

Nouns as Adjectives and Adjectives as Nouns
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Many languages have morphological devices to turn a noun into an adjective. Often this morphology is genuinely derivational in that it adds a semantic predicate such as ‘having-N’ (proprietary), ‘similar-to-N’ (similitudinal) and so on. In other cases the denominal adjective expresses some vaguely defined notion of possession as in Russian *Ivan-ovo (detstvo)* ‘Ivan’s (childhood)’, or is purely relational as in *prepositional phrase* (cf. the synonymous *preposition phrase*). In some languages and constructions the resulting adjective retains some of the noun-related properties of its base. For example, the base can be modified by an attribute as though it were still a syntactically represented noun (as in the English proprietary [*short sleev*]ed shirt), giving rise to what we call ‘syntagmatic category mixing’.

We contrast a syntactic and a lexical approach to such constructions. On syntactic approaches the derivational affix takes scope over a syntactic phrase because the affix itself is introduced in the syntax. We argue that there are cases which cannot be handled in this manner. Instead we suggest a lexical approach, where category mixing phenomena are expressed by fractionating lexical entries into morphological, syntactic and semantic dimensions. We then define lexical type hierarchies on the basis of these fractionated lexical entries and illustrate how they account for a typology of adjective-noun mismatch.

Our proposal is not formulated within a specific syntactic framework and should in principle be compatible with various lexicalist (and perhaps some non-lexicalist) theories. The central point is that an approach which is adequate to capture the full richness of lexical representations must provide sufficient information to enable a syntactic model to account for distributional mixing of categories.