THE ROLE OF THE FUNCTIONS
OF THE SUPPLEMENTS WITH PREPOSITIONS
IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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Problem definition and its relationship with important scientific and practical tasks. The article is devoted to the study of the functions of the prepositional supplement in modern English. The prepositional supplement is a minor member of the sentence introduced by a preposition, dependent on the predicate and which participates in the formation of subject-object relations. A propositional supplement that performs various functions in a sentence is necessary for its structural and semantic completeness. The diversity of these functions is associated with a different semantic configuration of elements and their relations in the structure of the sentence.

The relevance of the article is determined by the important role of the prepositional supplement in the semantic and syntactic structure of the sentence and the lack of a comprehensive study of its semantics. In most cases, the prepositional supplement is a compulsory structural component of the proposal, and it is characterized by a high frequency of use. The function and usage of prepositions are perennial constraints for ESL learners. Though the students have learnt grammatical aspects for many years, they still struggle to employ prepositions in English sentences. Their inappropriate use of prepositions generally affects the understanding of written texts, as prepositions are stressed and audible in written communication. According to Collins, three out of ten most frequent words of the English language are prepositions. Prepositions are more significant in language use, as they belong to active parts of speech in English. Besides being significant structural elements, prepositions also serve as essential discourse markers and basic components in producing written texts. The learners find it difficult to systemize English prepositions, due to their sheer number and polysemous nature. In English, there are almost 100 prepositions attributed to multiple meanings. The meaning of prepositions varies according to the context. The learners are not able to comprehend the contextual and syntactic meaning of prepositions and use it in relevant places.

A preposition is a word that shows the relationship between noun or pronoun and other words in a sentence. It is always used before a noun or pronoun and it links nouns, pronouns, and phrases to other words in a sentence. The word or phrase that the prepositions introduce is called the object of a sentence.

The term preposition is employed to refer to a class of invariable words, which has a grammatical or local function and which tend to occur immediately before the noun or noun phrase they modify. Scientists state that a preposition expresses a relationship between two entities; one being represented by the prepositional complement of various types of relational meaning. These relationships include those of time, position, direction, and various degrees of mental and emotional states. They state that prepositions never change their form regardless of the case, gender, etc. of the word they are referring to.

Types of Prepositions

Based on a syllable, prepositions can be classified into simple and complex.

Simple prepositions are monosyllabic and unstressed whereas complex prepositions are polysyllabic and stressed. For example,

Simple prepositions – in, on, at, for, with, from etc.

Complex prepositions – because of, due to, instead of, etc.

Three words: in spite of, on behalf of, as far as, etc.

The purpose of the article is to determine the semantic functions of the name arguments, expressed as a prepositional supplement. In the process of solving the goal, the following tasks are solved:

– the establishment of a system of integral and differential features for each of the semantic functions;

– to determine the features of the structural-semantic organization of the sentence of selected distributional models, and which position of the proposed supplement is occupied by a noun or pronoun with a concrete-subject and abstract meaning;

– the definition of the classes of groups of verbs that function in sentences with a concrete subject and abstract names in the position of a prepositional addition.

On the basis of this article, there is a logical approach to the analysis of the semantic structure of the sentence. We assume that in the semantic structure the most important is the prepositive component, predicate, and argument relations, which determine the content of the sentence.

In this article, the predicate is **understood** as a full lexeme representing any situation. Other sentence members, including the prepositional supplement are dependent on the verb elements. The concept of valence is in the center of the sentence, and all other members of the sentence are subordinate to it. Actants are a subject and additions. The circumstantial elements, as a rule, are not determined by the meaning of the verb and are not directly included in its valence **frame**. The function of the nominal actants in sentences is also connected with the **transitivity** of the verb. Prepositions as a service part of speech also have a lexical meaning, which in combination with the composition of the verb actualizes its transitional meaning and determines the presence of arguments with prepositions for the realization of the active semantic valences of a certain lexical and semantic version of the verb.

The predicate-argument analysis used as a research method allows to present the semantic structure of a sentence in the form of a proposition: P/A+B+C+…//, where P is a predicate and A, B, C are arguments that perform certain semantic roles. The number of arguments in a propositional set is determined by the valence characteristics of the verbal predicate. The positive component, which includes the predicate and the arguments *dependent* on it, is fundamental because it reflects the situation of a real or imaginary reality, called sentence 1. The predicative argument analysis of the proposal is widespread in modern linguistics (Anderson, 1971; Cook, 1979; Longacre, 1973, 1976; Lyons, 1974, 1977; Bogdanov, 1977 and others).

Semantic functions display subject-logical relations and are derived from the relationship of arguments to the predicate. The lexical meaning of a verb can transmit an action, process, event, etc. Nominal arguments appear in certain semantic functions. The interaction of the subject arguments, presented as a subject and object, constitutes the denotative basis of the sentence. Depending on the *nature* of this relationship, different typological semantic functions can be attributed to the arguments. As a result, semantic relations form the meanings of functions/which are universal concepts with the help of which a person represents the reality of surrounding life. The semantic functions of arguments are associated with signs of objects involved in a situation. Thus, the situation as a referent of a sentence gets a display in its semantic and syntactic organization.

The system of semantic functions is made up of certain components of meaning associated with the nature of the relations between the participants in situations of real or imaginary, and is reduced to typological different models of situations that are universal in their nature. Each of the semantic functions is characterized by a specific set of features that serve as a criterion for their identification. The sets of features determine the role of the participants in the situation.

Conventionally, the role types of arguments in various semantic functions identified in this study can be combined into three groups. The first group includes arguments that are causally involved in the situation: agent, nominative, instrumental. The second group includes arguments with non-causative participation in the displayed situation. The third group includes arguments related to the direction of the action or showing the orientation of other participants in the situation. It includes arguments in the semantic functions of the destination and the locative.

The notion of agentive as initiator and performer of the action is widely spread in linguistics. The diagnostic signs for this semantic function are independence and activity, understood as the ability of a person to perform some action at the expense of the energy itself. The agent plays the most significant role in the social structure of the sentence (Fillmore).

The argument in the semantic function of the instrumentation denotes a non-independent participant which accompanies the agent in the situation described in the sentence. For example: "She poked, tentatively, with the toe of her slipper at a yellow plush tiger" (B. Ballinger). A change in the state of the

subject in a situation is achieved by an active subject of action with the help of an instrument. The instrument in this case is the immediate cause of the change or other consequences in a different situation. In such cases where the semantic structure of the sentence contains arguments in the agentive and instrumentative functions, the agentive is considered to be indirect, but the main cause of the causative action, and the tool is the direct, but not the main reason. Some causative verbs contain a common seme of instrumentivity, and the verbs with a narrower seme of instrumentiveness may indicate the denotative status of the arguments in the instrumentative function specifically.

The diagnostic sign for the argument in the semantic function nominative is the absence of «voluntary» participation in the situation. The argument in this semantic function can display an animated or inanimate object. In the first case, the actions of the nominative argument are dependent, in the second, the action is based on a subject of nature or an artifact. The action is performed by a separate subject of action: «But I must have some money. So don't delay, but send it *by the boy*» (T. Dreiser). «I don't drive much anymore», he explained, «I'm just dragged around *by these limousines*» (J. Updike).

The analysis of the following two semantic functions is more convenient to produce on the basis of their opposition. These functions are the patient and the objective. The diagnostic sign for them is the notion of variability and immutability. The referent of the argument in the role of the patientive experiences various effects, which make it change to a different state, change its external and internal features, or collapses. The patient never displays the source of the action, it is characterized by such signs as involvement in the event, inactivity and changeability: Della finished her cry and attended to her cheeks with the powder rag (O. Henry).

The semantic role of the object, unlike the patient, characterizes a neutral participant in a situation or event that existed before the start of the event or action and does not have any changes by the moment went would be completed. Animative functions can also include inanimate and animated objects of real and imaginary reality. The argument of the objective is characterized by such features as involvement in the event, inactivity, immutability: Then he bowed, *John* and went up the path (F. Fitzerald).

The diagnostic sign for the semantic function of the resultative is the notion of «occurrence». In the situation described in the proposal, the original substantive element has fundamental changes and changes its original qualities. As a result of an action or process which is named «verb» in a situation a new object appears, which did not exist before it began, but it became the result of this action. Argument in this semantic function are found in a sentence with an agent and or patientive: «She had been dashed *into a thousand fragments*» (L. Durrell).

The argument in the semantic function of the beneficiary is used in situations that are characterized by the presence of the relationship of ownership. Thus, a typical situation of sale and purchase includes the role of the object of sale or

purchase, the person who alienates the object, the person who buys the object, and the funds for the purchase. The argument in the function of the ***benefit faktiva*** becomes the owner or the recipient of something/things, material or spiritual benefits/. Signs of focus and profitability, the emergence of property relations are diagnostic tools for the semantic function of the ***benefit***: «Amy Camaby is devoted to dogs. She left it to miss Camaby. She died» (A. Christie).

The argument in the function of the addressee is always animate objects, and the end point of moving something/objects, information/. The ***addressee's*** semantic function displays a participant in a certain situation without a change in its state at the time of the action passed by the verb. This type of situation is always dynamic, state you can say that the argument in the function of the addressee is an animated locative: She gave her luggage check ***to a porter*** and described her bags to him in fluent Italian … (I. Cheever).

A common feature for all the semantic functions discussed above is the involvement in an event, action, phenomenon, etc. In contrast to others, the semantic function of a locative indicates the location of an object in space. A locative is considered as an argument by the fact that the ***locative seme***, is included in the predicate implicative. In this case, the semantics of the verb itself, by virtue of its valence characteristics, requires/a prepositional argument, i.e. the verb realizes its transitional meaning, and the idea argument identifies with the semantic function locative.

Due to the significant differentiation of special values, the concept of a locative is not elementary. The participation of prepositions in the special detaliation of objects of reality indicates a lot of special locative characteristics:

1. Della wriggled ***off the table*** and went for him (O. Henry);
2. I headed ***for the wall*** and vaulted it (J. London);
3. He had been slumped ***against the vibration door*** (J. Aldridge).

The semantic function of locative characterizes both static and dynamic relationships. The given examples make possible to point out such semantic varieties of the locative as the starting and ending points, the route of movement, location. The argument-locative characterizes an object that is not directly involved in the situation, but reflects the obligatory local background of the events or actions of other participants.

The research of the functions of the prepositional supplement, expressed by nouns with a specific objective value, revealed its use in the considered distributional models of sentences in the semantic functions of the agentive, instrumentative, nominative, experimentative, patientive, objective, effective, addressee and locative.

Language as a special sign system allows to display a variety of situations of reality, artificially anatomize objective facts, present individual properties or attributes of an object, quantitative and qualitative characteristics of various actions, processes and states, human mental activity, his inner world, logical and conceptual categories, etc. Such a dismemberment in our consciousness of the

surrounding world is connected with the division of units into parts of speech. It is known that the nouns are most often used in the naming function, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, the predicative function. However, nouns can also be used in the predicate function (Bogdanov).

Depending on their meaning, nouns are divided into two subclasses: with a concrete subject and abstract meanings. The nouns with a specific objective meaning are used in the naming function, and nouns with an abstract meaning are used in the predicate function.

A distinctive feature of abstract nouns is «Significance» – the designation of more generalized and abstract features that define the content of a concept as a kind of objective being or substance that exists independently. Abstractive names can express a promoted conceptual attribute, an objectified action, process, state, etc., syncretically expressed in one form of sign. The directivity of thought from an object to its attributes, properties leads to a change in logical relations, to their transformation into relations «characterization» or «predication itself». Externally, in accordance with the laws of grammar, such a predicate sign (abstract noun) has the same syntax potentials as a noun with a particular subject meaning.

The analysis of the functioning of abstract nouns in the position of the prepositional supplement is associated with the division of the content of the sentence, indicating the need to take into account the correlation of three quantities: the syntactic structure of the sentence, the content of the sentence, and the extra-linguistic situation. The content of the sentence reflects the extra-linguistic situation, and the syntax structure of the sentence expresses its content. The principle of expression includes the creative transformation of the initial data into a person's consciousness, and the notion of expression is the discovery of ideal entities into materials. The semantic analysis in the syntax is based on the real relationship of things in accordance with the logical-conceptual categories. In this regard, the semantic division of the sentence will determine its semantic-syntactic dissection and assumes its content is divided into parts (semantemes) (Livov).

The presence in the semantic structure of a sentence of two or more advertisements significantly influences the whole proposition. Abstract nouns denote events, qualities, actions, states, and all kinds of signs, which are characterized by their length in time. Abstract names are opposed to subject names that are seen in the connection with the area. Abstract values appear as an attribute value in the broad sense of the term; they refer not to the substance itself, but to its properties (Arutyunova).

The analysis of the semantic functions of abstract prepositional statements was carried on the basis of their function with verbs of certain classes and lexical-semantic groups. The meaning of a particular function is determined by the logical relations established by verbs between the participants of the situation or by some abstract *entities*. Completing one of the obligatory valences of the verb, abstract prepositional additions are an integral component in the semantic structure of the sentence. Depending on the type of situation, the abstract is related to the semantic

and syntactic structure of the sentence. Differently, in some cases, abstract additions appear as an argument in relation to the main predicate and imply the included proposition, in others, they act as part of the predicate /its core/. Being an argument or being part of a predicate, abstract prepositional additions participate in the formation of a complex or simple proposition.

Abstract nouns in the position of prepositional additions are used with two large classes of full-significant verbs: actional and non-actional. Along with this, abstract prepositional additions can be used with verbs that convey the phrase meanings, i.e. with incomplete verbs appearing in a non-dependent function. Certain groups are distinguished among the above classes of verbs. Depending on the type of the situation and the nature of the relations between its participants, a certain semantic function can be concerned with abstract additions.

A feature of the use of abstract additions may be the absence in the structure of a sentence of arguments with a specific objective meaning, which makes the content of such sentences as abstractive as possible. Abstract prepositional additions and verbal predicates are in close interaction, complementing the semantic and syntactic «signs of each other. The result of this mutual influence in some cases is a weakness of the lexical meaning of the verb. This leads to a specification of the meaning of verb».

The semantic type of an abstract noun may indicate that a verb belongs to a particular functional class. The semantics of verbal predicates also depends on the type of ***meaning*** of the actant in the subjective position.

In our article, actional verbs are verbs that convey dynamic or static situations that are controlled by agentive actional verbs with abstract prepositional addition are divided into two subgroups: verbs with causative and non-causative meanings.

When analyzing the causative relationships, a causative micro situation (antecedent) and a causable micro situation (consequent) are distinguished in sentences whose denotations are causative macro-situations; abstract nouns in the position of the prepositional additional which depend on the direction of action and the grammatical form of the verbal predicate can denote both antecedent and consequent:

She forced two partners ***into early retirement*** (J. Grisman);
He is awakened ***by some small noise*** (J. Updike).

Abstract noun «retirement» in the first sentence denotes an event that occurred as a result of the actions of a person designated by the pronoun «she». Argument «retirement» is used in the terminative function. In the second sentence the abstract complement «noise» denotes a certain situation, because the cause of the final situation. The semantic function of the argument reflecting the antecedental micro situation will be called «causator». Thus, with actional causative verbs, the abstract complement is used in two functions – causator and terminative. According to the method of causation, the causation is distinguished by an order or impulse and causative physical action. Depend on the results of

causation, three groups of causative relations appear: causation of the occurrence, change, and termination of an event.

Actional verbs with non-causative meanings include verbs that convey actions or processes that do not change the situation. The action called «a verb» comes from the subject, and the abstract prepositional addition characterizes this temporal-locative plan of this action. This group of verbs can convey both dynamic and static situations, the action comes from the subject, or takes place with the subject itself.

1. They cut *through the wave of human traffic* (J. Grisham);

2. They struggled *with the heavy weight but managed* to lift it to the sill (E. Goldwell);

3. Abby watched *for a sign, a signal, a grunt or groan, anything* to indicate good news or bad (J. Grisman);

4. I remind him *of this fact* (W. Boyd);

5. Hurstwood thought *over the proposition* a few moments without answering (T. Dreiser).

Abstract noun *traffic* in the first sentence is used in the semantic function of a routive and denotes the whole situation which acts as a function of the route of motion /of its landmark/. The abstract noun *weight* in the second sentence is used with the semantic function of object. Obviously, this is material subject, however, the noun *weight* indicates only one feature of this subject «weight». In the third sentence the verb «watch» conveys the process of perception, a feature of which is the absence of external manifestation, as the action takes place inside the subject itself. The semantic function of the abstract addition «sign, signal, grunt» can be called the object of perception. In the fourth sentence the abstract prepositional supplement «fact» is used with the verb of speech activity and performs the semantic function of deliberative, i.e. expresses the content of a speech act. A feature of the verbs of mental activity in the fifth sentence is that they transmit the processes occurring in the subject itself and are not available for direct observation. The abstract prepositional addition «proposition» is used with the semantic function of the object of mental activity.

Thus, actional non-causative verbs in our article belong to the verbs of movement, action, speech and mental activity, visual and auditory perception. In sentences with them the abstract prepositional supplement acts as an argument and performs the semantic functions of a routive, an object, a deliberative.

The common feature of situations transmitted by non-verbs is the absence of an *agentive* in the situation, i.e. diagnostic for «this class» of verbs is a sign of uncontrollability.

1. One way it was made for love (W. Trevor);

2. … life is made up of sobs, sniffles and smiles, with sniffles predominating (O. Henry);

3. Class drinks preferences were not wholly determined by money (A. S. Byatt).

The allocated group of examples transfers static relations between the subject and the object, the character of which is determined by the semantic function of the abstract prepositional addition. Such verbs convey broad meanings, such as partitiveness, dependence, functional stability. The verb «make» appears in a function that consists of a feature ***attributed*** to an object in the first sentence. The semantic function of the abstract complement «love» is defined as qualificative in the second sentence abstract names «sobs, sniffles, smiles», calling actions and implying that event situations correlate with another abstract noun «life», whose meaning is wider. The semantic function of abstract nouns consists of the representation of one of the parts of the whole and is called partitive. In the third sentence, the verbal predicate expresses a logical relation. The verb «relation» by its nature expresses the dependence between the members of this relation statically. The abstract prepositional supplement occupies a dominant position in the so-called «attitude», indicated by the verb itself. Therefore, this semantic function is called a determinative.

The abstract prepositional supplement is also used with non-action-related event verbs. In a broad sense, they convey the «transition from a difficult situation to a final situation» (Arutyunova). Unlike the actional verbs they do not convey situations, they are controlled by an agentive.

The event verbs with non-causative meanings convey both dynamical and statistic situations:

1. Gradually the uneasiness developed ***into fear*** (B. Ballinger);

2. When Brush entered the Sunday-school rooms he was met with ***great acclaim*** (T. Wilder);

3. The driver's door slammed, the engine roared, and, if nothing else, Vicki was committed ***to a wild ride*** (B. Steiner).

The abstract propositional supplement «fear» in the first sentence denotes the final signs in a situation and is used in the semantic function of the terminative. The second and the third sentences abstractive additions are used in another function. The abstract nouns «acclaim», «ride» do not act as actants by their status, and together with the verb they form a single predicate sign, being only its integral part. The considered examples refer to non-causative event verbs.

The following example presents a static situation:

The dawn has an extraordinary purpose, she thought of everything contained, shrouded ***by the light*** (R. Treimain).

This example refers to the state verbs that do not express a relationship between two factors, but are associated with one object. The abstractive addition «light» appears in the characterizing function, which we previously identified as qualificative.

So, the function of non-actionable verbs shows that they transmit different relations, events, and states.

A common symptom of situations is the absence of a control from the site of the agentive. Statics and dynamics are denoted by verbs of a given class of situation.

The functioning of abstractive nouns in the position of the prepositional addition shows that in relation with the verbal predicative they appear either as an argument; or together with the verb abstractive nouns as its core.

Full-function verbs may also appear *in the service function*. Interacting with abstract, prepositional additions, such verbs are de-semantized and do not fully convey the predicate value. This group includes verbs that convey a phase meaning.

The appearance of propositive names leads them to a closer connection with the verbs and the phraseologization of phrases. As a result, the same tectonical structure, with usually indicates a two-acted situation, expresses a single-acted situation. In the presented examples, abstract prepositional additions form the part of the predicative, its semantic core, and the verbs play a role of another part of the predicate – the verbalizer, the carrier of the phase seme.

Findings of research and prospects of further investigations in this scientific direction. The study of the semantic functions of the prepositional additions with a concrete a subject and abstract meaning in modern English shows that this element of the sentence has a variety of meaningful characteristics and is used in various semantic functions depending on the semantic configuration of the sentence. The description of these substantial characteristics and semantic functions is the main result of this article and further research.

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ABSTRACT

The role of the functions of prepositional additions is important in English. The prepositional supplements in the sentences are used very often. A system of integral and differential features of semantic function is shown in our article. A preposition is a word that shows the relationship between noun and pronoun and other words in a sentence. Substantial characteristics and semantic functions must be understood in order to learn English.

Key words: prepositional supplement, sentence, prepositive component

REZUMAT

Adăugarea de prepoziții joacă un rol important în economia limbii engleze. Suplimentele prepoziționale sunt folosite foarte des în propoziții. În articolul de față se prezintă un sistem de trăsături integrale și diferențiale ale funcției semantice. O prepoziție este un cuvânt care indică relația dintre substantiv și pronume și alte cuvinte dintr-o propoziție. Caracteristicile substanțiale și funcțiile semantice trebuie înțelese pentru a învăța limba engleză.

Cuvinte-cheie: supliment prepozițional, propoziție, componentă prepozițională