# **Russian Size Adjectives Analyses by Corpus Linguistics Methods**

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**Abstract:** The paper analyzes the functioning of size adjectives, exact as well as average size adjectives in Russian. Accurate measurement requires a numeral and also an adjective corresponding to the unit of measure. A parametric adjective is non-obligatory, while the designated parameter is derived from the semantics of the defined noun. The parametric noun in the required case form is included in the noun group, which performs the function of the attribute. Average size adjectives with abstract parameter nouns form complex attributes, taking pre and post positions to the defined noun. The adjective *cpedhuŭ /average* is mainly combined with *height* and *length* parameters with the dominance of the noun *size*. Size adjectives *kopomkuŭ / short* and *dnuhhuŭ / long* have a 2.4 asymmetrical ratio index of their functioning. It should be noted that *roads* and *streets* are more often characterized by positive and negative parameters, in turn. Adjectives of a positive width parameter dominate in garment characterization. This survey's primary objective is a qualitative analysis of the structure and semantics of size adjectives of exact measurement.

**Keywords:** Size Adjectives, Exact Size Adjective, Average Size Adjectives, Functional Semantics Collocation Analysis.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Text corpora give opportunities to register and describe different linguistic units (Galiullin *et al.*, 2014; Solovyev *et al.*, 2019) as representing the world's linguistic picture (Yusupov & Mirzagitov, 2016; Husnutdinov *et al.*, 2016).

Some linguists pay attention to different types of scales as a part of the meaning of size adjectives. The leading assumption of adjectives' scalar theories is that adjectives are associated with subsets of scales that correspond to degrees of length, weight etc. (Matveeva & Fatkhutdinova, 2016). Recently Kennedy (2007) and McNally have started a systematic investigation of these semantic theories (Winter, 2001). Open scale adjectives have a contextually determined standard, as in *The girl is small*. Closed scale adjectives require either a minimum (non-zero degree) standard, as in *The rod is bent*, or a maximum (maximum degree) standard, as in *The rod is straight* (McNally, 2005).

Some linguists try to give another semantic explanation of size adjectives. G. Miller (1990) uses the formal model, treating meanings as concepts. G.Miller refers to concepts as *synsets*, i.e. sets of synonymous senses, and intends to map *all* words onto *all* concepts in the language (Kennedy, 2007). G.N.Tucker (1998) proposes a systemic network for describing size

adjectives starting with four features: three dimensions (height, length, and width) and the generic size references (Miller *et al.*, 1990). S.Sharoff presents the systemic network for describing uses of the size adjectives in texts and the trinocular view of the lexical network: «from around», «from above» and «from below» (Tucker, 1998). Zhiguo Xie represents size adjectives as degree modifiers of gradable nouns (Sharoff, 2005; Farzadnia, & Giles, 2015; Xie, (2014).

This article aims to consider the functioning of different types of Russian size adjectives by corpus linguistics methods. The tasks are 1) to consider examples; 2) to analyze frequency data; 3) to give an explanation.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The authors have studied the subject of this article. Svetlana SokolovaBjørg and Helene Edberg (2019), in their studies examine the analytical adjective in the Russian language and believe: In the scholarly literature there has been a discussion on whether modern Russian is developing more analytical tendencies, with special attention to new nominal compounds such as VIP-zal 'VIP lounge', veb- stranica 'web page'. Traditionally, such units are described in terms of "analytical adjectives", which covers all nominal non-inflectional units related to a head noun (Panov 1960, 1971). The data analyzed in this article suggest that what has previously been described as "analytical adjectives" constitutes at least three different patterns: 1) nominal

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[N[N]] compounds that roughly represent two groups: type (a) where the first component (modifier) should be a loan word (units like internet, veb, top, etc., the head noun of such compounds can be of Russian origin); type (b) where the second component (head noun) tends to be a loan word, whereas the modifier can be of Russian origin (this type is characteristic of names and titles like Gorbačev-fond 'The Gorbachev foundation') 2) appositions that mostly include abbreviations and names of styles and can be used both pre-positionally and post-positionally to the head noun (units like VIP); 3) a contracted pattern (potential stump compounds, or blends, like internacional-sem'ja from the inflectional adjective internacional'nyj 'international' and the noun semja 'family'). The third pattern was productive in Soviet discourse (cf. zapčasti from zap[asnyje] 'replacement' časti 'parts') and seems to be regaining productivity.

In Russian, the adjective, as one of the components of speech, expresses the various features of the person and follows the person in terms of gender, number and different morphological states. Bottineau writes in his book Contemporary Russian: "Many adjectives in the Russian language have a gender, number, complete and short form, and in different morphological modes, change following the said" (Bottineau, 2016).

Dibrova (2001) says: One of the features of an adjective in the Russian language is that some can be used in short form, usually in the role of a proposition, or in full, usually in the role of a proposition or in the dependent role of a song. There are short adjectives in the Russian language that are never fully used. Such as: горазд ,paд, etc.) tribushinina (2012) believes: Russian has a complex system of degree markers. Degree can be expressed morphologically (by inflection and derivation), syntactically and lexically. Morphological means of expressing a degree include comparative and superlative forms, prefixation, suffixation and reduplication. Russian has both synthetic and analytic comparative forms, the latter being associated primarily with a bookish style. The system of comparative inflections is complicated and contains a lot of irregularities. A comparative form is usually formed by adding a suffix such as -e, -ee, -ej or -še to the stem as in bol'šoj "big" > bol'še "bigger" (stem: bol'š) and dlinnyj "long" > dlinnee "longer" (stem: dlinn). Final consonants of the stem often undergo alternation, as in korotkij "short" > koroc'e "shorter" and tolstyj "thick" > tolšc'e "thicker". Sometimes the stem-final consonant k is dropped, as in nizkij "low" > niže "lower" and uzkij "narrow" > uže "narrower". The stem-final -ok can also

be dropped in the comparative as in vysokij "high" > vyše "higher" and širokij "wide" > šire "wider". Vowel modifications in the stem are also possible, as in malen'kij "small" > men'še "smaller". Russian superlatives also have a synthetic and an analytic form. Synthetic superlatives are formed by means of the suffixes –ejš or –ajš and the prefix nai- (e.g. naiumnejšij "cleverest"). These forms belong to the bookish style and are, therefore, acquired rather late. Analytic comparatives, which are used both in child and childdirected speech, consist of the adjective samyj "most" and the positive form of the target adjective. Samyj agrees with the positive form in number, gender and case (e.g. samyj krasivyj "most beautiful").

Bailyn(2010) say: The study of Russian is of great importance to syntactic theory, due in particular to its unusual case system and its complex word order patterns. The syntax behind the rich Russian morphological case system is then described in detail, with focus on both the fairly standard instances of Nominative, Accusative and Dative case as well as the important language-specific uses of the Genitive and Instrumental cases. The book goes on to analyze the syntax of 'free' word order for which Russian is famous. It will be of interest to researchers and students of syntactic theory, of Slavic linguistics and of language typology.

Bottineau (2016) argues that: The semantic variations of the Russian adjectives with the suffix -istare analyzed from both a formal point of view and by taking the role of the suffix as a relator between the value X expressed by the base of the adjective and the referent Y into account. The meaning of Xist adjectives is determined by the type of coreferential relationship between both values and by the degree of dependency of X on Y; in others words, it depends on the location of X inside or outside the notional domain of Y. As the operator responsible for locating one value in relation to another, the suffix represents a material trace of the abstract operations which determine the inherence of X to the notional domain of Y or, on the contrary, its individualization leading to its extraction from this domain. The structure of the suffix can be decomposed into two constituents, each one being responsible for the accentuation of the abstract meaning which allows to select Y from the class of referents to which it belongs: -st- underlines the expression of the existence of X in Y; -i- emphasizes its quantification Xquant. Depending on the dominance of the one or the other constituent of the suffix, adjectives can be classified as determiners, classifiers or 'descriptive' adjectives.

## 3. MATERIAL AND METHODS

The research material is taken from the Russian National Corpus (hereinafter referred to as the RNC). The total amount of examples is 50.

Statistics and interpretation **methods** are used in the article as well as corpus linguistics methods. **Collocation** analysis accepted in corpus linguistics is used to reveal the compatibility potential. The use of a parametric adjective is determined by the noun semantics. For example, *a rope* is always *long / short or thick / thin.* Collocation is a sequence of words or terms which has a higher than expected frequency in the corpus. The interdependence of the form and the dominant parameter determines the compatibility potential. The meaning determines the choice of collocation first component, and the choice of the second depends on the first. Collocations include the combination of a parametric adjective and a noun. The free component that retains its meaning is the noun.

# 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

# 4.1. Exact Size Adjectives

The purpose of the analysis of practical material is not quantitative, but qualitative analysis of the structure and semantics of size adjectives of exact measurement. The method of corpus linguistics allows finding an example in the corpus containing the desired parametric adjective. Corpus linguistics is the study of language as expressed in corpora (samples) of "real world" text. Corpus linguistics proposes that reliable language analysis is more feasible with corpora collected in the field in its natural context ("realia"), and with minimal experimental-interference. The field of corpus linguistics features divergent views about the value of corpus annotation. These views range from John McHardy Sinclair, who advocates minimal annotation so texts speak for themselves (Sinclair, 1992) to the Survey of English Usage team (University College, London), who advocate annotation as allowing greater linguistic understanding through rigorous recording (Wallis, 2007). In addition to, the corpus linguistics has been discussed as a research methodology for studies in language, addressing issues of its theory, methods and procedures, and practice. There is no doubt that corpus linguistics has brought a massive boost to the study of language. Its theoretical credentials are assured, its results are accurate, insightful and objective, and its applications are now attested in nearly every sub field of linguistics including lexis, grammar, discourse, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, stylistics, register linguistics, and many more. Even theoretical linguists, who before would have nothing to do with corpora, now see interesting ways the approach can enrich their work (McEnery & Hardie, 2012). Considering the current trends of the approach, it is most likely that the future of corpus linguistics will see a greater sophistication of corpus analysis tools, the building of much larger corpora, and an expansion of applications, especially to many other languages. It seems an even more promising future awaits this versatile approach to language studies.

# 4.2. Height

(1) реставрация девятиглавого, 64-метровой высоты храма, сооруженного в стиле так называемого тобольского барокко / the restoration of the nine-domed, 64-meter-high temple was built in the style of the so-called Tobolsk baroque (RNC); (2) Эверест — почти 40-метровой высоты перевал огромной галереи / Everest – an almost 40-meter-high pass of a huge gallery (RNC); (3) на болотах растет 6 аршин высотой болотная сосна / in marshes 6 arshins swamp pine grow (RNC); (4) 300-метровая башня была построена, несмотря на яростные протесты таких звезд французской культуры, как Александр Дюма-сын, Ги де Мопассан и др. / 300meter tower was built, despite the fierce protests of French culture stars such as Alexander Dumas' son, Guy de Maupassant and others (RNC).

A noun group can express an exact measurement of a height parameter. This noun group includes a definable noun (see examples 1, 2) and other components: a numeric or a digital symbol marking the exact parameter, and the adjective *memposou* / *meteric* as a unit of measurement, which acts as the attribute of the size noun in the corresponding case form 40*memposou ebicombi* / 40- *meter height*. An additional adjective may occur before determining the exact parameter and be located immediately before the defined name (3). In Russian, a national unit of measurement *apuuh* is used. A parametric noun *ebicomoŭ* / *with a height* may be absent (4). One can guess the measurement of the height based on the semantics of a noun.

# 4.3. Length

(5) Семейство это, в котором были такие гиганты, как 30-метровой длины диплодок / This family, in which there were giants such as the 30-

*meter-long diplodocus* (RNC); (6) Пучок попадает в распадной канал — *mpyбy 140-метровой длины* / The beam enters the decay channel – *a 140-meter-long pipe* (RNC).

When measuring a length parameter, the same noun group is used: Numeral + Adjective *memposoŭ / meteric* expressing the measurement of unit + noun of a parameter in the genitive case  $\partial \pi u \mu \mu$  / *length* + noun. The attributive group of exact measurement can occupy the preposition (5) or postposition (6) to a definable noun.

# 4.4. Area

(7) По стране ежегодно добавляются миллионы квадратных метров жилья / Around the country, millions of square meters of housing are added annually (RNC); (8) На рынок первичного жилья вышло свыше 500 тысяч квадратных метров новых площадей / The market for primary housing was came out with over 500 thousand square meters of new space came out (RNC).

This attributive group is correlated mainly with the noun жилье / housing (7). In most cases, the noun площадь /area with the attribute of the exact quantity is used independently (8). The name group includes a numeral or a digit + an adjective кеадратных / square indicating mathematical degree + unit of measurement meter in the plural.

# 4.5. Average Size Adjectives

Russian is an East Slavic language of the wider Indo-European family. It is a descendant of the language used in Kievan Rus', a loose conglomerate of East Slavic tribes from the late 9th to the mid 13th centuries. From the point of view of spoken language, its closest relatives are Ukrainian, Belarusian, and Rusyn, the other three languages in the East Slavic branch. In many places in eastern and southern Ukraine and throughout Belarus, these languages are spoken interchangeably, and in certain areas traditional bilingualism resulted in language mixtures such as Surzhyk in eastern Ukraine and Trasianka in Belarus. An East Slavic Old Novgorod dialect, although it vanished during the 15th or 16th century, is sometimes considered to have played a significant role in the formation of modern Russian. Also Russian has notable lexical similarities with Bulgarian due to a common Church Slavonic influence on both languages, as well as because of later interaction in the 19th and 20th centuries, Bulgarian grammar differs markedly

from Russian. In the 19th century, the language was often called "Great Russian" to distinguish it from Belarusian, then called "White Russian" and Ukrainian, then called "Little Russian" (Sussex & Cubberley, 2006: 477–478) language on the Internet, after English.

A Russian adjective (имя прилагательное) is usually placed before the noun it qualifies, and it agrees with the noun in case, gender, and number. With the exception of a few invariant forms borrowed from other languages, such as беж ('beige', nonadapted form of бежевый) or хаки ('khaki-colored'), most adjectives follow one of a small number of regular declension patterns (except for some that complicate the short form). In modern Russian, the short form appears only in the nominative and is used when the adjective is in a predicative role: нов, нова, ново, новы are short forms of новый ('new'). Formerly (as in the bylinas) short adjectives appeared in all other forms and roles, which are not used in the modern language, but are nonetheless understandable to Russian speakers as they are declined exactly like nouns of the corresponding gender. Adjectives may be divided into three general groups:

- qualitative (ка́чественные) denote a quality of the object; this is the only group that usually has degrees of comparison.
- relational (относи́тельные) denote some sort of relationship; unlikely to act as a predicate or have a short form.
- possessive (притяжа́тельные) denote belonging to a specific subject; have some declensional peculiarities (Fomina, 2003).

The adjective средний, нормальный / medium, normal indicates conformity to the standard stemming from the nature of things and not established by man. The derivative adjective порядочный / fair indicates a high degree of quality. L.G.Efanova notes the compliance with artificially established rules allows you to use the adjective правильный - правильный *размер / right – right size.* The ability to accurately reproduce reality and measure is expressed by верный размер / correct size (Russian National Corpus (RNC)). N.D.Fedyaeva treats the adjective нормальный / normal as corresponding to the norm: 1) to general criteria правильный / correct; 2) to the average value стандартный, средний, как все / average, like everything (Efanova, 2013). In the NRC, the adjective средний / average has 4,642 tokens.

	Прилагательное положительного параметра / Adjectives of Positive Parameter		Прилагательное отрицательного параметра/ Adjectives of Negative Parameter	
1	Длинный / long	89 79	Короткий /short	54 94
2	Высокий / high	15037	Низкий / Iow	3 250
3	Широкий / wide	6 235	Узкий / narrow	2 842
4	Большой / big	72028	Маленький / small	22 216
5	Толстый / thick	54 55	Тонкий / thin	48 93

### Table 1: Frequency of Size Adjectives

(9) Среднее по размеру ранчо в тихом живописном месте на реке может стоить больше миллиона долларов / A medium-sized ranch in a quiet, picturesque place on a river can cost more than a million dollars (RNC); (10) Он представляет собой небольшое пространство, ограниченное со всех сторон домами средней сысоты / It is a small space bounded on all sides by houses of medium height (RNC).

In the RNC, an example was found with a combination of *cpeднee по размеру* / average by size (9). The adjectives *cpeднuй* / mean in combination with the parameter nouns express the average manifestation of the quality. The combination *cpeднeй высоты* / average height has 32 tokens in NRC. The attribute occupies postposition to the defined word. The parameter noun has a genitive case form (10).

то build the diagram, we modified the table. (11) Христофор взял среднего размера кусок бересты и записал / Christopher took a medium-sized piece of birch bark and wrote down (RNC); (12) В сети билась среднего размера рыба / A medium-sized fish beat on the net (RNC).

The adjective *средний / average* combines with a noun *size* (11), (12). The attributive group *среднего размера / mid-sized* has 119 entries in the corpus and occupies preposition to the definable noun.

(13) ножовка, средней толщины белая нить, марля, материал для переплета / hacksaw, medium thickness white thread, gauze, material for binding (RNC); (14) Перед вами средней толщины бревно / Before you is a medium-thick log (RNC); (15) В его сейфе покоилась еще папочка средней толщины / In his safe besides there was still a daddy of medium thickness (RNC).

The phrase средней толщины / of average thickness has 18 tokens without defining any nouns. It only acts as an attribute in two examples (13), (15).

The adjective  $cpe\partial \mu e \check{u} / average$  defines the parameter noun in the genitive case. All this attributive group belongs to a definable noun and occupies preposition (13), (14), or postposition to it (15).

(16) Молекулы тау-белка выглядят как средней длины цепочки атомов / Ehe protein molecules look like the average length chain of atoms (RNC); (17) В расщелину средней ширины тело входит лишь наполовину / The body only enters the crevice of medium width halfway (RNC).

The expressions of *средней ширины / average width* (17) and *средней длины / average length* (16) have 10 and 37 tokens respectively.

## 4.6. Size Adjectives

Inaccurate measurement prevails in the language. Using size adjectives, we qualify the object as having one or another indefinite level of a parameter, determining it as *long / short, large/small*. The table below represents data on the frequency of size adjectives in the RNC. The corpus linguistics method makes it easy to determine the frequency indicators for each size adjective.

We excluded the size parameter as much greater than the others. As the data in the Table **1** and Table **2** and Figure **1** show, the adjectives of a positive

## Table 2: Table of the Ratio of Positive/Negative Parameters

	Positive Parameters	Negative Parameters
Длина / lengh	8979	5494
Выcoma / height	15037	3250
Ширина / width	6235	2842
Толщина / thickness	5455	4893
Величина / size	72028	22216

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parameter quantitatively dominate the adjectives of a negative parameter.





The article considers size adjectives *μυροκυŭ / wide, y3κυŭ / narrow.* The study is to determine: 1) nouns that combine with these adjectives and designate objects objectively endowed with a dominant parameter; 2) Compatibility potential that corresponds to the concept of collocation analyses accepted in corpus linguistics.

The adjectives *широкий / wide* means greater than average width, and *узкий / narrow* means less width in relation to length. The width parameter characterizes: 1) objects whose length is «established» by a person: *широкая / узкая улица – wide / narrow street;* 2) hollow objects or the size of holes of various shapes; 3) large natural spaces *широкое поле / wide field;* 4) the person's clothing *узкие/ широкие брюки – narrow / wide trousers.* 

Yu. D. Apresyan writes that *uupokoeo mpomyapa l* wide sidewalk has width more generous than the average for sidewalks. For belts, which can also be *narrow* and wide, a different norm is adopted (Fedyaeva, 2009; Apresyan, 2009). For example, *uupokoe платье / wide dress* is not more comprehensive than the average dress, but it is a dress that does not cover the body. In this example, the average value is determined relative to a particular person.

In the RNC the adjective *широкий / wide* has 6235 tokens, the adjective *узкий / narrow* has 2842 tokens. The ratio index is 2.4. We decided to introduce the ratio index to indicate the functioning asymmetry of adjectives of antonymic pairs. The index is Calculated by a simple ratio but is quite indicative.

(18) Тогда тут просто шла *широкая дорога* в горы. / Then there was just a *wide road* to the mountains (RNC); (19) Это просто была еще одна

*широкая улица* / It was just another *wide street* (RNC); (20) Нас разъединяет *узкая улица* / we are separated by *a narrow street* (RNC); (21) *Узкая дорога,* по обочинам которой цветут белые флорентийские ирисы / *A narrow road,* along the sides of which white Florentine irises bloom (RNC).

Regarding collocations you can record the following data:

широкая дорога / wide road -83 tokens (18);

узкая дорога / narrow road -44 tokens (21);

широкая улица / wide street - 9 tokens (19);

узкая улица / narrow street - 23 tokens (20).

It should be noted that in **exterior inanimate sphere** *roads* are 4 times more often characterized by a positive parameter, *streets* are 2 times more often characterized by a negative parameter.

(22) Под костюмом подразумевались широкие брюки / The suit meant wide trousers (RNC); (23) Он слушал рок-н-ролл на бобинах, носил узкие брюки / He listened to rock and roll on bobbins, wore narrow trousers (RNC); (24) На ней была блузка защитного цвета, узкая юбка / She wore a protective blouse, a narrow skirt (RNC); (25) На Ленке была длинная широкая юбка / Lenka wore a long wide skirt (RNC).

The functioning of adjectives in collocations is characterized by the following data:

широкие брюки / wide trousers - 30 tokens (22);

узкие брюки / narrow trousers - 49 tokens (23);

узкая юбка / narrow skirt - 16 tokens (24);

широкая юбка / wide skirt - 8 tokens (25).

In the interior inanimate sphere, when characterizing clothing in particular *trousers* positive adjectives of the width parameter dominate over the negative adjectives. In the field of women's clothing, a similar picture with low rates of frequency can be recorded.

The width parameter is characterized by a combination of the concepts: length + holding capacity. To determine the compatibility, we took objects with a length correlated with their capacity.

The living sphere is bypassed by our attention since in relation to a person, the width parameter passes into the parameter of thickness or fatness. Characteristic of the width parameter is possible for individual parts of the body – *shoulders, eyebrows.* 

## 5. SUMMARY

The functional-semantic field of non-discrete quantity includes accurate and inaccurate measurement of space represented in the language. The plan of expression involves the functioning of parametric adverbs, adjectives, and the category of comparison. Size adjectives are characterized by the expression of a quality which is: 1) objective, 2) visually easily identifiable, 3) having quantitative representation. Size adjectives implicate the mental process of the approximate measurement of quality, its correlation with the parametric norm, and its explicit representation by choosing the appropriate adjective antonymic pair.

## 6. CONCLUSIONS

Same size adjectives, as attributes, indicate an exact measurement of parameters *length, height,* and *area* and have the same structure: a numeral, an adjective corresponding to the unit of measurement, or a parametric noun in the required case form. A parametric adjective is non-obligatory, while the designated parameter is derived from the semantics of the defined noun. National units can be used.

Average size adjectives with abstract parameter nouns form complex attributes taking up postposition and preposition to the defined noun. The adjective средний /average is mainly combined with height and length parameters with the dominance of the noun size. In Russian, although plural agreement with singular group terms is possible (2a)2, it is very restricted (2b)3; yet all group NPs seem to be compatible with semantically plural predicates (2c). One natural question arising in relation to these examples is how we can represent the denotation of group nouns and group NPs, or to be more precise, whether the units of individuals denoted by, say, committee in (1) and mnozestvo and gruppa in (2) can be identified with the plural sums of the members of these units (henceforth, associated sums). The answer given by Barker (1992) and Schwarzschild (1996) and more or less accepted in recent formal semantics literature is negative. Both Barker and Schwarzschild argued that the denotations of group nouns are atomic and hence group NPs have properties that are different from the properties of expressions denoting associated sums (Lander, 2014).

The ratio index characterizes size adjectives as an indicator of functioning asymmetry positive/negative parameter adjectives, which is 2.4 for the antonymic pair is короткий / short, длинный / long The most frequent are collocations with the nouns road, street. When characterizing clothing, in particular trousers, adjectives of a positive width parameter dominate. In the field of women's clothing, a similar picture can be recorded. Collocations with women's clothing items are quantitatively inferior. It should be noted that roads are 4 times more often characterized by a positive parameter. *streets* are 2 times more often characterized by a negative parameter.

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