Nominalization and nominal style

Nominalisation and nominal style are typical of many scientific, political and administrative texts.

**Spoken language**, on the other hand, is characterized by the **predominance of verbal constructions** and reliance on the verb phrase in information processing.

Consider the following examples:

**Verbal style**: The government *spent much more* in the last quarter than was planned, whereas it *spent considerably less* in the previous one.

**Nominal style**: Government spending *showed positive growth* in the last quarter, in contrast to its *sharp fall* in the previous one.

*In the morning*, they *quarrelled over pay*. (verbal)
*In the morning*, a quarrel broke out *over pay*. (nominal)
The quarrel *over pay* broke out *in the morning*. (nominal-modification)
The quarrel *in the morning* broke out *over pay*. (nominal-modification)

He *refuses* to help – his *refusal* to help *(a ‘deverbal noun’ is derived from a verb)*

The reviewers *criticized* his play in a hostile manner. (verbal)
The reviewers’ *hostile criticizing* of his play (nominal)
The reviewers’ *hostile criticism* of his play (nominal)

**-ING-FORMS**

All verbs do not have a corresponding deverbal abstract noun, e.g. *lie*. In such cases, we can usually make a deverbal noun ending in –*ing*, e.g. *lying*. Ing-forms are very versatile and can often be used as concrete nouns, abstract nouns, deverbal nouns and verbs.

Using syntactic and semantic criteria, what do you say about the following:

A noun or a verb?

I dislike some *paintings* of Browns.
The *painting* of Brown is very skilful.
Brown’s *painting* is very skilful.
I dislike Brown *painting* his daughter.
Brown was *painting* his daughter.