

INTERPRETIVE FUNCTIONS OF ADJECTIVES IN ENGLISH

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aliyevanargiza411@gmail.com**ABSTRACT**

This article illustrates usage of adjectives in discourse and interpretive functions of adjectives in English. Moreover, it is given in the article that the cognitive usage of various types of adjectives and roles of past participle adjectives

Key words: adjective, semantic role of adjective, usage of adjective in discourse, cognitive adjectives, interpretive functions

INTRODUCTION

In linguistics an adjective is a word or part of a speech which describes a noun or noun phrase or describes its referent. Its semantic role is to change and give further information about the given noun in a sentence and speech. Traditionally, adjectives have been considered one of the main [parts of speech](#) of the English language. According to the Merriam Webster dictionary, "an adjective is a word belonging to one of the major form classes in any of numerous languages and typically serving as a modifier of a noun to denote a quality of the thing named, to indicate its quantity or extent, or to specify a thing as distinct from something else. The word *red* in "the red car" is an adjective".¹ Moreover, adjectives are words that describe or modify another person or thing in the sentence. Definite and indefinite articles can be adjectives too. For instance, the tall man, a beautiful woman, a naughty baby, an interesting movie, an exciting game, a six-year-old baby, a month's pay and many others.

As mentioned above, adjectives describe the aspects of noun as the adjectives can describe:

- feelings and qualities (examples: He is a lonely man; They are honest);
- give nationality or origin (examples: I heard a French song; This clock is German; Our house is Victorian).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

We can come across different types of adjectives in discourse, as: descriptive adjectives, quantitative adjectives, proper adjectives, demonstrative adjectives, possessive adjectives, interrogative adjectives, indefinite adjectives, compound adjectives and articles (as mentioned above definite and indefinite articles can be adjectives because they can describe quantity of a noun).

A **descriptive adjective** is a word which describes nouns and pronouns. Most of the adjectives belong in this type. These adjectives provide information and attribute to the nouns/pronouns they modify or describe. Descriptive adjectives are also called **qualitative adjectives**. **Participles** are also included in this type of adjective when they modify a noun.

A **quantitative adjective** provides information about the quantity of the nouns/pronouns. This type belongs to the question category of "how much" and "how many".

1. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/adjective>

Proper adjectives are the adjective form of [proper nouns](#). When proper nouns modify or describe other nouns/pronouns, they become proper adjectives. Proper means specific rather than formal or polite.

A proper adjective allows summarizing a concept in just one word. Instead of writing/saying 'a food cooked in Uzbek recipe' you can write/say Uzbek food.

A **demonstrative adjective** directly refers to something or someone. Demonstrative adjectives include the words: *this, that, these, those*.

A [demonstrative pronoun](#) is used alone and does not precede a noun, but a demonstrative adjective always comes before the word which modifies.

A **possessive adjective** indicates possession or ownership. It suggests the belongingness of something to someone or something.

Some of the most used possessive adjectives are followings: *my, his, her, our, their, your*. All these adjectives always come before a noun. Unlike [possessive pronouns](#), these words demand a noun after them.

An **interrogative adjective** asks a question. An interrogative adjective must be followed by a noun or a pronoun. The interrogative adjectives are: *which, what, whose*. These words will not be considered as adjectives if a noun does not follow right after them. "Whose" also belongs to the possessive adjective type.

An **indefinite adjective** describes and modifies a noun unspecifically. They provide indefinite and unspecific information about the noun. The common indefinite adjectives are *few, many, much, most, all, any, each, every, either, nobody, several, some and many others*.

Articles also modify the nouns. So, articles are also adjectives. Articles determine the specification of nouns. Indefinite articles are used to refer to an unspecific noun, and definite article is used to refer to a specific noun.

When compound nouns or combined words modify other nouns, they become a compound adjective. This type of adjective usually combines more than one word into a single lexical unit and modifies a noun. They are often separated by a hyphen or joined together by a quotation mark.

When two or more adjectives are used before a noun, they should be put in proper order. Any article (*a, an, the*), demonstrative adjective (*that, these, etc.*), indefinite adjective (*another, both, etc.*), or possessive adjective (*her, our, etc.*) always comes first. If there is a number, it comes first or second. True adjectives always come before attributive nouns. The ordering of true adjectives will vary, but the following order is the most common:

opinion word→*size*→*age*→*shape*→*color*→*nationality*→*material*.

a wonderful French wooden table. We can omit some of them but cannot change the order.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Things are somewhat different in participle adjectives, for instance: carved table, wooden table etc. here the forms carved and wooden express the predication relation. Still this relation is basically different from that of descriptive or qualifying adjectives like a round table or a nice table. These are conceptually one argument predicates which do not invoke any second argument beyond their own domain.² The role of

² The cognitive motivation for adjective sequences in attribution, Rene Dirven, University of Duisburg, Germany. An article of Journal of English studies, 1999.

configuration is quite different with past participle adjectives like carved or wooden, since here the agent and patent domains (someone carved the table or someone made the table of the wood) are fundamentally different domains. On the other hand, there is conceptual gap between type of conceptualization in the adjective like past participle in carved table or wooden table and a real action of past participle which is always part of a verb phrase in the expressions a table which has been carved in Samarkand, Uzbekistan or a table carved in Uzbekistan. This so-called post posed participle has all the characteristics of a verb like predication and can indeed be extended indefinitely, for instance: by an agent, by a time adjunct or any other adjunct as “the table carved by Uzbek woodcutter or the table carved in 19th century” etc. a proposed participle as “a broken window” is largely limited to a subcategory of transitive verbs that “leave a mark on something” as Bolinger (a scientist of grammar of English) in his cognitive intuition put it. In line with the general tendency found with attributive adjectives, pre-posed participles reflect on conceptualization of more permanent, resultant states. This further implies that the pre-posed or attributively used past participle is to be situated somewhere on a continuum ranging from a verb phrase to a predicative adjective.

CONCLUSION

Adjectives are the largest open word class in English after nouns and verbs (Leech, 1989) and are used “to describe the qualities of people, things, places, etc.” (Alexander, 1988, p.13). Grammatically and semantically, they have the same degree of importance as the other content words in the linguistic code and are at the speaker’s/writer’s disposal when he wants to convey a message.

In view of their usefulness for communicative purposes, adjectives are a necessary element in the syllabi for English courses in general, and, particularly, in relation to the purpose of this paper, in courses of English for Spanish-speaking students at advanced university level, in view of the differences between adjectival constructions in English and Spanish (further described in Section 3). The teaching stage at which adjectives must be introduced, analysed, and thoroughly exploited depends on the command of the English language the students have.

LITERATURES

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