

## Functional-semantic aspect of qualitative Adjectives

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**ABSTRACT:** Most adjectives have degrees of comparison; the comparative degree and the superlative degree.

### Functional-semantic aspect of qualitative Adjectives

The adjective is a word expressing a quality of a substance.

The adjective has the following morphological characteristics;

Most adjectives have degrees of comparison; the comparative degree and the superlative degree.

The comparative degree denotes a higher degree of a quality.

She is taller than her sister. My box is smaller than hers.

The superlative degree denotes the highest degree of a quality. She is the tallest of the three sisters.

That box is the smallest of all our boxes.

(The noun modified by an adjective in the superlative degree has the definite article because the superlative degree of the adjective always implies limitation.)

Adjectives form their degrees of comparison in the following way:

- (a) by the inflexion *-er*, *-est* (synthetical way);
- (b) by placing *more* and *most* before the adjective (analytical way).

Monosyllabic adjectives usually form their comparatives and superlatives in the first way, and polysyllabic adjectives in the second way.

The following polysyllabic adjectives, however, generally form their comparative and superlative degrees inflexionally:

1. Adjectives of two syllables which end in *-y*, *-ow*, *-er*, *-le*.  
happy happier (the) happiest  
narrow narrower (the) narrowest

clever cleverer (the) cleverest  
 simple simpler (the) simplest

2. Adjectives of two syllables which have the stress on the last syllable:

complete completer (the) completest  
 concise conciser (the) concisest

Some adjectives have irregular forms of degrees of comparison,

1. The adjective has the following syntactical characteristics:

In a sentence the adjective may be used as an attribute or as a predicative.<sup>1</sup>

A little fat chap thrust out his underlip and the tall fellow frowned. (ATTRIBUTES)

Carrie was terribly nervous. (PREDICATIVE)

The air was motionless... (PREDICATIVE)

Morphological composition of the adjective.

Adjectives are divided into simple, derivative and compound.

1. Simple adjectives are adjectives which have neither prefixes nor suffixes. They are indecomposable: e. g. *good, red, black*.

2. Derivative adjectives are adjectives which have derivative elements, suffixes or prefixes or both: *beautiful, foolish, hopeless, unkind, unimportant*.

Productive adjective-forming suffixes are:

*-less*: Friendless, harmless, hopeless

*-like*: childlike

*-ish*: childish, foolish

*-ed (d)*: beaded, blue-eyed

Example: Lest this order of individual should permanently pass, let me put down some of the most striking characteristics of his most successful manner and method.

Unproductive suffixes are:

*-ful*: careful

*-ible*: responsible

*-able*: reliable

*-ant*: important

*-ent*: dependent

*-en*: woollen

*-ons*: dangerous

*-some*: troublesome

Example: Good clothes, of course, were the first essential, the things without which he was nothing. A strong physical nature, actuated by a keen desire for the feminine, was the next. A mind free of any consideration of the problems or forces the world and actuated not by greed, but an insatiable love of variable pleasure.

Productive adjective-forming prefixes are:

*un-*: unhappy

*pre-*: prewar

The unproductive prefix of the adjective is:

*in-*: incorrect

3. Compound adjectives are adjectives built from two or more stems.

The main types of compound adjectives are as follow:

- (a) noun-stem+ adjective-stem: *snow-white*.
- (b) noun-stem + participle-stem: *life-giving, smoke-dried*.
- (c) adjective-item + adjective-stem; *deal-mule*.
- (d) adjective-stem + noun-stem + suffix *-ed*: *cold-hearted*.

<sup>1</sup>Of 1Khaimovich and Rogovskaya. The Theoretical Grammar of English.1967.267 p.

- (e) noun-stem + noun-stem + suffix *-ed*: *lynx-eyed*.  
(f) numeral-stem + noun-stem + suffix *-ed*: *four-wheeled*.  
(g) adverb-stem + noun-stem + suffix *-ed*: *over-peopled*.

Classification of adjectives.

According to their meaning and grammatical characteristics adjectives all under two classes:

- (1) qualitative adjectives
- (2) relative adjectives.

1. Qualitative adjectives denote qualities of a substance directly, not through its relation to another substance, as size, shape, colour, physical and mental qualities, qualities of general estimation: *little, large, high, soft, hard, warm, white, blue, pink, strong, bold, beautiful, important, necessary*, etc.

2. Relative adjectives denote qualities of a substance through their relation to materials (*silken, woollen, wooden*), to place (*Italian, Asian*), to time (*monthly, weekly*), to some action (*preparatory, rotatory*).

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