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A WORD-BUILDING AND SEMANTIC ASPECTS IN THE STUDY OF QUANTITATIVE ATTRIBUTE OF UKRAINIAN ADJECTIVES

Annotation. Quantitative manifestation of an attribute in Ukrainian adjectives can be expressed in different ways, in particular, with the help of gradational formants. The article is dedicated to the semantic peculiarities of derivational means with the meaning of a quantitative attribute. The meaning of large and small manifestation of an attribute in affixes has a stepped character, which gives an opportunity to single out several groups of such lexemes.

Key-words: quantitative manifestation of an attribute, derivational means, gradational formants, enantiosemy.

I. Introduction.

An adjectival attribute can appear not in full measure or vice-versa – exceed the limit. Quantitative manifestation of an attribute is contained in a semantic structure of a lexeme or it can be seen from such word-building means as suffixes (including suffixes of subjective estimation), prefixes and confixes.

The quantitative manifestation and ways of its expression have been studied by Yu. P. Knjazev [4], L. P. Didkivska [2], A. N. Minka [6], S. Ye. Olijnyk [7], G. I. Radchenko [8], R. O. Kotza [5] and others. Traditionally, scientists mention the existence of a large and small attribute and in most cases contrast them with a neutral manifestation so that the problem of stepping these manifestations isn't highlighted enough. Some statements concerning gradation of quantitative manifestation of an attribute can be found in M. U. Zubajraeva's research works who compares English and Chechen languages and notes that in both of them 'two branches – ascending and descending can be found, and they form degrees of comparison with increasing and decreasing quantity of a quality attribute' [3, p. 91]. According to the scientist's opinion, the understanding of quantitative manifestation of an attribute surmises a separation of a larger amount of semantic means than simple increase or decrease, ascending branch being more developed than descending one.

II. Statement.

The object of the article is to study and analyze semantic peculiarities of derivational means with the meaning of a quantitative attribute.

III. Results.

A data analysis shows that lexemes with gradational semantics have a number of semantic nuances of both large and small manifestation of an attribute. The large attribute is introduced excessive, very large, and augmentative manifestations, while small one has diminutive, defective, and the lowest ones.

Specific words-quantifiers which can be found in lexeme definitions are indexes of listed manifestations. For example, items with the meaning of augmentation are mostly characterised by such lexemes as *досить, покритий, сповнений, засмічений, схильний, налитий* and designations *збільш., підсил.* Adjectives with the meaning of very large attribute are peculiar to such characteristics as *дуже, великий, з великим (довгим, густим), якому дуже..., багатий чимось* etc. Excessiveness is shown by such designations as *зовсім, надзвичайно, абсолютно, винятково, у край, надмірно, занадто* etc. Words-quantifiers *не цілком, не зовсім, не дуже, на половину* are designations of a small degree of an attribute to show semantic diminutiveness; such words as *з домішкою (відтінком), трохи, ледве, дещо* point to defectiveness.

Formation of adjectives with the meaning of the lowest attribute occurs analytically (e. g. in comparisons with the help of 'найменш' lexeme).

Most of gradational affixes point to different manifestations of an attribute, one of which is the main for the formants (it is peculiar to the majority of items with a definite affix) while others are additional (meanings of one and the same formants that point to quantitatively another attribute manifestation than the main ones). In some cases formants express only one semantic nuance of gradational meaning. Such affixes are not productive and they function in a limited number of lexemes (often in dialects).

The purpose of our article is to find out derivational and semantic peculiarities of adjectives with the meaning of large and small attribute and to classify them according to different manifestations of gradation.

More than 25 suffixes and about 15 prefixes take part in the formation of adjectives with gradational semantics. Linguists, pointing out a rather small group of gradational prefixes, note their ability to show only large manifestation of an attribute. The analysis of material, though, proves that prepositional affixes can also have a meaning of a small attribute.

Gradational affixes concretize the manifestation of a **large** attribute, transmitting augmentation, very large attribute or excessiveness.

1. **Augmentation** semantics (not very large superiority as compared to the norm (standard) is expressed by *-ист-, -уват-, -ав-, -уч-, -езн-, -ив-, -ат-, -овит-* etc. suffixes (*бур'януватий* – *weed-grown*; *порохнистий* – *covered with gunpowder*; *квітучий* – *covered with flowers*), subjective estimation suffixes *-еньк-, -ісіньк-* (*важкенький* – *heavy enough*; *жоднісінький* – *augmentation to 'any'*), and prefixes *за-, пере-, по-* (*залегкий* – *light enough*; *посмішний* – *disposed to mockeries*; *пересмаглий* – *covered with suntan*).

The interpretation of some lexemes is considered to be not accurate. For example, an adjective *глибоченний*, according to our belief, means not augmentative (lexicographical interpretation – *augmentation to 'deep'*), but a very large attribute, which is influenced by the semantics of the base (*глибокий* – *which is very deep*). In the ‘*А провалля таке глибоченне, що й дна не видно*’ (‘*The downfall is so profound, that the bottom can't be seen*’) context the meaning of a very large attribute of an adjective *глибоченний* becomes obvious.

An adjective *здоровлючий* is interpreted as *augmentation to the 'large'* (which points to the augmentation of the attribute). However, a forming adjective *здоровий* in some figurative meanings points to a large attribute (1. *Large in the sizes*. 2. *That occupies a large space*), which is strengthened by a suffix *-уч-*. That's why, according to our opinion, the lexeme *здоровлючий* must be interpreted as ‘*very large*’.

The data analysis shows that augmentative semantics can be deposited on by the meaning of similarity (*плямистий* – *covered with stains; which looks like a stain*) or hypocoristic (*бодьоренький* – 1. *Hypocoristic to 'cheerful'*. 2. *Cheerful enough*). Cases of deposition of gradational meaning, similarity and presence of a definite attribute (*горбатий* – *that has a hump; covered with humps; that looks like a hump*) are single instances.

2. The meaning of **very large manifestation of an attribute** have the formants *-ист-*, *-уват-*, *-уч-*, *-ащ-*, *-ач-*, *-езн-*, *-ив-*, *-ат-*, subjective estimation suffixes *-есеньк-*, *-ісіньк-*, prefixes *над-*, *за-*, *пре-*, *напів-*, *пра-*, *полі-* etc., which show that the manifestation of an attribute exceeds the standard at a large scale, but it isn't the highest (*пелюсткастий* – *with big petals*; *дрібнесенький* – *very small*; *напівсивий* – *with a lot of grey hair*; *прастарий* – *very old*).

According to the dictionaries, adjectives *довжелезний* (*very long*) and *важелезний* (*very heavy*) are related to the lexemes with the meaning of very large attribute. However the context ‘*Невідомі викрали важелезний десятитонний міст, надавши підроблені папери на його демонтаж*’ (‘*Unknown people have stolen an extremely heavy bridge weighing a 10 tons by giving forged documents on its dismantling*’), as we consider, proves that the attribute expressed by such items is excessive.

Semantic of similarity (*лопушистий* – *broad-leaved; which looks like a burdock*) or hypocoristic (*вузесенький* – *hypocoristic to 'very narrow'*) can deposit on the meaning of very large attribute. *Остюкуватий* lexeme joins four meanings: of very large attribute (*with long spines*), of not very large quantity (*with a touch of spines*), of similarity (*which looks like a bunch of spines*), and of the characteristics of a definite property (*spiny*) at the same time.

3. The meaning of **excessiveness**(the highest concentration of an attribute which can't be exceeded) has such formants as *-ущ-*, *-уч-*, *-ив-*, *-езн-*, *-енн-*, *-ат-*, (*кислющий* – *extremely sour*; *товстелезний* – *extremely fat*), suffixes of subjective estimation *-ісіньк-*, *-еньк-*, *-есеньк-* (*молодісінький* – *totally young*; *мокресенький* – *quite wet*), and prefixes *пре-*, *все-*, *над-*, *за-*, *пра-*, *архі-*, *ультра-*, *пан-* etc. (*заважкий* – *extremely heavy*; *архістерильний* – *extremely sterile*).

Opposite to the semantics of a large attribute is the meaning of its **small** manifestation. Derivational means can point to diminutiveness or defectiveness.

1. Diminutiveness of an attribute (small decrease as compared to the standard) is expressed by such formants as **-уват-, -ист-** (*калікуватий* – defective, but not completely crippled; *онадистий* – not entirely plumb), suffixes of subjective estimation **-еньк-, -есеньк-, -ісіньк-** (*брудненький* – diminutive to ‘dirty’; *блідісінький* – diminutive-hypocoristic to ‘pale’), and prefix **напів-** (*напівмокрый* – not entirely wet).

2. Postpositional formants **-уват-, -ист-, -ат-, -аст-, -оват-, -овит-, -ав-** (*горбоватий* – with a small hump; *гнилуватий* – somewhat rotten), subjective estimation suffix **-еньк-** (*ледаченький* – somewhat lazy), and prefix **при-** (*приглухий* – somewhat deaf) are world-building means which point to **defectiveness** of an attribute (concentration of an attribute is much less than the standard).

Ukrainian adjectives with gradational meaning can also be formed by the way of **confixation**. We follow the traditional word-building theory, which enterprises such lexemes as, for example, *понадтарифний*, as those, which originated from the noun base (*тариф*) by using a confix, therefore sharing С. G. Horodenska’s position in particular.

Confixation of adjectives with quantitative meaning occurs by the way of joining a prefix **не-** with the suffixes **-енн-** or **-(а)нн-** (*неоцінений* ← *оцінити*; *незрівняний* ← *зрівняти*) and a prefix **понад-** with a suffix **-н-** (*понадтиражний* ← *тираж*; *понадтарифний* ← *тариф*).

In general, gradational formants combine only with a definite type of word-building bases. For example, the affix **-(а)нн-** in the first place connects with verbs (*невблаганий* ← *благати*), formants **-ав-, -уч-, -аст-, -езн-, -еньк-, -ісіньк-, пре-, пра-, гіпер-, супер-** etc. – with adjectives (*зеленавий* ← *зелений*; *прямісінький* ← *прямий*; *пребагатий* ← *багатий*; *гіперважливий* ← *важливий*), **-овит-, -аст-, -ат-, -ав-, понад-, все-, над-** – with nouns (*писклявий* ← *писк*; *зобастий* ← *зоб*; *доцистий* ← *доц*). We can fix separate cases of forming adjectives from adverbs (*отакенький, отакезний* ← *отакий*; *нічогенький* ← *нічого*; *жоднісінький* ← *жоден*; *ніякісінький* ← *ніякий*; *превсякий* ← *всякий*) and numerals (*одненький, одинюсінький* ← *один*).

Combining of gradational formant with a word-building base is often followed by such morphophonological changes as consonant alternation (*далекий* – *далечезний*), augment (*худий* – *худорлявий*), elision (*тяжкий* – *тяжезний*), change of a syllable stress (*великий* – *величезний*), and double syllable stress (*добренький, піністий*).

Derivational means, which show the quantitative attribute, can be characterized by synonymous, antonymous, or homonymous relations as well as with the development of different types of enantiosemy. We consider synonymous those formants that take part in expressing every quantitative manifestation. They form antonymous pairs according to attribute manifestation: **augmentative – diminutive; very large – defective; excessive – the lowest**.

Homonymy of the gradational affixes means the existence of the formants which have the same sounding but different meaning and they don’t have common semantic

component. We mean functioning of the affix, which nominally coincide with a gradational one, but it doesn't express the quantitative attribute, pointing to the similarity (*коробчастий* – *that looks like a box*); to the presence of a definite characteristics (*гілкуватий* – *that has thorns*); to the appearance (*бородатий* – *that has a beard*); to the colour (*попелястий* – *of ash colour*), etc.

We differ derivational means from **polysemy** which means the development of the different, according to the semantic nuances, meanings, which are united by a common feature – pointing to the quantitative manifestation of an attribute: *злодійкуватий* – *disposed to stealing* (suffix *-уват-* expresses augmentation) and *дощуватий* – *rich in rains* (the formant shows very large attribute).

If we add a formant to different word-building bases, it can often express attribute, polar in its quantitative manifestation. Similarly, a lexeme, which is formed with the help of a gradational affix, means the opposite manifestations of a quantitative attribute: a large and small one. In such cases it is a question of enantiosemy of gradational means which can be **external** (opposition of formant semantics while combining with different bases: *короткуватий* (*a bit short*) – *жирнуватий* (*with more fat, than necessary*) or *нанівсухуї* (*not entirely dry*) – *нанівсивуї* (*with a lot of grey hair*)) and **internal** (opposition of different gradational meanings within a single lexeme: *кров'янистий* – *with a touch of blood* (defectiveness); *filled in blood* (augmentation)).

IV. Conclusion.

Therefore, adjectives with the meaning of quantitative attribute are formed by suffixation, prefixation or confixation as well as analytically. Gradational formants can be divided into semantic groups according to the following manifestation of a quantitative attribute: *excessive* – *very large* – *augmentative* – *diminutive* – *defective* – *the lowest*. One and the same formant can express different attribute manifestations.

In general gradational formants are connected with the base of a definite belonging to the part of speech (verbal, adjectival, nominative). Derivational process is followed by a number of morphophonological changes.

Gradational affixes are characterised by semantic relation of synonymy, antonymy, polysemy, homonymy and enantiosemy.

A word-building aspect in the analysis of a phenomenon of a gradational attribute in the Ukrainian language, therefore, is an important component of means of gradational meanings manifestation study and that's why needs further research.

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