

ASV 1 – WEEK 5

5.1 PREMODIFIERS IN NOMINAL PHRASES

Premodifiers in a nominal phrase are divided into four main sub-classes which normally occur in the following order:

1. determiners and predeterminers
2. numerals (cardinal and ordinal)
3. adjectives (including participles in adjectival function)
4. **nouns**

Determiner	Numeral	Adjective	Noun	Headword
the	two	new	grammar	books
his	first	steady	girl	friend
those	three	hardworking	science	students
the	first two	commercial	jet	planes
		.		
		.		
		.		

5.29 4. Nouns

Nouns frequently function as premodifiers of nouns.

Structures of this kind are:

- a) those in which the premodifying noun occurs in the inflected (possessive) case:

a **dog's** life

a **day's** work

that **woman's** doctor

- b) those in which the premodifying noun occurs in the common case:

a **dog** biscuit

a **day** shift

that **woman** doctor

NOTE:

A premodifier expressed by a noun in the inflected case usually corresponds to Slovene possessive adjectives in **-ov**, **-in**, and those in **-ski (ški)**:

my <i>father's</i> brothers	–	očetovi bratje
the <i>girl's</i> mother	–	dekličina mati
<i>England's</i> greatest dramatist	–	največji angleški dramatik

Noun premodification is alien to Slovene; English noun premodifiers are usually translated as **adjectives** or as **nouns in the oblique case**:

an <i>iron</i> bridge	železen most
a <i>timber</i> merchant	lesni trgovec
<i>security</i> council	varnostni svet
a <i>paper</i> mill	tovarna papirja
a <i>pay</i> agreement	sporazum o plačah
a <i>wood</i> merchant	trgovec s kurivom

Premodifying nouns should not be regarded as nouns converted into adjectives since unlike premodifying adjectives, they cannot be premodified by adverbs of degree (intensifiers) nor can they be inflected for the comparative or superlative degree:

- * a very church wedding
- * a most church wedding

EXERCISE 4

Identify the sentence elements and the phrases which realize them:

1. The old man spoke quietly.
2. John is a student.
3. John is at home.
4. John is in a hurry.
5. They made dinner.
6. They made me dinner last week.
7. She has lent them some money.
8. They elected her president.
9. It is very cold here.
10. They painted the room white.
11. We led Tom home.
12. You look very tired.
13. Can you see a bird?
14. The baby is in good health.
15. Be quiet!

EXERCISE 5

1. Ways of realizing sentence elements - THE SUBJECT (S)

The old woman living in the basement needs help.

Mrs. Brown and her daughters arrived first.

There has been **some interesting news** on the radio.

Now is the time to make holiday plans.

To have seen him lose his temper was shocking for all of us.

Writing a letter of application proved difficult.

Why he has sold all his property is a mystery.