



Nouns



Words come in categories



D: A grammatical **category** is a class of expressions which share a common set of grammatical properties (a.k.a. word class or part of speech).

Words come in categories



Open class categories:

Noun (N), Verb (V), Adjective (Adj), Adverb (Adv)

Closed class categories:

Pronouns (Pro), Adposition (P), Determiner (D), Complementizers (C), Auxiliaries (V_{aux}), Modals, Conjunctions (Conj), Particles (Part)

Lexical vs. functional categories



Lexical categories: "content" words

Noun (N), Verb (V), Adjective (Adj), Adverb (Adv)

Functional categories: grammatical info

Preposition (P), Determiner (D), Complementizers (C), Auxiliaries (V_{aux}), Modals, Conjunctions (Conj), Particles (Part)

Morphosyntactic criteria



What is the grammatical category of the following words?

categorize

nationalist

I logged onto Facebook.

I Facebooked the guy I met last night.

Affixes

✦ Affixes are category specific

English

a. V derivational suffixes

-ize/-ise *regularize*

b. V inflectional suffixes

-ed *danced*, -ing *dancing*, -en *eaten*

Affixes

✦ Affixes are category specific

Marshallese causative prefix *ka-*

a. I-ar ko.

I-past run.away

‘I ran away.’

b. I-ar ka-ko John.

I-past cause-run.away John

‘I caused John to run away.’

Affixes



Based on the previous examples, what is the category of the word *monono*?

- c. I-ar ka-monono-ik John.
I-past cause-be.happy-trans John
'I caused John to be happy.'

Modifiers



<u>category</u>	<u>modifier</u>	<u>example</u>
V	Adv	[_V stop] → stop suddenly (a way of stopping)
P	Intensifier	[_P in] the middle → right in the middle, smack in the middle
Adj	Degree	[_A sad] → very sad, too sad, more sad
Adv	Degree	[_{Adv} sadly] → very sadly, too sadly, more sadly

Identifying nouns



- ✦ Using syntactic distribution, affixes, and modifiers, come up with some criteria to identify nouns in English.

Practice

`Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe:
All mimsy were the borogoves,
And the mome raths outgrabe.



Conceptual categories likely to be expressed by nouns or noun phrases (NPs)

- ✦ Express number (singular, paucal, dual, trial, plural, collective)
- ✦ Express grammatical gender
- ✦ Diminutive/augmentative
- ✦ Express case
- ✦ Take descriptive modifiers (adjectives, relative clauses)
- ✦ Occur with articles and demonstratives
- ✦ Take possessive pronouns or agreement affixes
- ✦ Denominalization

Express number & gender

- ✦ What is number?
- ✦ What is the difference between semantic gender and grammatical gender?

het meisje dat/*die het boek leest.
the.NEUT girl that.NEUT/that.MASC the.NEUT book read.PRES
'the girl that reads the book'

Case



What is case?

Japanese

Asako-ga ronbun-o kai-ta.

Asako-NOM article-ACC wrote-PST

‘Asako wrote the article.’

Tanaka-san-ni agete kudasai.

Tanaka-Mr-DAT give please

‘Please give it to Mr. Tanaka.’

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Noun subclasses - possessability

➤ Possessable vs. unpossessable nouns

(12)	Non-possessable	Possessable
	enkóp ‘land’/‘dirt’	enkéráí ‘child’
	??enkóp áí ‘my land’	enkéráí áí ‘my child’

➤ Obligatorily possessed vs. optionally possessed

(13)	Optionally possessed	Obligatorily possessed
	kaya'-ku ‘my shirt’	puso-ku ‘my heart’
	kaya'-na ‘his/her shirt’	puso-na ‘his/her heart’
	kaya' ‘shirt’	*puso (never occurs alone)

Noun subclasses - possessability

➤ Alienably possessed vs. inalienably possessed

(14) Inalienable possession in Panare:

matá	‘shoulder’
mátan	‘my shoulder’
amatán	‘your shoulder’
yimatán	‘his/her shoulder’
Tomán mátan	‘Tom’s shoulder’

(15) Alienable possession in Panare:

wanë	‘honey’	
y-ú’ku-n	wanë	‘my honey’
1-CL.liquid-POS	honey	
ayu’kún	wanë	‘your honey’
yu’kún	wanë	‘his/her honey’
Toman yú’kun	wanë	‘Tom’s honey’

Nouns subclasses – Proper nouns



- Usually don't occur with determiners, modifiers, possessors, or relative clauses.

X-n-ril la Xwan.

Cmp-1sgB-3sgA-see det John

'John saw me.'

Proper names

Mt. Rushmore

?the Mt. Rushmore

?several Mt. Rushmores

?an outlandish Mt. Rushmore

?a Mt. Rushmore that has four
Presidents' faces carved in it

Common nouns

house

the house

several houses

an outlandish house

a house that has four

Presidents' faces carved in it

Nouns subclasses – Proper nouns

- Sometimes take special case markers

- (11) a. Gibalhin *sa* tawo *ang* kaabaw.
 moved ACT man PAT water.buffalo
 ‘The man moved the water buffalo.’
- b. Gibalhin *ni* Doro *ang* kaabaw.
 ACT.PN PAT
 ‘Doro moved the water buffalo.’
- c. Gibalhin *sa* tawo *si* Doro.
 ACT PAT.PN
 ‘The man moved Doro.’

Noun subclasses – mass nouns

➤ Count vs. mass nouns

property	count nouns	mass nouns
occur with plural morphology	Yes	No
occur with singular article	Yes	No
restrictions on quantifiers	Yes	Yes

(17)	Mass nouns	Count nouns
	sand	house
	?many sands	many houses
	much sand	?much house
	some sand	?some house
	?a sand	a house
	?some sands	some houses

Other concepts



- ✦ Head of a phrase (controls behavior of a phrase)
- ✦ Syntactic head (determines the syntactic properties of the phrase) vs. semantic head (determines the semantic properties of a phrase)