**Formal Writing 1: Nominalization (Course: EAP, Fall 2023)**

**Formal Writing Rules – Avoid:**

1. Colloquial Language or Slang (okay, guy)
2. Abbreviated Forms (isn’t, don’t) info, a.s.a.p. numbers except dates
3. Personal or emotional language
4. Brackets, Dashes, bullet points, parentheses
5. Shift verb tenses: She says she *will visit* when she *called*.
6. Too ‘wordy’ or strong opinions
7. Exclamation points, questions or commands
8. Misuse of italics and underlining
9. Never say ‘like’ – prefer ‘such as’
10. Do not leave out words: hope to see you soon/We hope to see you soon.

**Nominalisation: Why is it important in academic writing?**

It creates variety in writing. **But do not over-use it.**

It prevents you from repeating the same verbs over and over again.

It conveys an objective, impersonal tone.

It can make a text more concise because a lot of information goes into a few words. It sounds more scientific.

As a consequence, writing becomes more abstract and more formal.

**Exercise: Nominalisation**. Compare the sentences.

1a/The temperature of the planet is rising as a result of global warming.

1b/The rise of the planet’s temperature is a result of global warming.

2a/A team of scientists analysed the data in the lab before they wrote the paper.

2b/The analysis of data by a team of scientists in the lab was undertaken before writing the report.

**Exercise**: De-nominalise the sentences or the opposite.

1/The failure of local economy to sustain and stimulate economic growth resulted in foreign intervention.

2/One of the assumptions on inflation is that the figures will not rise.

3/We evaluated the results and this explains the loss in revenue.

4/The primary issue to create value in a business is profits.

5/ I analysed the data and it showed that the drug use had decreased.

6/The number of people eating junk increased significantly in 2020.

7/The distribution of wealth around the world is very unfair.

8/The mistakes in the sentence were removed, which made it look better.

9/If you practice writing you usually achieve a better result.

10/He wants to act because he says it gives him a purpose in life.

11/Negligence on the part of the doctors was the reason for the machine’s failure.

12/Critics make a distinction between round and flat characters.

13/It is my suggestion that you engage in the application of these principles.

14/When he made his declaration, I expressed agreement with him.