

EMPHASIS IN MODERN ENGLISH SYNTACTIC STRUCTURES (PREPOSITIONAL WORD-COMBINATIONS)

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Abstract: Language pattern on a syntactical level of word-combination is neutral. Emphatic synergy in syntactic structures appears at speech level. Prepositional word-combination of the formula $H+p+M$ (Headword + preposition + Modifier) is a model structure whose changes reflect or are adequate to extralinguistic emphatic notions. Emphatization of this syntactical structure is arrived at by the use of the following intensifiers: a) inverted order of the components, b) repetition of the constituents, c) the use of specifying particles, d) separation of constituents, e) parcellation of the elements of construction, f) combination of the above-mentioned intensifiers.

Key-words: emphasis, word-combination, structure, syntactical, intensifier, prepositional, lexical.

The language pattern on a syntactical level (sentence, word-combination) is presumably neutral. The structure of a syntactic unit is normally irrelevant to the semantic value of its components. The problem of emphatic synergy in syntactic structures appears at a speech level when a certain combination of elements may give rise to an emotional colouring of originally neutral sense units. The fixed order in the English sentence foresees the due sequence of word-combination elements joined asyndetically or by means of prepositions. A word-combination consisting of minimum two notional words presents a syntactic sense-unit whose volume can be enhanced at the cost of head-word expansion or its dependent part enlargement. The head-word and its modifier form prepositionless or prepositional word-combinations that can either be used as building-blocks for constructing sentences or are to be easily detected and isolated within.

The emotional colouring in a word-combination arises due to the factors implying the possible adherent expressivity of the text.

Prepositional word-combinations (notional word+preposition+notional word) as analytical syntactic sense-units present a greater interest for investigation as their very structure is richer than that of synthetical ones. The preposition, though an auxiliary part of speech, has its own semantic meaning realized in combination with preceding and following notional words.

The usual unemphatic arrangement of the members of the prepositional word-combination is adequate to the formula H+p+M (Headword + preposition + Modifier). Any change in the model position of the components is due to lead to the semantic emphatization of the syntactical construction in question.

I. One of the most widespread methods of intensifying the lexical meaning of the prepositional word-combination is putting the dependent part of the construction in the first place. For example: ... **up the mountain** she went on her knees (E.O'Connor).

The intensification becomes even greater in case the dependent component is syntactically (by means of a comma) separated from the head-word. For example: And **of this**, they would never speak (D.H.Lawrence).

The preposition, as we see, accompanied by the modifier, is usually placed in the first position. Emphasis is intensified, however, if the modifier (without the preposition) precedes the headword followed by the preposition in this case. For example: **Some things** you just can't do that **to** (J.D. Salinger).

The modifier preceding the head-word arrangement of the components of the prepositional word-combination may or may not be accompanied by the Subject-Predicate inversion. The inverted word order intensifies the emphasis of the modifier placed in the first position. For example: The lines of his face hardened, and **into his face came** a fighting spirit (J.London).

The violation of the traditional word-order for intensifying the lexical meaning of the word-combination is generally characteristic of the V+p+S (Verb + preposition + Substantive) constructions. Less typical is inversion for substantive and adjective word-combinations. For example: 1. **To such questions** he always had a ready answer (H. Miller). 2. With a sort of second sight he sensed something new in her, something **to him quite incomprehensible** (D.H. Lawrence).

The front position of the dependent component of the prepositional word-combination intensifying its lexical meaning can be accompanied by the phrase «it be ... that» giving additionalal emphasis to the whole unit. For example: **It was on television that** Charles had come into its own (E. O'Connor).

The intensification of lexical meaning of verb structures containing postpositional verbal phrases of the type «stand up» is arrived at through inverted position of its constituents. For example: **Back went** the sisters to the Midlands (D.H. Lawrence).

Thus, deviation from the usual sequence of elements in a prepositional word-combination presents a regular means of intensifying the lexical meaning of this syntactic structure and is widely used in Modern English.

II. Alongside with the above-mentioned means of emphasizing the kernel idea of the lexical meaning in a word-combination, a prominent place belongs to the repetition of its constituents.

The simple repetition of the same speech unit is a wide-spread stylistic device in Modern English. As applied to a prepositional word-combination it possesses a number of characteristic features.

First of all, this lexico-grammatical structure may be repeated as a whole unit. For example: I came upon him - I shall never forget it - **came upon him** down at the cabins (J. London).

Quite common is the repetition of one of the constituents of the H+p+S construction: either the head-word, or the preposition or the modifier. For example: 1. ...he lay on his back and **listened, listened** to the rain (T. Wolfe). 2. She turned the ring **round and round** her finger (J. Carew). 3. If you do not catch mice when you are in the Cave for **always and always and always**, I will throw these five things at you whenever I see you (R. Kipling).

The repetition of the head-word or its modifier may bear the character of sheer doubling the sense by synonymous (or semantically related) lexical units. For example: 1. He felt her callouses **grind and grate on his**, and a great wave of pity welled over him (J. London). 2. It would be well to be **rid of him, clear of him** altogether (D. H. Lawrence).

III. The use of specifying particles is another effective device of emphasizing the lexical meaning of prepositional word-combinations. These specifying particles may be grouped into: a) intensifying (even, just, still, quite - etc.); b) limiting (only, solely, alone, quite, etc.); c) defining (exactly, precisely, just, right, etc.); d) concretizing (especially, particularly, notably, namely, etc.). Their emphasis is usually connected with stressing the lexical meaning of the modifier. For example: She said their house **was right on the beach** (J. D. Salinger).

IV. Within the prepositional word-combination certain emphasis is arrived at through separating its components from each other by means of punctuation (comma, dash, etc.). Such accentuation is effected in oral speech by pauses. For example: 1. «Em,» Tommy said in a low voice «did you ever **think of - puttin an_end to it?**» (A. Myrer). 2. But can he **drive - in his condition?** (H. Miller).

The expressivity of the word-combination is greater when the accentuated word is an interrogative pronoun placed in postposition and separated. For example: ... now she turned and looked at me, and there was in her eyes an **expression of ... what?** (E. O'Connor).

The separated dependent element of the prepositional word-combination is syntactically connected with another (unseparated) element doubling its structure

and emphasizing its lexical meaning. For example: 1. He loved her so much, so terribly, so hopelessly. In that moment of mad happiness that she should go out with him, **go to a lecture with him - with him** (J. London). 2. Do you want me **to talk to him - or to her?** (J. Cozzens).

The separated prepositional groups are often used to make more precise the space, place and other meanings of the preceding words which they are semantically correlated with. For example: ... somewhere up **there, in that home of winter**, stood the Treasure House of the North (J. London).

Very often the separated prepositional group repeats the structure of the phrase whose lexical meaning it is used to specify. For example: But that house **of his, of ours**, at Nahala was gray (J. London).

In a number of cases the separated prepositional group specifies the lexical meaning of the preceding prepositional phrase whereas the specification bears the character of broadening or narrowing of meaning. For example: 1. He had this big chateau and all **on the Riviera, in Europe** (J.D. Salinger). 2. And **among the hills, on their favourite knoll**, Martin and Ruth sat side by side (J. London).

An interesting stylistic device for intensifying the lexical meaning of the prepositional phrase is its repetition within a separated prepositional group preceded by a specifying particle. For example: He was sitting **beside her, quite beside her**, and the boat seemed to tilt her toward him (J. London). The inverted position of a separated member of the prepositional word-combination denoting the intensification of its lexical meaning can be accompanied by the inversion of the components of the subject-predicate construction. For example: Suddenly, **from the next bed, came a groan** (E.O' Connor).

The actualization of the dependent member of the prepositional word-combination expressed in its separation renders a still greater degree of emphasizing the lexical meaning of the prepositional word-combination, if the separated dependent member is accompanied by a specifying particle. For example: At a signal the arrows fly, and the stung elephant **sets his tusks for battle - but only for a few seconds** (G.R. Patton).

The front position of the separated prepositional group with a specifying particle is widely used for expressing a considerable degree of emphasizing the lexical meaning of the prepositional word-combination. For example: **Even in a short career, I had encountered some beauties** (N. Monsarrat).

Still a greater stylistic effect is arrived at in cases of the prepositional group with a specifying particle being inserted between the components of a complicated verb form, a combination of a modal verb and an infinitive, etc. For example: ... his hand went to the ravaged cheek which must, **even in this chilly room, be thawing into agony** (N. Monsarrat).

A separated group accompanied by modal words or adverbemes is a widely spread stylistic device used to emphasize the functional expressivity of these syntactic-semantic units. For example: He would catch her in a lie, in a compromising

position somewhere - **in this studio, perhaps** - and dismiss her with contempt (T. Dreiser)

V. Parcellation of the prepositional word-combination is definitely one of the most effective stylistic devices for raising the semantic expressivity of this lexicogrammatical unit. The parcelled construction usually consists of the basic and dependent structural elements and is used to detail an information, to make it more expressive, to enhance the degree of its emotional colouring. The phenomenon is characteristic of Modern English and is more effective than separation. The sphere of its use in to-day's English speech extends all the time in verb and substantive word-combinations. The border of parcellation separates the head-word from the modifier (preceded by a preposition, as a rule). For example: Massengale **caused your dad's death, Joey. On Pala** (A. Myrer).

The dependent part of the parcelled word-combination may be joined to the headword asyndetically or by means of a conjunction. The basic structure may be separated from the dependent part by a whole group of words (an elliptical sentence, for example), nevertheless keeping the semantic and syntactic unity. For example: **That's what used to happen then. All the time. But not with us; we were lucky** (E.O.'Connor). There may be one basic structure and several dependent elements. For example: **Anyway, here you were and there I was. With Tony. For a time. For a very short time.** (E.O.'Connor).

In the above example the repetition of the the same preposition before each dependent part enhances the effect of emphasis.

VI. The intensification of lexical meaning of the prepositional word-combination is, thus, realized within its limits. And it may become much greater if several stylistic devices are combined. Such cases are of special interest for investigation as they present the almost limitless possibilities of the language and their realization in speech-form.

The most wide-spread combinations of lexical and grammatical intensifiers are as following.

- 1) The parcelled part of the word-combination is introduced by the intensifying phrase «it be ... (that)», or the specifying particles (intensifying, limiting, defining, concretizing). For example: 1. I must **tell you one more thing. It's about Whitehead.** (H. Miller). 2. And I kept expecting him back. **Especially at nights.** (D.H. Lawrence).
- 2) The intensification of the lexical meaning of the prepositional word-combination grows if the parcelled part (headword or modifier) is repeated. For example: 1. Pa saw the chairman waving for silence and **pointing. Pointing straight_at him.** (D. Carter). 2. Imagine him asking her to come tomorrow. And talking of the tomb in which she was **to lie with him! With him!** (T. Dreiser).
- 3) The parcelled part may be accompanied by doubled negation (i.e. by its repetition with every parcelled element). For example: ... he **had never written a_word of that. Nor of Monte Carno, nor of Siete Commun, nor of Arsiedo**

(E. Hemingway).

- 4) The repetition of the post-verbal particle may be accompanied by its inverted position. For example: And then she would lift up her voice, **up and up she would lift it into perfectly dizzying solfeggi...** (F.B. Young).
- 5) The usual combination of two intensifiers can be extended to three in a number of cases (i.e. the repetition of elements, the use of specifying particles, parcellation, etc.). For example: **For a moment, it seemed that the old man deserved all he got, including our laughter. But only for a moment.** (N. Monsarrat).

The above-mentioned devices of intensifying the lexical meaning of the prepositional word-combinations by modifying their syntactical structure testify to the variety and richness of Modern English language resources. Although such intensification can be achieved without the change of syntactical pattern when any of the three components of the prepositional word-combination of the prepositional word-combination is emphasized.

This intonation emphasis is rendered by italics or bold-faced type in writing, the italicized word bearing and giving the emotional colouring to the whole word-combination. For example: 1. "Certainly, you can *talk* with me," she replied, laying emphasis on the word (T. Dreiser). 2. But the second day had been even worse; she had to make the bed with Mrs. Morris *in it* (J. Carew). 3. You don't have to sell that to *me!* (N. Monsarrat). The emotional colouring arising in prepositional word-combinations is the result of adherent expressivity correlated with extralinguistic factors. The system of intensifiers has appeared as the consequence of the demand for adequate expressive means. The above-mentioned speech patterns reflect man's need of rendering feelings, emotions, attitudes, etc. Thus, having once arisen and developed into a set of certain established regularities, they stand at the writer's disposal to be used in corresponding situations.

Adherent expressiveness of prepositional word-combinations is rather a wide-spread speech phenomenon in Modern English. It reflects a definite stage of language progress and testifies to its great potential possibilities.

Defining and systematizing the types of extensionals functioning in speech to express emotional connotation must contribute to the study of the language system in dynamics. The investigation carried out on the subject will deepen understanding the processes taking place in Modern English syntax and its connection with stylistics.

The synergy of emphatic syntactic structures turns out to prove the existing correlation of language and speech, on the one hand, and the active interaction of syntactical and lexical phenomena, on the other hand.