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## **ISOMORPHIC AND ALLOMORPHIC GRAMMATICAL CATEGORIES OF THE ENGLISH AND UKRAINIAN NOUNS**

The parts of speech problem has been in the focus of linguistic researches for more than 2,000 years (Aristotle, Kunin, Lomonosov, Peshkovskiy, Vostokov, etc.). Moreover, it still evokes a lot of debates as for their number and lexico-grammatical characteristics in different languages (Chernovatyi, Horodenska, Horpynych, Kaushanskaya, Plusch, Zahnitko, etc.). However, the Noun as a part of speech has never been missed from the list irrespective of various grammatical categories outlined for it by versatile grammatical schools. It is worth stressing the fact that being aware of isomorphism and allomorphy among parts of speech (the Noun in English and Ukrainian inclusive) in different languages facilitates mastering foreign languages, practical translation, and intercultural communication, which makes this paper *topical*.

*The aim* of this work lies in comparing and contrasting the grammatical categories of the Noun in English and Ukrainian.

The grammatical category as a general notion can be perceived by language speakers in case of its material-sound expression availability (Левицкий&Славова, 2007: 83). It means that there must be some grammatical features realized in word-forms. Typically, they are inflections (that build oppositional forms), with the help of which it is possible to relate the referents or make conceptual correlation.

It is only logical that most grammatical categories of the Noun in English and Ukrainian are allomorphic because of higher analyticity of the first one and higher syntheticity of the latter.

The only isomorphic category is that of **number**. Nouns in both languages as a rule have the forms of singular and plural (e.g.: *a book – books, a box – boxes*;

*книга – книги, коробка – коробки*). Though it is quite often that nouns may have the only form of singular, i.e. *singularia tantum* (e.g.: *money, Physics; волосся, багаття*) or of plural, i.e. *pluralia tantum* (e.g.: *clothes, scissors; гроші, ножиці*).

The next grammatical category that is always discussed is that of **gender**. To describe it, we need to mention first the lexico-semantic category of animateness / inanimateness, as in English gender can be defined only for animate nouns. In Ukrainian the grammatical category of gender mostly depends upon the declension of the Noun (namely the inflection) and is conditional for inanimate nouns. There are four genders in Ukrainian: male (*стїл*), female (*книга*), neuter (*море*), and common (*сирота, нероба*). In English it completely correlates with the sex of the animate nouns. Besides, it is important to note that there exist different terms to denote the genders for human (people) and non-human (animals, birds) nouns, e.g.: feminine (*a girl*) – female (*a ewe*), masculine (*a boy*) – male (*a ram*), neutral (*a baby*) – neuter (*a lamb*), dual (*a teacher*) – common (*sheep*) (Каушанская, 2018; Леміш, 2012).

The third grammatical category of the Noun marked in both languages under study is that of **case**. It has even more differences than the previous category of gender. There are 7 cases the Ukrainian nouns can form, but only 2 the animate and some of inanimate nouns in English can do. In Ukrainian these are Nominative (*сестра*), Genitive (*сестри*), Dative (*сестрі*), Accusative (*сестру*), Instrumental (*сестрою*), Locative (*сестру*), and Vocative (*сестро*) (Плющ, 2010). Inflections in the cases depend on the declensions of the nouns. Two cases in English are Nominative (*Mary, parents, today*) and Possessive / Genitive (*Mary's, parents', today's*) (Корунець, 2004). As soon as the latter not always means possession, it is called by some scholars the *Genitive* case, which only makes differentiation between the noun forms in English and Ukrainian more difficult.

Comparing and contrasting the grammatical categories of nouns it is also necessary to mention the categories of determination and collectivity, which are implicit in both languages (not marked in the form of the noun, as a rule), though can be marked by some adjuncts (articles, pronouns, adjectives).

**Conclusions.** A short outline of the grammatical categories of the nouns in English and Ukrainian shows that the highest degree of isomorphism belongs to that of number (most nouns in both languages have singular and plural forms marked). Allomorphic are the categories of case and gender, though they demonstrate separate isomorphic features for animate human nouns (the number of genders inclusive). The categories of animateness / inanimateness and collectivity are not marked grammatically being of lexico-semantic nature. The category of declension is typical of Ukrainian nouns, when the category of determination can be defined for the English nouns (by the availability of the Article). Lexico-semantic categories of the nouns in their contrast can make the *prospects* for further study.

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