

-ata nominalisations in a typological perspective

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Outline

- ① A nominalisation with restrictions
- ② Some semantico-syntactic properties
- ③ Some morphological features

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-ata nominalisations

- Romance languages have nominalisations derived from past participle feminine forms

Italian: *nuotata* (swim), *chiacchierata* (chat)

French: *engueulade* (quarrel), *chevauchée* (ride)

Spanish: *jugada* (move at game), *leída* (reading)

Portuguese: *investida* (attack), *falada* (spoken)

Catalan: *esbandida* (wash up)

Occitan: *engrunada* (quarrel), *lepada* (licking)

- These forms are nouns of circumscribed events in context.
- They are countable nouns.
- The forms have been reanalysed as containing derivational suffixes, which can take non-verbal bases, leaving aside the issue of loan words.
- Languages differ in the productivity of the word-formation process.
- There are no complete overlaps in the range of meanings across languages.

- *ata*-nominalisations denote circumscribed events because the definite form does not support generic use (Gaeta, 2000), cf. the contrast between (1b) and (2).
 - (1) a. Gianni ha fatto una nuotata
Gianni has done a swim-ATA
Gianni had a swim
b. *La nuotata rilassa i muscoli.
the swim-ATA relaxes the muscles
 - (2) Il nuoto fa bene alla salute
the swim does good to-the health
Swimming is good for one's health

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Event instance nouns

- Is it a matter of having a dedicated/peculiar form or of interpretation?
- *-ata* nominalisations primarily are dedicated forms
- Nouns of circumscribed events exist across languages. Traditional terminology:
 - *nomen vicis* (vs. event noun)
 - *ismu al-marrati* (vs. *masdar*)
 - instance nouns
- How should we capture this notion in formal semantic terms?
- Does it have a match in the verbal domain? See work on delimitation and maximalization of events (Filip, 1999, 2003, 2008)
- What is the difference from semelfactive verbs, beyond the categorical one?
- What could they share, beyond 'some' perfectivity?

Event instance nouns vs semelfactives

– single form, one reading (3) and nominal base, two readings (4) and nominal and verbal bases (Donazzan and Tovina, 2014)

(3) Mario ha dato un'ombrellata a Luca
M. has given a-umbrella-ATA to L.

Mario hit Luca with an umbrella (once)

(4) Mario ha dato una bastonata a Luca
M. has given a stick-ATA to L.

Mario hit Luca with a stick (once)/ beated him

(3) and (4) are light verb constructions

– single form, two readings (5a), light verb construction and single reading (5b)

- (5) a. Daniel coughed (once/for a while)
b. Daniel gave a sight (once)

Event instance nouns vs semelfactives

- suffixed form (Russian) (Makarova and Janda, 2009)

- (6)
- a. krik-nut
shout-once
shout once
 - b. kričat
shout

- pattern form of ismu al-marrati in Arabic

- (7)
- a. šurb
act of drinking
 - b. širb
a turn to drink
 - c. šariba
drink

Constructions and expressions with Nomen vicis readings

- Discretisation via classifiers (Mandarin Chinese)

- (8) a. kan yi yan
look one eye
have a look
- b. *kan yi shu
look one book
- c. Zhangsan da-le wo yi bazhang. (Zhang, 2002)
Zhangsan give-ASP me one VCL
Zhangsan slapped me once/ gave me a slap

Constructions and expressions with Nomen vicis readings

- delimiting cognate objects (Mandarin Chinese)

- (9) a. wo qu tushuguan kan shu
I go library read book
I go to the library to do some reading
- b. kan yi kan (Hong, 1999)
look a look
have a look

- verb reduplication (Mandarin Chinese) (Paris, 2012)

- (10) kan kan
look look
cast a glance

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Morphology of dedicated nominal forms

- Nomen vicis forms are built with various morphological devices.
 - *ata*-nominalisations are forms derived by suffixation.
 - ismu al-marrati in Arabic are pattern based
- Question: are these devices always verb-related?

About bases (nominal forms)

- Range of bases
 - verb: P *tomada* (take)
 - noun: I *ombrellata* (umbrella blow)
 - adj: Es *bellacada* (wicked act)
- range of readings (event related)
 - instance of the event described by the verb
 - manifestation of a quality, 'characteristic act of', Es *españolada*, F *gasconnade* (boasting)
 - hitting event, I *stoccata* (thrust)
 - social events, I *fiaccolata* (torchlit descent), *spaghetтата* (spaghetti dinner)

About production (nominal forms)

- productivity of *ata*-nominalisations:
 - frequent in Italian and Br. Portuguese (Scher, 2004)
 - current in Latin America Spanish
 - possible in European Portuguese and Spanish, Catalan and French (Aliquot-Suengas, 2003; Ferret and Villoing, 2012).
- productivity of *ismu al-marrati*:
 - current in Arabic

Hitting and metaphoric cases

- reading 'one blow' with some instrument
- (cognate) object / classifier (Mandarin Chinese) (Paris, 2012)
 - the body part that performs the action seem to work as event classifiers, cf. *bazhang* (palm) in (8a)
 - the instrument with which the action is performed, cf. *dao* (knife) in (11) (Zhang, 2002)

(11) Ta kan-le nei kuair mutou san dao
he cut-PRF that-one piece wood three CL
he cut the wood with a knife three times

- what is the role of proto-agents in delimiting events?

(12) E' una bambinata
is a child-ATA
this is a childish act

Hitting and metaphoric cases

- instrument coverbs in languages of South-East Asia (Gerner, 2009) and the construction of contact-events
- path and trajectory coverbs in Australian languages
- what is the role of the instrument in delimiting events?
 - prototypical instrument
 - 'improper' use
- support nouns, *F coup de* (Gross, 1984)

(13) Daniel a donné un coup de propre à la pièce
Daniel has given a blow of clean to the room
Daniel tidied up the room

(14) Un colpo di spazzola e la giacca è a posto
a blow of brush and the jacket is in place
a quick brushing and the jacket is ready

(15) Louise had a stroke of luck