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GRADUATION PAPER

**A STUDY ON PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE
IN ENGLISH**

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PART ONE

INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale

In the development of socio- human being, English has become more and more popular all over the world. It has been used in many countries for ages and considered a means of international communication. English is also used as a second language in some countries.

In Viet Nam, English is a compulsory subject at school and university. In the process of learning English, grammar plays an important role. In English, to make a sentence, we have to combine parts of speech including noun, verb, adjective, adverb, preposition, etc, and organize them into a grammatically correct structure. Therefore, the learners should understand them clearly and know how to use them correctly. Learners can still understand meaning of a sentence if it has no preposition. Nevertheless, grammatically, it is wrong and unacceptable in writing. However, a preposition itself can't express full meaning without a prepositional complement. This combination is called prepositional phrase. It gives information of time, place, etc. Because using prepositional phrases is often irregular, learners make mistakes easily.

Being aware of the importance of prepositional phrase in English, I decided to choose prepositional phrase as the subject of my study.

2. Aims of the study

The study on prepositional phrase in English attempts to

- Give the general introduction of parts of speech and English prepositions including definition as well as classification.
- Analyze English prepositional phrase in the aspects: definition, structure, realization of the elements, the semantic and syntactic function, and position of prepositional phrase.
- Identify common mistake made by Vietnamese learners.
- Suggest some solutions and exercises to overcome these mistakes.

2. Scope of the study

Because of the limited time and knowledge, my study can't cover all aspects of prepositional phrase. Therefore, I raise following questions to study:

- What is a preposition?
- What does a preposition consist of?
- What are syntactic and semantic functions of prepositional phrases?
- How are the elements of a prepositional phrase realized?
- Where can prepositional phrases occur?

4. Method of the study

To accomplish this study, I have made great efforts to read, analyze the material related to prepositional phrase from two main sources: websites and reference books.

Opinions of different grammarians are quoted in this graduation paper. Besides, examples are carefully selected to illustrate the theory given.

6. Design of the study.

This study consists of three main parts:

- Part one, **introduction**, states the rationale of the study, the aims of the study, the scope of the study, the method of the study.
- Part two, **development**, is the main part that includes three chapters: the first is theoretical background giving an overview on parts of speech, the definition and classifications of prepositions; the second focus on English prepositions, the last mentions mistakes made by Vietnamese learners and suggest some solutions.
- Part three, **conclusion**, summarizes the previous parts.

PART TWO
DEVELOPMENT

CHAPTER I: THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

I.1. An overview on parts of speech

The structure realizing sentence elements are composed of units, which can be referred to as parts of speech.

Traditional grammars of English standardly recognize eight parts of speech, listed here with typical examples. (Huddleston, R, 1984: 90)

- ❖ A noun or substantive is a word used as the name of a living being or lifeless

thing: *Marry, John, horse, cow, dog, hat, house, tree, London, Chicago, etc.*

- ❖ A pronoun is a word used instead of a noun: *he, they, any body, etc.*
- ❖ The verb is that part of speech that predicates, assists in predications, asks a question, or expresses a command, eg:

The wind *blows*.

- ❖ An adjective is a word that modifies a noun or pronoun, i.e. A word that is used with a noun or pronoun to describe or point out the living being thing designated by the noun or pronoun: a *little* boy, the *beautiful* painting, etc.
- ❖ An adverb is a word that modifies a verb, an adjective or another adverb.

They are smoking *heavily*.

(Quirk, R& Green Baum, S, 2002: 126)

- ❖ A 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.

I live *in* this house.

- ❖ A conjunction is a word that joins together sentences or parts of a sentence:

Sweep the floor *and* dust that furniture, he waited until I came.

- ❖ An interjection is an outer to express pain, surprise, anger, pleasure

or some other emotion, as *ouch, oh, alas, why*.

I.2. English prepositions

I.2.1. Definition

A preposition is traditionally defined in some following ways:

- ❖ A 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

E.g:

She was dependent *on* us.

Or

Her opinion *of* us improved.

(Huddleston, R, 1984: 336)

The preposition *on* and *of* are said to relate us to the adjective *dependent* and the noun *opinion*, respectively.

- ❖ In the most general terms, a preposition expresses a relation between two entities, one being that represented by the prepositional complement, the other by another part of sentence (Quirk, et al, 1985: 657)

E.g:

Jock, with several of his friends, was drinking till 2 am.

The preposition *with* in the example expresses the relation between the prepositional complement *several of his friends* and the noun *Jack*.

I.2.2. Classification of prepositions

There are two ways to classify prepositions.

I.2.2.1. Classification according to structure

According to structure, prepositions are classified into 2 kinds: simple and complex prepositions.

A. Simple prepositions

Most of the common English prepositions, as *at, in* and *for*, are simple, i.e. consist of one word. The following is a list of the most common simple preposition. In view of the different stress patterns, they have been divided into

mono- and polysyllabic.

❖ Monosyllabic prepositions:

As, at, but, by, down, for, from, in, like, near, of, off, on, out, past, per, pro, qua, re, round, sans, since, than, through, till, to, up, via, with.

❖ Polysyllabic prepositions:

About, above, across, after, against, along, amid(st), among(st), anti, around, atop, before, behind, below, beneath, beside, besides, between, beyond, circa, despite, during, except, inside, into, notwithstanding, onto, opposite, outside, over, pace, pending, throughout, toward(s), under, underneath, unlike, until, upon, versus, vis-a-vis, within, without.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 665-667)

In addition to the prepositions listed above, there are some words which behave in many ways like prepositions, although they also have affinities with other word classes such as verb or adjective.

E.g:

Granted his obsequious manner, I still think he's ambitious enough to do the job.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 667)

Here is a list of some marginal prepositions with verbal affinities:

Bar, barring, excepting, excluding, save, concerning, considering, regarding, respecting, touching, failing, wanting, following, pending, given, granted, including.

Less, minus, plus, times, and over form a special group in their use with numerals, eg:

Six + two are read as "six *plus* two".

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 667)

B. Complex prepositions

The prepositions, consisting of more than one word, are called complex prepositions. They may be subdivided into two- and three- word sequences.

❖ Two- word sequences:

In two- word sequences the first word is an adverb, adjective, or conjunction, and the second word is a simple preposition (usually *for, from, of, two, with*).

Except for Margaret, every body was in favor of the idea.

We had to leave early *because of* the bad weather.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 669)

Here is a list of some two- word prepositions from Quirk, et al, 1985: 669

Adv/ Adj/ Conjunction+ <i>for</i>	<i>as for, but for, except for, save for</i>
Adv/ Adj/ Conjunction+ <i>from</i>	<i>across from, apart from, as from, aside from, away from</i>
Adv/ Adj/ Conjunction+ <i>of</i>	<i>ahead of, as of, back of, because of, devoid of, exclusive of, inside of, instead of, irrespective of, off of, out of, outside of, regardless of, upwards of, void of</i>
Adv/ Adj/ Conjunction+ <i>to</i>	<i>according to, as to, close to, contrary to, due to, near to, next to, on to, opposite to, owing to, preliminary to, preparatory to, previous to, prior to, pursuant to, subsequent to, thanks to, up to</i>
Adv/ Adj/ Conjunction+ <i>with</i>	<i>along with, together with</i>
Other types	<i>up against, on board, as per, other than, up until,</i>

❖ Three- word sequences:

The most numerous category of complex prepositions is the type consisting of three words, as in:

Prep 1+ NOUN+ Prep 2

This category may be subdivided according to which preposition function as prep 1 and prep 2.

The following table is quoted from (Quirk, et al, 1985: 670-671)

<i>In+ noun+ of</i>	<i>In+ noun+ with</i>	<i>by+ noun+ of</i>	<i>on+ noun+ of</i>	other types
<i>in aid of</i>	<i>in accordance with</i>	<i>by dint of</i>	<i>on account of</i>	<i>as far as</i>
<i>in back of</i>	<i>in common with</i>	<i>by means of</i>	<i>on behalf of</i>	<i>at the expense of</i>
<i>in behalf of</i>	<i>in comparison with</i>	<i>by virtue of</i>	<i>on (the) ground (s) of</i>	<i>at variance of</i>
<i>in case of</i>	<i>in compliance with</i>	<i>by way of</i>	<i>on the matter of</i>	<i>at the hands of</i>
<i>in charge of</i>	<i>in conformity with</i>		<i>on pain of</i>	<i>for (the) sake of</i>
<i>in consequence of</i>	<i>in contact with</i>		<i>on the part of</i>	<i>for/ from want of</i>
<i>in (the) face of</i>	<i>in line with</i>		<i>on the strength of</i>	<i>in exchange for</i>
<i>in favor of</i>			<i>on top of</i>	<i>in return for</i>
<i>in front of</i>				<i>in addition to</i>
<i>in (the) light of</i>				<i>in relation to</i>
<i>in lieu of</i>				<i>with/ in regard to</i>
<i>in need of</i>				<i>with/ in reference to</i>
<i>in place of</i>				<i>with/ in respect to</i>
<i>in quest of</i>				<i>with the exception of</i>
<i>in respect of</i>				
<i>in search of</i>				
<i>in spite of</i>				

I.2.2.2. Classification according to meaning

In the survey of preposition meanings, to which most of this chapter is devoted, place and time relations will be dealt with first, and will be followed by a more cursory exemplification of other relations such as cause, goal, origin, etc. So varied are preposition meanings that no more than a presentation of the most notable semantic similarities and contrasts can be attempted here.

A. Prepositions of place

- Positive position and direction: *at, to, on, onto, in, into*

Between the notion of simple position (or static location) and destination (movement with respect to an intended destination), a cause- effect relationship obtains:

Destination	Position
Ann went <i>to</i> Oxford	As a result: Ann was <i>at</i> Oxford
Ann climbed <i>o to</i> the roof	As a result: Ann was <i>on</i> the roof
Ann dived <i>into</i> the water	As a result: Ann was <i>in</i> the water

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 675)

In many cases (especially in colloquial English), *on* and *in* may be used for both position and destination when *onto* and *into* make an unnecessary emphasis on the combination of destination and dimension:

I have put the coin *in* my pocket

Mr. Temple jumped *on* the stage

(Alexander. L. G, 1998: 148)

- Negative position and direction: *away from, off, out of*

There is a parallel cause and effect relation with negative prepositions *away from, off, off of*<informal AmE>, *out of*

Direction	Position
Tom went <i>away from</i> the door	Tom was <i>away from</i> the door = Tom was not <i>at</i> the door
The book fell <i>off</i> the shelf	The book is <i>off</i> the shelf = The book is not <i>on</i> the shelf

Tom got *out of* the water

Tom is *out of* the water

= Tom is not *in* the water

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 678)

The negative prepositions *away from*, *off*, and *out of* may be defined simply by adding the word "not" to the corresponding positive prepositions: *away from* (= not at), *off* (= not on), *out of* (= not in).

- Relative position: *by*, *over*, *under*...

Apart from simple position, prepositions may express the relative position of two or groups of objects:

He was standing *by* his brother. ("at the side of")

(Quirk, R& Green Baum, S, 2002: 148)

Above, *over*, *under*, *underneath*, *beneath* and *below*, *on top of* express relative position vertically, whereas *in front of*, *before*, *behind*, and *after* represent of horizontally.

The antonym *above* and *below*, *over* and *under*, *in front of* and *behind* are converse opposites:

The picture is *above* the mantelpiece = The mantelpiece is *below* the picture

The bus is *in front of* the car = The car is *behind* the bus

- Relative destination: *by*, *over*, *under*, *etc*

As well as relative position, the preposition listed the right above (but not, generally, *above* and *below*) can express relative destination:

The bush was the only conceivable hiding- place, so I dashed *behind* it.

When it started to rain, we all went *underneath* the trees.

(Quirk, R& Green Baum, S, 2002: 149)

- Passage: *by*, *over*, *under*, *etc*

With verb of motion, prepositions may express the idea of passage (i.e. movement towards and then away from a place) as well as destination.

E.g:

He jumped *over* a ditch.

Some one ran *behind* the goal- post.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 681)

- Passage: *across, through, past*

The sense of passage is the primary locative meaning attached to *across* (dimension- type 1/2), *through* (dimension- type 2/3) and *past* (the "passage" equivalent of *by* which may also, however, be substituted for *past* in a "passage" sense). For example:

He came *across* the bridge.

(Huddleston, R, 1984: 348)

- Direction: *up, down, along, etc*

Up, down, along, across, and (a)round, with verbs of motion, make up a group of prepositions expressing movement with reference to an axis or directional path.

Up and *down* contrast in term of vertical direction:

We walked *up* the hill and *down* the other side.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 682)

While *along* contrast with *across* in term of a horizontal axis:

I took my dog for a walk *along* the river.

Be careful when you walk *across* a street.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 683)

With *(a)round*, the directional path is an angle or a curve:

We ran *(a)round* the corner.

(Quirk, R& Green Baum, S, 2002: 150)

Toward(s) is in category of its own, having the meaning "in the direction of":

We walked *toward(s)* the old farmhouse.

- Orientation: *beyond, over, past, etc*

Most prepositions of relative position and direction can be used in a static sense of orientation. This brings in a third factor apart from the two things being spatially related: viz a point of orientation, at which (in reality or imagination) the speaker is standing.

Beyond (= "on the far side of") is a preposition of which primary meaning is one of orientation; furthermore, *over* (*BrE*), *past*, *across*, and *through* can combine the meaning of "beyond" with more specific information of dimension- type, as described in :

His village lies two miles *beyond* the border.

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 54)

He lives *across* the moors. (i.e. "from here")

The village *past* the bus stop/ *through* the wood.

(Quirk, R& Green Baum, S, 2002: 150)

Up, *down*, *along*, *across*, and (*a*) *round* are used orientationally with reference to an axis in:

He lives (*a*)*round* the corner.

He is *up/ down* the stair.

There is a hotel *across/ along* the road.

(Quirk, R& Green Baum, S, 2002: 151)

- Resultative meaning

All prepositions, which have motional meaning can also, have a static resultative meaning indicating the state of having reached the destination:

I managed to get *over* the fence.

So too with the verb "be":

The horses are *over* the fence (i.e. are now *beyond*)

(Quirk, R& Green Baum, S, 2002: 151)

Resultative meaning is not always distinguishable out of context from other static meanings; its presence is often signaled, by certain adverbs: already, just, at last, (not) yet, etc.

- Pervasive meaning: *all over*, *throughout*, etc

Over (dimension- type 1/2) and *through* (dimension- type 2/3), especially when preceded by *all*, have pervasive meaning (either static or motional):

That child was running *all over* the flower borders.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 684)

Throughout, substitutable for *all through*, is the only preposition of which primary meaning is "pervasive". Occasionally the "axis" type prepositions of direction are also used in a pervasive sense:

There were crowds (*all*) *along* the route.

(Quirk, R& Green Baum, S, 2002: 151)

B. Prepositions of time

Of all kinds of prepositions, prepositions of time are quite popular and very large in number. In time sphere, there are three types: time position, time duration, time relationship.

- Prepositions denoting time position: *at, on, in, by*

At is used for point of time, chiefly clock- time (*at* ten o'clock, *at* 6.30 pm, *at* noon, etc); also idiomatically, for holiday periods (*at* the weekend (BrE), *at* Christmas, *at* Easter); and for phrases (*at* night, *at* the/ that time, etc).

On is used for referring to days: *on* Monday, *on* the following day, *on* May first...

In is used for periods longer or shorter than a day: *in* the evening, *in* summer, *in* August, *in* the 18th century, *in* 1969.

We have some notes:

"*On* Monday", "*on* the following evening", etc illustrate an exceptional use of *on* with a complement referring to a part of a day rather than whole day. But we use *in* with phrases: "early morning", "late afternoon".

By occurs in the idioms: "*by* day", "*by* night":

We preferred traveling *by* night.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 688)

- Prepositions denoting time duration: *for, during, over, (all) through, throughout, from... to, until, upon*.

Duration is usually expressed by *for*:

I have learned English *for* two years.

(Phuc, N.S, 1999: 13)

For is also used in idiomatic phrases like "*forever*", "*for* good", "*for* years".

During also usually suggests duration:

During all the years of work, he had been realistic with himself.

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 66)

Over, (*all*) *through*, and *throughout* have a durational meaning, as in:

We camped there *over* the holiday/ *over* Christmas.

We camped there *through(out)* the summer.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 689)

Over normally accompanies noun phrases denoting special occasions (such as holiday and festivals), and so generally refers to a shorter period than *through(out)*.

From... to (or *till*) is another pair of prepositions, of which locative meaning is transferred to duration. In AmE, it may be replaced by *from... through*, eg:

We camped there *from* June *through* September.<AmE>

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 690)

But with *from* absent, only *until*, *till*, and *through*<AmE> can be used, as in:

I work *until/ till* three...

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 153)

- Prepositions denoting time relationship: *before*, *after*, *since*, *until*, *between*, *by*.

Before, *after*, *since*, *until* occurs almost exclusively as prepositions of time.

Consider the following examples:

I shall come here *before* this afternoon.

(Phuc, N.S, 1999: 7)

This has been going on *since* July.

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 135)

Until specifies a terminal point with positive and a commencement point with negative predication:

We didn't sleep *until* midnight = we started sleeping then

Pending is used in formal, especially legal style:

The decision must wait *pending* his trial. ["until"]

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 691)

Other prepositions of time relationship are *between*, *by*, and *up to*:

I'll phone you *between* lunch and three o'clock.

By the time we'd walked five miles, he was exhausted.

Up to last week, I hadn't received a reply.

(Quirk, R& Green Baum, S, 2002: 155)

C. Prepositions of cause, reason, motive: because of, on account of, for, from

There are some prepositions expressing either the material cause or the psychological cause (motive) for a happening: *because of*, *on account of*, *for*, *from*, *due to*, *owing to*.

Because of the drought, the price of bread was high that year.

(Quirk, R& Green Baum, S, 2002: 156)

On account of is a more formal alternative to *because of* as an expression of cause or reason, eg:

She was despised *on account of* her sex.

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 116)

Out of and *for* are mainly restricted to the expression of motive, ie psychological cause, for instance:

Some support charities *out of* duty, some *out of* a sense of guilt.

I hid the money, *for* fear of what my parents would say.

(Quirk, et al 1985: 696)

D. Prepositions of purpose, intended destination: for

The preposition *for* is used to express purpose, intended destination in the following examples:

He'll do anything *for* money.

Everyone ran *for* shelter.

(Quirk, R& Green Baum, S, 2002: 156)

In this use of *for*, there is a corresponding paraphrase with a clause (in order to):

For money = in order to gain money

For shelter = in order to reach shelter

To express intended destination, *for* is used with verbs: run, start, head, leave, and set out. For example:

He set out *for* London

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 696)

E. Prepositions of recipient, goal, target: for, to, at

When *for* is followed by noun phrase denoting person or animals, the meaning is rather one of intended recipient:

I bring this *for* you.

(Phuc, N.S, 1999:13)

In contrast to the notion of intended recipient expressed by *for*, the preposition *to* expresses actual recipient in sentences:

He gave the money *to* the cook.

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 141)

At, in combinations such as "aim at" expresses intended goal or target.

After aiming carefully *at* the bird, he missed it completely.

She smiled *at* her.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 697)

Other combinations with *at* may also express the meaning of goal such as: "kick *at*", "charge *at*", "bite *at*", "catch *at*", "shoot *at*", "chew *at*".

F. Prepositions of source, origin: from

The converse of *to* (goal) is *from* (source).

I borrowed the book *from* Bill. ("Bill lent the book to me")

From is also used with reference to "place of origin"

He comes *from* Scotland/ Glasgow. ("He is a Scot/ a Glaswegian")

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 698)

G. Prepositions of manner: in...manner, like, with

Manner can be expressed by the prepositions: *in...manner*, *like*, *with*. For example:

The task was done *in* a workmanlike *manner*.

We were received *with* the utmost courtesy.

The army swept through the city *like* a pestilence.

(Quirk, R& Green Baum, S, 2002: 158)

Note that *like* with intensive verbs, as in: "life is *like* a dream", refers not to manner but to resemblance.

H. Prepositions of means, instrument: by, with, without

By can express the meaning of "by mean of".

Did you come *by* car?

They tried to save themselves *by* clinging to the wreckage.

(Cobuild, C, 1997:58)

With, on the other hand, expresses instrumental meaning:

I wrote this letter *with* my pencil.

(Phuc, N.S, 1999: 12)

For most sense of *with*, including that of instrumental, *without* expresses the equivalent negative meaning:

I drew it *without* a ruler. (i.e. "I didn't draw it *with* a ruler")

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 699)

Besides, the preposition *by*, *on* can be used to express mode of transport, as in:

I go to work *on* the bus. (= I go to work *by* bus)

(Quirk, R& Green Baum, S, 2002: 158)

On is used instead of *by* in the phrases: "*on* foot", "*on* horseback"

Of is used with "die" in expressions like:

He died *of* hunger

(Quirk, R& Green Baum, S, 2002: 159)

I. Prepositions of instrument, agentive: with, by

While the "instrument" is the inert and normally inanimate cause of an action ["the ball that breaks the window"], the agentive ["the boy who threw the ball"].

In passive sentence, the agentive or instrument can be expressed by the preposition *by*, but only the instrument can be expressed by the preposition *with*.

For example, we can say:

The window was broken *by* a ball/ *by* a boy.

The window was broken *with* a ball.

(Quirk, R& Green Baum, S, 2002: 159)

But we can't say:

The window was broken *with* a boy.

Although both of *by* and *with* are used to express instrument, there can be a difference in meaning, as appear more clearly in the following sentences:

My car had been damaged *by* the branch of a tree. [a]

My car had been damaged *with* the branch of a tree. [b]

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 700)

By in [a] would exclude a human agency: a storm may have caused the branch to cause the damage. By contrast, *with* in [b] would exclude the natural cause and would suggest that human agents had used the branch broken from a tree to inflict the damage.

The agentive *by-phrase* also occurs as postmodifier to signify authorship like:

A picture *by* Degas ("painted by Degas")

J. Prepositions of stimulus: at

The relation between an emotion and its stimulus (normally an abstract stimulus) can often be expressed by *at* or the instrumental *by*:

I was alarmed *at/by* his behaviour.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 701)

Both of these can be treated as passive equivalents of: "His behaviour alarmed me"

The idea of "stimulus" is sometimes expressed by other prepositions:

I am worried *about* this. ("This worries me")

His plans were known *to* everyone. ("Every one knew his plans")

(Quirk, R& Green Baum, S, 2002: 160)

It is noted that in BrE, *with* rather than *at* is used when the stimulus is a person or object rather than an event:

I was furious *with* John.

But in AmE, *at* is quite usual:

I was furious/ angry/ livid/ mad *at* Christine.

With abstract noun, *at* is equally acceptable in BrE and AmE:

I was furious *at* Christine's behaviour.

At has a common alternative in about: annoyed *at/ about*, pleased *at/ about*, etc.

K. Accompaniment: with

When followed by an animate complement, *with* has the meaning "in company with" or "together with".

Jack, (together) *with* several of his noisy friends, was drinking till after 2 in the morning.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 702)

In the sentence the *with* phrase serves a function very close to coordination *and*. However, unlike *with*, *and* has a plural verb: "Jack *and* several of his friends were...."

In this sense, as in most other senses, *without* is the negative of *with* (i.e. "unaccompanied by"), eg:

You never see him *without* his dog.

With is also used to express "accompanying circumstances" as in:

With all the noise, she was finding it hard to concentrate.

and to introduce a subject, as in:

It all started *with* John ('s) being late for dinner.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 702)

L. Prepositions of support and opposition: for, with, against.

There are three prepositions expressing support and opposition in English: *for*, *with*, *against*.

Are you *for* or *against* the plan?

(Quirk, R& Green Baum, S, 2002: 160)

Remember that every one of us is *with* you.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 702)

For conveys the idea of support, *with* that of solidarity or movement in sympathy; *against* conveys the contrary idea of opposition. In this use, there is no negative *without* contrasting with *with*. However, to denote the idea of opposition, the preposition *with* is preceded by some verbs in: "fight *with*", "quarrel *with*", "argue *with*", etc. For example:

You heard how the boy was arguing *with* him....

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 158)

M. Prepositions of having: of, with, without

We have some examples:

A man *of* courage [1] = The man has courage.

A man *with* large ears [2] = The man has large ears.

(Quirk, R& Green Baum, S, 2002 160)

The preposition *of* in [1] is normally used with abstract attributes, while *with* in [2] is more general and is especially common with concrete attributes.

The negative of *with* is again *without*:

Women *without* children ("childless women")

(Quirk, R& Green Baum, S, 2002: 160)

The correspondence between phrases with *with* or *without* and relative clauses with "have" applies also to "have"- existential sentences.

E.g:

The girl *with* a boyfriend in the navy = The girl who has a boy in the navy.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 704)

N. Prepositions of concession: in spite of, despite, for all, with all

In spite of is a general-purpose preposition of concession; *despite* is rather more formal:

In spite of the threat of war, he says he remains confident that peace is possible.

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 92)

Despite strong pressure from the government, the unions have
return to work.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 706)

And *notwithstanding* is formal and rather legalistic in style:

They mirror each other's experience in certain respects,
notwithstanding all the differences in age and personality.

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 99)

The combinations: *for all, with all* are chiefly colloquial, eg:

With all his boasting and ostentatious training, he was knocked out
in the first round.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 706)

O. Prepositions of reference: with reference to, with regard to, as for, etc

Some of the prepositions denoting reference are used in rather formal contexts
typically business letter, eg:

With reference to (less usual: *In reference to*) your letter/ request/
enquiry of April 29th, I confirm my Director's agreement to advance a further
sum of £2000. <Formal>

Re functions like *with regard to* but is more common in notes than in formal
letters, eg:

Re your idea of extending the canteen...

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 706)

As to and *as for* are less formal than the other complex preposition in this group:

As to the question you raise in your last letter, I think that...

As for his book, I suppose you've read the reviews!

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 707)

Other prepositions within the same general area of meaning are *regarding, in
regard to, with respect to, in respect of, and on the matter of*.

There are a number of marginal prepositions that have affinities with verbs
which belong here: *concerning, regarding, and touching* <formal>.

Concerning the recent proposal by the chairperson, I suggest us....

P. Prepositions of exception, addition

- **Exception: except for, with the exception of, apart from, aside from, excepting, excluding, but save (formal).**

The most common prepositions denoting exception are *except for, with the exception of, apart from, aside from* <AmE>, *except, excepting, excluding, but save (formal)*.

We had a pleasant time, *except for* the weather.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 707)

Further, the noun phrase with *but*- modification must contain a determiner or indefinite pronoun of absolute meaning (positive or negative): no, all, any, every, each, nobody, anywhere, everything, etc or interrogative wh- word (who? where? etc). Hence one may say all *but* one, but not, eg: some *but* one, or many *but* one. Other examples:

We've bought everything *but* milk.

Who should turn up *but* our old friend Tom?

Bar and *barring* are rarer substitutes for *except* and *excepting*:

This is the most versatile microcomputer on the market, *bar* none.

Barring accidents, we'll be there on time.

Besides, beyond is sometimes used in nonassertive contexts in the sense of *except (for)*:

Beyond the press release, there are no further comments.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 708)

- **Addition: besides, as well as, in addition to**

Addition can be expressed by the prepositions: *besides, as well as, and in addition to*. For examples:

Besides his interest in anthropology, he had a flair for language.

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 50)

There were three people present *in addition to* the committee.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 708)

Q. Prepositions of negative condition: but for

It is noted that *but for* is not used in the sense of exception, but rather that of "negative condition", eg:

But for Gordon, we should have lost the match. (i.e. "if it hadn't been for Gordon..." "if Gordon hadn't played as he did...", etc)

(Quirk, R & Green Baum, S, 2002: 162)

R. Prepositions of subject matter: about, on

With the meaning "on the subject of", "concerning", *about* and *on* can combine with a considerable range of verbs and adjectives, eg:

She is lecturing *about/on* new techniques of management.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 709)

Other examples:

About/on

About

Argue *about/on*

Find out *about*

Be knowledgeable *about/on*

Inform (someone) *about*

Communicate *about/on*

Learn *about*

Confer *about/on*

Keep quiet *about*

Hold forth *about/on*

Quarrel *about*

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 710)

On tends to deliberate, formal linguistic communication (speaking, lecturing, writing, etc), and is therefore inappropriate for verbs like "chat" or "quarrel".

E.g:

A book *about/on* butterflies

A story *about* a princess

A talk *about/on* antiques

Ignorance *about* sex

A discussion *about/on* drugs

The facts *about* nuclear power

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 710)

Moreover *of* is a somewhat rarer and more literary alternative to *about* in "tell...*of*", "speak...*of*", "talk...*of*", "inform...*of*", etc. Both *about* and *of* rare possible with "think" but with difference of meaning.

E.g:

He thought *about* the problem = He considered the problem.

He thought *of* the problem = He brought the problem to his mind.

(Quirk, R & Green Baum, S, 2002: 162)

Sometimes, we can use *concerning* instead of *about* and *on*. It is formal to the point of being rather stilted, as in: "A dispute *concerning* land rights".

S. Prepositions of ingredient, material: with, out of, of, from

After verbs of "making", *with* indicates an ingredient, whereas *of*, *out of* signify the material or constituency of whole thing; and *from* indicates a substance from which something is derived:

You make a cake *with* eggs. (i.e. "eggs are one of the ingredients")

He made the frame (*out*) *of* wood. (I.e."wood was the only material")

Beer is made *from* hops.

(Quirk, R & Green Baum, S, 2002: 162)

With also enters into such pervasive expressions as "paved *with* brick", "filled *with* water", "loaded *with* hay".

Of may also be used metaphorically: "a man *of* steel"

T. Prepositions of respect, standard: at, for

We can make the norm explicit by a *for* phrase.

E.g:

He's not bad *for* a youngster.

Further more we can use *at* to introduce the respect in the following example:

I'm a complete dunce *at* mathematic.

(Quirk, R & Green Baum, S, 2002: 163)

U. Prepositions of reaction: to

We can express the reaction by the preposition *to* followed by an abstract noun of emotion, eg: *to* my great, *to* my annoyance, *to* my relief, *to* my surprise, *to* my honor, *to* my delight:

To my great, they rejected the offer.

(Quirk, R & Green Baum, S, 2002: 163)

The reaction can also be expressed by *to* + personal pronoun or a phrase with *to* + possessive pronoun + *mind*, *in* + possessive pronoun + *opinion*, etc, to identify the person reacting.

Eg:

To me/ to my mind/ in my opinion, their rejection was a surprise.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 712)

To summary, all of the theoretical background including an overview on parts of speech and English prepositions presented above is necessary for the study on prepositional phrases in English which is given in the next chapter.

CHAPTER II

A STUDY ON PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE IN ENGLISH

II.1. Definition

There are some definitions of prepositional phrases in English as follows:

- ❖ According to Quirk, R & Greenbaum, S, 2002: 142, a prepositional phrase consists of a preposition followed by a prepositional complement, which is characteristically a noun phrase or a wh-clause or v-ing clause:

at the bus stop

from what he said

by signing a peace treaty

These above prepositional phrases are the combinations of prepositions: *at*, *from*, *by* and prepositional complements: *the bus stop* (noun phrase), *what he said* (wh-clause), *signing a peace treaty* (v-ing clause), respectively.

- ❖ Another definition by Richard Nordquist, about.com: A prepositional phrase is a group of words made up of a preposition, its object and many of the object's modifiers. (<http://grammar.about.com>)

She left her early in order to get to the bank.

- ❖ Moreover, a prepositional phrase is defined as a phrase that has both a preposition and its object or complement; may be used as an adjunct or modifier. (<http://www.allwords.com>)

The man in the story walked along the beach.

II.2. Internal structure of prepositional phrases

In adjective phrases, adverb phrases, noun phrases, there is one main element called the head, to which the other elements (modifier, qualifier, determiner) are subordinate. For this reason, the head element- a noun, an adjective, an adverb, can be alone without other elements, in presentation of the whole phrase.

However, PPs are completely different. A preposition itself can't occur without a nominal unit and a nominal unit is not part of a PP if there is no preposition. Both are equally necessary to form the PP. Therefore, a PP consists of three elements. The first element (such as *straight* in *straight to bed*) which is optional and

usually realized by an adverb is call modifier. The main element is the preposition which gives its name to the phrase and for simplicity is called the head. This element is followed by the third element called prepositional complement, which is needed to complete the structure of PP. Prepositional complement normally is realized by a noun phrase, a clause, a PP, an adverb or adjective phrase. In the PP, both the preposition and the complement are obligatory.

The internal structure of a PP can be represented by the figure below:

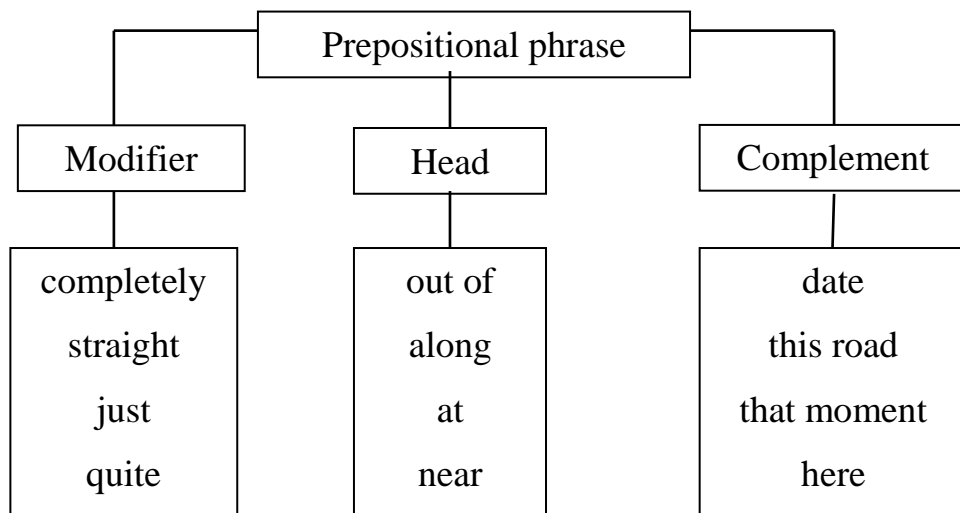


Figure 1: Internal structure of a pp

II.3. Realisation of the prepositional complement

The complement in the PP can be realized by the classes of phrase, and shown as following:

II.3.1. Noun phrase

Noun phrase can function as complement in PP, for example:

He was wearing a scarf *in stead of a tie*.

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 92)

The complement of PP in this example is a basic noun phrase. Besides, complex noun phrases can also has this function, as in:

He put it *in the wrong bottle*.

(Huddleston, R, 1984: 104)

Contrary to official predictions of further increases, the prison population has fallen.

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 63)

Noun phrase are much the most frequent kind of complement and, as we have seen, the preposition is in effect traditionally defined as taking an NP complement. But we must certainly allow for other kinds too.

Further more, pronouns can be used as prepositional complement, for instance:

It looks fine *to me*.

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 143)

II.3.2. Clause

Off all kinds of clause, wh- interrogative clause, yes- no interrogative clause, nominal relative clause and V- ing participle clause can functions as prepositional complement.

❖ Wh- interrogative clause

Let's consider the following examples:

You're quite a bit different *from what I expected*.

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 79)

In the example, *what I expected* is wh- interrogative clause functioning as complement preceded by preposition: *from*.

❖ V- ing participle clause

A storm was preventing rescue air craft *from landing*.

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 319)

In English, there are some verbs and adjectives such as *accustomed to, fed up with, fond of, gave up, insist on, keen on, etc* followed by prepositional complement, usually v-ing participle clause.

❖ Yes- no interrogative clause

For example:

It is the problem *of whether to accept the offer that makes him confused*.

(English- English- Vietnamese dictionary, 2006: 1947)

In term of yes-no interrogative clauses, only whether- clause can be complement in PP structure.

❖ Nominal relative clause

E.g:

I was interested *in whatever he was saying at the time.*

(<http://www.usingenglish.com>)

II.3.3. Prepositional phrase

Consider the following examples:

He crawled *from under the table.*

(Quirk, R& Greenbaum, 2002: 143)

I don't go until *after the meeting.*

(Huddleston, R, 1984: 104)

Here, the prepositional phrases *under the table*, *after the meeting* are embedded as complement within larger prepositional phrases *from under the table*, *except, until after the meeting*, respectively.

Only a few prepositions take such complements, and the examples given illustrate what are probably the most productive cases: *from* + *locative PP* (eg, *from inside the building*) and *until* + *temporal PP* (eg, *until just before the meeting*).

However, the most neutral locative and temporal PP *at* doesn't occur in such complements. For example, *from at Sidney*, *until at noon* are false.

In addition, there are a number where the second preposition is determined by the first, instead of being paradigmatically contrastive as in the above examples, such as *except for the spelling*, *apart from his uncle*, *as to whether it would be cancelled*, *because of the rain*, etc.

II.3.4. Adverb phrase

Some of place and time adverbs function as complement of a PP

❖ Of the places adverbs, *here* and *there* take the most repositions: *along*, *around*, *down*, *from*, *in*, *near*, *on*, *out of*, *over*, *round*, *through*, *under*, *up*, eg:

Comer *over here!*

How do we get *out of there?*

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 454)

Home (which may alternatively be considered a noun, but in this case, it is an adverb) can be the complement of *at*, (*away*) *from*, *close to*, *near*, *toward(s)*, eg:

I want to stay *at home* tonight.

(Quirk et al, 1985: 454)

The other place adverbs are restricted to the preposition *from*, for instance:

You've got a letter *from abroad*.

(Quirk et al, 1985: 454)

Other adverbs that function as complement of *from* are:

Behind *above/ below/ beneath/ underneath*
Down stair/ up stair *indoor/ outdoor*

- ❖ The time adverbs that most commonly function as complement of a preposition are shown in the figure below:

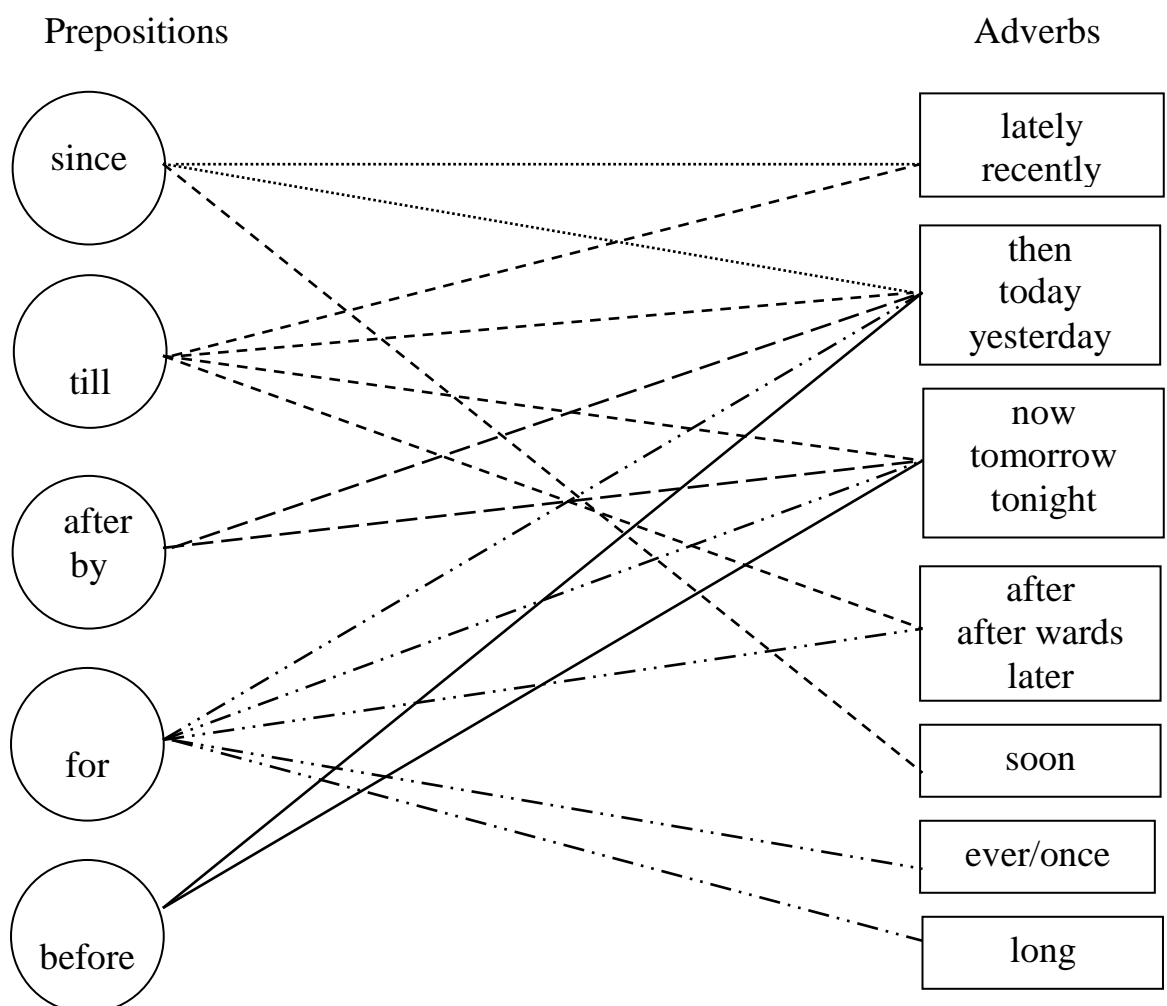


Figure 2: Adverbs as complements of PPs

*Annotation:

— : before + adverb

..... : since + adverb

..... : till + adverb

--- : after/ by/ from + adverb

--- : for + adverb

It is note that the preposition *of* also occur in the phrase *of late* [“recently”].

It is curious that analogous reduplicated phrases are virtually restricted to informal use: *for months, and months, for years and years*.

Other prepositional phrases including preposition and adverb in idiom are: *at least, by far, in there...*

II.3.5. Adjective phrase

For example:

He regarded it *as inefficient*.

It went *from bad to worse*.

(Huddleston, R, 1984: 345)

Of these, the construction with *as* is much the most productive, with virtually any adjective phrase being a potential complement. In the example given, the semantic relation between *inefficient* and *it* is the same as in: “He considered it inefficient” where *inefficient* is a complement of the object *it*.

Other fixed combinations of prepositions and adjectives phrases are *at last, at worse, by far, in brief*, for example:

After months of separation, they were together *at last*.

(English- English- Vietnamese dictionary, 2006: 703)

In brief, the meeting was a disaster.

(English- English- Vietnamese dictionary, 2006: 206)

II.4. Syntactic function of prepositional phrases

Prepositional phrases can realize up thirteen syntactic functions as constituents of other phrases, of clauses or outside clauses. They share the functions with other classes of unit and are therefore mentioned again in the sections below:

II.4.1. Prepositional phrases as modifier and complement of other phrases

a. Complement in adjective phrase

I'm sorry *for his parents*

(Quirk, R & Greenbaum, 2002: 145)

We are interested *in seeing this film*

(Http:// www.hp-vietnam.com)

The italic PPs in the examples are the complementations of the adjectives preceding them.

b. Complement in adverb phrase

They do not live far *from here*.

(Downing, A& Locke, P, 1992: 588)

In the above example the PP *from here* acts as complement of the adverb *far*.

c. Postmodifier of noun phrase

The people *on the bus* were singing

(Quirk et al, 1985: 657)

There is no reason *for leaving* this early morning

(http:// www.hp-vietnam.com)

The noun phrases *no reason* and *the people* in these two examples are postmodified by the PPs *on the bus* and *for leaving*, respectively.

d. Premodifier in noun phrase

Off - the - record comments should not be printed in a newspaper.

Off - the - record is PP functioning as premodifier of the noun phrase *comments*

e. Complement of preposition

Prepositional phrases can themselves act as prepositional complement.

E.g:

He picked up the gun from *behind the counter*

Food has been scare since *before the war*.

(Quirk et al, 1985: 658)

In these above examples, the PPs *behind the counter*, *before the war* functions as complements of prepositions *except*, *from*, *in*, respectively, in the bigger PPs.

II.4.2. Prepositional phrases as elements of clause

PPs are realized as elements of clauses such as adjunct, subject, direct object, prepositional object, subject complement, object complement.

a. Adjunct

For example:

Owing to the financial cut-backs, the workshops have been closed.

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 128)

Was he standing *in front of the statue*?

(Redman, S & Shaw, E, 1999: 67)

In the first example, *owing to the financial cut-backs* function as adjunct of cause, reason, while the PP *in front of the statue* in the second example is a place adjunct. Besides, PP can be used as adjunct of time, purpose, subject, process, source, origin, subject, etc, eg:

Will you be there *after lunch*?

(Quirk, R& Greenbaum, 2002: 230)

He took the book *from me*.

(Quirk, R& Greenbaum, 2002: 240)

b. Subject

Like adverbs, PPs may occasionally take a nominal function, for example as subject of a clause.

A: When can we discuss this matter?

B: *After supper* would suit me best.

(Downing, A& Locke, P, 1992: 588)

A: When are we going to have the next meeting?

B: *On Tuesday* will be fine.

In March suits me.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 658)

c. Direct object

For instance:

I don't consider *next a railway line* as a good place to live.

(Downing, A& Locke, P, 1992: 588)

In this sentence, the PP *next a railway* function as direct object of the verb *consider*.

d. Prepositional object

Some verbs are related to their object by a specific preposition. The verb is called a prepositional verb, and the preposition called prepositional object, eg:

I don't believe *in wasting money*.

(Downing, A& Locke, P, 1992: 588)

Cement consists *of sand and lime*.

Has Martha get *over her illness yet*?

(Alexander, L.G, 1988: 155)

e. Subject complement

In addition to the functions of PP mentioned above, we also have PPs functioning subject complement:

This machine is *out of date*.

This dress is *out of fashion*.

They are happy and *in a good health*.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 658)

Monica must be *out of her mind* to reject such an interesting offer.

(Downing, A& Locke, P, 1992: 588)

f. Object complement

For example:

I saw a small girl *in a blue dress* last night.

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 82)

His illness left him *without a job*.

(Downing, A& Locke, P, 1992: 588)

II.4.3. Other functions of prepositional phrases

a) Disjunct

Like other classes of unit, certain PPs can function syntactically as disjunct that is to say outside clause structure to express a comment or an attitude to form content of a whole clause.

- PPs can function as attitudinal disjunct:

Of course, nobody imagines that he will repay what he borrowed.

(Quirk, R& Greenbaum, 2002: 242)

To our great, Bob rejected the offer.

(Quirk, R& Greenbaum, 2002: 243)

- PPs can function as style disjunct:

In all frankness, he hasn't a chance

(Quirk, R& Greenbaum, 2002: 242)

b) Conjunct

PPs can also be used as conjunct to link clauses or phrases and words within a clause.

On the contrary, we should be going to him for a loan.

(Quirk, R& Greenbaum, 1976: 246)

The following is the list of PPs functioning as different types of conjunct:

- Enumerative: *for one thing, for another thing, for a start<informal>, in the first place, in the second place.*
- Equative: *in the same way, by the same token.*
- Reinforcing: *in particular, in addition to, above all, on top of it all.*
- Summative: *in all, in conclusion, in sum.*
- Apposition: *in other words, for example, for instance.*
- Result: *as a result, as consequence, in consequence, of course.*
- Inferential: *in other word, in that case.*
- Reformulatory: *in other words.*
- Replacive: *on the other hand.*
- Antithetic: *instead of, on the contrary, in contrast, by contrast, by way of contrast, by comparison, on the other hand.*
- Concessive: *in any case, at all event, in spite of that, after all, etc*
- Temporal transition: *in the mean time, in the mean while*
- Discourse: *by the way.*

II.5. Semantic functions of prepositional phrases

In terms of semantic categories, prepositional phrases are quite various. The meanings of PPs below are based on the prepositions in the PPs. Of the various types of relational meaning, those of place and time are easiest to describe systematically. Other meanings such as instrument, cause, may be also recognized, although it is difficult to describe prepositional meanings systematically in term of such labels.

We shall relate semantic categories to their most usual syntactic functions, but one semantic category has more than one syntactic function. For example, a PP of place can postmodify in noun phrase, as in: his departure *from Paris*, but it may also function as adjunct, as in: he departed *from Paris*.

II.5.1. Prepositional phrases of place

The PPs of place are typically either adjunct or posmodifier. Basing on prepositions of place, this type is used to refer to:

a) Prepositional phrases denoting simple position:

This group is divided in to PPs of negative and positive position (as in figure 3)

- Positive position: A PP of positive position can accompany most verbs and, although this meaning is particularly with verbs of stative meaning such as *be*, *stand*, *live*, etc.
 - Point: To describe this meaning, PPs have the structure *at* + *prepositional complement*:
I was a shorthand typist *at Kendall*.
(Cobuild, C, 1997: 36)
 - Line: *on* + *prepositional complement*
The city is situated *on the River Thames/ on the boundary*.
([http:// www.allwords.com](http://www.allwords.com))
 - Surface: *on* + *prepositional complement*
I stared at a fly *on the wall*.
 - Volume: *in* + *prepositional complement*
We all sat *in the car*.

(Alexander, L.G, 1988: 146)

- Area: *in + prepositional complement*

She is walking *in the park*.

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 40)

- Negative position: *away from/ off/ out of + prepositional complement (Cp)*

For example:

Once, they were *out of the air - conditioned restaurant*.

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 120)

b) Prepositional phrases denoting destination (as in figure 3)

The meaning of destination generally accompanies a verb of dynamic motional meaning such as *go, move, fly, etc.*

- Positive: *to/ onto/ into + Cp*

Jim has gone *to the restaurant*.

(Alexander, L.G, 1988: 148)

- Negative:

I drove *out of the car park*.

(Alexander, L.G, 1988: 149)

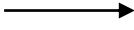

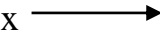





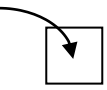

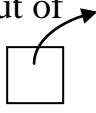

	Positive		Negative	
Point	Direction to  on (to)	Position at  on	Direction from  off	Position away from  off
Line/ surface	 in (to)	 in	 out of	 out of
Area/ volume	 in (to)	 in	 out of	 out of

Figure 4: Place prepositions (direction and position)

c) Prepositional phrases denoting relative position

Besides the meaning of position, PPs may express the meaning of relative position

- Vertically relative: *above/ over/ on top of/ under/ underneath/ beneath/ below + Cp*
- Horizontally relative: *before/ in front of/ behind/ after + Cp*

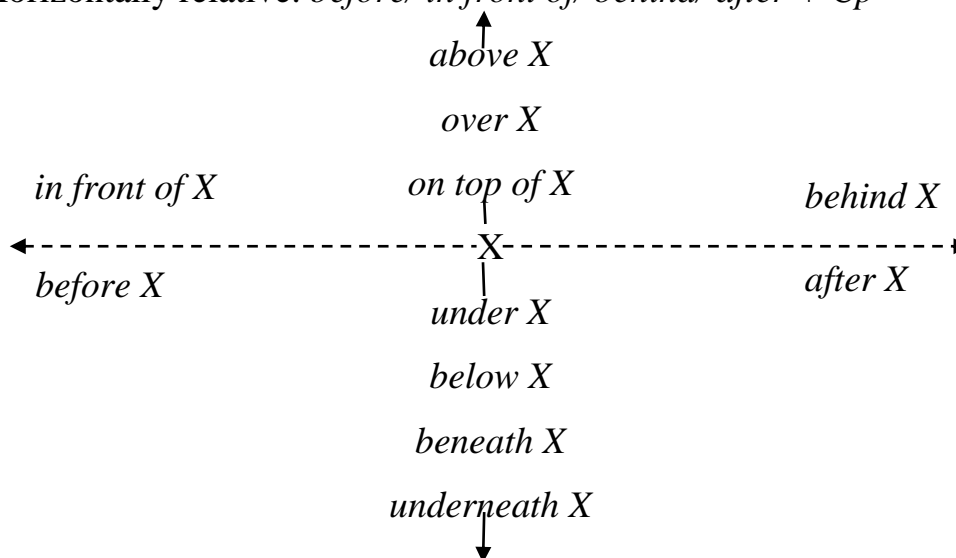


Fig 5: Vertical and horizontal direction

The PPs with *above, over, in front of* are antonyms of PPs with *below, under, behind*, respectively.

The man is *in front of the woman* >< The man is *behind the woman*.
It is note that PPs with *over* and *under* (named A) as PPs of place are synomous with PPs consisting of *above* and *below* (named B) as the heads, respectively. The main differences are that A tend to indicate a direct vertical relationship or spatial proximity while B may indicate "simply on a higher/ lower level than".

E.g:

The castle stands on a hill *above the valley*.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 678)

Note: The PPs with prepositions listed above can also express the meaning of relative destination, for example:

He threw a blanket *over her*.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 681)

d) Prepositional phrases denoting space

PPs including prepositions *by/ beside/ with/ near (to)/ close to/ opposite/ between/ among (st)/ around/ round/ about* can express space, eg:

He was standing *by/ beside the door*.

I left the key *with my wallet*.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 679)

Her house is *opposite (to) mine*.

We were sitting *(a) round the campfire..*

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 681)

e) Prepositional phrases denoting passage:

The meaning of passage can be express by the structure:

Across/ through /past + prepositional complement

For example:

Then they drove *past a grove of chest nuts...*

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 82)

f) Movement with reference to a directional path

Up, down, along, across, (a) round is the heads of PPs which express movement with reference to an axis or directional path, as illustrated in the figure below:

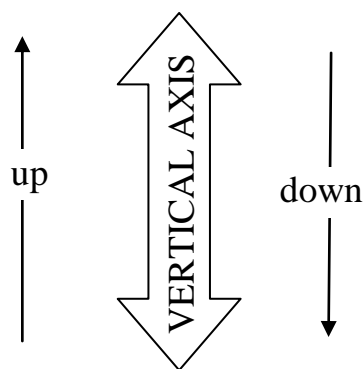


Fig 4: up and down

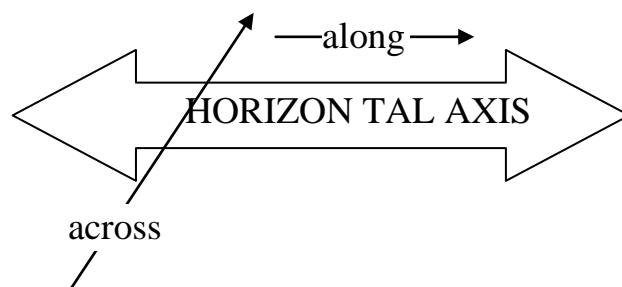


Fig 5: Along and across

E.g:

I walked *up and down the platform*.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 683)

He runs *around her* excitedly in the Bahanhof.

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 18)

g) Prepositional phrases denoting orientation:

Most of PPs which express relative destination, passage, and movement with directional path can be used in a static sense of orientation. These PPs often occur after stative verbs, as in:

Her office is *up the stair*.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 684)

Beyond the lawn lay Mr. Annet's kitchen garden

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 54)

h) Prepositional phrases denoting resultative meaning

PPs which have meaning of motion can usually have also a static resultative meaning when combined with *be*, indicating "the state of having reached the destination", as in:

At last, we are *out of the forest*.

When you are *past the next obstacle*, you can relax.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 684)

i) Prepositional phrases denoting pervasive meaning

With the structure of *all over/ throughout/ around + prepositional complement*, PPs can express the meaning of pervasive, for instance:

She is a famous singer *all over the world*.

The epidemic has spread *throughout the country*.

PPs with *with* also have pervasive meaning in expressions such as the following:

The ground was *covered with snow*.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 684)

With- phrases stand behind some fixed verbs: *loaded, paved, surrounded, dotted, etc*, to express pervasive meaning.

II.5.2. Prepositional phrases of time

A prepositional phrase of time usually occurs as an adjunct, postmodifier or predication adjunct. PPs of time can be further divided in to three subclasses:

a) PPs denoting time position

These can serve as a response to a when question, for example:

A: When does this flower shop open?

B: It opens *in April*.

(Phuc, N.S, 1999: 11)

At, on, in are commonest in PPs of time position:

I will have Math *on Monday*.

She usually reads book *at night*.

My parents don't allow me to go out *in the evening*.

(<http://grammar.about.com>)

- To express time, PPs with *at* takes complement as following:

Exact time: *at 10 o'clock, at 6 pm*

Meal time: *at lunch, at tea time, at dinner time*

Festival: *at Christmas, at Easter, at the weekend*

Age: *at the age of 27, at 12*

Others: *at dawn, at noon, at midnight, at night, at that time.*

- PPs with *on* takes the following complements:

Days of the week: *on Monday, on Friday*

Parts of the day: *on Monday morning, on Friday evening*

Dates: *on June 1st, on 23rd March*

Day+ date: *on Monday, June 1st*

Particular occasions: *on that day, on that evening*

Anniversaries: *on your birthday, on your wedding day*

Festivals: *on Christmas Day, on New Year' Day*

- *In-* phrases take the complements below:

Parts of the day: *in the evening, in the morning*

Months: *in August, in March*

Years: *in 1987, in 2009*

Seasons: *in (the) spring, in (the) summer*

Centuries: *in 19th century*

Festivals: *in Ramadan, in Easter week*

Period of time: *In that time, in that age, in the holidays*

b) PPs denoting duration

Phrases of duration answer the question: "How long...", eg:

A: How long did you stay in Scotland?

B: We stay there *for the summer*.

The duration phrase *for the summer* indicates that the stop lasted as long as the summer period. *During the summer* could be used here with same meaning:

We managed to stay awake *during the whole meaning*.

Besides, PPs with *over, (all) through, throughout* can be used to express the time duration:

We camped there *over the holiday/ the weekend/ night*.

We camped there *through (out) the summer*.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 689)

Over normally accompanies noun phrases denoting special occasions (such as holidays, and festivals), and so generally refers to a shorter period of time than *through (out)*.

Expressions like *over the last three years, over the last generation* seem to have become increasingly common.

✓ PPs with *from...to, until, up to* can express the same meaning:

She was to be in New York *from June to/ till late September*.

They talked *until dawn*.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 690)

c) PPs denoting other time relationship

- PPs of time relationship consist of *before, after, since, till, until* followed by either:

- A temporal noun phrase:

The meeting will take place *before the ceremony*.

- A subjectless- ing clause:

Since leaving school, I haven't met her.

- A noun phrase with a deverbal noun or some other noun phrases interpreted as equivalent to a clause:

The world has been changed *since electricity*

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 691)

- The phrases with *between...and* point out starting and ending point of a period:

We'll probably arrive sometime *between 5 and 6 o'clock*.

By- phrases refer to the time at which the result of an event is in existence:

She should be back *by now*.

and also specify an end point, and often be combined with adverbs: *already, still, yet, any more* in a sentence:

By the time we'd walked five miles, he was already exhausted.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 692)

II.5.3. Other meanings of prepositional phrases

A part from PPs of place and time, there are some other kinds of PP. Fields of prepositional meaning are notoriously difficult to classify, and some cases it is better to think of a range or spectrum of meaning, first as a single category, then as broken up into separate overlapping sections. First, therefore, we deal with two important spectrums which may refer to cause/ purpose and means/ agentive and then other spectrums.

a) PPs of cause and purpose spectrum

- PPs denoting cause, reason, motive:

PPs of causes and reason and motive answer the question "why...?", for example:

We had to drive slowly *because of the heavy rain*.

On account of his wide experience, he was made a chairman.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 695)

The survivors were weak *from exposure and lack of food*.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 696)

He was arrested *for assault*.

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 71)

Those who remain in primitive housing do so *out of poverty* alone.

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 122)

Many of the audiences walked out *through sheer boredom*.

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 138)

Some of fixed PPs with *for* used to express the same meaning are *for fear, for love, for joy, for sorrow*.

- PPs denoting purpose, intended destination:

Phrases of purpose and intended destination answer the question "why...?", "what for...?", "where for...?", "who for...?" They occur as postmodifiers, as well as adjunct and complement in copular clauses:

The scenery *for the play* is splendid.

This machine is *for washing*.

He left *for London*.

With *to* phrases, the assumption is that the destination will be reached:

Is this the train *to London*?

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 696)

- PPs denoting recipient, goal, target.

With the structure of *for + noun phrase* (denoting person or animal), PPs can express the meaning of intended recipient. For example:

He cooked a dinner *for her*.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 697)

Denoting intended recipient, the *for* phrases are often equated with an indirect object, as in: "He cook her a dinner."

In contrast, actual recipient can be expressed by *to phrases*, as in:

She gave a beautiful doll *to her daughter*.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 697)

At- phrases are used to express intended goal or target when they follow some verbs such as *aim, snap, smile, kick, charge, shoot...*

E.g:

The dog snapped *at the child's hand*.

(English-English-Vietnamese dictionary, 2006:1661)

- PPs denoting source, origin:

From- phrases, which are converses of *to-* phrases, express source, origin, for instance:

He bought the car *from Ford's of Dagen ham*.

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 75)

This type of PPs occurs not only as an adjunct but also as complement in copular clauses and as postmodifier:

I'm *from Madrid*.

This is a friend of mine *from London*.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 698)

b) PPs of means, agentive spectrum

- PPs denoting manner

Manner can be expressed by phrases with *in...manner, like, with*:

The army swept through the city *like a pestilence*.

The task was done *in a workmanlike manner*.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 698)

With some reluctance, the church authorities agreed.

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 162)

Manner phrases can sometimes be evoked by the question "How...?", for instance:

A: How did she speak?

B: She spoke *with great skill*.

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 160)

- PPs denoting means and instrument

PPs of *by, with, without, by means of* can express means and instrument and answer the question: "How...?"

E.g:

A: How do you often go to school?

B: I often go to school *by bus*.

([Http: //grammar.about.com](http://grammar.about.com))

By- phrases can express:

- Mode of transport:

Yesterday, she went to work *by car*.

- Means of communication

Communication took place *by letter/ telex/radio/ mail*.

- Others:

The thief must have entered and left the house *by the back door*.

With- phrases and *without* phrases (equivalent negative meaning) express instrumental meaning:

He caught the ball *with his left hand*.

A bottle whose label I couldn't read *without my spectacles*

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 699)

- PPs denoting instrument and agentive

In the passive sentence, the agentive or instrument can be expressed by a *by-* phrase but only instrument can be expressed by *with-* phrases:

The crops have been ruined *by frost*.

My car had been damaged *by the branch of tree*.

My car had been damaged *with the branch of tree*.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 700)

The agentive *by-*phrases also occur as a postmodifier to signify authorship:
"A song *by Nguyen Van Thuong*"

- PPs denoting stimulus

At- phrases and *by-* phrases can be used to indicate stimulus.

He was always amazed *by/ at her confidence*.

Besides, stimulus is sometimes expressed by other phrases, for examples:

I'm worried *about her behaviour*.

He's interested *in English*.

His plans were known *to everyone*.

When stimulus is person or object, *with* phrases are used more common to express the same meaning:

I was delighted *with the present*.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 702)

- PPs denoting accompaniment

A PP in which the head is *with* and the complement is animate has the meaning "*in company with*" or "*together with*".

Life would be easier if I could live *with my husband*.

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 157)

With- phrase is also used to express "accompanying circumstances":

Even now, *with all the pressures off her*, she was unable to rest.

([http:// www.allwords.com](http://www.allwords.com))

Without- phrase is the negative form of *with-* phrase:

She was *without her children*.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 702)

- PPs denoting support and opposition

A phrase with *for* or *with* is used to express support and in contrast, opposition is expressed by *against phrase*. For example:

When the matter went to the full Cabinet, Minister sided *with Mr. Brooke*.

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 162)

It is prudent to go *with* rather than *against the tide of public opinion*.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 703)

In this case, *with-* phrase can also express the meaning of opposition if they are after some verbs: *argue, fight, etc*.

He is always arguing *with his sister*.

c) PPs of other spectrum

- PPs denoting having

With the structure of *of/ with + Cp*, PPs can express the meaning of having, and normally function as postmodifier of a noun phrase.

A pianist *of great talent*.

A man *with a red nose*.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 704)

The importance *of the decision*.

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 100)

The negative of *with-* phrase is *without-* phrase

Inadequate houses *without garden*.

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 166)

When expressing "having" the complement of PPs can be a non- finite or verbless clause:

The factory *with its smoking chimney*.

A room *with its door open*.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 704)

- PPs denoting concession

To express concession, PPs which function as disjunct or conjunct must be headed by prepositions: *in spite of, despite, for all, with all, notwithstanding*:

British Rail said the scheme was working well, *in spite of early confusion*.

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 92)

With all/for all this noise, I managed to get some sleep.

Thomas, *notwithstanding his tedious rhetoric*, is a master of the sublime in prose style.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 706)

- PPs denoting reference

PPs with complex prepositions such as *with reference to, with regard to, as for*, can make the reference more explicit.

As for the burglar, he escaped through the attic window.

(Quirk, R& Greenbaum, S, 2002: 161)

With regard to details- these will be finalized latter.

(English-English-Vietnamese dictionary, 2006: 1459)

- PPs denoting exception and addition

The PPs which are used to express exception consist of prepositions *except for, with the exception of, apart from, aside from, except, excluding, but and save.*

With the exception of Jame, none of us had any money.

The worst period of my life *apart from the war* was when I was out of work.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 707)

Finally, we had packed everything *but the typewriter.*

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 708)

The PPs in such constructions is often separated from their noun head and postposed to the end of the clauses:

Every one *but me* was tired = Every one was tired *but me.*

*Addition can be expressed by the phrases with *besides, as well as, in addition to,* eg:

In addition to English, she speaks 5 foreign languages.

(English-English-Vietnamese dictionary, 2006: 33)

- PPs denoting material, ingredient

As complement of the verb *make,* PPs with *with* indicate ingredient, *of* and *out of* phrases signify the material and *from* phrases express substance:

Spring roll is made *with lots of pork.*

I made this kite *of paper.*

The clock is *made from gold.*

(<http://www.using english.com>)

- PPs denoting standard

The English prepositional phrases with *at* can be used with a gradable adjective to introduce the standard, the capacity of doing something, for instance:

He's good/ clever/ brilliant *at organizing things*.

Besides, *for* phrase can substitute in this case:

That dog is long-legged *for a terrier*.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 711)

- PPs denoting reaction

At and *to* phrases are two commonest reaction phrases and they can function as disjunct, or complement of adjective:

She was surprised *at their rejection of the offer*.

To my horror, the dog bitted the cat.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 712)

- PPs denoting subject matter

In English, the PPs of *about* and *on* are used with the meaning *on the subject of, concerning*, for instance:

He spoke *about education*.

He lectures *on grammar*.

([http:// www.hp-vietnam.com](http://www.hp-vietnam.com))

PPs introduced by both *about* and *on* may function as either obligatory predication adjunct with the verb *be* or complement of a verb or noun phrase.

E.g:

The book is *on/ about stamps*.

He told me *about his adventure*.

There has been a talk *on antiques*.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 709)

Moreover, PPs with *concerning* are also acceptable in expressing subject matter:

He is studying a problem *concerning environment pollution*.

([http:// www.hp-vietnam.com](http://www.hp-vietnam.com))

II.6. Position of prepositional phrase

In most cases, the syntactic function of prepositional phrases virtually determines their position. Therefore, prepositional phrases can be put in three positions in a sentence.

a) Initial position

Initial position is that preceding any other clause elements. In effect, this generally means the position immediately before subject, as in:

From my point of view, all his fine promises don't mean a thing.

(Downing, A& Locke, P, 1992: 588)

On the other hand, he made no attempt to help her.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 658)

With disjunct and conjunct, initial position is usual. However, functioning as adjunct of time, place, etc, prepositional phrases can also occur in initial position, for instance:

Above the town, the fire was still blazing.

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 16)

Before going to bed, he wrote a letter to his father.

Because of the heat, the front door was open.

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 43)

By pressing this button, you can stop the mechanic.

(Quirk, R& Greenbaum, 2002: 220)

b) Medial position

In general, the medial position is the least usual. The acceptable medial positions are after subject, after operator, between verb and complement or object, between object and object complement, for example:

- After subject:

My friend *at that time* was learning English.

(<http://www.using english.com>)

- After operator:

I have *at all times*, indicated willingness.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 493)

She was, *in other words*, obliged to fend entirely for herself.

My answer may have *to some extent* displeased them.

(<http://www.usingenglish.com>)

- Between verb and complement or object:

They moved *into the kitchen* every stick of furniture they possessed.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 522)

- Between indirect object and direct object:

I gave her *at least* two dollar.

(English-English-Vietnamese dictionary, 2006: 100)

- Between object and object complement:

He found the work, *on the whole*, enjoyable.

([http:// www.allwords.com](http://www.allwords.com))

c) Final position

End position is the most frequent for PPs of time, place:

Dr Blackett is *in Tokyo*.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 498)

We hoped to see Veronica *on the following Monday*.

(Quirk, et al, 1985: 527)

Besides, other prepositional phrases such as PPs of concession, manner, reference, etc, can also occur in end position, eg:

A big difficulty is the confusion *regarding qualifications*.

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 131)

He spoke to me *in a soft tune*.

(Phuc, N.S, 1999: 11)

She always had time for a pleasant word *despite having some family problem*.

(Cobuild, C, 1997: 64)

In short, on studying the prepositional phrases in English, one, first of all, should be aware of internal structure of a PP. Then, realization of the complement is considered. Next, syntactic and semantic function of PPs are analyzed. And the last point, one should consider is the position of PPs.

CHAPTER III:
MISTAKES MADE BY VIETNAMESE LEARNERS
IN USING PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES
AND SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS

III.1. Mistakes made by Vietnamese learners

There are over one hundred prepositions in English. This number is very small in comparison with the big number of noun, verb, and adjective in English. However, most of English sentences consist of at least one PP. For native speaker, it is not difficult but it is troublesome for learners of English as a foreign language to use PP suitably. So, making mistakes is unavoidable.

Basing on the study of English PPs given above, there are some mistakes that Vietnamese learners often meet as using PPs.

- Mistakes in combining preposition and its complement

To make a PP, it is necessary to put a complement following a preposition. However, choosing a preposition and its suitable complement is not easy. Thus, learners find this a bit difficult. For example, as expressing the PP of time, the learners use preposition *on*, *in* with wrong complement as following:

He gets up early at 5.00 *on the morning*.

I often play tennis *in Friday morning*.

Both two sentences above with italic PPs are wrong. Let's consider each sentence. In the first sentence, the preposition must be *in* because the complement morning expresses parts of day. In the second one, there is one word indicating day of week in the prepositional complement, so, it is necessary to use prepositions *on*. Therefore, two correct sentences in turn are:

He gets up early at 5.00 *in the morning*.

I often play tennis *on Friday morning*.

- Misinterpretation in translating English in to Vietnamese

-This mistake usually happens when learners use PPs as conjunct

E.g:

On the other hand, he is a good man.

In conclusion, I don't trust him.

In the first place, she was loved because of her beautiful face.

In English, preposition *in* combines with noun phrases: *conclusion*, *the first place* as in the second and third sentences, preposition *on* with noun phrase *the other hand* to make PPs functioning as conjuncts. However, when these words are translated into Vietnamese, some learners can't find their equivalents appearing in the phrases. So, they translate them in the wrong way:

Trong tay khác, anh ta là một người đàn ông tốt.

Trong kết luận, tôi không tin anh ta.

Trong vị trí đầu tiên, cô ta được yêu quý là do khuôn mặt xinh đẹp của mình.

All of these sentences are false. We should translate as following:

Mặt khác, anh ta là một người đàn ông tốt.

Tóm lại, tôi không tin anh ta.

Trước hết, cô ta được yêu quý là do khuôn mặt xinh đẹp của mình.

- Also some PPs phrases function as disjunct in English but their equivalents can't function this in Vietnamese. Let's consider the following examples:

In all frankness, I'm tired.

In fact, he has only just passed his driving test.

PP *in all frankness* functions as disjunct to convey the speaker's comment on what he says after it. Here, the subject is "I". Therefore the PP *in all frankness* is equivalent to "I tell you very frankly". In some cases, this sentence is translated:

Trong sự thẳng thắn, tôi rất mệt.

This wrong way of translation should be substituted by:

Nghiêm túc mà nói, tôi rất mệt.

Now let us consider the second example. In fact is an attitudinal disjunct referring to the reality on what is said. But this PP is translated as in:

Trong thực tế, anh ta vừa lấy bằng xe máy.

This is completely wrong and should be corrected:

Thực tế, anh ta vừa lấy bằng xe máy.

- Moreover, as using PPs functioning as postmodifier of a noun phrases, as in:

The girl *in jeans* is my daughter.

A man *of courage* helped me.

Vietnamese learners make mistakes in translating these sentences into Vietnamese:

Cô gái trong quần bò là con gái tôi.

Người đàn ông của lòng dũng cảm đã giúp đỡ tôi.

These must be expressed by other way:

Cô gái mặc quần bò là con gái tôi.

Người đàn ông dũng cảm đã giúp đỡ tôi.

- Furthermore, as facing PPs functioning as object complement as in:

They make him in sorrow.

Vietnamese learners often understand that:

Họ làm anh ta trong nỗi buồn.

This is wrong translation and needed changing:

Họ làm anh ta buồn.

• Mistake by mother tongue interference

- This type of error often appears in translating Vietnamese into English.

Vietnamese learners usually used verbs instead of PPs. However, English is expressed in a contrary way. For instance, Vietnamese often say:

Họ đi bộ đến trường.

Anh ta phải lòng cô ta.

But in English, these are expressed like:

They go to school on foot.

He fell *in love with her*.

- Besides, Vietnamese learners often use unsuitable PPs to express one ideal. This kind of mistake often occurs when the learners don't understand the usages of English PPs exactly, that leads to the fact that they have trend of wrong translation. The following examples make this more clear:

Vietnamse	Wrong translation	Right translation
Cô ấy là ca sỹ nổi tiếng trên thế giới	She is a famous singer <i>on the word</i>	She is a famous singer <i>in the word</i>
Con chim bay trên trời	A bird flies <i>on the sky</i>	A bird flies <i>in the sky</i>
Anh ta rất lịch sự với tôi	He is very polite <i>with me</i>	He is very polite <i>to me</i>
Tôi đã có câu trả lời cho câu hỏi của bạn	I have the answer <i>for your question</i>	I have the answer <i>to your question</i>
Cô ấy cười với tôi	She smiles <i>with me</i>	She smiles <i>at me</i>

To summary, these are some of common mistakes making Vietnamese learners confused in using prepositional phrases. Knowing these mistakes thoroughly, we would have some solutions as below:

III.2. Suggested solutions and exercises

Obviously, it is difficult for Vietnamese learners to make fluent use of all prepositional phrases in English. As the saying goes "practice makes perfect", so, in order to lessen these above mistakes, there is no better way than practicing much to make a correct use of prepositional phrases. Therefore, I suggest here some solutions and exercises which may be useful in studying prepositional phrases:

- Define kinds of complement clearly then choose suitable prepositions. For example, when expressing the idea "*vào buổi tối*" in the sentence:

Tôi thường đi chơi *vào buổi tối*.

learners should analyze two parts: "*vào*", "*buổi tối*". First of all, "*buổi tối*" is defined as a part of a day so the preposition *in* is used. Then, this is translated into:

I often go out *in the evening*.

- Define the function of prepositional phrase to have right translation from English into Vietnamese. For instance, prepositional phrases functioning as conjunct aren't often understood in direct meaning, but they have fixed meaning. The following table give some examples to help learners understand these prepositional phrases and translate in the correct way

by the way	nhân tiện	for example	ví dụ như
in conclusion	tóm lại	on the other hand	mặt khác
in the meantime	trong khi	in contrast	ngược lại
in the same way	tương tự	in spite of	mặc dù

- Memorize some common verbs, adjectives, nouns and the prepositions that go with them:

<i>approve of</i>	<i>accustomed to</i>	<i>method of</i>
<i>count on</i>	<i>afraid of</i>	<i>choice of</i>
<i>depend on</i>	<i>capable of</i>	<i>intention of</i>
<i>give up</i>	<i>interested in</i>	<i>excuse for</i>
<i>insist on</i>	<i>fond of</i>	<i>reason for</i>
<i>rely on</i>	<i>tired of</i>	

Exercises:

1. Fill each blank with one of prepositions in brackets:

- I met him ... nine o'clock. (at, by)
- She has not written to me ... three months. (since, for)
- What did you do ... Thursday night? (at, on)
- He ran quickly ... my room. (to, into)
- He came ... the morning. (in, on)
- I held out the money ... my sister. (to, for)

g- She never gets angry ... me. (with, to)

2. Read the conversation on "The Green Party". Write a list of complement of all the prepositional phrases and say what classes of unit they belong to:

The "Green" Party

A: It's really making a come back all of a sudden.

B: Seems to come in and out of fashion.

A: Yeah.

B: We had elections at school and the "Green" party did win, actually.

A: So did we. It was a big surprise to everyone, so many antiestablishment adherents amongst us.

T: I get the impression that it's a non- vote, just a comfortable way of not having to take a decision.

B: Yeah, a pressure vote, so that you don't have to vote either for the conservation or for the Labour Party. People just can't be bothered with comparing programmes and thinking about who to vote for.

T: And you think this has a significant impact on the way the other parties have formed their policies?

B: Yeah, but it's ... just waffle, just an excuse for getting votes.

T: Do you feel very cynical about them, then?

B: Suppose I do a bit.

T: One of the things people say about, well, at least some of the younger generation, not all of them, but on the whole is, there is no radicalism among people today who are in their late teens and twenties. It's what the forty-year-olds say about the twenty- year- olds. They think back to when they were young and what they were like then and say that the younger generation doesn't have any radical or controversial views any more.

A: I don't think radicalism has disappeared. May be it has been channeled into that "green" area.

B: Yeah. A lot of former ideals have been ditched in favour of moving towards a position much closer to the centre than before

PART THREE
CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the study on prepositional phrases presented in this graduation paper provides basic knowledge of prepositional phrases. They are discussed specifically in three chapters. The first chapter mentions theoretical background for the study including: an overview on parts of speech, and prepositions with definition and classification. The second, also the main chapter of the study, focuses on English prepositional phrases in the aspects: definition, structure of a prepositional phrase, syntactic and semantic function of prepositional phrases, realization of elements in prepositional phrases. Besides, position of preposition of prepositional phrases is also analyzed in this chapter. Next, common mistakes faced by Vietnamese learners are dealt with in the third chapter. I also suggest some solutions and exercises to help learners to overcome difficulties.

Hopefully this paper will be any help to Vietnamese learners to be aware of the important role of prepositional phrases in English and know how to use them correctly.

However, because of my limited knowledge, my study still has mistakes and shortcomings and I can't cover all aspects of prepositional phrases specifically. Therefore, in the future, if I have another chance with much time and wider knowledge, I would like to do a research of not only prepositional phrases in English but also Vietnamese equivalent

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APPENDIX

KEY TO EXERCISES

Exercise 1:

- a- at
- b- for
- c- on
- d- into
- e- in
- f- to
- g- with

Exercise 2:

- a sudden: noun phrase
- fashion: noun phrase
- school: noun phrase
- everyone: pronoun
- not having to take a decision: ing- clause
- the conservative: noun phrase
- the Labour Party: noun phrase
- comparing programmes and thinking about who to vote for: ing- clause
- on the way: noun phrase
- getting votes: ing- clause
- them: pronoun
- the thing: noun phrase
- the whole: noun phrase
- people: noun phrase
- when they were young: wh- clause
- what they were like then: wh- clause
- that green area: noun phrase
- moving towards a position much closer to the centre than before: ing- clause.