

Chapter Six : Morphology

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6.1 Morphology

□ The study of the morphemes of a language and of the way in which they are joined together to make words

بِنْيَة ؛ تَكْوِين ؛ شَكْل ؛ صُورَة ؛ صَرْف ؛ قَوَام ؛ مَبْنَى ؛ مُورْفُؤُلُوجِيَا ؛ هَيْئَة

□ The Study of the structure of words. Morphology is divided into two major fields :

- 1) Inflectional morphology
- 2) Derivational morphology

6.2 Word Classes

6.2.1 English Word Class

English has two categories of word classes: open and closed

- a) Open word class include: nouns, full verbs, adjectives and adverbs.
- b) Closed word class include: pronouns, determiners, prepositions and conjunctions.

The main difference between open and closed word classes is that the open word classes are extendable and have large membership, while the closed word classes are finite in number.

6.2.2 Arabic Word Classes

Arab Grammarians describes Arabic as having three word classes: **noun** الاسم, **verb** الفعل, and **particle** الحرف.

- a) The **noun** الاسم word class has a number of subclasses: adjectives, numeral, demonstratives, relative and interrogative pronouns, participles and verbal nouns.

The nouns are inflected for number, case, gender and definiteness.

b) Verbs are inflected for person, number, gender, tense, mood and voice.

c) Particles **الاحرف** are uninflected and have a number of subclasses: adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, interrogative, interjections, etc.

Contrast

Some English words may belong to more than one word class, whereas each Arabic word belongs to one class only.

6.3 Inflectional Morphology

Inflection plays a major role in English, which has only **eight inflectional suffixes**, which are added to word stems.

They have two characteristics:

- 1) They never change the grammatical category of the word, for example the word “boy” and “boys” are both nouns.
- 2) They always come at the end of the word.

1)Plural	Noun	-s	<i>boys</i>
2)possessive	Noun	-’s	<i>boy’s</i>
3)Comparative	Adj	-er	<i>older</i>
4)Superlative	Adj	-est	<i>quickest</i>
5)present	Verb	-s	<i>walks</i>
6)past	Verb	-ed	<i>walked</i>
7)past participle	Verb	-en	<i>driven</i>
8)present participle	Verb	-ing	<i>driving</i>

❑ Arabic is highly inflectional language

❑ Nouns, Pronouns and Adjectives
are inflected for

❑ Number

❑ Gender

❑ Case

❑ Verbs are inflected for

❑ Mood

❑ Person

❑ Number

❑ Gender

❑ Tense

❑ Voice

WHAT ARE NOUNS?

- ❑ Nouns are naming words.
- ❑ They name people, places and objects.
- ❑ They can also name ideas, emotions, qualities and activities.
- ❑ Here are some examples of nouns:
- ❑ Peter, Elizabeth, driver, sister, friend.
- ❑ Bristol, Severn, Brazil, pen, dog, money.
- ❑ Love, beauty, industry, nature, greed, pain.

Nouns الأسماء

Nouns are words we use to name:

الأسماء هي الكلمات التي نستخدمها لذكر:

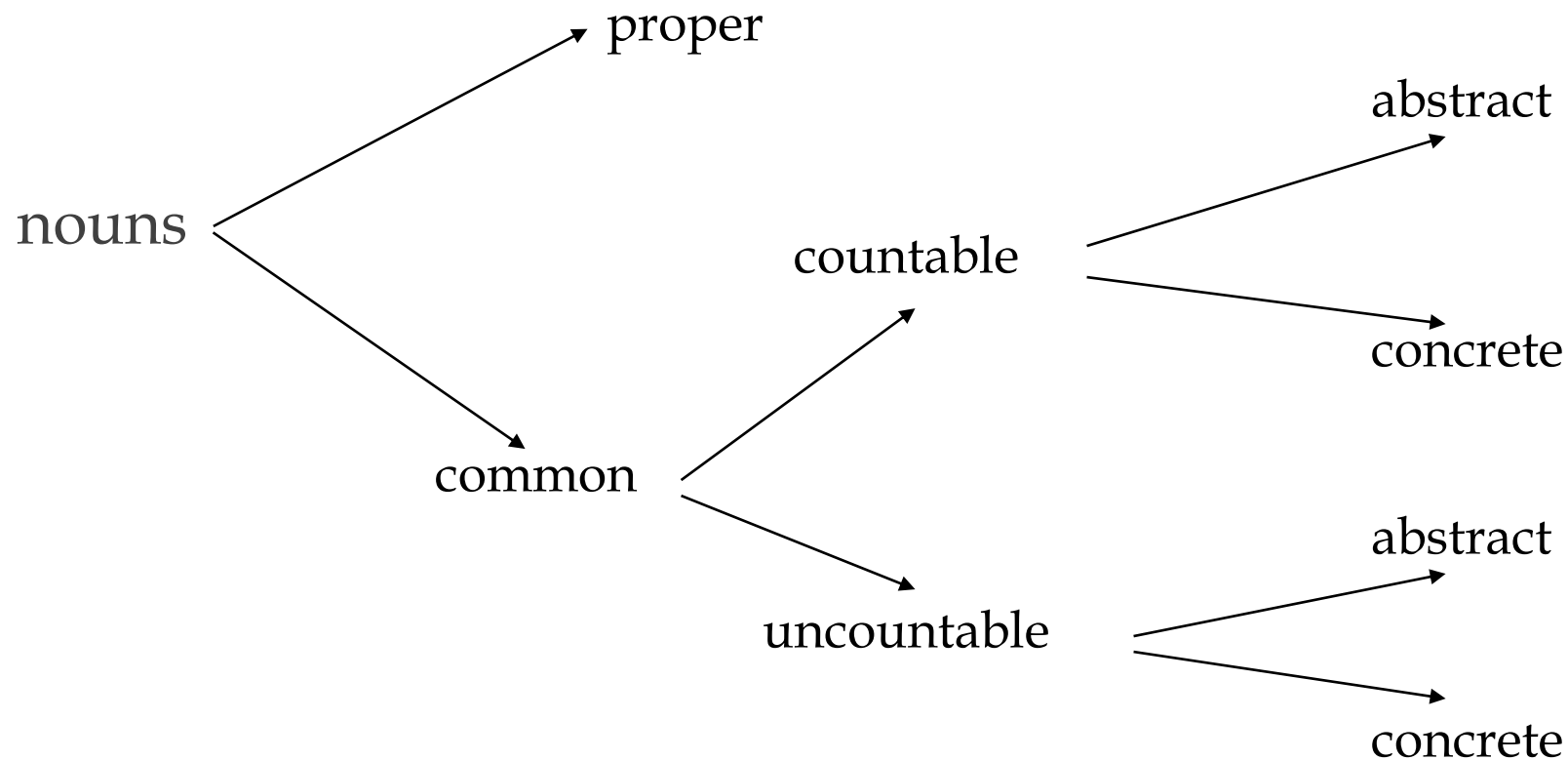
اسم ، علم ، شخص ، شيء ، مكان ، أفكار ، شعور .

أشخاص	People	man, father, teacher, neighbor, ...
أشياء	Things	book, table, sugar, fruit, ...
أماكن	Places	school, street, city, house,
أفكار	Ideas	freedom, honesty, truth,
شعور	Feelings	happiness, anger, boredom, joy,

Types of noun

- All nouns can be divided into *common* and *proper* nouns.
- Common nouns can then be divided into *countable* and *uncountable* nouns.
- Both countable and uncountable nouns can then be further divided into *concrete* and *abstract* nouns.
- We'll look at each type in turn.

First, look again at those types and how they relate.



Proper nouns

- Proper nouns start with capital letters.
- They are the names of people, places, times, organisations etc.
- They refer to unique individuals.
- Most are not found in the dictionary.
- They often occur in pairs or groups.
- Here are some examples.

Tony Blair

The Jam

Oxfam

Coronation Street

Carly

Christmas

Keynsham

John

President Bush

Sony

China

Coca Cola

Bridget Jones

Portugal

The Ford Motor Company

Macbeth

King Henry

Common nouns

- All nouns which are not proper nouns are common nouns.
- A few examples: cup, art, paper, work, frog, bicycle, atom, family, mind.
- Common nouns are either *countable* or *uncountable*.

Countable nouns

- Use these tests for countable nouns:
- Countable (or just "count") nouns can be made plural: a tree... two trees; a man... men; a pony... ponies.
- In the singular, they may have the determiner a or an: a sausage; an asterisk.
- We ask: *How many words/pages/chairs?*
- We say: *A few minutes/friends/chips?*

Uncountable nouns

- Use these tests for uncountable nouns:
- Uncountable (or non-count) nouns cannot be made plural. We cannot say: *two funs*, or *five furnitures*.
- We never use *a* or *an* with them.
- We ask: *How much money/time/milk?* (Not *How many?*)
- We say: *A little help/effort.* (Not *A few.*)

- ❑ Remember that both countable and uncountable nouns can be divided into concrete and abstract nouns.
- ❑ The distinction between concrete and abstract nouns is the most important one of all when you are analysing linguistic data. A lot of abstract nouns in a text will have a big impact on its register.
- ❑ The *Plain English Campaign* has an excellent website which will tell you more about the stylistic impact of abstract nouns.

Concrete nouns

- ❑ Concrete nouns are the words that most people think of as nouns.
- ❑ They are mostly the names of objects and animals (countable) and substances or materials (uncountable).
- ❑ *Cake, oxygen, iron, boy, dog, pen, glass, pomegranate, earthworm and door* are all concrete nouns.

Abstract nouns

- ❑ Abstract nouns name ideas, feelings and qualities.
- ❑ Most, though not all, are uncountable.
- ❑ Many are derived from adjectives and verbs and have characteristic endings such as *-ity*, *-ness*, *-ence*, and *-tion*.
- ❑ They are harder to recognise as nouns than the concrete variety.

Abstract noun or adjective

- ❑ You won't confuse abstract nouns with adjectives, as long as you apply a few tests.
- ❑ *Happy* is an adjective. It behaves like one: very happy; so happy; happier; as happy as
- ❑ *Happiness* behaves like a noun: The happiness I feel; her happiness; great happiness.

The morphology of nouns

- Nouns change their form for only two grammatical reasons:
 1. Countable nouns have a plural form. This is usually formed by adding *-s*, of course, but there are some irregular forms.
 2. The possessive form of a noun is created by adding *-’s* (*Henry’s cat*) or just an apostrophe (*all our students’ results*).

Irregular plurals

- ❑ Some nouns retain plural endings from Old English:

Men, geese, mice, oxen, feet, teeth, knives.

- ❑ Loan words from Latin, Greek, French and Italian sometimes keep their native ending:

Media, bacteria, formulae, larvae, criteria, phenomena, gateaux.

Noun phrase - Determiners

The young girl who lives next door

IF THE CENTRAL WORD - OR HEAD- OF A PHRASE IS A NOUN, THEN WE CALL IT A NOUN PHRASE.

Determiners introduce noun phrases and come before any PREMODIFIERS.

- Definite and indefinite articles
- Possessive pronouns
- Demonstrative pronouns
- Numerals
- Quantifiers (each, every, all, both, some, many, more, most)

Noun phrase - Premodifiers

The young girl who lives next door

They occur before the noun and after any determiners.
In a noun phrase the premodifier is typically an adjective.

Young girls, a young girl, some young girl;

Premodifiers can co-occur (more than one adj.):

Lovely young girls; a mature young girl; some intelligent young girls.

Other words can function as premodifiers in a noun phrase:

Nouns: bathroom door; our history professor

Genitive: the teacher's office; our child's games

Noun phrase - Postmodifiers

Prepositional phrases usually occur after a noun, generally introduced by *of*:
A box of chocolate, a piece of mind, a biography of Hitler
The Tower of London.

Other prepositions: The cottage on the beach, the museum in New York, the road to Calcutta, a room with a shower, people without cell phone...

Postmodifiers of noun phrases can also be:

- Relative clauses
- To-clauses

Co-occurring postmodifiers:

A room [for two] [in a bed & breakfast];
The shop [in via Roma] [that sells shoes];
The phone [you borrowed] [from my mother.]

The function of noun phrases

1. SUBJECT: Four men got killed
2. SUBJECT COMPLEMENT: Grace is my niece
She seems a young girl
3. DIRECT OBJECT: He bought a new car
4. INDIRECT OBJECT: She told her husband the truth
5. OBJECT COMPLEMENT: She called him an idiot
6. ADJUNCT OR ADVERBIAL:
One day you'll know what to do; She's going to China next month.

The short beautiful young girl in the corner

Pre-modifier

Head

Post-modifier