

The Within-the-Noun-Category Zero Derivation in Macedonian

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Received: August 22, 2013 Accepted: September 6, 2013 Published: October 25, 2013

doi:10.5296/ijl.v5i5.4161 URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5296/ijl.v5i5.4161>

Abstract

Zero derivation is a process when from a lexeme that belongs to one lexical category or subcategory another one is formed, which, from derivational point of view has the same form but, since inflectional material is allowed to be used, the form can be changed inflectionally; the category or subcategory of the new lexeme is definitely changed, and what connects the source and the target lexeme is the meaning – it is similar, more precisely, expanded.

When discussing this process within a category, which is a *clear* type, that is, the process is realized even without using any inflectional material and there is complete overlap between the source and the target lexeme, this paper focuses on changes within the noun category in Macedonian. That is when the natural subclass of the noun is changed, and the process goes from countable to uncountable noun, from uncountable to countable, from proper to common and from static to dynamic noun.

The target lexeme, which is the newly zero derived element, becomes a member of another subclass, different from the subclass to which the source lexeme naturally belongs, and thus accepts the characteristics of the new lexical subcategory or the new subpart of speech and behaves accordingly.

The clear or prototypical side of the process is seen in the formal overlapping of both lexemes, from both derivational and inflectional point of view.

Keywords: Nouns, Zero derivation, Lexical subcategory change, Semantic transfer

1. Introduction

The place of the noun in the language system is of immense importance because of its close connection with the adjective and for sharing the characteristics, such as the grammatical categories of gender, number and definiteness. Yet, when talking about zero derivation in Macedonian within the noun category, much more attention is being paid to the number as an unstable category, and that is significant, considering the fact that nouns form plural mainly according to gender, which, on the other hand, is changeable and variable. In continuation several lexemes will be given; such that can be found in the language, both in its standard or colloquial form.

For instance, in the printers' vocabulary, it is usual to find the form **клише-клишињата**, but the same word can take a different plural form in the following structure:

Во неговата проза има многу клишеи.

These plural forms are connected with gender variability between masculine and feminine, at foreign nouns that end in *-e*, which is more emphasized in cases when these nouns are used for people in masculine gender:

*нашиот аташе за печат not *нашето аташе за печат*

Korubin (Корубин, 1972) says that in Macedonian there are plural nouns which have a characteristic of collectiveness, and the focus of the meaning is not only on the collection of objects, but also on their wholeness. Examples of this kind are the following: **работи**, **пљачки**, then **кори**, **јуфки**, **карти** (playing cards). In these cases, when the plural has this general sign function, the singular form can be absent from the language and may be lost. Such are the nouns: **телци**, **пилци**. Their singular forms do not exist anymore because the plural has the determining function outside of the number category and it occurs as a lexico-semantic category. That plural form can also denote a complex object as singular lexical content: **кешти**, **ножици**, **панталони**, **бечви**, **гаќи**, **плеќи**. But, in Macedonian it is far more acceptable to say: **кешта**, **ножица**, **панталон**, which is a process of change in the grammatical meaning of the plural forms - something they actually didn't have in their own general function. In such a case, expressing the collection of these objects requires an additional quantifier as is the word *рало*: *две рала ножици*, *три рала панталони*, but also *едно рало панталони*, *едно рало ножици*. This means that although formally plural these forms find it difficult to fit into the number category, denoting one object. Therefore, they need additional signal; and, if it is omitted, then the form gets its own plural grammatical meaning, so that for expressing plural, singular forms should be used. In such a case, the result is change in meaning in the direction from a set to singularity, and some lexico-semantic differentiations are expressed opposed to the usually singular form. But, the reversed situation is also possible and understandable in the language use; for example, the nouns **риба** and **скакулец** can be used in singular, and mean a collection of the homogeneous objects when we don't refer to the quantitative number, but the object is a concept in its uniqueness:

Многу риба фативме денес.

Многу скакулец надојде годинава.

The form of collective plural has been very often discussed, since the noun **лозје** is not in collective plural form but in singular instead, and opposed to it is **лозја**, opposed to **грозје** is **грозја**; the case with **цвеќе** is further developed with the collective plural being formed with **цвеќиња**. The collective plural forms *–је, –ја*: **класје, лисје, дрвја, перја, нивје**, denote a set and require plural quantifier:

*зрели **класје**, жолти **лисје**, бели **перја**, неизорани **нивје***

and the verb used with them is also in plural:

***Класјето** се ронат.*

***Лисјето** паѓаат.*

***Дрејата** се исушија.*

The nouns of the type **плато, ниво, биро, клише, резиме**, in the first years of establishing the Macedonian standard language norm, under the influence of the, then, Serbo-Croatian language, had been used as masculine nouns. By analogy, their plural forms were: **нивои, резимеи**, etc. Yet, the language sense of the Macedonians found it hard to accept this situation, so that in the language they started to be used in neuter gender, which is expectable considering their ending in *–о*. From this perspective, this kind of use is codified in the orthography and the neuter gender has affected change in the plural form too. It is now: **нивоа, платоа, резимеа, клишеа**, etc. In any case, these forms are innovations since they do not fit into the domestic system of variability: they do not get the plural suffix on the real basis, but the full singular form is used as a basis; then they keep the foreign accent which is absent from the domestic way of accentuation, and, at the end, are in conflict with the Macedonian phonological-morphological system. Korubin (Корубин, 1972) also talks about foreign lexemes that are adapted to the accent while they take the Macedonian plural form.

As more frequent in our corpus and material for analysis, four types of zero derivation will be treated: from countable to uncountable noun, from uncountable to countable noun, from proper to common noun and from static to dynamic noun.

2. Within-the-Noun-Category Zero Derivation in Macedonian

Hurford and Heasley (1983) claim that when we analyse the word formation and derivational processes, we ought to take into account that it is not one, but three processes:

- a) morphological – when the word form is changed by using prefixes or suffixes,
- b) syntactic – when the natural class of the word is changed, and
- c) semantic – when a new meaning is formed.

Therefore, in this paper when talking about the process of zero derivation within the noun category, we ought to expect all three aspects previously mentioned to be present, that is, the syntactic and the semantic are unaltered, while the morphological segment is slightly

modified in its definition, since the lexemes that undergo clear zero derivation are formally identical.

2.1 Zero Derivation from Countable to Uncountable Noun

In Macedonian nouns, there are shifts in the category of number. Thus, the naturally countable noun becomes uncountable and appears in singular form even when the context refers to several objects of that type, and it usually requires the analysed lexeme to be in plural form. The following examples can be considered:

молив → **молив**: *Ми треба **молив** за цртање. → Ја напишав домашната со **молив**.*

as opposed to **Ја напишав домашната со **моливи**.*

камен → **камен**: *Згазнав на **камен** и си го свиткав стапалото. → На аголот од улицата има нова кука изградена од **камен**.*

портокал → **портокал**: *Купивме два килограма **портокали**. → Секое утро пијам сок од **портокал**.*

лимон → **лимон**: *Не јадам **лимони**. → Овошниот чај од **лимон** изобилува со витамин Ц.*

јаболко → **јаболко**: *Здраво е да се јаде по едно **јаболко** на ден. → Имаме сок од **јаболко**.*

праска → **праска**: *Пазарите се преполни со **праски** во овој дел од годината. → Деновите пијам само леден чај од **праска**.*

пиле → **пиле**: *Видов **пиле** во дворот на соседите. → За ручек имавме супа од **пиле**.*

In all these cases the sentence on the left shows the countable noun in singular or plural form depending on the context, thus referring to *its countability*, while on the right the noun is zero derived in uncountable, when used in singular it refers to *a part of something, material or ingredient, or it refers to the object in its generic use*. Therefore, in the first example, with the sentence on the right, the singular form does not imply that the homework is written with one pencil, but that the instrument with which the action is performed is a pencil, not pen, that is, *the material that makes mark is graphite, not ink*. The same situation is in the other examples where the uncountable noun refers to *the stone as material, and the orange, the lemon, the apple, the peach and the chicken as ingredient*.

The following examples can be further analysed:

скакулец → **скакулец**: *На ова место има многу **скакулци**. → Кај се најде олку **скакулец**!*

риба → **риба**: *На масата имаше четири **риби**. → Денес фативме многу **риба**.*

Турчин → **Турчин**: *Татко му е **Турчин**. → Му помина царството и на **Турчинот**.*

бука → **бука**: *Го исекоа единственото дрво **бука** пред прозорецот. → **Бука**та во*

Лигураса во една ноќ ја мени бојата од зелена на жолта.

They are of different type because the typically countable noun on the left becomes uncountable in the sentence on the right, when it is used in singular form, but now it refers to the object, that is, to the noun in its *collective unity* because the form of the analysed lexeme is singular, while the semantics is plural. Namely, by placing the quantifiers *олку* and *многу* before the noun, as in the examples with **риба** and **скакулец**, or by supplying appropriate context, the speaker will properly understand the noun reference and will associatively connect the noun's singular with the collective unity of the object denoted with the zero derived element. Actually, a result of the process of zero derivation is a lexeme that illustrates the use of the singular form as replacement for the plural one.

This kind of zero derivation is shown in the following sentence structures where the countable noun on the left refers to one noun, but after the process the uncountable product names an object that *refers to several individuals*:

рака: подава **рака** → *Кога нè прашаа за одговор, сите кренавме **рака**.*

лице: бело **лице** → *Станавме, се измивме **лице** и излеговме.*

гуша: голема **гуша** → *Ним им дојде до **гуша**.*

As different from the first two subgroups where the zero derived uncountable noun can take an article, in the examples listed last, the expression develops adverbial meaning if it is about use of the noun with a preposition, or a close syntagmatic unity is formed between the verb and the noun, so that the nouns do not have articles, and they are not used in plural either. This is so because the above mentioned structures cannot be formulated as follows:

сите кренавме **раце*

се измивме **лица*

им дојде до **гуши.*

2.2 Zero Derivation from Uncountable to Countable Noun

In the Macedonian language there are many *abstract nouns* which cannot form plural, due to the nature of their basic meaning, but when they are used in plural, there are semantic modifications and changes in the number category. Thus, when the noun **неправдина** is used in plural, it doesn't express its basic meaning which it has as a singular form in basic function, but it becomes concrete and gives another meaning to the lexical content:

неправдина → **неправдини**: *Не сакам **неправдина**. → Ќ бeа нанесени многу **неправдини**.*

The second sentence, which shows the noun that is zero derived from uncountable to countable, implies that the lexeme **неправдини** means *unjust acts, unjust deeds*, and therefore the implication is that the source lexeme changes its basic meaning *a feature of an unjust person* and refers to *something done in an unjust way*.

When the uncountable, abstract noun **убавина** is used as countable, then the abstract meaning is changed into concrete:

убавина → **убавина**: *Ова место е вистинска убавина.* → *Не може да се има секоја убавина.*

This means, as opposed to the implication which the uncountable noun has that the place incites pleasant feelings, with the metaphorical transfer, the countable feature of the noun refers to a nice, pleasant thing and thus connects the known, the first meaning with the derived one, zero derived and metaphorical.

Other such lexemes which when used in singular mean abstract concepts, and when changed in plural give concrete meaning to the denoted thing are the following:

чест → **чест**: *За мене голема чест е тоа што сум поканет.* → *многу честови ми направија*

жал → **жал**: *Тој западна во голем жал.* → *сета е во жалови од несреќата*

храброст → **храброст**: *Немам храброст да го сторам тоа.* → *... исчезна во*

непознатите далечини

мудриот тек на очите со

длабочина на модра река

низ која пловеа визији храбрости

уплави ... П. p.115

тага → **тага**: *чувствува тага* → *Затвори ме со шестар*

во една скромна квадрататура,

да има поличка за мечтите

и сеф секретен

за тегоби и таги! Г.Г.Н. p.42

беда → **беда**: *живее во беда* → *Бедите ѝ го скратија животот.*

срам → **срам**: *голем срам е ова* → *за црни срамови*

страв → **страв**: *страв од темница* → *за триста стравови*

In the metaphorisation of the noun **чест** in **честови**, from the basic uncountable noun **чест**, which means respect, consideration and special relationship, on the basis of this knowledge about the lexeme and the experience from its use, the zero derived countable noun **чест** in plural is formed, which implies increased amount of respect and consideration.

There are nouns that are naturally uncountable because they denote some *substance or material* and cannot be counted, but in supplying appropriate context they are being zero

derived in countable. Such lexemes that denote material nouns are illustrated with the following examples:

зејтин → **зејтин**: *Стави малку зејтин!* → *Купив еден зејтин.*

вода → **вода**: *снима вода* → *Дајте ми две води!*

сок → **сок**: *сок од портокал* → *Донесете три сока!*

пиво → **пиво**: *Нашата пивара произведува најдобро пиво.* → *Седнаа и испија неколку пива.*

млеко → **млеко**: *кисело млеко* → *Купивме три млека.*

кафе → **кафе**: *Не пијам кафе.* → *Нарачавме две кафиња.*

These cases show the uncountable noun on the left when it only refers to the substance, but when it is zero derived in countable, as it is shown in the examples on the right, it doesn't imply great amount; it rather implies a countable feature of the substance (the substance can be counted) denoted with the noun. To this end, before the zero derived countable noun that can be used in both singular and plural, it is obligatory to use a countable adjective or a quantifier that tells us about how big quantity we talk. This is in accordance with what Close (1975) emphasizes - that making the uncountable noun countable is accompanied by a number used as a quantifier or a plural form.

Thus, in all these examples, it is easy to make the transfer from uncountable to countable noun and we comprehend that the adjectival modification given before the zero derived countable nouns stands for the container in which the product is sold or served. In the examples with **зејтин** and **пиво** we refer to bottles, with **вода** and **сок** we understand it is glasses that are being referred to and in which the drinks ordered are served, in the case with **млеко**, there can be reference to carton or plastic packaging depending on what the product is offered in, as we know the substance **кафе** is served in cups.

These nouns which denote some *material or substance* can be zero derived in lexemes that, with their plural form, imply only big amount of the substance, but they don't aim at showing in what number the substance exists. Such are the following examples:

вода → **вода**: *студена вода* → *се капеа во студените води на реката*

коса → **коса**: *убава коса* → *распушти долги коси*

вино → **вино**: *домашно вино* → *Македонија има убави вина.*

масло → **масло**: *масло за јадење* → *етерични масла*

тутун → **тутун**: *сади тутун* → *Тутуни садиш, тутуни нижеш, тутуни таговоно у монопол редиш.*

грав → **грав**: *продава грав* → *Гравовите се посадија, дојде редот на*

*царевките, нинерките.*¹

In these examples, the use of the plural of nouns, which are naturally uncountable, draws our attention to several different kinds of the respective substance or to its abundance or extension. As in the previous examples, in the following ones too, we notice that besides the suffix *-и*, also *-ови* can be used for plural, when by transforming the naturally uncountable noun into countable and by using it in plural, we do not refer to the ability of the concept to be counted, to the substance or to the material like in the previous subgroup, but we allude to their *quantity*, that is, *amount*:

крв → **крв**: *многу крв изгуби* → *како крвови се сторив*

прав → **прав**: *прав и пепел* → *правови се кренаа*

песок → **песок**: *жежжок песок* → *златни песоци*

The first two of the above mentioned lexemes are monosyllabic nouns that on the left are used in their usual, singular form, while in the sentence on the right are used in plural formed with the suffix *-ови*, which, on its own, is typical of masculine gender. The last noun **песок** is disyllabic and in plural the consonant *-к* is changed in *-ц*. This kind of plural use does not refer us to the number of the noun, but we take the object in its uniqueness, collectiveness and, tending to enrich the structure with expressive implication, we emphasise the presence and the amount of the concept, that is, of the object we are talking about. Thereby, with the newly derived lexemes as countable we don't refer to kinds of *крв*, *прав* and *песок*, but to the big amount of a certain object or substance, something that is especially emphasized by using the source lexeme in plural and by zero deriving the target element. Therefore, in our examples, the semantic interpretation is that the person has lost a lot of blood and there had been a lot of dust and sand.

Other examples of this sort, which are naturally uncountable and are transformed into countable nouns when they form plural regularly, are the following:

дожд → **дожд**: *силен дожд* → *поројни дождови*

снег → **снег**: *Врне снег.* → *фатија снегови*

бура → **бура**: *голема бура* → *...тој – мојот другар, ветре мил,*

што ловел бури, ... М.М. p.64

ветер → **ветер**: *јужен ветер* → *задуваа силни ветрови*

простор → **простор**: *голем простор* → *...сега ко смирен облак над твоите*

простори чекам ... А.Д. p.52

студ → **студ**: *Голем студ фати.* → *...спомените назад во потиснатите*

секавања за студовите и за

¹ In the last two examples the context for the sentences on the right is taken from B. Koneski (Б. Конески, 1967: 220)

бисерните води на Водици... П.р. 114

луња → луња: луња и силно невреме → ...мртов си дабу ми те пресекоа

секирите на годините сечилата на

патилата оти ги разлутуи луњите

и виорите... П. р.115

These examples show nouns that together with their singular form clearly refer to collectiveness, but the role of the plural here is for the speaker to intensify what is being said and to stress his/her creativity. It is not a coincidence that for most of the examples the context is taken from poetry, because the creation of poetic expression is free of rules and unlimited.

Here, the association link makes the hearer connect the condition or the substance with the multiplicity, the diversity and the excessiveness of the denoted thing. As far as the morphological aspect is concerned, the zero derived noun within the same, lexical group of nouns, by forming plural agrees with the plural form of the verb, while it also accepts the article without any obstructions.

Saeed (1997) uses the terms **source** and **target** for the starting and the resulting lexeme, when talking about the members of the lexemes, about participants in the process and when explaining the parts of the metaphor - notion that lies in the basis of the process of zero derivation.

The understanding of the new lexeme is due to the metaphor that makes it easier for the people to connect the new thing with what they already know, that is, with their behaviour and experience of the world. Lakoff and Johnson (1980), like the cognitive linguists, state that metaphor is the main instrument for the semantic expansion of a word, which maps the meaning of a lexeme from one to another domain.

2.3 Zero Derivation from Proper to Common Noun

In Macedonian, as a separate and specific group of nouns which change their subgroup by zero affix and by accepting inflectional suffixes when they are being transformed into common nouns are the proper ones. According to their character, they are personal names; they name people and geographic concepts and specify them as the only ones. This subgroup of proper nouns doesn't recognize plural, but with their use in plural they change their own subtype and become common nouns. Through the plural form, the zero derived nouns from proper to common nouns refer to several people or places of one type, when the derived lexeme will have similar characteristics to the source, singular, self-determined noun. Actually, right on the basis of this similarity, the speaker performs the process of metaphorisation, and by following the transfer path carries the meaning from one to another domain.

In continuation, there are examples with context taken from poetry, but only the zero derived lexemes are given, because it is proper nouns that are being analysed here, and they are not

listed in a dictionary:

Ти пресветли Абдул Хамиде,

...помалку смрт и повеќе □ стоедна □ дај ни,

*повеќе **Бејас-кули** и **Дијар-бекири**,*

*повеќе **Куришумли-анови** и **Подрум калиња**,*

*повеќе **Фезани**, оти ние ги облагородуваме пустините. А.Д. p.57*

*... Да ги замолиме **Џонсоните**, **Никсоните**,*

Да станат пеачи на шансони ... Г.Г.Н. p.29

Липај со гурбетчиите што роден кат

Напуштаат, барајќи леб низ светот непознат,

*Од пустине **Америки** до припекон Австралија ... Г.Г.Н. p.60*

... момче кажуј за смелите мажи

за октомври славен, за октомври светол

*за **Илинден** втор. П.р.34*

... и доста среќа за десет дни во месецот,

*за сите оние локални **Тартифи**, за секој маалски **Јаго**, ... Г.Г.Н.p.13*

Водно останува вон ова песнозборје

*А сите **Китки**, **Бигли**, **Бабун**и и **Пелистери***

Влегуваат во време неопходно ... С.р.25

... да туркаме и нуркаме

По изописите и изобатите

*На сопствените **Вавилони**. С.р.34*

Ој, Македонијо на конкурси и конгреси,

*на два **Илиндена** и филмови нетитлувани*

на македонски, ... Г.Г.Н. p.16

Не тагувај татковино, врагот нека се плаши,

*Ќе родиш нови **Кузмени** за да те штитат. П.р.147*

For all these cases the semantic transfer is being analysed through the last example, where the proper noun **Кузман** refers to the person *Кузман Јосифовски-Питу* and by singling it out as only one is zero derived in a common noun, but besides its plural form it is still written in

capitals. The meaning transfer is from the fighter **Кузман** to people who will resemble him; brave, strong, tireless and self-sacrificing, they don't have to have the same name and actually they will not, but the speaker names them according to the similarity with the prototype, which in our case is the proper noun. Namely, it is the plural inflectional suffix which indicates to us that what we get is not a personal name, but a common noun since the concept or the person is not one but several.

The zero derived common noun from a proper one not only can take plural, but it can also be determined and take articles, which, actually, is an unbeatable characteristic of common nouns. This inflectional intervention can be seen in the following examples:

*Многу нѝ е убава **Македонија**ва.*

***Скопје**во е најпразно во лето.*

***Петревците** го напуштија селото.*

In the first two examples, with articles on the zero derived lexemes, the speaker's emotional relation with the noun is shown, and the speaker experiences **Македонија** and **Скопје** as close and dear places, because they are names of a country and a city, while with the last example of the sentences above, the speaker points to several referents that are named **Петре** and who are close and familiar to him. This is the reason why the zero derived noun has both plural and article forms.

From morphological point of view, this type of zero derived common noun forms plural in its own usual way, while the capital spelling of this lexeme reminds us of the source which is a starting point in the derivational process and of the relation of the new element with the old, self-specified, personal noun. However, the role of plural in these cases is only grammatical, that is, it helps the lexeme to be realized in the language, and it is not inflectional when for the purpose of the process we intervene in the word form. Otherwise, in these nouns too, poetic expression is used to supply context and present the distribution and the syntactic function of the new lexeme whose type is changed.

2.4 Zero Derivation from Static to Dynamic Noun

Another subgroup that shows the zero derivation in Macedonian within the noun group is the transformation of the noun from naturally static into dynamic one, whereby there is a change without using inflectional suffixes, but by using the verb *сум* in imperative. It means that the change in the type of the noun is not noticeable at the level of an independent element, but in realization of the word analysed in the sentence context.

We can consider the following examples:

херој → **херој**: *Отсекогаш си била **херој**, знам дека ќе успееш. → Те молам, биди **херој** и издржи ги овие моменти.*

инаетчика → **инаетчика**: *Таа е голема **инаетчика**, со неа не може да се разговара нормално. → Не биди **инаетчика**, сослушај ме!*

будала → **будала**: *Мора да е будала итот не знае што прави.* → *Не биди будала, размисли убаво!*

маж → **маж**: *Одеднаш на вратата се појави непознат маж.* → *Биди маж и спротивстави се!*

давеж → **давеж**: *Понастрана од неа, таа е вистински давеж.* → *Не биди давеж, остави ме на мира!*

This shows that the Macedonian language is very productive when it comes to transforming the noun in a way that manifests the speaker's creativity. Namely, from the use of the noun in its basic, unchanged form, which names the notion, object or the person and gives them one, unique general name, through cognitive transfer and semantic expansion, the speaker zero derives a dynamic noun that has an absolutely same form as the source static one, but now it is done by giving specific modification to the person by using imperative.

Thus, in the first example on the left the noun **херој** modifies the person in general, the person who the speakers talk about in all situations until now has acted heroically, and has shown that he/she deserves to be called a hero, while on the right, the use of the verb *сум* in the appropriate imperative type specifies the noun and encourages the person to behave heroically in a particular situation. The same analysis applies to the other examples when on the right by connecting the naturally static noun with a specific situation, together with the new, dynamic noun, an affirmative or negative form of the verb *сум* in imperative can be used. Otherwise, our lexemes given before the sentences are nouns in masculine or feminine gender, but they can also be nouns in neuter gender, and in plural, without limitations.

3. Conclusion

The process of zero derivation in Macedonian is productive in many directions, types and aspects, but when analyzing it in terms of the zero derivational changes that occur within the noun category, the previous discussion should have convinced us in its existence in Macedonian and in the importance of the process for this Slavic language structure.

Namely, when zero deriving an uncountable noun from a countable one in Macedonian, the semantic transfer is taken from one unit or element that can be equally used in both singular and plural to a part of something, part of substance or material that appears only in singular form. The reversed direction of the process, from uncountable to countable, from a part of the notion denotes a whole one, thus making the target, countable lexeme a concrete one and providing it with a suitable context.

When transforming the static to a dynamic noun's through zero derivation, the speaker transfers the static, general, usual comprehension of the noun to the dynamic, specific, individual reference of the new, target lexeme whose semantic domain depends on the context in which it is used. The new element requires the hearer or the addressee to behave as the person denoted with the resulting noun would or normally does behave.

In the changes from a proper to a common noun with a zero affix, the corpus taken from the poetry enabled us to analyse the identifying and specifying nouns – proper names written in

a capital letter and denoting a unique person, place, concept, to a common noun, written in a small letter and denoting a general, basic and usual notion.

In all transformations the result of the process accepts all the characteristics of the new type of noun, that is, the uncountable noun isn't used in plural and requires quantifiers to denote the quantity of the noun present, the countable forms plural without limitations, the common noun originating from a proper one is still written in a capital, but accepts the Macedonian plural inflections, making reference to several people, places and concepts of the unique type previously named with a proper noun. The zero derivation from static to dynamic noun requires the noun to be preceded by imperative form of the verb *сум* or use of the verb in progressive aspect.

The whole phenomenon of zero derivation creates new words, expands the vocabulary possibilities, enriches the language, and forms new productive models that find their realisation in the language use. One word may not exist in the language in a certain moment, but when it appears in a speaker's speech act, either it will be not further used or it can be repeated by several speakers. If repeated, it fights its place in the language and is successfully instilled in the system. In this way and with this word formation, the language becomes more economical, as the expression is shorter, clearer, and easier to say.

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