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# 1. THE MAIN NOTIONS OF GRAMMAR

## Grammar

**Grammar** is a brunch of linguistics which treats of the grammatical system. Grammar gives rules for modification of words and sentences in general. Gr: 1. Morphology – treats of the forms of the word and 2. Syntax – treats of sentences.

**The main notions of Grammar:** the gr. category, the gr. meaning, the gr. form

**Gr. category** is a set of oppositions of diff-nt gr.-al forms. The gr. cat. is a unity of the gr. meaning & form

**Gr. form** is the external linguistic expression of the gr. meaning

**Gr. meaning** – meaning common to whole class of words.

Every word has one or several lexical meanings and one or several gr. meanings. Both are the result of abstraction.

The principle of singling out gr. cat.-s according to Смирницкий

1. Any gr. cat. must be represented by at least 2 categorical forms
2. No cat. form may participate in all the gr. forms of a given word
3. One form of a word may represent diff-nt gr. cat-s
4. One form of word may not represent 2 categorical forms of one gr. cat at the same time
5. Any form of a word represents at least one cat. forms.

Diff-nt ways of expressing the gr. Meaning

1) inflection 2) word order 3) function words 3) intonation & stress

Gr. Forms of a word are variants of one and the same word. 4 ways of word-changing: inflections & affixations, sound interchange, supplitivity; analytical ways.

**Sound interchange** – a change of a vowel or a consonant in the root of the word which results in creation of a new gr. form (*man – men*, in verbs)

**Supplitivity** is such a way of building up gr. forms when we have an interlacement of roots within one system of forms

**Analytical way of word-changing** the lexical and the gr. meaning are expressed separately by 2 diff-nt words. In a real a.f. the 1st component loses its lexical meaning and the 2d its gr. meaning.

## Morpheme

**Morpheme** – is the 2d main unit of the language structure. The shortest structural unit which carried a definite gr. meaning. The smallest dependent meaningful unit. Has gr. form and meaning, i.e. is *bilateral*

- 1) **free** (can be used as separate words) and **bound** (are never used as separate words)
- 2) **overt/covert**
- 3) **segmental** and **supersegmental**
- 4) **additive/replacive**
- 5) **continuous/discontinuous**

Types of distribution of morphemes

**Contrastive distribution** identical environment different meaning (*returned – returning*)

**Non-contrastive distribution (free variation)** identical environment identical meaning (*learned – learnt*)

**Complementary distribution** diff-nt environments of formally diff-nt morphemes which are united by the same meaning (s)

## Oppositions

**Opposition** is a correlation of lingual forms by means of which a certain function is expressed. The members of the O. must possess 2 types of features: common features (serve as the basis of contrast) and different features (express the function in question)

- 1) **Binary privative opposition** – based on a morphological different feature which is present in its strong marked member (worked) and is absent in its weak unmarked member (work). Marked members are marked in 2 ways (in form and meaning)
- 2) **Equipollent opposition** a minor type, is confined to formal relations only (am-is-are)
- 3) **Gradual opposition** (is not generally recognized) The gr. opposition is formed by a contrastive group of members which are distinguished not by the presence or absence of a feature but by the degree of it.

## 2. THE CLASSIFICATION OF PARTS OF SPEECH

### The cat. of POS

The words of language, depending on various formal and semantic features, are divided into grammatically relevant sets of classes. Traditionally called POS, lexico-grammatical categories.

The term POS is purely tradition and conventional, known since Ancient Greece

In modern linguistics, POS are discriminated on the basis of *three criteria* – semantic (meaning), formal (form) and function.

**Meaning** it is the meaning common to all the words of the given class, but not of a separate word

**Form** – morphological characteristics of a type of a word

**Function** – syntactic properties of a type of word, subdivided into 1) methods of combining with other words (phrases); 2) its function in the sentence

### By Russian scholars

**Борис Ильин** (12 POS)

Noun, pronoun, numeral, adj, stative, verb, adv, preposition, conjunction, interjection, particle, modal word.

**Жигадко тэ Хаймович** (13) divided into notional words and formal word + article.

**Смирницкий** Outside his classifications are modal words, interjections, words like “yes” and “no”

### By foreign scholars

**Henry Sweet** He divided POS into declinable (verbs, nouns, adj-s) and non-declinable (adv., conjunctions, interjections)

**Otto Jespersen** Points out the mistakes of other scholars. He distinguishes POS by 3 criteria: form, meaning and function. He names 5 POS. 4 (substantives, adj, verbs, pronouns) + 1 particle. By *particles* he means the mixture of words of different classes that are united by the absence of gr. cat-s.

**Nesfield** unites adv, prepositions, conjunction and interjections, particles into one class

### 3. THE NOUN. ITS GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS. THE PROBLEM OF GENDER

#### Noun

**Noun** is a separate POS which is characterized by 1) the lexical-grammatical meaning of thingness or substance 2) the form of the noun (cat-s of number and case, the latter is not, however universally recognized) 3) function a) phrase level (A noun combines with a preceding adj *blue sky*, with a preceding noun in either common case *silver watch* or the genitive case *mile's trip*; with a verb following it *children grow* or preceding it *answer questions*; occasionally a noun may combine with a following or preceding adverb *the man there, the then president*; it also combines with prepositions; it is typical of a noun to be preceded with the articles b) by function in the sentence The noun may be used almost in the function of any POS. Typical functions are: subject and object.

#### Classification of nouns by their stem structure

Simple, compound (*greyhound*), composite (*vice-president*)

#### Subclasses of nouns

1) countable (collective, material and proper – uncountable

2) declinable – indeclinable

#### Nouns by their semantic classification

Abstract and concrete

#### Gender of nouns

English has not got the cat. of gr. gender which can be found in Russian, German, Latin etc.

In Old English the cat. of gender existed, but was lost with the loss of inflections which were used to express gender distinctions.

Natural sex distinctions are expressed lexically

1) semantically (*cock – hen, man – woman, husband – wife*)

2) by word compositions (*boyfriend – girlfriend, he-cat – she-cat, gentleman – gentlewoman*)

3) by suffix -ess (*actress*)

Винокурова says the gender is connected with the distinction between animal being and lifeless thing.

There also exist nouns of common gender (*neighbor*)

## 4. THE CATEGORY OF NUMBER OF NOUNS

The category of number of nouns

**The cat. of number** is expressed by the opposition of the pl. form of the noun to the sg. form of the noun. The strong member of this binary opposition is the plural, is marked by the inflection (s). The productive formal mark correlates with the absence of the number ending in the sg. form of a noun. Other non-productive ways of expressing the number opposition are

- 1) the inflection – en (*ox – oxen*)
- 2) sound interchange (*man-men, foot-feet, goose-geese*)
- 3) sound interchange + en (*child – children*)
- 4) unchangeable nouns (*sheep, deer*)
- 5) Greek and Latin borrowing have their own peculiarities (*datum – data*)

The semantic nature of the difference between sg. and pl. is that of “one” and “more than one” But...

Some problems that claim special attentions

- 1) **material nouns** (*water-waters, snow-snows*). In *water* we refer to its physical or chemical properties; in *waters* to the geographical idea
- 2) When such nouns as *wine, salt, steel* denote some sort of substance they become countables (expensive wines)
- 3) In the most of their meanings the words *joy, sorrow* are abstract nouns and they refer to st.t., but when concrete manifestations are meant they denote countable nouns (*the joys and sorrows of life*)
- 4) Likewise the words *tin, copper, hair* as material nouns are usually sg. and nouns like *advice, furniture, mild* have no pl. forms and are called sg.t. *Clothes, goods, outskirts* are pl.t.

Pl.t and Sg.t

“tantum” – “only” in Latin

**Pl.t.** include nouns of 2 types

- 1) the nouns which denote objects consisting of 2 halves (*jeans, trousers, ножницы*)
- 2) those which denote a more or less indefinite plurality

**Sg.t.**

- 1) material nouns (*milk, butter, sugar*)
- 2) abstract nouns (*peace, usefulness*)
- 3) collective nouns (*news, furniture*)

Collective nouns and names of multitude (множество)

Certain nouns denoting groups of human beings (*family, government, party*) and animals (*cattle*) can be used in 2 diff-nt ways. They either denote a group as a whole (collective nouns) or a group consisting of individuals (nouns of multitude)

With the noun *people* the process has gone further that with any other noun

*People(s) – nation(s)*

*Person – people*

Теория Алексея Исаченко

He says the meaning of the cat. Of number is not that of quantity but of discreteness.

ZB One number form reflects diff-nt notions of reality. (Они положили кирпич под калитку. Мы поехали покупать кирпич).

ZB Diff-nt number forms denote the same notion (Боярам подстригли бороду. Боярам подстригли бороды)

So the cat. of number does not express numeral relation. Isachenko treats the cat. of number as the cat. of explicit and implicit discreteness. In the marked member the discreteness is explicit: *духи, часы, trousers*. The sg. form the discreteness is not marked (a five pound note, two hundred km). Discreteness is implicit in these cases as the number is expressed by the numeral. So the pl. in this view expresses the notion of something consisting of distinguishable parts, and the meaning of quantity is a result of combining the fundamental meaning of the cat. with the lexical meaning of the pl. noun.

## 5. THE CATEGORY OF CASE

The cat. of case

**Case** is a category of noun is expressing relations between the thing denoted by the noun and other things. And it is manifested in some formal sign in the noun itself. The cat. of case is a system of oppositions.

“case” from Latin “a falling away”. It meant that all cases fell away or decline from the Nom. Аристотель called by this name any variation of the main word-form: cases, degrees of comparison etc. Later the notion of the word “case” narrowed and was applied only to the declination of nouns.

The number of cases is various in different languages.

The view on the cat. of case is different

The 2 case theory (Смирницкий, Есперсон)

It recognizes a limited inflectional system of two cases in ENG, one of them features and the other one unfeatures. This view may be called *limited case theory*. It was formulated by such scholars as H. Sweet, O. Jespersen. And since developed by Smirnitsky and Barkhudarov.

**Смирницкий** two cases Common and Possessive (genitive). The possessive case is marked and common is unmarked. This opposition works with all nouns expressing animal beings. The use of this opposition is rather restricted with inanimate things.

**Отто Есперсон** differentiates the cat. of case in nouns and pronouns. With pronouns he distinguishes 2 cases: *Nom* (I, we) and *objective* (me, us, them). In substances he names 2 cases: *Common* (~Nom & Obj in pronouns) and *genitive* (‘s)

no –case theory (Ильиш, Воронцова)

**Воронцова** does not recognize ‘s as a case morpheme for the following reasons

- the use of ‘s is optional. We can say *her brother’s book* and *the book of her brother*
- ‘s is used in sg. and pl.
- it occurs in very few plurals only those with irregular pl. formation (ox – oxen)
- ‘s does not make an inseparable part of the word. It may be placed at some distance from the head noun

Воронцова treats ‘s as a postposition and purely synthetic form of word resembling a preposition. The author denies the existence of cases in Modern English.

**Ильиш** says that ‘s is no longer a case inflection in classical sense of the word. ‘s is a kind of particle serving to convey the meaning of belonging.

- when the ‘s belong to a noun is still the Gen. ending, and when it is attached to a phrase it tends to become a synthetic element, a post position
- as the ‘s can belong to phrase it is no longer used as case inflection even when it belongs to a single noun
- the ‘s when belonging to a noun no longer expressed a case but a new grammatical cat. The cat. of possession. Both the forms can perform the same syntactic function (*My father was a happy man. My father’s was a happy life.*)

prepositional (Deutschbein, Sweet, Curme) and positional theories (Deutschbein, Whitehall, Bryant)

Once we admit prepositions or word order the number of cases is increased immediately.

In accordance with the **theory of positional cases**, the unchangeable forms of the noun are differentiated as different cases by the position they occupy in a sentence. Thus, the Eng. noun, on the analogy of classical Latin grammar, would distinguish, besides the inflectional genitive, also purely positional, non-inflectional cases: Nom, Voc, Dat and Acc.

**Bryant** 3 cases Nom, Gen (‘s) Acc in pronouns *me, him, us, her, them, whom*.

**Deutschbein** speaks of 4 cases (Nom, Gen, Dat, and Instrumental)

**Nesfield** 5 cases (i.e. + Vocative)

**Prepositional theory**

## 6. THE ADJECTIVE. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS. SUBSTANTIVASION AND ADJECTIVISATION

### The adjective

**The adj.** expresses the categorical semantics of property of a substance. The Engl. adj-s have neither number, no gender, no case distinctions. Adj-s are distinguished by a specific combinability with nouns, which they modify, with link-verbs, with adv-s. In the sentence the adj. performs the functions of an attribute and a predicative.

### Qualitative and relative adj-s

According to their meaning we differentiate qualitative and relative adj.

**qualitative adj-s** denote various qualities of substances which admit of a quantitative estimation. In this connection, the ability of an adj. to form degrees of comparison is usually taken as a formal sign of its qualitative character.

**relative adj-s** express such properties of substance as a determined by the direct relation of the substance to other substance (wooden)

Some grammarians speak about **quantitative** adj-s such as *few, little* (Жигадло, Иванова, Йорфик)

### Adj-s according to their stem-structure

- simple
- derived (stony, wealthy, childish)
- composite (blue-eyed, well-paid, over-crowded)

### Substantivation

In I-E languages adj-s can be substantivized, i.e. turned into nouns. Substantivated adj-s acquire typical morphological cat.-s of nouns and also their combinability.

Some words can be partial substantivized. Words like *poor, rich*. They have no case or number opposites **Smirnitsky** does not recognize partial substantivization and treats such cases as **the use of adj-s without a noun**.

**Лев Бархударов** calls substantivization conversion and singles out 4 groups

- 1) names of persons (Russian, Native, Foreign, English)
- 2) collective nouns denoting living beings (the old, the young)
- 3) abstract notions (the good)
- 4) collective nouns denoting objects (goods)

### Adjectivization of nouns

In ME a noun may stand before another noun and modify it. The question is whether the component of such case is an adj. There are diff-nt points of view

**H. Sweet** considers the 1<sup>st</sup> component a non

**Espersen** – an adj

**Shubin** – neither a noun, nor an adj.

**Smirnitsky** – an inflected noun stem. The 1<sup>st</sup> component in such phrases doesn't form degrees of comparison but that itself doesn't prove that the element is not an adj. since many adj-s do not form degrees of comparison. The criteria to be applied here are the following

- 1) Has the 1<sup>st</sup> element of those phrases number distinctions
- 2) does it have a possessive form
- 3) does it denote a substance or a property.

These questions are very hard to answer.

(*stone wall, stone walls, ~~stones wall~~; Einstein theory, Einstein's theory*)

## 7. THE CATEGORY OF DEGREES OF COMPARISON

### The degrees of comparison

*The cat. of degrees of comparison* is a system of oppositions showing quantitative distinctions of qualities.

We speak of 3 degrees of comparison

- 1) positive
- 2) comparative
- 3) superlative

(1) is not marked. (2)&(3) are build up either synthetically by affixation or supplitivity, or analytically. The positive degree doesn't convey the idea of comparison. It's meaning s absolute. The comparative and the superlative degree are both relative in meaning. Смирницкий, following Есперсон speak of 2 forms of comparison (positive and relative degree)

*Some grammarians* treat **more, most + adj** not as analytical forms but as free combinations of adv-s and adjs. after the analogy with **less, the least + adj** which are free word combinations.

### More and less Хаймович & Роговская

*Хаймович & Роговская* say that similarity is superficial (внешняя). They compare such forms as *nicer* and *more beautiful*.

- **more** and **-er** are identical in meaning, they express a higher degree
- their distribution is complementary, together they cover al adj-s having the degrees of comparison

This is not true with **less**

- **less** and **er** have diff-nt, even opposite meanings
- their distribution is non complementary. The same lexeme regularly attaches both **less** and **er**.
- **less** may be replace by **not so**

This proves that **more** is a grammatical word morpheme while **less** is not. **More** serves to build up an analytical form while the second is a complement in a free word combination.

### Ascending and descending scales (Воронцова)

Воронцова speaks about 2 types of degrees of comparison ascending and descending. She thinks that form with less and more are correlated forms.

### Adj-s with no degrees of comparison

Some adj-s do not form degrees of comparison

- 1) those expressing the highest degree themselves (*supreme, extra, excellent, absolute*)
- 2) adj-s wit suffix **ish** which indicates the degree of quality (tallish, childish)
- 3) those adj-s whose meaning is incompatible with the idea of comparison (dead; But 'you can't be deader than dad'; middle)



## THE MAIN TERMS

**Grammar** is a branch of linguistics which treats of the grammatical system. Gr. gives rules for modification of words and sentences in general. Gr: 1. Morphology – treats of the forms of the word and 2. Syntax – treats of sentences.

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**free morpheme** can be used as separate words

**bound morpheme** are never used as separate words)

**Contrastive distribution** identical environment different meaning (*returned – returning*)

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**Binary privative opposition** – based on a morphological different feature which is present in its strong marked member (worked) and is absent in its weak

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**Gradual opposition** (is not generally recognized) The gr. opposition is formed by a contrastive group of members which are distinguished not by the presence or absence of a feature but by the degree of it.

**Part of speech** is a lexico-grammatical cat., discriminated on the basis of the three criteria: semantic, formal and functional.

**Meaning** it is the meaning common to all the words of the given class, but not of a separate word

**Form** – morphological characteristics of a type of a word

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**The adj.** expresses the categorical semantics of property of a substance. The Engl. adj-s have neither number, no gender, no case distinctions. Adj-s are distinguished by a specific combinability with nouns, which they modify, with link-verbs, with adv-s. In the sentence the adj. performs the functions of an attribute and a predicative.

**qualitative adj-s** denote various qualities of substances which admit of a quantitative estimation.

**relative adj-s** express such properties of substance as determined by the direct relation of the substance to other substance (wooden)

**The cat. of degrees of comparison** is a system of oppositions showing quantitative distinctions of qualities.