

Deutsche Adjektive mit Subjektsätzen: Eine Klassifikation

The aim of the paper will be to present results of a corpus-based study on the connectivity (*Kombinierbarkeit*) of selected German adjectives with subject clauses. The study has been based to a large extent on the analysis of the connectivity of German and Polish verbs with subject clauses, carried out by Taborek (2008). The original scope of the research has been expanded by including complex predicates.

The definitions of critical concepts, such as connectivity, adjective, subject clause etc., have been based on German linguistic research tradition, including DUDEN (2005), Helbig – Buscha (2005), and the study by Taborek (2008).

For the purpose of the study, the traditional definition of a predicate has been used (cf. DUDEN 2005, Helbig – Buscha 2005). Of all complex predicates, only those including a lexical predicate element (*lexikalischer Prädikatsteil*) expressed by an adjective have been analyzed. For the purpose of simplification, the term “connectivity of adjectives” will be used, understood as the connectivity of the whole predicate (adjective + copula verb).

A list of 249 verbs compiled by Taborek (2008: 213-216) has served as the starting point for this study. The focus has been on adjectives derived from or related to the verbs extracted from the list. The connectivity of the adjectives has been investigated with use of COSMAS II Corpora of the Institute of German Language (IDS) in Mannheim. In some cases, when no or few examples have been found in the corpus, a given structure has also been searched for on the Internet with use of Google (*Web as Corpus* approach, cf. Bergh et al. 2008: 309). In total, ninety adjectives have been classified depending on what types of subject clauses they can be combined with.

In the paper, the classification will be presented in brief, followed by the most interesting results and observations regarding e.g. the meaning of adjectives included in some categories and the comparison with the connectivity of verbs as described by Taborek (2008). The paper will also briefly discuss ideas for further research and practical implications of the results, e.g. in the field of German language teaching and lexicography.

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