



The Adjective. The Pronoun.

Lecture 8

# Lecture outline

- **The Adjective: meaning, form, function.**
- **The Pronoun: meaning, form, function.**

# The Adjective

## Meaning

- ✓ Property of the entity;
- ✓ Attributes of substances (size, colour, position in space, material, psychic state, etc).

# Subclassification of adjectives

- Comparables (qualitative) vs. non-comparables (relative);
- some qualitative adjectives have not degrees of comparison: supreme (the highest degree), reddish (denote degree), deaf (absolute quality).
- ! Quantity adjectives: much, many (Pronouns? Numerals? Adjectives?)

# The subclasses of adjectives:

## semantic classification

### Gradable and non-gradable:

- gradable (estimated quantitatively, or measured): very tall, quite tall, tall enough, etc.;
- non-gradable (cannot be measured): wooden – \* very wooden.

# The subclasses of adjectives:

## semantic classification

### **Gradable adjectives:**

- stative (not a developing process): John is very tall. vs. \*John is being very tall today;
- dynamic (developing properties): John is very careful today vs. John is being careful today (emphatic).

# Stative vs. dynamic properties

- !!! Some linguists disagree!
- Adjectives are different from verbs, do not denote developing properties!
- A fast train vs. an approaching train!


# The subclasses of adjectives:

## semantic classification

### **Non-gradable adjectives:**

- relative adjectives express the property of an entity related to some other entity: wooden is related to wood, chemical to chemistry, etc.;





The subclasses of adjectives:  
semantic classification  
**intensifying adjectives:**

- clear, definite, outright, plain, pure, real, sheer, sure, true, complete, great, firm, absolute, close, perfect: sheer curiosity, utter astonishment.

# The subclasses of adjectives:

## semantic classification

### **restrictive adjectives:**

- restrict the noun to a particular member of the class (chief, exact, main, particular, precise, principal, sole, specific): main problem, principal goal.
- The degrees of comparison: the use of relative and intensifiers is limited: \*more chemical; amplifiers: highly unique, one of the more unique features, more perfect.

# The subclasses of adjectives: syntactic classification

- adjectives which can be used attributively and predicatively (usu. gradable): an interesting book vs. the book is interesting;
- adjectives which can be used attributively only (intensifying and restrictive): a complete fool vs. the fool is complete;
- adjectives which can be used predicatively only (temporary properties): She is being very clever today vs. She is a very clever girl.

# Derivation

- Noun+ suffix: - (i)al, -ar, -ary or -ery, -ed, -en, -esque, -ful, -ic(al), -ish, -istic, -less, -like, -ly, -ous, -ward, -wide, -y.

E.g. monument – monumental, family – familiar, element – elementary, talent – talented, picture – picturesque, hope – hopeful, history – historic(al), style – stylish, etc.

- Verb+ suffix: -able or -ible, -ent or -ant, -ed, -ing, -ive, - (at)ory.

E.g. to read – readable, to sense – sensible, to depend – dependent, to attract – attractive, etc.

# Substantivization

- ✓ adjectives – nouns: native – a native, rich – the rich;
- ✓ full and partial.
  
- ✓ Natives are very friendly.
- ✓ The rich are not very sensitive.
  
- ✓ Some scientists: no change of class, rather a different syntactic function.

# The category of the adjectives

## Comparison

- based on gradable, or qualitative adjectives;
- traditionally: the positive :: the comparative :: the superlative.
- O. Jespersen: the positive degree cannot be regarded as a degree of comparison;
- A.I. Smirnitsky: the positive degree and the relative degree (comparative and superlative).

# Comparison

three ways of forming degrees of comparison: synthetic, analytic, suppletive:

- ✓ tall – taller – tallest;
- ✓ interesting – more interesting – most interesting;
- ✓ good – better – best.

Getting more analytic: more common; more keen.

# Combinability and syntactic functions

- Adjective + noun: a beautiful girl
- auxiliary + adjective: is clever;
- adverb + adjective: extremely clever.
  
- Attribute: He is a very nice person.
- Predicate: He is special.



# Comparison: discussion analytic forms

more, most + adjectives

- analytic constructions proper;
- free combinations of adverbs and adjectives.
- Less, least+ Analytical?

# Adjectives?

- alive, asleep, ajar (a- prefix, no degrees of comparison, denote temporary states, used predicatively only);
- a separate part of speech (statives, adlinks;
- A separate class of adjectives.

# The pronoun

- Pronouns are not united by their meaning, form, function;
- they denote reality indirectly;
- their interpretation depends on the context;
- a closed class (limited);
- pronouns have generalized meanings, but refer to specific objects (I 'a person of a particular age, sex, social status, etc.').

# Views on pronouns

- Etymologically ‘a word used instead of a noun’;
- ‘deputizers’ of nouns (he, she), adjective (his, her, that), numerals (many, few), adverbs (here, there): pro-nouns, pro-adjectives, etc.;
- determiners, or restrictors: demonstratives, possessives, indefinite and quantitative pronouns.

# Pro-nouns, pro-adjective, etc.

- **Function differently:** This is a boy (pro-noun); this boy is a good student (pro-adjective);
- **boundaries aren't strict:** He lives here (pronominal adverb or adverbial pronoun).

# Pronouns: a functional word class.

- semantic (act as determiners): **my** book;
- deictic (act as words localizing entities in the context): **He** is a doctor.
- and textual (act as cohesive devices across sentences): the book **which** I read was good.

# The subclasses

- personal (I, you, he, she, it; we, they);
- possessive (my, your, his, her, its);
- reflexive (myself, yourself);
- demonstrative (this/these, that/those, here, there);
- interrogative-relative (who, what, which, when);
- reciprocal (one another, each other);
- indefinite-negative (some, anything);
- generalizing (all, each, every, everything);
- quantitative (much, many, few, several, some).

# Subclasses of pronouns

Pronouns may be divided into

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1) personal,      | 7) reciprocal,    |
| 2) possessive,    | 8) indefinite,    |
| 3) reflexive,     | 9) negative,      |
| 4) demonstrative, | 10) generalizing, |
| 5) interrogative, | 11) quantitative, |
| 6) connective,    | 12) contrasting.  |



# Morphological features

## Case category

### Personal and possessive pronouns:

- the nominative, the objective, and the possessive case (he – him – his);
- no case: the nominative form, the objective form, and the possessive form;
- The nominative and the objective case.

### Indefinite and reciprocal pronouns:

- Yes, somebody vs. somebody's; each other vs. each other's.

### Interrogative pronouns:

- Who and the objective form whom

# Morphological features

## Number (restricted):

### Demonstrative:

- This/these, that/those, other/others.

### Personal:

- no grammatical category (I and we are separate words; We= I+she, or I +he, but not I + I); pluralia tantum and singularia tantum.

- Reflexive:

- Yourself - yourselves

# The deictic functions

- Deixis means 'pointing' via language;  
three types of deixis:
- person deixis (He is a good student);
- spatial deixis (I don't like that stuff);
- temporal deixis (It has been cold these days).

# Combinability and syntactic functions

Depend of the class

Personal: He is, I saw him.

Possessive: his book, the book is mine.

Reflexive: My wife and myself saw...; his view on the Middle Ages themselves.

Demonstrative: He saw this, These light rooms.