

INVESTIGATING OF SEMANTIC SUB CLASSIFICATION OF ADJECTIVES IN SOME SELECTED TEXTS IN HOLY QURAN

تقسي تصنيف الصفات الثانوية في بعض النصوص المنتقاة في القرآن الكريم

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Abstract:

Adjectives are significant part of speech that are used in everyday language .The research investigates the semantic sub classification of adjectives in some selected holy Quran. Generally, it's important to know semantic sub classification of adjectives and specifically ,semantic sub classification of adjectives in some selected Quranic texts .The researcher follows the role that's done by Quirk .The researcher has selected some extracts from Quranic texts and tried to investigate semantic sub- classification of adjectives in these extracts. The present study aims at removing the confusion that foreign English learners might have in distinguishing different types of adjectives on other had clarifying the use of adjectives in some selected Quranic texts. The hypothesis of the study states that there are some points of difficulty in recognizing and comprehending semantic sub classification of adjectives by foreign learners of English. However there are some adjectives which can be recognized and comprehended more easily than others. Because of not all people are all people have the same linguistic competence.

1. Introduction:

This research deals with presenting Semantic Sub classification Of Adjectives In Selected Texts In Holy Quran. It aims at classifying present study, adjectives according to semantic sub classifications into stative versus dynamic, gradable versus non-gradable, inherent versus non-inherent. The problem of the study will follow the role that is done by Quirk . The is limited to selected some Quranic texts .The researcher has used different translators to the Quranic texts such as

Masood Nasir, Mohammad Hameed Shakir Dr. Muhammad AL-Hilali and Dr. Muhammad Muhsin Khan. So many scholars have studied adjectives in different points of view, in English adjectives constitute a separate part of speech and are distinguished from nouns in that they are used attributively before the head noun and predicatively after copula. As for the class of adjectives in Arabic, it is not separate part of speech. It is a subclass of the class nouns. (Mohammed Tahir, 2008:91). Stageberg (1971:233) defines a modifier as a word or word group which affects the meaning of a head word because it describes, limits, intensifies and adds to the meaning of the head. Leech (2001:289) mentions that there is usually one main word in the phrase (head-word) to which one or more modifiers can be added to specify its meaning. Generally, modifiers which come before the head word are sometimes called premodifiers and those come after the head word are called postmodifiers. According to Crystal (2003:11) adjectives have another scope, in his dictionary *linguistics and Phonetics*, he describes adjectives as terms used in grammatical classification of words to refer to the main set of items which specify the attributes of nouns from a formal point of view, Crystal adds that both narrow and broad applications of the term "adjectives" will be found in grammars. In its boarder sense it could include everything between DETERMINER and the noun, in a phrase as *the vicar's fine old garden chair*; but many linguists prefer to restrict it to the items which satisfy more or all of the above criteria (to include only fine and old), in this example, the other items being called "adjective-like" or "adjectives"

2. Adjectives:

The semantic definition of an adjective is that it describes or denotes the qualities of something. Adjectives commonly occur between a determiner and a noun or after "be" or other linking verbs, although they can also follow a noun. (Marianne and Diane, 1999; 17)

Randolph Qurik et al (2010,402) state four commonly considered to be characteristic of adjectives:

- (a) They can freely occur in ATTRIBUTIVE function ,i.e. they can premodify a noun ,appearing between the determiner (including zero article) and the head of a noun phrase: the round table , dirty linen.
- (b) They can freely occur in PREDICATIVE function , i.e. they can function as subject complement , as in {1} or as object complement as in {2}, e.g.:

The painting is ugly . {1}

He thought the painting ugly. {2}

- (c)They can be premodified by the intensifier very e.g. :

-The children are very happy.

(d)They can take comparative and superlative forms. The comparative may be by means of inflections (-est. and -est.) , as in {3-4} or by the addition of the premodifiers more and most (periphrastic comparison) as in {5-6}

-The children are happier now . {3}

-They are the happiest people I know. {4}

-These students are more intelligent . {5}

-They are the most beautiful paintings I have ever seen. {6}

2.1. Classification of Adjectives: Adjectives can be viewed according to their syntax and semantics .(Eagles ,1996 ;86)

-Syntactic classification : Syntactically adjectives can be viewed into three features :position , complementation and alternation .

1- Position : Adjectives can occur in the following positions:

a) Attributive position only as a noun modifier (Quirk etal,2010:428) i.e. I will take my old car tonight .

2- In a predicative position only after the verbs (be and linking verbs) (Ibid :432).

c) Both positions :These are called central adjectives . Most adjectives can occur in both positions i.e. attributively and predicatively. (Greenbaum, 2002 :95)

1- It was a comfortable ride.

Attributive

2- The ride was comfortable.

Predicative

d) As an object complement after a direct object.(Methews, 2014:131)

i.e. She made him unhappy.

e) After the definite article (The)as a head of a noun phrase either to refer to group or class of people which usually in the superlative .(Alexander, 2003:`123)

i.e. The rich should help the poor.

f) In postpositive position: After a noun or pronoun they modify .They are called post nominal adjectives and also after those ending in -body, -one,-thing,-where

PREDICATIVE: This information is useful. {1}

ATTRIBUTIVE: Useful information . {2}

POSTPOSITIVE: Something . {3}

A postpositive adjective can usually be regarded as a reduced relative clause (Quirk,1985:418) i.e. Something that is useful.

2-Alternation: Alternation means the ability or inability to covert clausal complement of the adjective to the subject position of the sentence. Some adjectives can do this; others cannot. (Eagles, 1996 : 87)

i.e. Sam was brave to leave ~To leave was brave of Sam.

3-Complementation: Adjectives can be discriminated terms of complement they sub-categorize (Quirk et al, 2010: 1220)

2.2 Semantic sub-classification of adjectives: It is important to realize that we are dealing with scales rather than with a feature that is present or absent .That is to say, not all realizations of a feature are available in each case. Furthermore there may be idiolectal variations in the recognition of a feature or in the acceptability of its realizations. (Ibid, 434)

a) Stative versus dynamic adjectives: Adjectives are characteristically stative. Many adjectives; however, can be seen as dynamic. In particular, most adjectives that are susceptible to subjective measurement are capable of being dynamic. Stative and dynamic adjectives differ syntactically .For example, a stative adjective such as tall cannot be used with the progressive aspect or with imperative (Ibid)

e.g. *He 's being tall. *Be tall.

On other hand ,we can use careful as a dynamic adjective:

-He's being careful. –Be careful.

b) Gradable versus non-gradable adjectives: We can imagine degrees in the quality referred to and so can use it with words like very, too and enough i.e. very good, too good, less good not good enough. Also we can form a comparative and superlative from it i.e.(big), bigger, biggest, (good), better, best etc.

An adjective is non-gradable when we cannot modify it (i.e. we cannot use it with very ,too etc). Also we cannot make a comparative and superlative from it e.g. daily, dead, medical, unique ,etc. (Alexander,1986:119)

c) Inherent versus non-inherent :The ability of adjectives which occur in an attributive position to reoccur in a predicative position is called inherent quality of the adjective in the noun itself i.e. (a white house) which is in attributive position can be reformulated into :(a house which is white) which in a predicative position. (Qurik etal , 2010: 445)

My old colleague ~ can be reformulated into ~My colleague is old.

While non-inherent adjectives do not have the ability to reformulate the sentence; i.e. a firm friend is not ~a friend who is firm.

- d) Central versus peripheral adjectives: Adjectives that carry out the criteria of grad ability and the ability to occur attributively and predicatively are called central adjectives .While adjectives which cannot carry out all the criteria are called peripheral adjectives ,(Ibid:403)

Types of Adjectives :There are different types of adjectives . (Seaton and Mew , 2007: 58)

- a) Some adjectives describe the qualities of nouns. i.e. a beautiful rainbow , a clever monkey , a difficult question etc.
- b) Some adjectives tell you which place or country a person or thing comes from ,or belongs to .They are called adjectives of origin .i.e. Australian apples , the English language ,the French flag , Thai boxing etc.
- c) Some adjectives tell you the size of the nouns they describe .i.e. a big hat , broad shoulders , a high mountain , a large ship etc.
- d)Some adjectives tell you the colour of things. i.e. A white car, The sea is blue, Roses are red, etc .
- e) Numbers are adjectives, too .They tell you how many people ,animals or things there are .Sometimes they are called adjectives of quality i.e. One giant, Three princesses, Twenty butterflies, etc.

3. Adjectives that related to:

- a- God
- b- Angels
- c- Messengers
- d- Faithfuls

4- Adjectives that related to:

a-Devils

b- Polytheists

c- Neutral Adjectives

3.1 Adjectives that related to God

قال تعالى: ﴿هُوَ الَّذِي يُصَوِّرُكُمْ فِي الْأَرْحَامِ كَيْفَ يَشَاءُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ﴾

(He it is Who shapes you in the wombs as He likes; there is no god but He, the Mighty the Wise) (Holy Quran, AL -Immran, text, 6)

Mighty and Wise are central and stative adjectives

قال تعالى: ﴿وَرُدُّوْا إِلَى اللَّهِ مَوْلَاهُمُ الْحَقُّ﴾

They shall be brought back to Allah, their true Patron) (Yunus, text, 30)

True: is central and dynamic adjective.

Ex.1-He is true. (Predicative)

2-True person. (Attributive)

3-He is being true. (Dynamic adjective)

4-Ali is the truest man. (Superlative)

5-Hadi is truer than Hani. (Comparative)

قال تعالى: ﴿لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ﴾

(He it is Who shapes you in the wombs as He likes; there is no god but He, the Mighty, the Wise)(AL-Immran, text, 6)

The Mighty ,the Wise: are central and dynamic adjectives.

Ex.1- Ahmed is wiser than Saad. (Comparative).

2- Ahmed is the mightiest man. (Superlative).

3- Be wise. (Dynamic adjective).

4- God is Mighty. (Predicative).

5- The Mighty God. (Attributive)

قال تعالى: ﴿كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا كُلِّهَا فَأَخَذْنَاهُمْ أَخْذَ عَزْزِنَا مُقْتَدِرًا﴾

(They rejected all Our communications, so We overtake them after the manner of a Mighty, Powerful One) (AL-Qaman, text, 42)

Powerful: is central and dynamic adjective.

Ex.1-He is being powerful. (Dynamic adjective).

2-Ameer is the most powerful in the class. (Superlative).

3-Powerful man. (Attributive).

4-The man is powerful. (Predicative).

قال تعالى: ﴿وَالَهُ كُفُّوا إِلَهُ وَاحِدٌ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الرَّحْمَنُ الرَّحِيمُ﴾

(And your God is One God; there is no God but He the Gracious the Merciful)(AL-Baqara, text, 163) the Gracious the Merciful: are peripheral adjectives; non-gradable and non-inherent.

Adjectives of Angels: 3.2

قال تعالى: ﴿كَرَامَ بَرَمَرًا﴾

Noble, virtuous) (Abaas, text, 16)

Noble: is central and dynamic adjective.

Ex. 1-Noble man. (Attributive)

2-The man is noble. (Predicative)

3-They are being noble. (Dynamic adjective)

Virtuous: is peripheral adjective; non-gradable and non-inherent.

قال تعالى: ﴿مَا يَلْفِظُ مِنْ قَوْلٍ إِلَّا لَدَيْهِ رَقِيبٌ عِنْدٌ﴾

(He utters not a word but there is by him a guardian angel ready to record it) (Qaf, text, 18)

Ready: means all set. It is central and dynamic adjective.

Ex.1- Be ready .(Dynamic adjective)

2-The boy is ready. (Predicative)

3-Ready boy. (Attributive)

قال تعالى: ﴿هَلْ أَتَاكَ حَدِيثُ ضَيْفِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ الْمُكْرَمِينَ﴾

(Has the story of Abraham's honoured guests reached you)
(AL-Dhariyat, text, 24)

Honoured: is central and stative adjective.

3.3 Messengers' Adjectives:

قال تعالى: ﴿الَّذِينَ يَتَّبِعُونَ الرَّسُولَ النَّبِيَّ الْأَمِينُ﴾

(Those who follow the Messenger, the Prophet, the Immaculate one) (AL-Araf, text, 58)

Immaculate: is non-gradable, inherent and stative adjective.

Ex 1-. He is immaculate. (stative)

2-Immaculate man. (Predicative)

3-The man is immaculate. (Attributive)

قال تعالى: ﴿حَرِصٌ عَلَيْكُمْ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ رَؤُوفٌ رَحِيمٌ﴾

(Excessively Solicitous Respecting you; to the believers, Compassionate Merciful)(AL-Taubah, text, 128)

Solicitous: is central and stative adjective .Ex. 1- Yasser is solicitous. (Stative) 2-He is the most solicitous man I've known.

Compassionate and Merciful: are central and dynamic adjectives.

Ex.1-Be merciful. (Stative)

2-He is being compassionate. (Stative)

3-He is more compassionate than he. (Comparative)

4-Merciful woman. (Attributive)

5-The woman is merciful. (Predicative)

قال تعالى: ﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الْمُسْلِمُ﴾

(O you who are bearing a heavy responsibility) (AL-Muzzammil, text, 1)

Heavy: is central and dynamic adjective.

Ex. 1-This bag is heavier than that one. (Comparative)

2-It is being heavy. (Dynamic adjective)

3-Heavy bag. (Attributive)

4-That bag is heavy. (Predicative)

قال تعالى: ﴿وَلَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ رَسُولٌ مِّنْ عِندِ اللَّهِ مُصَدِّقٌ لِّمَا مَعَهُمْ﴾

(And when there came to them a Messenger from Allah verifying) (AL-Baqarah, text, 101)

Verifying: is central and stative adjective.

قال تعالى: ﴿يُوسُفُ أَيُّهَا الصِّدِّيقُ أَفْتِنَا﴾

(Yusuf !O truthful one ! explain to us) (Yusuf, text, 46)

Truthful: is central and dynamic adjective.

3.4 Faithfuls' Adjectives:

قال تعالى: ﴿وَعِنْدَهُمْ قَاصِرَاتُ الطَّرْفِ أَتْرَابٌ﴾

(And with them shall be those restraining their eyes, equals in age) (Sad, text, 52)

Equal: is non-gradable, inherent and stative adjective.

قال تعالى: ﴿فَبَشِّرْنَاهُ بِعَلَاءٍ حَسِيدٍ﴾

(So We gave him the glad tidings of a forbearing son) (AL-Saffat, text, 10) Forbearing: is non-gradable, inherent and dynamic adjective.

Ex. Thank you for being so forbearing. (Dynamic adjective)

قال تعالى: ﴿يَطُوفُ عَلَيْهِمْ وِلْدَانٌ مُّخَلَّدُونَ﴾

(Immortal boys will go around them) (AL-Waqia, text, 17)

Immortal: is non-gradable, inherent and stative adjective.

قال تعالى: ﴿وَلَا تَحْسَبَنَّ الَّذِينَ قُتِلُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ أَمْوَاتًا بَلْ أَحْيَاءُ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ يُنْزِلُونَ﴾

(And reckon those who are killed in Allah's way as dead; nay they are alive, are provided sustenance from their Lord) (AL-Immran, text, 169)

Dead: is non-gradable, inherent and stative adjective.

Ex .1-He is dead. We can't make comparative or superlative degree from this adjective.

2- Dead man. (Attributive adjective)

3-The man is dead. (Predicative adjective)

4-She is dead. (Stative adjective). We can't say (Be dead)

Alive: is peripheral and stative adjective. Peripheral is non-gradable and non-inherent

قال تعالى: ﴿وَلَا صَدِيقٌ حَمِيمٌ﴾

(Nor a close friend) (AL-Shuraa, text, 101)

Close: is gradable, non-inherent and dynamic adjective.

Ex.1-Be close friend. (Dynamic adjective)

2-He is my closest friend. (Superlative degree)

قال تعالى: ﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الْمُدَّثِّرُ﴾

(O you who are clothed!)

Clothed: is peripheral and stative adjective.

قال تعالى: ﴿أَنَّا لَمَرُضٌ بِرَبِّهَا عِبَادِيَ الصَّالِحِينَ﴾

(That My righteous servants shall inherit the land)

Righteous: is central and dynamic adjective.

Ex.1-The people are righteous. (Predicative adjective)

2-They are being righteous. (Dynamic adjective)

3-He is more righteous than others. (Comparative degree)

4.Adjectives that related to:

4.Devils:

قال تعالى: ﴿أَعِزِّدْهَا بِكَ وَذُرِّيَّتَهَا مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ﴾

(And I commit her and her offspring to Thy protection from satan, the cursed) (AL-Immran, text, 36)

Cursed: is non-gradable, inherent and stative adjective.

قال تعالى: ﴿قَالَ فَاحْزِيْ مِنْهَا فَإِنَّكَ مَرْجُومٌ﴾

(God said, Then get out hence, for surely, you are rejected) (AL-Haj, text, 34)

Rejected: is non-gradable, inherent and stative adjective.

قال تعالى: ﴿وَأَخْرَجْنَا مُضْرِبِينَ فِي الْأَصْفَادِ﴾

(And other bound in fetters) (Sad, text, 38)

Bound: is peripheral and stative adjective.

قال تعالى: ﴿وَحِفْظًا مِنْ كُلِّ شَيْطَانٍ مَّا رِدٍ﴾

(And have guarded it against all rebellious satans)

Rebellious: is non-gradable, inherent and stative adjective.

قال تعالى: ﴿مِنْ شَرِّ الْأَوْسَوَّاسِ الْخَنَّاسِ﴾

(From the evil of the sneaking whisperer)(AL-Nas, text, 4)

Sneaking : is peripheral and stative adjective.

4.1 Polytheists' and Evils' Adjectives:

قال تعالى: ﴿مَنَعَ لِلْخَيْرِ مُعْتَدٍ أَثِمٍ﴾

(Forbidder of good, transgressor, sinful) (AL-Qalam, text, 12)

Sinful: is non-gradable, inherent and stative adjective.

Ex.1-Sinful person. (Attributive adjective)

2-The person is sinful. (Predicative and stative adjective)

قال تعالى: ﴿وَوُجُوهُ يَوْمَئِذٍ بَاسِرَةٌ﴾

(Some faces on that day will be dismal)(AL-Qiyamah, text, 24)

Dismal: is peripheral and stative adjective. Peripheral is non-gradable and non-inherent.

قال تعالى: ﴿فَدَعَا رَبَّهُ أَنِ هَؤُلَاءِ قَوْمٌ مُّجْرِمُونَ﴾

(Then he prayed unto his Lord, saying these are indeed polytheistic people)

Polytheistic: is non-gradable, inherent and stative adjective.

قال تعالى: ﴿كُونُوا فِرْدًا حَاسِنِينَ﴾

Be you apes, despised) (AL-Baqarah , text, 65)

Despised: is non-gradable, inherent and stative adjective.

قال تعالى: ﴿وَوُجُوهُ يَوْمَئِذٍ خَاشِعَةٌ﴾

(Some faces on that day will be downcast) (AL-Ghashiyah, text 2)

Downcast: is non-gradable, inherent and stative adjective.

قال تعالى: ﴿عَلَّ بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ نَرِئِمُ﴾

(Ill-mannered and, in addition to that of doubtful birth)
(AL-Qalam, text, 13)

Doubtful: is non-gradable, inherent and stative adjective.

قال تعالى: ﴿وَكَانُوا قَوْمًا بُورًا﴾

(And became a lost people) (AL-Furqan, text, 18)

Lost: is non-gradable, inherent and stative adjective.

قال تعالى: ﴿قُلْ أَفَغَيْرَ اللَّهِ تَأْمُرُونَنِي أَعْبُدُ أَيُّهَا الْجَاهِلُونَ﴾

(Say, is it other gods than Allah that you bid me worship, O you ignorant ones?) (AL-Zumar, text, 64)

Ignorant: is non-gradable, inherent and stative adjective.

قال تعالى: ﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ﴾

(Verily, Allah guides not the unjust people) (AL-Ma'idah, text, 51)

Unjust: is non-gradable, inherent and stative adjective.

C-Neutral Adjectives: The adjectives that refer to neither negative side nor positive ones. They might describe the good and the evil at the same time.

قال تعالى: ﴿وَالسَّابِقُونَ السَّابِقُونَ أُولَئِكَ الْمُقَدَّمُونَ وَالْأَوَّلُونَ﴾

(And as for the foremost among the believers, the first of the Emigrants and the Helpers) (AL-Taubah, text, 100)

First: is non-gradable, inherent and stative adjective.

قال تعالى: ﴿فَإِنْ طَلَّقَهَا فَلَا تَحِلُّ لَهُ مِنْ بَعْدُ حَتَّى تَكْسَحَ نَفْسُهَا عَنْهُ﴾

(And if he divorces her the third time, then she is not lawful for him thereafter, until she marries another husband) (AL-Baqarah, text, 230)

Another: is peripheral and stative adjective.

قال تعالى: ﴿كَمْ مِنْ فِئَةٍ قَلِيلَةٍ غَلَبَتْ فِئَةً كَثِيرَةً بِأِذْنِ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ مَعَ الصَّابِرِينَ﴾

(How many a small party has triumphed over a large party by Allah's command ! And Allah is with the steadfast)(AL-Baqarah, text, 249)

Small and large: are central, inherent and stative adjective.

قال تعالى: ﴿إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ عِبَادٌ أَمْثَلُكُمْ﴾

(Verily ,those whom you call upon besides Allah are slaves like you) (AL-Araf, text, 193)

Like: is peripheral and stative adjective.

5. Conclusion:

The researcher sums up the following:

- 1- Adjectives in Arabic can be singular and plural while in English they depend on the nouns they modify.
- 2- Stative, gradable and inherent adjectives are more than dynamic, non-gradable and non-inherent adjectives.
- 3- Different translations of adjectives to different translators in holy Quran.
- 4- In English, adjectives constitute a separate part of speech and are distinguished from nouns in that they are used attributively before the head noun and predicatively after copula. As for the class of adjectives in Arabic, it is not separate part of speech. It is subclass of the class nouns.

المستخلص:

الصفات قسم مهم من أقسام الكلام التي تستخدم في الحياة اليومية. يستقصي البحث التصنيف الثانوي للصفات في بعض الآيات القرآنية المتتقة. عموماً، من المهم التصنيف الدلالي الثانوي للصفات وعلى وجه الخصوص لبعض النصوص القرآنية المتتقة. يتبع الباحث الدور المستخدم من قبل كويرك. لقد استخدم الباحث بعض الاقتباسات من النصوص القرآنية وحاول أن يستقصي التصنيف الدلالي الثانوي للصفات في هذه

اللاقتباسات. تهدف الدراسة الحالية إلى إزالة الالتباس عند متعلمي الأجانب للغة الانكليزية في التمييز بين الأنواع المختلفة للصفات من جهة أخرى توضيح استخدام الصفات في بعض النصوص القرآنية المتقاة. تبين فرضية الدراسة انه يوجد بعض نقاط الصعوبة في التمييز والإدراك للتصنيف الدلالي الثانوي للصفات لدى متعلمي اللغة الانكليزي الأجانب. لكن توجد بعض الصفات التي يمكن تمييزها بسهولة أكثر من الصفات الأخرى. بسبب ليس كل الناس لديهم نفس الكفاءة اللغوية.

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