

THE SEMANTICS OF ADVERBIAL MODIFIER OF PLACE IN THE ENGLISH SENTENCE STRUCTURE

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Abstract:

This paper explores the semantic function of adverbial modifiers of place (locative adverbs) in English sentence structure. Locative adverbs, encompassing simple adverbs, prepositional phrases, and adverbial clauses, contribute significantly to conveying spatial context and enriching our understanding of sentences. We examine the core semantic functions of locative adverbs, including location, direction, and origin, analyzing how they establish spatial relationships between elements within a sentence. Further, we delve into the semantic relationships between locative adverbs and other sentence components, considering their role in conveying relative and absolute locations. The study emphasizes the importance of locative adverbs in enhancing meaning, clarity, and emphasis within sentences.

Key words: locative adverbs, adverbial clauses, prepositional phrases, comparative study, idiomatic expressions both Uzbek and English.

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Adverbial modifiers of place, often called locative adverbs, provide information about where an action takes place or where something is located. They are essential for conveying spatial context and adding depth to our understanding of a sentence.

There are some peculiarities of their semantics. They are given below:

1. Core Semantics of adverbial modifier of place.

It refers to location: The core function of a locative adverb is to indicate the location of the action or the entity described in the sentence. An adverbial modifier of place occasionally stands either at the beginning or at the end of the sentence. [1]

“The cat sleeps on the bed.” (Specifies where the cat sleeps at the end of sentence).

There, they are all experienced professors.

It serves to reveal direction: They can also indicate the direction of movement or action.

“She walked towards the library.” (Indicates the direction of her movement).

Adverbial modifiers of place depicts origin. They can specify the starting point or destination of an action.

“They came from the mountains.” (Indicates the origin of their journey).

In English semantics, there are several types of adverbial modifiers of place, that assist a word to show directions by utilizing other words like prepositions. Commonly used adverbs are single words that express location or direction including here, there, inside, outside, above, below, near, far, up, down.

• Some of prepositional phrases are also considered locative adverbs. They consist of a preposition followed by a noun phrase consisting on in the garden, on the table, under the stairs, behind the house, across the street and so on. Locative adverbs sometimes come between the predicate and the prepositional object. [2]

For example: Anna goes to school with her close friend, Lucy.

It was investigated that adverbial modifiers of place generally precede both time and purpose.

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We had gone to town to purchase a new curtain for the ground floor. (expressing purpose)

I am travelling to London tomorrow. (expressing time)

An adverbial clause of place reveals the place of the action that expressed in the principal clause. They are introduced by the conjunctions 'where and wherever'. These are clauses that function as adverbs and provide more detailed information about location. [3]

“She stayed where she had been born.” (Specifies the place where she stayed).

Teachers should be educated wherever they teach upcoming generations neither school nor university.

In each language, there are some exceptions as this, sometimes there is the difference of using the conjunction 'where' introducing adverbial clauses of place with adverb that subject clauses, object clauses, predicative clauses and attributive clauses are also introduced by the word 'where.' [4]

Some sentences can be exemplified to prove the notion given above.

John placed himself where he could see his soulmate. (adverbial clause of place)

This is where she came for a temporary lodging after relative's death. (predicative clause)

Mary wondered where they are visiting. (object clause)

He turned immediately towards the heart where Anna sat pulling the child. (attributive clause).

Semantic relationships of adverbial modifier of place shows some basic features to be used in a sentence including spatial relations, relative locations, absolute locations too. Locative adverbs establish spatial relationships between the subject, object, and the location. [5]

For instance: “The bird flew over the house.” (The bird's movement is spatially related to the house).

They occasionally express the relative position of something in relation to other things.

“The book is next to the lamp.” (The book's location is relative to the lamp).

Sometimes they specify an absolute location, often using coordinates or place names.

“They are at 45°N 73°W.” (Indicates a specific geographical location).

Locative adverbs clarify the meaning of the sentence by providing spatial context. They make the sentence more vivid and help the reader visualize the scene.

Comparative study about adverbial modifier of place in English and Uzbek.

While both English and Uzbek use adverbial modifiers of place (locative adverbs) to convey spatial information, there are some key differences in their usage and grammatical structures:

1. Word Order and Placement:

In English, locative adverbs are more flexible in their placement within a sentence. They can appear at the beginning, middle, or end, often depending on emphasis or stylistic preference. Here is given two examples to place locative adverbs at the beginning and the end.

1. “The cat sat on the mat.” (End placement)

2. “On the mat, the cat sat.” (Beginning placement)

To contrast, in Uzbek, locative adverbs typically appear after the verb in declarative sentences. This fixed position often leads to a more direct and less ambiguous interpretation of spatial relations. [6]

Example: “Mushuk gilamda o'tirdi.” (The cat sat on the mat.) - The locative adverb “gilamda” (on the mat) follows the verb “o'tirdi” (sat).

2. Prepositional Phrases:

In English, prepositional phrases are commonly used to express locative information, using prepositions like “in,” “on,” “at,” “under,” “above,” etc.

Example: “The book is on the table.”

To compare with Uzbek, it also uses prepositions, but they are often embedded within postpositions. Postpositions are suffixes attached to nouns or pronouns to express spatial relations.

Example: “Kitob stol + da.” (The book is on the table) – “da” is a postposition indicating location.

3. Adverbial Clauses have also distinctive features

Comparing with English, adverbial clauses are used to provide more detailed information about location, often with conjunctions like “where,” “wherever,” or “when.” [7]

Example: “She went where she had been born.”

However, in Uzbek, adverbial clauses are also used, but the grammatical structure might differ slightly. Uzbek uses conjunctions like “qayerda” (where), “qachon” (when), and “qanday” (how) to introduce these clauses.

We can take as an example in this sentence: “U tug’ilgan joyiga bordi.” (She went where she was born) - The clause “tug’ilgan joyiga” (where she was born) follows the verb and is linked by the conjunction “ga” (to, towards). [8]

4. Idiomatic Expressions:

English utilizes numerous idioms and phrasal verbs related to location that might not have direct equivalents in Uzbek.

Example: “He’s in over his head.” (Overwhelmed)

Uzbek language also has idiomatic expressions related to location, but they may differ in structure and meaning.

Example: “Uning boshiga qor yog’di.” (He has grown old)

We can easily learn locative adverbs in a sentence and realize the difference between two languages, thus article assist new learners to understand the topic in a sophisticated way as well as never face challenges while doing analyze secondary parts of speech.

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