

ENGLISH COMPLEX PREPOSITIONS OF THE PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE TYPE

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1. Preliminaries. The aim of the present paper is to draw attention to the existence of an enormous amount of word combinations with prepositional function, whether established, full-fledged prepositions, or occasional, ad hoc combinations used in this way. Judging from the situation in English and Czech, it seems that for various reasons an increase in these secondary (semi-)prepositions is typical of modern languages. Accordingly the problem arises of choosing a suitable range of reliable criteria to sort out the potential prepositional sequences in terms of their respective degree of prepositionalization and to provide a tentative description of this type of preposition, i.e. to outline their formal, functional and semantic properties. While the previous studies analyzed complex prepositions using a limited sample (cf. 130 items in Quirk, Mulholland, 1964), the paper attempts to be as representative as possible and presents a collection of more than 400 potential complex prepositions in English. However, the sheer numbers are a challenge that forces certain restrictions in scope and strategy. Rather than attempting a delicate theoretical analysis the treatment will address the basic task of identifying combinations with prepositional function, their semantic categories and the prevailing formal patterns. In this respect the paper is a rather tentative probe staking out the land to be explored more thoroughly in future. Before presenting the collection of complex prepositions, a brief overview of the relevant facts will be made, covering the general characteristics of the type of preposition described, the criteria of prepositionality and some of the semantic classifications of complex prepositions offered in literature.

2. General characteristics. From a **formal** point of view prepositions can be divided into simple (consisting of a single word) and complex (consisting of two and more words). The group of potential complex prepositions gathered for the purposes of this study consists of a subset of complex prepositions: sequences of three and more words – *prep1* + *complement* + *prep2* – for which the name ‘complex preposition of the prepositional phrase type’, or the **PP preposition** for short, is used. The term PP preposition, in contradistinction to the designation used in *CGEL*

(a three-word sequence or preposition) (1985, p. 669), was adopted to allow for four-word sequences as well (i.e., those including the article).

PP prepositions were chosen for study since they appear to be the most productive and numerous type of complex prepositions. Apparently, this is due to the fact that they are an open-ended category, forming a cline with genuine PP prepositions at one end and free ad hoc prepositional phrases at the other. The abundance of this type is paralleled by the situation in the Czech language where complex prepositions of this type are also by far the most numerous type (see Kroupová, 1985; Čermák, 1996). The gradient character of these sequences requires, however, that reasonably reliable criteria should be used in their determination.

In terms of the **phrase-structure role**, the complex preposition, like simple prepositions, functions as head to the noun phrase which complements it. The prepositional complement again may be a noun, pronoun (except for the subjective form of the personal pronoun) or their syntactic equivalent (*in case of fire/that happening.../two*), a nominal clause (*in spite of what has happened*), or an *-ing* clause (*with a view to being able to buy a house*) – with the exception of *that*-clause and infinitive clause. However, unlike simple prepositions, PP prepositions appear to be somewhat limited in their **syntactic functions** and related semantic range. In general, the syntactic functions of prepositional phrases with simple-preposition heads include those of 1) adverbial (adjunct, disjunct, conjunct), 2) postmodifier and 3) complementation, i.e. object complementation of verbs and adjectives (*to depend/be dependent on*), but also subject complementation of copular verbs (*The object is of great value*). On the other hand, owing to specific semantics, the PP prepositions appear to cluster in adverbial and postmodifying functions (*By way of caution, he told me the difficulties I would face; In contrast to last year, this one has been a success; a roadway in the process of construction*).

2.1. Criteria of prepositionality. When formulating the criteria for distinguishing complex prepositions from free phrases, two sources served as an inspiration, *CGEL* (chap. 9, Prepositions and prepositional phrases) and Kroupová's study. In *CGEL* (pp. 671–2), nine indicators are given of 'syntactic separateness or cohesiveness'. They test to what extent a given phrase (presumed prepositional head-complement sequence) is or is not a separable and variable unit in terms of syntax and meaning (*in spite of* vs. *on the shelf by*). The order and presentation of the criteria have been somewhat changed here to set apart head and complement:

- head sequence (prep1-noun complement-prep2):
 1. variability of prep1 (**for spite of* vs. *under the shelf by the door*)
 2. variability of prep2 (**in spite for* vs. *on the shelf at the door*)
 3. variability of determiner, i.e. in/definite, zero article (**in a/the spite of* vs. *on a/the shelf by*)
 4. variability of sg/pl form (**in spites of* vs. *on the shelves by*)
 5. replaceability of complement by semantically related noun (**in malice of* vs. *on the ledge by*)

6. premodification of noun complement (**in evident spite of* vs. *on the lower shelf by*)
- complement sequence (prep2-complement noun):
7. replaceability by possessive (**in its spite* [=of the result] vs. *on its surface* [=of the door])
8. replaceability by demonstrative (**in that spite* vs. *on that shelf*)
9. omissibility (**in spite* vs. *on the shelf*)

As a tenth indicator, the **lexical criterion of synonymy with a simple preposition** is mentioned. It is then argued that the potential candidates form a continuum between these two poles, 'showing progressively less of the character of preposition and more of the character of a free syntactic construction': *in quest/search of; in/by/through comparison with; in (the) defence of, in her defence, in defence/support of, in keen/stubborn/bold defence of* To these criteria one more might be added – coalescence of prep1 and its complement, viz. *in the stead of > in stead of > instead of* – and the above criterion of determiner variability may be reformulated as involving the variability or absence of the determiner (the latter being an indicator of the advanced idiomatization of the sequence). The interplay of these nine criteria (no single one appears to be diagnostic on its own) is excellently analyzed by Quirk, Mulholland (1964) in terms of matrix classification resulting in five classes. The authors follow up this classification (of diminishing grammatical status from Class I to Class V) with a cross-classification based on the verb-predication relationship between NP₁ and NP₂ including seven types, e.g. 'objective' (*in answer to your question*), 'subjective' (*to the accompaniment of music*) or 'factive equational' (*with the aim of comparing, i.e., the aim is to compare*). This latter classification, in turn, is cut across by a semantic one.

Kroupová's study (1985), later incorporated in *Mluvnice češtiny* ([Czech Grammar], vol. 2, 1986) in condensed form, examines secondary prepositions in contemporary standard Czech. Her secondary prepositions include both simple marginal prepositions and complex prepositions such as defined in *CGEL*. Allowing for the typological differences between Czech and English and differences in grammatical terminology, the similarities in the type and character of complex prepositions are many and, consequently, the criteria Kroupová (1985, 33–36) uses are largely applicable in English too. She mentions the following criteria for secondary prepositions:

Syntactic: a) the preposition relates dominating and dominated clause elements (NP-prep-NP; VP-prep-NP); b) the preposition combines with a particular case of the noun complement (*to stand in the middle of the room* [genitive] vs. **to stand in the middle*); c) relational function predominates over semantic function; d) the preposition cannot function as a clause element or an independent sentence (*to put A in place of B* vs. **to hold A in place*); e) in the NP1-Prep-NP2 sequence the preposition and NP2 are not interchangeable; f) the relationship between the preposition and the agent/bearer of action in the verb is removed (*The charge is \$5 excluding VAT*); g) the

preposition cannot be further modified (only intensified: *at the 0/very beginning of the month*, though compare: *The aim is to explain the mysteries under the (clever) pretext of a narrative*); the new word-class function usually arises in connection with atypical syntactic function (e.g. adverbial function of some temporal nouns resulting in their use as purely relational items). **Morphological**: a) frozenness of form (uninflectedness); b) non-interchangeability and inseparability of components within complex prepositional expressions (with a tendency to become idiomatic units); c) coalescence of the components into one unit with a meaning different from that of each component. **Semantic** – primary criteria: a) the expression acquires meaning only when complemented (*to stand in front of the room*); b) the original meaning of the item functioning as preposition is abstract or it is deconcretized, and contains an element of relationality (*in the sense, in the area of*); c) synonymy with primary or stabilized secondary prepositions, or opposition to them (*excluding/without* vs. *including/inclusive of*); secondary criteria: a) loss of the original lexical meaning (*thanks to* – likewise used with complements expressing a negative cause: *the striker will sit out three matches thanks to his sending-off at Newcastle*); b) possibility of transformation (*They lost the match because their defence was not good* > *Owing to their bad defence they lost the match*). Kroupová also mentions the **necessary conditions** for prepositionalization. She argues that the context a) may enforce prepositional interpretation (cf. *We have particular strength in the area of Caribbean history and culture*, where the original locative prepositional noun phrase acquires an abstract meaning); b) need not enforce such interpretation, nor exclude it; c) may definitely preclude prepositional interpretation (*The measure is in agreement with facts* > *The measure agrees with facts*).

2.2. Semantic classification. Prepositional meanings can be described at various levels of abstraction. An example of a very general classification is Čermák's (1996, 38–41), which divides relational meanings into seven categories subsuming the more specific ones: 1. Identification (vicariousness, comparison to a model, etc.); 2. Classification (class membership, inclusion, exclusion); 3. Qualification (determination of quality, origin, version, aim, purpose, etc.); 4. Specification of action (means, manner, respect, source, result, participation, etc.); 5. Causality (cause, purpose, condition, concession); 6. Localization (location in place); 7. Temporalization (location in time).

Quite a detailed description of prepositional meanings, which was taken as a starting point when classifying the present sample of PP prepositions, is found in CGEL (9.14–59, 9.60–63). In cases where the exact scope of the category might not be clear, examples of prepositions are added: **I. adverbial functions of PPs**: 1. Space (concrete: dimension, positive/negative position and destination, source or negative position, relative position, space, relative destination, passage, direction, orientation, resultative, pervasive; accompanying circumstance: *over a glass of wine*; abstract or metaphorical); 2. Time; 3. Cause/purpose spectrum: cause, reason, motive (*because of, for, from, out of, on account of*); purpose, intended destination (*for*); intended/actual recipient (*for, to, at*); goal, target (*at, to*); source, origin (*from*);

4. Means/agentive spectrum: manner (*in ... manner, like, with, by*); means, instrument (*by, with, without*); instrument, agentive (*with, by, through*); stimulus (*alarmed at, by*); 5. Accompaniment (comitative function: *with*); 6. Support and opposition (*for, with, against*); 7. Having (*of, with, without*); 8. Concession (*in spite of, despite, with all, for all*); 9. Respect (*with reference to, with regard to, as for*); 10. Exception (*except for, excepting, apart from, aside from, excluding*); 11. Addition (*besides, as well as, in addition to*); II. **PPs as complements:** 1. Subject matter (*about, on, over, on the subject of, in connection with, concerning, of*); 2. Material, ingredient (*with, of, out of*); 3. Substance (*from*); 4. Standard (*quite big for, good at*); 5. Reaction (*surprised/glad/laugh/stare/aim at, to one's delight*).

A third classification consulted is that offered by Kroupová in *Mluvnice češtiny* (1986, 210–212). Her account of the meanings of secondary prepositions is valuable for the wealth and diversity of material to which parallels in English can mostly be found: 1. Location; 2. Time; 3. Cause, reason, consequence (*because of, on account of*); 4. Purpose (*for the purposes of*); 5. Concession (*in spite of*); 6. Condition (*in case of*); 7. Means (*by means of, on the basis of*) and manner (manner proper: *in the form of*; comparison/similarity: *in comparison with*; cooperation: *in cooperation with*); 8. Respect (direct: *in terms of*; respect proper: *with regard to*; confrontation/comparison: *in contrast to*; observation: *in the sense of*; consideration: *in consideration of, in the light of*; dis/agreement: *in accordance with*; connection: *in connection with*; exclusion: *without regard to*); 9. Vicariousness, replacement (*in the name of*); 10. Benefit, detriment (*on behalf of, at the expense of*); 11. Exclusion (*with the exclusion of*); 12. Inclusion (*including*); 13. Addition (*apart from*); 14. Abstract delimitation, demarcation (scope: *in the realm of*; belonging: *within the ranks of*; position: *in the forefront of*; state: *on top of*; duration: *as of*); 15. Originator, initiator (*at the hands of, on the part of*); 16. Direct addressee; 17. Identification, qualification (*under the name of, from the position of*); 18. Causal determination; 19. Possession (*in the hands of*).

There are a number of aspects in each of the classifications deserving close analysis. Apart from points of contact and overlaps there are also many question marks: e.g., should abstract spatial and temporal relations be treated together with the respective concrete relations or separately? what exactly is the difference between Kroupová's manner-comparison and confrontation-comparison? etc.

3. Sample analysis. The sample of prospective PP prepositions includes well over 400 items. It took account of the PP prepositions appearing in the original set of 238 complex prepositions (of two and more words) gathered by Věra Pobudová (1998) from two learner's dictionaries, *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* (1995) and *Collins COBUILD English Dictionary* (1995). It was then substantially extended using *Roget's International Thesaurus* (1992) and several dictionaries in electronic form, *Concise Oxford Dictionary* (9th ed., 1995), *Random House Webster's Electronic Dictionary* (1996), *The Oxford Thesaurus on CD-ROM* (1994), *The Oxford English Dictionary* (on CD-ROM, 1994), and others. The prepositional sequences were

checked for their actual use in context and occasionally supplemented from fiction and journalistic texts.

3.1. Criteria of inclusion. Since both sets of the prepositionality criteria offered by *CGEL* and Kroupová, respectively, provide for a prepositional continuum, it was necessary to find a cut-off point beyond which a given PP sequence would be rejected. Basically, such a continuum involves three states: (1) an established preposition (lexicalized, typically appearing in dictionaries); (2) a PP sequence interchangeable with, i.e. functioning as, a recognized preposition; (3) a free phrase superficially reminiscent of a complex preposition whose function in the sentence, however, precludes prepositional interpretation (cf. Kroupová's necessary conditions for prepositionality above).

Ideally, only cases of the first type should figure in the sample. It is difficult, however, if not impossible to ascertain whether a given sequence has reached the final stage of lexicalization or not. What objective indicators do we have? Inclusion in a dictionary? There are limits to the extent dictionaries can reflect the actual state of affairs in a language, and sometimes it may take a long time before a new lexical unit finds its way into a dictionary. Frequent occurrence in speech or in a corpus? How frequent, and in how large a corpus, must a sequence be to qualify, especially when monosemic? It might seem that inclusion of units of the second type will resolve the problem neatly, and take care of the latent true prepositions. However, these phrases necessarily include not only prepositions 'in the making', but also many 'free' sequences whose prepositional function is due to contextual semantic factors only, and may never enter the process of prepositionalization at all. Also, there will be a certain amount of cases of an indeterminate nature somewhere between a preposition-like unit and a free combination.

After considering the options, it was decided to adopt a liberal approach and include phrases of both the first and the second type in the sample. The practical advantage is that this made the checking of 400-odd potential prepositional expressions easier and, more important, feasible (the decisions can be made without reference to other sources). Also, this approach will arguably increase the chances of capturing the existing trends in the formation of new prepositions. In principle, the **essential criteria** following from this approach are: (a) their synonymy and replaceability with a lexicalized primary or secondary preposition (a positive test of prepositional function); (b) inability to function as an independent clause element identifiable as such by a question test (a negative criterion of grammatical, relational function). Because of the large amount of phrases to be tested no systematic attempt was made to determine the degree of prepositionality in the phrases though in problematic cases some additional tests were used (such as the replacement of the presumed prepositional complement with a demonstrative or possessive, omission of the complement, etc.).

Although these criteria cannot distinguish between a lexicalized preposition and a phrase with contextual prepositional function (i.e., potential complex preposition),

the resultant sample does suggest the way in which this particular subclass of complex prepositions is expanding at present. It has to be admitted that sifting through these phrases is a daunting task in which it is easy to go wrong and that the result is accordingly far from perfect. In some cases the collector's enthusiasm may have prevailed over the strict application of the criteria.

3.2. Semantic classification. Classification of prepositional phrases into semantic categories is closely related to the determination of prepositional status. The key to the classification of the complex prepositional sequences is the character of the substitutive primary preposition (or recognized secondary preposition) and of course the meaning of the whole phrase. In prepositional phrases introducing an adjunct (but also other functions), a further indicator is the question test and/or paraphrase by a clause.

In keeping with the semantic roles of adverbials, the phrasal prepositions can be divided into six large groups, **place**, **time**, **contingency**, **process** and **respect** prepositions, and one small, **degree**. Unlike place and time prepositions, the other three groups are further subdivided into distinct categories: contingency (cause-reason, concession, condition, purpose-goal), process (manner, means-agency, guidance, participation-cooperation, agreement, disagreement-contrast), respect (respect/disregard, support, connection). The seventh group called **delimitation** subsumes a heterogeneous mixture of specific categories: addition/exclusion, benefit, detriment, originator, possession, replacement, subject matter and, finally, range and identification. The last two were singled out for their appositive nature, i.e., the noun within the PP preposition is superordinate to the actual noun complement and can usually be replaced with the initial primary preposition (*at a distance of 100 yds > at 100 yds*). Categories designated by two terms connected by a hyphen represent closely related coalescent meanings, terms separated by a virgule stand for a category combining antonymous units. There is no stylistic or variety labelling as the necessary information was not available.

To avoid extensive hierarchical arrangement and simplify search for a specific field of meaning, the twenty-five categories are presented alphabetically regardless of the larger groupings in the following order: addition/exclusion, agreement, benefit, cause-reason, concession, condition, connection, degree, detriment, disagreement-contrast, guidance, identification, manner, means-agency, originator, participation-cooperation, place, possession, purpose-goal, range, replacement, respect/disregard, subject matter, support, time. Prepositions within the categories are alphabetized according to the noun. In keeping with the chief aim of the study, i.e. to collect as much material as possible for subsequent research and, hopefully, more refined analysis, the **complete sample** of semantically classified sequences, each one matched with an illustrative sentence, is given in **Appendix** (together with their alphabetical list according to the noun).

3.3. Results. Analysis of the collection of the potential complex prepositions resulted in the final sample which consists of 444 prepositional units. In many cases

these units subsume variant forms, i.e., in the basic *prep1-NP-prep2* pattern, there may be two or more alternative prepositions in both *prep1* and *prep2* positions (*on/upon/under* *pain of*; *at odds with/over*), the NP may occur with a definite, indefinite or zero article and in singular or plural forms, modified or unmodified. However, there is no unit alternating in both *prep1* and *prep2*. The variants are subsumed under a single prepositional lexeme because the alternating prepositions are synonymous. As was mentioned above, stylistic and variety differences as well as the temporal dimension (a number of the sequence, it appears, have been around for centuries) are disregarded as their systematic specification was impossible.

Table 1 below summarizes the absolute figures for each category. It shows two things: (a) the 444 prepositional units appear 473 times in these categories, and (b) the most frequent semantic categories – place, cause-reason, range, time, purpose-goal and respect/disregard – are representative of all six large groupings of prepositions. It should be pointed out that two of the categories – cause-reason and purpose-goal – are closely related and that the category called range has close links to the place and time categories:

Table 1 Frequency of semantic categories

place	76	agreement	23	identification	14
cause-reason	50	manner	21	guidance	12
range	43	means-agency	19	concession	8
time	42	participation-cooperat.	19	subject matter	7
purpose-goal	36	disagreement-contrast	18	support	7
respect/disregard	26	replacement	17	condition	6
addition/exclusion	5	detriment	5	possession	2
benefit	5	connection	4	total	473
degree	5	originator	3		

For this reason the semantic distribution of the prepositional units is better reflected when the 25 categories are joined under their respective larger grouping:

Table 2 Frequency of semantic groupings of categories

process	112	23.8 %
delimitation	101	21.4 %
contingency	100	21.4 %
place	76	15.7 %
time	42	8.7 %
respect	37	7.9 %
degree	5	1.1 %
total	473	100.0 %

But even these figures provide only general tendencies rather than give a precise picture, on account of the semantic fuzziness of the categories. There is a very thin line between the cause-reason and purpose-goal categories in some cases, and some of the prepositional sequences of time are very close to cause and place phrases. The

heterogeneous group called delimitation, in particular, includes categories wherein the PP prepositions could, ultimately, be related to other categories – viz. the range sequences assignable to the place and time categories (in the abstract but sometimes even the concrete sense).

Still, the overall proportion of the five largest groups to one another will not change dramatically even should the delimitation group be partly dissolved among the others (or disregarded because of its heterogeneity). The process group – broadly describing the manner in which an action takes place – is definitely the largest, closely followed by the contingency group, expressing various modes of causation. The third group is that of place relations, while the remaining two are of roughly the same size.

It would be logical to interpret the relevance of these proportions with reference to the closed-class simple or primary prepositions. However, owing to the large polysemy of primary prepositions (cf. the 15 senses for *in* and 17 for *of* given in OALD), which obscures their semantic distribution, no statistics of this type are available for them. Yet of the five groups the most significant is the contingency one whose representation among the primary simple prepositions can, even by a rough estimate, hardly be as substantial as it is in this sample.

This surfeit of contingency strings in particular seems to correspond to the explanations offered for the proliferation of secondary complex prepositions, namely the increasing stylistic differentiation within language combined with the need for the accurate expression of abstract relations, a tendency described as the ‘intellectualization’ of language. While the increase in contingency prepositions may be interpreted as resulting in more emphasis on the causal structure of the utterance and thus as contributing to greater internal cohesion of the text, the increase in circumstantial prepositions, i.e. those of process, place and time, appears to be dictated by the desire for greater explicitness of the relations expressed. In some cases the specific meaning of the PP sequence seems to entail curtailment in combinability. Prepositions of the respect group, on the other hand, highlight the element they introduce and thereby invest it with greater prominence and importance.

The explicitness due to semantic redundancy (cf. *within the bounds of reason* and *within reason*, where *within* = *bounds*) can be documented by the fact that many of these prepositional sequences are replaceable by a simple primary preposition introducing the sequence without changing the meaning. A similar effect results from the appositiveness of the noun phrase within the complex PP preposition with regard to the following noun complement (cf. *they live on the allowance of 500 dollars, 500 dollars* = *allowance*). Also here the initial primary preposition may substitute for the whole complex (*they live on 500 dollars*).

As the complex preposition evidently serves to give clear unambiguous information, it may be expected that in contrast to simple, heavily overworked prepositions it will have little room for **polysemy**. Indeed, since the 444 prepositional units figure 473 times in the semantic categories, it means that the PP preposition is used in more than one sense in only 29 cases, i.e. 6.1%.

3.4. Formal patterns. The prepositional units (comprising all alternative forms) are useful for semantic analysis. In order to ascertain productive formal patterns obtaining with PP prepositions, however, all their variants need to be taken into account as well. In the 444 units of the sample, the number of distinct formal sequences was found to be 480. The findings summed up in Table 3 reveal that in the 480 prepositional strings only 28 simple prepositions are used. There is only one case when the simple prepositions combine to form a complex one: *out of*.

Table 3 Frequency of simple prepositions in the sample as prep1, prep2 and in general

	prep1	prep2	total								
of	16	366	382	under	18	–	18	outside	3	–	3
in	195	–	195	out	15	–	15	<i>en</i>	2	–	2
with	19	52	71	as	12	–	12	along	1	–	1
on	52	–	52	through	12	–	12	among	1	–	1
to	22	25	47	from	5	4	9	over	–	1	1
at	41	–	41	beyond	8	–	8	since	1	–	1
for	14	22	36	without	7	–	7	till	1	–	1
within	31	–	31	after	3	–	3	unto	1	–	1
by	23	–	23	against	2	1	3	upon	1	–	1
				during	3	–	3				

The most frequent preposition *of*, appearing 382 times in all, of which twice in the combination *out of-NP-of* and once in the combination *of-NP-of*, thus figures in 379 complex PP prepositions, that is in 79% of all PP prepositions. In other words, 4/5 of PP prepositions comprise *of*: a fact clearly due to the grammatical function of this preposition (postmodifying *of*-phrase). The second most frequent preposition *in* appears in 40.5% of the PP prepositions, etc. The preposition *of*, moreover, is almost always used at the end of the complex PP preposition (no doubt due to its genitive function). It appeared just once in the initial position (*of.the order of*), otherwise only as part of the complex prep2 *out of*.

In fact, of the simple prepositions in the sample only seven are found in the prep2 position: *of, with, to, for, from, over, against*. Two of them are used in this position exclusively, or almost exclusively (*of, over*), three predominantly (*with, for, from*), in two the distribution is even (*to, against*). As a result, the repertory of prepositions in prep1 and prep2 positions is even more restricted.

There are two things to note about the distribution: the 28 simple prepositions are quite a limited subset of the total of productive simple prepositions in English (some 70 prepositions are mentioned in *CGEL*) and, consequently, the ratio 28 : 480 of the simple to complex prepositions in the sample appears vastly disproportionate. This disproportionality (even greater with the 26 initial primary prepositions) only serves to underline the fact that the weight of semantic signification is on the nominal complement in the prepositional sequence rather than on the simple prepositions themselves.

However, it is even more interesting to consider the prep1-prep2 combinations displayed by the complex PP prepositions. There are 48 different combinations

altogether in the sample. As Table 4 shows only five of the combinations account for almost 60% of all complex prepositions. Adding eight more (i.e., those occurring at least ten times in the sample) brings the number to 13 combinations which between them cover 82.5% of all PP prepositions under analysis. Finally, 19 combinations (those appearing at least five times) account for nearly 9/10 of the sample. The most interesting finding is, however, that one single combination (*in-of*) is the basis of 25.9% of all PP prepositions in the sample. In Quirk, Mulholland's sample of 130 sequences it was even 47, more than one third (1964; p. 66).

Table 4 Formal patterns: prep1-prep2 combinations in the sample occurring at least 5 times

in-of	124		25.9%	through-of	13		
on-of	47			with-of	12		
in-with	40			to-of	10	395	82.5%
at-of	36			beyond-of	8		
within-of	30	277	57.8%	as-of	6		
by-of	21			out of-with	6		
under-of	18			with-to	6		
in-to	17			from-of	5		
for-of	14			as-for	5	431	90.0%
in-for	13			total		480	100.0%

Actually, what Table 4 does is to provide a list of formal models of complex PP prepositions in order of their productivity. It shows that the number of patterns is very small indeed on which the existing complex prepositions have been formed and, just as important, are likely to be formed in future. In fact, if a new complex PP preposition is going to appear, the probability that it will be of the *in-of* type is 26%, the probability of the combination being *in-of*, *on-of*, *in-with*, *at-of*, or *within-of*, is 60%, etc.

It can be hypothesized that – in conjunction with the adverbial function of the PP sequence and its complement – the existence of a well-defined range of productive, prefabricated patterns greatly facilitates the creation of phrases with an ad hoc prepositional function, potential complex prepositions. It will also expedite transition from the status of a free combination to that of an institutionalized, and later lexicalized, preposition. To put it differently, with the *right semantic conditions* a free combination of the *in-PP-of* type is strongly predisposed to be used as a preposition, and even to become one. A similar train of thought echoes in Quirk, Muholland's observation that 'since P¹-P² are expounded more often by *in-of* than by any other pair of prepositions, this feature may well have analogical power' (1964; p. 71).

Finally, in view of its frequency, it is not surprising that the *in-of* pattern figures in 16 of the 24 semantic categories. The frequency of such a pattern, combined with semantic universality, gives it great potential which seems to have developed to meet the apparent demand for, and also generates, the ample supply of new complex prepositions in language.

3.5. Prepositionality. No attempt was made to measure the degree to which the sequences in the sample have become prepositionalized as Kroupová does in her study, distinguishing between three stages of prepositionalization (initial, advanced and full). Whether or not a sequence has become (or is perceived as) an advanced or full preposition depends – apart from meeting given syntactic, morphological and lexico-semantic criteria – on the frequency of its use, a factor for which objective data are difficult to obtain.

However, the sample may provide quantitative data on some of the formal criteria:

1. **variability of prep1:** of the 444 units in the sample only 25 have two alternative prepositions, and only two have three prepositions in the initial position (*on/upon/under pain of, on/for/in behalf of* – in the latter case *for/in* is American usage abhorred by British speakers); these 27 cases of prep1 alternation are a mere 6% of the total sample. 2. **variability of prep2:** only 6 units, i.e. 1.4%, have two alternative prepositions in this position (e.g. *in exchange offor, at odds with/over*). 3. **variability of the determiner** in front of the noun phrase: in 17 units, i.e., less than 4%, an alternative determiner is found, typically *the* and zero article (e.g. *for (the) purposes of*); 4. **sg/pl variability in the noun phrase:** this type of morphological variability is present in 7 cases only, 1.6% (the nouns *case, combination, hand, interest, realm, question, matter*), for which various explanations can be found (e.g., congruence in *questions, matters*).

The figures show that prepositional sequences indeed tend to be fixed in form. The instances of variability are numerically insignificant, and the only noticeable variation affects prep1 and the determiner. There are at least two more things the sample shows. Although both *CGEL* and Kroupová exclude the possibility of premodification within the complex preposition, it seems that it may occur either when it is an integral part of the unit (*by the good offices of, within a hair's breadth of, within a stone's throw of*) or at a very low stage of prepositionalization (*Their convertism is done within a small area of the upper class*). Second, in several instances the prepositional sequences appear to allow intensification: *on the very point of, out of all proportion to*.

4. Conclusions. The findings about the PP prepositions support the thesis that complex prepositions compensate for the polysemy of simple prepositions. The multi-word sequences tend to be restricted in meaning (if not monosemous) and both highly specific and explicit through semantic redundancy. The semantic specialization of the complex preposition often seems to go hand in hand with collocational specialization. The periphrastic nature of complex prepositions may also give greater prominence to the relationship expressed.

Although the sample includes practically the whole range of existing adverbial categories, the categories of process and especially contingency are particularly numerous (presumably pinpointing the areas in greatest need of semantic specification). Finally, analysis of the sample has shown that the repertory of simple prepositions participating in the complex PP prepositions is extremely small (both in the initial position, and even smaller in prep2 position). Moreover, there are great

differences between them in frequency of occurrence. What is even more important, structurally complex PP prepositions in the sample are based on a tiny group of productive formal patterns (the *in-NP-of* type accounting for 25% of all sequences in the sample). The development, as it were, has favoured certain formal prototypes with specific adverbial semantics which are predisposed to function and be accepted as secondary prepositions.

APPENDIX

I Semantic Classification of the PP Prepositions (473 items)

- 1. Addition/exclusion** (number: 3/2; substitutive prepositions: *besides, as well as/except for*)
in **addition** to: *in addition to books, the shop sold greetings cards*
with the **addition** of: *made from whole or skim milk with the addition of a bacterial culture*
with the **exception** of: *February which has 28 days with the exception of every fourth year*
with the **exclusion** of: *Some writers have spoken of Rhetoric..., with the exclusion of Poetry alone, as embracing all Prose-composition.*
on **top** of: *a float of \$6 per month on top of Social Security benefits; to pay a tax-free compound rate of 3.54 per cent over five years, on top of index-linking of capital.*
- 2. Agreement** (number: 23; substitutive prepositions: *according to, like, unlike*)
in **accord** with: *Attempts have been made to return to the Fournier point by making it in accord with the new measures.*
in **accordance** with: *pieces that are moved in accordance with throws of the dice*
in **agreement** with: *In agreement with this statement, 'Karyotypus' has been defined as a taxonomical conception,*
in **compliance** with: *to keep my passions neutral, and to marry only in compliance with my reason*
in **concordance** with: *In concordance with Dr Helm's suggestion, the name of Burmite is adopted for the new fossil resin.*
in **conformity** with: *who acts in conformity with the wishes of another*
in **correspondence** with: *numbered in correspondence with the tickets*
in **dependance** on: *to act in dependance on the general opinion*
in **harmony** with: *is carried in harmony with the movement of the cylinder while printing*
in **keeping** with: *His actions are not in keeping with his words.*
in **line** with: *The tote at Ellerslie, in line with the general trend this year, was up 22 per cent.*
out of **line** with: *A 'sound system'..of a complexity and skewness out of line with anything attested by languages known to us.*
in **lockstep** with: *moved in lockstep with the others*
in **obedience** to: *A tree evolves in obedience to God's laws*
on a **par** with: *A calf, a 'novillo'—which true bull-fighters place on a par with a cow.*
all of a **piece** with: *The new measures are all of a piece with the government's policy (?)*
in **proportion** to: *the bunkering trade has increased in proportion to output*
in **step** with: *We need not go in step with the Bishops over the whole ground exhaustively surveyed.*
in **sync** with: *Worldly success depends on being, as it were, in sync with the contemporary scene,*
in **tune** with: *The craftsman ...drilled the thin slabs with the slat-pick ...in tune with the foremanship of the seasons.*
in **unison** with: *to vibrate in unison with the sound*
in **unity** with: *the human will remains in unity with the Divine*
within a **mile** of (= like): *There's no one within a mile of her*
- 3. Benefit** (number: 5; substitutive preposition: *for*; questions: 'cui bono', for whose benefit, etc.):
for the **advantage** of: *All the streets are railed for the advantage of the show.*
for the **benefit** of: *having long laboured for the benefit of mankind; it shall be vested for the benefit of the creditors*
without **detriment** to: *the numbers in custody could very easily be halved without detriment to public safety*

in the **interests** of: *movements acting in the interests of small-scale commercial enterprise; to regulate the conduct of its citizens in the interest of the common good*

in the **service** of: *the children of parents who had lost their lives in the service of their country*

4. Cause-reason (number: 50; including motive; substitutive prepositions: *because of, out of, for, thanks to*; questions: *why?, what for?*):

on **account** of: *she saw it through on account of me*

in **acknowledgement** of: *he was decorated in acknowledgement of his merits*

in **anticipation** of: *secreting saliva profusely in anticipation of appetizing food*

at the **behest** of: *and is finally killed by Hagen at the behest of Brünnhilde*

by/with **benefit** of: *The plainest rustics, if they will not wilfully shut their eyes, may, by benefit of its light, direct their steps.*

at the **command** of: *a vast maze built in Crete by Daedalus, at the command of King Minos*

as a **consequence** of: *radiation emitted as a consequence of a previous absorption of radiation*

in **consequence** of: *a trial was held in consequence of the investigation*

in **consideration** of: *she was offered money in consideration of her efforts*

out of **consideration** for: *(the debt) was honourably incurred by me out of consideration for your house.*

by **courtesy** of: *The films to be exhibited are shown by courtesy of the 'Power Loading' Committee, ...*

out of **courtesy** to: *We ... tasted it out of courtesy to the fair compoundress.*

in **default** of: *in default of any active public opinion there are no movements to abandon the death penalty*

in/out of **deference** to: *she agreed in deference to his wishes.*

by/for **dint** of: *by dint of hard work she became head of the company.*

in **expectation** of: *securities he has bought in expectation of future demands*

in **gratitude** for: *in gratitude for the bequest of Preston, the town council obliged themselves to his son*

in **gratitude** to: *in gratitude unto the duke of Bretagne ...he espoused that quarrel*

on the **ground** of: *made by a priest on the ground of authority received from Christ*

on (the) **grounds** of: *to make objection, esp. on the grounds of scruples*

at the **instance** of: *He applied for the assistantship at the instance of his professor*

for **lack** of: *The job went begging for lack of qualified applicants*

in (the) **light** of: *review the decision in the light of recent developments*

on/under the **pretext** of: *an organized absence from work by employees on the pretext of sickness*

in **protest** against: *a deliberate refusal to eat, undertaken in protest against imprisonment*

in **punishment** of: *were threatened retribution in punishment of their betrayal*

as a **reason** for: *which is offered as a reason for being excused*

by **reason** of: *he was consulted about the problem by reason of his long experience*

in **reaction** to: *In reaction to the public outrages at the 'smash'n-grab imperialism' of the 19th century, business has acquired a sense of social responsibility.*

in **recognition** of: *presented by the pope in recognition of service to the Holy See*

in **recompense** for/of: *in recompense for discomforts endured, the crews draw what is termed 'hard-lying money'*

at the **request** of: *who at the request of his uncle Pelias retrieved the Golden Fleece*

out of **respect** for/to: *Out of respect for the sense of the meeting you tend to soft-pedal ...; we spared him out of respect to the unspottedness of his life.*

as a **result** of: *social position a person gains as a result of personal effort*

in **retaliation** for: *to inflict unacceptable damage on the other in retaliation for a nuclear attack*

in **retribution** for: *advocates the punishment of criminals in retribution for the harm they have inflicted.*

in **return** for: *In return for a rise in wages, they are being asked to take on more responsibility*

at the **reverence** of: *at the reverence of God, ...remember how we stand unto you (?)*

as a **reward** for: *a person appointed to a position as a reward for political support of an elected official*

by **right** of: *any property, esp. land, that devolves by right of inheritance*

on the **score** of: *to complain on the score of low pay.*

out of a **sense** of: *they helped him out of a sense of duty*
at the **suggestion** of: *at the suggestion of Prof. Alfred Newton ...it has been replaced by*
out of **sympathy** for: *Out of sympathy for the homeless children, he gave them shelter for the night*
under (the) **threat** of: *he confessed under the threat of imprisonment.*
in **token** of: *a glove, thrown down by a medieval knight in token of challenge to combat*
by/in **virtue** of *By virtue of independent wealth, he has the advantage of his opponents.*
for/from **want** of: *plants dying for want of rain*
at the **whim** of: *he could be forced to work for another team at the whim of his employer*
at the **wish** of: *was transformed into a white heifer and, at the wish of Hera, first guarded by Argus*

5. Concession (number: 8; typical substitutive prepositions: *in spite of, for all*; paraphrase: *although ...*):
at the **cost** of: *to work at the cost of one's health*
in **defiance** of: *there was a splendid audience in defiance of the rainstorm*
in **despite** of: *he was tolerant in despite of his background and education*
in (the) **face** of: *she persevered in the face of many obstacles*
on **peril** of: *The ambassador warned him on peril of his life to deal no further with such things.*
at the **risk** of: *at the risk of uttering truisms, I may mention that*
in **spite** of: *the text was clear in spite of great conciseness*
in the **teeth** of: *She maintained her stand in the teeth of public opinion*

6. Condition (number: 6; paraphrase: *if ...*; question: *on what condition?*):
in **case** of: *in case of fire, ring the alarm-bell*
under the **condition** of: *Both subjectivity and ejectivity are only known under the condition of being isolated from objectivity.*
in the **event** of: *it inflates automatically in the event of collision.*
on/upon/under **pain** of: *they were forbidden to enter on pain of death (= if they enter, they will be penalized by)*
on/under **penalty** of: *No Tobacco Stalks allowed to be imported on penalty of forfeiture.*
with the **permission** of: *Mr. Forbes would willingly carry a new line along the proposed route..with the permission of the frontagers and owners.*

7. Connection (number: 4; expressing simultaneous occurrence, consideration of things)
in **association** with: *reactions occasionally observed in association with certain infections*
in **connection** with: *has now become famous in connection with the newest school of psychotherapy.*
in the **context** of: *Mary Barton and North and South are often spoken of in the context of social fiction.*
in **relation** to/with: *Neurypnology; or, The Rationale of Nervous Sleep considered in relation with Animal Magnetism.*

8. Degree (number: 5; meaning 'almost' or 'absolutely')
within an **ace** of: *I was within an ace of being talked to death*
to the **extent** of: *preoccupied to the extent of being unaware of his immediate surroundings*
to the **point** of: *He was abrupt to the point of rudeness*
beyond the **shadow** of: *it must be proved beyond the shadow of doubt*
to the **verge** of: *to overwork a mob to the verge of frenzy*

9. Detriment (number: 5; expressing a loss for someone)
at the **cost** of: *suppressed at the cost of considerable bloodshed*
to the **detriment** of: *a sharp lookout for anything that might happen to the detriment of his employer*
to the **exclusion** of: *He spent his spare time gardening, to the exclusion of all other interests*
at the **expense** of: *to thrive at the expense of others*
at the **sacrifice** of: *is produced at the sacrifice of fine flavour*

10. Disagreement-contrast (number: 18; also comparison; substitutive prepositions: *unlike, against*)

out of **alignment** with: *an identical one that is slightly out of alignment with the first*

against the **background** of: *any event is evaluated against the background of the whole class of events*

by/in **comparison** with: *which the authors ingeniously point up by comparison with a passage from Robinson Crusoe.*

in **conflict** with: *Franco-German may even mean 'French in conflict with German'*

in **contradiction** to: *one side becomes warmer and the other cooler, in contradiction to the second law of thermodynamics*

in **contradistinction** to: *used in contradistinction to dominion or power in propriety*

in **contrast** with: *used in contrast with after in various locutions*

in **contravention** of: *Existing in contravention of economic regulations, as the 'black market'*

in **disagreement** with: *declared in disagreement with their party's views*

out of **keeping** with: *she acted oddly out of keeping with her character*

at **odds** with/over: *a raucous on-screen personality that was at odds with his quiet private life, They were usually at odds over political issues.*

in **opposition** to: *whatever can be said in opposition to them*

out of (all) **proportion** to: *bought things out of proportion to his financial means*

at **cross purposes** with: *they are still at cross purposes with each other*

out of **step** with: *Wherefore my feet go out of step with time.*

out of **sync** with: *His watch..was several hours out of sync with the United States.*

out of **tune** with: *they sang out of tune with the orchestra*

at **variance** with: *to treat it as false by speaking of acting at variance with it*

11. Guidance (number: 12; expressing a principle, system governing a process; cf. Agreement)

on the **advice** of: *Pope Gregory XIII, acting on the advice of the Jesuit Clavius*

by/on **analogy** with: *a word formed by analogy with polymorphism; were coined on analogy with other numerical prefixes*

on the **authority** of: *to judge and to decide on the authority of historical monuments*

on the **basis** of: *was created on the basis of the North Semitic letters*

at the **discretion** of: *Used variously, at the discretion of the author, to denote some integer that characterizes the entity being discussed.*

after the **fashion** of: *I was dressed after the fashion of Europe*

on the **model** of: *nuns organized on the model of the Carmelite or White Friars*

in **order** of: *be listed in order of increasing affinity for the chromium tanning complex*

on the **principle** of: *he proceeds on the principle of codifying the actual practice of orthography*

on the **strength** of: *who act on the strength of powers conferred upon them by some act of parliament*

on **terms** of: *officers and privates were to meet on terms of equality*

in the **tradition** of: *This resistance has been passive in the tradition of civil disobedience and of Martin Luther King's philosophy of nonco-operation.*

12. Identification (number: 14; characterized by appositive relationship between the noun in the prepositional complex and the complement; substitutive prepositions: initial preposition or *as*):

on an **allowance** of: *The art student lived on an allowance of \$300 a month*

in the **case** of: *The difficulties of great men are intensified in the case of little ones.*

in **cases** of: *a portable device filled with compressed air and used in cases of asphyxia*

to the **cause** of: *a profound attachment to the cause of peace*

in the **form** of: *exhortation suggests an intensified persuasion, often in the form of a discourse*

to the **memory** of: *days dedicated to the memory of the saints*

under the **name** of: *edicts known under the name of Assizes*

from a/the **position** of: *to withdraw from a position of judging so as to avoid any semblance of partiality or bias*

against the **perils** of: *The Government ...protected them against the perils of violence and rapacity, and ensured them tranquillity and repose*
 in the **person** of: *The art of the 'dip'...reached its climax in the person of 'Diamond Dick'.*
 for the **price** of: *he can get him for the price of twenty sheep a year*
 in the **shape** of: *found a piece of wood in the shape of a head*
 in a **state** of: *Some of the provincial mints were in a state of anarchy.*
 under the **title** of: *The symptoms...have been described under the title of 'peritonism'.*

13. Manner (number: 21; questions: how? in what way?)

to the **accompaniment** of: *to dance to the accompaniment of an accented musical beat*
 under (the) **authority** of: *applied to a body meeting under authority of Congress*
 under the **cloak** of: *He conducts his affairs under a cloak of secrecy.*
 by the **combination** of: *amplitude produced by the combination of oscillations of different frequencies*
 in **combination** with: *used freely in combination with elements of any origin*
 under **cover** of: *they left under cover of darkness*
 in a **fit** of: *she was led away in a fit of extreme nervousness*
 under the **heel** of: *Thus the curtain rings down on Irene Forsyte, crushed under the heel of prosperity.*
 in **imitation** of: *formed in imitation of the voice and pronunciation of children learning to talk*
 in the **manner** of: *woven in the manner of a basket*
 at the **mercy** of: *this arrangement ... leaves us at the mercy of the new Coalition*
 in the **nature** of: *the addition is in the nature of an afterthought*
 under the **nose** of: *They've all been trained to rig up a wireless transmitter secretly, and send messages under the nose of the Gestapo.*
 at the **price** of: *Knowledge of the few widely separated tinajas and springs was bought at the price of many lives.*
 in **reaction** with: *sticky resins derived from dicarboxylic acids in reaction with polyvalent alcohols*
 in **rows** of: *To stitchy is to set up the sheaves, when bound, in rows of stitches.*
 on **security** of: *One who borrows money on security of land*
 in the **semblance** of: *consisting of a slight outward curve ending in the semblance of a cloven hoof.*
 in the **style** of: *music composed in the style of such songs*
 under the **supervision** of: *The bulk of the preparation had...proceeded under the supervision of the Ministry of the Interior*
 in the **way** of: *to which a person is entitled to in the way of pecuniary assistance*

14. Means-agency (number: 19; substitutive prepositions: with, by, without; question: how?):

by the **act** of: *which had been justified by the act of indemnity*
 by/through the **action** of: *disintegrates through the action of the weather*
 by/through the **agency** of: *reaction in which a bond is broken by the agency of water*
 by/with the **aid** of: *a sound articulated with the aid of the tongue*
 without the **aid** of: *that are perceptible without the aid of instruments*
 by (a/the) **decree** of: *foredoomed upon him by decree of God*
 with the **help** of: *to perform the operation with the help of containerization.*
 through the **instrumentality** of: *pyro-chemically formed through the instrumentality of fire*
 through the **intercession** of: *sociogenous responses, those which are learned through the intercession of other persons, are few.*
 through the **intermediation** of: *which determine the contraction of the muscles through the intermediation of the motor nerves*
 through the **intervention** of: *the transition may have been brought about through the intervention of a derived factitive verb*
 by **means** of: *method of secret voting by means of printed or written ballots*
 by the **mechanism** of: *of ideas imposed on it by the mechanism of perception and memory.*

through the **mediation** of: *The enzymic activity of acetylcholinesterase can be photoregulated through the mediation of photochromic inhibitors of the enzyme.*

through the **medium** of: *I could translate it through the medium of the Latin version*

by/through the good **offices** of: *He got the job through the good offices of his uncle.*

by/through the **operation** of: *The further stages in the succession may be brought about by the operation of external factors alone,*

by **use** of: *the separation could have been improved by use of a lower temperature*

through the **working** of: *She shal whilest she is in sleepe imbrace hir husband through the working of this stone. (1567)*

15. Originator (number: 3; substitutive preposition: *from*)

at the **feet** of: *The lessons that he had learnt at the feet of Mazarin.*

at the **hand(s)** of: *the ME. forms have suffered at the hands of bad copyists and editors*

on the **part** of: *Animal Liberation will require greater altruism on the part of mankind than any other liberation movement.*

16. Participation-cooperation (number: 19)

under the **aegis** of: *these basic criteria, drawn up under the aegis of BSI*

in **alliance** with: *Phalangist militiamen now in alliance with the administration massacred at least 30 Christians*

with the **assistance** of: *a Mass sung with the assistance of a deacon and subdeacon.*

without the **assistance** of: *What could he do without the assistance of fixed capital or tools*

in **association** with: *colorful damselfishes that occur in association with tropical anemones.*

under the **auspices** of: *a test for hunters held under the auspices of a hunt*

in **cahoots** with: *Are you willing to work in cahoots with yours truly?*

in **collaboration** with: *English author who wrote in collaboration with her brother*

in **collusion** with: *a crime committed by or in collusion with a person associated with the victim*

in **combination(s)** with: *used freely in combination with elements of any origin*

in **common** with: *have some properties which they possess in common with all the other tissues,*

in **company** with: *When one man works in company with another, he*

in **concert** with: *The envoys did not act in concert with one another.*

in **conjunction** with: *The police, in conjunction with the army, established order.*

in **consort** with: *Jehoram ...began to reign in consort with his father*

in **cooperation** with: *an antibody that in cooperation with complement causes dissolution of red blood cells*

in **coordination** with: *I cannot do anything but in coordination with the council.*

with the **help** of: *it was stolen by Jason and the Argonauts with the help of Aeëtes's daughter, Medea*

under the **patronage** of: *they will have to be put under the patronage of Saint Joseph*

17. Place (number: 76; questions: where, to/from/through where, etc.)

in **advance** of: *consisting of a single row of columns placed in advance of the wall of a building*

in **approximation** to: *articulated with the tip of the tongue in approximation to the alveolar ridge.*

in the **area** of: *Otolaryngologic surgery is performed in the area of the ear, nose, and throat.*

at the **back** of: *ground or surface lying at the back of or behind the chief objects of contemplation*

in (the) **back** of (AmE): *a pass thrown to a receiver who is directly in back of a wall of blockers*

on the **back** of: *stripped of every bit of clothing, and bound on the back of a wild bronco*

on a **background** of: *mounted in various designs on a background of satin.*

at the **base** of: *This peculiar fusion ... lies at the base of the desires ... for sexual self-mutilation.*

on **board** of: *to indicate the presence of cholera on board of a vessel*

in/within the **bosom** of: *Deep in the bosom of the hills; in the bosom of one's family/a church*

at the **bottom** of: *person who stands at the bottom of the scale*

outside the **boundaries** of: *a parish located outside the boundaries of or at a distance from a town or city*

within the **boundaries** of: *occurring within the boundaries of a state*
 within a hair's **breadth** of: *I am within a hair's breadth of doubting.*
 on the **brink** of: *every shopkeeper teetering on the brink of bankruptcy, is in essentially the same position.*
 in **charge** of: *The officer who was placed in charge of the Academy.*
 in the **company** of: *he had been seen in the company of lewd women*
 on the **confines** of: *a disease sometimes, though rarely, experienced on the confines of Somerset and Dorset.*
 in **contact** with: *it was placed in contact with the other one; that part of a brake which is brought in contact with the object*
 in the **core** of: *deformed cells contained in the core of the lesion*
 on **course** for: *The world's favourite airline should, this week, show it is well on course for market.*
 in the **direction** of: *The United States was indeed being pushed in the direction of a police state.*
 at a **distance** of/from: *a parish located at a distance from a town or city*
 at the **doorstep** of: *exacting justice by sitting and fasting at the doorstep of an offender*
 on the **edge** of: *curved hairs growing as a fringe on the edge of an eyelid*
 under the **eyes** of: *where children could safely play under the eyes of their parents*
 at the **feet** of: *to prostrate means to lie down at the feet of a person*
 on the **flank** of: *a body of soldiers placed on the flank of an army to guard a line of march*
 at the **foot** of: *We are at the foot of the ladder, and they at the top*
 in/at the **forefront** of: *It behoves this nation to keep in the forefront of reactor technology.*
 in the **foreground** of: *An object in the foreground of a painting serving to emphasize the principal figure or scene*
 in **front** of: *the wind that is created in front of an avalanche*
 to the **front** of: *a piece of wood which was fixed to the front of the saddle*
 in the **grip** of: *who awake to find themselves in the grip of the law*
 at the **head** of: *he was at the head of a mighty army*
 under the **heel** of: *A small piece of wood placed under the heel of a living model for support.*
 at the **heels** of: *With heavy hearts they dragged at the heels of his troop.*
 at the **helm** of: *A stern taskmaster was at the helm of the company*
 in the **hollow** of: *The flyman may be said to carry some of the destiny of the performance in the hollow of his hand.*
 within an **inch** of: *He came within an inch of getting killed in the crash.*
 in the **line** of: *swing the club-head to and fro over the ball in the line of the intended stroke*
 in **line** with: *the axis of the cartridge is not in line with the groove*
 out of **line** with: *the centre of the crank is set slightly out of line with the centre of the cylinder*
 in the **middle** of: *standing in the middle of the road*
 in the **midst** of: *put in a remark in the midst of a conversation,*
 through the **midst** of: *throwing the ball through the midst of them*
 in the **neighbourhood** of: *The alligator thrives in the neighbourhood of New Orleans.*
 under the **nose** of: *She was knocked down ...almost under the nose of a police horse.*
 within the **orbit** of: *Pluto sometimes passes within the orbit of Neptune*
 on the **outskirts** of: *peripheral resistance on the outskirts of the battle area*
 in **parallel** with: *an electric device in which part of the field circuit is in parallel with the armature circuit*
 in the **presence** of: *it did him credit in the presence of his lady*
 under the **protection** of: *it was received under the protection of the city of London*
 in **proximity** to: *Whenever one part of a circuit is brought in proximity to another,*
 en/on **route** from: *He would attempt to escape somewhere en route from Gerona.*
 en/on **route** to: *He would attempt to escape somewhere en route to Gerona.*
 in the **safety** of: *who were waiting in the safety of the mountain refuge*
 through a **series** of: *The recruits must go through a series of exercises and evolutions*
 in the **shadow** of: *To be a poet in the age of Eliot, to grow up in the shadow of a frosty Bostonian.*

along the **side** of (=on): *by means of which a seam running along the side of a balloon can be laid open.*
 by the **side** of (=near): *he was standing by the side of the bus*
 out of **sight** of: *a person stationed out of sight of the audience*
 within **sight** of: *they were within sight of land*
 under the **supervision** of: *They are ...discharging the offender and placing him under the supervision of a probation officer*
 in the **thick** of: *The Residency buildings and its gardens are in the thick of the town.*
 within a stone's **throw** from/of: *They live within a stone's throw of the bridge*
 at the **top** of : *decorative engraving placed at the top of the first page of a volume*
 on **top** of: *an elaborate confection, on top of which are placed two or more scoops of ice cream, fruit*
 on the **track** of: *a clue which may put one on the track of discovery*
 on the **underside** of: *a door located on the underside of some cargo planes*
 on the **verge** of: *he was on the verge of a nervous breakdown*
 in the **vicinity** of: *an Australian aboriginal people living in the vicinity of Alice Springs*
 in the **wake** of: *Brown dust that came rolling in the wake of our carriage.*
 by **way** of: *they went there by way of Prais*
 on the **way** to (= about to, near): *Charles-Edouard's heir was on the way to becoming a publicity-monger.*
 at the **wheel** of: *Her ambition is to be at the wheel of a large corporation by the age of 40.*

18. Possession (number: 2)

in the **absence** of: *In the absence of a national program, America muddles through to produce its energy.*
 in the **hands** of: *The leadership of the country at this time was in the hands of the privileged class.*

19. Purpose-goal (number: 36; paraphrase: in order to...)

with the **aim** of: *The investigations ...were conducted with the aim of comparing the reactions of*
 in **commemoration** of: *a fast is held in commemoration of the death of Aaron*
 in **compensation** for: *sum of money claimed to be paid in compensation for loss or injury sustained.*
 in **defence** of: *one who fights in defence of a fortress*
 in **evidence** of: *a ribbon worn at a ceremony in evidence of goodwill*
 in **extenuation** of: *a plea offered in extenuation of a fault*
 with an **eye** to: *He lent me the money with an eye to asking a favour in return.*
 for **fear** of: *we were careful not to take sides for fear of getting personally involved*
 in (the) **furtherance** of: *In furtherance of this project, she kept her son in a state of ignorance and vice.*
 in **honour** of: *held a festival in honour of Bacchus*
 in (the) **hope** of: *a casual acquaintance made in hope of a sexual relationship*
 with the **intention** of : *whose acquaintance is formed with the intention of having a sexual relationship*
 in **line** for: *Certain cardinals always are papabili, or in line for the papacy. (?)*
 in **memory** of: *monument erected in memory of a deceased person*
 for the **object** of: *Pheasant-driving is pursued...for the object of obtaining sporting shots.*
 with the **object** of: *a person at an auction who bids with the object of raising the prices*
 with the **objective** of: *starting out this season with the objective of putting up 100,000 gallons of loganberry wine*
 in **observance** of: *Flags shall fly from the City Hall on June 14 in observance of Flag Day.*
 in **praise** of: *A popular song 'Curl-the-Mo, Uncle Joe'—written in praise of Joseph Stalin,*
 in **preparation** for: *to pull back the string of (a bow or the like) in preparation for shooting*
 in **proof** of: *which Declarer can show in proof of his ability*
 in **provision** for: *stocking up in provision for the winter*
 for the **purpose** of: *the book was written for the purpose of explaining the event*
 with the **purpose** of : *An expedition was planned with the purpose of reaching Western Port.*
 for (the) **purposes** of: *in which a substance may be heated for purposes of analysis*
 in (the) **pursuance** of: *In pursuance of his theory de Courville instituted the feature of the 'plug number'.*

in **pursuit** of: *All those ... were devoured by the Imperial Minotaur [sc. Napoleon] in pursuit of his dream of universal domination.*

in **quest** of: *The military police arrived in quest of him.*

for (the) **sake** of: *work assigned for the sake of looking or keeping busy.*

in **search** of: *raises his body ... and claws around in search of a fresh foothold.*

in **settlement** of: *money paid in settlement of the debt*

as a **sign** of: *a whistle uttered by a person as a sign of astonishment*

in **testimony** of: *offered formally in testimony of affection or respect,*

on the **trail** of: *Whirling in a high-powered car from Monte Carlo to Cap d'Antibes on the trail of an exotically beautiful femme fatale.*

with a **view** to: *to examine with a view to obtaining information*

by **way** of: *to number articles by way of distinguishing them.*

20. Range (number: 43; appositively defining competence, duration, abstract position, dimension, etc.; substitutive prepositions: usually the initial primary preposition introducing the phrase; overlapping with locative, temporal meanings)

within the **ambit** of: *whose tenements are not within the ambit of the manor*

to the **amount** of: *may be exchanged for money to the amount of the original purchase*

in the **area** of: *The softness of our line ... shows up clearly in the area of insider trading.*

within a (small) **area** of: *Their convertism is done within a small area of the upper class.*

beyond the **bounds** of: *It is not beyond the bounds of possibility that*

within the **bounds** of: *it is within the bounds of reason/within the bounds of his estate*

on the **brink** of: *we are on the brink of war/discovery/being born*

within a **circumference** of: *capable of destroying all matter within a circumference of eighty miles from the point of explosion.*

within the **compass** of: *falls not within the compass of my remembrance*

on the **confines** of: *Our author finds himself on the confines of a mystery.*

at a **distance** of: *which is at a distance of one foot from a point source of light*

within a **distance** of: *When two armies are within a distance of a butt's length.*

in **excess** of: *a commodity that is overabundant or in excess of demand in the market*

beyond the **field** of: *which goes beyond the range or field of our experience,*

in/within the **field** of: *or to keep them within the field of defensive fire; a pioneer in the field of sociology*

within the **framework** of: *operating within the framework of the Atlantic Pact*

within **hail** of: *the mother kept her children within hail of her voice*

at a **height** of: *flying at a height of 300 m*

beyond/outside the **limits** of: *extending beyond the limits of psychology*

within the **limits** of: *result that is not necessarily exact, but is within the limits of accuracy*

by a **margin** of: *He beat them by a margin of ten seconds*

in/of the **order** of: *he was the first in the order of birth*

as **part** of: *included in the Septuagint and the Vulgate as part of the Old Testament*

without the **peril** of (beyond the power/reach of): *To be gone from Athens, where we might be Without the perill of the Athenian Law.*

within a **period** of: *specifying goals to be reached within a period of five years*

on the (very) **point** of: *he was on the point of death*

on the **premises** of: *athletes will be 'processed' at a staging area on the premises of the State University College*

within a **radius** of: *Bushmen and bushwomen within a radius of forty or fifty miles ride to these functions.*

beyond/outside the **range** of: *events which are beyond the range of this immediate experience*

within the **range/a reasonable range** of: *solar power was quite within the range of practical matters*

among/within the **ranks** of: *Of course there cannot be many among the ranks of the old specialists who could; within the ranks of the band he met up with tenor saxist Chu Berry*

beyond/outside the **reach** of: *that lies beyond the reach of science*
 within (the) **reach** of: *which being within the reach of my own knowledge*
 within the **realm/realms** of: *collecting taxes is not within the realm of our office; Unmatch'd within the realms of time!*
 in the **region** of: *annual turnover in the region of 6,000 million koruna*
 on a **scale** of: *as to begin the campaign on a scale of disastrous military inefficiency.*
 beyond the **scope** of: *speculations beyond the scope of logic*
 within the **scope** of: *a variable occurring within the scope of the quantifier*
 within the **span** of: *processes observable within the span of human life as opposed to macroevolution*
 in the **sphere** of: *he plays a significant part in the sphere of politics*
 within the **sweep** of: *waiting till they see a salmon show within the sweep of the net*
 to the **tune** of: *they will need capital to the tune of six million dollars*
 within the **verge** of: *an action within the verge of her abilities.*

21. Replacement (number: 17; substitutive preposition: *instead of*)
 in **alternation** with: *commonly used in alternation with hexameters*
 as an **alternative** to: *removal of a phrenic nerve, formerly carried out as an alternative to phrenicotomy.*
 on/for/in **behalf** of: *Deakin declined on behalf of the Liberal Protectionists to accept Anti-Socialism as*
 in **exchange** for/of: *some value given in exchange for the promise*
 in **lieu** of: *He gave us an IOU in lieu of cash.*
 in (the) **place** of: *made with butterscotch flavoring in place of chocolate*
 as a **pledge** of: *They therefore sent seven galleys ...as a pledge of their loyalty.*
 in **pledge** for: *to constrain by seizing and holding goods, etc., in pledge for rent, damages, etc.,*
 in **preference** to: *Many now drink cocoa in preference to coffee.*
 as **proxy** for: *to betroth or espouse as proxy for another*
 as a **replacement** for: *The first ...steel helmets were introduced in 1916 as a replacement for the pickelhaube*
 as a **representative** of: *who enters into a covenant as a representative of others*
 in **satisfaction** of: *I accepted 13 gals. of peach brandy in satisfaction of the damage...*
 in the **stead** of: *Sometimes they shew a painted idol in the stead of him [God].*
 as a **substitute** for: *The bark of Carolina Allspice is used as a substitute for cinnamon.*
 in **substitution** for: *a person whose body is shown in a movie in substitution for a leading actor*
 by **way** of: *to seize as forfeited to the public domain by way of penalty; he said it by way of apology*

22. Respect/disregard (number: 22/4; expressing correlation)
 on the **character** of: *On the basis of their limited extent and mode of occurrence as sills, small intruded masses, and border facies, the rocks are hypabyssal; on the character of their usual textures, they are plutonic.*
 in **consideration** of: *In consideration of Christ's Death and Sacrifice, he would freely forgive all penitent and believing Sinners their personal Obligation to eternal Punishment.*
 in **contemplation** of: *A corporation is an artificial being...existing only in contemplation of law.*
 in **contempt** of: *When Oedipus slays his father, he does so in contempt of oracular warnings.*
 in **disregard** of: *a pedestrian who crosses streets in disregard of traffic signals*
 in the **eyes** of: *Her antics in no way diminish you in the eyes of your friends.*
 in **freedom** of: *limited in freedom of movement by obstruction*
 in (the) **light**: *when interpreted in the light of the theory of concrescence*
 in the **matter** of: *All I ever do in the matter of her clothes is dutifully admire.*
 from the **point of view** of: *the plan came to be investigated from the point of view of its accommodation.*
 in **point** of: *are almost equal, in point of colour, to rosewood*
 in the **question/in questions** of: *an important consideration in the question of currency stabilization; an important consideration in question of currency stabilization.*

with/in **reference** to: *Coals may be subdivided with reference to the production of coke into..the coking and non-coking.*

without **reference** to: *the nomination of Senators to an office is confirmed without reference to a committee.*

in/with **regard** to: *the statement itself contemplated in regard to its truth, authority, universality, etc.*

without **regard** to: *Christian names are often inserted or omitted without regard to this rule*

in **relation** to/with: *The next topic we explored in relation to clothing and textiles was*

with **relation** to: *the direction of the flux does not alternate with relation to the motion of the armature conductor*

in **respect** of/to: *being limited or bounded in respect of range, number, etc.*

with **respect** to: *The solution must ...become saturated with respect to both ice and salt,*

without **respect** to: *often applied without respect to the nature of the tenure*

in the **sight** of: *by which, in the teaching of the N.T., a sinner is justified in the sight of God*

from the **standpoint** of: *negative features of Soviet life could be criticized only from the standpoint of 'Party-mindedness'*

in **terms** of: *Allomorphic differences of tone may be described in terms of different tonal surroundings.*

in **view** of: *that may in view of present evidence be reasonably expected to happen*

from the **viewpoint** of: *if they were investigated from the viewpoint of their contributions to*

23. Subject matter (number: 7)

on the **issue** of: *We are kindred spirits on the issue of gun control.*

on the **matter/matters** of: *On the matter of multivitamin treatment, there are different schools of thought; a gathering of public Friends to confer together on matters of faith and doctrine*

on a/the **point** of: *formal opinion that is given on a point of law by a court; Otho's emphasis fell on the point of answering truly every question that might be asked*

on the **question** of: *whether they should not also be consulted on the question of whether they should enter the Common Market.*

on the **subject** of: *written document on the subject of the British questionnaires*

on the **theme** of: *The preacher amplified on the theme of brotherly love.*

on the **topic** of: *nothing has been published on the topic of the PK effect*

24. Support (number: 7; substitutive preposition: for)

in **aid** of: *project in which members of a church work together in aid of some worthy cause*

on/in/for **behalf** of: *The lawyer is acting on behalf of the heirs, to interpose in behalf of someone in difficulty*

in **favour** of: *he discriminates in favour of his relatives*

in the **name** of: *a rehash of most every form of welfare for the rich ever proposed in the name of 'economic development'*

on the **side** of: *who fought on the side of Charles I against*

in **support** of: *written in support of the Constitution*

in **sympathy** with: *he expressed himself in sympathy with their cause*

25. Time (number: 42; questions: when, since when, how long, etc.)

in the **act** of: *the system of rules shared by the participants in an act of communication,*

in **advance** of: *arrived in advance of the event; a copy of a book sent out in advance of publication*

in the **aftermath** of: *the rebuilding which took place in the aftermath of war*

in the **age** of: *not unknown even in the age of Cicero and Augustus*

at the **break** of: *I rarely rose at the break of day*

after the **conclusion** of: *reestablish her financial affairs, in so short a period, after the conclusion of war.*

at the **conclusion** of: *brought from Abyssinia at the conclusion of the war.*

on the **conclusion** of: *American-Indian ceremony of burying a tomahawk on the conclusion of a peace.*

in/throughout the **course** of: *evaluating the pupil's progress throughout the course of study*

for the **duration** of: *They stayed there for the duration of the war*
 in the **era** of: *clinging to the memory of the old régime in the era of political regeneration.*
 on the **eve** of: *prescribed phenobarbitone pills for a good night's sleep on the eve of the race.*
 in the **heart** of: *it was in the heart of the London season; to send me away in the heart of severe winter*
 in the **heat** of: *In the heat of his hasty departure he forgot his keys.*
 on the **heels** of: *On the heels of the hurricane came an outbreak of looting.*
 in the **hollow** of: *orders, given in the hollow of the night*
 in the **middle** of: *woke up in the middle of the night*
 on the **occasion** of: *thirty-eight members turned out on the occasion of the first meet.*
 in **payment** of: *impressed postage stamps may be used as adhesive stamps in payment of postage.*
 after the **period** of: *usually disappearing after the period of childhood*
 during the **period** of: *take place during the period of incubation of an egg*
 for a/the **period** of: *was used continuously for a period of years prescribed by law*
 in the **period** of: *In the period of 1865 to 1875 a large number of mills were erected throughout Canada*
 at the **pleasure** of: *a warrant issued for the imprisonment of a person without trial at the pleasure of the monarch. (= for as long as it pleases ...)*
 in **precedence** to: *that species in a mixed crop which is selected to come next in precedence to the dominant.*
 in (the) **process** of: *the skin which they throw off in process of growth*
 during/in the **reign** of: *an official return prepared during the reign of Henry VIII*
 in the **service** of: *occurring in the service of the Mass*
 in the **sight** of: *There is something almost unearthly in the sight of enormous spaces of hill and plain.*
 in/within the **space** of: *may be repeated several times in the space of twelve hours.*
 at the **threshold** of: *The incunabulist has to stop at the threshold of the year 1501.*
 in the **throes** of: *The private sector, particularly in the throes of recession, is limited in its ability to pay*
 at/in the **time** of: *took place at the time of Revolution; who lived in the time of Charles II*
 during the **time** of: *during the time of his Chancellourship of England*
 since the **time** of: *the ass has, since the times of the Greeks, figured in fables*
 till the **time** of: *was not discovered till the time of Galileo*
 in **times** of: *The catacombs became places of refuge in times of persecution*
 in the **train** of: *disease came in the train of war*
 in **transit** to: *a passenger making a brief stop at an airport in transit to another destination*
 in the **transition** to: *the h was lost in the transition to ME.*
 at the **turn** of: *At the turn of the millennium the monastic churches were quite enormous.*
 in the **wake** of: *a disease which occurs in epidemic form usually in the wake of disasters such as wars*

II Alphabetical list of the prepositional units (according to the noun; 444 items)

in the absence of; to the accompaniment of; in accord with; in accordance with; on account of; within an
 ace of; in acknowledgement of; by the act of; in the act of; by the action of; in addition to; with the addition
 of; in advance of; for the advantage of; on the advice of; under the aegis of; in the aftermath of; in the age
 of; by/through the agency of; in agreement with; by/with the aid of; in aid of; without the aid of; with the
 aim of; out of alignment with; in alliance with; on the allowance of; in alternation with; as an alternative
 to; within the ambit of; to the amount of; by analogy with; in anticipation of; in approximation to; in the
 area of; within a (small) area of; with the assistance of; without the assistance of; in association with; under
 the auspices of; on (the) authority of; under (the) authority of; at the back of; on the back of; in (the) back
 of; against the background of; on a background of; at the base of; on the basis of; on/in/for behalf of; at the
 behest of; by/with benefit of; for the benefit of; on board of; in/within the bosom of; at the bottom of;

outside the boundaries of; within the boundaries of; beyond the bounds of; within the bounds of; at the break of; on the brink of; in cahoots with; in case of; in a/the case/cases of; to the cause of; on the character of; in charge of; within a circumference of; under the cloak of; in collaboration with; in collusion with; by the combination of; in combination(s) with; at the command of; in commemoration of; in common with; in company with; in the company of; by/in comparison with; within the compass of; in compensation for; in compliance with; in concert with; after the conclusion of; at the conclusion of; on the conclusion of; in concordance with; under the condition of; on the confines of; in conflict with; in conformity with; in conjunction with; in connection with; as a consequence of; in consequence of; in consideration of; out of consideration for; in consort with; in contact with; in contemplation of; in contempt of; in the context of; in contradiction to; in contradistinction to; in contrast with; in contravention of; in cooperation with; in coordination with; in the core of; in correspondence with; at the cost of; in/throughout the course of; on course for; by courtesy of; out of courtesy to; under cover of; by (a/the) decree of; in default of; in defence of; in/out of deference to; in defiance of; in dependence of; in despite of; to the detriment of; without detriment to; by/for dint of; in the direction of; in disagreement with; at the discretion of; in disregard of; at a distance from; at a distance of; within a distance of; at the doorstep of; for the duration of; on the edge of; in the era of; on the eve of; in the event of; in evidence of; with the exception of; in excess of; in exchange of/for; to the exclusion of; in expectation of; at the expense of; to the extent of; in extenuation of; with an eye to; in the eyes of; under the eyes of; in (the) face of; after the fashion of; in favour of; on the flank of; for fear of; at the feet of; beyond the field of; in/within the field of; in a fit of; at the foot of; in/at the forefront of; in the foreground of; in the form of; within the framework of; in freedom of; in front of; to the front of; in the furtherance of; in gratitude for; in gratitude (un)to; in the grip of; on the ground of; on (the) grounds of; within hail of; within a hair's breadth of; at the hand(s) of; in the hands of; in harmony with; at the head of; in the heart of; in the heat of; under the heel of; at the heels of; on the heels of; at a height of (300 m); at the helm of; with the help of; in the hollow of; in honour of; in (the) hope of; in imitation of; within an inch of; at the instance of; through the instrumentality of; with the intention of; through the intercession of; in the interest(s) of; through the intermediation of; through the intervention of; in keeping with; out of keeping with; for lack of; in lieu of; in (the) light of; beyond/outside the limits of; within the limits of; in line for; in the line of; in line with; out of line with; in lockstep with; in the manner of; by a margin of; in the matter of; on the matter/matters of; by means of; by the mechanism of; through the mediation of; through the medium of; in memory of; to the memory of; at the mercy of; in the middle of; in the midst of; through the midst of; within a mile of; on the model of; in the name of; under the name of; in the nature of; in the neighbourhood of; under the nose of; in obedience to; for the object of; with the object of; with the objective of; in observance of; on the occasion of; at odds with/over; by/through the good offices of; by/through the operation of; in opposition to; within the orbit of; in order of; of/in the order of; on the outskirts of; on/upon/under pain of; on a par with; in parallel with; as part of; on the part of; under the patronage of; in payment of; on/under penalty of; on peril of; without the peril of; against the perils of; after the period of; during the period of; for a/the period of; in the period of; within the period of; with the permission of; in the person of; all of a piece with; in (the) place of; at the pleasure of; as a pledge of; in pledge for; from the point of view of; in point of; on the (very) point of; to the point of; from a/the position of; in praise of; in precedence of; in preference to; on the premises of; in preparation for; in the presence of; on/under the pretext of; at the price of; for the price of; on the principle of; in (the) process of; in proof of; in proportion to; out of (all) proportion to; under the protection of; in protest against; in provision for; in proximity to; as proxy for; in punishment for; for the purpose of; for (the) purposes of; with the purpose of; at cross purposes with; in (the) pursuance of; in pursuit of; in quest of; in the question/in questions of; on the question of; within the radius of; beyond/outside the range of; within the range of; among/within the ranks of; within reach of; beyond/outside the reach of; in reaction to; in reaction with; within the realm(s) of; as a reason for; by reason of; in recognition of; in recompense for; with/in reference to; without reference to; in/with regard to; without regard to; in the region of; during/in the reign of; in relation to/with; with relation to; as a replacement for; as a representative of; at the request of; in respect of/to; out of respect for/to; with respect to; without respect to; as a result of; in retaliation for; in retribution for; in return for; at the reverence of; as a reward for; by right of; at the risk of; on the (high) road to; en/on route from; en/on

route to; in rows of; at the sacrifice of; in the safety of; for (the) sake of; in satisfaction of; on a scale of; beyond the scope of; within the scope of; on the score of; in search of; on security of; in the semblance of; in the sense of; out of a sense of; through a series of; in the service of; in settlement of; beyond the shadow of; in the shadow of; in the shape of; along the side of; by the side of; on the side of; within sight of; in the sight of; out of sight of; as a sign of; in/within the space of; within the span of; in the sphere of; in spite of; from the standpoint of; in a state of; in the stead of; in step with; out of step with; on the strength of; in the style of; on the subject of; as a substitute for; in substitution for; at the suggestion of; under the supervision of; in support of; within the sweep of; in sympathy with; out of sympathy for; in sync with; out of sync with; in the teeth of; in terms of; on terms of; in testimony of; on the theme of; in the thick of; under (the) threat of; at the threshold of; in the throes of; within a stone's throw from/of; at/in the time of; during the time of; since the time of; till the time of; in times of; under the title of; in token of; at the top of; on top of; on the topic of; on the track of; in the tradition of; on the trail of; in the train of; in transit to; in the transition to; in tune with; out of tune with; to the tune of; at the turn of; on the underside of; in unison with; in unity with; by use of; at variance with; on the verge of; to the verge of; within the verge of; in the vicinity of; in view of; with a view to; from the viewpoint of; by/in virtue of; in the wake of; for/from want of; by way of; in the way of; on the way to; at the wheel of; at the whim of; at the wish of; through the working of.

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Anglické složené předložky typu Prep₁-Sb-Prep₂

Résumé

Práce si klade za cíl předložit co nejuplněnější soubor anglických víceslovných předložek typu Prep₁-Sb-Prep₂, předběžně je popsata a zhodnit z hlediska sémantického a strukturního. Ukazuje, že nejvíce zastou-

peny jsou funkce adverbialní (procesuální, kauzální, časová a prostorová) a v rámci tzv. typu delimitačního výrazy apozičního rázu. Dále ukazuje, že tyto předložkové sekvence jsou realizovány velmi omezeným počtem formálních modelů – více než 1/4 z nich tvoří kombinace *in-Sb-of*. Kombinace *in-of*, *on-of*, *in-with*, *at-of* a *within-of* představují téměř 60 % celkového počtu. Zdá se, že spojení typické předložkové sémantiky a formálního vzoru vytváří vhodné předpoklady k prepozicionalizaci takovýchto syntagmat na základě analogie. K dalším charakteristickým rysům těchto výrazů patří výrazná monosémie, významová specifičnost a explicitnost (v mnoha případech i kolokační vyhraněnost), které jsou v kontrastu se značnou polysémií a obecností předložek primárních (jednoslovných). Zde je patrně třeba hledat důvod pro rostoucí počet víceslovných předložek zejména tohoto typu.