

DIALECTICAL UNITY OF LANGUAGE AND SPEECH (ON THE MATERIAL OF WORDS ENDING ON THE SUFFIX -LY IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE)

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Abstract

In English language adjectives do not have completely expressed morphological indicators while adverbs have a complex morphological structure; otherwise saying, in qualitative adverbs the stem of attributive adjectives is complicated with the suffix -ly. The relation between adjectives and adverbs is quite often realized in word formation. In this case a word with the suffix -ly is considered as an adverb derived from a qualitative adverb with the help of the rather productive suffix. The fact that adjectives have the corresponding words ending on the suffix -ly indicates that we deal with such derived words which have already been established in the language and have lexicographically been fixed as linguistic units. Analysis of the material on language and speech levels showed that in English language there are words ending on the suffix -ly which are already derived from adjectives, are fixed in the dictionary and develop their meanings. On the other hand, these are those adjectives that do not have fixed parallel forms with -ly suffix, but there is the inexhaustible possibility of formation such words in speech. Being widely used in speech, such formations on their turn can be placed in dictionaries. Thus, vector of direction in this case can go not from language to speech as it mostly happens, but from speech to language. This fact once more proves dialectical unity of language and speech, that though being different phenomena, they are inseparable.

Keywords: Suffix, Adverbial, Adjectival, Grammatical category, Lexical category

Introduction

From the first glance it may seem that adjectives that express quality (“wonderful”, “haughty”, “outstanding”, etc.) differ from qualitative adverbs (“wonderfully”, “haughtily”, “outstandingly”, etc.) not only semantically, but also by the nature of their combinability with other words in speech. Qualitative adjectives are combined with nouns, whereas qualitative adverbs – with verbs and adjectives. In this case we deal with rather complex morphological relations.

It is a well-known fact that in English language adjectives do not have completely expressed morphological indicators while adverbs have a complex morphological structure; otherwise saying, in qualitative adverbs the stem of attributive adjectives is complicated with the suffix -ly. It can be considered that in this case we deal with two different parts of speech, but with one (adjective) which can be presented in two forms: adjectival form with nouns (“quick speech”) and adverbial form with verbs (“speaks quickly”) and adjectives (“profoundly ignorant”). In both cases quality is defined: in the first case the quality of a noun and in the second case - the quality of a verb or an adjective.

On the other hand, the relation between adjectives and adverbs is quite often realized in word formation. In this case a word with the suffix -ly is considered as an adverb derived from a qualitative adverb with the help of the rather productive suffix.

Investigations in lexicology give us the opportunity to raise a question concerning attributive expression of quality with nouns and verbs. This issue should be discussed on the background of grammatical and lexical morphological relations. The main difference between lexical morphological categories and grammatical categories is that the first of them are realized on the metasemiotic level; though grammatical categories can also have the metasemiotic function in certain contexts, i.e. they serve not only pure grammatical meanings, but also stylistic co-meanings. Grammatical morphological categories develop stylistic co-meanings adherently, i.e. are realized only in the given context, while lexical morphological categories have these co-meanings inherently, i.e. they are characteristic features of the given form.

While discussing formation with the suffix -ly, the question should be set in the following way: what is the marked form of juxtaposition while adjectival and adverbial expression of quality? Is it realization of grammatical morphological or lexical morphological category? Is attributive expression of quality with nouns and verbs realized with the help of one word in different grammatical forms or with the help of two words which are inseparable related in the sphere of grammatical categories?

To study this issue, first of all we analyzed the dictionary material and then the material from literature. So, we compared materials on language and speech levels.

It seems that both, adjectival and adverbial forms can be derived with the help of the suffix -ly; though, cases of adjectives with -ly suffix are very few (“motherly”, “daughterly”, “daily”, “yearly”, etc.), but adverbial formation with the same suffix are met very often. In the first case -ly is a non-productive suffix and in the second one – highly productive. This is a clear example how one and the same suffix can be non-productive in once case, and highly productive – in the other.

In Oxford Dictionary were met 2034 adjectives that have the corresponding forms with the suffix -ly. Among them, in 1713 cases adjectives have parallel adverbial forms with this suffix without any definition; simply the mark “adv” is stated. For instance,

abnormal (adj) -ly (adv)

brutal (adj) -ly (adv)

splendid (adj) -ly (adv)

affable (adj) -ly (adv)

In 321 cases, words ending on -ly have not only the mark “adv”, but also definition and illustration phraseology. The definition shows the semantic relation between an adjective and an adverb. For instance,

consequent (adj) – following something as a result or an effect.

consequently (adv) – as a result; therefore: *My car broke and consequently I arrived rather early.*

blunt (adj) – 1. without a sharp edge or a point; 2 frank and direct.

bluntly (adv) – in a blunt manner. *To put it bluntly, your work isn't good enough.*

Very rarely, but still exist cases when the words on -ly have branched structure and their relation with adjectives is not observed. Such adjectives have corresponding homonymous adverbial forms, i.e. adverbs without the suffix -ly and the corresponding adverbs with -ly obtain different meanings. For instance,

late (adj) – 1. after the expected or usual time; 2. towards the end of a period of time.

late (adv) – 1. after the expected or usual time; 2. towards the end of a period of time.

lately (adv) – in recent times; recently.

Thus, on the language level, some adverbs have definitions and illustration materials, some – only the mark “adv” and some develop branched structure.

It is noteworthy that without such modification, formation with -ly suffix would be the marked form of the grammatical category. But, as it has already been mentioned, -ly is

among highly productive suffixes together with the suffixes “-ness”, “-less”, “-like”, “-full”, etc. Thus, -ly is described as the suffix that is added to stems what results in deriving new words.

The fact that adjectives have the corresponding words ending on the suffix -ly indicates that we deal with such derived words which have already been established in the language and have lexicographically been fixed as linguistic units.

If we had confined to the analysis of only dictionary materials, we would have made a methodological mistake as we would have not paid attention to the dialectical unity of language and speech. In such case we would have considered only that structure that has a word which is already fixed in dictionaries and those processes that are permanently going on and on in the language. Otherwise saying, we would not have discussed the morphological categories that are the most important problem and without which it is impossible to study the real functioning of the language.

A great number of adjectives having no corresponding forms ending on -ly suffix was met in the dictionary. After analyzing them, we came to the conclusion that such formations were not fixed because of morphological and semantic restrictions. Morphological restrictions are spread mostly on such adjectives that ending on the following suffixes: -ly “beggarly”, -like “child-like”, -ior “interior”, -most “backmost”. As for the suffixes -ian/-ean, -ese, -ist, they are effected by semantic restrictions. The thing is that all these suffixes are used for describing a person from the point of view of a) national or geographic properties “American”, “European”, Italian”, “Chinese” (here can be mentioned the suffix -ish in case of semantically similar formations “Irish”, “Spanish”, “English”), b) political convictions “communist”, “fascist”; c) the adjectives derived from the proper names of real or fictional people “Victorian”, “Elizabethan”, “Machiavellian”, “Cyclopean”, “Liliputian”. One more semantic group of adjectives that does form adverbs on -ly is the names of diseases: “allergic”, “asthmatic”, “diabetic”, etc.

The question aroused: can such formations (adverbial forms of the above mentioned adjectives) exist in general or is it impossible to form such adverbial forms that are not fixed in dictionaries?

For this purpose we compared dictionary material with the material found in literature. It turned out that in literature, i.e. on the speech level can be met such words, such formations that are not fixed in dictionaries, i.e. on the language level. Otherwise saying, the above described restrictions are obliterated on the speech level. For instance,

“He bowed his head as he passed though, and said as he always did **interiorly**, ‘Lift up your hands!’”

“‘Pity’, said the Colonel **asthmatically**, ‘Pity!’”

“He seemed to be **Irishly** foolish”.

“‘We have to use every way to achieve it!’ he said Machiavellianly..”

Conclusion

After analyzing the material on both levels – language and speech levels – we can conclude that in English language there are words ending on the suffix -ly which are already derived from adjectives, are fixed in the dictionary and develop their meanings. On the other hand, these are those adjectives that do not have fixed parallel forms with -ly suffix, but there is the inexhaustible possibility of formation such words in speech. Being widely used in speech, such formations on their turn can be placed in dictionaries. Thus, vector of direction in this case can go not from language to speech as it mostly happens, but from speech to language. This fact once more proves dialectical unity of language and speech, that though being different phenomena, they are inseparable.

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