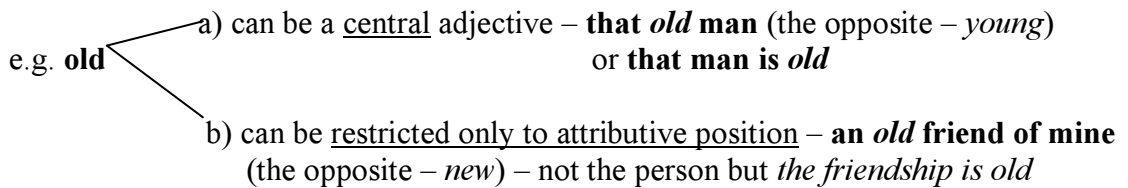**SEMINAR 11B – ADJECTIVES and ADVERBS 2 (SGEL 7.17 – 7.26)**
(Chalker: no exercises; GRAMMAR I: Adjectives – ex. 50 – 68, Adverbs – ex. 176 -203)

SYNTACTIC SUBCLASSIFICATION OF ADJECTIVES

I. ATTRIBUTIVE ONLY

 - in general, adjectives that are **restricted to attributive position** (or that occur predominantly in attributive position) **do not characterize the referent of the noun directly (see b)**

> a) can be a <u>central</u> adjective – **that *old* man** (the opposite – *young*)
>
> e.g. **old**   or **that man is *old***
>
> b) can be <u>restricted only to attributive position</u> – **an *old* friend of mine**
> (the opposite – *new*) – not the person but *the friendship is old*

↓

a)   adjectives that characterize the referent of the noun directly are termed **INHERENT**

b)   adjectives that do not characterize it directly are termed **NONINHERENT**

Intensifying adjectives

-   some adjectives have **a heightening effect** on the noun they modify, or the reverse – **a lowering effect**

-   we can distinguish three main semantic subclasses:
    a) <u>emphasizers</u>
    b) <u>amplifiers</u>
    c) <u>downtoners</u>

    ↓
     a) <u>emphasizers</u> – have a general heightening effect and are generally attributive only:

> e.g. a *true* scholar   a *sure* sign
> a *clear* failure   the *simple* truth
> a *certain* (= *sure*) winner   *pure* fabrication, nonsense
> *plain* nonsense   *sheer* madness
> *sheer* arrogance, nonsense
> *utter* nonsense

> Also '*very*' is used as an adjective in fixed expressions like:
> the *very* end
> the *very* limit
> the *very* thing I wanted

b) <u>amplifiers</u> – scale upwards from an assumed norm, and are **central** adjectives <u>if they</u> <u>are inherent and denote a high or extreme degree</u>

  e.g. a *complete* victory v. The victory was *complete*.
    great destruction v. The destruction was *great*.

  - <u>when they are noninherent, amplifiers are attributive only</u>
  e.g. a *complete* fool but not! The fool was ~~complete~~.
    a *firm* friend   but not! The friend is ~~firm~~.
    a *close* friend
    an *extreme* enemy
    a *great* supporter

  Compare:
    total nonsense – not! The nonsense was ~~total~~. = emphasizer
    total destruction or The destruction was *total*. = amplifier
    (= destruction of everything)

c) <u>downtoners</u> – have a lowering effect, usually scaling downwards from an assumed norm. They are relatively few (*slight, feeble*), generally they are central adjectives

  e.g. a *slight* effort
    a *feeble* joke

Restrictive adjectives
- restrict the reference of the noun exclusively, particularly or chiefly

  e.g. a *certain* person (=particular) x a *certain* winner (sure) – intensifier!
    a *particular* child
    the *same* student
    the *only* occasion
    the *chief* excuse, complaint
    my *main* concern
    the *exact* answer
    the *sole* argument, my *sole* interest
    the *specific* point
    the *principal* reason
    the *present* chairman
    the *late* president / her *late* husband (= a person no longer alive, it is used only
                   before a noun in this meaning)

Adjectives related to adverbs
- some noninherent adjectives that are only attributive can be related to adverbs, even though they are not intensifying or restrictive
  e.g. my *former* friend (= formerly my friend)
    past students (= students in the past)
    a *possible* friend (= possibly a friend)
    the *present* king (= the king at present)
    an *occasional* visitor (= occasionally a visitor)

Compare:
    the *late* **president** (=a person who was formerly the president and now is dead) – <u>attributive only</u>
  v. **the** *late* **bus –** <u>a central adjective</u>

- if the adjectives premodify agentive nouns, the noun suggests a relationship to an associated verb:
  - e.g. *a big eater* (=someone who eats a lot)
    - *a clever liar* (= someone who lies cleverly)
    - *a hard worker* (= someone who works hard)
    - *a heavy smoker* (= someone who smokes heavily)
    - *a sound sleeper* (=someone who sleeps soundly)
    - *a fast car* (= a car that can go fast)
    - *a fast road* (=a road on which one can drive fast)

Adjectives related to nouns

- adjectives derived from nouns (=denominal adj.) by means of *suffixes* <u>tend to be restricted to attributive position</u>
  - e.g. an *atomic* scientist
    - a *criminal* court (= a court dealing with crime)
    - a *polar* bear (= a bear living near the pole)
    - a *medical* school (= a school for students of medicine)
    - *musical* comedy (=a comedy accompanied by music)
    - a *tidal* wave (=a wave produced by the tide)

II. PREDICATIVE ONLY

- adjectives that are restricted, or virtually restricted, to <u>predicative position</u> are most like verbs and adverbs
- they tend to refer to a (possibly temporary) condition rather than a characteristic
- the most common are those referring to the health (or lack of health) of an animate being
  - e.g. He felt *ill* / poorly.
    - He was *ill*.   *But not in the attributive use: ~~The ill man~~ …. (= *the sick man*)

    - On the other hand, the attributive use <u>is possible</u> with a change of meaning of the word *ill*, e.g. *'ill health', 'ill humour'* (=*bad*)!

- the adjectives restricted to predicative position also comprise those which can take complementation:

  - e.g. *able* (to+inf)   *fond* (of)
    - *afraid* (that, of, about)   *glad* (that, to)
    - *answerable* (to)   *happy* (that, to, with, about)
    - *aware* (of)   *subject* (to)
    - *conscious* (that, of)

SEMANTIC SUBCLASSIFICATION OF ADJECTIVES

a) stative v. dynamic

- adjectives are characteristically stative
- some adjectives, however, can be seen as dynamic

  e.g. stative - **tall** - it cannot be used with progressive aspect or imperative)
       dynamic – **funny** – e.g. I didn't realize he was *being funny*.

  Adjectives that can be used <u>dynamically</u>: *brave, calm, careful, cheerful, conceited, cruel, foolish, friendly, funny, good, greedy, helpful, jealous, naughty, noisy, stupid, tidy, witty*

b) gradable v. nongradable (ungradable)

  - most adjectives are gradable, i.e. they can take comparisons and can be modified by intensifiers
  e.g. tall   tall*er*   tall*est*
        beautiful   *more* beautiful   *most* beautiful
        very tall   (but not: ~~very impossible~~- nongradable)
        so beautiful
        extremely useful

  -   all dynamic and most stative adjectives are gradable
  -   some <u>stative adjectives + denominal adj. are nongradable</u> – e.g. an *atomic* scientist, *hydrochloric* acid) + adjectives denoting provenance (*British*)

Gradability also influences what kind of **adverbs** we may use to modify adjectives:

1) gradable adjectives – e.g. *angry, big, busy, quiet, rich, strong, important*, etc. – can go with the following adverbs (although not all the adverbs given go with all the adjectives given):
   extremely, deeply, fairly, hugely, immensely, pretty (inf.), rather, really, reasonably, slightly, very

2) nongradable adjectives – e.g. *amazed, awful, terrible, furious, huge, impossible, wonderful*, etc. – can go with these adverbs:
   absolutely, completely, entirely, pretty, really, simply, totally, utterly* but not:** ~~very***~~

   !!note: ***really*** and ***pretty*** are <u>universal</u> – **they can go with both types of adj.**

c) inherent v. noninherent

  - most adjectives are inherent
    e.g. **a *wooden* cross** (the adj. applies to the referent of the object **directly** - material)

    but! **a *wooden* actor** – noninherent – the actor is not made of wood, we describe his acting

    other examples:

inherent	*noninherent*
a *firm* handshake	a *firm* friend
a *perfect* alibi	a *perfect* stranger
a *certain* result	a *certain* winner
a *true* report	a *true* scholar

Ordering of adjectives in premodification

- adjectives are placed between the determiners and the head of the noun phrase, we can distinguish four zones:

    a) <u>pre-central</u> (after determiners) – peripheral, nongradable adjectives, esp. intensifying adj., e.g. *certain, definite, sheer, complete, slight*

    b) <u>central</u> – e.g. *hungry, ugly, funny, stupid, silent, rich, empty*

    c) <u>post-central</u> – participles – e.g. *retired, sleeping, + colours*

    d) <u>pre-head</u> – denominal adjectives denoting nationality, ethnic background (*Austrian*), and denominal adjectives with the meaning of consisting, involving, relating to, e.g. *experimental, statistical, political*

The usual order of adjectives in attributive position

quality (opinion)	size	age	shape	colour	origin	participle or material	classification	NOUN
beautiful	*big*	*new*	*round*	*brown*	*Spanish*	*wooden*		table
	small			*black*		*plastic*		bag
		old		*white*		*cotton*		shirt
nice		*new*		*white*		*leather*	*dancing*	shoes
				green			*wine*	bottle
	enormous			*brown*	*German*	*glass*		mug

Note:
- the more particular the quality, the closer the adjective is to the noun

- adjectives of <u>size</u> and <u>length</u> usually go before adjectives of <u>shape</u> and <u>width</u>

    e.g. a *tall thin* girl
        a *long narrow* street
        a *large round* table

- when there are two or more colours , adj., we use 'and'

    e.g. a *black and white* sweater
        a *red, white and green* flag