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LEHECKA, T. *Interrelated lexical properties.  
English adjective imports in a Swedish newspaper  
corpus.*

### **Abstract**

The study examines the use of 133 recent (1945–1999; according to Stålhammar 2003) English adjective imports in a Swedish newspaper corpus from 1965–2004 (110 million words).

The aim of the study is twofold: (i) to describe the special character of adjective imports and their integration process in relation to other import words as described in earlier studies, and (ii) to inspect the connection between the lexical properties and preferences of adjective imports at different linguistic levels. In particular, the study examines the covariance between the morphological properties and syntactic and collocational preferences of adjective imports. The study utilizes cluster analyses and collocation analysis in order to compare the distributional properties of each adjective form.

The results show that the integration process of adjective imports is fundamentally different from that of noun imports. The formal adaptation of adjective imports takes place on the basis of morphosyntactic requirements that apply to the class of adjectives in Swedish in general. It is shown that these requirements are most

applicable to grammatical agreement in number and definiteness. The practice of adaptation co-varies with a number of the lexical properties of adjective imports: etymology, morphological form, syntactic use, collocation pattern and sociopragmatic characteristics.

The lexical properties discussed in the study are shown to be closely interrelated. Using a probabilistic syntactic analysis as a starting point, the study demonstrates that the subject complement (predicative) function is preferred for adjectives which preserve a foreign morphological form and, more generally, for adjectives which belong to an informal oral register as reflected by their collocation pattern. In turn, an informal lexical context and the subject complement predicative function exert comparatively little pressure on the formal adaptation of adjective imports. Thus, each lexical property of an adjective both reflects and enforces other properties at different linguistic levels.

Methodologically, it is shown that a quantitative analysis conducted simultaneously on a large number of lexical units gives valuable insight into both the relationship between units within a linguistic category and the relationship between different levels of linguistic analysis.

Key words: Adjectives, corpus linguistics, lexical borrowing, formal adaptation, collocation, colligation, probabilistic linguistics, grammatical agreement, import words.

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