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PREPOSITIONS OF TIME FROM HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE AND THE PRECONDITIONS FOR THEIR TRANSPOSITION

У статті аналізуються передумови виникнення темпоральних прийменників в давньоанглійській мові. Отриманні дані можуть сприяти визначенню статусу прийменників часу порівняно з прислівниками часу в сучасній англійській мові, оскільки наразі існує двозначність щодо розмежування цих класів. Було виокремлено 14 темпоральних прийменників, значення яких збігається зі значенням прислівників часу. Відповідно до складових та на основі діахронного дослідження однослівних прийменників часу було визначено 2 групи: істинні однослівні та деривативні двокомпонентні прийменники. З огляду на типи темпоральних прийменників було виокремлено 4 моделі. Результати дослідження дадуть змогу переглянути існуючі відносини між граматичними класами прийменників та прислівників, а також пояснити їхні транспозиційні процеси у мові.

Ключові слова: прийменник, прислівник, транспозиція, іменникова фраза-доповнення.

В статье рассматриваются предусловия возникновения темпоральных предлогов в древнеанглийском языке. Полученные данные могут способствовать определению статуса предлогов времени в сравнении с наречиями времени, поскольку в данное время существует двузначность при разделении этих классов. Было выделено 14 темпоральных предлогов, значение которых совпадает со значением наречий времени. В соответствии с составляющими и на основе диахронного исследования однословных предлогов времени было установлено 2 группы: истинные однословные и деривативные двухкомпонентные предлоги. На основе типов темпоральных предлогов было установлено 4 модели. Результаты исследования дадут возможность пересмотреть существующие взаимоотношения между грамматическими классами предлогов и наречий, а также объяснить их транспозиционные процессы в языке.

Ключевые слова: предлог, наречие, транспозиция, именная фраза-дополнение.

The paper focuses on the beginnings of temporal prepositions, the ways of their formation in the Old English language. This will help to ascertain the status of prepositions of time in comparison with adverbs of time in PDE, as nowadays there is an ambiguity between these classes. 14 temporal prepositions which intersect in their meaning with adverbs of time have been picked out and examined. In conformity with the number of constituents and on the basis of the diachronic research modern one-word prepositions can be divided into 2 groups: genuine one-word and, derivative prepositions with 2 constituents. In

compliance with the type of temporal prepositions 4 structural models have been singled out. The results of the investigation will give an opportunity to redraw the boundaries between grammatical categories of prepositions and adverbs of time and to explain the process of their transposition in language.

Key words*: preposition, adverb, transposition, noun-phrase complement.*

Interconnection of the elements of any language and their interpenetration are of great interest in current linguistics. In the system of any language there are enough preconditions to grammatical transposition of lexical units, as the system of parts of speech is not static, but dynamic, which becomes apparent through the transpositional processes.

The **aim of the paper** is to focus on temporal preposition-adverb transposition and namely on the analysis of preconditions for such transposition in modern grammar. The attention is concentrated upon preposition-adverb transposition as there is certain ambiguity while distinguishing these units. Such ambiguity consists in the very definition of preposition. Preposition "is a word that indicates a relation between the noun or pronoun it governs and another word, which may be a verb, an adjective or another noun or pronoun" [6, p. 355]. Thus, particles are analyzed as prepositions only if they have complements in the form of NPs" [9, p. 127], i.e. if a unit does not take a noun phrase as a complement it should be parsed as an adverb.

Nevertheless, our **working hypothesis** is that temporal prepositions may be used not only with the noun phrases, but also together with other parts of speech, i.e. with clausal complements or solely, i.e. with null complements.

Such hypothesis can be put forward on the basis of other researches carried out by **D. Danison**, stating that "*three adjective-like items in present day English have the preposition-like property of governing an NP complement: near, like and worth. Joan Maling's discussion of their history concludes that near remains more like an adjective, while like and worth are now best taken as prepositions, whereas Quirk, Greenbaum, Leech & Svartvik treat all of them as prepositions but with greatest hesitation over like*" [16, p. 128], by R. Huddleston and G. Pullum "*the classification of words like aboard and outside as adverbs is thus inconsistent with the traditional definition of that category. The best way to remove this inconsistency is to amend the definition of prepositions so that they are no longer required to have an NP complement*" [9, p. 132] and our researches focused on locative preposition-adverb transposition [10, p. 42].

In modern grammar studies, a lexico-grammatical class of prepositions belongs to the closed word class as it is not a subject for transposition processes, therefore its quantity is limited to "about a hundred prepositions in current use" [9, p. 127]. J. Essberger enumerates the list of 150 prepositions stating that it "is comprehensive at the time of writing, and represents all the prepositions currently found in a good English dictionary such as the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*" [7, p.6].

Hence, on the grounds of 150 prepositions and data from the English dictionaries, 37 one-word and 4 complex prepositions (total 41) indicating temporal relations have been selected, see Table 1.

Table 1

Temporal Prepositions in English

One-word temporal prepositions					Complex temporal prepositions
*about	beyond	in	pending	towards	ahead of
*after	by	*inside	per	under	close to
against	circa	into	*round	until	up to
*around	*down	*near	*since	upon	up until
at	during	of	through	with	
*before	following	*on	*throughout	within	
*behind	for	*over	till		
*between	from	past	to		

Temporal prepositions, marked with an asterisk symbol in Table 1, are treated both as prepositions and adverbs. According to the research data among 14 ambiguous lexical units, only 3 (*around, down, round*) can be regarded as genuine prepositions, as they are always used with NP complements. Other 11 prepositions may be used with various types of complements and become **the object of the current research**.

The research is carried out on the basis of the Oxford English Dictionary [13], A Concise Anglo-Saxon Dictionary [3], An Anglo-Saxon Dictionary Supplement [17], Online Etymological Dictionary [12]. The dates which follow the examples indicate the first usage of the lexical item.

The etymological analysis gives us an opportunity to assume that most of the modern "one word" prepositions of time include at least 2 constituents, one which is an OE preposition. It should be mentioned that we do not speak about the phenomena of prefixation or suffixation, as the elements under research do not belong to any of the OE prefixes or suffixes [15, p. 392]. Therefore, it is possible to single out several types of temporal prepositions on the basis of their constituents.

Group 1: *Prep → Prep [a, an, and] + N/Adj/Adv/Prep/V,* *where N – noun, Adv – adverb, Adj – adjective, Prep – preposition, V – verb.*

Like the other Germanic languages, Old English also had a number of stressable prefixes; these were prepositional or adverbial in origin [14, p. 85]. A great number of modern prepositions, basically locative ones, are formed with the help of an OE preposition (***a, an, and***) and some other parts of speech. As R. Lowth mentioned "the particle ***a*** before participles, in the phrases *a coming, a going, a walking, a shooting* etc., and before nouns as *a-bed, a-board, a-shore, a-foot* etc. seems to be a true and genuine preposition, a little disguised by familiar use and quick pronunciation" [11, p. 114]. J. Harrison stressed that "the word ***a*** seems to be a preposition, perhaps a contraction of ***on***" [8, p. 36], A. Crombie mentioned that "… nor is it to be doubted that a perfect acquaintance with the Northern languages would convince us that all prepositions are abbreviations, corruptions or combinations of other words"

[5, p. 205], W. Cobbett assumed that "there are two abbreviations or shortenings of prepositions: *a* and *o*" [4, p. 79], T. G. Chestnut supposed that "the word *a* in the sense of *at, in, on, to, of* has the force of a preposition … and may be parsed as such" [2, p. 119] and others. There are just several instances of temporal prepositions formed with the help of OE preposition *a*, and only one preposition *about* is under the current research. It can be explained by the fact, that OE element *a* was a reduced form of the Old English locative preposition *on, an* [15, p. 383], thus it is common for almost all modern locative prepositions to begin in OE *a* [10, p. 36], but it is inherent for the temporal prepositions.

Group 1: Subgroup 1: *Prep* → *Prep [a, an, and] + Prep*

- About → A/on [Prep] + Butan [Prep]

1) ***Abuton*** *non tid dæies, þa men eten 1140 O.E. Chron. (Laud. MS.)*

The peculiar feature of lexical unit *about* is that it acquired its temporal meaning in the OE period, see: e.g. 1, but only in the Late New English Period appeared the examples of its usage as an adverb that is without the noun phrase complement see: e.g. 2:

2) *Well, I said, it was **about** so long 1991 Arctic Odyssey: Travelling Arctic Europe (Sale Richard and Oliver Tony)*

Another common group is represented by the existence of the OE preposition *be/bi*. R.W. Bailey mentioned that "… prepositions can be compounded by prefixing *a-, be-,* or of two prepositions, or a preposition plus an adverb" [1, p. 47]. A. Crombie also singled out the preposition *be* as an inseparable preposition [5, p. 210], though as the examples show the primary form *bi* was capable of separation. Functioning of *be* as a preposition is recorded in the dictionaries [12; 13; 3].

Group 2: *Prep* → *Prep [bi, be] + Adj/Adv/Prep/Numeral*

In the research temporal prepositions of the second are represented by a couple of subgroups. The difference between these subgroups lies in the type of the second component which is added to the preposition *be/bi*.

Group 2: Subgroup 1: *Prep* → *Prep [be, bi] + Adv*

This subgroup consists of lexical units made of OE preposition be/bi and OE adverbs.

- Before → Be/bi [Prep] + for/fore/afore [Adv]

3) *Se þe to cummene is æfter me wæs geworden **beforan** me. 1000 Ags. Gosp. John i. 15*

4) *Vor þi, mine leoue sustren, beoð **biuoren** iwarre. 1225 Ancr. R. 240*

As the examples show modern preposition *before* at first was used with a noun phrase complement and only two centuries later as an adverb.

- Behind → Be/bi [Prep] + Hindan [Adv]

5) *If you come one minute **behind** your hour. 1600 Shakes. A.Y.L. iv. i. 195*

6) *I forget that which is **behynde**. 1526 Tindale ibid.,*

Behind, as a preposition of time, appeared in the language nearly simultaneously at the beginning of the Early Modern English period.

Group 2: Subgroup 2: *Prep ➔ Prep [be, bi] + Numeral Phrase*

The modern *between* combines two earlier forms: OE. ***bi-, be-*** etc., The second element represents an original OE. dative *twîhnum, tweohnum*; an original OE. accusative *twîhen, twîhon*. These, *twîhnum, tw*îhen etc. answer respectively to distributive numeral *tweih-nai* 'two each', a derivative of *twa* (modern *two*) [13].

- Between ➔ Be/bi [Prep] + Tweonum [Numeral phrase]

7) ***Betwconen*** *Cristes messe and Candel-mæsse. 1131 O.E. Chron. an. 1124*

8) *Murie dreameð engles Plieeð and sweieð and singeð **bitweonen** 1240 Ureisun 28 in Lamb. Hom. 193*

At first *between* was used with a noun phrase complement and this indicates its prepositional nature.

The 3^(rd) group is represented by the general model:

Group 3: *Prep ➔ Prep/Adv/N*

The prepositions of this group were genuine one-word prepositions and formed exclusively from the prepositions or adverbs.

- After ➔ æfter [Prep]

9) ***Æfter*** *me cymð wer þe me beforan æeworden wæs. 1000 Ags.Gosp.John 30*

10) *Ðǽm eafera wæs **æfter** cenned. 1000 Beowulf 24*

As the examples show there was no difference in usage after either with the NP or any other type of complement.

- Near ➔ Near/neah [Prep]

11) *It sal be **nere** þe worldes end. 1393Cursor M.*

12) *Swa he bið þære sunnan **near** swa bið his leoht læsse. 850 Martyrol. 44*

Near might be used either absolutely (as an adverb) or governing a noun in the dative case (as a preposition). To our mind, near must be parsed as an adverb due to the existence of comparative and superlative forms, which are not common for genuine prepositions and the difference between the first usage of *near* without any complement and with a noun phrase complement, see e.g. 11, 12, is quite considerable, more than 500 years.

- On ➔ An/on [Prep]

13) ***On*** *huntoðe **on** wintra & **on** sumera **on** fiscaþe. 893 K. Ælfred Oros. i. i. 17*

14) *Ræsdon **on** sona.   1000 Andreas 1336*

As the Oxford English Dictionary signifies the original WGer. ***an*** was sometimes retained in OE., but the regular stressless form was ***on***. Before 1200, unstressed ***on*** before a consonant was worn down to ***o*** and ***a*** [13]. Thus, in OE there were four forms of present day English preposition ***on***. Preposition ***on*** could be used with any type of complement, though at first it appeared acquiring the force of preposition, see e.g. 13.

- Over ➔ Ofer [Prep]

15) *Her hæþne men ærest on Sceapiæe **ofer** winter sætun. 855 O.E. Chron.*

16) *He gert his men wake all þe nyght **ouer**. 1400 Mandeville (Roxb.) xv. 71*

It can be assumed that ***over*** is rather a preposition of time than an adverb, as the time gap between its usage with a noun phrase complement and without it is more than 500 years.

- Since → siđ [Prep]

17) ***Syns*** *that daye, puis ce jour la. 1530 Palsgr. 812/2*

18) *Conscience seide hym as þe kyng saide and* ***sitthe*** *tok hus leue. 1450 Langland's P. Pl. C. v. 15*

Since acquired its temporal meaning only at the end of the Middle English period, and was nearly simultaneously used either with or without a null complement, see. e.g. 17, 18.

Group 4: *Prep → Prep/Adv + N/Adv*

The difference of this model in comparison with the first and the second is that the first group is based on the prepositions ***a/and*** and the second group uses ***be/bi*** as prepositions. The fourth group is based on various initial prepositions (sometimes adverbs) predominantly one word OE prepositions.

- Inside → In [Prep] + Side [N]

19) *I hear all about it* ***inside*** *twenty-four hours. 1924 A. J. Small Frozen Gold*

20) *There are dozens of horses that can trot their mile in harness* ***inside*** *of three minutes. 1839 Spirit of Times 27 July 246/1*

In the English language *inside* appeared at the beginning of the 16th century though acquired its temporal characteristics only in the 2nd part of the 19th century, when it was first used as an indicator of time and did not take the noun complement, see e.g. 20. Later on it appeared governing the NP, see e.g. 19.

- Throughout → Þurh [Prep] + Ut [Adv]

21) *Ne're* ***throughout*** *the yeere to Church thou go'st. 1591 Shakes. Hen. VI, 42*

22) *Act on these Principles* ***throughout***. *1766 Fordyce Serm. Yng. Wom. II. 56*

Preposition throughout appeared in OE period though got its temporal meaning only in late 16th century as a preposition of time with a noun phrase complement, see e.g. 21 and only more than a century later it was used with a null complement, see e.g. 22.

Thus, having analyzed all temporal units mentioned in Table 1, we may draw the following **conclusions**:

- In conformity with the number of constituents modern one-word locative prepositions can be divided into 2 groups:

a) Genuine one-word prepositions: ***after, near, on, over, since;***

b) Derivative prepositions with 2 constituents: ***about, before, behind, between, inside, throughout.***

- In accordance with the English grammar all of the above mentioned prepositions must take an NP complement. The diachronic research shows that the existence of an NP complement is not obligatory and the complement can be represented by some other parts of speech or it can be absent at all (null complement) in case if it is reproducible from the context. The genuine one-word prepositions could take various types of complements and derivative prepositions with two or more constituents were formed with the help of the preposition and its constituent which could be represented by a noun, adverb,

preposition or numeral phrase. It means that in fact derivative prepositions do not need any constituent as they already have one in their structure and every additional constituent becomes the second complement, which can be omitted if it (the complement) may be reproducible from the context or used to denote specification if necessary.

- In compliance with their type prepositions can be divided into 4 groups:

a) *Prep → Prep [a, an, and] + N/Adj/Adv/Prep*, OE prepositions *a, an, and* can take a noun, an adjective, adverb or a preposition and form new derivative prepositions of time. In case with the temporal prepositions, they are a combination of a preposition (*a, on*) and an OE preposition (*butan*): *about;*

b) *Prep → Prep [bi, be] + Adj/Adv/Prep/Num*, OE prepositions *bi, be* take an adjective, adverb or a preposition and form new derivative temporal prepositions, namely: *before, behind, between;*

c) *Prep → Prep/Adv/V/N*, this group represents all genuine one-word prepositions which were formed from other parts of speech – nouns, verbs, adverbs or prepositions and were capable of taking part in other prepositions' formation: *after, near, on, over, since;*

d) *Prep → Prep/Adv +N/Adv*, to this group belongs prepositions formed with the help of the genuine one-word prepositions and their complements – nouns or adverbs, namely: *inside, throughout.*

Therefore, the diachronic analysis gives us all the grounds to assume that there are no reasons to distinguish prepositions as the units which require nouns or pronouns (noun phrase complements) to be combined with. All prepositions can take either nouns, pronouns, adverbs, adjectives, verbs, prepositions and even numeral phrases as their clause complements or null complements; both as in case with separate complements for genuine one-word prepositions and with inseparable complements for derivative prepositions.

In our subsequent work, the attention will be paid to the transpositional processes between the members of open and closed word classes and historical preconditions for transposition of meaning in structurally identical but semantically different lexical units.

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