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средняя общеобразовательная школа № 3 г. Туймазы

муниципального района Туймазинский район

Республики Башкортостан

**Секция:** «Секция «Быстрее в мысли, ярче в слове…»

**Направление:** «Лингвистика. Иностранные языки.»

**КАКОЙ ПРЕДЛОГ ВЫБРАТЬ?**

**СРАВНИТЕЛЬНО-СОПОСТАВИТЕЛЬНЫЙ АНАЛИЗ**

**АНГЛИЙСКИХ ПРЕДЛОГОВ AT, IN, ON И РУССКОГО ПРЕДЛОГА В.**

**WHICH PREPOSITION TO CHOOSE?**

**COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE ENGLISH PREPOSITIONS AT, IN, ON AND THE RUSSIAN PREPOSITION В.**

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2021 год

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Introduction

English has achieved international recognition due to the globalization. Most students should be fluent in writing and speaking English. To use English effectively, it is important to master four types of speech activities: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing (LSRW). Of all four linguistic activities, writing is a complex process and the most significant skill for a second language learner. The ability to communicate effectively over a global network is highly dependent on writing and speaking skills.

Many of those who study English have ever wondered what preposition to use in a particular case. The topic of prepositions causes some difficulties, because this part of speech is not always accord with the use of similar prepositions in Russian.

We improve our knowledge of prepositions throughout the entire period of studying the English language. An incorrectly chosen preposition not only may not convey the essence of the statement, but also convey the opposite meaning of the statement. Therefore, such a section as prepositions in the grammar of the English language should be revising in detail.

This research is devoted to the study of the combinatory possibilities of the prepositions at, in, on in English and Russian.

The purpose of this study is to identify the features of the correspondence between the English prepositions at, in, on and the Russian preposition в.

The stated purpose identified the following tasks:

1) Describe the prepositions at, in, on.

2) Describe the rules for their use.

3) Consider the semantic connections of the combination of prepositions in English and Russian.

Object of the research: vocabulary of the English and Russian languages.

The subject of the research is the lexical meaning of the prepositions at, in, on in the English language and the preposition **в** in the Russian language.

This work has a practical character as caused by the difficulty of using the necessary preposition in writing and in oral speech.

The practical value of my work lies in the possibility of using the material and results of the research in the lessons of the English and Russian languages, as well as in the further research of the Russian and English vocabulary.

For the research on the topic, such sources were studied as Longman Exams Dictionary, Ozhegov Dictionary, «Practical English Grammar» by Katchalova, Izrailevich, and «English Grammar in Use» by R. Murphy.

We used the following research methods: observation, comparison, analysis.

Chapter I. The lexical meaning of prepositions

Prepositions are the function words expressing the syntactic dependence of a noun (or pronoun-noun) on other words in a phrase. [10, 7] The use of prepositions in English implies a mandatory knowledge of their meanings, translation options and the range of use.

Many linguists have studied the meanings and functions of prepositions in the English language and made a comparative analysis with the Russian language in their works: Aksenenko B.М. "Prepositions of the English language", V. Alaytseva, ON Panfilova "All the prepositions of the English language", Ganul E.A. "English prepositions", Litvinov P.P. "100 English Prepositions", Popovets MA "All the secrets of English prepositions", Sokolova E.I. "English. Prepositions ", Reiman E.A. “English prepositions. Meanings and functions ”, etc.

After studying the works of linguists, we can conclude that in the English language a preposition plays a significant role, acting as case determinants. A preposition is a service part of speech that indicates the grammatical dependence of a noun on other words and expresses various relationships between them in a sentence.

Prepositions are divided into three main groups: simple, complex and compound.

The main function of the English prepositions is structural, that is, it acts as a formal element involved in the formation of structures of various levels of complexity, such as a phrase, a sentence and a text.

Prepositions are classified according to their form (simple, complex and compound). The study of prepositions of the English language gives its own a semantic scheme of relations which different from the Russian language. The analysis of English simple prepositions allows us to conclude that the relationships expressed by using them exist in three aspects: temporal orientation, space orientation and logical connections. [10, 18]

I.1 The prepositions at, in, on

Preposition at

1) used to say exactly where something or someone is, or where something happens:

They live at Victoria Street. Dad is at work.

at the top/ bottom/ end (of smth): At the top of the stairs.

2) used to say what event or activity someone is taking part in: I met my friend at a cafe.

3) used to say that someone is studying somewhere regularly: Is Jessica still at school?

4) used to say when something happens: The film starts at 8 o’clock.

5) during a particular period of time: My father often works at night.

6) used to say which thing or person an action is directed towards or intended for: He gazed up at the sky.

7) used to say what or who caused an action or feeling: The children all laughed at his jokes.

8) used to say which subject you are talking about when you say whether someone is skilful, successful, or not: Barbara is getting on really at her job. | good/ bad at (doing) sth: I have always been good at maths.

9) used to say that someone or something is in a particular state: Many children are still at risk from neglect or abuse.

10) used to show a price, rate, level, age, speed etc: You should have more sense at your age.

11) at your best/ worst/ most effective etc used to say that at a particular time, someone or something is as good, bad etc as they can be: The garden is at its best in June.

12) used to say what someone tries to touch, or keeps touching: George was just picking at his food.

13) used to say what someone tries to do: the students first attempt at a piece of research

14) because of what someone has said: Chapman visited Austria at the invitation of his friend. [12, 78]

Preposition in

1) used with the name of a container, place, or area to say where someone or something is: There is some sugar in the cupboard.| My mother was in the kitchen.

2) into a container, place etc: She looked in her handbag.

3) used to say how something is done or happens: a room furnished in a modern style

4) used with names of months, years, seasons etc to say when something happens: Bright yellow flowers appear in late summer.

5) during a period of time: It was amazing how much we managed to do in a day.

6) at the end of a period of time: I will be in a minute.

7) used with negatives or with «first» to say how much time has passed since the last time something happened: I haven’t enjoyed myself so much in years.

8) used to name the book, document, film etc where something or someone appears: You shouldn’t believe everything you read in the newspaper.

9) making up the whole of something or included as part of something: How many minutes are there in an hour?

10) doing or affecting a particular kind of job: He has been in politics for fifteen years.

11) wearing something: He looked very handsome in his uniform.

12) used to talk about the state or situation of something or someone: The engine appears to be in good condition.

13) used to say what activity a group of people do: About 4000 students took part in the protest.

14) used to talk about the shape, arrangement, or course of something or someone: I want you all to stand in a circle.

15) used between a smaller number and a larger number to say how common or how likely something is: One in 10 homes now has cable TV.

16) used to say a plural number or amount to say how many people or things are involved or how many there are in each group: The children work in pairs.| in their hundreds/ thousands etc (=in very large numbers) People flocked in their thousands to greet their new princess.

17) used to say what colour something is or what it is made of: Do you have the same pattern in blue?

18) used to say what specific thing your statement is related to: Milk is very rich in calcium.

19) used to refer to the weather or the physical conditions somewhere: I have been standing in the rain for an hour.

20) used to say what feeling you have when you do something: It was all done purely in fun.

21) used to say how many parts something is divided into: in two/ halves/ pieces etc;

22) while doing something or while something is happening, and as a result of this: In my excitement, I forgot all about a message. | in doing sth;

23) in that used after statement to begin to explain in what way it is true;

24) be in your 20s/ 30s/ 40s etc to be between the ages of 20 and 29, 30 and 39 etc: Matthew was already in his mid-40s. [12, 771]

Preposition on

1) on a surface a) touching a surface or being supported by a surface; b) used to say that something or someone moves so that they are then touched or supported by a surface: snow falling on the mountainside

2) supporting your body used to say what part of someone’s body is touching the ground or another surface and supporting their weight: She was on her feet in no time.

3) part hit/ touched: I wanted to punch him on the nose.

4) used to say where something is written or shown: There is a diagram on page 25.

5) attached to or hanging from something: She hung her coat on a hook.

6) in a particular place: The town is right on the border.

7) in a particular position in relation to something else: You will see the school on your left.

8) looking or pointing towards something or someone: His eyes were on the stranger.

9) during a particular day: They will be here on Tuesday.

10) affecting or relating to someone or something: his influence on young people;

11) about a particular subject: an international conference on global warming

12) as a result of someone’s order, request, or advice: I accepted the offer on the advice of my lower.

13) used to talk about what someone usually eats or drinks: They live mainly on beans, lentils and rice.

14) transport: a) in or into a bus, train, plain etc, b) riding something,

15) using a machine or piece of equipment: He has been on the computer.

16) playing a musical instrument: He played a short piece on the piano.

17) being broadcast by radio or television: What’s on TV tonight?

18) taking part in an activity or travelling somewhere: She is on a course all this week. [12, 1064]

I.2 The designation of time and place with prepositions at, in, on

Talking about time

Use at

With clock times: at one o’clock, at 6.30

With points of time in the day: at midnight/ at noon/ at dawn/ at sunset

With holiday periods, meaning the few days around the holiday: at Easter.

With weekend in BrE: at the weekend

Use in

With parts of the day: in the morning, in the evening,

With months, seasons, years and centuries: in May, in 2021, in the 21st century

Use on

With dates and specific days: on 29th July/ on Tuesday

With weekends in AmE: We sometimes go there on weekends.

Talking about position and place

Use at

With particular positions or places: at the end of the corridor

To mean «next to» or «besides»: She sat at the desk.

With words for buildings, for example airport, university, restaurant,

With city or place names, when you are talking about stopping during a journey: Does this train stop at Watford?

Use in

With a position or place, when something or someone is inside a larger thing such as a room: in the bath/ in the kitchen

With cities, counties, states and countries: When will you arrive in Tokyo?

With the names of squares, plazas: in Time Square

Use on

With a position or place, when one thing is attached to or touching another: He hung his jacket on the back of a chair.

You can use either in or on with street names in BrE. In AmE use on: in Oxford Street| on the High Street| on Broadway. [12, 79]

Chapter II. The comparative analysis of the prepositions

of the English and Russian languages

II.1 The lexical meaning of the preposition **в** in the Russian language

In order to establish the relationship between the Russian preposition **в** with English, we will give all its meanings.

Ozhegov Dictionary of the Russian Language gives the following meanings of the preposition **в**:

To denote a place, direction to somewhere, or being somewhere, e.g.: Papers are in the table. To go to Siberia.

To denote a phenomenon that is an area of activity:

All day at work. To be in doubt. To be in contemplation.

To denote a state, form, kind: To grind into powder. Sugar in chunks.

Indication of an appearance, a covering, a garment: To put on a coat.

To wrap in paper.

An indication of the number of any units of which something consists:

A room of twenty meters. A comedy in three acts.

To denote the moment or the term of something: On Thursday night. Last year.

The designation of objects, phenomena, in relation to which something is happening, observed: The difference in years. The deficiencies in singing.

The designation of multiples of numbers: Three times as many.

For the sake of, for, as something: No offense will be taken.

To indicate a family resemblance: Like his mother.

To indicate the distance from something: Two steps away from me.

The designation of the order of enumeration in combination with ordinal numerals: First, in third... [9, 196]

II.2 The lexical meaning of the English prepositions

that correspond to the Russian preposition **в**

English translations of the Russian preposition **в** are the prepositions at, in, on together with other prepositions.

The prepositions at (at a certain specific point), in (in some territory) are used to mean place, direction to somewhere or being somewhere: I am at home. He was born in Moscow.

The preposition at, in is used to denote phenomena representing an area of activity: his thoughts are at work, father is in the trade.

The preposition in, at is used to denote state, form, kind.

Today she is in bad condition. The country is at war.

The preposition in is used when indicating appearance, the shell, clothes: She was dressed in white.is in mourning.

When indicating the moment, time or term of something the preposition at, in, on is used or, altogether, there is no preposition: We see him off on Sunday. They have a breakfast in the morning. We will meet him at 2 o'clock.

The English preposition in, is observed to denote objects, phenomena, in relation to which something happens: was walking in the rain.

The preposition in is used to denote distance, the relation of two quantities: He lives in two minutes from here.

As we see, almost every preposition in English and Russian has multiple meanings, and there is rarely a complete correspondence between their meanings. For example, the Russian preposition " **в**," even with one meaning - to express time, is translated differently into English, depending on the meaning of the noun:

**в** мае - **in** May/ **в** пятницу - **on** Friday /**в** 2 часа - **at** 2 o'clock

To get a complete understanding of the meanings given by English prepositions to the Russian preposition "**в**" we summarize all the meanings of the Russian preposition in a table:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Preposition    Meaning | **в** | Example |
| Time, moment | at  in  on | It tasted like all her favourite foods at the same time. [13, 10]  She will meet him at 2 o’clock.  I have holiday in August.  I saw her on Sunday. |
| Space, location | at  in | Knocked at the door [13, 13]  Alice looked at the book. [13, 8]  The rabbit looked at it. [13, 8]  Alice was in a long, low room. [13, 9]  There weren’t any pictures in it.[13,8]  Am I in the sea? [13, 13]  Gryphon was asleep in the sun. [13, 17] |
| Area of ​​activity | at  in  on | All his thoughts are at work.  Her father is in the trade.  Be on the committee |
| State, type, form | at  in  on | Be good at physics  Today she is in bad condition.  They took it on credit. |
| Appearance, shell, clothing | in | She was dressed in white.  Someone in a sort of uniform.[13, 18] |
| Level, age | at | You should have more sense at your age. |
| Object, phenomenon to which something happens | in | A room furnished in a modern style |
| Order of listing | at | At first, I do not want to go there. |
| Distance, a ratio of two quantities | in | He lives in two minutes from here. |

As we can see from the table, when we translate only one Russian preposition **в**, we use different prepositions in English.

English prepositions can also have other translations:

at - **на, за, у, по, при**

in – **внутри, под, на, в течение, за, через**

on – **на, по, о, над, дальше, вперед** [ 11 , 13]

The comparative analysis shows that the using a necessary preposition in English requires a good knowledge about not only the main meaning of the preposition, but also all its indirect meanings.

Though the lexico-grammatical meaning and function of English prepositions are similar to those of the Russian counterparts, the role of prepositions in two languages is different. This difference, however, depends not on the prepositions, but on the nouns they introduce.

The research proves that a number prepositions have polysemy, while there is a transition from space meanings to temporal and further to abstract ones. In addition, there is polysemy also within certain types of meanings, for example, space ones, when the same preposition introduces different types of location and establishes a different nature of relations.

Conclusion

English language learners whose native language is Russian should first realize that there are significant differences between the systems of the two languages. Prepositions, due to their significant dissimilarity with the Russian language, turn out to be the most difficult for comprehension and assimilation.

Having examined and analyzed the polysemy and generality of prepositions in English, we can conclude that the semantic structure of many prepositions cannot be adequately expressed by one generalized meaning. The research proves that a number of prepositions have ambiguity, while there is a transition from spatial values ​​to temporal and further to more abstract ones. In addition, there is polysemy also within certain types of meanings, for example, spatial ones, when the same preposition introduces different types of space and establishes a different nature of relations.

The comparative analysis of the Russian preposition **в** and English prepositions at, in, on presented the most vivid picture of the polysemantic nature of both Russian and English prepositions. As the analysis has shown, not a single preposition has an unambiguous meaning, a preposition conveys several meanings and each meaning has its own semantics.

The choice of prepositions in, at, on is justified by the fact that they cause the greatest difficulty in using in English, so how they are often confused and misused. However, it is very important to learn how to use and understand the combinatory possibilities of these prepositions both in Russian and in English. The meaning of the whole sentence will change depending on which preposition you have chosen.

In conclusion, I would like to note the following: the use of prepositions in English can be called as the kind of "science", as we improve our knowledge using the prepositions throughout the entire period of learning English.

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Glossary

**Lexical meaning of the word** – the realization or naming of a notion, emotion or object by means of a definite language system subject to the influence or grammar and vocabulary peculiarities of that language).

**Meaning** – is a component of the word through which a concept is communicated endowing the word with the ability of denoting real objects, qualities, action and abstract notions; the relation between the object or notion named, and the name itself; the situation in which word is uttered.

**Polysemantic word** – a word which has more than one meaning.

**Polysemy** – means plurality of meanings.

**Semantic** – relating to meaning, dealing with meaning in language.

**Semantic level of analysis** – aimed at establishing the word's semantic structure or the type of meaning in which the word under analysis is used in a given context, e.g. sense is a polysemantic word, contemptuous is a monosemantic word.

**Semasiology** – thebranch of lexicology that is devoted to the study of meaning.