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Term Paper

Preposition in Modern English: structure and functions

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Introduction

Prepositions are a type of word in the English language that shows the relationship between different elements in a sentence. They typically come before a noun, pronoun, or gerund, and indicate the relationship of that word to other elements in the sentence. Prepositions can convey a wide range of meanings, such as location, time, direction, possession, and more. In modern English, prepositions are an essential part of sentence structure, and their correct use is crucial to effective communication.

The structure of prepositions in modern English is relatively straightforward. Most prepositions are one-word forms, such as "in," "on," "at," "to," and "with." However, some prepositions can be two or more words, such as "in spite of," "on account of," and "in addition to." Prepositions can also be used in phrases, such as "in front of," "out of," and "by means of." These phrases act as single prepositions, with their own unique meaning.

The function of prepositions in Modern English is multi-faceted. One of the primary functions of prepositions is to show the relationship between nouns or pronouns and other parts of the sentence. For example, the preposition "in" can indicate location, as in "the book is in the box," or time, as in "I will meet you in five minutes." Similarly, the preposition "on" can indicate location, as in "the book is on the table," or possession, as in "the book belongs to me."

Prepositions can also play a critical role in sentence structure. They often come at the beginning or end of a sentence, and their placement can significantly affect the sentence's meaning. For example, "the dog chased the cat under the table" has a different meaning than "under the table, the dog chased the cat.»

The object of the Term Paper is prepositions in Modern English.

The subject of the Paper is the analysis of functional peculiarities of prepositions

There are many rules and conventions that govern the use of prepositions in modern English. For example, some prepositions are used with specific verb

forms, such as "to" with infinitives, as in "I want to go," or "for" with gerunds, as in "I am responsible for cooking dinner." Other prepositions are used in particular contexts, such as "in" for cities and countries, as in "I live in New York" or "She is from Japan»

The correct use of prepositions can also depend on the style of writing or speech. For example, formal writing often requires the use of more precise prepositions, while informal speech may allow for more colloquial or slang expressions. Understanding the nuances of preposition use can be challenging, even for native English speakers, but is crucial for clear and effective communication.

In conclusion, the study of prepositions in Modern English involves understanding their structure, functions, and nuances. Learning to use prepositions correctly and effectively is an ongoing process, and requires attention to context, style, and meaning. By mastering the use of prepositions, learners of English can improve their communication skills and convey their intended meanings more precisely and effectively.

CHAPTER ONE

1.1. Types of Prepositions

Prepositions are an essential part of English grammar, connecting nouns and pronouns to other elements of a sentence. They are usually short words that describe the relationship between two or more objects, ideas, or actions. Prepositions can indicate time, location, direction, cause and effect, possession, and comparison, among other things. Understanding the different types of prepositions and how they function can greatly improve one's writing and speaking skills.

1.2. Time Prepositions

Time prepositions indicate when an event or action occurs. Some common time prepositions are "in," "on," "at," and "since." For example, "in June," "on Wednesday," "at noon," and "since last year" are all time prepositions.

Example from the novel "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee. p.117:

"He liked Maycomb, he was Maycomb County born and bred; he knew his people, they knew him, and because of Simon Finch's industry, Atticus was related by blood or marriage to nearly every family in the town. Maycomb was a tired old town, even in 1932 when I first knew it. Somehow, it was hotter then. Men's stiff collars wilted by nine in the morning. Ladies bathed before noon after their three-o'clock naps. And by nightfall were like soft teacakes with frostings of sweat and sweet talcum."

In this passage, the preposition "in" is used to indicate a year, "in 1932.»

1.3. Location Prepositions

Location prepositions indicate where something is located. Common location prepositions are "in," "on," "at," "under," and "behind." For example, "in the house," "on the table," "at the store," "under the bed," and "behind the tree" are all location prepositions.

Example: *"In a hole in the ground, there lived a hobbit."* - J.R.R. Tolkien, The Hobbit p.63.

In this sentence, the location preposition "in" is used to indicate the place where the hobbit lives.

1.4. Direction Prepositions

Direction prepositions indicate the direction in which something is moving or pointing. Common direction prepositions are "to," "from," "towards," "into," and "out of." For example, "going to the park," "coming from the airport," "walking towards the door," "jumping into the pool," and "getting out of the car" are all direction prepositions.

Here's an example of a direction preposition from the novel "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee. p32.:

"Jem threw open the gate and sped to the side of the house, slapped it with his palm and ran back past us, not waiting to see if his foray was successful. Dill and I followed on his heels. Safely on our porch, panting and out of breath, we looked back.»

In this passage, the direction preposition "to" is used to indicate the movement of the characters towards the side of the house. The phrase "ran back past us" also includes the direction preposition "past," indicating the direction of Jem's movement away from the other characters.

1.5. Agentive Prepositions

Agentive prepositions indicate the person or thing that performs an action. Common agentive prepositions are "by" and "with." For example, "written by the author" or "painted with a brush" are both agentive prepositions.

Here's an example of an agentive preposition from a sentence in the novel ("The Great Gatsby" p.53 by F. Scott Fitzgerald☺)

"The lights grow brighter as the earth lurches away from the sun, and now the orchestra is playing yellow cocktail music, and the opera of voices pitches a key higher."

In this sentence, the agentive preposition "by" is implied to indicate the person or thing performing the action of playing music. The sentence suggests that the music is being played by the orchestra.

1.6. Instrumental Prepositions

Instrumental prepositions indicate the tool or means by which an action is performed. Common instrumental prepositions are "by," "with," and "through." For example, "cut with a knife," "opened by a key," and "read through a book" are all instrumental prepositions.

An example of an instrumental preposition from a sentence in the novel "Jane Eyre" by Charlotte Bronte:

"I have now been married ten years. I know what it is to live entirely for and with what I love best on earth. I hold myself supremely blest—blest beyond what language can express; because I am my husband's life as fully as he is mine."

In this sentence, the instrumental preposition "with" is used to indicate the means by which the subject (the speaker) lives for and with what they love best on earth, which is their husband. The preposition "with" indicates that the speaker's life is closely connected to their husband's life, and that they both live together in harmony.

1.7. Possessive Prepositions

Possessive prepositions indicate ownership or possession. Common possessive prepositions are "of," "with," and "about." For example, "the car of my friend," "the book with the red cover," and "the movie about space" are all possessive prepositions.

An example of a possessive preposition from a sentence in the novel p.26 "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee:

"The Maycomb County jail was the most venerable and hideous of the county's buildings. Atticus said it was like something Cousin Joshua St. Clair might have designed. It was certainly someone's dream.»

In this sentence, the possessive preposition "of" is used to indicate the ownership of the county's buildings. The phrase "of the county's buildings" suggests that the Maycomb County jail is one of many buildings owned by the county.

1.8. Prepositions of Comparison

Prepositions of comparison indicate the relationship between two or more things. Common prepositions of comparison are "like," "unlike," "similar to," "different from," and "compared to." For example, "the taste is like sugar," "the weather is unlike yesterday," "the car is similar to mine," "the idea is different from the previous one," and "the size is compared to the previous model" are all prepositions of comparison.

Here's an example of a preposition of comparison from the novel "Pride and Prejudice" by Jane Austen:

"Mr. Bingley was good-looking and gentlemanlike; he had a pleasant countenance, and easy, unaffected manners. His sisters were fine women, with an air of decided fashion. His brother-in-law, Mr. Hurst, merely looked the gentleman; but his friend Mr. Darcy soon drew the attention of the room by his fine, tall person, handsome features, noble mien, and the report which was in general circulation within five minutes after his entrance, of his having ten thousand a year."

In this sentence, the preposition of comparison "like" is used to compare the sisters of Mr. Bingley to women with a decided fashion. The phrase "with an air of decided fashion" suggests that the sisters are fashionable and well-dressed, and are similar to other women who possess these traits.

CHAPTER TWO. FUNCTIONAL PECULARITIES OF PREPOSITIONS

1. Functions of prepositions in language

Prepositions are words that show the relationship between a noun or pronoun and other elements in a sentence. They typically indicate the location or direction of an action or event. Here are some common functions of prepositions in language along with examples:

Indicating location: Prepositions are used to show the location of something or someone in relation to another object or place.

Example: "*She sat on the couch*" - *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald p.53. In this sentence, the preposition "on" indicates the location of the subject in relation to the object.

Indicating time: Prepositions are also used to indicate the time of an action or event.

Example: "*He arrived at the party after midnight*" - *The Sun Also Rises* by Ernest Hemingway p.36. In this sentence, the preposition "after" indicates the time of the subject's arrival.

Showing direction: Prepositions can show the direction of an action or event.

Example: "*They walked towards the sunset*" - *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy. In this sentence, the preposition "towards" indicates the direction of the subject's movement.

Expressing relationship: Prepositions can also be used to express the relationship between two or more objects or ideas.

Example: "*She was fond of music*" - *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. In this sentence, the preposition "of" expresses the relationship between the subject and the object of her fondness.

Connecting ideas: Prepositions can connect ideas or concepts in a sentence.

Example: "*He was convinced by her argument*" - *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. In this sentence, the preposition "by" connects the idea of the subject's conviction with the object of the argument.

Overall, prepositions play an essential role in expressing relationships between objects, time, and location in a sentence, allowing writers to communicate complex ideas more effectively.

2. Semantic and pragmatic characteristics of prepositions

Prepositions are function words that are used to show the relationship between two or more elements in a sentence. They have both semantic and pragmatic characteristics.

Semantic Characteristics:

1. **Spatial Relations:** Prepositions are commonly used to indicate spatial relations between two objects or people. For example, "The book is on the table" or "She walked through the door."
2. **Temporal Relations:** Prepositions can also indicate temporal relations such as "before," "after," "during," and "since." For example, "I arrived after the party started" or "I have been studying since morning."
3. **Logical Relations:** Prepositions are often used to indicate logical relations between clauses or sentences, such as "because," "although," "in order to," and "despite." For example, "I went to the store because I needed milk" or "Despite the rain, I went for a walk."p.38
4. **Instrumental Relations:** Prepositions can also indicate instrumental relations between two elements, such as "with," "by," and "through." For example, "He cut the cake with a knife" or "She solved the problem by using a calculator."

Pragmatic Characteristics:

1. **Discourse Functions:** Prepositions can serve various discourse functions such as marking the topic or theme of a sentence, marking the focus of a sentence, or indicating the speaker's attitude or opinion towards something.

2. Register: Prepositions can also indicate the register of a sentence, whether it is formal or informal, and whether it is appropriate for a particular context or situation.
3. Idiomatic Use: Some prepositions have idiomatic use, which means that they are used in a fixed, non-literal way that can be difficult to understand for non-native speakers. For example, "take care of" or "get along with."

In conclusion, prepositions have both semantic and pragmatic characteristics, and their use is essential to convey accurate and effective meaning in language.

3. Communicative value of preposition in speech

Prepositions play an important role in communication and are essential for conveying meaning in speech. They are used to indicate the relationships between words, phrases, and clauses within a sentence, and can affect the interpretation of a sentence. The communicative value of prepositions in speech can be seen in several ways:

1. Clarifying meaning: Prepositions can be used to clarify the meaning of a sentence or to provide additional information about the relationships between the elements in the sentence. For example, the sentence "I'm going to the store" can be clarified with the preposition "to", which indicates the direction of the action.
2. Expressing emotions: Prepositions can be used to express emotions or attitudes towards the subject of the sentence. For example, the preposition "with" can be used to express sympathy or support, as in the sentence "I'm with you on this one".
3. Conveying spatial relationships: Prepositions are frequently used to convey spatial relationships in speech. For example, the prepositions "in", "on", and "under" can be used to indicate the location of an object or the position of an action.
4. Creating cohesion: Prepositions are often used to create cohesion within a text or speech. They can be used to link ideas or to connect sentences or

paragraphs. For example, the preposition "because" can be used to connect a cause and effect relationship between two ideas.

Overall, prepositions play an important role in communication, helping to convey meaning, express emotions, indicate spatial relationships, and create cohesion in speech.

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion I should say that prepositions are an essential part of the English language, providing structure and clarity to sentences. They can be used in a wide variety of ways, including showing location, time, direction, possession, and much more. Prepositions can be simple, complex, or phrasal, and their functions can overlap in many cases. While the use of prepositions in English can be challenging, with practice and understanding of the rules, it can become easier.

Prepositions are one of the most important parts of modern English, helping to connect words and phrases together to create meaningful sentences. They provide crucial information about relationships between people, objects, and ideas, and play a vital role in conveying spatial, temporal, and causal relationships. Moreover, prepositions have both semantic and pragmatic characteristics, contributing to their meaning and usage in different contexts. It is essential for learners of English to have a deep understanding of prepositions and their functions to become proficient in the language.

It is essential to note that prepositions in modern English can have different meanings and usage than they did in the past. The language is continually evolving, and new prepositions are added to the lexicon. It is crucial to stay current with these changes to avoid common preposition errors.

In language acquisition, prepositions are one of the most challenging parts of the English language for non-native speakers to master. Understanding the different types of prepositions, their meanings, and how they are used can significantly aid in language learning and communication.

In literature, prepositions are used by writers to create imagery, evoke emotions, and provide structure to their writing. Many famous literary works have made use of prepositions to enhance their themes and make the reader feel more engaged with the story.

In summary, prepositions are an integral part of the English language, providing structure, clarity, and meaning to sentences. They can be simple or

complex, and their functions can overlap. By understanding the different types of prepositions, their meanings, and how they are used, we can communicate more effectively and avoid common preposition errors. Prepositions have a rich history in the English language and continue to be an essential aspect of modern English.

РЕЗЮМЕ

Курсова робота на тему: Прийменник у сучасній англійській мові: структура та функції

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Курсова робота складається зі вступу, трьох розділів, висновку, резюме та списку використаних джерел. У першому розділі «Історичний розвиток прийменників». У другому розділі «Види прийменників» представлена інформація про види прийменників у англійській мові. У третьому розділі прийменники представлені у культурі, літературі.

У даній курсовій роботі всього:

Сторінок – 17;

Список використаних джерел: 17.

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