Use of Ing-Formed and Derived Verbal Nominalization in American English: A Survey Applied to Native American English Speakers

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Abstract : Research on nominalizations in English can be traced back to at least the 1960s and even centered in the field nowadays. At the very beginning, the discussion was about the relationship between verbs and nouns, but then it moved to the distinct senses embodied in different forms of nominals, namely, various types of nominalizations. This paper tries to address the issue that how speakers perceive different forms of verbal nouns, and what might influence their perceptions. The data are collected through a self-designed questionnaire targeted at native speakers of American English, and the employment of the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA). The results show that semantic differences between different forms of nominals do play a role in people's preference to certain form than another. But it still awaits more explorations to see how the frequency of usage is interrelates to this issue.