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ADJECTIVE ATTRIBUTE IN THE JOURNALISTIC SUBSTYLE OF THE MACEDONIAN LANGUAGE[1]

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Abstract

This work researches the usage of adjective attribute in the journalistic substyle of the Macedonian language in the consensual relation of the nouns which signify person (personal nouns) in order to find out the most frequently used types, as well as, to note the eventual differences in its use due to the area of the article. The sample consists of 40 journalistic articles from various areas, and the starting point in determining the type of attribute is Minova-Gjurkova' theory (2000). For data processing and reaching the conclusions, descriptive statistics is used as well as analysis, synthesis and comparison. The research shows that the analyzed journalistic articles are quite repeatedly using the basic adjective attribute presented with relative adjectives and wide varieties of combinations with adjectives, numbers, pronouns, counting that there is no difference due to the area of the article itself. It also suggests that in the articles there is no creativity in the forms showing ordinary adjective attribute and its use is limited to well known adjectives which may affect the quality of expression.

Keywords: adjective attribute, Macedonian language, journalistic substyle.

1. Introduction

According to Minova-Gjurkova (2000), the attribute is a secondary sentence article which is not prone to change the structure of a sentence. In contrary, it serves to enrich the structure. Further, she states that the attribute expresses particular quality and it determines the noun, the center in a given sentence, from a characteristics point of view, thus enlarging its context in one hand, and in another hand, decreasing the volume of what it refers to. Furthermore, she emphasizes that most frequently attribute is presented with the adjectives and nouns, more rarely with numbers or pronouns as well that the relationship between the attribute and the noun is consensual or steering, ex. *ubava zhena* (**beautiful** woman) and *dete so ubava kosa* (*a child with* **beautiful** *hair*). According to her, for the adjectives the attribute function is a basic syntactic function and, in general, the attribute is placed before the noun. If the order is vice versa, it is about stylistic nuance or developed attribute. As an article that appears mostly before the noun group and modifies it, the attribute is named premodifier. Nevertheless, it may appear after the noun like postmodifier. The modifiers, as it is emphasized by Weng (2007), may enlarge the simple sentence into a quite longer and complex one.

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[1] Revisional scientific paper

In this work, the use of the adjective attribute in consensual relationship with the nouns which mark a person (personal nouns) in journalistic sub-style of the Macedonian standard language which are presented trough 40 articles from five areas: sports, politics, culture, health and science is researched. In that sense, it is extremely interesting to consider the type of adjective attribute mostly used in those articles, its form as well as the eventual differences in its use in relation to the area to which the article belongs.

On account to that it is a secondary sentence article, it may seem that examining the adjective attribute is not quite important. However, the research shows out that the adjective attribute is quite often a subject of interest in the English language researches. From there on, the scientifically and practical contribution of this work may be seen, and that is to give information to the readers of the Macedonian language in one hand, and in other hand to the researchers who are interested is this question.

1.1. Types of adjective attributes

According to Minova-Gjurkova (2000), the adjective attribute is most common attribute in the standard Macedonian language, owing this to the fact that the adjectives are considered as determiner of the noun, and that really there is a structural equivalency between the noun in a given sentence and the corresponding noun group. As she declares, the adjective attribute may appear in the following forms:

- **Basic adjective attribute** (***ubava*** *zhena*, ***malo*** *kutre*) (***beautiful*** *woman*, ***little*** *dog*).
- **Epithet** (***bela*** *samovila*, ***crn*** *gjavol*) (***white*** *fairy*, ***black*** *devil*).
- **Developed adjective attribute** (*mache*, ***isplasheno od nevremeto***) (*cat*, ***frightened by the storm***).
- **Separated adjective attribute** (*Pred mene*, ***zasrameno***, *deteto zaplaka*) (*In front of me*, ***ashamed***, *the boy cried*).

Minova-Gjurkova (2000) states that the adjective attribute has the grammatical categories degree, gender, number and determination, showing up that it is paradigmatical. In relation to the word order, she points out that as an article which stands before the noun group and which modify it, the adjective attribute is known as premodifier. However, if it is about the developed adjective attribute, then the adjective stands behind the noun.

2. Previous research in the field

In the foreing literature, there are a lot of researches connected with the adjective attribute. In addition, certain up to date researches that support the justification of this research are given.

Biber et al. (1999) and Quirk et al. (1972) examine the appearance of premodifiers of the noun group (two, three and more). As well as Huddleston (1984), they consider that the examples where there are increased numbers of premodifiers are rare an unique, although Kvirk et al. (1972) stresses out that a large number of premodifiers can be added to the noun. It is clear that the use of more premodifiers helps to obtain more information, and in the same time, according to them, the question for the modifiers order is quite significant. In this context, the number of the researches that stress out the order of the modifiers is also meaningful. Biber et al. (1999) consider that the order depends on the meaning which is transferred, and moreover, on the structure of the premodifiers. Quirk et al. (1972) lists the following order of the premodifiers in the English language: evaluative or subjective addjectives (*ubav*, *ekstravaganten*) (*beautiful*, *extravagant*), general adjectives denoting form and size (*mal*, *tezhok*) (*small*, *heavy*), adjectives denoting age (*star*, *nov*) (*old, new*),

adjectives denoting colours (*zelen*, *siv*) (*green*, *grey*) ect. Using three approaches for the premodifiers' order, Swan & Hatzivassiloglu (1999) claim that the order affects the fluency of text. The order of the premodiers (adjectives and pronouns) in the English language is considered by Al-Monem (2018), who is relaying on the classification of the adjectives by Dixon (1982): adjectives denoting dimension, physical characteristics, human charachteristics, (*srekjen*, *ljubezen*) (*happy*, *kind*), colour, age, value (*dobar*, *losh*) (*good*, *bad*), speed (*brzo*, *bavno*) (*fast*, *slow*). He reveales that the Iranian students of the English language found the premodifiers hard to be acquired.

Nagrahani (2009) researches the forms of the modifiers in the noun phrases used in the jurnal "Jacarta Post", and their distribution from semantical and structural point of view. Hernandes (2017) does a variational analysis on the modifiers into shows for cooking and he assumes that the adjectives as modifiers are found in attributional or predicative function and that mostly, the evaluative adjectives are used. Gu (2019) points out the importance of the modifiers' role, among others, of the adjectives in the English language, approaching them as a grammatical units, and examining them in relation to the definition, classification and position in the noun group. Paul (2019) considers premodifiers into the film critics on the web page of "BBC" and "Guardian". He explores their types, frequency and the aim of their use, concluding that from all premodifiers in the critics, the adjectives are present with 51,6% and that the lowest number, regarding their semantics, are those adjectives noting colour, as a result of which more descriptive information is obtained. Susanto (2019) writes about the premodifiers in advertisements for a lipstic from "Revlon" in online magazines for women and concludes that the adjectives are the most frequently used premodifiiers with 27% from all of the used modifiers.

In the Macedonian language, the most comprehensive information for the attribute, as well for the linearization (hiearachy of the adjective modifier order) in the Syntax from Minova-Gjurkova (2000) is given. According to her, the scheme of the noun group includes: auxiliary determiners *(site)* (*all*), determiners, (*ovie*) (*these*), numbers and countable nouns (*chetvorica*) (*four*), possesive pronouns (*nivni*) (*their*), ordinal countable nouns (*prvi*) (*first*), descriptive adjectives (*dobri*) (*good*), postmodifier (*od detstvoto*) (*from the childhood*), dependent part-sentence (*shto ne go zaboravaat*) (*who do not forget him*). From there on, the whole noun group is noted as: *site ovie chetvorica nivni prvi dobri prijateli od detstvoto shto ne go zaboravaat*). The developed adjective attribute is considered by Petrovski (2016).

3. Methodology

The sample consists of 40 journalistic articles from five areas of interest: sport, politics, culture, education and health (8 articles from each area of interest) collected during May-September. In determining the adjective attribute, the starting point is Minova-Gjurkova's theory (2000). For the data processing and drawing conclusions, descriptive statistic, analysis, synthesis and comparison are used.

4. Results from the research, analysis and discussion

4.1. The use of adjective attribute in sport articles

In the eight articles with sport context, 1 338 words are used. From them, 22 words or 1.64% are adjective attribute. Simple adjective attribute is noticed in 18 examples, or in 81.82% from all the adjective attributes or in 1,34% from all the words in the articles. One of the attrubutes is presented with a number (*35 rakometari*) (*35 handball players*) and 1 with pronoun form *(site protivnici)* (*all oponents*). 3 attributes are epithet (*legendarnata*

Germanka) (*legendary German*) (*legendarniot shvajcarski teniser*) (*legendary Swiss tennis player* and (*prviot covek*) (*the first man*).

The adjective attribute is differentiated according to the adjective by which it is presented. The less used ones are the following: developed adjective attribute (*voodusheven od uspehot*) (*delighted for the success*), attribute presented in a combination with relative and descriptive adjective (*potencijalnite mladi rakometari*) (*the potencial young handball player*) and attribute presented in a combination of two different relative adjectives (*legendarniot shvajcarski teniser*) (*legendary Swiss tennis player*). Their representation is the same compared with the attribute with number and relative pronoun, i.e. they presents 4.55% from all the attributes and 0.07% from all the words used in the eight articles. Next, there are attributes presented with numbers (*14-godishno momche*, *prviot chovek*) (*fourtheen year boy*, *the first man*), with possesive pronoun (*nashite reprezentativci*, *nashite fudbaleri*) (*our team*, *our football players*) and with descriptive adjective (*nov trener*, *alchniot menadzher*) (*new trener, the greedy manager*). They make up 9.09% from all the attributes and 0,15% from the sum of words used in the articles. Most of the attributes, even 10 or 45.45% are attributes with relative adjective, and it is 0.75% from the whole of words (*potencijalnite reprezentativci*, *glaven favorit*, *klupskata legenda*, *italijanskiot struchnjak*, *poraneshnite reprezentativci*, *prilepskiot napagjach*, *nekogashniot napagjach*, *tehnichkiot direktor*, *belgiskiot dzver*, *kluchnite fudbaler*) (*the potential team*, *key favorite*, *club legend*, *the Italian expert*, *the former representatives*, *The Prilep's attacker*, *former attacker*, *the technical manager*, *the Belgium beast*, *the key football players*).

Within the adjective attribute presented with relative adjective and the adjective attribute presented with a combination with two relative adjectives, two specific instances are noticeable: *legendarnata Germanka Shtefi Graf and legendariont shvajcarski teniser X Y* (*the legendardy German Shtefi Graf and the legendary Swiss tennis player H Y*). Taking in consideration that the attribute determines the noun from characteristic point of view, it is evident that the relative adjective *legendaren* (*legendary*) is an adjective attribute – epithet which is harmonized by gender, number and determination of the noun, in the instance, with the *Germankata (German*) and *teniser* (*tennis player*). Bearing in mind that those two nouns are followed by personal names, there is a space to tell that they are descriptive expressions, more precisely periphrases (Janusheva, 2020a), meaning that they are secondary nomination of the denotations' name (first nomination, X Y). In this context, when a syntax analysis on a sentence is done, it should be indicated that the attribute, in this case, is a part of the figurative periphrases (Janusheva, 2020b), *legendarniot shvajcarski teniser*, X Y and *legendarnata Germanka Shtefi Graf*. Among the characteristics of the periphrases, their evaluation function should be pointed out, clearing out that the attribute is part of the periphrasis and the evaluative character of the periphrases is correlated and connected with it. Relaying on that, the author of the article determines/evaluates the person from the feature point of view, which according to him, is the most significant, makes a distinction and separates this person from the others. In addition to this, the same explanation may be stated for the same adjective attribute *tehnickiot* (*technical*) in the descriptive statement *tehnickiot director* X Y, but the difference is that in this example, it is about logical periphrases (Janusheva, 2021).

4.2. The use of the adjective attribute in articles of political connotation

The journalistic articles with political connotation have 2 438 words. In them, 14 simple adjective attributes are used, with representation of 63.64% from all the attributes and 0.57% from all the words and 1 epithet.

In relation to the type of the adjective used for presentation of the adjective attribute there are: attribute with relative adjective (*talibanski borci*, *poraneshniot pretsedatel*,

poraneshniot sovetnik, *poraneshiot portparol*, *litvanskiot minister*, *zagrizhenata ambasadorka*, *beloruskiot ambasador*, *lichni asistenti*, *bremeni zheni*, *bremeni majki*) (*Taliban soldiers*, *the former president*, *the former adviser*, *the former spokesman*, *the Litvanian minister*, *the worried ambassador*, *The Belarus ambassador*, *personal assistants*, *pregnant women*); attribute with a combination of two relative adjectives (*poraneshniot amerikanski pretsedatel*, *poraneshniot generalen sekretar*) (*the former American president*, *the former general secretary*); attribute presented with number and relative adjective (*200 dopolnitelni asistenti*) (*200 additional assistants*); attribute with pronoun and relative adjective (*sekoe novorodeno dete*) (*every new born child*); attribute with countable adjective (*prviot diplomat na EU*, *vtororodeno dete*) (*the first diplomat of EU*, *second born child*) . This presents 6.67% from all the attributes and 0.04% from all the words of the articles. It is evident that in the articles with political context there are examples that point out on simple adjective attribute as a part of logical and figurative periphrases (*prviot diplomat na EU*) (*the first diplomat of EU*) and (*beloruskiot ambasasor*) (*The Belarus ambassador*).

4.3. The use of the adjective attribute in articles with cultural contents

In the articles with cultural contents there are overall 2 463 words. From them, 17 or 0.96% are adjective attributes, and from them 16 are simple adjective attributes and one is developed adjective attribute (*voodusheven od uspehot*) (*delighted from the success*). From here, 94.12% are simple adjective attributes, which is 0.65% from the accumulative sum of all the words. The developed one participates with 5.88% into the adjective attributes and with 0.04% in all of the articles' words.

Regarding the type of the adjective used to present the adjective attribute, there are adjective attribute presented with relative adjective (*izvonredniot basist*, *makedonskiot jutjuber*) (*the great bassist*, *the Macedonian youtuber*) and with descriptive adjective (*popularnoto duo*) (*the popular duo*). In all articles there are overall 6 combined attributes or 28.57% from all the attributes and 0.24% from all of the 2 463 words: attribute presented by a combination of pronoun, descriptive and relative adjective (*nashata najgolema muzichka dzvezda*) (*our biggest music star*); decsriptive + descriptive adjective (*mladiot talentiran tapanar*) (*the young and talented drummer*); number + decriptive + relative adjectives (*eden od najaktivnite makedonski muzichari, eden od najrenomiranite makedonski pijanisti, edna od najgolemite dzvezdi od jugolsovenskiot film*) (*one of the most active Macedonian musicians, one of the most renowned Macedonian pianists, one of the biggest stars of the Yugoslav film*). The last three examples are semantic formulas serving to express figurative and logical periphrases.

4.4. The use of adjective attribute in articles about health

Getting into the articles with health content, they consists of 2 629 words. From them, 8 or 0.30% are adjective attributes. Regarding the type of the adjective used to present the adjective attribute, the following are noted: attribute with relative adjective (*vakciniranite posetiteli*, *britanskiot pretpriemach*) (*the vaccinated visitors*, *The British entrepreneur*); developed adjective attribute (*nauchnicite zbuneti od situacijata*) (*the scientists confused by the situation*); attribute with numbers (*416 614 lica*, *sedum lugje*, *21 zhitel*) (*416 414 persons*, *seven people*, *21 inhabitants*); attribute with a combination of descriptive and number adjective (*sedummina povozrasni lica*) (*seven older people*). From the eight adjective attributes, 3 are presented with relative adjective and 3 are with numbers, consequently, their representation is the same, 37.50% from the attributes and 0.11% from the overall words used for writhing the eight articles. Only 1 or 12.50% from the adjective attributes and 0.04% from

the sum of the words is developed attribute, and the representation of the attribute created with a combination of numbers and descriptive adjective is equal. Also, in these articles, the attribute in the semantic formula for expressing the logical periphrases is noted.

4.5. The use of attribute in articles with scientific context

In the articles with scientific context, compared with the others that were previously analyzed, the greatest amount of words, i.e. 3 002 words is used. From them, only 5 are adjective attribute, or 0.17%. One is presented with number (*eden astronaut*) (*one astronaut*), 3 are combination of number and relative adjective (*dvajca ruski astronauti*, *trojca amerikanski astronauti*) (*two Russian astronauts*, *three American astronauts*), which is 60% from the attributes and 0.10% from all the words used in the articles. 2 are adjective attributes with relative adjective (*планетарни научници, руските астронаути*) (*planetary scientists*, *The Russian astronauts*), which is a representation of 40% of the attributes and 0.07% from the overall number of 3 002 words used.

Regarding to this, the most commonly used is the simple adjective attribute with one adjective in 42 examples and this is 60% from the adjective attributes and 0.35% from all the words. Then, there are 17 combined adjective attributes or 22.99% from this type or 0.14% from all the words. Attributes with pronoun are following: there are 7 of them or 9.46% from the attributes or 0.06% from the words. 5.41% from the attributes are the attributes with numbers, and they are presented with 4 examples from each type. Their representation into the whole of words in the 40 articles is 0.03%.

The type of the adjective attribute, according to Minova-Gjurkova (2000) in all the 8 articles is given in the chart 1:
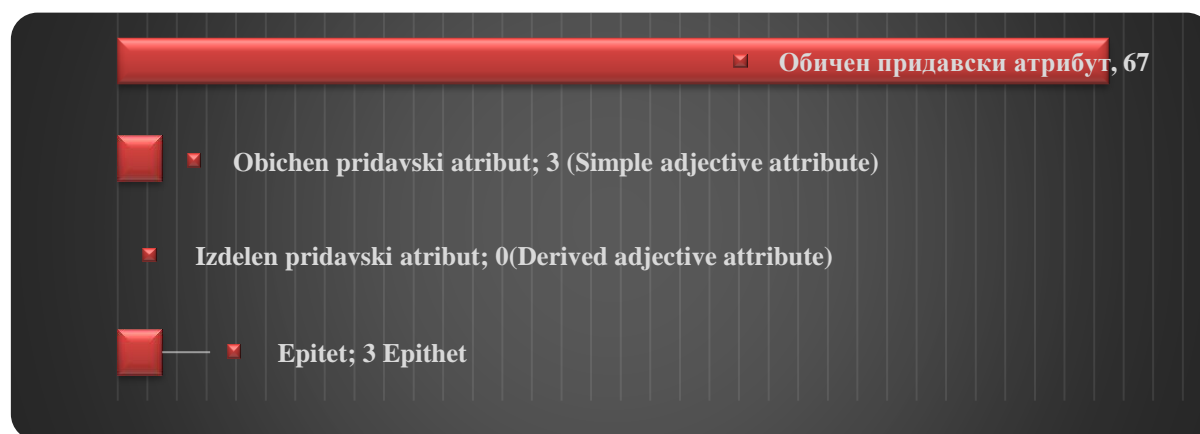
Chart 1: The type of the adjective attribute

According to the type, the adjective attributes are mostly presented through the simple adjective attribute, 91.78% or 67 attributes, which is 0.56% from the total number of the words in all 40 articles. The rest 3 are developed adjective attributes and their frequency is 4, which is 11% from the adjective attributes or 0.025% of the words.

The type of the simple adjective attribute, regarding the adjective used in all 40 articles is given in chart 2:

Broj + opisna pridavka (prevod) ; 1 Number + descriptive adjective

Broj + opisna pridavka + odnosna pridavka (prevod);
3number + descriptive adjective + relative adjective

Opisna pridavka + opisna pridavka (prevod); 1
descriptive adjective + descriptive adjective

Zamenka + opisna pridavka + odnosna pridavka (prevod) ; 1
pronoun+descriptive adjective + relative adjective

Zamenka + brojna pridavka (prevod); 1
pronoun + countable adjective

Brojna pridavka + odnosna pridavka (prevod); 4
countable adjective + relative adjective

Odnosna pridavka + odnosna pridavka (prevod) ; 3
relative adjectiv + relative adjective

Odnosna pridavka + opisna pridavka (prevod); 3
relative adjective + descriptive adjective

Prisvojna zamenska pridavka (prevod); 2
possesive pronoun

Zamenka (prevod); 5
pronoun

Odnosna pridavka (prevod), 28

Opisna pridavka (prevod); 7
descriptive adjective

Broj (prevod); 4
number

Brojna pridavka (prevod); 4
countable adjective

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 26 28 30

From the simple adjective attributes, the biggest frequency is noticed in attributes with relative adjective. 28 attributes were found out, and more exactly, this is 40% from the adjectives, 41.79 % from the simple adjective attributes and 0.236% from the total number of 11 870 words used in 40 articles. Moreover, next are attributes with descriptive adjective, 7 or 10% from the adjective attribute, 10.45% from the simple adjective attribute and 0.06% from the total number of words used. In the articles, there are 4 different attributes presented with possessive pronoun, number, numerical adjective and combination of number and with relative adjective. Their representation in the total number of adjective attributes is 5.71%, 5.97% from the simple adjective attributes and 0.034% from the total number of words used in the articles. With 3 examples the attributes with pronoun and attribute with triple combination (number, relative and descriptive adjective) are represented. That is 4.29% from the adjective attributes, 4.48% from the simple adjective attributes and 0.025% from the total number of words. The following attributes are represented with one example: attributes with combination of number and descriptive adjective, combination of two descriptive adjectives, combination of pronouns, descriptive and relative adjective and combination of pronoun and

countable/numeric adjective. Their representation in all the adjective attributes is 1.43%, in the simple adjective attributes is 1.49 % and in the total font of words used for the 40 articles is 0.008%.

In sum, the analyzed articles show that regarding the type of the adjective attribute, the most frequent is the simple adjective attribute, which has a role of modifier and the same is confirmed in the research of Nuhrahani (2009), Hernandez (2017), Gu (2019), Paul (2019) and Susanto (2019), suggesting the enormous usage of the adjectives in a modifier role in the journalistic articles. The results from this research are in a correlation with the research made by Biber et al. (1999) and Quirk et al. (1972) in terms of the fact that most of the nouns denoting persons are determined with two adjective modifiers. Despite the fact that Biber et al. (1991) and Huddleston (1984) consider that examples of a noun determined with more premodifiers are rarely used, in the analyzed articles there are examples with 3 premodifiers: *nashata najgolema muzichka dzvezda* (*our biggest music star*), *eden od najrenomiranite makedonski pijanisti* (*one of the most renowned Macedonian pianists*). In the analyzed articles, 3 developed attributes and 3 epithets are used. The rare use of epithets suggests that the journalistic articles have a deficit in pictorial description.

The articles with sport connotation are the ones with the most adjective attribute, followed by the culture and politics articles, and the least adjective attributes are noticed in the articles with health and science context. One of the reasons for this occurrence may be result of the fact that in the first group articles are about athletes and people directly involved in daily political and cultural events, and in the other hand, the second group of articles are commonly about scientific and health issues, facts and etc.

In relation to the type of the simple adjective attribute (the type of the adjective with which it is presented), it is noticeable that this attribute is presented with relative adjectives. Moreover, it is about well known attributes used in a daily base for characterization of the nouns for person (personal nouns). From there, it can be seen that no creativity is evident and it seems that those attributes, all together with the attributes in the semantic formula for expressing logical and personal periphrases are kind of cliché, which the author or the redaction chooses as a ready solutions for the text needs, not taking into account the eventual monotony during the reading. Talking about the linearization of the adjective modifiers, the research results show that there is no deviation from the scheme of the noun group specified by Minova-Gjurkova (2000).

5. Conclusion

The attribute is a key component in a sentence, which narrows the scope, but enlarges the context of the noun that denotes a person (personal noun). When the attribute refers to person, it characteristics comes to full expression, and it is easier to get complete perception for the person. Analysis indicates that, nevertheless it is a secondary sentence part, the attributes have an important aim as a part of a sentence, as well as a premodifiers of the personal nouns, and their choice in the article, in a great extent, may affect the fluency of the text and its saturation with everyday known attributes, which may lead to monotony during the act of reading. This work has limitations, primarily, in regard of the limited number of analyzed articles (40), and evidently, enlarged number of articles is needed in order to obtain more relevant conclusions for the use of the adjective attribute in the journalistic substyle of the Macedonian standard language. However, this work contributes into the field of researching the adjective attribute in the journalistic discourse of the Macedonian language because it gives knowledge about the type of the adjective attribute and the type of the adjective used to represent the attribute in the journalistic substyle of the Macedonian language.

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