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THE PREPOSITION *ON*: COGNITIVE GRAMMAR

The linguistic representation of conceptual structure is of major concern of present. The investigation has come to be known as «cognitive linguistics». Its object is patterns and processes by which conceptual content is organized in language. We can define such basic concepts as space and time, scenes and events, entities and processes, motion and location, and force and causation, see: G. Fauconnier (1985, 2002), C. Fillmore (1975, 1976), G. Lakoff (1987, 1992), R. Langacker (1987, 1991), and L. Talmy (2000, 2000), М. І. Балла (2000), Анна Вежбицкая (2011), Т. В. Гоффман (2005), С. П. Гулкевич (2005), Е. А. Елтанская (2007), Е. С. Кубрякова (1997).

There are three main approaches to the language:

1. The formal approach focuses on the overt structural patterns exhibited by linguistic forms, the approaches including the study of syntactic, morphological, and morphemic structure.

2. The psychological approach regards language from the perspective of general cognitive systems (such as perception, memory, attention, and reasoning).

3. The conceptual approach of cognitive linguistics is concerned with the patterns in which and processes by which conceptual content is organized in language. It has thus addressed the linguistic structuring of such basic conceptual categories as space and time, scenes and events, entities and processes, motion and location, and force and causation close lexical grammatical category. The theory of conceptual analysis holds that concepts – general meanings of linguistic predicates – are the fundamental objects of philosophical inquiry, and that insights into conceptual contents are expressed in necessary «conceptual truths».

Grammatically preposition referred to the lexical grammatical category, see also: pronoun, determiner, conjunction closed word classes traditionally called parts of speech. According to Quirk [1, p. 67–70] in the most general terms, a preposition expresses a relation between two entities, one being that represented by the prepositional complement. He stated that prepositions followed by a noun phrase or *wh*-clause or *V*-ing clause and has meaning that can be divided into preposition denoting place, time, the cause/purpose spectrum, the means agentive spectrum, accompaniment, support and opposition [1, p. 665–709]. Traditionally *on* indicates contact with a surface; it is used with the days of the week and dates, and with the name of the street. Some prepositions have a concrete meaning though in most cases it cannot be interpreted out of the context. [2, p. 83–87]. Further on we shall try to reveal the dominant components in the meaning of the preposition *on*. The functional semantics of the preposition *on* is investigated in the framework of

itive semantics which proposes a paradigm that revives theories of descriptive psychology developed at the beginning of the XX-th century. It studies the scientific study of cognition, including elements of the traditional disciplines of philosophy, psychology, semantics, and linguistics, together with artificial intelligence and computer science. Generally speaking the decomposition of a substance into its elements, radicals, or other constituents in order to determine the kinds of constituents present (qualitative analysis) In semantics it is a method of analysis which involves finding the linear combination of a set of variables that has maximum variance and removing its effect, repeating this successively [3, p. 122–129].

On is used:

(1) to define the position of a person or thing on the surface of an object, e.g.: A cow is grazing on the hill;

(2) to specify a surface or place which something moves towards and where it lands, falls or stops, e.g.: He dropped it on the floor;

(3) to say that sth is touching or attached to the side of a surface or object, e.g.: The poster is on the wall;

(4) to say that sth is touching or attached to the underneath of sth, e.g.: On the roof of the cave were several bats;

(5) to say that you are touching a part of a human body, e.g.: He laid his hand on my shoulder;

(6) to say what part of your body supports your weight, e.g.: He lay on his back;

(7) to say that sth is attached to sth and is considered to be a part of it, e.g.: The handle on the window;

(8) to refer to the position of the lid of a box, e.g.: The lid is not on properly;

(9) to specify the material or object on which sth is written, e.g.: She wrote it down on a piece of paper;

(10) to suggest a general area where sth happens, e.g.: He works on a farm;

(11) to say that sth is situated very close to sth, e.g.: The house is on the river;

(12) to say that sth you are going along, e.g.: We were driving on the California road;

(13) to say that someone is wearing sth, e.g.: She had a nice coat on;

(14) to say that someone is carrying sth, e.g.: I did not have any money on me;

(15) to say that someone's face carrying a particular expression, e.g.: She had a puzzled expression on her face;

(16) to specify a particular form of a transport sb using it, e.g.: She was the only passenger on the plane;

(17) to say that someone is boarding a particular form of a transport, e.g.: They got on a bus;

(18) to specify a certain day, date, occasion, e.g.: On a Sunday afternoon;

(19) to say what tool or instrument you are using in a particular activity, e.g.: Waltzes are played on the violin;

(20) to specify the cause of injury, e.g.: He cut himself on the gatepost;

(21) to say what fuel or form of power is used, e.g.: The cars run on petrol;

(22) to specify the system used to store information, e.g.: The information is recorded on a computer;

(23) to specify the medium through which sth is performed, e.g.: Obama will appear on TV a bit later;

(24) to specify financial or legal arrangement, e.g.: I bought it on the credit;

(25) to specify a qualification, e.g.: He was offered a position on his A-level results;

(26) to specify the reason that causes you to do so, e.g.: He frequently acted on an impulse;

(27) to specify the principles that is being used to, e.g.: They work on a rota system;

(28) to specify the intensity, e.g.: We are going to build on a large scale;

(29) to say that sth has begun and is happening at the time mentioned, e.g.: The war was on then;

(30) to say that a film is being shown or a social event is taking place, e.g.: The play went on in Sweden;

(31) if you are to do talking about a big amount of work, e.g.: She has got such a lot on;

(32) if you are continuing to do sth, e.g.: They walked on;

(33) that sth/sbd walk on;

(34) that sth happens immediately after you have done;

(35) that sth referring to the process, e.g.: It was easy to talk on;

(36) that sth happens occasionally, e.g.: I have been writing my thesis on and off for years;

(37) that you repeatedly criticize sbd, e.g.: I went on at my father to have seat belts fitted in the car;

(38) you are talking a lot about sth, e.g.: Bill was on about yoga;

(39) to indicate that sth started in the past and continues to happen afterwards, e.g.: from now on, from this moment on, from this time on;

(40) to emphasize how late or early, e.g.: I found a tree a little further on;

(41) to specify an activity that you are doing, They went on strike, e.g.: I was on a holiday;

(42) that you are working as a member of some organization, e.g.: I was on a number of commissions;

(43) to specify who is paying for sth, e.g.: Drinks are on the house;

(44) what you are eating or drinking, e.g.: Soon they were feasting on steaks and chips;

(45) you are on some medicine;

(46) you are living on some amount of money;

- (47) who an action affects on, e.g.: The pressure on him was enormous;
- (48) who an action is intended on, e.g.: Police opened fire on;
- (49) who you are looking at, e.g.: Their eyes were on him;
- (50) what your thoughts are directed towards;
- (51) what you are trying to produce, e.g.: He is working on a book;
- (52) whether sth wastes or saves money, e.g.: This car is more economical on fuel;
- (53) for what purpose you are wasting money, time, effort, e.g.: He spent much on clothes;
- (54) what you are comparing sth or someone to, e.g.: He is a marked improvement on his predecessor;
- (55) what items are involved in taxes, fines, profits, e.g.: Profits on books will be down [4, p. 1001–1003].

We have revealed 55 components in the preposition' functional semantics thanks to the distributional and discourse analysis. Let's compare its grammatical semantics, there are two major components: indication of the position, location, direction and occurrence at a given time [5, p. 1263]. The rest of its components can form a number of peripheries of the structure. These peripheries mainly depend on the distribution of the preposition: Verb + ON and Verb + ON + Noun wherein it realizes them.

We must also admit that the dictionary definition of *on* includes all possible idioms with the preposition *on*. Therefore the part of speech definition of the preposition like *on* is not objective. So far its meaning is defined on the level of the part of speech or on the level of the phrase, for example, phrasal verbs [1, p. 444–445]. The preposition may be defined as connecting word showing the relation of a noun or a noun substitute to some other word in the sentence. Over ninety percent of preposition usage involves these nine prepositions: *to* (2 595 289), *in* (1 944 328), *of* (918 640), *for* (883 599), *on* (734 285), *with* (659 332), *at* (526 764), *by* (520 751), *from* (427 977) – the frequency is recorded in the British National (with the volume of 100 mln word forms).

Prepositions cause problems because sometimes they can be used interchangeably: He sat on the chair: He sat in the chair, because prepositions are often combined with verbs to create phrasal verbs (to look after someone; to look down on someone), and because a single preposition can be used to express several different ideas: on the shelf, on Monday, on a diet, on a large scale, etc. [6, p. 493]. The issues of preposition polesemy remain scarcely investigated due to the necessity of a large amount of data selected from various registers of discourse. The selected data from the British National Corpus help us to reveal the relationship between the preposition meaning its distribution. Here are some basic distributional models of the preposition combinability:

Model 1. V + O + Prep; *Model 2.* V + Adv + Prep; *Model 3.* V + Adj + Prep; *Model 4.* N + Prep; *Model 5.* Prep + NP; *Model 6.* Prep + Adv; *Model 7.* N + PrepNP; *Model 8.* Prep + Ving; *Model 9.* Wh Quest. + Prep;

Model 10. Vinf + Prep; *Model 11.* VPassivmes to the e + Prep; *Model 12.* Sentence + Prep.

An integral analysis of the preposition *on* on the word, phrase, and discourse levels totalizes its semantic components, functional and distributional characteristics as well as shows the way of investigating some contradictory phenomena in language.

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Михайленко В. В. Прийменник *on*: когнітивна граматика

У центрі дослідження знаходиться прийменник *ON*, який традиційно знаходиться на перетині темпорально локативних мікрополей та виступає одним із засобів вираження часу та місця на рівні фрази та речення. Проте глибинний аналіз фактичного матеріалу показав семантичну залежність прийменника від головного слова. Відповідно, формується більш повна семантика зазначеного прийменника. Дискурс-аналіз вирізняє 55 компонента, проте, лише 2 з них стали регулярними, що робить їх доміантними при репрезентації темпорально-локативної концептосфери. Отримані периферійні компоненти – контекстно локалізовані, закріплені у певній дистрибутивній моделі, або в ідіоматичній структурі – можуть слугувати засобами вираження нових концептів.

Ключові слова: прийменник, закрита лексико-граматична категорія, компонент значення, доміантний компонент, периферійний компонент, дистрибутивна модель, лексична семантика, функціональна семантика, концептосфера.

Михайленко В. В. Предлог *on*: когнитивная грамматика

В фокусе исследования значения и функции предлога *ON* на уровне отдельного слова, фразы, предложения в системе языка, где он традиционно выступает на пересечении темпорально-локативных полей и выражает концепты времени и места. Однако, глубинный анализ фактологического материала вскрывает семантическую зависимость предлога от семантики главного слова фразы. Соответственно,

формируется более полная семантика указанного предлога. Дискурс-анализ выделил 55 компонентов, однако, только два из них стали доминантными при репрезентации темпорально-локативной концептосферы. Полученные периферийные компоненты – контекстно локализованы, закреплены в определённой дистрибутивной модели или в идиоматической структуре – могут служить средством выражения новых концептов.

Ключевые слова: предлог, закрытая лексико-грамматическая категория, компонент значения, доминантный компонент, периферийный компонент, дистрибутивная модель, лексическая семантика, функциональная семантика, концептосфера.

Mykhaylenko V. V. The Preposition *on*: Cognitive Grammar

The present paper is focused on the preposition *on* – its meaning and function on the word level, phrase level and sentence level in the language system, wherein it traditionally takes the position on the overlapping of temporal-locative fields and represents the concepts of time and location. However, the deep analysis of the data reveals the semantic dependency of the preposition on the head word semantics in the phrase. Here the lexical semantic combinability of the preposition *on* plays the important role within the phrase. Twelve distributional models are singled out in the data. Eventually a more comprehensive meaning of the preposition is being formed. The discourse analysis defines 55 components in the preposition *on* meaning, though two only have become the dominant means to verbalize the temporal-locative conceptual system. The periphery components – revealed in the investigation contextually located and fixed in the distribution model or in the idiomatic structure – can function as a means of verbalizing new concepts. Therefore, when the preposition *on* is put into the centre of the temporal-locative conceptual system it will distinguish two microsystems.

The school grammar of the English language states that the preposition *on* expresses mainly relationships of temporal and locative character between two objects, other types of relationship need further lingual-cognitive exploration in various registers of discourse. The analysis of the data selected from the British National Corpus makes the conclusion reliable.

Key words: preposition, close lexical-grammatical category, semantic component, dominant component, periphery component, distributional model, lexical semantics, functional semantics, conceptual system.

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