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هيئة التحرير

رئيس هيئة التحرير

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استشارات فنية وتصميم الغلاف: أ. حسين ميلاد أبو شعالة

المجلة ترحب بما يرد عليها من أبحاث وعلى استعداد لنشرها بعد التحكيم .
المجلة تحترم كل الاحترام آراء المحكمين وتعمل بمقتضاها .
كافة الآراء والأفكار المنشورة تعبر عن آراء أصحابها ولا تتحمل المجلة تبعاتها .
يتحمل الباحث مسؤولية الأمانة العلمية وهو المسؤول عما ينشر له .
البحوث المقدمة للنشر لا ترد لأصحابها نشرت أو لم تنشر .
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- The Syntax of Prepositional Phrase in English



الافتتاحية

من السمات الطيبة الحميدة التي يتميز بها مجتمعنا العربي عامة والليبي خاصة سمة التسامح والتكافل والتعاقد، متأثرين بأخلاق أجدادنا، متبعين لتعاليم حثنا عليها ديننا قال تعالى ﴿وتعاونوا على البر والتقوى﴾ ولكن المجتمعات قد تعثرها الغفلة فيصيبها شيء من الخلل فتقلب القيم والمفاهيم لديهم، تحل البغضاء محل الحب، والانتقام محل التسامح، فما أحوجنا اليوم أكثر من أي وقت مضى إلى التشبث بهذه الأخلاق النابعة من ديننا الإسلامي.

لقد نقشت وبشكل ملفت للنظر الكراهية والحقد بين أبناء المجتمع، وسرت في دماهم النفعية الضيقة، والأنانية المقيتة، إن هذه الأخلاق السيئة ليست من سمات مجتمعنا، ولا من تعاليم ديننا، وإنما لمن عوامل الضعف قال تعالى: ﴿ولا تنازعوا فتعشوا وتذهب ريحكم﴾ فالحب والوئام روح القوة والسمو، وهو جوهر الأخلاق والدين، والإنسان المتوازن نفسياً والمتشبع بتعاليم الدين كله تسامح وإحسان، فإن الإساءة بما فيه ينضح، يحسن الظن بالآخرين، ويلتمس العذر للمخطئين .

وما الصراعات في المجتمعات الإسلامية عامة والليبي خاصة إلا نتاج هذه الكراهية المصنوعة، والبغض المبتوث، والتنافس غير الشريف، مما يجعلنا فريسة سهلة المنال للأعداء، انتشرت الكراهية حتى أصبحت الكلمات النابية والجارحة تتقاذف بين الناس، والأدهى والأمر أن تنتشر بين بعض طلبة أهل العلم، وعلى منابر العلم والمعرفة، وأصبح دم المسلم يراق صباحاً ومساءً، ليلاً ونهاراً، بذنب وبدون ذنب.

لقد تقدمت قضايا هامشية على حساب أخرى جوهرية مصيرية، فأين قضية فلسطين والقدس وما يفعله بأهلها اليهود أعداء الله مما يدور الآن، فعلى أهل العلم والفضل وبخاصة أساتذة الجامعات والباحثين أن يتقدموا الصفوف في الدعوة لنبذ الكراهية وإنعاش بذرة الخير في قلوب الناس، وتعزيز دعائم الحب والوئام . هيئة التحرير

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Abstract

The paper discusses the syntactic structure of prepositional phrases in English from a generative perspective. It attempts to show that the traditional view that prepositional phrases consist of a preposition followed a noun phrase complement cannot be generalised. The paper argues that a head in a prepositional phrase can be transitive or intransitive; if transitive it can take any XP, i.e. NP, AP, PP or TP as a complement; if not, it requires no complement. The paper also shows that a prepositional phrase can be modified by prepositional modifiers and other phrasal categories such as NP, PP, AdjP & AdvP. Finally, the paper provides evidence that lexical items classified traditionally as adverbs and/or particles can be analysed as (in)transitive prepositions.

1. Introduction

Traditionally, the structure of prepositional phrases (PP) consists of a preposition functioning as the head followed by a noun phrase (NP) as a complement. Thus, the phrase structure rule (PS rule) for such PPs is: $PP \rightarrow P + NP$. However, the question now is whether or not such a rule can be generalised to account for PPs in English. PPs seem to be complicated and thus cannot be restricted to one PS rule. This paper discusses the structure of prepositional phrases in English and provides appropriate analyses for such phrases from a generative perspective. The paper also investigates the status of lexical items classified in traditional grammars as adverbs, and/or particles despite the fact the syntactic

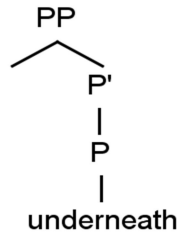
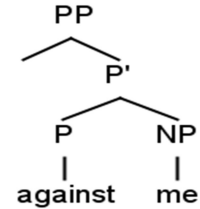
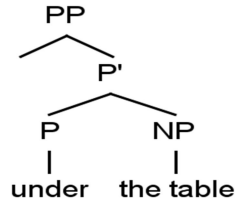
behaviours of such items is, in certain contexts, similar to that of prepositions. The paper is organised as follows: section 1 introduces the study, while section 2 presents the semantics and syntax of prepositional phrases and provides analyses for different structures of PPs; section 3 discusses modification of prepositional phrases. Section 4 deals with phrasal and prepositional verbs; finally, section 5 presents the conclusion.

2. The Semantics and Syntax of Prepositional Phrases

The typical function of prepositions in a language is to mark locative and temporal information. For instance, prepositions such as *under*, *over*, *on* mark location, others like *before*, *after*, *during*, etc display temporal information. Prepositions also describe the manner in which an event is carried out, as in: *in a loud voice*, *with a knife*, etc. Finally, other uses of prepositions may include metaphorical uses as in 'against the kerb' (Tallerman: 2011: 63-64).

Prepositions in English may combine with a noun phrase (NP) to constitute a prepositional phrase (PP). Prepositions functioning likewise, as pointed out by Tallerman (2005: 47), are called transitive prepositions: they take a noun or pronoun expression as their complements (see also Radford, 2004: 38). Thus, the structure of PPs in (1)-(3) is: PP → P + NP. Prepositions can also be used intransitively e.g. *before*, *after*, *afterwards*, *underneath*, etc (Tallerman 2005: 47). Accordingly, PPs whose head is an intransitive preposition do not require complements, as in (4):

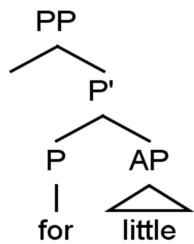
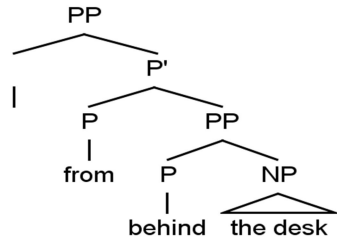
- (1) It is *under the table*.
- (2) I am working *towards a comprehensive conclusion*.
- (3) She is *against me*.
- (4) Put your clean pile of clothes *underneath*.



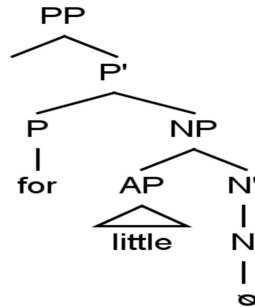
The analysis of (4) suggests that the phrase structure (PS) rule for such a class of prepositions (intransitive prepositions) is: $PP \rightarrow P$. Thus, a general rule accommodating both transitive and intransitive prepositions can be as: $PP \rightarrow P (NP)$, where the complement is optional depending on the type of preposition. Prepositional phrases can also take prepositional and adjective phrases as complements, generating the PS rules: $PP \rightarrow P + PP$ and $PP \rightarrow P + AP$, as in (5) and (6) respectively.

(5) He came from behind the desk.

(6) I work for little.



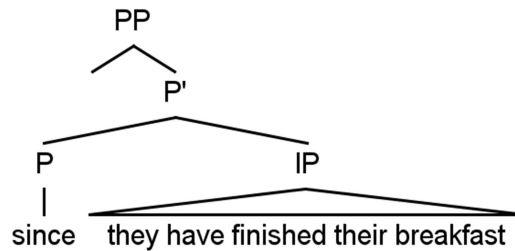
An alternative potential analysis, however, is to consider the complement of the preposition ‘for’ in (6) as an implied NP in the underlying structure, and that NP is omitted in the surface structure. Such an analysis involves NP ellipsis, i.e. an NP whose head is elided. This is illustrated in the tree diagram analysis below:



Furthermore, prepositional phrases can take clausal complements. Prepositions such as 'before, since, after ... etc' are classified as prepositions, and they can take sentential complements (Crystal, 1997: 370), as in (7) and (8), which leads to this rule: $PP \rightarrow P + TP$.

(7) since they finished their breakfast (ibid. 305).

(8) That was after I had phoned my wife.



3. Modification of Prepositional Phrases

PPs can function as optional modifiers of verbs, as in (9), where the PP is an adjunct modifying phrase. Furthermore, like adjectives and nouns, prepositions can be modified by their own closed class of pre-modifiers. Such modifiers include *straight*, *right*, *well* and *just* (Tallerman 2005, 2011; Radford 2004). This is illustrated in the examples and tree diagram analyses below.

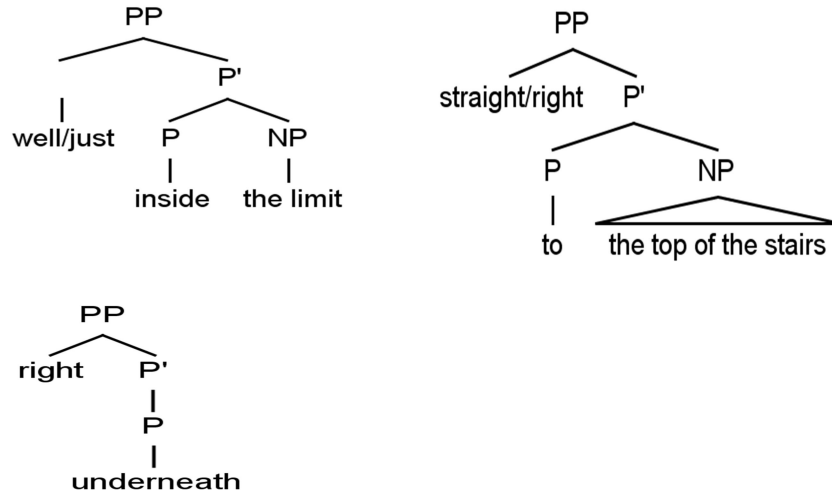
(9) Susan sang *in a loud voice*.

(10) The weight is *well/just* inside the limit.

(11) Go *straight/right* to the top of the stairs.

(12) Put your clean pile of clothes *right* underneath.

(Tallerman 2005: 64)



Radford (2004: 37) states that modifiers such as *right* and *straight* cannot modify other categories such as nouns, verbs, adjectives or adverbs. This set of modifiers serves only to intensify prepositions expressing a special type of meaning conveyed by/in certain uses, as illustrated in (13)-(18).

- (13) *He *right/straight* despaired.
(*right/straight+verb*)
- (14) *She is *right/straight* pretty.
(*right/straight+adjective*)
- (15) *She looked at him *right/straight* strangely.
(*right/straight+adverb*)
- (16) *They are *right/straight* fools.
(*right/straight+noun*)
- (17) He made *right/straight* for the exit.
(*right/straight+preposition*)

- (18) *He bought a present *right/straight* for Mary.
(*right/straight+preposition*)

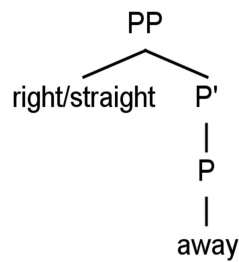
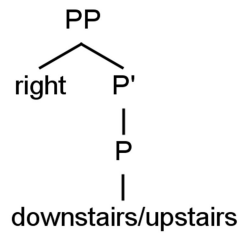
The ungrammaticality of (13), (14), (15) and (16) show that the modifiers *right* and *straight* cannot modify nouns, verbs, adjectives or adverbs. It should be noted, as pointed out by Radford (2004: 37), however, that not all prepositions can be modified by prepositional modifiers; only those whose meaning can be intensified permit such modification, as the contrast in (17) and (18) show.

3.1 Prepositions or Adverbs

In traditional grammar, several lexical items are classified as adverbs (*e.g. of time, place, etc*) despite the fact that such items behave syntactically as prepositions. Based upon the discussion in section (3), prepositional modifiers can be used as a test to determine whether or not the category of lexical items such as *upstairs, downstairs, away, overhead, online, now ... etc* can be analysed as transitive or intransitive prepositions (see Tallerman, 2005: 65; Emonds, in Napoli and Rando, 1979: 193-4).

- (19) They live *right downstairs/upstairs*.
(20) He is *right/straight away*.
(21) Jane finished the task *right before*.
(22) You must do this *right now*.
(23) That was after the middy meeting.
(24) since breakfast

The data above reveal that these items traditionally termed adverbs can function as prepositions and thus be analysed as (in)transitive prepositions, as in the analyses below:



Furthermore, single-word expressions expressing spatial or temporal relations such as *here* and *there* vs. *now* and *then* respectively that are traditionally termed place and time adverbs can be treated as preposition (see Burton-Roberts 2011: 57). This is due to the fact that *there* and *here* just like *now* and *then* can be replaced by PPs, indicating that they are similar in syntactic behaviour to prepositions, not to adverbs. The other argument in favour of this analysis is that *here*, *there*, *now* and *then* can be modified by the prepositional modifier *right*, whereas adverbs such as *quickly* or *slowly* cannot. A further argument is that they can occur as copular complements, while adverbs such as *slowly* cannot (Uffmann, 2003: 2). This clearly indicates that such spatial and temporal expressions can function as prepositions and thus be analysed as such.

(25) She went right *to the top of the stairs*.

(26) *She drove *straight/right slowly*.

(27) She put it *right here/there*.

(28) She was *there/here*.

(29) It is *right* now/it was *right* then.

(30) *She was *slowly/often*.

3.2 Phrasal categories as modifiers of Prepositional Phrases

Prepositional phrases can be modified not only by prepositional modifiers, but also by phrasal categories such as a noun phrase (NP), prepositional phrase (PP) adjective phrase (AP), and adverb phrase (AdvP) (Carnie, 2007: 160). Thus, when modifying a PP, all these phrases (i.e. NP, PP, AP, and AdvP) occupy the specifier position of the PP. Since these specifiers are phrasal categories, they can take their own specifiers. Consider the data and analyses below:

(31) They found it *many miles beneath the surface of the earth*

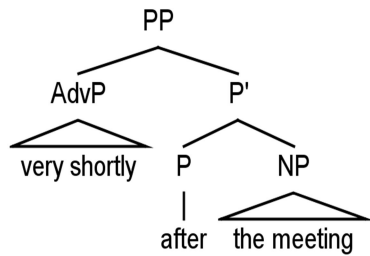
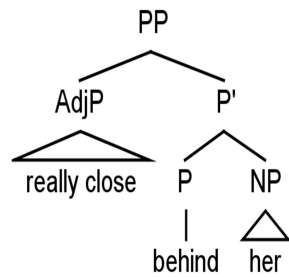
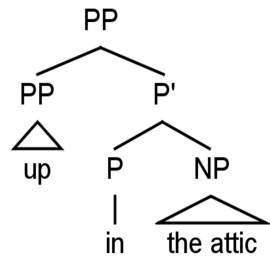
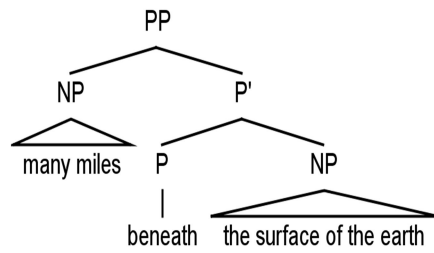
(32) They found it *up in the attic*.

(33) Her kids stood *really close behind her*.

(34) She left *very shortly after the meeting*.

(35) I went *back to my office*.

(36) I went *right back to my office*.



4. Phrasal Verbs vs. Prepositional Verbs

PPs that function as adjuncts or complements need to be distinguished from a similar structure referred to as phrasal verbs. Verbs followed by PPs can be roughly classified into three types: verbs followed by PPs as adjuncts, verbs with PPs as complements, i.e. prepositional verbs, and finally verbs followed by particles, i.e. phrasal verbs (see Burton-Roberts 2011). Given that prepositional and phrasal verbs contain prepositions, they are discussed briefly in this section.

(37) Those smugglers *shook off* their pursuers.

(38) Those smugglers *relied on* the weather forecast. (Tallerman 2011: 157)

The two structures in (37) and (38) differ syntactically. In (37), the preposition 'off' can be placed after the NP object 'their pursuers' as in *Those smugglers shook their pursuers off*. The verbal element 'shook off' is a transitive verb and it requires an NP as a direct object. In (38), the verb 'rely' is not transitive; it is a prepositional verb that requires a PP as a complement, not an NP as a direct object. This explains why the preposition 'on' cannot be placed after the NP *the weather forecast*, as in (39):

(39) *Those smugglers relied the weather forecast on. (Tallerman 2011: 157)

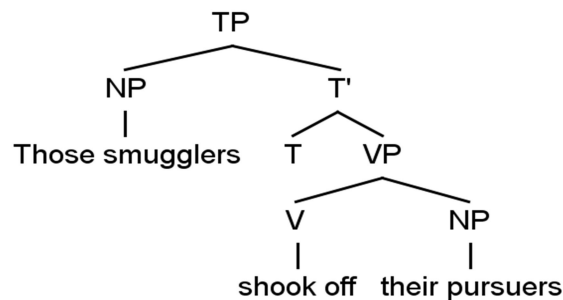
Verbs like 'shake off' are called phrasal verbs. These verbs consist of a verb plus a preposition (traditionally termed particle). Phrasal verbs can be transitive or intransitive (Tallerman 2005: 138). Intransitive phrasal verbs consist of a verb followed by a preposition such as *wake up*, *sit down*, *sleep in*, *turn out*, etc. Transitive phrasal verbs, on the other hand, as in (37), consist of

verb followed by a preposition and an NP as a direct object such as *turn over, pull down, pick up, put out*, etc. The following are examples on phrasal verbs:

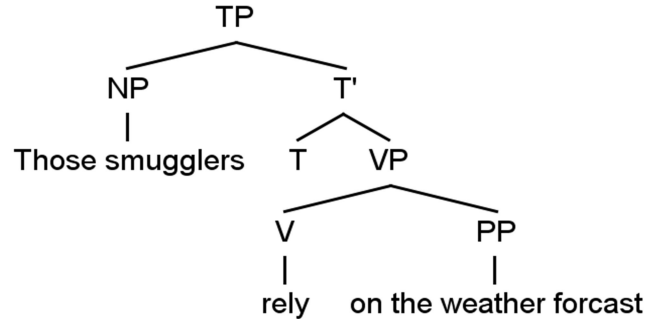
- (40) Pull the handle right down.
 (41) There was a loud bang and I woke right up.
 (42) John turned the light on.

The phrasal verb in (42) cannot be considered as a verb followed by a PP as complement as 'on' here belongs more closely to the verb than to the NP (see Uffmann, 2003; Burton-Roberts, 1997). Thus, it is important to distinguish between phrasal verbs manifesting this order and prepositional verbs that require obligatorily a PP complement. The following are analyses of the phrasal and prepositional verbs in (37) and (38) above.

Analysis of phrasal verbs



Analysis of prepositional verbs



5. Conclusion

Prepositional phrases consist mainly of a preposition functioning as a head, which may be intransitive or transitive. If the head of the PP is intransitive, it requires no complement, whereas if it is transitive, it requires a complement which may be any XP, i.e. NP, AdjP, AdvP, PP or TP, indicating that the traditional view that PPs consist of a preposition and a noun phrase cannot be generalised. In addition, prepositions, as other syntactic categories, can be modified by both prepositional modifiers and phrasal categories such as NPs, PPs, APs and AdvPs. Finally, the paper shows that certain lexical items treated in traditional grammar as adverbs of time and place, and particles in the case of phrasal verbs can be analysed as (in)transitive prepositions.

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يشترط في البحوث العلمية المقدمة للنشر أن يراعى فيها ما يأتي :

- أصول البحث العلمي وقواعده .
- ألا تكون المادة العلمية قد سبق نشرها أو كانت جزءا من رسالة علمية .
- يرفق بالبحث المكتوب باللغة العربية بملخص باللغة الإنجليزية ، والبحث المكتوب بلغة أجنبية مرخصا باللغة العربية .
- يرفق بالبحث تركية لغوية وفق أنموذج معد .
- تعدل البحوث المقبولة وتصحح وفق ما يراه المحكمون .
- التزام الباحث بالضوابط التي وضعتها المجلة من عدد الصفحات ، ونوع الخط ورقمه ، والفترات الزمنية الممنوحة للتعديل ، وما يستجد من ضوابط تضعها المجلة مستقبلا .

تنبيهات :

- للمجلة الحق في تعديل البحث أو طلب تعديله أو رفضه .
- يخضع البحث في النشر لأوليات المجلة وسياستها .
- البحوث المنشورة تعبر عن وجهة نظر أصحابها ، ولا تعبر عن وجهة نظر المجلة .

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