[10] *The problem of nominal sentence: how Hjelmslev refutes Meillet's sentence theory*

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The construction called 'nominal sentence' (also called 'averbal sentence' or 'verbless sentence') is potentially a polemic phenomenon for any linguistic theory, especially in syntax. In modern linguistics, the first 'structural' studies on nominal sentences back to a set of works by French linguists, led by Antoine Meillet, which provided a doctrine about this subject in first decades of 20th century. In his Mémoire on nominal sentences, Meillet aims to show that the nominal sentence (in Indo-European) is a construction that coexists with the sentences containing the verb 'to be' and determines the conditions where using the nominal sentence is sometimes privileged to 'to be' sentences. Later, in 1948, Louis Hjelmslev focused on 'nominal sentence' in his Glossematic theory as a theoretically problematic object. His work consists of a radical critique of long-termed presuppositions and concepts that supposed to be the essential elements of syntax. By nominal sentence, he means all sentences without any verb in content. His innovative analysis of nominal sentence leads to an alternative foundation of syntax in which the very notions of 'sentence', 'verb' and 'noun' are subjected to profound reconstructions. After a sketch of Meillet's study on nominal sentences, we will introduce a list of theoretical statements on sentence theory using his other essays. Hjelmslev refers to this set of statements as 'classical doctrine'. Then we will examine Hjelmslev's critical arguments in detail and we will see how the results of his analysis potentially lead to a new approach in syntactic theory of sentence. In addition, Hjelmslev's study on nominal sentence provides us with an example par excellence of how Hjelmslevian paradigm deals with classical theories and makes its way to an immanent general theory through setting up a calculus of notions.