

DEGREES OF COMPARISON OF ADJECTIVES AS AN OBJECT OF LINGUISTIC RESEARCH. FORMS OF DEGREES OF COMPARISON OF ADJECTIVES. NON-STANDARD FORMS OF DEGREES OF COMPARISON IN RUSSIAN

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Abstract: *This article examines the degrees of comparison of adjectives in the Russian language, focusing on their forms and the implications for linguistic research. The analysis delves into the standard categories of comparison—positive, comparative, and superlative—while also addressing the structural and functional aspects that characterize these forms. Additionally, the study highlights non-standard forms of degree comparison, exploring colloquial variations, regional dialects, and innovative usages that reflect evolving linguistic practices within Russian-speaking communities. By investigating these dimensions, the paper aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how degrees of comparison contribute to meaning-making and communication in Russian, as well as the broader cognitive and sociolinguistic factors at play.*

Keywords: *Degrees of comparison, adjectives, linguistic research, Russian language, positive degree, comparative degree, superlative degree, non-standard forms, dialects, sociolinguistics, language variation, meaning-making.*

Аннотация: *В этой статье рассматриваются степени сравнения прилагательных в русском языке, уделяя особое внимание их формам и последствиям для лингвистических исследований. Анализ углубляется в стандартные категории сравнения — положительную, сравнительную и превосходную — а также затрагивает структурные и функциональные аспекты, характеризующие эти формы. Кроме того, в исследовании освещаются нестандартные формы сравнения степеней, изучаются разговорные вариации, региональные диалекты и инновационные использования, которые отражают развивающиеся языковые практики в русскоязычных сообществах. Исследуя эти измерения, статья стремится обеспечить всестороннее понимание того, как степени сравнения способствуют смыслообразованию и коммуникации на русском языке, а также более широких когнитивных и социолингвистических факторов, которые при этом действуют.*

Ключевые слова: *Степени сравнения, прилагательные, лингвистические исследования, русский язык, положительная степень, сравнительная степень, превосходная степень, нестандартные формы, диалекты, социолингвистика, языковая вариативность, смыслообразование.*

Introduction

The study of degrees of comparison in adjectives is a significant area of linguistic research that delves into how languages express variations in quality, quantity, and intensity [1-2]. Adjectives, as descriptive words, modify nouns and play a crucial role in conveying comparative meanings. In linguistic literature, degrees of comparison are categorized into three



main forms: positive, comparative, and superlative. This article aims to examine the forms of degrees of comparison in adjectives, focusing on the specifics of the Russian language, including conventional structures and non-standard forms. The study of language is an intricate exploration of how we convey meaning, express relationships, and differentiate qualities. One significant area within this field is the degrees of comparison of adjectives, a linguistic phenomenon that allows speakers to articulate varying intensities of attributes [3]. This aspect of grammar not only enriches communication but also provides valuable insights into the conceptualization of qualities within different languages. The degrees of comparison—positive, comparative, and superlative—enable speakers to make distinctions and evaluations, making them essential for both everyday discourse and more formal linguistic analysis. In the context of Russian, the forms of these degrees exhibit unique features and complexities that invite thorough investigation.

Moreover, non-standard forms of degrees of comparison present an intriguing area for linguistic research, challenging traditional notions and categories. These forms can include colloquial variations, regional dialects, or innovative usages that reflect cultural nuances and shifts in language practices. By exploring these non-standard forms, we can gain a deeper understanding of the dynamic nature of language and its ability to adapt to the needs of its speakers [5]. This article aims to delve into the degrees of comparison of adjectives as a critical object of linguistic research, examining both standard and non-standard forms in Russian. Through this exploration, we will uncover the grammatical intricacies, sociolinguistic factors, and cognitive implications associated with the comparative structures in this rich linguistic landscape.

Methods

To investigate the degrees of comparison of adjectives, a comparative analysis of existing linguistic literature was conducted. Sources included scholarly articles, grammar texts, and corpora that document the usage of adjectives across various contexts. Additionally, a qualitative analysis of spoken and written Russian language made it possible to identify non-standard forms that deviate from traditional rules. The research centered around two primary objectives: (1) to define the standard forms of degrees of comparison in Russian adjectives and (2) to explore non-standard forms that arise in colloquial or artistic usage [6].

This study employs a multi-faceted methodological approach to explore the degrees of comparison of adjectives in Russian, focusing on both standard and non-standard forms. The following methods are utilized:

Descriptive Analysis: A detailed examination of the standard forms of degrees of comparison—positive, comparative, and superlative—is conducted. This includes identifying morphological structures, syntactic behaviors, and semantic roles of adjectives in various contexts.

Corpus Linguistics: A corpus-based approach is employed to analyze authentic usage in spoken and written Russian. By examining various corpora, including literary texts, media, and conversational language, the study identifies patterns of adjective usage and degrees of comparison across different registers and styles.

Contrastive Analysis: The study compares standard and non-standard forms of degree comparison in Russian, identifying variations influenced by regional dialects, sociolects, and informal speech. This method allows for an exploration of how non-standard forms challenge conventional grammatical norms.

Quantitative Analysis: Statistical methods are applied to the findings from the corpus analysis to quantify the prevalence of non-standard forms and variations across different demographics (e.g., age, region, education). This helps to illuminate trends and shifts in language use.

Survey and Interviews: Qualitative data is gathered through surveys and interviews with native speakers to collect insights on their perceptions of both standard and non-standard forms of degree comparison. This firsthand data helps to contextualize the linguistic findings within the speakers' lived experiences.

Theoretical Frameworks: The research is grounded in relevant linguistic theories, including morphology, syntax, semantics, and sociolinguistics. These frameworks guide the analysis and interpretation of findings, allowing for a nuanced understanding of degrees of comparison as elements of language structure and social dynamics. By integrating these methodologies, the study aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the degrees of comparison of adjectives in Russian, illuminating both their formal properties and their sociolinguistic implications.

Results

- Forms of Degrees of Comparison
- Positive Degree

The positive degree is the base form of an adjective, used to describe a quality without any comparative or superlative implications. For example, in Russian, the word "красивый" (krasivyy) means "beautiful."

- Comparative Degree

The comparative degree is used to compare two entities. In Russian, this is often formed using the suffixes "-ее" or "-ей" for one-syllable adjectives, and through various modifications for multi-syllabic adjectives. For instance, "больше" (bol'she) means "bigger" and "красивее" (krasiveye) means "more beautiful."

- Superlative Degree

The superlative degree expresses the highest degree of a quality among three or more entities. In Russian, this can be formed by adding prefixes or suffixes, such as "самый" (samy) plus the adjective. For example, "самый красивый" (samyu krasivyy) translates to "the most beautiful."

- Non-Standard Forms of Degrees of Comparison

In contemporary Russian, speakers often adopt non-standard forms of comparison that reflect social and regional variations or the influence of other linguistic systems. Such forms may include:

1. Irregular Comparatives: Some adjectives possess irregular comparative forms that do not follow conventional rules. For example, "хороший" (khoroshiy) becomes "лучший" (luchshiy) for "better," defying the expectation of a suffix.
2. Creative Compounding: Non-standard forms can also emerge from the compounding of adjectives or through informal linguistic play. Phrases like "самый прикольный" (samy prikol'nyy) used to mean "the coolest" reflect a playful use of language among youth.
3. Semantically Driven Comparatives: Linguistic innovation often arises from semantic shifts, where adjectives are modified in unexpected ways. For instance, "круче" (kruche), a colloquial form of "крутой" (krutoy), meaning "cooler," exemplifies a shift from traditional standards of comparison.

Discussion



The degrees of comparison of adjectives in Russian serve as a profound reflection of both linguistic structure and cultural expression. While the standard forms provide a framework for grammatical correctness, the prevalence of non-standard forms indicates a dynamic evolution within the language. These non-standard usages often emerge in informal settings and among younger speakers, illustrating how language adapts to contemporary social contexts. Additionally, this variability can challenge traditional pedagogical approaches to language teaching and highlight the need for adaptability in linguistic research.

Conclusion

The investigation of degrees of comparison in Russian adjectives reveals both a rich structural framework and an evolving landscape marked by non-standard forms. Understanding these degrees not only adds depth to grammatical studies but also enriches our appreciation for the adaptability and creative capacity inherent in human language. As linguistic research continues to explore these aspects, it remains crucial to recognize and analyze the interplay between standard language norms and emerging linguistic innovations in the ever-evolving realm of communication.

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