Research Journal of English Language and Literature (RJELAL)
A Peer Reviewed (Refereed) International Journal
http://www.rjelal.com; Email:editorrjelal@gmail.com

Vol.5.Issue 1. 2017
(Jan-Mar)

RESEARCH ARTICLE

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD SERIAL NUMBER INDIA
2395-2636 (Print):2321-3108 (online)

A SYSTEMATIC ANALYSIS OF NOUN AND NUMBER OF ENGLISH FOR ESL COMPREHENSION

Dr.S.HARIKRISHNA RAO
Department of English, GMR Institute of Technology, Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh Email: sampathraohkrao@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Noun and Number of English can be, after Tenses, the second most complex system. Owing to its foreign character, English as international language develops a composite system of Noun and Number. It is one of the major areas which ESL learners are often skeptical about, bearing in mind the inconsistency and irregularity of the system. These irregularities usually bring about ESL learner-errors. Since many agglutinative languages have mono marker system of forming Noun and Number, the poly marker system of English makes itself harder to grasp. A further related problem is the distinction between the count and the non-count nouns. What is a count noun in one language can be non-count in another one. Assuming that conveying a few significant factors that cause irregularities of the system to the realization of ESL may contribute to ease the learning, the paper aims at analyzing in detail the referred system, in order to verify the factors for feasible errors in reference to The ESL learning and teaching.

©KY PUBLICATIONS

INTRODUCTION

English evolves an intricate system of Noun and Number. After Tenses, this can be the second most complex area in which ESL learners frequently register errors. It can improve the ESL understanding, if they are aware of certain factors that cause complexity of the system, Hence. It assumes that bringing those factors that cause irregularities of the system to the consciousness of ESL may support to ease the learning.

The complexity of the system may be the resultant of the induction of many a foreign noun and retaining their plural markers unchanged, or not anglicized. This characteristic feature entails different methods of Plural formation. The ESL will undoubtedly be puzzled to grasp the system and most likely register errors in this area. It may be appropriate to affirm the following basic factors as to the frequent errors in this context.

1. The Poly-Marker System of L2

A) Telugu employs only single method of forming plurals. To form plurals, it employs the plural marker / lu: /.

Base form + / lu: / = plural form.

B) English chiefly employs 'S' (es) marker to form plurals.

Base form + S (es) =plural form.

C) In addition to the above referred chief method (B), it inducts many other methods from foreign languages. For example;

Name of the Language And Marker	**Singular**	**Plural**
Latin / I /	Stimulus	Stimuli
	Radius	Radii
	Alumnus	Alumni
/ I: /	Formula	Formulae

	Larva	Larvae
	Alga	Algae
/a /	Curriculum	Curricula
	Stratum	Strata
	Medium	Media
/ i si:z /	Index	Indices
	Codex	Codices
Greek /i :z /	Metropolis	Metropolises
	Basis	Bases
	Crisis	Crises
/ a /	Criterion	Criteria
	Phenomenon	Phenomena

C.1. the other chief methods English uses are;

C.1.1. Irregular plurals:

Calf	Calves
Knife	Knives
Thief Thieves	

C.1.2. the change of the inside vowel:

Foot	Feet
Tooth	Teeth
Goose Geese	

C.1.3. En – suffix:

Ox	Oxen
Child Children	

C.1.4. Zero plural: Nouns refer to some animals can be used either with singular or plural meaning without change of the form. E.g.: Sheep, Fish, Vermin, Deer etc

C.1.5. Notional noun: Irrespective of their form, many group nouns are notional in meaning. They can be singular or plural depending on the context.

E.g. 1. The family has / have moved from the old house.

2. The jury has / have made a disputable decision

2. THE ASYMMETRY OF FORM AND ITS CORRESPONDING NUMBER: The poly-marker character and the notional character of TL evolve a heterogeneous net of relations between the form and the number of Noun. The form which is usually indicative of its number in NL is not the same in TL. The noun "News" irrespective of its plural form is considered singular, and the noun "Media/ Data" irrespective of its singular form is considered plural. Moreover, a considerable number of concrete, abstract, and group nouns are notional in character. with meaning shift , They function as either singular or plural depending on the context.

2.1. The taxonomy of the form and the number of noun: It is provided below to get an overview of the system.

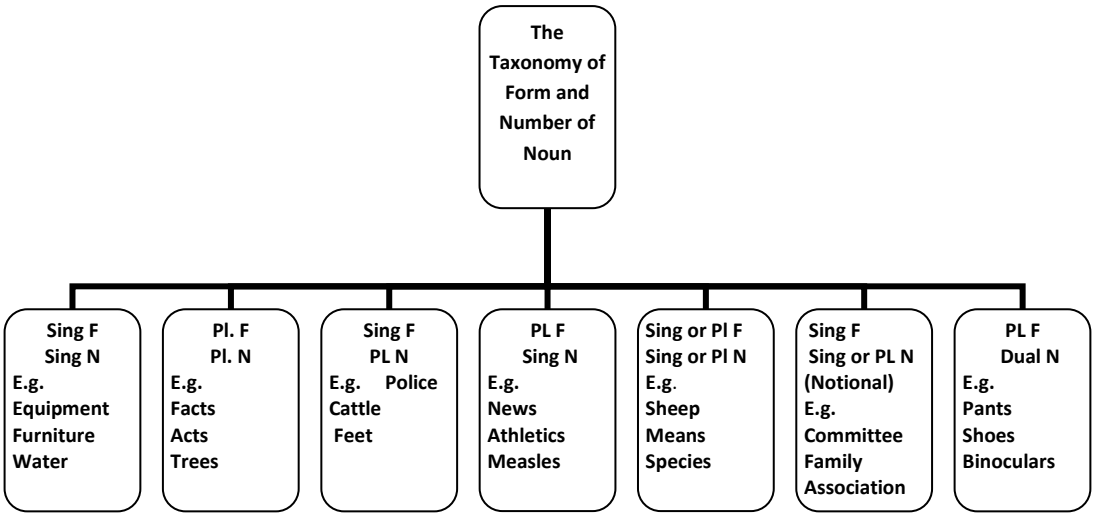

Fig: 1 The Taxonomy of Noun basing on the Form and the Number

Sing =Singular PL = Plural N=Number F=Form

3. MANY UNCOUNTABLE OF THE TL CAN BE COUNTABLE IN THE NL: It is well known that language is a product of existing society and it reflects the linguistic considerations and conventions of it. So, inevitably there will be variables among Languages. This can be distinguishable in the context of count and uncount nouns of the TL and the NL (for instance, Telugu). Many of the uncount nouns of the TL are countable in the NL and is high probable source of learner errors. This area may reflect the L1 transfer.

TL Uncount	NL Count(Telugu)
News	Varthalu
Advice	Salahalu
Luggage	Saamanlu
Paper	Kagitaalu
Chocolate	Chokaletlu
Soap	Sabbulu
Noise	Sabdalu /Dwanulu
Cash	Dabbulu
Equipment	Parikaralu
Furniture	Vastuvulu (kalapa)

3.1. The taxonomy of noun: the Taxonomy basing on countability and uncountability of Noun which may help to over-all understanding of its system is shown Under.

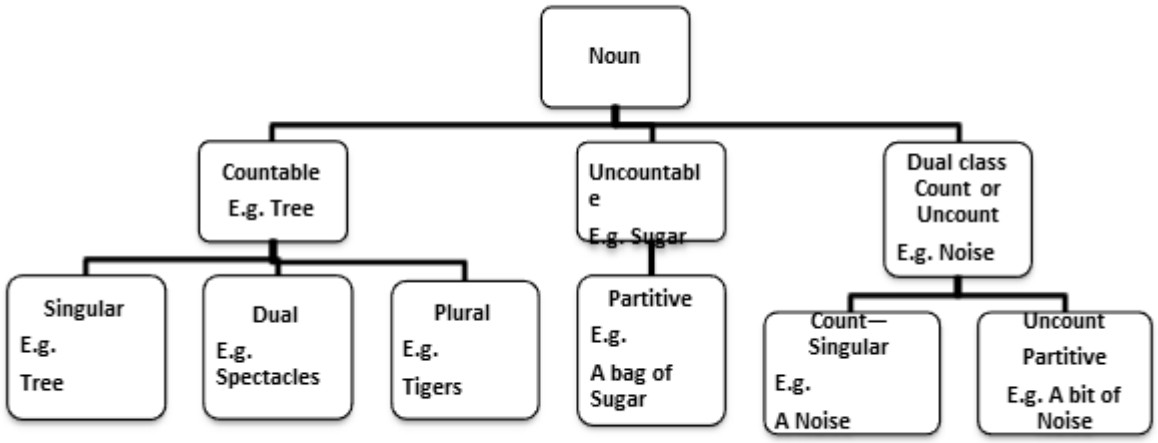

Fig: 2 The Taxonomy of Noun basing on countability and uncountability.

N.B: Mass noun usually does not have plural number or form. Partition of mass is possible and so has a Partitive. For instance, A bag of flour, a carton of milk, a bar of soap, a tube of tooth paste etc.

4.5.2.2. Notional-Concord:

Many group nouns refer to a group of people having a special relationship with one another for a particular reason. With such nouns, the verb, instead of agreeing with grammatical form of the noun, agrees with the notion or idea behind it. This kind of agreement is referred to be notional concord, which is very subtle to the grasp of ESL.

1. 1. Law and order **is / are** considered very important in elections.
2. The jury **has / have** passed the verdict recently.
3. Everyone / everybody / one must bring **their** books and charts.
4. A large number of learners **have** got benefited by learning English.
5. Either the workers or the director **is** to blame for the disruption.
6. The king along with his soldiers **have** died in the battle.

7. A bag of mangoes **have** been bought for us.

Conclusion

if the reasons for the multi marker system of Noun and Number are brought to the awareness of the learners of ESL, it may ease their understanding and may promote its acquisition and reduce errors in this area.

Reference

1. Angela Downing and Philip Locke (2006) *English Grammar: A University Course-book* 2nd Ed, UK, Rout ledge.
2. Evelyn P. Altenberg and Robert M. Vago (2010) *English Grammar: Understanding the Basics* Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
3. Geoffrey Leech and Jan Svartvik (2007) *A Communicative Grammar of English* 7th imp, New Delhi, Pearson Education.
4. John Eastwood (2005) *Oxford Practice Grammar* 2nd Ed, Oxford, Oxford University Press.
5. Quirk. Randolph et.al (2010) *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language* New Delhi, Pearson Education.
6. Raymond Murphy (2004) *Murphy's English Grammar* 3rd Ed, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.