languages having cases often exhibit free word order, since thematic roles are not required to be marked by position in the sentence.is the grammatical function of a noun or pronoun. There are only three cases in modern English, they are subjective (he), objective (him) and possessive (his). They may seem more familiar in their old English form - nominative, accusative and genitive. There are a few remnants of old English though, and pronouns have distinctive forms in all three cases and should be used with a bit more care.

Pronoun cases are simple though. There are only three:-. Subjective case: pronouns used as subject.

- . Objective case: pronouns used as objects of verbs or prepositions.
- . Possessive case: pronouns which express ownership.

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