

ACONTRASTIVE STUDY OF GRAMMATICAL CATEGORIES OF NOUN IN ENGLISH
AND GERMAN

Azimova Dildora Aslitdin qizi

English teacher of Tashkent State 159-A secondary school

Abstract: *English and German as the members of the Indo-European trunk of languages undoubtedly share certain characteristics, common for all members of this family of languages but as two structurally different languages, they also show significant differences, but also similarities in regard to the grammatical category of noun in English and German.*

The article is based on typical English and German grammar books, written by prominent authors, which provide an abundance of data examined through the contrastive method. The results indicate that noun in both languages show discrepancy which concern several aspects of grammatical categories. Some of these differences contain the ways of forming the plural number and their usage with articles and numerals. Gender, grammatical category exists in the German language. There is a gender in pronouns of English (her, his, hers, he), but not for all nouns. Despite differences, there are also similarities that concern mainly the ways of forming the plural number, but also the group of nouns used only in the singular and those used only in the plural.

Key words: *gender, noun, category, number, similarities, differences.*

Introduction

The relevance of the research findings on a scientific and practical level.

This paper can be used in English language lectures on current linguistic issues, as well as particular courses in contrastive, comparative linguistics, intercultural communication, typology, lexicology and English courses.

The study of contrastive linguistics and its use in grammar. In recent years, this subject attracts many researchers` attention in terms of comparing two and more than languages that are from different language families. Additionally, it plays a significant role in modern linguistics. This subject shows in what ways the two respective languages differ, in order to help in the solution of practical problems. Grammatical categories of nouns in English which have been the cause of debate among different scientists, both native and foreign ones.

Futhermore, according to Trask.L.R (2007), the category of number is the only grammatical category that affects English nouns.

Methods and Metodology.

Comparative and Contrastive methods have been used in this article. Is the grammatical category of nouns are the same structure and is there a gender in English like German? This paper gives the lights to this matter or question.

Definite and Indefinite article in English and German.

German is unusual among languages using the Latin alphabet in that all nouns are capitalized (for example, "the book" is always written as "das Buch").

The gender is vital as it decide lots of things around the noun, like article and numerals in German. Nouns are either singular or plural. Here are some tablets to help you work out the gender. As gender is quite unpredictable, the best thing is to simply learn each noun along with its definite article (der, die, or das). There are 3 types of gender : Masculine (der Vater-father, der Montag-Monday, der Schmetterling-butterfly), Feminine (die Mutter-mother, die Katze-cat, die Freundschaft- friendship), Neuter (das Gold-gold, das Haus- house). The inflected forms depend on the number, the case and the gender of the corresponding noun. German articles - like adjectives and pronouns - have the same plural forms for all three genders. German has four cases: nominative, accusative, dative and genitive.

This table gives endings for the definite article, equivalent to English the.

Definite article (strong)

Masculine	Neuter	Feminine	Plural
Nominative			
der	das	Die	Die
Accusative			
den	das	Die	Die
Dative			
dem	dem	Der	Den
Genitive			
des	des	Der	Der

This article, ein-, is used equivalently to the word a in English. Like its English equivalent , it has no direct form for a plural; in this situation a range of alternatives such as einige (some; several) or manche (some) would be used.

Indefinite article endings (mixed)

Masculine	Neuter	Feminine	Plural
Nominative	ein	ein	eine -eine
Accusative	einen	Ein	eine -eine
Dative	einem	einem	einer -einen
Genitive	eines	eines	einer -einer

In English, article is also divided into two types: Definite (the), indefinite (a, an). Definite article is used for proper or exact nouns, example The pacific, the deer, the ceiling, the second floor, the east, the Thames. Article `a` is emphasized for singular countable and the beginning consonant nouns, example: a cat, a box, a canteen, however `an` is used for singular countable and the beginning vowel nouns, example: an apple, an ox.

Ichgebe die Karten dem Mann - I give the cards to the man.

Wir sind 5 Leute im Hause, meine Eltern, meine Schwester und Bruder- There are 5 people in the family, my parents, my sister and brother.

Grammatical category number of nouns in German language

Grammatical features such as number and gender are used to control agreement. Whereas gender is an intrinsic feature of nouns (Corbett, 1991), number is a grammatical feature that has to be specified for nouns based on conceptual information. Number is used to control NP agreement and subject/verb agreement. Bock and her colleagues (Bock & Miller, 1991; Bock & Eberhard, 1993; Bock, Nicol, & Cooper Cutting, 1999) investigated the circumstances under which native speakers failed to produce number agreement. They found that semantic and morphophonological factors of the subject of the sentence are of minimal relevance to the syntactic and morphological processes that implement agreement. Instead, agreement control of verb number is achieved by lexical specification of plurality on the subject noun. Although both gender and number features are treated as diacritic parameters in Levelt's model (Levelt, 1989; Bock & Levelt, 1994; Levelt et al., 1999), they are different in some respects.

Examples of different plural formations in German nouns Morpheme Singular Plural Example -n Frau- lady, Frauen-ladies, -e Tag -day', Tage -days, -er Bild -picture, Bilder -pictures, -s Park -park', Parks -parks, -Ø Wagen -car, Wagen-cars, + umlaut Faden -thread, Fäden -threads, -er + umlaut Buch -book, Bücher -books -Ø + umlaut Faden -thread, Fäden -threads.

However, in English, the suffix -es, -s - is the plural forming, for example boxes, books, boys, notes, phones, pens and markers.

Discussion

In English, there is a gender for only case, pronoun (grammatical categories). People who are learning German confuse gender, because there is a huge difference between English that is much easier.

Singular and plural forms are distinguished as grammatical classes in nouns in both languages. Singular and plural forms are distinguished as grammatical classes in nouns in both languages. There is only particularly overlapping of the lexemes in both languages. In German there are five different types of plural forms in nouns. The indefinite article in German is das, die and der. In German the indefinite article is ein. The function of the grammatical category number in nouns in German and English language is very important in the process of describing nouns and giving meanings in sentences. The process of finding and choosing the correct right equivalent of German plural form of noun in English language is sometimes difficult and misleading in many cases because of the probable problematic differences between some German nouns and their possible equivalents in English.

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