

THE COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF ADJECTIVES IN ENGLISH AND GERMAN LANGUAGES

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Abstract: The article focuses on the comparative study of adjectives in English and German languages. The making way of adjective degrees in both English and German is the same, which is similarity of the languages.

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The adjective expresses the categorical semantics of property of a substance. It means that each adjective used in the text presupposes relation to some noun – the property of whose referent it denotes, such as its material, color, dimensions, position, state, and other characteristics both permanent and temporary. It follows from this that, unlike nouns, adjectives do not possess a full nominative value. Indeed, words like long, hospitable, fragrant cannot effect any self-dependent nominations; as units of informative sequences they exist only in collocations showing what is long, who is hospitable, what is fragrant. The semantically bound character of the adjective is emphasized in English by the use of the *prop-* substitute one in the absence of the notional head-noun of the phrase. Adjectives are distinguished by a specific combinability with nouns, which they modify, if not accompanied by adjuncts, usually in pre-position, and occasionally in postposition; by a combinability with link-verbs, both functional and notional; by a combinability with modifying adverbs.[1;43] In both English and German languages the adjective qualifies or modifies a substance[4] :

English

German

A red apple	ein roter Apfel
A clever student	ein kluger Schüler
A new building	ein neues Gebäude

Degrees of adjectives

The category of degrees of comparison expresses different degrees of qualities of things and persons denoted by nouns. It is represented by the system of three-member opposition:

- positive;
- comparative;
- superlative degrees.

The positive degree is morphologically unmarked. It is the primary form of the adjective and it expresses simple quality if the thing or the person expressed by the subject is not compared with anything:

He is a clever boy. She is beautiful.

In English if it is compared with something, it denotes equal quality of those things compared:

David is as clever as Mike. David is as stupid as Mike.

The comparative degree is morphologically marked in both languages. In English it expresses a higher or less degree of quality of the thing expressed by the subject in relation to the thing with which it is compared. Depending on the length of the adjective it is formed by two ways:

1) by adding the affix -er to short adjectives: long-longer, cold-colder etc.

2) by putting the words more or less before long adjectives:

beautiful - more beautiful beautiful - less beautiful

In German, the comparative form of adjective is formed by adding -er to the simple form of most adjectives:

Einfach – einfacher

Das war viel einfacher für dich. That was much easier for you.

