

## Cognitive Interpretation of Degrees of Intensification

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### ABSTRACT

*This article focuses on the issues of cognitive interpretation of word reinforcement. The article analyzes the intensity gain on the basis of emphasis, amplifiers and down-tones.*

**Key words:** *intensity, intensifier, descriptive, cognitive, category, conflict, emphasize, amplifiers, boosters, maximizer, minimizer.*

### I. Introduction

In traditional linguistics, the phenomenon of increasing or intensifying the meaning of a word is mainly explained by the means of language and speech, and in part by extra linguistic factors. At present, this problem is being studied in cognitive linguistics and linguacultural studies. In this sense, the definition of degree underlies the lexical-grammatical field of intensity. The grammatical concept of comprehensive descriptive language combines differentiated qualitative and quantitative characteristics on the basis of degree indicators. Intensifiers signal different degrees of intensification on the intensity scale<sup>1</sup> and are not limited to indicating an increase in intensity; they indicate a point on the intensity scale which may be high or low.

### II. Literature Review

The category of intensity has been interpreted by various scientists, including, G.Kirxner, B.Charlston, S.Grinbaum, D.Bolindjer, Sh.Balli, A.V.Kunin, V.I.Shaxovskiy, L.Ya.Gerasimova, E.N.Sergeeva, O.F.Shevchenko, I.G.Beruchashvili, V.A.Maltsev, K.M.Suvorina, and etc. The definition of the intensity varies from scholar to scholar, as no unified terminology has widely been accepted so far.

In the opinion of V.S Neverova, "Intensity as an onomasiological category refers to the objective quantitative accuracy of a feature, quality, condition."<sup>2</sup> I.A Kokina argues that intensity is a quantitative assessment of action, and writes: "Intensity is a quantitative assessment of quality, action, the degree of their manifestation."<sup>3</sup> E.V Belskaya, who interpreted intensity as a lexical category, writes that "the semantics of intensity is reflected in the subjective interpretation that the degree (strength) of manifestation (strength) of a sign or process does not correspond to the universally accepted" norm ".<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Туранский И.И Семантическая категория интенсивности в английском языке.-М.: ВШ. 1990.-173с.

<sup>2</sup> Неверова В.С. Категория интенсивности качественной характеристики в современном французском языке. Диссертация кандидата филологических наук. Н.Новгород: 1997. С. 18-19.

<sup>3</sup> Кокина И. А. Языковые средства выражения семантики интенсивности в произведениях А.П. Чехова о детях и для детей. Диссертация кандидата филологических наук. Ростов-на-Дону : 2001. С. 171.

<sup>4</sup> Бельская Е.В. Интенсивность как категория лексикологии (на материале говоров Среднего Приобья). Диссертация кандидата филологических наук. Томск: 2001. С. 48.

This article looks into different degrees of intensification on the intensity scale.

### III. Main Part.

The description of quality and quantity tends to differ in the field of understanding of the hierarchy process: **a beautiful picture, a very beautiful picture; to walk fast, to walk very fast.** Descriptive levels serve to differentiate substance, action signs in terms of qualitative and quantitative characteristics. There are three different levels of intensity according to the quantitative indicators of the description levels: strong (above the norm) - very, too; average (according to the norm) - enough; and weak (below normal) - little, hardly divided into steps, forming a coherent scale.

In the description category, the intensity level indicators that are reflected are predominant, and the level indicators and the intensity scale quantifiers differ lexically. Although the intensity of the grammatical level indicators is related to the generalization concepts, the semantic types of the intensity scale based on the lexical concreteness are based on the characterization of the grading and grading properties. The rank-and-file indicators differ on the basis of lexical conflict. When we analyze the levels of lexical-grammatical intensity in English, we use a number of terms ; such as *emphasizers*, *amplifiers*, *down-toners* and *classifier*.<sup>5</sup>

In the scientific linguistic literature, D. Bolindger intensity expression means *emphasizers* (actually, certainly), *amplifiers* (entirely, deeply, extremely), *downtoners* (quite, rather, slightly), *classifiers* (almost, nearly, as good as)<sup>6</sup>

According to Quirk et al 1985, “ *amplifiers* are divided into two subclasses, these being *maximizers* and *boosters*”. *Maximizers* (the highest point of the strong level) and *boosters* (the strongest level). Both categories of *amplifiers* define level readings that are above the usual, normal range on the intensity scale. The difference between them is that while *maximizers* represent the highest level marks on the intensity scale (so huge, so strong, so fast, so full, crowded, complete, total, integral, whole, entirely, majority absolute), *boosters* reflect high levels on the intensity scale. ( huge, strong, fast, high, very, terribly, etc.) Most popular examples of *maximizers* can be absolutely, completely, entirely, totally, utterly, fully, and perfectly as seen in the previous studies. “ *Maximizers* are very commonly used in spoken interaction but not nearly as frequently in academic writings such as informal texts, books, and periodicals (Xiao & Tao, 2007, p 246)” in addition, Quirk et al. (1985: 590) points out that whereas *maximizer* from a relatively restricted set, *boosters* “ form open classes, and new expressions are frequently created to replace older ones”. What this means is that while it is reasonably easier to compile an inventory of *maximizers*, this is not the case for *boosters*.

- *emphasizers* (which indicate a high degree of the modified

proposition), e.g.: Each of *emphasizers* are pronounced with intonation. Intonation performs a variety of functions in speech. For instance, it expresses the type of sentence, the relationship between its components, modality emotional color and additional meanings, such as counting, contrasting, comparing, expressed in the sentence.<sup>7</sup>

I was never really fat, but I always struggled with **just** being kind of on

<sup>5</sup> Безрукова В.В. Интенсификация и интенсификаторы в языке и речи ( на материале английского языка) Дисс. канд. филол. наук. Воронеж .2004.-222с.

<sup>6</sup> Bolindger D. Degree words. The Hague . Paris. 1972.-570p.

<sup>7</sup> Haydarov A., Navruzova N. Stylistic features of Intonation.// BuxDU Ilmiy axboroti. 2021. №1 –p. 18-30.

the verge.

She **actually** called these hearings a charade and a farce when she wrote.

She's following this procession, **clearly** encouraged.

Well, I think Dole is **frankly** in the better position right now.

I **honestly** think that we do need some type of change.

- *boosters* (which denote a higher degree of the modified proposition),

e.g.: Boosters and maximizers are also pronounced with high fall intonation. Speech tone is a system of high or low pronunciations of syllables in a sentence. Volume is measured in hertz. The communicative types of speech vary in tone. Our thoughts and feelings also reach our interlocutor through sound, that is tone.<sup>8</sup>

Both groups **strongly** supported making English the nation's official language.

A **badly** beaten Stefan claims he was attacked by a creditor.

A State Department spokesman last week called Teng's case "**deeply** disturbing."

Reports of Tony Hart's second death are greatly exaggerated.

Immediately, though everything else remained as before, dim and dark, the shapes became **terribly** clear.

People are saying it's going to be **bitterly** cold tomorrow tonight.

Simpson is **intensely** depressed.

- and *maximizers* (which denote the upper extreme on the intensity

scale), e.g.:

It's an old-fashioned, down-to-earth club that operates **entirely** contrary to the grotesque excesses of the 1990s.

It's polarizing and creates the illusion that the clash of **utterly** biased accounts produces the truth.

I believe that he is **fully** aware of it.

I was **extremely** ashamed of my situation.

Down-toners a degree adverb (such as slightly, somewhat, less, rather, quite, almost, nearly, and kind of) that decreases the effect of a modified item. Down-toners include approximators (approximate amount of weak level; nearly, virtually), comprimizers (small amount of weak level; fairly, quite), diminishers (weak level; slightly), minimizers (maximum amount of weak level; hardly, scarcely).

- *compromisers / approximators* (which indicate a low degree of the

modified proposition)1, e.g.:

...he doubts it will be good **enough** for the craft to make it into orbit.

So, you know, her English is still **pretty** basic.

You can see the wind is still **rather** significant here.

But it's **fairly** easy to distinguish teal from those other species.

<sup>8</sup> Haydarov A., Navruzova N. Stylistic features of Intonation.// BuxDU Ilmiy axboroti. 2021. №1 –p. 20.

It appears, from the ground, as a **moderately** bright star.

- *diminishers* (which denote a lower degree of the modified

proposition), e.g.:

I believe he's **a little** better than average.

We normally get a **slightly** nervous phone call or e-mail...

Spector had told his son and his friends that he was **somewhat** crazy, a manic depressive.

After leaving Chicago, Sun Ra and his Arkestra became **somewhat** famous.

- and *minimizers* (that occupy the lowest end on the intensity scale), e.g.:

And you told me she didn't do you **hardly** any good.

So, you know, those are **barely** books.

Scopus, **scarcely** a month after the Six-Day War.

There's **scarcely** a single native organism in San Francisco Bay anymore.

Diminishers serve as separate level indicators in the downward decrease in the intensity scale: little, a bit, partial, slightly, somewhat and so on. Minimizers represent the lowest and the most diminished level of intensity: name, size, illusion, barely, faintly, inconspicuously, and so on:<sup>9</sup>

Far away, so far away, he barely caught the girl, barely recognized her, then doubted: she seemed to be going astray (ADL, 272).

Zebiniso was pushed closer to win the heart of her husband, whose mood had changed: "Your anger is on the tip of your nose." (YSS, 65)

Approximators express an approximate target meaning in an intensive description: almost, sufficiently, approximately, and so on:

#### IV. Conclusion

The four subgroup elements mentioned above represent the case where the intensity description decreases from the normative figure and denote the low degree of scale. This is reflected in both the description of the substance and the predicative description. Intensity is manifested in quantitative levels (above the norm, according to the norm, below norm) These cases of graduation have their own means of expression in English.

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