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STRUCTURAL-SEMANTIC PROPERTIES OF PREDICATIVE ADJECTIVES

PROPIEDADES ESTRUCTURALES Y SEMÁNTICAS DE LOS ADJETIVOS PREDICATIVOS

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ABSTRACT

The article is based on an approach to studying the valence of predicative adjectives, in which collocation and valence are qualified as identical phenomena. The aim of the study was to study the structural and semantic properties of predicative adjectives in English, in particular the valence of predicative adjectives and predicative adjectives with a prepositional complement in the function of an obligatory syntactically dependent component. The task was to determine the right-sided valence of adjectives that function as predicates; to determine the left-sided valence of adjectives that function as predicates and predicative adjectives with a prepositional complement that functions as an obligatory syntactically dependent element-component. The general methodology of the study is based on the philosophical provisions of the theory of scientific knowledge; humanistic philosophy; systems theory; systemic and activity approaches. As a result, it was determined that predicative adjectives mainly express causative meaning among constructions transmitted using a prepositional phrase. The analysis of the structural and semantic properties of predicative adjectives in the predicate function confirms the close connection between their semantics and the structures they form.

Keywords:

Predicative Adjectives, Structural-Semantic Properties, Valency of Predicative Adjectives, Predicative Adjectives with a Prepositional Complement.

RESUMEN

El artículo se basa en un enfoque para estudiar la valencia de los adjetivos predicativos, en el que la colocación y la valencia se califican como fenómenos idénticos. El objetivo del estudio fue estudiar las propiedades estructurales y semánticas de los adjetivos predicativos en inglés, en particular la valencia de los adjetivos predicativos y los adjetivos predicativos con un complemento preposicional en función de un componente sintácticamente dependiente obligatorio. La tarea fue determinar la valencia del lado derecho de los adjetivos que funcionan como predicados; determinar la valencia del lado izquierdo de los adjetivos que funcionan como predicados y los adjetivos predicativos con un complemento preposicional que funciona como un elemento-componente sintácticamente dependiente obligatorio. La metodología general del estudio se basa en las disposiciones filosóficas de la teoría del conocimiento científico; la filosofía humanística; la teoría de sistemas; los enfoques sistémico y de la actividad. Como resultado, se determinó que los adjetivos

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predicativos expresan principalmente un significado causativo entre las construcciones transmitidas utilizando una frase preposicional. El análisis de las propiedades estructurales y semánticas de los adjetivos predicativos en la función predicativa confirma la estrecha conexión entre su semántica y las estructuras que forman.

Palabras clave:

Adjetivos predicativos, propiedades semánticas estructurales, valencia de los adjetivos predicativos, adjetivos predicativos con complemento preposicional.

INTRODUCTION

Like a living organism, language is never static; it changes over time and reacts to everything around it. Language tries to find a way to arrange words to provide a logical and coherent description of the world (Hladush & Pavliuk, 2019, p. 3). Grammar holds a central place in the program for learning all languages. Without its knowledge, effective communication is impossible, whether written or spoken (Kovtun, 2021, p.151).

No matter the direction of linguistics development, it constantly deepens knowledge about the functional capabilities of linguistic units, the structure and system of language, and the search for ways to study individual subsystems of language. In this regard, researchers are drawn to the structural-semantic properties of predicative adjectives, their prospects, and the system-forming capabilities of individual derivational means.

Studying various paradigmatic and syntagmatic properties of elements in lexical-semantic groups and the structural-semantic properties of predicative adjectives is undoubtedly fruitful. The need for a clearer analysis within the synonymous series of systematically organized adjectives highlights the relevance of such research (Oleksenko & Mizina, 2014).

The study of various communicative tactics and strategies that determine the structural-semantic properties of predicative adjectives, as well as the features and choices of usage for enhancing effective communication in different situations, remains relevant in globalization. The strategy of expressing personality is realized through linguistic means of different levels; however, in the case of strategies expressed through positively evaluative speech acts, the components of expressive speech acts, namely predicative adjectives, predominate (Deichakivska, 2022).

The relevance of studying the structural-semantic properties of predicative adjectives is determined by discrepancies in defining the semantic status of the adjective, the absence of a unified reliable theory, the complexity of investigating the problem of word meaning, and the methodology of study.

Identifying the properties of predicative adjectives in education is currently a significant issue in the theory and methodology of teaching within the educational process. Based on this, we addressed the following questions in the article:

right-side valency of adjectives functioning as predicates;

left-side valency of adjectives functioning as predicates;

predicative adjectives with a prepositional complement functioning as a mandatory syntactically dependent element component.

Literature Review

Research on the relationship between linguistic categories and philosophical categories has consistently expressed itself as a phenomenon in the semantics of words, where the closely intertwined areas of logical content – lexical meaning and concepts – intersect, along with the structural-semantic properties of predicative adjectives.

The functions of imperative statements and structural-semantic types have been comprehensively investigated in the official business style and journalistic style by Vintoniv & Bortun (2020), who analyzed the persuasive statements of the official business style, particularly their semantic-pragmatic varieties, nuclear elements, the core of the category of the imperative, and the periphery of the realization of the category of imperative. In the journalistic style, they examined the functional-semantic structure of imperative statements. They demonstrated the interrelationship between the structural-semantic organization of the sentence and the communicative task, characterized the subsystems of the official business style and genres, stylistic features, the specifics of the elements of the communicative situation, and the structure of statements from the perspective of the implementation of grammatical means for expressing the category of the imperative.

Various perspectives of linguists on the differentiation of adjectives in the modern languages of different nations have been analyzed by Novikova (2012). The consequences of the transition from one lexical-grammatical category to another have been traced, and patterns of change in the semantic-grammatical properties of adjectives have been identified. The means and methods of forming relative adjectives and their semantic-derivational features have also been clarified.

The functions of the predicate as a central component and the theoretical problems of the semantic organization of the sentence have been highlighted by Kononenko (2010). Specifically, attention has been focused on the material of various semantic types of predicates and the means of their representation in the context of elementary and complex sentences. The resources of modern

language have been traced to expressing logical-referential relationships.

Several theoretical problems in syntax and their solutions in modern language have been examined in light of relevant linguistic theories by Ostrovska (2022). The main directions of contemporary syntax have also been characterized, including semantic, expressive, generative, pragmatic, cognitive, and communicative approaches, which represent a scientific anthropocentric paradigm and are actively developing in world linguistics. The concept of functional-semantic syntax holds significant importance in the studies of syntactic structure, to which the researcher has devoted particular attention in her investigations.

The analysis of the structural-semantic models of complex adjectives, where the second component contains the seme "action," has been the focus of Rud's (2020) research. The material for the study consisted of adjectival composites, individually-authored formations, and conventional complex adjectives that arise from established word-formation models based on existing words in the language. The meanings of individually authored adjectival formations, characterized by a semantically more complex structure influenced by contextual surroundings, have been revealed, leading to the emergence of additional semes in derivative units due to more complex word-formation structures. The emergence of individually-authored composite adjectives in the language is driven by the necessity to convey property with a single word and to express complex characteristics, the discovery of new meanings in words, and the desire to communicate the richness and complexity of a poetic image filled with deep social meaning and expression. Productive structural-semantic models have been identified in the study, which give rise to complex adjectives in poetic language. Their analysis has shown that the components of the composite motivate the formation of such nominations that are recorded as poeticisms in modern language.

Adjectival derivatives formed with zero suffixes have been examined by Oleksenko & Mizina (2014), who identified the corresponding methods of word formation. Various aspects of suffixes have been studied in the context of root- and affix-centered approaches (paradigmatic relationships, criteria for distinction, genesis), determining the quantitative characteristics and typology of word-formation types of adjectival complex zero-suffix derivatives based on formal motivation. The stylistic prevalence of composite and simple-root adjectives has been clarified using a wide factual material from modern language with a zero-suffix formant, highlighting their place in artistic, scientific, and confessional styles.

The studies have clarified the means and methods of forming relative adjectives and their semantic-derivational features; they have revealed the functions of imperative statements and structural-semantic types in both official business and journalistic styles, as well as the functions of the predicate as a central component and the theoretical problems of the semantic organization of the sentence. The concept of functional-semantic syntax holds significant importance in the studies of syntactic structure. The material for the research included adjectival composites, individually-authored formations, and conventional complex adjectives arising from established word-formation models based on existing words in the language. As a result of the study, productive structural-semantic models have been identified, which give rise to complex adjectives; adjectival derivatives formed with zero suffixes have been studied, and the corresponding methods of word formation have been highlighted.

Insufficient attention has been paid in the works of researchers to the study of the structural-semantic properties of predicative adjectives, the valency of predicative adjectives, and predicative adjectives with a prepositional complement in the function of a mandatory syntactically dependent component.

The subject of the research is the syntactic and lexical properties of adjectives in the English language.

The object of the research consists of predicative adjectives as elements of syntactic constructions and as lexical units in English.

The goal of the research is to investigate the structural-semantic properties of predicative adjectives in English, specifically the valency of predicative adjectives and predicative adjectives with a prepositional complement in the function of a mandatory syntactically dependent component.

METHODOLOGY

The general methodology of the study is based on the philosophical provisions of the theory of scientific knowledge; humanistic philosophy; systems theory; dialectical theory about the general connection, interdependence and integrity of the phenomena of objective reality; systemic and activity approaches to understanding the social nature of the individual; the unity of consciousness and activity in the formation and development; provisions of pedagogical science regarding the formation of the individual, his professional development taking into account the features of future professional activity.

The study applied descriptive typological analysis to the phenomena under investigation, utilizing a comprehensive approach to identify the features of predicative adjectives as a class of words. The comparative-typological method used in the research enabled the identification of

distinctive and common traits in the functioning of adjectives, the valency of predicative adjectives, and the entire lexicon-syntactic system in the modern language program for using predicative adjectives.

Through the use of semantic analysis, the properties of predicative adjectives, the valency of predicative adjectives, and the features of predicative adjectives with a prepositional complement in the function of a mandatory syntactically dependent component have been clarified, establishing the semantic basis within sentences and phrases of adjectival components in contact with other components; trends in the combinability of predicative adjectives have been traced. The transformational method contributed to the discovery of the semantics of both individual predicative adjectives and syntactic constructions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Regarding the valency of predicative adjectives.

Given that insufficient attention has been paid in the works of researchers to the study of the structural-semantic properties of predicative adjectives, the valency of predicative adjectives, and predicative adjectives with a prepositional complement in the function of a mandatory syntactically dependent component, we have studied the valency of predicative adjectives (Celik & Kapukaya, 2022).

Research in linguistics from the 20th to the early 21st century demonstrates that linguists are focusing on the study of all linguistic phenomena and units from a multi-faceted perspective, as research on languages has changed in recent years, expanding the horizons of linguistics.

The interest of researchers in adjectives in the English language noticeably increased in the 1990s, operating with a system of concepts that have found justification in many studies and have emerged as a linguistic direction within grammatical science. Significant advancements have been made in the field of functional-categorical grammar; however, we still cannot speak of the resolution of all issues. In particular, recently, questions regarding the inter-level nature of individual categories have repeatedly become the focus of attention in world linguistic science, including studies on the structural-semantic properties of predicative adjectives, the valency of predicative adjectives, and predicative adjectives with a prepositional complement in the function of a mandatory syntactically dependent component. At various times, different aspects of these linguistic phenomena have been central, reflecting both the weak and strong manifestations of the corresponding grammatical concepts.

Today, one of the fundamental concepts of theoretical grammar remains valency as the ability of a word to enter into syntactic relationships with other elements. "Valency is the ability of a word to determine the quantity and quality of the word forms dependent on it, conditioned by its semantic and grammatical properties" (Rusanivskyi, 2004).

The French structuralist scholar Tesniere (1959) introduced the term "Valency" into linguistics, applying this concept exclusively to verbs. This scholar's theory places the verb at the center of the sentence, and the classification of verbs proposed by him can be compared to a theory known in logic – namely, unary, binary, or ternary predicates.

Subsequently, the theory of valency has developed in the context of the verb's combination with a noun or pronoun, which gives the verb a particular character of combinability completeness and creates an utterance that is complete. The verb itself determines which nouns will accompany a given verb, what the other part of speech will be, and how nouns will characterize the verb semantically. Today, valency analysis encompasses other parts of speech, not just the verb.

Recognizing the predicate element as a central semantic link defines its accompaniment by several arguments or one–semantic units that serve as linguistic representatives for the participants in the situation. Different terms for designating semantic units are referred to as thematic roles, actants, arguments, deep cases, and roles.

Based on the approach initiated by V. Admoni, we can talk about the presence of actants (accompanying arguments of the predicative adjective) when the predicative adjective serves as the predicate element. In this case, they are grammatically dependent on the adjective, as they are in the case of a verb, regardless of which part of speech they are expressed.

The study of the English language within the framework of valency theory was first proposed by German linguists. The emergence of the first valency dictionaries demonstrated clear parallels between English and German, authored by German researchers.

The tendency to narrow the interpretation of the term "valency" arose at the end of the last century, with its qualification as a phenomenon of the language level. However, initially, the term was equated with the concept of **c**ombinability – a concrete realization of this ability, a property in the process of speech that combines linguistic units to form higher-level units. At each level of language, in this approach – morphemic, phonetic, grammatical, lexical – combinability manifests itself in the compatibility or incompatibility of certain elements. At the morphological level, it concerns the combination of root morphemes and affixes; at the phonological level, it deals with the differential features of sounds; at the grammatical level, it involves combinability defined by the belonging of words to certain

parts of speech; and at the lexical level, it addresses the selectivity of lexemes.

The relationship between valency and combinability, according to this approach, can be defined as a relationship between potentiality and reality, possibility and realization. Valency at the language level reflects the characteristics of a word, while combinability is its realization at the level of speech.

In addition to this approach, there are other approaches according to which:

The concepts of combinability and valency belong to different levels, making it impossible to compare them.

Combinability is a broader concept, while valency is one of its manifestations; combinability is a universal concept, whereas valency is one of its types. Speaking of contextual and occasional usage, we emphasize that combinability encompasses both non-valent and valency-based relationships. Combinability includes both coordination and subordination, while valency encompasses only subordinative relationships (Taukchi, 2006);

The two concepts are identical because valency equals combinability at the level of surface structures;

Combinability is bidirectional (no part of speech is primary when combining different classes of words, as is the direction of the connection), whereas valency is a phenomenon of a unidirectional order (other words are subordinated to the strong word) (Selivanova, 2006).

Researchers emphasize the need to distinguish between syntactic combinability and semantic (lexical) combinability when studying combinability.

The property of a word, syntactic combinability, pertains to a particular part of speech and can enter into relationships with other words.

The ability of a word (considering its meaning) to combine with other words is possible in the case of semantic combinability.

Despite attempts to differentiate between combinability and valency, many researchers continue to refer to these phenomena as identical. The basis for this is the interpretation of valency in both narrow and broad senses. Recognizing valency only in a broad sense, researchers view this phenomenon as the ability of linguistic units to combine with other linguistic units. Conversely, recognizing valency only in a narrow sense, researchers speak of the mandatory combinability of words in a sentence, which ensures its correctness (Berezovska-Savchuk, 2016).

Scholars emphasize the semantic-syntactic nature of the category of valency.

The term "semantic-grammatical category" is used by Ivanytska (2007) and Hontar (1995) to define valency as the ability of a word to combine with other words belonging to any part of speech.

Masytska (1998) insists on interpreting valency as a "semantic-syntactic inter-level grammatical category". Two terms have been introduced into scientific circulation: collocation and colligation. The term colligation is defined as "the co-occurrence of grammatical forms," used to denote productive patterns, such as pattern + pattern. In contrast, collocation, for example, [verb of emotion] + [directional particle], encompasses combinations like run away, rush out, and hurry down (Lewis & Conzett, 2000).

All of this reflects the ongoing interest of researchers in studying this issue. The valency properties of the predicate, which are realized in the predicate itself in a sentence, are presented as "gaps" or "slots" that need to be filled.

To this day, the most common definition of valency remains that of a linguistic phenomenon expressed at the level of speech through the distribution of a word, which is the sum of all the contexts in which a linguistic element occurs.

In our study, we adopt the approach to the study of the valency of predicative adjectives, in which combinability and valency are qualified as identical phenomena. We define valency in our research as a potential phenomenon – the ability of a specific class of words to enter into syntactic relationships with other classes of words – while distribution is considered a typical position of a word in a sentence as a real phenomenon, contrasting with those syntactic contexts in which the word never appears.

Right-side valency of adjectives in the function of the predicate.

The right-side valency of adjectives in the function of the predicate (predicative adjectives) has not yet been the subject of specific study by researchers. The position of the predicative adjective is considered to occupy the final position, which is a mandatory position for such an adjective. The right-side valency of predicative adjectives is represented by subordinate clauses, prepositional phrases, and infinitives (Deichakivska, 2024).

Right-side combinability is classified as optional, as a feature of right-side combinability is that, besides several adjectives, a preposition must necessarily follow them – e.g., aware/unaware of, accustomed/unaccustomed to, fond of, used to.

The same can be said for adjectives followed by an infinitive or a subordinate clause. In general, right-side valency is optional, except for predicative adjectives such as apt, able, bound, inclined, due, likely/unlikely, liable, ready,

prepared, and willing/unwilling, after which the infinitive is mandatory. In this approach, combinability becomes obligatory.

Empirical data allowed us to identify adjectives after which a subordinate personal clause may also be used, in addition to a prepositional phrase, but an infinitive cannot be certain, aware, convinced, positive, unaware, conscious, sure; for example:

"I'm certain it is no coincidence that the sultan founded the Guard" (Kostova, 2005, p. 604);

«*I'm* convinced that there is at least one document there» (Kostova, 2005, p. 229).

The various distributions characteristic of certain adjectives indicate that some adjectives (such as aware) belong to those that can be followed by a subordinate clause, as well as to those that can be followed by a prepositional phrase. For them, right-side valency remains obligatory.

We observe the significance of the adjective sure when there is a tendency to place the subordinate clause first before the main clause containing the predicative adjective and the linking verb, meaning that expansion can also occur in prepositions. The subordinate clause is separated by a comma in this case. The need for additional information regarding not only the adjective sure but the entire main clause may serve as the basis for this position:

"Whether that meant gentlemen always remove the evidence or never give occasion for it in the first place, the sergeant was not quite sure" < "The sergeant was not quite sure whether that meant (that) gentlemen always remove the evidence, or never give occasion for it in the first place" (Fowles, 2006, p. 175).

The transformation presented demonstrates that the adjective sure, in the case of this transformation (in the second case), would belong to the topic of the sentence, meaning it would be known information (what exactly the sergeant was sure about), followed by clarification. The original sentence discusses common knowledge: typically, gentlemen do not give grounds for such thoughts or leave evidence. The question is whether the sergeant was certain (regarding a specific person) about the truth of these statements and what he thought about this, meaning that the information is rheumatic and new. For this reason, in this case, we can speak of an expansion that occurs in a preposition (Kozak et al., 2023).

We can analyze the same situation described in the sentence: "David had a growing sense that they resented his presence; whether it was because of the attention he distracted, the formality he introduced, or that they must have heard all the old man was telling him before, he wasn't sure" (Fowles, 2006, p. 48).

All three statements regarding which David was unsure reflect a typical course of conversation or meeting when a new person appears. David was not certain whether they were simply bored while listening to the old man's stories, or whether they were put off by the presence of a guest, or by the formality that his presence itself evokes.

There are isolated examples where the right-side expansion is an infinitive, even though the adjective sure is on the list of those that can only be followed by a subordinate clause, for example:

"I'll be sure to let you know" (Kostova, 2005, p. 479).

All the adjectives listed above, which can only be combined with a personal subordinate clause when used with a predicate, possess other properties related to right-side valency:

1. They can fill a prepositional phrase in the right-side position (in addition to a personal clause):

«*The sergeant was fully* aware of the situation» (Fowles, 2006, p. 169);

«She had never felt more sure of herself» (Maugham, 1976, p. 197);

«*...she was* conscious of the satisfaction he got out of seeing how much fuss people made of her» (Maugham, 1976, p. 91];

2. They can be followed by other subordinate clauses that are introduced by interrogative pronouns (in addition to that-clauses):

«*I wasn't even* sure what a security check involved: *x*-rays?» (Tartt, 2013, p. 216);

«*I wasn't* sure for a moment what to say» (Kostova, 2005, p. 449);

«*I am still* uncertain where he is buried» (Kostova, 2005, p. 581);

3. There can also be a discussion of a variant zero form (in the case of the adjectives listed above), which is characteristic of dialogic speech – referring to a zero at the level of syntax:

«He's turning in his thesis in five weeks», she said.

«And then? »

« (He is) working with the Indians in the bush (in future) *». She told him where.*

«Both of you? » he asked.

«Sure (that both of us are working with the Indians in the bush) » (Le Carre, 1993, p. 134).

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Left-side valency of adjectives in the function of the predicate.

The left-side valency of the predicative adjective can be regarded (with which combinability is obligatory, apart from the linking verb) only when it is used before a noun – this is interpreted as the realization of the adjective's function of qualification in the function of the predicate. For example: "I've been such a loyal friend to her" > "I've been so loyal to her," meaning that we are discussing the lexical valency that is possible.

In our study, we refer to left-side valency in the case of transformations. These transformations, considering the synsemantic nature of some adjectives in the function of the predicate, allow us to clarify which meaning of the adjective is realized in a given context. For instance, adjectives that can denote a certain state, have causative meanings, and are used with the preposition "of" typically express a short-term (but not qualitative) state of the subject, which is clearly manifested in a specifically defined situation. Thus, in the sentence:

«I don't think it's very nice of you to speak of your father like that» (Maugham, 1976, p.186) refers, under certain conditions, to the characterization of a person in the given circumstances, as evidenced by the transformation.

In different contexts, the functioning of the predicative adjective may contribute to either the development of a connotative meaning or the emergence of a different meaning. Distribution, as the set of all possible positions of each predicative adjective (a specific element), is often accompanied by a change in connotative meanings and varies.

Let us provide examples of the distribution of adjectives:

1. When the speaker expresses hope regarding the uncertainty or certainty of the information being conveyed, the adjective possible + that-clause expresses epistemic modality. An assumption of certainty is expressed in the case of an affirmative sentence: "Isn't it possible that Dracula was buried here, or that his body was moved here from Snagov?" (Kostova, 2005, p. 568); however, the adjective possible, when combined with an infinitive, expresses dynamic modality, indicating all types of possibility or impossibility, inability, or ability: «It's no longer possible to bring her to the Square to stay...» (McEwan, 2005, p. 156); «...it's possible in a long rally to become a virtually unconscious being» (McEwan, 2005, p. 111);

2. when there is a prepositional phrase following the adjective mad – «***I know he's not*** mad about this sort of thing» (Fowles, 2006, p. 37), The connotative meaning of causative appears in the sentence; in the construction mad + infinitive – «***Women are*** mad to trust in men» (Fowles, 2006, p. 154) – researchers interpret it as an evaluative meaning of the adjective, followed by an infinitive;

3. when it expresses evaluative modality in the model lucky + that clause regarding a specific case: ***«You're lucky it was just a wheel»*** (Fitzgerald, 2021, p. 60); refers to a general evaluation in the case of extraposition: «It was lucky for Julia that she was a good actress» (Maugham, 1976, p. 128); «(It's) lucky (that) I'm a good actress» (Maugham, 1976, p. 91).

Deontic modality is characteristic of the adjective **l**ucky, which combines with the infinitive lucky + to + Infinitive: «***Henry knows he's*** lucky to have me» (Fowles, 2006, p. 59); «***I was*** lucky to be here at all» (Kostova, 2005, p. 411).

Thus, all the highlighted adjectives have an obligatory right-side valency, where the syntactically dependent element can be a subordinate personal clause or a prepositional phrase, as well as an infinitive clause and a prepositional phrase. The obligatory right-side valency is realized at the level of speech in various structures.

A structure is a component of a particular speech act when an infinitive follows the predicate; the predicative adjective has an addressee-oriented direction.

When analyzing the issue of the valency of predicative adjectives, we focus on the term "complement," which is used in linguistics as a synonym for the term "predicative."

As for the term "complementation," different approaches exist in foreign grammars regarding its definition: complementation is understood as a dependent subordinate clause, which can be either an object clause or a subject clause; complementation is part of a phrase or sentence that follows a word, clarifying its meaning.

Therefore, in the case of the complementation of the predicative adjective (noting that the position before the subject occurs quite rarely), we can talk about pre- and post-position.

Predicative adjectives with a prepositional complement in the function of a mandatory syntactically dependent component.

Predicative adjectives are divided by researchers into adjectives of undirected qualities and directed qualities.

Adjectives that encompass words denoting relationships, weight, temperature, color, etc. – these are adjectives of undirected qualities, which are used both attributively and predicatively:

«…you look perfectly sweet in your white trousers» (Honchar, 1989, p. 54).

«He was white-haired…» (Fowles, 2006, p. 47).

Adjectives of undirected qualities can attach (the attachment is optional) dependent elements (most often, these are adverbs of degree):

«That's why I was so crazy to get this job» (Maugham, 1976, p. 17);
«That would be terribly kind of you» (Maugham, 1976, p. 17);

«You're simply wonderful in it (in the play) » (Maugham, 1976, p. 16);

Cf.:

«That's why I was crazy to get this job.

That would be kind of you.

You're wonderful in it».

Adjectives of directed qualities cannot form a structurally complete syntactic construction without an obligatory syntactically dependent context. Most often, the prepositional complement serves as a mandatory counterpart.

In the predicative position, the ability to actualize a directed quality is realized. Therefore, adjectives of the second group are predominantly and exclusively used in the function of the predicate in certain cases, which is their characteristic feature.

Adjectives in the predicative position (in many cases), together with the linking verb, form an obligatory single expression of the state or existence of qualification in English.

Adjectives of directed qualities can be used both with obligatory dependent elements and without them.

Cf.:

«Barley was angry» (Kostova, 2005, p. 270);

«She was angry with this man for being the only probable bearer of this knowledge» (Spark, 1976, p. 54).

Adjectives that require an obligatory prepositional phrase are usually adjectives of directed qualities. They are used with a specific preposition, which specifies the lexical-semantic meaning of the given adjective in the predicative position.

In the table below, we provide a list of adjectives used with various prepositions (according to the «Collins COBUILD Student's Grammar» (Sinclair, 2005, p. 42). This list is supplemented with data obtained from continuous sampling.

Table 1: Predicative Adjectives with Prepositional Complementation

Adj + at	Adj + about	Adj + for	Adj + to	Adj + of	Adj + with
(1) strong reactions: Angry				(1) strong reactions:	Angry
Amazed	adamant	Angry	able	Afraid	
Amused	Angry	Bad	accustomed	Ashamed	Annoyed
Astonished	anxious	Common	allergic	Confident	Bored
Excited	articulate	Difficult	attentive	Convinced	Busy
Disturbed	Crazy	Easy	close	Contemptuous	Delighted
Shocked	curious	Essential	Due	Critical	Impatient
Surprised	doubtful	Famous	dedicated	Envious	Impressed
Pleased	dubious	Grateful	devoted	Frightened	Dense
	Glad	Important	different equal	Jealous	
	happy	Late	engaged	Proud	
(2) ability:	honest	Necessary	familiar	Scared	
Adept	linorant	Possible	different generous grateful	Suspicious	Pleased
Bad	jalous	Prepared	identical	Terrified	Satisfied
Clever	mistaken	sorry thankful	junior	Tired	

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Excellent	Sad	Thankful	loyal	(2) quality demonstrated at a certain situation: aware	Sick
Good	serious	Unnecessary	married	Brave	
	sincere	Unusual	related	Capable	
Hopeless	Silly	Usual	senior	Careless	
Useless	Sorry		similar	Clever	
Unskilled	suspicious			Conscious	
	pleasant			Devoid	
	tactful		thankful	Fond	
	Upset		wonderful	Generous	
			used	Good	
				Intelligent	
				Kind	
				Nice	
				Polite	
				Sensible	
				Silly	
				Stupid	
				Sure	
				Thoughtful	
				Unsure	
				Unkind	
				Unreasonable	
				Unaware	
				Wrong	

Source: Own elaboration

To analyze the semantic (with the corresponding prepositional phrases) content of constructions, it is necessary to consider predicative adjectives that are exclusively used with prepositions (Sinclair, 2005, p. 42), in contrast to other adjectives that can be used both with and without prepositions.

The group under analysis includes the adjectives accustomed/unaccustomed to, fond of, used to, and aware/unaware of. Regarding the adjective fond and the adjectives aware/unaware, it is important to note that their obligatory use with a preposition is not coincidental, as they acquire specific meanings only in combination with other words and are synsemantic; therefore, their usage with a preposition is mandatory.

Regarding the three possible valencies (circumstantial, object, predicative) of right-side valency, whose fulfillment is obligatory for synsemantic words (Grosul, 1977, p. 51), we encounter valency with a relevant feature, which is the object "inanimate"; e.g.:

«The sergeant was fully aware of the situation» (Fowles, 2006, p. 169);

«He was not unaware of this (of the public mention of the rivals)» (Fowles, 2006, p. 44);

«Even in my sleep I had been somehow aware of that ancient, silent look» (Kostova, 2005, p. 285).

Object valency is also characteristic of the adjective fond, but with the relevant feature "animate"; e.g.:

«He knows I'm very fond of the children» (Fowles, 2006, p. 172);

«...two nephews he was fond of» (Fowles, 2006, p. 149).

As for the adjectives accustomed/unaccustomed and used, which function as synonyms of the previous two, it can be said that these adjectives tend to favor fixed adjective-preposition combinations. They are commonly used in conjunction with the verbs get and become:

«I'm getting used to it» (Kostova, 2005, p. 447);

«...you got used to the fact it wasn't curry» (Tartt, 2013, p. 205).

Regarding the semantic characteristics, constructions with prepositional complementation can be divided into several structurally-semantic groups:

1. A group of predicative adjectives (which belong to prepositional constructions with the prepositions with, at, of, and about) indicates the cause of the state in which the subject finds itself. Here are some examples that illustrate the causative nature of structures with these adjectives: – with the preposition with:

«*Oh Jimmy*? Dear? (I'm) Wild with happiness and sick with anxiety» (Maugham, 1976, p. 44) > «*Happiness was the reason for making her wild and anxiety was the reason for making her sick*;»

– «...domestic situations they have got bored with» «*He knows I'm very fond of the children*» (Fowles, 2006, p. 172);

«...two nephews he was fond of» (Fowles, 2006, p. 149).

p. 159) > «*...domestic situations were the reason for their being bored*» > «*...domestic situations made them bored*»;

«*She was busy with her thoughts"* (Maugham, 1976, p. 172) > «*her thoughts made her busy*» > «*her thoughts were the reason for her being busy*»;

– with the preposition of:

«*Even after all these years she was a little frightened of Julia*» (Maugham, 1976, p. 117); «*It was Julia that made her a little frightened*» > «*Julia was the reason for her being a little frightened*»;

«*He was rather ostentatiously contemptuous of the plush surroundings of the flat*» (Fowles, 2006, p. 177) > «*the plush surroundings of the flat made him rather ostentatiously contemptuous*» > «*the plush surroundings ...were the reason for his being ...ostentatiously contemptuous*»;

«...she had become too self-conscious, too aware of what other people were doing» (Fowles, 2006, p. 96) > «...what other people were doing made her too self-conscious, too aware» > «...what other people were doing was the reason for her becoming too self-conscious»;

– with the preposition at (the entire semantics of the construction indicates very strong emotions when the preposition at is used to denote causal relationships):

«But if I tried to get him on the subject when he was sober he got mad at me» (Maugham, 1976, p.107);

«Kosti was as sore as hell at my leaving him» (Maugham, 1976, p. 105);

«I thought he would be angry at my talking with the old witch» (Kostova, 2005, p. 501).

At the same time, the emotional weight of adjectives can be intensified by other parts of speech, particularly by particles or adverbs:

«He was not so much excited at getting home» (Maugham, 1976, p. 94).

When a past participle adjective (such as surprised, amazed, shocked, astonished) is used in the function of a predicative adjective, this construction has an active equivalent; sentences with the verb in the active voice serve as its analogy, typically used in the past tense:

«She was surprised at his going back to that subject so suddenly» > «His going back to that subject so suddenly surprised her» (Maugham, 1976, p. 192);

– with the preposition about, we observe a causative meaning:

«...he was dubious about transatlantic monumentality…» (Fowles, 2006, p. 44) > «*transatlantic monumentality made him dubious*» > «*transatlantic monumentality was the reason for his being dubious*»;

«He was jealous about my getting into the college» (Fowles, 2006, p. 109) > «*My getting into the college made him jealous*» > «*My getting into the college was the reason for his becoming jealous*».

The proposed Table 1 indicates that many adjectives can be used in the predicative position with different prepositions. Conversely, when used with the same preposition, the model Vcop + Adj + Prep can have several meanings that are differentiated through various transformations. In this case, several prepositions (such as of, with, about, and at) serve as means of expressing causativity. This model deserves attention in English due to parallels with other ways of expressing causation, as the analytical form of causativity expressed by the verb (make + Adj) is characteristic of the English language, while the synthetic form, combining the meanings of becoming and causativity, is syncretic.

2. A group of predicative adjectives that indicate a person's abilities and skills; regarding the state in which a person finds themselves in a specific situation, this group includes adjectives with the prepositions of, at, and for:

– Structures with the preposition of.

If the model demonstrates (in contrast to the causative meaning) qualities inherent to a person in a certain situation, in the case of transformation, the predicative adjective occupies the position of qualification:

«That would be terribly kind of you. I've never been to a rehearsal in my life» (Maugham, 1976, p. 17) > *«You're a terribly kind* (type of a) woman to allow an outsider to be present a t the rehearsal»;

«...he was not on the other hand devoid of ambition» (Fowles, 2006, p. 44) > *«he was an ambitious man»*.

The analyzed sources reveal that in the position following the adjective aware, there are the most constructions with the preposition of (16 cases have been recorded), including: *«He's always much more aware of what he's doing than you think»* (Fowles, 2006, p. 89);

«...Sai became aware of the enormous space she was entering» (Desai, 2006, p. 34);

«He knew he could become aware here of depth, width, height» (Desai, 2006, p. 32);

– structures with the preposition at.

This structure is used alongside a causative meaning when referring to ability, skills, or competencies:

«Very unskilled at drawing borders...» (Desai, 2006, p. 143);

«Tom was very clever at helping one with one's income-tax returns» (Maugham, 1976, p. 135).

In the case of transformation, we find the predicative adjective in the position of qualification: "Very unskilled at drawing borders" > "They are very unskilled people at drawing borders." "Tom was very clever at helping one with one's income-tax return" > "Tom was a very clever man at helping one with income tax return."

– Constructions with the preposition for.

An additional characteristic of a person or thing appears due to constructions with the preposition for, the name of which serves as the subject in the sentence:

«It was unusual for strangers to come to our village» (Kostova, 2005, p. 502); *«It was unusual for strangers to come to our to our village» > «For strangers to come to our village was unusual» > «Strangers coming to our village were unusual»*.

In general, three transpositions are allowed in the case of the preposition for, unlike constructions with the adjectives at or of, which correspondingly convey a person's state, indicate skills, and, as a result of the transformation, occupy the position of qualification.

The first transposition is analogous to the structures with the two aforementioned prepositions (indicating a person's state). The adjective occupies the position of qualification:

«They are a bit too active for me» (Maugham, 1976, p. 96) > *«They are a bit too active men for me»*;

The second transposition is a structure with a causative meaning that pertains to the adjective sorry, which is not evidenced in the position of qualification:

«She began to feel sorry for him» > «He made her feel sorry» > «He was the reason for her feeling sorry» (Maugham, 1976, p. 171);

«But he was not quite happy for all that» > «All that did not make him happy» > «All that wasn't the reason for his feeling happy» (Maugham, 1976, p. 146).

3. Finally, the third transposition is a construction that allows for the displacement of the predicative adjective (along with the complement of the preposition – whether as an object or subject – to occupy the subject position) to the final position. This structure indicates a thing or person for whom a short-term quality (a specific attribute) is characteristic. An example with the adjective easy shows that the corresponding circumstance in this situation will facilitate the conversation for the person in question:

«It is exactly your presence that will make it easier for her to talk» (Kostova, 2005, p. 488) > *«For her to talk* (about it) exactly in your presence will make it (all) easier» > «Her talking (about it) in your presence will make it (all) easier».

Constructions with the preposition for are also constructions in which the subject position is occupied by an impersonal pronoun, where the infinitive follows the predicative adjective.

Structures with the preposition to indicate the relationship of the subject to the object, with the relevant characteristic being "animate":

«The boisterous company of the young men became intolerable to him» (Honchar, 1989, p. 158);

«She's been so different to me lately» (Maugham, 1976, p. 120).

We conclude that among the constructions conveyed with prepositional phrases by predicative adjectives, those expressing causative meaning dominate. The meaning of causativity is conveyed through the largest number of prepositions (with, of, at, and about).

Two of these belong to the most frequent:

the use of constitutes 43%;

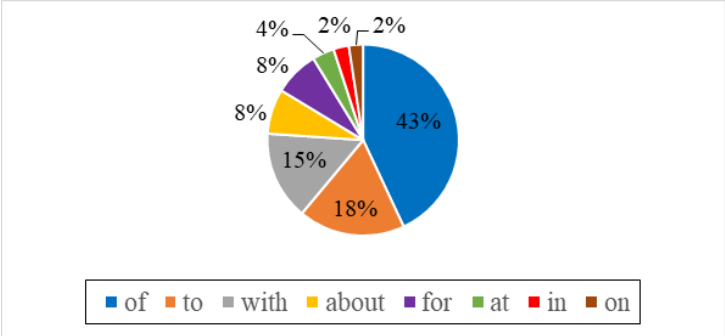
the use of with constitutes 18%, as confirmed by statistical analysis.

The quantitative factor in the use of these structures allows their inclusion in the macrofield (its peripheral part) of causativity. The peripheral nature of the central means of expressing causative relationships is determined by the absence of a causative verb.

The seme of causativity, in the case of one of the peripheral means, is expressed by the predicative adjective. Again, we encounter the predicative adjective in the position of qualification in the case of transformation: *«Very unskilled at drawing borders» > «They are very unskilled people at drawing borders. Tom was very clever at helping one with one's income-tax return» > «Tom was a very clever man at helping one with income tax return»*.

Prepositional phrases, as complements to predicative adjectives, convey another meaning that is related to the characterization of a person. This refers to a short-term quality characteristic of a particular period, in contrast to established personality traits, which are limited in time. Constructions with the preposition of convey this meaning. In Figure 1, we will present a diagram that demonstrates the frequency of use of prepositions that combine with predicative adjectives.

Fig 1: Frequency of use of prepositions that follow predicative adjectives



Source: Own elaboration

The most frequent preposition is of, which we explain by its use in expressing the meaning of a short-term (situational) characteristic of a person and a causative meaning. The second place is occupied by the preposition to, which can be explained by the high frequency of some adjectives (notably grateful) with which it is used, as well as the wide range of meanings it conveys.

The meaning of causativity is also expressed through the adjectives with, about, and for, which occupy the third, fourth, and fifth positions in the diagram, respectively. The fact that the preposition at, which also conveys the meaning of causativity, occupies only the sixth position can be explained by the strong emotional connotation it carries when expressing causativity, the state of the subject, which is caused by an object expressed by a construction with the preposition at.

The most frequently used adjectives that combine with prepositional phrases include adjectives with broad semantics, namely:

aware – 14.5%;

fond – 9.09%.

High-frequency adjectives also include nice and kind, which are used with the most frequent preposition of, as well as the adjective angry, which can be explained by its usage with various prepositions.

CONCLUSIONS

Nowadays, one of the fundamental concepts in theoretical grammar remains valency – the ability of a word to enter into syntactic relationships with other elements.

The modal and temporal characteristics inherent to predicative adjectives, which constitute the essence of predication, allow us to assert that such adjectives, like verbs, belong to the class of predicates and demonstrate certain differential features.

Various types of modality are attributed to adjectives in the function of the predicate. Adjectives of a certain type of modality correlate with different structures and allow for various transformations.

Given that insufficient attention has been paid in the works of researchers to the study of the structural-semantic properties of predicative adjectives, the valency of predicative adjectives, and predicative adjectives with prepositional complements in the function of a mandatory syntactically dependent component, we have examined the valency of predicative adjectives.

The study is based on an approach to the study of the valency of predicative adjectives, in which combinability and valency are qualified as identical phenomena. In the study, valency is defined as a potential phenomenon, as the ability to enter into syntactic relationships of a certain class of words with other classes of words, while distribution is considered a typical position of a word in a sentence as a real phenomenon, contrasting with those syntactic contexts in which the word never occurs.

The right-side and left-side valency of adjectives in the function of the predicate has been examined. In different contexts, the functioning of the predicative adjective may contribute to either the development of a connotative meaning or the emergence of another meaning. Distribution, as the set of all possible positions of each predicative adjective (a specific element), is often accompanied by changes in connotative meanings and varies. Here are examples of the distribution of adjectives:

When analyzing the issue of the valency of predicative adjectives, we focus on the term «complement,» which is used to denote such adjectives in linguistics as a synonym for the term «predicative.»

Predicative adjectives with prepositional complements in the function of a mandatory syntactically dependent component have been examined. Predicative adjectives are divided into adjectives of undirected qualities and directed qualities.

A list of adjectives that are used with various prepositions has been proposed (according to the Collins COBUILD Student's Grammar). This list is supplemented with data obtained from continuous sampling.

We conclude that among the constructions conveyed with prepositional phrases by predicative adjectives, those expressing causative meaning dominate. The fact that all structures with obligatory syntactic extensions allow for transformations and the structural-semantic properties of predicative adjectives confirm their causative nature inherent to these structures implicitly indicates expressed causation.

The analysis of the structural-semantic properties of predicative adjectives in the function of the predicate confirms the close relationship between their semantics and the structures they form.

Further research on predicative adjectives is needed, focusing on their consideration within the structure Vcop + Adj as a manifestation of analytical tendencies in the English language; examining the attributive and predicative functions of predicative adjectives; and clarifying the differences related to the usage of adjectives in the function of an attribute versus a predicate.

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