

INGLIZ TILIDA MODIFIKATOR VA POST-MODIFIKATSIYALI STRUKTURA TUSHUNCHALARI

THE CONCEPTS OF MODIFIER AND POST-MODIFICATIONAL STRUCTURE IN ENGLISH

ПОНЯТИЯ МОДИФИКАТОРА И ПОСТМОДИФИКАЦИОННОЙ СТРУКТУРЫ В АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ

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Annotation. *This article explores the significance of grammatical structures in modern linguistics, focusing particularly on the structures of post-modification. It emphasizes the crucial role these structures play in facilitating communication and understanding among individuals. By delving into the concept of modifiers, which qualify or limit the meaning of words, the article provides examples and analyses to illustrate their usage. Furthermore, it discusses the distinction between pre-modifiers and post-modifiers, highlighting their importance in modifying nouns. Through examples and insights from some linguists the article elucidates the diverse ways in which the structures of post-modification enrich language and contribute to effective communication. Overall, it underscores the growing importance of understanding and analyzing grammatical structures, especially the structures of post-modification, in the study of linguistics.*

Key words: *linguistics, grammar, communication, post-modifications, modifiers, pre-modifiers, post-modifiers, syntax, structure*

Annotatsiya. *Ushbu maqola hozirgi zamon tilshunosligidagi grammatik qurilmalarning ahamiyatini o‘rganadi, ayniqsa post-modifikatsiyali strukturalarga e‘tibor beradi. Ushbu qurilmalarning odamlar o‘rtasidagi muloqot va bir-birini tushunishni osonlashtirishda muhim rol o‘ynashini ta’kidlaydi. Maqolada so‘zlarning ma’nosini aniqlaydigan yoki cheklaydigan, ya’ni so‘zlarga qo‘shimcha ma’no yuklaydigan modifikatorlar tushunchasini o‘rganish orqali ularning qo‘llanilishini ko‘rsatish uchun misollar va tahlillar keltirilgan. Bundan tashqari, unda pre-modifikatorlar va post-modifikatorlar o‘rtasidagi farq muhokama qilinadi, ularning otlarga*

qo‘shimcha ma‘no berishdagi ahamiyati ta’kidlanadi. Ba’zi tilshunoslardan misollar va tushuntirishlar berish orqali maqola post-modifikatsiyali strukturalar tilni boyitishning va samarali muloqotga hissa qo‘shishning turli usullarini yoritadi. Umuman olganda, bu tilshunoslikni o‘rganishda grammatik tuzilmalarni, ayniqsa post-modifikatsiyali strukturalarni tushunish va tahlil qilishning ortib borayotgan ahamiyatini ta’kidlaydi.

Калит so‘zlar: *tilshunoslik, grammatika, aloqa, post-modifikatsiyalar, modifikatorlar, pre-modifikatorlar, post-modifikatorlar, sintaksis, struktura*

Аннотация. *В данной статье исследуется значение грамматических структур в современной лингвистике, уделяя особое внимание постмодификациям. В нем подчеркивается решающая роль, которую эти структуры играют в содействии общению и взаимопониманию между людьми. Углубляясь в концепцию модификаторов, которые уточняют или ограничивают значение слов, в статье приводятся примеры и анализ, иллюстрирующие их использование. Кроме того, обсуждается различие между пре-модификаторами и пост-модификаторами, подчеркивая их важность при изменении существительных. На примерах и мнениях некоторых лингвистов статья поясняет различные способы, с помощью которых постмодификации обогащают язык и способствуют эффективному общению. В целом, это подчеркивает растущую важность понимания и анализа грамматических структур, особенно постмодификаций, в изучении лингвистики.*

Ключевые слова: *лингвистика, грамматика, коммуникация, постмодификации, модификаторы, премодификаторы, постмодификаторы, синтаксис, структура.*

In modern linguistics grammatical structures play a crucial role in the process of communication so that we can express our feelings and comprehend what other people want to describe both more clear, and deeper and continuously intimate communication among individuals is increasing the importance of different grammar structures, including the structures of post-modification used during conversations day by day. As post-modificational structures are in the center of focus in studying various grammatical structures in languages, we have to analyze a few conceptions in the process of exploring these structures.

Methods and results

First of all, let’s investigate the notion of modifier.

Modifier is a word, expression or entire clause which qualifies or limits the meaning of a word. [Pei A Mario.-1847]

We can say on account of this definition that modifiers not only can qualify the meaning of lexical units, but they can also limits the content of those units.

For example: I whooped and listened . Away down there somewheres I hears a small whoop, and up comes my spirits. I went tearing after it , listening sharp to hear it again. (M. Twain. A. H. F.,437 p.) An example of a modifier that limits the meaning of a word is the phrase ”small whoop”. In this phrase, the modifier “small” limits the meaning of the noun “whoop” by specifying its size, voice. It indicates that the whoop being referred to is not just any whoop but one that is specifically small in size and voice. This modifier narrows down the

range of possible referents for the noun “whoop”, providing additional information about its characteristics.

Another example: He had never questioned it, except when he read books; but then, they were only books, fairy stories of a fairer and impossible world. (J. London M. E., 255 p.) In the given sentence, the modifier “only” is used to convey limitation or restriction. Specifically, it limits the significance or importance of the books that the subject read. By stating “they were only books”, the speaker is suggesting that the books hold a lesser value or credibility compared to other sources of information or experiences. This implies that the books are not considered authoritative or reliable in the same way as other forms of knowledge. Therefore, the modifier “only” serves to downplay the significance of the books and emphasizes their fictional or less substantial nature in the context of the sentence.

And the next example: I remember her as a slim young woman, with black hair, dark eyes, very nice features, and good, clear complexion; but she had a capricious and hasty temper, and indifferent ideas of principle or justice: still, such as she was, I preferred her to any one else at Gateshead Hall. (Ch. Bronte, J. E., 415 p.) An example of a modifier that qualifies the meaning of a word is the phrase “very nice”. In this phrase, the modifier “very” qualifies the adjective “nice” by intensifying its degree. It indicates that the noun being described is not just tall but exceptionally so. This modifier adds emphasis to the adjective “nice”, providing a stronger indication of the extent or degree of the quality being described.

A further example: Martin, who was extremely strong-headed, marveled at the other’s capacity for liquor, and ever and anon broke off to marvel at the other’s conversation. (J. London M. E., 255 p.) In the provided sentence, the modifier “extremely” is used to intensify the adjective “strong-headed”, which describes Martin's personality trait. It simply qualifies the meaning of the word “strong-headed”. By adding “extremely” before “strong-headed”, the sentence emphasizes that Martin possesses a particularly strong or intense level of stubbornness, determination, or firmness in his opinions or actions. This modifier suggests that Martin's stubbornness is not just noticeable or significant but is at an exceptionally high degree compared to others who may also be described as strong-headed. Therefore, “extremely” serves to highlight the extent or intensity of Martin’s characteristic of being strong-headed, emphasizing its prominence in his personality.

Analysis and discussion

In the structure of an English noun phrase, some grammarians have identified four and others five structural constituents that must appear in a fixed order: one or more determiners, pre-modifiers, a head, post-modifiers and/or complements. Pre-modification consists of all the modifying constituents placed after any determiners but before the head-noun, while the modifying constituents that appear after the head-noun form what is known as post-modification. [Dixon, Robert M. W.-1991]

It is clear from Dixon and Robert’s words that pre-modifiers and post-modifiers can differ according to which side they are placed in relation to the word they modify.

As an illustration, we can analyze the following sentence:

There was a clock on the middle of the mantelpiece, with a picture of a town painted on the bottom half of the glass front, and a round place in the middle of it for the sun, and you could see the pendulum swinging behind it. (M. Twain. *A. H. F.*, 437 p.)

In the given sentence, pre-modifiers and post-modifiers can be identified as follows:

Pre-modifiers: “on the middle of the mantelpiece”: This prepositional phrase modifies the noun “clock” by specifying its location.

“of a town”: This prepositional phrase modifies the noun “picture” by describing what the picture depicts.

Post-modifiers: “painted on the bottom half of the glass front”: This participial phrase modifies the noun “town” by describing how it is depicted in the picture.

“in the middle of it for the sun”: This prepositional phrase modifies the noun “place” by describing its purpose.

“behind it”: This prepositional phrase modifies the verb “swinging” by indicating the location of the pendulum’s movement.

Another example that we can explore is given in the following: Something morbid and significant attached to that sunburn, was Martin’s thought as he returned to a study of the face, narrow, with high cheek-bones and cavernous hollows, and graced with as delicate and fine an aquiline nose as Martin had ever seen. (J. London *M. E.*, 255 p.) In the provided sentence, pre-modifiers and post-modifiers can be identified as follows:

Pre-modifiers: “something morbid and significant”: This phrase modifies the noun “attached” and consists of two adjectives (“morbid” and “significant”) joined by the conjunction “and”. It describes the nature of what is attached to the sunburn.

Post-modifiers: “attached to that sunburn”: This phrase follows the noun “morbid and significant” and modifies it by specifying what it is attached to. It provides additional information about the attachment.

“of the face”: This prepositional phrase follows the noun “study” and modifies it by specifying which face is being studied. It provides additional information about the noun.

“narrow, with high cheek-bones and cavernous hollows”: This series of adjectives follows the noun “face” and describes its characteristics. These adjectives provide more detail about the appearance of the face.

“graced with as delicate and fine an aquiline nose as Martin had ever seen”: This clause follows the noun “face” and further describes one of its features, the nose. It provides additional detail about the nose’s appearance and compares it to others that Martin has seen.

In short words, the pre-modifiers and post-modifiers in the sentence serve to provide additional information about the nouns they modify, helping to paint a detailed picture of the scene or describe the characteristics of the subject and the difference between these two types of modifiers is shown according to their place.

When we speak about post-modificational structures, it would be great, if we illustrate Greenbaum’s following words: “Typical postmodifiers of nouns are prepositional phrases and relative clauses”. [Greenbaum-1996]

As an illustration of a prepositional phrase as a post-modifier, we can provide the following sentence: He tugged at his coat pocket and flung a thin volume on the table. (J.

London M. E., 255 p.) In the sentence the prepositional phrase “on the table” functions as a post-modifier. It modifies the verb “flung” by providing additional information about the location where the action occurred.

Another example: We went down the hill and found Joe Harper and Ben Rogers, and two or three more of the boys, hid in the old tanyard. (M. Twain. A. H. F., 437 p.)

In the provided sentence: “in the old tanyard” is a prepositional phrase. It functions as a post-modifier, providing additional information about the location where the action of hiding took place. The verb “hid” is modified by this prepositional phrase to specify the location. The prepositional phrase “in the old tanyard” acts as an adverbial phrase, indicating where the action of hiding occurred. It answers the question “Where?” about the action of hiding. So, in summary, the prepositional phrase “in the old tanyard” serves as a post-modifier by specifying the location of the action described by the verb “hid” in the sentence.

As an example of relative clauses as post-modifiers are followings:

The lot of towheads was troubles we was going to get into with quarrelsome people and all kinds of mean folks, but if we minded our business and didn't talk back and aggravate them, we would pull through and get out of the fog and into the big clear river, which was the free states, and wouldn't have no more trouble. (M. Twain. A. H. F., 437 p.)

In the given sentence there are two relative clauses functioning as post-modifiers: “we was going to get into with quarrelsome people and all kinds of mean folks”: This relative clause modifies the noun “troubles” and provides additional information about the type of troubles being referred to. It describes the situations or conflicts the speaker anticipates encountering.

“which was the free states”: This relative clause modifies the noun “river” and specifies which river is being referred to. It provides additional information about the characteristics or identity of the river.

Next example: He invariably paid the way for both, and it was through him that Martin learned the refinements of food, drank his first champagne, and made acquaintance with Rhenish wines. (J. London M. E., 255 p.) In this example, the relative clause functioning as a post-modifier is: “that Martin learned the refinements of food, drank his first champagne, and made acquaintance with Rhenish wines”: This relative clause modifies the pronoun “him” and provides additional information about the actions or experiences that Martin had as a result of the person referenced by “him”. It describes the specific activities or learning experiences Martin had under the influence or guidance of this person.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the role of grammar structures, particularly post-modifications, in modern linguistics is vital for effective communication and understanding. As individuals engage in increasingly intimate conversations, the significance of different grammar structures, including post-modifications, continues to grow. By analyzing concepts such as modifiers, which can both qualify and limit the meaning of words, we gain deeper insights into language use. Moreover, the distinction between pre-modifiers and post-modifiers, as articulated by grammarians like Dixon and Robert Malcolm Ward, sheds light on their respective roles in modifying nouns. Prepositional phrases and relative clauses serve as common post-modifiers,

adding detail and specificity to sentences. Understanding these structures enhances our ability to convey precise meanings and interpret language accurately in various contexts. As Greenbaum notes, typical post-modifiers such as prepositional phrases and relative clauses contribute to the richness and complexity of language. Overall, a comprehensive understanding of post-modificational structures enriches our linguistic knowledge and facilitates effective communication.

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