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Nouns with Dual Class Membership
(bakalářská práce)

Studijní program: Angličtina se zaměřením na aplikovanou ekonomii

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Prohlašuji, že jsem tuto bakalářskou práci vypracovala samostatně a uvedla úplný seznam citované a použité literatury.

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Poděkování

V úvodu této práce bych ráda poděkovala Mgr. Markétě Janebové, PhD. za odborné konzultace, připomínky a poskytnutý materiál.

Obsah

Introduction

My thesis is concerned with "nouns with dual class membership" otherwise known as the process of "reclassification". The main focus will be on countability and how is countability dealt with in grammar books.

Nouns, in general, can be divided into a number of important subclasses based on their grammatical and semantic properties.

Categories of the noun are:

- number – a two-way contrast between singular and plural;
- countability – refers to entities which can be counted or not;
- definiteness – feature of noun phrases, distinguishing between entities which are specific and identifiable in a given context (definite noun phrases) and entities which are not (indefinite noun phrases);
- case – indicates its grammatical function in a greater phrase or clause; such as the role of subject, of direct object, or of possessor;
- gender – a set of characteristics that are seen to distinguish between female and male entities, extending from one's biological sex to, in humans, one's social role or gender identity.

Nouns fall into different semantic classes:

Common nouns are general names for people, places and things while proper nouns are specific names of individual people, places and things. Common nouns are divided into two categories: count and noncount common nouns (and both can be concrete or abstract).

Even native speakers of English can have little difficulty differentiating between count and non-count nouns because they base the decision on their intuition. Computers have even bigger problem with it and that is why even the most advanced corpora do not offer a reliable tool to look countability up. The research has to be done manually (all the results are considered separately).

Grammar books tend to approach the matter by division of nouns into three groups (countable/uncountable/both possible) and in my opinion offer insufficient explanation. That is why I will concentrate on determining whether grammar books deal with countability adequately, transparently and comprehensibly. My assumption is that we can see patterns when deciding whether a noun is countable or not and that the majority of them can in fact be

both. I will base my opinion on works by Anna Wierzbicka, Alan Cruse and my own research in British National Corpus. For the research I searched for all the words listed as strictly uncountable in three grammar books - Essential Grammar in Use, Advanced Grammar in Use and Oxford Practice Grammar. The goal of my thesis is to prove that grammar books should offer more elaborate approach.

1 Countability

A **count noun** denotes a class of individuated entities of the same kind. It is impossible to divide the individual entities into smaller parts and retain the same meaning of the original word. For example a car consists of wheels, car seats, boot etc. but these only represent parts of a car, not the car itself.

An **uncountable noun** can be uncountable for various reasons. There are two basic ones:

1. nouns denoting physical substances,
2. nouns that cover a variety of objects and denote a heterogeneous aggregate of parts.

Typical examples of the first case are: *water, milk, butter, sand, oxygen* and so on. The substances could be separated into smaller units but it would be necessary to use individual containers and the units would only be amounts of the original substance so there is no basis for counting.

A second type of non-count noun can be illustrated by example *jewellery*. Jewellery is a general term for a variety of objects – rings, bracelets, earrings, necklaces etc. with the same purpose. The difference between the types is that this one is made up of entities specifically. We are free to add or subtract the entities and we are still left with jewellery. This is what makes it uncountable. Other examples are: *baggage, clothing, equipment, footwear, furniture, luggage, underwear*.

It has been assumed that a given noun is ´basically´ either mass or count. This has been disputed, on the grounds that the vast majority of nouns in English can be found with both count and mass uses. While this is true that for the majority of nouns, one use is intuitively more basic than the other and this enables us to identify two significant phenomena and enquire about their semantic correlates: basic count nouns used as mass nouns, and basic mass nouns used as count nouns. (Cruse 2000, 270)

- **Many nouns which are countable in their basic meaning have uncountable uses:**
  The rattling carriage was full of rucksacks and hikers, and black-dressed Greek ladies with **chickens**. <C>
  Would you like some **chicken** for dinner? <U>
- **In addition, many basically uncountable nouns have countable uses:**

1. Plant beverages include **tea**, coffee, wine, alcoholic drinks, intoxicants, and sweet beverages. <U>
2. Six **teas** please. <C>

- **Abstract nouns, which tend to be basically uncountable, also have countable uses:**
    1. It pulls together a series of wide-ranging recommendations for business, transport and **education**. <U>
    2. Although she was a girl she wanted **an education**. <C> (Quirk et al. 1985)

In these examples, the uncountable use refers to the general phenomenon, while the countable use refers to individual instances or types.

If we want to refrain from using the same form, we can use other means of expression:
- a unit noun = a noun which is used to refer to countable units of something which is otherwise uncountable, e.g. a bar of chocolate, a bit of luck, a piece of advice, a strand of hair, a loaf of bread, a cup of coffee.
- a quantifying noun = a noun denoting quantity, e.g. much, many, less, fewer, pound, dozen, hundred.
- a species noun = a noun denoting groupings of people or objects, e.g. a crew of sailors, a gang of thieves, a knot of toads.

1.1   Countability vs. Number – Wierzbicka, Cruse

The second point of consideration is the number. The number is a binary feature – we can get either a singular or plural noun. Simplified view is that without a few exceptions, plural nouns occur only in countable contexts. Plural nouns that can also be singular are usually countable; singular nouns with no plural form and plural nouns with no singular form tend to be non-countable.

According to Wierzbicka (1988, ch. 10) the grammar of a language includes (…) a very complex set of habits (taxemes of selection) by which every lexical form is used only in certain conventional functions; every lexical form is assigned always to the customary form-classes. To describe the grammar of a language, we have to state the form-classes of each lexical form, and to determine what characteristics make the speakers assign it to these form-classes.

The school grammar tells us, for instance, that a noun is ´the name of a person, place, or thing´. This definition presupposes more philosophical and scientific knowledge than the human race can command, and implies, further, that the form-classes of a language agree with the classifications that would be made by a philosopher or scientist. (…) Similarly, school grammar defines the class of plural noun by its meaning ´more than one´ (person, place, or thing), but who could gather from this that *oats* is a plural while *wheat* is singular? Class-meanings, like all other meanings, elude the linguist's power of definition, and in general do not coincide with the meanings of strictly-defined technical terms.

1.2 Class meanings

1. SINGULARIA ONLY – NAMES OF HOMOGENEOUS SUBSTANCES
    (*butter, wine, water*, etc.)
    - one doesn´t think of it as separate things that one could count but as something any part of which one could separate from the others, each such part remaining the same kind of thing

2. SINGULARIA ONLY – NAMES OF SUBSTANCES WITH A MINIMAL UNIT
    (*rice, sand*, etc.)
    - a kind of thing
    - one doesn´t think of it as separate things one could count but as something any part of which one could separate from the others, each such part remaining the same kind of thing
    - many separate things looking all the same are parts of it, and nothing else is
    - but these separate parts are so small and they are so close together and there are so many of them that one doesn´t normally think of them as separate things that one could count
    - one thinks of them as the smallest parts of something, any part of which one could separate from the others, each part remaining the same kind of thing

3. SINGULARIA ONLY – NAMES OF HETEROGENOUS CLASSES OF OBJECTS
    (*furniture, cutlery*, etc.)
    - things of different kinds which one uses together in groups of things of different kinds for the same kind of purpose
    - one thinks of them as separate things but not as things that one could count together because they are not of the same kind

4. SINGULARIA MOSTLY – NAMES OF LARGE COLLECTIONS OF SMALL THINGS, NORMALLY THOUGHT OF AS TOO MANY TO COUNT

(*hair, clover*, etc.)

- one doesn´t think of it as separate things that one could count but as something any part of which one could separate from the others, each such part remaining the same thing
- many separate things looking all the same are parts of it, and nothing else is but these things are so small or so thin and there are so many of them together in one place and they are so close together that one doesn´t think of them as separate things that one could count
- without thinking of them as the smallest parts of something any part of which one could separate from the others, each such part remaining the same kind of thing

5. PLURALIA ONLY – NAMES OF SUBSTANCES COMPOSED OF PARTICLES, NOT TOO MANY FOR ANYONE TO BE ABLE TO COUNT BUT TOO MANY FOR ANYONE TO WANT TO COUNT

(*oats, curds, coffee-grounds*, etc.)

- one doesn´t think of it as separate things that one could count but as something any part of which one could separate from the others, each such part remaining the same kind of thing
- many separate things looking all the same are parts of it but these things are small and they are close together and one couldn´t or wouldn´t want to separate them from one another and one cannot think of them as separate things that one could count

6. PLURALIA ONLY – NAMES OF PLACES, STRETCHED OUT BUT WITHOUT CLEAR INTERNAL BOUNDARIES

(*plains, steppes, woodlands* etc.)

- one can see that it has many different parts not separated from one another
- one doesn´t think of these parts as separate places that one could count because they are not separated from one another and because one could separate any big enough part from the others, each such part remaining the same kind of place

7. PLURALIA ONLY – NAMES OF MULTIPLE OBJECTS FIXED IN PLACE

(*stairs, catacombs, bleachers; bowels,* etc.)

- one can see that it has many different parts joined together
- one doesn´t think of these parts as separate things that one could count because they are joined together
- parts of which one could separate from the others, each part remaining the same kind of thing

8. PLURALIA ONLY OCCURING IN THE FRAME ´A PAIR OF X´ - NAMES OF DUAL OBJECTS

(*scissors, goggles*, etc.)

- one thinks of them as separate things which have two identical parts used together for the same purpose
- one cannot think of these two parts as separate things because they are joined together and because separately one could not use them for this purpose
- one can count things of this kind but one counts the whole things, not those parts joined together

9. PLURALIA ONLY- NAMES OF GROUPS OF OBJECTS AND/OR ´STUFFS´

(*leftovers, groceries,* etc.)

- things of different kinds which are in the same place; for the same reason
- one doesn´t think of them as things that one could count together because they are not of the same kind and because some of them may not be separate things

10. PLURALIA MOSTLY – NAMES OF SMALL COLLECTIONS OF SMALL THINGS, POSSIBLE TO COUNT BUT NORMALLY NOT COUNTED

(*noodles, peas,* etc.)

- one doesn´t think of it as separate things that one could count but as something that many separate things are parts of that one wouldn´t want to count and as something parts of which one could separate from the others, each such part remaining the same kind of thing
- these things are small and one wouldn´t want to count them but one can think of them as separate things that one could count
- without thinking of them as the smallest parts of something any part of which one could separate from the others, each such part remaining the same kind of thing

11. COUNTABLES ONLY – NAMES OF NON-DIVISIBLE INDIVIDUAL OBJECTS

(*bottle, chair, book,* etc.)

- one thinks of them as separate things that one could count
- one cannot think of them as something any part of which one could separate from the others, each such part remaining the same kind of thing

12. COUNTABLE MOSTLY – NAMES OF DIVISIBLE (EDIBLE) INDIVIDUAL OBJECTS

(*apples, eggs,* etc.)

- one thinks of it as separate edible things that one could count
- when these things are divided into parts one thinks of them as something any part of which one could separate from the others, each such part remaining the same kind of thing

13. NOUNS WITH DOUBLE STATUS – NAMES OF SOLID SUBSTANCES WHICH CAN OCCUR IN THE FORM OF INDIVIDUAL OBJECTS

(*chocolate, cake,* etc.)

- one doesn´t think of it as something that one could count but as something any part of which one could separate from the others, each such part remaining the same kind of thing
- separate objects can be made of it that one could count

14. PSEUDO-COUNTABLES – NAMES OF HETEROGENOUS CLASSES OF SUBSTANCES AND CHOPPABLE THINGS

(*vegetables, narcotics, cosmetics,* etc.)

- things of different kinds which people use for the same kind of purpose and which people come to have in the same kind of way
- one doesn´t think of them as separate things that one could count but as something any part of which one could separate from the others, each such part remaining the same kind of thing (Wierzbicka 1988, 555-560)

Both Wierzbicka and Cruse agree that the difference between countable and uncountable is a matter of conceptualization, not of objective reality. The crucial factor in determining whether a noun is countable or not, seems to be the size of the particles. The cross-over point seems to be somewhere between the size of an average pea and that of a typical grain of rice. So, we have *beans, peas, noodles* and *lentils* as count nouns, but *barley, rice, sugar* and *flour* as mass nouns. The boundary is not rigid: *sweet corn* and *spaghetti* seem on the large side for mass nouns. (Cruse 2000, 270)

1.3 Indicators of countability

Determiners

Since nouns normally appear within the context of a noun phrase, the determiner of that noun phrase is closely linked to decision whether or not the noun is countable. The determiner can be of primary significance in automatically establishing the countability feature of the head noun. There is a relationship between the presence of certain determiners in an NP and the countability feature:

I. Countable — *a, an, another, a number of, both, each, every, either, few, a few, many, fewer, fewest, neither, one, these, those*

II. Non-countable— *an amount of, little, a little, much, less, least*

III. Ambiguous — *zero article, a lot of, lots of, all, all the, any, enough, more, most, most of the, no, plenty of, some, the, this, that, etc.*

Examples can be found in Quirk et al. - the variation of quantifiers (eg: *much/many*) in some of the following examples of count and non-count nouns:

	Count	Non-count
1	She was a **beauty** in her youth.	She had great **beauty** in her youth.
2	She´s had many **difficulties**.	She´s not had much **difficulty**.
3	He´s had several odd **experiences**.	He hasn´t had much **experience**.
4	There were bright **lights** and harsh **sounds**.	**Light** travels faster than **sound**.
5	She will give a **talk** on Chinese art.	That´s foolish **talk**.
6	The **lambs** were eating quietly.	There is **lamb** on the menu today.

2   Approaches to reclassification

There are various ways how to categorize nouns with dual class membership. Quirk uses the term "reclassification". It is rather a functional division than a lexical one. Huddleston and Pullum on the other hand try to categorize nouns both ways. Lexical type is named count/non-count polysemy and functional type is named reclassification – same as Quirk.

2.1   Reclassification according to Quirk (1985, 1564)

Quirk et al. suggests that, although the division of nouns according to countability into countable and uncountable nouns is basic in English, the language makes it possible to look upon some objects from the point of view of both countable and uncountable.

Reclassification is a term for a shift from nouns which ordinarily are non-countable to countable through metonymic sense shifts and it is called 'reclassification'. This process functions even in reverse - countable nouns also may become uncountable.

According to Quirk et al. types of conversion (or reclassification) within the noun category are:

A. Non-count noun ➤ count noun

   I.   ´A unit of N´:

    two **coffees** [´cups of coffee´]; two (huge) **cheeses**

  II.   ´A kind of N´:

    Some **paints** are more lasting than others.

    That is a better **bread** than the one I bought last.

  III.   ´An instance of N´ (with abstract nouns):

    a **difficulty**; small **kindnesses**; a miserable **failure**; home **truths**; a great **injustice**

B. Count noun ➤ noncount noun

   ´N is viewed in terms of a measurable extent´ (normally only when accompanied by expressions of amount):

   An inch of **pencil**; a few square feet of **floor**

2.2   Reclassification according to Huddleston and Pullum (2006)

Huddleston and Pullum offer more specific division but we can see some common ground with Quirk.

i. Substance [non-count] X serving of the substance [count] (similar to Quirk's ´A unit of N´)

[non-count]— *There is **water** in the basement.*

[count] — *I need to buy another **water**.*

ii. Substance [non-count] X kind/variety of the substance [count] (similar to Quirk's ´A kind of N´)

[non-count]— *I enjoy baking **bread**.*

[count] — *My favourite **breads** are sourdough and rye.*

iii. Animal [count] X food made from the animal [non-count] (similar to Quirk's ´A unit of N´)

[count] — *We saw a **moose** on that hill yesterday.*

[non-count]— *The only meat in the freezer is **moose**.*

iv. Abstract concept [non-count] X event instantiating the concept [count] (similar to Quirk's ´An instance of N´)

[non-count]— *Keep an eye out for procedural **irregularity**.*

[count] — ***Irregularities** in Enron's accounting have shocked the world.*

v. Abstract concept [non-count] X result of the concept [count] (similar to Quirk's ´An instance of N´)

[non-count]— ***Creation** is better than destruction.*

[count] — *He was proud of his **creation**.*

vi. Item [count] X (ground) substance made from the item [non-count] (similar to Quirk's ´A unit of N´)

[count] — *A **deer** raced across the field.*

[non-count]— *There was **deer** on the road and the car after the accident.*

(Huddleston and Pullum include Quirk's point B in the next chapter **Count/non-count polysemy.**)

The rules of reclassification are not without exception. There are certain metonymic shifts that cannot be used. For example the count noun *cow* may be reclassified into the non-count form (shift from the animal to the meat) but a noun "beef" already exists. It is a separate lexeme that is synonymous with proposed non-count version of the word cow which is why the creation of the word is blocked.

2.3   Count/non-count polysemy (Huddleston and Pullum) (2006, 336-337)

Huddleston and Pullum offer lexical approach too. Words are divided into groups based on their meaning. We can find certain patterns, such as tendency for reclassification of words representing food and certain abstract terms.

a) Drink/food substances and servings (similar to Quirk's ´A unit of N´)

I. *I don't like **beer**. [non-count]*

II. *She offered me another **beer**. [count]*

Nouns of drinks are uncountable with the exception of the nouns that denote a serving of the drink. Similar rules apply to food. The countable form is used for ordering in restaurants, cafes etc.:

I. *I'm going to have pork. [non-count]*

II. *That makes five porks and two turkeys, please. [count]*

b) Foods and varieties (similar to Quirk's ´A kind of N´)

I. *We're having cheese for lunch. [non-count]*

II. *These are two of my favourite cheeses. [count]*

This is another case where the count sense is predictable and does not need individual listing. Example [I.] represents cheese in general, while [II.] denotes "kind/variety of cheese". This too is a case where the count sense is predictable and does not need individual listing.

c) Animals and food (similar to Quirk's ´A unit of N´)

I. *We're having salmon for dinner. [non-count]*

II.   *I was lucky enough to catch a salmon today. [count]*

Example [I.] represents a fish, or a particular species, while [II.] denotes a food substance (similarly with *lamb, beef, pork, mutton, venison and poultry*).

d) Abstract and event instantiations (similar to Quirk's ´An instance of N´)

I.   *Considerable injustice was revealed during the enquiry. [abstract, non-count]*

II.   *Two fundamental injustices were revealed during enquiry. [event, count]*

Some nouns which are in their primary sense non-count can shift into secondary count sense denoting an event which constitutes an instance of the abstract primary sense. But this is not a rule that can be applied regularly.

As an example we can use *discussion* and *permission*, abstract nouns derived from discuss and permit respectively:

I.   *Full discussion of the land question is vital. [abstract, non-count]*

II.   *Permission is required.*

I.   *Two fundamental discussions of the land question took place. [event, count]*

II.   *Two separate permissions are required.*

Events which instantiate discussion are clearly countable, but those which instantiate permission are at best only marginally countable.

e) Abstracts and results (similar to Quirk's ´An instance of N´)

I.   *Necessity is the mother of invention. [abstract, non-count]*

II.   *? There were two separate inventions of the light bulb. [event, count]*

III.   *Edison was honoured for three separate inventions. [result, count]*

Nouns which denote results, however, are more generally countable than those denoting events: the count result sense of invention in [III.], for example, is fully acceptable, whereas the event sense in [II.] is again at best very marginal.

f) Nonce substance interpretations of primarily count nouns (similar to Quirk's ´N is viewed in terms of a measurable extent´)

Concrete nouns whose primary sense is count may be ´coerced´ into a non-count use, where the entities are reinterpreted as substance rather than individuals:

I.   *The termite was living on a diet of book.*

II.   *There was cat all over the driveway.*

These involve a somewhat contrived extension of the sense of book and cat – one that is in principle applicable quite generally, and that clearly does not need to be listed in dictionary entries.

Again there are close similarities between the two grammar books. It is safe to say that these grammars share similar opinions even though they used different structures. Reclassification and Count/non-count polysemy are different terms for the same phenomenon.

2.4   Dictionaries – polysemy vs. homonymy

As we know, reclassification produces polysemous pairs. Polysemy and homonymy can be easily mistaken for one another that is why this chapter will be dedicated to defining polysemy and how dictionaries deal with the situation. Polysemy is the capacity for a word to have multiple meanings that are semantically related. Homonymy is a phenomenon when a group of words share the same spelling but differ in meaning. Basic rule is that dictionaries list polysemes under one entry and homonyms under several, although there are marked differences between dictionaries. Some dictionaries lump homonyms together and others separate polysemes, which may be an indication that the boundary between polysemy and homonymy is not clear cut (semantic theories tend to explain homonymy and polysemy in terms of metaphor and metonymy, or in terms of a cognitive element with specific meanings triggered by the context or by rules).

As an example I picked words that will be using in my research: polysemes freedom and chocolate, homonyms litter and accommodation. I searched through three dictionaries: Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (2005), Cambridge International Dictionary of English (2001) and The Concise Oxford Dictionary (1999).

Freedom:
- C,U – the right to do what you want without being controlled or restricted by anyone
- U – the state of being free and allowed to do what you want

Chocolate:
- U – a sweet brown food eaten for pleasure or used to give foods such as cakes and special sweet taste
- C,U – a hot sweet drink made with milk and chocolate or a cup of this drink

Litter:

- U – bits of waste paper

- C – a group of baby animals

Accommodation

- U – a place for someone to stay

- C – a way of ending an argument which aims to satisfy both sides

	Longman	**Cambridge**	Oxford
freedom	Joint entry	**Joint entry**	Joint entry
chocolate	Joint entry	**Joint entry**	Joint entry
litter	Joint entry	**Separate entry**	Joint entry
accommodation	Joint entry	**Separate entry**	Joint entry

2.4.1 Semantic treatment of polysemy

Dictionaries are not meant to explain language from a theoretical point of view, they just try to capture present situation. Theories of polysemy, on the other hand, usually rest on one of two hypotheses:

I. There is a literal meaning from which the other meanings are derived (a linear explanation). According to this point of view, words do possess a literal meaning; all other meanings are merely derived and figurative. For example, the literal meaning of mouse is the rodent; a derived meaning is the computer mouse.

II. There is a core meaning with specific senses triggered either by the context or by rules (a subsuming explanation). (http://www.scribd.com/doc/7008015/Polysemy-and-Homonymy)

3 Research

3.1 Process of searching

For my research I used The British National Corpus (BNC). It is a 100 million word collection of samples of written and spoken language from the later part of the 20th century. For more accurate queries I used BYU-BNC: The British National Corpus by Mark Davies which includes certain more advanced tools for searching (http://corpus.byu.edu/bnc).

I searched through 3 textbooks, *Essential Grammar in Use* **(Hewings 2005, 209),** *Advanced Grammar in Use* **(Murphy 2004, 138) and** *Oxford Practice Grammar* **(Yule 2006, 74),** to find out how the subject of countability is dealt with. I copied words listed as uncountable and did my research using the BNC. English nouns are traditionally divided into two classes, count nouns and mass nouns; as e.g. Cruse (2006) puts it, they can be recognized by the following criteria:

(i) **Count nouns:**

   a) cannot occur in the singular without a determiner:

     *This cup/ *Cup is clean;*

   b) occur normally in the plural;

   c) are quantifiable by a few, many and numerals:

     *a few/many cups, (*much cup), thirty cups*.

(ii) **Mass nouns:**

   a) can occur in the singular without a determiner:

     Butter is good for you;

   b) are odd in the plural (or require reinterpretation):

     butters, milks;

   c) are quantifiable by a little, much:

   a little/much milk; (*many milk). (Cruse 2000, 269)

From Cruse I derived three parameters for the research – **nouns preceded by the indefinite article**, **nouns preceded by the indefinite article and an adjective** and the **plural form of the nouns**.

For the indefinite article I used the phrase query.
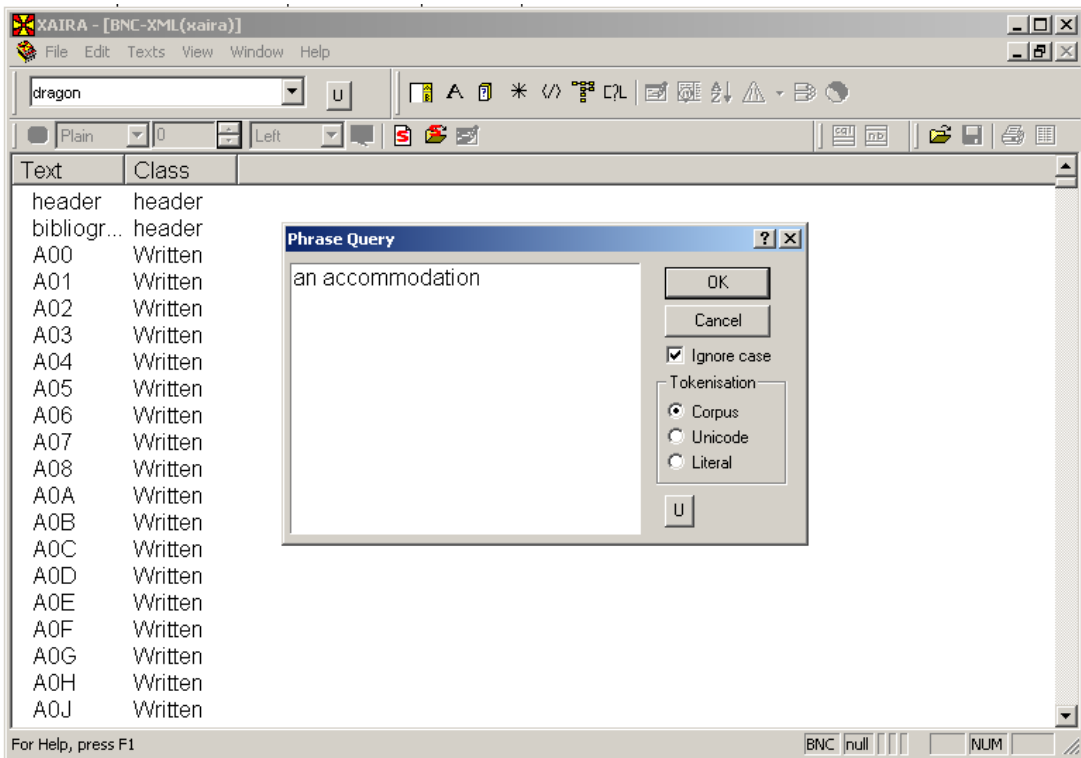
Phrase Query – indefinite article + noun

For the plural form I used the word query to be able to see parts of speech. Both NN2 (=plural noun) and NN2-VVZ (Probably NN2, but maybe -s verb) were included. All the results were sorted manually except for those with the number of results higher than 100.
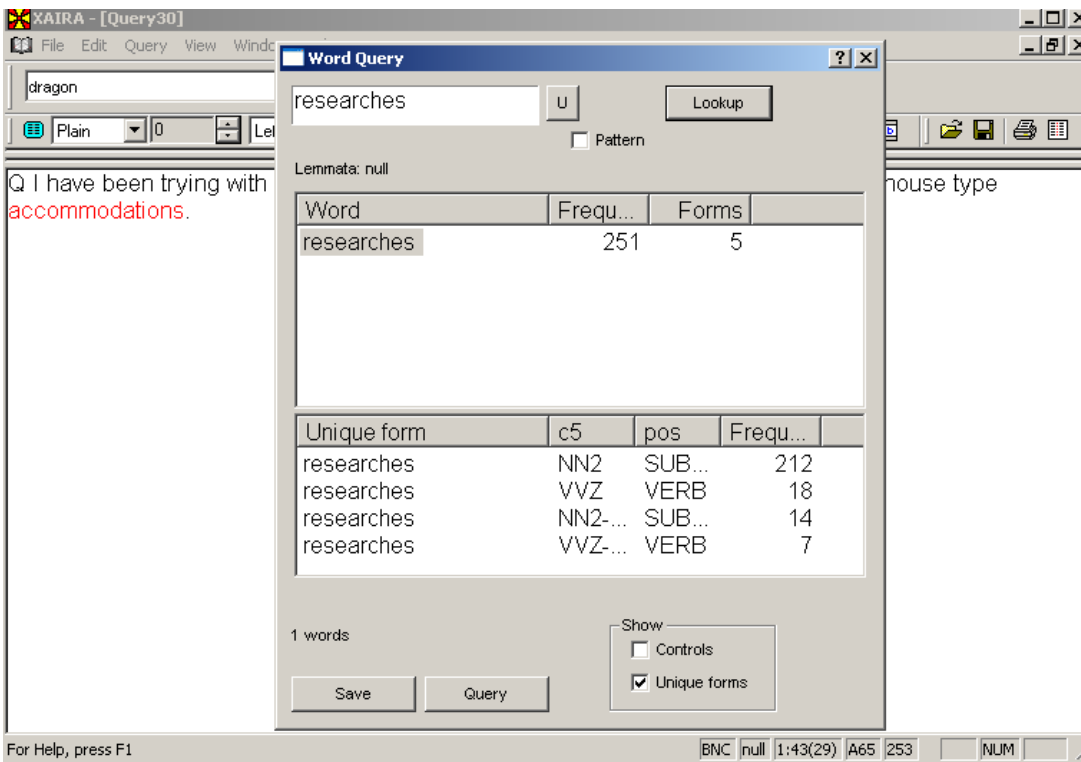
Word Query – plural

Unfortunately not all the results could be used. In the first case the noun is often followed by another noun that is head of the noun phrase. In that case the searched noun is a modifier. When searching for the plural forms, the –s form sometimes corresponded to the third person form of a verb. The Word query shows the number of nouns according to the tagging system. I set the Span to 2 and thinned the results manually.

Searching for the indefinite article + adjective + noun was the most complicated query. I used BYU – BNC British National Corpus by Mark Davies to be able to perform a more complex search.

BYU – BNC searching

In the search string there is **[aj*] nonsense.[n*] -[n*]**, standing for an adjective followed by a noun from my list, which is not followed by another noun. In the context there is an indefinite article that precedes the adjective. Each time both forms of the indefinite article (a/an) were checked.

SEE CONTEXT: CLICK ON WORD OR SELECT WORDS + [CONTEXT]   [HELP...]

		CONTEXT	TOT □
1	□	Ā	8

1.500

KEYWORD IN CONTEXT (KWIC)   More information...

CLICK ON TITLE FOR MORE CONTEXT
SECTION: NO LIMITS

1	EEW	W_fict_prose	, when she herself had also taken **a** sweet, "it is **a complete nonsense .**" "What is, Madame?" "To say you killed your
2	JY5	W_fict_prose	her pulse seemed to be racing at twice its normal rate, making **a complete nonsense of** her breathing control. **A** tiny voice of reason in her mind kept
3	A2A	W_newsp_brdsht_nat_report	's no doubt that's going to lead to dumping. That makes **a total nonsense of** conservation policy. I know it's short-sighted and the politicians will point t
4	ABE	W_pop_lore	reform. You propose **a** new wheeze to help farmers; I cite **a specific nonsense that** will result. Any scheme that gives money directly to farmers is inc
5	G3L	W_ac_polit_law_edu	, to even consider reconstructing or reforming the British constitution is regarded as **a trifling nonsense that** borders on the evil of **a** naive reformism
6	EWA	W_ac_soc_science	to the child as the " alphabet of arch and aisle ", **a literal nonsense which** he has, nevertheless learned to make sense of. Disconcertingly, the human
7	A69	W_non_ac_polit_law_edu	to me to contain much more than the permissible percentage of nonsense. **A little nonsense now** and then is not **a** bad thing. Where would we politicia
8	AC0	W_misc	IRISH UNITY? The Labour Party's "Irish unity" excuse is **a logical nonsense and** it is usually tagged on as an afterthought to the comradely talk about

Results

3.2   Results after sorting

The results were examined and ones that didn´t meet the requirements were excluded. For example, typical unusable results were phrases that included another noun that was head of the noun phrase. When searching for words with adjectives, all phrases containing "a little" couldn´t be used. In a number of cases, results couldn´t be manually sorted because of a large number of results:

- Indefinite article – love, work
- Indefinite article + adjective – education, love, work
- Plural – behaviour, chocolate, damage, freedom, fur, meat, money, paint, permission, research, salt, soil, work

	Indefinite article	Indefinite article + adjective	plural
accommodation	47	14	43
advice	0	4	5
alcohol	4	0	34
anger	19	48	2
applause	0	2	0

24

assistance	3	0	1
baggage	2	3	5
behaviour	21	58	489
bravery	0	0	0
camping	1	0	0
cash	0	2	0
chaos	26	10	0
chess	0	0	0
chocolate	24	5	321
clothing	0	0	1
conduct	1	9	1
cotton	0	4	37
courage	9	5	1
cutlery	1	0	0
damage	6	3	1999
dancing	0	0	0
dirt	1	0	0
education	135	300/71[1]	12
employment	5	9	35
equipment	2	0	27
evidence	11	1	31
freedom	71	57	371
fun	2	0	0
fur	5	5	150
furniture	1	0	1
harm	1	3	19
health	2	2	4
homework	1	1	2
honesty	0	6	0
housing	4	6	21
housework	0	0	0
ignorance	10	26	1
ink	2	5	75
information	20	5	15
jewellery	0	0	0
jogging	0	0	0
laughter	2	1	0
leisure	0	0	1
litter	84	15	75
love	215	144	30
luck	1	0	1
luggage	0	0	0
machinery	7	7	3
meat	3	6	168
money	5	12	141

[1] Random set of 100 findings because the number exceeded an amount that could be searched manually.

mud	2	0	40
music	22	20	31
news	0	1	0
nonsense	103	15	8
paint	7	21	329
parking	0	0	0
pay	1	6	0
permission	7	22	163
petrol	0	2	9
photography	1	0	1
poetry	8	10	1
pollution	14	8	36
poverty	8	5	0
produce	2	1	0
progress	7	34	0
publicity	1	0	0
research	6	1	225
rice	0	1	4
rubbish	0	1	0
safety	5	2	1
salt	36	7	394
scenery	0	3	1
shampoo	16	14	68
shopping	2	0	1
sightseeing	1	0	0
soil	15	44	657
sunshine	0	2	0
traffic	1	24	3
tennis	0	0	0
training	44	87	2
transport	14	3	39
underwear	1	0	0
violence	19	14	1
weather	0	2	69
wool	0	0	29
work	639^2	435^2	6705

3.3   Conclusion

The results suggest that maybe the approach to countability should be changed. Not all the words can be divided into groups that grammar books use. Countability is more like a

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[2] Random set of 100 findings because the number exceeded an amount that could be searched manually.

scale. There are words that are strictly uncountable, words that can be countable in particular meanings, countable words derived from uncountable words and countable words.

Three conclusions seem to arise from the set of words used for the research:
1. Some words can be countable but have a completely different meaning.

   I consulted Longman online dictionary (http://www.ldoceonline.com/dictionary) to see whether the meanings are mentioned. Counting the ratio between words that maintained original meaning and words whose meaning was shifted would be an interesting topic for further study.

Accommodation - an agreement between people or groups who have different views or opinions that satisfies everyone
- **the original meaning was rare to find, the meaning of agreement is frequently used**

a. A6G His strategy of seeking **an accommodation** with Labour was bitterly opposed by many Liberals.
b. HL6 ANC reconciliation with PAC By contrast to its growing enmity with Inkatha, the ANC appeared to be moving towards **a new accommodation** with the Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC), originally formed in 1958 as a breakaway from the ANC.
c. AAF The fact is that Mr Kinnock and his friends understand well enough not only that they could not be elected but that Britain could not be governed without some serious **accommodations** of the kind they now stand for.

Alcohol - the chemical substance in alcoholic drinks
- **countable use of words from the chemistry field is used strictly for chemical substances**

a. CJT If a man drinks only **an alcohol** made from paint or varnish or polish or acetone then he will dream of vodka.
b. A13 The liquid is now officially called beer but it needs a few days further conditioning in the brewery, to purge some of the rough **alcohols**, before it is ready to leave for the pub.

Chocolate - a small sweet that is covered with chocolate
- **examples in corpus weren´t always clear but generally a chocolate is a praline**

a. KB8 If anyone offered me **a chocolate** when I was nursing, yes I would eat it cos I was always hungry.

b. A0U One night he put **a Belgian chocolate** inside her and as it melted he licked away the cream.

c. KB6 I'll say give me some money I want to go and get her some **chocolates.**

Damage - plural is used as an expression for law money that a court orders someone to pay to someone else as a punishment for harming them or their property

- **this meaning applies only to plural (and plural has no other meaning)**

a. AHE But **damages** awarded by juries in libel cases for injury to reputation are 'at large' and only subject to the general guidance by judges and limited powers for the Court of Appeal to correct those that are excessive.

Housing - in countable form an expression for a protective cover for a machine

- **occurs only in singular, both original and shifted meanings can be found**

a. APV Bellows dispenser: These are wall mounted pumps hand operated by pushing a plunger set in **a housing**.

Information - _Law_ A formal accusation of a crime made by a public officer rather than by grand jury indictment[3]

- **both original and shifted meanings can be found, for law purposes only**

a. A7Y In September 1988 Mrs Bujok laid **an information** against the council alleging the existence and continuance of a statutory nuisance under section 92(1) of the Public Health Act 1936.

b. GVR If the trial takes place before the magistrates and they come to the conclusion that the offence under section 54(1) is not made out, they are presently unable to convict of the offence of simple assault unless there is **an additional information** charging the common assault.

c. B24 The next day Magistrates dismissed the **informations** against Waring.

Litter - a group of baby animals that a mother gives birth to at the same time/ a chair or bed for carrying important people, used in past times

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[3] **http://www.thefreedictionary.com/information**

- **very frequent, uncountable meaning very rare**

a. A17 Des was one of **a litter** of seven pups found at the EFI compound at Jubail.

b. BMG If a nursing mother has **a normal-sized litter** it is possible to add one or two orphaned kittens to it without much difficulty.

c. A17 Your dog can't prevent unwanted **litters**.

Love - a word used when you are talking to someone you love [= darling]/ a friendly way of talking to someone who you do not know, especially to a woman or child.

- **results were often not clear - love as an address vs. a person/feeling**

a. H7H Be **a love** and take the cover off Gigi.

b. FRH PEG: Hello, my **loves**.

Money - in plural expression used for money in law

- **this meaning applies only to plural (and plural has no other meaning), for law purposes only**

a. FDA Demand for repayment of the **moneys** were not met.

Salt - a type of chemical substance

- **countable use of words from the chemistry field is used strictly for chemical substances**

a. CBR When an acid and alkali react together the result is **a salt** and water.

b. ABB Saltpetre, or potassium nitrate, is **a preserving salt** usually available only at a chemist's or pharmacy and is most commonly used to preserve the pink colour of pickled or salt beef.

c. HU4 The modern therapeutic armamentarium includes H 2 antagonists, mucosal protective agents, bismuth **salts**, and anti- Helicobacter pylon chemotherapy, as well as omeprazole which allows complete blockade of acid secretion under which condition all peptic ulcers will heal.

Transport - a ship or aircraft for carrying soldiers or supplies

- **the ratio between original and shifted meaning was about equal**

a. BNN With weeks, sometimes months between the issue of travel documents and their actual use, frequent changes in timetabling and the inevitable delays on overworked

railways and sea routes, predicting when and where **a transport** would arrive was about as reliable as betting on a roulette wheel.

b. CJA There was **a whole transport** of people in the station coming home from early shift.

c. A6G Although Britain was forced by circumstances to continue devoting the bulk of its resources to military aircraft production, work did begin on the specifications and design for the postwar civil **transports**.

Work - something such as a painting, play, piece of music etc that is produced by a painter, writer, or musician

- **"a work of art" is frequently used**

a. EW7 The content of **a work** of art can not be reduced to students' behaviours.

b. A4A If past performances are anything to go by, this should be quite **a disturbing work.**

c. CH2 The Royal Family have clearly not learned from being surrounded by great **works** of art.

2. Words with a dominant parameter

As Dušková (1988, 73-74) puts it, some uncountable nouns (especially abstract ones) have zero article without modification. When the modification is added, indefinite article is used. Indefinite article + modification show an aspect of the adjective. Even though adjectives can influence the use of articles in most cases plural is the most frequent parameter. Plural is used to express different kinds of things (corresponding with Quirk´s category ´A kind of N´)

	Indefinite article	Indefinite article + adjective	plural
anger	19	**48**	2
chaos	**26**	10	0
cotton	0	4	**37**
employment	5	9	**35**
equipment	2	0	**27**
ignorance	10	**26**	1
ink	2	5	**75**

meat	3	6	**168**
mud	2	2	**40**
nonsense	**103**	15	8
paint	7	21	**329**
permission	7	22	**136**
progress	7	**34**	0
research	6	1	**225**
soil	15	44	**657**
training	**44**	**87**	2
weather	0	2	**69**
wool	0	0	**29**

3. **Some words can be countable and maintain the original meaning**

      I consulted Longman online dictionary (http://www.ldoceonline.com/dictionary) to see the original uncountable meanings and how the words shifted within the category.

	Indefinite article	Indefinite article + adjective	plural
behaviour	21	58	489
education	135	300/71[4]	12
evidence	11	1	31
freedom	71	57	371
fur	5	5	150
love	215	144	30
meat	3	6	168
music	22	20	31
nonsense	103	15	8
paint	7	21	329
permission	7	22	163
pollution	14	8	36
research	6	1	225
shampoo	16	14	68
soil	15	44	657

Behaviour

- **the things that a person or animal does**

a. CG6 When **a behaviour** is consistently followed by the termination of desirable events, the effect is to reduce the strength of that behaviour.

b. H88 If I come in too quickly, specialising will become **a superficial behaviour.**

___
[4] Random set of 100 findings because the number exceeded an amount that could be searched manually.

c. EBR One American study of primary school girls found a class similarity in the range of **behaviours,** including domestic **behaviours,** perceived as feminine.

Education

- **the process of teaching and learning, usually at school, college, or university**

a. BP7 Treat it as **an education**.

b. A8K Only eight per cent of children from low income families (in the Registrar General's social classes four and five) go to university, even though they are guaranteed **a free education** through a full grant plus social security.

c. J9K Parents could be involved sooner in the childrens' **educations.**

Evidence

- **facts or signs that show clearly that something exists or is true**

a. EFP She had thought the quantities of gilt (never did she credit that it might be real gold) **an evidence** of shocking vulgarity...

b. ARG Our marriage is now to him, and a true Christian family is **a tangible evidence** of his kingdom, or kingly rule, on earth.

c. EV1 He looked exultant, as befits a man who has conquered territory, but abashed too, because of all these **evidences** of concern for the material.

Freedom

- **the state of being free and allowed to do what you want**

a. CHG The university opened up for me **a freedom** I never knew existed.

b. CEH **A strange freedom,** though; one a barrage balloon would know if someone severed its cable and set it at liberty to wallow and wander at will.

c. AAU It promises sweeping **freedoms,** a new economic order, a commitment to a united Europe and the separation of the executive and judiciary.

Fur

- **the thick soft hair that covers the bodies of some animals, such as cats, dogs, and rabbits – listed both as countable and uncountable**

a. FNU You have to paint your face if you wear **a fur**.

b. EX6 It will after all be a waste of time to send details of **a luxury fur** to a down-market magazine aimed at working mums and equally useless to send details of a white flour and additive-based convenience product to a health food magazine.

c. KRM Too cold for frills and fancy dresses, more a time for **furs.**

Love

- **a strong feeling of caring about someone, especially a member of your family or a close friend**

a. EVC He's too dear to me for me to pretend **a love** I don't feel.

b. BN1 He found he could no longer hide behind **a naive love,** a_sensuous world of uncomplex bohemia and he was drawn, still yearning for past ignorance, not up or down, but along to a state of affairs that simply put he could not cope with.

c. CBF "He was a bachelor, with his own independent identity and a certain control over his life … and **loves.**"

Meat

- **the flesh of animals and birds eaten as food – listed as both countable and uncountable**

a. ECT Now the whole point of milk-fed lamb recipes is to add flavour to **a meat** in which, it has to be said, natural flavour is a bit on the fugitive side.

b. ECT Consequently, what we get more often than not is **a textureless meat** with a slightly sweet taste and a gummy quality that makes stick in your teeth.

c. H7W Another held an array of cured **meats,** hams, spicy sausages and salamis.

Music

- **a series of sounds made by instruments or voices in a way that is pleasant or exciting**

a. AB3 It's **a music** that boasts some kind of spiritual superiority to the allegedly ubiquitous synthetic rubbish' that is elsewhere smothering our lives like nylon.

b. BN1 The voice swelled to **a reckless music** and he observed how the oaken doors with their heavy locks, melted before the enchanting shape, and he himself was dancing now, his feet scarcely touching the floor.

c. A83 In all these **musics,** we're allowed to thrill to the experience of super-masculinity.

Nonsense

- **ideas, opinions, statements etc that are not true or that seem very stupid**

a. EF4 And that is **a nonsense**.

b. G3L From this kind of perspective on the road to socialism, to even consider reconstructing or reforming the British constitution is regarded as **a trifling nonsense** that borders on the evil of a naive reformism itself.

c. ABJ Scores of other **nonsenses** would come to light if the Bush administration demanded a thorough overhaul of the country's anti-competitive laws and practices.

Paint

- **a liquid that you put on a surface, using a brush to make the surface a particular colour**

a. CCX Fire resistant paints may be clear like a varnish, or coloured like **a paint**, but they can not be overpainted.

b. A7P It looks as though sweaty locker rooms will be a thing of the past as Swedish scientists have developed **a smell-absorbing paint.**

c. K9J The main line is the methyl methacrylate that goes into **paints,** surface coating resins and, above all, plastics.

Permission

- **when someone is officially allowed to do something**

a. J16 But not all admitted claims were to be met, even where loss of development value was caused by refusal of planning permission or by conditions attached to **a permission**.

b. CDD Raybestos ruled out the possible compromise of **a temporary permission** to dump asbestos at the site.

c. A9E If we can raise the money, and get the **permissions,** we will be there next St Andrew's Day.

Pollution

- **the process of making air, water, soil etc dangerously dirty and not suitable for people to use, or the state of being dangerously dirty**

a. FA1 The first, a matter of immediate significance, is an evaluation of the potential damaging effects of **a pollution**.

b. FA1 Formal consent standards attaching to a discharge may also be a criterion for action in **a persistent pollution.**

c. FA1 The chief means of proactive enforcement is routine sampling, which will bring to light or confirm the existence of persistent **pollutions.**

Research

- **serious study of a subject, in order to discover new facts or test new ideas**

a. GUJ This is the space that fascinated me so much, because that is what early Cubist painting was, **a research** into space.

b. FAM The thrust of the recommendations made by Greenbaum et al (1977) is that NAEP "is not **a short-term research** or decision-making tool", but that it should become "a useful long-term census".

c. CR9 During their **researches,** however, the Canadians made an important discovery.

Shampoo

- **a liquid soap for washing your hair – listed as both countable and uncountable**

a. CGN Yet if you have dry hair you have to be careful to choose **a shampoo** that will effectively rid you of these nasties without stripping your hair of its natural oils.

b. G2V Dirt and pollution can make the problem worse, so cleanse hair every day with **a frequent-use shampoo** (rinse hair thoroughly afterwards).

c. A7J He took with him a towel and a bag, tied at the neck with a drawstring, a bag that bulged with jars and bottles, containing **shampoos** and pomades and lotions.

Soil

- **the top layer of the earth in which plants grow [= earth] – listed as both countable and uncountable**

a. J0T There is typically a gradation over tens of metres from fresh bedrock, through weathering material incorporating corestones of relatively unweathered rock, to clay-rich horizons capped by **a soil**.

b. HSB For example, **a sandy soil** or very shallow soil.

c. B31 The coarse sand produces **soils** which are very free-draining, and this zone includes one of the most important arable farming areas of the county.

Conclusion

Countability certainly is a complex phenomenon that is hard to interpret. Mentioned authors Cruse and Wierzbicka succeeded but the complexity of their systems suggests the lack of simple rules.

According to results of the research there seems to be a countability scale. The table above contains words that are uncountable. The next stage are words that can be countable but only in certain shifted meanings. Then there are words that have a dominant parameter used for defining countability. Lastly, there are words that can be both countable and uncountable and strictly countable words.

The question is how grammar books should approach this topic. Three chosen grammar books try to simplify the matter. Two of them (*Advanced Grammar in Use, Oxford Practice Grammar*) use only "countable", "uncountable" and "both possible" (substance vs. general idea) groups. Only one (*Essential Grammar in Use*) hints that countability depends on the use of the word. Hewings rightly claims that some nouns can be used uncountably when we talk about the whole substance or idea, but countably when we talk about an instance or more than one instance of it (Hewings 2005, 90).

Dividing words into mentioned groups can be misleading for students. Since some languages do not have this category it does not come naturally. There is an option to learn the words by heart but seeing the words used differently would be confusing. If the grammars want to keep their categorization they should concentrate on words that fall in one group only.

I gathered all the results that seem to be strictly uncountable:

	Indefinite article	Indefinite article + adjective	plural
applause	0	2	0
assistance	3	0	1
bravery	0	0	0
camping	1	0	0
cash	0	2	0
chess	0	0	0
clothing	0	0	1
cutlery	1	0	0
dancing	0	0	0
dirt	1	0	0
fun	2	0	0

furniture	1	0	1
homework	1	1	2
housework	0	0	0
jewellery	0	0	0
jogging	0	0	0
laughter	2	1	0
leisure	0	0	1
luck	1	0	1
luggage	0	0	0
news	0	1	0
parking	0	0	0
photography	1	0	1
produce	2	1	0
publicity	1	0	0
rubbish	0	1	0
shopping	2	0	1
sightseeing	1	0	0
sunshine	0	2	0
tennis	0	0	0
underwear	1	0	0

I would suggest mentioning the term "reclassification". That way, students could understand the principles of possible shifts within the category of countability. I do understand the urge to simplify matter but the mentioned changes are necessary for better comprehension.

Shrnutí

Práce se zabývá problematikou počitatelnosti. Opírá se o domněnku, že nelze podstatná jména jednoznačně dělit do skupin „počitatelná" a „nepočitatelná". Nejprve vymezuje podstatná jména jako taková. Mezi kategorie podstatných jmen patří: číslo, počitatelnost, určitost, pád a rod. Sémanticky se dělí na jména obecná a vlastní. Obecná se dělí na počitatelná a nepočitatelná, přičemž obě skupiny se dělí na konkrétní a abstraktní.

Mezi počitatelná podstatná jména řadíme slova, která zastupují konkrétní objekt, osobu či jakoukoliv entitu, kterou je možné spočítat. Jsou rozpoznatelná pomocí neurčitého členu, možnosti vytvořit množné číslo a determinantů: a, an, another, a number of, both, each, every, either, few, a few, many, fewer, fewest, neither, one, these, those.

Mezi nepočitatelná podstatná jména řadíme slova, u kterých není snadné rozlišit mezi jednotným a množným číslem. Obvykle jsou používána pro tekutiny, materiály a podobně. Nelze je užívat s neurčitým členem, ani vytvořit plurál. Pojí se s následujícími determinanty: an amount of, little, a little, much, less, least.

Kategorie počitatelnosti úzce souvisí s kategorií čísla. V této souvislosti je zmíněna kniha Anny Wierzbické, která se problematikou zabývala a rozdělila podstatná jména do tříd. V další části práce jsou srovnány přístupy dvou učebnic gramatiky k změně v kategorii počitatelnosti. Huddleston a Pullum se na změnu dívají ze dvou úhlů pohledu - lexikálního a funkčního. Quirk zpracovává pouze změnu funkční. Ačkoliv se jejich přístupy mírně liší, nejde o zásadní rozdíly.

Zkoumán je také přístup slovníků k problematice. Jsou vymezeny termíny polysémie a homonymie. Změna kategorie počitatelnosti probíhá polysémií. Pravidlem by mělo být sdružování polysémantických slov pod jedno heslo a dělit homonyma do více hesel. Toto pravidlo však u všech slovníků neplatí, jak prokázal malý výzkum.

Vlastní výzkum byl proveden pomocí The British National Corpus a BYU-BNC: The British National Corpus by Mark Davies. Nejprve byl prostudován přístup k problematice počitatelnosti u tří cvičebnic gramatiky: ***Essential Grammar in Use* (Hewings 2005, 209),** ***Advanced Grammar in Use* (Murphy 2004, 138) a *Oxford Practice Grammar* (Yule 2006, 74).** V uvedených knihách se slova dělila na počitatelná, nepočitatelná a „obojí možné". Z nepočitatelných slov byl vytvořen seznam pro výzkum. Cílem výzkumu bylo prokázat, že některá slova mohou být užívána i jako počitatelná.

Byly zvoleny následující parametry pro vyhledávání:

- neurčitý člen + podstatné jméno
- neurčitý člen + přídavné jméno + podstatné jméno
- množné číslo

Pro neurčitý člen + podstatné jméno jsem použila „phrase query" v rámci BNC. Pro vyhledávání množného čísla bylo použito „word query" v rámci BNC, protože corpus nabízí možnost vyhledat slovní druh (u množného čísla bylo častým problémem vyhledání také třetí osoby). Nejkomplikovanějším vyhledáváním bylo jednoznačně neurčitý člen + přídavné jméno + podstatné jméno. Byl použit korpus Marka Daviese, který nabízí možnost komplikovanějšího vyhledávání - **[aj*] word.[n*] -[n*]**. Je možné nastavit vyhledání přídavného jména + slova, které je podstatné jméno a není následováno dalším podstatným jménem. Zároveň lze nastavit, aby před frází byl neurčitý člen.

Vzhledem k tomu, že korpus nenabízí nástroj přímo k určení počitatelnosti, výsledky musely být roztříděny manuálně. Výsledkem je následující tabulka:

	Indefinite article	Indefinite article + adjective	plural
accommodation	47	14	43
advice	0	4	5
alcohol	4	0	34
anger	19	48	2
applause	0	2	0
assistance	3	0	1
baggage	2	3	5
behaviour	21	58	489
bravery	0	0	0
camping	1	0	0
cash	0	2	0
chaos	26	10	0
chess	0	0	0
chocolate	24	5	321
clothing	0	0	1
conduct	1	9	1
cotton	0	4	37

courage	9	5	1
cutlery	1	0	0
damage	6	3	1999
dancing	0	0	0
dirt	1	0	0
education	135	300/71[5]	12
employment	5	9	35
equipment	2	0	27
evidence	11	1	31
freedom	71	57	371
fun	2	0	0
fur	5	5	150
furniture	1	0	1
harm	1	3	19
health	2	2	4
homework	1	1	2
honesty	0	6	0
housing	4	6	21
housework	0	0	0
ignorance	10	26	1
ink	2	5	75
information	20	5	15
jewellery	0	0	0
jogging	0	0	0
laughter	2	1	0
leisure	0	0	1
litter	84	15	75
love	215	144	30
luck	1	0	1
luggage	0	0	0
machinery	7	7	3
meat	3	6	168
money	5	12	141
mud	2	0	40
music	22	20	31
news	0	1	0
nonsense	103	15	8
paint	7	21	329
parking	0	0	0
pay	1	6	0
permission	7	22	163
petrol	0	2	9
photography	1	0	1
poetry	8	10	1
pollution	14	8	36

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[5] Random set of 100 findings because the number exceeded an amount that could be searched manually.

poverty	8	5	0
produce	2	1	0
progress	7	34	0
publicity	1	0	0
research	6	1	225
rice	0	1	4
rubbish	0	1	0
safety	5	2	1
salt	36	7	394
scenery	0	3	1
shampoo	16	14	68
shopping	2	0	1
sightseeing	1	0	0
soil	15	44	657
sunshine	0	2	0
traffic	1	24	3
tennis	0	0	0
training	44	87	2
transport	14	3	39
underwear	1	0	0
violence	19	14	1
weather	0	2	69
wool	0	0	29
work	639[6]	435[2]	6705

Z tabulky vyplývá, že počitatelnost není snadné dělit do skupin „počitatelné" a „nepočitatelné", protože se jedná spíše o škálu. Z tabulky byly vyvozeny tři závěry.

Některá z vybraných slov mohou být počitatelná, ale význam nezůstává stejný:

- accomodation - dohoda
- alcohol – alkohol, chemická látka
- chocolate - pralinka
- damage – náhrada škody
- housing - obal
- information - obvinění
- litter - vrh
- love - oslovení
- money – odškodné, právnická angličtina

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[6] Random set of 100 findings because the number exceeded an amount that could be searched manually.

- salt – sůl, chemická látka
- transport - transport
- work - dílo

Některá slova mají v rámci škály jeden ze tří parametrů dominantní:

	Indefinite article	Indefinite article + adjective	plural
anger	19	**48**	2
chaos	**26**	10	0
cotton	0	4	**37**
employment	5	9	**35**
equipment	2	0	**27**
ignorance	10	**26**	1
ink	2	5	**75**
meat	3	6	**168**
mud	2	2	**40**
nonsense	**103**	15	8
paint	7	21	**329**
permission	7	22	**136**
progress	7	**34**	0
research	6	1	**225**
soil	15	44	**657**
training	**44**	87	2
weather	0	2	**69**
wool	0	0	**29**

Důvodem jsou společné znaky plurálu a částečně také vliv přídavného jména na člen podstatného jména.

A konečně některá slova mohou být počitatelná a zachovat si původní význam:

	Indefinite article	Indefinite article + adjective	plural
behaviour	21	58	489
education	135	300/71[7]	12
evidence	11	1	31
freedom	71	57	371
fur	5	5	150
love	215	144	30
meat	3	6	168
music	22	20	31
nonsense	103	15	8
paint	7	21	329
permission	7	22	163
pollution	14	8	36
research	6	1	225
shampoo	16	14	68
soil	15	44	657

Závěrem práce je, že přístup učebnic k počitatelnosti by měl být přehodnocen. Vzhledem k tomu, že počitatelnost není mnoha studentům vlastní, současná interpretace pro ně může být matoucí. Naučit se nazpaměť dělení uváděné v gramatikách není dostačující, protože v případě, že se setkají se slovem užitým v jiné kategorii, bude zpochybněno celé chápání kategorie.

Proto je navrhnuto uvedení slov, která se vyskytují pouze v nepočitatelné formě:

	Indefinite article	Indefinite article + adjective	plural
applause	0	2	0
assistance	3	0	1
bravery	0	0	0
camping	1	0	0
cash	0	2	0
chess	0	0	0
clothing	0	0	1
cutlery	1	0	0
dancing	0	0	0
dirt	1	0	0
fun	2	0	0

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[7] Random set of 100 findings because the number exceeded an amount that could be searched manually.

furniture	1	0	1
homework	1	1	2
housework	0	0	0
jewellery	0	0	0
jogging	0	0	0
laughter	2	1	0
leisure	0	0	1
luck	1	0	1
luggage	0	0	0
news	0	1	0
parking	0	0	0
photography	1	0	1
produce	2	1	0
publicity	1	0	0
rubbish	0	1	0
shopping	2	0	1
sightseeing	1	0	0
sunshine	0	2	0
tennis	0	0	0
underwear	1	0	0

Vhodné by bylo také připojit vysvětlení změny v rámci kategorie počitatelnosti a uvést dělení inspirované Huddlestonem a Pullumem a Quirkem. Současné zpracování je příliš zjednodušené, což paradoxně studentům komplikuje orientaci v kategorii.

Anotace

Práce se zabývá problematikou počitatelnosti u podstatných jmen. Nejprve jsou rozebrána podstatná jména a jejich kategorie. Počitatelnost je vymezena pomocí různých přístupů. Nejprve je popsán přístup Wierzbické a Cruseho. Práce se poté věnuje zpracování tématu počitatelnosti dle Huddlestona a Pulluma a Quirka. Každá nabízí jiný úhel pohledu, proto jsou přístupy porovnány. Dalším zkoumaným problémem je zpracování slovníků. Je nutné vymezit rozdíl mezi homonymií a polysémií a zjistit, jestli slovníky toto dělení reflektují.

Druhou částí práce je výzkum. Byly vybrány tři učebnice gramatiky, ze kterých byl sepsán seznam slov, která jsou uvedená jako jednoznačně nepočitatelná. Pomocí The British National Corpus a The British National Corpus by Mark Davies se práce snaží tvrzení o jednoznačné nepočitatelnosti vyvrátit. Slova jsou vyhledávána podle následujících parametrů: slovo s neurčitým členem, slovo s přídavným jménem a neurčitým členem, množné číslo slova. Výsledky jsou zpracovány do tabulky. Závěrem práce je, že počitatelnost slov se pohybuje po určitém spektru. Množina slov obsahuje některá, která jsou čistě nepočitatelná, některá v určitých významech počitatelná, některá se jako počitatelná běžně užívají. Závěrem je polemika, jestli by se neměl změnit přístup učebnic k počitatelnosti.

Annotation

The thesis is concerned with the topic of countability. First, nouns and their categories are described. Countability is viewed from different perspectives. The approaches by Wierzbicka and Cruse are mentioned. Then approaches to countability by Huddleston and Pullum and Quirk are contrasted. Another important subject is how dictionaries treat countability. It is essential to define homonymy and polysemy and determine whether dictionaries reflect it.

The second part of the thesis is the research. Three grammar books were chosen. A list of words that were classified as strictly uncountable was made. The goal of the thesis is to prove that not all of them are strictly uncountable. The British National Corpus a The British National Corpus by Mark Davies are used to determine countability. Three parameters were derived for the research – nouns preceded by the indefinite article, nouns preceded by the indefinite article and an adjective and the plural form of the nouns. The results are tabulated. The conclusion is that there is a countability scale. In the set of words there are ones that are uncountable, ones that can be countable but sometimes differ in meaning and ones that are

used in a countable way frequently. There is a disputation whether the grammar books should change their approach to countability.

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