

Nouns as Adjectives and Adjectives as Nouns

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1. Nouns as adjectives

Many languages have productive morphology turning nouns into adjectives, i.e. words whose canonical grammatical function is to act as an attributive modifier to a noun head (and which often has special syntactic distributions, agreement with N, etc.).

1.1. Denominal adjectives with added semantic predicate

In many cases this process adds a semantic predicate ('having N', 'lacking N', 'located at N', etc.).

Brief list of commonest denominal adjectival derivational categories with added semantic predicate:

simultaneity	<i>French-Nice, off/psi-eyed, boy-ish</i>
possessive/attributive/comitative	Russian <i>glaz-ov-ye</i> 'with big eyes' < <i>glaz</i> 'eyes'
privative	Hungarian <i>ház- nél</i> 'homeless' < <i>ház</i> 'house, home'
locative	Slovak <i>stíchupej</i> 'in the house' < <i>stícha</i> 'house'
temporal	Yakut <i>aq'iy-ye</i> 'summer' (adjective) < <i>aq'iy</i> 'summer' (noun)
origin	Georgian <i>ap'el-ur</i> 'born the village' < <i>ap'el</i> 'village'

1.2. Denominal adjectives with no additional semantic content

In other cases there is no additional semantic predicate. Instead, the derived adjective expresses a possessive relation (similar to 'genitive'), or some pragmatically (contextually) determined relationship (like English NN compounding).

- Russian: possessive and relational adjectives are not fully productive

Possessive adjectives

- (1) a. default meaning: inalienable possession

<i>Ivan-ov-a</i>	derivative
Ivan- POS.ADJ-NEUT.NOM	childhood(NEUT)
'Ivan's childhood' (cf. derivative <i>Ivan-a</i> 'childhood Ivan-GEN')	

- b. more typical example: 'book bearing some relationship to Mummy'

<i>Mummy-vo-a</i>	<i>kniga</i>
Mummy- POS.ADJ-REM.NOM	book(REM)
'Mummy's book' = 'the book that Mummy owns, wrote, is doing the illustrations for, stole...' (cf. <i>kniga Mummy-ye</i> 'book Mummy-GEN')	