

Derived Nominals: PROs and cons

The properties of deverbal nominals have played a major role in debates concerning the division of labor between the syntax and the lexicon. Taking these debates as my starting point, I will present evidence that in so-called short deverbal nominals (e.g. *the forming of the team*; *the management of the company*) the morphological operation which combines the verb stem (*form*, *manage*) with the nominal suffix (*-ing*; *-ment*) must apply to the output of verbal passive, complete with complex verbal extended projection and syntactic raising of the internal argument. The conclusion, once in place, makes inevitable the return of (derivational) word-formation rules to the syntax.

Evidence will consist, specifically, of (a) challenging claims that the subject in short passives is some species of silent pronoun, showing it, instead, to pattern with (so-called) implicit arguments in verbal passives; (b) showing that short nominals are available only in otherwise passivizable contexts, and (c) reviewing scope effects which strongly argue for the raising of the internal argument. Finally, I will show that silent pronouns *are* possible as (external) subjects of some derived nominals, but where attested, behave differently from the implicit external argument in short deverbal nominals.