

# The Analysis of Nouns in Academic Language Across Turkish and Polish Corpora

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Cem Can

Çukurova Üniversitesi, Adana, Turkey  
ELT Department of Faculty of Education  
[cemcan@cu.edu.tr](mailto:cemcan@cu.edu.tr)

Dr. Katarzyna Papaja

Institute of English,  
University of Silesia, Poland  
[kasiapapaja@interia.pl](mailto:kasiapapaja@interia.pl)

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**Abstract.** Many words in academic English are the same as everyday vocabulary but they are often used in more specialised contexts. Academic language puts a lot of information into nouns or noun phrases that spreading it out over the whole sentence. A noun typically denotes the kind of thing that its referent belongs to. Naming is therefore a kind of categorization. The primary cognitive function of nouns is to “form a classification system of things in the world that we use in referring to them” (Dryer, 2004: 50). Nouns are the heads in the structure of a Noun Group and they may refer semantically to those aspects of our experience which we perceive as “things” or “entities”: concrete entities, names of actions, relationships, emotions, qualities, phenomena and many other classes of entities. What is more, the categories of number, gender and case are generically applied to nouns. Nouns, however, are seldom used in isolation; noun phrases (or more generally nominal chunks) may have different, contextual functions. Functions of noun phrases are to signal the countability, new vs. given status, generic or individuated character of the entity referred to, and its degree of referentiality (Croft and Cruse, 2004; Delfitto, 2002).

The purpose of our study is to analyse the occurrence of different types of nouns studied in the texts of University students taken from the written corpora: the International Corpus of Learner English (the Polish and Turkish component of ICLE – PICLE and TICLE). Our analysis will be based on the basic classification of nouns. In other words, we are going to focus on the usage of common and proper nouns, concrete and abstract nouns, countable and uncountable nouns. Additionally, we are going to focus on the category of numbers (variable vs. invariable nouns) and the category of gender (masculine, feminine, neuter and dual). This type of analysis will allow us to understand the role of different types of nouns used in academic language and to distinguish the differences in the usage of particular types of nouns between the Turkish and Polish students.