



COMPARISON OF NOUNS IN RUSSIAN AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES (THESIS)

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Russian nouns and English nouns have several notable differences. Firstly, Russian nouns are categorized into three grammatical genders (masculine, feminine, and neuter), each of which impacts the forms of associated adjectives and verbs. In contrast, English nouns don't have grammatical gender. Additionally, Russian nouns decline to reflect case (nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, instrumental, and prepositional), affecting their role in a sentence, while English nouns generally have a fixed form, with case distinctions primarily limited to pronouns. English nouns rely more heavily on word order for sentence structure, whereas Russian nouns' endings and cases play a more pivotal role in conveying meaning and relationships within a sentence.

Nouns, often regarded as the core elements of sentences, play multifaceted roles in conveying meaning. The way nouns are gendered, declined, and pluralized, as well as how they interact with verbs and other parts of speech, contribute to the rich tapestry of language. A comprehensive examination of nouns in Russian and English promises to uncover both similarities and disparities that not only enhance our linguistic understanding but also enrich our grasp of cultural intricacies.

There is no article in the Russian language; that is, there is no the, a, or an. The definite or indefinite meaning of a noun is conveyed by the text of the sentence, e.g. флаг means a flag and also the flag; якорь means an anchor and also the anchor.

There are three genders in the Russian language: Masculine, Feminine, and Neuter, and these are, with a very few exceptions, determined by the ending of the word.

All nouns that end in a consonant, -й, and a few nouns ending in -ь, are Masculine, e.g. флаг, flag; дом, house; герой, hero; учитель, teacher (male); якорь, anchor.

All nouns that end in -а, -я (but not in -мя) and most nouns ending in -ь are Feminine, e.g. сестра, sister; борода, beard; няня, nursemaid; ночь, night.

All nouns that end in -о, -е, and ten nouns ending in -мя, are Neuter, e.g. молоко, milk; море, sea; знамя, standard, banner.



A few nouns that by their nature should be of masculine gender end in - a , or – я, and are therefore declined as Feminine nouns e.g. староста, bailiff; мужчина, man, male, person; дядя, uncle.

Nouns in English are not inherently gendered, and there are no grammatical markers that indicate gender distinctions. Instead, English relies on natural gender, context, and pronouns to indicate gender-related information. For example, the word "dog" is gender-neutral in English, and there is no need to modify adjectives or pronouns based on the gender of the noun.

Russian boasts a highly developed case system, characterized by its six grammatical cases: nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, instrumental, and prepositional. Each case serves a unique function, delineating the noun's role in the sentence and often influencing the forms of adjectives, pronouns, and verbs.

The Nominative – the subject of a sentence is in the Nominative case.

The Genitive or Possessive case denotes possession: the house of the brother (дом брата); it is used to denote an attribute or a characteristics :the talent of the actor(талант актёра); in expressions of quantity : a pound of meat (фунт мяса); it is used in a partitive sense, i.e. when only a part (some) of a thing is meant: a piece of bread (кусочек хлеба); it is also used after нет : The journal is not here (здесь нет журнала) ; the following prepositions govern the Genitive case : The mother is at her son's house.(мать у сына).

The indirect object towards which or along which the action of the subject is directed is in the Dative case.A number of verbs and adverbs govern the Dative without a preposition, but verbs denoting motion towards an object are followed by the preposition , towards, on the way to, to (e.g. to visit)- I am telling the teacher (Я говорю учителю).

The direct object of a sentence is in the Accusative. In a negative sentence the Accusative takes the form of the Genitive.The Accusative of masculine nouns of the singular and plural, and the accusative of the plural of feminine nouns denoting animate beings, also take the form of the genitive. The Accusative of the singular and plural of masculine nouns denoting inanimate things is like the nominative. The following prepositions govern the Accusative case : I am going to (into) the theatre (Я иду в театр).

The instrumental case denotes the agent or the instrument of an action and it answers the questions : with what ? with whom ? or by what ?- to eat with a knife (кушать ножом);



The locative or prepositional case is always preceded by a preposition. The following prepositions govern the Locative case - о (об before vowels, and обо before мн, вс, and some other groups of consonants) = concerning, about – to speak about the actor (говорить об актёре).

While Old English had a more elaborate case system similar to Russian, Modern English has experienced a significant reduction in case inflections. Today, English primarily employs word order and prepositions to convey syntactic relationships between nouns and other elements. This change has made English word order more rigid, with subject-verb-object (SVO) being the standard structure. English retains only vestiges of its historical case system, most notably in the contrast between nominative and accusative forms for pronouns (e.g., he/him, she/her, they/them). Prepositions, such as "to," "for," "by," and "with," work in tandem with word order to indicate relationships between nouns and other elements in sentences.

In conclusion, in the Russian language, nouns are classified into one of three genders: masculine, feminine, or neuter. This gender assignment is not based on biological or inherent distinctions but rather reflects a grammatical categorization. Nouns in English are not inherently gendered, and there are no grammatical markers that indicate gender distinctions.

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