

## THE COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH AND GERMAN ADJECTIVES

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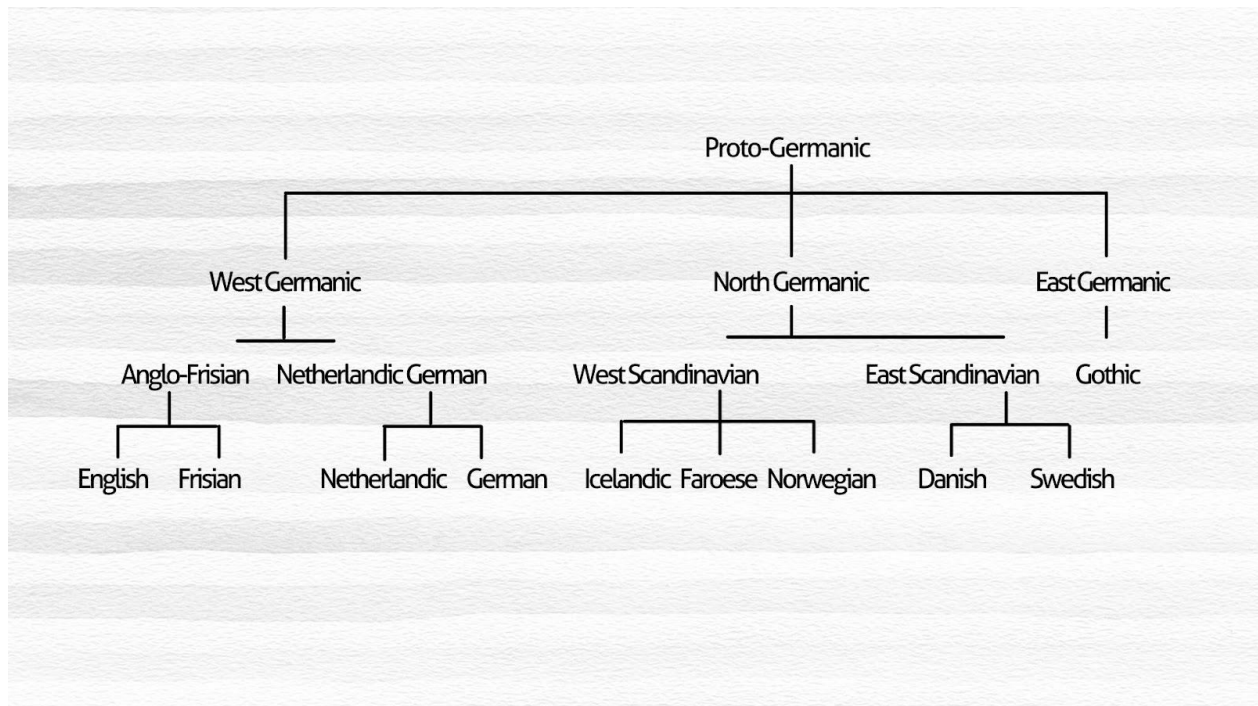
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***Abstract.** An adjective is a word that describes and gives information about the quality of nouns. They are used to let us imagine how something is. This article touches upon the topic adjectives in two Proto-Germanic languages English and German. This article provides the data about the position of adjectives in sentences, how they agree with nouns, agreeing with the case, person, singular and plural forms. Furthermore, this article looks at the origin of some adjectives in both languages, mainly the similarities, contrasts, different adjective suffixes and prefixes which build new adjectives from other parts of speech. The purpose of this study is to identify and give brief information about adjective suffixes, adjective buildings, the agreement of adjective and noun, types of adjectives*

As the Germanic languages both English and German share different features with each other. Firstly, we need to have a look at the declension of adjectives In German as it is a bit tough to understand. The declension is sometimes called as inflection is the changing of word endings so that they can agree with the case, number, genders of nouns. The speakers who use genders of nouns in their own language can perceive the adaptation of endings better than people who don't have cases or gender related notions. The adjectives take different suffixes depending before what they are coming, in which case they are used. To give a clear example, "Das gutes Kind" the adjective "gut" is the root of the word and the suffix "es" is added as it refers to the case, gender and number of noun.



***There are three types of adjective inflection in German. They are: strong, weak, mixed declension***

The strong declension, “Starke Deklination” in German, is formed when the noun has its definite article. That means like English German nouns have their articles, and they can be defined with definite or indefinite article but the thing which differs them from English counterparts, the German nouns have genders. The German nouns take three different types of gender articles depending on their group they belong to. All of the nouns are included one group of three genders: masculine, feminine, neuter. Therefore, the adjectives endings differ from each other when they are added to core of words and there are three different definite articles as well. They are “der die das die” der stands for masculine, die and das stand for feminine and neuter respectively and die is before plural nouns. Besides that there are others things which learners and speakers should pay specific attention is the case of nouns and plurality or singularity of nouns. To elucidate briefly there are three things which affect the suffixes of adjectives. They are gender, case, plurality or singularity of nouns.

As it is mentioned above German language has 4 cases. The German cases are

nominative, accusative, dative, genitive. The nominative case is similar to subjective case in English while accusative and dative are slightly similar to objective case in English, and also genitive case is used the same as possessive case in English. As you can see here However, they are formed totally in other ways compared to English cases. The reason why we are referring to cases is the adjective endings are changed in each cases differently.

How Nouns Work in a Sentence		German with Laura
Case	Role	Description
nominative	subject	takes action
accusative	direct object	receives action
dative	indirect object	to/for whom action is taken
genitive	possessive	indicates owner of someone/something

The strong declension- is the type of inflection and is formed when a noun stands without any articles. In English we always put articles before nouns if they are in singular and countable nouns, but in German nouns can stand without articles and the adjectives receive suffixes. Therefore the duty of article is conveyed with adjectives. this in cases and in singular form. As you can see this table there are all three types of inflection in each gender and cases.

<https://www.frustfrei-lernen.de/images/deutsch/adjektive-deklination-kasus.png>

However, the agreement of adjectives with nouns is significantly simple in English in comparison to German. The adjectives in English don't change their endings in Modern English before any noun or cases and even in plural form. They are used as the same as they are given in dictionaries. For example, a young boy, a young boy's, to a young boy, young boys. That is because, English nouns are used mostly without any gender. But we may face some elements of inflection in comparative and superlative degrees like er, est, quick-quicker- quickest. Yet in the

long history of English, people used to have some variations of declension mainly in Old English.

The position of adjectives is nearly the same in both languages. They come before nouns and this is the similar point of the languages, such as “Der gute Mann” and “the good man”. In both languages the adjectives are not capitalized.

<b>Kasus</b>	<b>Numerus</b>		<b>Femininum</b>
	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>	
<b>Nominativ</b>	die kleine Tasse	die kleinen Tassen	
<b>Genitiv</b>	der kleinen Tasse	der kleinen Tassen	
<b>Dativ</b>	der kleinen Tasse	den kleinen Tassen	
<b>Akkusativ</b>	die kleine Tasse	die kleinen Tassen	

<b>Kasus</b>	<b>Numerus</b>		<b>Maskulinum</b>
	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>	
<b>Nominativ</b>	der kleine Junge	die kleinen Jungen	
<b>Genitiv</b>	des kleinen Jungen	der kleinen Jungen	
<b>Dativ</b>	dem kleinen Jungen	den kleinen Jungen	
<b>Akkusativ</b>	den kleinen Jungen	die kleinen Jungen	

<b>Kasus</b>	<b>Numerus</b>		<b>Neutrum</b>
	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>	
<b>Nominativ</b>	das kleine Haus	die kleinen Häuser	
<b>Genitiv</b>	des kleinen Hauses	der kleinen Häuser	
<b>Dativ</b>	dem kleinen Haus	den kleinen Häusern	
<b>Akkusativ</b>	das kleine Haus	die kleinen Häuser	

In both languages adjectives can be formed by adding suffices to verbs, nouns, even to some adjectives.

Here are the most used German suffixes which are used to build adjectives from nouns: -sam-muhsam, -haft, lich, ig, isch, ern

Here are some which build adjectives from verbs, -bar, -sam, -isch,- ant,-an,- aus,-bei,-auf, -er, -voll,- zu,

Here are some suffixes which form adjectives from adjectives un

Here are some examples for English suffixes

From verbs to adjectives: -y, able, ous,ic, ful, ing, less

From nouns to adjectives less, y, al,ial

From adjectives to adjectives: ive, est, ish, al, ly

Formation of Adjectives from Other Adjectives:

An adjective is formed from another adjective by adding a suffix like ‘-ly’ , ‘-ive’ , ‘-al’ , ‘-ish’ , ‘-ier’ , ‘-est’.

We can form adjectives from nouns by adding suffixes to a noun.

The Adjectives that are formed by adding -y or -al or -ial as a suffix are given below in the table. If the noun has an ‘e’ in the ending, it is removed and -y or -al or -ial is added as a suffix to the noun to form an adjective.

Adjectives formed by adding -ly or -ish or -ic as a suffix to nouns are given below in the table. If the noun has a ‘y’ in the ending, it is removed and the suffix is added to form an adjective.

Adjectives formed by adding -ous or -some or -able or -full as a suffix to nouns are given below in the table.

Suffixes like ‘-y’ , ‘-able’ , ‘-ous’ , ‘-al’ , ‘-ful’ , ‘-ic’ , ‘-less’ , ‘-ing’ and ‘-ive’ can be added to verbs to form adjectives.

An adjective is formed from another adjective by adding a suffix like ‘-ly’ , ‘-ive’ , ‘-al’ , ‘-ish’ , ‘-ier’ , ‘-est’.

In conclusion, the differences between English and German adjectives are significant and can impact the way sentences are structured and meanings are conveyed.

English adjectives typically come before the noun they describe, while German adjectives usually come after the noun. Additionally, German adjectives undergo inflection based on the gender, case, and number of the noun they modify, which adds complexity to the language.

Understanding these differences is essential for learners of both languages to effectively communicate and comprehend written and spoken texts.

Overall, while English and German adjectives share some similarities, their distinct characteristics contribute to the richness and diversity of both languages.

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