



## VALENCY AND COMPONENTIAL ANALYSIS OF ADJECTIVES EXPRESSING EMOTIONAL STATES

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### ABSTRACT

*This article examines the valency properties of adjectives denoting emotional states as well as their componential (semantic) analysis from a theoretical perspective.*

In modern linguistics, the study of language units that express a person's inner experiences and psychological states is considered one of the important research directions. Adjectives expressing emotional states occupy a special place in the semantic system of a language, as they reflect the speaker's feelings and emotional conditions.

Adjectives expressing emotional states are lexical units that convey a person's inner feelings, emotions, and psychological conditions. They can be classified into the following semantic groups:

**1. positive states:** *happy, satisfied, delighted*

**2. negative states:** *sad, upset, depressed*

**3. complex/ambivalent states:** *excited, anxious, surprised*

These adjectives typically function as predicates or attributes in a sentence:

*He is very happy.*

*She is an anxious person.*

The concept of valency was first introduced by Lucien Tesnière, referring to the combinatory potential of words in a sentence.

Adjectives expressing emotional states also demonstrate specific valency patterns, requiring certain complements that indicate cause, object, or experiencer.

**For example:**

**happy (about/with something)** → *He is happy about the gift.*

**upset (with someone/about something)** → *She is upset with her friend.*

**afraid (of something)** → *He is afraid of the dark.*

**satisfied (with something)** → *They are satisfied with the results.*

Thus, the valency of these adjectives is closely connected to their semantic structure.

Componential analysis is a method used in structural semantics to break down word meanings into minimal semantic features. This approach has been widely developed in the works of Eugene Nida and Jerrold Katz.

**Examples of analysis:**

**happy**

[+positive]

[+emotional]

[+internal state]

**sad**

[-positive]

[+emotional]

[+low mood]

**anxious**

[-stability]

[+negative emotion]

[+future-oriented]

This type of analysis allows us to identify subtle semantic differences between adjectives.

The valency patterns of emotional-state adjectives are directly linked to their internal semantic structure. For example, adjectives expressing negative emotions often require a complement indicating the cause:

*She is upset about the news.*

*He is anxious about the results.*

Similarly, positive adjectives may also require such complements:

*He is happy about the outcome.*

This demonstrates that semantic components play a crucial role in shaping syntactic structures.

Adjectives expressing emotional states constitute an essential part of the semantic system of a language. Their analysis in terms of valency and semantic components helps to uncover both their syntactic behavior and deeper semantic structure. This, in turn, contributes to a better understanding of how human emotions are represented in language.

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