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SYNTAGMATIC AND PARADIGMATIC PECULARITIES OF ADVERBS IN ENGLISH

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ABSTRACT

The article presents the investigation of adverbs, its characteristics in English language. In addition to this, the article depicts syntagmatic and paradigmatic peculiarities of adverbs.

KEYWORDS

Adverb, characteristics, paradigmatic peculiarity, syntagmatic peculiarity, difference, morphology, syntax.

INTRODUCTION

The adverb is usually defined as a word expressing either property of an action, or property of another property, or circumstances in which an action occurs [4.146]. From this definition it is difficult to define adverbs as a class, because they comprise a most

heterogeneous group of words, and there is considerable overlap between the class and other word classes. They have many kinds of form, meaning and function.

M. Y. Blokh defines the adverb as a notional word expressing a non-substantive property, that is, a property of a non-substantive referent [1.221]. This formula immediately shows the actual correlation between the adverb and the adjective, since the adjective is a word expressing a substantive property. Properties may be of a more particular, "organic" order and, a more general and detached, "inorganic" order [1.221]. Of the organic properties, the adverb denotes those characterising processes and other properties. Of the inorganic properties, the adverb denotes various circumstantial characteristics of processes or whole situations built around processes.

The above definition, approaching the adverb as a word of the secondary qualifying order, presents the entire class of adverbial words as the least self-dependent of all the four notional parts of speech. Indeed, the truly complete nominative value is inherent only in the noun, which is the name of substances [2]. The verb comes next in its self-dependent nominative force, expressing processes as dynamic relations of substances, i.e. their dynamic relational properties in the broad sense. After that follow qualifying parts of speech — first the adjective denoting qualifications of substances, and then the adverb denoting qualifications of non-substantive phenomena which find themselves within the range of notional signification.

The adverb is characterised by its own, specific nominative value, providing for its inalienable status in the system of the parts of speech. Hence, the complaints of some linguists that the adverb is not rigorously defined and in fact presents something like a "dump" for those words which have been rejected by other parts of speech can hardly be taken as fully justified [1.221]. On the other hand, since the adverb does denote qualifications of the second order, not of the first one like the adjective, it includes a great number of semantically weakened words which are in fact intermediate between notional and functional lexemes by their status and often display features of pronominal nature.

A word as a part of the language system is considered on two levels:

the syntagmatic level;

the paradigmatic level.

On the paradigmatic level it is the relationship with other words in the vocabulary system. On the syntagmatic level the semantic structure of a word is analyzed in its linear relationships with neighbouring words.

The differentiation between paradigmatics and syntagmatics is based on recognition of the linguistic planes: 1 – the plane of language; 2 – the plane of speech. Language is a system of means of expression

while speech should be understood as the manifestation of the system of language in the process of communication. Language planes are structured paradigmatically, speech planes – syntagmatically.

Paradigmatic relations are relations of contrast. They exist only in the potential and never in an instance. From the viewpoint of the text analyst, they express a contrast between the meaning (and so the form) that was chosen for use in the text and the one or more meanings (and so forms) that might have been chosen (but were not). In other words, paradigmatic relations exist only in the language that is used to produce a text-sentence and not in the sentence itself [5. 134].

Syntagmatic relations are based on the linear character of speech. They enable language to function as a means of communication. When they are brought into play, linguistic elements combine to form information-carrying utterances. They are therefore the functional relations of language [6, 60].

Adverbs may perform different functions, modifying different types of words, phrases, sentences. Some adverbs are restricted in their combinability whereas others may modify different words, for instance enough, which may be used in to work enough, not quickly enough, quick enough. The most typical function of the adverb is that of adverbial modifier [2].

Adverbs may function as adverbial modifiers of manner, place, time, degree to a finite or non-finite form of the verb:

He started his career in St Petersburg - or Leningrad as it then was.(time)

The south should remain dry, but everywhere else will have heavy rain.(place)

Adam obviously adored his wife. (manner)

I rather suspect we're making a mistake. (degree)

The adverb in English undergoes two paradigmatically relevant classifications:

semantic;

lexico-grammatical.

Semantic classification is based on the meaning of adverbs. According to their meaning, adverbs fall into the following groups [3.393]:

Adverbs of time: afterwards, already, at once, eventually,

immediately, lately, now, presently, soon, suddenly, then, when, yesterday, yet, etc.:

Our class is going to London tomorrow.

It's been two weeks now since she called home.

Adverbs of frequency: always, constantly, hardly ever, never, occasionally, often, seldom, sometimes, three times, twice, etc.:

There is always somebody at home in the evenings.

They sometimes stay up all night.

Adverbs of place or direction: abroad, ashore, backwards, below, downstairs, everywhere, far, here, inside, outside, seaward(s), there, to and fro, where, etc.:

We'll have to eat here – everywhere else is full.

He was famous, both at home and abroad.

A dog began to bark somewhere inside.

I was now far behind the others and I knew I couldn't catch up.

CONCLUSION

Taking into account the above-mentioned data, it can be concluded that adverbs are considered as important part of speech this is due to the fact that they function as adverbial modifiers of manner, place, time, degree to a finite or non-finite form of the verb. Therefore, the article presented some valuable data concerning the characteristics of adverbs, as well as its paradigmatic and syntagmatic peculiarities with examples.

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