

# Table of Contents

Acknowledgments	vii
List of Tables and Figures	xiii
<b>1 Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Background and Motivation	1
1.2 Organization of this Study	7
1.3 Adjective Data from Selected Corpora	8
1.3.1 American English Corpora	9
1.3.1.1 Brown Corpus of Standard American English	9
1.3.1.2 The Freiburg-Brown Corpus of American English	12
1.3.2 A Corpus of Postmodifying Attributive Adjectives	15
1.4 Chapter Summary	20
<b>2 English Adjective Syntax and Semantics</b>	<b>23</b>
2.1 Characteristics of English Adjectives	25
2.2 English Adjective Syntax	32
2.2.1 Premodifying Attributive Constructions	34
2.2.2 On What is Not an Attributive Adjective	38
2.2.2.1 Predicative Adjective Constructions	38
2.2.2.2 Predicate Qualifying Constructions	40
2.2.2.3 Clausal Constructions	43
2.2.2.4 Adverbial Constructions	44
2.2.2.5 Other Constructions	47
2.2.3 Section Summary	48
2.3 English Adjective Semantics	50
2.3.1 Language-Universal Approaches	50
2.3.2 Delimiting Adjectives from Other Lexical Categories	58
2.3.3 Language-Specific Approaches	64
2.3.4 Section Summary	69
2.4 Chapter Summary	69
<b>3 Approaches to Postmodifying Attributive Adjectives</b>	<b>71</b>
3.1 Postmodification by Light Adjective Phrases	72

3.1.1 Historical Reasons for Postmodification	75
3.1.2 The Prefix <i>a-</i> in Postmodifying Adjectives	78
3.1.3 A Brief Excursus: Adjectival Position in Romance Languages	82
3.1.4 Attempts at Explaining Postmodifying Light APs	88
3.1.4.1 Characterization and Occasion Value	88
3.1.4.2 Presupposition Constraints	95
3.1.4.3 Transformational Approaches	100
3.1.4.4 Individual-Level and Stage-Level Predication	103
3.1.4.5 Are Light Postmodifying APs Reduced Relative Clauses?	109
3.2 Postmodification by Heavy Adjective Phrases	112
3.2.1 Possibility 1: Relative Clause Reduction Revisited	114
3.2.2 Possibility 2: A Transformational Approach	118
3.3 Adjectives Postmodifying Indefinite Pronouns	121
3.3.1 Some Basic Facts about Indefinite Pronouns	121
3.3.2 Evidence from the Corpora	124
3.3.3 An Analysis of APs Modifying Indefinite Pronouns	125
3.4 Chapter Summary	133
<b>4 An Integrated View of Attributive Postmodification</b>	<b>135</b>
4.1 The Concept of 'Postmodifying Attributive'	137
4.2 Four Adjectival Case Studies	140
4.2.1 Case Study One: <i>discourteous</i>	140
4.2.2 Case Study Two: <i>beautiful</i>	142
4.2.3 Case Study Three: <i>Chinese</i>	144
4.2.4 Case Study Four: <i>overall</i>	146
4.2.5 Section Summary	148
4.3 An Extended Prague School Approach	149
4.3.1 A Focus-Presupposition Proposal	150
4.3.2 Alternative Semantics and Attributive Postmodification	155
4.4 The 'Attributive Postmodification Filter'	157
4.5 Chapter Summary	163
<b>5 Conclusion</b>	<b>165</b>
5.1 Contributions and Limitations	165
5.2 Final Remarks	167

Table of Contents	xi
Appendix A	169
Appendix B	173
List of References	179
Index	189

## List of Tables and Figures

Table 1-1:	Text category composition of the Brown and Frown corpora	10
Table 1-2:	List of adjective tags in the Brown and Frown corpora	10
Table 1-3:	Distribution of adjectives in the Brown corpus	11
Table 1-4:	Distribution of adjectives in the Frown, Brown, LOB, and WWC corpora	13
Table 1-5:	Distribution of adjectives in the Frown corpus	14
Table 1-6:	Postmodifying attributive adjective frequency in the Brown and Frown corpora	16
Table 2-1:	Prototypical properties denoted by members of the adjective class	25
Table 2-2:	A classification model for degree modifiers	31
Table 2-3:	Criteria for 'adjectival position' constructions	32
Table 2-4:	Relations in which properties may qualify entities	33
Table 2-5:	Number of occurrences of adjectives in predicative position in the Brown and Frown corpora	38
Table 2-6:	Number of occurrences of predicate qualifying adjectives in the Brown and Frown corpora	41
Table 2-7:	Number of occurrences of clausal adjectives in the Brown and Frown corpora	43
Table 2-8:	Number of occurrences of adverbial adjectives in the Brown and Frown corpora	44
Table 2-9:	Question tests for adjectival complement types	46
Table 2-10:	Number of occurrences of 'other' adjectives in the Brown and Frown corpora	48
Table 2-11:	Dixon's semantic types (1991) matched with headings presented in Kirkpatrick (1987)	53
Table 2-12:	Dixon's and Wierzbicka's approaches to the word class 'adjective'	57
Table 2-13:	Verbs derived from adjectives	59
Table 2-14:	Discourse functions of 308 adjectives in English conversation	63
Table 2-15:	Givón's and Thompson's approaches to the word class 'adjective'	63

Table 3-1:	Origins of the <i>a</i> -prefix	81
Table 3-2:	Types of determiners	97
Table 3-3:	Distribution of AP types among postmodifying attributive adjectives	112
Table 3-4:	Types of heavy postmodifying APs as discussed in section 3.2.1	117
Table 3-5:	Compound indefinite pronouns	122
Table 3-6:	IPR and IPR+AP occurrences in the Brown and Frown corpora	124
Figure 1-1:	Distribution of adjective syntactic functions in the Brown corpus	12
Figure 1-2:	Distribution of adjective syntactic functions in the Frown corpus	15
Figure 1-3:	Adjective types used in postmodifying attributive light AP constructions (institutionalized expressions, <i>a</i> -adjectives, and adjectives occurring in Latin and Romance language contexts) and their tokens in the Brown and Frown corpora	18
Figure 1-4:	Remaining adjective types used in postmodifying attributive light AP constructions and their tokens in the Brown and Frown Corpora, part 1	19
Figure 1-5:	Remaining adjective types used in postmodifying attributive light AP constructions and their tokens in the Brown and Frown Corpora, part 2	20
Figure 1-6:	Distribution of adjective types used in postmodifying attributive light AP constructions in the Frown and Brown corpora	21
Figure 2-1:	Adjectival premodification zones and sequences	29
Figure 2-2:	The derivation of attributive adjectives from reduced relative clauses	35
Figure 2-3:	Proposed structure of the NP <i>a beautiful two weeks</i>	36
Figure 2-4:	Syntactic structure of example (2-32e)	46
Figure 2-5:	Adjectival constructions as discussed in section 2.2	49
Figure 2-6:	Proposed semantic primes according to Wierzbicka (2002)	51

Figure 2-7:	Proposed semantic primes according to Dixon (1982, 1991)	52
Figure 2-8:	Placement of major word classes on the time stability scale	60
Figure 2-9:	Properties characteristic of inherent/ascriptive adjectives	66
Figure 2-10:	Semantic scales for English adjectives	67
Figure 2-11:	Semantic approaches to the 'adjective' class	68
Figure 2-12:	A syntactic-semantic framework for the 'adjective' class	70
Figure 3-1:	A working model for the analysis of postmodifying attributive adjectives	71
Figure 3-2:	Adjectives which are part of 'institutionalized' expressions in the Brown and Frown corpora	76
Figure 3-3:	Proposed notation for postmodifying attributive adjectives in institutionalized expressions	77
Figure 3-4:	Postmodifying attributive adjectives with the weakened prefix <i>a-</i> in the Brown and Frown corpora	80
Figure 3-5:	Proposed notation for postmodifying attributive <i>a-</i> adjectives	81
Figure 3-6:	Postmodifying attributive adjectives with Latin and Romance language context in the Brown and Frown corpora	84
Figure 3-7:	Allocation of 'characterization' and 'occasion' values to premodifying and postmodifying attributive adjectives	89
Figure 3-8:	Allocation of 'reference modification' and 'referent modification' to the syntactic position of adjectives	92
Figure 3-9:	Constraints on the grammaticality of postmodifying position	96
Figure 3-10:	Order Change NA → AN	102
Figure 3-11:	'Individual-level' versus 'stage-level' predication	105
Figure 3-12:	'Individual-level' and 'stage-level' interpretation confronted with the absence of the relative clause reduction proposal	110
Figure 3-13:	Different approaches to postmodifying attributive adjectives in light APs	111
Figure 3-14:	Heavy AP shift as a result of the Head-Final Filter	119

Figure 3-15:	Possible analyses for heavy postmodifying attributive APs	120
Figure 3-16:	Genitival structure for IPRs modified by adjectives	127
Figure 3-17:	Leu's (2005) analysis of English IPR-AP constructions	130
Figure 3-18:	An analysis of indefinite pronouns	131
Figure 3-19:	Interpretation of IPR-AP and AP-N structures	133
Figure 4-1:	Toward the creation of the 'Attributive Postmodification Filter' (APF)	136
Figure 4-2:	Criteria for ellipsis	138
Figure 4-3:	Criteria for ellipsis applied to postmodifying adjective constructions	139
Figure 4-4:	Analysis of <i>discourteous</i> in (4-03a)	142
Figure 4-5:	Analysis of <i>beautiful</i> in (4-07a)	143
Figure 4-6:	Analysis of <i>Chinese</i> in (4-09a)	146
Figure 4-7:	Analysis of <i>overall</i> in (4-10a)	147
Figure 4-8:	Is there a connection between the semantic scales for English adjectives and postmodifying attributive position?	149
Figure 4-9:	FSP and CD applied to postmodifying attributive adjective constructions	151
Figure 4-10:	Focus-presupposition structure of attributive adjectives	152
Figure 4-11:	Three layers of phenomena in a theoretical description of language	153
Figure 4-12:	The interplay between 'alternative semantics' and the FSP/CD/FGD theories with regard to postmodifying attributive adjectives	156
Figure 4-13:	The 'Attributive Postmodification Filter,' part 1	158
Figure 4-14:	The 'Attributive Postmodification Filter,' part 2	162