UNIVERSITY OF ANBAR

كلية : الآداب

القسم او الفرع : اللغة الإنجليزية

المرحلة: الثالثة

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اسم المادة باللغة العربية : النحوي التركيبي المتقدم

اسم المادة باللغة الإنكليزية : Grammar

اسم المحاضرة التاسعة باللغة العربية: حالات المضاف إليه ومعانيها

اسم المحاضرة التاسعة باللغة الإنكليزية : Genitive Cases & their Meanings

4. 66 Common/Genitive Case

English nouns have a two-case system:

A. The unmarked Common Case: It refers to the ordinary form of a noun as being 'cat' or 'mouse' or 'car' or 'moon'.

B. The Marked Genitive Case: It refers to the grammatical case that marks a noun. It designates a grammatical case, typically indicating possession, measure, origin, or other close association, as in *The Door's Key*.

4. 67 The Forms of the Genitive Inflection

The (-s) genitive of regular nouns is realized in verbal contexts where it takes one of the forms /iz/, /z/, and /s/. The pronunciation of each is submitted to phonetic rules. However, the noun 'spy', which is transcribed phonetically /spaɪz/, has three forms:

1. The **spies** were arrested. **(Plural form)**

2. The **spy's** companion was a woman. **(Singular Possession)**

3. The **spies'** companions were women in each case. **(Plural Possession)**

4. He **spies** on the behalf of an industrial firm. **(3rd personal Sing –s)**

The forms of the irregular nouns are different from the regular ones fore-mentioned:

The town **men** are really helpful.

The **man's coat** is totally ragged. **(Singular Possession)**

The **men's coats** are totally ragged. **(Plural Possession)**

He **wears** his coat elegantly.

4. 69 Two Genitives

The case of genitive has two structures when its case indicates possessiveness or belongingness:

A. The s-genitive structure with inflection:

It means using the genitive inflected (-s) with two nouns and the inflectional suffix is placed over the first noun, e.g.,:

What is the *ship's name*?
Rule: **Noun's + Noun**

B. The of-genitive structure with a prepositional phrase:

It consists of the preposition of + the noun indicating possessiveness, e.g.:

The name *of the ship* is Ashton Brown.

Rule: *Noun + of + Noun*

4. 70. Genitive Meanings: Semantic Classification

The meanings of the genitive can be best shown by sentential or phrasal analogues, as shown in the table below:

Item	Genitives	Structural Analogues
1.	**Possessive Genitive:** My son's wife.	My son has a wife.
2.	**Subjective Genitive:** The boy's application	The boy applied.
3.	**Objective Genitive:** The boy's release	(…) released the boy.
4.	**Genitive of Origin:** The girl's story	The girl told a story.
5.	**Descriptive Genitive:** A women's college	A college for women
6.	**Genitive of Measure and Partitive Genitive:** Ten day's absence Part of the problem	The absence lasted ten days. The problem is divisible into parts.
7.	**Appositive Genitive:** The city of York	York is a city.

4. 71. The Choice of Genitives

The semantic classification of genitives in the unit (4.70) is partially arbitrary because classifying genitives in terms of meanings and their analogues cannot give us full help of which type of genitive the speaker should choose – the s-genitive or of-genitive. For example, the cow's milk is not a genitive of origin; rather it is a descriptive genitive (the kind of milk obtained from a cow) or even a subjective genitive (the cow provided the milk). The choice can be more securely related to the gender classes represented by the

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noun which is to be genitive. Linguistically speaking, the (-s genitive) is favored by the classes that are highest on the gender scale, namely animate nouns including in particular persons and animals with personal gender characteristics. Now, the use of (-s) genitive or of-structure genitive, in fact, causes interpretation confusion or lexical ambiguity as shown in the two cases.

A. The reference to the existence of something within something else is expressed by the of-structure genitive:

1. *The door's knob

Here it does not refer to the origin; rather it refers to the availability of something, i.e., something found in something. Thus, it should be:

The knob of the door. (**Denoting Partitive Form**)

B. The reference to possessiveness or belongingness is expressed by the (-s) genitive. Hence, it's wrong to say:

2. *The hat of John

It does not refer to the hat found on John's head existentially; rather it refers to the hat possessed or owned by John (denoting possessiveness)

John's hat (indicating possession)

C. The other factor that influences our choice of genitive is the information focus. The genitive (-s) enables us to focus on noun, whereas the of-structure genitive makes us focus on another noun, as illustrated in the examples below:

In sentence **(1)**, the speaker focuses on the first noun 'ship', and he wants to bring the attention of the listeners or readers to the noun ship only. On the other hand, the speaker in sentence **(2)** focuses on the funnel in the sense that he captivated the attention of the listeners or readers on the word 'funnel', and mentioned it at the beginning of the sentence. As he did not care about the ship itself called Orion.

The factor of information focus is congruent with the preference for using the of-genitive structure with partitives.