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**DEPENDENCE OF LEXICAL-SEMANTIC CHARACTERISTICS
OF TWO-COMPONENT ATTRIBUTIVE CONSTRUCTIONS
ON MORPHOLOGICAL AND QUANTITATIVE FEATURES OF ATTRIBUTE
(BASED ON THE GENRES OF ANGLOPHONE OFFICIAL DISCOURSE)**

The goal of the work is to determine whether there is a relationship between lexical-semantic characteristics of two-component attributive constructions and morphological and statistical features of their attributes and to present the corresponding results of the analysis carried out based on text corpora of three genres of official discourse. The following methods were used in the study: statistical methods of data calculation, expert assessment method, and methods of contextual and comparative analysis. The article describes two-component attributive constructions (DCACs) functioning in texts of four official discourse genres: “Formula of inventions in physics and electronics (patents)”, “Car operating instructions”, “Legal documentation”, and “Business correspondence”, and this emphasizes the novelty of the proposed work. In the genres of “Instructions” and “Formulas of inventions (patents)”, the DCACs with the attributes having the most frequently used suffixes are included in the following lexical-semantic groups: the nature of the action, process, state; function, purpose of devices; relationship between the part and the whole. In the genres “Legal documentation” and “Business correspondence”, DCACs with the attributes possessing the most frequent suffixes are introduced in the following lexical-semantic groups: documents and financial procedures. The analysis results show that the it is the attributes with the most frequent suffixes that influence the lexical-semantic meanings of DCACs, which (meanings) are basic for the genres under study. Thus, the higher the use of an attribute with a specific suffix in a DCAC, the more likely these constructions will have the above lexical-semantic meanings.

Key words: frequency of occurrence, lexical-semantic group, suffix morpheme, text corpus, correlation analysis.

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**ЗАЛЕЖНІСТЬ ЛЕКСИКО-СЕМАНТИЧНИХ ХАРАКТЕРИСТИК
ДВОКОМПОНЕНТНИХ АТРИБУТИВНИХ КОНСТРУКЦІЙ
ВІД МОРФОЛОГІЧНИХ І КІЛЬКІСНИХ ОЗНАК АТРИБУТА
(НА МАТЕРІАЛІ ЖАНРІВ АНГЛОМОВНОГО ОФІЦІЙНО-ДІЛОВОГО ДИСКУРСУ)**

Мета роботи полягає у з'ясуванні відношень між лексико-семантичними характеристиками двокомпонентних атрибутивних конструкцій і морфологічними та статистичними особливостями їх атрибутів. У статті представлено відповідні результати аналізу, проведеного на основі текстового матеріалу, заснованого на чотирьох жанрах англomовного офіційно-ділового дискурсу. У дослідженні використовувалися статистичні методи обчислення даних, метод експертних оцінок, методи контекстного та порівняльного аналізу. У пропонуваній роботі вперше проаналізовано двокомпонентні атрибутивні конструкції, що функціонують у текстах чотирьох жанрів англomовного офіційно-ділового дискурсу: «Формула винаходів у фізиці та електроніці (патенти)», «Інструкція з експлуатації автомобілів», «Юридична документація» та «Ділове листування». У жанрах «Інструкції з експлуатації автомобілів» та «Формули винаходів у фізиці та електроніці (патенти)» двокомпонентні атрибутивні конструкції з атрибутами, що мають найбільш вживані суфікси, входять до лексико-семантичних груп: характер дії, процес, стан; функція, призначення приладів; зв'язок між частиною і цілим. У жанрах «Юридична документація» та «Ділове листування» двокомпонентні атрибутивні конструкції з атрибутами, що мають найбільш частотні суфікси, введено в такі лексико-семантичні групи: документи, фінансові процедури. Результати аналізу свідчать, що саме атрибути з найчастотнішими суфіксами впливають на лексико-семантичні значення двокомпонентних атрибутивних конструкцій, які (значення) є базовими для досліджуваних жанрів. Отже, ширше використання атрибута з певним суфіксом у двокомпонентних атрибутивних конструкціях зумовлює більшу ймовірність того, що ці конструкції матимуть зазначені вище лексико-семантичні значення.

Ключові слова: частотність, лексико-семантична група, суфіксальна морфема, текстовий корпус, кореляційний аналіз.

Official discourse is one of the most described in the linguistic literature; its various aspects are considered with great interest by both linguists (Partridge, 1971; Shell-Hornby, 1985; Shopen, Williams, 1986; Warren, 1978; Frazer, 1970; Fortenay, 1966; Trofimova, 2014) and specialists

in other fields of communication – lawyers, economists, historians, diplomats.

First of all, when studying almost any genre of official discourse, the high frequency of attributive word combinations with a wide variety of structures becomes notable – from simple two-

component constructions with a minimum number of elements to multi-component ones including up to seven elements. Researchers cannot ignore this fact since it is quite obvious that this phenomenon's statistical (quantitative) features definitely indicate even its possible status as a style-distinguishing feature. According to linguistic scientists who have devoted their research to text corpora (Summers, 2005; Köhler, Altmann, 2005), the most prominent characteristic of any type of discourse is primarily a statistical characteristic – the occurrence frequency of any unit in the text.

The frequency of functioning of attributive constructions in various types of discourse has also begun to interest the supporters of comparative linguistics who are making attempts to find the differential and integral features of these speech units between the seemingly completely different languages of Asia and English (Bobokhodzhaeva, 2000).

Despite the constant attention of linguists to various phenomena of official discourse, there have not yet been any comparative studies that would examine the features of the distribution and functioning of substantive combinations in texts of several genres at once. Meanwhile, we know that the frequency and features of the use of various structures vary depending on the genre and stylistic affiliation of a text. This type of analysis makes the given work quite topical.

The object of the analysis is two-component attributive constructions (DCACs) functioning in texts of the official discourse genres, namely, some aspects of DCACs that researchers have not yet considered, which emphasizes the novelty of the proposed work. First, this concerns the lexical-semantic features of such constructions, i.e., their assignment to one or another lexical-semantic group, and the possible dependence of semantics on quantitative and grammatical characteristics of attributes, particularly on their morphemic-derivative characteristics. From the presented definition of the object of analysis, it follows that only those DCACs in which the attributes are formed with the help of suffix morphemes were singled out for description.

Thus, the goal of the work is to determine whether there is a dependence of the lexical-semantic characteristics of two-component attributive constructions on the morphological and statistical features of their attributes and to present the corresponding results of the analysis

carried out on the basis of text corpora of three genres of official discourse.

To consider the mentioned features of two-component attribute constructions (DCACs) in the texts of four genres of official discourse, the authors have decided to select the following ones: “Formulas of inventions in physics and electronics (patents)”, “Car operating instructions”, “Legal documentation” and “Business correspondence”. These four genres could be called paired, because they are related. Two of them – “Invention formulas in physics and electronics” and “Car operating instructions” practically coincide in their topics, though they can be referred to different areas of technology. The other two genres – “Legal documentation” and “Business correspondence” – are completely different from them. We cannot say that the last two genres can be attributed to the same general type, but their identical humanitarian nature cannot be ignored.

The selection of these genres for research may seem contradictory and give rise to well-reasoned theoretical objections. However, in previous articles describing the results of practical studies devoted to their comparison, it was demonstrated that many parameters of these genres are virtually identical, making it possible to combine them into one type of discourse (Trofimova, 2014).

The material is the text corpora of 200 thousand tokens compiled based on the texts of formulas of inventions in physics and radio electronics (patents); instructions for Toyota vehicles; judicial and procedural documents of the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labor Organization (ILO) in the “Judgements of the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labor Organization” collection, business correspondence of British Council.

It was necessary to perform the following tasks to achieve this goal:

- to compile four text corpora of the selected genres.
- to distinguish the two-component attributive constructions (DCACs) from the compiled text corpora.
- to determine the word-formation typology of DCAC attributes, statistical and lexical and semantic characteristics of DCACs of each genre separately.
- to carry out a correlation analysis of quantitative, morphological, and lexical features of the DCAC

elements to determine the relationship between the types of morphological units, frequency of their occurrence in texts and reference of the DCACs to a specific lexical-semantic group.

The following methods were used in the study: statistical methods of data calculation, expert assessment method, and methods of contextual and comparative analysis.

1. The DCACs of the “Car operating instructions” genre are considered first.

In the "Instructions" genre, juxtaposing two noun stems is the most productive. The total number of such constructions is 3167 units (66% of all attributive constructions in the corpus of “Instructions”). Attributes in these DCACs are formed using the following suffixes:

-er/-or (155 units functioning in the corpus of the genre of instructions, which is 9% of all two-component attributive constructions of the genre in which the attribute is a noun). Attributes with such suffixes can create DCACs, which belong to the following lexical-semantic groups:

a) the nature of the action, process, state, e.g., *selector shaft, distributor drive, heater assembly, cluster assembly, pointer alignment, etc.*

b) the relationship between the whole and the part, e.g., *radiator hose, retainer bolts, rocker arm.*

c) material, substance, e.g., *rubber hand, water valve.*

-sion/-tion (144 units, i.e., 8.2%). Attributes with these suffixes refer the DCACs to the following lexical-semantic groups:

a) the nature of the action, process, state, e.g., *compression pressure.*

b) function, purpose of devices, e.g., *transmission case, injection system, ignition switch.*

c) system data, e.g., *specification chart.*

-ment (10 units – 0.8%). The DCACs with attributes with such a suffix enter them (DCACs) a lexical-semantic group:

a) the nature of the action (movement), e.g., *movement trajectory.*

b) the relationship between the whole and the part, e.g., *attachment unit.*

-ure (8 units – 0.7%). Attributes with this suffix refer DCACs to the following lexical-semantic groups:

a) the nature of the action, e.g., *procedure rules.*

b) the relationship between the part and the whole, e.g., *pressure gauge.*

-ing (total 8 units, i.e., 0.7%). Attributes with such a suffix form DCACs, which belong to the following lexical-semantic group:

a) the nature of the action, process, e.g., *housing assembly.*

-ity (3 units – 0.1%). The DCACs with the attribute with such a suffix can belong to the following lexical-semantic group:

a) quality designation, e.g., *quality level.*

However, in the overwhelming majority of cases, the attributes do not have a word-forming element. The total number of such attributes is 1390 units, 80.2% of all DCACs of the genre “Instructions”. Several such attributes are formed by conversion, which assumes homonymy of the original and derivative words, i.e. the complete morphological identity of the infinitive of the verb and the general singular case of the noun. For example, *brake hose, claw washer, torque specification, float level, shift lever, return spring, and shock absorber.*

In other cases, we face the “stone wall” problem where the first component is considered either an adjective or a unit retaining its substantiality and only functionally approaching the adjective. Some theoretical linguists (Quirk, 1972; Poutsma, 1904) believe that this is a combination of heterogeneous idioms similar to complex terms, e.g., *water rat, water meter, and water wings*, where in each case, the meaning of “water” for each of the adjacent terms is different. However, in cases such as *iron bar*, the noun performs an attributive function. Here are other examples of such phrases from our sample: *column shift, axle shaft, fuel lever, engine block, diaphragm rod, instrument panel, input shaft, air gap, and valve filter.* As already mentioned, such constructions with qualifying nouns acting as attributes in word combinations have a high frequency of occurrence in the texts of the genres under consideration.

2. The following DCACs that function in texts of the genre “Formulas of inventions (patents)” are considered. Here, just as in the texts of the genre “Instructions”, the DCACs with attributes expressed by nouns are the most common; 1494 of them, i.e., 67.2% of all DCAC functioning in the text corpus.

The two-component attributive constructions with attributes formed with the help of suffixes can be described as follows:

-er/-or are represented by 291 units (19.4%). Attributes with these suffix morphemes form

DCACs belonging to the following lexical-semantic groups:

a) place of operation, e.g., *emitter zone, distributor channels*.

b) the relationship between the part and the whole, e.g., *exciter diodes, actuator element*.

c) instrument means, e.g., *simulator means, transformer means*.

-tion (118 units, i.e., 7.8%). The DCACs with such attributes belong to the following lexical-semantic groups:

a) the nature of the action, process, state, e.g., *saturation induction, deposition temperature, propagation direction, saturation condition, isolation region*.

b) function, purpose of devices, e.g., *installation electrodes*.

-ure forms 24 units (1.6%). Such attributes can be introduced into the following lexical-semantic group:

a) the nature of the action, process, state, e.g., *exposure voltage, pressure control*.

-ity forms 23 units (1.5%). Attributes introduce DCACs with this suffix into the lexical-semantic group:

a) the nature of the action, process, state, e.g., *conductivity type, impurity concentration*.

-ence/-ance (21 units, i.e., 1.4% of the DCACs of this type). Attributes with these suffixes are a part of the following lexical-semantic groups:

a) means, conditions for performing an action, e.g., *capacitance means, resonance condition, reference voltage*.

-age (20 units, which is 1.9% of all DCACs of this type). Such attributes form DCACs with the following semantics:

a) parameters, e.g., *voltage peak*.

-ment (1 unit, i.e. 0.08%)

-ing (1 unit 0.08%).

As we can see, the inventory of word-forming suffixes in the DCACs functioning in the text corpus “Formulas of inventions (patents)” is absolutely identical in the nomenclature of suffix morphemes used in the DCACs of the “Instructions” genre, though in quantitative terms it is slightly larger than the one of DCACs with a suffix attribute in the texts of the “Instructions” Genre.

There were 990 units of affix-free two-component attributive structures (66% of all qualifying DCACs), e.g., *diode bridge, cable ends, control current, discharge surface, switch means, and output terminals*.

At this stage of the article, the authors consider it necessary to draw some intermediate conclusions regarding the results of the correlation analysis of DCACs operating in the genres “Instructions” and “Formulas of inventions (patents)”.

As already mentioned, the texts of these genres practically do not differ in their professional themes, though they have significant compositional differences. Therefore, it can be assumed that the features of DCACs considered in these two genres may coincide.

1) in the texts of both genres, the juxtaposition of two noun stems in the common case is the most productive for DCACs; their number exceeds half of all studied DCACs.

2) the most frequent type of DCAC in texts of both genres are two-component constructions with an affix-free attribute.

3) the set of word-forming suffixes in DCACs of both genres is absolutely identical.

4) the most frequent suffix morphemes that form the attributes of DCACs in both genres are *-er/-or, -tion, -ment, -ure, -ity*.

5) predominant lexical-semantic groups, which include DCACs with the most frequent suffix morphemes: the nature of the action, process, state; function, purpose of devices; relationship between the part and the whole.

3. The third genre analyzed is the genre “Legal documentation”.

Similar to the previous two genres of official discourse in the “Legal documentation” genre text corpus, a high frequency of use of two-component attributive constructions in which a noun is used as an attribute was noted. Their number is 1581 units; their share is even higher than in the “technical” genres of official discourse – 85% of all attributive constructions. Of these, 534 constructions contained a noun in the general case (65% of all DCACs in the text corpus), e.g., *duty station, record station, complaint compensation*, and 151 constructions with a noun in the possessive case (20% of the total number of DCACs), e.g., *Tribunal's view, Board's statute*.

The saturation of the texts of legal documents with nouns is explained by their information content (10, p. 36; 13, p. 7) and the fact that they are capable of creating a conceptual and subject richness of a sentence (1, p. 115), and this, in turn, is caused by the need to be convinced of the legality of a particular action taken by the court, the plaintiff or the defendant.

Word-formation analysis of the constructions shows that the most frequent DCAC attributes of this genre are the following suffix morphemes:

-tion is used in 19 attributes and is the most productive. The DCACs with these attributes can be referred to as the following lexical-semantic group:

a) documents, e.g., *administration directive, application form, application program*.

-ity is used in 15 attributes. This suffix forms abstract nouns from the stems of adjectives borrowed from Romance languages and expresses the meaning of state, quality, condition, attribute, etc. In combination with the kernel, such attributes form the following lexical-semantic groups:

b) problems of court activity, e.g., *activity problem*.

c) documents, e.g., *casualty case*.

-al is implemented in 12 units. Attributes together with the nouns form the following lexical-semantic groups:

d) name of the bodies and their activities, e.g., *Tribunal Judge, trial proceeding*.

e) financial procedure, e.g., *appraisal determination*.

f) functions performed during the administration of judicial procedures, e.g., *withdrawal process, dismissal procedure*.

-ice made up 8 words. Attributes with this suffix form DCACs, which can be referred to as the following lexical-semantic group:

a) functions performed during the administration of judicial procedures, e.g., *practice establishment, service regulation*.

-ant/-ent form 6 words. Attributes with this suffix morpheme refer DCACs to the following lexical-semantic groups:

a) the financial side of the lawsuit related to one of the parties (financial operation), e.g., *complainant expenses, complainant pay*.

b) documents, e.g., *complainant assertion, appellant submission*.

c) one of the types of legal terms, e.g., *accident cause*.

-cy is used in 5 words. Attributes with this suffix introduce DCACs into the following lexical-semantic group:

a) one of the generally accepted laws, e.g., *privacy law*.

-ment is used in 4 units. Attributes with this suffix morpheme refer DCACs to the following lexical-semantic groups:

a) nomenclature of business relationships, e.g., *appointment time*.

b) functions performed during judicial proceedings, e.g., *argument refutation*.

-ance is implemented in 4 units. Attributes with this suffix refer DCACs to the following lexical-semantic group:

a) functions performed in the administration of judicial proceedings, e.g., *performance terms, article reference*.

As we can see the inventory of suffix morphemes in the DCAC attributes of the genre “Legal documentation” is almost identical to the list of morphemes in the attributes of the genres “Instructions” and “Formulas of inventions (patents)” though quantitatively it is much less representative.

However, in the vast majority of constructions with noun attributes in the general case (456 constructions) the attributes are formed in an affixless way, e.g., *staff rules, draft report, time bar, time limit*.

4. And finally the DCACs functioning in texts of the fourth type of the genre of official style considered – “Business correspondence” of the British Council with the teachers of universities in foreign countries. The most numerous in this genre as well as in other represented genres is the group of qualifying constructions. Their total number is 396 units which is 22.5% of all two-component attributive constructions. Here, the semantics of support words and left-handed attributes depends on extralinguistic factors, i.e., topics or range of issues resolved by the British Council, for example, organization of student studies, recreation for teachers of foreign universities, changes in teaching methods, etc.

312 attributes, i.e., the majority (almost 79%) are formed without affixes, e.g., *bus fares, birthplace, branch office, boat trip, coal mine*.

The following 36 attributes are formed using suffix morphemes:

-tion/-sion is the most productive and has formed 42 different words. Attributes with these suffixes refer DCACs to the following lexical-semantic groups:

a) documents, e.g., *application forms, regulation documents, administration directives*.

b) financial procedures, e.g., *registration fee, admission charges*.

c) names of departments, e.g., *documentation service, television studio*.

-ity forms 14 attributes that introduce DCACs into the following lexical-semantic group:

a) documents, e.g. *university diploma*.

-ence/-ance form 10 attribute nouns which in combination with the supporting component created DCACs belonging to the following lexical-semantic group:

a) documents, e.g., *conference refunds, performance report*.

-er/-or form 6 attributes that refer DCACs to the following lexical-semantic group:

a) documents, e.g., *traveler check*.

-ing forms 4 attributes that allow us to assign DAK to the following lexical-semantic group:

a) event, procedure, e.g., *evening meals*.

A comparison of the results of lexical and morphological analysis of the two-component attributive construction constituents allowed us to draw the following intermediate conclusions.

1) the only type of DCACs in which one can observe a direct connection between the morphemic-derivative characteristics of attributes and introducing the DCACs to certain lexical-semantic groups are DCACs with nouns in the general case.

2) the most common type of DCACs in texts of the genres “Business correspondence” and “Legal documents” are two-component attributive constructions with an affix-free attribute.

3) the set of word-forming suffixes in the DCAC attributes of both genres is somewhat different. Firstly, in terms of quantity. So, in the DCACs they are eight in legal documents, and in the DCACs of “Business correspondence” they are five. Secondly, in terms of nomenclature, only three suffix morphemes are common to attributes in the DCACs of the genres under consideration: *-tion/-sion, -ity and -ence/-ance*.

4) the most frequent suffix morphemes that form the attributes of DCACs in both genres are *-tion/-sion; -ity, -al, -ence/-ance*.

5) as for the lexical-semantic groups in which the described DCACs with attributes containing the presented suffix morphemes are included, they mainly refer to the following ones: documents, names of bodies (departments) and their activities, functions performed in the administration of judicial proceedings, the financial side of the legal process associated with one of the parties (financial procedures).

All of the above allows us to draw the following conclusions.

1. In the considered two-component attributive constructions the overwhelming majority of attributive components are formed in an affixless way.

2. A comparison of the results of lexical and morphological analysis carried out with various types of two-component attributive constructions allowed us to conclude that the only type of DCACs in which one can observe a direct connection between their lexical-semantic and morphemic-derivational characteristics are the DCACs with nouns in the general case.

3. The nomenclature of lexical-semantic groups which include two-component attributive constructions is determined by the topics of issues considered in the “Formulas of inventions in physics and electronics (patents)”, “Car operating instructions”, “Legal documentation” and “Business correspondence” genres.

4. The inventory of the most frequent suffix morphemes in both “technical” and “humanitarian” genres is as follows. In the genres “Instructions” and “Formulas of inventions (patents)”: *-er/-or; -tion, -ment, -ure, -ity*; in the genres “Legal documentation” and “Business correspondence” *-tion/-sion; -ity, -al, -ence/-ance*.

5. In the genres of “Instructions” and “Formulas of inventions (patents)” the DCACs with the attributes having the most frequently used suffixes *-er/-or; -tion, -ment, -ure, -ity* are included in the following lexical-semantic groups: the nature of the action, process, state; function, purpose of devices; relationship between the part and the whole. In the genres “Legal documentation” and “Business correspondence” DCACs with the attributes possessing the most frequent suffixes *-tion/-sion; -ity, -al, -ence/-ance* are introduced in the following lexical-semantic groups: documents, financial procedures.

6. The results of the analysis show that it is the attributes with the most frequent suffixes that influence the lexical-semantic meanings of DCACs, which (meanings) are basic for the genres under study. Thus, the higher the use of an attribute with a specific suffix in a DCAC, the more likely these constructions will have the lexical-semantic meanings, as noted above.

The technique considered allows to conduct a future correlation analysis of other grammatical units functioning in the genres of official discourse or in the text corpora of other discourse types.

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