ENGLISH INSTRUMENTAL PREPOSITIONS

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ABSTRACT

This paper describes English prepositions that serve as a means of instrumental case relations. Instrumental semantics is defined on the basis of Russian - a language where it finds expression by means of case category. The prepositions that occur in the English equivalents constructions with the instrumental case are the prepositions «with», «by», «for», «from», «as», «like», «of», «in», «at». The analysis of the semantics of constructions helps us to determine which prepositions can be used to express some private instrumental meanings.

Keywords: case semantics, prepositions, instrumental case, instrumental relations.

INTRODUCTION

The aim of this article is to describe the means of actualizing instrumental case relations in English Relying on the postulate that case semantics in English is expressed mostly with the help of prepositions. We aim at finding out which English prepositions actualize instrumental case relations in English. prepositions actualize instrumental semantics.

By instrumental semantics we mean the invariant instrumental semantics we understand as invariant function of the Russian instrumental case as suggested by S. A. Lutin. It is the function of the secondary (potential generator of the event), which, as the researcher proves, is traceable in practically all private meanings of the Instrumentive Case (AC) of the Russian language [Lutin 2008]. It should be noted that this function does not contradict the meaning of the instrumental case, which is suggested by C. Fillmore as a universal deep meaning within the framework of his case theory. According to Fillmore, the instrumental is the case of an inanimate force or object, included as its cause in an action or state, called a verb [Fillmore 1987: 24]. In Fillmore's definition we can see functions, corresponding also to some traditionally distinguished particular meanings of TP in instrument, causer of an event, cause.

According to Fillmore's theory, the instrumental prepositions are "with" and "by". At a deeper level, noun groups in the instrumental case are marked by the preposition with if the agent is also present in the proposition; Otherwise, the preposition by is needed [Fillmore 1987: 13]. There is no doubt, that these prepositions are the primary means in English for to express complicity in the generation of an event. However, when analyzing and their parallel translations into English, it turns out that the prepositions with and by are not the only means of actualizing instrumental semantics in the AFL.

In order to reliably reconstruct the situation of interest in English language, "recode" it into English, the language means are needed, capable of rendering the semantics which we call "instrumental" or "instrumental". Based on the results of the analysis of the constructions with the non-predicative TP, taken from classical works of Russian literature and their translations, in English equivalents we found the following prepositions: "with", "by", "at", "in", "from", "for", "as", "of", "like". These prepositions appear to be actualizers of instrumental relations.

As Fillmore pointed out, the preposition with is the most frequent instrumental semantics. It is the preposition with in English is the main expressor of the instrumental function - the meaning, which, in the opinion

of many scholars, is central to both the universal instrumental instrumental, as well as for the Russian instrumental case.

Most examples with the preposition "with" have the form V + Ninstr, where the noun has the meaning which R. O. Jakobson assigns to the group of 'TP of the conditioner" - the meaning of a tool, an instrument, with the help of which the action denoted by the verb is performed. Also belonging to this group are constructions with verbal participles, which, however, do not change the meaning actualised by the meaning realised by the preposition (5, 6). In this case, constructions with verbs and verbal nouns or participles nouns or participles may be regarded as equals, because the semantics does not change with the transformation of a verb into a participle or noun: опоясать полоской – опоясанный полоской или вымазано глиной – вымазать глиной.

- (1) Поманил дитятю пряником I tempted a baby with a cookie
- (2) смачивала их слезами moistened them with her tears
- (3) расчесывала гребнем smoothed with a comb
- (4) плетюганами пороли beat you with whips
- (5) все было чисто, вымазано цветной глиною everything was cleanly smeared with coloured clay
- (6) опоясанными темно-фиолетовой полоской banded with dark purple

The preposition "with" here corresponds exactly to Fillmore's definition, because it has the agent in the subject position and the preposition "with" the object-weapon used by the agent directly to perform the action. The second most frequent preposition, also classified by Fillmore as instrumental formants is "by". The resulting constructions that include this are passive constructions. The semantics actualised in the constructions of this group is also defined by Jakobson as the semantics of the conditioner. The causal factor, but the particular meanings given them are different from those of the preceding group. In the examples below, we find the meanings of cause (7, 8) as well as agent (9, 10).

- (7) движимая побуждениями зависти и антипатией moved by obscure motives of envy and dislike
- (8) научен горьким опытом schooled by bitter experience
- (9) преследуемый врагами followed by the enemies
- (10) Радиант Пильмана и был открыт впервые именно школьником the Pilman Radiant was discovered \mathbf{by} a schoolboy

When analysing constructions of the type "преследуемый врагами" — "followed by the enemies" with the English "instrumental agentive", which in English is expressed by the preposition "by", we should return to Fillmore's definition, according to which the instrumental case cannot mark animate objects. The preposition "by" in passive constructions with an animate noun, according to Fillmore, marks the agent of the sentence, not the instrument. Such an approach to the treatment of the passive agent is understandable, but studies of the Russian language show that there are certain reasons for the function of the agent in the passive construction is marked by TP: преследуемый врагами.

Marking the agent in passive constructions with the instrumental case is not accidental: let us remember the function of the secondary event generator. Let us now return to the actant in the TP, being not a secondary but a direct generator of the event, is shifted from the position of the subject to the communicative intention of the speaker [Lutin 2008]. The communicative intention allows the agent to acquire "secondary" - the agent is relegated to the second of the utterance, acting as a condition for the acquiring of a certain attribute by the actor in the position of a particular attribute - in the examples studied, it is the attribute. The examples examined include the sign of "being pursued" and the sign of "being open and known by the scientific community".

So in example (10) "a schoolboy" is a logical agent and the actor. Schoolboy' could take the place of the subject in the active construction but this grammatical transformation would also lead to a change of meaning. The original utterance is not about the cleverness of the pupil, but the quality of the discovered phenomenon itself. We can tell from the sentence that the radiant is such an obvious phenomenon that even a schoolboy could discover it. That is to say, the actant in the TA is a "verb contributor", "a way of carrying out an action". [Lutin 2008, 114-115].

In Russian, the use of the indirect case is necessary in constructions with the agent in the passive position. It is the instrumental, as the only indirect case denoting complicity in the generation of an action can perform such a grammatical task. By analogy, then, the preposition "by", marking the logical agent in passive constructions, introduces a tinge of instrumentality and makes the passive agent a means of acquiring the sign of the subject. It follows, that the preposition "by" can be thought of as a purely instrumental preposition and thereby the preposition "by" can thus be rendered purely instrumental and thus remove the contradiction of Fillmore, who ascribes to it both an agentive and an instrumental meaning.

Other prepositions used in order to convey the instrumental semantics are the prepositions "for", "from", "as", "like", "of", "in", "at". Although the frequency of these prepositions in English equivalents of TA constructions are much less frequent than the two frequency of these prepositions in English equivalents of TA constructions is much lower than that of the two above-mentioned prepositions, some regularities can be traced. These prepositions are the actualisers of certain TP meanings.

As our research shows, the preposition "for" is used in English language to actualize the following types of instrumental semantics: instrumental of activity (11) and the instrumental of restriction (12). The instrumental of activity (Jakobson's term), or the instrumental predicative, denotes the partial, episodic function of the subject and is part of the predicate. The instrumental constraints delineates the scope of the feature expressed in the predicate or in the preposition "for" is used as a part of the predicate.

The preposition "for", used in example (12), indicates the cause of the condition. The possibility of transformation into an active construction confirms the function of secondary generator of the event: was distinguished for his uprightness of character —> His uprightness of character distinguished him (among his fellows).

- (11) казаться умным и передовым человеком to be taken for a clever and progressive man
- (12) отличался грубой прямотой своего нрава was distinguished for his uprightness of character

The preposition "from" is used to actualise the meaning of the causer of the state or, in Jakobson's terminology, the source of the action. The meaning of the causer of state, i.e. "the means of acquiring the state, determined by the semantics of the verb" does not quite correspond to the real invariant the real invariant function of the TP. This meaning is ancient and goes back to the general function of the TP of the Old Russian period - the function of the "event assibilator" [Lutin 2008: 150]. This fact may explain why the actualization of this function in the preposition "from", which is uncharacteristic for the instrumental semantics, appears in English. The Collins Handbook of English Prepositions, however, confirms that the preposition "from" is capable of actualising this type of derivational relation. The preposition "from" is also found to mean cause, source: 'The preposition from is used to indicate who or what is the supplier or source of something" [Sinclair 2004: 69].

(13) страдала одышкой — suffered **from** asthma

The preposition "as" is one of the means of expressing the function of grammatical English is a grammatical equation. In Russian, this function is performed by the TP in meanings commonly referred to as

"instrumental predicative" (14, 15) and "instrumental of comparison" (16). The preposition "as" is used when giving an indication of what someone or something is or is regarded as, or what function it performs" [Sinclair 2004: 35]. Also, as, functioning as a conjunction, is capable of to actualise the semantics of a derivative comparison. Example (16) presents a truncated construction derived from "as...as". The meaning of comparison can also be expressed by the preposition "like" (17).

- (14) считал себя законным защитником православия regarded himself **as** the legal protector of the orthodox faith
- (15) почитал одним из главных достоинств рыцаря which was also regarded **as** one of the principal warlike qualities
 - (16) шаровары шириною в Черное море trousers wide as the Black Sea
- (17) дороге, которая змеей бежала по скату the road which ran wriggling **like** a snake up the slope The preposition "of" is one of the most common and abstract in its meaning of prepositions in the A.S., "having largely lost its lexical content" [Aksionenko 1956: 175]. Therefore, it is not surprising that the group of examples include semantically diverse constructions with TP. Below examples with TP with the meanings of cause (18), instrument (19) and object (20) are given below.

The Russian equivalent of the example (18), the instrumental case has the meaning of reason. The preposition handbook gives the meaning of the "of" as appropriate to the situation, but the use of the meaning is rather narrow: 'The preposition "of" is also used to mean 'illness or injury that caused someone's death'. [Sinclair 2004: 92]. In our case, although the result is not death but life, the causal meaning is unquestionable.

Regarding example (20) it seems necessary to mention, referring to S. A. Lutin, that TP is essentially a non-object case and its functioning in the object sense indicates the instrumental nature of the actant [Lutin 2008: 156]. Thus, in the phrase vodka trade 'vodka' is a secondary generator of the event, rather than a passive object experiencing effect. That is, vodka is the means which makes it possible to carry out trading activities in the shop. When translated into English, this connotation of meaning is lost. If, on the other hand, we translate this construction into a verb "торговать водкой" – "to sale vodka", then the above-mentioned difference in semantics becomes even more evident, as in English construction 'vodka' has a purely objective meaning. It seems that the difference in semantics of the constructions is caused by the lexical the content of the verb sell, which is represented more as a process than an action. (ex.: 'sell vodka').

The grammatical meaning of example (21) is 'practically indefinable', as 'it is neither a subject in its pure form, nor an instrument, nor a means, and not an object', so we can assume that in this case they (these meanings) are not relevant, but what is relevant is the invariant function of the secondary generator. This is the conclusion of S.A. Loutin, referring to the studies of A.A. Potebny and R. Mrazek [Loutin 2008: 146].

- (18) она миг только жила любовью she had lived only for a moment of love
- (19) пропитанную табачным дымом бумагу a document, reeking of tobacco smoke
- (20) в лавке тайная торговля водкой уже идет the secret sale **of** vodka was already going on in the shop
 - (21) от него пахло вином he smelt **of** spirits

The preposition "in" is able to actualise the meaning of the way of action. The adverbial meaning of the TP, answering the question "how? how?". According to the preposition "in" is able to actualise the meaning of action - the adverbialised meaning of TP. The nouns in TP and their combinations with adjectives expressing the

meaning of action have undergone. The adverbial system [Lutin 2008: 178]. This is also supported by the fact, that in English, when the preposition "in" is used, the instrumental connotation of the meaning, present in Russian is obscured. Moreover, there is a certain constancy in English equivalents, where the action is separated from other instrumental meanings more clearly than in Russian, because the preposition "in" is used with the preposition in, which is different from prepositions that actualize strictly instrumental meanings. The way of action (manner) and instrumentality is regarded as rather similar and having in common have common features in some contemporary studies [Mari 2006]. In addition the TP of a way of action can pass to the position of a subject with some a tinge of metaphorical хриплым голосом проговорила —> ее хриплый голос проговорил — her coarse voice said', which confirms its right to be represented as a secondary event generator.

An additional fact in favour of the proximity of the concepts of instrumentality and the example (24) is an additional fact in favour of the proximity of the concept of instrumentality (manner). It contains a TA with the meaning of an instrument, which, when translated into English, required the preposition "in" and was transformed into the meaning of the way of action.

- (22) хриплым голосом проговорила said in a hoarse voice
- (23) под этим опять тем же превосходным почерком and again in the same excellent hand
- (24) Цыбукин заплатил им не деньгами, а товаром Tsybukin paid them not **in** money but in goods The preposition "at" is used mainly to actualise spatio-temporal relations. However among its meanings are the causal sense and the sense of action. In (25) the form "thought" causes consolation, i.e. it is the cause of the state of the subject. The Collins Handbook of Prepositions defines this meaning as follows: "The preposition "at" is used to indicate what causes a reaction in someone" [Sinclair 2004: 41]. Example (26) contains the TP in the sense of an image of action: 'go in stride'. To indicate the speed of movement, the preposition "at" is used in
 - (25) тешил себя мыслью rejoiced at the thought

the AFL, which corresponds to this TP meaning.

(26) поехали шагом — they moved at a walking pace

Based on this analysis, we can conclude that in English instrumental meanings are distributed over various prepositions. These different semantics of prepositions together constitute an important part of means of the English language to express instrumental relations. The list of prepositions presented in this paper is, of course, not an exhaustive description of these means. It is only a part of the English language arsenal for actualizing instrumental relations. Nevertheless, our observations are interesting for To understand how case relations are actualised by the means of the English language.

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