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THE FUNCTIONALITY OF ADJECTIVES ORDER BEFORE A NOUN

Unlike artificial languages, any natural language, being the system of signs, is formed in the process of humanity's evolution, whose milestones are lost in the darkness of grey antiquity. We can only make supposition about the real mechanisms of this evolution. That is why the grammatical and lexical system of this or that natural language cannot be exhaustively analyzed by means of formal logic. This is the main reason why one should pay a lot of attention to the communicative way of learning the foreign languages in the process of their communicative mastering directed at the communicative interaction when the learning of certain linguistic standards appears to be a by-product of this interaction and is achieved on an automatic, subconscious level. In the process of studying a foreign language outside the communicative interaction the conscious mastering of linguistic standards assumes a great importance. This process requires certain formalization of language norms and due to this their fathoming, which saves the students from hard cramming.

From this point of view it can be interesting to analyze the order of adjectives before a noun in English that gives an opportunity to realize this order and reduce it to a certain algorithm, which is easy to memorize.

R. A. Close (Close, 1979) gives the following order of adjectives before a noun:

Epithet	Size	Shape	Age	Colour	Origin	Sub-stance	Gerund, etc.	
a daring			young					man
a	small	round				oak		table
A dirty			old	brown				coat
a charming					French		writing	table
a	large			green	Chinese			carpet
a famous					German		medical	school

It is quite understandable that not all of the spaces on each horizontal line are filled. A nominal group in which all of the spaces were filled would be rare. But here it is not understandable why the adjectives denoting size come before the adjectives denoting shape which, in their turn, come before the adjectives indicating time, etc.

To understand the sequence of adjectives before a noun and thus to memorize this sequence one should analyze this phenomenon from the point of view of "subject-object" relation. While analyzing this relation we can talk about two elements: 1) "person" and 2) "thing" to which the person gives attributes, filling the spaces of the relation field "person-thing". This field can be structuralized in the following way.

The adjective susceptible to subjective measure (epithets) takes the nearest position to the person. If there are some such adjectives, the preference in order is given to that which reveals the more degree of subjectivity. Then the adjectives susceptible to objective measure come according to the order resulting from a degree of their objectivity. First come the adjectives denoting outer (spatial) characteristic of the thing – the place (space) where it is located. Then the adjectives indicating the thing's weight come, since weight is epy thing's characteristic coming after space: the weight of any thing stems from its spacio-gravitational relations to other things. Then adjectives denoting size come. Then the adjectives expressing the thing's shape which lies "on the surface" come. After shape adjectives those denoting the temporal aspect follow since this aspect stems from the state (of intactness) of the thing's shape. That is, the peculiarities of shape gives us the idea about temporal aspect of the thing possessing its shape. Further the adjectives denoting colour follow because colour depends on the duration of thing's existence: with time colour has the tendency to fade away. After the colour aspect the adjectives denoting "deeper" thing's characteristics come. The place of the thing in the class of other things our thing belongs to is shown first. This class of things is expressed through the idea of thing's origin. Then the deepest aspect

of our thing comes – its substance. After the latter the pragmatic and functional aspect of the thing comes which is the most important for the person and thus is the most essential attribute of the thing, lying in its "heart and core".

Let us illustrate the abovementioned hierarchy.

Epithet (A lovely, fashionable, famous, very dear) + *Space* (oriented to cardinal points) + *Weight* (heavy) + *Size* (rather big) + *Shape* (round, cracked) + *Age* (very old, about 200 years old) + *Colour* (green from time) + *Origin* (Chinese) + *Substance* (copper) + *Gerund etc.* (tea-) kettle.

The whole phrase, for all its artificiality, is as follows:

'It was a lovely, fashionable, famous, very dear, oriented to cardinal points, heavy, rather big, round, cracked, very old (about 200 years old), green from time, Chinese copper tea-kettle'.

So, using the principles we substantiated one can comprehend the essence of the order of adjectives before a noun in English reducing it to a certain algorithm, which is easy to memorize.