

COMPLEX PREPOSITIONS IN ENGLISH UNDERGOING
SEMANTIC CHANGES

Ergasheva Ziyoda Abdurasulovna
Independent researcher SamSIFL

Abstract

The article characterizes the semantic peculiarities of complex prepositions in English. Moreover, it clarifies the semantic changes that have happened within the structure of complex prepositions with causal meaning in present day English.

Keywords: auxiliary words, anthropocentrism, subjectivization, context-related, pragma-semantic directions, logical reality, unit-complex.

In modern English, a preposition has an abstract lexical and grammatical meaning, it is a group of auxiliary words that shows a certain relationship of the controlled component to the controlled component, is part of a certain part of the sentence in the inflectional form, and forms a subordinate relationship between objects, object, and action, object and sign in the structure of the phrase [9; pp. 221-222]. The importance of the work is that it identifies the distinguishing features of prepositions and describes all the meanings of prepositions in modern English, and also shows the relationship between the meanings of each preposition within the cognitive approach. Determining the connections between meanings allows us to determine the semantic properties of prepositions in English.

The combination of the direction of anthropocentrism with subjectivization can be seen in the semantic development of the noun reason in the complex preposition. Here the speaker's attitude to the situation or event is combined with the description given to him. It is known that the concept of subjectification was introduced by Elizabeth Traugott to determine the causes and directions of regular semantic changes [19; pp. 31-55]. Later, the scientist interprets the phenomenon of subjectification as a form of metonymy and notes that semantic changes occur as a result of the actions of three main principle mechanisms of grammaticalization. These principles, which have a semantic-pragmatic nature, take place in the following directions [20; pp. 208-209]:

1. The meaning based on the description of external situations changes depending on the internal (evaluation, perception, cognitive) meaning.
2. The meaning reflecting the external and internal features of the described situation becomes a context-related and metalinguistic assessment.
3. The meaning reflects the subjective attitude of the speaker to the proposition.

In particular, the participation of the word reason in the composition of the complex preposition can be explained by the analysis of the examples recorded in the Oxford English Dictionary [17]:

a) creating conditions for denying a person a certain action or work procedure:

This is not the reason for the venue hiwi I sell an ere hope and silence (Anchr. r.75, 1225);

"This is now the reason why I sell puts together hope and silence."

b) the reason or motivation for adopting any action or procedure:

Another reason... mouth more me ther to that the king... Mid vnritz halt this kin dom (R. Glouce,

1297);

"Another reason... more me to that king... mid-illness stops ruling this kingdom".

c) reason for something or action:

For Hiz resin that zee hane hard, man is clepid the less world (Cursor M. 1300).

"For this reason that you have had, man is called a humble world"

In the first of these sentences, taken from early Middle English texts, the meaning of the word reason refers to external factors or circumstances, while in the second, the motive or reason expressed has an internal character. It turns out that the semantic expansions in these cases occur within the first of the above-mentioned pragma-semantic directions. More precisely, the meaning based on the external situation becomes the meaning describing the internal situation. Also, the semantic development observed in these examples causes a metaphorical shift. Because, while *reason* in sentence (a) represents real reality, in a sentence (v) this element refers to logical reality, that is, motive and basis. Here the meanings of "reason" and "real basis" are connected with the new meaning.

In the same way, it is known that the meaning of "the basis or motive that urges a person to a certain direction and order of action" expressed in a sentence (v) has expanded to the level of the meaning of "a basis, a reason that does not depend on a person" in a sentence (s). The following examples are also taken from the Oxford English Dictionary [17], in which a new linguistic unit-complex preposition is formed when the word reason is combined with a preposition:

1) reason "a ground of, for something":

For this reason that zee hame hard, man is clepid the less world (Cursor M., 1300);

"For this reason that you have had, man is called a humble world".

2) because of "on account of, because of":

The ryche is referenced because of his riches (Lange, 1393);

"The rich man is revered because of his wealth."

From this example, it can be understood that the word "reason" was involved in the formation of the complex preposition "because of" after undergoing various experimental semantic changes.

Another complex preposition - the formation of the structure "owing to" is connected with the occurrence of metaphorical and metonymic shifts. Linguists define the phenomenon of metaphor as "transferring the name of an object, event, feature to another based on their similarity" [7; p. 192] or "understanding and experiencing one kind of thing in terms of another" [16; 5-p.] are described in the content. Metonymy, in turn, is "the replacement of one word with another based on their semantic similarity" [7; p. 196] and is defined as a Metonymic transfer based on the relationship between two objects or events. The difference between these two phenomena is manifested in the fact that metaphorical transfer causes the change of ontological signs, while metonymy does not have such an opportunity.

We can see the expansion of the meaning of the word "owing" based on metaphorical and metonymic shifts in the example of the following sentences:

a) to be under obligation to pay or repay (money or the like):

e.g. Geld tha et aht to geldanne (Lindisf Gosp. Matt.m, 950);

"Money that you owe".

b) to be indebted in:

He is wise that payeth that he oweth of right (Caxton Fables of Alphonse, 1484);

"He is wise so that he pays what he owes of right."

c) to be under obligation to render (obedience, honor, allegiance, etc.):

The people owe obedience to the prince (LD. Bernes, 1533);

The people owe obedience to the prince.

The semantic changes observed in these examples cited in the Oxford Dictionary (OED) [17] are based on metonymy based on semantic relatedness. The meaning of "payment obligation" expressed in the first sentence has taken the meaning of "social and mental obligation" summarized in the last sentence. The semantic expansion has also led to metaphorical migration. As a result, the word owe has become ambiguous. The owing element used in the adjective form covers the meanings expressed in the three sentences. Evidence of this can be seen in the following examples:

a) to be indebted (to a person for something):

I am greatly indebted to your lordship for your last favor (Pepys Corr., 1678);

b) attributable to, caused by:

The effect is due to the presence of light (Sir H. Davy, 1812).

From these examples, the development of the meaning of the first owing element "indebtedness" in the form of "attribution" in the next example affects the syntactic and logical structure of the sentences. Such spiritual shifts motivated the creation of the complex preposition "owing to". Compare:

Owing to his natural disposition to study he had been bred with a view to the bar (Scott 1814);

This rendering obtained currency owing to the untoward circumstances of the times (Lightfoot. 1865)./

In addition, the meanings of "indebtedness" and "attribution" continue to expand, ending with the emergence of the meaning of "causality". The analysis of the above-mentioned examples testifies that semantic changes occur not only based on meaning connection (metonymy), but also based on metaphorical movements. The question of the participation of metonymic and metaphorical movements in the process of grammaticalization has been discussed by several linguists. As a result of such research, scientists recommended the "metabonomic-metaphorical" model of semantic changes [13; 15].

CONCLUSION

Thus, it can be concluded that the spiritual changes that took place in the template are mainly anthropocentric, through which events are evaluated only from the point of view of the values that are important for a person. In this case, it is observed that semantic changes occur mainly in connection with a person's personality, outlook, and mentality. Semantic changes occur not only based on the connection of meanings but also based on metaphorical shifts. The semantic change of prepositions with complex content is the result of the subjective thinking of a person.

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