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**TRANSFERABILITY ISSUES WITHIN ENGLISH AND UKRAINIAN  
LANGUAGES ON THE EXAMPLES OF FUNCTIONS AND ITEMS OF  
PREPOSITIONS**

Prepositions are important when constructing sentences and phrases both in English and Ukrainian. For native speakers, problems such as grammatical errors involving prepositions are rare. However, English language learners who are native speakers of Ukrainian language might face certain difficulties using prepositions as not all of knowledge about prepositions is transferable from Ukrainian to English. What the author considers to be transferable knowledge is direct and full coincidence in preposition function as well as translation. So items of prepositions and their functions can be

completely transferred from one language to another, logically acquirable due to prescriptive rules or might need to be just memorized.

There are five main functions of prepositions and prepositional phrases in English. Comparative description will identify the amount of transferable knowledge.

1. Head of preposition phrase is the defining word type of that phrase. Examples of prepositional phrases include in the oven and during the storm. The heads of those prepositional phrases are the prepositions in and during. This function exists in Ukrainian language as well. And in this particular case the knowledge about preposition may be identified as transferable (English in the oven – Ukrainian в печі; English during the storm - Ukrainian підчас бурі). But at the same time plenty of phrases are not able to rely on transferability, and have to be classified on the common ground (English at the top, at the bottom, at the back, at the front – Ukrainian, correspondently, вгорі, внизу, позаду, попереду) or their logical difference in a source language should be memorized (English in time, on time– Ukrainian вчасно)

2. Prepositional phrases function as modifiers and complements of noun phrases, adjective phrases, and verb phrases. Words and phrases that function as modifiers define other words and phrases. For example, the prepositional phrase with blonde hair modifies the noun phrase the little girl in the phrase the little girl with blonde hair . There is a great deal of common ground between Ukrainian and English on this issue. Therefore, this knowledge is transferable to a certain extend (English the little girl with blonde hair, the lady in red – Ukrainian маленька дівчинка з білявим волоссям; леді в червоному).

Prepositional phrases also function as modifiers of adjective phrases as in on the walls in The paint was green on the walls or near the bathtub as in The floor was wet near the bathtub. Prepositional phrases likewise function as modifiers of verb phrases as in during the wedding in The woman cried during the wedding or after dinner as in The couple danced after dinner. This knowledge should be considered transferable, although, in Ukrainian, linguists would identify the different syntactical function of the prepositional phrase in such sentences. The question is only about the name not about “transferability”.

Complements act to complete the meaning of other words and phrases. The main difference between modifiers and complements is that modifiers are optional and can be

replaced by any number of other prepositional phrases while complements are often required. For example, the prepositional phrase of books functions as a complement in the sentence Librarians are fond of books. The prepositional phrase of books is a complement because the adjective “fond” requires a prepositional phrase to complete its meaning. In English those are of idiomatic nature, which means it requires not item’s transferring but finding matching idiomatic expression in the target language. (English Librarians are fond of books – Ukrainian Який бібліотекар не любить книжок.).

3. Prepositional phrases also function as adjuncts in sentences. Adjuncts frame an entire sentence and are optional. For example, the prepositional phrase in my opinion in In my opinion, grammar is interesting. In Ukrainian this function is transferable function; however, the vocabulary items must be replaced by either suitable equivalents or somehow adjusted (English In my opinion, grammar is interesting – Ukrainian На мою думку, граматыка це річ цікава).

4. Prepositions as adverbials provide additional information about an entire sentence and are optional. Adverbials express information such as time, place, manner, condition, reason, or purpose of an entire sentence. The prepositional phrase in the backyard provides information about the place where the children played in the sentence The children played in the backyard. The same function is provided by the Ukrainian prepositional phrases; however, thinking about the transferability of vocabulary items, the speaker must be aware of matching vocabulary item.

5. Prepositions function as particles in phrasal verbs. Phrasal verbs are verbs that consist of a verb and one or more prepositions. Examples of phrasal verbs include pass out meaning "to faint" and look up meaning "to consult." This function of prepositions is extremely common in informal idiomatic English. The problem with phrasal verbs for language learners is that the meaning of the two-word (or sometimes three-word) verb is very different from the meaning of the two parts taken separately. Pass out is not the same as pass + out. This function is not available for prepositions in Ukrainian; it would rather be replaced by prefix item.

English Ukrainian

1) I popped over to see my new neighbours.

2) I'm going to pop out to the shops for ten minutes. 1) Я заскочила  
познайомитися з новими сусідами.

2) Я збираюсь вискочити до магазину.

Learning phrasal verbs is probably a lifetime's work and if you want to do it well, it's probably worth getting hold of (= obtaining) or lashing out on (= spending a substantial sum of money on) a dictionary of current idiomatic English which pays attention to verbs with prepositions and particles as idioms may come into and go out of fashion.

Prepositions are quite complicated in both languages. Since their acquisition is mainly obtained through imitation and practice transferability can become an important issue to simplify the process of conscious approach.