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To'plam O'zbekiston Respublikasi Oliy ta'lim, fan va innovatsiyalar vazirligining 2024-yil 27-dekabrda "2025-yilda o'tkazilishi rejalashtirilgan xalqaro va respublika miqyosidagi ilmiy va ilmiy-texnik tadbirlar ro'yxatini tasdiqlash to'g'risida"gi 496-sonli buyrug'i rejasida belgilangan tadbirlarning bajarilishini ta'minlash maqsadida Maktabgacha va maktab ta'limi vazirligi Buxoro davlat pedagogika institutida o'tkazilgan "Filologik tadqiqotlarning yangi bosqichi: zamonaviy tendensiyalar va istiqbollar" mavzusidagi III xalqaro ilmiy-amaliy anjuman materiallari asosida tuzildi.

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COMPARATIVE GRAMMAR: DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES OF ENGLISH AND FRENCH PREPOSITIONS

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Annotatsiya. Qiyosiy grammatika ikki til o'rtasidagi tarkibiy farqlarni yaxshiroq tushunishga va chet tilini o'rganuvchilarga aralashishning mumkin bo'lgan sohalarini aniqlashga imkon beradi. Ushbu maqolada frantsuz va ingliz predloglari, ularning grammatik vazifalari, semantik ma'nolari va qurilishidagi farqlar muhokama qilinadi.

Chet tilida so'zlashuvchilar duch keladigan qiyinchiliklarga, ayniqsa ingliz tilidan frantsuz tiliga va aksincha o'tishda alohida e'tibor beriladi. Va nihoyat, kommunikativ yondashuv doirasida predloglarni samarali o'rgatishning ba'zi didaktik yondashuvlari taklif etiladi.

Kalit so'zlar: qiyosiy grammatika, predloglar, frantsuz, ingliz, til interferensiyasi, til o'rgatish usullari.

Abstract. Comparative grammar enables a deeper understanding of structural differences between two languages and helps identify possible areas of interference among learners. This article analyses French and English prepositions, their grammatical functions, semantic uses, and structural distinctions. Particular attention is given to the challenges faced by non-native speakers, especially when transitioning from English to French and vice versa. Finally, several didactic strategies are suggested for teaching prepositions effectively within a communicative framework.

Keywords: comparative grammar, prepositions, French, English, linguistic interference, language teaching.

Аннотация. Сравнительная грамматика позволяет лучше понять структурные различия между двумя языками и выявить возможные зоны интерференции у изучающих иностранные языки. В данной статье рассматриваются французские и английские предлоги, их грамматические функции, семантические значения и различия в построении. Особое внимание уделяется трудностям, с которыми сталкиваются иноязычные говорящие, особенно при переходе с английского на французский язык и наоборот. В заключение предлагаются некоторые дидактические подходы к эффективному обучению предлогам в рамках коммуникативного подхода.

Ключевые слова: сравнительная грамматика, предлоги, французский язык, английский язык, языковая интерференция, методика преподавания языков.

Introduction. Prepositions play a crucial role in the syntactic and semantic structure of languages. They serve to establish relations of place, time, cause, or manner between elements of a sentence. Despite this universal function, prepositional systems vary greatly across languages.

French and English, although both Indo-European languages, exhibit notable divergences in the formation, use, and combination of prepositions. These differences often lead to errors among learners, whether French speakers learning English or English speakers learning French. The aim of this article is therefore to compare French and English prepositions, highlight major similarities and differences, and examine their implications for foreign language teaching.

A foreign language seems easy until the small details start to cause difficulties – for example, prepositions. These short words carry a great deal of meaning in a foreign language. The preposition you choose can change the meaning of a sentence, the accuracy of translation, the logic of an action, and even the level of your speech.

What Prepositions Are and Why We Need Them

A preposition is a functional part of speech that shows the relationship between words in a sentence. Prepositions are used to indicate:

Place (in the park, at the station);

Time (on Monday, at 5 o'clock);

Direction (go to school, move towards the door);

Reason (because of the noise, thanks to you);

Manner (by car, with love).

French and English prepositions differ significantly: French prepositions are often determined by the gender or number of the noun they relate to — a feature absent in English. Moreover, many English prepositions have no direct equivalent in French, and vice versa. Sometimes, a single English preposition corresponds to several French ones.

Main Differences. Gender and Number: In French, prepositions often change depending on the gender and number of the noun they refer to (for example, the prepositions à, au, en, aux for countries). There is no such system in English.

Use or Omission of a Preposition: In French, a preposition is often required where English does not use one (and vice versa).

Multiple Meanings: Many French prepositions have several English equivalents that depend on context, which makes accurate translation difficult.

Examples:

“chez” – The French preposition «chez» (meaning “at someone’s place,” “at someone’s home,” or “at someone’s office”) has no direct one-word equivalent in English. For example, «Je vais chez le médecin» means “I’m going to the doctor’s.”

“to be at home” – In English, one says «at home», whereas in French it is «à la maison».

“to be in/inside” – The French preposition «en» is used for feminine countries (en France), while «au» is used for masculine ones (au Canada), and «aux» for plural («aux États-Unis»).

Learning French and English prepositions requires deep immersion in context and a good understanding of each language’s grammatical rules. Translating from one language to another often involves choosing the most appropriate preposition in meaning rather than looking for a direct equivalent.

I. French Prepositions: Characteristics and Functions

The French prepositional system is relatively stable and limited but highly context-dependent. French prepositions such as à, de, en, dans, sur, par, pour, avec, sans are polysemous, and their use depends largely on the overall meaning of the sentence.

In French, a preposition links a verb, noun, or adjective to a complement: Je parle à mon ami (I speak to my friend). La maison de Pierre (Pierre’s house). Heureux de te voir (Happy to see you).

Prepositions express spatial (sur la table, dans la boîte, chez Paul), temporal (avant le dîner, depuis hier), causal (par amour, pour cette raison), and instrumental (avec un stylo, par avion) relations.

II. English Prepositions: Usage and Particularities

The English prepositional system is both more flexible and more complex. English prepositions — in, on, at, to, for, with, from, about, over, under, by — are frequently used in idiomatic constructions that cannot be translated word-for-word.

The three prepositions in, on, and at are emblematic: in the box, on the table, at the station. English also makes extensive use of phrasal verbs: look after, give up, take off, come across. These constructions often lack direct equivalents in French, which makes them challenging for learners.

III. Contrastive Analysis: Similarities and Differences

Contrastive analysis highlights both the convergences and divergences between the two languages. For example: à Paris = in Paris, sur la table = on the table, à midi = at noon, écrire avec un stylo = write with a pen.

IV. Common Learner Errors and Linguistic Interference

English-speaking learners often transfer their linguistic patterns into French, resulting in errors such as Je vais à la maison (instead of Je rentre chez moi). Conversely, French speakers frequently confuse in, on, and at: I'm on the car (instead of in the car), I'm at Monday (instead of on Monday). Such interferences reflect not only structural differences but also cultural variations in the perception of space and time.

V. Pedagogical Implications for Teaching FLE and English

Teaching prepositions should not be limited to memorizing lists. It should be grounded in a communicative and contrastive approach involving contextualization, visualization, comparison, inductive practice, and semantic reinforcement. A contrastive pedagogy helps develop bilingual grammatical awareness and enhances linguistic accuracy.

How to Learn Prepositions Quickly?

Make flashcards with examples and illustrations.

Create a movement associated with each preposition. For example: "in" – take a step inside.

Say examples out loud every day.

Note your typical preposition mistakes – and correct them.

Set a goal: "I will learn five new prepositions a day."

The secret is to «use prepositions in practice» – write, speak, listen, and repeat. That's how real language learning happens. Prepositions are informal but very important elements of the English language. They show «time, place, direction, reason», and connect parts of a sentence.

Yes, they are difficult to memorize. But if you build logic, rely on examples, focus on the action and the question, everything will fall into place.

Conclusion. A comparison of French and English prepositions reveals how linguistic structures reflect distinct cognitive and cultural frameworks. French emphasizes contextual precision, while English is characterized by flexibility. Understanding these differences is essential to avoid interference errors and to achieve genuine communicative competence in both languages.

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