



THE USE OF NOMINATIVE WORD COMBINATIONS IN ENGLISH (IN THE SEMANTIC-STRUCTURAL ASPECT)

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Abstract: This article examines nominative word combinations in the English language from a semantic-structural perspective. Nominative word combinations are analyzed as syntactic units that function to name objects, phenomena, actions, and qualities in reality. The study focuses on their structural patterns, semantic relations between components, and their role in communication. Special attention is given to the interaction between form and meaning, as well as to the distinction between free and stable nominative combinations. The research contributes to a deeper understanding of how meaning is constructed and expressed through word combinations in English.

Key words: nominative word combinations, semantics, structure, syntactic relations, English grammar, word combination.

In modern linguistics, the study of word combinations occupies an important place, as they represent an intermediate level between words and sentences. Among various types of word combinations, nominative word combinations play a significant role in naming objects, processes, and qualities of the surrounding world. Unlike sentences, which perform a communicative function, nominative word combinations primarily fulfill a naming (nominative) function. The relevance of this topic lies in the need to analyze not only the grammatical structure of such



combinations but also their semantic organization. A semantic-structural approach allows linguists to explore how meaning arises from the interaction of components within a word combination and how these combinations reflect objective reality. Purpose of this article is to analyze nominative word combinations in English from the semantic-structural point of view, identifying their main features, structural types, and semantic relations. A word combination is traditionally defined as a syntactic unit consisting of two or more notional words that are grammatically connected but do not form a complete predicative structure. Nominative word combinations are distinguished by their ability to name a single concept through a combination of lexical meanings.

According to linguistic theory, nominative combinations differ from predicative constructions in that they do not express tense, modality, or predication. For example, combinations such as a beautiful garden, to solve a problem, or high academic achievement serve as names rather than statements. From a semantic point of view, nominative word combinations represent a complex unity in which the general meaning is not a simple sum of individual word meanings but a result of their interaction.

Nominative word combinations in English are structurally based on head–modifier relations, where one element serves as the central component and the other element or elements function as dependents. The head word determines the grammatical and semantic properties of the whole combination, while dependent components, specify, or limit its meaning. This structural principle ensures grammatical cohesion and allows the combination to function as a single nominative unit.

Such combinations may be formed with different parts of speech, including nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. Substantive combinations typically consist of a noun as the head with adjectival or nominal modifiers, which describe qualities,



classifications, or relations. Verbal combinations are centered around a verb and include objects or prepositional complements that complete the meaning of the action. Adjectival combinations often involve adjectives followed by prepositional phrases that clarify emotional, evaluative, or relational meanings, while adverbial combinations intensify or modify actions and qualities. The structural organization of nominative word combinations directly influences the distribution of semantic roles within the construction and determines how meaning is interpreted.

The semantic nature of nominative word combinations is defined by the relationships between their components, which reflect real-world connections between objects, actions, and qualities. These semantic relations arise from the interaction of lexical meanings and grammatical structure and form a unified conceptual whole rather than a mechanical sum of individual meanings. In many cases, one component of the combination specifies a characteristic or quality of another, creating an attributive relationship. In verbal constructions, the dependent element frequently represents the object toward which an action is directed, forming an objective relation. Other combinations express circumstantial meanings, where the dependent component denotes conditions such as time, place, manner, or cause. Possessive relations are also common and indicate ownership, affiliation, or association between entities. In English, these semantic relations are closely connected with fixed word order and grammatical forms, which play a crucial role in maintaining clarity and precision of meaning.

From a semantic-structural perspective, nominative word combinations can be classified as free or stable. Free combinations are characterized by structural flexibility and semantic transparency, allowing the substitution of components without significant changes in meaning or grammatical organization. Their meaning is easily derived from the meanings of individual words. Stable nominative combinations, on the other hand, demonstrate limited variability and function as



integral semantic units. They are frequently used in scientific, academic, and professional discourse, where they serve as terminological expressions with fixed meanings. Such combinations contribute to precision, consistency, and conceptual clarity and often become standardized within particular fields of knowledge.

Despite the fact that nominative word combinations do not express complete predicative meaning, they play a fundamental role in communication. They serve as essential building blocks of sentences, enabling speakers to structure and categorize reality efficiently. Through these combinations, complex ideas can be conveyed concisely and accurately. In academic and formal styles, nominative word combinations contribute to objectivity, logical organization, and informational density. In literary discourse, they may acquire expressive or stylistic significance, enhancing imagery and emotional depth. Thus, nominative word combinations represent a vital element of language structure and usage, linking grammatical form with semantic content.

The semantic-structural analysis of nominative word combinations in English demonstrates that these units are complex linguistic formations combining grammatical structure and semantic content. Their nominative function allows speakers to name and categorize elements of reality efficiently. Structural patterns determine grammatical relations, while semantic relations reveal the conceptual connections between components. Understanding nominative word combinations is essential for mastering English grammar, improving stylistic competence, and conducting linguistic analysis. Further research may focus on their stylistic variation and comparative analysis across languages.

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