

A Critical Study of Linguists' Views on Nominal Derivation in the Russian Language

(*) Assistant Lecturer: Zahraa Jasim Mohammed

Abstract

In this paper, the various theories developed by linguists to account for nominal derivation in the Russian language will be analyzed. Nominal derivation involves an analysis of word formation as it relates to morphology, vocabulary, and grammar in the Russian language. The discussion is based on the central difference between inflection and derivation, especially the way how the derivational processes create transitory classes of words and forms of expression, including diminutives and augmentatives. In addition, the paper makes comparisons in explanatory adequacy of the morpheme based as compared to stem-based models of lexical representation. The results show that Russian nominal derivation is a very organized, but very loose system, which does not adhere strictly to categorical demarcation, but has such phenomena as syncretism and productive suffixation (e.g., -ost', -tel', and -nik). Finally, the paper places the Russian nominal morphology into the context of the larger modern discussions, stating that the combination of formal structural analysis and semantic and functional flexibility would be necessary to come up with a comprehensive explanation of language structure and cognitive representation.

Key Words

Nominal derivation- Russian morphology-Word formation- Morpheme-based models

Zahraa.jasim@nahrainunvi.edu. qi

* Presidency of Al-Nahrain , Baghdad , Iraq

Критическое исследование взглядов лингвистов на деривацию существительных в русском языке

Ассистент преподавателя: Захра Джасим Мохаммед

Аннотация

В данной статье будут проанализированы различные теории, разработанные лингвистами для объяснения именованной деривации в русском языке. Именованная деривация предполагает анализ словообразования с точки зрения морфологии, лексики и грамматики русского языка. В основе данного обсуждения лежит основное различие между

флективными и деривационными процессами, в частности то, как деривационные процессы приводят к образованию временных классов слов и форм выражения, включая уменьшительные и увеличительные формы. Кроме того, в статье проводится сравнение по степени объяснительной адекватности морфематических и корневых моделей лексического представления.

Результаты показывают, что русская именная деривация представляет собой очень организованную, но в то же время весьма свободную систему, которая не придерживается строгого категориального разграничения, но имеет такие феномены, как синкретизм и продуктивная суффиксация (например, -ость, -тель-и -ник). В заключение в статье рассматривается место русской морфологии именованных слов в контексте более широких современных дискуссий, при этом отмечается, что для выработки всеобъемлющего объяснения языковой структуры и когнитивных представлений необходимо сочетание формально-структурного анализа с семантической и функциональной гибкостью.

Ключевые слова

Деривация именных слов — Русская морфология — Словообразование — Морфемо-основанные

1-Introduction

Nominal derivation is in the middle of linguistic theory, which is the point of intersection of morphology, lexical structure, and grammatical categorization. The interest of nominal derivation in Russian, partly because of the richness of the derivational system and partly because of the complex interplay of form, meaning, and the grammatical role taken. The analysis of these processes is based on morphology, which is the study of words based on their grammatical characteristics and laws of their formation (Bobanazrova & Nurmatov, 2022, p. 115). There is a basic difference between inflection and derivation, especially when it comes to the development of correlative forms that do not intoxicate the lexical meaning even after the affixes are included (ibid, p. 117). The morphology thus becomes the key to the structure of sentences in order to control the variations in the form of words in the name of communication, and the Russian nominal system is organized on the principles of objectiveness and categories used to identify the syntactic behavior of the noun gender, number, and case (ibid).

Some of the derivational patterns in Russian are high productive as well as have a definite semantic role. The most productive ones in constructing an abstract noun are nouns with the suffix *-ость* that unites the quality sense and the grammatical role of a noun as a separate speech category (Zhang Shuchun, 2020, p. 102). This trend is indicative of the way of encoding semantic data and at the same time it maintains morphosyntactic features, which is a typical example of an interdependence of meaning and form as applied to the nominal morphology of the Russian language.

The tradition of Russian nominal derivation is historically based on structural and descriptive traditions. The presupposition of the standard Russian Grammar-80 model is that there are ten parts of speech in pedagogical and linguistic descriptions that are based on the classification of parts of speech proposed by Vinogradov: significant words, functional words, modal words, and interjections (Bobanazrova and Nurmatov, 2022, p. 118). The main idea lies in syncretism, which indicates the transitional types of words combining grammatical and syntactic components of vari-

ous parts of speech, which depict the fluid and multifaceted character of derivational processes in Russian (ibid, p. 118). Word formation is also closely related to the process of adding morphemes as the minimal unit of meaning in the language, as it has been mentioned, word formation is closely related to the two levels of language. As the word formation process is related to the introduction of additional morphemes, it can be linked to morphology, to be more exact, to morphemes” (Bokhadirovna, 2021, p. 2376). The linguistic morphemes are the tiniest and indivisible units in the language, they possess the strictness of meaning needed to discuss suffix behavior, derivational opaqueness, and productivity (Bokhadirovna, 2021, p. 2377).

In Russian, derivation, particularly the use of diminutives and augmentatives, is expressive and serves as another example of a combination between form and meaning as it does not alter the word-class and morphosyntactic characteristics of the underlying word (Hippisley, 1996, p. 202). Network Morphology approaches, including hierarchy-based approaches to linguistic knowledge, where declension classes inherit properties of more general nominal categories, and research on suffix selection has shown that formal gender based on declensional class, and not semantic gender, controls the behaviour of hybrid nouns (ibid, pp. 208, 214, 217).

The contemporary theoretical approaches also focus on the argument of cognitive structuring of the mental lexicon and the controversy of morpheme-based and stem-based of lexical representation. The fact that Semitic languages contain evidence that roots and word-patterns are abstract cognitive units that are not dependent on anything relating to semantic or phonological considerations points to the fact that morphology is an independent level of linguistic representation (Boudelaa and Marslen-Wilson, 2015, p. 955). The method supports significant Russian views of distinguishing the formal structural properties of suffixes and the variable semantic interpretation that may be used to clarify the phenomenon of the lack of transparency, syncretism, and productivity of the derivational patterns in Russian nominal morphology (Boudelaa and Marslen-Wilson, 2015, p. 955).

It is on this backdrop that the current research would attempt to provide a critical review of the perceptions of linguists towards nominal derivation in Russian language. Through the examination of the theoretical stances of major positions, classification systems and methodological assumptions of the research questions, the study aims to explain how various linguistic traditions conceive the idea of derivation, and to assess their relevance in explaining derivation. Through this, it helps bring the Russian nominal morphology to a more subtle comprehension and places it in a wider context in the current realm of the morphological theory.

2-Methodology

This paper applies a qualitative and descriptive-analytical method to study the concept of nominal derivation in the Russia language to investigate the interaction between morphology, word structure and grammar in the word building process. It takes into account historical, regional and modern views, the difference between derivation and inflection, such complex phenomena as syncretism and forms of expression, and models of morphological units, such as morpheme-based and word-/stem-based. Through the synthesis of these viewpoints, the paper will assess the transformation of linguistic theory in addition to placing the Russian nominal morphology in the context of the current topics.

3-Analysis

Nominal derivation in the Russian language is an intricate relationship of the morphological structure, lexical meaning, and grammatical role. The main thing about this system is the separation of derivation and inflection. Whereas inflection alters the word to reflect the grammatical category (e.g. gender, number, case) of the word, e.g., стол (“table”) стола (genitive singular) столы (nominative plural): derivation creates new lexical items with different meanings or roles. Derivational processes tend to produce intermediate word categories, e.g. nouns which are derived out of adjectives (красота “beauty” ← красивый “beautiful”) and verbs (писатель “writer” ← писать “to write”). Such examples can be used to show how derivation does not only create new lexical units, but also confines the borders be-

tween more traditional parts of speech, showing the fluidity of the Russian word-making process.

Another main characteristic of Russian nominal derivation is that it is productive and expressive. Suffixation is essential for forming diminutives, augmentatives in addition to forms of expression. For example, the noun дом (i.e. house) can form diminutives such as доми́к (i.e. small house) and доми́чек (i.e. small house), in addition to augmentatives like домище (i.e. large or impressive house). Similarly, personal nouns exhibit expressive derivation: мальчик (i.e. boy) can yield мальчи́шка (i.e. little boy).

Derivational processes not only expand the vocabulary but also add subtle meanings, social connotations, and stylistic variations. However, some words can have multiple roles, which makes classification tricky. For instance, the noun рука can produce ручка, which can mean “small hand” (diminutive) and “pen.” This demonstrates that the derived words may bear multiple grammatical and semantic roles. This complexity avoids hard structural models. In addition, it requires approaches that are related to meaning and function.

Investigating morphemes can talk much about derivational patterns. The morpheme-based methods consider morphemes to be indivisible units of language that can be applied in understanding the functioning of suffixes. By way of illustration, the suffix -ник is used in the nouns such as ученик (student) and others to indicate the person who does something or he is related to something. In such a manner, -ник contributes to the formation of the meaning of derived nouns and emphasizes the part morphemes play in the formation of words.

Conversely, the stem- or word-based models focus on larger units: like stems or root templates, taking into consideration the patterns of lexical distribution and derivational paradigm productivity, such as the systematic production of nouns on the basis of verbs with the -тель suffix (строить “to build” → строитель “builder”).

However, these two methods are useful in their contribution to the problem of the study and do not exhaust the dynamic character of the interaction of

form and meaning in the Russian derivation. Putting these perspectives together will give a more accurate view of derivation at structural, semantic and functional levels.

Discussion

The analysis of Russian nominal derivation shows the complex connection among many things such as structure, meaning, and grammar. It is found that derivation cannot be explained in isolation of semantics. Therefore, derivation and lexical categories are created in the same time. These forms encode meaning as well as stylistic elements.

So, any form of the word formation should have something to do with form as well as meaning. Derivational suffixes are used for structure and expression. They contribute in forming new words and in adding meaning. This can be seen in diminutives дом – домик 'house-small house' and agentive nouns писать - писатель, 'to write – writer'. The study sheds light on the transitional and mixed forms, include the nouns which are formed from certain adjectives or verbs which are suitable for the traditional grammatical categories. Some words such as красота (beauty) and строитель (builder) show that derivation is able to create forms which are not suitable for the grammatical categories.

This reflects that there is a need for the availability of flexible models which are related to structure, meaning in addition to cognition, instead of strict classification.

The comparison between morpheme-based and stem- or word-based approaches shows the strengths and weaknesses of each type. Morpheme-based frameworks explain suffix behavior well, such as the consistent use of -ник to form relational or agentive nouns. Stem- or word-based approaches, on the other hand, show the nature of linguistic productivity and show how derivational strategies work.

As an illustration, the frequent use of -тель is used to form agentive nouns from verbs. These approaches offer a view on the structure and meaning of Russian nouns.

It can be said that the present paper puts the Russian nominal derivation in many debates related to the morphological theory. The trends in the Russian data can be used to illustrate the major concerns in word formation that can be attained in any language, including the presence of form-meaning-productivity interactions, the problem of syncretism, and the issue of cognitive representation of morphemes. The present paper shows that the Russian formation of nouns can produce a valuable test for the morphological models by descriptive, cognitive, and functional approaches.

Conclusion

It can be concluded that this paper provided introduction to nominal derivation in the Russian language. It also showed how words transform in one grammatical category to another through nominal derivation. Derivation is not confined to a single grammatical category, but rather it is a mixture of structural, lexical, and stylistic effects.

Thus, the discussion of the morpheme-based approach and that of the word-based approach reveals that a midway approach between the two approached and they can give a more comprehensive picture of the patterns of derivational morphology. In summary, the Russian nominal derivation has a high degree of form, meaning, and cognition. This interaction maps out the Russian morphology that can exist in modern grammar.

4-References

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دراسة نقدية لآراء اللغويين حول اشتقاق الاسماء في اللغة الروسية

م.م. زهراء جاسم محمد

جامعة النهرين

ملخص

في هذه الورقة، سيتم تحليل النظريات المختلفة التي طورها اللغويون لتفسير الاشتقاق الاسمي في اللغة الروسية. يتضمن الاشتقاق الاسمي تحليل تكوين الكلمات من حيث علاقته بالصرف والمفردات والقواعد النحوية في اللغة الروسية.

ويستند النقاش إلى الفرق الأساسي بين الانعكاس والاشتقاق، ولا سيما الطريقة التي تخلق بها عمليات الاشتقاق فئات مؤقتة من الكلمات وأشكال التعبير، بما في ذلك صيغ التصغير والتضخيم بالإضافة إلى ذلك، تجري هذه الورقة مقارنة بين مدى كفاية التفسير

في النماذج القائمة على المورفيمات مقارنةً بالنماذج القائمة على الجذور في تمثيل المفردات. وتُظهر النتائج أن الاشتقاق الاسمي في اللغة الروسية هو نظام منظم للغاية، ولكنه مرن للغاية في الوقت نفسه، ولا يلتزم بشكل صارم بالحدود الفئوية، بل يتضمن ظواهر مثل التوفيق بين المعاني واللواحق الإنتاجية (مثل 'ost- و 'tel- و 'nik-).

وأخيراً، تضع هذه الورقة البحثية علم الصرف الاسمي الروسي في سياق المناقشات الحديثة الأوسع نطاقاً، مشيرةً إلى أن الجمع بين التحليل الهيكلي الشكلي والمرونة الدلالية والوظيفية سيكون ضرورياً للتوصل إلى تفسير شامل لبنية اللغة والتمثيل المعرفي.

الكلمات المفتاحية

اشتقاق الاسماء - علم الصرف الروسي - تكوين الكلمات - النماذج القائمة على المورفيمات