

The Change of Meaning Of Nouns in the Process of Number Alteration

Dzenita Joldic

University of Tuzla/ Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina

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ABSTRACT

Exceptions to the rules phenomenon within a language system have always been a problem in the process of learning a foreign language. There are prescribed rules about the use of language and there are exceptions to these rules which cannot be found in grammar books. As language changes from one minute into another, so do the rules it is governed by. Such is the case of English nouns. English plural invariable nouns which according to the grammar rules can only have plural form also have their singular forms existing in English and they have different meaning from their plural form. This paper addresses this teaching and learning challenge raising awareness of the nouns which change their meaning when they are used in their singular form. The methodology used in the paper is giving the necessary theoretical background and semantic analysis of the example nouns. The results of the analysis show that there is a considerable number of English plural invariable nouns which change meaning in the process of number alteration and therefore represent potential problems for speakers of English language. This paper presents a number of the nouns which undergo such changes and explains the difference in meaning. As such it helps us to identify nouns from this group and helps speakers to avoid possible problems of their misunderstanding.