



Usage of Adjectives in Modern English

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Abstract: The article examines the peculiar features of the function of the adjective in the sentence as an attribute and predicate, problems related to the ratio of attributive and predicative use of the adjective vocabulary, and also analyze the methods of showing the relationship between the signs.

Key words: Sign, adjective, grammatical class, attribute, predicate.

Introduction. The adjective is interpreted as a lexical and grammatical class denoting signs (qualities, properties) of objects, phenomena of reality. Denoting properties and qualities, adjectives are opposed to both subject vocabulary and other indicative words. As for the communicative function of adjectives, they are intended to report on the properties and characteristics of objects, to clarify their qualitative certainty. The specificity of the values of the attribute, property, predetermines the close combinatorial connection of the class of adjectives with the nominal element (noun, pronoun), which at the syntactic level can be either attributive or predicative.

Literary review and methodology. It can be assumed that the main syntactic functions of adjectives - attributive and predicative - are predetermined by the nature of the attribute category, presented as a complex range of relationships established as a result of combining the subject with an adjectival attribute or with an adjectival predicative. In this regard, it seems logical to turn to the definition of the concepts of "attribute" and "predicate" [1,224].

Attribute (from the Latin *attribuo* - "I give, endow") implies a relation to some substance, but it cannot be a substance itself, and also cannot exist without it. Already Aristotle distinguished permanent attributes from the so-called accidents - random, transient states. In the future, an attribute was understood as something that is necessarily inherent in a spiritual or material substance, or something that expresses the nature of a thing, or something without which this thing cannot be conceived. Usually the term "attribute" was used in philosophical systems that assumed a material or spiritual substance. P. Descartes considered extension and thinking to be the two initial and main attributes of reality. After D. Hume and I. Kant, the concept of substance changed significantly, and an attribute began to be understood as a necessary, inalienable property of any object.

The concept of "attribute" is widely used in modern philosophy - usually to denote the necessary inherent properties. There are five attributes of reality: energy (source of movement), space (extension), time (change), consciousness (active display) and form (organization, structure).

In logic, an attribute is that which is affirmed or denied with respect to the object referred to in the statement; an attribute can be essential or non-essential, necessary or accidental.

Thus, an attribute is understood as some necessary, essential property of an object, without which it ceases to be itself³. For example, extension, weight, color and other objective characteristics inherent in this thing can be considered as attributes of material things.

Next, we will consider what is behind the concept of "predicate". In traditional logic, the predicate was understood only as a property, and the predicative connection meant that the object expressed by the subject of the judgment has a certain attribute expressed by the predicate of the judgment. In modern logic, predication is considered as a special case of functional dependence. In order to avoid misinterpretation of concepts, it is necessary to explain and justify two related terms: predicate and predicative. A predicate is a logical predicate - that which is expressed in a judgment about its subject, that is, the same as a grammatical predicate. A predicative is a linguistic expression denoting a property or relation, it is part of a compound nominal predicate.

Discussion and results. Such philosophical concepts as an object, phenomenon, process, action, state, property and quality, at the level of thinking are transformed into logical categories and express concepts related to general philosophical ones, but denoted by the terms of logic: subject, predicate, attribute. At the sentence level, these concepts are expressed in terms of syntax, namely, the terms "subject", "predicate", "definition". In the language, these syntactic categories in the language are represented, respectively, by the lexicogrammatical classes of nouns, verbs, and adjectives.

An attribute can be assigned to a subject in two ways. The first way is that the sign is thought of as inherent in the object constantly, as its integral characteristic. The inalienable nature of the attribute of the object allows us to perceive them as a whole, as a kind of unity. The object is perceived, first of all, as revealing this feature. This method of attributing a feature to an object is called attribution. An attributive connection is usually considered as the strongest connection between words in a sentence, it is characterized by the fact that it forms combinations that act as integral complexes in the sentence, included in the sentence in an assembled, finished form, as a whole.

Another way of attributing a sign to an object involves considering the sign as separate and separable from the object, not internally inherent in it. In this case, the sign is temporary and changeable, and in this case the object and the sign are thought of separately. In order for a feature to be thought of as inherent in an object, it is necessary to perform a mental operation of attributing a feature to an object or, in other words, predicating a feature.

The main difference between the attributive use of an adjective and the predicative one in cognitive terms lies in the way of representing the relationship "attribute-object". A sign attributed to an object in predication is perceived separately from this object: this way of attributing a sign can be called analytical, dissected; the predicate is in postposition to the word being defined. For example: Bella was great, his staff was great, his job was great, and the money was great. In this example, the subject sign is the adjective great, and the verb to be performs only a formal connective [4,143].

Attributive combinations represent the object and its attribute in a holistic perception and are updated within the framework of the syntactic structure in a synthetic (fused) way, as in the following example: The woman in the black dress laughed, shaking the well-coifed hair and flashing a large emerald ring. This woman was the biggest female producer in daytime television, and her job was not unlike Nick's.

In this case, the adjectives that perform the function of a prepositive definition express a feature inseparable from the object, and the presented attributive complexes are perceived undivided.

Most adjectives can be used both predicatively and attributively. Sometimes a change in the position of an adjective in the structure of a sentence leads to a change in meaning, for example, the adjective fine, expressing the meaning "relating to health", is used only predicatively, for example, I'm fine. In all other meanings, it is attributive, for example, She is a fine woman.

Only adjectives like afloat, afraid, alight, alike, alive, alone, ashamed, asleep, awake are used predicatively. Such adjectives are called "words-predicatives" or words of the category of state. There is an opinion that adjectives in the attribute position more often denote permanent features. For example, N. D. Arutyunova says that units used predicatively denote a state rather than characterize an object. This point of view can be explained, apparently, by the opinion of a number of researchers that an attributive connection by its nature lies between the idea of an object and its characteristic feature, and in the predicative position, the meaning of words is more subject to

variation, and much more often than constant features, predicative combinations denote a temporary state. However, the analysis of the actual material does not confirm this assumption. Let's look at some examples: At last Bob sensed where this was leading. He grew angry with every breath.

Part of the predicative construction is: the verb to grow, the semantics of which is based on short duration, since it belongs to the group of verbs of state change, and the adjective angry, expressing the sign of the subject. The comparative degree of the adjective indicates a change in the degree of manifestation of the attribute in the direction of its increase.

The temporary state is also described in the following example, in which the duration of the state is also limited (until the end of summer): The entire corridor was silent. Everyone seemed to be left for the summer. Despite the large number of examples that confirm the assumption of the temporary nature of the signs of adjectives, in the function of the predicate, one can also find examples that refute this theory, for example: How come all your people are dead?

➤ The semantics of the adjective dead contains an irreversible, permanent sign (no longer alive).

The content characteristics of adjectives equally contain both possibilities of their syntactic use - both attributive and predicative. However, the attributive and predicative forms of the connection between the object and the attribute leave their mark on the content of the connection, adapting it to the needs of either nomination or communication. Therefore, we have the right to call the predicative connection communicatively oriented, and the attributive connection - nominatively oriented.

The priority of nomination versus predication or vice versa is one of the cardinal oppositions in the science of language. In each particular case, the choice of an attributive or predicative construction may be determined by various factors. If adjectives are actually aimed at reporting the properties or features of the object denoted by the noun, then they perform a predicative function. Predicate structures that carry basic information serve to develop the rhematic element of the sentence. Attributive, on the contrary, develop, clarify, concretize the thematic block, bring new additional information to the core. Adjectives in the predicative function, regardless of the nomination process, enter the sentence as independent syntactic units. Syntactic constructions formed in this way are complete propositions. In the attributive function, the adjective is used not as an independent syntactic unit, but as an obligatory element in the noun phrase, taking the most direct part in the nomination process. Such noun phrases usually do not constitute a complete judgment, but are simple syntactic units. Attributive and predicative constructions in such cases turn out to be synonymous in communicative terms, but different in the nature of the reflection of objective reality. In works on linguistics, the complexity and diversity of the communicative functions of adjectival vocabulary are increasingly mentioned. Depending on the type of property being reported, the function appears as either descriptive or evaluative. Let's look at an example: He looked at her. Even in her faded bathrobe and with night-cream on her face, she was very beautiful, where the adjective faded expresses the objective property of the word being defined, and the adjective beautiful, which is in a predicative relationship with the object, expresses the subjective assessment of the object by the speaker.

Here's another example: Today her green eyes already looked too serious. Here the attribute reports on the objective property of the subject (green eyes), and the predicate in the compound nominal predicate looked serious expresses a value judgment.

Thus, the analysis of the factual material confirms the possibility of using adjectives both in the attributive function and in the predicative function. Any of these functions has as its goal the message about the signs of objects, phenomena, persons, as well as the inclusion of this object in the class of objects that share this sign. The way of representing the relationship between the feature and the subject is the determining factor in choosing the way to express this relationship. The structure "holistic perception - undivided expression" corresponds to predicative constructions that serve the purposes of communication. A holistic perception, expressed dissectedly, is an attributive complexes that are oriented to the nomination.

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