

LINGUISTICS

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The category of number of deverbal nouns in modern English

An attempt of consideration of abstract names in English from the point of view of the theory of number is made in this article. Abstract nouns are traditionally considered as nouns incapable to create numerical couples. The authors of the article observe these nouns functioning in language and define numerical behavior of this category of nouns from the point of view of various theories of number. The analysis of English language base data CELEX and LSC has revealed a direct connection between lexical base of language and category of number. The nouns making category singularia tantum were analyzed. Detailed results of the analysis are given in article as well as functioning of abstract nouns on definite examples from modern English is shown.

Key words: abstract nouns, countability, semiabstract, theory of number, non-countability.

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