

## Abstract

In the noun phrases, adjectives can be placed either before the noun (prepositively) or after the noun (postpositively). This thesis is concerned with the description of postponed adjectives and with the reasons for postposition. These reasons can be grammatical, semantic, or semantico-grammatical (for example, the phrase contains another adjective in a superlative degree, or the adjective has different meanings regarding its position in the phrase). The grammars used for this thesis list these reasons and divide them into categories that are all described in the theoretical part of this thesis.

The use of postponed adjectives in practice is demonstrated using examples excerpted from *the British National Corpus* which were assigned into categories based on semantic and syntactic criteria. Those categories listed in the theoretical part of this thesis are supplemented by those established to describe the actual examples from *the Corpus*. Thirty adjectives were analyzed in detail and illustrate, e.g., cases of semantic difference between pre and post-head adjectives, terminological units or cases where the position is variable. From all these examples, the conclusions about the practical use of postposition are drawn.