

Theoretical Background of Proper Nouns and Their Classification in Both English and Uzbek

Khurramova Feruza

Master's degree student,
Jizzakh state pedagogical university

Prof. Obruyeva Gulchekhra

Scientific supervisor:

Abstract. The Proper Nouns originated from people's lifestyle, customs, traditions, prose and poetry, mythology, fairy stories, fables, songs, novels and other sources. It should be emphasized that although Proper Nouns are commonly used in speech and writing very often, some of them, for example, comprising people's names, names of ethnicities, cities or countries may be perceived as offensive stereotypes, and should be avoided. All this makes the theme of research actual and important among the problems of modern linguistics. It is not less significant than learning grammar, lexis and pronunciation. By knowing them we can differentiate positive and negative sides of humanity. From this point of view, this article deals with the issues of theoretical background of Proper nouns and their classification in both Uzbek and English.

Keywords: Proper name, Proper noun, linguistics, common noun, onomastics or onomatology, pragmatics, grammar.

Introduction. The investigation of lingua-cognitive features of Proper Nouns is one of the insufficiently explored fields of the modern linguistic study. Undeniable, that this research involves four branches of linguistics, at first sight cognitive linguistics, the study of translation, the syntax and the semantics at the fourth.

When to investigate on Proper nouns, first, we should give proper definition of what it is actually. There are lots of sources on which we had to work deliberately to find out better results and outcomes for our research. In this article we look at some points of several definitions given to Proper Nouns and we analyze their classification.

Materials and methods. The following methods of inquiry were used in investigation:

- descriptive method (to describe main points of the work),
- comparative analysis,
- componential analysis (to take component: words out of the whole Proper Noun and analyze it),
- cognitive –conceptual analysis (to investigate associations, background knowledge in proper names),
- lingual-cultural analysis (to find out interesting cultural events which deal with proper names),
- critical analysis of the literature on the problem of investigation (to analyze scientific issues dedicated to the theme of investigation).

Results. Nouns are divided into two large groups: one of which is called Common nouns and the other is Proper nouns. In this chapter we share our results of the latter. In the first source which identifies Proper Nouns one can witness that Proper noun is a noun that identifies a single entity and is used to refer to that entity, such as *America, Mars, Syrdarya, Samarkand* as distinguished from a common noun, which is a noun that refers to a class of entities like *city, planet, person, corporation* and may be used when referring to instances of a specific class for example: a *city*, another *planet*, these *persons*, our *corporation* [4; p. 45]. Some proper nouns occur in plural form, and then they refer to *groups* of entities considered as unique for some examples are: the *Akmalovs*, the *Mayas*, the *Azores*, the *Afro-Americans*. Proper nouns can also occur in secondary applications, for example nouns which function as modifying words like in the following examples: the *Mozart* experience; his *Azores* adventure, or in the role of common nouns for example: he's no *Pavarotti*; a few would-be *Temurs*.

The full and proper definition of the term is still controversial problem and, to an extent, governed by convention [2; p. 787].

There are two notions which can sometimes be a confusion to a language learner or a researcher. They are called Proper nouns and Proper names. A distinction between those two is normally made in current linguistics between *proper nouns* and *proper names*. By this strict distinction, because the term *noun* is used for a class of single words like *flower*, *friendship*, only single-word proper names are proper nouns: *Malika* and *America* are both proper names and proper nouns; but *Temur the Great* and *South America*, while they are proper names, are not proper nouns although they can function as proper noun phrases. The term *common name* is not so much used to contrast with *proper name*, but some scholars on linguistic field have used this term for that purpose. Sometimes proper names are called simply *names*, but that term is most of the times used more widely. In some resources we looked through, words derived from proper names are sometimes called *proper adjectives* or *proper adverbs*, and so on according to what they are identifying in the sentence. Not every noun or a noun phrase that refers to a unique entity is a proper name. *Chastity*, for instance, is a common noun, even if chastity is considered a unique abstract entity.

Some of the proper names have one possible usage: there are many places named *New Haven*; *Jupiter* may refer to a planet, a god, a ship, a city in Uzbekistan, or a symphony; at least one person has been named *Malika*, but a horse has been too, the name of a song, and names of several films; there are towns and people named *Toyota*, as well as the company. In English, proper names in their initial usage cannot normally be defined by articles or another determiner, although some may be taken to include the article *the*, as in *the Caucasus*, *the Roaring Forties*, or *the Rolling Stones*. A proper name might have a descriptive meaning, even though it does not for example: in the examples given in internet sources, the Rolling Stones are not stones and do not roll; a woman named *Malika* is not a princess. Probably, it had once been, it may no longer be so, for example, a location previously referred to as "the old town" (*eski shahar*) may now have the proper name, *Oldtown*, though it is no longer old, and is now a city rather than a town.

In English and many other languages, proper names and words derived from them are easily identified with capitalization. The study of proper names is sometimes called *onomastics* or *onomatology*, while a rigorous analysis of the semantics of proper names is a matter for philosophy of language.

Discussions. Today, linguistics makes a distinction between *proper nouns* and *proper names* but this distinction is not universally observed [2; p. 788] and sometimes it is observed but not rigorously. When the differentiation is made, proper nouns are lack of single words only possibly with *the*, while proper names include all proper nouns in their primary applications as well as noun phrases such as *the United States*, *North Korea*, and *the White House*. Proper names can have a common noun or a proper noun as their head; *the United States*, for example, is a proper name with the common noun *States* as its head, and *North Korea* is headed by the proper noun *Korea*. Especially titles of some works, but also as nicknames and the like, some proper names contain no noun and are not formed as noun phrases [1].

Proper names are also referred as *naming expressions* [3; p. 20]. Sometimes they are called simply *names*; but that term is also used more broadly (as in "*chair* is the name for something we sit on"); the latter type of name is called a *common name* to distinguish it from a *proper name* [5; p. 71].

Common nouns are often used as components of proper nouns. Some examples are *agency*, *boulevard*, *city*, *day*, and *edition*. In such cases the common noun may determine the kind of entity, and a modifier determines the unique entity itself. For example:

1. The 16th robotic probe to land on the planet was assigned to study the north pole, and the 17th probe the south pole (common-noun senses in the whole sentence where all of the nouns are common).
2. When *Probe 17* overflowed the *South Pole*, it passed directly over the place where Captain Scott's expedition ended (in this sentence, *Probe 17* is the proper name of a vessel, and *South Pole* is a proper name referring to Earth's south pole)
3. Sanjar lives on the beach road (the noun the road is a common noun that runs along the beach)
4. Sanjar lives on Beach Road (as a proper name, Beach Road may have no association with the beach; it may be any distance from the water)
5. My university has a school of medicine. (no indication of the name of the university or its pedagogical school)

6. The Tashkent state university of Pedagogy is located in the capital of Uzbekistan.

Proper nouns are distinguished by common nouns grammatically in English. They may take titles, such as *Mr Davlatov* or *Senator Davlatov*. Otherwise, they normally only take modifiers that add emotive, stylistics or literary coloring, such as *old Mrs Brown*, *poor Nizom*, or *historic Samarkand*; in a formal style, this may include *the*, as in *the red-headed Farrukh which differs from the other boys named Farrukh by the color of his hair*, here article *the* functions as the attributive. Such proper nouns take *the* in the manner of common nouns in order to establish the context in which they are unique: *the young Mr White* (not the old one), *the Dr House I watched on TV*; or as proper nouns to define an aspect of the referent: *the young Einstein* (Einstein when he was young). The indefinite article *a* may also be used before Proper nouns to show a new referent: *the column was written by a* or *one Mary Price*. Proper names based on noun phrases differ grammatically from common noun phrases. They are fixed expressions, and cannot be modified internally: *beautiful King's College* is acceptable, but not *King's famous College*.

With proper nouns or with proper names more generally: they may only be unique in the particular context. For instance, Uzbekistan has a ministry of home affairs—a common-noun phrase called the Ministry of Home Affairs, its proper name. Within the context of Uzbekistan, this identifies a unique organization. However, other countries may also have ministries of home affairs called “the Ministry of Home Affairs”, but each refers to a unique object, so each one is considered to be a proper name. Similarly, “Beach Road” we discussed above is a unique road, though other towns may have their own roads named “Beach Road” as well. This is simply a matter of the pragmatics of naming, and of whether a naming convention provides identifiers that are unique; and this depends on the scope given by context.

Conclusion. We can summarize that Proper noun is a noun that identifies a single entity and is used to refer to that entity while proper names have one possible referent. A distinction is normally made in current linguistics between proper nouns and proper names. In English and many other languages, proper names and words derived from them are associated with capitalization; but the details are complex, and vary from some languages to some languages.

The study of proper names is sometimes called *onomastics* or *onomatology*, while a rigorous analysis of the semantics of proper names is a matter for philosophy of language.

According to the categories of Proper Nouns linguists divided them into five families, based on the nature of the referent: anthroponyms are prototypically the names of specific human beings or animals; toponyms are the names of places whether natural or human-made; phenonyms are the names of natural phenomena; ergonyms are the names of material human-made creations or inventions; and praxonyms are the names of non-material creations or discoveries. The present categorization was based on this classification but with terminological and categorial changes.

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