



## Lexical Means of Intensification in the Story of Edgard Allan Poe

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### ABSTRACT

This article gives definition on the category of intensification and ways of its expressions. Moreover, it deals with means of the intensification and semantic characteristics of intensifying adjectives based on the story of Edgard Allan Poe.

### Keywords:

Intensity, intensifying adjectives, emotive vocabulary

**Introduction:** Intensity is a functionally semantic category, since it “expresses the meaning of a high level of generalization, is characterized by the multi-level means of expression and the field organization of these means”. In natural languages, there are many ways of intensification. One of the most significant is lexical. A special role among lexical enhancers belongs to adjectives. The dominant position of adjectives (mainly qualitative) in the structure of the functional semantic field of intensity, according to O.A. Usacheva, “due to the fact that the gradual semantics of qualitative adjectives is their characteristic feature”. Despite the long and steady interest of researchers in the semantic, functional and structural features of the means of intensification, there is still no single point of view on the essence of the category “intensity”. Questions about the boundaries of the category under consideration, about the nature of the semantics of intensity, remain debatable.

**Main part:** This article analyzes one of the stories of Edgard Allan Poe and observe the role of adjectives in the means of intensification.

Adjectives of intensifying content, along with emotive ones, helped the author to emphasize his ideas, place accents in the necessary episodes of the characters' actions, thus creating an invisible, but felt on the subconscious, background of the entire narrative - whether it be the presence of fear and hope, delight and disappointment, love and hate. Thanks to the selection of emotive vocabulary in the stories, Poe managed to fully convey the atmosphere of the events described, the emotions and experiences of the characters, the assessment of the events and the characters themselves.

“A descent into the maelstrom” is the story of Edgar Allan in about a man who fell into a whirlpool and survived. The work is built according to the “Story in the Story” scheme. The old man shares the history of his miraculous salvation from the great whirlpool of maelstrom, after which the hero turned gray overnight. He with two brothers owned a sailing ship and earned a living of fishing. Once they overtook a hurricane of extraordinary power at sea, and after the sailboat almost died in the

waves, the hero dragged on right into the whirlpool.

In order for readers to feel the whole depth of feelings and emotions experienced by the hero and in order to accurately convey the tense atmosphere of danger, the author uses a large amount of emotional vocabulary and adjectives of intensifying content. Let us consider in more detail several emotional and adjectives of intensifying content.

For example, when describing a whirlpool, Edgar, among other emotional adjectives, used the adjective "boisterous".

"When the stream is *most boisterous*, and its fury heightened by a storm, it is dangerous to come within a Norway mile of it". [Poe, 1993:51]

During the analysis of the vocabulary definitions of the adjective "boisterous", the "unpleasant" rating was found, moreover, the "full" intensified intensity, which is already found at 2 steps. Moreover, the adjective explicitly is amplified by the diagram of "most".

Boisterous (Adj) - Noisy and Full of Life and Energy

Noisy (Adj) - 1) Making a Lot of Noise

Noise (N) - 1) A Sound, Especially When it is loud, Unpleasant or Disturbing

Thus, on the one hand, Edgar tried to convey to the reader all the strength, power and danger that this whirlpool carries. On the other hand, a negative author's assessment is a way of influencing the reader: he, like the main character, perceives this whirlpool negatively. Further, when mentioning the danger of fishing near this whirlpool, Edgar of the software uses an emotional adjective "horrible", in which there is also an explicit increase in a negative assessment.

"... but, somehow, although we ran the risk ourselves, we had not the heart to let the young ones get into the danger - for, after all said and done, it was a *horrible* danger, and that is the truth". [Poe, 1993:53]

Horrible (Adj) - 1) Very bad or unpleasant; used to describe something that you do not like.

The author uses precisely this adjective, carrying an intensive negative assessment, in order to emphasize that the whirlpool is really very dangerous, and as if hints to the reader about the further development of the plot.

Further, in the story there is a detailed story about that day when a misfortune happened to the main character.

"...for it was one in which blew *the most terrible* hurricane that ever came out of the heavens". [Poe, 1993:53]

As can be seen from the analysis of vocabulary definitions, the emotional adjective "terrible" carries a negative assessment, expressed by the adjective "unpleasant" and enhanced by the lump intensity "very". Moreover, the negative effect is enhanced by the use of an excellent degree of adjective.

Terrible (Adj) - 1) very unpleasant; making you feel very unhappy, upset.

Such a choice of vocabulary allows the reader to fully feel the negative attitude of the narrator to the incident, as well as the seriousness and danger of the situation.

In the next scene, the main character talks about the moment when he realized that they were in this very terrible whirlpool.

«I shook from head to foot as if I had had the most violent fit of the ague».

Thanks to the analysis of vocabulary definitions, we can see that in the adjective "Violent" a positive and negative assessment is potentially present. But in this context, we understand that the author wanted to convey his negative attitude. This is felt intuitively, and can also be confirmed by the fact that the adjective "violent" is determining the noun "ague", which carries a negative assessment.

Violent (adj) - 1) involving or caused by physical force that is intended to hurt or kill somebody

2) showing or caused by very strong

3) very strong and sudden

4) extremely bright

Hurt (v) - 5) to have a bad effect on somebody/something

bright (adj) - 5) giving reason to believe that good things will happen;

Also, during the analysis of the vocabulary of this adjective, the intensity was revealed, expressed by the adjective with the adverb "very strong". In addition to implicit strengthening, the author used this adjective to

an excellent degree, which also indicates an increase in a negative assessment.

**Conclusion:** Thus, comparing the emotional state of the protagonist with the most terrible form of malaria, and using this emotional adjective, Edgar wanted to convey to the reader a high degree of tension and the danger of this situation, and at the same time the whole range of experienced feelings, prevailing among which was a sense of fear. Intensifier adjectives form heterogeneous class of words in which groups of adjectives united by semantic, structural commonality or commonality their compatibility properties.

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