

On the Adjectival Relationship between Tati and English Languages

Ramin Taherkhani ,University Lecturer
Faculty of Humanities , Islamic Azad University , Takestan Branch , Iran
Email : ramin_taherkhani2010 @ yahoo.com

Abstract:

In order to determine the adjectival relationship between Tati and English languages, a number of samples and sentences have been compared and contrasted. The results have shown that in Tati, like English language, simple adjectives appear before nouns. Adjectives ending in vowels /a , ö, i, u / , show a change in their phonetic forms in Tati , however, they still appear before nouns. Comparative adjectives are constructed in Tati by adding the morphemes / t æ r / at the end of the simple adjectives. But in English language, for adjectives with one syllable, we add the suffix "er" at the end of the simple adjectives and "than" for comparison. Having more than two syllables, adjectives take the word " more" before and "than" after them for comparison in English language. Superlatives in Tati are constructed by adding the morphemes / ein / at the end of simple adjectives. Superlatives are also constructed in Tati by adding the term / h æ m i/ before comparative adjectives. On the other hand, in English language superlatives are constructed by adding Article " the " at the beginning of one-syllable adjectives and suffix "est" at the end of them. More over, adjectives with more than one syllable take 'the most " at the beginning of them . In the case of superlatives in English language, we observe some irregularities such as good (simple adjective), better (comparative) and the best (superlatives) . The findings in this study reveal that unlike English language, superlatives never come before nouns in Tati.

Key terms: Adjectives – Tati – English

Introduction

Comparative studies in linguistics have a long history. There are different types of comparative studies such as comparative typological linguistics, comparative historical linguistics and contrastive analysis or contrastive studies. According to Fisiak, et al. (1928), contrastive linguistics may be defined as a sub discipline of linguistics concerned with the comparison of two or more languages in order to determine both the differences and similarities in them. Theoretical contrastive studies, as Fisiak (1985) puts it, look for the realization of a universal category in two languages. Theoretical contrastive studies are, therefore, language independent.

Techniques and procedures of contrastive analyses

Contrastive analysis is essentially founded on the assumption that languages can be compared and contrasted. Executing a contrastive analysis of two languages basically consists of two main steps: (i) description (ii) comparison. Different versions of contrastive analysis share these two main steps.

Contrastive analysis and linguistic models

Since comparison depends on description, there exists an inevitable implicational relationship between contrastive analysis and linguistic models. Bloomfield (1933) expounded the structural model. Harris (1963) elaborated it more. In an article entitled "Transfer Grammar", Harris claimed that the model could be used for comparative purposes. The job of structural contrastive analysis was, therefore, to display the similarities and differences between languages in terms of similarities and differences in (i) the form, and (ii) the distribution of comparable units.

The current study

This study aims to investigate the adjectival relationship between English and Tati.

The research question

Is there adjectival relationship between English and Tati?

The Corpus

The corpus consisted of Tati and English sentences. Tati sentences were collected from the book entitled "A survey of Tati" by Taheri (2010). These sentences show the exact place of adjectives in Tati sentences. Comparative and superlatives are also elaborated exclusively in this book. After collecting the Tati sentences, the researcher, as a native speaker of Tati and a faculty member of applied linguistics, translated these sentences into English language. "English grammar digest" by Aronson, (2004) was also used to show the place of English adjectives in the sentences.

Analysis

The comparison and contrast of sentences in Tati and English revealed that simple adjectives appear before nouns in Tati and English languages (see Table 1).

In the case of comparatives, the suffix /tær/ appears after simple adjectives in Tati. In English language, instead, mono-syllable adjectives take the suffix (er) at the end of them. The word "more", however, appears before the adjectives containing more than one syllable in English.

Superlatives are constructed in two ways in Tati: (i) by adding the suffix (ein) at the end of simple adjectives (ii) by adding the term /hæ mi/ before comparatives. In English language, superlatives are also constructed in two ways: (i) mono-syllable adjectives take the article "the" before and the suffix "est" after them (ii) the term "the most" appears before adjectives with more than one syllable (see Table 1).

Results

To avoid misunderstanding, the results of the study are presented separately for each language. First, in Tati simple adjectives appear before nouns. Second, comparatives are constructed by adding the suffix /tær/ to the end of simple adjectives. Third, superlatives are constructed in two ways in Tati: (i) by adding /ein/ to the end of simple adjectives (ii) by adding /hæmi/ at the beginning of comparatives.

In English language simple adjectives appear before nouns. Secondly, comparatives are constructed in two ways. (i) by adding the suffix /er/ to the end of simple adjectives (ii) the term "more" appears before adjectives with more than one-syllable. Superlatives are also

constructed in two ways in English language: (i) mono-syllable adjectives take "the" before and the suffix "est" after them (ii) the term "the most" appears before adjectives with more than one syllable. As such, the research question can be answered positively. Simple adjectives appear before nouns both in Tati and English. Moreover, comparatives and superlatives do exist in the languages .

Table 1- Adjectives in Tati and English languages

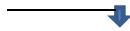
Simple adjectives	
T: / <u>kötã</u> – <u>fãlvãr</u> /	E: short trousers
T: / <u>siyã</u> – <u>cöt</u> /	E: A black coat
T: / <u>sörx</u> – <u>e</u> – <u>æsife</u> /	E: The red apple
T: / <u>xör</u> – <u>e</u> – <u>mærdæk</u> /	E: The good man
T: / <u>bæd</u> – <u>e</u> – <u>ãdæ m</u> /	E: The bad man
T: / <u>isbi</u> – <u>y</u> – <u>e</u> – <u>pãrtʃe</u> /	E: The white clothes
T: / <u>nu</u> – <u>y</u> – <u>e</u> – <u>juræb</u> /	E: The new socks
Comparatives	
T: / <u>pærviz</u> – <u>berãreʃ</u> – <u>nækutær</u> – <u>e</u> /.	E: Parviz is better than his brother.
T: / <u>Zærã</u> – <u>mæry æme</u> <u>qæ fæ nt æ rã</u> /	E: Zahra is more beautiful than Maryam.
Superlatives	
T: / <u>æli</u> – <u>gujil</u> – <u>eyn</u> – <u>e</u> /	E: Ali is the smallest.
T: / <u>meiryæme</u> – <u>tetõn</u> – <u>möne</u> – <u>hæmi</u> – <u>qæʃængt ærã</u> /	E: Maryam is the most beautiful girl.

T= Tati, E= English, - = underlined = adjective, / / = phonetic transcription of Tati sentences.

Discussion

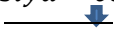
Throughout the report of this study, the researcher noticed the phonological changes in the construction of Tati adjectives: when the adjective ends in vowels/ *ã* or *ö*/, it appears without any phonological change before nouns, for example:

Tati: /*kötã – fãlvãr*/



English: short trousers

Tati :/*siyã – cõt*/



English: A black Coat

When the adjective ends in a consonant, the morpheme / *e* / appears after it, For example:

Tati: /*xör – e – mærdæk*/



English: A good man

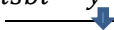
Tati :/*bæd – e – ãdæm*/



English: The bad man

When adjectives end in vowels / *i* /and /*u* /the morpheme /*y* / appears between /*e* / and the last vowels. For example:

Tati: /*isbi – y – e – pãrtje*/



English: The white clothes

Tati: *nu – y – e – juræb*/



English: new socks

In English language, comparative and superlatives are constructed based on the number of syllables in adjectives. For example:

English: Ali is older than Maryam.



Tati: *æli meiryæm e peletære.*

English: She is more beautiful than Maryam.



Tati: /ãve, meiryæme qæshængtðrã/

English: Ali is the oldest student.



Superlative: Tati: /æli pele – Tæ r – in e/

English: She is the most beautiful student



Tati: /ãve – hæmi qæfæntærã/

Conclusion

Although comparative studies have a long history in linguistics, Tati must be paid more. The results of this study show that in Tati, the last phone of the simple adjective has a significant role in the phonetic form of simple adjectives. As a result, the last phone of adjectives is syllabic in this language. Moreover, unlike English, superlatives and comparatives never appear before nouns in Tati .

In English language; however, the number of syllable in an adjective determines the form of comparatives and superlatives. Therefore, the number of syllables in simple adjectives is significant in English language .Irregularities are also observed in the form of adjectives in English language. The last word is that simple adjectives appear before nouns both in English and Tati .

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