

How to Get Away with Nominalization: The Syntax of Deverbal Nouns

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Course description

The course aims at providing insight into the world of (nominalizing) affixes and deverbal nominalizations (i.e. nouns derived from verbs with suffixes such as *-ation*, *-ing*, *-ment*, *-ance/-ence*, etc., see (1) *examine* → *examination*).

- (1) a. The doctor's examination of the patients took an hour.
b. The examination is taking too long.
c. The examination is on the teacher's desk.

Starting from Grimshaw's (1990) classes of deverbal nominals, complex event nominalizations (CENs (1a)), simple event nominalizations (SENs (1b)) and result nominals (RNs (1c)) and examining a rich corpus of authentic English (and Romanian) examples, we will discover together the morpho-syntactic and interpretative properties that these 3 classes of deverbal nouns exhibit.

Prerequisites: Participants should be familiar with basic concepts of morphology and syntax.

Roadmap

- 🚩 **Week 1:** Introduction to the topic
- 🚩 **Week 2:** Revision of basic concepts of linguistics to be later used throughout the course
- 🚩 **Week 3:** Nominalizing affixes: origin, morpho-syntactic properties and restrictions
- 🚩 **Weeks 4 & 5:** Grimshaw's (1990) approach to nominalizations and the properties of the three classes on deverbal nouns: complex event nominalizations, result nominals and simple event nominalizations
- 🚩 **Week 6:** Practice I: identifying the classes of deverbal nominalizations
- 🚩 **Week 7:** Derivational approaches to nominalizations
- 🚩 **Week 8:** Deverbal nominalizations as an implicational hierarchy
- 🚩 **Weeks 9 & 10:** Deverbal nominalizations – the view from Romanian (bringing things closer to home)
- 🚩 **Week 11:** Practice II: testing Romanian deverbal nominals
- 🚩 **Week 12:** Light verb constructions or how Romanian deverbal nominalizations can shed light on a puzzling issue
- 🚩 **Week 13:** Revision and drawing conclusions
- 🚩 **Week 14:** Take-home exam

Grading and requirements:

- 🚩 20 % attendance & participation
- 🚩 80 % take-home exam