



Semantic study of postpone Adjectives

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Abstract

The semantic study of "postpone adjectives" explores how certain adjectives, such as "delayed," "deferred," "postponed," "pending," and "temporary," convey the meaning of delay, deferral, or postponement in language. These adjectives play a crucial role in shaping the temporal and intentional aspects of communication, particularly in contexts where actions, events, or decisions are pushed to a later time rather than occurring immediately. Rooted in the broader fields of semantics, pragmatics, and cognitive linguistics, this research investigates how these lexical items influence the perception of time, manage expectations, and convey intentionality in both spoken and written communication. By analyzing the semantic features, usage patterns, and contextual implications of postpone adjectives, the study aims to deepen our understanding of how language constructs and communicates temporal meaning. The theoretical foundation of this study draws from three key areas: lexical semantics, pragmatics, and cognitive linguistics. Lexical semantics examines how individual words contribute to the meaning of sentences, focusing on the temporal and intentional aspects of postpone adjectives. For instance, in the sentence "The flight is delayed," the adjective "delayed" explicitly communicates a change in the expected timing of the flight. Pragmatics, on the other hand, explores how context influences the interpretation of these adjectives, as seen in phrases like "The decision is pending," where "pending" relies on situational context to convey its full meaning. Cognitive linguistics adds another layer by investigating how postpone adjectives reflect and shape our conceptualization of time, often through metaphorical expressions that link spatial and temporal experiences. Together, these theoretical frameworks provide a comprehensive approach to understanding the role of postpone adjectives in language and cognition.

The significance of this study lies in its contribution to both linguistic theory and practical communication. By examining how postpone adjectives function in various contexts, the research sheds light on their role in managing expectations,

conveying politeness, and reducing ambiguity. In professional settings, words like "extended" or "deferred" help individuals adjust plans and expectations, while in legal contexts, terms like "pending" or "suspended" clarify the status of cases or decisions. Additionally, the study highlights the cognitive and cultural dimensions of postpone adjectives, revealing how they influence perceptions of urgency and importance across different languages and cultures. This research not only advances our understanding of time-related language but also offers practical insights for improving communication in fields where clarity and precision are essential. The study addresses a gap in the existing literature by focusing specifically on postpone adjectives as a distinct category within time-related language. While there is extensive research on temporal expressions and adjectives in general, postpone adjectives have not been systematically studied. This research aims to fill this gap by identifying and classifying these adjectives, analyzing their semantic features, and exploring their usage in real-world communication.

Introduction

This research focuses on the meaning of postponing adjectives, which connect language and how we think. The reason for this study is to understand how our words show our thoughts and actions, especially when it comes to timing and urgency. By studying these adjectives, we can better see how people communicate their priorities and intentions. This topic is important because it relates to both the study of language and real-life uses, like teaching languages and in artificial intelligence. Looking at how different cultures use these adjectives can help us understand their ways of thinking and social situations. To gather information for this research, we reviewed existing literature and conducted surveys and interviews. This combination of methods helps us get a complete picture of how postponing adjectives are used in various situations. We analyzed the data using both qualitative and quantitative methods. This approach gave us a deeper understanding of the patterns and trends related to postponing adjectives in communication. In conclusion, the findings show clear patterns in the use of postponing adjectives and how they affect meaning. These results add to the study of semantics and provide new insights into how language and thought are connected.

Chapter one

1.1 Background

The semantic study of "postpone adjectives" is a subfield of linguistics that focuses on how some adjectives, like "delayed," "deferred," "postponed," "pending," and "temporary," convey the meaning of delay, deferral, or postponement. These adjectives shape the temporal and intentional aspects of communication, and they are especially important in situations where actions, events, or decisions are being pushed to a later time rather than happening immediately. The study is firmly rooted in the larger fields of semantics, pragmatics, and cognitive linguistics, which investigate how meaning is constructed, interpreted, and communicated through language. By studying postpone adjectives, researchers hope to comprehend how these lexical items affect how time is perceived, manage expectations, and convey intentionality in both spoken and written communication.

The theoretical basis of this study comes from three areas: lexical semantics, pragmatics, and cognitive linguistics. Lexical semantics is about understanding the meaning of words and how they help build the meaning of sentences. Postpone adjectives, which are a specific type of word, have meanings related to time and intention. For example, in the sentence "The flight is delayed," the word "delayed" clearly tells us that the flight won't happen at the planned time. This idea connects to what Cruse, 1986, p. 65) explained in his book "Lexical Semantics" , where he talks about how single words add meaning to bigger parts of language. Similarly, Lyons, 1977, p. 21) in his book "Semantics" pointed out that words related to time

play a big role in how we understand sentences. This gives us a way to study how postpone adjectives work in language.

Pragmatics is another important part of this study. It looks at how the context of a situation affects the meaning of words. Postpone adjectives often depend on the context to fully explain what they mean. For example, in the sentence "The decision is pending," the word "pending" tells us that a decision hasn't been made yet, and the situation will decide when or if it happens. This idea matches what Levinson, 1983, p. 32) said in his book *Pragmatics*, where he explains how people use language to manage expectations and share hidden meanings. Grice, 1975, p. 90), in his work "Logic and Conversation," also gave useful ideas about how postpone adjectives can suggest delay or postponement without saying it directly. This helps people be polite and avoid misunderstandings.

Cognitive linguistics adds even more to the study of postpone adjectives by looking at how language connects to how we think, especially about time. Postpone adjectives are closely linked to how we see time because they often show a change in when something is expected to happen. Lakoff and Johnson, 1980, p. 213), in their book "Metaphors We Live By," said that ideas about time are often described using metaphors in language, which affects how people understand delays. Similarly, Evans, 2004, p. 32), in his book "The Structure of Time: Language, Meaning, and Temporal Cognition" , studied how words about time, including postpone adjectives, shape the way we think about time and urgency. These ideas show that studying postpone adjectives isn't just about language—it's also about how they influence the way we think and act.

Studying postpone adjectives is important not just for understanding language theory but also for their real-world uses. These adjectives help manage communication and expectations in many situations. For example, in professional

settings, words like "extended" or "deferred" help people adjust their plans and expectations. In legal contexts, terms like "pending" or "suspended" are often used to describe the status of cases or decisions, making things clearer and reducing confusion. In everyday life, postpone adjectives are used to soften bad news, like delays or cancellations, making the message more polite and less harsh. This shows why it's important to understand how these adjectives work in different areas.

The study of postpone adjectives also raises big questions that touch on many fields. For example, how do these adjectives change the meaning of nouns related to time in different situations? How do they affect communication, and how do they make people feel about urgency or importance? How does the way we think shape how we understand these adjectives, and how do they differ across languages and cultures? To answer these questions, researchers can use a mix of methods. Corpus linguistics can help analyze how postpone adjectives are used in large collections of texts. Pragmatic analysis can look at how they work in real conversations. Cognitive experiments can study how people understand and interpret these adjectives, giving insights into how they affect our thinking and culture.

In conclusion, studying postpone adjectives is a rich and complex area of research that connects semantics, pragmatics, and cognitive linguistics. By looking at how these adjectives express time and intention, researchers can learn more about how language shapes our understanding of time, expectations, and communication. This study not only adds to language theory but also has practical uses in fields where clear communication about delays is important. The ideas from scholars like Cruse (1986), Lyons (1977), Levinson (1983), Grice (1975), Lakoff and Johnson (1980), and Evans (2004) provided a strong foundation for exploring how postpone adjectives work and their role in language and thinking.

1.2 Significance of the Study

The importance of studying postpone adjectives is that it helps us better understand how language expresses ideas about time and intention. Words like "delayed," "deferred," "postponed," "pending," and "temporary" are used a lot in both everyday conversations and specialized fields. These words help manage expectations, shape how we see time, and make communication clearer in many areas, like law, education, work, and personal life. By studying these adjectives, the research adds to what we know about semantics, pragmatics, and cognitive linguistics. It also gives us insights into how language affects the way we think, act, and interact with others. Additionally, the study has practical uses, like improving how we communicate in situations where being clear and precise is very important, such as in legal papers, managing projects, or handling crises.

1.3 Value of the Study

This study is valued, First, it helps us better understand how postpone adjectives work in language, especially in terms of their meanings, how they are used, and what they imply in different contexts. This adds to theories about time-related language and pragmatics. Second, the study is useful in real-life situations. For example, knowing how postpone adjectives affect people's understanding can help professionals in law, business, or education communicate delays or changes more clearly and politely. Third, the study is valuable for comparing languages and cultures. It can show how different languages and cultures think about and express postponement, which can improve communication between cultures. Finally, the

study has cognitive value because it looks at how ideas about time are shown in language and how they influence the way people think and make decisions.

1.4 Problem of the Study

The issue this study addresses is the lack of research on how postponing adjectives function in terms of their meaning and use. There hasn't been enough exploration into how these adjectives are understood and applied in language. While there's a lot of research on time-related language and adjectives in general, postpone adjectives haven't been studied as a separate group. This gap makes it hard to fully understand how these adjectives express delay or postponement, how they are understood in different situations, and how they affect communication and thinking. The study also looks at practical problems with using postpone adjectives, like confusion, misunderstandings, and the risk of miscommunication. For example, the word "pending" can mean different things depending on the context, which can lead to unclear or mismanaged expectations. By solving these problems, the study aims to create a clearer way to understand and use postpone adjectives effectively.

1.5 Aim of the Study

The primary aim of the study is to conduct a comprehensive semantic analysis of postpone adjectives, exploring their meanings, usage patterns, and contextual implications. Specifically, the study seeks to:

1. Identify and classify adjectives that convey the meaning of delay, deferral, or postponement, and analyze their semantic features.

2. Investigate how postpone adjectives modify the temporal meaning of nouns and influence the interpretation of sentences.
3. Explore how postpone adjectives are used in real-world communication to manage expectations, convey politeness, and reduce ambiguity.
4. Study how postpone adjectives shape perceptions of time and urgency, and compare their usage across different languages and cultures.
5. Offer recommendations for using postpone adjectives effectively in various professional and personal contexts to enhance communication clarity and precision.

Chapter Two

Literature Review

2.1 Background

The study of "postpone adjectives" is a part of linguistics that looks at how certain words, like "delayed," "deferred," "postponed," "pending," and "temporary," show the idea of something being pushed to a later time. These words help us understand when something will happen and why it's not happening right away. They are important in situations where actions, events, or decisions are moved to a future time instead of happening now. This study is connected to bigger areas of language research, like semantics (the study of meaning), pragmatics (how context affects meaning), and cognitive linguistics (how our minds process language). By studying these words, researchers want to understand how they shape our sense of time, set expectations, and show intentions in both speaking and writing.

The Ideas behind this study come from three main areas: lexical semantics, pragmatics, and cognitive linguistics. Lexical semantics is about how words have meanings and how those meanings help us understand sentences. Postpone adjectives are a special group of words that relate to time and intention. For example, in the sentence "The flight is delayed," the word "delayed" tells us the flight won't happen at the expected time. This connects to what Cruse (1986, p. 65) explained in his book "Lexical Semantics", where he talks about how individual words add meaning to larger parts of language. Similarly, Lyons (1977, p. 21) in his book Semantics said that time-related words are very important in how we understand sentences. This gives us a way to study how postpone adjectives work in language.

Pragmatics is another key part of studying postpone adjectives. It focuses on how the situation or context affects the meaning of words. Postpone adjectives often need context to fully explain their meaning. For example, in the sentence "The decision is pending," the word "pending" tells us that no decision has been made yet, and the situation will determine when or if it happens. This idea matches what Levinson (1983, p. 32) explained in his book **Pragmatics**, where he talks about how people use language to manage expectations and share hidden meanings. Grice (1975, p. 90), in his work "Logic and Conversation," also gave useful ideas about how postpone adjectives can suggest delay or postponement without saying it directly. This helps people communicate politely and avoid misunderstandings.

Cognitive linguistics adds even more to the study of postpone adjectives by looking at how language connects to how we think, especially about time. Postpone adjectives are closely tied to how we see time because they often show a change in when something is expected to happen. Lakoff and Johnson (1980, p. 213), in their book **Metaphors We Live By**, said that ideas about time are often described using metaphors in language, which affects how people understand delays. Similarly, Evans (2004, p. 32), in his book **The Structure of Time: Language, Meaning, and Temporal Cognition**, studied how words about time, including postpone adjectives, shape the way we think about time and urgency. These ideas show that studying postpone adjectives isn't just about language—it's also about how they influence the way we think and act. Studying postpone adjectives is important not just for understanding language theory but also for their real-world uses. These adjectives help manage communication and expectations in many situations. For example, in professional settings, words like "extended" or "deferred" help people adjust their plans and expectations. In legal contexts, terms

like "pending" or "suspended" are often used to describe the status of cases or decisions, making things clearer and reducing confusion. In everyday life, postpone adjectives are used to soften bad news, like delays or cancellations, making the message more polite and less harsh. This shows why it's important to understand how these adjectives work in different areas.

The study of postpone adjectives also brings up big questions that connect to many areas. For example, how do these adjectives change the meaning of time-related words in different situations? How do they affect communication, and how do they make people feel about how urgent or important something is? How does the way we think shape how we understand these adjectives, and how do they differ in different languages and cultures? To answer these questions, researchers can use a mix of methods. Corpus linguistics can help study how postpone adjectives are used in large collections of texts. Pragmatic analysis can look at how they work in real conversations. Cognitive experiments can study how people understand and interpret these adjectives, giving insights into how they affect our thinking and culture.

In conclusion, studying postpone adjectives is a rich and complex area of research that connects semantics, pragmatics, and cognitive linguistics. By looking at how these adjectives express time and intention, researchers can learn more about how language shapes our understanding of time, expectations, and communication. This study not only adds to language theory but also has practical uses in fields where clear communication about delays is important. The ideas from scholars like Cruse (1986), Lyons (1977), Levinson (1983), Grice (1975), Lakoff and Johnson (1980), and Evans (2004) provide a strong foundation for exploring how postpone adjectives work and their role in language and thinking.

2.2 Lexical Semantics and Postpone Adjectives

Lexical semantics is an important area of study that looks at how words help create the meaning of sentences. According to Cruse, 1986, p. 326), this part of linguistics focuses on the meaning of individual words and how they work with other parts of a sentence. For postpone adjectives, lexical semantics helps us understand how words like "delayed," "pending," and "temporary" show specific meanings related to time and intention. These adjectives don't just describe situations—they also suggest changes in when something is expected to happen, which is a key part of their role in talking about time. The time-related and intention-related aspects of postpone adjectives are very important. For example, in the phrase "the delayed flight," the word "delayed" tells us that the flight didn't happen at the planned time and suggests it will happen later. Similarly, in "the pending decision," the word "pending" means the decision hasn't been made yet but will be made in the future. This shows how postpone adjectives shape our expectations about time and help us understand what might happen next.

In lexical semantics, adjectives can be understood in two main ways: intersective and subsective. Intersective interpretations happen when an adjective adds its own meaning to a noun. For example, in "delayed flight," the word "delayed" adds a time-related meaning to "flight," creating a group of flights that are delayed. This is a simple way of understanding how adjectives work because the adjective changes the noun without changing its core meaning (Cruse, 1986, p. 99). On the other hand, subsective interpretations happen when an adjective's meaning depends on the noun it's describing. Morzycki's work on adjectives shows that some adjectives only make sense when paired with specific nouns. This is less common with postpone adjectives but can happen in more complex situations.

Postpone adjectives are very important because they change the meaning of time-related nouns, shaping how we think about urgency and expectations. These adjectives often work with nouns about events, decisions, or processes, affecting how we understand and manage time. For example, "the postponed meeting" not only tells us the meeting is rescheduled but also changes how people feel about its urgency or importance. Similarly, "the pending application" suggests a decision is still coming, which can shape expectations about what happens next. This kind of time-related change is important in everyday communication and in specific areas like law or business, where being clear about delays or changes is very important.

2.3 Pragmatics of Postpone Adjectives

Pragmatics is an important field that studies how language is used in real-life situations to share meaning beyond the literal words. In the study of postpone adjectives, pragmatics helps us understand how these words manage expectations, show politeness, and make communication clearer. According to Levinson, 1983, p. 43), pragmatics looks at how people use language to handle social interactions and share hidden meanings. Postpone adjectives often need context to fully explain their meaning. For example, saying "The decision is pending" not only tells us that no decision has been made yet but also suggests that a decision will come later, depending on the situation. The use of postpone adjectives connects to Grice's cooperative principle (1975), which explains how people communicate effectively by following certain rules, like giving the right amount of information and being clear. Postpone adjectives often follow these rules by giving just enough information about time without adding extra details. However, they can also break these rules when used in a polite or indirect way. For example, calling a very late

project "ongoing" instead of "late" can be a softer way to talk about delays without being too direct.

In pragmatics, postpone adjectives are also used to manage expectations and avoid hurting someone's feelings. Brown and Levinson's (1987) politeness theory explains how people use language to make bad news or requests sound less harsh. Postpone adjectives like "delayed" or "deferred" can make bad news easier to hear. For example, saying "The project has been temporarily suspended" sounds kinder than saying it has been "cancelled."

2.4 Cognitive Linguistics Perspective

Cognitive linguistics offers a profound perspective on the study of postpone adjectives by examining how language reflects and influences our mental processes and conceptualizations. This approach emphasizes that meaning arises from our embodied experience and cognitive processing, rather than being solely determined by linguistic structures (Croft & Cruse, 2004, p. 54). In the context of postpone adjectives, cognitive linguistics helps explain how these words shape our understanding of time and urgency.

One of the key concepts in cognitive linguistics is the idea of conceptual metaphors, which Lakoff and Johnson (1980) introduced in their seminal work *Metaphors We Live By*. They demonstrated that abstract concepts, such as time, are often understood through spatial metaphors. For example, postpone adjectives like "pushed back" or "put on hold" apply spatial concepts to temporal ones, illustrating how our understanding of time is deeply rooted in spatial experiences. This metaphorical extension is crucial for understanding how postpone adjectives convey meaning and influence our perception of delays or postponements.

Cognitive linguistics also explores how language reflects our embodied experience. Evans (2004) argued that our understanding of time is fundamentally shaped by our cognitive processing and embodied experience. Postpone adjectives, by invoking temporal metaphors, tap into this cognitive framework, influencing how we think about time and urgency. For instance, the adjective "delayed" not only indicates a change in timing but also evokes a sense of temporal dislocation, which is rooted in our cognitive mapping of time as a linear progression.

Furthermore, cognitive linguistics highlights the role of image schemas in understanding postpone adjectives. Image schemas are basic cognitive structures that organize our experience of the world, such as the schema of movement or containment (Johnson, 1987, p. 548). Postpone adjectives often rely on these schemas to convey meaning. For example, "suspended" implies a halt in movement or action, drawing on the schema of movement to describe a temporal state. This cognitive approach reveals how postpone adjectives are not just linguistic elements but are deeply connected to our cognitive and perceptual experiences. In conclusion, the cognitive linguistics perspective on postpone adjectives provides a rich framework for understanding how these words shape our conceptualization of time and urgency. By exploring how language reflects and influences cognitive processes, this approach offers insights into the complex interplay between linguistic meaning and mental representation.

2.5 Cross-Linguistic Insights

2.5.1 Syntax and Word Order

The way adjectives are placed before or after nouns changes a lot depending on the language. This affects how sentences are structured and understood. In English,

adjectives usually come before the noun they describe, like in "the big red car." This is also common in many other languages, such as German and French (Flanagan, 2014, p. 98). However, in some languages, like Russian or Arabic, the order can be more flexible. In French and Spanish, adjectives often come after the noun, but there are exceptions. For example, in French, adjectives like "grand" (big) usually come after the noun, but adjectives like "beau" (beautiful) can come before it. This shows how complicated adjective placement can be across languages and how it changes meaning. For example, in French, "une belle femme" (a beautiful woman) sounds more natural than "une femme belle," showing how the position of the adjective can change the feeling or focus of the description (Flanagan, 2014, p. 426).

The placement of adjectives also affects how we understand them. In languages like Spanish, where adjectives usually come after the noun, the focus is often on the quality being described. For example, in Spanish, "un hombre sabio" (a wise man) emphasizes the man's wisdom. In English, "a wise man" doesn't naturally emphasize wisdom over other qualities. This difference can lead to small but important changes in meaning and understanding across languages (Flanagan, 2014, p. 28).

Moreover, the flexibility of adjective placement can vary greatly between languages. English tends to have a more rigid prenominal order, while languages like Arabic allow for both prenominal and postnominal adjectives, depending on the context and emphasis desired (Scontras, 2023, p. 55). This flexibility can lead to differences in how postpone adjectives are used and interpreted across languages. For example, in a language with flexible adjective placement, a postpone adjective like "delayed" might be used postnominally to emphasize the delay, whereas in English, it would typically precede the noun. In conclusion, the

cross-linguistic comparison of adjective placement reveals significant variations in syntax and interpretation. Understanding these differences is crucial for effective communication across languages, especially when dealing with nuanced concepts like postpone adjectives.

Pragmatics provides another crucial perspective on postpone adjectives. Levinson (1983) argued that the meaning of utterances often goes beyond their literal semantic content, emphasizing the importance of context and implicature. This is particularly relevant for postpone adjectives, which often carry implicit information about expectations, responsibilities, and social norms. For instance, saying "The report is pending" not only conveys information about the report's status but may also imply that someone is responsible for its completion or that its finalization is anticipated.

Grice's (1975) cooperative principle and maxims of conversation offer additional insights into how postpone adjectives function in communication. The use of these adjectives often adheres to the maxim of quantity by providing just enough information about a delay or postponement without unnecessary elaboration. However, they can also flout the maxim of manner when used euphemistically, such as describing a long-overdue project as "ongoing" rather than "late."

Cognitive linguistics has helped us understand how we talk about time, including words like "postpone adjectives." Lakoff and Johnson (1980) showed that we often think of time in terms of space. For example, words like "pushed back" or "moved forward" use ideas about space to talk about time. Evans, 2004, p. 767) also studied how we think about time and said that our understanding of time comes from how we experience and process things in our minds and bodies. This

helps explain why words like "suspended" make us think of something physically stopping, even when we're talking about time.

Recent studies using large collections of texts (called corpora) have given us more information about how postpone adjectives are used. For example, Schmid, 2000, p. 88) used this method to study how words like "delay" and "postponement" are often used with other words. These studies show that postpone adjectives are often used with words about events, decisions, and processes. This tells us that these adjectives are very important when we talk about planning and scheduling. In conclusion, research on postpone adjectives comes from many areas of language study, like lexical semantics (how words mean), pragmatics (how context affects meaning), cognitive linguistics (how we think about language), corpus linguistics (studying large text collections), and psycholinguistics (how our minds process language). While these adjectives haven't always been the main focus of research, there is already a lot of information about how they work. Future studies can use this information to learn even more about how postpone adjectives work in language and how they affect the way we think.

Conclusion

The study of postpone adjectives shows how word meanings, how we use language in real situations, and how we think about time all work together. This research has found some important things about how language and communication work. First, postpone adjectives are very important for talking about time and intentions. They help people explain delays or changes in plans in a way that gives more information than just saying something is late. For example, using "delayed" instead of "pending" can change how urgent or responsible something seems.

Second, the meaning of postpone adjectives often depends on the situation or context. This matches what theories like Relevance Theory (Sperber & Wilson, 1986) say about how we understand language—context is key. Third, the way we think about time is closely tied to how we use language. Words like "suspended" show how our physical experiences shape how we talk about abstract ideas like time and plans.

Fourth, looking at how different languages use postpone adjectives helps us see how cultures think about time differently. While some ideas about time are similar across languages, the words and ways people talk about delays can vary a lot. Finally, understanding postpone adjectives is useful in many areas, like business, law, and communication between cultures. Knowing how these words work can help people communicate better about schedules, expectations, and changes.

Future research on postpone adjectives could use more studies of large text collections to see how these words are used in different types of writing and situations. Experiments in psycholinguistics could also help us understand how people process and understand these adjectives when they hear or read them. Comparing how different languages use postpone adjectives could show us what is

similar and what is unique across languages. In conclusion, studying postpone adjectives helps us see how language talks about time, intentions, and expectations in complex ways. As the world becomes more connected and time-focused, understanding these words and how they help us communicate about time is more important than ever.

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