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The Adjective in the System of Parts of Speech in Modern Russian: Grammatical Categories, Types, and Functions

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Abstract. *The adjective is one of the most important independent parts of speech in modern Russian. It plays a significant role in constructing the linguistic representation of the world because it enables speakers to characterize objects, phenomena, and people from different perspectives. Adjectives express qualitative, relative, and possessive features, help clarify information, convey the speaker's attitude, and create expressive descriptions.* ***1. Research Objectives.*** *The main objective of this study is to examine the adjective as an independent part of speech and identify its grammatical characteristics, major categories, and functional possibilities in modern Russian.* ***2. Design/Methodology/Approach.*** *The research employs descriptive, comparative, structural-semantic, and contextual methods. The theoretical principles are examined on the basis of academic and educational literature on Russian grammar.* ***3. Research Findings.*** *The analysis demonstrates that adjectives possess specific morphological and syntactic characteristics. Particular attention is paid to the grammatical categories of gender, number, case, degrees of comparison, and full and short forms.* ***4. Theoretical Contributions/Originality.*** *The study systematizes the fundamental characteristics of adjectives and reveals the relationship between their grammatical meaning and communicative functions.* ***5. Implications for Practitioners/Policy.*** *The findings can be used in Russian grammar education, lesson preparation, and the development of written and oral communication skills.*

Keywords: *adjective, morphology, grammar, qualitative adjectives, relative adjectives, possessive adjectives, degrees of comparison, Russian language.*

Introduction

The Russian language represents a complex and multidimensional system in which every part of speech performs a specific grammatical and semantic function. One of the important components of this system is the adjective. It occupies a special position among independent parts of speech because it expresses the characteristics of objects, their qualities, properties, and features. Adjectives make speech more precise, meaningful, and expressive.

The relevance of studying adjectives is determined by their widespread use in everyday communication, academic literature, journalism, and literary works. Adjectives not only help describe the surrounding world but also express the speaker's emotional attitude toward objects and events. For example, the phrases "an interesting book," "a wide street," and "a kind person" contain

additional information that makes it possible to imagine the objects being described more accurately [1]. From a grammatical perspective, an adjective is an independent part of speech that denotes a non-processual feature of an object and answers the questions "what kind?", "which one?", or "what sort?". In a sentence, it most commonly functions as an attribute; however, in its short form, it can also serve as the nominal part of a compound predicate [2] . For example: "A beautiful garden surrounded the house" and "The garden was beautiful."

n Russian, adjectives are closely connected with nouns. They agree with nouns in gender, number, and case. This feature is essential for constructing grammatically correct phrases and sentences. For instance, the forms "новый дом" (new house), "новая книга" (new book), and "новое здание" (new building) demonstrate how an adjective changes according to the grammatical characteristics of the noun. Special attention in the study of this part of speech is given to the classification of adjectives. Traditional Russian grammar distinguishes three main categories: qualitative, relative, and possessive adjectives. Each category has its own semantic and grammatical characteristics. Qualitative adjectives describe directly perceived properties of objects, relative adjectives indicate material, time, place, or purpose, while possessive adjectives express ownership or belonging to a particular person or animal [3].

Another important aspect is the study of degrees of comparison. Qualitative adjectives can express different levels of a particular feature. The comparative degree makes it possible to compare objects according to a certain quality, while the superlative degree expresses the highest level of that quality. For example: "smart - smarter - the smartest." The purpose of this article is to examine the grammatical nature of adjectives, identify their main categories, morphological characteristics, and syntactic functions. To achieve this objective, the study explores the characteristics of qualitative, relative, and possessive adjectives, examines the formation of degrees of comparison, and determines the significance of this part of speech in verbal communication [4]. Thus, studying adjectives has considerable theoretical and practical importance for understanding the structure of the Russian language and developing grammatically accurate speech.

Methodology

The methodological foundation of this research consists of general scientific and linguistic methods for analyzing language phenomena. The study of adjectives employs descriptive, comparative, structural-semantic, and contextual methods.

The descriptive method is used to characterize the adjective as an independent part of speech. It examines its main grammatical features, morphological categories, and syntactic functions. Particular attention is given to adjective agreement with nouns in gender, number, and case. The comparative method is applied to identify differences between qualitative, relative, and possessive adjectives. Their semantic and grammatical characteristics are examined through specific linguistic examples. For instance, the words "красивый" (beautiful), "деревянный" (wooden), and "лисий" (fox's) belong to different categories and express different types of characteristics.

The structural-semantic method makes it possible to investigate the internal structure of adjectives, their meanings, and their interaction with other words. This method is used to examine full and short forms, as well as the formation of comparative and superlative degrees. Contextual analysis is employed to determine the functions of adjectives within phrases and sentences. Examples from modern Russian are examined to establish how the meaning of an adjective depends on its linguistic environment. The research material is based on academic and educational literature on modern Russian grammar, as well as specially selected linguistic examples. The analysis is conducted systematically: first, theoretical principles are examined, followed by an investigation of grammatical characteristics and patterns of adjective usage.

Results

The theoretical analysis examined the main characteristics of adjectives, their grammatical categories, semantic types, and functional features. The findings make it possible to identify several key areas of

investigation [5]. First, it was established that adjectives possess independent lexical meanings and a system of grammatical forms. They denote the characteristics of objects, which may include color, size, shape, quality, material, ownership, and other properties [6]. An important finding concerns the identification of the main categories of adjectives. **Qualitative adjectives** denote characteristics that can be expressed to varying degrees. They include words describing appearance, personal qualities, physical properties, and emotional conditions. Examples include: beautiful, tall, kind, strong, cold, and interesting. A characteristic feature of qualitative adjectives is their ability to form degrees of comparison. For example, the comparative form of "fast" is "faster," while its superlative form is "the fastest." In addition, many qualitative adjectives have short forms in Russian: красивый — красив, умный — умён, добрый — добр [7]. **Relative adjectives** express a characteristic of an object through its relationship with another object, material, place, time, or purpose. Examples include: wooden table, winter evening, urban transport, and school uniform.

Unlike qualitative adjectives, relative adjectives generally do not form degrees of comparison or short forms. Their meanings are determined by the type of relationship expressed by the word. For example, the phrase "деревянный стол" (wooden table) indicates the material from which the object is made [8] .

Possessive adjectives express the belonging of an object to a particular person or animal. Examples include: mother's book, father's advice, fox's tail, and hare's burrow [9].

These adjectives help establish ownership and clarify relationships between objects. In Russian, they are frequently formed with the suffixes -ин-, -ов-, -ев-, and -ий-.

Another important finding concerns the morphological categories of adjectives. Gender is one of the main grammatical categories. In the singular, adjectives change according to masculine, feminine, and neuter gender: красивый дом, красивая улица, красивое здание. In the plural, grammatical gender is not expressed.

The category of number consists of two forms: singular and plural. For example: интересная книга — интересные книги. Changes in number occur according to the grammatical characteristics of the noun [10]. The category of case also plays an important role in the system of adjective declension. Adjectives change according to grammatical cases and agree with nouns. For example: новый дом, нового дома, новому дому, новым домом. This system ensures grammatical connections between words.

The superlative degree expresses the highest level of a characteristic. It is formed through various grammatical structures, such as "самый красивый" (the most beautiful), "наиболее интересный" (the most interesting), and "сильнейший" (the strongest). The analysis also established that adjectives have full and short forms. Full forms possess gender, number, and case categories. Short forms change according to gender and number but are not declined according to case [11]. For example: готовый — готов, готова, готово, готовы. Syntactic analysis demonstrated that the primary function of adjectives is to serve as attributes. In a sentence, an adjective characterizes a noun and answers the question "what kind?". For example: "An interesting book was lying on the table." In this sentence, "interesting" functions as a descriptive attribute [12].

Discussion

The findings make it possible to examine the role of adjectives in the system of modern Russian more comprehensively. The analysis demonstrates that this part of speech is not limited to simply expressing the characteristics of objects; rather, it performs a range of semantic, grammatical, and communicative functions. First of all, it is necessary to emphasize the close relationship between adjectives and nouns. Unlike many other independent parts of speech, adjectives generally realize their meanings in combination with nouns. The noun determines the main grammatical characteristics of the adjective, including gender, number, and case. For example, in the phrases "новый учебник" (new textbook), "новая тетрадь" (new notebook), and "новое задание" (new assignment), the adjective changes its form according to the grammatical characteristics of the noun. The semantic classification of adjectives is also of fundamental importance. Qualitative adjectives possess

particularly broad possibilities of usage because they allow speakers to express various characteristics of objects and phenomena. Their ability to form degrees of comparison makes it possible to express different levels of intensity. For example, the words "тёплый" (warm), "теплее" (warmer), and "самый тёплый" (the warmest) demonstrate a gradual increase in the same quality [13]. Relative adjectives perform a somewhat different function. Rather than indicating the intensity of a characteristic, they establish a particular relationship between objects. For example, the phrases "городская библиотека" (city library), "зимняя одежда" (winter clothing), and "железная дорога" (railway) clarify purpose, time, or material. This demonstrates the significant role of relative adjectives in conveying precise information. Possessive adjectives, in turn, express relationships of ownership or belonging. Their use is particularly important when describing family, social, and natural objects. For example, the expressions "материнская забота" (motherly care), "отцовский дом" (father's house), and "лисий след" (fox's track) clarify relationships between objects and their owners.

Degrees of comparison deserve separate consideration. Their grammatical nature is connected with the possibility of comparing characteristics. The comparative degree is used when it is necessary to demonstrate differences between two or more objects. The superlative degree makes it possible to identify an object that possesses a characteristic to the greatest extent within a particular group [14]. Another important aspect is the distinction between full and short forms. Full forms are primarily used to describe objects and function as attributes. Short forms more frequently express a state or characteristic of an object in a particular situation. Consider the examples: "умный студент" (an intelligent student) and "студент умён" (the student is intelligent). In the first case, the feature is presented as a characteristic of the noun, whereas in the second it becomes part of the main statement. The syntactic functions of adjectives are directly connected with their communicative significance. The use of attributes makes statements more informative. For example, the sentence "The student read a book" provides general information, whereas "The student read an interesting historical book" conveys more specific details.

Adjectives have particular importance in literary language. Writers use them to create images, convey the emotional states of characters, and describe the surrounding environment. The accurate use of adjectives makes it possible to construct expressive verbal images and strengthen the impact of a text on readers [15]. Adjectives also perform an important function in scientific writing, although their usage is characterized by greater precision and objectivity. For example, expressions such as "grammatical category," "language system," and "phonetic analysis" help specify the content of academic communication.

In educational practice, the study of adjectives contributes to the development of grammatical competence. Learners and university students acquire the ability to identify adjective categories, change adjectives according to grammatical forms, use degrees of comparison, and construct grammatically correct phrases. This is directly related to the development of accurate oral and written communication. Thus, the discussion demonstrates that adjectives are an important means of organizing and enriching speech. Their grammatical and semantic characteristics ensure descriptive precision, logical coherence, and expressiveness in linguistic communication.

Conclusion

The present study examined the adjective as one of the main independent parts of speech in modern Russian. The research investigated its grammatical meaning, major semantic categories, morphological characteristics, and syntactic functions. It was established that adjectives denote non-processual characteristics of objects and possess a specific system of grammatical features. They are closely connected with nouns and agree with them in gender, number, and case. This characteristic ensures the correct construction of phrases and sentences. The analysis identified three main categories of adjectives: qualitative, relative, and possessive. Each category has its own characteristics and performs specific functions. Qualitative adjectives describe directly expressed properties of objects and can form degrees of comparison. Special attention was also paid to full and short forms, as well as comparative and superlative degrees. It was established that these grammatical

features expand the possibilities of expressing characteristics and allow speakers to convey different shades of meaning. In conclusion, adjectives occupy a significant position in the grammatical system of Russian. They provide specific information, contribute to the expressiveness of speech, and expand the possibilities of linguistic communication. Their systematic study is an essential condition for developing grammatical accuracy and communicative competence.

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