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THE USE OF NOMINATIVE SENTENCES IN COLLOQUIAL STYLE

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Abstract: This article examines the use of nominative sentences in colloquial style from functional, semantic, stylistic, and pragmatic perspectives. Nominative sentences are considered as one-member constructions whose principal component is typically a noun phrase and which present an object, person, place, phenomenon, or situation without an explicitly expressed predicative verb. Particular attention is paid to their role in spontaneous oral communication, where brevity, expressiveness, context-dependence, and interactional immediacy are especially important. The study demonstrates that nominative sentences in colloquial discourse may perform descriptive, identificational, evaluative, emotive, presentational, and attention-directing functions. Their interpretation is often determined by the communicative situation, intonation, preceding and following utterances, and shared knowledge of interlocutors. The article also discusses the stylistic difference between neutral nominal constructions and deliberately expressive nominative sentences. The findings indicate that nominative sentences contribute substantially to the economy and expressiveness of colloquial speech and function as an effective means of representing fragmented perception and immediate communicative reactions.

Keywords: nominative sentence, one-member sentence, colloquial style, spoken discourse, pragmatics, expressiveness, syntax, communication.

Аннотация: В статье рассматривается употребление назывных предложений в разговорном стиле с функциональной, семантической, стилистической и прагматической точек зрения. Назывные предложения анализируются как односоставные конструкции, основным компонентом которых обычно является именная группа, представляющая предмет, лицо, место, явление или ситуацию без явно выраженного сказуемого-глагола. Особое внимание уделяется их функционированию в спонтанной устной коммуникации, где важными являются краткость, экспрессивность, контекстуальная зависимость и непосредственность взаимодействия. Установлено, что назывные предложения в разговорном дискурсе могут выполнять описательную, идентификационную, оценочную, эмоциональную, презентативную и акцентирующую функции. Их значение во многом определяется коммуникативной ситуацией, интонацией, предшествующими и последующими высказываниями, а также общими знаниями собеседников. Показано, что назывные конструкции являются важным средством экономии и экспрессивности разговорной речи.

Ключевые слова: назывное предложение, односоставное предложение, разговорный стиль, устный дискурс, прагматика, экспрессивность, синтаксис, коммуникация.

Annotatsiya: Mazkur maqolada atov gaplarning so‘zlashuv uslubida qo‘llanilishi funksional, semantik, stilistik va pragmatik jihatlardan tadqiq etiladi. Atov gaplar, odatda, bosh bo‘lagi ot yoki otlashgan birlikdan iborat bo‘lgan, shaxs, predmet, joy, hodisa yoki vaziyatni fe’l-kesimsiz ifodalovchi bir tarkibli konstruksiyalar sifatida talqin qilinadi. Tadqiqotda ularning spontan og‘zaki muloqotdagi o‘rni, xususan, ixchamlik, ekspressivlik, kontekstga bog‘liqlik va

kommunikativ tezkorlik kabi xususiyatlari yoritiladi. Tahlil natijasida atov gaplar so‘zlashuv diskursida tasviriy, identifikatsion, baholovchi, emotiv, taqdimiy hamda diqqatni jalb qiluvchi funksiyalarni bajarishi aniqlandi. Bunday gaplarning mazmuni ko‘pincha kommunikativ vaziyat, ohang, oldingi va keyingi nutq birliklari hamda suhbatdoshlar uchun umumiy bo‘lgan bilim va tajriba asosida belgilanadi. Atov gaplar so‘zlashuv nutqining ixchamligi va ta’sirchanligini ta’minlovchi muhim sintaktik vosita sifatida namoyon bo‘ladi.

Kalit so‘zlar: atov gap, bir tarkibli gap, so‘zlashuv uslubi, og‘zaki diskurs, pragmatika, ekspressivlik, sintaksis, kommunikatsiya.

Introduction

The study of sentence structure is one of the central problems of modern syntax because syntactic constructions are closely connected with the organization of meaning and the realization of communicative intentions. Among the constructions that attract particular attention are nominative sentences, which represent a situation through nomination rather than through an overt verbal predicate. Such constructions are especially significant in colloquial communication because spontaneous speech tends to favor economical, context-dependent, and expressive forms.

In linguistic literature, nominative sentences are generally described as one-member sentences whose principal component names an object, phenomenon, person, place, or state of affairs. Their communicative meaning, however, cannot always be reduced to simple naming. Depending on context and intonation, a nominal construction may introduce a new object, draw attention to an already perceived object, express surprise, approval or disapproval, or create a vivid picture of a situation. Therefore, the analysis of nominative sentences requires an approach that combines syntax with semantics, stylistics, and pragmatics.

The relevance of the present study is determined by the growing interest in discourse-oriented approaches to syntax and by the need to clarify how concise nominal constructions operate in everyday communication. The aim of the article is to identify the principal functional and stylistic features of nominative sentences in colloquial style and to explain the pragmatic factors that determine their interpretation.

Materials and Methods

The research is based on descriptive, contextual, structural-semantic, functional-stylistic, and pragmatic methods. The descriptive method is used to characterize the structural properties of nominative sentences. Contextual analysis makes it possible to determine how their meanings depend on the surrounding discourse. Functional-stylistic analysis is applied to identify the communicative and expressive functions of nominal constructions in colloquial speech. The pragmatic approach is used to examine the relationship between the form of an utterance, the speaker’s communicative intention, the addressee, and the immediate situation.

Illustrative English examples are used to demonstrate typical patterns of colloquial usage. The examples are constructed for analytical purposes and represent common communicative situations rather than quotations from a particular literary or spoken source.

Theoretical Background

A nominative sentence is a one-member construction in which the principal element is normally expressed by a noun or noun phrase. In English, such constructions are particularly common in headings, descriptions, labels, advertisements, notes, stage directions, and expressive discourse. In actual conversation, however, their interpretation is strongly dependent on context. A phrase such

as “A beautiful evening.” may function not merely as a description but also as an emotional reaction or an invitation to share the speaker’s perception.

The distinction between a nominative sentence and an ordinary noun phrase is therefore largely functional. A noun phrase within a larger sentence serves as one syntactic constituent, whereas an independent nominative utterance can perform a complete communicative act in an appropriate context. Prosody, pause, discourse position, and shared situational knowledge may turn a formally simple nominal expression into an independent utterance.

Nominative Sentences in Colloquial Style

Colloquial style is characterized by informality, spontaneity, direct interaction, situational dependence, and relatively high expressive potential. Speakers do not always construct complete predicative sentences because the immediate context allows them to omit information that is obvious to the interlocutor. Nominative sentences are particularly suitable for this type of communication because they can communicate a substantial amount of information with minimal linguistic material.

One important function is presentational. A speaker may use a nominative construction to introduce an object that has suddenly appeared in the communicative field: “A taxi!”; “Your phone!”; “The bus!” In such examples, the utterance directs the addressee’s attention toward a relevant object or event. The omitted predication can be reconstructed from context, for example “There is a taxi,” “Your phone is ringing,” or “Here comes the bus.” The nominal form is more economical and may also be more immediate.

Another important function is descriptive. In a conversation, a speaker can use a sequence of nominative sentences to create a rapid verbal picture: “A narrow street. Old houses. Dim lights.” Such sequences reproduce the fragmented character of visual perception and can be especially effective when the speaker is narrating an experience or recalling a particular scene. The construction is syntactically concise but semantically rich because each nominal unit activates contextual associations.

Nominative sentences may also express emotion and evaluation. Utterances such as “What a surprise!” and “Such a beautiful view!” contain nominal or nominal-centered structures whose expressive meaning is inseparable from intonation and context. In everyday speech, a short nominal expression can communicate astonishment, admiration, disappointment, fear, or approval more directly than an extended predicative sentence.

Pragmatic Functions

From a pragmatic perspective, the meaning of a nominative sentence is formed through the interaction of linguistic form and communicative context. The same nominal expression may have different interpretations in different situations. For example, “Silence.” can be a description in a narrative context, a request in an interactional context, or an indication of an emotionally significant moment. Thus, pragmatic interpretation must take account of the speaker’s intention, the addressee’s expectations, and the surrounding discourse.

Nominative sentences also perform an attention-directing function. Their brevity allows speakers to foreground a particular referent. In conversation, this may be accompanied by pointing, gaze, gesture, or a change in intonation. Consequently, the verbal form and non-verbal context jointly contribute to meaning. This feature is especially characteristic of face-to-face communication.

A further function is interactional economy. In spontaneous dialogue, interlocutors frequently rely on shared knowledge and do not verbalize information that can be easily inferred. Compare the complete utterance "There is a problem with the printer" with the contextually sufficient "The printer." The latter can serve as an immediate topic marker or reminder when both participants know the situation. Such economy reduces the amount of linguistic material while preserving communicative effectiveness.

Stylistic and Expressive Features

The stylistic value of nominative sentences is closely associated with their structural simplicity. Their brevity may create a dynamic rhythm and reproduce the speaker's immediate perception. In colloquial narratives, a series of nominal units can imitate the sequence of impressions: "Rain. Traffic. Crowds. No taxis." The absence of finite verbs produces a compressed structure in which individual images become prominent.

Intonation is another major factor. In oral speech, the same lexical material may acquire different meanings depending on stress, pitch, duration, and pauses. A sharply pronounced "John!" may function as a call or warning, whereas a softly pronounced "John…" may express hesitation, sadness, or recollection. This demonstrates that the communicative potential of nominative constructions cannot be adequately described through morphology and syntax alone.

In colloquial style, nominative sentences may also contribute to conversational immediacy. Because they often appear as reactions to an event, they can represent the speaker's response almost simultaneously with perception. This property makes them useful for expressing surprise, sudden recognition, emotional involvement, or rapid changes of topic.

Discussion

The analysis shows that nominative sentences occupy an important position at the intersection of syntax and discourse. Their formal simplicity does not imply semantic or pragmatic simplicity. On the contrary, the lack of an overt predicate creates interpretive space that is filled by contextual information. The interlocutor actively reconstructs the implicit relation between the named entity and the situation.

Compared with full predicative sentences, nominative constructions often provide greater economy and foreground the referent itself. However, they are not universally interchangeable with complete sentences. Their use is conditioned by the communicative situation and may be inappropriate when the relation between the named object and the intended proposition is not recoverable. Therefore, their effectiveness depends on contextual accessibility and shared knowledge.

The findings also indicate that the boundaries between nominative sentences, elliptical utterances, and other minor constructions may be functional rather than purely formal. In real speech, a short nominal expression may be understood as a complete communicative act even when its underlying proposition is structurally incomplete. This supports the view that sentence analysis in colloquial discourse should consider both grammatical form and communicative function.

Conclusion

Nominative sentences constitute an important expressive and economical resource of colloquial style. Their main characteristics include structural brevity, contextual dependence, semantic compression, expressive potential, and strong interaction with intonation and non-verbal

communication. In spoken discourse, they may perform presentational, descriptive, identificational, evaluative, emotive, attention-directing, and interactional functions.

The study confirms that the interpretation of a nominative sentence cannot be determined solely by its lexical composition. Context, communicative intention, prosody, discourse position, and shared knowledge are essential for establishing its precise meaning. Accordingly, nominative sentences should be studied not only as syntactic units but also as discourse-level resources that enable speakers to communicate efficiently and expressively.

Further research may focus on a comparative analysis of nominative sentences in English and Uzbek colloquial discourse, their representation in digital communication, and their relationship with other elliptical and one-member constructions. Corpus-based research could also provide quantitative evidence concerning their frequency and distribution across different types of spoken interaction.

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