

ЛИНГВИСТИКА
LINGUISTICS

IRSTI: 16.01.09

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**APPOSITIVE AND QUASI-APPOSITIVE VARIETIES OF REPETITION IN ENGLISH
COLLOQUIAL SPEECH COMPARED TO RUSSIAN**

Abstract. The article discusses the issue of appositive and quasi-appositive repetition in English colloquial speech and compares it with Russian. Based on empirical data, an isomorphism exists between these two categories of relations. This conclusion applies not only to isolated or partial structures, where the relations exhibit greater flexibility, but also to more extensive combinations formed according to regular patterns. Additionally, the study highlights the functional relevance of appositives and quasi-appositives in communication, demonstrating that they contribute to stylistic and pragmatic nuances, as well as clarity and emphasis. English fiction from the 20th century was used in the study, and language was drawn from a variety of works by Russian and English authors. Component, distributional, transformational, semantic field, contextual, and conceptual analyses were among the linguistic analytic techniques used in the study. Linguists and language learners can more accurately model colloquial language use and uncover subtle semantic and syntactic links by comprehending these patterns in both English and Russian. This finding, in our view, provides a strong argument for considering quasi-apposition as an analogue of real apposition, differing from it in the same way that its components do. Verbs, adjectives, and adverbs should be regarded as belonging to the category of quasi-appositions. The authors conclude that the study highlights the structural and functional relevance of quasi-appositions in colloquial speech by showing how they serve as systematic equivalents of appositions in English and Russian.

Keywords: apposition, quasi-apposition, poly-predicative, semi-predicative, isomorphism, verbless combinations, functions.

Introduction

In this paper, we consider apposition as a form of substantive reiteration, defined as the simultaneous occurrence of coreferential elements within a single utterance. In an appositive combination, one element is a repeated nomination of the same referent.

The ability to identify objects, however, is not only possessed by nouns (subject names), but also by other parts of speech, such as verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. These words can perform nominative functions as well.

When verbs, adjectives, or adverbs are repeated, a relationship similar to apposition is established. The repeated use of these words is associated with the intention to clarify or specify. In the case of subject names, reiteration clarifies and defines the object, while in the case of adjectives and adverbs, it defines or elaborates on the object's attribute.

If it were not for the tradition of using the term «apposition», which necessarily implies the substantial nature of its components, one might assume that all coreferential units are related by an appositive connection. To avoid unjustified expansion of the concept of opposition, we will refer to the juxtaposition of coreferential feature names within a single statement as a quasi-proposition, and we will attempt to determine whether this relationship occurs as regularly as apposition does at all three levels: as combinations with non-isolated components (such as bomber planes), as semi-predicative combinations with isolated components, and as multipredicative constructions with partial application.

Literature review

Appositive and quasi-appositive repetitions are important for emphasizing, clarifying, and conveying the speaker's attitude in informal speech, according to recent research in English linguistics [1], [2], [3]. These structures enable speakers to highlight crucial information, provide coherence, and indicate connections among actions or events, as researchers such as D. Usera [4], D.S. Khudoykulova [5], and T. Patel et al. [6] have shown. These repetitions serve pragmatic and cognitive purposes in real-time communication, especially in casual storytelling and spontaneous speech, and are not merely stylistic.

Although Russian exhibits similar patterns, cross-linguistic studies have shown that the precise syntactic and semantic constraints differ. For example, English quasi-appositive constructions rely more on syntactic coordination and conjunctions, whereas Russian constructions often rely on prosodic signals and intonation to indicate the link between verbs. Linguists such as O.V. Sokolova [7], V.T. Sadchenko [8], and A. Annamuradova [9] have conducted comparative analyses showing that these disparities reflect deeper typological and functional contrasts between the languages, particularly in how colloquial speech encodes causal, evaluative, and temporal links.

In search of evidence for the hypothesis of a quasi-positive relationship, we turned to data on a specific group of verbless combinations consisting of «two identical forms of different verbs», which are peculiar syntactic constructions formed by combining two predicates that agree with the same subject and lack a formal directional indicator. These constructions, known as «communication and semantic relations», are purely colloquial and very common in spontaneous, informal speech. For example: «And now they're chasing me around the hospital». or «I did something stupid yesterday. I spilled the milk». (Compare this to the English example: «Shall we go and sit on the bench?» (Mitchell))

The peculiarities of this syntactic phenomenon in the Russian language have long attracted the attention of scientists, precisely because of the analysis of the nature of the relationship between the parts of a combination [10]. However, interpretations by syntaxists have differed significantly, even leading to mutual exclusion. For example, A.N. Gvozdev believed that verbs in these constructions are consistent with each other and are in a subordinate relationship [11]. On the other hand, V.I. Sobinnikova saw these combinations as a special form of connection, or «correlative subordination», reflecting a transitional moment in the development of proximity [12]. Finally, N.Y. Shvedova argued that there is no subordination between the parts of the structure, but rather a coordination of forms [13].

Methods and Materials

Research Design

The study explores the use of appositive and quasi-appositive repetition in English colloquial speech, drawn from dialogues in fiction, and compares it with a similar linguistic phenomenon in Russian.

Methods

To better understand the structure of language, component analysis breaks it down into smaller parts. Distributional analysis examines how words are used in different contexts to determine their meaning and function. Transformative analysis investigates changes among different linguistic structures.

Semantic field analysis examines how words and concepts are connected within a given area to reveal how language categories are organized.

Contextual analysis examines the situations in which words are used to understand their meaning, while conceptual analysis explores ideas and mental structures to understand the relationship between language and thought.

Research materials

The research was conducted using 20th-century English fiction as its basis. Language materials were drawn from the works of various English and Russian authors.

The language materials were chosen based on the principle of continuously sampling from the dialogic speech in English-language texts.

These materials exemplify authentic or semi-authentic spoken language, which is ideal for studying dialogic speech.

Results and Discussion

Many of these contradictions could be resolved by treating these constructions as quasi-appositive verbal combinations, a kind of «verbal apposition», or, more broadly, repetition. Evidence for the validity of this approach to constructions with «double verbs» is that, upon closer examination, both verb nominations turn out to be coreferential. Despite their formal and, in some cases, meaningful differences, these nominations are variations on the same «compound» action and denote two overlapping predicative features: one is the main feature, and the other is a secondary, characterizing feature (similar to the characterizing function of the second term in substantive appositive combinations). For example, in Russian «мать-старушка»: «спит-похрапывает» значит: «спит, похрапывая». Compare. «Мертвый лежит на траве не шелохнется» (Л. Толстой); «... спроси у бабушки Анны, в стакане, и принеси, не расплескай...» (Л. Толстой). Here, one action is characterized through another qualitatively; the meaning of a qualitative characteristic is introduced by the lexical meaning of one of the verbs. The coreference condition determines, if not synonymy, then the maximum semantic similarity of verbs. In the following example, the function of the second verb is close to tautological repetition: «...ты их носи, не снимай» (Паустовский). «Однако жили не разводились и восемь лет прожили» (Лесков).

In combinations such as «demolish sell» and «take carry», the meaning of simultaneous action, parallelism, or a rapid time sequence is combined with a shade of target relationship. This group of constructions is dominated by concrete, pronounced conjunctionless combinations, with the first component being a verb denoting movement. The second component varies depending on the situation, but the action it indicates is closely dependent on and inseparable from the first, and almost always follows it.

These combinations are very common in English colloquial speech and are a characteristic feature of English and American folk and vernacular styles, such as in the English ballad «*Come eat, come drink, my little sister*», «*Lady Gay*», and «*Go tell my baby – sister*» in the American ballad «*The House of the Rising Sun*».

The meaning of these combinations is a specific action (e.g., «eat» or «drink»), which is carried out after a preliminary movement towards where this action will take place. The movement in these combinations is always subordinate to the specific action, so the nominative meaning of the verb «move» (e.g., «come» or «go») is weakened, and the form of the imperative mood only emphasizes the meaning of the motivation.

As soon as there are regular correspondences between the types of semantic relationships between components in appositive and quasi-appositive constructions, the similarity with substantive apposition becomes more evident. The components of verbal combinations not only have hyperhyponymic relationships with one another (as seen in the examples above), but they also denote actions that are similar, often combined, accompanying one another, and merging into a single complex.

N.Y. Shvedova points out that the range of Russian verbs that can be used in these combinations is limited. Therefore, the number of possible combinations is also limited [13]: «напоить-накормить», «обуть-одеть», «пойти-поехать», etc. – Two different designations overlap each other to form a single semantic whole. The isomorphism of the juxtaposition of units in the group of substantive and verbal nominations emphasizes the regular character of this phenomenon.

The analyzed verb combinations are correlated with the nature of the connection to substantive non-predicative appositive constructions. The presence of a comma between these constructions is not only unacceptable, but it also «opposes these constructions to homogeneous predicates» [13]. This can be seen in the appositive juxtaposition of two subject names used in non-predicative contexts («врач-окулист», «girl student») and a quasi-appositive juxtaposition of verbs without syntactic separation: (*иди возьми; come fill the flowing bowl*).

Just as substantive appositives that are not predicative are divided into two groups, free combinations (соседка молочница, servant girl) and set phrases (мать-старуха, bomber plane), verbal quasi-appositive forms can be combined in two ways - lexically unlimited combinations, for

instance in Russian («плачет причитает»), and lexically limited combinations, with verbs of movement and state as the primary component: «поеду посмотрю», «сидит помалкивает». The last group shows the greatest unity, both semantically and grammatically, and this is also expressed intonationally (absence of pauses and enumeration intonation). This characteristic is also typical of proper appositives. Some verbal appositives in Russian have undergone lexicalization and have become part of the language's verbal vocabulary. For example: «живете-можете».

Combinations of adjectives and adverbs that are similar to those listed are literally isolated. «жив-здоров», «злы-обманчивы», «нежданно-негаданно», «шито-крыто», «подобру-поздорову» (9). However, the very existence of these examples logically demonstrates the isomorphism between the two types of connection - appositive and quasi-appositive. Names connected by this type of relationship (both subject and feature) refer to the same thing, and one name characterizes or clarifies the other.

The table below shows the regularity of matching one type of communication with another. For clarity, only stable (nearly lexicalized) combinations are provided as examples, as hyphenated spellings fix them not only as speech patterns, but also make them part of the system.

Table 1 – Examples of appositive and quasi-appositive links

Appositive link	Quasi-appositive link		
	nouns	verbs	adjectives
<i>мать-старуха</i> <i>матч-реванши и т.п.</i>	<i>пошло-поехало</i> <i>живете-можете and</i> <i>etc..</i>	<i>жив-здоров</i>	<i>нежданно-негаданно,</i> <i>шито-крыто</i>
<i>bomber fighter chum-</i> <i>buddy</i>	<i>come inf</i> <i>«Now you go buy our</i> <i>tickets»... (Stewart)</i>	<i>teeny-tiny</i> <i>«Such teeny-tiny</i> <i>music».</i> <i>(OED, Suppl.)</i>	<i>willy-nilly</i>

The parallels between the two types of communication at the other two levels (semi-predicative and polypredicative for subject names) are more clearly revealed, as in these cases, the words fit together more freely, and the lexical combinations are virtually unlimited.

semi-predicative apposition

(apposition with separation)

1. «...it's just our wretched colleagues – boring mediocrities» (Segal)

2. «The birth of a new moral being – your-father-and-I.

Where did you last see your-father-and-I?

«(Albee)

:: Quasi-apposition with separation

Verbal: 1. «Don't fall, don't fail». (Chandler). 2. «You take the trouble to construct a civilisation... to...to build a society» (Albee).

Adjectival: 1. «...and the boy still clean, still decent» (Williams)

Adverbial: 1. «I'm deeply, desperately sorry» (Coward).

Polypredicative apposition (Parcellated appositive)

1. «I've got a previous engagement. A date, actually» (Segal).

:: Parcellated quasi-apposition (Parcellated quasi-appositive)

Verbal: 1. «But beauty of the mind and richness of the spirit... aren't taken away, but grow!

Increase with the years (Williams)

Adiectival: 1. «What an excellent idea! Remarkable!» (Dickens).

2. «Do you know what it is with insane people?... the quiet ones» (Albee).

When analyzing English language materials, attention is drawn to the fact that a quasi-proposition can be formally expressed using special «connectors» or «linking words». In this case,

the quasi-apposition also shows an isomorphism with the actual apposition, which, in addition to simple juxtaposition, can be formalized using special communication tools.

It is well known that in many European languages, the appositional conjunctive is homonymous with the separative compound. However, this conjunctive does not separate the components of an appositive combination; rather, it connects them. It conveys an alternation of form of expression, not of content - the referent remains the same, only the way of referring to it varies. This conjunctive has been used in language as a means to express the connection between coreferential names. For example, «*this was during the Great Experiment, or Prohibition, as it is more commonly known*». Other conjunctives that belong to this group include «alias», «specifically», «that is», and their equivalents. In other words: «*in other words*», «*say*», etc.1. «... *She came to Chatsworth, alias «Mr. Booker's new house» (Christie).*

2. «*Pele was staring straight at him. That is, a huge life-size poster of the great Brazilian soccer star» (Segal).*

In this regard, some speech cliches traditionally classified as paired synonyms can be legitimately considered appositive combinations with a formally expressed connection. For example:

1. «*What does my lord and master say about It?» (Maugham).*

2. «*Do you really and truly think I'm beautiful?» (Caldwell).*

In Example 1, the nouns «*lord*» and «*master*» are not designations for two different people. They refer to the same person using different names. At the same time, one of these names has a semantic structure that is superimposed onto the other, creating an intensifying effect. These two names form a monolithic unit in which both parts refer to the same referent in different ways.

Such combinations always function as evaluations, with a low nominative value. Even when they are used as subjects, they retain their evaluative and qualifying functions, while also acquiring a citation character. This use of evaluation compares the function of subject names to that of attributes and allows for the explicit design of connections within the realm of substantive oppositions.

It seems that in the field of feature names, the use of special means of communication to formalize a quasi-apposition can be justified by the difficulty of establishing the identity of an abstract and ephemeral category like a feature. That is why such entities are transmitted in a complex manner. In Example 2, the phrase «*really and truly*» is a quasi-appositive adverbial formation that doesn't convey the combination of two separate features, as in compositional phrases. Instead, it names a single feature in the same manner. At the same time, there is a «*strengthening of the content plan by updating the expression plan*», where the conjunction «*and*» connects two forms that convey the same content synonymously through two adverbs. An example of this position is the existence in English of a group of verbal phraseological units that express extreme irritation and dislike toward the interlocutor. These units are built according to a specific syntactic structure, which can be described as quasi-positive. Interestingly, some of these units consist of conjunctors, while others are formed without the use of conjunctors and: *go jump in the lake (go climb a tree, go fly a kite, go lay an egg, go sit on a tack)*

Colloquial-familiar style: «*катись к черту! проваливай!* – «*She was embarrassed every time Alva answered the gallery's «Good work, beautiful», with a merry: «Go climb a tree» (Alva varied it by «go lay an egg» or «go jump in the lake» (Lewis).*

See also: *go chase yourself* – colloquial-familiar style. «*отстань! убирайся вон! катись отсюда!* – «*Aw! go chase yourself!*» (Dreiser).

But: *go and eat coke* – *убирайся (ко всем чертям), проваливай!* «*Go and eat Coke, I can't be bothered with your silliness anymore» (DEI).*

The optional expression of connection is also a characteristic feature of the aforementioned verbal quasi-appositive expressions. *go + inf.* Cf. both types of usage in the same ballad: «*The Unquiet Grave*»: «*Go fetch me water from the desert*» (Baes, 1967). «*I'll sit and mourn all on his grave*» (Idem).

These data suggest that the use of the conjunction does not alter the positive nature of these combinations, as is the case with the conjunction «or». These service words do not indicate an alternation in referents or their characteristics but rather an alternation between two forms that represent the same meaning. Therefore, it would be logical to classify the analyzed combinations as quasi-assignments. The table of correspondence between appositive and quasi-appositive relationships can be expanded with several additional models found in the language's phraseological fund. For example, appositional relationships between nouns: «babes and sucklings» – «beginners», «real babies» - «dust and ashes», «decay and vanity»; «flesh and blood» – «human nature»; «man, living people». Quasi-appositional relationships involving verbs: «fetch and carry» – «to serve», «to be at the beck and call»; «hum and haw» – «mumble», «hesitate»; «cut and contrive» – «save money», «make ends meet»; and adjectives: «dead and gone» - «long past»; «a thing of the past»; «free and easy» – «relaxed»; «high and mighty» – «powerful»; «alive and kicking» – «alive and well»; «full of life». Adverbs: «far away» – «much, ... much, definitely»; «by leaps and bounds» – «very fast, very fast».

Conclusion

The analysis allows us to conclude that there is an isomorphism between appositive and quasi-appositive relationships, not only at the level of isolated and parcellated structures, where this relationship is less strict, but also in non-isolated combinations formed according to regular patterns. In our view, this conclusion supports recognizing quasi-appositions as analogues of actual appositions, which differ from them in the same way as their components. Verbs, adjectives, and adverbs, as indicated, should be considered to fall within the realm of quasi-appositions.

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АҒЫЛШЫН ТІЛІНДЕГІ АУЫЗЕКІ СӨЙЛЕУДЕ КЕЗДЕСЕТІН АППОЗИТИВТІ ЖӘНЕ КВАЗИ-АППОЗИТИВТІ ҚАЙТАЛЫМ ТҮРЛЕРІ: ОРЫС ТІЛІМЕН САЛЫСТЫРМАЛЫ ТАЛДАУ

Аңдатпа. Мақалада ағылшын тіліндегі ауызекі сөйлеудегі аппозитивті және квазиаппозитивті қайталау мәселесі қарастырылады, оны орыс тілімен салыстырады. Фактілік материалды талдау негізінде біз бұл екі типтегі қарым-қатынас арасында изоморфизм бар деген қорытынды жасауға болады, бұл қарым-қатынастар онша қатаң емес окшауланған немесе ішінара құрылымдар деңгейінде ғана емес, сонымен қатар тұрақты үлгілерге сәйкес қалыптасқан үлкен комбинацияларда да болады. Сонымен қатар, зерттеуде аппозитивті және квазиаппозитивті қайталаулардың коммуникациядағы функционалдық өзектілігі атап өтіледі, бұл олардың анықтық пен екпінмен қатар сөйлеудің стилистикалық және прагматикалық нюанстарына ықпал ететінін көрсетеді. Зерттеуде 20 ғасырдағы ағылшын көркем әдебиеті қолданылды, ал тіл әртүрлі орыс және ағылшын авторларының шығармаларынан алынды. Зерттеуде қолданылған лингвистикалық аналитикалық әдістердің қатарында компоненттік, дистрибутивтік, трансформациялық, семантикалық өрістік, контекстік және тұжырымдамалық талдаулар болды. Тіл мамандары мен тіл үйренушілер ауызекі тілді қолдануды дәлірек модельдей алады және ағылшын және орыс тілдеріндегі осы үлгілерді түсіну арқылы нәзік семантикалық және синтаксистік байланыстарды аша алады. Біздің ойымызша, бұл тұжырым квазиаппозицияны нақты аппозицияның аналогы ретінде қарастыруға күшті дәлел болып табылады, оның компоненттері сияқты айырмашылығы бар. Етістіктер, сын есімдер және үстеулер квазиаппозициялар санатына жатады деп қарастырылуы керек. Авторлар зерттеу квазиаппозициялардың ағылшын және орыс тілдеріндегі аппозициялардың жүйелі баламасы ретінде қалай қызмет ететінін көрсету арқылы ауызекі сөйлеудегі құрылымдық және функционалдық маңыздылығын көрсетеді деген қорытындыға келеді.

Кілт сөздер: квазиаппозиция, көппредикативті, жартылай предикативті, изоморфизм, етістіксіз тіркесімдер, функциялар.

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АППОЗИТИВНЫЕ И КВАЗИАППОЗИТИВНЫЕ ВИДЫ ПОВТОРА В АНГЛИЙСКОЙ РАЗГОВОРНОЙ РЕЧИ: СОПОСТАВИТЕЛЬНЫЙ АНАЛИЗ С РУССКИМ ЯЗЫКОМ

Аннотация. В статье рассматривается вопрос аппозитивных и квазиаппозитивных повторений в разговорной английской речи в сравнении с русской. На основе анализа фактического материала можно сделать вывод о наличии изоморфизма между этими двумя типами отношений не только на уровне изолированных или частичных структур, где отношения менее строгие, но и в более крупных комбинациях, сформированных по регулярным моделям. Кроме того, исследование подчеркивает функциональную значимость аппозитивных и квазиаппозитивных повторений в коммуникации, демонстрируя, что они, помимо ясности и акцентирования, способствуют стилистическим и прагматическим нюансам речи. В исследовании использовалась английская художественная литература XX века, а также языковые средства, заимствованные из произведений различных русских и английских авторов. В работе применялись компонентный, дистрибутивный, трансформационный, семантический, контекстуальный и концептуальный методы анализа. Полученные в ходе исследования результаты позволяют моделировать особенности разговорной речи и выявлять тонкие семантические и синтаксические корреляции как в английском, так и в русском языках. Авторы указывают на необходимость рассматривать квазиаппозицию как аналог аппозиции, отличающийся от неё соотносительностью компонентов. К квазипозиционным конструкциям предлагается относить глаголы, прилагательные и наречия. В целом исследование подчеркивает структурную и функциональную значимость квазиаппозиций в разговорной речи, демонстрируя их систематический характер и их роль как регулярных эквивалентов аппозитивных конструкций в английском и русском языках.

Ключевые слова: квазиаппозиция, полипредикатив, полупредикатив, изоморфизм, безглагольные сочетания, функции.

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Received 01.02.2026

Revised 21.02.2026

Accepted 27.03.2026