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FUNCTIONS OF ADJECTIVES

Abstract

The syntactic roles of adjectives in English are examined in this work. An adjective in grammar is a word whose primary syntactic function is to modify a noun or pronoun and provide additional context for the noun or pronoun's referent, such as its composition, color, size, placement, condition, and other attributes, both transient and permanent. Adjectives are used as pre-modifiers to directly describe the object or thing they denote. The adjective serves an attributive function when it modifies the noun before it appears, and a predicative function when it modifies the noun after the copula verb "to be" or other connecting verbs. The attributive function is the most frequently used location, according to the syntactic functions result. Predicative position, on the other hand, works well for lengthy descriptions or when an adjective needs a complement that comes after it. However, because predicative position denotes transitory meanings, the frequency is minimal and only a small number of adjectives are recognized. Subject predicatives and object predicatives are the two grammatical roles of predicative adjectives. A copular verb (to be) is enhanced by subject predicatives, which define the nominal expression in the position of the topic. Object predicatives follow a direct object and make a prediction regarding that noun phrase. Predicative adjectives are most common in literature, partly because subject predicative adjective sequences can occasionally be found in fictitious descriptions.

Keywords: *adjective, attributive function, predicative function, subject predicatives, object predicatives*

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Sifətlərin funksiyası

Xülasə

Bu məqalədə ingilis dilində sifətlərin sintaktik rolları araşdırılır. Qrammatikada sifətin əsas sintaktik funksiyası isim və ya əvəzliyi dəyişdirmək, onun tərkibi, rəngi, ölçüsü, yeri, vəziyyəti, həm keçici, həm də qalıcı digər atributları kimi isim və ya əvəzliyin istinadına əlavə konteksti təmin etməkdir. Sifətlər işarə etdikləri obyektə və ya əşyanı birbaşa təsvir etmək üçün əvvəlcədən dəyişdirici kimi istifadə olunur. Sifət adı görünməzdən əvvəl dəyişdirdikdə, atribusiya funksiyasını yerinə yetirir və "to be" bağlayıcı feili və ya digər birləşdirici feillərdən sonra ismi dəyişdirdikdə predikativ funksiyasını yerinə yetirir. Atributiv funksiya sintaktik funksiyaların nəticəsinə görə ən çox istifadə olunan funksiyadır. Digər tərəfdən, predikativ mövqe uzun təsvirlər üçün və ya sifətin özündən sonra gələn tamamlayıcıya ehtiyacı olduqda yaxşı işləyir. Lakin predikativ mövqe keçici mənaları ifadə etdiyi üçün tezlik minimaldır və yalnız az sayda sifət tanınır. Mövzu predikativləri və obyekt predikativləri proqnozlaşdırıcı sifətlərin iki əsas qrammatik roludur. Kopulyar feil (to be) mövzunun mövqeyində nominal ifadəni təyin edən mövzu predikativləri ilə gücləndirilir. Obyekt predikativləri birbaşa obyektə izləyir və həmin isim ifadəsi ilə bağlı proqnoz verir. Predikativ sifətlər ədəbiyyatda ən çox yayılmışdır, çünki predikativ sifət ardıcılığı bəzən uydurma, qismən təsvirlərdə tapıla bilər.

Açar sözlər: sifət, atributiv funksiya, predikativ funksiya, subyekt predikativləri, obyekt predikativləri

Introduction

Function of Attribution In Noun Phrase (NP) structure, adjectives serve as modifiers and are typically constructed immediately before the noun they modify (Huddleston & Pullum, 2005). Adjectives in an NP structure are typically thought of as pre-modifiers. Adjectives are used as pre-modifiers to directly describe the object or thing they denote. The head noun's attribute function tends to endow it with enduring qualities. Moreover, putting the adjective directly in front of the noun helps to reduce the number of words needed. In the syntactic sense, adjectives are regarded as functions that are made up of two parts: predictive and attributional functions. "Adjectives are attributive when they pre-modify the head of a noun phrase; similarly, they are predicative when they function as subject complement or object complement", according to Quirk et al. (1985) (p. 417). Specifically, according to Quirk et al. (1985, p. 417), "adjectives are subject complement not only to noun phrases, but also to clauses", which most likely comprise finite or non-finite clauses. When used to describe "the result of the process denoted by the verb...by using the verb to be", adjectives can be used as the object complement of clauses (Quirk et al., 1985: 417). Adjectives can occasionally have a postpositive meaning. In other words, three adjective positions are taken into account. Using Quirk et al. (1985, p. 418).

Predicative: this technology is *useful*

Attributive: *useful* technology

Postpositive: something *useful*

According to Quirk et al. (1985), adjectives share the following four characteristics (p. 402–403):

1) They are able to freely occur in attributive functions, meaning they can pre-modify nouns by existing between the determiner and the head of the noun, including zero articles. For ex.: the round table, the awful painting.

2) They are able to freely arise in predicative functions, such as subject or object complements. For ex.: It is a really horrible painting. He considered the painting to be unsightly.

3) They can be pre-modified by the intensifier *very*. For ex.: the students are very intelligent.

4) They can be expressed in superlative and comparative ways. The comparison can be made by adding the pre-modifiers most or more (periphrastic comparison) or by using the inflections -er and -est. For ex.: The students are *more healthy* now. These girls are *prettier than boys*. From these four features of adjectives, they can be sub-divided into eleven types (Khamying, 2007).

The adjective examples from the articles that are used in attributional functions are shown below.

a) If you have *strong feelings*, is it better to express them, eagerly and passionately?

b) If you always show the world a *calm face* and *quiet voice*, does this mean there is no passion, no fire in your heart?

c) There is *shy Edward Ferrars*, *the romantic and handsome Mr. Willoughby*, *the sad and silent Colonel Brandon* (Austen).

Three sentences in the paragraph above use a lot of adjectives, all of which serve as attributes. Adjectives in attributive function take the form of noun phrase (NP) structures, as previously explained. Following are some examples of adjectives in attributive position that are formed as noun phrases: strong feelings, calm face, quiet voice, shy Edward Ferrars, the romantic and handsome Mr. Willoughby, the sad and silent Colonel Brandon.

Predicative Function

The predicative function modifies the noun as well, but it frequently follows after other verbs like become, feel, and taste as well as a linking verb or copula "be". Sentences serve as the vehicle for the predictive function. Adjectives are therefore the subject complements when they are in the attributive position. If there are multiple adjectives present at once, they may appear in the

predicative position. Longer adjective sequences work well in this location, especially when they coordinate with another complement, such an adverb (Crşyal, 2004: 258). Giving a more “leisurely passage of description” is the goal of using adjectives predicatively (p. 259). Adjectives that are distributed in predicative position tend to show temporary meanings. Here are the following examples taken from the articles.

To him, therefore, the Norland fortune *was not as important* as to his sisters, who had very little money of their own (Austen). An “important” adjective that is positioned as the predicative in this sentence. Here the word “important” characterizes the word the Norland fortune. “Important” comes after copula verb “be” as in the Norland fortune *was not as important*. Syntactically, the adjective is placed in the predicative position to emphasize something happened in the past. Let’s look at another example: It *was not quite clear* how all this work could be done from the savings of an income of five hundred a year by a woman who had never saved in her life. The adjective found in the sentence above is *clear*. *Clear* in the sentence is put after the verb “was”. This means that “clear” shows predicative function.

Subject predicatives and object predicatives are the two grammatical roles of predicative adjectives. A copular verb is enhanced by subject predicatives, which define the nominal expression in the position of the topic. For instance, in the sentence that follows, the predicative adjective pleasant describes the subject pronoun she as an evaluation: Actually, she seems like a quite decent person. There are more instances of topic predicatives provided below:

Yes, it is *correct*.

It would be less *expensive, quicker, and simpler*.

I fear that is not *feasible*.

Object predicatives, on the other hand, follow a direct object and make a prediction regarding that noun phrase. The following examples have the object predicative:

You have all of your [priorities] *incorrect*, I remarked.

Did I get it right the first time?

She thought [him] *utterly boring*, and he did not find [her] *funny*.

She had thought [it] *utterly low and disgusting*.

Since then, she has filed for *bankruptcy*.

On the other hand, adjectives with prepositional or clausal complements are typically not allowed to occur attributively in English grammar (Crystal, 2008).

Predicative adjectives are most common in literature, partly because subject predicative adjective sequences can occasionally be found in fictitious descriptions. Examples of these sequences include:

In addition to being *lethargic, homesick, terrified, apathetic, overheated, sweaty, bored, oversexed, and undersatisfied*, the conscripts were in superior physical shape.

She aspired to be *pleasurable, joyful, attractive, and healthy*.

Predicative adjectives in fiction typically describe a feeling or state of mind (e.g., *apprehensive, aware, glad, happy, ready, sure, exhausted*) semantically. Similar to how they are used in speech, *right and sure* typically indicate (or ask for) agreement or confidence, whereas statement of dissent is primarily expressed by *incorrect*, is far less common.

Predicative adjectives that are commonly used in news, such “able” and “likely,” typically require clausal or phrasal complements.

As a result, they offer a framework for passing judgment and dispensing information-two crucial purposes of opinion articles and news reports:

Customers are going to be *able to [trade electronically]*.

It is *likely that [stricter rules] will be implemented in this region*.

Furthermore, given that journalists frequently use oral quotes in their reports: “So either way I go, it is *likely to be unpopular with the other section*” is one of the several predicative adjectives of news that appear in quoted speech.

Adjectives in additional syntactic functions

Adjectives can appear in a variety of additional syntactic functions, such as postposed nominal, in addition to their primary applications in attributive and predicative roles.

Postposed adjectives

An adjective is considered postposed (a postmodifier) when it is a part of a noun phrase and comes after the head rather than before it. Particularly when used with indefinite pronoun heads like *nobody*, *anything*, and *anybody*, posed adjectives are common:

If you don't have [someone] musical here, that's a shame.

Actually, it's something cool and revitalizing.

Lastly, the modifying adjective phrase will frequently come after its head noun if it is weighty and typically contains an adjectival complement:

It's a lounge that isn't all that larger than the one we already have. He used the high soprano, which yielded tones that were completely apart from the tones we associate with the saxophone.

The Assignment of Syntactic Functions to Semantic Types of Adjectives

This is the last section that tries to show how the syntactic functions of adjectives spread their semantic categories. Value, physical attribute, dimension, color, age, and human tendency are some examples of these semantic kinds. Furthermore, by continuing with this section, it aims to specifically reveal the reasons behind the placement of those adjectives as attributive and predicative as well as the reasons behind the lack of a particular type in a particular syntactic function.

A) Semantic Types of Adjectives based on Attributive Functions

Adjectives are distributed as noun phrases in the attributive position. They can therefore be thought of as pre-modifiers. Adjectives have six different semantic forms since they are the pre-modifiers in noun phrases. Adjectives of all semantic kinds occupy the attributive position. Furthermore, the semantic value types dominate this function's distribution. Considering the tourism industry's promotional setting, it makes sense that value has a higher prevalence than other sorts. Using value-related words frequently helps to present an impressive picture of the location. Value, as the name implies, draws attention to quality, increases destination appeal, and justifies a visit. Value makes use of eye-catching language to draw readers in and pique their curiosity in the location that is being advertised. Value facilitates the process of characterizing or changing the noun heads in respect to attributive position. Furthermore, because attributive function tends to do so, every adjective in the articles that refers to value also indicates the permanent meanings. Let's see how value-related adjectives are used in the example below:

The combination of the picturesque coastline, gorgeous blue waves, and the beach's hilltop location makes for the ideal setting for a restful day. The adjectives with strong marks above are *value-related adjectives* that are positioned as attributes and are denoted by the noun phrases that are underlined. Through it, the adjectives permanently create a pleasing image for each head noun. *Picturesque* is related to something that has a really alluring charm that makes an impression on others. The hue of the beach is enhanced when the adjective gorgeous is used with the head noun blue seas. As a result, it will look stunning and remarkable to anyone who view it. The second adjective, however, refers to something that is ideal in terms of quality and desirable attributes of its sort. To put it another way, something that is flawless has all the requirements met, is whole, and without any flaws. The noun head recipe is pre-modified by the adjective perfect to create perfect recipe. "The rustic ocean side, stunning blue waters and the waves crashing through the beach surrounded by hills" is how the recipe depicts the previously stated items. By calling it a flawless recipe, it seeks to highlight how great and comprehensive they are, particularly in light of having all the components. The final adjective in the noun phrase "relaxing day out" is relaxing. Here, "head day out" refers to the state of relaxation. Semantically, relaxing is the state of not having any stress, of feeling relaxed or less worried. Therefore, a peaceful day out is one in which one feels relaxed and tension-free because of "the rustic ocean side, stunning blue waters, and the waves crashing through the beach surrounded by hills prove to be the perfect recipe". Since all of the

aforementioned adjectives with regard to value are in the attributional position, they are reflecting the adjectives' sense of permanent meanings. The liberal use of adjectives pertaining to value in noun phrases creates a captivating picture of the location and tempts readers to visit the one being marketed. Conversely, in terms of both semantic type and attributive position frequency, physical attribute ranks second. Its semantic goal is to endow each noun head with a distinct factual attribute that is perceivable to human senses. Using physical property at the destination hints to something that is real there. It tells the readers about the sights, sounds, textures, tastes, and smells of the location in order to explain it. This is an illustration of an adjective related to physical attributes. Here is an example for adjective concerning physical property:

Located at the south side of Lombok, this glowing beach has clean white sands, crystal clear waters and healthy reefs that would catch your hearts. There are three adjectives identified; glowing, clean, and crystal clear. These adjectives express the physical property which all of them relates to human sense of sight. Firstly, adjective glowing modifies the noun head beach, becoming glowing beach. Glowing means something that is producing or emitting a steady bright light. Glowing beach then means the beach produces a steady bright light. This glowing beach, biologically, alludes to the natural phenomenon when there is light produced by living things in the water, such as algae and plankton. This is usually called as bioluminescence. The second adjective is clean. Clean pre-modifies the noun head white sands. Clean, when refers to the condition of an object, means looking pleasant and fresh; not dirty; free from any harmful or unpleasant substances. Judging an object whether it is clean or not is an absolute thing because it results from the sight of ours. Therefore, clean in clean white sands describe the condition of the white sands that looks pleasant and free from dirt. The last adjective is crystal clear. It pre-modifies the noun head waters of the sea. Crystal clear, that is used to describe water, means transparent or looking completely clear and bright; easy to see through. Hence, crystal clear waters explains the condition of the waters of the sea that looks clear and bright that even people can easily see through what is in it. Syntactically, those adjectives concerning physical property are in attributive position in order to be specific and clear with each description of the noun heads (Kristanti, 2015: 137-147). Furthermore, by putting those adjectives concerning physical property in attributive position, it strengthen the authentic description of the objects. Additionally, it makes it easier for readers to understand the vivid picture of what is actually going on there. As a result, it will raise their expectations for what the location has to offer in terms of reality. In the meantime, the destination has an advantage in semantic analysis because it can successfully occupy a persistent feature throughout time. By placing such adjectives in an attributional location, the resources' enduring characteristics are preserved. As a result, travelers find the location more alluring and appealing. Adjectives of all semantic kinds-aside from those pertaining to color-can have two grammatical purposes. However, color-related adjectives only appear in the attributive position, where they immediately pre-modify the noun heads. Color, from a semantic perspective, signifies the eternal meaning they represent. A few illustrations of how color is positioned in attributive position are shown below.

- a) It was a pleasant, *green* valley, with thick woods and open fields.
- b) *Blue* sky makes me feel happy and free every time.
- c) A *yellow* butterfly is sitting on the red rose.
- d) The beautiful princess is wearing a *purple* gown.
- e) The tall giraffe is eating *green* leaves.

These five adjectives; green, blue, yellow, purple and green appear many times in the articles. The adjectives pertaining to colors in attributive position highlight the resources' enduring qualities in terms of hue and convey a finer level of detail. Unlike the predicative, which uses a lot more words to describe the noun heads, the adjective in the attributive position describes them with ease. The object and its color description are one cohesive whole because of this. Age-related adjectives seem to have a greater attributional function. The attributional position of adjectives pertaining to time or relationships is inherent, as previously discussed in the relevant theories. The adjectives listed below are meant to serve as examples.

There are more places to explore outside of Mandalika, including as the serene Ratu Bolong Temple, the historical Nusa Tenggara Barat Museum, and the picturesque Narmada Park. The dry season is the ideal time to explore Mawi Beach. The selected instances pinpoint two age-related adjectives: historical and dry. First of all, historical refers to something that has been established and linked to earlier periods of a certain history or earlier occurrences. This is where the Nusa Tenggara Barat Museum's history begins. As a result, the Nusa Tenggara Barat museum is thought to have historical significance or to have existed for a very long period. Within the noun phrase "dry season," the second adjective is "dry". As dry refers to a specific time of year when a nation experiences either very little or no rain, it also falls under the category of adjectives related to age. When it comes to highlighting the noun heads' enduring significance, this kind of adjective is most frequently used. The adjective "age" itself belongs in the attributive position because it highlights a time or relationship. Examine the second descriptor, "dry". If it is placed in the predicative position-that is, when the season is dry-it will completely alter its meaning. Since "dry" refers more to the conditions that occur inside the season than it does to the season itself, it does not clearly explain why a season is dry. Its attributive position allows for the acquisition of a permanent seasonal characteristic. Regarding the adjectives related to dimension and human tendency, both varieties exhibit places in both the attributive and predicative domains, with the attributive domain displaying dominance. The employment of all semantic kinds has amply demonstrated the permanent meaning connected to the attributive position in this regard (8). It has come to the attention of the tourism articles that the majority of semantic adjectives are in the attributive position. Speaking of truth, the purpose of tourism articles is to entice readers to become visitors by offering a wealth of information about the area. Adjectives effectively contribute to giving them vivid ideas of the location. The reader-needed descriptive explanation of the destination is added by the six semantic categories of adjectives that have been identified. An abundance of positive adjectives completely captivates and persuades the readers.

B) *Semantic types of Adjectives Based on Predicative Functions*

Adjectives in predicative position in some articles might allude to two things. They want to describe the location in more detail in the first place, or they need to add a prepositional phrase to the adjectives. Adjective meanings are emphasized by the predictive function, which supports Crystal's (2004) earlier claims in earlier chapters. For that reason, this would be, more or less, a reflection of the transient meanings that the subjects receive via the predicative function. Although most adjectives can also serve as predicatees to describe objects in more detail, this cannot be divorced from the relationship between syntactic position and the semantic meaning that is being discussed. Furthermore, there seems to be a lack of specific data about the individual objects when adjectives are used as compliments in the predicative position. However, out of all the current semantic kinds, value-related adjectives continue to be dominant in the predicative function. Value is still able to consistently secure the top spot despite the stark differences in frequency between the two functions. This demonstrates how both functions and the other semantic kinds completely utilize value. Here are several adjective examples related to value in predicative position. The village is fantastic and you would enjoy the view of its green hills and the blue waters. Fantastic means looking extremely good, excellent, great. The description is more real and precise because of the placement of the adjectives in the attributive position.

Conclusion

The aim of this study is to analyze functions of adjectives. What syntactic roles adjectives play is the main focus of the article. It illustrates the distribution of adjective semantic classes according to their syntactic roles. The analysis leads the researcher to the following conclusion. Six of the seven categories of adjectives have been classified as semantic kinds. These are attributes related to worth, characteristics of the body, hue, size, age, and human nature. The one adjective that describes speed is absent from the entire set of data. Because the meanings and concepts that the adjectives indicate are apparent, it is easy to differentiate and classify them. Value has the most prevalent occurrences,

as indicated by the largest number and percentage on each item, according to the semantic types result. Attributive and predicative functions are the two functions found in the syntactic functions analysis. The adjective serves an attributive function when it modifies the noun before it appears, and a predicative function when it modifies the noun after the copula verb "be" or other connecting verbs. The attributive function is the most frequently used location, according to the syntactic functions result. Since characterizing the nouns in such a rapid succession is more effective when done through adjectives, adjectives tend to use attributives. Additionally, it expresses eternal connotations. Predicative position, on the other hand, works well for lengthy descriptions or when an adjective needs a complement that comes after it. However, because predicative position denotes transitory meanings, the frequency is minimal and only a small number of adjectives are recognized.

Based on the outcome, value dominates over half of the frequency, and all semantic categories are prominent in attributive position. The reader's curiosity and interests are developed and built upon by the order of visually appealing words that provide value. As of right now, the semantic kinds that are more in attributive position emphasize the permanent meaning or quality of the noun heads, which makes the text more enticing and descriptive. Ultimately, they have meticulously crafted an authentic portrayal of the place through the use of numerous positive adjectives in the attributive function.

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