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LEXICO-SEMANTICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF ADJECTIVE

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Abstract: *The object of our investigation is adjectives. The definition of the adjective is a word expressing a quality of a substance by limiting its meaning.*

Adjectives differ in many ways. We examine their semantic and syntactic characteristics. Semantically, adjectives can belong to different classes. Syntactically, adjectives can be used in attribute and predicative function. An adjective modifies a noun. An adjective usually precedes a noun which it modifies. For example: "The truck-shaped balloon floated over the treetops." An adjective can be modified by an adverb, too. In the sentence "I'm terribly sorry." For example, the adverb "terribly" modifies the adjective "sorry."

Key words: Definition, its lexical meaning, syntactic functions of adjectives

Açar sözlər: Tərif, onun leksik mənası, sifətlərin sintaktik funksiyaları

Ключевые слова: Определение, его лексическое значение, синтаксические функции прилагательных

The adjective is a word expressing a quality of a substance. The adjective is a 'describing' word. The main syntactic role of adjective is to qualify a noun or noun phrase, giving more information about the object signified. In the concept of quality of a substance we include not only colour of objects (e.g. red, green, yellow), size (e.g. big, huge, small), age (e.g. old, young), opinions of people (e.g. nice, beautiful, tough), but also describing actions (e.g. fast, slow, friendly) etc. In speech these types of adjectives are treated in different ways, so one, who does not know ways of treatment, can make mistakes in his speech. Standing on such ground, we considered the theme of the work actual enough to make investigation.

In English the adjective has no number, case or gender distinctions. In connection with that a questionnaire: by what signs do we then recognize adjectives in Modern English? In most cases it can be done by taking into account semantic and syntactic functions of the adjectives. In some other cases derivational suffixes are significant. Among them there are suffixes "-less, -like," etc. But in certain cases a suffix cannot help to distinguish the adjectives. This is the case, when first and the same suffix can be found both in adjectives and in other parts of speech. E.g.: We can find the suffix "-ful" in the suffix adjectives, such as: "useful, beautiful", etc. And alongside it, we can also see the suffix in nouns "spoonful, pocketful", etc. In spite of the fact that the adjectives in Modern English is weak morphologically, still it is distinguished as a separate part of speech characterized by the following features:

1) the lexico-grammatical meaning of attributes of substances or we may say that they express property of things /persons/;

2) the morphological category of the degrees of comparison;

3) the characteristic combinability with nouns, (ex.: high building), with link verbs (ex.: is brave, it is red,), with adverbs (ex.: very clear); they combine with nouns, as it has already been stated above, they express the properties of things. The words that express things we call nouns. It seems to be important to differentiate the combinability of a word with other words and reference of a word of a part of speech to another part of speech. We put this because adjectives modify nouns but they can combine with adverbs, link verbs and the word "one":

A white horse. The horse is white. ;

The sun rose red. The sun rose extremely red. ;

4) typical stem-building affixes, such as: -ful, -less, -ish, -ous, -ive, ir-, un-, -pre-, inetc the syntactic function of attributes and predicatives [12,24].

According to their lexical meaning adjectives fall into groups:

1) **Qualitative adjectives**;

2) **Relative adjectives** [12,25].

1. Qualitative adjectives denote qualities of a substance directly as size, *shape, colour, physical and mental qualities*, such as: large room, long way, little bird, wide yard, round table, high mountain, strong man, important question, beautiful woman, blue eyes, warm weather, etc.

Qualitative adjectives, as different from relative ones, denote various qualities of substances which admit of a quantitative estimation. The measure of a quality can be estimate as high or low, adequate or inadequate, sufficient or insufficient, optimal or excessive. In this connection, the ability of an adjective to form degrees of comparison is usually taken as a formal sign of its qualitative character, in opposition to a relative adjective which is understood as incapable of forming degrees of comparison by definition.

2. Relative adjectives denote qualities of a substance not directly but through their relation (a) to *materials*, (b) to *place*, (c) to *time*, (d) to *some action*, such as:

(a) wooden door, silken dress, woollen gloves;

(b) Italian singer, African language, Asian music;

(c) weekly payments, monthly meeting; (d) preparatory meetings, rotatory saw.

Relative adjectives is made up with these suffixes: -ly, -an, -en, -ical, -ic, -ish, etc. For example: weekly, Italian, golden, syntactic, analytical, reddish.

Relative adjectives express qualities which characterize an object through its relation to another object: woolen gloves, wooden house, Siberian wheat.

Relative adjectives have **no degrees of comparison**. In English the number of relative adjectives is limited. A few relative adjectives are formed from nouns by means of the suffix "en" (wooden, woolen); some relative adjectives are formed from nouns by the suffix "-ly" (daily, motherly); many relative adjectives are converted from nouns (silk, gold, cotton) [8,32].

Adjectivized nouns are also freely used with the meaning of relative adjectives: a summer day, a wood flower, the Moscow theatres.

There is no hard and fast line of between qualitative and relative adjectives. A relative adjective may acquire the meaning of a qualitative one, example:

a silver watch (relative adjective) - a silver stream (qualitative adjective); an iron bridge (relative adjective)- an iron will (qualitative adjective).

While speaking about lexical meanings of adjectives we must also speak about **the words of the category of state**.

The words of the category of state denote the *temporary state or condition* of persons or things. E.g.:

But Johnny and Paddy were *asleep*, the rose-red glow had *paled*, bats were *flying*, and still the bathers had not returned. (*Mansfield*)

As regards *form* the words of the category of state have the *prefix a-* : *ablaze, afire, aflame, afoot, afraid, asleep, alike*. etc.

They are mainly used in the function of a *predicative*:

"He is *awake*!." Sally cried. (*Saxton*);

That was all right in the daytime, but while Alice was putting her to bed she grew suddenly *afraid*. (Mansfield)

Words of the category of state may be used as **objective predicatives**: She was saying that she intended to leave him entirely alone again. (Wilson)

Words of the category of state may be sometimes used as **attributes**. But unlike adjectives they cannot be placed before the words they modify. As **attributes** they may be only used in **post-position**. E.g.:

The father and mother dolls, who sprawled very stiff as though they had fainted in the drawing-room, and their two little *children asleep* upstairs were really too big for the doll's house. (Mansfield)

4) Words of the category of state can be modified by *adverbs of degree*: Sally, who had been *half asleep* with her head on Eddie's lap, woke up and began chanting. (Saxton); He immediately came *fully awake*. (Heym)

2. Morphological category of adjectives – the category of the degrees of comparison.

There are *three* degrees of comparison of qualitative adjectives. They are:

1. The positive degree;
2. The comparative degree;
3. The superlative degree.

The Positive Degree of the Adjective – The common or basic degree is called positive which is expressed by the absence of a marker. Therefore we say that it is expressed by a zero morpheme. The positive degree of the adjective is not marked, i.e. there is no morphological element showing that the adjective is in the positive degree. In the positive degree English adjectives consist of only the root, such as: long, short, sharp, blue, yellow, red, wide, narrow etc. [12, 24].

In the *positive degree* adjectives can be used with the conjunctions **as... as, not so ...as, not as ...as** and show whether the quality of the compared substances is equal or unequal. The conjunction **as ... as** is used when the quality of compared substances is equal in quality, and it is translated into Azerbaijani “kimi, eyni”.

The conjunctions **not so ... as** and **not as ... as** are used when the quality of compared substances is not equal, and it is translated into the language Azerbaijani “kimi deyil”, such as:

We can note that in positive degree we can use adverbs: *such, quite, too, so, very, rather, how, enough* as key words [9, 54].

The Comparative and Superlative Degrees of the Adjective. – So far as to the comparative and superlative degrees they have special material means. At the same time we'll have to admit that not all the qualitative adjectives form their degrees in the similar way. There are three ways of forming the degrees of comparison of native adjectives:

- the synthetic way;
- the analytic way;
- the suppletive (irregular) way [12,25].

From the point of view of forming of the comparative and superlative degrees of comparison the qualitative adjectives must be divided into four groups. The choice of this or that way to form the degrees of comparison of qualitative adjectives mostly depends upon the morphological phonetic composition of the adjective:

1) All the monosyllabic qualitative adjectives form their comparative and superlative degrees in the first way, i.e. synthetically, by taking the suffix -er in comparative degree and -est in the superlative degree.

Disyllabic qualitative adjectives ending in **y** or one of the letter combinations: **-er, -ow, -le, ise, some**, and in which the stress falls on the last syllable, such as:

Comparative degree	Superlative degree
happy + er = happier	happy + est = happiest
clever+ er = cleverer	clever + est= cleverest
narrow + er = narrower	narrow + est= narrowest
simple + er = simpler	simple + est= simplest
concise + er = conciser	concise +est= concisest
handsome + er =handsomer	handsome+ est =handsomest

Degrees of comparison of the above mentioned qualitative adjectives can be formed analytically, too i.e. by using **more** and **most** before these adjectives. Accordingly it is possible to say **cleverer, cleverest** or **more clever** and **most clever**.

3) Polysyllabic qualitative adjectives form their degrees of comparison analytically, i.e. by using **more** before the adjective in the comparative degree and **most** before the adjective in the superlative degree, such as:

Comparative degree

most beautiful.
most interesting
most difficult,

Superlative degree

more beautiful
more interesting
more difficult

4) Some qualitative adjectives form their degrees of comparison in the third way, i.e. in regularly. These adjectives are:

The adjectives that form their degrees **by means of suppletion** good - better - the best
bad - worse - the worst
many - more - the most;
much - more - the most;
little – less – the least;

The comparative is followed by the conjunction "**than**", for example: "Now I am in the garden at the back, where the fruit clusters on the trees, riper and richer than fruit has ever been since in any other garden" (Ch. Dickens) **Than** is translated into Azerbaijani as "-dan, -dən". E.g.: My room is larger than yours. – Mənim otağım sizinkindən daha genişdir.

The adjective in superlative degree is always used with article "**the**". E.g. : She is the tallest girl in our class. If in the sentence, about the place of the spoken thing or the exact time of action is shown then the adjective used before that object, that noun is in superlative degree. For example: in the world, in the building, in the school, at the baker's, to the stationer's, etc.

If in the sentence the combination **of all,among,one of,ever,never** is used, the superlative degree is chosen.

3. Syntactic functions of adjectives.

Syntactically, adjectives can be classified with respect to the **function** features: Adjectives can appear as *attribute*, as noun modifiers inside a noun phrase (NP) as shown in: a happy person, or in *predicative* position as a complement of a verb like *be, seem, consider*, etc., as shown in: They are happy, they consider him happy, he seems happy, etc. [13].

In the function of *attribute* adjectives are part of the noun phrase headed by the noun they modify; for example, *happy* is an attribute in "happy people". In some languages, adjectives precede their nouns; in others, they follow their nouns; and in yet others, it depends on the adjective, or on the exact relationship of the adjective to the noun. In English, as attribute adjectives usually precede their nouns in simple phrases, but often follow their nouns when the adjective is modified or qualified by a phrase acting as an adverb. For example: "I saw three happy kids", and "I saw three kids happy enough to jump up and down with glee."

Predicative adjectives are linked via a link verb or other linking mechanism to the noun or pronoun they modify; for example, *happy* is a predicative adjective in "they are happy" and in "that made me happy." [13].

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SİFƏTİN LEKSİKO-SEMANTİK XÜSUSİYYƏTLƏRİ

Hüseynova Şəhla Ələkbər qızı, Həsənova Səma İmamverdi qızı
Xülasə

Bizim tədqiqatımızın obyektı sifətlərdir. Sifətin tərifı onun mənasını məhdudlaşdırmaq ilə mahiyyətin keyfiyyətini ifadə edən sözdür.

Sifətlər müxtəlif üsullarla fərqlənir. Biz onların semantik və sintaktik xüsusiyyətlərini tədqiq etdik. Sifətlər semantik xüsusiyyətlərə görə müxtəlif sinfə mənsub ola bilər. Sintaktik baxımdan, sifətlər təyin və predikativ funksiyasında işləmə bilirlər. Sifət ismi təyin edir. Sifət təyin etdiyi isimdən adətən əvvəl gəlir. Məsələn: "The *truck-shaped* balloon floated over the treetops." Sifət zərflə ilə də təyin edilə bilər. Məsələn: "I'm *terribly* sorry." – "terribly" zərflə "sorry" sifətini təyin edir.

ЛЕКСИКО-СЕМАНТИЧЕСКАЯ ХАРАКТЕРИСТИКА ПРИЛАГАТЕЛЬНОГО

Гусейнова Шахла Алекпер кызы, Гасанова Сама Имамверди кызы
Резюме

Объект нашего исследования – прилагательные. Определение прилагательного – это слово, которое выражает качество сущности, ограничивая его значение.

Прилагательные различаются по-разному. Мы изучили их семантические и синтаксические особенности. Прилагательные могут принадлежать к разным классам по своим семантическим свойствам. С синтаксической точки зрения прилагательные могут выполнять определяющую и предикативную функции. Прилагательное

определяет существительное. Прилагательное обычно предшествует существительному, которое оно определяет. Например: «Воздушный шар в форме грузовика плыл над верхушками деревьев». Прилагательное также может быть указано с помощью наречия. Например:

«Мне очень жаль». - Наречие «ужасно» определяет прилагательное «извините».

Rəyçi: f.ü.f.d. Əliyeva Kəmalə Rafiq qızı

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