A study of

Adjective and adjectival phrase in English

With reference to

English Language Learners

Assistant lecturer

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المقدمـــــــــــــــــــــــة

تتناول هذه الدراسة موضوع النعت وشبه الجملة الوصفية والتي تعد احدى المشاكل التي

تواجه متعلمي وطلاب اللغة الانكليزية بسبب تداخل لغتهم مع اللغة الانكليزية هذا من ناحية الصفات العامة للنعت. أما من حيث الشكل فمن الصعب ان نميز النعت من الاسم او الفعل لأننا قد نحتاج في الغالب إلى معرفة المعنى والسياق العام للجملة .

وكما هو الحال في معظم اللغات فان من السهل ان نشتق عددا غير منتهيا من الصفات بواسطة عملية الاشتقاق.أما من الناحية القواعدية فان النعت هو عبارة عن كلمة تعرف الاسم او الضمير وتعطي معلومات عن الاسم او الضمير المشار إليه . وبصورة عامة يعتبر النعت احد أجزاء الكلام الثمانية في اللغة الانكليزية التقليدية بيد أن اللغويين اليوم يفصلون النعت عن المحددات الأخرى والتي تعتبر أيضا ضمن مجموعة الصفات .

المستخلص

النعت هو كل كلمة تصف الاسماء مثل الاشخاص او الاشياء مثل (طويل ودائري وسعيد...الخ) وتعزى صعوبة النعت الى شكله والذي يعد معقدا نوعا ما في معظم الحالات . وبصورة عامة تتالف بعض الصفات من كلمة واحدة وتسمى الصفات البسيطة والبعض الاخريتكون من كلمتين او اكثر وتسمى الصفات المركبة .وعلى اية حال فان علماء اللغة اليوم يميزون الصفات عن غيرها من محددات الاسم على اعتباران الصفة تمثل جزءا منفصلا من اجزاء الكلام .بيد ان النظرة القديمة تعد محددات الاسم صفات من حيث الاستخدام .

وتعتبر الصفة راس شبه الجملة الوصفية والتي تظهر اما على شكل نعت حقيقي او مجازي. وبصورة عامة فان متعلمي اللغة الانكليزية يعانون من موضوع النعت نظرا لاشكاله المتعددة والتي تظهر اما على شكل اسم او اسم المفعول او مصدر. تتكون الصفة باستخدام اضافات مختلفة في اللغة الانكليزية اضف الى ذلك ان معظم الصفات تاخذ اشكال المقارنة والتفضيل .

واخيرا وليس اخرا فقد توصلت الدراسة الى ان متعلمي اللغة الانكليزية يميلون الى استخدام صفات محددة مثل كبير وجميل ولطيف ،علاوة على ذلك فان الصفات البسيطة اكثر شيوعا لدى متعلمي اللغة من الصفات المركبة كما واثببت الدراسة ان النعت هي كلمة ثابتة في اللغة الانكليزية لاتتغيرمع تغير العدد والنوع (اي المونث والمذكر) باستثناء الصفة (جميل) كما وانتهت الدراسة بمناقشة النتائج ووضع التوصيات لها .

ABSRACT

Adjectives, in fact, are words such as *tall, round, happy,* etc that describe nouns (persons or a things) in sentences. The term adjective is a problematic faces Iraqi ELL students since its form is complicated in most of cases , some adjectives have one word which are called simple adjectives others are of more than one word which are called compound adjectives. However, linguists today distinguish determiners from adjectives, considering them to be two parts of speech, but traditionally; determiners were considered adjectives in some of their uses.

Adjectives act as a head of adjective phrase , the syntactic role of adjective in adjectival phrase is attributive and predicative .

Generally speaking, adjectives have different forms in English, they can be nouns present and past participle etc. In addition, most of adjectives have comparative and superlative forms.

Finally, this study has found that Iraqi ELL tend to use limited number of adjectives like *big, beautiful, nice* ect. Simple adjectives are very common more than compound ones. In addition to, adjectives are invariable in English and do not agree with nouns in number and gender with exception of the adjective *beautiful*. This study has also ended with some recommendations.

Introduction

This study deals with adjective and adjective-phrase which is a problem for Learners and English language students who may experience interference from their own Language in relation to the characteristics of adjective in English. In terms of form, adjectives are not easily distinguished in isolation as nouns and verbs. We often need either meaning or context for clue

In most languages with adjectives they form an open class of words that is relatively common for new adjectives to be formed via such process as derivation.

In grammar, an ***adjective*** is a word whose main syntactic role is to modify noun or pronoun , giving more information about the noun or pronoun's referent. Collectively, adjectives form one of the traditional English eight parts of speech though linguists today distinguish adjectives from words such as determiners that also used to be considered adjectives.

1-What is an adjective?

The concept of adjective is related for all scholars, but everyone has his point of view in explaining the definition of adjectives, some of these definitions are the following:

O'Grady et al .(1997:203) define adjectives as a lexical category that is applicable to the entities named by nouns can often take comparative and superlative endings in English , and function as the head of an adjective phrase (e.g. red, obese, hearty).

Oxford power Dictionary (1998:10) defines an adjective as a word used with a noun that tells you more about it .As for Atchison (1999:10), English is sometimes described to have four major word classes noun (N) , adjective (A), verb (V), preposition(P), of these four major classes nouns, verbs and prepositions. Aitchison (ibid) considers adjectives as somewhat strange in that they have some noun like qualities, and some verb-like ones . In *Blessed are the brave, brave* seems to have – become a noun. And in *Mavis is asleep, asleep* seems verb – like , since it fits into the same slot as s*leeping* in a sentence as *Mavis is sleeping*

According to Crystal (2003:11), adjectives have another scope, in his dictionary *linguistics and Phonetics* he describes adjectives (A, adj, ADJ) as terms used in grammatical classification of words to refer to the main set of items which specify the attributes of nouns from a formal point of view, Crystal adds that both narrow and broad applications of the term "adjectives" will be found in grammars. In its broader sense it could include everything between DETERMINER and the noun, in such a phrase as *the vicar's fine old garden chair ;* but many linguists prefer to restrict it to the items which satisfy more or all of the above criteria (to include only *fine* and *old*), in this example, the other items being called ''adjective – like '' or 'adjectives '.

A third major word class recognized in traditional grammar is adjective an (A).

Radford et al. (2009:130) argue that adjectives typically refer to properties which people or things possess and they are used to modify nouns ,e.g. *happy* man, *noisy* engine .They also affirm that adjectives share with articles the property of appearing in front of a noun, if an article and an adjective both combine with a noun, they do so in a fixed order (a happy man , *happy a man, the noisy engine, * noisy the engine)

2-Adjective phrase

Before getting into other consideration about adjective, it is worth noting to define *adjective phrase* .Quirk &Greenbaum (1973:115) define adjective phrase as a phrase with adjective as head, as in **(***He was) so very happy.* Praniniskas (1975:24-97) argues that adjective phrases are phrases which modify common nouns. She adds that a phrase is a word used differently in different grammar books .In this one it means a group of words which work together as a unit to perform a single function.

3- Head of a noun phrase

Adjective can often function as heads of noun phrases .Quirk et al. (1985:117), comment that they do not inflect for number or for the genitive case and must take a definite determiner. Such adjectives have personal reference.

1-The extremely old need a great deal of attention

Praniniskas (1975:97) gives more information about noun phrase she mentions general description s for this kind of phrases .

a-**Form** .The y consist of a preposition and a noun with or without modifiers, *in the morning* , the weather *in the morning* .

b- **Order** .In contrast to single word adjectives, phrases follow the words they modify .

2- A tall girl with red hair

c-**Agreement** .The verb of a sentence or clause agrees in number with the subject noun which is modified and not with a noun in the modifying phrase

3-That ***book*** of poems **is** mine .

4-Those ***poems*** about nature ***are*** beautiful .

d-**The** **:** when an adjective phrase limits the meaning of the noun it modifies, to one specific instance, the noun is preceded by ***the***.

5-Books are very expensive

6- The Books for this course are very expensive.

4-Attributive and predicative adjectives

In grammatical description , an *attributive* is a term used to refer to the role of "adjective" and "noun" when they occur as *modifiers* of the *head* of a noun *phrase* for example ,*red* has attributive function in "the red chair ",Crystal (2003:41) explains that this term contrasts with the *predicative* function of these words as in "the chair is red ",it, means that predicative includes such 'complement .

In other words, the terms *attributive* and *predicative* refer to the position of an adjective in a phrase or sentence.

We can say that adjective is attributive or is used attributively when it comes before a noun (and is therefore part of *noun phrase*),we can say that an adjective is predicative or that it used predicatively when it comes directly after *be, seem*, etc.

Quirk &Greenbaum(1973:115) argue that adjectives are attributive when they appear between the determiner and the head of the noun phrase like in:

7-the *beautiful* painting.

Predicative adjective can be

(a) Subject complement

8-Your daughter is *pretty*.

(b) object complement

9-He made his wife *happy*.

They can be complement to a subject which is finite clause.

10-Whether he will resign is *uncertain.*

Or non-finite clause

11-Driving a bus isn't *easy.*

Similarly, adjective can be object complement to clauses

12- I consider what he did
foolish

Playing so hard

Thomas & Martinet (1986:34) observe that some adjectives can be used only attributively or only predicatively, and some change their meaning when moved from one position to another. They mention certain adjectives as :bad / good

small, heavy /light and old ,used in expressions as ***bad*** sailor, ***good*** swimmer ,***big*** eater ,***small*** farmer ,***heavy*** drinker ,***light*** sleeper ,***old*** boy/friend soldier etc.

These adjectives cannot be used predicatively without changing the meaning.

A ***small*** farmer is a man who has a small farm , but the farmer is ***small,*** means that he is small physically.

In this respect , Alexander (1997:109) refers to another kind of adjectives like ***afloat, afraid, alight , alike , alive , alone , ashamed , asleep , awake*** these adjectives begin with *a-* are used only predicatively as *the vessel is afloat →the floating vessel.*

5-Forms of adjectives

Alexander (ibid:106) classifies forms of adjectives into :

a. Quality: ***a beautiful*** dress; ***nice*** day
b. Size: ***a big*** car ;a ***small*** coin .
c. Age: ***a new*** handbag; ***a young*** man.
d. Temperature: ***a cold*** evening; ***a hot*** weather.
e. Shape: a ***round*** table ;a ***square*** box.
f. Color: ***blue*** eyes; a ***white*** house.
g. Origin***:*** a ***Japanese*** camera; a ***Swiss*** watch.

Praniniskas (1975:166) and Alexander (ibid) refer to many adjectives that can answer the question what –like? Depend on context.

What's Tom like (to look at)? He is ***dark /short /tall.***

What's Pam like (as a person)? She is ***clever /kind /witty***

what's the car like ? it is ***new/old/rusty.***

What's the car like to drive ? It's ***difficult/fast/slow.***

In this respect , Quirk et al .(1985:134) and Akmajian et al.(1997:29-34) list another forms of adjectives. Here are some of them:

a- -y: funny ,noisy .

b- -ow : hallow ,narrow

c- -le: gentle, noble;

d- er, -ure: clever, obscure.

e- - full: beautiful, wonderful.

f- -ic: terrific, heroic.

g- -ate: fortunate, temperate.

h- able-ible: changeable, possible.

i- -ive, ative, itive: attractive, affirmative, sensitive

6-Adjective and word order

When several adjectives come before a noun (or when nouns are used to modify another noun) , they usually have to be put in a particular order, unfortunately, Swan (2005:8) comments that the rules for adjectives order are very complicated and different grammars disagree about details, he mentions some of the most important rule :

a-color ,origin ,material ,and purpose adjectives (or modifying nouns) of color origin ,material and purpose usually go in that order .

Color	region	material	purpose	noun
Red	Spanish	leather	riding	boots
A brown	German		beer	mug

b- Adjectives go before, not after noun

A long journey (not a journey long) *loud music* (not music loud)

Swan &welter (2001:200)

c- Most adjectives can also be used after verbs (be, become, get ,seem, look , get)

13- I'm cold (Thomas &Martinet: 1986:34)

14- I feel angry (Willis (1993:38), Swan & Walter (2001:200))

d- Adjectives can only go before a noun, these adjectives are

Main, chief, principles(=main);only; inner; outer, upper

Lower, outdoor, former (=earlier) ;elder ;eldest (=older, oldest)

15-this is *main* road .

16-chess is an *indoor* game. (Eastwood ,1992:190)**.**

e- Other adjectives usually go before words of color, origin, material and purpose .

Swan (1995:8) comments that it is impossible to give exact rules, but adjectives of *size, length and height* often come first.

17-the*round glass* table **.**

18-a big *modern brick* house.(ibid:8)

f- Some adjectives , when they are used express strong feeling or attitude ,they always come in front of a noun , examples are

Absolute	outright	pure	true
Complete	perfect	real	utter
Entire	positive	total(Willis ,1993:83)	

g-Swan (1995:9) argues that *numbers* usually go before adjectives as in:

19-*Six large* eggs

20-*the second* big shock

h-Afew adjectives are used alone after a noun.

Adjectives like *elect* , *incarnate* ,*general* etc.

21- She was now the president *elect.*

6-Semantic sub – classification of adjectives

Quirk et al (1985:21-125) classify adjectives semantically into:

a-Stative /dynamic:

Adjectives, in fact, are characterized as stative, but many of them are dynamic, adjectives like *tall* cannot be used with progressive aspect or with the imperative He's being *tall* ,be *tall* . In contrast we can use *careful* as a dynamic adjective: He's being ***careful,*** be ***careful*** .Adjectives that can be used dynamically include :***brave , calm, careless, cruel, foolish ,good, noisy ,rude ,ect***.

b-Gradable/ non- gradable :

Most adjectives are graded **,**in other words , they can be modified by adverbs to express the degree of the adjective . Adjectives that accept comparison have this feature :

Tall taller tallest

Beautiful more beautiful most beautiful

And other for most of intensification

Very young , ***so*** plain , ***extremely*** useful

Accordingly, Quirk and Greenbaum (1973-125-132) show that all dynamic adjectives are gradable ;some are non –gradable as (technical

adjective like ***atomic*** (scientist) and ***hydrochloric*** (acid) and adjective of nationality like ***the British*** , we cannot say He's ***very*** **British.**

c-Inherent /non –inherent:

Quirk and Greenbaum (ibid -121-124) refer to additional terms used to describe adjectives semantically, they define the term *inherent* as adjective that characterized the referent of non directly, in ***that old man, old*** is central adjectives the opposite of ***young*** which means that we can relate ***that old man to the man that is old.***

Non –inherent term refers to those adjectives that do not characterize that referent of noun directly ,***an old man friend .*** *Old* as an adjective refers to the (friendship) not to the (man) we can say ***an old friend***, but we cannot say ***the friend is old .***

7- Noun used as adjectives

Eastwood (1992-190) and Alexander (1997:36-115) agree that compound nouns may be used as adjectives, as in the following examples :-

a -One -word: a cupboard .

b -Two –word: a kitchen cupboard.

c-Three-word: a tea kitchen cupboard.

Compound nouns are never separated by adjectives .

8-Adjectives of nationality

Swan (1995:13)and Quirk et al .(1985:118) agree that few adjectives of nationality referring to origin as adjectives end with *–sh* are used after the definite article ***the*** without noun . They include ***Irish , welsh ,English , Spanish , Dutch , French .***

22- *The Irish* are very proud of their sense of humor

It should be noted that the difference between collective noun (which is usually regarded as singular such as crew, family, gang, staff, team ect.) and a collective adjective is that the latter is always plural and requires a plural verb .

9-Adjectives and participle

Alexander (1997:36,106,113,313) shows that the present participle or *ing* –form something behaves like adjectives such as *running* water (i.e. water which is running)we have also other adjectives such as *breaking* glass , *frightening* Stories ect. Many past participles of verbs can be used as adjective , e.g. .***a broken*** windows (a windows which has been broken) a ***frozen*** lake ,a ***locked*** door etc.

Note that there are some adjectives ending in *–ed* are not past participle and they are normally pronounced /id/ as in :

An aged parent ***crooked*** bath, a ***naked*** man, a ***wicked*** witch.

10-The +adjective

Some adjectives like the following are used after the article *the* never after *a/an* to represent a group as a whole : e.g., ***the blind, the deaf , the living , the dead , the rich /the poor ,the young /the old , the unemployed .*** This means that these adjectives refer to a group of people so they are following by plural verb .*The young are usually keen to travel* (Eastwood, 1992:191)

11-Abstract ideas

Swan(2005:14) suggests that adjectives are sometimes used after *the* to refer to general abstract ideas , this kind of adjectives are found in certain

philosophical writing ,like *the beautiful, the supernatural, the unreal.* These expressions are singular.

19- She's interested in the supernatural.

12-Adjectves used in measurements

Alexander (1997:113) points to another form of adjectives, he explains that words such as *deep, long, wide*.. etc. can function as adjectives or adverbs after the question word *How*.

23-How deep is that pool? (Adjective)

24- How deep did you dive? (Adverb)

He adds that in response to such question, the adjective follows the noun. It can sometimes be omitted, Alexander (ibid) gives these examples to clear his point .

25-It is five meter (deep). / I went five meter deep

26-How old are you?-I m five years old or I am five

27-How old is your car? –It is five years old (not itis five)

13-Phrases used as adjectives

Another notice related to adjectives is given by Swan (2005:555), he comments that there are certain long phrases used as adjective before a noun, hyphens is often used as in the following examples:

-an out -of- work miner

He is out of work

-a shoot -to- kill

They were ordered to shoot to kill

14- Exclamatory adjective sentence

Quirk et al (1985:120) point out to adjective as *an adjective phrase* that can be used in an exclamation as the following examples :

How good of you! ***How wonderful***! ***Excellent***!

15-Adverbs that can function as adjectives

In this respect, Alexander (1997:114) refers to a few adverbs and particles that can function as attributive (before the noun), adjectives and adverbs of this type are usually used in fixed phrases such as :

The ***above*** statement, ***an outside*** line, ***the inside*** cover, ***inside*** information , ***an outside*** line , ***the then*** chairman ,***an away*** match ,***the down*** train***/ the up*** train , ***the down*** stairs lavatory/***the up stair*** bathroom.

16-Comparative and Superlative Patterns

In fact, the terms comparative and superlative show the degrees of adjectives. Turton and Heaton (1999: 370-375) explain that the term

comparative is used to compare two things and superlative is used to compare three or more .It should be noted that the word *than* frequently accompanies the comparative and *the* with the superlative .

In English, as (Crystal, 2003:87) argues ,there are –*er* and more are used to express comparative and most to express superlative .Accordingly, Eastwood (1993:208) gives another note related to this subject that the prepositions *in* or *of* can be used after superlative ,as in :

28-who is the best person *in the world*?

29-August is the nicest month *in the year*

In this respect, Turton and Heaton (ibid:53) , Swan and Waller (2001:211) add that *a lot of* , *a bit* can be used more in conversation and *much* , *a little* before comparative

30- This book is *a lost* more interesting than that one .

However, Praniniskas (1957:314-315), Murphy and Zmalzer (2002: 176) list the following rules of comparison

a-one –syllable adjectives have comparison made by adding *er- est* to the simple forms

Young	younger than	youngest
Tall	Taller than	Tallest

b- two –syllable adjectives ending in y have comparative forms made by changing the letter y into I and adding *-er -est*

busy	busier than	the busiest
friendly	friendlier than	the friendliest

c- adjectives of two or more syllables, comparison is expressed by placing *more* before the simple form and *than* after them . Most in superlative

careful	more careful than	the most careful
serious	more serious than	the most serious

d-some irregular comparative and superlative forms proposed by Alexander (1997: 117)

good	better	best
bad	worse	worst
far	farther farthest	
old	Older elder	Oldest Eldest
much many	more	most
little	less	least

17 –**Absolute adjectives**

Praniniskas (1975:317) refers to an important point that some adjectives such as *asleep, awake, / present , absent /dead, alive* describe absolute situations are not used in comparative or superlative patterns, except figuratively . For example *deader than a doornail* .

18- The +comparative …….the +comparative

Parallel increase is expressed by the comparative …..the + comparative

31- house agent : do you want a big house ?

Ann: yes , the bigger the better.

Tom : but the smaller it is, the less it will cost us to heat.

(Thomas and Martinet ,1969:14)

19- As and as

It has been suggested by Eastwood (1993:208) that the structure *as…..as* can be used in a positive sentence to say that things are equal. Alexander

(1997:324) lists some of these adjectives used in this structure: *as blind as bat , as bold as brass , as bright as a button (=intelligent),as clear as bell, as cool as a cucumber ,as deaf as post , as easy as pie as fast as pig.*

But a negative sentence , as Eastwood observes is expressed by , not *as…..as* or not *so……as* like it is *not as cold as yesterday* , or *it is not so cold as yesterday*. (Yesterday was colder). Accordingly, Swan and Walter (2001:215) refer to some words that can be used in such pattern

(*as…as)*like the structures (*just, nearly ,not quietly and half ,twice, three times etc.)as in he is just as his brother*

20- "The same as", "different from"

Murphy and Zmalzer (2002: 180) agree with Alexander (1997:121) that the structure *the same as* is another way to express similarity and they say that as follows *the same* ,as in

32-he is angry because my marks are the same as his

And *with* is sometimes used after *the same*, as in :

33-butterflies come from caterpillars. It is the same with moths

(i.e. moths do the same thing)

The same (with singular and plural) can also be used without *as*

34-this cup is cracked .what's that one like ?-it is the same

Turton and Heaton (1999: 99) show that the structure *different from /to* is used to express difference they give the following example to illustrate their point:

35-London is different from /to Hong Kong .

However, *different than* is used in American English , but it is rarely used in British English, as mentioned in (Oxford Word power Dictionary ,200:210)

21- Complete sameness

Praniniskas (1975:311), proposes two ways to express a complete sameness *the same as* and *alike*

a- the same as

Praniniskas (ibid) observes that this expression should be used as one unit and not to substitute any word for as:

36-my book is the same as yours

b- Alike

In this pattern all things to be compared are to be put before the verbs

Things being compared	verb	alike
your book and mine	are	alike

Similarly in many respects (like)

37- Betty is like Bill

Accordingly, Praniniskas (ibid) lists another expressions to show similarity such as

a- the same + (noun)

38-Jack and Jane have the same interests.

b- the same (noun) as

39-my book contains the same information as yours .

c- as (adj /adv./many) as

40-Jane dances as well as I do .

41-Miss Lui doesn’t have as many friends as George has.

22-Common adjective easily confused

Alexander (1997: 324) has very nice observations about some adjectives that confusing in use , some of them are

1. *Fat / thin*: people and animal

   Fat / thin woman, Fat / thin cat

2. *Tall*: people building, mountain and trees

   The opposite is small people, building, mountain and tree

   (see Swan 20005:224)

   tall / short :people and height

   a tall / short man , a tall /short woman etc.

3. *Thick*: people and things

   Some students are really thick (stupid)

   Thick book, thick dictionary

   Little can replace small in many texts

   (a little boy , a little house) it is also a quantifier (a little sugar = a small amount of sugar) little is also used to express love , pity, etc. your sweet little baby

23-Adjective and adverbs

There are certain similarities between adjective and adverb have been suggested by Quirk et al (1985:136) ,Swan (2005:26) and Alexander (1997:325) and they point to the adjective and adverb with the same form and the same meaning , some of them are

best : (adj.)best clothes , (adv.)do your best

cheap: cheap suit , buy it cheap

clear: clear sky ,stand clear

daily: a daily paper ,they deliver daily

fast: a fast driver, drive fast

Similarly, some writers like Praniniskas (1975:167), Alexander (1997:117) and Swan (2005 :16) offer a section of adjectives equivalent adverbial forms , as *friendly ,lovely ,manly ,homely lonely , ugly* and *silly* . These adjectives are used to describe people s qualities, it should be noted that these adjectives cannot be used as adverbs. They can be formed by using phrases with (way , manner or fashion)

adjective: Susan is a friendly girl .

adverb: she always greets me in a friendly way / manner /fashions.

24-Adjective and prepositions

Eastwood (1993:169) agrees with Alexander (1997: 335) that some adjectives are used with certain prepositions

keen on ,full of, afraid of , famous for, late for ,content with , clever at , absent from ,good at ,bad at , ashamed of ,annoyed with, awful of, shocked at/ by ,amazed at/ by, tiered of, fed up with

In *Oxford Practice Grammar* a good remark is hinted by Eastwood (1993:169) about the adjectives good or bad , he suggests that if we talk about a person's ability we use *good at* and *bad at*

good at tennis bad at games

To talk about whether something makes healthy or ill , we use *good for* and *bad for*

Oranges are good for you smoking is bad for you

To talk about how to behave towards another things ,we use *good to , nice to kind to , rude to*

my friends have been good to me you were very rude to the waitress

Analysis of data

More than 70 students in the first year \ college of Education have been asked to write an essay about *your first day in the college* . These essays have been collected by the researcher to be analyzed in order to find the results.

Frequency of adjectives in the corpus

adjective	**number**
nice	15

happy	20
large	4
beautiful	25
bright	2
new	7
few	4
different	11
secondary	3
special	1
close	1
amazed	2
serious	1
big	22
quiet	3
hard	1
good	25
deep	3
puzzled	5
significant	1
important	1
main	1
similar	1
difficult	3
worried	7
wonderful	1

sad	1
useful	1
afraid	4
sunny	1

Results of analysis

1-The adjectives *good* and *beautiful* are very common in student's writings. They have 50 frequencies in the corpus .

2-The adjective *big* can also be used more frequently in this study . It is mentioned about 22 times by the students.

3- *Happy is* commonly used by the students. It has 20 frequencies

4-*diferrent, worried, quiet, large, puzzled, afraid* are relatively used in the data as a whole.

5- Adjectives such as *serious significant, main, wonderful, sunny similar* are very rare in the study.

6-*New, happy, nice ,big and beautiful* .These adjectives are common in both attributive and predicative position

7-Most of students tend to use emotive and evaluative adjectives to express their feelings such as: it's a *new* life, a *big* dream ,a *beautiful* dream. I was very *embarrassed*. I was *sad* .The college is very *beautiful.*

8- The adjective *beautiful* is very confusing word for most of students. They cannot differentiate between *beautiful* girl and *handsome* man.

Recommendations:

1-A lot of attention should be paid by the ELT to teach the students how to use different kinds of adjectives in their writing such as (simple and compound adjectives) such as blue and blue-eyed , three and A three-story building .

2-ELT should focus on certain confusing adjectives that could be used for both persons and things such as (tall building ,tall tree, tall man)

3-Students should be taught some adjectives to be used in their spoken or written form and focus on (ing- adjectives and ed - adjectives) that most of students commit mistakes by using such kind of adjectives as *boring , exciting , interesting* . These words are used to describe things (*the lecture was so interesting*) adjectives as *bored , excited , interested etc*..are used with persons as (*I was so board yesterday)*

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