

THE PROBLEM OF THE POSITION OF THE ADJECTIVE-EPITHET IN FRENCH

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Abstract: This article examines the issue of the position of the adjective-epithet in French, its place and influence on the formation of expressiveness, examines the grammatical and stylistic aspects of the phenomenon in detail.

Key words: adjective-epithet, adjective expressing colour, main meaning, figurative meaning, main feature, preposition, postposition, expressiveness, stylistic device, stylistic factor, grammatical factor, evaluation factor.

INTRODUCTION

One of the functions of word order is to give logical and emotional emphasis to one or another part of the sentence, that is, to create expressiveness [1.53]. It is known that the French have always paid great attention to the issue of the position of the adjective [10.103] and Russian linguists are also paying attention to it. [6.167] According to Jean Cohen, «*La place de l'épithète est une des questions les plus fouillées et plus débattues de la grammaire française [12.110]*. (The place of the epithet is one of the widely studied and debated questions in French grammar).

LITERATURE ANALYSIS

The study of this issue was mainly considered that it belonged to the field of grammar. This is confirmed by many works and grammar sections devoted to the problem under consideration. Although the main factor determining the place of the epithet is grammatical, S. Balli and a number of other linguists connect the issue with stylistics, because it is about the way of expressing impressiveness. "Effectiveness in language usually manifests itself in two ways: the choice of words and their place in a sentence. Deviations from the usual word order are primarily intended to emphasize a word, and this is now considered a stylistic technique. And here "the study of syntax covers the field of stylistics" [5.138]. The connection between grammar and stylistics is also shown by S. de Boer, who believes that the stylistic factor should be considered as an addition to the main grammatical expression [12.58].

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The article discusses the issue of the position of the adjective-epithet in French. The epithet is expressed with an adjective and its function in the sentence is described. The criteria for determining its position in the sentence were analyzed and justified with examples. The approaches of scientists to the study of the epithet were studied.

ANALYZES AND RESULTS

An adjective - an epithet, for example, forms a concept with the word being defined: sale gosse (iflos bola). In postposition, both components of the compound act

independently and the adjective carries the same burden as the noun. Many researchers explain the question of the place of epithet-adjective in different interpretations, they emphasize the predominance of postposition in French, and only S. de Boer says that there is a tendency for adjective-epithet preposition. It should be said that all researchers unanimously emphasize that the position of an adjective-epithet depends on its meaning, that is, adjectives with a definite meaning are in the subordinate position, and adjectives with a figurative meaning are in the dominant position: *un garçon sale (kir bola)- un sale garçon*.

The position put forward by Michel Glatini deserves attention. Analyzing the adjectives and epithets in his two works, the author comes to the conclusion that the governor and the subordinate part do not correspond to the relationship of affectivity and objectivity based on the following considerations:

a) a large number of "affective" adjectives are always in postposition;

b) a large number of prepositive adjectives do not express affectivity. But then the question arises: if neither rhythmic nor stylistic factors play a role, what determines the place of the adjective-epithet. Glatini determines that the role of quality depends on the amount of information contained in the latter. If there is a small amount of information in the quality, it will always be in the dominant position. In our opinion, this leads to another interesting conclusion: the quality of the low-information governor position has an open distribution.(distributionétendue)[16. 18]. The greater the information coefficient, the more limited the distribution of quality. For example:*un léger mouvement de tete, un léger bruit. This quality is shared by many nouns, and such broad compatibility reduces the amount of information it conveys. This defines his position in front of the horse: This quality is shared by many nouns, and such broad compatibility reduces the amount of information it conveys. This defines his position in front of the horse:cye reve hyeuryeix, ce jour heureux* quality distribution is cIf the word "heureux" is used in its own sense, in the combination "heureux nouvelle"" a new meaning edge of the quality is formed as a result of open distribution used. According to Glatini, he refers to the micro-context in determining the place of the quality: he points out that the binary opposition of defined - defining plays an important role.

Consequently, we observe two trends in understanding the position of adjective-epithet in French: for some linguists, the semantic-stylistic[15.137] factor prevails, for others, the logical-syntactic [8.12] factor. It is common to all that the influencing element plays a certain role in choosing the place of the quality.

Russian researchers pay great attention to the issue of word order in the French language, in particular, to the place of the adjective-epithet in the noun-adjective combination, and emphasize the semantic-syntactic criterion when determining the position of these components. L.I. Iliya in his book "Syntax of Modern French Language" emphasizes that the place of the adjective serves to polarize two grammatical meanings. related to problems such as the relationship between. It is interesting to note that recently this specific issue is related to problems such as the relationship between norms and styles. Based on the position that the direct word order is the defining norm or invariant, the reverse order is considered as a stylistic

option. In this regard, it is an interesting process to determine whether the quality of the position of the governor is the norm or a deviation from the norm that performs a special function "serving as a means of emotional emphasis.

The study of the use of epithets in the modern French language based on the material of artistic and journalistic works allows us to make a number of comments on the issue of interest to us. We cannot agree that most adjectives are postpositioned.

We agree with de Boer and George that there is a recent trend towards prepositions [13.202].

Summarizing the classification of the adjective according to its place in relation to the noun, the following groups can be shown:

1. Adjectives used only in one place
2. Adjectives used in the first and next place.

Group I includes:

- a) postpositive adjectives;
- b) governing adjectives.

The fact that color-denoting and relative adjectives are constantly used in postpositions and that they have common features allows them to be shown in one category in the classification of adjectives related to their place in the sentence. However, it can be assumed that the word "permanent" is conditional in some sense, because relative adjectives can also be found in the position of the word *hokim*.

For example:

*Une antique camionnette Ford fait dans cette cohue, figure de miracle (P. Daix)
... et cette rapacité elle-meme la conséquence de l'ancetrable terreur de la faim et de la mort, ce qui faisait que tuer, voler, piller et vendre n'étaient en réalité qu'une seule et meme chose, un simple besoin celui de se rassurer (Claude Simon)*

... lui dans sa redingote rouge, au moment de l'annuel concours hippique, ou passant dans cette grosse automobile noire (C.Simonu)

The semantics of actualizer words allows for the unusual use of relative adjectives. All of them are abstract words. *Cette vierge... soulevait encore l'admiration par son impériale beauté restée intacte, victorieuse du temps et de l'amour. In this sentence, the epithet imperiale acted as a hyperbolization of an abstract noun attribute.*

Observations on actual linguistic material show that relative adjectives are equally likely to be used in pre- and post-defining positions. The stylistic factor dominates in determining the position of adjectives in this category.

The question of the place of the adjective-epithet is directly related to the expressive function of speech. According to Jakobson, the expressive function of speech is the function aimed at the message itself [2.167]. The adjective-epithet that comes before the definition is characteristic for journalistic style. D.N. Shmelev interprets such epithets as a signal that directs the author's opinion to the reader's perception of the entire text.

L'extraordinaire puissance de grève.

A. Lyon l'impossible échange de sang a quand meme eu lieu.

Net succès de l'Union des gauches.

Importante aide économique et militaire accordée par d'Etat à la RDV. These examples show that superlatives are able to perform the main communicative function in this style of speech and, moreover, are lexically leading.

Observations on the linguistic material of the press allow us to talk about equal possibilities of using prepositions and postpositions of relative adjectives. The stylistic factor dominates in determining the position of adjectives in this category.

These adjectives, which are always postposed, can be used both prepositionally and figuratively (*noires idées*), although the figurative sense does not necessarily have to take the place of an adjective or be the main nominative in the context. although it partially changes, the meaning remains and a new version of it appears.

Chaque siècle u avait laissé son empreinte... le souvenir de quelque événement terrible, de quelque rouge aventure.

Ce n'est pas un coeur rouge qu'il a dans le sein, mais un noir coeur de mortas de Briere ("*Le français dans le monde*").

Il n'aimait pas ce noir inconnu a la rouge chevelure qui approchait avec arrogance et le defiait du regard. (J.Kessel) .

These examples show what possibilities are hidden in words with little semantic potential, such as those characterized by a color-denoting adjective. When writers use color adjectives, their unusualness creates conditions for semantic deviation, the formal indicator of which is a change in word semantics. In many cases, despite the change in the correspondence of language units, the color changes the semantics of the denotative adjective, its use is explained by the context." [7.137]

While preserving the main nominative meaning in the preposition, adjectives denoting color are used by the author to create a certain stylistic effect, emphasizing only the main feature of the subject.

... Des gens qu'en abondance il a croisés, il n'a retenu qu'une fille au joli visage félin sous de bruns cheveux désordonnés.

Les noirs visages de ces jeunes hommes dont les traits rigides ressemblaient a ceux qu'on voit sur les bas-reliefs de l'antique Egypte.(J.Kessel)

Il ouvrit les rideaux et je vis une rouge petite figure bouffie, un petit crane allongé et déformé (Fournier).

In these examples, the color adjective carries the main semantic load, its unusual position disrupts the usual harmony of components inherent in the noun-adjective combination. In this place, acquiring a connotative-stylistic meaning, the adjective belonging to this category - noun, while preserving the meaning, acts as an epithet.

The adjective preposition is not unique to the French language system, but writers often and unusually resort to the adjective to create a certain stylistic effect.

The subjective creativity of the writer must correspond to the existing norms of the language. The appearance of stylistic, neologisms is limited by linguistic laws and laws of logic. If the epithet does not perform any function, indicating the quality of the object, or is an adverb - stylistic, then they are adverbs in the language (*épithètes rédundantes*). That is why some linguists oppose such use of the epithet in speech.

Group II: an epithet occupying a free position

It is this group that is more noteworthy from the point of view of stylistic interpretation, but has not yet been fully studied, because "the use (l'usage) of this form is often indefinable contains innumerable nuances".

But there are several factors that determine the position in relation to these epithets. If in the first case, mainly the syntactic factor acts, in the second case it is semantic-stylistic. The epithet in the preposition indicates the main characteristic closely related to the noun. An adjective in a preposition can become an integral part of a noun.

Sometimes the connection of the components is so strong that one adjective is enough to express the concept: *une vieille femme* - *une vieille* (old woman). The new form of the word formed by conversion has stylistic coloring.

Conceptually, these words are equivalent, but their stylistic function is different: for example, the word "vieille" has a familiar meaning. The study of word order shows that one or another sequence of words is associated with a certain meaning. The functions manifested in the change of meaning of an adjective when its position changes can be defined as semantic or semantic functions of word order.[3.84]

To make it easier to analyze adjectives in the free position - epithets, we divide them into three groups:

I. Adjectives in the figurative sense in the preposition, in the correct sense in the postposition

Un sale métier où l'on travaillait dur (un métier dégoûtant). L'homme s'était excusé de ses pieds sales (pieds malpropres).

Adjectives that completely change their meaning depending on where they stand

Si tu avais vu ces hommes braves... qui marchaient en tas comme un troupeau (hommes courageux).

Mais c'était tout de même un brave homme (homme bon) .

Ils avaient vécu une brave (bonne) petite vie bien vide avec leurs braves ames bien molles (honnêtes ames).

There are about forty such adjectives in French grammar. And there is no need to dwell on them in detail, because differences in meaning are context-independent and linguistic facts recorded in dictionaries.

However, for the first and second subgroups, it is usual for adjectives in prepositions to create more expressiveness (this is proven by replacing adjectives with synonyms. In this case, in a speech situation, adjectives in prepositions in this subgroup provide additional information in the form of an evaluation tone in addition to the main information. The evaluative element draws these adjectives into the category of epithets.

General graded adjectives that can take a free position in relation to the word they are connected to, but are used in a preposition to achieve a certain stylistic effect.

The stylistic factor prevails in determining the place for epithets in this category, besides, it should be noted that in this case the preposition is not a synthetic

type of construction, on the contrary, the epithet in Ats combination functions as an independent word distinguishing some characteristic. Only in the context it allows to create additional connotative meanings through this speech epithet.

1) *Il la regards et pensa: "Jamais je ne l'ai aimée et comme si elle sentait peser sur elle ce dur regard elle esquissa dans son sommeil un geste de la main. \Maurois\ 2)*

La rose de la coiffeuse contrastait fortement avec ce qu'il u avait de pauvre et de triste dans ces hardes usées, dans ce visage dur\J. Green

3) *La dure et triste lumière qui pleuvait d'un lustre éclairait sans indulgence son vieux visage ... \J. Green*

4) *Le soleil dur et brulant dépouillait la terre de ses ombres \J. Kessel*

In all cases, the components can be rearranged,visage dur- dur visage; regard dur" - dur regard; soleil dur - dur soleil; dure lumière - lumière dure.

In this case, the meaning of the expression does not change, but the difference is that it is explained by the nature of the expressed feature. In the 2nd example, the object is considered as an objectively specific sign, while in the first, it is a sign specific to a certain time, a certain situation, and it is related to a wider context. will be an impetus; the epithet dur in the preposition is more stylistically colored than in the postposition. According to traditional usage, the adjective dur is a postposition. Occasional use only changes the main meaning and strengthens the connotative meaning.

In modern French, both monosyllabic and polysyllabic adjectives can take a free position." *Boticelli et Michel-Ange se foignaient tour à tour au choeur formidable qui disait le bonheur d'aimer Odile et de protéger contre un invisible ennemi sa parfaite et fragile beauté. \Maurois*

With the equal possibility of using an epithet in one or another case, the adjective acquires additional stylistic coloring, but its basic meaning does not change. Such constructions, where the epithet does not contain logical information and do not have semantic motivation, also have a certain stylistic effect, because the concept expressed by the noun already contains the sign expressed by the epithet.

J'avais souvent passé des dimanches entiers dans une vague reverie\Maurois

Ses yeux devinrent hagards et il ne put retenir un sourd gémissement \J.Kessel\.

The communicative redundancy of the adjective-epithet in the above 2 examples enhances the imagery: in this case, the role of the context is reduced to a minimum level, and due to the preposition of the epithet, the overall expressiveness of the constructions increases. Adjective preposition is widely used when the meaning contradicts the meaning of the word being interpreted.

j'éprouvais une joie douloureuse, une voluptueuse souffrance a croire comprendre qu'elle mentait (Maurois).

Elle eut pour rejoindre François franchi moil corps avec une impitoyable pitié \Maurois\.

Je rencontrai les yeux de M — elle Malet... .

Regard d'une infinie brievete, mais qui fut le grain de pollen minuscule.. \Maurois\.

Such combinations, known in stylistics as oxymorons, indicate that the epithet

complements the main meaning of the word being described with new characters, while the macrocontext, which is not grammatically related to the epithet, reflects the meaning of these word combinations. helps to open more deeply. "Elements of expression act as stylistic tools."

Observations on the connection of several qualities to one definition show that both positions are equally acceptable.

Cruc s'approcha, ferma le poiteau et le moteur stoppa en produisant un bruit de baiser méchant, sec et aspiré (R,Merle) .

L'Edre tumultueuse, arrivait au fond du bocage, courait pour s'enfoncer dans le souterrain qui la conduit à la Loire.

Moi aussi j'étais sous le tunnel et quelque chose mes emportait tres vite vers ma proche et brutale surprise. (H.Bazin)

Undoubtedly, the loaded epithet creates more expressiveness.

CONCLUSIONS

Summarizing the opinion on the question of the position of the adjective-epithet in French, it can be said that there are no adjectives that have a specific place. It all depends on the function of the meaning taken in a given context. The ability of the adjective to occupy both positions is a characteristic of the French language, and it is often used for stylistic purposes. This is primarily related to the artistic style, and writers have great opportunities in choosing the position of the epithet to create an aesthetic effect on the reader.

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