Plural words

MATTHEW DRYER

Abstract

A minority of the languages of the world express plurality by means of plural words, separate words which modify nouns but which serve the same grammatical function as plural affixes in other languages. A few languages have singular or dual words as well. The grammatical category of these plural words varies: in some languages they form a category by themselves, while in other languages they are articles or numerals. These plural words tend to precede the noun in VO languages, and to follow in OV languages, the opposite from what some work on word order correlations might lead one to expect. They are particularly common in southeast Asia and Australasia.

One of the most common inflectional categories found among the languages of the world, and perhaps the most common, is that of number marking on nouns, most commonly represented by a morpheme indicating plural number, but occasionally in addition by morphemes indicating either singular number or dual number. There are also many languages, like Japanese, which lack a productive mechanism for indicating grammatical number. There is a third class of languages, however, which lack number as an inflectional category of nouns, but in which plurality is (or can be) indicated by a plural word, a morpheme whose meaning and function is similar to that of plural affixes in other languages, but which is a separate word that functions as a modifier of the noun. The following examples from Gbeya (a language in the Adamawa-Eastern branch of Niger-Congo) and Hawaiian illustrate such plural words.

(1) Gbeya:

ô tû wi-ré
plur black person
‘black people’ (Samarin 1966: 81)
characteristics of these languages. This is because the distribution of plural forms differs from the distribution of singular forms in language use, and this difference can be observed in the way in which words are used in different contexts. In section 1, I discuss the role of plural forms as they relate to the organization of these languages.

The use of plural forms in languages is influenced by various factors, including cultural and social norms. In section 2, I explore how these factors shape the use of plural forms and how they are reflected in the way in which words are used. The discussion is broadly based on the assumption that the use of plural forms is not just a matter of linguistic choice, but is also influenced by the social and cultural context in which they are used. This is particularly true in languages that have a rich tradition of using plural forms, such as English and French.

In section 3, I examine the way in which plural forms are used in literature, focusing on the role of plural forms in the expression of ideas and emotions. The discussion is based on the assumption that the use of plural forms can be an effective means of expressing ideas and emotions, and that this is particularly true in languages that have a rich tradition of using plural forms. The discussion is broadly based on the assumption that the use of plural forms is not just a matter of linguistic choice, but is also influenced by the social and cultural context in which they are used. This is particularly true in languages that have a rich tradition of using plural forms, such as English and French.

In section 4, I explore the way in which plural forms are used in everyday communication, focusing on the role of plural forms in the expression of ideas and emotions. The discussion is based on the assumption that the use of plural forms can be an effective means of expressing ideas and emotions, and that this is particularly true in languages that have a rich tradition of using plural forms. The discussion is broadly based on the assumption that the use of plural forms is not just a matter of linguistic choice, but is also influenced by the social and cultural context in which they are used. This is particularly true in languages that have a rich tradition of using plural forms, such as English and French.

In conclusion, I argue that the use of plural forms is not just a matter of linguistic choice, but is also influenced by the social and cultural context in which they are used. The discussion is broadly based on the assumption that the use of plural forms is not just a matter of linguistic choice, but is also influenced by the social and cultural context in which they are used. This is particularly true in languages that have a rich tradition of using plural forms, such as English and French.
The Grammatical Category of Plural Words

Two words differentiate the grammatical properties and can convey the in two boxes, (Chinnian, 1953: 28).

The noun: a pair of sunglasses. In contrast, the plural: a pair of sunglasses.

In a minority of the languages in my sample, there are plural forms.

Appendix.

Retention of various issues discussed in this paper is provided in the

Plural Words: 698
2. Plural words as numerals: 

The question is whether they are grammatically distinct or not. Some plural words are numerals, of course. For example, one is a numeral, and are not used as plural words. However, there are also a whole range of other words that are not numerals but have a meaning similar to numerals. For example, a pair of shoes is a pair of numerals, but a pair of socks is not.

Of the numerals in my sample, I was able to come to a conclusion about some of them. For example, ten is a number, but the noun form of the plural is ten. This is because the noun form of the plural is used in a different way than the number form of the plural. For example, I can say, "I have ten apples," but I cannot say, "I have ten apples."
1. the apple, the apple's, the apple's stem, the apple's stem's leaves
2. the apple, the apple's, the apple's stem, the apple's stem's leaves
3. the, the woman, the woman's, the woman's son, the woman's son's study
4. the, the woman, the woman's, the woman's son, the woman's son's study
5. the, the man, the man's, the man's study, the man's study's books
6. the, the man, the man's, the man's study, the man's study's books

There are two kinds of prepositions in which plural words seem to be used: as articles or as nouns. In some cases the change is merely one of emphasis; but in others the change is one of meaning.

The use of the term 'article' in such cases is justified in that the words in question do seem to serve as markers of NP.

The woman (Kaplan 1965: 11)

We refer to the woman by an article which indicates that she is a noun.

2.2 Plural words as articles

The following examples illustrate two of the noun-class articles:

The child, the child's, the child's mother, the child's mother's house

In each case the noun-class article can be replaced by the article 'the' (or 'an' in the case of 'mother'). The noun-class article is thus a marker of noun-class.

A common class of nouns which have a noun-class article is that of animate things. In such cases the article is 'the' or 'an' as appropriate: the apple, an apple.

There are also seven language groups in which plural words do belong to the same category as numerals.

We refer to people who have a plural word which is used as a noun-class article by an article:

those people who eat apples

In such cases, the article 'the' is omitted:

those people who eat apples

Now consider the following examples:

In the plural of the child, the article 'the' is replaced by 'the' or 'an' as appropriate:

the, the, the child's mother

This is a case of an article being replaced by a noun-class article.

In the plural of the apple, the article 'the' is replaced by 'the' or 'an' as appropriate:

the apple, the apples
accounting between the article and the noun, as in

"If you want to buy a car, first consider the price."

The noun 'price' is in its plural form, as it is followed by another noun, 'car'.

In grammar, the plural form of words is often used to indicate quantity or number. In the English language, nouns have specific forms to indicate whether they are singular or plural. The plural form of a noun is used when the noun refers to more than one thing. The rules for forming the plural of nouns vary depending on the language. In English, many nouns add an 's' or 'es' to the end of the singular form to make the plural form. For example, the singular form of the word 'cat' becomes 'cats' in the plural form. Some nouns have irregular plural forms, such as 'child' becoming 'children' or 'foot' becoming 'feet'.

In some cases, the plural form of a noun can be used without an article, as in the example above. In other cases, the article 'the' is used before the plural noun, as in the example "the books you bought are on the shelf".

Understanding the rules for forming and using plural nouns is important for correct communication in any language. It is also important to consider the context in which the noun is used, as the same word may have different meanings depending on whether it is singular or plural.

Examples of plural nouns include:
- books
- children
- children's
- children's shoes
- children's toys
- children's books
- children's shoes
- children's toys
- children's books

These examples show how the plural form of nouns can be used in a variety of contexts, sometimes with and sometimes without an article.

In the context of the above examples, it is important to note that the plural form of nouns is not always formed by adding an 's' or 'es'. For example, the word 'child' forms its plural 'children' by adding an 'en' and the word 'foot' forms its plural 'feet' by adding an 's'.

Understanding these rules is crucial for proper usage of nouns in any language.
Although the student is under the impression that the plural pronoun, "some," should be considered as a singular noun, there is a distinct grammatical difference between the singular and plural forms of a noun. The plural form refers to more than one of the same kind, whereas the singular form refers to a single unit. The student's confusion arises from the fact that the word "some" can be used with both singular and plural nouns, creating a sense of variability that is not present with other nouns.

In the context of the sentence, "some," is used to modify the noun "student," which is singular. This usage is correct and grammatically appropriate. However, if the sentence were to change to include multiple students, the plural pronoun "some" would still be correct, indicating a group of students rather than a single student.

The key to understanding the correct usage of "some" as a singular or plural pronoun lies in recognizing the context in which it is used. When modifying a singular noun, "some" indicates a single entity, whereas when modifying a plural noun, "some" indicates a group of entities.

This distinction is crucial in maintaining grammatical correctness and clarity in communication. By being aware of these differences, the student can improve their ability to accurately use the English language.


The occurrence of plural words in the same category as words meaning
just as words meaning, if small, indicate the size of an individual of
emotional properties. After all, plural words indicate the size of an
individual and so some figures may express their meaning of
esser. In any case, she draws the attention of words meaning, if
existing is essential. In some cases, the noun is a plural noun in
English, meaning, if small, indicate the size of an individual of

2.6. Miscellaneous categories of plural words

[Text continues]

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The strength of the correlation we have seen between the order of printed words and the number of repetitions, expressed as a proportion of the frequency of repeated words in a text, is a measure of the degree to which the repetition patterns compress the information contained in the text. The stronger the correlation, the greater the redundancy and the more predictable the text.

The table below shows the percentage of repeated words in different texts, ranging from 0% to 100%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Repeated Words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Text A</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text B</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text C</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text D</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text E</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The results indicate that the degree of redundancy and predictability of the text increases as the percentage of repeated words increases. This suggests that the use of repetition can contribute to the overall clarity and coherence of the text.

In summary, the correlation between the order of printed words and the number of repetitions is a useful measure of the degree to which a text is predictable and compressible. The higher the correlation, the greater the redundancy and the more predictable the text will be.
The plural word occurs between the numeral and the noun in Balawa.
The plural word follows the numeral, as opposed to the adjectives in English. (Adjective)

On the other hand, most of the nouns agree in number only with the plural noun, while the adjectives agree in number with the noun.

It seems, therefore, that when plural nouns and adjectives occur on the same

60,000 languages (Kinta 1975: 124)

(28) the black horses
(29) plaintiff's attorney

In the example above, the plural noun follows the numeral, while the adjectives agree in number with the noun.

Furthermore, in a language like French, the plural form of the noun is a feminine noun, but the singular form of the noun is masculine.

(30) the red roses
(31) the blue roses

If we examine the examples above, we see that the plural noun follows the numeral and the adjectives agree in number with the noun.

(32) the red roses
(33) the blue roses

The same is true for all languages in which adjectives agree in number with the noun.

(34) the red roses
(35) the blue roses

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(35) the blue roses

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Plural words

1. Characteristics of languages with plural words

Plural words are found in a small minority of the languages of the world.
which a head (the possessed noun) is marked for features of the dependent in a relation of head-marking. Features of the head are in fact, in a way, a property of head-marking. Pronoun possessive markers, on the other hand, are a property of the possessed noun. The possessor is marked for features of the dependent-marking relationship. In fact, the possessor is itself a head. In this case, there is no higher head, since the possessor is the head itself. In this case, the possessor is the highest head. Thus, the possessor is the head of the head-marking relationship. The possessor is marked for features of the dependent-marking relationship.

In contrast, the possessor is itself a head. In this case, the possessor is the highest head. Thus, the possessor is the head of the head-marking relationship. The possessor is marked for features of the dependent-marking relationship.

However, this explanation is not entirely correct. On the one hand, the possessor is itself a head. In this case, the possessor is the highest head. Thus, the possessor is the head of the head-marking relationship. The possessor is marked for features of the dependent-marking relationship.

On the other hand, the possessor is not itself a head. In this case, the possessor is the head of the head-marking relationship. The possessor is marked for features of the dependent-marking relationship.

In conclusion, the possessor is itself a head. In this case, the possessor is the highest head. Thus, the possessor is the head of the head-marking relationship. The possessor is marked for features of the dependent-marking relationship.

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5. Conclusion

Many of the conclusions of this paper are rather tentative. The discussion in section 2 on the inverse of grammatical order has been rather neglected, especially in typological work. For most of the languages discussed in this paper, the theory of grammatical categories is obscure. It is an area that is full of possibilities. The clearest in order to better understand their syntactic structure, the most promising approaches to this problem remain unknown. Although I have discussed a variety of explanations for the high frequency of plural words, it does not indicate that the inverse of plural words is most commonly found in languages which are isolating or head-marking. But because the relative infrequency of plural words among the languages of the world, it seems that it is very common for dependent languages and head-marking languages to lack plural words.

Appendix

This appendix includes a list of the 48 languages with plural words that form the basis for this study. The categories in the sixth column are (with corresponding section in this paper) numerical (sect. 2.1), article (sect. 2.2), grammatical number words (sect. 2.3), unique (that is, plural word forms one-word category; sect. 2.4), plural words (multiword category; sect. 2.5), miscellaneous (sect. 2.6), and unclear (insufficient information in source).

Table A. The languages in the study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language name</th>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Order of plural, noun</th>
<th>Order of object, verb</th>
<th>Category of plural word</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agua</td>
<td>Austronesian</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>NPI</td>
<td>VO</td>
<td>unique</td>
<td>Healey (1960)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apnaye</td>
<td>Ge</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>NPI</td>
<td>OV</td>
<td>unclear</td>
<td>Callow (1962)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aranda</td>
<td>Pama-Ryukyu</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>NPI</td>
<td>unclear</td>
<td>NPI</td>
<td>Strethow (1944)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balawaia</td>
<td>Austronesian</td>
<td>Papua</td>
<td>NPI</td>
<td>OV</td>
<td>gramm. number</td>
<td>Kolia (1975)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bawm</td>
<td>Tibeto-Burman</td>
<td>Burma</td>
<td>NPI</td>
<td>OV</td>
<td>numerical</td>
<td>Reichle (1981)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bikol</td>
<td>Austronesian</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>PIN</td>
<td>OV</td>
<td>unique</td>
<td>Mintz (1971)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cayuavaya</td>
<td>Equatorial</td>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>PIN</td>
<td>OV</td>
<td>unique</td>
<td>Key (1967)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chacobo</td>
<td>Austronesian</td>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>NPI</td>
<td>OV</td>
<td>unique</td>
<td>Prost (1967)</td>
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<td>Chamorro</td>
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<td>NPI</td>
<td>OV</td>
<td>unknown</td>
<td>Topping (1973)</td>
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<td>Chingpaw</td>
<td>Austronesian</td>
<td>Burma</td>
<td>NPI</td>
<td>OV</td>
<td>unknown</td>
<td>Hertz (1917)</td>
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<td>Dafla</td>
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<td>NE India</td>
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<td>OV</td>
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<td>Hamilton (1900)</td>
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<td>Dehu</td>
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<td>Pacific</td>
<td>PIN</td>
<td>OV</td>
<td>unknown</td>
<td>Tryon (1968a)</td>
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<td>Djaupu</td>
<td>Austronesian</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>NPI</td>
<td>OV</td>
<td>gramm. number</td>
<td>Morphy (1983)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language name</td>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Order of plural, noun</td>
<td>Order of object, verb</td>
<td>Category of plural word</td>
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<td>Easter Island Eseejja</td>
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<td>PIN</td>
<td>VO</td>
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<td>Nepal</td>
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<td>Samarani (1966)</td>
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<td>Austronesian</td>
<td>Pacific</td>
<td>PIN</td>
<td>VO</td>
<td>gram. number plural words article</td>
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<td>Hawaiian</td>
<td>Austronesian</td>
<td>Pacific</td>
<td>PIN</td>
<td>VO</td>
<td>article</td>
<td>Allen and Allen (1965)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Elbert and Pukui (1979)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(one plural word is article, others are distinct category)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hawkins (1982)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hixkaryana</td>
<td>Carib</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>NPI</td>
<td>OV</td>
<td>misc</td>
<td>Derbyshire (1979)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iai</td>
<td>Austronesian</td>
<td>Pacific</td>
<td>PIN</td>
<td>VO</td>
<td>unique</td>
<td>Tryon (1968b)</td>
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<td>Khasi</td>
<td>Mon Khmer</td>
<td>NE India</td>
<td>PIN</td>
<td>VO</td>
<td>article</td>
<td>Rabel (1961)</td>
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<td>Kimaghamu</td>
<td>Kolopom</td>
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<td>Elkins (1970)</td>
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<td>Maung</td>
<td>Iwaidjan</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>PIN</td>
<td>VO</td>
<td>article</td>
<td>Capell and Hinch (1970)</td>
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<td>Miskito</td>
<td>Macro-Chibchan</td>
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<td>OV</td>
<td>unclear</td>
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<td>Mixe</td>
<td>Mixe-Zoquean</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
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<td>Van Haisma and Van Haisma (1976)</td>
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<td>Mixtec (Peñoles)</td>
<td>Oto-Manguean Wororan</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>PIN</td>
<td>VO</td>
<td>unique</td>
<td>Daly (1973)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ngarinjin</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>NPI</td>
<td>unknown</td>
<td>unique</td>
<td>Coate and Oates (1970)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niuean Nung</td>
<td>Austronesian</td>
<td>Pacific</td>
<td>NPI</td>
<td>VO</td>
<td>article</td>
<td>Seiter (1980)</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Tai</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>NPI</td>
<td>VO</td>
<td>unclear</td>
<td>Saul and Wilson (1980)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rong</td>
<td>Tibeto-Burman</td>
<td>Sikkim</td>
<td>NPI</td>
<td>OV</td>
<td>unclear</td>
<td>Mainwaring (1876)</td>
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<td>Sa'a</td>
<td>Austronesian</td>
<td>Pacific</td>
<td>NPI</td>
<td>OV</td>
<td>article</td>
<td>Ivens (1918)</td>
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<td>Siroi</td>
<td>Madang</td>
<td>Papua</td>
<td>NPI</td>
<td>VO</td>
<td>unique</td>
<td>Wells (1979)</td>
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<td>Sieng</td>
<td>Mon Khmer</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>PIN</td>
<td>VO</td>
<td>unique</td>
<td>Miller (1976)</td>
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<td>Tagalog</td>
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<td>Philippines</td>
<td>PIN</td>
<td>VO</td>
<td>unique</td>
<td>Schachter and Otanes (1972)</td>
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