

نماط التسمية في الكتابة الأكاديمية باللغة الانجليزية المعاصر

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المخلص

يعتبر التسمية عادة احد الجوانب النحوية المميزة للكتابة الاكاديمية مما يضيف ايضا الى التجريد وتركيز المعلومات والبنية البلاغية. تقدم هذه الورقة تحقيقا في الانماط الهيكلية والوظيفية للتسمية في اللغة الانكليزية الاكاديمية الحديثة والطريقة التي يتم بها تنشيط الهياكل الاسمية في مجالات مختلفة. تأخذ الدراسة التصميم التحليلي الوصفي النوعي الكمي للتحقيق في الموارد النحوية والخطابية المستخدمة اثناء تسمية النص الاكاديمي الاصيل . ستألف عينة البيانات من 15 مقالة بحثية كاملة نشرت في الفترة 2025-2026 يتم اختيارها بالتساوي من قبل اللغويات والعلوم الاجتماعية والعلوم الطبيعية. تم العثور على الف وثمانين بنية اسمية ودراستها على المستويات المورفولوجي والنحوية والخطاب الوظيفي. استنادا الى مبادئ اللغويات الوظيفية النظامية تم تصنيف التسميات بناء على النوع المورفولوجي والإدراك الهيكلية والموقف النحوي والدور البلاغي. وتظهر النتائج ان النوع الاكثر شيوعا من التسميات هي التسميات اللفظية. وجد البحث ان التسمية هي اداة نحوية متعددة المهام مشروطة بكل من المتطلبات التأديبية والاحتياجات البلاغية.

الكلمات المفتاحية : التسمية – الكتابة الاكاديمية – التعقيد النحوي – اللغة الانجليزية المعاصرة

The Nominalization Patterns in Academic Writing in Contemporary English

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Abstract

Nominalization is the process by which a noun is created from another word class (usually an adjective or verb) in order to express actions, procedures, or attributes as entities. In this respect, it is commonly considered to be one of the characteristic grammatical aspects of academic writing, which also adds to the abstraction, the concentration of information, and the rhetorical structure. This paper provides an inquiry into structural and functional patterns of nominalization in modern academic English and the manner in which nominalized structures are activated in different fields. The study takes the qualitative-quantitative descriptive analytical design to investigate the grammatical and discourse resource used during the authentic academic text nominalization. The sample of the data will be comprised of 15 full-length research articles published in the period 2020-2025, selected equally by linguistics, social sciences, and natural sciences. One thousand and eighty nominalized structures were found and studied on the morphological, syntactic, and discourse-functional levels. Based on the principles of the Systemic Functional Linguistics, nominalizations were categorized based on the morphological type, structural realization, syntactic position, and rhetorical role. The results show that the most common type of nominalizations are deverbal nominalizations (58%), then there are deadjectival nominalizations (24%), and clausal or abstract nominalizations (18%). The research finds that nominalization is a multitasking grammatical tool that is conditioned by both the disciplinary requirements and rhetorical needs.

Keywords: Nominalization, Academic Writing, Morph syntactic Complexity, Contemporary English

Introduction

It is generally accepted that academic writing is a register of high grammatical complexity, high level of information density and abstraction. Among the most prominent linguistic attributes involved in such properties is that of nominalization which is the process by which the actions, qualities, or even complete propositions are re-conceptualized as nominal entities. This source of writing allows scholarly writers to compress the meaning, front-load ideas compared to actions, and create impersonal and authoritative language (Biber and Gray, 2021; Hyland and Jiang, 2021).

The phenomenon of nominalization has traditionally been related to the emergence of highly academic prose, especially in scientific or scholarly writing, in which processes and relationships are often reified into abstract items. Biber and Gray (2021) show that the academic science writing shows a high propensity toward the nominalizing verb phrases leading to the lexical density and a decreased elaboration in clauses. This change in the clausal to phrasal complexity is characteristic of the modern academic registers and is what separates them with more conversational or narrative discourses.

More recent studies have also highlighted that nominalization is not a cross-disciplinary phenomenon but is influenced by the disciplinary epistemologies and communicative use. It has been demonstrated repeatedly that disciplines differ in terms of the frequency, type, and usage of nominalization (Heidari Kaidan et al., 2021; Tian and Zhang, 2023). An example is that technical and scientific disciplines are more likely to use deverbal nominalizations to encode processes and procedures, whereas disciplines that look at humanities tend to make greater use of abstract and evaluative nominalizations to make arguments and meanings (Hyland and Jiang, 2021; Ionitcu, 2025).

Along with the variation in the discipline, nominalization has also been investigated as an indication of functional morpho-syntactic complexity, especially in academic writing in a second language. The EFL and ESL studies have shown that nominalization is an essential factor when approximating target academic norms, particularly when dealing with specialized writing, i.e., medical and applied linguistics (Boukhiris and Sakale, 2025; Kazemi and Hadidi, 2024). These papers emphasize the nominalization as a linguistic issue as well as a measurement of and a marker of academic achievement.

Quite a large amount of literature has also addressed nominalization in a Systemic Functional Linguistic (SFL) context, considering it a primary result of grammatical metaphor. In

this context, nominalization can be conceived as a resource that allows authors to metaphorically construct the experiences by changing processes and attributes into objects (Bukhari et al., 2022). Empirical research on writing among ESL and EFL has shown that the greater the nominalization is used, the more the abstraction and argumentation sophistication is achieved (Hu and Perez, 2022; Jodairi Pineh, 2022).

Nominalization is especially the focus of interest in genre specific documents like abstracts of research articles, where conciseness and compactness are paramount. The analyses of abstracts in various fields have also indicated a high level of nominalized structures that is due to the necessity to summarize the complex research processes and results in the small amount of text (Hong and Wang, 2022; Yingrui and Yibu, 2024). These results support the opinion that nominalization is a rhetorical strategy and not a mere grammatical decision.

Although the amount of the research on nominalization is increasing, there are some empty spots. First, a great part of the current literature is based on large-scale computational methods that, although useful in determining large-scale trends, would perhaps miss context-specific grammatical and discourse processes. Second, not too many studies provide fine-grained, hand grounded analysis that incorporates morphological form, syntactic position, and discourse function into one analysis. Besides, it is still necessary to have updated accounts that stand in line with the current academic writing practices especially those that have been evolved within the last ten years.

The aforementioned gaps are resolved in the current study as it offers a descriptive and analytical narrative of the nominalization patterns of modern academic English. Using a thoroughly chosen sample of scholarly articles issued not later than 2025, the paper reviews nominalization in three key academic fields, namely, linguistics, social and natural sciences. The proposed study will bring forth the mechanism of nominalization as a valuable tool of grammar in order to bring about abstraction, impersonality, and rhetorical structure against modern academic writing.

This study has added to the continuing debate on the complexity of grammar, the style of academic writing and the use of nominalization in academic writing. It is hoped that the study will have both theoretical and practical impacts on the linguistics field and the academic writing pedagogy and language advanced instruction.

2. Literature Review

In the last ten years, the study of nominalization has grown significantly as a pain in the middle of the grammatical intricacy, abstraction and figurative or natural language structure in scholarly writing. The nominalization of the previous researches have been approached in various aspects based on disciplinary variation, second language academic writing, genre-specific analysis, and Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). Collectively, this body of research creates a background on which the current study can be placed.

An important body of evidence has been developed on the topic of disciplinary variation in the use of nominalization which has shown that patterns of nominalization vary differently across academic disciplines in a systematic way. In their comparative analysis of engineering studies and linguistics, Tian and Zhang (2023) also demonstrate that technical disciplines like shipbuilding and oceanography show the greater presence of deverbal nominalizations indicating the high levels of process reification and technical abstraction. By contrast, in linguistics literature the use of types of nominalizations is more diversified with a mixture of process-based and evaluative forms of nominalization. A similar response is reached by Galeyeva and Gumovskaya (2022), who believe that disciplinary epistemologies have a strong impact on the inner structure and grammatical performance of nominal phrases that have nominalizations.

Genre-specific studies have also indicated the nominalization concentration on the abstract of research articles which is a text with the economy of the text and informational density of the highest importance. Yingrui and Yibu (2024) reveal that the abstracts in international journals of applied linguistics have much higher rates of nominalization in them compared to local Chinese journals, which implies that nominalization is a tool that marks global norms of academic discourse. The results agree with the previous research by Mahfudurido et al. (2021) who note that graduate thesis abstracts have a great degree of nominalization to represent research purposes, methods, and findings in small nominal groups.

Another related question has looked into the issue of nominalization in L2 and EFL academic writing, whereby the text of learners is usually compared with the text of native speakers. The amount of nominalization and its functional suitability has always been found to be correlated with writing quality. According to Bychkovska and Lee (2023), high rated L2 undergraduate essays used much higher rates of structural complexity in nominalization and functional efficacy of nominalizations. In the same way, according to Aslam and Fayyaz (2021), native English

speakers use nominalization more strategically in argumentative essays and resort to it to build abstract claims and coherent arguments, whereas Pakistani learners use more congruent clausal structures.

Systemic Functional Linguistic studies have especially played a key role in the elaboration of nominalization as a species of grammatical metaphor. In this context, nominalization can be viewed as the means through which writers can metaphorically construct processes and qualities as entities, so that they can abstract and be objective. As Mahfudurido et al. (2021) stress, nominalization can be taken as one of the primary signs of progressive academic meaning-making, particularly in research genres. This view is also supported by Fatima et al. (2024), who show that nominalization adds to ideological framing and impersonality even outside the academic writing, which is supported in the Pakistani English news discourse.

Quantitative investigations have given further evidence on the structural role of nominalization through large-scale quantitative studies which normally use dependency-based and frequency-driven studies. Wang and He (2025) disclose that there is significant relationship between nominal group complexity and less clause complexity in academic writing implying that heightened nominalization shoots grammatical complexity at the clausal level to the phrasal level. In the same way, He and Zhang (2024) demonstrate that live grammatical metaphors such as nominalization are important in textual cohesion and thematic progression in the academic world.

Correlational comparative corpus-based research has also covered nominalization cross-linguistic and cross-cultural variation. Su and Qiu (2023) establish that English abstracts produced by Chinese writers have reduced and less diverse nominalizations in comparison with English abstracts produced by native English writers, especially of very abstract rhetorical moves. These results are reminiscent of the findings of Yingrui and Yibu (2024) that nominalization is a major characteristic between internationally oriented and locally situated scholarly practices and academic writing.

Although the available research is rich, it is possible to identify a number of limitations. First, most works concentrate on frequencies or dependency relation without considering the morphological, syntactic, and discourse-functional levels in one analytical framework (Wang and He, 2025; Su and Qiu, 2023). Second, whereas disciplinary and proficiency-based comparisons have been extensively reported, there are fewer studies where fine-grained analyses based on close textual analysis are provided that can identify the rhetorical impetus of nominalization decisions.

Last, but by no means the least, comparatively little emphasis has been given to the relatively recent scholarly writing that has been created in the last five years especially in the ones that seek to describe current and not transitional academic norms.

The current work is developed on the basis of this literary body as it includes a complex, multi-layered analysis of the patterns of nominalization in modern academic English. The proposed study aims to build upon the previous studies and provide a deeper insight into nominalization as one of the characteristic grammatical resources of modern scholarly writing by combining the morphological classification, syntactic positioning, and discourse-functional interpretation into one study.

3. Methodology:

3.1 Data Collection

The information to be used in this study was gathered according to a highly curated group of articles in contemporary research written in English and published within the period of 2020-2025. The purpose of choosing this time is to make sure that the analysis is accurate to the current academic writing practice and recent stylistic trends in the use of nominalizations. The choice of texts was to reflect genuine realizations of nominalization in various disciplines and also to have some methodological consistency.

The sample is a collection of fifteen full-length research articles, which are equally spread among three academic fields linguistics, social sciences, and natural sciences. Five articles are donated by each field, which constitutes 33.3 percent of an entire set of data by one field. This disciplinary distribution can be directly compared to the nominalization patterns systematically and avoid disciplinary bias.

The sample was comprised of original empirical research. Such articles as reviews, meta-analyses, editorials, short communications, and theoretical commentaries were excluded in order to preserve the consistency of rhetorical purpose and text structure. Each of the chosen articles has been formatted in accordance with IMRaD format, which makes them be comparable even across the sections where nominalization is observed to have unique grammatical and rhetorical roles to play.

To guarantee linguistic accuracy and compliance with the traditional academic standards, all the chosen articles were published in the global peer-review journals and authored by people,

who could be called native or near-native users of the English language, as it could be concluded based on the affiliation, publication conditions, and the quality of the published articles.

The dataset has an estimated 120,000/140,000 running words, and the articles are between 8,000 and 9,500 running words. This book was deemed adequate to represent recurring patterns of nominalization without restricting to any detailed and systematic linguistic analysis.

The data collection process was a close reading of every article. The texts have been analyzed word-by-word and all nominalizations found in the clause and sentence levels were detected manually. All the cases were listed in a structured analytical sheet where:

- (1) the source sentence,
- (2) the nominalized form,
- (3) its verbal or adjectival congruent realization,
- (4) its position syntactically in the clause and
- (5) its immediate rhetoric role in the discourse around it.

In the fifteen articles, about 1,100/1300 nominalized constructions were found. This is on average 75-90 nominalizations per article with some variation in discipline. Early classification revealed a deverbal nominalization to be about 55-60 percent of the total number, deadjectival about 20-25 percent, and clausal or abstract about 15-20 percent. These distributions gave a sound empirical basis on which further processing and analysis could be made.

The information was observed using direct linguistic analysis of the texts only which made possible the fine-grained consideration of grammatical structure, semantic abstraction, and discourse role in real academic situations.

3.2 Data Processing

After data collection phase, the nominalized constructions were extracted, then subjected to a multi-stage data processing process that was systematic in nature to provide the necessary analytical consistency, theoretical rigor, and reproducibility. The processing phase was meant to sort out the raw linguistic data under distinct categories before further examination.

During the first stage of processing, all of the nominated constructions were checked and filtered to remove redundancy and border cases. Based on the initial list of about 1,200

nominalized forms, the cases of lexicalized nouns that had no recoverable congruent verbal or adjectival source were not used. Such filtering left a sub-set of 1,080 analyzable nominalizations, which is around 90 percent of the original cases.

The second phase involved nominalizing every construction and assigning each one of them to a morphological type. The classification gave three major categories. The highest number were deverbal nominalizations which made up nearly 58% ($n \approx 626$) of the data. The nominalizations of deadjectives (approximately 24 and $n = 259$) and clausal and abstract nominalizations (approximately 18 and $n = 195$) made up 24 and 18 percent, respectively. This classification has allowed the derivation of mainstream morphological patterns in the fields.

The third stage was the nominalization classification according to formal structural realization. Approximately 62% ($n = 670$) of nominalizations derived by way of derivational suffixation (e.g., -tion, -ment, -ity, -ness) were as such. The constructions that operated nominally in gerundive were approximately 21% ($n = 227$), correspondingly, the constructions of abstract nouns were around 17% ($n = 183$). Every nominalization was provided with just one structural category so that there is no overlap in terms of analysis.

Nominalized forms were then coded based on their syntactic position in the clause. The analysis has shown that nominalizations as a grammatical subject took about 34% ($n \approx 367$) of the overall dataset. The total number of objects and complements was 41% ($n = 443$), of which the number of direct objects was 26% and the number of subject or object complements was 15%. The remaining 25% was as a result of nominalizations in the form of prepositional objects ($n \approx 270$). This allocation showed the significant place of nominalization in the structuring of clauses and packaging of information.

During the last stage of the processing, all the nominalized constructions were coded as having a functional-discursive role in immediate textual situation. There were four main functions that were identified. Nominalizations that were involved in information condensation and abstraction were about 39 percent ($n \approx 421$) of the data. The number of those serving impersonality and objectivity was 28% ($n \approx 302$), and the functions of stance mitigation and hedging were 18 ($n \approx 194$). The rest 15% ($n \approx 163$) was attributed to nominalizations that helped advance the theme and unite the text. Every instance was allocated a prevailing functional role according to the contextual interpretation using the principles of functional grammar.

All the processed data were introduced to organized analytic matrix where cross-tabulation was possible among the morphological type, structural form, syntactic position, and discourse function. This organized treatment made sure that the dataset was methodologically consistent and all ready to the next step of analysis.

3.3 Data Analysis

Data analysis phase was concerned with the analysis of the processed nominalizations constructions under an integrated morphological, syntactic and discourse functional viewpoint. The principles of Systemic Functional Linguistics were used to guide the analysis, and nominalization was considered a grammatical tool that helps with abstraction, information packing, and organization of information in academic writing. The analytical dataset was made up of 1,080 nominalized constructions.

3.3.1 Morphological Analysis

The morphological study looked at the formal mechanisms of realization of nominalization. The findings proved that deverbal nominalization was the most common morphological type with the percentage of 58 ($n \approx 626$) out of all. These tendencies were mainly actualized by high-frequency derivational suffixes like -tion, -ment, -ance as the high degree of process reification in the academic style.

Nominalizations (Deadjectival ones) made 24% ($n \approx 259$) of the dataset, and were often related to evaluative or scalar senses (e.g., complexity, stability), especially in interpretive and discussion-focused passages of the texts. The other 18% ($n \approx 195$) were found in clausal and abstract nominalizations, which are used to package the propositions or lengthy processes into a small nominal group.

3.3.2 Structural and Syntactic Analysis

Structurally, nominalizations derived by applying derivational suffixation constituted 62% ($n \approx 670$) of the nominalizations, and this verified that derivation was the structural strategy predominant in academic English. In nominalizations, gerundive (21% ($n \approx 227$)) were most common, and were generally written in order to foreground processes or methodological procedures that were going on. There were 17% ($n \approx 183$) abstract noun constructions that were rather common features of the dataset and usually played the role of discourse-organizing devices.

Nominalizations syntactically most often appeared in non-predicative positions, which supports the idea that nominalizations suppress the dynamism of clauses. Nominalizations which acted as grammatical subjects made 34% ($n \approx 367$) of all nominalizations and often included themes to provide the context in which a further argument followed. The nominalizations used as objects or complements made 41% ($n \approx 443$) and allowed the high density of information representation in the relational and material processes. Prepositional object positions were partially (25% or $n \approx 3$ of the order) involved in circumstantial elaboration and logical relations.

3.3.3 Discourse-Functional Analysis

It is necessary to state that the Discourse-Functional Analysis is in the group of the studies of the language as a social phenomenon. Nominalization was examined on the discourse level by the contribution it makes in the rhetoric of academic argumentation. The most distinguished one was the function of information condensation and abstraction as it covered 39 per cent ($n \approx 421$) of the data. Nominalization in such instances permitted complicated processes and associations to be introduced as conceptual objects. Nominalizations that helped in impersonality and objectivity made 28% ($n \approx 302$) of all the cases. These forms minimized any kind of human agency and aligned the texts to disciplinary standards that supported detached and authoritative positions. The 18% ($n \approx 194$) of the stance mitigation and hedging functions were where nominalization allowed tentative interpretation and lessened the devotion of the author. The rest 15 percent ($n \approx 163$), of nominalizations, were thematic in nature, contributing to textual unity, and were thematic reiterations or realizations of macro-Themes and helped to provide coherence in sentences and passages.

3.3.4 Disciplinary Variation

The comparison was done between the disciplines and found that there was systematic variation in the usage of nominalization. The natural sciences articles had the greatest density of nominalization with about 42 percent of all instances of nominalization identified, there was heavy use of deverbal forms in the subject position. Articles in linguistics constituted 33 of the data and had a more equal representation among the morphological types, especially discourse-oriented nominalizations. The other 25% was made up of social sciences texts, with a very strong inclination towards abstract and evaluative nominalizations, particularly in discussion sections. The results prove that nominalization is discipline-specific grammatical tool, conditioned by

epistemological orientation and rhetoric convention instead of being a homogeneous characteristic of academic English.

4. Results

This subdivision contains the empirical results of the review of 1,080 nominalized constructions found in fifteen scholarly research papers published in 2020-25. The findings are categorized according to morphological type, structural realization, syntactic position, discourse function and disciplinary distribution. To facilitate better clarity and readability, subsections and tables are given.

4.1 Distribution of the types of nominalization in general

It was found that the most common ones were deverbal nominalizations, which were in 58% (n = 626) of the total. Deadjectival nominalizations (24% n = 259) and clausal and abstract nominalizations (18% n = 195) were the most frequently used ones. It means that the conversion of processes into objects is still the leading strategy of the modern academic writing. These morphological types occur in the dataset with varying frequencies as shown in figure 1.

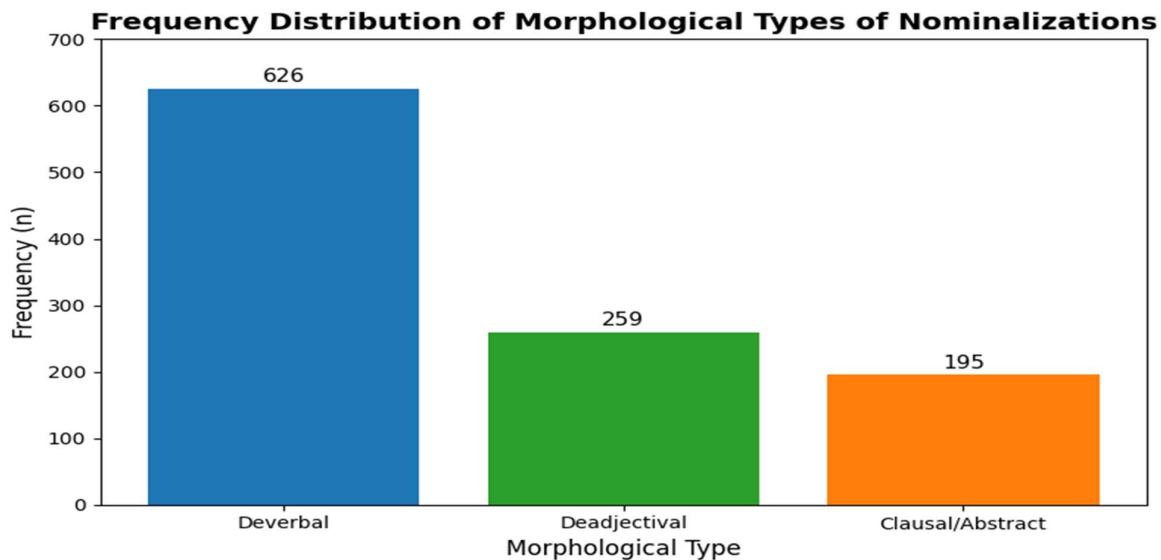


Figure 1: Frequency chapter of the morphological types of nominalizations in modern academic English research papers (n = 1,080)

Table 1: Distribution of Nominalization Types

Morphological Type	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Deverbal	626	58
Deadjectival	259	24
Clausal/Abstract	195	18
Total	1,080	100

4.2 Nominalization Structural Realization

The derivational suffixation was the main way of nominalization, with 62% (n = 670) of the cases. A percentage of 21 (n = 227) and 17 (n = 183) were constructions of gerundives as nominal groups and abstract noun constructions and complex nominal groups, respectively. The above findings indicate the derivational nature of the morphology in the development of nominalized structures.

Table 2: Nominalizations Structural Realization.

Structural Form	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Derivational Suffixation	670	62
Gerundive Constructions	227	21
Abstract/Complex Nominal Groups	183	17
Total	1,080	100

4.3 Syntactic Position within the Clause

Nominalizations were mainly done in non-predicative roles. The 34 percent (n = 367) belonged to those that served as grammatical subjects and the 41 percent (n = 443) to those that served as objects or complements with direct objects (26 percent n = 281) and subject/object complements (15 percent n = 162). Prepositions objects were in the 25% (n = 270). Such patterns

are the indication of the grammatical flexibility of nominalizations in ordering academic information effectively.

4.4 Discourse-Functional Distribution

A discursive-functional distribution is a distribution that is spread over the discourse and the discursive situation that it is placed in. Nominalization at the discourse level had many functions: • Condensed and abstracted information: 39% (n = 421). • Impersonality, objectivity: 28% (n = 302). • Stance mitigation and hedging: 18% (n=194) Thematic progression and cohesion 15% (n = 163) These findings highlight the importance of nominalization as a means of turbocharging the organization of argumentation, making it more abstract, and impersonal, as a feature of academic writing.

4.5 Academic Disciplinary Distribution

Disciplinary analysis showed the differences in the frequency of nominalization and its type: Natural sciences: 42% of all cases (n = 454), and deverbal nominalizations are predominant (64%). • Linguistics: 33 (n 7.516), the distribution of which among types is more balanced. Social sciences: 25% (n 270), and a disproportionately high amount of deadjectival and abstract nominalizations (46%). These results suggest that the properties of nominalization are influenced by the rules of discipline which represents the different rhetoric and epistemological requirements of a particular field. The figure 2 shows the morphological types of nominalizations distribution across the three disciplines showing the differences in the prevalence of deverbal, deadjectival and clause / abstract forms.

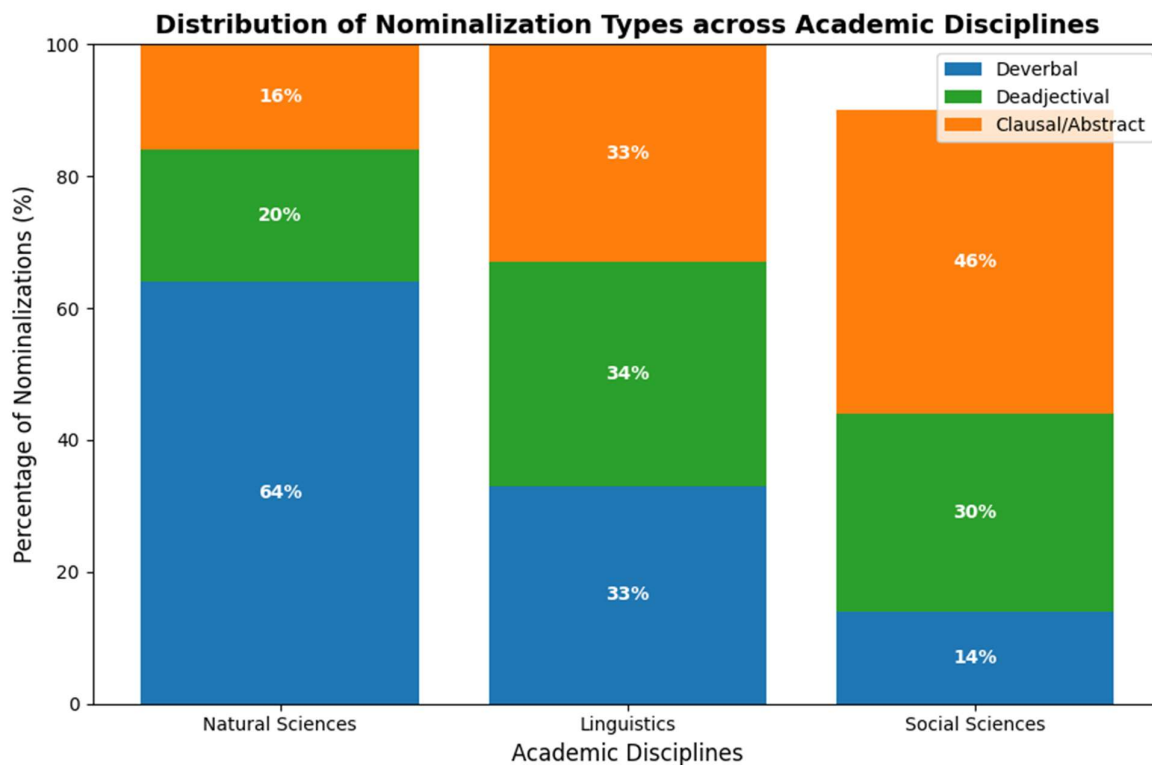


Figure 2: The morphological type of nominalizations distribution in the scholarly fields of the English research articles (n=1,080) in the present day

5. Discussion

The results of the current research give a comprehensive description of the nominalization trends in the modern academic English and validate the priority of nominalization as a significant grammatical and discourse tool in academic texts. The fact that deverbal nominalizations are predominant (58%), confirms the fact that past research has focused heavily on the contribution of grammatical metaphor to reconfiguring processes into things to facilitate abstraction and the construction of knowledge (He, 2022; He and Zhang, 2024). Such a tendency shows the epistemological orientation of academic talk to the conceptual stability and informational density. The derivational nominalization rate in this study is high (62%), which confirms that the current use of the English language prescribes the use of derivational morphology over other nominalizing strategies, especially in academic writing (Lara Clares, 2023). Morphological competition also seems to be settled in favor of highly productive suffixes, which promotes the reutilization of nominalization in a discipline by discipline. This observation supports the argument that nominalization is not just a style but morphologically <|human|>This observation supports the idea that nominalization is not only style as far as academic language practices are concerned but

morphologically entrenched. The discourse-functional perspective supports the Systemic Functional views which suggest that nominalization is a key device to package complex experiential meanings into relatively involved grammatical forms (39%), and this view is supported by the prevalence of nominalization in condensing information and abstracting verb meanings (He, 2022). The same functional patterns have been documented in the analysis of the academic texts of various genres in which nominalization allows authors to predetermine the results, processes, and theoretical constructs and background the human agency (Fatima et al., 2024). The fact that the percentage of nominalizations involved in the formation of impersonality and objectivity (28) is very high also proves the presence of nominalization in forming an authoritative academic position. This is consistent with the results of Ozkan and Dagdeviren (2022), who have proved that nominalized structure serves as an important part of indirectly expressing stance, especially in the case of cross-disciplinary academic writing. Nominalization facilitates the upholding of norms of disciplinarily as it reduces open subjectivity and advocates detachment and evidentiality.

The instances of nominalization as a mitigation/hedging stance strategy (18) is in line with the studies that mention reciprocity between grammatical metaphor and evaluative meaning. Chen and He (2024) demonstrate that nominalization and other metaphorical grammatical decisions enable authors to control commitment and make claims in a subtle manner. The present results build on this observation by showing that nominalization leads not only to the epistemic prudence but also to the rhetoric plasticity in different fields of study.

The thematic development and cohesiveness of the text of nominal groups (15%) corroborate prior data concerning the claim that nominal groups serve as thematic anchors in academic speech. According to him and Zhang (2024), live grammatical metaphors allow the meanings that are complex to be recycled across different clauses, which contributes to improved coherence. The current investigation supports this hypothesis as it indicates that nominalization helps thematic continuity by enabling the occurrence of processes that are introduced at the beginning of discourse to reoccur as discourse participants.

The flexibility of this grammatical tool is further pointed out by the existence of disciplinary differences in the use of nominalization. The increased frequency of nominalization in the natural sciences (42) is consistent with the results that scientific talk is more concerned with procedural abstraction and process reification (He, 2022; Jeyaseelan, 2020). Conversely, the less

uneven distribution in linguistics is representative of the meta-linguistic focus of the field as the concept requires not only abstraction but conceptual clarification.

The relatively greater percentage of deadjectival and abstract nominalizations in the social sciences is consistent with evaluative and interpretive character of social inquiry. This trend is echoed by Liu (2024) who notes that the formation of meaning-driven academic writing is largely based on the use of nominalized abstractions to describe social phenomena and analytical objects. Further, the nominalization to frame identity, agency, and interpretation is reminiscent of other researchers who have found that nominalization of framing has an influence on perception and conceptualization beyond grammar issues (Hunt and McGlone 2025).

The findings are further put in perspective by the recent studies on AI-generated academic texts. According to Kong and Wang (2025), nominalization metaphor is a salient characteristic of machine-generated abstracts, which implies that nominalization has become a standard indicator of academic style. This conclusion is validated by the current research, which shows that nominalization tendencies are so strong-rooted within the norms of modern academic writing that regardless of the modality of authorship they cannot be overcome.

On the whole, the results help to assume that nominalization is a complex grammatical tool that combines morphological, syntactic, and discourse functions. Nominalization is not used in one stylistic act; instead, nominalization is a dynamic action of forming abstraction, stance, coherence, and disciplinary identity in academic writing. This substantiates and deepens the earlier studies and presents a very fine-grained and empirically based explanation of nominalization in the contemporary scholarly tradition.

6. Conclusion

The current paper includes a descriptive narrative of the tendencies in nominalization of modern academic English, combining morphological, syntactic, and discourse-functional study of three sciences: linguistics, social sciences, and natural sciences. The results prove that the most common are deverbal nominalizations, then the deadjectival and clausal/abstract nominalizations, which evidences the central position of nominalization in information condensation, abstraction, and impersonality. Derivational nominalization is the most dominant structurally whereas syntactic analysis brings out a strong inclination towards non-predicative positions, especially objects, complements, as well as subjects.

Nominalization use also varies in terms of disciplines that are confirmed by the study. The texts of natural sciences show the most density of nominalization, which mostly involve processes, with linguistics and social sciences showing a more differentiated approach to nominalization, balancing between the functions of abstraction and evaluation. Nominalization has a contribution to thematic advancement, mitigation of stance, and textual cohesion at the discourse level and confirms its multifunctional role in academic argumentation.

These results highlight the value of nominalization as a resource in strategic linguistics on the organization of knowledge in the academic field, the formation of author position, and the preservation of disciplinary standards. The study makes a contribution to the linguistic theory by offering a fine-grained, empirically based explanation of current nominalization patterns and offers some practical implications to the pedagogical of academic writing especially to language learners at the second language level with an intention to master academic discourse.

Future studies can build upon this study with bigger and more varied samples, other disciplines, and examine how nominalization that relates to other grammatical or rhetorical devices collaboration in the formation of advanced academic meaning.

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