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**Neurčitý člen jako signál počítatelného užití nepočítatelných substantiv**

**The Indefinite Article as a Signal of the Countable Use of Uncountable Nouns**

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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

adj.	adjective
adv. circumst.	adverbial of accompanying circumstances
adv. manner	adverbial of manner
adv. place	adverbial of place
Co	object complement
Cs	subject complement
CR	classifier
DR	descriptor
<i>make</i>	<i>make a difference</i> idiom
mult.	multiple
OALD	Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary
Od	direct object
Oprep	prepositional object
pl	plural
pre-mod.	premodification
pre/post.mod.	noun both premodified and postmodified
post-mod.	postmodification/postmodified noun
sg	singular
subj.	subject
synt.fc.	syntactic function
<i>there</i>	existential <i>there</i> construction
v.	versus

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

In English, there are three types of nouns in terms of the category of countability: countable, uncountable and so called dual class nouns that can be used both countably and uncountably. Motivation for either count or noncount use of the last mentioned group of nouns is not always clear; different factors need to be taken into account. The aim of the present thesis is to focus on the role of one of the possible factors: premodification. It will be attempted to find out whether the presence of premodifiers results in the countable use of the dual class nouns. For this purpose, a corpus analysis of fifty instances of three dual class nouns (*difference, interest, language*), i.e. one hundred and fifty instances, will be carried out and details considering the count and noncount use of each noun will be described. Attention will also be paid to the semantics of premodifiers as it might be of some importance, too.

The theoretical part of the thesis provides a summary of the category of countability and describes the semantic division of adjectives (the most frequent word class with regard to premodification). It is based upon three English grammar books, namely *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Grammar* by Quirk et al. (1985), *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language* by Huddleston&Pullum (2002) and *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English* by Biber et al. (1999), and one Czech grammar book, *Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny* by Dušková et al. (2006).

The empirical part is, as suggested above, a corpus analysis of the three selected nouns. Details considering the syntactic structures or patterns in which the nouns figure are attached and all possible reasons for either count or noncount use of the noun are pointed out. Additional excerption is carried out to supplement the primary excerption whenever it is considered necessary for the description of the motivation for (non)count use of the nouns.

## 2 THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

On the basis of their ability to express contrasts of number, nouns can be generally divided into count and noncount (*A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Grammar*, Quirk et al. henceforth, *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language*, Huddleston&Pullum henceforth, *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English*, Biber et al. henceforth). However, many nouns have both count and noncount uses and grammar books treat that problem in different ways. Quirk et al. and Huddleston&Pullum mention a special subcategory of count/noncount nouns and talk about “dual class membership” (Quirk et al., 1985: 247) and “count/noncount polysemy” (Huddleston&Pullum, 2002: 336). Biber et al. do not offer a subcategory, only point to the fact that the contrast between count/noncount nouns corresponds to our perception of entities we are talking about (Biber et al., 1999: 242). Dušková et al. (Dušková et al., 2006: 52) ascribe the nouns with both count and noncount uses a special category and then describe countability with the help of three categories of the same importance: always count (“zásadně počítatelná”), always noncount (“vždy nepočítatelná”) and dual class (“v některých významech počítatelná a v jiných nepočítatelná”). Interestingly, some linguists, e.g. Keith Allan in his “Nouns and Countability” published in *Language* vol.56 (Allan, 1980: 541), claim that nouns only show countability preferences, making countability not the matter of nouns but the matter of whole noun phrases. Therefore, in extreme cases (certain English dialects) we should consider not only two (or three) but even eight levels of countability.

For the purpose of this thesis, the classification of nouns is based on the division provided by Dušková et al. Consequently, the class of countability is described using three equally important categories: count, noncount and dual class membership.

### 2.1 Count Nouns

Count nouns refer to entities that are seen as easily counted, i.e. persons, animals, objects etc. They have both a singular and a plural form and they combine with every determiner (except for those specific for noncount nouns, i.e. *little*, *a little*, *less*, *much*). Depending on the type of reference, we can use either indefinite articles (*a/an*) or the definite article (*the*) in the singular and no article or again the definite article in the plural.

However, there are also count nouns that have the same singular and plural form; only the subject-verb agreement or their combination with determiners indicate if the noun is used in the

singular or in the plural as for example in:

*The BBC are planning two new drama series for autumn.*

*It's a new series.*

*They took the previous series off because it wasn't suitable viewing for children.*

(Carter&McCarthy, 2006: 336-337)

A number of nouns referring to animals and plants also belong to this category:

*He saw a grouse moving very slowly across the field.*

*Grouse are always shot at this time of year.*

*Several beech lined the long path leading to the palace.*

*When he rode back over the hill to Burlford and took in the timeless cluster of rooftops and church tower, the rookiered beeches behind the Rectory, how did it seem? (Ibid: 337)*

### **2.1.1 No Article**

Even though count nouns in the singular normally require an article (or any other means of expressing reference), in certain instances there is a possibility to omit the article. Dušková et al. describe this phenomenon as “bezčlennost”, no article (Dušková et al., 2006: 52), Quirk et al. use the term “zero article” (Quirk et al., 1985: 276).

#### **2.1.1.1 Of-Construction**

First, the absence of article can be caused by specific syntactic position of the noun; the noun in the singular can stand without the indefinite article in genitive *of*-constructions (*sort of, type of* etc.): *that sort of woman, the type of sentence, this kind of tree, the role of subject*. However, in such constructions, the indefinite article does not have to be omitted: *this kind of a tree* (Dušková et al., 2006: 53).

#### **2.1.1.2 Semantic Unsuitability**

There are also such syntactic positions of nouns in which the use of the either definite or indefinite article would not be semantically suitable:

*It was morning.* v. *It was a sunny morning.* (Dušková et al., 2006: 52)

Also, the article is omitted if the noun is of adjectival nature:

*He was friend to us.*

*He is more artist than scientist.* (Ibid: 52)

### 2.1.1.3 Idioms

Idiomatic expressions are the cause for no article in the singular as well. Quirk et al. distinguish a number of categories falling under no/zero article usage<sup>1</sup> (Quirk et al., 1985: 277-281):

#### (a) Institutions

Nouns combine with no article if they complement a preposition in quasi-locative phrases: *be in/go to bed town, hospital, prison; be at/go to sea, school; be in/be at church; go to college* (Ibid: 277).

#### (b) Means of transport and communication

Nouns that follow after *by* combine with no article as well: *travel/leave/come/go by bicycle, bus, car, boat, train, plane; communication by radio, telephone, post* (Ibid: 278).

#### (c) Times of day and night

Usually after *at*, *by*, *after* and *before*, the times of day and night combine with no article, too: *at dawn/daybreak, sunrise, sunset, noon, midnight, dusk, twilight; by night, day and night; before morning came; after nightfall, dark; day by day* (Ibid: 278).

#### (d) Seasons

The article can be (but does not have to be) omitted when talking about seasons in general: *in spring, summer, autumn, winter* (v. *The winter of 1963 was an exciting time.*) (Ibid: 279).

#### (e) Meals

No article is used with meals understood as an institution: *stay for/have/before/after/at/for breakfast, brunch, cocktails, tea, lunch, dinner, supper* (Ibid: 279).

#### (f) Illnesses

Even though there is a possibility to combine illnesses with the definite article, no article is used as well: *anaemia, appendicitis, diabetes, influenza, pneumonia* (Ibid: 279-280).

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<sup>1</sup> Quirk et al. touch this phenomenon while describing nouns with sporadic reference. They note that such nouns would normally require a definite article “but their use has become so institutionalized that the article is not used” (Quirk et al., 1985: 277).

### **(g) Parallel structures**

The article is not used if nouns occur in parallel structures: *arm in arm, hand in hand, face to face, day by day, side by side* (Ibid: 280).

Sometimes, nouns are not repeated but the article is still omitted; the reason lies in the contrasting meaning of the nouns: *from father to son, husband and wife, from left to right/west to east/beginning to end*.

Also, no article is used (even though the definite article is also possible) in coordination by *both... and* and *neither... nor*:

*The birth took place this morning, and both mother and child are doing well.*

*The pitched camp between a small winding river and ridge covered with brushwood; but neither river nor brushwood afforded the protection they needed in the event of attack.*

(Ibid: 280)

### **(h) Fixed phrases with prepositions**

Except already mentioned idioms such as *hand in hand* or *at home*, there is a number of other instances of no article: *on foot, in turn, out of step*. Complex prepositions, e.g. *on top of, by way of*, as well as idioms consisting of verbs followed by a noun and a preposition (*take advantage of, set fire to* etc.) also allow the noun to have no article (Ibid: 280-281).

## **2.1.2 Uncountable Use of Countable Nouns**

A limited number of count nouns when (in the singular) combined with the expressions *all* and *enough* transfer to the category of noncount nouns and therefore do not require any article (“nepočitatelné užití počitatelných substantiv”, the uncountable use of count nouns, in Dušková et al. (Dušková et al., 2006: 53)). *All* and *enough* usually combine either with noncount nouns or count nouns in the plural. However, we can find instances of their use with otherwise count nouns that are in the singular, such as:

*She is all woman.*

*This may look like an old jalopy to you but it's all car.*

*There's not enough table for everyone to sit at.*

However such examples are not very common (Ibid: 53).

## 2.2 Noncount Nouns

Noncount nouns denote an undifferentiated mass or continuum, i.e. entities that cannot be counted. They typically refer to “materials and liquids, states of mind, conditions, topics, processes and substances” (Carter&McCarthy, 2006: 338). Although they do not vary for number, Carter&McCarthy divide them into singular and plural as a part of them combine only with the singular and the other part only with the plural (Ibid: 338).

### 2.2.1 Singular Noncount Nouns

Singular noncount nouns (also referred to as *singularia tantum* by Dušková et al.) do not combine with the indefinite article, but they differ between definite and indefinite forms. They may have both concrete and abstract meanings: *cheese, furniture, luggage, sand; advice, knowledge, patience, progress* (Carter&McCarthy, 2006: 339). They typically denote items of food and drink (*bread, cake, coffee, juice, milk, pasta, spinach, sugar*) and material (*cement, cotton, fabric, lotion, metal, plastic, wool*) (Ibid: 340).

Some of them may end in -s but they are still grammatically singular. These are typically the names of disciplines, physical activities, diseases and games: *maths, physics; athletics, gymnastics; measles, mumps; billiards, darts* (Ibid: 341) Another specific group of nouns belonging to this category are nouns derived from adjectives: *the beautiful, the unknown* (Dušková et al., 2006: 56).

### 2.2.2 Plural Noncount Nouns

Plural noncount nouns are “morphologically plural nouns which do not vary for number and do not combine with numerals” (Biber et al., 1999: 244). A distinctive subcategory of these nouns are the so called bipartite nouns (Carter&McCarthy, 2006: 342). They include instruments, garments and tools: *glasses, goggles; jeans, pants, pyjamas; scissors, tweezers* (Ibid: 342).

Dušková et al. do not talk about plural noncount nouns specifically; it is however noted that most of the *pluralia tantum* nouns fall under noncount nouns (Dušková et al., 2006: 57). In the division offered in this thesis, pluralia tantum would belong to the category of plural noncount nouns.

### 2.2.3 Countable Use of Uncountable Nouns

Even though noncount nouns traditionally do not combine with the indefinite article, there are a few of them that can occur with *a/an*. These are predominantly modified noncount nouns, e.g. *we got up in darkness* v. *an oppressive darkness hung all around us* (Dušková et al., 2006: 57). Also, the use of the indefinite article may be caused by a slight difference in the meaning of the noncount noun: *she did it out of pity* (=compassion), *what a pity!* (=shame) (Ibid: 57).

Another exception are nouns that can occur with certain numerals, more specifically numerals indicating higher or approximate amount: *about five hundred cattle, twenty police, many folk* (Ibid: 51).

### 2.2.4 Means of Reclassification

As the term “noncount” suggests, these nouns cannot be commonly counted. Nevertheless, there is a number of possibilities if one needs to make noncount nouns countable:

(a) Recategorization can be done with the help of **partitives**, i.e. “constructions denoting a part of a whole” (Quirk et al., 1985: 249). Quirk et al. differentiate between “partition in respect of quality”, “partition in respect of quantity” and “measure partitive nouns” (Ibid: 249-251).

- PARTITION IN RESPECT OF QUALITY is expressed by *of*-constructions with nouns like *kind, sort, type*: *a delicious SORT of bread, a nice KIND of coffee, English TYPES of cheese*. Partitives of this kind combine with count nouns, too. (Ibid: 249).

- PARTITION IN RESPECT OF QUANTITY is divided into *general partitive nouns*, i.e. *piece, bit, item* (*a piece of cake, a bit of chalk, an item of news*) which can be to certain extent used also with count nouns, and typical partitives that combine with “specific concrete uncountable nouns” (Ibid: 249-251):

an ATOM/GRAIN of truth

a BAR of chocolate/soap/gold/iron

a BLADE of grass

a BLOCK of ice

a DROP of water/oil/whiskey

a GRAIN of corn/rice/sand/salt

a LOAF of bread

a LUMP of coal

a SHEET of paper

a SLICE of bacon/bread/cake/meat (Ibid: 250)

an ACT of friendliness/kindness/mercy/malice

an ARTICLE of faith/news/clothing/furniture

several FLASHES of lightning

a SHRED of evidence

a STROKE of good luck/misfortune/genius

a WORD of advice (Dušková et al., 2006: 58)

Bipartite nouns combine with *a PAIR of*, diseases and states of mind or moods go together with *a CASE of* or *a FIT of* (a case of mumps, a fit of the blues). (Ibid: 58)

- MEASURE PARTITIVE NOUNS combine with both count and noncount nouns and “relate to precise quantities denoting length, area, volume, and weight” (Quirk et al., 1985: 251):

a METRE/a YARD of cloth

a LITRE of wine

a PINT/a QUART of milk

an OUNCE of tobacco

a POUND of butter (Ibid: 251)

(b) Adjectival pluralia tantum (e.g.: *the sick, the brave*) are made countable **by adding *man/men* or *people***: a sick man, many poor people starve (Dušková et al., 2006: 58). The same strategy is used with the names of nations such as *the English, the French, the Irish: an Englishman, several Dutchmen* (Ibid: 59).

(c) Noncount nouns occurring with numerals indicating higher or approximate amount are made countable lexically: *two policemen, three clergymen, five head of cattle* (Ibid: 59).

(d) Pluralia tantum names of substances combine with the following expressions of the plural: ***much, little***. In that way, we can “count” *much suds, little spirits* (Ibid: 59).

(e) There is a possibility to work with **synonyms** (if there are any): *work* v. *a job, jobs*; *housework* v. *a chore, chores*; *imagination* v. *a fancy* (Ibid: 58).

(f) The last option is reserved for noncount nouns ending in *-ing*; such nouns find their



countable counterpart in a **converted noun**: *smoking* v. *we had a smoke*, *breathing* v. *take a deep breath* (Ibid: 58).

In the following table (Table 1), distribution of count and nouncount nouns is summarized:

	count		noncount	
	sg	pl	sg	pl
number	<i>picture</i>	<i>pictures</i>	<i>furniture</i>	0
	<i>mistake</i>	<i>mistakes</i>	<i>violence</i>	0
quantifiers				
definite numerals	<i>two pictures</i>		0	0
several	<i>several mistakes</i>		0	0
many/much, (a) few/little	<i>many pictures</i>		<i>much violence</i>	
	<i>(a) few mistakes</i>		<i>little furniture</i>	
all, every, each	<i>every picture</i>		<i>all furniture</i>	
	<i>each mistake</i>		<i>all/any violence</i>	
	<i>all pictures/mistakes</i>			
indefinite determination				
generic	<i>A mistake is no crime.</i>		<i>Violence does not solve problems.</i>	
non-generic	<i>I made a mistake.</i>		<i>That would do violence to his principles.</i>	

Table 1: Distribution of Count and Noncount Nouns (based on Dušková et al., 2006: 51-52)

## 2.3 Dual Class Membership

A number of nouns are used both countably and uncountably; their respective countable/uncountable use is lexically restricted<sup>2</sup>. Sometimes, their basic use is countable; other times the nouns are primarily noncount. Moreover, there are also instances when we cannot decide which use the basic one. Also, when it comes to the dual class words, a change in the meaning is possible. Now let us look at specific instances of duality in detail.

### 2.3.1 Substance v. Separate Thing

A noncount noun denotes a substance or material, a count noun denotes a separate thing: *cake*, *a slice of cake* v. *a cake/cakes*, *fancy cakes*; *stone*, *a wall made of stone* v. *a stone/stones*, *throw stones*, *precious stones*; *copper* v. *a copper/coppers*; *straw*, *mats made of straw* v. *a straw/straws*, *suck lemonade through a straw*, *catch at a straw*, *clutch at straws*.

Analogically, *oak*, *beech*, *birch* etc. denote not only particular trees but also wood/vegetation in general. *Hair* v. *a hair/hairs* belong to this category as well. Also, a type of meat or a portion of the meat v. an animal providing the meat should be listed here: *lamb* v. *a lamb/lambs*, *chicken* v. *a chicken/chickens* (Dušková et al., 2006: 53-54).

### 2.3.2 Abstract Noun v. Its Manifestation

Talking about abstract words, a noncount noun stands for an activity, quality, attribute or state as such; a count noun then denotes their particular manifestation:

- LIFE: *a man full of life* v. *many needlessly lost lives*; FACT: *the story is founded on fact* v. *the facts show that...*; LANGUAGE: *language is a means of communication* v. *learn a foreign language/foreign languages*; NOISE: *don't make so much noise* v. *what are those strange noises?*; SUCCESS: *he had great/much success in life* v. *he had an easy and instantaneous success*; PAIN: *I didn't feel much pain* v. *a pain in the knee*; DIFFERENCE: *I can't see much difference* v. *there are some differences etc.*

Nouns with more concrete meaning function on similar principles: *business*, *we do not do much business with them* v. *he manages three different businesses*; *fire*, *insurance against fire* v.

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<sup>2</sup> Huddleston&Pullum talk about *polysemy* of respective nouns: "there is a clear relation between the two [count and noncount] meanings, and we therefore take them to be senses of a single lexical item" (Huddleston&Pullum, 2002: 334).

*forest fires, make a fire* (Dušková et al., 2006: 54-55).

### 2.3.3 Substance v. Its Type

A noncount word denotes a substance or matter, count word denotes a type of the substance - this process is called “reclassification” by Quirk et al (1985: 248)<sup>3</sup>. It involves a shift of the nouns “from one class to another by means of conversion” (Ibid: 248): *wine, I prefer red wine v. they have a large assortment of local wines; accordingly beer, coffee, tea, tobacco* etc. This type of dual class nouns is very frequent in professional literature: *wheat v. a wheat/wheats, several wheats have been developed for high altitudes; grass v. a grass/grasses...*

Portions of a particular matter or substance should be also listed under this category: *coffee v. two coffees; ice-cream v. an ice* (Dušková et al., 2006: 55).

### 2.3.4 Quality v. Its Possessor

A noncount noun denotes a quality, a count noun stands for a person that represents or possesses the quality: *beauty v. a beauty; love, love always forgives v. she was an old love of his; wit, his writing sparkle with wit v. he was a notable wit; gossip, she is fond of gossip v. she is an old gossip; help, the loan wasn't [of] much help v. you were/ your support was a great help.*

A vice-versa relationship exists as well (count -> noncount): *witness, an eye-witness v. give witness* (Dušková et al., 2006: 55).

### 2.3.5 Difference in Meaning

Good deal of the meanings of count/noncount nouns have to a smaller or a larger degree differentiated from each other: *fruit* (apples, pears etc.) v. *fruits of long study*; *glass* (a material) v. *a glass* (a container); *paper* (a material) v. *a paper* (newspaper/article/essay); *iron* (a material) v. *an iron* (a tool); *toast* (food), *two slices of toast* v. *(to drink) a toast*; *nature* (a return to nature) v. *a nature* (dogs and cats have quite different natures); *lace* (a material) v. *(shoe) laces*; *interest, a matter of great/much interest, 6 percent interest, the rate of interest* v. *she has many interests* and so on (Dušková et al., 2006: 56).

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<sup>3</sup> Chesterman labels this category as “type reading”: count nouns always represent a *type* of their noncount counterparts (Chesterman, 1991: 43).

## 2.4 Semantic Division of Adjectives

Since one of the main aims of the present paper is to find out whether modifications has an impact on the countability of dual class nouns (see section 2.3), we will also be interested in the semantic content of modifiers. Biber et al. provide a detailed semantic classification; they distinguish two semantic types of adjectives: descriptors and classifiers (Biber et al. 1999: 508).

### 2.4.1 Descriptors

Descriptors are “adjectives denoting such features as color, size and weight, chronology and age, emotion, and a wide range of other characteristics. They are typically gradable.” (Biber et al., 1999: 508). The following examples of semantic groups are provided:

(a) *Color/brightness: black, white, bright, dark*

(b) *Size/weight/extent: big, little, long, short, heavy, large, wide*

(c) *Chronology/age/frequency: early, late, new, old, young, annual, daily*

(d) *Emotive/evaluative: bad, beautiful, fine, lovely, poor*

(e) *Miscellaneous description: appropriate, cold, dead, empty, free, hard, hot, open, positive, practical, private, serious, strange, strong, sudden* (Ibid: 508-509).

### 2.4.2 Classifiers

Classifiers “delimit or restrict a noun’s referent, by placing it in a category in relation to other referents. They are typically non-gradable.” (Biber et al., 1999: 508)

(a) *Relation/classification/restriction: additional, average, chief, complete, different, external final, left, necessary, original, particular, public, single, standard, various*

(b) *Affiliation: American, Chinese, Christian*

(c) *Topic/other: chemical, commercial, environmental, human, legal, phonetic visual*  
(Ibid: 509).

However, the above division is not strict, though. Some adjectives can function both as descriptors and classifiers: *a useful secondary function* (descriptor) v. *a secondary school* (classifier); *criminal activity* (descriptor) v. *criminal law* (classifier). Also, the subdivision within the categories of descriptors and classifiers is flexible: *an old radio, old newspaper* (the descriptor

of age) v. *poor old Rusty, good old genetics* (the descriptor of emotion, affect). (Ibid: 509)

## 3 MATERIAL AND METHOD

### 3.1 Material

The research part provides an analysis of three nouns that allow both countable and noncountable use, namely *difference*, *interest* and *language*. *Difference* and *language* belong to that category of dual class nouns where the reason for countability lies in the contrast between the abstract use of the noun and its particular manifestation. *Interest* can be found in the group where the difference in meaning plays the key role in the countability (see chapter 2.3).

The analysis is carried out on the basis of 150 examples of premodified nouns, i.e. 50 examples of each noun. The instances of premodified nouns are excerpted from the British National Corpus available online through Brigham Young University: [corpus.byu.edu/bnc](http://corpus.byu.edu/bnc). The excerpt starts with the first occurrence of the noun and continues until 50 examples of each noun are collected. Such occurrences where it is not possible to decide whether the noun is in its countable or uncountable form are excluded. Additional excerpt is carried out through a different access to the British National Corpus, namely [bncweb.lancs.ac.uk](http://bncweb.lancs.ac.uk), as the Brigham Young University access is not adjusted to specifically focussed complex searches. In addition, in order to evaluate the reasons for countable/uncountable use, all the meanings and possible idiomatic uses of the nouns are extracted from the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (OALD henceforth) available online ([www.oxfordadvancedlearnersdictionary.com](http://www.oxfordadvancedlearnersdictionary.com)) and are listed and briefly discussed at the beginning of the analysis of each noun.

### 3.2 Method

The aim of the present paper is to find out whether premodification has or has not an impact on the countability of dual class nouns. The focus is also put on the semantics of adjectives in premodification as it might play a role in the countability of nouns, too. Therefore, 50 instances of each noun are excerpted providing that premodification is present and the countability of the noun can be easily determined (the excerpt is restricted to written texts only in order to avoid possible grammatical incorrectness in the spontaneous speech of speakers). All the instances that contain either the definite article, possessive genitive construction or possessive pronoun or quantifiers *some*, *any*, *no* are excluded from the present analysis, as they all combine both with count and noncount nouns and therefore do not signal the countability of the noun. As for premodification,

both realization forms, i.e. adjectives and nouns, are included (for more detailed description of the problems in analysis see 3.2.1). The results are divided into count and noncount uses (for the theoretical background see 2.3) and then, in the case of *difference*, the semantics of premodifiers is determined based on the criteria for distinguishing between descriptors and classifiers summarized in chapter 2.4. (Additional information on the difficulties with assessing the semantic division of adjectives can be found in chapter 3.2.1.) All of the 150 instances are then assessed in terms of postmodification. Finally, syntactic functions of each of the instances of the examined nouns are determined.

The primary excerption being done and all the examples being divided into categories, additional excerption follows. However, it does not concentrate on the same aspects in all the cases. First, when sorting out the examples, it has been noticed that every noun displays different significant features and tendencies to occur in different constructions or patterns. These tendencies being identified, additional excerption is carried out in order to find out how frequent the constructions or patterns are in the corpus.

In the case of *difference*, the additional excerption focuses on the corpus distribution of the noun as well as the existential there construction and the *make a difference* idiom, as they belong to the most frequent instances of *difference* in the primary excerption. Since their use is (in the primary excerption) predominantly count, it is also attempted to find out how frequent their noncount uses are in the corpus. Finally, attention is also paid to the count premodifiers occurring in the primary excerption and their combination with the zero article. As the majority of the instances of *difference* are of count nature, excerption is carried out in order to detect whether those premodifiers allow combination with the zero article as well or if they reject it constantly.

In the case of *interest*, the additional excerption concentrates first on premodifiers. The primary analysis shows that some of the premodifiers occur both in the count and noncount use of the noun, therefore excerption is carried out to find out whether the rest of them combine both with count and noncount *interest*, too. Second, additional excerption focuses on the phrases listed in the summary of meanings of *interest* offered by OALD (to feel/have/show/express/take (an) interest in something; see 4.2, meaning 1) since it has been noticed that in one of the sample sentence, *interest* was determined by the indefinite article even though the use was classified as noncount.

There is no additional excerption in the case of *language* as the primary excerption does not demonstrate any repeatedly occurring phrases or idioms. Therefore, additional excerption is not considered needful.

All the examples in additional excerption are assessed only from the point of pure numbers in order to find out how many instances of respective constructions/structures/combinations there are.

Therefore, the nature of the respective instances is not discussed in greater detail.

### 3.2.1 Problems in Analysis

#### 3.2.1.1 The Definite Article

In the primary excerption, a number of examples have to be excluded from the analysis because of the definite article in the noun phrase. As it combines with both count and noncount nouns (Biber et al., 1999: 263), it is impossible to determine the countability/uncountability of respective nouns. To be more specific, the problematic case are the instances of non-generic definite reference [1], [2], [3]: the definite article is the only possible determiner in such a type of reference for both count and noncount nouns (Dušková et al., 2006:62).

[1] *Where can the difference be between a beggar's son married to a lady or a beggar's daughter made a gentleman's wife?* (EI1)

[2] *A play is primary a piece of action and although a script contains some scenic and character description, the essential interest lies in the dialogue and the action arising from it.* (EI2)

[3] *We trimmed the majority of the bad language and some of the excesses of violence as well.* (EI3)

#### 3.2.1.2 Quantifiers *Some, Any, No*

If the nouns combine with either one of the quantifiers *some* [4], *any* [5], *no* [6], it is also impossible to determine the type of countability. *Some* functions as a quantifier both with noncount nouns and count nouns in singular and plural. *Any* is used as a counterpart of *some* in negative sentences and in questions (Dušková et al., 2006: 121-128). *No* as a quantifier is again used with both types of nouns with no distinction between number or countability (Ibid: 129)

[4] *There may be nothing behind it, but it doesn't make any difference so long as it is honoured.* (EI4)

[5] *For her the world was full of young men whose bodies were untainted by disease and these — he persuaded himself — were the ones she really craved, having no care for him at all, except some morbid interest in a diseased thing, which, presently, she would thrust aside with a disdainful shudder.* (EI5)



[6] *There were no metal tools — only stone, wood and bone were used; there was no written language and thus recording of land rights and rules for their disposal; there were no cereal crops, and limited means only of storing foodstuffs; and so on.* (EI6)

### 3.2.1.3 Demonstrative & Possessive Pronouns, 'S Genitive

Determination of a noun by either a demonstrative/possessive pronoun or a possessive 's genitive does not allow identifying the type of countability, either, as all such means of determination combine with count and noncount nouns at the same time [7], [8], [9]. Therefore, when examples of such a type of determination occur, they are excluded from the analysis.

[7] *This visible difference reflects differences in values.* (EI7)

[8] *After the war he set Hollywood alight with his invented language, Vout, and played with Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie.* (EI8)

[9] *It is almost certain that Leonard's interest in Zen Buddhism was sown at this time, and his 'anti-intellectualism' confirmed.* (EI9)

### 3.2.1.4 Semantic Classification of Adjectives

Difficulties occur not only in the evaluation of the category of countability but also in the semantic classification of adjectives into descriptors and classifiers. It turns out the criteria for the division (see chapter 2.4) are not sufficient. First of all, descriptors are described as "typically gradable" and classifiers as "typically nongradable" (Biber et al, 1999: 508). As both classes allow exceptions, gradability itself could not be taken as the only motivation for the adjective being ascribed to either one of the classes. Also, both descriptors and classifiers have the ambiguous subclass of "other" or "miscellaneous" (Ibid: 508) and obviously none of these subclasses lists all the adjectives. Therefore, when in doubt, the classification is then carried out as follows: the first attempt is to ascribe the adjective to one of the clearly defined subclasses or find it listed in the "other" or "miscellaneous" subclass. If not enumerated in any of the subclasses, the adjective is classified as a descriptor if it is gradable and as a classifier if it is nongradable.

In some examples, a noun occurs in the position of a premodifier. As the main aim of the present paper is the role of premodification in the countability of dual class nouns as such, those examples are added to the analysis as well.

## 4 RESEARCH PART

In the following chapters, the collected examples of premodified nouns are described in detail. As the main purpose of the present paper is to assess the impact of premodification on the countability of nouns, the excerpted examples of each of the nouns are divided primarily into the count and noncount uses. Those are further split into instances with premodification only and, as postmodification is of considerable interest, too, instances with both premodification and also postmodification. Lastly, syntactic functions are determined.

Initially, there was a hypothesis that not only the premodification itself, but also the semantics of premodifiers might play a role in the countability of the dual class nouns. Subsequently, the two subcategories mentioned above (a noun with premodification, a noun with both premodification and postmodification) are in the case of *difference* also split into the examples with descriptors and classifiers in premodification. However, such a detailed division applies only to *difference*, as, after examining the examples, the hypothesis considering the role of the semantics of premodifiers turned out to be wrong. In the case of the other two examined words, i.e. *interest* and *language*, the semantics of the premodifiers is not taken into account.

Each each chapter begins with a list of all the meanings and possible idiomatic uses of respective nouns (see chapter 3.1) in order to show and discuss the motivation for either count or noncount use of the nouns. Also, there is a table summarizing the distribution of each word in the category of countability and the number of only premodified and both premodified and postmodified examples is given. In the case of *difference*, also the semantics of premodification is included in the table. Additional excerption, if there is any (see chapter 3.2), is commented upon at the end of each chapter and its results are summarized in tables.

### 4.1 *Difference*

As suggested above, let us first list the meanings and idiomatic use of the word *difference* as offered in OALD:

(a) BASIC MEANINGS:

- 1. [countable, uncountable] DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A AND B or DIFFERENCE IN SOMETHING (the way in which two people or things are not like each other; the way in which somebody/ something has changed):

*She noticed a marked difference in the children on her second visit.*

*What a difference! You look great with your hair like that.*

- 2. [singular, uncountable] DIFFERENCE IN SOMETHING BETWEEN A AN (something is greater or smaller than something else):

*There's not much difference in price between the two computers.*

- 3. [countable] A DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN PEOPLE:

*We have our differences, but she's still my sister.*

(b) IDIOMATIC MEANINGS:

- 1. MAKE A/NO/ SOME ETC. DIFFERENCE (TO/IN SOMEBODY/SOMETHING) (to have an effect/no effect on somebody/something):

*The rain didn't make much difference to the game.*

*Changing schools made a big difference to my life.*

- 2. MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE (TO SOMEBODY/SOMETHING) (to have an important effect on somebody/ something; to make somebody feel better):

*A few kind words at the right time make all the difference.*

- 3. SAME DIFFERENCE (used to say that you think the differences between two things are not important):

*'That's not a xylophone, it's a glockenspiel.' 'Same difference.'*

- 4. WITH A DIFFERENCE (after nouns) (used to show that something is interesting or unusual):

*The traditional backpack with a difference—it's waterproof.*

As it can be noted, the meanings of the word *difference* (contrast, disagreement, disparity, distinction, divergence) are rather closely connected, which is possibly reflected in the ambiguous distinction between the count and noncount use of the noun (see basic meaning number 1) and the importance of premodification in the countability. As for idiomatic uses, OALD does not offer the division into count and noncount uses at all; the only idiom that represents the category of number unambiguously is idiom number 4.

In the following table (Table 2), the results of the primary excerption are shown:

<i>difference</i> (count)	with descrip.	with classif.	with both d&c.	$\Sigma$	%	TOTAL	%
pre-mod	12	7	1	20	40		
pre/post-mod	20	6	2	28	56		
$\Sigma$	32	13	3	48		<b>48</b>	
%	64	26	6		96		<b>96</b>
<i>difference</i> (noncount)							
pre-mod	0	0	0	0	0		
pre/post-mod	0	2	0	2	4		
$\Sigma$	0	2	0	2		<b>2</b>	
%	0	4	0		4		<b>4</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	32	15	3			<b>50</b>	
%	64	30	6				<b>100</b>

Table 2: Summary of the Excerption of *Difference*

As follows from the table, the majority of the examples fall under the category of count nouns, comprising 48 cases of the total 50. Thirty two of the 48 are instances of premodification by a descriptor; 12 of them are only premodified, 20 of them are premodified and postmodified at the same time. Thirteen of the 48 instances of count *difference* are the cases of premodification by a classifier; 7 of them are premodified, the rest, i.e. 6 instances, are both premodified and postmodified. Finally, there are 3 instances (from the total 48 of count use) that are premodified by a descriptor and a classifier at the same time: one of them is premodified, leaving 2 of them premodified and also postmodified. As for the noncount examples of *difference*, there are only 2 of them. They are both premodified by a classifier and with postmodification.

The following table summarizes all the syntactic positions *difference* occupies in the primary excerption and signalizes the (un)countability of *difference*. The table also shows if postmodification is present:

clause element/construction	#	count/noncount	postmodification
<i>make a difference</i> idiom	6	6/0	0/0
object direct	9	9/0	6/0
object prepositional	2	2/0	1/0
postmodification	8	8/0	3/0
subject	4	4/0	3/0
subject complement	2	2/0	0/0
<i>there</i> construction	17	15/2	14/2
<i>with a difference</i> idiom	2	2/0	0/0

Table 3: Syntactic Roles of *Difference*

As it can be seen in the table, the excerpt shows that there are 6 instances of *difference* as a direct object in the *make a difference* idiom, 9 instances of *difference* in the function of a direct object, 2 instances of *difference* as a prepositional object, 8 instances of *difference* functioning as a head of postmodification, 4 instances of *difference* as a subject, 4 instances of subject complement, 17 instances of *difference* as a proper subject in the existential *there* construction and finally 2 instances of *difference* as a head in the *with a difference* idiom. The countability of *difference*, the presence of postmodification and the details considering the syntactic roles of *difference* are commented upon in the following chapters (4.1.1 and 4.1.2).

### 4.1.1 Count *Difference*

#### – IDIOMATIC USE

As follows from the Table 2 (see above), the excerpt shows altogether 8 countable idiomatic uses of *difference*. Six of them are direct objects in the *make a difference* phrase (used to express that somebody/something has an effect/no effect on somebody/something) [10]. Two of them represent the *with a difference* idiom (used to show that something is interesting or unusual), *difference* being a part of postmodification in the form of a prepositional phrase [11]. (For details considering the use of *difference* see 4.1.)

[10] *Even in 1987 voters did not expect the return of a Labour or Conservative government to make a significant difference.* (D6)

[11] *Escape the mainstream - the Arches Craft Arcade is shopping with real difference.* (D5)

One of the examples [12] of the *make a difference* idiomatic use is a demonstration of the postposition of the article in the intensification of adjective in premodification with *so*:

[12] *Why should this make so great a difference?* (D4)

#### – EXISTENTIAL *THERE* CONSTRUCTION<sup>4</sup>

A number of the instances of *difference* can be found functioning as a subject complement in the existential *there* construction; there are 15 examples of this pattern in the category of count nouns [13]. There is 1 instance of a noun and a numeral in the function of premodifier [14]. All but

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<sup>4</sup> *There* construction is a type of a clause where two subjects can be found. The first one is formed by *there* which anticipates the second, proper subject in a postverbal position. There are five types of this construction, e.g. existential, existential-locative, actional etc. (Dušková, 2006: 12.21.4)

one of the instances in the excerpt are also postmodified.

[13] *There are also significant differences in levels of enrolment between male and female students.* (D28)

[14] *In the Pre-Campaign Wave there was a 41 per cent difference in awareness of polls between those with a high and a low interest in politics.* (D15)

## – OTHER

The rest of the examples does not show any tendency of *difference* to repeatedly occur in any specific syntactic patterns. *Difference* occupies the position of one of the following clause elements: proper subject in the clause with anaphoric *it* (1 instance [15]), direct object (9 instances [16], 1 being the case of a multiple object with noun in premodification [17], 6 of the instances also postmodified), prepositional object (2 instances, one of them is in addition multiple and also postmodified [18], the other having a noun in premodification [19]), head of postmodification (8 instances [20], 3 of them also postmodified, one having a noun in premodification [21]), subject (4 instances [22], 3 of them also postmodified) and subject complement (apart from the anaphoric *it* another 1 instance [23]):

[15] *The main difference between sections 18 and 20 lies in the fault element, and it is a considerable difference.* (D8)

[16] *Supervision teams from the donors frequently laid bare basic differences in the perception of projects.* (D48)

[17] *The taught component of the course covers basic computing skills, PROLOG, phonetics, phonology, syntax, formal semantics, pragmatics and discourse analysis, psycholinguistics, statistics and experimental design, inter-speaker differences, speech analysis, speech and language systems, and techniques in speech recognition, speech synthesis, parsing, machine translation.* (D36)

[18] *Rumours spoke of Hitler ignoring all warnings, and of major differences between him and his military advisors.* (D43)

[19] *The ethos of the force therefore lends itself to gender differences in police work, and so popular are beliefs about the different capabilities of policemen and women, that some policemen shy away from handling these sorts of cases on the view that they are less able than women colleagues, and many policewomen adopt these notions as self-typifications.* (D40)

[20] *As a small sop to regional differences, special networks were to be set up in the Ukraine,*

*The Caucasus, and the other national minority areas.* (D34)

[21] *In talking to ordinary policewomen, we found many themselves adopt notions of gender differences in order to explain the marginalization of their duties, although others prefer this kind of work simply because it makes it easier to manage their difficult and conflicting roles as policewoman, wife, and mother.* (D32)

[22] *With government, central or regional, unable to make up the difference between parents' ability to pay and the needs of schools, sharp differences in quality of education are inevitable.* (D27)

[23] *Further non-economic influences that can not be ignored are ethnic and religious differences.* (D33)

#### **4.1.2 Noncount *Difference***

##### **– EXISTENTIAL *THERE* CONSTRUCTION**

The excerpt shows only 2 instances of the noncount use of *difference* and both are the cases of the existential *there* construction where *difference* occupies the position of the proper subject. Both examples are postmodified. Also, there is a quantifier *little* present in both cases [24]:

[24] *There may be little structural difference, broadly speaking, between a goalkeeper guarding his goal, Cerberus guarding the gates of Hell, and a soldier on duty outside an army barracks.* (D49)

In general, it seems that premodification plays an important role in the countability of *difference*. The cause may be found in the fact that all the meanings of the noun are similar to each other or at least closely connected. The only examples of noncountable use are sentences where *difference* is in addition to premodification also determined by a noncountable quantifier *little*. In conclusion, the analysis demonstrates that *difference* is used countably if premodified (unless there is a noncount quantifier).

### 4.1.3 Additional Excerption

#### (a) PHRASES & IDIOMS

As suggested in the introduction to the research part, the analysis focuses also on additional excerption. In the case of *difference*, the excerption concentrates on the overall frequency of the noun in the corpus and on the instances of *difference* in phrases, idioms and collocations. The examined phrases and idioms are summarized in the following table:

query	#
<i>difference</i>	17 283
<i>there</i> construction	1951
zero article + <i>there</i> construction	8
<i>make a difference</i> idiom	435
zero article + <i>make a difference</i> idiom	2

Table 4: Distribution of *Difference* in Selected Phrases

The examined phrases and syntactic patterns in the category of phrases and idioms are the **existential *there* construction** and the ***make a difference* idiom** as they are the most frequently occurring constructions in the primary excerption. As follows from the table, the results of the additional excerption show 1951 hits of the existential *there* construction and 435 hits of the *make a difference* idiom from the overall 17 283 instances of *difference* (as a lemma). Also, the attempt is to find out how frequent noncount uses without any means of determination except zero article are in those constructions. Such excerption shows 8 instances of the existential *there* construction and 2 instances of the *make a difference* idiom from the total 1951 hits and 435 hits respectively.

#### (b) COLLOCATIONS

Additional excerption also focuses on the premodifiers of count *difference* that appear in the primary excerption and their ability to combine with the zero article. In the following table (Table 5), premodifiers and the frequency of their use are summarized:



premodifier	#	premodifier	#	premodifier	#	premodifier	#
bare	1	dramatic	1	major	2	religious	2
basic	1	enormous	3	marked	1	sharp	2
big	3	essential	1	minor	1	significant	6
considerable	2	ethnic	1	moral	1	supposed	1
constant	1	gender	2	notable	1	tremendous	1
cultural	1	great	4	noticeable	1	vast	1
definite	1	inter-speaker	1	psychological	1	well-publicized	2
delicious	1	large	1	real	1	wide	1
drafting	1	legitimate	1	regional	2	41 per cent	2

Table 5: Premodifiers of Count *Difference*

As suggested above, the point of interest is the possibility of the zero article in combination with premodifiers from the Table 4 (see above) as their use in the primary excerpt is only count, in other words with an indefinite or no article. The results show that the majority of premodifiers reject zero article; only the following small number allows the combination: *considerable*, *cultural*, *ethnic*, *gender*, and *practical*. This rejection of the zero article corresponds to the suggestion that premodification has a key role in the countability of the noun (see 4.1.2).

## 4.2 Interest

To start the analysis of interest, let us first again list the meanings and idiomatic use of the noun as offered in OALD:

(a) BASIC MEANINGS:

- 1. [singular, uncountable] INTEREST IN SOMEBODY/SOMETHING (the feeling that you have when you want to know or learn more about somebody/something; to feel/have/show/express/take (an) interest in something):

*Do your parents take an interest in your friends?*

*As a matter of interest (= I'd like to know), what time did the party finish?*

- 2. [uncountable] ATTRACTION (the quality that something has when it attracts somebody's attention or makes them want to know more about it):

*There are many places of interest near the city.*

*These plants will add interest to your garden in winter.*

- 3. [countable] HOBBY (an activity or a subject that you enjoy and that you spend your free time doing or studying):

*He was a man of wide interests outside his work.*

- 4. [uncountable] MONEY (interest on something) (the extra money that you pay back when you borrow money or that you receive when you invest money)

*To pay interest on a loan*

- 5. [countable, usually plural, uncountable] ADVANTAGE (a good result or an advantage for somebody/something):

*She was acting entirely in her own interests.*

- 6. [countable, usually plural] SHARE IN BUSINESS (interest in something) (a share in a business or company and its profits):

*American interests in Europe (= money invested in European countries)*

- 7. [countable, uncountable] CONNECTION (interest in something) (a connection with something which affects your attitude to it, especially because you may benefit from it in some way):

*I should, at this point, declare my interest.*

- 8. [countable, usually plural] GROUP OF PEOPLE (a group of people who are in the same business or who share the same aims which they want to protect):

*Relationships between local government and business interests*

**(b) IDIOMATIC MEANINGS:**

- 1. DO SOMETHING (BACK) WITH INTEREST (to do the same thing to somebody as they have done to you, but with more force, enthusiasm, etc.)

- 2. HAVE SOMEBODY'S INTERESTS AT HEART (to want somebody to be happy and successful even though your actions may not show this)

- 3. IN THE INTEREST(S) OF SOMETHING (in order to help or achieve something):

*In the interest(s) of safety, smoking is forbidden.*

It can be seen that the meanings of *interest* are not so closely connected as in the case of *difference*. There are two main groups: one with *interest* in the sense of advantage, attention, attraction, connection, hobby and one with *interest* being a part of the world of finances. As the analysis focuses on nouns with both count and noncount uses and *interest* in the financial/economic sense (meaning 4, see above) can be used only uncountably, it is excluded from the present analysis as the frequency of its occurrence in the excerption in the corpus is very high (see 3.2). Idiomatic meanings are not further commented upon as there is no instance of such constructions in the excerption.

In the following table (Table 6), the results of the primary excerption are summarized:

<i>interest</i>	count	noncount	TOTAL	%
pre-mod	8	23	31	62
post-mod	13	6	19	38
<b>TOTAL</b>	21	29	<b>50</b>	
%	42	58		<b>100</b>

Table 6: Summary of the Excerption of *Interest*

As follows from the table, in the primary excerption, there appear 21 count and 29 noncount instances of *interest*. As for postmodification, it is present in 13 cases in the count use and in 6 cases in the noncount use.

Next table (Table 7) summarizes the syntactic positions that *interest* occupies in the primary excerption. In addition, it also reflects the (un)countability of the noun and shows the frequency of postmodification.

clause element/construction	#	count/noncount	postmodification
adverbial of accomp. circumstances	2	0/2	0/0
adverbial of place	1	1/0	0/0
object complement	2	0/2 (2)	0/0
object direct	18	12/6	8/4
object prepositional	2	1/1 (1)	0/0
postmodification	20	6 (2)/14 (12)	4/1
subject	1	0/1	0/0
subject complement	4	1/3 (2)	1/1

Table 7: Syntactic Roles of *Interest*<sup>5</sup>

As follows from the table, the excerption shows 3 instances of adverbials (accompanying circumstances, place), 2 instances of object complement, 18 instances of direct object, 2 prepositional objects, 20 occurrences of postmodification, 1 subject and finally 4 subject complements. The countability of *interest*, the presence of postmodification and the details considering the syntactic roles of *interest* are commented upon in the following chapters (4.2.1 and 4.2.2).

#### 4.2.1 Count *Interest*

##### – OF-PHRASE

The most frequent construction in the excerption is the of-phrase (20 instances altogether). *Interest* functions there in different syntactic roles: it is either a postmodification, subject or object complement or a prepositional object. However, as for the count use of the noun, only 2 instances of the *of*-phrase can be found [25]. Their role in both of the cases is the one of postmodification; one of them is postmodified. In addition, one of the examples is a part of multiple postmodification and has a noun in the function of premodifier [26].

<sup>5</sup> The numeral in round brackets gives the number of the instances of the *of*-phrase in respective syntactic positions.

[25] *Leonard was full-blooded, physically and temperamentally, and these teenage years saw him active in a wide range of sporting interests: cycling (one of his favourite pastimes then), skiing, swimming, canoeing, sailing and ice-hockey (in which he made the school team), boxing and wrestling, though he was very little involved in the last two.* (I21)

[26] *Participation across the full range of accounting and financial management interests of the Business School will be encouraged -- these encompass both MBA and undergraduate teaching, including the new degree programme, research and research supervision.* (I10)

## – OTHER

The rest of the count instances of *interest* does not demonstrate any tendency of the noun to appear in any specific constructions of patterns. As follows from the Table 7, there are 12 cases of *interest* in the role of direct object [27] (8 of them are also postmodified), 1 instance of verbo-nominal predication with *interest* in the role of subject complement [28] that is also postmodified, in addition to the 2 already mentioned examples in the above *of*-phrase section another 4 instances of postmodification [29] (3 of them also postmodified, 1 of them being a part of a multiple constituent [30] and 1 of them having a noun as a premodifier [31]), 1 instance of *interest* in the role of a multiple prepositional object [32] and finally 1 instance of a multiple adverbial of place [33].

[27] *The Romanian Government, WHO and UNICEF have taken a great interest in our education programme and are actively looking for ways to use it as a model for Health Education in Romania.* (I9)

[28] *While journalistic skills would be useful, most important is: \* Exceptional expertise and a passionate interest in business strategy/strategic management. [...]* (I11)

[29] *A must for anyone concerned with advertising to businesses, government, associations and consumer groups with special interests.* (I6)

[30] *Ideal candidates will be graduate pharmacists or physical chemists with at least two years' experience in developing formulations, a real interest in dosage form innovation and a firm belief that projects can be completed quicker (and probably better).* (I15)

[31] *Nature sites: Eighteen new sites on Wearside may be included as sites of special nature conservation interest in Sunderland's draft Unitary Development Plan to be published in June or July.* (I37)

[32] *Much depends on organised pressure by local concerned interests and individuals resident in the "salmon constituencies" of Scotland.* (I12)

[33] *Definitive reference, ranging from encyclopedias to special interests.* (I13)

#### 4.2.2 Noncount *Interest*

##### – *OF-PHRASE*<sup>6</sup>

As suggested earlier (see 4.2.1), the majority, i.e. 17 out of 19, of the *of*-phrases belong to the category of noncount nouns. The instances of *interest* function either as a postmodification [34] (14 occurrences, 2 of them also postmodified, 3 of them being a part of a multiple constituent [35]), object complement [36] (2 occurrences), subject complement [37] (2 occurrences, 1 of them in addition postmodified and the other being a demonstration of emphatic fronting [38]) or prepositional object [39] (1 occurrence; it is the case of a prepositional object complementing an adjective). Interestingly, a premodifier dominating in this category can be determined: it is the adjective *special*.

[34] *I have been privileged to hold office for 11 years in a series of jobs of enormous interest and I believe of some importance, especially in relation to drugs, broadcasting, the NHS and foreign affairs.* (I25)

[35] *We used multiple regressions to gauge the influence upon media usefulness-ratings of: political interest and discussion, different motivations for following the campaign, social and political background factors, perceptions of bias, and the intellectual weight of the press.* (I40)

[36] *Healing plants I found the article " Old angle on modern ills ", by David Simpson (Business, 16 February), of considerable interest.* (I26)

[37] *We have enclosed a selection of brochures with this letter which we hope will be of special interest to you or your colleagues.* (I44)

[38] *Of special interest is the Meadow Garden in spring.* (I37)

[39] *The Augustinian Priory at Michelham is full of unexpected interest.* (I29)

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<sup>6</sup> As noted in the theoretical background (see 2.1.1.1), the genitive *of*-construction can cause elimination of the article and the nouns following the *of* preposition may consequently seem noncount even though their use is countable. This is not the case of the examples in the present analysis as the meaning of *interest* in such constructions has the noncount sense of attraction (according to OALD, see basic meaning number 2 in 4.2).

– **OTHER**

As for the rest of the instances of *interest*, they function as a direct object [40] (6 instances, 4 of them also postmodified), postmodification (1 instance in addition to those examples of the *of*-phrase in the previous section; it is also an instance of emphatic fronting) [41], adverbial of accompanying circumstances [42] (2 instances, 1 of them being a part of a multiple constituent and also having a noun in premodification [43]), subject (1 instance) [44] and subject complement (1 instance that is in addition a part of a multiple constituent) [45].

[40] *Taylor, the 1984 Olympic gold medallist, is sure to add extra interest for the massive American TV audience expected to watch the Lewis-Ruddock clash.* (I48)

[41] *More surprising was the relationship with political interest.* (I38)

[42] *They sit up with disproportionate interest.* (I24)

[43] *Film buffs have a field day in Birmingham, with both mainstream cinemas, and avant garde, minority interest and foreign films at the Triangle Cinema and the Midlands Arts Centre in Edgbaston.* (I34)

[44] *Great interest to both the racing enthusiast and casual visitor alike.* (I27)

[45] *The successful candidate will be innovative and self motivated, with an aptitude and keen interest in problem solving, method development and validation.* (I47)

In general, the importance of premodification in the countability of *interest* seems to be unlike in the case of *difference* very uncertain: there are 21 instances of the count use and 29 instances of the noncount use to begin with. Therefore, it should be rather the role of the semantics of the noun that is of significant importance. Looking at the meanings of *interest* (see 4.2), this hypothesis is confirmed: there is a clear division between *interest* in the financial sense (meaning number 4) and *interest* in the sense of attraction, advantage, hobby which was the point of attention of the present paper. As for the semantic subdivision in the latter group, the meanings of *interest* are rather closely connected (as in the case of *difference*), yet premodification still does not seem to be the key for determining the countability.

### 4.2.3 Additional Excerption

#### (a) PREMODIFIERS

In the following table (Table 8), all of the premodifiers from the primary excerption, their frequency and countability are summarized:

premodifier	#	count/ noncount	premodifier	#	count/ noncount	premodifier	#	count/ noncount
active	1	1/0	general	2	2/0	public	3	0/3
<i>archaeological</i>	1	0/1	<b>great</b>	4	1/3	real	1	1/0
<i>architectural</i>	1	0/1	<i>historic</i>	3	0/3	renewed	1	0/1
British	1	1/0	<b>keen</b>	2	1/1	<b>research</b>	2	1/1
<i>cautious</i>	1	1/0	local	1	1/0	scientific	1	1/0
concerned	1	1/0	minority	1	0/1	<i>similar</i>	1	1/0
considerable	3	0/3	natural	1	0/1	<b>special</b>	10	3/7
disproportionate	1	0/1	nature conservation	1	0/1	sporting	1	1/0
economic	1	1/0	passing	1	1/0	strategic	1	1/0
enormous	1	0/1	passionate	1	1/0	substantial	1	1/0
<i>exceptional</i>	1	0/1	personal	1	1/0	unexpected	1	0/1
<i>extra</i>	1	0/1	<b>political</b>	3	1/2	worldwide	1	0/1
<i>financial management</i>	1	1/0	professional	2	2/0			

Table 8: Premodifiers of *Interest*

As follows from the table, some of the premodifiers (in bold case) combine both with count and noncount use of *interest*. Therefore, another excerption is carried out in order to find out whether the remaining premodifiers occur with count and noncount use of the noun, too, or whether they prefer only count/only noncount use. The results show that regarding countability, the majority of premodifiers are universal. The few exceptions are the following (in italics in Table): *cautious*, *financial management*, *similar* (only count use) and *archaeological*, *architectural*, *exceptional*, *extra*, and *historic* (only noncount use). This fact contributes to the suggestion that premodification does not influence the countability of *interest*; it is rather the semantics of the noun (see 4.2.2).



## (b) PHRASES

Studying the use of *interest* offered by OALD, one can notice a rather peculiar example in basic meaning number 1 (interest in somebody/something; the feeling that you have when you want to know or learn more about somebody/something; see 4.2). That meaning of *interest* is classified as noncount, yet a sample sentence offered by OALD is countable, with the indefinite article determining the noun: *Do your parents take an interest in your friends?* The article is not even optional (i.e. in brackets). Consequently, additional excerption is carried out to determine the countability preference of *interest* in these types of phrases as OALD does not offer sufficient information (premodification being not taken into account as its role has not been considered decisive (see 4.2.2)). The results of the excerption are offered in the following table (Table 9):

query	#
<i>express interest</i>	7
<i>express an interest</i>	9
<i>feel interest</i>	0
<i>feel an interest</i>	0
<i>show interest</i>	13
<i>show an interest</i>	16
<i>take interest</i>	6
<i>take an interest</i>	100

Table 9: Distribution of *Interest* in Selected Phrases

To sum up the results of the excerption, it seems that there is only one phrase in which the countability preference of *interest* can be determined and that is the *take an interest* phrase. The excerption shows a dominance of countable over uncountable use even though the phrase is in OALD listed as uncountable. As for the countability of the rest of the phrases, the distribution of their respective uses is balanced.

## 4.3 *Language*

The analysis of *language* is again started with the list of meanings as offered in OALD:

(a) BASIC MEANINGS:

- 1. [countable] LANGUAGE OF A COUNTRY (the system of communication in speech and writing that is used by people of a particular country or area):

*Italian is my first language.*

*Why study Latin? It's a dead language (= no longer spoken by anyone).*

- 2. [uncountable] COMMUNICATION (the use by humans of a system of sounds and words to communicate):

*Theories about the origins of language*

- 3. [uncountable] STYLE OF SPEAKING/WRITING:

*Bad/foul/strong language (= words that people may consider offensive)*

*Give your instructions in everyday language.*

- 4. [countable, uncountable] MOVEMENTS/SYMBOLS/SOUND (a way of expressing ideas and feelings using movements, symbols and sound):

*Body language*

*Sign language*

*The language of dolphins/bees*

- 5. [countable, uncountable] COMPUTING (a system of symbols and rules that is used to operate a computer):

*A programming language*

(b) IDIOMATIC MEANINGS:

- 1. MIND/WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE (to be careful about what you say in order not to upset or offend somebody):

*Watch your language, young man!*

- 2. SPEAK/TALK THE SAME LANGUAGE (to be able to communicate easily with another person because you share similar opinions and experience)

It can be seen that the meanings of the word *language* (communication, dialect, diction, speech, style, tongue) are closely connected as in the case of *difference*. The line between the count and noncount use is again very thin. In contrast to *difference*, postmodification does not seem to play a significant role (as it will be demonstrated in the analysis of the noun). As for the idiomatic use, it is noted earlier in the analysis of *difference* that OALD does not offer any distinction in terms of countability. Nevertheless, idioms do not appear in the primary excerption at all; the only meanings that can be found in the excerption are the basic meanings 1 - 4 (see above).

In the following table (Table 10), the results of the primary excerption are shown:

<i>language</i>	count	noncount	TOTAL	%
pre-mod	10	38	48	96
post-mod	2	0	2	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	12	38	<b>50</b>	
%	24	76		<b>100</b>

Table 10: Summary of the Excerpt of *Language*

As follows from the table, the primary excerption results in 12 instances of count *language* (2 of them also postmodified). The majority, i.e. 38 instances, are in contrast to *difference* noncount (all but one instance also postmodified).

The next table (Table 11) offers a summary of the syntactic positions that *language* occupies in the primary excerption. In addition, it also signalizes the (un)countability of the noun and shows whether postmodification is present:

clause element/construction	#	count/noncount	postmodification
adverbial of manner	13	3/10	0/0
adverbial of place	2	0/2	0/0
object direct	16	4/12	1/0
object prepositional	2	0/2	0/0
postmodification	12	3/9	1/0
subject	1	0/1	0/0
subject complement	4	2/2	0/0

Table 11: Syntactic Roles of *Language*

As follows from the table, the excerpt shows 13 instances of *language* in the role of an adverbial of manner, 2 instances of *language* as an adverbial of place, 16 instances of *language* as a direct object, 2 instances of prepositional object, 12 instances of *language* as a head of postmodification, 1 instances of *language* as a subject and finally 4 instance of *language* in the role of a subject complement in verbo-nominal predication. The countability of *language*, the presence of postmodification and the details considering the syntactic roles of *language* are commented upon in the following chapters (4.3.1 and 4.3.2).

### 4.3.1 Count *Language*

#### – ADVERBIAL OF MANNER

As follows from the table, there are altogether 13 examples of *language* in the position of an adverbial of manner in the primary excerpt. However, only 3 of the examples are used countably. Two of the adverbials are constituted by the *in* prepositional phrase with *language* as its head [46]. The remaining instance of the adverbial is realized by the *by* prepositional phrase and is in addition an example of a multiple constituent [47]. None of the countable adverbials are postmodified. As for the meanings of *language*, they correspond to basic meaning number 1 (language of a country, one particular language) and 3 (style of speaking/writing; for details see 4.3)

[46] *A legal system is not a monolith, but is made up of a variety of legal " arenas " in which many different " legal languages " are spoken, and while some of these arenas may well be prepared to listen to the presentation of a problem in one jurisprudential language, others*

*might reject it completely (Ladeur, 1984; Sciolla, 1983; Dunsire, 1978). (L8)*

[47] *Law and the legal system thus have to be seen in a differentiated way, no longer consistently structured by one uniform language and one common principle (such as a hierarchy of values or a grundnorm), but as being to some extent split into a plurality of legal arenas (Lowi, 1972). (L5)*

## – POSTMODIFICATION

There are 3 instances of postmodification in the countable use of *language* in total. Two of them are realized as the majority of the other (uncountable) examples of *language* by the *of* prepositional phrase with *language* as its head [48]. The remaining example of postmodification is formed by the *in* prepositional phrase. In this example, there is also a proper noun in the role of the premodifier [49]. One of the instances is also postmodified. As for the meanings of *language*, they all correspond to basic meaning number 1 (language of a country, see 4.3).

[48] *Solutions to the problems accompanying the adoption of a Nigerian language (such as Yoruba) as the medium of instruction will be stimulated. (L12)*

[49] *The primary school would aim for its students to acquire: 1 " Literacy in one or more languages, eventually to include literacy in at least one Sierra Leone language and in the official language, English; [...] (L6)*

## – OTHER

As for the rest of the countable instances, the excerpt shows 4 instances of *language* in the role of direct object [50] and 2 instances of verbo-nominal predication where *language* functions as a subject complement [51]. There is 1 instance in which *language* is apart from an adjective premodified by a noun [52]. As for the semantics of *language*, it corresponds to basic meanings number 1 and 3 (language of a country/one particular language and style of speaking/writing; for details see 4.3).

[50] *The Secretary of State would, at that time (1981/82), not have considered using his default powers if, for example, a school failed to offer a modern language (other than English). (L11)*

[51] *English is an official language in most countries and is the medium of instruction in secondary schools. (L7)*

[52] *We talked to one another using an intricate "tug-talk" language. (L2)*

### 4.3.2 Noncount *Language*

#### – ADVERBIAL OF MANNER (*IN-PHRASE*)

The excerpt shows 10 noncount instances of the adverbial of manner. They are all formed by the *in* prepositional phrase with *language* as its head [53]. The majority of them correspond to basic meanings number 3 and 4: *language* in the sense of style of speaking and writing and language as movements, symbols and sounds (see 4.3). None of these instances are postmodified.

[53] *A deaf mute who was stopped by police for erratic driving told a court yesterday that he'd been "chatting " to his passenger in sign language.* (L29)

It seems that if *language* occurs in the *in* prepositional phrase in the function of the adverbial of manner, the noncountable use is more frequent than the countable use (in regard to the number of uses in the previous chapter (4.3.1, section “adverbial of manner”).

#### – ADVERBIAL OF PLACE (*IN-PHRASE*)

There are two instances of the adverbial of place [54] in the excerpt and both are used uncountably. They are formed by the *in* prepositional phrase and none of them are complemented by postmodification. The semantics of *language* in both of the instances correspond to basic meaning number 3 (language as a style of speaking/writing; see 4.3).

[54] *We sometimes use the term "equity ", or words corresponding to it, in popular language as if it was something altogether outside law.* (L31)

#### – POSTMODIFICATION

Language occurs in 9 examples as a noncount head of postmodification that is except 1 instance formed by the *of* prepositional phrase [55]. That exception is formed by the *about* [56] prepositional phrase. In 2 of the cases, *language* is a part of multiple postmodification [55]. There is no instance of postmodified *language* in this category. As for the meanings of *language*, they correspond to basic meaning number 3 (style of speaking/writing; see 4.3).

[55] *Is the cause a peculiarity of Scaevolan language, or a peculiarity of Scaevola's works?* (L42)

[56] *The institutions are also not entitled to receive information about the pupil's racial group,*

*religion, home language or court reports. (L38)*

– **OTHER**

As for the rest of the examples of noncount *language*, as it can be seen in the table (Table 11), there are 12 instances of a direct object [57] (1 of them with a noun in the function of premodifier [58] and 2 of them being the part of a multiple object [59]), 2 instances of prepositional object [60], 1 instance of a subject [61] and 2 instances of *language* in the role of a subject complement [62] (one of the instances being a part of a multiple constituent [63]). The semantics of *language* corresponds to basic meanings number 3 and 4 (language as a style of speaking/writing, language as movements, symbols, sounds; see 4.3). Interestingly, there are 2 instances where language of a country (basic meaning number 1) is used without zero article [59].

[57] *The critical promoter of the work of Seurat and his friends was Félix Fénéon, a subtle stylist who varied his methods according to the work he was describing; he used expository language for Degas, but he dropped logical connection in language, even verbs when discussing Monet's spontaneous art. (L50)*

[58] *Brewers of Castlemaine lager were accused yesterday of not giving a XXXX for deaf people because a TV commercial for the Aussie booze uses " gobbledegook " sign language. (L27)*

[59] *It has, for the most part, imposed Spanish language and culture and discouraged expressions of indigenous cultures. (L41)*

[60] *The implicit assumption here is that it may be best to leave nuclear weapons in a partial legal limbo, with an extremely strong presumption against the legality of their use, but with no formal and explicit rules turning this presumption into treaty language and adding detail to it. (L47)*

[61] *In some subjects and topics, particularly in Mathematics and Science, English language embodies western thought patterns and there is a risk that translation may lead to fundamental misunderstandings. (L43)*

[62] *Yet an evaluation seems so often to be understood more as a sort of independent commission of enquiry undertaken at a fairly late stage in the life of a programme or project by " experts " from outside whose findings may or may not be in straightforward language. (L24)*

[63] *Other fair reasons for dismissal would be misconduct in the form of disobeying the*

*employer's orders, non-co-operation, causing violence, bad language, drunkenness, dishonesty, incompetence and incapacity.* (L25)

In general, it seems that premodification does not play a key role in the countability of *language*; most of the examples in the excerpt are uncountable even though they are premodified. The reason should be sought in the semantics of the word: on the one hand, *language* in the sense of language of a country/one particular language (see basic meaning number 1 in 4.3) tends to be countable; on the other hand, *language* as a means of communication/style of speaking or writing/language of symbols and signs seems to prefer noncountable use. Premodification does not influence the respective use of the noun.



## 5 CONCLUSION

The aim of the present paper was to assess the role of premodification (and possibly its semantics) in the countability of dual class nouns, i.e. nouns that are used both countably and uncountably. For these purposes, 3 dual class nouns were chosen (*difference*, *interest*, *language*) and a corpus analysis of 50 instances of each noun was carried out. All instances that contained either the definite article, possessive genitive construction or possessive pronoun or quantifiers *some*, *any*, *no* were excluded from the analysis as the countability of the nouns could not be decided (these quantifiers combine both with count and noncount nouns; for details see 3.2). The excerpted instances were then divided into categories based on their (un)countability, syntactic role and in the case of *difference* also on the semantics of premodifiers as their role in the countability was considered to be of some importance (this hypothesis however turned out to be incorrect, therefore, the semantics of premodifiers of *interest* and *language* was not further discussed; for details see introduction to the research part). Also, in order to show and evaluate possible reasons and motivation for count/noncount use of the nouns, lists of all meanings of the nouns were extracted from OALD and discussed at the beginning of each analysis.

After sorting out the examples, additional excerption followed. It was not identical in all the three analyses. Each noun occurred in different syntactic structures or displayed different tendencies considering their countable/uncountable use and therefore different features needed to be analyzed further. Additional information will be given in the following chapters (5.1 - 5.3).

### 5.1 *Difference*

The analysis of *difference* offered a dominance of countable use over the uncountable use of the premodified noun. From the 50 examples collected from the corpus, the majority (48) of the instances fell under the category of countable nouns. As for the syntactic structures, *difference* very frequently occurred in the existential *there* construction (17 instances) and in the *make a difference* idiom (6 instances). The other syntactic positions it occupied were the subject (4 instances), subject complement (2 instances), postmodification (10 instances, 2 of them realized by the *with a difference* idiom), direct object (9 instances) and prepositional object (2 instances) (see Table 3 in 4.1).

As for the additional analysis, it concentrated on the existential *there* construction and the *make*

a *difference* idiom. It was found out that these constructions preferred countable use of the noun: from the 1951 hits of the existential construction and 435 hits of the idiomatic use of the noun, only 8 and 2 hits respectively combined with the zero article (see Table 4). Also, additional excerption focused on the count premodifiers from the primary excerption and their ability to combine with the zero article. The results of this excerption showed that only 5 out of the 36 premodifiers allowed such combination (see Table 5).

To conclude, in the case of *difference*, the role of premodification seems very important. The reason may be found in the rather minor differences between the countable and uncountable meanings of the noun, in other words the role of semantics is unimportant and it is premodification that decides the countability of the respective instances. This hypothesis is confirmed by the additional excerption: premodifiers do not tend to follow the zero article. As for the other aspects that might be of some importance, these are the constructions that *difference* frequently figures in: the existential *there* construction and the *make a difference* idiom. Both seem to prefer countable use of the examined noun.

## 5.2 *Interest*

The analysis of *interest* (see 4.2) offered results contrasting to the analysis of *difference*. The number of countable and uncountable use of the premodified noun was almost the same (21 count and 29 noncount instances). As for the syntactic patterns *interest* figured in, the most frequent were the *of* prepositional phrases (19 instances) in which the noun functioned either as a postmodification (14 instances), subject or object complement (2 and 2 instances) or a prepositional object (1 instance). Other positions that *interest* occupied were the position of an adverbial of accompanying circumstances (2 instances), adverbial of place (1 instance), direct object (18 instances), subject (1 instance) and apart from the examples included in the *of* prepositional phrases another 7 instances of premodification, 2 instances of subject complement and 1 instance of prepositional object (see Table 7 in 4.2).

As for the additional excerption, it concentrated first on the premodifiers. During sorting out the examples, it was noticed that some of the premodifiers (5 from the total 38) occurred both in count and noncount instances of the examined noun, therefore, it was attempted to find out whether the rest of them could behave in the same way. The results showed that apart from 8 premodifiers, all combined both with count and noncount use of the noun (see Table 8). The additional excerption also focused on the phrases offered by OALD in the basic meaning number 1 (interest in somebody/something; see 4.2): *express/feel/show/take (an) interest*, as the use of the phrases was in

terms of countability described very ambiguously. The excerption showed that whereas *take (an) interest* preferred countable use of the noun, the rest of the phrases did not displayed any preferences (see Table 9).

To sum up, even after eliminating one of its two basic meanings (*interest* as money, which in spite of premodification allows only uncountable use), the role of semantics of the remaining meanings of *interest* (see the basic meanings in 4.2) is so strong that premodification is of no influence on the countability; the division between count and noncount use is strict. It is reflected in the primary analysis in the number of count/noncount instances of the noun as well as in the additional analysis concentrating on the premodifiers from the primary analysis: it is demonstrated that most of the premodifiers can combine both with count and noncount use of *interest*. Consequently, the key aspect is the semantics, not the presence of postmodification (as in the case of *difference*).

### 5.3 *Language*

The analysis of *language* did not contribute to the theory of premodification having the decisive role in the countability of dual class noun, either: the excerption showed 38 noncount and only 12 count examples. As for the frequent syntactic structures, *language* often occurred in the *in* and *of* prepositional phrases where it functioned as a postmodification or adverbial of place or manner. To recapitulate the results considering all the syntactic positions that are summarized in Table 11, the excerption showed 13 instances of the adverbial of manner, 2 instances of the adverbial of place, 16 instances of direct object, 2 instances of prepositional object, 12 instances of postmodification, 1 instance of subject and 4 instances of subject complement.

In the case of *language*, additional excerption was not considered necessary, as the noun did not displayed any interesting tendencies in terms of the syntactic structure or idiomatic use.

To conclude, the results of the analysis of *language* are similar to those of *interest* (see 5.2): again, as in the case of *interest*, there is a firm line in the semantics between the group of count and noncount uses (for the meanings see 4.3). Therefore, it is rather the semantics of the individual use of the noun rather than the presence of premodification that influences the countability of the noun. The high number of premodified noncount uses of the noun contributes to such theory.

## 5.4 Overall Conclusion

As can be noted from the individual conclusions of the examined nouns, the present analysis cannot offer in any definitive results. However, certain tendencies considering the dual class words and the role of premodification in the countability of such nouns can be identified. The overall results of the excerption are offered in the following table:

	<i>difference</i>	<i>interest</i>	<i>language</i>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>%</b>
count	48	21	12	81	54
noncount	2	29	38	69	46
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>150</b>	
<b>%</b>	33,3	33,3	33,3		<b>100</b>

Table 12: Overall Summary of the Primary Excerpton

As follows from the table, there are 81 count instances and 69 noncount instances from the total 150 examples. Conclusions of each one of the examined nouns are summarized above (see 5.1 - 5.3), therefore, attention will be paid to the results from the point of view of pure numbers. Judging from the small difference between the total count and noncount examples, the hypothesis considering the role of premodification in the countability of the dual class nouns can be neither confirmed nor disproved; its impact probably varies one noun from the other. Generally, some dual class nouns, if premodified, tend to be countable as demonstrated in the analysis of *difference*; the other are not influenced by the presence of premodification at all as shown in the analyses of *language* and *interest*. In the latter case, the key factor deciding the countability is probably the semantics of particular examples; premodification is not so influential.

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# RESUMÉ

Tématem této bakalářské práce je vliv premodifikátorů na počitatelnost podstatných jmen. V angličtině existují co do počitatelnosti tři kategorie: “podstatná jména zásadně počitatelná, vždy nepočitatelná a v některých významech počitatelná a v jiných nepočitatelná” (Dušková et al., 2006). Práce se zaměřuje na poslední zmíněnou kategorii, tedy na substantiva, která mohou v závislosti na kontextu přecházet ze svého primárně počitatelného užití v nepočitatelné a naopak. Signálem počitatelnosti bývá užití neurčitého členu, jež je také často provázáno změnami či posuny ve významu substantiva. Anglické gramatiky popisují kategorii počitatelnosti různě, v zásadě dělí podstatná jména jen do dvou kategorií, tj. na počitatelná a nepočitatelná, a jména, která mohou být užitá jak počitatelně, tak nepočitatelně, zmiňují jen okrajově, případně je uvádějí jen jako podkategorii nepočitatelných substantiv. Tato práce se proto drží klasifikace z *Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny* (Dušková et al., 2006) a dodržuje výše citované rozdělení kategorie počitatelnosti.

Počitatelnost jako taková zohledňuje dvě složky substantiva: složku sémantickou a složku gramatickou. Složka sémantická poukazuje na význam substantiva (počitatelné “předměty a věci”: “mají určité hranice a tvoří množiny, jejichž členy jsou od sebe oddělitelné” v. nepočitatelné “spojité entity”: “nemají hranic a jsou dělitelné pouze kvantitativně” (Dušková et al., 2006: 49)). Složka gramatická charakterizuje užití substantiva v kombinaci s číselnými výrazy a s prostředky kategorie určenosti. V angličtině, na rozdíl od češtiny, jež není vybavena odpovídajícími prostředky, nabývá na významu zejména druhá zmíněná složka, konkrétně rozdíly mezi chováním počitatelných a nepočitatelných podstatných jmen při neurčité determinaci (Ibid: 50).

Teoretická část práce shrnuje poznatky týkající se počitatelnosti obsažené v odborné literatuře. Každé ze tří kategorií substantiv je věnována samostatná kapitola (2.1, 2.2, 2.3), v níž jsou kromě sémantiky a gramatického chování podstatných jmen popsány také případy, kdy daná substantiva přecházejí z jedné kategorie počitatelnosti do druhé. V kapitole 2.4 je obsažena rovněž sémantická charakteristika adjektiv, jelikož původní hypotéza bakalářské práce zamýšlela zohlednit nejen vliv premodifikace, ale také sémantiky jednotlivých premodifikátorů na počitatelnost.

Počitatelná substantiva jsou popsána v kapitole 2.1. Jak už název napovídá, jde o entity (osoby, zvířata, věci atd.), které je možné spočítat. Mají jak jednotné, tak množné číslo a běžně je lze kombinovat se všemi determinátory (kromě těch specifických pro nepočitatelná substantiva, tj. (*a*) *little*, *less*, *much*). Při neurčité determinaci se (na rozdíl od nepočitatelných substantiv) v jednotném

čísle pojí s neurčitým členem *a, an*, který je ovšem možno za následujících okolností vynechat: 1. *of*-konstrukce (*this kind of (a) tree*, tento druh stromu), 2. sémantická nevhodnost (*it was sunny morning*, bylo slunné ráno), 3. substantivum nabývá adjektivní povahy (*he was friend to us*, byl nám přítelem) (Dušková et al., 2006: 53), 4. idiomatická spojení (názvy institucí: *be at school*, být ve škole; názvy dopravních a komunikačních prostředků: *go by bus*, jet autobusem, *communication by radio*, rádiová komunikace; názvy denních a nočních dob následující po předložkách *by, before, after*: *after daybreak*, po rozbřesku; názvy ročních dob: *in spring*, na jaře; názvy jídel: *stay for breakfast*, zůstaň(te) na snídani; názvy nemocí: *influenza*, chřipka; paralelní struktury: *hand by hand*, ruku v ruce; kontrastní pozice: *husband and wife*, muž a žena; koordinační spojky *both - and, neither - nor*; ustálené předložkové fráze: *on foot*, pěšky) (Quirk et al, 1985: 277-281). V ojedinělých případech je možné užít počítatelná jména nepočítatelně, a to v kombinaci s *all* a *enough*: *She's all woman*. Je to žena každým coulem. *There's not enough table for everyone to sit at*. U stolu není pro všechny dost místa. (Dušková, 2006: 53)

Nepočítatelnými substantivy se zabývá kapitola 2.2. Jedná se o podstatná jména označující ničím neohrazenou entitu (hmotu, látku, cit či pocit, stav mysli, proces atd.), která, jak vyplývá s názvu, nelze spočítat a která se až na výjimky nepojí s neurčitým členem. (Těmito výjimkami jsou substantiva, jejichž počítatelnost je ovlivněna premodifikací, případně substantiva, u nichž dochází k posunu ve významu). Co se týče prostředků přechodu k počítatelnosti, je jich hned několik: 1. singulativa (*a bar of chocolate, a fit of anger*), 2. počítatelná synonyma (*housework* v. *a chore/chores*), 3. u substantiv končících na *-ing* konvertované podstatné jméno (*breathing* v. *take a deep breath*), 4. v případě de-adjektivních plurálií tantum (*the sick*) a jmen národností (*the English*) kombinace s *man/men, people*, 5. u nepočítatelných substantiv, která se mohou kombinovat s číselnými výrazy přibližného či většího množství, kombinace s lexikálními prostředky (*two policemen*) a konečně 6. spojení s *much/little* u jmen označujících látky (*much suds*) (Dušková et al, 2006: 58-59).

Substantivy, která mohou být v některých případech počítatelná a v jiných nepočítatelná, se zabývá kapitola 2.3. Jedná se o slova, která mohou v závislosti na sémantice přecházet ze svého primárně nepočítatelné užití na počítatelné a naopak. Existují dokonce případy, kdy není možné určit, které užití je základní, možná je i změna významu slova. V zásadě lze tato substantiva rozdělit do pěti skupin, jež popisují princip přechodu od jednoho užití k druhému: 1. látka v. jednotlivina (nepočítatelné substantivum označuje látku, jeho počítatelný protějšek jednotlivinu z této látky: *chocolate*, čokoláda v. *a chocolate, chocolates*, čokoládové bonbony), 2. abstraktní substantivum v. jeho konkrétní projev (*language is a means of communication*, jazyk je dorozumívací prostředek v. *learn a foreign language*, učit se cizí jazyk), 3. látka v. její druh či porce (*coffee*, káva v. *two*



*coffees*, dvě kávy), 4. vlastnost v. osoba/věc mající tuto vlastnost (*beauty*, krása v. *a beauty*, krasavice, krásný exemplář), 5. rozdíl ve významu slova (*interest, interests*, zájem, zájmy v. *interest*, úrok) (Dušková et al, 2006: 53-56).

V kapitole 2.4 je popsána sémantika adjektiv. První sémantickou skupinou jsou tzv. deskriptory. Jedná se o adjektiva, jež charakterizují barvu, velikost, váhu, časovou posloupnost, věk, emoce aj. Ve většině případů je lze stupňovat. Druhou skupinou jsou tzv. klasifikátory. Tato adjektiva vymezují či omezují svého referenta tím, že ho umisťují do opozice vůči ostatním referentům (např. adjektiva popisující národnost). Toto rozdělení nicméně není striktní, některá adjektiva mohou být řazena jak mezi deskriptory, tak mezi klasifikátory. Záleží jen na významu, jehož nabývají v kombinaci se substantivem (Biber et al., 1999: 508-509).

Hlavní část práce se věnuje analýze konkrétních příkladů, která si klade za cíl zjistit, zda má premodifikace vliv na počitatelnost těch podstatných jmen, která se běžně vyskytují jak počitatelně, tak nepočitatelně. Pro účely této analýzy byla vybrána tři substantiva (*difference, interest, language*) a ke každému z nich bylo z Britského národního korpusu excerpováno 50 užití. Každý z výskytů byl nejprve posouzen z hlediska počitatelnosti, následně byla u *difference* určena sémantika premodifikátoru (u zbývajících dvou slov byl tento krok vynechán, jelikož hypotéza připisující sémantice premodifikátorů vliv na počitatelnost se neprokázala pravdivou). Dále byla vzata na zřetel případná postmodifikace. Posledním krokem bylo určení syntaktické funkce daného excerpta. Detaily týkající se excerptu příkladů jako např. obtíže při určování počitatelnosti a sémantiky premodifikátorů a zvolená řešení jsou popsány v kapitole 3.2.1.

Praktická část práce je rozdělena do tří částí - každé zkoumané substantivum má svou vlastní kapitolu, která se dále člení na počitatelnou a nepočitatelnou část, v níž jsou za pomoci shrnujících tabulek detailně charakterizovány jednotlivé skupiny užití. Ty se liší substantivum od substantiva - byly určeny po vytrídění dokladů jednotlivých jmen na základě opakujících se frází či větných konstrukcí. V případě *difference* a *interest* jsou obsaženy a popsány také dodatečné excerpty, jejichž výsledky jsou rovněž uspořádány v tabulkách (více o dodatečných excerptech v kapitole 3.2).

Rozsah této práce nedovoluje vyvodit všeobecně platný závěr, přesto je však možné na základě provedené analýzy popsat určité tendence týkající se chování zkoumané kategorie substantiv. Všeobecně lze říci, že se vliv premodifikace na počitatelnost substantiv, jež se běžně vyskytují jak počitatelně, tak nepočitatelně, liší jméno od jména. Důležitou roli zřejmě hraje také sémantika konkrétního jména. Analýza prokázala, že jedním z případů, kdy premodifikace může ovlivňovat počitatelnost, jsou ta podstatná jména, u nichž je rozdíl ve významu mezi počitatelnou a nepočitatelnou formou slova téměř nulový. V případě naší analýzy je tímto substantivem *difference*,

rozdíl. Bylo prokázáno, že se chová počítatelně v naprosté většině excerptovaných vět. Pouze je-li přítomen kvantifikátor *little*, trochu, typický pro nepočítatelná substantiva, role premodifikace je oslabena a *difference* je užit nepočítatelně. U dvou zbývajících substantiv, *interest*, zájem, a *language*, jazyk, se vliv premodifikace na počítatelnost neprokázal. Určujícím faktorem byla vždy sémantika daného příkladu a to i v případě *interest*, jehož významy (krom významu *interest*, úrok) jsou téměř totožné, bez rozdílu mezi počítatelným a nepočítatelným užitím. Závěrem lze tedy říci, že vliv premodifikace není možno posoudit obecně; každé substantivum je nutno zkoumat zvlášť.

# APPENDIX

## Excerpted Instances of *Difference*

	#	sentence	synt. fc.
count			
pre-mod. with DR	D1	There is a big <u>difference</u> . (CH1 5656)	<i>there</i>
	D2	As for those stubborn areas which you may have thought beyond the reach of any cleaner -- the stained or mouldy grouting round the back of the basin, the bath and the shower, plugholes and taps -- you'll find that the Steamatic's powerful cleaning action makes a tremendous <u>difference</u> . (CFT 1080)	<i>make</i>
	D3	Within the hotel, you'll discover guest rooms bathed in luxury, two swimming pools for luxurious bathing, restaurants and lounges with a delicious <u>difference</u> , the unique style and facilities of our Regency Club, and, of course, gracious service. (CFV 728)	post-mod.
	D4	Why should this make so great a <u>difference</u> ? (ACJ 799)	<i>make</i>
	D5	Escape the mainstream -- the Arches Craft Arcade is shopping with a real <u>difference</u> . (53K 2877)	post-mod.
	D6	Even in 1987 voters did not expect the return of a Labour or Conservative government to make a significant <u>difference</u> . (A6F 1334)	<i>make</i>
	D7	This is where the Steamatic can make a noticeable <u>difference</u> . (CFT 1020)	<i>make</i>
	D8	The main difference between sections 18 and 20 lies in the fault element, and it is a considerable <u>difference</u> . (ACJ 706)	Cs
	D9	According to the report, "... a considerable <u>difference</u> appeared in the attitude towards Hitler, the majority of the youth offering an opinion being ready to excuse Hitler as a good man with bad advisers, with the majority of the older people condemned [...]" (ADD 1172)	subj.
	D10	I was close to being 'one of them' and definitely 'not one of us' because of an acquired list of significant <u>differences</u> . (A0K 1213)	post-mod.
	D11	He's made a big <u>difference</u> to my being able to get through it. (CH6 4463)	<i>make</i>
	D12	There are times when a little extra speed can make a big <u>difference</u> to how your mail is received by overseas clients or family and friends abroad. (EEJ 485)	<i>make</i>
pre/post-mod. with DR	D13	There is a vast <u>difference</u> between that and when serious gambling leads to deprivation. (CH2 8890)	<i>there</i>
	D14	So amongst tabloid readers generally, but especially amongst Sun/Star readers, there was a dramatic <u>difference</u> between their overwhelming preference for television as a source of information and their reliance upon both press and television for helping them decide how to vote. (A62 147)	<i>there</i>
	D15	In the Pre-Campaign Wave there was a 41 per cent <u>difference</u> in awareness of polls between those with a high and low interest in politics. (A62 411)	<i>there</i>
	D16	Overall, there remained a roughly constant <u>difference</u> between the interested and the uninterested. (A62 440)	<i>there</i>
	D17	There was always an enormous <u>difference</u> between the economic perceptions of those who initially had Conservative and Labour preferences, especially those who described themselves as party "supporters". (A62 504)	<i>there</i>

	D18	Before the campaign there was a 41 per cent <u>difference</u> in awareness of polls between those with high and low levels of interest in politics; but this declined to 22 per cent by the end of the campaign. (A62 535)	<i>there</i>
	D19	There is a great <u>difference</u> between the Attlee concept and Thatcher's robust assertion of 1979: "It must be a conviction government. ... (A6F 589)	<i>there</i>
	D20	But there is a large <u>difference</u> between the cost of the benefit to the employer and the value of that benefit as assessed. (FE1 377)	<i>there</i>
	D21	There is, of course, an enormous <u>difference</u> between the private/public demands of the two examples: writing my own private notes protects me rather more than having publicly to make suggestions on how the teacher as " patient " should, say, knock on a door. (AM6 1260)	<i>there</i>
	D22	However jewel-like the good will may be in its own right, there is a morally significant <u>difference</u> between rescuing someone from a burning building and dropping him from a twelfth storey window while trying to rescue him. (EB2 1391)	<i>there</i>
	D23	Similarly there is a morally significant <u>difference</u> between reckless driving and manslaughter. (EB2 1392)	<i>there</i>
	D24	At any one time there were wide <u>differences</u> of opinion about party chances however. (A62 470)	<i>there</i>
	D25	However, a number of 'essential <u>differences</u> ' between Eurotunnel and Transmanche Link need to be resolved. (A23 88)	post-mod.
	D26	Labour's inability to make progress in London as a whole compared with 1986 disguised sharp <u>differences</u> between the boroughs. (APE 1013)	Od
	D27	With government, central or regional, unable to make up the difference between parents' ability to pay and the needs of schools, sharp <u>differences</u> in quality of education are inevitable. (B12 276)	subj.
	D28	There are also significant <u>differences</u> in levels of enrolment between male and female students. (B12 1054)	<i>there</i>
	D29	In practice, this meant the maintenance of separate and unequal schools giving whites and blacks two different types of education, with great <u>differences</u> in quality and access. (B12 1340)	post-mod.
	D30	Notable <u>differences</u> were to be found in the rules as to succession on intestacy and in the variety of estates and interests which could be created in these two kinds of property. (ABP 806)	subj.
	D31	Since there are two offences -- and particularly in jurisdictions where there are three or more grades of homicide -- surely it is right and proper to use the lesser offence to mark significant <u>differences</u> in culpability. (ACJ 173)	Od
pre-mod. with CR	D32	In talking to ordinary policewomen, we found many themselves adopt notions of gender <u>differences</u> in order to explain the marginalization of their duties, although others prefer this kind of work simply because it makes it easier to manage their difficult and conflicting roles as policewoman, wife, and mother. (A5Y 597)	post-mod.
	D33	Further non-economic influences that can not be ignored are ethnic and religious <u>differences</u> . (A64 552)	Cs
	D34	As a small sop to regional <u>difference</u> , special networks were to be set up in the Ukraine, the Caucasus, and the other national minority areas. (A64 1688)	post-mod.
	D35	In posing law as an external force to those it purports to control the judgment fails to recognize law's part in constructing experience of the world; how knowledge is possible only through categories and symbols of language; how meaning is produced out of legal ordering of supposed <u>differences</u> . (EB2 998)	post-mod.

	D36	The taught component of the course covers basic computing skills, PROLOG, phonetics, phonology, syntax, formal semantics, pragmatics and discourse analysis, psycholinguistics, statistics and experimental design, inter-speaker <u>differences</u> , speech analysis, speech and language systems, and techniques in speech recognition, speech synthesis, parsing, machine translation. (CFV 1879)	Od mult.
	D37	The Dewsbury case also focused attention on the difficulties of accommodating the preferences of parents drawn from groups with diverse cultural and religious <u>differences</u> , especially where these interests conflict with the " rights " of the state to promote a policy of multicultural education in the interests of racial harmony and integration. (AN5 53)	post-mod.
	D38	Though this was a major achievement, the 1980 census still revealed marked <u>differences</u> by gender and region. (B12 601)	Od
pre/post-mod. with CR	D39	The Committee's view was that there is "a definite moral and psychological <u>difference</u> " between causing serious injury with intent and causing serious injury recklessly, and that this difference should be reflected in separate offences. (ACJ 934)	<i>there</i>
	D40	The ethos of the force therefore lends itself to gender <u>differences</u> in police work, and so popular are beliefs about the different capabilities of policemen and women, that some policemen shy away from handling these sorts of cases on the view that they are less able than women colleagues, and many policewomen adopt these notions as self-typifications. (A5Y 593)	Oprep
	D41	From what we know about their audience and their content, we would expect major <u>differences</u> between the influence of television and the influence of the press, and major differences also between the influence of highbrow and lowbrow sources. (A62 216)	Od
	D42	Apart from Nigel Lawson, Nicholas Ridley, Cecil Parkinson, and Sir Geoffrey Howe, it was difficult to think of other Cabinet ministers who would be regarded as economically " dry " or ideologically " Thatcherite ", and both Lawson and Sir Geoffrey had well-publicized <u>differences</u> of opinion with Mrs Thatcher. (A6F 695)	Od
	D43	Rumours spoke of Hitler ignoring all warnings, and of major <u>differences</u> between him and his military advisors. (ADD 467)	Oprep mult.
	D44	He suggests that section 8(3) will probably be " sensibly construed as an attempt to strike a realistic balance " and points out that there will be " room for legitimate <u>differences</u> of emphasis among the various agreed syllabuses, as at present ". (AN5 984)	post-mod.
	D45	Regional <u>differences</u> in educational provision are substantial. (B12 378)	subj.
pre-mod. with DR & CR	D46	Clauses 1, 2 and 4 and the corresponding sections exhibit very minor drafting <u>differences</u> . (FE2 523)	Od
pre/post-mod. with DR&CR	D47	When you work now with young actors do you notice great <u>differences</u> in their approach to acting from your own? (A06 2344)	Od
	D48	Supervision teams from the donors frequently laid bare basic <u>differences</u> in the perception of projects. (A6M 990)	Od
noncount			
pre/post-mod. with CR	D49	There may be little structural <u>difference</u> , broadly speaking, between a goalkeeper guarding his goal, Cerberus guarding the gates of Hell, and a soldier on duty outside an army barracks. (AM6 657)	<i>there</i>
	D50	Such rights, though commonly appendant or appurtenant to land -- there is little practical <u>difference</u> between the two phrases -- are not necessarily so. (ABP 896)	<i>there</i>

## Excerpted Instances of *Interest*

	#	sentence	synt. fc.
count			
	I1	M Rocard's " big bang " proposal has received a positive response from most socialist leaders, left-wing voters (73 per cent approved of the idea), and ecologist supporters (62 per cent approved), while several leading communist dissidents have expressed a cautious <u>interest</u> . (K56 541)	Od
	I2	Nevertheless, there is one group of surveys of painting which have a special <u>interest</u> : those which form part of handbooks or, more grandly, treatises on how to paint. (A04 599)	Od
	I3	Otto Lambsdorff, leader of the German Free Democrats, said it was a " nonsense " gesture which over-protected British <u>interests</u> . (CH2 11127)	Od
	I4	Much depends on organised pressure by local concerned <u>interests</u> and individuals resident in the " salmon constituencies " of Scotland. (K5E 266)	Oprep mult.
	I5	Definitive reference, ranging from encyclopedias to special <u>interests</u> . (CFT 821)	adv. place
	I6	A must for anyone concerned with advertising to businesses, government, associations and consumer groups with special <u>interests</u> . (CFT 959)	post-mod.
	I7	Leisure activities offer opportunities for older people to meet others who share similar <u>interests</u> . (A10 439)	Od
	I8	Leonard was full-blooded, physically and temperamentally, and these teenage years saw him active in a wide range of sporting <u>interests</u> : cycling (one of his favourite pastimes then), skiing, swimming, canoeing, sailing and ice-hockey (in which he made the school team), boxing and wrestling, though he was very little involved in the last two. (A05 519)	post-mod.
post-mod.	I9	The Romanian Government, WHO and UNICEF have taken a great <u>interest</u> in our education programme and are actively looking for ways to use it as a model for Health Education in Romania. (A02 215)	Od
	I10	A trainee psychologist, played by Lambert's wife, Diane Lane, is drafted in to help track down the real killer and -- you guessed it -- takes a more than passing professional <u>interest</u> in Sanderson. (CH1 825)	Od
	I11	While journalistic skills would be useful, most important is: * Exceptional expertise and a passionate <u>interest</u> in business strategy/strategic management. [...] (CJU 260)	Cs mult.
	I12	You should have a PhD in Biochemistry or have relevant practical experience, and possess a keen <u>interest</u> in the application of specific enzymes and receptors. (CJU 1301)	Od
	I13	The course is aimed at people with either a personal or professional <u>interest</u> in the counseling of cancer-sufferers. (K29 13)	post-mod.
	I14	Preference will be given to applicants with some experience in consulting for industry, government or international organisations, and the successful applicant will be expected to maintain an active <u>interest</u> in consulting in these areas. (CJU 161)	Od
	I15	Ideal candidates will be graduate pharmacists or physical chemists with at least two years' experience in developing formulations, a real <u>interest</u> in dosage form innovation and a firm belief that projects can be completed quicker (and probably better). (CJU 1263)	post-mod. mult.
	I16	Participation across the full range of accounting and financial management <u>interests</u> of the Business School will be encouraged -- these encompass both MBA and undergraduate teaching, including the new degree programme, research and research supervision. (CJU 82)	post-mod. mult.

	I17	The Institute of Finance and Accounting at LBS is Europe's leading centre for financial research and maintains research <u>interests</u> in most areas of financial economics.(CJU 243)	Od
	I18	However, those who had expressed a general <u>interest</u> in politics during the parliamentary mid-term were more likely to see bias on the television and in their papers early in the campaign. (A62 39)	Od
	I19	In the last two years Guinness PLC has acquired a substantial <u>interest</u> in LVMH, France's largest luxury goods company with such famous brands as Moët & Chandon champagne, Hennessy cognac, Louis Vuitton luggage and Christian Dior perfumes. (CFT 1339)	Od
	I20	Television scored best on helping people decide how to Vote if they found politics interesting during the campaign but had lacked a general <u>interest</u> in politics in the mid-term. (A62 114)	Od
	I21	It is a must for everyone with strategic, economic and political <u>interests</u> in the Arab Gulf. (CFT 2248)	post-mod.
noncount			
	I22	Soon after Hamilton's battle-scarred book came out, moreover, in the spring of 1988, there appeared in Britain a kind of memoir entitled The Facts-A Novelist's Autobiography in which the issue was addressed in some passages of exceptional <u>interest</u> — the gaze and forehead of Olympian Zeus after the outcries and the special and professional pleading which had surrounded all but one of these other events. (A05 1203)	post-mod.
	I23	In many cases this has resulted in the introduction of faked features and the associated destruction of existing features which, though often of architectural and historic <u>interest</u> in their own right, do not fit in with the designer's concept of the pub's ideal form. (A0B 193)	post-mod.
	I24	They sit up with disproportionate <u>interest</u> . (FU6 2667)	adv. circumstan .
	I25	I have been privileged to hold office for 11 years in a series of jobs of enormous <u>interest</u> and I believe of some importance, especially in relation to drugs, broadcasting, the NHS and foreign affairs. (CH2 8472)	post-mod. mult.
	I26	Healing plants I found the article " Old angle on modern ills ", by David Simpson (Business, 16 February), of considerable <u>interest</u> . (K56 505)	Co
	I27	Discretion such as this, what Klockars (1985) calls " selective enforcement ", has provoked considerable <u>interest</u> right from the beginning of sociology's concern with policing (for example Goldstein 1960, 1963; La Favre 1965). (A5Y 1153)	Od
	I28	In the United States there is an extensive research programme on neighbourhood policing based at the University of Michigan, and considerable <u>interest</u> is shown by the federal and central governments. (A5Y 1367)	subj.
	I29	The Augustinian Priory at Michelham is full of unexpected <u>interest</u> . (EC9 797)	Oprep
	I30	Wang Xizhe, a factory worker from Guangzhou, was an activist in the pro-democracy movement in China who helped to write and put up a 100-metre newspaper wall in his city in 1974 which attracted worldwide <u>interest</u> . (A03 533)	
	I31	" The conduct of a Government Minister which in no way affected the crisis was equally a matter of fact and public <u>interest</u> , ". (CH2 7166)	Od
	I32	We now understand that this cancellation followed a contractual dispute between the promoter and Mr O'Connor's management, and the inadequacy of the promotion of the event, and was not due to any lack of public <u>interest</u> as suggested in our report. (CH6 3222)	post-mod. mult.
	I33	Nature sites: Eighteen new sites on Wearside may be included as sites of special nature conservation <u>interest</u> in Sunderland's draft Unitary Development Plan to be published in June or July. (K4N 78)	post-mod.
	I34	Film buffs have a field day in Birmingham, with both mainstream cinemas, and avant garde, minority <u>interest</u> and foreign films at the Triangle Cinema and the Midlands Arts Centre in Edgbaston. (AL7 45)	post-mod.

	I35	Thames Water is also responsible for the management of many Sites of Special Scientific <u>Interest</u> . (AYX 346)	adv. circumst. mult.
	I36	Aspects of special <u>interest</u> , including the Jockey Club Rooms, can be incorporated in custom made tours. (B3K 1749)	post-mod.
	I37	Of special <u>interest</u> is the Meadow Garden in spring. (BPC 1641)	post-mod.
	I38	More surprising was the relationship with political <u>interest</u> . (A62 113)	Cs
	I39	The societal divisions and problems of relations between the police and the community which this style of policing is called upon to ameliorate in Northern Ireland are more severe than is normally the case, which makes the RUC's implementation and operation of community policing of special <u>interest</u> and previous neglect of this aspect of policing in the province a significant oversight. (A5Y 1381)	post-mod.
	I40	We used multiple regressions to gauge the influence upon media usefulness-ratings of: political <u>interest</u> and discussion, different motivations for following the campaign, social and political background factors, perceptions of bias, and the intellectual weight of the press. (A62 102)	Co
	I41	Pant y Sais Fen -- A site of special scientific <u>interest</u> and a designated Nature Reserve at Jersey Marine -- boardwalks give access to fenland and canal. (EFC 605)	post-mod.
	I42	That was quite clearly a matter of great public <u>interest</u> and concern. (CH2 7165)	post-mod.
	I43	Area of great historic, natural and archaeological <u>interest</u> . (EEG 231)	post-mod.
	I44	We have enclosed a selection of brochures with this letter which we hope will be of special <u>interest</u> to you or your colleagues. (CFV 19)	post-mod.
post-mod.	I45	These can offer real support to new actors seeking their first taste of work and such co-ops do show enormous <u>interest</u> in the work of drama students in their last term. (A06 1544)	Cs
	I46	There is a very clear, clean cut approach to the whole collection with the accent on strong graphics and sports oriented motifs to create renewed <u>interest</u> in the 'contemporary classic' shapes of the shirts, shorts, tops, sweaters, track suits, joggers and shell suits which make up the whole range. (A0V 968)	Od
	I47	The successful candidate will be innovative and self motivated, with an aptitude and keen <u>interest</u> in problem solving, method development and validation. (CJU 850)	Od
	I48	Taylor, the 1984 Olympic gold medallist, is sure to add extra <u>interest</u> for the massive American TV audience expected to watch the Lewis-Ruddock clash. (CH7 351)	Cs mult.
	I49	The Abbaye De Villeneuve is one of the exclusive listed buildings offered by France Patrimoine Historic Hotels Group, specialists in a wide range of theme weekends and tours of areas of historic <u>interest</u> in France. (CFT 4545)	Od
	I50	Preference will be given to candidates who have research <u>interest</u> in the area of optical information processing for industrial application.(CJU 776)	post-mod.



## Excerpted Instances of *Language*

	#	sentence	synt. fc.
count			
	L1	By providing a weekly update on all that's new in science and technology in a non-technical everyday <u>language</u> it helps to fill the gaps between textbooks and the latest developments. (CFT 2323)	adv. manner
	L2	We talk to one another using an intricate "tug-talk " <u>language</u> . (CFM 355)	Od
	L3	A willingness to participate in interdisciplinary teamwork and proficiency in English are required; knowledge of another foreign <u>language</u> is desirable. (CJU 543)	post-mod.
	L4	The intention therefore is significantly different although both are concerned with presenting oneself as an object of others' attention and finding a public <u>language</u> to do so. (AM6 1133)	Od
	L5	Law and the legal system thus have to be seen in a differentiated way, no longer consistently structured by one uniform <u>language</u> and one common principle (such as a hierarchy of values or a grundnorm), but as being to some extent split into a plurality of legal arenas (Lowi, 1972). (CHC 696)	adv. manner
	L6	The primary school would aim for its students to acquire: 1 " Literacy in one or more languages, eventually to include literacy in at least one Sierra Leone <u>language</u> and in the official language , English; [...] (BLY 963)	post-mod.
	L7	English is an official <u>language</u> in most countries and is the medium of instruction in secondary schools. (BLY 1035)	Cs
	L8	A legal system is not a monolith, but is made up of a variety of legal " arenas " in which many different " legal languages " are spoken, and while some of these arenas may well be prepared to listen to the presentation of a problem in one jurisprudential <u>language</u> , others might reject it completely (Ladeur, 1984; Sciolla, 1983; Dunsire, 1978). (CHC 572)	adv. manner
	L9	The ability to speak a second European <u>language</u> would be an advantage. (CJU 1564)	Od
	L10	In one big country, Tanzania, there is a widely accepted national <u>language</u> , Swahili. (BLY 1043)	Cs
post-mod.	L11	The Secretary of State would, at that time (1981/82), not have considered using his default powers if, for example, a school failed to offer a modern <u>language</u> (other than English). (AN5 810)	Od
	L12	Solutions to the problems accompanying the adoption of a Nigerian <u>language</u> (such as Yoruba) as the medium of instruction will be stimulated. (BLY 782)	post-mod.
noncount			
	L13	There are a number of bishops in public life who attack bad <u>language</u> . (CH2 8615)	Od
	L14	Guidelines tell us we can not transmit an undue amount of bad <u>language</u> . (CH2 12428)	post-mod.
	L15	D proceeded to scratch the police -- officer's arm, having previously made it clear -- in colourful <u>language</u> -- that she did not wish to talk to the police -- officer. (ACJ 757)	adv. manner
	L16	For example, a drunken woman was brought into the station one night after assaulting a policewoman and using very abusive <u>language</u> , something to be expected from gougers, but was allowed home uncharged after spending a night in the cells: she was even allowed to leave early enough in the morning to avoid all but the milkman from seeing her arrive home in a police vehicle. (A5Y 1039)	Od
	L17	To pass it one has to be "dead on ": polite, deferential, and avoid the use of foul <u>language</u> . (A5Y 1200)	post-mod.
	L18	Some adults use very foul <u>language</u> to describe the police. (A5Y 1347)	Od
	L19	Everyone can expect: correspondence to be answered within five working days,	adv.

		or acknowledged within five working days with a reply within 15 working days that in setting and applying our standards, our staff will seek to be open, helpful and polite in explaining our position well presented documentation (handbooks, guides etc) written in clear and plain <u>language</u> . (HCR 72)	manner
	L20	Whichever is the true view, the general offence of fraudulent conversion has proved valuable, covering as it does in clear <u>language</u> a wide range of circumstances in which property may be misappropriated. (FE2 436)	adv. manner
	L21	The decision in In re A Company shows that Parliament can by the use of appropriate <u>language</u> provide that a decision on a question of law whether taken by a judge or by some other form of tribunal shall be considered as final and not be subject to challenge either by way of appeal or judicial review. (FE3 144)	post-mod.
	L22	Of the genuinely difficult cases, those in which the jurist appears to use unclear <u>language</u> , most can be explained on the linguistic argument. (B2P 1529)	Od
	L23	Even those who support the view of a gradual assimilation of legacy and trust in the classical period in order to account for examples of loose <u>language</u> have some difficulty here: for nobody really wants to suppose that this process had got very far in Celsus' day. (B29 1554)	post-mod.
	L24	Yet an evaluation seems so often to be understood more as a sort of independent commission of enquiry undertaken at a fairly late stage in the life of a programme or project by "experts" from outside whose findings may or may not be in straightforward <u>language</u> . (BLY 922)	Cs
	L25	Other fair reasons for dismissal would be misconduct in the form of disobeying the employer's orders, non-co-operation, causing violence, bad <u>language</u> , drunkenness, dishonesty, incompetence and incapacity. (CDP 1078)	Cs
	L26	We couldn't get a straight reply -- she'd only answer in sign <u>language</u> . (CH1 5868)	adv. manner
	L27	BREWERS of Castlemaine lager were accused yesterday of not giving a XXXX for deaf people because a TV commercial for the Aussie booze uses "gobbledegook" sign <u>language</u> . (CH2 2844)	Od
	L28	Tips on how to use body <u>language</u> to solve disputes are being provided by The Glasshouse Theatre Company of Manchester. (CH2 4543)	Od
	L29	A DEAF mute who was stopped by police for erratic driving told a court yesterday that he'd been "chatting" to his passenger in sign <u>language</u> . (CH6 1706)	adv. manner
	L30	"You should not try to drive and use sign <u>language</u> at the same time." (CH6 1710)	Od
	L31	We sometimes use the term "equity", or words corresponding to it, in popular <u>language</u> as if it was something altogether outside law. (ABP 4)	adv. place
	L32	We should add by way of completeness that the provisions of sections 16 and 12 of the Act of 1873 have been carried forward to the modern day in more or less identical <u>language</u> , mutatis mutandis, to sections 18(3) and 34(1) of the Supreme Court of Judicature (Consolidation) Act 1925 and then, in more cursory language, to sections 10(3) (b) and 44(1) of the Supreme Court Act 1981. (FDW 143)	adv. manner
	L33	The ever increasing volume of legislation must inevitably result in ambiguities of statutory <u>language</u> which are not perceived at the time the legislation is enacted. (FE1 200)	post-mod.
	L34	The cut and thrust of debate and the pressures of executive responsibility, the essential features of open and responsible government, are not always conducive to a clear and unbiased explanation of the meaning of statutory <u>language</u> . (FE1 493)	post-mod.
	L35	First the old Acts were repealed by the Act of 1976: the provisions were re-enacted in different <u>language</u> , albeit that the phrase "incurred in or in connection with the provision of the benefit" appeared in both statutes. (FE1 669)	adv. manner
	L36	But it is a lawyers' word, and those not used to legal <u>language</u> might naturally think that it meant changing something or exchanging property for other property. (FE2 468)	Oprep

	L37	He submitted that the concept of a peculiar domestic law differing from the general law of the land was artificial since in practice the charter and statutes of a university are expressed in ordinary legal <u>language</u> and applied in accordance with the same principles as those applicable under the general law. (FE3 352)	adv. manner
	L38	The institutions are also not entitled to receive information about the pupil's racial group, religion, home <u>language</u> or court reports. (AN5 634)	post-mod.
	L39	In a case where an employer referred to a secretary using racist <u>language</u> , this 69was not a " detriment " for this purpose. (AN5 1341)	Od
	L40	When purely environmentally-dictated policies (such as forest closure or forcible destocking of pastures) do not work because the social context has been analysed insufficiently, force is often contemplated (or, in administrative <u>language</u> , better and tougher implementation and environmental protection). (APN 637)	adv. manner
	L41	It has, for the most part, imposed Spanish <u>language</u> and culture and discouraged expressions of indigenous cultures. (B12 1154)	Od
	L42	Is the cause a peculiarity of Scaevolan <u>language</u> , or a peculiarity of Scaveola's works? (B29 1619)	post-mod.
	L43	In some subjects and topics, particularly in Mathematics and Science, English <u>language</u> embodies western thought patterns and there is a risk that translation may lead to fundamental misunderstandings. (BLY 1039)	subj.
	L44	Many mentioned the practical steps they had already devised: altering curriculum materials, deliberately avoiding the use of stereotyped <u>language</u> , studying patterns of classroom interaction and thinking of ways to increase girls' participation. (CLW 190)	post-mod.
	L45	For the purpose of constitutional law, it has a more technical meaning signifying more or less what in popular <u>language</u> is referred to as " the government ", which term embraces, rather vaguely, the Prime Minister, Cabinet, central government departments and all that goes with it. (C8R 1498)	adv. place
	L46	In some respects they use new <u>language</u> and embody in a formal text rules that have not been specified in that way before; this has indeed been the way the laws of war have developed for 150 years. (CHC 140)	Od
	L47	The implicit assumption here is that it may be best to leave nuclear weapons in a partial legal limbo, with an extremely strong presumption against the legality of their use, but with no formal and explicit rules turning this presumption into treaty <u>language</u> and adding detail to it. (CHC 539)	Oprep
	L48	After a while, Mrs Thatcher herself, in coded <u>language</u> and indirect statements (through some of the Number 10 staff), may have provided encouragement for them. (A6F 671)	adv. manner
	L49	Despite numerous campaigns to introduce ordinary <u>language</u> into property documents, the legal language used is still tortuous, and, as this state of affairs is unlikely to change quickly, it is worthwhile spending some time studying a typical business lease and conveyance. (CDP 534)	Od
	L50	The critical promoter of the work of Seurat and his friends was Félix Fénéon, a subtle stylist who varied his methods according to the work he was describing; he used expository <u>language</u> for Degas, but he dropped logical connection in language, even verbs when discussing Monet's spontaneous art. (A04 259)	Od

## Types of Eliminated Instances of Examined Nouns

	#	sentence
definite article	EI1	Where can the <u>difference</u> be between a beggar's son married to a lady or a beggar's daughter made a gentleman's wife? (FU4)
	EI2	A play is primary a piece of action and although a script contains some scenic and character description, the essential <u>interest</u> lies in the dialogue and the action arising from it. (A06)
	EI3	We trimmed the majority of the bad <u>language</u> and some of the excesses of violence as well. (CH2)
	EI4	There may be nothing behind it, but it doesn't make any <u>difference</u> so long as it is honoured. (FU6)
<i>some, any, no</i>	EI5	For her the world was full of young men whose bodies were untainted by disease and these — he persuaded himself — were the ones she really craved, having no care for him at all, except some morbid <u>interest</u> in a diseased thing, which, presently, she would thrust aside with a disdainful shudder. (A7J)
	EI6	There were no metal tools — only stone, wood and bone were used; there was no written <u>language</u> and thus recording of land rights and rules for their disposal; there were no cereal crops, and limited means only of storing foodstuffs; and so on. (FAW)
pronouns, 's genitive	EI7	This visible <u>difference</u> reflects differences in values. (G0W 2294)
	EI8	After the war he set Hollywood alight with his invented <u>language</u> , Vout, and played with Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie. (A4E)
	EI9	It is almost certain that Leonard's <u>interest</u> in Zen Buddhism was sown at this time, and his 'anti-intellectualism' confirmed. (A0P)