

ADJECTIVES DESCRIBING NON-PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF A PERSON IN MODERN RUSSIAN

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Abstract

This article explores adjectives that describe non-physical characteristics of a person in contemporary Russian. The research identifies five major semantic groups of such adjectives: characterological, intellectual, emotional, moral-ethical, and socio-communicative. The functional and pragmatic features of these lexical units are analyzed, with particular attention to sociocultural and media-related influences on their usage and development. The article also examines trends in lexical innovation, including borrowings and neologisms, which reflect the dynamic processes of language renewal.

Keywords: Russian language, adjectives, personality traits, non-physical characteristics, neologisms, linguistic change, pragmatics, sociolinguistics

Introduction

In contemporary linguistics, the study of adjectives denoting non-physical traits has gained significant importance. These lexical units offer insights into the inner world of individuals, their behavioral patterns, moral values, and social roles. The current stage of Russian language development is characterized by rapid lexical change, partly driven by borrowing and word formation processes. This article focuses on the categorization and evolution of such adjectives in modern Russian.

Semantic Classification of Non-Physical Adjectives

Adjectives describing non-physical characteristics can be divided into several semantic categories, each reflecting different dimensions of human personality.

Characterological Adjectives

These describe stable personal traits and behavioral tendencies, such as kind, stubborn, proactive, lazy, reserved [10 p.150].

Intellectual Adjectives

These indicate cognitive capacities and intellectual attributes: intelligent, insightful, well-read, short-sighted, narrow-minded [2 p.15].

Emotional Adjectives

These refer to emotional responsiveness and regulation: sensitive, emotional, indifferent, hot-tempered, balanced [4 p.57].

Moral-Ethical Adjectives

These relate to ethics and morality: honest, decent, hypocritical, principled, deceitful.

Socio-Communicative Adjectives

These characterize interpersonal interaction styles: sociable, confrontational, charismatic, manipulative [5 p.34].

Trends in Lexical Development

Modern Russian exhibits an increasing tendency toward lexical innovation. Borrowings from English, especially through media and digital discourse, have enriched the non-physical adjective lexicon [1 p.11].

Common examples include:

toxic (from English *toxic*) – now referring to harmful or manipulative behavior

friendly – often used in hybrid phrases like user-friendly or eco-friendly

creative – describing imaginative or innovative individuals

In many cases, these adjectives undergo grammatical adaptation and semantic shift. For instance, *toxic* no longer refers solely to chemical properties but signifies destructive communicative behavior [6 p.45].

Functional and Pragmatic Aspects

Non-physical adjectives often serve an evaluative function, expressing the speaker's subjective stance. In addition to their descriptive role, they carry expressive

and emotive value, making them especially relevant in social media and popular discourse [10 p.155].

The high frequency of these adjectives in online platforms such as blogs, forums, and networks contributes to their entrenchment in the active vocabulary of native speakers.

These adjectives reflect not only linguistic change but also sociocultural shifts, capturing evolving norms of social behavior and identity construction [9 p.92].

Adjectives denoting non-physical characteristics form a dynamic and socially significant lexical category in modern Russian. Their semantic diversity, functional flexibility, and adaptability make them an essential tool for describing contemporary personality traits and interpersonal dynamics.

Recent trends show an increased incorporation of borrowings and neologisms, particularly from English, alongside native word formation and metaphorical reinterpretation. These processes enrich the Russian adjective system and align it with the communicative demands of modern society.

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