

ABSTRACT

Graduation Level of Proficiency Paper

Master's Degree

Title: Cognitive-Semantic Features of English Locative and Temporal Prepositions

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Topical Importance: Cognitive approach to the analysis of various parts of speech has become very topical in the present-day linguistics. While cognitive-semantic description of the English prepositional system is one of the most disputable. Receiving a complex description of two groups of the most frequently used prepositions (locative and temporal) would be most helpful in overriding these controversies.

Goals: description of cognitive-semantic structure of English locative and temporal prepositions and building up their cognitive-semantic models.

Tasks: giving an outline of theoretical discussions on categories of space and time in philosophy and linguistics; analyzing locativity and temporality and presenting their cognitive-semantic models; highlighting the linguistic means of expressing locativity and temporality.

Theoretical value and practical applicability: The research maintains serious perspectives for the future cognitive studies of categorization and classification of lexicon. Cognitive models of English prepositions enumerated in the work might be of great help in teaching students correct usage of these functional linguistic units and in perceiving the system of cognitive mapping on the syntactical and morphological level.

Results: Semantic decomposition and cognitive modeling opens wide prospects to cognitive analysis of lexico-grammatical classes of words and provides the cognitive models of temporal and locative prepositions, enumerating their prototypical cognitive-semantic features: extent, sequence, continuity, minimality, relatum proximity, certainty, uncertainty, relativity, location on the horizontal and vertical scale and limitedness,.

Implementation advice: The results of the paper may be used in the seminars in theoretical grammar (topics: functional parts of speech, syntactic relations within the sentence), in lectures on cognitive linguistics and cognitive analysis of the text, and also in classes on practical grammar to improve students' knowledge of the prepositional usage.