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Annotation: This article deals with the structural and semantic characteristics of the Adjective in the English language, its linguistic presentation in the language, its morphological composition, its syntactic functions, types of adjectives from semantic point of view.

Key words: the adjective, morphological composition, compound adjectives, relative adjectives, qualitative adjectives, syntactical function, combinability, semantic features of the adjective.

In The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language, adjectives are characterized as words “that alter, clarify, or adjust the meaning contributions of nouns”¹, in order to allow for the expression of “finer gradations of meaning” than are possible through the use of nouns alone. At a general level, adjectives gain this capability in virtue of two main characteristics, one of which is semantic and one of which is syntactic. On the semantic side, they introduce properties. On the syntactic side, they are able to function as modifiers, and so may with some restrictions combine recursively with nouns.

According to their morphological composition adjectives can be subdivided into simple, derived and compound. In the case of simple adjectives such as kind, new, fresh, we cannot always tell whether a word is an adjective by looking at it in isolation, as the form does not always indicate its status. Derived adjectives are recognizable morphologically. They consist of one root morpheme and one or more derivational morphemes - suffixes or prefixes. Some adjectives are former participles and therefore retain participial suffixes: charming, interesting, cunning, daring.

The suffixes -ly, -ed, -ful, -ary, -al, -y are not confined to adjectives only. Thus, many adverbs are derived from adjectives by means of the suffix -ly (strongly, bitterly, quickly). Most of the verbs form their past tense and participle II with -ed. There are many nouns with the suffixes -al (festival, scandal, criminal), -ary (boundary, missionary), -ful (mouthful, handful), -y (sonny, doggy), etc.

Compound adjectives consist of at least two stems. They may be of several patterns:

a) consisting of a noun + an adjective:

colour-blind, grass-green;

b) consisting of an adjective + an adjective:

deaf-mute;

c) consisting of an adverb + a participle:

well-known, newly-repaired, much-praised;

d) Consisting of a noun/pronoun + a verbal:

all-seeing, heart-breaking, high-born, high-flown, man-made;

e) consisting of an adjective/adverb + a noun + the suffix -ed:

blue-eyed, long-legged, fair-haired, down-hearted.

All the adjectives are traditionally divided into two large subclasses: qualitative and relative.

The English adjective from the grammatical point of view has neither number, nor case, nor gender distinctions. Some adjectives have, however, degrees of comparison, which make part of the morphological system of a language. Thus, the English adjective differs materially not only from such highly inflected languages as Russian, Latin, and German, where the adjectives have a rather complicated system of forms, but even from Modern French, which has preserved number and gender distinctions to the present day (cf. masculine singular grand, masculine plural grands, feminine singular grande, feminine plural grandes 'large').

¹ Huddleston and Pullum Cambridge Grammar of the English language. Cambridge 2002, p. 526.

By what signs do we recognize an adjective as such in Modern English. In most cases this can be done only by taking into account semantic and syntactical phenomena. But in some cases, that is for certain adjectives, derivative suffixes are significant, too. Among these are the suffix – less (as in useless), the suffix – like (as in ghostlike), and a few others. Occasionally, however, though a suffix often appears in adjectives, it cannot be taken as a certain proof of the word being an adjective, because the suffix may also make part of a word belonging to another part of speech. Thus, the suffix – full would seem to be typically adjectival, as is its antonym – less. In fact we find the suffix – full in adjectives often enough, as in beautiful, useful, purposeful, meaningful, etc. But alongside of these we also find spoonful, mouthful, handful, etc., which are nouns.

On the whole, the number of adjectives which can be recognized, as such by their suffix seems to be insignificant as compared with the mass of English adjectives. All the adjectives are traditionally divided into two large subclasses: qualitative and relative.

Relative adjectives express such properties of a substance as are determined by the direct relation of the substance to some other substance.

E.g: wood — a wooden hut; mathematics — mathematical precision; history — a historical event;

table — tabular presentation; colour — coloured postcards;

surgery — surgical treatment; the Middle Ages — mediaeval rites.

The nature of this "relationship" in adjectives is best revealed by definitional correlations. Eg: a wooden hut — a hut made of wood; a historical event — an event referring to a certain period of history; surgical treatment — treatment consisting in the implementation of surgery; etc.

Qualitative adjectives, as different from relative ones, denote various qualities of substances which admit of a quantitative estimation, i.e. of establishing their correlative quantitative measure. The measure of a quality can be estimated as high or low, adequate or inadequate, sufficient or insufficient, optimal or excessive. Eg: an awkward situation — a very awkward situation; a difficult task — too difficult a task; an enthusiastic reception — rather an enthusiastic reception; a hearty welcome — not a very hearty welcome; etc.

Syntactically Adjectives are combined with several parts of speech. Adjectives are distinguished by a specific combinability with nouns, which they modify, if not accompanied by adjuncts, usually in pre-position, and occasionally in postposition; by a combinability with link-verbs, both functional and notional; by a combinability with modifying adverbs. If there are several premodifying adjectives to one headword they have definite positional assignments. This order of words is not absolutely fixed, since many adjectives may be either descriptive or limiting, depending on the context. The adjectives are not separated by commas, unless they belong to the different type: a nice little old man. However, if there is more than one adjective of the same type they are separated by commas: nasty, irritable, selfish man.

In the sentence the adjective performs the syntactical functions of an attribute and a predicative. Of the two, the more specific function of the adjective is that of an attribute, since the function of a predicative can be performed by the noun as well. There is, though, a profound difference between the predicative uses of the adjective and the noun which is determined by their native categorial features. Namely, the predicative adjective expresses some attributive property of its noun-referent, whereas the predicative noun expresses various substantival characteristics of its referent, such as its identification or classification of different types. This can be shown on examples analysed by definitional and transformational procedures. Cf:

You talk to people as if they were a group. → You talk to people as if they formed a group. Quite obviously, he was a friend → His behaviour was like that of a friend.

The adjectivids fall into two main grammatical subgroups, namely, the subgroup:

- pluralia tantum {the English, the rich, the unemployed, the uninitiated, etc.);

- singularia tantum (the invisible, the abstract, the tangible, etc.). Semantically, the words of the first subgroup express sets of people (personal multitudes), while the words of the second group express abstract ideas of various types and connotations.

The category of adjectival comparison expresses the quantitative characteristic of the quality of a noun referent, i.e. it gives a relative evaluation of the quantity of a quality. The purely relative nature of the categorial semantics of comparison is reflected in its name.

The category is constituted by the opposition of the three forms known under the heading of degrees of comparison: the basic form (positive degree), having no features of comparison; the comparative degree form, having the feature of restricted superiority (which limits the comparison to two elements only); the superlative degree form, having the feature of unrestricted superiority.

It should be noted that the meaning of unrestricted superiority is in-built in the superlative degree as such, though in practice this form is used in collocations imposing certain restrictions on the effected comparison; thus, the form in question may be used to signify restricted superiority, namely, in cases where a limited number of referents are compared. Eg.: Johnny was the strongest boy in the company.

In conclusion we may summarize that the adjective expresses the semantics of property of a substance. Each adjective used in the text presupposes relation to some noun the property of whose referent it denotes, such as its material, color, dimensions, position, state, and other characteristics both permanent and temporary. Unlike nouns, adjectives do not possess a full nominative value. At a general level, adjectives gain two main characteristics: semantic and syntactic. On the semantic side, adjectives introduce properties.

On the syntactic side, adjectives are able to function as modifiers, and so may combine with nouns. The English adjective from the grammatical point of view has neither number, nor case, nor gender distinctions. Some adjectives have, however, degrees of comparison, which make part of the morphological system of a language. There are two main roles an adjective may take in a sentence, and the first role is to act as a predicative adjective, in which the adjective modifies a preceding noun as a predicate, linked by a verb.

Adjectives are used to carry the specific meaning we intend to convey in many different ways. It means that the same adjective can have more than one meaning depending on the context. It is not the same in all situations. The adjectives of quality have the ability as to «metamorphose» in their implications once their context has been changed.

Syntactically Adjectives are combined with several parts of speech. Adjectives are distinguished by combinability with nouns, which they modify, if not accompanied by adjuncts, usually in pre-position, and occasionally in postposition; by a combinability with link-verbs, both functional and notional; by a combinability with modifying adverbs. The adjectives are not separated by commas, unless they belong to the different type: a nice little orchard.

In the sentence the adjective performs the syntactical functions of an attribute and a predicative. The more specific function of the adjective is an attribute, since the function of a predicative can be performed by the noun as well. There is, though, a profound difference between the predicative uses of the adjective and the noun which is determined by their native categorial features. The predicative adjective expresses some attributive property of its noun-referent.

Semantic features of the Adjective is that the adjective expresses the categorial semantics of property of a substance. It means characteristics both permanent and temporary. It follows from this that, unlike nouns, adjectives do not possess a full nominative value. Indeed, words like short, hospitable, fragrant cannot effect any self-dependent nominations; as units of informative sequences they exist only in collocations showing what is short, who is hospitable, what is fragrant.

The semantically bound character of the adjective is stressed in English by the use of the pro-substitute one in the that each adjective used in the text presupposes relation to some noun the property of whose referent it denotes, such as its material, colour, dimensions, position, state. Adjectives are distinguished by a specific combinability with nouns, which they modify, if not accompanied by adjuncts, usually in pre-position, and occasionally in postposition; by a combinability with link-verbs, both functional and notional; by a combinability with modifying adverbs.

The external structure of the Constitution describes its relationship with other sources of law, the totality of relations, its place and role in the legal system and its significance in the system of social and normative regulation in society.

The article presents the role of family, forming system of upbringing, traditional-educational system and traditions in Uzbekistan.

In an article consistently revealing the principles of the Bologna process for measuring the quality of education, the dynamics of internationalization and the logic of integration in European higher education and in Eurasia.

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