Semantic Range of Verb-to-Noun Conversion and Learners' Vocabulary Enrichment

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Abstract. This research explored the semantic range of verb-to-noun conversion in English, centering on how this process, known as nominalization, by analyzing 205 verbs and their nominalized shapes, extricated from the online Oxford English Dictionary (OED) and online Merriam-Webster Dictionary. This research used a mixed-methods approach for semantic range using the frequency list theory proposed by Leech, Geoffrey, Rayson, and Wilson (2001). An investigation revealed patterns and frequencies of nominalization, categorizing things into semantic types, such as transitive verbs, intransitive verbs, nouns, and nouns to verbs. The findings revealed that transitive verbs showed the broadest semantic extent in nominalization. The semantic range of verb data is 2127 data or 31%, which is divided into transitive verbs and intransitive verbs. The number of semantic ranges in transitive verbs is 1377 data or 20%, and the number of semantic ranges in intransitive verbs is 750 data or 11%. While the number of semantic ranges on conversion nouns is 880, or 13%. A mismatch number produced on the semantic range of verb-to-noun was 1268 data or 19%. The implication of this research is to know English learners' awareness of verb-to-noun conversion and ease of communication in daily activities.

Keywords: *Conversion, Merriam-Webster, OED, Semantic Range, Verb to Noun, Vocabulary*

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INTRODUCTION

The conversion of verbs into nouns, a process known as nominalization, could be a crucial perspective of etymological morphology. This process plays a significant part in understanding the structure and advancement of language and in commonsense applications in areas as differing as computational linguistics, language instruction, and cognitive science. Nominalization permits verbs, which regularly signify activities, forms, or states, to be changed into nouns that allude to substances, concepts, or occasions of those actions, forms, or states. Conversion may be a handle that changes the category of a word without changing the arrangement of the word. (Osakabe, 2023). Conversion can infer different categories from one category, basically nouns, verbs, and adjectives. Verb-to-noun conversion in English is changing a word that expresses an activity or state into a word that names an individual, thing, place, or concept. There are a couple of distinctive ways to change verbs to nouns, depending on the type and meaning of the verb. Conversion from verbs to nouns is a common and productive way to expand vocabulary and express complex ideas in English. The process of turning verbs into nouns in English is called nominalization. Nominalization is the use of a non-noun word (such as a verb, adjective, or adverb) as a noun or as the head of a noun phrase, with or without morphological transformation. On the one hand, according to Lordăchioaia, Schweitzer, Svyryda, and Cabrera (2020), conversion is fully productive in English because derivation is a study of the process of creation of a new word class from any base using affixes. An affixation is a bound morpheme that functions to modify the word base (Dehham, 2016).

Considering nominalization is important for a few reasons. From a linguistic theory point of view, understanding the rules and designs of nominalization improves our data on morphological and syntactic structures in languages. It makes a contrast language specialists get how unmistakable parts of speech connect and develop (Bauer, 2019). For language learners, especially those considering English as a second language, acing nominalization can upgrade comprehension and expression, empowering more advanced and shifted sentence structures (Lieber, 2020). Besides, from a cognitive science point of view, analyzing how individuals utilize and get nominalized shapes sheds light on cognitive forms related to language, such as categorization, deliberation, and memory (Spencer, 2017).

Derivational nominalization includes including a suffix to a verb to convert it into a noun. Common suffixes in English incorporate "-ation" (e.g., "create" to "creation"), "-ment" (e.g., "develop" to "development"), and "-ing" (e.g., "run" to "running" as a gerund) (Aronoff, 2018). Zero derivation, moreover known as conversion, includes employing a verb as a noun without any morphological change, such as within the sentence. For example, "His run was amazing," where the verb "run" is utilized as a noun (Lieber, 2020). A few challenges emerge when examining and applying nominalization. One major challenge is ambiguity, as nominalized forms can some of the time be ambiguous, speaking to diverse implications or syntactic categories (Bauer, 2019).

The meaning and function of nominalized forms regularly depend intensely on the setting, complicating their investigation and handling (Spencer, 2017). To

understand the complexities and subtleties of verb-to-noun conversion, it is fundamental to allude to an investigation conducted by field experts. Bauer (2019) gives a comprehensive outline of the forms and rules included in nominalization, highlighting both historical and modern viewpoints. Lieber (2020) explores the cognitive and syntactic perspectives of nominalization, advertising bits of knowledge into how speakers of diverse languages utilize and get into these forms. Aronoff (2018) focuses on the interaction between morphology and sentence structure, analyzing how nominalization fits into broader linguistic structures and its suggestions for linguistic theory. Plag (2021) digs into the phonological and morphological designs of nominalization, giving nitty gritty examinations of particular additions and their efficiency in English. Spencer (2017) addresses the semantic shifts that happen during nominalization, advertising a theoretical system for understanding these changes.

Conversion is understood as using the same word to perform different functions. According to (Fauziah, 2022), the derivation process consists not only of affixes, such as prefixes and suffixes but also has variant conversion, such as zero derivation. On one side, conversion is considered as the usage of identical words in the forms of various parts of language, and on the other, it is compared with the formation of words (Bakhtiyaorovich, 2020). Conversion is a change from one part of speech into another, however, it is necessary to add to the concept of "conversion" the change from verb to noun or the other one. For example "buy" is a conversion inside the given part of speech, as well as hybrid words that belong to two different parts of speech at the same time (Bakhtiyaorovich, 2020). In a language with poor inflection, the function of a word changes function based on its position in the sentence, considering that, for example, the word "war" can be simultaneously a verb, a noun, and an adjective.

According to (Valera, 2014) derivation is a subtype that has no morphological markers and is referred to as process zero derivation, which is considered as a representation of an independent word formation process referred to as conversion and to keep it separate from derivation. According to Valera and Ruz (2021), conversion is a word-formation process that is marked, among other aspects, by formal identity between the original word and the resulting word. For example the word from OED: first, "**bite** your bread and sup your Gruel" means to partake of (food); to eat. To cut into, pierce, or nip (something) using the teeth or jaws; to bring the teeth or jaws to bear on (something) to effect such an action. Also with the teeth as subject. Bite is a transitive verb in which the direct object is "your bread". Second, "Tell him to send one **bite** of bread" means a piece bitten off, most commonly to eat it; a piece of this size, a mouthful. Bite is a noun because it refers to a thing. Bite in here becomes conversion because the present phonological base is allomorph. Conversion is one of the nine processes of English word formation (Diasti & Bram, 2020). Word formation itself is one of the phenomena which is close to our lives (Ratih & Gusdian, 2018).

The concept of semantic range is integral to understanding verb-to-noun conversion. Semantic range refers to the breadth of meanings a word can convey. In the context of zero derivation or conversion, it specifically pertains to the number of

senses a base form (verb) and its converted counterpart (noun) can have. Typically, the assumption is that the base form has a wider range of senses and more incongruent meanings than the transformed form.

Interest in the range of meanings of zero-derived words has been growing, driven by recent research publications. For example, highlighting the complexity and variation of semantic range across languages, Valera (2023) examines the semantics of noun-to-verb zero derivation in English and Spanish. To understand which semantic categories can be attested by corpus data, the semantic range of zero derivation is relevant.

Researchers can compare the results obtained with the semantics of comparable definitions by considering the semantic range. The point of this investigation is to gather information on the foremost common semantic ranges of verb-to-noun transformations. Understanding the semantic range of these transformations can have common applications in both language learning and characteristic dialect handling, giving important experiences into how meanings move and evolve in language.

Moreover, in arrange to recognize closely related meanings and to address the challenges posed by semantic uncertainty, the think about the semantic range is crucial. This understanding can improve the accuracy of computational models and the adequacy of pedagogical strategies for vocabulary teaching.

Semantic range (SR), concerns the range of senses of a base and is changed over the frame, where the base is accepted to have a more extensive extent of senses and more unequal implications than the changed-over form. Recently, there has been a developing intrigue within the semantic extent of words formed by zero derivation/conversion; in this research, the investigation of verb-to-noun conversion, and in later distributions on the subject, the semantics of noun-to-verb zero derivation in English and Spanish, Valera (2023). The semantic range of zero-derivation is in itself relevant to the question of which semantic categories can be attested by corpus data. The study of these semantics also offers the possibility of comparing the results obtained with the semantics of comparable formulations. The researchers collected data what are the most semantic range of verb-to-noun conversion.

From the semantic range, English learners know many vocabularies. Vocabulary is one of the crucial components in learning English as a foreign language. Vocabulary is the key to communicating with other people and expressing ideas or opinions clearly and easily (Fakhrudin, Masykuri, Sholeh, & Faizah, 2020). Vocabulary itself is concerned with words and meanings. It is the matter of the word choice that is used to express ideas or opinions either in written or in spoken English. Vocabulary is important in acquiring a language as it is utilized in every skill (Prasetyo, 2015). However, vocabulary teaching does not get enough attention in the Indonesian school curriculum (Prasetyo, 2015). As a result, it causes low levels of students' vocabulary mastery (Lily, 2019). Listening, speaking, reading, and writing are four important skills in learning English. When learning English, one essential aspect to know and master is vocabulary.

Vocabulary is a series of words or phrases that are held, commanded, and learned by a person, that are usually ordered in succession, and that are used to construct a new phrase. Words can be nouns, adjectives, verbs, or adverbs, used in speaking and writing. Vocabulary is of major importance in the learning of a language, especially a second language,(Marianca, Liando, & Mamentu, 2022). According to Mogea, (2019). Stated that English is an important language in life such as education, technology, and politics. Therefore, it is important to know the types of vocabulary in English to be able to distinguish the meaning. Young learners may have noun and verb knowledge in their early vocabulary and influence each other (Dingemanse, Blasi, Lupyan, Christiansen, & Monaghan, 2015)

RESEARCH METHOD

Research Design

This research investigated a corpus of 205 verb-to-noun conversion pairs. The data were collected from two authoritative dictionaries, the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) and Merriam-Webster, chosen for their comprehensive entries and detailed semantic descriptions. The OED contains lexicons that provide a wealth of information, including transitive and intransitive verbs and nominalized forms. By focusing on these solid sources, the think guarantees that the dataset is strong and an agent of modern English utilization (Bauer, 2001; Lieber, 2004; Bram 2011). The data-gathering preparation included efficiently extricating verbs and their nominalized forms from the OED and Merriam-Webster dictionaries.

Type and Source of Data

The researcher collected verb-to-noun conversion data. The type of data was analyzed in the semantic range contained in the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) and Merriam-Webster Dictionary. The researcher analyzed verb types which were divided into two types, namely transitive verb and intransitive verb. In addition, the researcher also collected semantic range data from nouns and analyzed the mismatch of verb-to-noun conversion.

Data Gathering and Analysis Technique

The researcher used a table to process the data. In the table, the researcher categorized verb-to-noun conversion to see the frequency of the semantic range category of transitive verb, intransitive verb, the semantic range of noun, and the mismatched semantic range of verb-noun. After that, all of the data is divided into columns in a table. The researchers collected data from 205 verb-noun conversion pairs. This study analyzed data using the theory frequency list proposed by Leech, Geoffrey, Rayson, and Wilson (2001). The data analysis steps were first to calculate the total of verb-noun data, to divide into each category group, and finally to find out the percentage of each category and the question in this research is answered about the semantic range.

Table 1. Verb to noun conversion

No	Word	Verb		Noun	Unmatched
		Transitive	Intransitive		
205					
	Total				

Percentage = Frequency of data X 100%
Total all the data

Table 2. Verb to noun

Type	Data	Percentage
Verb		
Noun		
Semantic range of a verb		
Semantic range of nouns		
Transitive verb on the meaning		
Intransitive verbs on their meaning		
Mismatched semantic range verb-noun		

Table 1 explains how the researchers collected and split the data into different columns. When researchers finished collecting the data, they used formulas such as frequency divided by the total data times one hundred percent. After that, the data of the results is put in column 2, also known as the total percentage.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Semantic Range Analysis

The analysis of 205 verbs and their nominalized forms revealed a considerable amount of data concerning the semantic range of verb-to-noun conversions. The by and large semantic range data incorporates 2,127 or 31%, comprising both transitive and intransitive verbs. The consideration categorizes these verbs based on their semantic types, including events, results, agentive, instrumental, locative, and states. In this case, the semantic range is divided into two categories: transitive or intransitive verbs. First, transitive verbs findings indicate that transitive verbs have a higher semantic range of 1,377 or 20% of the total verbs analyzed. This high frequency recommends that transitive verbs are more flexible in their conversion to nouns, frequently making nouns that allude to comes about, operators, or rebellious of the activities signified by the verbs. Cases include "develop" changing over to "development" and "create" to "creation." Second, intransitive verbs appear in a lower semantic range with 750 or 11% of the total verbs analyzed.

Semantic Mismatch and Context-Dependence

One of the key challenges recognized within the think about is the event of semantic mismatches, where the change over noun may not straightforwardly compare to the verb's original meaning. Out of the entire dataset, 1268 or 19% data displayed such mismatches. These mismatches highlight the significance of relevant understanding in both language learning and computational applications. For example, the verb "move" can convert to "move" as a noun (showing an activity or a key move) which can change significantly in meaning based on the context.

Table 3. Verb to noun

TYPE	DATA	PERCENTAGE
Verb	205	3%
Noun	205	3%
Semantic range of verb	2127	31%
Semantic range of nouns	880	13%
Transitive verb on the meaning	1377	20%
Intransitive verbs on the meaning	750	11%
Mismatch semantic range verb-noun	1268	19%

From the results of the data above, the semantic range is the total of verbs and nouns, as well as the mismatch between a verb and a noun. The mismatch data is transitive verb, intransitive verb, and minus noun. So, we know which is the most data frequency.

This research compared and combined with previous studies. First, Ruiz (2024) states that conversion is a word-formation process. In this case, noun-to-verb conversion pairs in which a type of phonological base allomorphy occurs: stress shift. Ruiz's (2024) research aimed to determine which are the most frequently occurring noun-verb conversion pairs displaying stress shift and why this type of allomorphy occurs. Second, Miura (2018) analyzed the conversion of *it* from a dummy object to a verb. The data from OED showed dummy *it* does not change a verb's overall range of transitive because both intransitive and transitive uses are already available. Dummy *it* is a minor outcome that transitive increase from survey OED data.

Meanwhile, this research showed that data from OED the conversion from verb to noun had more verb transitive than intransitive. Third, in deverbal zero-nominalization and verb classes: insights from a database from Lordăchioaia, et al (2020) stated that zero-nominals are highly dependent on that of the base, the ultimate goal of this study is to identify possible meaning regularities that these nominals may display concerning the different semantic verb classes. The data collected from OED which 1,000 zero-derived nominals, which have been collected for various semantic verb classes. Fourth, Missud, and Villoing's (2021) research explored investigated verb to noun in Franch using Distributional Semantics Models (DSM). These models, based on the distributional hypothesis, allow quantitative analysis of word semantics by transforming nouns into word vectors that represent their distribution in the corpus.

The most frequently occurring derivatives (stem conversion 13 and stem 0), while the most specific and clustered ones consist of the least frequently occurring lexemes (suffixation -age and stem conversion 12). Fifth, Vaneva's (2014) study showed the process of zero derivation from adjective to verb in both languages, English and Macedonian, by explaining and emphasizing the role of cognition for understanding the process and deriving new lexemes, while at the hearer these results in learning new lexemes due to the reliance on that person's cognitive ability. Whereas in this research analyzes verb-to-noun conversion in English and calculates conversions using the corpus semantics range. The researchers found same meaning in the word verb can be converted into a noun.

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that transitive verbs have the most extensive semantic range in verb-to-noun conversion, with a higher frequency of productive and regular nominalization patterns compared to intransitive verbs. The analysis underscores the importance of context in understanding and applying nominalized forms, highlighting challenges such as semantic ambiguity and mismatches. These insights are valuable for linguistic theory, language education.

Language learning mastery of nominalization can significantly enhance vocabulary and sentence complexity for language learners, empowering more nuanced and modern expression. Understanding the patterns and types of nominalization makes learners utilize language more successfully and inventively. Besides that, for future research, it can analyze the frequency in pragmatics, meaning using the data semantics range.

The limitations of the study include the difficulty in distinguishing between closely related parts of speech without contextual clues, which can complicate both manual analysis and automated processing. Future research could explore additional datasets or other languages to further validate these findings and expand the understanding of nominalization processes across linguistic contexts. This would enhance the generalizability of the results and provide a broader perspective on the semantic range of verb-to-noun conversions.

From the above results, it can be concluded that the most semantic range of verb-to-noun conversion is transitive verbs as much as 1377 data or 7% of the total 205 verbs. The limitation of this study is that it is difficult to distinguish the vocabulary of verb-to-noun conversion because the part of speech is almost similar but the context is different. Therefore, learners should pay attention to the vocabulary they want to use and increase their knowledge about using verbs and nouns as conversion.

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