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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**THE CONCEPTUAL ANALYSIS OF PREPOSITIONS
IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND
THE CATEGORY OF CASE
IN THE AZERBAIJANI LANGUAGE**

Speciality: 5714.01 – Comparative historical and
comparative typological linguistics

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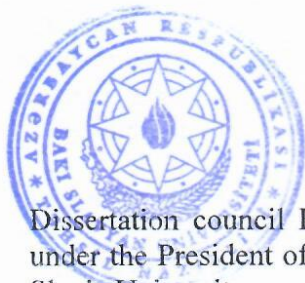
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GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WORK

The urgency of the theme and the extent of its research.

There is a growing need for research in a number of areas of science, including typological linguistics in connection with the globalization process that surrounds us today. It is crucial to conduct research based on factual materials of the English and Azerbaijani languages, which belong to completely different language groups in terms of both genealogical and morphological structure. One of the noticeable differences between the morphological structure of the English and the Azerbaijani languages, which are languages of different systems, is the presence of a group of words, i.e. prepositions in English, that does not exist in the Azerbaijani language.

Linguistic analysis shows that if a means in one language system does not exist in another language system, it may correspond to another means of expression. To be much more precise, prepositions which is peculiar for English have something in common with the case suffixes in Azerbaijani.

It is known that the transition of the historically synthetic English language to the analytical structure was accompanied by a gradual decrease in the number of cases. Two case forms exist in modern English - the Common case and the Genitive case. With the exception of the Genitive case, relations between words in a sentence are expressed by the help of prepositions.

The cognitive approach opens up new possibilities in the study of prepositions and case suffixes. Prepositions and case suffixes, together with the word to which they belong, play a major role in establishing a direct connection with other words, including the expression of the concepts of possession, time, space and object. The dissertation is also of great interest in terms of studying a language variability in the verbalization of these concepts. The study of the category of case in the Azerbaijani language from the conceptual point of view, the analysis of the features of its expression with its English counterparts, the revealing similarities and differences between these two means condition the urgency of the dissertation.

The contribution of research in the field of cognitive linguistics to the development of world linguistics is undeniable. The issue how the semantic layer of the language is reflected in the minds of native speakers has drawn attention of a number of world linguists, as well as researchers conducting research in this area in our country. Unfortunately, in most cases, conceptual research is not conducted on a comparative basis, but on materials of a single language. The analysis of two different word groups - prepositions and case suffixes is carried out from the angle of cognition, in a complex plan, and comparative aspect for the first time in the dissertation.

The object of the research is the prepositions in the English language and the category of case in the Azerbaijani language, which belong to different genealogical and morphologically different language families.

The subject of the research is a conceptual analysis of English prepositions and the category of case in Azerbaijani. Thus, the conceptual analysis of the characteristics of different means of verbalization belonging to different systems of languages is one of the urgent issues of modern linguistics.

The main goals and objectives of the thesis. Investigating the conceptual nature of English prepositions and noun suffixes in the Azerbaijani language, including their means, revealing their allomorphic and isomorphic features during the conceptual analysis of both means, clarifying the essence of the concepts studied from the point of view of the cognitive linguistic and the interpretation of linguistic problems in this field can be considered one of the main goals of the scientific work. In order to achieve these goals, specific tasks are envisaged:

- to present a scientific picture of the concepts that act as an element of human knowledge about the world, more precisely, the concepts of possession, time, space and object in the languages involved in the research, the English prepositions as a means of verbalization and the case suffixes in Azerbaijani;
- to analyze the expression of the concept of possession in English with the preposition *of* and the case suffix 's, their reflection

in the Azerbaijani language through the genitive case, as well as to identify similarities and differences in the language compared;

- to analyze the verbalization of the concepts of space and time via prepositions and to identify similarities and differences in their verbalization in the Azerbaijani language;

- to show similarities and differences in the realization of the concept of object through prepositions in English and their expression in the Azerbaijani language;

- to substantiate both specific and universal features of the prepositions and the category of case, which are the object of the research, with selected examples from the fiction;

- to identify the factors influencing the formation of conceptual content in prepositional combinations or combinations with case suffixes to clarify their interrelation.

Scientific exploration of the dissertation. Although research in the field of cognitive linguistics is widely carried out in modern times, such works are less likely to be subject to research in Azerbaijan. For the first time, the category of case in the Azerbaijani language and prepositions in the English language are compared from the point of view of the cognitive aspect in this research work. Although prepositions in English, being an inflected language, and the category of case in an agglutinative language, have been studied separately in different aspects, this problem has not been studied comprehensively in the cognitive aspect on the basis of English and Azerbaijani materials. The cognitive study of both means of reflecting the distinctive peculiarities of the interaction of objects in the language with other objects - English prepositions and case forms in the Azerbaijani language provides a basis for moving away from traditional research methods in the study of language that can be considered a conditioning factor. The study of prepositions from the cognitive point of view shows the diversity of language and human relations, the relationship between mental and perceptual processes. Thus, according to cognitologists, prepositions are extremely essential in terms of polysemy and metaphor, and their interpretation can serve as an example for the description of other units, namely saying, the category of case. The study of combinations with

prepositions as well as with case endings in the cognitive aspect reflects a reconsideration of the role of language units in the speech making process while expressing certain types of relations. A comparative analysis of the materials of the unrelated English and Azerbaijani languages, the study of universal typological and specific features in these languages, as well as the classifications presented for the concepts studied in both comparative languages highlight the scientific novelty of the thesis. A comparative study of English prepositions and the category of case in Azerbaijani prompts us to reconsider basic concepts such as possession, space, time, and object, as these concepts embody universal forms of perception of reality.

Theoretical significance of the dissertation. In the construction of sentence models, as well as in the inclusion of their semantic load, prepositions in English, case suffixes in the Azerbaijani language are different means of verbalizations that occupy a leading position in the relational system. The position of the means of verbalization of the concepts of possession, space, time and object, more precisely, the prepositions in English, the position of the category of case in the conceptual system in the Azerbaijani language are defined in this dissertation, and their cognitive analysis is summarized on a theoretical basis. The studied concepts can contribute to the development of comparative-typological linguistics, the study of different means of representation in two languages with different morphological systems, the clarification of common and different patterns in this direction, which can be considered as one of the factors determining the theoretical significance of the dissertation.

The conclusion obtained in the verbalization of these concepts in connection with two different word groups in the verbalization of the studied concepts will contribute to the enrichment of the theoretical foundation in terms of comparative-typological analysis of the English and Azerbaijani languages.

Practical significance of the dissertation. The analysis of the means of verbalization of the concepts of possession, space, time and object, in a sense, also means a description of the grammatical structure of the English and Azerbaijani languages. The fact that a

number of issues in the English and Azerbaijani languages are studied in a theoretical and comprehensive way, including from the theoretical and practical point of view, indicates that it is a research work that will enhance the further improvements in the field of language teaching.

The scientific-theoretical provisions put forward in the dissertation can be used as a source of theoretical and practical resource in subsequent research works on these issues, which in turn can be used in compared languages to describe case relations and, more precisely, their means of verbalization that gives ground for the study of prepositions in English and the category of case in the Azerbaijani language on the theoretical basis. Moreover, the classifications presented for the languages being compared in the research can trigger the comparative study of semantics of the English and Azerbaijani languages. Fruitful results can be obtained by referring various sections of the dissertation, as well as scientific-practical summary while compiling books on cognitive and comparative linguistics, lectures and workshops on comparative grammar and comparative linguistics, by making use of the dissertation as a course book or a supplementary in the process of teaching optional subjects. The aforementioned factors testify the practical significance of the submitted dissertation.

Research methods. In order to convey the role of English prepositions and case suffixes in the modern state of the language, which are the object of research, have been filtered by the descriptive method, and in order to reveal the universal and different features between these different word classes, they have mainly been filtered by comparison-contrastive and comparison-confrontation method. What is more, systematization as well as classification techniques have been applied in the analysis of different linguistic phenomena involved in the comparison. It should be noted that the choice of methods and techniques here is organically related to the goals and objectives set during the research, as well as the object of research.

Main provisions issued for defense:

1. The universal features of the concepts of comparable possession, space, time and object are evident in the research.

Differences in the cognitive system of different languages can make it difficult to understand intercultural and interethnic interactions, but the universality of these concepts plays a major role in overcoming potential problems.

2. Compared languages have specific features to convey the concepts of possession, space, time and object. Cognitive research should take into account two points: features that limit the conceptual content of these language units; features of conceptualization of the surrounding world, situation and objects. One of these aspects is the conceptual content of language units, and the other is the aspect of the conceptual appearance of an object or situation.

3. Since the concepts of possession, space, time, object are universal phenomena, they are reflected in compared languages. Although the languages under discussion belong to different language families and have various morphological systems, they still display some similar patterns.

4. The interpretation of case suffixes in the Azerbaijani language, which is of exceptional importance in the verbalization of the concepts of possession, space, time and object, should go from form to meaning, and the interpretation of words in English should go in both the same and opposite directions.

Name of the organization where the dissertation was completed. The research was carried out in the Department of General Linguistics of Baku State University.

Approbation and application of research. 4 reports have been submitted at international and local conferences. The main provisions of the dissertation have been published in 11 articles in the country and abroad.

The total volume of the dissertation with symbols, including the volume of each structural parts of the dissertation. The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, a list of referred scientific literature and fiction, as well as electronic sources. The introduction consists of 6 pages and 11310 characters, the first chapter is 61 pages and 112233 characters, the second chapter is 50 pages and 89826 characters, the third chapter is 28 pages and 50236 characters, the conclusion is 5 pages and 8953

characters, the list of referred scientific literature and fiction is 18 pages and 28806 characters. The total volume of the dissertation is 173 pages. The total sum of characters, the list of referred scientific literature and fiction excluded is 272558.

MAIN CONTENT OF THE RESEARCH WORK

The “**Introduction**” of the dissertation substantiates the urgency of the topic, including the theoretical and practical significance of the research, defines the goals and objectives, provides information about the extent of the investigation of the topic, scientific exploration of the dissertation, main provisions, approbation and structure of the research.

The first chapter of the dissertation is called “**The expression of the concept of possession through the genitive case and the preposition *of***”. The first chapter consists of four subchapters and five paragraphs. At the beginning of the first paragraph, entitled “**The concept of possession in the cognitive aspect**”, information is given about the concept and its characteristics and it is pointed out that the concept, which is the basic notion of cognitive linguistics, forms the semantic domain of language. Concepts take place in verbal speech in the semantic field, which is realized through language signs, and become an element of it. Undoubtedly, similar and completely different concepts can be found in the conceptosphere of peoples with different mindsets.

A language does not form a concept, but rather than it mediates the coding, exchange and representation of information about the concept in the process of communication. The concept is embodied in language signs. Concepts exist in the individual’s mentality, and their verbalization is necessary for the realization of the communication process. Concepts become verbal through language units – words, phrases, whole sentences and full texts and become an element of the semantic field. This paragraph also includes comments on the concept of possession. There is a narrow and broad interpretation of the concept of possessive relations in the linguistic

literature. Interpretation of possession relations implies two participants in this relationship – the subject and the object of possession. The subject of possession may be a human being, as well as all living beings and inanimate objects. The object of possession may include nouns identifying the subject or a person, as well as events related to the subject, its qualities, and various abstract notions. In the two languages being compared, the means of verbalization of the concept of possession, like other concepts, take into account the characteristics of the given language, and is subject to certain regularities.

In this chapter, against the background of the concept of possession, in English *combinations with preposition of* – **y + (of x)**, *syntactically indivisible combinations* – **y + of x's**, *genitive case* – **x's + y**, *the absolute form of the genitive case* – **x's + y**; in Azerbaijani *the definite genitive case, the indefinite genitive case and the independent form of the genitive case* are studied.

The second subchapter of the first chapter, entitled “**The role of the prepositions in English**” analyzes the role of prepositions in the grammatical structure of the English language, the presence of lexical meaning in them, as well as grouping them according to the meanings they express, and so on. In modern English, with the exception of the genitive case, the existing relations among words in a sentence are expressed through prepositions.

It is known that the transition of historically synthetic English to the analytical structure was accompanied by a gradual decrease in the number of cases. There are two cases in modern English – the common case and the genitive case. In modern English, prepositions complete the system of cases to some extent, as they have a lexical meaning as well as a grammatical meaning, i.e. a unifying meaning. Owing to the unifying meaning, prepositions play an important role in connection with other words. Differentiation of relations expressed through prepositions is considered grammatical differentiation, in other languages it is given by inflection, no one realizes that this inflection has a lexical meaning. It is assumed that any relationship expressed through prepositions has a grammatical character, which can be applied to all prepositions. Some linguists believe that

functional parts of speech, especially prepositions, have both lexical and grammatical meanings.¹

The study also touches on the grouping of prepositions under different headings, which is one of the most controversial points in English studies. They tried to divide the prepositions into certain groups according to the shades of meaning they expressed together with the prepositions to which they were related (nouns or other words which are the syntactic equivalent of the noun). It should be noted that all classifications based on the expression any meaning of prepositions in English are conditional and can be considered valid only for a certain group of prepositions. In order to avoid possible problems with prepositions and their meanings in modern times, research is conducted on certain groups of prepositions or on separate prepositions.

Although the issue of the existence of lexical meaning in prepositions is of a fundamental nature, it has not been unanimously agreed upon yet. Considering prepositions as the most difficult linguistic phenomenon in speech, N.Valiyeva emphasizes the importance of prepositions in the expression of syntactic connections and shows that although they complete the category of case, they cannot be said to be exactly the same because they have a lexical meaning in addition to the unifying grammatical meaning.² Of course, at this point we think the author is right. Thus, prepositions that have a lexical-grammatical meaning and are formed as separate words cannot be equated with case suffixes.

We do not accept the idea that prepositions have no lexical load, because prepositions that have a certain function in the process of communication also have a certain semantic load. We agree with all the authors who show that there is a lexical meaning in prepositions, and we substantiate our opinion in this way: a) from the point of view of cognitive semantics, semantics is behind every

¹ Иванова, И.П. Теоретическая грамматика современного английского языка / И.П.Иванова, В.В.Бурлакова, Г.Г.Почепцов. – Москва: Высшая школа, – 1981. – 284 с., с. 93.

² Vəliyeva, N.Ç. Müxtəlif sistemli dillərdə feili birləşmələrin tipoloji təhlili / N.Ç.Vəliyeva. – Bakı: Avropa nəşriyyatı, – 2008. – 862 s., s. 141.

language sign (whether it is a notional or functional part of speech); b) based on the idea that prepositions that make up the functional parts of speech have a function, we can say that they also have meaning; c) if prepositions lacked lexical meaning, it would be possible to replace one preposition with another.

Under the paragraph “**The role of the preposition *of* in the expression of the concept of possession**” in modern English, the features of the development of the preposition *of* expressing the concept of possession in parallel with the genitive case suffixes are considered. This means of expression is called the analytical case, the second form of the genitive case, or the descriptive equivalent of the genitive case. The use of the preposition *of* in the literature, one of the most active and ancient words of the English language, dates back to 855.

The preposition *of* is the product of a long historical process of mastering the relations of possession, as well as the various semantic connections of the ancient state of possession in the Middle English period.

The role of the preposition *of* in the expression of the concept of possession has traditionally been limited to inanimate nouns. Both means of conveying the concept of possession – combinations with preposition *of* and combinations with suffix -‘s are widely used in English, and in many cases they can be used in parallel as an optional variant. It is known that optional alternatives are used in the same position and can replace each other. It should be pointed out that they can often replace each other if they have the same syntactic and semantic content. This feature can be observed in nouns denoting both living beings and inanimate objects.

Obviously, it is not always possible to replace these means. Thus, the choice between the suffix ‘s or the combinations with preposition *of* depends on the act of communication, as well as many linguistic and extra-linguistic factors. Explanations of these factors are reflected in this paragraph and are supported by examples.

The paragraph of the first chapter, entitled “**Syntactically indivisible combinations**”, analyzes the features of this type of combinations – **y + of x’s**, one of the means of transforming the

concept of possession in English, and their ability to reveal possessive relations.

Mrs. Brandley had been a friend of Miss Havisham's (Dickens Ch.).

There are three different approaches in English to the explanation of the parallel application of $y + of x$'s combinations with $x + y$'s and $y + of x$ combinations: a) to emphatically emphasize the information transmitted by y^3 ; b) when it is necessary to develop a determinant before y^4 , or c) not to use nouns denoting living beings (people) in combinations with preposition *of*.⁵ The development of all three combinations listed here in the appropriate context, or rather the choice, depends on a number of factors. This paragraph also provides detailed information on the role of syntactically indivisible combinations to verbalize the concept of possession.

The third subchapter of the first chapter, entitled “**The role of the genitive case in the expression of the concept of possession in English**”, deals with the only case suffix, which is another means of expression of the attributive possession in English, its origin and the features of its usage in the language. The “Saxon Genitive”, which expresses the relationship of possession and is characterized by the application of an apostrophe, is the only case suffix remaining from the Old English or the Anglo-Saxon period; The “s-genitive” is termed as “Saxon Genitive” in grammar books, while combinations with preposition *of* are known as “Norman Genitive”.⁶

In the English language, as in the Azerbaijani language, the suffix of the genitive case is of exceptional importance in the synthetic expression of the concept of possession. This subchapter clarifies the points of development of the genitive case suffix 's and

³ Ganshina, M.A. English Grammar / M.A.Ganshina, N.M. Vasilevskaya. – Moscow: Foreign Languages Publishing House, – 1964. – 548 p., p. 183.

⁴ Close, E.A. A Reference Grammar for Students of English / E.A.Close. – Moscow: Prosveshcheniye, – 1979. – 342 p., p. 148.

⁵ Sweet, H.A. New English Grammar, Logical and Historical, part I / H.A.Sweet. Carolina: Nabu Press, – 2001. – 524 p., 33.

⁶ Miller, C. A grammar of modern English for foreign students / C.Miller. – London: Longman, – 1971. – 268 p., pp 40-41.

the preposition *of*, which are considered equivalent in the context of the concept of possession.

One of the most controversial aspects of English studies is the fact that the suffix of the genitive case has traditionally been used only with nouns denoting living beings. However, the following examples give ground to put an end to this tradition:

a) living beings (nouns denoting people, words denoting professional or political activity, words denoting kinship ties, etc.): *The first person upon whom Arthur's eyes fell, as he entered the room where the students' little gatherings were held, was his old playmate Dr. Warren's daughter* (Voynich E.L.).

b) inanimate objects: *He was on one of the company's car* (Dreiser Th.).

c) abstract notions: *After another moment's listening, Joe who was a good judge agreed* (Dickens Ch.).

Looking at the presented groups, including nouns (lexemes), we can dare say that in most studies, the idea of the only usage of the suffix 's with living beings is incorrect, for it can be used with both concrete objects and various abstract notions as well. It should be noted that the usage of inanimate objects is more common in these combinations than in abstract notions.

As A.Smirnitsky rightly points out, the genitive case can be applied to all nouns.⁷ Along with nouns denoting living beings, nouns denoting inanimate objects and abstract notions should be taken into account.

At the end of the chapter, it is stated that the expression of possession is simply a metalinguistic instruction for the listener – the existing connection between the designated and the designating party must be provided by the listener himself in a given context. Thus, it is natural that the same combination can reflect different shades of possession. It should be noted that a similar situation can be observed in the Azerbaijani language.

The paragraph of the first chapter, entitled “**The absolute form**

⁷ Смирницкий, А.И. Морфология английского языка / А.И.Смирницкий. – Москва: Издательство литературы на иностранных языках, – 1959. – 440 с., с. 125.

of the genitive case”, analyzes one of the ways to transmit the concept of possession and in which the second component (the object of possession) is not used. This means of expressing the concept of possession is equivalent to a combinations with suffix ‘s, and there are two types of them: *the anaphoric type and the non-anaphoric type*.

In his research, G.Borshtshanenko distinguishes two groups of a) the anaphoric type: the object of possession can be restored according to the existing context given before (I) or after (II). For example:

(I) *His own misfortune and the family’s and her sacrifice were alike forgotten.* (i.e. *the family’s misfortune*) (Dickens Ch.).

(II) *Mrs. Baker knew of the Kane’s, of Jennie’s history on the North Side, and of the attitude of the Kane family* (i.e. *Kane’s history*) (Dickens Ch.).

b) *the non-anaphoric type* – the object of possession is not given before or after in the existing context.⁸ For example: *St. Patrick’s, St Paul’s*.

The fourth subchapter of the first chapter, “**The role of the genitive case expressing the concept of possession in the Azerbaijani language**” analyzes the role of the genitive case to reveal the concept of attributive possession in the Azerbaijani language, as well as an interesting issue concerning the subject and the object of possession. Thus, when comparing phrases *Zeynab’s book* and *Zeynab’s homeland*, it is possible to see how this framework expands as abstract thinking develops. In the first case, the relationship of possession is determined between the thing and the person who owns it. In the second case, *Zeynab* is not, in fact, the owner of the homeland as a person, the homeland has certain relations with her. It is inadmissible to associate the concept of possession in the logical context only with a human being. Thus, if possession is associated with a person in the first case, then in the next stage, at a higher level of abstraction, an analogy arises, metaphorization takes place. Therefore, we observe that the notion of

⁸ Borshtshanenko, G. *The Form and Function of the Genitive in Late Medieval London English* / G.Borshtshanenko. – Norway: University of Oslo, – 2008. – 182 p., pp 41- 42.

ownership and possession is conditional. Logical and grammatical aspects contradict each other in a sense. When we say *Zeynab's father*, the *father* becomes *Zeynab's* owner in accordance with the meaning of kinship.

The two forms of possession, which differ in form and meaning, are analyzed under the paragraph of “**The definite and indefinite forms of the genitive case**” in the fourth subchapter. Based on the analysis of factual language materials, these combinations verbalizing the concept of possession can be characterized in terms of the presence or absence of the genitive case suffix: a) fixed set expressions denoting specificity, b) fixed set expressions denoting generality, c) expressions with variable nature.

Under the paragraph “**The independent form of the genitive case**”, the features of the isolated usage of the word in the genitive case in Azerbaijani are investigated. As in English, the word in the genitive case in Azerbaijani can be used without the noun that follows it – the subject of possession does not depend on the object of possession. This means to convey the concept of possession takes three forms:

1. The word with the genitive case suffix can be used in the appropriate context without the accompaniment of the dependent word. For example:

Bir açıq de görün, kimin xatasına düşmüşən?

-Kimin olacaq, dostun Şirzadın!

2. When the word taking the genitive case suffix is used with the suffix of the nominal predicate (i.e. predicative), the noun itself becomes the nominal predicate. For example: *Növbəti çıxış dissertantındır.*

It should be noted that in the given examples, in fact, a shortened form of the word combination has been used. Thus, when we restore the word that falls in that phrase (that is, the word in the nominative case taking the suffix of possession), it becomes clear that the suffix of the nominal predicate is not added to the noun in the genitive case, but to the word in the nominative case taking the suffix of possession. For example:

Bu son məktub anamındır → Bu son məktub anamın məktubudur.

2. The word containing the genitive case ending is used in combination with the “-ki⁴” element. G. Kazimov calls this means of expression of the concept of possession a synthetic method.⁹ *Bu kitab onun, digəri isə Familinkidir.*

At the end of the first chapter, the genitive case in both languages and the preposition *of* in English are grouped by 17 meanings and substantiated with selected examples from the literature.

The second chapter of the research, which consists of six subchapters, is called “**The means of expression the concepts of space and time in English and Azerbaijani**”. This chapter scrutinizes the concepts of space and time, that have made people think about them since ancient times; their interrelationships and the ways to verbalize them. The first subchapter, entitled “**The essence of the concept of space in cognitive linguistics**”, examines the linguists’ interpretation of the concept of space and it is noted that, among the cognitive categories space and time are considered to be the most important categories, thus, motion takes place within a certain space and time, without which motion is impossible. The interconnected concepts of space and time are seen in interrelation and together. Time is not perceived without space, so the fact of movement in space is the fact of movement in time. This is how S.Ojegov defines the space: “*Space is one of the forms of infinite development that characterizes size and volume over time.*”¹⁰ The study of the interrelationships of the concepts of space and time is one of the steps towards a deeper understanding of these concepts in the human mind. The second subchapter, entitled “**The expression of the concept of space in English through prepositions**”, analyzes the characteristics of prepositions that express the concept of space in English and substantiates them with examples. This subchapter presents a synonymous sequence of prepositions against the background of the concept of space and shows the prepositions that are cognitively dominant for them.

⁹ Kazimov, Q.Ş. Müasir Azərbaycan dili. Morfologiya / Q.Ş.Kazimov. – Bakı: Elm və təhsil, – 2010. – 400 s., s. 89.

¹⁰ Ожегов, С.И. Толковый словарь русского языка / С.И.Ожегов. – Москва: Азъ. – 1996. – 928 с., с. 85.

In this subchapter, only the prepositions “*in*, *at*, and *on*” are thoroughly analyzed against the background of the concept of space. The reason for choosing only these three prepositions as the object of research is that, unlike other prepositions, these prepositions can express the localization of objects without referring to another object. Each of the prepositions under question “*in*, *at*, and *on*” is analyzed and substantiated by examples covering different shades of meaning of specific space, general space, and abstract space, which are reflected in the classification presented in this subchapter.

One of the interesting features of the concept of space is that in constructions like *from (to / at) + Gordon's, St. Paul's, baker's, florist's*, the words taking 's suffix together with one of the prepositions *at*, *to*, *from* verbalize the concept of space.

The third subchapter, entitled “**The expression of the concept of space in the Azerbaijani language through case forms**”, analyzes the specific features of the cases of dative, accusative and locative and the role of the particle in the realization of spatial relations. In this subchapter, the case forms expressing spatial relations in the Azerbaijani language are grouped by the meanings of specific space, general space, and abstract space and examples are presented:

The second part of the second chapter deals with the concept of time, which is a fundamental concept and always retains its relevance. The subchapter entitled “**The concept of time in the cognitive aspect**” analyzes the concept of time and its interaction with space. It is known that all human activity is closely connected with reality, real time. Time is perceived and expressed differently in each language. To some extent, they depend on the means of verbalization in the language, the rules of the language. The fifth subchapter, entitled “**The expression of the concept of time in English through prepositions**”, examines various prepositions as the means to verbalize the concept of time. In the sixth subchapter, entitled “**The expression of the concept of time in the Azerbaijani language through case forms**”, the specific features of the case forms to convey the concept of time are analyzed and compared.

Taking into account the time conceptsphere of the two languages being compared, the concept of time is studied in the same

classification in English and Azerbaijani in the fifth and sixth subchapters, and a number of interesting conclusions are made about the development of their means of expression. The classification consists of two divisions: the first division has three shades of meaning, and the second division has four shades of meaning.

All shades of meaning reflected in this classification are formed in English only through prepositions and the words they are used with, while in Azerbaijani they are formed with case suffixes added to nouns, and sometimes with case suffixes and particles. Summarizing this chapter, it should be noted that it is not correct to limit any case form or most prepositions only to one concept, as both means can play a leading role in transforming different concepts.

The third chapter is entitled “**The expression of the concept of object through prepositions and case forms.**” The factual materials of the English and Azerbaijani languages are involved in the research, the means of the expression of the concept of object in these languages are considered in detail and a number of interesting results are obtained. The first subchapter, entitled “**The essence of the concept of object**”, contains comments on the concept of object. It is known that object relations are perceived and studied differently in various fields of science. In linguistics, the concept of object refers to the semantic type of syntactic connection in word combinations. In such combinations, the main word is the action, and the dependent word reflects the meaning of object. The second subchapter, entitled “**The expression of the concept of object through prepositions in English**”, analyzes prepositions as a way forward the concept of object. When examining the means of expression of the concept of object in English, it is necessary to take into account the factor that the category of case is poor in this language. Thus, the connection between the verb, as well as its semantic actants, is realized through prepositions, is directly related to the object, and the existence of this object plays a key role in understanding the essence of the sentence.¹¹ Accordingly, it is the

¹¹ Арутюнова, Н.Д. Семантическая структура и функции субъекта // – Москва: Известия АН СССР, Серия литературы и языка, – 1979. т. 38, № 4, – с. 323-334., с. 325.

object that determines the nature of the action. As a result of this action, the object can be created, modified or destroyed. It analyzes the role of the preposition *to* in the expression of the concept of object, which is the most obvious equivalent of the concept of object in the English language. With regard to combinations with preposition *to* it should be noted that they have acquired the meaning of grammatical recipient after their initial spatial meaning.¹²

In the third subchapter, entitled “**The expression of the concept of object in the Azerbaijani language**”, the way to give expression to the concept of object in the Azerbaijani language with case suffixes (dative and accusative cases) is studied. There is a richer basis for the expression of this concept in the Azerbaijani language than in the English language.

Based on the analysis of prepositions and case forms analyzed against the background of the concept of object, as well as, the analysis of the distinctive features of their usage, we can conclude that the same preposition, as well as, the same case form of the noun, depending on the context, can also express the concept of space.

At the end of the chapter, the concept of the object is grouped by 14 meanings in both languages and based on selected examples from the literature.

The “**Conclusion**” of the dissertation summarizes the scientific-theoretical conclusions obtained on the basis of the analysis of prepositions and case suffixes in the verbalization of the concepts of possession, time, space and object considered in the English and Azerbaijani languages:

1. The concept of possession, which is realized in all languages of the world, has always vied for the linguists’ attention as a universal phenomenon. The concept of possession should not be comprehended as a narrow notion, rather than a broad sense. Thus, the subject of possession can be a person, as well as all living beings and inanimate objects. The object of possession may include nouns

¹² Coleman, T., De Clerck, B., Devos, M. Prepositional Dative Constructions in English and Dutch: A contrastive Semantic Analysis // – Helsinki: Neuphilologische Mitteilungen, – 2010. Volume 111, № 2, – pp 131-152., p. 140.

identifying the subject or person, as well as all the happenings related to the subject, its characteristics, and various abstract notions.

2. The verbalization of the concept of possession reveals similarities, differences and specific features in the compared English and Azerbaijani languages. Thus, the existence of various means to transfer possession (in English *combinations with preposition of, syntactically indivisible combinations, the genitive case, the absolute form of the genitive case*, and in Azerbaijani *the genitive case, the definite and indefinite forms of the genitive case, the independent form of the genitive case*) allows the speech to be more fluent and explicitly shows the meaning of the speech. The various means to forward possession strengthen the expressiveness of a language, which indicates its richness and constant development. The use of any tool in compared languages is based on the knowledge of the agent or the recipient, i.e. the choice of means of verbalization depends on a number of linguistic and extralinguistic factors.

3. The expression of the concept of possession with the case suffix is a common feature for the English and Azerbaijani languages. In both languages, the distributive characteristics of the members of the possessive structure are similar. In these languages, nouns expressing possessors precede possessums, and the position of the members of these constructions is fixed, despite the fact that it is not typical for the Azerbaijani literary language, it is possible to observe the displacement of the members in the spoken language.

4. In English and Azerbaijani, the subject of possession is expressed by the genitive case suffix, while the object of possession is used without the suffix in English, whereas it is used with the suffix in Azerbaijani.

5. In compared languages, the relationship between the subject of possession, and the object of possession can also have a logical meaning, and it is opposed to real possession.

6. Studies pursued in this field have shown that possession between the subject of possession, and the object of possession can be conditional, temporary or permanent.

7. There are also specific features for the languages being compared. Thus, in English, possession can be expressed not only by

the synthetic element *-'s*, but also by the analytical tool – the combination with the preposition *of*. Both means of verbalization of this concept are widely used in English, and in many cases they can be utilized as a parallel option. It is known that optional choices are employed in the same position and often can replace each other. Note that this feature can be observed in nouns denoting both living beings and inanimate objects. Of course, it is not always possible to replace one of these tools with the other. Thus, the choice of combinations with suffix *'s* or the preposition *of* depends on the act of communication and many linguistic and extralinguistic factors.

8. Linguistic analysis shows that there are different ways of expressing these relationships when transferring the content of possession from one language to another; the means in the system of one language may correspond to the means in the system of another language. Taking into account the peculiarities of the concept of possession in English with the absolute form of the genitive case and its counterpart in Azerbaijani, the following typological generalizations can be made:

a) In both languages, the genitive case suffix is of exceptional importance in this position.

b) In both languages, it is necessary to have the appropriate context (before or after the sentence in which the means of verbalization is employed) to use the word in the genitive case in isolation independently. Research shows that the nature of possession is sometimes determined by a broad context and situation. Factors, such as presupposition and anaphora should be considered in the study of contextual possession, as they provide a correct perception of the micro-situation of possession.

c) The absolute form of the genitive case in the English language, includes three components – the subject of possession, the object of possession, and the notion of possession itself, and the independent form of the genitive case in the Azerbaijani language independently expresses the concept of possession.

d) In the Azerbaijani language, the concept of possession can be expressed both by (a) the independent form of the genitive case

and by (b) words having the structure “*noun with the genitive case suffix + -ki^A*”.

e) In both languages, when the concept of possession is expressed by this means, the word expressing possession becomes a simple member of the sentence independently, otherwise it becomes a corresponding compound member of the sentence with the word following it.

9. The difference in compared languages while contrasting its ways of verbalization of the concept of possession is that the *syntactically indivisible combinations* existing in English do not have a similar equivalent in our language and the existence of *the indefinite form of the genitive case* in Azerbaijani does not have a counterpart in English.

10. One of the similarities between the languages being compared is that these languages have a universal concept of space. The variety of means of verbalization of spatial relations in different languages is due to the fact that these languages are structurally different.

11. The concept of space in a language, on the one hand, is based on a logical principle and basis common to all peoples, on the other hand, it is related to the specific factors that determine the history of development and formation of the people.

12. Language locatives allow to highlight the specific features of a given language as a means of representing the linguistic landscape of the world. Lexical units with spatial reference in the English and Azerbaijani languages have a leading position. It should be noted that words do not acquire spatial content only within a combination or a sentence. Herein, the lexical meaning of words is one of the key factors.

13. Spatial relations are conditioned by a person’s perception of the world and nature and are formed on the basis of his experience. Taking all these into account, such typological generalizations can be made:

a) In both languages, the concept of space reflects certain features within specific space, general space, and abstract space.

b) The movement of objects indicates a change in spatial coordination, dynamic localization is given in the Azerbaijani language mainly through locative or ablative cases (and partially with other cases), and in English through prepositions. The ability of prepositions to realize the meaning of different localizations is indicated by their polysemy in speech.

c) In English, the absolute form of the genitive case can reflect the concept of possession as well as the concept of space. Constructions where the suffix 's together with the prepositions more clearly demonstrate the concept of space. This feature is not observed in the absolute form of the genitive case, which is the equivalent of the independent form of the genitive case in Azerbaijani.

14. Due to the fact that the concept of time is universal, its means of expression can be found in both languages. A comparative analysis of the English and Azerbaijani languages shows that similarities and differences are observed in the verbalization of the concept of time:

a) In both languages, the concept of time (I) a description of events, actions or situations that take place in the time line, and (II) the expression of the time period (duration of current events, actions or situations) can be explored from various perspectives.

b) While in English the concept of time is expressed through prepositional combinations, in the Azerbaijani language the concept of time is reflected through dative, accusative, locative and ablative cases. To verbalize some shades of meanings of the concept of time, there may be a need to accompany these cases with functional words.

c) The conceptual study of prepositions in English gives rise to the hypothesis that certain passages of time, which embody separate moments from the existence of the world, have different purposes. This is due to the fact that our knowledge and ideas about time are conditional, since a person perceives what is happening as a certain event and connects the discreteness to the flow of time. The same can be said about the Azerbaijani language.

15. Human consciousness conceptualizes the relationships that arise between objects and realities, and the verbalization of these relationships in a language takes place through certain means.

Although the concept of object is expressed through prepositions in English, object relations are sufficiently expressed in this language, albeit in an analytical form, compared to the language in question. Although the prepositions in the transition between the suffix and the word are not a closed system, there is a commonality in the expression of object relations, which depends on the semantics of the prepositions with which the words come into contact. The most obvious English equivalent of object relations in the Azerbaijani language is the preposition “to”.

16. There is a richer basis for the expression of the concept of an object in the Azerbaijani language than in the English language. Due to a large number of means of expression, the groups of meanings found in the expression of the concept of object in the Azerbaijani language are more than in the English language.

17. In the Azerbaijani language, the means of expression of the concept of object are divided into two large groups: the means of expression of object relations, which are directly affected by the action and which are not affected by the action.

The main content of the thesis is reflected in the following scientific publications:

1. İngilis dilində hal kateqoriyasına baxış // – Bakı: Dil və ədəbiyyat, Beynəlxalq elmi-nəzəri jurnal, BDU, – 2015. 4 (92), – s. 36-39.
2. 's sonluğunun tədqiqi tarixindən // – Bakı: Doktorantların və gənc tədqiqatçıların XIX Respublika elmi konfransının materialları, – 7-8 aprel 2015. – s. 371-373.
3. İngilis dilində hal kateqoriyasının tədqiqi tarixindən // – Bakı: “Kitabi Dədə Qorqud və türk dünyası” adlı beynəlxalq elmi konfrans, BDU, – 29 dekabr 2015. – s. 634-638.
4. İngilis dilində hal münasibətlərinə dair // – Bakı: “Tədqiqlər” jurnalı, AMEA-nın İ.Nəsimi adına Dilçilik İnstitutu, – 2017. – № 1, s. 131-136.
5. Azərbaycan və ingilis dillərində yiyəlik hal // – Bakı: Gənc tədqiqatçıların I beynəlxalq elmi konfransı, BMU, – 05-06 May 2017. – s. 804-806.

6. Выражение концепта принадлежности в английском языке формой абсолютного родительного падежа и его эквиваленты в азербайджанском языке // – Дагестан: Вестник Дагестанского Государственного Университета. Серия 2. Гуманитарные науки. Том 32. Вып. 2, – 2017. – с. 53-61.
7. “Konsept” termininin koqnitiv dilçilik müstəvisində şərhı // – Bakı: “Filologiya məsələləri” AMEA. Füzuli adına Əlyazmalar İnstitutu, – 2018. № 3, – s. 117-127.
8. İngilis dilində obyekt konseptinin önlüklər vasitəsi ilə ifadəsi // – Bakı: Elmi əsərlər (dil və ədəbiyyat seriyası) BSU, – 2018. – № 1, – s. 131-136.
9. Sintaktik baxımdan bölünməyən birləşmələr // – Bakı: Dil və ədəbiyyat. Beynəlxalq elmi-nəzəri jurnal, BDU, 2018. – 3 (107), – s. 186-188.
10. Yönlük hal məkan konseptinin ifadə vasitəsi kimi // – Lənkəran: Elmi xəbərlər (humanitar elmlər), LDU, – 2018. – № 2, – s. 43-49.
11. Hal şəkilçiləri zaman konseptinin verballaşma vasitəsi kimi // – Bakı: “Filologiya məsələləri” AMEA. Füzuli adına Əlyazmalar İnstitutu. – 2019. № 1, – s. 179-185.
12. Концепт времени в когнитивном аспекте в английском языке // – Тольятти: Вестник Волжского университета имени В.Н.Татищева, 2019. – № 1 (28), – с. 5-12.
13. Sözünlərinin mənalər üzrə qruplaşdırılması // – Bakı: Humanitar elmlərin öyrənilməsinin aktual problemləri BSU, 2019. № 1, – s. 25-28.
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15. Предлог *to* как средство вербализации концепта «объект» в английском языке // – Екатеринбург: Актуальные вопросы филологической науки XXI века: Сборник статей IX Международной научной конференции молодых ученых, посвященной 90-летию юбилею кафедры иностранных языков. Часть I. Современные лингвистические исследования, УМЦ-УПИ, – 7 февраля 2020. – с. 77-83.

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