

Noun and its Allied Concepts, Gender, Number, Case and Person: a Critical Review

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Abstract: Whatever the developments that took place in English Grammar did not take place in one particular period. They took place in different periods.

Three Periods in English Language: The developments that took place in English language did not take place in one particular period. But they took place in three different periods. For the purpose of convenience, developments in English language are divided into the following three periods.

1) The old English period (450 AD to 1100 AD).

2) The middle English period (1100 AD to 1450 AD).

3) The modern English period or the present English period (1451 AD - Present date).

The Old English Period: The period from 450 AD to 1100 AD is generally known as the old English period. As this period was full of inflexions, it was also known in the history of English language by the name "the period of inflexions".

The Middle English Period: The period from 1101 AD to 1450 AD was generally known as the Middle English period. As in this period the inflexions were mostly leveled in English language, this period was also known as "the period of leveled inflexions".

The Modern or Present English Period: The period from 1451 AD to till date was generally known as the Modern English period or present English period.

As in this period almost all the inflexions in English language were totally lost, this period was known as "the period of lost inflexions".

Keywords: Concrete, Abstract, Gender, Number, Case, Person.

1. DEVELOPMENT

Definition of Noun

Noun is a part of speech which tells us about the name of a person, place, thing, an animal or a bird, a system of thought or an idea.

Though most of the grammar books include four or five kinds of nouns, in the evolution of nouns, there are ten kinds of nouns. The evolution of these ten kinds of nouns took place like this.

Kinds of Nouns

There are ten kinds of nouns in English Language. They are

- 1) Concrete noun.
- 2) Abstract noun.
- 3) Proper noun.
- 4) Common noun
- 5) Collective noun
- 6) Material noun
- 7) Simple noun
- 8) Compound noun
- 9) Countable noun
- 10) Uncountable noun.

In the old English period only two nouns were used. They are 1) Concrete and 2) Abstract noun.

In the Middle English period, the concrete noun was developed into four kinds of nouns.

- 1) Proper noun
- 2) Common noun
- 3) Collective noun
- 4) Material noun

In the modern English period the following four more nouns were created. They are

- 1) Simple noun
- 2) Compound noun
- 3) Countable noun
- 4) Uncountable noun

Definition of Concrete Noun

Concrete noun is a kind of noun which tells us about the name of a particular person, place or thing. “Concrete” means that which has a form, which we can see with our eyes, which we can touch with our hands.

Here are the examples for the definition of concrete noun.

Eg: 1) Rama killed a tiger.

Here ‘Rama’ and ‘a tiger’ are concrete nouns.

2) Delhi is the capital of India.

Here ‘Delhi’, ‘the capital’ and ‘India’ are to be treated as concrete nouns.

3) The chair is made of wood.

The Chair’ and ‘wood’ are the concrete nouns.

4) Dogs bark.

“Dogs” is a concrete noun.

Definition of Abstract Noun

An abstract noun is a kind of noun which tells us about the name or the quality of a concrete noun. ‘Abstract’ means that which has no form. It is opposite of “concrete”. Therefore, an abstract noun refers to things or ideas which do not have a fixed form, which we do not see with our eyes, which we cannot touch with our hand, but which we can only feel in our mind.

Examples:

1) Honesty is the best policy.

Here ‘Honesty’ is an abstract noun.

2) The wisdom of Solomon was famous throughout the world. Here ‘wisdom’ is an abstract noun.

3) The beauty of rose attracts every one.

Here ‘beauty’ is an abstract noun because it tells us about the name of the quality of the concrete Noun ‘rose’.

The Definition of Proper Noun

Proper noun is a kind of noun which tells us about the name of a particular person or place alone. It is always begun with a capital letter any where or in the middle of the sentence.

Examples:

- 1) My name is Rama

Here 'Rama' is a proper noun because it tells us about the name of a particular person.

- 2) Delhi is the Capital of India.

In this sentence 'Delhi' and 'India' are proper nouns because Delhi is the name of a city and 'India' is the name of a country.

Definition of Common Noun

Common noun is a kind of noun which tells us about the class or group of persons, or things or places used in common.

Examples:

Persons:

- | | |
|-----------|----------------|
| 1) Child | 9) Friend |
| 2) Boy | 10) Teacher |
| 3) Girl | 11) Doctor |
| 4) Man | 12) Engineer |
| 5) Person | 13) Nurse |
| 6) Pupil | 14) Clerk |
| 7) Thief | 15) Director |
| 8) Enemy | 16) Assistant. |

Places

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| 1) School | 6) Market |
| 2) College | 7) Hospital |
| 3) Temple | 8) Market |
| 4) Church | 9) Club |
| 5) Mosque | 10) Court. |

Things

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| 1) Book | 6) Car |
| 2) Pen | 7) Scooter |
| 3) Table | 8) Train |
| 4) Chair | 9) Aeroplane |
| 5) Bicycle | |

Animals:

- | | |
|----------|-------------|
| 1) Cat | 4) Monkey |
| 2) Dog | 5) Cow |
| 3) Horse | 6) Buffalo. |

Ideas:

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| 1) Honesty | 4) Charity |
| 2) Love | 5) Hope |
| 3) Hatred | 6) Mercy |

Definition of Collective Noun

A collective noun is a kind of noun which tells us about the class or group of persons, places, things, animals, insects etc. regarded as a single whole.

Examples:

Collective nouns indicating persons:

- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| 1) Army | 5) Crew |
| 2) Board | 6) Crowd |
| 3) Class | 7) Party. |
| 4) Committee | |

Places:

- 1) A range or the range of mountains.
- 2) A group of valleys

Collective Nouns indicating things:

- 1) Bunch of Grapes
- 2) Bunch of Keys
- 3) Chain of Events

Collective nouns indicating Animals:

- 1) Flock
- 2) Herd
- 3) Group.

Collective Nouns indicating insects:

- 1) Swarm
- 2) Group
- 3) Herd

Definition of Material Noun

Material Noun is a kind of noun which tells us about the name of particular material or substance out of which the things are made. It also refers to the names of all inanimate or lifeless things.

Here are the examples for the definition of Material Noun.

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| 1) Iron | 6) Wood |
| 2) Gold | 7) Plastic |
| 3) Silver | 8) Rubber |
| 4) Cotton | 9) Copper |
| 5) Silk | |

Even the things indicating lifeless things are also to be treated as Material Nouns for which here are the examples.

- 1) Mountain
- 2) Stone

Definition of Simple Noun

Simple Noun is a kind of noun which always contains only one word.

Any noun which is in the form of a simple word can be identified as a simple noun. Here are the examples for the definition of simple noun.

- 1) Rama
- 2) School
- 3) Pen
- 4) Iron.

Definition of Compound Noun

Compound noun is a kind of noun which always contains two or more simple nouns.

Any noun which is in the form of two or more simple nouns can be identified as a compound noun.

Here are the examples for the definition of a compound noun.

- 1) Ramakrishna
- 2) School teacher
- 3) Pen stand
- 4) Iron chair.

Definition of Countable Noun

Countable Noun is a kind of noun which refers to persons, places or things which can be counted by number. Any noun which can be counted in a clear number can be identified as a countable Noun.

Here are the examples for the definition of a countable noun.

- | | |
|----------|---------|
| 1) Rama | 4) Pen |
| 2) Boy | 5) Army |
| 3) Child | 6) Tin |

Definition of Uncountable Noun

Uncountable Noun is a kind of noun which refers to things, materials or qualities which cannot be counted in number.

Any noun which cannot be counted in number can be identified as uncountable noun.

By this definition, all material nouns, all abstract nouns can be treated as uncountable nouns.

Here are the examples for the definition of uncountable noun.

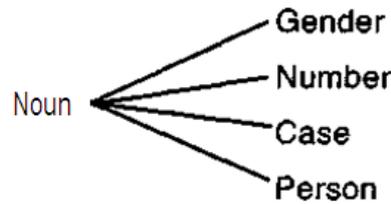
- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1) Honesty | 10) Mountain |
| 2) Wisdom | 11) Stone |
| 3) Strength | 12) Sand |
| 4) Beauty | 13) Rice |
| 5) Ugliness | 14) Milk |
| 6) Iron | 15) Water |
| 7) Silver | 16) Petrol |
| 8) Gold | 17) Kerosene |
| 9) Wood | 18) Diesel |

2. RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

Evolution of Allied Concepts of Noun:

Closely associated with the concept of noun, there are certain allied concepts. These allied concepts are related only to certain parts of speech and their applicability can be made only to those parts of speech to which those concepts can be applied. These allied concepts are four in number.

- 1) Gender
- 2) Number
- 3) Case
- 4) Person



3. CONCLUSION

Noun - Gender

Definition of Gender

Gender as a grammatical concept indicates whether a noun referred to is male or female or both or neither.

The word 'Gender' was taken from the Latin word 'GENUS' which means a kind of /sort of.

As a grammatical concept, gender always refers to sex or otherwise of a person or of a thing.

The Applicability of Gender

As a grammatical concept, gender can be applied only to the five parts of speech.

- 1) Noun
- 2) Noun phrase
- 3) Pronoun
- 4) Noun or pronoun used as an ADJECTIVE
- 5) Noun or Pronoun used as an ADVERB

There are four kinds of Genders in English language. Here are those four kinds of genders.

- 1) Masculine Gender
- 2) Feminine Gender
- 3) Common Gender
- 4) Neuter Gender

Definition of Masculine Gender

Masculine Gender indicates that a noun referred to is male.

The names of all male persons or male animals can be treated as in Masculine Gender.

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| 1) Rama | 6) Brother |
| 2) John | 7) Dog |
| 3) Arif | 8) Horse |
| 4) Man | 9) Buffalo |
| 5) Father | |

Definition of Feminine Gender

Feminine Gender indicates that a noun referred to is female.

The names of all female persons or female animals can be treated as in Feminine Gender.

- | | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 1) Radha | 6) Mother |
| 2) Latha | 7) Sister |
| 3) Lucy | 8) Bitch |
| 4) Mumtaz | 9) Mare |
| 5) Woman | 10) She-Buffero |

Definition of Common Gender

Common Gender indicates that a noun referred to is either male or female.

- | | |
|------------|----------|
| 1) Child | 6) Enemy |
| 2) Person | 7) Foe |
| 3) Pupil | 8) Thief |
| 4) Student | 9) Idiot |
| 5) Friend | |

Definition of Neuter Gender

Neuter Gender indicates that a noun referred to is neither male nor female. It also refers to the names of all 'inanimate' which means lifeless things.

The correct use of Gender

1) The Masculine gender is often applied to certain nouns remarkable for strength and violence etc. Here are the examples.

- 1) Summer
- 2) Sun
- 3) Death
- 4) Time
- 5) Winter.

If you apply, some of them in sentences, it will be very clear to you how these nouns can be treated as Masculine Gender.

1. The sun sheds his beams on rich and poor alike.
2. Death lays his icy hands on all alike.

2) The Feminine gender is often applied to certain nouns remarkable for beauty, gentleness and gracefulness.

Here are the examples for you.

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| 1) Moon | 5) Love |
| 2) Peace | 6) Earth |
| 3) Hope | 7) Spring |
| 4) Charity | 8) Autumn. |

If you apply these nouns in few sentences, it will be clear to you how these nouns can be treated as in Feminine Gender.

1. The Moon hid her face behind a cloud.
2. Peace hath (has) her victories no less renowned than war.
3. Some collective Nouns even when they denote living beings are treated as neuter gender. Here are the examples.

1. The committee submitted its report.
2. The class had its good time.

4. WAYS OF FORMING FEMININE GENDER

There are three ways of forming feminine gender.

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I) *Feminine Gender can be formed by using an entirely new word for the nouns in Masculine Gender.*

Masculine Gender	Feminine Gender	Masculine Gender	Feminine Gender
Bachelor	maid, spinster	Hart	roe
Boy	girl	Horse	mare
Brother	sister	Husband	wife
Buck	doe	King	queen
Bull (or) ox	cow	Lord	lady
Bullock	heifer	Man	Woman
Cock	hen	Monk (or) friar	nun
Colt	filly	Nephew	niece
Dog	bitch	Papa	mamma
Drake	duck	Ram	eve
Drone	bee	Sir	madam
Earl	countess	Son	daughter
Father	mother	Stag	hind
Gander	goose	Uncle	aunt
Gentleman	lady	Wizard	witch
Lad(boy)	lass(girl)	Master	Mistress

II. *Feminine Gender is formed for certain nouns in Masculine Gender by adding the suffixes 'ess', 'ine', 'trix', 'a'.*

Masculine Gender	Feminine Gender	Masculine Gender	Feminine Gender
Author	Authoress	Mayor	mayoress
Baron	baroness	Patron	patroness
Count	countess	Peer	peeress
Giant	giantess	Poet	poetess
Heir	heiress	Priest	priestess
Host	hostess	Prophet	prophetess
Jew	Jewess	Shepherd	shepherdess
Lion	lioness	Steward	stewardess
Manager	manageress	Viscount	viscountess
Hero	Heroine	Administrator	Administratrix
Czar	Czarina	Sultan	Sultana

By placing a word before or after; as,

Masculine Gender	Feminine Gender	Masculine Gender	Feminine Gender
Grandfather	grandmother	milkman	Milkwoman
Greatuncle	greaunt	peacock	Peahen
Manservant	maidservant	salesman	saleswoman
Landlord	landlady	washerman	washerwoman

III. *Feminine Gender is sometimes formed by using a word before or after the Masculine nouns:*

Masculine Gender	Feminine Gender	Masculine Gender	Feminine Gender
Bull-calf	cow-calf	Cock-sparrow	hen sparrow
He-goat	She-goat	He-bear	She-bear
He-Buffalo	She-Buffalo	Great Grand Father	Great Grand Mother
Jack-ass	Jenny-ass	Man-Servant	Maid-servant
Grand father	Grand Mother	Great uncle	Great aunt
Land lord	Land lady	Milk-Man	Milk-Maid
Peacock	Peahen	Washer-man	Washer-woman

5. NOUN-NUMBER

Definition of Number

Number as a grammatical concept indicates whether a noun, referred to is one thing or more than one thing

Numbers are of two types.

- 1) Singular number
- 2) Plural number

Singular Number

Definition of Singular Number

Singular number indicates that a noun referred to is only one thing. **Examples:**

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1) Book | 8) Boy |
| 2) Pen | 9) City |
| 3) Box | 10) Thief |
| 4) Match | 11) Cafe |
| 5) Class | 12) Man |
| 6) Fish | 13) Sheep |
| 7) Baby | |

Plural Number

Definition of Plural Number

Plural number indicates that a noun referred to is more than one thing.

Examples:

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| 1) Books | 8) Boys |
| 2) Pens | 9) Cities |
| 3) Boxes | 10) Thieves |
| 4) Matches | 11) Cafes |
| 5) Classes | 12) Men |
| 6) Fishes | 13) Sheep. |
| 7) Babies | |

The correct use of Number

The applicability of number

As a grammatical concept, number can be applied to these parts of speech.

- 1) Noun
- 2) Noun phrase
- 3) Pronoun
- 4) Verb
- 5) Noun or pronoun used as an adjective
- 6) Noun or pronoun used as an adverb.

There are several ways relating to formation of plural number for the nouns which are in singular number

1. Plural number is generally formed for the majority of the nouns by adding 's' at end of singular nouns.

Singular		Plural
Boy	–	Boys
Pen	–	Pens
Girl	–	Girls
Desk	–	Desks
Book	–	Books

2. Plural number should be formed for certain nouns ending with the suffixes ‘S’, Sh, Ch, X, by adding ‘es’ to the singular nouns at their end.

Singular		Plural
Class	–	Classes
Brush	–	Brushes
Branch	–	Branches
Tax	–	Taxes
Box	–	Boxes

Plural number should be formed for the nouns ending with ‘Y’ by changing ‘y’ into ‘i’ and adding ‘es’ to the nouns which are in singular number.

Singular		Plural
Baby	-	Babies
Army	-	Armies
Lady	-	Ladies
Story	-	Stories
Pony	-	Ponies

Plural number should be formed for the nouns ending with ‘y’ preceded by the vowel by directly adding ‘S’ to their singular nouns.

Singular		Plural
Boy	-	Boys
Key	-	Keys
Monkey	-	Monkeys
Storey	-	Storeys
Valley	-	Valleys
Alloy	-	Alloys
Alley	-	Alleys

Plural number should be formed for nouns ending with 'f' or 'fe' by changing 'f' or 'fe' into 'v' and adding 'es'.

Singular		Plural
Thief	-	Thieves
Life	-	Lives
Loaf	-	Loaves
Leaf	-	Leaves
Half	-	Halves
Wife	-	Wives
Calf	-	Calves

Some nouns ending with 'f' or 'fe' which were taken from other languages will have the plural number formed by adding simply 's' at their end.

Singular		Plural
Chief	-	Chiefs
Roof	-	Roofs
Gulf	-	Gulfs
Grief	-	Griefs
Dwarf	-	Dwarfs
Cafe	-	Cafes

Plural number should be formed for certain nouns ending with 'O' by adding the suffix 'es' to their singular nouns at their end.

Singular		Plural
Buffalo	-	Buffaloes
Potato	-	Potatoes
Negro	-	Negroes
Mango	-	Mangoes

Some nouns ending with 'O' which were taken from other languages will have their plural number formed by directly adding 'S' to their singular nouns at their end.

Singular		Plural
Dynamo	-	Dynamos
Canto	-	Cantos

Piano	–	Pianos
Photo	–	Photos
Quarto	–	Quartos
Stereo	–	Stereos

Plural number should be formed for certain nouns by changing the inside vowel of the singular nouns.

Singular		Plural
Man	-	Men
Goose	-	Geese
Mouse	-	Mice
Louse	-	Lice
Foot	-	Feet
Tooth	-	Teeth

Plural number should be formed for few nouns by adding suffixes ‘en’ or ‘ren’.

Singular		Plural
Ox	–	Oxen
Child	–	Children
Brother	–	Brethren

Some nouns will have their singular and plural numbers alike.

Singular		Plural
Swine	–	Swine
Sheep	–	Sheep
Deer	–	Deer
Cod	–	Cod
Trout	–	Trout
Salmon	–	Salmon
Stone	–	Stone
Weight.	–	Weight.

There are some nouns which are always used as plural forms. They don't have singular forms. So they must be followed by the plural nouns and preceded by plural adjectives.

Names of Instruments:

Bellows
Scissors
Tongs
Pincers
Spectacles

Names of certain articles of dress:

Trousers
Drawers
Breeches.
Pants
Banians

Some nouns which were originally in singular are now used in plural number.

Alms
Riches
Caves.

Eg :- Riches do many things.

There are some nouns which are plural in form but singular in meaning. Whenever they are used in sentences, they must be followed by singular verbs but not plural verbs and must be preceded by singular adjectives before nouns, but not plural adjectives.

Mathematics
Physics
Mechanics
Politics
News
Innings
Measles
Mumps
Rickets
Aids
Billiards
Droughts

Mathematics is his favourite study.

No news is good news.

India won by an innings and three runs.

The common noun 'means' is used both in singular and in plural number. But when it is used to refer to wealth, it should be treated as plural number.

1. He succeeded by this means.
(or by these means) in passing the examination.

2. His means are small, but he has incurred no debt.

There are certain collective nouns which are singular in form but plural in meaning. Whenever they are used in sentences, they must be followed by plural verbs but not singular verbs. They must be preceded by plural adjectives, but not by singular adjectives.

Poultry

Cattle

Vermin

People

Gentry

- 1) These poultry are mine.
- 2) Whose are these cattle?
- 3) Vermin destroy our property and carry disease.
- 4) Who are those people = (persons)?
- 5) There are few gentry in this town.

The common noun 'people' is used both as singular noun and plural noun, whenever it is used as singular noun it will give the meaning of the people of one country. When ever it is used as plural noun, ending with 'S', it will give the meaning of the people of more than one country.

The French are hard working people. (People of one country)

There are different peoples in Europe. (Peoples of more than one country)

Plural number should be formed for compound nouns by adding 'S' to the principal word of the singular number. The principal word means the main word used in the compound noun.

Singular		Plural
Son-in-law	–	Sons-in-law
Daughter-in-law	–	Daughters-in-law
Step-son	–	Step-sons
Step-daughter	–	Step daughters
Maid-servant	–	Maidservants
Passer-by	–	Passers-by

Many nouns which were taken from other languages have kept their original plural forms.

From Latin:

Singular		Plural
Erratum	–	Errata
Index	–	Indices
Radius	–	Radii
Formula	–	Formulae
Memorandum	–	Memoranda
Terminus	–	Termini

From Greek:

Singular	Plural
Axis	– Axes
Parenthesis	– Parentheses
Crisis	– Crises
Hypothesis	– Hypotheses
Basis	– Bases
Phenomenon	– Phenomena
Analysis	– Analyses
Criterion	– Criteria

From Italian:

Singular	Plural
Bandit	– Banditti (Bandits)

From French:

Singular	Plural
Madame (Madam)	– Mesdames
Monsieur	– Messieurs

From Hebrew:

Singular	Plural
Cherub	– Cherubim (cherubs)
Seraph	– Seraphim (seraphs)

Some nouns will have two plural forms somewhat with a different meaning.

Singular	Plural
Brother	1) Brothers, sons of the same parent 2) Brethren - members of society.
Cloth	1) Cloths, kinds of pieces of cloth. 2) Clothes - ready made garments.
Die	1) dies - stamps for coining, 2) Dice - cubes used in games.

Some nouns will have two meanings in singular number, but only one in meaning in plural number.

Singular		- Plural
Light	(1) Lamp (2) Radiance	Lights : Lamps
People	(1) Nation (2) men and women	Peoples : Nations
Powder	(1) a dose of medicine in fine grains. (2) dust	Powders: doses of medicine
Practice	(1) Habit (2) Exercise of a profession	Practices : habits

Some nouns will only have one meaning in singular number but two meanings in plural number.

Singular	Plural
Colour : Hue	Colours : 1) Hues 2) The flag of a regiment.
Custom : habit	Customs : 1) Habits 2) Duties levied on imports.
Effect : result	Effects: 1) Results 2) Property
Manner : Manners	1) Methods 2) Correct behaviour
Moral : a moral lesson	Morals : 1) Moral lesson 2) Conduct

Some nouns will have two meanings in the singular number, but three meanings in plural number.

Singular	Plural
Letter	(1) Letter of the alphabet (2) Epistle
	Letters (1) Letters of the alphabet (2) Epistles (3) Literature
Ground :	(1) Earth Grounds: (1) Enclosed land

(2) Reason	attached to house
(2)	reasons
(3)	dress

Some nouns have different meaning in singular and plural number.

Singular	Plural
Advice: counsel	Advices: Information Airs: affected manners
Air: atmosphere	Goods: merchandise
Good : benefit, well being	Compasses:
Compass: extent, range	an instrument for drawing
Respect: regard	Respects : compliments
Iron : a kind of metal	Irons : Fetters
Force: Strength	Forces : troops

Plural number should be formed for numbers, letters, figures and symbols by adding an apostrophe and "S" to their singular forms.

Eg:

- 1) Add two 5's and four 2's.
- 2) There are more P's than R's in this page.

Sometimes plural number should be formed to some nouns by adding 'S' to a compound noun.

The Miss smith (singular Miss smiths).

The Misses smiths.

Abstract nouns have no plural number. Whenever they appear in plural forms, they will have to be treated as common nouns.

Eg:

Hope

Charity

Love

Kindness.

Provocation

Kindness

Provocations (Common Noun used in Plural number which means instances or cases of provocation)

Kindnesses = (Common Noun used in Plural number which means acts of kindness)

Material nouns will have no plural number. But whenever the material nouns which indicate the names of materials or substances out of which things are made appear in plural number, they will have to be treated as common nouns.

Copper

Iron

Tin

Wood.

Coppers = (Common Noun used in Plural number which means copper coins)

Irons = (Common Noun used in Plural number which means fetters)

Tins = (Common Noun used in Plural number which means cans made of tin)

Woods = (Common Noun used in Plural number which means forests.)

Some plural nouns which indicates value, distance, weight, measurement will have to be treated as singular nouns, as such they must be followed by singular verbs, but not plural verbs.

Hundred rupees seem to be a very high price for this pen. (wrong) Hundred rupees seems to be a very high price for this pen. (right)

The expression 'One and a half' should be treated as plural noun that should be followed by a plural verb, but not a singular verb

Eg : 1) I paid one and a half rupee for this paper. (Wrong)

I paid a one and a half rupees for this paper. (Right)

6. DISCUSSION

Noun - Case

Definition of Case

As a grammatical concept of a noun, case indicates the position of a noun, noun phrase or a pronoun used in any clause of a sentence.

There are six types of cases in English language.

- 1) Nominative case or subjective case
- 2) Objective case or Accusative case
- 3) Dative case
- 4) Possessive case or Genitive case
- 5) Appositive case
- 6) Vocative case

Definition of Nominative Case

Whenever a noun, noun phrase or a pronoun is used as a subject of a verb or the complement of a subject and a verb of state of being or existence, it is said to be in nominative case or subjective case.

Here are the examples for the definition of Nominative case.

Eg : 1) Rama killed Ravana.

In this sentence the noun 'Rama' is used as a subject of a VOA, killed, so it is to be identified as a Nominative case.

2) The box is heavy.

In this sentence the noun phrase 'the box' is used as the subject of the verb of state of being or existence, 'is', so it is to be identified as a Nominative case.

3) She is a doctor

Here the pronoun 'She' is used as the subject of the verb of state of being or Existence, 'is', so it is also to be identified as NOMINATIVE CASE.

Again the NP, 'the doctor', is used as a complement. So it can also be identified as a Nominative case because it is used as the complement of the sub, 'she', and verb of state of being or existence 'is'

Definition of Objective Case

Whenever a noun, noun phrase or a pronoun is used as an object of a verb of action or verb of possession or of a preposition, it is said to be in objective case or accusative case.

Here are the examples for the Definition of objective case.

- 1) Rama killed Ravana.

In this sentence, the noun 'Ravana' is used as an object of VOA 'killed', so it is to identified as in objective case.

- 2) Latha has a new car:

Here the noun phrase 'a new car', is used as the object of verb of possession, 'has'. So it is to be identified as an objective case.

- 3) Latha went with Mohan.

Here the noun 'Mohan' is used as the object of preposition 'with'. So it is also to be identified as in objective case.

Definition of Dative Case

Whenever a noun, noun phrase or a pronoun is used as an indirect object of a verb, it is said to be in 'Dative case'. 'Dative means belonging to'.

Here is an example for the definition of DATIVE CASE.

S VOA I.O D.O

Eg: Rama gave Sita a present.

Here Sita is used as an Indirect object of VOA 'gave', because it tells us about a person, so it is to be identified as in Dative case.

Definition of Direct Object

An object which tells us about a person or a thing is called a direct object.

Definition of Indirect Object

An object which tells us about a person alone is called an indirect object.

Definition of Possessive Case

It indicates the possession of a person, an animal, or of a thing. The possession of a person or of an animal is always indicated by an apostrophe and 'S' or an apostrophe alone. The idea of possession for a lifeless thing is always indicated by the preposition 'of'.

Here are the examples for the definition of possessive case.

Eg : 1) This is Rama's pen:

P.C.

Here Rama's is in possessive case.

- 2) There is no boys' college in this town.

P.C.

Here 'boys' is in possessive case.

For the development of agriculture, we need more funds.

P.C.

Here the preposition 'of' indicates the idea of possession between 'development' and 'agriculture'.

Rules Relating to the Formation of Possessive Case

1. Possessive case is formed for living persons, animals by adding an apostrophe and 's'.

Eg:

- 1) Rama's pen

- 2) Siva's dance

- 3) Cow's milk
- 4) King's death.
2. Possessive case is formed for non living things by using the preposition 'of'.
Eg:
 - 1) The development of agriculture
 - 2) The state of health.
3. Possessive case is formed for certain plural nouns not ending with S, by adding an apostrophe and 'S' as in the case of singular nouns.
Eg:
 - 1) Men's college
 - 2) Women's hostel
 - 3) Children's books.
4. Possessive case should be formed for plural nouns ending with 'S' by adding only apostrophe without 'S' to their end.
Eg:
 - 1) Boys' hostel
 - 2) Girls' college
 - 3) Merchants' association
 - 4) Students' Union
5. Possessive case should be formed for certain nouns containing two or more hissing sounds which means 'S' sounds by adding only an apostrophe without 'S' to their end.
Eg:
 - 1) Moses' laws
 - 2) Jesus' name
 - 3) For goodness' 'sake'
 - 4) For conscience' sake
6. Possessive case should be formed for certain nouns containing only one hissing sound which means 'S' sound by adding an apostrophe and 'S' to their end.
Eg:
 - 1) Keat's poetry
 - 2) Bates's business.
7. Possessive case should be formed for compound nouns by adding an apostrophe and 'S' to the last word of the compound noun.
Eg: My brother in law's marriage.
8. Possessive case should be formed for two nouns used in apposition to each other by adding an apostrophe and 'S' to the second of the two nouns used in apposition.
Eg:
 - 1) Patel, advocate's house
 - 2) Moorthy, My lecturer's class.
9. The possessive case should be formed for the lifeless things by using the preposition 'of' but not by adding an apostrophe and 'S'.

Eg:

1. The state of her health (not her health's state).
 2. For the development of agriculture (not agriculture's development)
10. Whenever a lifeless object is personified, possessive case should be formed by adding an apostrophe and 'S'.

Eg:

- 1) The Nature's laws
 - 2) The Earth's bounty
 - 3) The Spring's flowers.
11. There are some expressions which always appear in possessive case.
- 1) A stone's throw
 - 2) A hair's breadth
 - 3) At arm's length
 - 4) In a week's time
 - 5) To his heart's content
 - 6) At his wit's end, etc.
12. The pronoun forms, my, our, thy, your, his, her, its, mine, ours, thine (yours), yours, his, hers, its, theirs, cannot be used in possessive case by adding an apostrophe and 'S' because they are originally in possessive case.

Eg : This is my car.

Ours is a new car

Definition of Appositive Case

13. Whenever a noun, noun phrase or a pronoun is used in apposition to some other noun, noun phrase or pronoun it is said to be in appositive case. "Apposition" means that which is placed near.

Eg :

- 1) M y friend, Rama, is a doctor.
- 2) My father met your uncle, a lawyer, in Bombay.

Here in the first sentence the noun, 'Rama', is in appositive case because it is used in apposition to the noun phrase, 'my father'.

In the second sentence the noun phrase, 'a lawyer' is also in appositive case because it is used in apposition to the noun phrase, 'your uncle'.

Definition of Vocative Case

Whenever a noun, noun phrase or a pronoun is directly called out or named, it is said to be vocative case.

Here are the examples for the definition of vocative case.

1. Rama, come here.

Here Noun, 'Rama', is directly called out or addressed by name. So it is in vocative case.

2. O Death, where is thy sting?

Here the Noun phrase, 'O Death', is directly called out or addressed by name. So it is also in vocative case.

7. NOUN-PERSON

Conclusion

Definition of Person

Person, as a grammatical concept, indicates whether a person or persons speaking, person or persons spoken to, a person or persons spoken of or spoken about.

Person is of three types. They are

- 1) First person
- 2) Second person
- 3) Third person.

Definition of First Person:

A person or persons speaking is said to be in first person.

Applicability of First Person

The first person can be applied as a grammatical concept only to the first person personal pronoun forms alone.

First person personal pronoun forms:

Here are the personal pronoun forms which are always said to be in 1st person.

1. I, we, mine, ours Subject of verb - I know Rama
Complement of subject & verb -The car is mine.
2. Me, Us Object of VOA/VOP - Rama helps me
Object of preposition - Latha went with him
3. My, our Adjectives - This is my car.
Adverbs - This is my new car.

These pronoun forms will do two functions each about which we have discussed in PARTS OF SPEECH PROGRAMME".

Definition of Second Person

A person or persons spoken to is said to be in second person. **Applicability of Second Person:**

We can apply the second person only to certain second person personal pronoun forms.

Second Person personal pronoun forms:

Forms	Functions
1. You, thou (you), yet (you)	Subject of verb complement of sub & VOSOB
Thine (yours), yours	1) <u>You</u> come to me. 2) It is <u>you</u> who did it
2. You, thee (you)	Object of VOA/VOP Object of preposition 1. Latha saw <u>you</u> . 2. I praise <u>Three</u> . 3. Mohan came with <u>you</u> .

