# Artículo de investigación

# Formal substantivization in Russian

# Substantivización formal en ruso Substantivismo formal em russo

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#### **Abstract**

Despite the fact that, the study of parts of speech in the Russian language has been conducted for more than two and a half centuries, attention to this topic has not weakened. Interest in the present stage of the development of linguistics is caused by the so-called transient phenomena in the sphere of parts of speech, i.e. transition of a word from one part of speech to another. Questions arise not only about the semantics, word-formation and general categories of similar words, but also about their particular grammatical features, the loss or acquisition of certain grammatical features. The relevance of the topic is due to the unresolved problem of interpreting the transition of words from different parts of speech to nouns, the need to refine the existing terminological synonymy in the grammar. The problem of the investigation consists in revealing the essence of formal substantiation, its difference from the actual substantivization (conversion), the relationship with the phenomenon of semantic wordformation. The aim of the research is to delineate the concepts of a noun, substantivization, formal substantivization, quasi-substantivization, conversion, the transition of words from one part of speech to another, grammatical homonymy, to show the relationship between grammar and word formation, the influence of semantic word formation on grammatical phenomena. The novelty of the study consists in the correction and refinement of a number of theoretical propositions related to the teaching of parts of speech in the Russian language, transitional phenomena in the sphere of nominal parts of speech, the study of the interrelation and

## Resumen

A pesar de que el estudio de las partes del discurso en el idioma ruso se ha realizado durante más de dos siglos y medio, la atención a este tema no se ha debilitado. El interés en la etapa actual del desarrollo de la lingüística es causado por los llamados fenómenos transitorios en la esfera de las partes del habla, es decir, la transición de una palabra de una parte del habla a otra. Las preguntas surgen no solo sobre la semántica, la formación de palabras y las categorías generales de palabras similares, sino también sobre sus características gramaticales particulares, la pérdida o adquisición de ciertas características gramaticales. La relevancia del tema se debe al problema no resuelto de interpretar la transición de palabras de diferentes partes del habla a sustantivos, la necesidad de refinar la sinonimia terminológica existente en la gramática. El problema de la investigación consiste en revelar la esencia de la sustanciación formal, su diferencia con la sustantivización (conversión) real, la relación con el fenómeno de la formación de palabras semánticas. El objetivo de la investigación es delinear los conceptos de sustantivo, sustantivización, sustantivización formal, cuasi-sustantivización, conversión, la transición de palabras de una parte del discurso a otro, homonimia gramatical, para mostrar la relación entre la gramática y la formación de palabras, la influencia de la formación de palabras semánticas en fenómenos gramaticales. La novedad del estudio consiste en la corrección y el refinamiento de una serie de proposiciones teóricas relacionadas con la enseñanza de las partes del discurso en el idioma ruso, los fenómenos transicionales en el ámbito de las

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interaction of word-formative and grammatical factors in language and speech.

The theoretical basis for the study was the work on grammar and word formation of M. V. Lomonosov, V. Vinogradov, V. A. Beloshapkov, E. A. Zemskaya, D. V. Sichinava, V. Markov, G. A. Nikolaev. The main significant results of the study include the following. It is noted that cases of formal substantiation include examples of the functioning of morphemes, words of different parts of speech, word combinations, and sentences in the position of the subject, object or an action. The role of the context in determining the semantics peculiarity and the grammatical status of such constructions is shown. The leading role of semantic word-formation in the phenomena of formal substantivization and proper substantivization was noted. Attention is the semantic and grammatical drawn to formal syncretism of elements of substantivization.

**Keywords:** Noun, conversion, substantivization, formal substantivization, quasi-substantivization, semantic word formation.

partes nominales del habla, el estudio de la interrelación e interacción de la palabra Factores informativos y gramaticales en el lenguaje y el habla.

La base teórica para el estudio fue el trabajo sobre gramática y formación de palabras de M. V. Lomonosov, V. Vinogradov, V. A. Beloshapkov, E. A. Zemskaya, D. V. Sichinava, V. Markov, G. A. Nikolaev. Los principales resultados significativos del estudio incluyen lo siguiente. Se observa que los casos de confirmación formal incluyen ejemplos del funcionamiento de los morfemas, palabras de diferentes partes del discurso, combinaciones de palabras y oraciones en la posición del sujeto u objeto de acción. Se muestra el papel del contexto en la determinación de la peculiaridad semántica y el estado gramatical de tales construcciones. Se observó el papel principal de la formación de palabras semánticas en los fenómenos de sustantivización formal y sustantivización adecuada. Se llama la atención sobre el sincretismo semántico y gramatical de los elementos de sustantivización formal.

**Palabras claves:** Sustantivo, conversión, sustantivización, sustantivización formal, cuasi sustantivación, formación de palabras semánticas.

# Resumo

Embora o estudo das partes do discurso na língua russa tenha sido conduzido por mais de dois séculos e meio, a atenção a esse tópico não foi enfraquecida. O interesse no atual estágio de desenvolvimento da lingüística é causado pelos chamados fenômenos transitórios na área de partes do discurso, ou seja, a transição de uma palavra de uma parte do discurso para outro. Perguntas e categorias formação de palavras gerais de palavras semelhantes, mas também em suas características gramaticais particulares, perda ou aquisição de determinadas características gramaticais não surgem apenas sobre semântica. A relevância do tema é devido ao problema não resolvido de interpretar a transição de palavras de diferentes partes do substantivos fala, a necessidade de aperfeiçoar a sinonímia terminológica existente na gramática. O problema da pesquisa consiste em revelar a essência da comprovação formal, sua diferença com a comprovação real (conversão), a relação com o fenômeno da formação de palavras semânticas. O objetivo da pesquisa é delinear os conceitos de substantivo, sustantivización sustantivización formal, quasisustantivización, conversão, palavras de transição de uma parte do discurso para outro, homônimos gramaticais, para mostrar a relação entre a formação de gramática e palavra, a influência da formação de palavras semânticas em fenômenos gramaticais. A novidade do estudo é a correção e refinamento de uma série de proposições teóricas relacionadas com o ensino das partes do discurso em língua russa, fenômenos transitórios no campo de peças nominais do discurso, o estudo da inter-relação e Interação da palavra Fatores informativos e gramaticais na linguagem e na fala.

A base teórica para o estudo foi o trabalho em gramática e palavra formação M. V. Lomonosov, V. Winogradow, V. A. Beloshapkov, E. A. Zemskaya, D. V. Sichinava, V. Markov, A. G. Nikolaev. Os principais resultados significativos do estudo incluem o seguinte. Observa-se que os casos de confirmação formal incluem exemplos de como morfemas, palavras de diferentes partes do discurso, combinações de palavras e frases na posição do sujeito ou objeto de ação. O papel do contexto na determinação da peculiaridade semântica e do estado gramatical de tais construções é mostrado. O principal papel da formação de

palavras semânticas nos fenômenos de substantivação formal e substantivização adequada foi observado. Chama-se a atenção para o sincretismo semântico e gramatical dos elementos da substantivação formal.

**Palavras-chave:** Substantivo, conversão, substantivização, substantivação formal, quase substantivação, formação de palavras semânticas.

### Introduction

The question of parts of speech, their number, general and private categorical features is the cornerstone of Russian morphology. Starting with the "Russian grammar" M.V. Lomonosov (1755), names are present in each grammatical classification. Names, according to M.V. Lomonosov: "are images of verbal things" (Lomonosov, 1788). A. Kh. Vostokov in the "Russian grammar" (1831) singles out the adjectives in an independent part of the speech, and G. P. Pavsky in his work "Philological Observations on the Composition of the Russian Language" (1842) substantiated the grammatical independence of the names of numerals. V. V. Vinogradov in the work "Russian language. The grammatical doctrine of the word" (1947) emphasized that "expressing objectivity, being a means of objectifying various concepts and concepts, the noun is in a complex interaction with all other classes of words" (Vinogradov, 1947). Academic "Russian grammar" (1980), in addition to the noun, as a separate part of the speech considers pronouns-nouns (I, he, who, someone, nobody, etc.).

In the "Russian Corpus Grammar" in the paragraph "The Unification of Traditional Parts of Speech on Morphological Characteristics", an "extended noun (substantive)" is marked, which "is the union of a traditional noun, numeral (without ordinal) and a noun-pronoun. This unification was adopted by N. N. Durnov, A. M. Peshkovskiy, A. K. Polivanova" (Sichinava, 2011). Thus, the question of the nature and composition of a group of names continues to be controversial.

The so-called "transitional" phenomena ("transition" of words of one part of speech to another) cause special interest in the sphere of other of speech: names and parts substantivisation ("transition" of participles and adjectivisation adjectives into nouns), ("transition" of participles into adjectives), adverbialisation ("transition" of nouns and - more rarely - words of other parts of speech into adverbs), pronominalization ("transition" of words of different parts of speech into pronouns). On the one hand, such phenomena

are considered as cases of conversion on the other hand, as phenomena of morphological and syntactic syncretism (Allan, 2014; Booij et al, 2004; Zubova, 1989). Often, especially in foreign linguistics, zero suffixation is referred to as "transitional" phenomena [8], [9], which is more typical of Romano-Germanic languages than Slavic ones with a predominantly morphological way of word formation (Marchand, 1969; Plag, 2002).

Of all the "transitional" phenomena, the formation of nouns based on other parts of speech is the most frequent. It is with this phenomenon that the contradictory interpretation of the term substantiation and, as a consequence, terminological synonymy.

#### Mehtods

The main methods of research are, firstly, a theoretical analysis of the literature on topical problems of modern morphology and word formation, in particular, academic concepts on parts of speech in modern Russian, articles of domestic and foreign scientists on conversion and zero suffixation, on the transition of words from one part of speech to another. Secondly, the method of word-formative and grammatical analysis, which allowed us to doubt the truth of individual scientific propositions about substantiation and formal substantiation.

Thirdly, the method of linguistic description of language units, helped to identify the primary role of context in determining transitional phenomena in the sphere of parts of speech. And also the method of linguistic forecasting, on the basis of which conclusions are drawn about the possibility of formal substantivisation of any unit of language under the influence of the phenomena of semantic word-formation and syncretism of word semantics.

#### **Results and Discussion**

The term substantiation in the scientific literature is treated ambiguously. As a rule, substantivisation is considered as a "Russian variant" of conversion. The phenomenon of



conversion in English is described most fully in the works. Al Smirnitsky: "conversion is a kind of word production, in which only the word paradigm serves as a word-building tool" (Smirnitsky, 1965). Conversions, for example, include love "the love" and love "to love". These words have the same basis (the basis of love-, in this case coinciding with the root), but differ in the system of their forms - their paradigm (noun love has a substantive system of derivational suffixes - - (), -'s, -s, -s' -, and the verb "love" - the verbal system of inflectional suffixes - - (), -s, -ed, -ing...). This distinguishes them as different words formed by changing the paradigm" [ibidem]. And A.I. Smirnitsky emphatically stressed that "it is not necessary to define it as a transition of one part of speech to another": "this definition does not give anything, because it is completely unknown what in this case means" transition", what is the relation of this "transition" to the system of word formation, to wordforming relations in the English language" [ibidem]. The interpretation of A.I. Smirnitsky "transferred" to the phenomena of n word formation. Substantivisation (conversion) is understood as a method of synchronous word formation, in which nouns are formed, motivated in form and in sense by adjectives and participles. "In this case, the paradigm of the adjective or participle is transformed: I) quantitatively - the noun preserves only a part of the "adjective" paradigm (the forms of one of the three genera or the plural form) and 2) the qualitatively harmonious inflections of the adjective or participle are transformed into independent affixes of the noun" (Beloshapkova, 1989).

Substantivisation differs from the morphological-syntactic way of word formation (as a result of which new words arise as a result of the transition of a word or a separate word form to another part of speech), as a phenomenon of the modern Russian language, while the morphological-syntactic method is considered the result of a long historical development diachronic word formation) (Zemskaya, 2013). The use of the words of other parts of speech (adverbs, interjections, particles, etc.) as substantives is not recognized as substantiation.

In the "Russian grammar" (1980) in the section "Word formation" the above view on substantiation is presented as a way of forming nouns based on adjectives and participles, in the section "Morphology", there are cases of substantivisation of adjectives and participles (a patient, a manager, a new one, a daily allowance),

personal pronouns (She used the hearty "thou" by chance, Instead of "you", so stiff and formal (Pushkin) p.532), numerals (Seven do not wait for one p.577), adverbs (Today is collapsing millennial of before (Mayak, p. 467), interjections (If there were not of something "fucking" in the gestures, then do not recognize her as a demi mondaine, p. 467) function words (An awkward absurd loser - a complete "not" p. 467), phrases (For the rest of his life he remembered your "parting forever" p. 467), sentences (We are not satisfied with the indifferent "It's not business of mine" p. 467) elliptic substantivisation ("motivated by adjectives noun adjective declension, synonymous phrases with motivating adjective as a defining word": holyday (day), test (paper), dry (wine), Nevsky (avenue) p. 240). Thus, there is a definite contradiction between word-formative and morphological the understanding of phenomenon substantivisation.

lexico-syntactic approach the phenomenon under consideration makes it possible to distinguish between substantiation "formal substantiation". "Formal substantiation" means the possibility of "using the difference-structured linguistic units (morphemes, word forms, combinations of words, sentences) in a syntactic position typical of a noun" (Bogdanov et al, 2013). The term "formal" subsection knows the purely syntactic essence of this phenomenon, in contrast to substantiation ("transition" of participles and adjectives into nouns) and proper nouns.

The authors of (Bogdanov et al) call such a phenomenon "quasi-substantivisation," emphasizing that "the contexts of such use (for example, the use of quotes) indicate not the "objectification" of the semantics of the corresponding words, but only their citation (reproduction), i.e., the use of words in the specific function of the self-designation, the designation of oneself" (Bogdanov et al, 2013).

Individual **morphemes** can be "formally nominalized" (In the exact translation of the comic hero of Selvinsky: "**too much** of a good thing is worse than **nothing**" (M. Gasparov), word forms (This "I don't want!" surprised Anton Prokofievich (N. Gogol, an example from [13])), a **combination of words** (for example, in a sentence: From the manager's folder flew sheets of tissue paper with some purple "listened - **decided**" (I. Ilf, E. Petrov) as an example of formal substantiation will be the expression

"listened - decided"), the words of different parts of speech (All of these "tee-hee", "ha-ha", singing, cowardly talk are so ugly! (A. Tolstoy); Mini-cinema with old video technique – its wowtools. Museum of ancient technique and tools), No: my mother had a property, her hand had a property of truth (M. Tsvetaeva)); sentences (For only one telegram, Victor did not answer.) Lida's telegram: "I congratulate you, dear Vitya, I want to see you. Perhaps in the autumn I'll come. Do not be angry. Lydia" did not cause him any joy "(V. Kochetov) (example from:) (Bogdanov et al, 2013). The project "National Corpus of the Russian Language" contains many examples of formal substantivisation, including on the basis of individual letters: The most terrible was this "humanly", tongue-tied, with "-ts" instead of "-ch", spoken not by a man - UN... (T. Nabatnikova).

Analysis of examples of formal substantivisation allows us to make a number of remarks on the significance of the context for the realization of the semantic and grammatical features of the word, on the activity of semantic word formation in the Russian language, on the lexical and grammatical syncretism of words.

# Summary

The study and analysis of numerous examples of formal substantiation allows us to conclude the potentiality of any language unit in a certain context "take" the place of the noun and realize the grammatical meaning of the sub one or the object of the action.

Especially it is characteristic for texts of an artistic style, deliberately playing up the ambiguity of words or, better, allowing in certain contexts to fully manifest syncretism of the semantics of the word, including grammatical. Syncretism is inherent in the semantics of a word, but whether it is realized or not in this context depends primarily on the style of the text. This also applies to formal substantivisation of verbal lexicon. It is assumed that this possibility lies in the stable interconnection and interdependence of the name and the verb (predicative) preserved since the time of their Indo-European community, and also to the once existing undifferentiated root (compare: thunder (to thunder), ringing (to ring), wade (to wade) and etc.). The possibility of the formation of nouns on the basis of individual morphemes is connected with the fact that the morphemes themselves once represented separate words - a phenomenon described by

Nikolai Nikolaev in the book "Russian and Slavic word formation".

From the point of view of the modern state of the language, it is advisable to talk about the activity of semantic word-formation [14], [15], [16] and enrichment of the class of abstract nouns based on the words of other parts of speech, as well as morphemes, word combinations and sentences (Markov, 2001; Nikolayev, 2010; Nikolayev, 2011). In this case, the term conversion is to be understood not only as substantivisation (as the transition of adjectives and participles into nouns), but also any semantic change leading to a grammatical transformation of the word, i.e., adjectivisation, adverbialisation pronominalization. Semantic formation is the cause of the emergence of grammatical homonymy in Russian (Safonova and Zamalyutdinova, 2016; Martyanov et al, 2016; Muhametzyanova and Mardieva, 2017; Matveeva and Fatkhutdinova, 2016).

Thus, the phenomenon of formal substantiation should be considered in two aspects: from a historical point of view, as a way of implementing semantic and grammatical syncretism linguistic units, and from the point of view of the modern state of language, as the formation of new linguistic units as a result of semantic word formation.

#### Conclusions

The study of grammatical classes of words in Russian has a long tradition. Scientific explanation of the cases of "transition" of words from one part of speech to another, as a rule, is given on the basis of a structural-semantic approach, based on facts of language. In this case, the terms formal substantivisation, quasi-substantivisation, conversion and the like appear. Terminological synonymy reflects attempts to conclude in the rigid structural framework numerous and diverse deviations from the established scheme. Meanwhile, such cases must also be considered as a phenomenon of speech, taking into account not only the numerous contexts presented in the National Corps of the Russian language, but also the formation and historical development of parts of speech, taking into account the interrelation and interaction of lexical. derivational and grammatical factors. An appeal to methods of research and generalization of cognitive linguistics may also contribute to the study of such large mental formations as grammatical classes of words.



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