

# DETERMINING THE LEXICAL MEANING OF PLACE PREPOSITIONS

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**Abstract.** *This article is due to the importance of studying the semantics of different parts of speech, including prepositions. Their semantics, although much more attention is now being paid to it than before, is still a subject of little research and controversy.*

**Key words.** *Functional words, preposition, space, abstract meaning, hierarchical structure, concept.*

**Introduction.** Since auxiliary words (prepositions, conjunctions and particles) do not change, they are therefore weakly characterized by a purely morphological criterion and cannot be separated from each other. The only type of morphological analysis to which they are subject is derivational, distinguishing between non-derivatives and derivative functional words, and within the latter - various word-forming types. The distinction between adverbs and derivative functional words is complicated by the interpartial homonymy/polyfunctionality active in this zone (compare: *directly* - an adverb and a particle, *near* - an adverb and a preposition). The distinction between prepositions, conjunctions and particles is made primarily according to semantic and syntactic criteria. Thus, a preposition is a component of a syntactic prepositional group, a conjunction is a marker of syntactic relations between noun phrases and predications.

Its description with the help of prototypical and invariant models does not reflect all the features of the meaning of the certain language units and its mechanisms change, since these models are able to represent only homogeneous structures. The description of the semantic structure of spatial prepositions with the help of Lakoff's figurative scheme also does not meet the objectives of the study, since it displays only the spatial information reported by these language units. However, all three of the above models can be used as auxiliary ones. For example,

when considering individual meanings of prepositions that include only spatial information, or when studying any part of their semantic structure [1].

The representation of the lexical meaning in the form of a network to the greatest extent allows reflecting the features of the semantic structure of the spatial prepositions. First of all, this refers to the network model developed in the cognitive paradigm. This model allows to see the links that unite, at first glance, the disparate meanings of a polysemantic preposition and exclude the interpretation of these meanings in lexicographic sources as homonyms.

Thus, the concept of space implies a certain hierarchical structure, in which the basic understanding of space is in a narrow geometric sense. Based on the geometric space, the types of spaces formed by other (non-spatial) relations are distinguished. Such an understanding of this concept is based on the primacy of the geometric concept of space in relation to the concept of time, the traditional metaphorical use of the spatial to describe the non-spatial, as well as the insufficiency of only a narrow geometric understanding of space to describe the semantics of the prepositions.

The opposition of the concepts of man and space is presented as the most appropriate for expressing the unevenness of human perception of the picture of the world, reflected in the orientation of one object (event) relative to another. The concept of "man" was narrowed down to "an object localized in space." The space is understood as the object Y, relative to which the object X is localized.

Non-spatial (functional) relations are divided into: "Functional relations that exist at the moment of describing the situation", "Functional relations that potentially existed in the past" and "Potential functional relations". A special kind of non-spatial relationship between a person and space, "psycho-emotional connection" is a functional relationship that is psychosocial in nature, i.e. when one of the objects correlated in space causes some emotional state in another - love, fear, calmness, etc.

The hypothetical-deductive method provides a scientific justification for the course of the study: the collection of actual language material, the construction of

hypotheses, their verification, analysis of the results and their generalization. However, since the conclusion of the hypothetical-deductive reasoning is only probabilistic, this method should be used in combination with such methods as the experimental method, which are more reliable methods for verifying the hypotheses put forward. At the stage of analysis of the collecting language material, the method of distributive (valency) analysis is also used - studying the compatibility of the studied language units. At the stage of formulating hypotheses about the semantic structure in the analyzing prepositions, the method of semantic interpretation based on component analysis will be useful.

The result of the experimental study may be the formulation of the semantic structures of English proximal-distant prepositions in the form of integral-differential systems, as well as the construction of semantic models that reflect the combination of spatial and non-spatial information in the meanings of prepositions.

The meaning of the prepositions contains both spatial and non-spatial information. At the same time, the nature of the interaction of spatial-geometric and functional components is such that the prepositions *at*, *by* and *near (to)* have both spatial and "spatial-functional" meanings; the preposition *beside* combines both types of information in its meaning; the preposition *off* - when denoting the juxtaposition of static objects, has two meanings, one of which is spatial, and the second includes information about the non-spatial relationship between a person and space.

**Conclusion.** The preposition *off* with a spatial meaning is synonymous with prepositions denoting the spatial proximity of objects. So, the leading type of information can be functional: the preposition *at* informs that the functional relations of a person and space determine their spatial positions. In the structures of the prepositions *beside*, *by* and *near (to)*, on the contrary, spatial information is leading - the proximity of a person and space creates conditions for the implementation of non-spatial (functional) relations.

The relationship between the spatial and non-spatial components of the structure of the meanings of the prepositions is considered in the context of three

axes: spatial, functional and temporal. The intersection of the spatial axis with the functional characterizes the interaction of spatial-geometric and non-spatial (functional) information in the structure of the meaning of the preposition. The correlation of the functional axis with the axis of time shows how the semantics of the preposition reflects the ratio of the functional relations of man and space with the time of their implementation.

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