

IMPORTANCE OF PARTS OF SPEECH

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Abstract

The basic building blocks of language, or parts of speech, are examined in this article with an emphasis on their division into conceptual and functional categories. The fundamental linguistic building blocks known as parts of speech influence sentence form and meaning in communication. Nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and pronouns are examples of hypothetical parts of speech. Each of these words has a significant lexical meaning and enables the presentation of ideas, actions, connections, and descriptions. On the other hand, grammatical functions include linking words, organizing sentences, and establishing relationships between ideas. Examples of these functions include prepositions, conjunctions, articles, and auxiliary verbs. This article examines these categories to demonstrate how conceptual and functional aspects of speech interact in language creation and how their functions and relationships promote coherent and understandable communication.

Keywords: Notional parts of speech, Functional parts of speech, Syntax, Language learning, Meaning, Grammatical roles, Sentence structure, Communication, Contextual interpretation, Linguistic competence.

Introduction

Words are categorized according to their role and function in sentences using parts of speech. The eight primary components of speech in English aid in our comprehension of word interactions, meaning, and linguistic structure. These consist of:

1. Nouns - Represent people, places, things, or ideas (e.g., dog, city, happiness).
2. Pronouns - Substitute for nouns to avoid repetition (e.g., he, she, they).
3. Verbs - Express actions, occurrences, or states of being (e.g., run, is, seem).
4. Adjectives - Describe or modify nouns (e.g., blue, tall, interesting).
5. Adverbs - Modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs, often describing how, when, or where (e.g., quickly, very, yesterday).
6. Prepositions - Show relationships between nouns or pronouns and other words in a sentence (e.g., in, on, between).
7. Conjunctions - Connect words, phrases, or clauses (e.g., and, but, because).
8. Interjections - Express emotions or sudden bursts of feeling (e.g., wow!, oh!).



Origin of the parts of speech

Since ancient civilizations tried to comprehend and categorize language, the components of speech (nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc.) have a long history in linguistic analysis. This is a synopsis of the evolution of parts of speech in lexicology:

1. **Ancient Greek Influence:**The concept of parts of speech can be traced back to ancient Greece, particularly through philosophers and grammarians like Plato and Aristotle, who explored the structure of language. Dionysius Thrax, a Greek grammarian of the 2nd century BCE, is one of the earliest to formally classify words into parts of speech in his work *Techne Grammatike*, which outlined eight parts of speech (e.g., noun, verb, participle, article, pronoun, preposition, adverb, conjunction).
2. **Latin Grammar and Influence on Modern Languages:**The Romans, influenced by Greek grammar, adapted these ideas into Latin, which served as a model for many European languages. Latin grammarians such as Priscian expanded and solidified the categories, which influenced the medieval scholars who relied on Latin as the scholarly language.

As Latin evolved into the Romance languages, the concepts of parts of speech carried over, influencing the grammatical structures of these languages.

1. **Arabic and Sanskrit Contributions:**In parallel to Greek and Latin traditions, Arabic grammarians like Sibawayh in the 8th century CE also developed theories of grammar, focusing on the functional roles of words in sentences. Panini, an ancient Indian grammarian (4th century BCE), provided a sophisticated analysis of Sanskrit, identifying categories similar to parts of speech. His work influenced linguistic studies in both the East and, indirectly, later Western traditions.
2. **Modern Lexicology and Grammar:**In the 18th and 19th centuries, linguists refined the categories to accommodate new insights from evolving languages and dialects.

Today, linguistic research often expands beyond traditional parts of speech, incorporating functional and generative grammar theories. Modern lexicology studies include insights from structuralism, functionalism, and cognitive linguistics to understand the broader roles of words in language.

The parts of speech can be further separated into functional parts of speech, which have a grammatical purpose rather than lexical meaning (such as prepositions, conjunctions, and articles), and notional parts of speech, which have intrinsic meaning (such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs).

The classes of notional parts of speech are open, meaning that new things can be added at any time. Speech's functional components are closed systems with a small number of participants. They cannot be expanded through the production of new items

Adjectives, adverbs, verbs, and nouns are the primary notional components of speech. Strength-strength derivational ties frequently link members of these four classes. Conjunctions, articles, particles, and prepositions are examples of functional parts of speech. The function of linking and specifying words, required combinability, and a very generic and weak lexical meaning are the distinguishing characteristics of functional components of speech.



Word categories that primarily fulfill grammatical functions in a sentence rather than having substantial lexical meaning are referred to as functional components of speech. These terms aid in sentence structure and make the connections between words more clear. Speech's primary functional components are as follows:

1. Prepositions

Role: Prepositions indicate relationships between nouns (or pronouns) and other elements in a sentence, often relating to time, place, direction, or manner.

Examples: "in," "on," "at," "by," "with."

Usage: They are usually followed by a noun phrase (the object of the preposition) to form prepositional phrases (e.g., "in the park").

2. Conjunctions

Role: Conjunctions connect words, phrases, or clauses, helping to form complex sentences.

Types:

-Coordinating Conjunctions: Connect words or phrases of equal importance (e.g., "and," "but," "or").

-Subordinating Conjunctions: Connect dependent clauses to independent clauses (e.g., "although," "because," "while").

-Correlative Conjunctions: Pairs of conjunctions that work together (e.g., "either...or," "neither...nor").

3. Determiners

Role: Determiners introduce nouns and specify their reference in terms of definiteness, quantity, or possession.

Examples: "a," "the," "some," "my," "each."

Types: Articles (definite and indefinite), demonstratives, possessives, quantifiers, and numerals.

4. Pronouns

Role: Pronouns replace nouns in sentences to avoid repetition and streamline communication.

Types:

Personal Pronouns: Refer to specific entities (e.g., "I," "you," "he," "she," "it," "we," "they").

Possessive Pronouns: Indicate ownership (e.g., "mine," "yours," "his," "hers").

Reflexive Pronouns: Refer back to the subject (e.g., "myself," "yourself").

Relative Pronouns: Introduce relative clauses (e.g., "who," "that," "which").

Indefinite Pronouns: Refer to nonspecific entities (e.g., "someone," "anyone," "everything").

5. Interjections

Role: Interjections express strong emotions or reactions and are often standalone words or phrases.

Examples: "Wow!" "Oh!" "Hey!" "Alas!"



Usage: They can convey feelings, surprise, or calls for attention but do not fit into the grammatical structure of a sentence.

Similarities notional and functional parts of speech:

- a. **Integration in Syntax:** Both functional and notional parts of speech work together within a sentence to create meaningful communication. A sentence typically requires both to convey a complete thought.
- b. **Influence on Meaning:** While notional parts carry the core meaning, functional parts can alter or specify that meaning. For example, the preposition "in" changes the interpretation of a noun (e.g., "in the house" vs. "on the house").
- c. **Dependence on Context:** The use and interpretation of both functional and notional parts of speech depend on context, including syntax and semantics, to convey precise meanings in communication.
- d. **Role in Language Learning:** Understanding both types of parts of speech is essential for language learners, as they provide the framework for building sentences and conveying ideas effectively.

Differences :

***Meaning vs. Function:** Notional parts of speech primarily convey meaning and represent specific concepts, while functional parts of speech are more about their grammatical roles and relationships in sentences.

***Independence:** Notional words can often stand alone as complete thoughts, whereas functional words usually depend on notional words for their meaning.

***Flexibility:** Notional words are more flexible in their usage and can change form (e.g., plural nouns, verb tenses), while functional words tend to have fixed forms.

Examples in Context

Notional: In the sentence "The cat sleeps," "cat" (noun) and "sleeps" (verb) are notional parts of speech, providing the main meaning.

Functional: In the sentence "The cat sleeps on the mat," "the" (determiner) and "on" (preposition) are functional parts of speech, helping to clarify the relationship between the cat and the mat.

Both notional and functional parts of speech are essential to language structure and meaning: notional parts represent specific concepts and convey core meanings, while functional parts organize and clarify the relationships between these concepts within sentences. Their interaction improves communication and ensures that thoughts are expressed effectively and clearly. Language learners must comprehend the differences and interactions between these two categories in order to construct meaningful sentences and understand the subtleties of expression. Finally, recognizing the roles of both notional and functional parts of speech enhances one's linguistic competence and appreciation of language.



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