

World Applied Sciences Journal 30 (Management, Economics, Technology & Tourism): 47-50, 2014

ISSN 1818-4952

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DOI: 10.5829/idosi.wasj.2014.30.mett.69

## Human Appearance and Nature Features Exemplified by English Compound Adjectives

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**Abstract:** The article deals with compound English adjectives defining person's appearance and character. The role of word-composition and affixation is defined. In the article the compound adjectives have been considered semantically according to the connection between the components and the most frequent model of compound adjectives has been defined.

**Key words:** Word-formation · Word-combination · Compound adjectives · Affixation · Person's appearance and nature · Models of adjectives

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### INTRODUCTION

In English object properties such as color, size, texture and other physical attributes can be described with adjectives. Compare this situation with the case for terms labeling whole concrete objects; just about universally, with only very minor quirks, these surface as nouns cross-linguistically the linkage of form to meaning is quite transparent [1]. The learning task seems much more formidable for property terms, as the learner cannot begin with even a weak conjecture as to how they will be lexicalized in the exposure language. Even in English, where there is a robust adjective category, it certainly isn't the case that all property descriptions surface under this categorization (e.g. *triangle* is a noun, but means something "*triangle-shaped*") or that adjectives always describe properties (*former*, *similar* and *mere* are not properties of the nominal concepts they modify). But A. Wierzbicka links this to the fact that shape properties (e.g. *triangle*, *circle*, *square*, etc.) delimit countable entities and are thus good candidates for expression by nouns [2]. We will consider human appearance and nature features exemplified by English adjectives. The thing is the compound adjectives express the object's properties more exactly. In the article the ways how these adjectives are formed and their meanings are under consideration.

The vocabulary of any language is renewed in two ways: words can be plagerized from the other languages, or created on determined patterns from available in

language components. The other group is renewed and continues to be renewed by word-formation. The word-formation more directly than other linguistic systems reflects all changes occurring in surrounding us reality.

Compounding forms a word out of two or more root morphemes. The words are called compounds or compound words, i.e. words that are composed of more than one meaningful element.

Morphemes (minimal units of meaning) are of two basic kinds: roots and affixes. While there is not an absolutely sharp dividing line between them, due to the natural, gradual historical progression from root to affix, there are various properties that typically cluster together, thus allowing us to distinguish the two types. For most morphemes, it is clear which class they belong in.

Properties of roots:

- Main part of word
- Must be at least one in a word
- In English, limited to two in a word (simple words have one, compound words have two); where roots are bound, as in Latin or Greek, more can occur in a word, but the number of roots in a particular word is generally small;
- Can occur independently (free roots) – although bound roots, particularly classical, occur
- Tend to have richer, more specific semantic content
- Position is relatively free with respect to other roots.

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Properties of affixes:

- Subordinate part of word
- not necessarily present – some words occur without any
- Multiple affixes can occur in a word (e.g. in-divis-abil-ity)
- Are dependent (bound) elements (where independent form found, generally to some degree dissociated from the bound version)
- Have more "schematic" (non-specific) content; often grammar-like function
- Can either precede or follow their roots ( prefixes and suffixes, respectively)
- Position for a given affix with respect to root is fixed [3].

The most common type of derivation is the addition of one or more affixes to a root. This process is called affixation, a term which covers both prefixation and suffixation.

We will address the questions of how derived and compound adjectives are related to other words, which are the relations between the components inside the compounds and how the affixation and word-combination allow speakers to create new words.

One of the most interesting questions that arise from the study of affixed words is which mechanisms regulate the distribution of affixes and bases. That is, what exactly is responsible for the fact that some morphemes easily combine with each other, whereas others do not? [4]

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The article is devoted to the study of the person's appearance and nature features exemplified by English compound and derived adjectives. As actual material the examples from fiction sources and dictionaries were used. Our purpose is to distinguish the ways of the adjectives word-formation and classify them semantically. We also try to identify the most productive models of the given adjectives.

The most productive way of the compound adjectives formation is the complex of affixation and word-combination.

In these adjectives it is the suffix that forms a word (*big-head-ed*, *kind-heart-ed*) and two bases are combined: an adjective and a noun (*big+ head*, *kind + heart*).

The bases participating in word-formation can be root, complex or derived. Some complex adjectives are formed by combining two root bases (*coal-black* "black as coal", *snow-white* "white as snow" and etc.) A compound adjective is a modifier of a noun. It consists of two or more morphemes of which the left-hand component limits or changes the modification of the right-hand one.

The complex adjectives are also formed as a result of adding root and derived bases (*sandy-haired* "with hair of the sand colour", *round-faced* "with a round face" and etc.) and are equivalent to the word combinations (*blear-eyed* (with *blear eyes*); *big-headed* (with a *big head*) and etc.).

English suffix *-ad* derives adjectives with the general meaning 'having X, being provided with X'. It can be combined only with the nouns bases. The majority of derivatives cannot be divided to the components as they have the phraseological meaning (*empty-headed*, *pig-headed*, *air-minded*, *fair-minded*, *broad-minded*, *pig-headed*).

We came to the conclusion that most compound adjectives with the suffix *-ad* can be formed to describe person's appearance and character.

*Two other youths, oblique-eyed, dark-haired, rather sly-faced...* [5].

For person's appearance description the component *-headed* is used (*black-headed*, *grey-headed*, *white-headed* *red-headed*, *shockheaded*) as well as the component *-haired* (*short-haired*, *long-haired*, *grey-haired* in the meaning "having some kind of hair" (*colour, length*)).

But the component *-headed* in the combination with a simple adjective has formed a number of derived adjectives with the metaphorical meaning (*clear-headed*, *bright-headed*, *steady-headed*, *fuzzy-headed*, *wooly-headed*, *fat-headed* *empty-headed*, *thick-headed*, *wooden-headed*, *boneheaded*, *light-headed*). With the help of these adjectives person's intelligence is shown.

*She was Annie, a pretty, voluptuous, empty-headed girl...* [6].

*Get up, you fat-headed chunk!* [7].

As it is seen from the examples these adjectives are used in the informal style and they make the speech more expressive.

Another group of derivatives describing person's appearance is formed by the adjectives having the meanings "the shape of the face" (*moon-faced*, *pug-faced*, *round-faced*), "the skin of the face" (*smooth-faced*).

The point is some adjectives have metaphorical meanings. For example the compound adjective *red-headed* has two different meanings: 1) *having red hair or a red head*; 2) *excitable, impetuous; hot-tempered (about person's character)* [8].

Another example:

*This red blue-eyed, light-lashed, tow-haired face stuck...* [7]

The adjective *blue-eyed* can be referred as: 1. *having blue eyes*; 2. *avored, preferred (the blue-eyed boy can do no wrong)* [8].

So the first meaning is direct and the second is an indirect one.

There are some well-established permanent compound adjectives with phraseological meanings which cannot be equivalent to the word-combinations (*squint-eyed, silver-tongued, hard-mouthed, starry-eyed*). Though these adjectives include the components *-eyed, -mouthed* they are not to define person's appearance but the character.

There have been formed many adjectives exemplifying person's nature features having metaphorical meanings (*stony-hearted, lion-hearted, chicken-hearted, simple-hearted», black-hearted, single-hearted, stout-hearted, whole-hearted, soft-hearted, hard-hearted, light-hearted, big-hearted, high-hearted, tender-hearted, hearty (warm-hearted and friendly), heartless*).

We found a lot of examples motivated by the lexemes: *heart (kind-hearted), soul - whole-souled (thoroughly imbued with a right spirit; noble-minded; devoted), temper (good-tempered), humour (good-humoured "having or showing a cheerful, friendly state of mind"), nature (good-natured (naturally kind, ready to help, to forgive, not to be angry))* with the meaning "human character features".

*He was strong-willed and warm-hearted ...* [5].

*I am not a whole-souled admirer of womankind, as you are aware, Watson, but my experience of life has taught me that there are few wives, having any regard for their husbands, who would let any man's spoken word stand between them and that husband's dead body* [9].

The lexeme *temper (a particular state or condition of the mind)* forms the group of adjectives (*sharp-tempered, short-tempered, sweet-tempered, good-tempered*).

Another lexeme *nature* is equivalent to "temper".

*He begins with congratulations on the approaching nuptials of my eldest daughter, of which it seems he has been told, by some of the good-natured, gossiping Lucases* [10].

## CONCLUSION

Having done the analysis of compound and derived adjectives exemplifying person's appearance and character features we can say that most adjectives have been formed as a result of the word-combination and the derivation (affixation).

**Summing Up:** Some of the adjectives can be freely derived in the speech and their meanings are equivalent to the word-combinations ones. But there are a number of adjectives with the phraseological meanings which cannot be divided to the components and such derivatives are usually fixed by dictionaries (*hard-mouthed, starry-eyed*).

As a result of our investigation we came to the conclusion that the most productive model of the given adjectives word-formation is the model of simultaneous word-composition and affixation. The first component in the derivatives can be an adjective or a noun: *adj. (n) + n + ed (black-haired, kind-heart-ed)* and (*raven-hair-ed, chicken-hearted*). The second component is a based unit represented by a noun.

The role of the noun as the left-hand component is the comparison with the word that gives associations and defines a correlative sign (*raven-hair-ed* with the meaning "having black hair as a raven"). Such comparatives are common for informal use and they have metaphorical meanings.

We have seen that words can be composed of smaller meaningful elements and we have detected these elements largely by following our intuition. While our intuition works nicely with rather unproblematic complex adjectives we found it possible to determine the rules that underlie the make - up of complex words in English. For example, if a speaker knows the meaning of the right-hand component of the adjective represented by a noun and the suffix *-ed* the meaning of the compound adjective can be easily identified, even if we have never seen that word before. So there must be some kind of system in the speakers' minds that is responsible for that.

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