

## PHILOLOGY

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### **Functional-semantic analysis of the adverbial combination *hardly likely* as a representative of the network of meanings of incomplete action or sign in modern English language**

It is considered the adverbial combination *hardly likely* as a language tool for conveying the meaning of a low degree of intensity, severity, completion of an action or feature. The work is done on the material of the English language. The authors attempt to analyze the use of the adverbial combination *hardly likely*, taking into account the semantics of its components, in order to trace the functioning of the studied combination as an approximator in modern English. As the analysis shows, an adverbial combination of an incomplete action or feature *hardly likely* should be attributed to one of the representatives of the network of values of incomplete action or feature. The complexity of the semantic nature of the combination *hardly likely* explains the peculiarities of its functioning in modern English. Due to the semantically antonymous relations of its components, the phrase *hardly likely* is able to give brightness and expressiveness to the statement, serves as an instrument of influence on the audience and at the same time expresses the subjective attitude of the speaker.

**Key words:** adverb, incompleteness of action or feature, evaluative semantics, approximators, antonymy, adverbial phrase.

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