
We argue that the English -ed found in compounds such as brown-eyed is an instance of what Stassen (2009) has recently called “Predicativization”, and we offer the first morphosyntactic account of this cross-linguistic phenomenon. Many restrictions on -ed noted in earlier literature are accounted for if (i) -ed selects a root, and (ii) semantically it converts a relational denotation into that of a predicate. An additional informativeness requirement, evaluated upon completion of a cycle defined by -ed, explains why the construction usually requires a modifier. Comparisons with other Germanic languages and with Quechua lend support to the analysis.