

## 15 Some Uses of Nominalisation

**Summary** 15.1 Background Information and Observation. – 15.2 Research. – 15.3 Analysis and Description.

### 15.1 Background Information and Observation

In Lesson 5 and Lesson 7 we have seen zero-nominalisation involved in the impersonal-passive and in the negative constructions. Zero-nominalisation is just one type of nominalisation present in Ainu. In this lesson we concentrate on the kind of nominalisation that is overtly marked morphologically and on some of its uses in HA and SA.

In HA we find, among others, the nominalisers *-pe* ‘thing’ and *-(h)i* ‘place, moment, fact’ (Tamura 2000, 124-7). As for *-pe*, we find the alloform *-p* on vowel-final stems while the form *-pe* is reserved for consonant-final stems. These nominalisers have weak semantics and are specified by the verb/predicate/clause that they follow.

- (1) *Mip-ih*                      *ka*   *opitta*   *a-ko-sos-pa-re-hi*    *ka*  
3/clothes-POSS   even   all   4S-APPL-3PO/3POI/3SOI/take.off-CAUS-**NMLZ**   even  
*erampewtek*                      *no...*  
3SS/3SO/not.know   ADV  
‘Without knowing that I ordered [my magic gloves] to take off [the Water Goddess]  
all her clothes...’ (Bugaeva 2004, 157)

Nominalisation of a verb or predicate may derive a nominal that is re-analysed as a full-fledged noun with its specific semantics. This is called ‘lexical nominalisation’.

- (2) *A-e-p.*  
 4S-eat-**NMLZ**  
 'The thing people eat (= food).' (Tamura 2000, 221)
- (3) *Ape-o-y.* (< *ape-o-i*)  
 fire-3SS/get.in-**NMLZ**  
 'The place fire is in (= fireplace).' (Tamura 2000, 222)

In SA we find, among others, the nominaliser *-hi* (Dal Corso 2021). The underlying vowel in this nominaliser is *i* but, when *-hi* is attached to vowel-final stems, it changes following the rules of vowel harmony that we have seen for the possessive suffix (cf. Lesson 4).

- (4) *Ku-yee-he*                      *sunke.*  
 1SS-3SO/say-**NMLZ**    3SS/be.false  
 'What I say is a lie.' (Murasaki 1979, 95)

→ *Consider this additional information...*

Differently from the HA *-pe* and *-(h)i*, the nominaliser *-hi* is not used in lexical nominalisation in SA – in this Ainu variety zero-nominalisation is used to derive nouns like the ones in (2) and (3) above.

- (5) *lpe.*  
 AP.eat(.NMLZ)  
 'To eat something (> eating something = food).'

→ *Dataset 1 - Types of nominalisation*

Consider the following examples. Some sentences in this set contain the nominalisation strategies we have seen above and others have been included for you to deduce the meaning of words. Note that in Dataset 1 and also in Dataset 2 below nominalisers are given separated from the word they are suffixed to, for more clarity. What is nominalisation used for in these sentences? What interpretations do the nominalised clauses take? Do you think there are any other elements that, together with the nominaliser, derive these specific interpretations of nominalisation as a whole? Do the predicates in the nominalised clauses differ from sentence to sentence in any way (besides in their core semantics)?

**Set 1.1** (Hokkaidō Ainu)

1. ... *sekor Piratur un kamuy ikaspaotte ki p ne korka anu humi ka oararisam.*  
'... so the god of Piratur indeed asked me, but I didn't listen to him at all.'  
(Tamura 1984, 32)
2. *Hempakiw ne siknuan wa okaan a p rapok ene neiwa ek sion sike wa ek ruwe ne.*  
'Various [people] had survived, but at that time, like this, a young man came from somewhere carrying a load.'  
(Tamura 1985, 50)
3. *Aep pirka hi cep pirka hi ikopunpa.*  
'They offered me food of the good kind [and] fish of the good kind.'  
(Tamura 1985, 20)
4. *Somo ka ene yaynuan kunak aramu a p nisapno nea [...] wenkur eun arpaan rusuy.*  
'I thought I wouldn't certainly feel like that, but soon I wanted to go to that [...] poor man's [house].'  
(Tamura 1985, 36)
5. *Tu kanpiso re kanpiso ka aenuypa wa oka yakun ...*  
'If it has been written on two or three pieces of paper ...'  
(Tamura 1984, 14)
6. *Kumimaki ani kapu kukar wa ke a.*  
'I have peeled it with my teeth and eaten it.'  
(Tamura 2000, 111)
7. *Ciseka orewsi hita pase kamuy yaynu ...*  
'When he landed on top of the house, the great god thought ...'  
(Tamura 1985, 28)
8. *Tasiro ka sak nep ka sak pe ne kusu ...*  
'Because in fact he had no sword or anything ...'  
(Tamura 1985, 34)
9. *Aenina p poka sak.*  
'He doesn't even have the means to collect wood.'  
(adapted from Tamura 1985, 36)
10. ... *sekor kuyaynu korka tanto kek ruwe ne.*  
'I thought so but today I came.'  
(Tamura 1984, 12)
11. *Atuseranke hita (aynu) sinen o.*  
'When they lowered the net, one (man) got into it.'  
(Tamura 1984, 22)

**Set 1.2** (Sakhalin Ainu)

1. *Kuyee he sunke.*  
'What I say is a lie.'  
(Murasaki 1979, 95)
2. *Anciwe he neampe henke tuhse.*  
'When I hit him, the old man jumped.'  
(Dal Corso 2021)
3. *Anhawehe nuu yahka wante he nee nanko.*  
'Even though he hears our [old] voices, maybe he [will] in fact recognise [us].'  
(Dal Corso 2021)
4. *Inkarahci hi neampe niskurukaawa [...] hemata ka cokokohse ran.*  
'When they looked, something fell tumbling [...] from the clouds.'  
(Dal Corso 2021)
5. *Ōta pahko neampe nakene ka oman ka hankii.*  
'As for the old Ōta she [will] not go anywhere.'  
(Dal Corso 2021)

6. *'Asin kun i 'anteere.*  
'I waited for it to come out.' (Dal Corso 2021)
7. *Tani 'ene 'an 'ukoytah tura 'ankii hi nee.*  
'Eventually I did (=had) a conversation like this with her.' (Dal Corso 2021)
8. *'Ekotanta 'eoman kun 'ohta ...*  
'When you will go to your village ...' (Dal Corso 2021)
9. *Kayo ho neampe kosmacihi nee nanko sine mahtekuh 'asin.*  
'When he called, one young woman, probably his wife, came out.'  
(Dal Corso 2021)

## 15.2 Research

Now look at this other dataset and also read the examples from other languages given after it, which you will need for the third and last activity of this lesson.

### → Dataset 2 - Pragmatic applications of nominalisation

The following examples illustrate one more use of nominalisation. What is the structural peculiarity of these sentences? How is nominalisation used? Can the nominalised clause in these instances be followed by any other element?

#### Set 2.1 (Hokkaidō Ainu)

1. *Atuy ruyampe isam yak pirka p!*  
'[I wish] the sea weren't stormy!' (Tamura 2000, 164)

#### Set 2.2 (Sakhalin Ainu)

1. *Poro iso 'enukara ka hanki hi?*  
'Haven't you seen the big bear?' (Dal Corso 2021)
2. *Hemata kusu enan si hura an hi hetaneya?*  
'Why on earth is there such a smell of dung?!' (Pilsudski 1912, 160)
3. *Hoynu poronno 'e'ayki hi 'aa?*  
'You catch a lot of pine martens, don't you?' (Pilsudski 1912, 132)
4. *'Esinnisahta 'enuma ike hemata 'ekii hi?*  
'This morning you woke up and what have you done?' (Dal Corso 2021)

## Examples from Other Languages...

### Korean (Koreanic, Korea)

(example from Yoon 1991 in Yap, Grunow-Hårsta, Wrona 2011, 6)

*Chelswu-ka chayk-ul ppalli ilk-ess-um-i pwunmyengha-ta.*  
 Chelswu-NOM book-ACC quickly read-PST-NMLZ-NOM evident-DECL  
 ‘It is evident (the fact) that Chelswu read the book quickly.’

This example from Korean shows nominalisation of **an entire clause**, that spans from *Chelswuka* to the verb *ilkess-*, marked by the nominaliser *-um*. The verb *ilk-* ‘read’ retains specification for tense, and it is also marked for nominative case via the postposition *-i*. This last fact indicates that the whole clause is nominalised and functions as a nominal. This type of nominalisation, where the predicate in the nominalised clause is still marked for categories such as tense, aspect, and mood, and the clause is compatible with nominal morphology, is called ‘**clausal nominalisation**’. A clause nominalised this way functions as a subordinate clause, dependent from a main clause (which, in the example above, is *pwunmyenghata* ‘it is evident’).

### Mongsen Ao (Sino-Tibetan, India)

(example from Coupe 2007 in Yap, Grunow-Hårsta, Wrona 2011, 8)

*Tsəhŋi ku hwaŋ-əkə mən-pəʔ i aɯ-əʔ-ùʔ.*  
 sun LOC roast-SIM sit-NMZ PROX be.good-PRES-DEC  
 ‘This sitting [and] bathing in the sun is good.’

The example from Mongsen Ao shows an instance of **embedded nominalisation**. Here the coordinated verbs *hwaŋ* ‘roast’ and *mən* ‘sit’ in the nominalised clause do not bear markers of tense, aspect, or mood and the whole nominal constituent functions as an argument of the verb in the main clause (i.e. *aɯ* ‘be good’). For this reason the nominalised clause is considered embedded (or ‘enclosed’) in the main predicate. It is important to note that the (im)possibility for the predicate in the nominalised clause to be marked for tense, aspect, or mood **varies from language to language** (Yap, Grunow-Hårsta, Wrona 2011). Therefore, it may be possible to find one or two of these categories marked on the predicate but not the other(s).

Chhantyal (Sino-Tibetan, Nepal)

(example from Grunow-Hårsta, Yap 2009 in Yap, Grunow-Hårsta, Wrona 2011, 8)

*Ram-e*      *Sita-o*      *rha*      *sat-cyo.*  
 Ram-ERG    Sita-GEN    goat      kill-MIR.NMZ  
 ‘Ram killed Sita’s goat!’ (to the speaker’s surprise)

The example from Chhantyal shows a nominalised clause that is not dependent from nor embedded in any main clause or predicate. The nominalised clause, although being morphosyntactically a nominal, functions as an independent clause. This kind of nominalisation is called ‘non-embedded nominalisation’ or ‘**insubordination**’ (Evans 2007; 2009). Insubordination usually fulfils **specific semantic-pragmatic functions**. For example, in Chhantyal it is used to mark the speaker’s surprised attitude towards the event.

### 15.3 Analysis and Description

In no less than 400 words give an overview of the pragmatic uses of nominalisation you have encountered in Datasets 1 and 2. Cite the relevant examples and also be specific about the kind of nominalisation involved and the morphosyntactic elements that are found together with nominalisation.

- Is there any case where the semantics borne out by nominalisation overlaps with that of other constructions?
- What are the differences between HA and SA?
- Are there any examples difficult to analyse? If yes, why are they so?