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COMPARATIVE FORMATION IN MONOSYLLABIC ADJECTIVES

Abstract: The system of comparative and superlative formation in English relies on both synthetic (i.e., inflectional) and analytic (i.e., periphrastic) means. Numerous studies have analyzed how a wide repertoire of linguistic and extra-linguistic factors impacts the choice of a comparison strategy (e.g. Leech, Culpeper 1997; Lindquist 2000; Mondorf 2009; Gonzalez-Diaz 2009). However, with a few exceptions, they focus solely on disyllabic adjectives that manifest more diversity in terms of the preferred comparison strategy. Since monosyllabic adjectives are considered more stable, they have been rarely subjected to such studies (e.g. Smeds 2007). This paper aims to revisit comparative formation strategies in monosyllabic adjectives and does so by analyzing the prevalence of both comparison strategies in 192 different lexemes. Drawing on techniques familiar from quantitative morphological typology (Greenberg 1960; Szmrecsanyi 2012, 2016), the analysis uses syntheticity and analyticity indices as the main indicators of frequency of both free (*more*) and bound (*-er*) comparative morphemes. The quantitative data are retrieved from the *Corpus of Contemporary American English*. The results will demonstrate that monosyllabic adjectives are not a uniform class. The attributed feature of being inclined toward synthetic comparison does not apply to all members of this class, or at least not to the expected level.

Keywords: synthetic comparison, analytic comparison, disyllabic adjectives, American English.

1. INTRODUCTION

The system of comparative and superlative formation in English relies on both synthetic (inflectional) and analytic (periphrastic) means:

Synthetic comparison		*Analytic comparison*	
comparative	superlative	comparative	superlative
*green**er***	*green**est***	***more** green*	***most** green*

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Comparatives and superlatives are formed synthetically by attaching inflectional suffixes (bound morphemes) to positives: *-er* and *-est*, respectively. Analytic comparatives and superlatives are lexical coinages of two constituents: *more*/*most* (free morphemes) + ADJ/ADV in its positive form.

The division of labor between synthetic and analytic comparison has been studied extensively during the last three decades. Hence, a substantial stock of findings has been accumulated for contemporary English (cf. Leech, Culpeper 1997; Lindquist 2000; Mondorf 2000, 2006, 2009; Smeds 2007; Gonzalez-Diaz 2009, etc.). The former studies focused on detecting a multitude of phonological, morphological, syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic features whose presence is assumed to favor one comparison strategy over the other. They predominantly focus on disyllabic adjectives since they exhibit more diversity in terms of comparison strategy. For instance, disyllabic adjectives ending in *-y* have a strong tendency towards synthetic comparison (Leech, Culpeper 1997; Lindquist 2002; Mondorf 2009; Gonzalez-Diaz 2009). In addition, only a few authors have noted that adjectives ending in *-ly* (e.g. *early*, *friendly*, *lovely*, *ugly*) are exceptions since they exhibit stronger tendencies towards analytic comparison (Lindquist 2000; Park, Jeon 2011; Josijević 2023). These findings clearly demonstrate that adjectives ending in *-y* are not a uniform class. Monosyllabic adjectives, generally considered stable with synthetic comparison forms, were generally not included in such analyses, and even when they were, only a small proportion of them was subjected to analyses (see Smeds 2007). Thus, the trends in comparison remain unknown for the majority of monosyllabic adjectives.

This analysis is conducted on an extended sample comprising the 190 most frequent monosyllabic adjectives in comparison. The paper will provide an extensive overview of the quantitative data on the prominence of synthetic forms versus their periphrastic equivalents for each adjective under investigation. The analysis focuses solely on American English.

2. LITERATURE REVIEWS

The current literature on the use of synthetic and periphrastic comparison is predominantly dedicated to the synchronic aspects of the dichotomy, i.e. the focus is on identifying the linguistic indicators favoring the use of one as opposed to the other type of comparison strategy (cf. Kytö, Romaine 1997; Leech, Culpeper 1997; Lindquist 2000; Smeds 2007; Gonzalez-Diaz 2009; Park, Jeon 2011). In the early 2000s, the novel observations about the simultaneous effects of all the factors involved in this complex interaction resulted in a whole series of multivariate statistical analyses (cf. Mondorf 2003; Hilpert 2008; Mondorf 2009; Scrivner 2010; Mondorf 2014; Cheung, Zhang 2016). Namely, all the factors suspected to have an influence in this matter are operating concurrently at any given occa-

sion. Thus, their effects are interrelated. These analyses have detected a whole set of phonological, morphological, syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic features that favor synthetic doublets over analytic ones, and vice versa. Some of their findings are consistent, while others contradict.

Phonological features have been most frequently analyzed. Five phonological aspects have been explored in the current literature in relation to a preferred comparison strategy: (1) a number of syllables (*Ns*), (2) word-final sounds, (3) stress, (4) haplology, and (5) a number of liquids.[1] The most relevant indicator for this study refers to the number of syllables. It is generally accepted in both grammatical and linguistic literature that a number of syllables an adjective consists of is the most relevant factor. The general rule that monosyllabic adjectives favor synthetic comparison while multisyllabic (i.e. three syllables and more) rely on analytic means has only a handful of exceptions. For instance, monosyllabic adjectives prefer synthetic comparison, with *right*, *wrong*, and *real* highlighted as exceptions to this general rule (Zandvort 1975: 190; Quirk et al. 1985: 462; Eastwood 2002: 280; Downing, Locke 2006: 485). The examples provided below are retrieved from the COCA:

> Some customers are *more right* than others.
> Never has a man been in a *more wrong* place at a *more wrong* time.
> His dream was *more real* than the world now gazing upon him. (COCA)

As evident from the examples given above, periphrastic forms *more right*, *more wrong*, and *more real* are used (instead of **righter/*rightest*, **wronger/*wrongest*, and **realer/*realest*). Palmer et al. (2002: 1583) also classify the adjectives such as *cross*, *fake*, *ill*, *loath*, *prime*, and *worth*. L. Bauer et al. (2015: 111) detect the synthetic forms of all these adjectives (except *loath* and *worth*). The examples from the corpus selected for this analysis testify to this:

> Day's old change of overbossing, however, brings a quicker and *crosser* memory. Mr Lyon, this is Kit Westbrook, my oldest and apparently *crossest* friend. Reality shows are often *faker* than regular shows. San Francisco is the *fakest*, wanna-be artsy town in the universe. Do you suppose she is right? Or might she be *iller* than she realizes? I just wanna be *the illest* MC. *Primer* than Prime Time? The reality shows are going to get some of the *primest* spots on the prime-time schedule. (COCA)

We must note that synthetic forms of the target adjectives are used here for stylistic purposes. For instance, in the first sentence, two comparative forms are *and*-coordinated: *quicker* and *crosser*. The use of the synthetic form *crosser* can be seen as an attempt to mimic the synthetic form *quicker*. Finally, one group of

[1] This paper shall note focus on all linguistic and extra-linguistic indicators analyzed in the contemporary literature since all studies have been conducted on disyllabic adjectives. A brief review is presented in Josijević (2023).

monosyllabic adjectives is detected in both synthetic and periphrastic forms: *clear*, *free*, *keen*, *safe*, *sure*, *true*, *wise* (Eastwood 2002: 280):

> Natural gas is 50 percent *cleaner* than coal. She was *freer* than her daughter, louder and more assertive […]. Their night vision was *keener* than hers. This is a lot *safer* than the real stuff. It made him sound even *surer* than he would have otherwise. Not even true in the way fiction is *truer* than truth. He was stronger and *wiser* than he looked. (COCA)

> I might find something that was *more clean* and more beautiful underneath. In July 1993, members of the press felt *more free* than they did prior to the political opening. In Hollywood the competition for the worst movie may be *more keen* than for the best. The world today is much *more safe* than it was a few years ago. I was *more sure* than ever that this was the thing to do […]. One was *more wise* than the other. (COCA)

L. Bauer et al. (2015: 111) document a multitude of monosyllabic adjectives in analytic comparative forms: *more brave*, *more bad*, *more grave*, *more smart*, *more weird*, etc. It remains ambiguous whether these examples prove the instability of synthetic comparison with this class of adjectives or whether these are just random instances motivated by stylistic factors.

In conclusion, it seems that monosyllabic adjectives are more prone to periphrastic comparison than the current grammatical literature claims.

3. METHODOLOGICAL PRELIMINARIES

Since the comparison trends of most monosyllabic adjectives have not been analyzed yet, this analysis strives to fill this gap in the current literature. The goal is to expand the current stock of findings about how comparison strategies are used in monosyllabic adjectives.

The quantitative data were obtained from the *Corpus of Contemporary American English* (COCA) for detecting more than 250 most frequent monosyllabic adjectives. The corpus search was performed with the following tags, where X stands for every adjective subjected to our analysis:

(1) X-er_jjr
(2) more X_ADJ

After eliminating the adjectives with the total number of (synthetic and analytic) comparatives not amounting to 30, only 190 qualified for further statistical analysis. In other words, 60 monosyllabic adjectives were eliminated since the sums of their absolute frequencies of synthetic and analytic comparatives are less than 30, which is here considered an insufficient sample for any reliable statistical analysis.

This analysis uses the quantitative methodology introduced by B. Szmrecsanyi (2012, 2016). The calculations are performed on *syntheticity* and *analyticity indices* (SI and AI). A syntheticity index is a relative frequency of a free morpheme, and an analyticity index is a relative frequency of a bound morpheme. We opted for these indices because they allow comparisons with the data obtained from other corpora and can thus be used in future studies. In addition, the indices are not observed independently. In order to avoid the possibility that the observed trends for both comparison strategies are the reflection of an adjective's overall tendency in comparison in general, we shall observe the probabilities of occurrence of one comparison strategy with respect to the other. In other words, we will calculate the probabilities of occurrence of synthetic forms with respect to analytic ones and vice versa. These probabilities are calculated by using the following formulae:

$$p_s = \frac{\mu_s}{\mu_s + \mu_a},$$

$$p_a = \frac{\mu_a}{\mu_s + \mu_a},$$

where p_s and p_a stand for the probabilities of occurrence of synthetic forms (p_s) and analytic ones (p_a), while μ_s and μ_a are their relative frequencies, respectively.

4. RESULTS

In this section, we shall present a general overview of the p_s and p_a values obtained for 190 adjectives. Based on the evaluated ratio of synthetic and analytic comparatives, the adjectives are divided into seven subgroups according to the following scale:

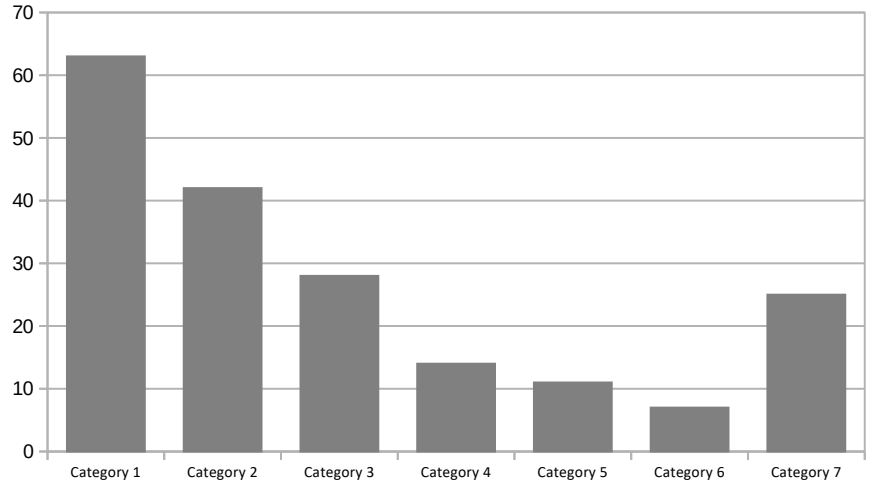
Table 1. Classification criteria

Range limit	*Adjective groups*
> 95%	(1) Synthetic comparison
80% < p_s ≤ 95%	(2) Prevalence of synthetic forms
60% < p_s ≤ 80%	(3) Moderately higher ratio of synthetic forms
40% < p_s ≤ 60%	(4) Equal share
20% < p_s ≤ 40%	(5) Moderately higher ratio of analytic forms
5% < p_s ≤ 20%	(6) Prevalence of analytic forms
0% ≤ p_s ≤ 5%	(7) Analytic comparison

If any member of the pair (synthetic and analytic comparative) is present in only 0–5%, its presence is neglected here. In other words, if analytic forms have a share of less than 5%, we shall consider that an adjective has a synthetic comparison only, and vice versa. The main reason for this adjustment is that there is always a possibility that some examples are even mere mistakes.

The distribution of monosyllabic adjectives across these seven categories can be presented graphically as follows:

Figure 1. Distribution of frequency classes



Synthetic comparison. Based on the predetermined criteria and the results obtained through this analysis, 63 monosyllabic adjectives have an absolute tendency toward the bound morpheme only. In order of syntheticity indices, these adjectives include:

> *far*, *low*, *large*, *late*, *old*, *high*, *tall*, *fast*, *strong*, *cheap*, *loud*, *wide*, *great*, *small*, *tight*, *weak*, *broad*, *close*, *good*, *thin*, *long*, *thick*, *short*, *smart*, *big*, *deep*, *slow*, *steep*, *warm*, *tough*, *nice*, *bad*, *hard*, *sharp*, *young*, *bright*, *soft*, *dark*, *smooth*, *dim*, *stiff*, *slim*, *wise*, *rich*, *fine*, *far*, *clean*, *cool*, *safe*, *cold*, *faint*, *poor*, *wild*, *lean*, *strange*, *dumb*, *mean*, *flat*, *sweet*, *loose*, *slight*, *mild*, *brave.*

No analytic form is detected for *far*. In all other cases, the ratio of periphrastic comparatives was less than 5%. This share is inconsiderable; therefore, we can consider that the inflectional comparative forms are stable within this group. It appears that these adjectives are not prone to the analytic tendencies affecting the adjectival paradigm.

The prevalence of synthetic forms (80% < p_s < 95%) is detected in 42 monosyllabic adjective. The p_s and p_a values obtained through our analysis are presented in the table below (Table 2):

Table 2. Adjectives with 80% < p_s < 95%

ADJ	p_s	ADJ	p_s	ADJ	p_s	ADJ	p_s	ADJ	p_s	ADJ	ps
slick	0.9486	***sleek***	0.9486	***busy***	0.9467	***harsh***	0.9428	***near***	0.9413	***rough***	0.9407
quick	0.9381	***cute***	0.9374	***dry***	0.9372	***swift***	0.9363	***hot***	0.9352	***dull***	0.9345
pale	0.9333	***firm***	0.9329	***bald***	0.9291	***brief***	0.9288	***damp***	0.9277	***grand***	0.9273
crisp	0.9241	***neat***	0.9225	***weird***	0.9191	***strict***	0.9149	***new***	0.9141	***bold***	0.9107
full	0.9069	***sick***	0.9045	***kind***	0.9005	***wet***	0.9004	***calm***	0.8873	***grave***	0.8833
light	0.8801	***ripe***	0.8771	***brown***	0.8712	***green***	0.8690	***sad***	0.8620	***bleak***	0.8566
clear	0.8493	***tiny***	0.8374	***keen***	0.8363	***dense***	0.8318	***fresh***	0.8276	***mad***	0.8239

The share of analytic forms within this category ranges from 5–20%. Less than 10% of free morphemes are recorded for 29 adjectives. For 13 adjectives, that ratio ranges from 10–20%. These results indicate that inflectional forms are stable in a little above half of the analyzed adjectives. Even with *mad*, which ranks as the last adjective in this category, synthetic forms are four times more frequent than analytic ones.

Moderately higher ratio of synthetic forms (60% < ps < 80%) is detected in 28 monosyllabic adjectives. The ratio of analytic forms ranges from 20.2–38.5%. The following table presents the values of p_s and p_a obtained through our calculations (Table 3):

Table 3. Adjectives with 60% < p_s ≤ 80%

ADJ	p_s	p_a	ADJ	p_s	p_a	ADJ	p_s	p_a
fond	0.8	0.2	***rude***	0.7862	0.2138	***pure***	0.7854	0.2146
gross	0.7744	0.2256	***old***	0.7613	0.2387	***rare***	0.758	0.242
sane	0.7568	0.2432	***vast***	0.7536	0.2464	***lame***	0.75	0.25
grim	0.7484	0.2516	***fierce***	0.7464	0.2536	***cross***	0.7308	0.2692
blond(e)	0.7267	0.2733	***moist***	0.7133	0.2867	***fair***	0.7	0.3
round	0.6783	0.3217	***dear***	0.6758	0.3242	***huge***	0.67	0.33
queer	0.6667	0.3333	***blue***	0.6467	0.3533	***bare***	0.6441	0.3559
gray	0.6282	0.3718	***fat***	0.6223	0.3777	***scarce***	0.6212	0.3788
sore	0.617	0.383	***stark***	0.6159	0.3841	***white***	0.6147	0.3853
free	0.6071	0.3929						

The ratio of periphrastic forms ranges from 20–30% for 14 monosyllabic adjectives: *fond*, *rude*, *pure*, *gross*, *old*, *rare*, *sane*, *vast*, *lame*, *grim*, *fierce*, *cross*,

blond/blonde, *moist*, and *fair*. Analytic forms participate with 30–39.3% in 13 monosyllabic adjectives: *round*, *dear*, *huge*, *queer*, *blue*, *bare*, *gray*, *fat*, *scarce*, *sore*, *stark*, *white*, and *free*. Even though a proportion of inflectional forms is higher, we can conclude that synthetic forms are quite unstable. In all cases, the synthetic forms are more than twice as frequent as analytic forms.

Equal share of synthetic and analytic forms ($40\% < p_s < 60\%$) is detected in fourteen monosyllabic adjectives. The p_s values range from 41.4%–50% in *sorry*, *picky*, *gutsy*, *iffy*, and *homely.* The absolutely equal distribution (50%) is recorded for *chatty*, *smoggy* and *thrifty.* Finally, the share of analytic comparatives in *weary*, *choosy* and *petty* surpasses 50%. The results obtained for these adjectives are presented in the following table (Table 4):

Table 4. Adjectives with $40\% < p_s \leq 60\%$

ADJ	p_s	p_a	ADJ	p_s	p_a	ADJ	p_s	p_a
true	0.5984	0.4016	***red***	0.5884	0.4116	***sound***	0.5767	0.4233
blind	0.5728	0.4272	***proud***	0.527	0.473	***lush***	0.5263	0.4737
flash	0.5224	0.4776	***sure***	0.5159	0.4841	***shy***	0.505	0.495
fit	0.4887	0.5113	***loath***	0.4667	0.5333	***foul***	0.4643	0.5357
main	0.4468	0.5531	***gay***	0.4393	0.5617			

In nine monosyllabic adjectives, the ratio of synthetic forms surpasses 50%: *true*, *red*, *sound*, *blind*, *proud*, *lush*, *flash*, *sure*, and *shy*. The remaining five adjectives have more than 50% of analytic forms: *fit*, *loath*, *foul*, *main*, and *gay*.

Moderately higher ratio of analytic forms ($20\% < p_s < 40\%$) is found in eleven adjectives: *vague*, *grey*, *sheer*, *black*, *blunt*, *dead*, *sour*, *raw*, *frank*, *tense*, and *still*. The share of synthetic forms within this group ranges from 22.7% (*still*) to 39.1% (*vague*). The results obtained for p_s and p_a are presented below (Table 5):

Table 5. Adjectives with $20\% < p_s \leq 40\%$

ADJ	p_s	p_a	ADJ	p_s	p_a
vague	0.3913	0.6097	***grey***	0.3462	0.6538
sheer	0.3438	0.6562	***black***	0.341	0.659
blunt	0.311	0.689	***dead***	0.3043	0.6957
sour	0.2979	0.9021	***raw***	0.2694	0.7306
frank	0.2568	0.7432	***tense***	0.2434	0.7566
still	0.2269	0.7731			

Apparently, in seven adjectives from this category, the analytic forms (*more blunt*, *more dead*, *more sour*, *more raw*, *more frank*, *more tense*, and *more still*) are 2.0 to almost 3.5 times more frequent than the synthetic ones: *blunter*, *deader*, *sourer*, *rawer*, *franker*, *tenser*, and *stiller*.

Prevalence of analytic forms ($5\% < p_s < 20\%$) is detected in seven adjectives only. They include: *ill*, *past*, *square*, *apt*, *wrong*, *able*, and *right*. The ratio of synthetic forms (*iller – paster – squarer – apter – wronger – abler – righter*) ranges from 5.7% (*righter*) to 19.2% (*iller*). On the other hand, analytic comparatives (*more ill – more past – more square – more apt – more wrong – more able – more right*) participate with 88.8–93.5% (Table 6).

Table 6. Adjectives with $5\% < p_s \leq 20\%$

ADJ	p_s	p_a	ADJ	p_s	p_a	ADJ	p_s	p_a
ill	0.1918	0.8092	***past***	0.1887	0.8113	***square***	0.1613	0.8387
apt	0.1065	0.8935	***wrong***	0.0986	0.9014	***able***	0.058	0.942
right	0.057	0.043						

As evident, in three adjectives (*wrong*, *able*, *right*), the proportion of analytic forms surpasses 90%.

Analytic comparison can be attributed to 25 adjectives whose synthetic forms contribute less than 5% to the total number of comparatives:

real, *left*, *just*, *hurt*, *key*, *fun*, *male*, *lost*, *back*, *damn*, *epic*, *extra*, *fake*, *glad*, *gold*, *live*, *mass*, *off*, *only*, *open*, *prime*, *pro*, *prone*, *star*, *worth.*

The presence of synthetic forms is inconsiderable in all these adjectives and can be neglected. We must always bear in mind the possibility of stylistic motivation for using a form, word plays, but also mere errors present in the texts included in the electronic corpus.

5. DISCUSSION

The current literature focuses on the scarcity of monosyllabic adjectives that do not use synthetic comparative forms: *right*, *wrong*, and *real* (Zandvort 1975: 190; Quirk et al. 1985: 462; Eastwood 2002: 280; Downing, Locke 2006: 485; Bauer 2015: 111) and *fake*, *ill*, *loath*, *prime*, and *worth* (Palmer et al. 2002: 1583; Bauer 2015: 111). This paper lists 32 such adjectives.

Certain groups of adjectives have been recorded with both synthetic and analytic forms: *clear*, *free*, *keen*, *safe*, *sure*, *true*, *wise* (Eastwood 2002: 280). Our findings indicate that 53 monosyllabic adjectives are used in both synthetic and analytic forms, with one being more or less predominant.

L. Bauer et al. (2015: 111) list a multitude of monosyllabic adjectives detected with analytic comparative forms: *more brave*, *more bad*, *more grave*, *more smart*, *more weird*, etc. All adjectives are stable with their synthetic forms (> 90%),

with the exception of *grave* (88.33%). We shall note that the competing synthetic and analytic forms are frequently used for stylistic purposes and wordplay.

6. CONCLUDING REMARKS

The main goal of this analysis was to revisit the comparative formation strategies in monosyllabic adjectives. Only a small proportion of disyllabic adjectives have been subjected to such analysis. By rule, the emphasis was on investigating the indicators favoring one comparison strategy over the other through statistical analyses rather than on descriptive aspects, so more frequently than not, the samples of the adjectives included were restricted to smaller groups of adjectives. In addition, more frequently than not, the trends for separate adjectives have not been included. Monosyllabic adjectives, generally considered stable with their synthetic forms, have not been subjected to extensive analyses.

In this paper, the comparison strategies in 192 monosyllabic adjectives have been presented. Comparison is a very frequent linguistic phenomenon and thus deserves more thorough analyses that would change the focus from group tendencies to each specimen of each class. Namely, there are clear indications that class membership is not a reliable indicator of an adjective's preference toward one comparison strategy over the other. Our analysis proves the hypothesis. Although 105 monosyllabic adjectives in this sample are stable with their synthetic forms, there are 53 adjectives with more or less equal participation of analytic and synthetic forms.

The generalizations about monosyllabic adjectives favoring synthetic comparison should be revised. Among 192 adjectives analyzed here, 32 appear to be stable with their analytic forms. Finally, 44% of monosyllabic adjectives in this sample (including those that favor analytic comparison and those that favor both strategies equally) challenge the grammatical rules that monosyllabic adjectives predominantly rely on inflection to form comparatives and superlatives. The trends observed here prove that there is a significant group of adjectives for which this rule does not apply. And these exceptions to the general rule are equally important and frequent enough that they cannot be neglected. Consequently, it is crucial to analyze as many adjectives as possible and investigate the trends in comparison for each.

The preference for a comparison strategy for each adjective can result from various factors, most probably its phonological structure. The frequency of comparative forms might also prove relevant. However, it is equally possible that, at least in some cases, these preferences toward one comparison strategy are arbitrary. Hence, a detailed statistical analysis on the impact of phonological structure and frequency of use with the same sample should be conducted in the future.

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КОМПАРАТИВ МОНОСИЛАБИЧНИХ ПРИДЕВА

Резиме: У енглеском језику компаративи и суперлативи се творе синтетички (тј. флективно) и аналитички (тј. перифрастички). У бројним студијама анализиран је широк репертоар лингвистичких фактора који утичу на избор типа компарације (нпр. Лич, Калпепер 1997; Линдквист 2000; Мондорф 2009; Гонзалес-Дијаз 2009). Међутим, оне се по правилу фокусирају на дисилабичне придеве који испољавају већу разноликост у погледу вида компарације који је својствен одређеним подгрупама ове класе. Како се моносилабични придеви углавном сматрају стабилним, они су ређе бивали предмет оваквих анализа (нпр. Смедс 2007). Овај рад анализира тенденције ка синтетичкој и аналитичкој компарацији 192 моносилабична придева. Ослањајући се на технике квантитативне морфолошке типологије (Гринберг 1960; Смречањи 2012, 2016), у анализи се користе индекси синтетичности и аналитичности као основни индикатори фреквентности слободне (*more*) и везане морфеме (*-er*) којима се творе компаративи у енглеском језику. Апсолутне фреквенције синтетичких и аналитичких облика утврђене су на основу квантитативних података из корпуса *Corpus of Contemporary American English*. Резултати показују да моносилабични придеви нису униформна класа. Синтетичка компарација која им се у досадашњој литератури приписује, уз навођење неколико изузетака, није својствена незанемарљивој групи придева који се састоје од једног слога.

Кључне речи: синтетичка компарација, аналитичка компарација, моносилабични придев, амерички варијетет енглеског језика.