

Abstract

The thesis explores the category of countability, with the main focus being on noncount nouns. The aim is to describe lexical means that enable noncount nouns to have count usage. The theoretical part firstly distinguishes count nouns from noncount nouns on the basis of their linguistic (i.e. grammatical, formal and semantic) features. Further, it delineates in more detail the means through which noncount nouns acquire the count usage; the most space is given to defining partitive constructions, their types, and possible vagueness.

The practical part consists of an analysis of twelve selected noncount nouns and their respective partitives. The data are extracted from the British National Corpus (BNC). The partitives are divided according to their type and the thesis gives a quantitative, as well as a semantic classification of these partitives for each of the selected noncount nouns. The adjective modification of the noncount nouns is also partially studied.