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THE LACK OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ATTRIBUTE AND ITS HEAD-WORD AS A PRECONDITION FOR THE CREATION OF ATTRIBUTIVE-GROUPS

Որոշչի և որոշյալի միջև համաձայնության բացակայությունը՝ որպես որոշչային խմբերի ստեղծման նախապայման

The attribute is usually defined as a secondary part of the sentence modifying a part of the sentence expressed by a noun, a pronoun, a cardinal numeral, or any other substantivized word, and characterising the thing named by these words as to its quality or property (Ilysh 218).

One of the most important points in discussing the attribute is the lack of its agreement with the head-word in case and gender. As for the category of number, it is important to mention that its agreement with the head-word is retained only in two cases. Firstly, there obviously is an agreement between the demonstrative pronouns and the nouns modified by them (e.g. *this* book – *these* books, *that* day – *those* days). Secondly, a similar kind of agreement can be observed in the combination of an indefinite article and a noun, in plural there being no indefinite article before the noun (e.g. *a* bag – bags, *a* toy – toys). To be more precise, in such cases as *old stories, great countries*, etc. we do not speak about the absence of agreement in number between the components, but about the absence of specific linguistic means due to which the category of number could be expressed in the first component (Смирницкий 78).

So, inflections having disappeared in the course of the development of the language, in Modern English there can be no agreement within the attributive phrase (except the case with demonstrative pronouns). This is one of the main reasons why the expression of the attribute may be realized by almost any part of speech /adjectives, nouns, verbals, constructions with verbals, adverbs, statives, numerals/. Moreover, the lack of agreement between the attribute and its head-word enables the creation of attributive-groups (quotation groups) – a phenomena which is relatively new in modern grammar. For example:
a) That's why I made that very simple, very modest, very *easily-complied-with* request: 'Stay out of the Museum of Modern Art.'
b) I thought it might really be a *life-and-death* situation, he went on, and that I had better take some direct physical action.

From the point of view of morphology, the British linguist Laurie Bauer defines attributive-groups as *complex* pre-modifiers. These pre-modifying constructions look like compounds in that they are made up of two or more lexemes and show a number of different patterns, for example:
Before-tax (profits)

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Oestrogen-only (pill)
Pass-fail (test)
Quick-change (artiste)
Red-brick (university)
Roll-neck (sweater)
Wrap-around (skirt) (examples from Bauer 1983, Bauer & Renouf 2001).

One of the central points in the debate around attributive-groups is whether they are to be analyzed as compound adjectives, or whether some other analysis is possible. The main reason that these items look like adjectives is that they occur in attributive position. However, one should accept that to equate attributive position with adjectival status is to confuse form and function. So, the above examples certainly function as pre-modifiers, but that does not imply that they are to be treated as adjectives. Moreover, these items are *classifiers* rather than epithets, and, thus, do not permit the usual range of submodifiers which occur with "run-of-the-mill" adjectives, nor can they be used as bases for deriving deadjectival nouns, verbs, etc.

An alternative analysis of some of the above examples considers them not as adjectives but as pieces of syntax which have been captured as units and rank-shifted to be used as words. This option seems to be independently required for examples like an *"if-you-really-want-to-know sneer"*. Such an analysis seems to work well for *"before-tax"*, for example, where we could say *"I paid $3000 before tax"*, but is less convincing for *"roll-neck"*, where there is no syntactic construction *"roll neck"* to be captured by the morphology. Thus, at least in some cases it seems that these constructions should be seen as morphological rather than syntactic ones (Bauer 10).

A third analysis suggests seeing all these examples as particularly complicated compound-types. Given that a noun is generally said to be able to take any part of speech as its modifier in a compound, it is quite possible to find instances in which complex forms of any word-class are found as the modifying element in compounds. However, there are problems here with items such as *before-tax* and *red-brick* which appear to have phrasal rather than lexical structure. But at the same time one cannot deny that the compounds and syntactic constructions may often interact with each other — a viewpoint familiar from discussions by Chomsky & Halle's (http://www.victoria.ac.nz/), for example:

black board eraser - American history teacher.

As for our opinion, we personally believe that attributive-groups should be treated as separate units different from adjectives both in form and function. Moreover, according to our investigation the attributive groups are created by means of *composition*, a type of word-building, in which new words are produced by combining two or more stems (Антрушина 104). To be more precise, attributive groups belong to syntactic compounds, which according to G.

B. Antrushina are defined as words formed from segments of speech, preserving in their structure numerous traces of syntagmatic relations typical of speech: articles, prepositions, adverbs, etc. (good-for-nothing, sit-at-home, behind-the-wheel, etc). It is also to be mentioned that some attributive groups are directly originated from speech patterns as is the case with the phrase *hail-fellow-well-met*, which has come from the archaic salutation "Hail, fellow! Well met!" and is now used in the meaning of "too friendly" (http://www.merriam-webster.com).

One should note here that the ability to create such complex units (which function as attributes) can largely be accounted for by the lack of agreement between the attribute and its head-word: in languages such as Russian and Spanish, which are especially notable for their vivid linguistic expression of the category of number, case and gender (e.g. новый книга, libro nuevo), the phenomenon of the attributive-groups can hardly ever be traced. As for Armenian, here, like in English, the attribute does not agree with its head-word, whereas the phenomenon of attributive-groups cannot be traced in this language either. Let us consider the following translations:

a)   The eternally asked, *never-to-be answered* question, why people could not mind their own business.
        Հավերծ հարցը, որին ոչ ոք երբեք պատասխան չի տալիս. ինչու՞ են մարդիկ խառնվում ուրիշի գործերին.
b)   John was of *the look-before-you-leap* and *think-before-you-speak* sort.
        Ջոնն այնպիսի մարդ էր, որը քունը չքրած «հոպ» չէր ասի և առանց մտածելու չէր խոսի.
c)   He said it with a *please-leave-me-alone* expression.
        Նա այնպիսի մի հայացքով դա ասաց. որ կարծես թե խնդրում էր իրեն հանգիստ թողնել (examples from Harutyunyan N.):

All these examples serve to prove that the phenomenon of attributive-groups not being typical of Armenian, this form of attributive expression is translated by means of subordinate clauses or gerundial participle constructions. In general, therefore, it seems that the absence of agreement between the attribute is a necessary but not a sufficient precondition for the creation of attributive-groups. Thus, the attributive-groups are said to be one of the most significant peculiarities of the English language, the absence of agreement within the attributive phrase being a good precondition for their creation.

So, in order to make it easier to understand the essence of the attributive-groups here we find it possible to present a new classification of attributive groups according to their type, thus, singling out neological and idiomatic or fixed attributive groups. This differentiation may be considered as quite necessary taking into consideration the origin as well as the usage of this particular means of expression in the language.

1. Neological attributive groups, for example:

a) And yet he died without having entered the land of promise — a *sudden-at-the-moment-though-from-lingering-illness-often-previously-expectorated* demise, Lenehan said.

b) The horse was just then…and later on, at a propitious opportunity he purposed, without anyway prying into his private affairs on the *fools-step-in-where-angels* principle advising him to sever his connection with a certain budding practitioner.

c) My friend Tom is one of those *Six-o'clock-In-The-Evening-Enthu-siastic-Determined-And-Well-Intentioned-Studier-Until-Midnight* types.

d) I have since tried out this *human-beings-as-nothing-but-radio-receivers* theory on Paul Slazinger, and he toyed with it some.

Some sources (Beñxman, http: en.wikipedia.org wiki Nonce_word) consider examples like the above-mentioned neological attributive-groups as complex occasional or nonce-words, i.e. words used only "for the nonce"— to meet a need that is not expected to recur. If the need recurs (or the joke is widely enjoyed), nonce words easily enter regular use (initially as neologisms) just because their meaning is obvious (e.g. a *catch-22* situation, *holier-than-thou* expression, *you-never-had-it-so-good* record, etc).

According to Illysh such attributes can acquire enormous proportions in humorous writings, so that whole sentences with subordinate clauses are squeezed into them, as in the following example (from an article containing criticism of the most common types of British crime films):

Here are two possibilities only, and the threadbare variations are endlessly woven around them: the *"I-ain't-askin'-no-questions-just-tell-me-what-to-do"* kind and the *"My-God,-Henry,-you-must-believe-me"* kind (which can also be described as the *"Why-the-devil-can't-you-leave-my-wife-alone-Can't-you-see-she's distraught"* kind).

Doubtless the hyphens connecting the various elements do not of course mean that the whole has coalesced into one monstrous word: they merely serve to show the unity of the syntactical formation functioning as an attribute. It goes without saying that such possibilities are due to the absence of inflections for number, gender, and case in the part of speech which most usually performs the function of an attribute, namely, the adjective.

Thus, neological attributive-groups may be said to be created on the spur of moment for a particular need and can often imply a somewhat humorous or ironical attitude.

II. Idiomatic fixed attributive groups, for example:

a) His slow feet walked him riverward, reading and thinking: *heart-to-heart* talks. Blood of the Lamb — are you saved?

b) Turning a horseshoe paperweight he thought that saving princes was a *thank-you* job.

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c) As these remarks were quite unanswerable...they changed the current of the conversation, and diverted the general attention to the *veal-and-ham* pie, the cold mutton, the potatoes and the tart.

d) Sooner or later, he would simply give up, go limp, and have himself delivered to the beach house of a fabulously *well-to-do* Armenian.

Idiomatic attributive groups differ from neological ones in that the formers are either fixed in the language as phraseological units, their usage being restricted to particular cases (*beggar-my-neighbor* policy, a *bread-and-butter* job, etc.) or are made out of already existing patterns (as in *thank-you* job).

Sometimes idiomatic attributive groups may originate from neological ones, being fixed in the language as phraseological or ready-made units. But it also to be mentioned that in some cases the meaning of a neological attributive-group can be inferred only from a concrete context. Let us consider the following sentence:

E.g. Please sit in the apple-juice seat.

In isolation this sentence makes no sense at all, since the expression "apple-juice seat" is not a conventional way of referring to any kind of object. But the sentence makes perfect sense in the context in which it was uttered: an overnight guest came down to breakfast. There were four place settings, three with orange juice and one with apple juice. So, it becomes clear that the expression "apple-juice seat" stands for a place sitting with apple juice. And even the next morning, when there was no apple juice, it was still clear which seat was the apple-juice seat (http://theliterarylink.com/metaphors.html). This serves as another example of how a neological attributive-group can turn into a fixed one during the time.

To conclude, in Modern English the attribute does not agree with its head-word in number, case and gender - a fact which can serve as a necessary but not sufficient precondition for the creation of attributive-groups used in the function of attribute. Though being similar in their usage to adjectives (pre-positive attributive position), attributive-groups still form a separate unit in syntax and are to be treated accordingly. Besides, in order to go deeper in the essence of the attributive-groups, a new classification regarding this means of expression may be considered, thus, dividing attributive-groups into neological and idiomatic ones. From this classification it becomes clear that neological attributive-groups function as nonce-words, being created on the spot by a random user in a certain situation. One of the most important findings to emerge from this study is that in some cases neological attributes may turn into idiomatic ones once they gain popularity by the language carriers. All in all, the use of attributive-groups being a relatively new tendency in English, it has penetrated from speech into literature, making the language even more vivid and expressive.

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Անգլերենում որոշի արտահայտման միջոցները կարող են լինել շատ բազմազան պայմանավորված որոշի և որոշյալի միջև հաստատվելիության բացակայությամբ: Որոշյալին խմբերը, հանդես գալով որպես այդ արտահայտման ձևերից մեկը, մեծ հետաքրքրություն են ներկայացնում այն առումով, որ ունեն բավականին յուրահատուկ կառուցվածք, որը բնորոշ է գլխավորապես անգլերենին: Սույն հոդվածը նպատակ ունի հետազոտել որոշյալին խմբերն ինչպես ձևաբանական, այնպես էլ շարահյուսական տեսակետներից՝ մանրամասնորեն քննարկելով դրանց կառուցվածքին, գործառույթը և ծագմանն առնչվող խնդիրներ: Վերջինիս հետ կապված՝ ներկայացվում է նաև որոշֆի արտահայտման այս միջոցին վերաբերող նոր դասակարգում, որի շնորհիվ ակնկալվում է ավելի դյուրին դարձնել որոշյալին խմբերի ուսումնասիրությունը: