

## **SYNTAGMATICS AND PARADIGMATICS IN MODERN ENGLISH AND FRENCH SYNTACTIC STRUCTURES**

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**Abstract:** The problem is discussed of syntagmatic and paradigmatic characteristics of prepositional word-combinations in modern English and French. These syntactico-semantic structures functioning in contemporary usage prove their dynamic nature as well as their static existence. A definite turn to new synthesis is developed in adverbemes and semi-adverbemes, on the one hand, and compound verbal and adjectized formations on the other hand.

**Key-words:** syntagmatic, paradigmatic, word-combination, adverbeme, structure, syntactic, prepositional, lexical, meaning, emphatic.

The syntagmatic and paradigmatic aspects are characteristic of syntactic structures in Germanic and Romanic languages, Modern English and French giving sufficient proof thereof. Their structures, functioning and tendencies of development present essential problems of modern linguistics worth studying and investigating. To prove the point, Modern English and French have been chosen as highly developed analytical languages with definitely displayed tendencies for new synthesis.

In Modern English and French the syntactic units of sentence and word-combination levels possess a certain stability of form and, at the same time, are constantly and invariably developing their structures. The stable syntactic systems reflect the existing extralinguistic reality whereas the changing world demands adequate formal linguistic means for expressing the arising or modified phenomenon in all its ambiguity.

In both Modern English and French the prepositional systems realized on a syntactical level present certain established regularities that can be detected, analysed and classified. These syntactic structures have been chosen as a most flexible type of lexico-grammatical units just

because of containing the proposition. The latter presents a structurally and semantically important element within a word-combination and its dynamic properties constitute rather peculiar qualities of both English and French.

Regarding the elementary prepositional word-combination as a lexical-syntactic unit consisting of two notional words (mainly verb + noun) joined by a preposition we admit that this structure exists both within a sentence as a larger syntactic construction, and outside it as a "building block" for constructing a sentence.

These two sides of the phenomenon reflect the "two-dimensional" character of the object under study, giving ground to all-embracing analysis: in a syntagmatic chain (on a horizontal level) and within a paradigmatic system (on a vertical axis).

Classifying the elementary prepositional word-combinations we shall, thus, define their types as verbal (V+p+S), substantival (S+p+S), adjectival (A+p+S), pronominal (P+p+S), numeral (N+p+S), and adverbial (Adv+p+S). The dependent word in the structure is, as a rule, a substantive (noun) or any substantivized form.

The construction H+p+M (Headword + preposition + Modifier) analysed and investigated multilaterally allows to state the following characteristic features of the category: 1) a certain order and sequence in the arrangement of elements; 2) a more or less definite quantitative body of kernel structures and lexical-grammatical intersentential linkage between the constituents; 3) two-sided connection of the preposition with the headword and the modifier of the word-combination which is the main contents of its syntactic functioning; 4) syntagmatic peculiarities of this syntactico-semantic unit; 3) paradigmatic relations between structural schemes whose totality makes a unique system of forms of a syntactical level; 6) a close interconnection between syntactic and word-building processes within a prepositional word-combination.

According to the model structure H+p+M the constituents of the prepositional word-combination are subsequently arranged within this lexico-grammatical unit and each of them possesses a certain lexical meaning and a grammatical (syntactical) function.

The lexical meaning of the preposition is its nominative property to state relations between realities of the objective world expressed by notional words. G. and R. Le Bidois in their "Syntaxe du français moderne" (1967) admit with right that from truly linguistic point of view the preposition connects between themselves not words, parts of the sentence, etc. but the ideas expressed between these words or parts of the sentence. These linguists state that prepositions are so necessary in French that, "in all probability the prepositions alone must be dealt with in studying our syntax".

The grammatical meaning of the preposition is its property to unite notional parts of speech into a unique syntactic structure. Within this syntactico-semantic unit the preposition is more closely connected either with the dependent or with the main member of the word-combination. In the first case prepositional groups are formed (in the garden, au bois, etc.), in the second case postpositional groups are dealt with (look at, arriver à, etc.). These groups may serve as a basis for all sorts of stable phrases within which the preposition may loosen its ties with the following or preceding element and turn into a word-forming morpheme, a formative element with unilateral connection.

The parameters of the prepositional word-combination developing in two linguistic planes - horizontal (syntagmatic relations) and vertical (paradigmatic relations) embrace a number of typical kernel structures, fixed structural schemes, established accidental and stabilized transition forms.

The general paradigm of a prepositional word-combination consists of such structural schemes each of them having its own paradigm: 1) basic (invariant), 2) derivative (divergent), 3) modified (metabasic).

The main (basic, invariant) structural scheme is represented by the model  $H+p+M$  and its variants having such characteristic features as linear-sequential arrangement of components, their free syntactic functioning and lexical singularity, neutral-informative style of speech. All the kernel structures - simple, complex, complicated, combined - belong to this structural scheme forming the system of a separate paradigm whose grammatical meaning is binarity. Its most characteristic feature is the bilateral ties of the preposition (with different vector directions) with each of the unit constituents keeping its own essential categorical properties. The preposition here keeps its main grammatical function - a means of syntactical connection.

The derivative (divergent) structural scheme is different from the main one by displaying such characteristic features: a) logical emphasis on one of the elements of the word-combination, b) structural deviations from the model (inversion, separation, parcellation) which have the character of intraparadigmatic changes, c) emphatic expressivity whose variants are due to supplement the main lexical meaning of this syntactic unit.

The logical emphasis may fall on notional words or preposition. The structural deviations include changes in the word order within the construction, the isolation of the constituents of the unit, their partial or full separation from each other. Characteristic of this type of structural schemes is emotional stylistic colouring and expressivity.

The modified (metabasic) structural scheme is characterized by intraparadigmatic changes in relation to model  $H+p+M$ . The main property of its paradigm is the redistribution of syntactical relations within the word-combination, the unilateralization of prepositional ties, the formalization of the lexical meaning of the preposition. The transpositional function of the preposition, the realization of its word-building potentialities are characteristic for both the prepositional ( $p+M$ ) and postpositional ( $H+p$ ) groups.

In Modern Germanic and Romanic languages the typologically identical stabilized prepositional phrases give rise to the consolidated "preposition + noun" group, on the one hand, and "verb + preposition" group, on the other hand. Thus, the preposition realizes its bifunctional character: that of a connective and that of a word-building structural element.

The consolidation of the constituents of the prepositional group ( $p+M$ ) leads to adverbialization whereas the contraction of the components of the postpositional group ( $V+p$ ) brings to stabilized verbal structures. Both these processes illustrate the double-oriented vector direction of the preposition which tends to become unilateral under certain conditions.

Both in Germanic and in Romanic languages the hypostatic transpositional function of the preposition is displayed under two conditions: 1) the adverbialization process involves the oldest polyvalent prepositions; 2) the substantive or substantivized element bears the features of a

noun (or its equivalent) with potential relativity. The adverbialized forms (at diverse stages of adverbialization) preferably take the form of adverbemes or semi-adverbemes.

The adverbemes (preposition + noun stem) or semi-adverbemes (preposition + definite article + noun) have already formed a transitive category whose properties are, nevertheless, stable and common.

Their existence and extensive use in Germanic and Romanic languages prove the vitality of this category.

The borderline between adverbs and adverbemes is sometimes hardly drawn as parallel forms function, for example, in English and German; cp. *downstream* - *down stream*; *zulande* - *zu Lande*, etc. Etymological correlation between adverbialized forms and adverbemes is stressed by the adverb *tmesis* (i.e. disintegration of its components): cp. *indeed* - *in very deed*, *zuletzt* - *zu guter Letzt*, etc.

The characteristic feature of Germanic and Romanic languages is the close semantic and structural correlation between adverbemes and semi-adverbemes. For example, in Romanic languages there is an adverbeme with the meaning "again" - cp. Fr. *de nouveau*, Sp. *de nuevo*, Port. *de novo*, Ital. *di nuovo*, etc.

In similar cases the preposition has a unilateral connection, i.e. from syntactical function it turns into a word-forming one. The adverbeme may exist for ages and remain unchanged. Today's Spanish adverbeme *en todo* (structural-semantic analogue of Latin *in toto*) has existed for ages.

Alongside with adverbemes in Germanic and Romanic languages exist semi-adverbemes, i.e. "preposition + definite article + substantive or substantivized element" phrases. Compare, for example, the structurally and semantically related analogues from English, German, French and Spanish: *at the end*, *am Ende*, *È la fin*, *al fin*, etc.

The semantic and structural integration of the components within prepositional groups testifies to the fact that a tendency to new synthesis is characteristic of modern Germanic and Romanic languages.

The integration of the constituents of postpositional group (verb + preposition) making a stable grammatical and semantic unit is a typical feature of both Germanic and Romanic languages. But this process has gone further in such languages as English, Danish, Swedish, etc. where the modification of the verb-preposition complex may bring to categorical transformations the verb + preposition combination turning into a postpositive verbal complex.

In modern English, for example, we often come across such verbal formations as *come up*, *sit down*, *turn to*, etc. alongside with adjectemes like *asked-for*, *jeered-at*, *unheard-of*, *undreamed-of*, *paid-for*, etc. In the latter case, the prepositions *for*, *at*, *of* and the like have lost their prepositional function of a connective word and have turned into a word-forming element. And as these prepositions have no homonyms among adverbs or verbal particles, their word-forming transpositional function, thus, has developed to the full.

Unilaterization of prepositional connections has the character of a regularity in Germanic, Romanic and other types of languages, each of them having typical distinctive features. This phe-

nomenon proves the dynamic tendencies existing at the present stage of language development that testify to the deepest connection between syntactic and word-forming processes.

The existence and functioning of transitive, unstable, occasional forms, their coming into being and use prove once again that language is a living, pulsating, progressive and evolutionizing organism.

The syntagmatic and paragrammatic parameters of the prepositional word-combination, their investigation and analysis permit to embrace all the existing prepositional structures, all regularities and deviations explaining the whole lot of existing structures. Their full study gives us the possibility not only to define the categorical parameters of this syntactico-semantic unit but also to carry out the research of between-level formations (prepositive and postpositive groups), to find out the source of constant prepositional innovations.