

IMPORTANT FEATURES IN THE FORMATION OF DEGREE OF COMPARISON OF ADJECTIVES IN LATIN

Khafizova Mukharram Nematilloevna

Khalimova Yulduz Salokhiddinovna

Asian International University

Department of Clinical disciplines

Abstract: This article is about the degree of comparison of adjectives. There are three degrees of comparison of adjectives in Latin as in English. They are: positive, comparative and superlative. The usual way to indicate the amount of a quality in Latin is by adding specific suffixes to the word's stem. Each degree is formed with the help of an ending.

Key words: positive, comparative and superlative degree, adjectives, suffixes

Adjective is a word expressing a quality of a thing: **dexter** (right), **sinister** (left), **major** (large), **minor** (small) and others. In all Latin terms the position of adjectives is *after the noun* with which it has grammatical agreement.

In Latin, adjectives can be divided into 2 large groups. The 1st group of adjectives consists of three (generic) endings, the ending is **-us**, **-er** masculine *masculinum* (m), **-a** feminine *femininum* (f) and neuter *neutrum* (n) **-um**. Their dictionary form consists of three components: 1. Adjective in the masculine form; 2. The feminine ending; 3. The neuter ending. For example: longus, a, um (long); medius, a, um (middle); transversus, a, um (transverse) etc. The stem of the 1st group adjectives is obtained from the Nominative form by removing the gender ending: in the word planus the stem is plan-; longus – long-; internus-intern-; intermedius – intermedi- and so on.

In Latin, as in all languages, there are three degrees of comparison of adjectives. They are: positive, comparative and superlative. In Latin **gradus positivus** - positive degree, **gradus comparativus**- comparative degree, and **gradus superlativus** - superlative degree. The usual way to indicate the amount of a quality in Latin is by adding specific suffixes to the word's stem. Of the adjectives of the 1st group, qualitative adjectives (denoting color, volume, shape) are put in degrees. The positive degree is the base of the adjective. The positive degree of adjectives includes adjectives **-us**, **-er** masculine (m), **-a** feminine (f), **-um** neuter (n) with 3 generic suffixes. For example: longus, longa, longum - long; ruber, rubra, rubrum – red; albus, alba, album - white; niger, nigra, nigrum – black etc. The dictionary form of adjectives of positive degree will be as follows: flavus, a, um -yellow; niger, gra, grum-black; planus, a, um -flat, latus, a, um – broad and etc.

The comparative degree expresses a higher quality of thing or person as compared with the same quality of other things or persons. To form a comparative degree of adjectives belonging to the masculine (m) and feminine (f) the suffix **-ior** is added to the stem of the adjectives, and **-ius** for neuter. For example: in the word flav+us (yellow) **flav** is considered the stem. Adjectives of comparative degree differ in the third type of nouns in the third group, and adjectives in all three genders belong to the genitive singular (Genetivus singularis- Gen. sing.) will have the suffix **-ior + is**.

The dictionary form of the adjectives of comparative degree has two components: 1. Nominative singular masculine & feminine form with the suffix **-ior**; 2. Suffix **-ius** of the Nominative singular neuter form. E.g.: longior, ius – longer; purior, ius – cleaner; brevior, ius – shorter. These adjectives are mainly used in anatomical terminology: **anterior, ius** (anterior); **posterior, ius** (posterior); **superior, ius** (upper, superior); **inferior, ius** (lower, inferior).

The adjectives in the comparative degree are placed on the last position. E.g.: *facies anterior* - (anterior surface); *processus articularis superior* - superior articular process; *tuberculum thyr(e)oideum superius* – (superior thyroid tubercle).

Positive, comparative and superlative degrees of adjectives "large" and "small" consist of different stems. For example: positive degree **magnus, a, um** - large; comparative degree **major, jus** - larger; superlative degree **maximus, a, um** – the largest; **parvus, a, um** - small; **minor, us** - smaller; **minimus, a, um** – the smallest;

The comparative degree of the adjectives **major, jus** (larger) and **minor, us** (less, smaller) is used in medical terminology in paired anatomical structures and is translated into English as a positive degree: large and small; For example: ala major – **large** wing, ala minor - **small** wing, tuberculum majus – **large** tubercle, trochanter major - **large** spit etc. If we are talking about unpaired anatomical structures, a positive degree is used. For example: **foramen (occipitale) magnum** is a large occipital foramen.

In Latin, there is no positive degree of adjectives *upper, lower, anterior, posterior*. Therefore, the comparative degree of these adjectives is translated into Russian as a positive degree. For example: **superior, ius** – upper; **anterior, ius** – anterior; **inferior, ius** - lower; **posterior, ius** – posterior; Adjectives *large, small, upper, lower, front, back* will refer to the same noun in dictionary terms. For example: *tuberculum thyreoideum superius* is the upper tubercle of the thyroid gland, cornu minus (large);

The superlative degree of adjectives is the grammatical form of qualitative adjectives, which indicates that the feature of an object is manifested to the greatest extent compared to the feature of another object. The superlative degree expresses a highest quality of thing or person as compared with the same quality of other things or persons. To form the superlative of adjectives, suffixes **-issim** and generic endings **-us, -a, -um** are added to the stem of the adjective. For example: pur+**issim**+us, a, um - the

purest; long+*issim*+us, a, um - the longest; lat+*issim*+us, a, um- the widest; simplic+*issim*+us, a, um- (the most) simple, etc. The superlative of adjectives with the ending *-er* masculine ending (m) is formed by adding the suffix *-rim* to the stem and the generic endings **-us, -a, -um**. For example: ruber+*rim*+us, a, um– the reddest, niger+*rim*+us, a, um – the blackest. The dictionary form of the adjectives in the superlative degree coincides with the dictionary form of the 1st group adjectives and consists of **three components**: adjective in the masculine form; the feminine ending; the neuter ending: purissimus, a, um – the purest, maximus, a, um – the largest, minimus, a, um – the smallest.

All three degrees of adjectives agree with nouns in gender, numbers, and cases. For example: musculus longus - long muscle; vena longa – long vein; os longum – long bone; tuberculum anterius-anterior tubercle, vena profunda - deep vein, etc. The superlative degree is declined on the pattern of the 1st and 2nd declensions, i.e. the adjectives have the masculine & neuter genitive ending *-i*, and the feminine genitive ending *-ae*. Adjectives of comparative degree are inclined according to the III declension, i.e. the genitive singular (Genetivus singularis) has the suffix **-is**. The nominative singular (Nominativus singularis) is formed with the ending **-ior, ius**; and Genetivus singularis **-ior+is**. For example: major, majus, majoris; minor, minus, minoris; posterior, posterius, posterioris; superior, superius, superioris.

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