

The aim of this work is to divide and analyse the structure Det + N1N2 in contemporary Portuguese. Hence we deal with expressions consisting of two side-by-side substantives, which are not connected by preposition (cf. a palavra-chave, o navio escola, o Estado-nar;d'o ou o cantor/poeta; o Prémio Nobel).

These structures are relatively frequent in spoken as well as in written language and they contribute considerably to the enrichment of vocabulary. We can consider them as compounds or simple nominal groups, sometimes they are analysed within the framework of transposition. Authors, who apply themselves to the issue of compounds, usually deal with the distinction between compounds and simple nominal groups and with creation of criteria for their typology and classification. Those who study the structure in terms of transposition focus on transition of expression in the N2 position from the class of substantives to the class of adjectives. Generally we can say that it's possible to find several theoretical attitudes, which blend together in some aspects and differ in others.

That's why we introduce in the first part different conceptions of the structure Det + N1N2 in contemporary Portuguese. In addition to the work of Portuguese linguists we also take into consideration works of French and Czech experts.

In the practical part we apply ourselves to the classification of structures from the Portuguese dailies "Público" and "Diário de Notícias" and also from the Portuguese language corpus, which is available on the Internet. In classification we draw on the typology by Noailly (1990). We adapted her paraphrases and criteria to Portuguese and on their basis divided gained expressions according to semantic and syntactic relation between expressions N1 and N2 to categories of qualification, coordination, complementation and identification.