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Classification of prepositions of story genre (on material of A.S. Pushkin's story "The queen of spades" in english)

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Abstract

The article presents the classification of prepositions. The aim of the research is to classify prepositions by types and frequency use (quantitative and percentage ratio) in story genre (on A. S. Pushkin's story "The Queen of Spades" in English). To achieve the goal, it was necessary to solve the following tasks: 1) to study "The Queen of Spades" in English; 2) to make table and diagrams on the prepositions' types; 3) to describe the collected information. According to the study, it can be concluded that a detailed analysis of the table and the diagrams revealed the main characteristics of prepositions, making it possible to distribute them into appropriate groups.

Keywords: text; original; translation; connective words; classification; types of prepositions; description; frequency; quantitative and percentage ratio.

The development of any science involves the use of different methods in the analysis of the problem fixed in this area. In accordance with this circumstance, the limits of the study of the science we can widen or made narrow. The subject of the present research is the text (A.S. Pushkin's story "The Queen of spades") in English translation. The text is considered as a closed language with no sub-languages. Due to V.A. Zvegintsev's theory the text is: "Semantically completely isolated, and the semantics of its constituent words is determined entirely by the framework of only this text. In relatively limited languages, bypassing morphology, word forms can be recognized as separate words. The prepositions are not separated from the words controlled by" [15, C. 328; 9, C. 128].

The relevance of the research is determined by the importance of the chosen topic and its significance for the cognitive direction in linguistic research and strengthening the study interest in the problem of prepositions in English.

The purpose of this work is to classify the found prepositions by types and their frequency of use (quantitative and percentage) in story genre (on the material A.S. Pushkin's "The Queen of Spades" in English). The following methods were used in the article: 1) the method of component analysis; 2) the method of quantitative calculation; 3) the method of percentage calculation; 4) the classification method.

The methodological basis of the study was the work of scientists who worked and are working in the field of linguistics:

- 1) the study of prepositions [4; 5; 14];
- 2) the study of fiction works [3, P. 46; 11; 12, P. 142; 13, P. 30];
- 3) the study of textual activity [1; 2; 7; 10].

Due to the theory proposed by V.A. Kukharenko, we came to the conclusion that the analysis of any text can be studied not only as the General Humanitarian discipline, but also the creative. So, revealing the idea of the author of the work, repeating the path of the author, we have the access to his creative personality and reality [8, C. 11].

Based on the theoretical conclusions made by L. Hjelmslev, we note that linguistic research begins with any text as the only given one and with an attempt to describe this text, analyzing or separating it with the help of deductive transition from class to segment and segment of segment [6, C. 148].

On the basis of the data obtained in the process of studying the prepositions in Pushkin's "The Queen of spades", we suggest the following classification of prepositions.

A special position in the vocabulary of connective words (in our case prepositions) is their impossibility of existence without significant words, with which they are combined to express the necessary relations for the preparation of the proposal. The connective words indicate the relationship between parts of a sentence. During the study of A.S. Pushkin's "Queen of Spades" we found the prepositions that serve to express the following relations:

- *prepositions of abstract relations*: genitive case (a chorus of voices, etc.), dative case (the secret to one, etc.), instrumental case (coquetting with the soldiers, etc.), prepositional case (about twenty men, etc.), accusative case (I can arrange for a meeting, etc.) (Pushkin A.S. "The Queen of Spades. Captain's daughter": a book to read in English. SPb.: CARO, 2017. P. 6-18);
- *spatial prepositions* (at the house, to Paris, in the streets, etc.) (Pushkin A.S. "The Queen of Spades. Captain's daughter": a book to read in English. SPb.: CARO, 2017. P. 6);
- *phrasal verbs* (dependent upon, found out, took pity on, etc.) (Pushkin A.S. "The Queen of Spades. Captain's daughter": a book to read in English. SPb.: CARO, 2017. P. 6-8);
- *time prepositions* (for a long time, at the same moment, for a second, etc.) (Pushkin A.S. "The Queen of Spades. Captain's daughter": a book to read in English. SPb.: CARO, 2017. P. 17-20);
- *complex prepositions* (of course, at last, at least, etc.) (Pushkin A.S. "The Queen of Spades. Captain's daughter": a book to read in English. SPb.: CARO, 2017. P. 10-14);
- *causal prepositions* (with fear, a key with which, etc.) (Pushkin A.S. "The Queen of Spades. Captain's daughter": a book to read in English. SPb.: CARO, 2017. P. 10);
- *target prepositions* (with a feeling, with a start, with a genial humor, etc.) (Pushkin A.S. "The Queen of Spades. Captain's daughter": a book to read in English. SPb.: CARO, 2017. P. 16-20).

We think that it is interesting and important to consider the prepositions used in English version of A.S. Pushkin's "The Queen of spades", translated by H. Twitchell for our further study of the selected material. So, their list and groups classification are presented in table 1.

Let's start with the prepositions of abstract relations, which are divided into several subtypes denoting case forms. The total percentage of prepositions of abstract relations was 41.47% (table 1).

Table 1

Percentage and Quantitative Ratio of Prepositions

Types of Preposition		Prepositions	Quantity	%
Prepositions of Abstract Relations	Genitive case	against	1	0,26
		of	81	21,26
		without	7	1,84
	Total:		89	23,36%
	Dative case	for	7	1,84
		to	25	6,56
	Total:		32	8,40%
	Instrumental case	at	1	0,26
		by	7	1,84
		for	2	0,52
		to	1	0,26
		with	15	3,94
	Total:		26	6,82%
	Accusative case	at	1	0,26

Types of Preposition		Prepositions	Quantity	%
		for	1	0,26
		in	1	0,26
		to	1	0,26
	Total:		4	1,05%
	Prepositional case	about	3	0,79
		for	1	0,26
		in	1	0,26
		of	2	0,52
	Total:		7	1,84%
Total:			158	41,47%
Prepositions of place and direction	around	2	0,52	
	at	27	7,09	
	before	3	0,79	
	behind	1	0,26	
	from	10	2,62	
	in	38	9,97	
	into	7	1,84	
	on	15	3,94	
	out of	5	1,31	
	outside	1	0,26	
	over	3	0,79	
	through	1	0,26	
Prepositions of place and direction	to	20	5,25	
	under	1	0,26	
	upon	7	1,84	
Total:			141	37,01%
Prepositions of Time	about	2	0,52	
	after	10	2,62	
	at	7	1,84	
	before	2	0,52	
	during	1	0,26	
	for	2	0,52	
	in	2	0,52	
	on	2	0,52	
	until	3	0,79	
Total:			31	8,14%
Phrasal verbs	brake up	1	0,26	
	bring about	1	0,26	
	carry out	1	0,26	
	come out	1	0,26	
	count out	2	0,52	
	drag by	1	0,26	
	draw back	1	0,26	
	find out	1	0,26	
	get smb in	1	0,26	
	give smb up	1	0,26	
	go on	2	0,52	
	go out	3	0,79	
	go up	1	0,26	
	look down	2	0,52	
	look in	1	0,26	
	look into	1	0,26	
	look on	2	0,52	
	move about	1	0,26	
	pick up	2	0,52	
	put out	1	0,26	
	sit down	2	0,52	
	stretch out	1	0,26	
	take smth on	1	0,26	

Types of Preposition	Prepositions	Quantity	%
Phrasal verbs	take up	1	0,26
	throw back	1	0,26
	throw smb down	1	0,26
	turn up	1	0,26
	walk up	1	0,26
	write down	1	0,26
Total:		37	9,71%
Prepositions of Cause	at	2	0,52
	with	3	0,79
Total:		5	1,31%
Prepositions of Purpose	about	1	0,26
Total:		1	0,26%
Composite Prepositions	of course	2	0,52
	on the contrary	1	0,26
	at last	5	1,31
Total:		8	2,10%
TOTAL:		381	100%

The first used case was genitive. The percentage of the total number of prepositions of this type was 23.36% according to the diagram data (Fig. 1). The most typical preposition for this case was “of” (Fig. 1).

Dative case is the following according to frequency of use. The total percentage of its use was 8.40% (table 1), which is almost three times less than the previous subtype. The preposition “to” was used the most often in the text (Fig. 2); the percentage of its appearance in the text was 6.56% (table 1).

Fig. 1: Percentage and quantitative ratio of prepositions of genitive case

Fig. 2: Percentage and quantitative ratio of prepositions of dative case

26 prepositions were found in the text related to the instrumental case. They amounted to 6.82% (table 1) of the total number of all prepositions found in the English text. The translator H. Twitchell used in his work such prepositions as: “at” and “to”, preferring the preposition “with” (Fig. 3). The latter was found in the text 15 times, which accounted for 3.94 per cent (table 1).

Fig. 3: Percentage and quantitative ratio of prepositions of instrumental case

Fig. 4: Percentage and quantitative ratio of prepositions of prepositional case

Prepositional and accusative cases were rarely used and the percentage of their appearance in the text is 1.84% and 1.05%, respectively (table 1). If the prepositional case was expressed mainly by two prepositions: “about” and “of” (Fig. 4), the accusative did not have a specific connective word for it (Fig. 5). It can be attributed by 4 prepositions: “at”, “for”, “in” and “to”, which we met once in the text. The percentage of each preposition of this subtype was 0.26%, which gave a total of 1.05% (table 1).

The next type is spatial prepositions. Based on the data presented in the table 1, the total percentage of all prepositions of this type is 37.01%. And the most common preposition was “in” (Fig. 6). Its percentage was 9.97% (table 1). The least used connective particles were: “behind”, “outside”, “through” and “under” (Fig. 6).

Fig. 5: Percentage and quantitative ratio of prepositions of accusative case

Fig. 6: Percentage and quantitative ratio of prepositions of place and direction

Next, slightly surpassing the number of time prepositions followed the phrasal verbs. Their percentage was 9.71%, while time prepositions were 8.14% (table 1).

Fig. 7: Percentage and quantitative ratio of phrasal verbs

Fig. 8: Percentage and quantitative ratio of prepositions of time

In the English text despite the fact that the number of used verbs with prepositions was 37, each of the individual phrasal verb was quite rare (Fig. 7). Only some of them were met more than once. The most common phrasal verb in this group was “go out” (Fig. 7).

As for time prepositions (Fig. 8), the preposition “after” was the most used among the list presented in table 1. The frequency of its occurrence was 2.63% of the total percentage of all prepositions. Complex and causal prepositions were used infrequently, with a percentage of 2.10% and 1.31%, respectively (table 1). The most popular preposition in the list of complex prepositions was “at last” (Fig. 9), the percentage of its appearance was 1.31% (table 1).

Fig. 9: Percentage and quantitative ratio of composite prepositions

Fig. 10: Percentage and quantitative ratio of prepositions of cause

If you look at figure 10, it becomes clear that the prepositions of this type were used less. Basically it was the preposition “with”. Its percentage was 0.79%, although the preposition “at” we found more than once. The number of its occurrences in the text was 2, and the percentage of the total was 0.52%.

The prepositions of abstract relations, place and direction (spatial prepositions) were mainly used in the text (Fig. 11). The percentage and quantitative ratio of the prepositions of all the above mentioned types is given in the diagram (Fig. 11).

Fig. 11: Percentage and quantitative ratio of types of prepositions

The text of A.S. Pushkin’s work “The Queen of Spades” translated by H. Twitchell was studied. All types of prepositions were allocated and distributed into certain groups according to their meaning. All the data were put in the Excel table, where they were calculated on the basis of quantitative and percentage ratios of prepositions in the text. Based on these data, all diagrams were built in Excel programme. Each of them contained prepositions belonging to a certain types. The final diagram determined the ratio of all types to each other. When we finished working in Excel programme, the table and diagrams were transmitted to Word programme, where their contents were described.

We think that a detailed analysis of table and diagrams revealed the main characteristics of prepositions, making it possible to distribute them in the appropriate groups.

Materials, conclusions, results obtained in the process of classification of prepositions (on the material of Pushkin’s story “The Queen of Spades” in English) will be practically and theoretically significant for the courses of Language Theory, Intercultural Communication and can be used during the educational process at any educational establishments, for the preparation of practical lessons, in the development of teaching and didactic materials, as well as in the practice of teaching English.

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