

The Noun in Modern English

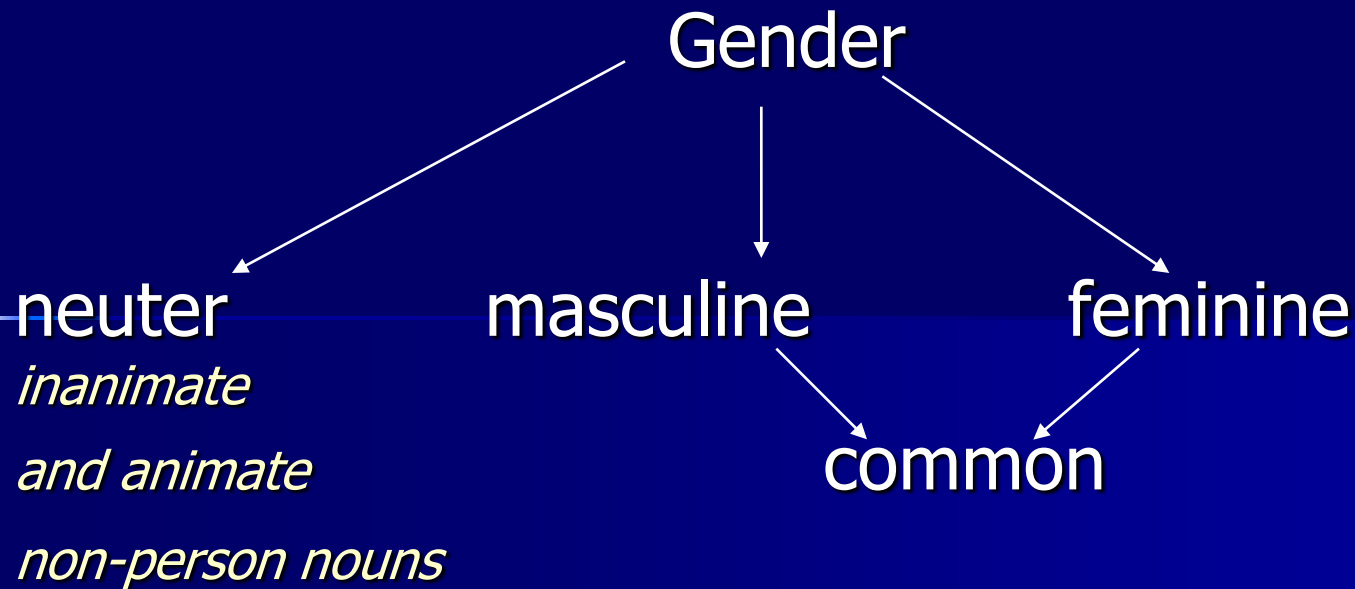
The Plan of the Discussion

1. General characteristics of the noun as a notional part of speech. The category of gender.
2. The category of case.
3. The category of number.

*General characteristics of the noun
as a notional part of speech. The category of gender.*

stem-building suffixes:

- ship,
- ment,
- y,
- ism,
- hood,
- or,
- er,
- tion,
- sion,
- ness.



The sex indicators are used:

man-producer, boy-friend, landlord, cock-sparrow, hen-sparrow, he-bear, she-bear

suffixes –ess, -ix, -a: *actor – actress, master – mistress, executor – executrix.*

The category of case
The theory of limitive cases

Meanings of {'s'}:

- *genitive of possessor,*
- *genitive of integer Patrick's voice*
- *genitive of received Dobson's vanity*
- *genitive of agent Peter's insistence*
- *genitive of author Peter's book (Peter is the author)*
- *genitive of patient the city's business leaders*
- *genitive of destination children's book*
- *genitive of comparison sparrow's smile*
- *genitive of adverbial two hour's work*
- *genitive of quantity*

The theory of prepositional cases

- Dative – the combination of *to* and *for* prepositions with the nouns;
- Genitive – the preposition *of + a noun* which is known as *of-phrase*.

The theory of postpositional cases (Vorontsova)

the man I saw yesterday's son

The category of number

the positive sign –(e)s [iz, s, z]

a productive formal mark the suffix (e)s

non-productive ways:

1. **the vowel interchange** (man – men, goose – geese, etc),
2. **the suffix –en to the stem of the noun** (child – children, ox – oxen, cow – kine, brother - brethren),
3. **the correlation of individual singular and plural suffixes in a limited number of borrowed nouns.**

Irregular Plural

1. **Homonymous forms** *sheep, swine, grouse, fish, deer, etc*
2. **Singularia tantum** *chemistry, architecture. mathematics, etc*
3. **Pluralia tantum** *scissors, pants, trousers, stairs, greens, goods, clothes.*
4. **Collective nouns and nouns of multitude** *My family is not large. The jury were of different opinions.*

The lexicalization of the plural form

- wines, teas – different sorts
- sands, waters, snow –
picturesqueness,
- colours – flag,
- attentions – wooing,
- pains – effort.