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DOI 10.70286/EOSS-05.01.2026.011.149-151

THEORETICAL JUSTIFICATION OF THE POSSIBILITY OF ADJECTIVIZATION IN THE ENGLISH GRAMMAR

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Abstract. The paper considers one of the most complicated problem in the English Grammar – the process of transition of a lexical-grammatical unit to another category. Such kind of considering became possible only after obtaining the results of text corpus analysis.

Keywords: adjective, scientific literature, lexical-grammatical category, meaning, colligation, collocation.

Introduction.

Any research requires not only an analysis of the practical results of an experiment but also their theoretical justification. Only through such interaction can a qualitative answer to a proper linguistic problem be achieved.

This work describes one of the most complex theoretical questions posed during the examination of text corpora used in scientific and technical literature.

Goal and task of the research

The goal of the presented work is to present theoretical justification of the possibility of adjectivization in the English Grammar.

Results of the research and their discussion

The extremely high frequency of use of grammatical phenomena such as attributive participles and attributive nouns in scientific articles referred to scientific and technical discourse necessitated a study of all instances of their use and the

selection of those units in which the process of possessing of adjective quality has been completed or is close to completion.

Researchers of linguistic objects know that transitional cases can be observed in the parts-of-speech system, as in any other, since the very nature of language as a social phenomenon inherently involves constant variability, movement from one grammatical category to another. Such transitional cases in English grammar include attributive participles and attributive nouns that tend toward adjectivization.

Adjectivization, along with substantiation and verbalization, is considered a synchronic word formation and belongs to a separate type of conversion.

Many linguists also equate conversion and transition of parts of speech, as they reflect the same phenomenon, but from different perspectives. Conversion is the process of forming a new word, occurring on a morphological and syntactic level (while the specific lexical meaning of the word remains unchanged) [2; 3], while transition is understood as a change in the semantic and syntactic properties of a word based on the multifunctionality of the grammatical unit.

Consequently, the process of adjectivization can be viewed as the transition of any linguistic unit, without the participation of word-formation tools, to another grammatical category (in our case, to the category of adjectives). In this case, such a unit acquires the meaning of a quality, property, or attribute of an object or phenomenon, i.e., the abstract grammatical meaning of an adjective.

A word's potential ability to shift into another part of speech, i.e., to acquire the grammatical and lexical-semantic features of another part of speech, manifests itself primarily in polyfunctionality, which is the initial stage of the transition. The prolonged functioning of words in a syntactic position which is characteristic for units of another lexical-grammatical category can, to some extent, prepare the way for the realization of this potential ability, as it entails the emergence of nuances and meanings inherent to this function in the word.

Polyfunctionality, due to the expansion of combinability options, leads, in addition to morphological and syntactic changes, to certain semantic shifts, to a change in the scope of the semantic structure of lexical units. In this case, the meanings of polyfunctional units can differ so much that it becomes possible to speak of the completion of the transition process and the emergence of grammatical homonyms.

Thus, the process of transition of parts of speech, and specifically the process of adjectivization, should be considered not only in the traditional morphological and syntactic context, but also from the perspective of the semantic unity of the complex of the determiner and the determined, as well as other provisions of the lexical and phraseological aspect [1; 2].

When analyzing the various functions of a word, researchers are faced with the need to apply the dialectical unity method of colligation (morphological and syntactic factors) and collocation (lexical and phraseological features). Moreover, it is collocation that allows us to determine the degree of coherence of a phrase, its ability to express a coherent concept, and its ability to possess a property of globality.

It is well known that the grammatical aspect is characterized by the complete realization of a particular functional ability. Therefore, the morphological and syntactic aspect is completely independent of the specific lexical meanings of words and, in particular, the lexical and phraseological patterns of phrase formation. Thus, a participle can be formed from virtually any verb, and virtually any noun can be used as a prepositional attributive.

The functioning of adjectival units requires special conditions. In this case, the speaker turns to the regularities of word combinations, clarifying the lexical and phraseological relationships between the determinate and the determiner.

Another particular issue in the area of adjectivization of lexical units needs to be examined. This concerns the specific features of the suffixes -ing and -ed, since it remains unclear whether these suffixes are homonymous forms of two different suffixes [4] or bifunctional units.

Conclusion.

More convincing is the point of view of N.B. Gvishiani [2], who believes that the suffixes -ing and -ed are homonymous grammatical units that perform different functions – form-forming in the case of a participle and word-forming in the case of an adjective. If this were not the case and the aforementioned suffixes perform the role of bifunctional units, then in this case there would not be two homonymous forms – a participle and an adjective, but a single diffuse part of speech, which could manifest itself sometimes as a participle, sometimes as an adjective. Such a position contradicts the clear boundaries of a word, which would thus belong to different parts of speech.

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