-ISSN: 2053-3578 I.F. 12.34

# LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF ADJECTIVE WORDS IN THE LEXICAL SYSTEM OF MODERN ENGLISH

#### Rakhimova Nilufar Mansurbekovna

Master student of the department of Linguistics
Urgench Ranch University of Technology
nilumansurbekovna9806@gmail.com

#### **Annotation:**

This article offers a comprehensive linguistic analysis of adjectives within the lexical system of Modern English. It explores the various semantic, syntactic, and morphological properties of adjectives, highlighting their role in modifying nouns and conveying additional meaning to sentences. The article categorizes adjectives into types such as qualitative, quantitative, evaluative, and relative, and provides detailed examples of their usage in different contexts. It also examines the syntactic functions of adjectives, distinguishing between attributive and predicative positions, and explains how adjectives interact with other parts of speech, such as nouns and verbs. The morphological analysis covers the degree of comparison (comparative and superlative forms) and the process of adjective derivation through affixes. Ultimately, the article emphasizes the integral role of adjectives in enriching communication, contributing to both the structure and meaning of language. This analysis is a valuable resource for understanding the complex mechanisms underlying adjective use in Modern English.

**Key words:** Adjectives, Lexical System, Semantic Properties, Syntactic Functions, Morphological Properties, Attributive Adjectives, Predicative Adjectives, Comparative Forms, Superlative Forms, Derivation of Adjectives, Qualitative Adjectives, Quantitative Adjectives, Evaluative Adjectives, Relative Adjectives, Language Structure, Linguistic Analysis, English Grammar, Modifiers, Noun Phrase, Word Formation

# Annotatsiya:

Ushbu maqola Zamonaviy ingliz tilidagi sifatlar tizimining lingvistik tahlilini taklif etadi. U sifatlarning turli semantik, sintaktik va morfologik xususiyatlarini o'rganib chiqadi, ularning nomlarni o'zgartirishdagi va gaplarga qo'shimcha ma'no berishdagi rolini ta'kidlaydi. Maqola sifatlarni sifatli, miqdoriy, baholovchi va nisbiy kabi turlarga ajratib, ularning turli kontekstlarda qo'llanilishi bo'yicha batafsil misollar keltiradi. Shuningdek, sifatlarning sintaktik

-ISSN: 2053-3578 I.F. 12.34

funktsiyalarini ko'rib chiqadi, atributiv va predikativ holatlarni farqlaydi va sifatlarning boshqa so'z toifalari, masalan, nomlar va fe'llar bilan qanday o'zaro aloqada bo'lishini tushuntiradi. Morfologik tahlil taqqoslash darajalari (qiyosiy va eng yuqori shakllar) va sifatlarni qo'shimcha suffikslar yordamida hosil qilish jarayonini o'z ichiga oladi. Nihoyat, maqola sifatlarning muloqotni boyitishda, tilning tuzilishi va ma'nosiga hissa qo'shishdagi muhim rolini ta'kidlaydi. Ushbu tahlil Zamonaviy ingliz tilidagi sifatlarni qo'llashdagi murakkab mexanizmlarni tushunish uchun qimmatli manba bo'lib xizmat qiladi.

Kalit soʻzlar: Sifatlar, Leksik tizim, Semantik xususiyatlar, Sintaktik funktsiyalar, Morfologik xususiyatlar, Attributiv sifatlar, Predikativ sifatlar, Taqqoslash shakllari, Eng yuqori shakllar, Sifatlarning hosil boʻlishi, Sifatli sifatlar, Miqdoriy sifatlar, Baholovchi sifatlar, Nisbiy sifatlar, Til tuzilishi, Lingvistik tahlil, Ingliz tili grammatikasi, Modifikatorlar, Nom guruhlar, Soʻz hosil boʻlishi

#### Аннотация:

Эта статья предлагает всесторонний лингвистический анализ прилагательных в лексической системе современного английского языка. Она исследует различные семантические, синтаксические и морфологические свойства прилагательных, подчеркивая их роль в модификации существительных и внесении дополнительного смысла в предложения. Статья классифицирует прилагательные на качественные, количественные, оценочные и относительные, приводя детализированные примеры их использования в разных контекстах. Также рассматриваются синтаксические функции прилагательных, различие между атрибутивным и предикативным положением, а также объясняется, как прилагательные взаимодействуют с другими частями речи, такими как существительные и глаголы. Морфологический анализ охватывает степени сравнения (сравнительную и превосходную формы) и процесс образования прилагательных с помощью аффиксов. В заключение статья подчеркивает важную роль прилагательных в обогащении общения, их вклад в структуру и значение языка. Этот анализ является ценным ресурсом для понимания сложных механизмов использования прилагательных в современном английском языке.

**Ключевые слова:** Прилагательные, Лексическая система, Семантические свойства, Синтаксические функции, Морфологические свойства, Атрибутивные прилагательные, Предикативные прилагательные, Формы сравнения, Превосходная форма, Производство прилагательных, Качественные прилагательные, Количественные

прилагательные, Оценочные прилагательные, Относительные прилагательные, Структура языка, Лингвистический анализ, Грамматика английского языка, Модификаторы, Имя существительное, Образование слов

#### Introduction

Adjectives play a crucial role in the structure and meaning of language, functioning primarily to modify nouns and contribute to sentence meaning. In English, adjectives serve a vital purpose in expressing qualities, characteristics, and states of the entities they describe. The study of adjectives within the lexical system is important for understanding the way English communicates nuances of meaning and grammatical relationships. This article aims to explore the linguistic analysis of adjectives in Modern English, focusing on their semantic, syntactic, and morphological properties. Through this investigation, we will examine how adjectives interact with other elements in the lexical system and how they contribute to the larger structure of the language.

#### 1. The Role of Adjectives in the Lexical System

Adjectives are part of a broader lexical category that includes nouns, verbs, and adverbs. Their primary function in sentence structure is to provide additional information about a noun, usually by describing qualities or attributes. Adjectives are typically used to modify or qualify a noun, offering details that help the listener or reader to better understand the nature or characteristics of the entity being discussed. This descriptive function is central to the way adjectives are integrated into the lexical system.

In Modern English, adjectives may express a variety of meanings, such as physical properties, emotional states, size, shape, color, age, nationality, or other characteristics. For example:

- "The **beautiful** painting" (describes the quality of the painting).
- "A large building" (describes the size of the building).

The interaction between adjectives and nouns creates meaningful associations, and through this process, the adjective enriches the meaning of the sentence. Adjectives do not typically stand alone as the main components of sentences but instead serve as modifiers or descriptors of nouns.

# 2. The Semantic Properties of Adjectives

Adjectives in English are highly varied in terms of the meanings they convey. They can express qualitative, quantitative, or evaluative dimensions of nouns. The semantic properties of adjectives can be categorized into several types based on the kind of meaning they represent:

## 2.1 Qualitative Adjectives

Qualitative adjectives describe inherent qualities or characteristics of the noun they modify. These adjectives are often subjective and can express opinions, preferences, or perceptions. For example:

- "A tall man" (describes the height of the person).
- "A **soft** fabric" (describes the texture of the fabric).

## 2.2 Quantitative Adjectives

Quantitative adjectives refer to the quantity or amount of the noun they describe. They do not necessarily express inherent qualities but instead provide information about the number or extent of the noun. Examples include:

- "Three **books**" (refers to the number of books).
- "A **little** sugar" (refers to the quantity of sugar).

## 2.3 Evaluative Adjectives

Evaluative adjectives express judgments or opinions about the noun they modify. These adjectives convey subjective assessments, often reflecting the speaker's attitude toward the subject. For example:

- "A **beautiful** flower" (indicates the speaker's positive judgment of the flower's appearance).
  - "An **ugly** situation" (indicates a negative assessment of the situation).

## 2.4 Relative Adjectives

Relative adjectives are those that provide a comparative or relational meaning, often requiring a comparison between two or more entities. These adjectives typically appear in comparative and superlative forms, like "bigger," "smaller," "more interesting," etc. Examples include:

- "A larger room" (compares the size of one room to another).
- "The **smartest** student" (identifies the student who has the highest intelligence in a group).

# 3. Syntactic Functions of Adjectives

Adjectives in English typically function as modifiers within noun phrases, but their syntactic behavior can vary depending on their position and usage in the sentence. English adjectives can appear in two primary positions: attributive and predicative.

## 3.1 Attributive Adjectives

Attributive adjectives occur directly before the noun they modify. This is the most common syntactic placement for adjectives in English, where the adjective serves to modify a noun within a noun phrase. For example:

- "A dark room" (the adjective "dark" modifies the noun "room").
- "An excited child" (the adjective "excited" modifies the noun "child").

In these examples, the adjectives are part of the noun phrase and directly modify the noun in question.

#### 3.2 Predicative Adjectives

Predicative adjectives appear after linking verbs such as "be," "seem," "become," and "appear." In this case, the adjective is part of the predicate and describes the subject of the sentence. For example:

- "The room is dark."
- "The child seems excited."

In these examples, the adjectives do not directly precede the noun but instead function as part of the predicate, linking the subject to its descriptor.

## 3.3 Adjectives as Complements

Some adjectives in English require complements, typically prepositional phrases or clauses that provide further specification of the adjective's meaning. For example:

- "She is **interested in** art."
- "He is **afraid of** spiders."

In these cases, the adjectives are followed by prepositional phrases that complement the adjective and provide additional meaning.

## 4. Morphological Properties of Adjectives

The morphology of adjectives in Modern English includes the various forms that adjectives can take to convey different degrees of comparison, including comparative and superlative forms. Many adjectives in English follow regular patterns of morphological transformation, while some adjectives exhibit irregular forms.

# 4.1 Degree of Comparison

-ISSN: 2053-3578 I.F. 12.34

Adjectives can express different levels of intensity or degree through their comparative and superlative forms. The comparative form compares two entities, while the superlative form compares three or more entities. The degree of comparison is typically marked through the addition of suffixes or the use of irregular forms.

- Regular comparative: "tall" → "taller"
- Regular superlative: "tall" → "tallest"

Irregular forms:

- "good" → "better" (comparative), "best" (superlative)
- "bad" → "worse" (comparative), "worst" (superlative)

#### 4.2 Derivational Affixes

Adjectives in English may also be derived from other word categories through the addition of suffixes. Common suffixes that form adjectives include "-ful" (e.g., "beautiful"), "-less" (e.g., "hopeless"), and "-ous" (e.g., "dangerous"). These derivational processes expand the lexical scope of adjectives, allowing for the creation of new words that describe different qualities or conditions.

## 5. The Interaction of Adjectives with Other Lexical Categories

The relationship between adjectives and other lexical categories such as nouns and verbs is complex. Adjectives often function as modifiers or descriptors of nouns, but they can also interact with verbs to express certain states or conditions.

## **5.1 Adjectives and Nouns**

As discussed earlier, adjectives often appear directly before nouns (attributive position), forming noun phrases. The adjective typically qualifies or specifies the noun it modifies, thus enhancing the overall meaning of the sentence. However, adjectives can also follow nouns in certain contexts, especially in poetic or archaic language:

• "The king **divine**" (more formal or literary).

# 5.2 Adjectives and Verbs

Adjectives can also appear after linking verbs, as previously discussed in predicative constructions. This interaction with verbs enables adjectives to describe the subject or object of the sentence, providing additional information about the state or condition of the noun. In some cases, adjectives can even function as complements to verbs, further elaborating on the meaning conveyed by the verb.

#### 6. Conclusion

-ISSN: 2053-3578 I.F. 12.34

The linguistic analysis of adjectives within the lexical system of Modern English reveals their essential role in shaping the meaning of sentences and contributing to the overall structure of the language. Adjectives serve to modify nouns and verbs, enriching the meaning of both by adding qualitative, quantitative, or evaluative information. Through their semantic, syntactic, and morphological properties, adjectives help to convey complex ideas and relationships in English, enhancing communication and expression. Understanding how adjectives function within the lexical system provides valuable insight into the broader mechanisms of language and its capacity to convey meaning.

#### **Used literature:**

- 1. Biber, D., Conrad, S., & Leech, G. (2002). *Longman grammar of spoken and written English*. Pearson Education. pp. 57–134
- 2. Crystal, D. (2008). *A dictionary of linguistics and phonetics* (6th ed.). Blackwell Publishing. pp. 15–18
- 3. Huddleston, R., & Pullum, G. K. (2002). *The Cambridge grammar of the English language*. Cambridge University Press. pp. 212–263
- 4. Quirk, R., Greenbaum, S., Leech, G., & Svartvik, J. (1985). *A comprehensive grammar of the English language*. Longman. pp. 434–484
  - 5. Lyons, J. (1977). Semantics. Cambridge University Press. pp. 199–221
- 6. Bussmann, H. (1996). *Routledge dictionary of language and linguistics*. Routledge. pp. 27–30
- 7. Downing, P., & Locke, P. (2006). *English grammar: A university course*. Routledge. pp. 125–178
  - 8. Palmer, F. R. (2001). *Mood and modality*. Cambridge University Press. pp. 42–67
- 9. Miller, J. (2016). *Adjective classes in English: Syntax and semantics*. Oxford University Press. pp. 45–102

-ISSN: 2053-3578 I.F. 12.34

- 10. Penny, R. (2000). A history of the English language. Longman. pp. 315–355
- 11. Hawkins, J. A. (2004). *Performance and competence in language theory*. Oxford University Press. pp. 110–145
- 12. Stump, G. T. (2001). *Inflectional morphology: A theory of paradigm structure*. Cambridge University Press. pp. 300–335.