



LEXICAL FUNCTIONS AND THEIR ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF COLLOCATIONS “ADJECTIVE + NOUN” IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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Abstract: *This article under discussion describes lexical functions and their role in the development of collocations “Adjective + Noun” in the English language. Based on the results of the conducted research the authors of the article came to conclusion that in the quantitative aspect the most common lexical function and the easiest to identify is Magn.*

Key words: *collocations, lexical functions, paradigmatic relations, lexical units, Magn, AntiMagn, Bon and AntiBon.*

Introduction

In our master's thesis devoted to the analysis of collocations “Adjective + Noun” in the English language the features of the use of low-frequency collocations in the texts of 20th-21st century fiction (J. Salinger, D. F. Wallace, J. Grisham) were analyzed, the groups of these collocations on the basis of their particle structure have been distinguished and their formation trends in each group have been described.

The system of lexical functions (LF) has been continuously studied since the 1960s, the fund of lexical functions has been replenished and has been studied in contrastive linguistics using different languages. With the development of natural language processing, interest in lexical functions has only increased, although the implementation of functions in code and automatic use in text generation is still a



difficult task [1]. LFs describe constant logical relations between lexical units in an almost mathematical way.

The main part

The LF system includes lexical substitutions and lexical parameters. Lexical substitutions are functions that describe paradigmatic relations, e.g., antonyms, synonyms. In our study lexical substitutions were not considered due to the fact that the material of the study was the linear text of works of fiction. Lexical parameters describe syntagmatic relations, which include, for example, adjectival, adverbial and noun functions such as Magn, AntiMagn, Bon and AntiBon. Standard LFs are combined into more complex ones, but since the object of our study was low-frequency collocations (combinations of two or more words), complex LFs were not included in the research material.

Speaking about the differences between LF and collocations, we can note that the means by which LF is expressed can be both word-formation elements and free and non-free combinations. Nevertheless, among the free combinations, those that are described by any LF, even though they seem to differ from collocations due to the absence of a connected component, may also be called collocations. According to I.A. Melchuk's observation, the classes of collocations and the classes of LFs overlap [2].

Our study quantitatively distinguished 4 types of LF: Magn, AntiMagn, Bon, AntiBon.

From the analyzed examples in our study, we came to the conclusion that the most common LF is Magn. The Magn value is an amplification that can be expressed synonymously with “very”, “to a high degree”. Magn also emphasizes the meaning of “intensity”. LF Magn is widely represented among low-frequency (sometimes not recorded in the corpus) authorial word combinations. LF Magn collocations can be:



1. occasionalism (*you made it so unmisinterpretably clear*),
2. a combination of adjacent antonymous pairs, creating an "expansion of influence" of a feature (*a really extensive intensive intro, radiantly dark*),
3. even in the case where the intensifying component will be a rather frequent "agent", such as "extremely", its use may be together with a vivid emotional and expressive lexical unit, which does not require intensification: *extremely squalid*.

Among the LF Magn collocations we can distinguish some semantic types of reinforcing adverbs:

- 1) emotionally colored type: *wonderfully, terribly*;
- 2) evaluative, with a high degree of modality: *undeniably, freakishly*;
- 3) metaphorical spatial adverb type: *gradually, largely*;
- 4) indicative of degree: *severely*.

In nominal collocations of LF Magn, as a rule, the intensifying component shows itself as a duplicating seme: *the required pleasantries, rapt intensity*.

The lexical function of AntiMagn attenuates the meaning of a feature, an action: for example, *torpid spectation*, where *torpid* means "absent", "not energetic", and *spectation* means "inclusion in a situation".

In adjectival LF AntiMagn collocations adverbs carry meanings:

- attenuation of a feature: *trifle, vaguely*;

evaluative words (understatement): *insufficiently, oddly*;

spatial (distant): *remotedly*;

metaphorical words denoting low temperatures: *coldly*.

The implementation of the LF Bon gives the sign a positive evaluation: *pleasantly high, roller-skate skinny*, and AntiBon-collocations contain a component with a negative evaluation (*monstrously stressful*), amplification also



occurs through the duplication of terms, using virtually synonyms located in the same row of the name group: *illusion-shattering disappointment*.

Conclusion

As we noted in our study, lexical functions mark those meanings that are most often expressed when a word is used in speech, therefore the development of the lexical system must with necessity include conditions for the expression of lexical functions. This is also evidenced by the research we have conducted.

Based on our study, we note that in the quantitative aspect the most common LF and the easiest to identify is Magn. Quite common in all languages are the functions Bon and AntiBon. In our study more (which is atypical for dictionaries) examples with AntiBon were identified, here we can distinguish the influence of D. F. Wallace and his general pessimistic tone of the work we have analyzed [6].



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