

# Frame-Based Adjectives: A Proposal for the Third Type of Adjective

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In some A-N expressions, although the adjectives are apparently the same as predicating adjectives, they behave like non-predicating adjectives such as *sick room*, *bright tastes*, *sad cigarette*. This study focuses on such A-N expressions and argues that the relevant non-predicating adjectives can be characterised as 'Frame-Based Adjectives' (hereafter, FAs). In relation to the subsequent nouns, FAs are metonymically interpreted based on our frame knowledge (cf. *Frame Semantics* (Fillmore (1982))).

Generally, when an adjective is combined with a noun, the adjective can be divided into the following two types: *predicating* or *non-predicating* (Levi (1978); cf. Sullivan (2013)). Predicating adjectives are characterised as being modified by degree adverbs (e.g., *very*, *somewhat*) and describing the properties of the referent of the noun, i.e., *referent-modification* (Bolinger (1967: 20-23)); e.g., *a very young lady*, *a lady who is young*. Non-predicating adjectives, by contrast, cannot be modified by degree adverbs (e.g., *\*a very industrial output*) and do not predicate (e.g., *\*the output is industrial*) (Bisetto (2010: 66)), but rather classify or identify a specific type of noun, i.e., *reference-modification* (Bolinger (1967: 14-20)); e.g., *digital/mechanical output*. From a cognitive-semantic point of view, Sullivan (2013) analyses A-N metaphoric expressions and differently calls the non-predicating adjectives 'domain adjectives', which elaborate on a type of the noun and directly identify the conceptual domain by their classifying function (e.g., *mental exercise*, *spiritual wealth*). There are in fact some A-N expressions that do not attribute to none of these two types (i.e., predicating-Adj. and domain-Adj.).

For example, the A-N *sick room* does not literally indicate that *the room* itself is *sick* (*??a very sick room*; *??the room is sick*), but rather it is *a room for the sick*; i.e., *sick* metonymically means *sick people*. In this sense, the adjective *sick* classifies a type of *room* (cf. *living room*, *dining room*). However, we cannot decide whether such adjectives are predicating or non-predicating because of their morpho-syntactically and semantically idiosyncratic behaviour. In addition to Sullivan's (2013) two types of adjectives, I claim FAs as the third type of adjective to deal with this issue.

I will demonstrate the notion of FAs for the following A-N expressions: synaesthetic expressions (e.g., *bright tastes*, *loud colours*), transferred epithets (e.g., *sad cigarette*, *sleeping car*), or other general A-N phrases (e.g., *deep learning*, *weak generativist*, *strong lexicalist*). I will further contend that the nature of adjectives, i.e., *conceptually dependent elements* (Langacker (1987)) can be maintained. I claim that adjectives which are not semantically self-contained or identified in relation to the subsequent nouns, tend to be more dependent upon our frame knowledge or the relevant context. In other words, we metonymically construe the meaning of A-N expressions when they represent such a semantically incongruous modification, as vigorously argued by Ishida (2018). Some A-N expressions like *sick room* are however context-freely interpreted because they are conventionalised (i.e., lexicalisation) (e.g., *hard disk*, *yellow pages*; cf. Bauer (2003: 135), Booij (2002: 314)). These phrases are already established as a compound by the effect of metonymy, as Brdar (2017) and Bauer (2018) strongly argue.

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