

ANALYZING THE USE OF SPACE PREPOSITIONS IN VICE ARTICLES FOR EFL LEARNERS

Irnella Nopriyanti¹⁾, Lilia Indriani²⁾

English Department, Faculty of Education and Teachers Training, Universitas Tidar
Indonesia
irnellan7@gmail.com

Abstract

Prepositions are the words that used nouns in phrases providing information about time, place, and other relations that involving actions and things. It can be describing that prepositions have an essential role in writing. In this case, EFL students must understand the use of prepositions, which will improve their writing and reading skills. The platform that is used for this research is from the Vice website's articles. This research aimed to examine prepositions of space in the Vice website that contains many articles using descriptive qualitative methods. This analysis also determines the number of space prepositions used, the functions, and the most widely used prepositions of space in the Vice articles.

Keywords: Articles, Preposition, Vice

Introduction

English is an international language that is the first foreign language to be formally acquired in Indonesian education. English is obtained from elementary school to college. Learners who study English are usually called EFL learners. They must learn the four English skills, such as reading, writing, speaking, and listening. These skills must be grasped by EFL students (Namaziandost, E., Gilakjani, A. P., & Hidayatullah, 2020). The four skills have their difficulty levels, but most EFL learners often have difficulty reading and writing skills rather than speaking and listening skills.

When learning reading and writing skills, the EFL learner's problem is that they lack understanding the grammar structures. It can affect both of those skills because if EFL learners do not understand grammar when reading something, they cannot understand its contents. Meanwhile, in writing, the writing results are not optimal because some words are still not suitable, and it can cause misunderstandings. One of them is the use of prepositions. Many EFL learners still do not understand each prepositional word's function; lack of practice can affect their writing skills. Also, prepositions have many words, so most of them have many meanings and uses (Kennedy, 2003, p.251).

In this case, this research refers to the use of space prepositions. Prepositions are a set of tiny words that denotes a relationship between another word (Huddleston, 1984, p.336). It is the words that used nouns in phrases providing information about time, place, and other relations that involving actions and things. It can be describing that prepositions have an essential role in writing because prepositions combine the other parts of speech that can express new meanings (Kennedy, 2003, p.251).

The platform analyzes the use of prepositions on the Vice website. It is digital media and broadcasting company from American-Canadian. At first, this website was named Viceland.com,



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/).

and then in 2007, VBS.tv domain the website. At that time, more prioritizing video and one of the shows, "The Vice Guide to Travel," hit the number. After that, in 2011, Viceland.com and VBS.tv combined into Vice.com, and until now, the website is actively used, especially by the younger generation. On this site, there are various articles, such as news, world news, technology, music, food, health, money, drugs, identity, games, entertainment, environment, and travel. The articles also have different content, some content is about stories, and some of them also focus on an idea, issue, or context discussed.

This research aims to help EFL learners understand more about the use of space prepositions in the article. Other than that, to determine the number of space prepositions used, the functions, and the most widely used prepositions of space in the Vice articles.

Methodology

The data are used articles collected from 2019 to 2021 on the Vice website. The articles have different categories, and most of them are taken from the mental health category. The articles have an average of 300 words, and it is enough to be used as research material on the preposition. The articles collected in the form of words are then converted into a text file to make it easier to analyze them. The data used for samples in finding and solution had changes grammatically.

After all of the data is collected and converted into text files, the data is analyzed using software called AntConc. The software would have seen an alphabetical list of the prepositions and the frequency words of prepositions in the article.

In this research, the method used descriptive qualitative. The data collected qualitatively and analyzed used quantitatively, such as using frequencies or averages to determine the relationship. This method involves many data from the intended source to understand individual participation, such as opinions and points of view. This method also identifies the patterns or concepts and then describing and interpreting those of them. (Nassaji, 2015).

Findings and Discussion

According to Kennedy (2003), there are several main prepositions such as space or direction, time, relationship or association, and agency. Each of them has simple forms and complex forms, and there are about 100 prepositions. Besides that, prepositions have many meanings or use.

Among several prepositions that have been mentioned above, this research focuses on examining the prepositions of space or direction. Following Quirk (1985), when using a preposition that indicates space, there is a relation to the dimensional properties, whether subjectively or objectively conceived of the location concerned. The prepositions used include 'into,' 'away from,' 'around' and 'between'. There is one table, and it is provided the content from prepositions of space based on their frequency used from the data collected.

Table 1. The number uses of the space preposition

Prepositions of Space	Count
Around	59
Away from	14
Between	50
Into	123



Total	246
-------	-----

The table above shows that the most widely used prepositions of space are 'into'. Then in the second position, there is the preposition 'around', the third position is 'between', and the last position, where the least used preposition is 'away from'.

The reason why the preposition 'into' is the most used, according to Quirk (1985), the preposition 'into' is a favorable position and destination. It is referring to movement or position in space about a point or dimension. So, the preposition 'into' has a cause-effect relationship. For example:

1. Peter Gollwitzer, a professor of psychology at NYU, studies how people translate goals into action.
2. If I get my paycheck, then I will put \$200 into my savings account.

In the first example, the destination is the professor 'studies how people translate goals into action'. The position will be 'how people translate goals in action'. From that, there is a movement with a point. The second example shows the cause-effect relationship because the person will save the money if he or she gets a payment check.

The preposition 'around' at the second position of the most used. It is referring to surrounding position or motion. For example:

1. Calling a friend while you take a walk around the neighborhood.
2. During panic attacks, people may experience derealization, where the world around them appears foggy or surreal.
3. More conversation around dissociation will lead to greater awareness of the condition.

From those examples, the preposition 'around' explained the surrounding position near the object. Quirk (1985) stated two types of words that are the same as 'around', namely 'about' and 'round'. These two words are generally used in British English, while 'around' is more frequently used in American English.

Quirk (1985) stated that the preposition 'between' relates the position of an object to a definite or exclusive set of specific objects. Also, it is explained the relatedness of objects. For example:

1. The study surveyed 1,042 people between ages 21 to 100-plus using in-person interviews and questionnaires over three years.
2. The interactions between anxious people, like parents and children, are essential and can be modified in beneficial ways.
3. SPACE reveals how anxiety is not merely passed down but is thrown back and forth between parents and children.

The last is the preposition 'away from'. This preposition word is the least used. From the total data, it is found only 14 words. From Quirk (1985), the preposition 'away from' indicates an opposing position and destination. The simple meaning of the preposition 'away from' is 'not at'. For example:



1. One thing I would seriously think about is how to delineate some time away from screens.
2. If these are the first things to go when you are feeling overwhelmed, or if it has been a while since you have bought groceries, changed your clothes, looked away from your screen, or washed your hair, start there, and consider setting some reminders to help you stay on top of this going forward.

Conclusions

Vice website provided many good articles. In there, all ages can write on the site or read the articles provided. The contents of the articles are also not heavy and friendly to read because most of the articles come from someone's problems, and then the writer finds a solution by writing them on the website with the valid data. For the content of space prepositions, the most widely used is the preposition 'into' because it refers to movement or position in space about a point or dimension and also has a cause-effect relationship. Since most of the articles based on someone's problem story, the preposition 'into' is frequently used.

References

- Fabregat, N. F. (2017). Analysis of prepositions: near and away from. *Fòrum de Recerca*, 433-449. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.6035/ForumRecerca.2017.22.26>
- Herdi, & Andriana, N. (2017). A Study on The Students' Ability in Using Preposition of Direction. Retrieved from <https://media.neliti.com/media/publications/217535-a-study-on-the-students-ability-in-using.pdf>
- Huddleston, R. (1984). Introduction to the Grammar of English. In *Adverbs, prepositions, and conjunctions* (pp. 330-349). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Ibrahim, A. A. (2017). The Difficulties Encounter (ESP) Students in Using English Prepositions of Time. *International Journal of Humanities Social Sciences and Education (IJHSSE)*, 4(11), 214-222.
- Kennedy, G. (2003). *Sturcture and Meaning in English: A Guide for Teachers*. Great Britain: Pearson Education Limited.
- McMichael, A. (2006). The A's and BE's of English Prepositions. *Springer Link*, 43-56. doi:http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/1-4020-3873-9_3
- Namaziandost, E., Gilakjani, A. P., & Hidayatullah. (2020). Enhancing pre-intermediate EFL learners' reading comprehension through the use of jigsaw technique. *Cogent Arts & Humanities*, 7(1). doi:<https://doi.org/10.1080/23311983.2020.1738833>
- Nassaji, H. (2015). Qualitative and descriptive research: Data type versus data analysis. *Language Teaching Research*, 19(2), 129-132.
- Nathan, S., Hwang, J. D., & Srikumar, V. (2016). A Corpus of Preposition Supersenses. *Proceedings of LAW X – The 10th Linguistic Annotation Workshop*, 99-109. Retrieved from <https://www.aclweb.org/anthology/W16-1712.pdf>
- Okanlawon, B., & B. A., F. O. (n.d.). A Study of the Acquisition of Spatial Prepositions by Selected Nigerian Learners of English. 96-107. Retrieved April 30, 2021, from <https://www.ajol.info/index.php/afrrrev/article/view/41015/8455>
- Pullum, G., & Huddleston, R. (2002). Prepositions and preposition phrases. In R. Huddleston, & G. Pullum, *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language* (pp. 597-662). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi:10.1017/9781316423530.008
- Quirk, R., Greenbaum, S., Leech, G., & Svartvik, J. (1985). *A Comprehensive Grammar of The english Language*. New York: Longman Inc.



- Reda, G. (2020). Making Meaning through Prepositions: A Model for Teacher Trainees. *Language and Semiotic Studies*, 6 No.4, 85-102. Retrieved from https://d1wqtxts1xzle7.cloudfront.net/65470467/12._Teaching_Prepositions.pdf?1611161635=&response-content-disposition=inline%3B+filename%3DMaking_Meaning_through_Prepositions_A_Mo.pdf&Expires=1620100993&Signature=cMzm0njGEmBvfbvcVmBfbZOk720TDIdiyG5X~qaRvV
- Roslim, N. (2010). An Overview of Corpus Linguistics Studies on Prepositions. *English Language Teaching*, 4(2), 125-131. doi:10.5539/elt.v4n2p125
- Saravanan, J. (2015). The Use of English Prepositions: An Empirical Study. *Journal of NELTA*, 19(1-2).
- Teubert, W. (2010). Corpus Linguistics: An Alternative. *Semen*. Retrieved from <http://journals.openedition.org/semen/8912>
- VICE Media Group. (2021). *VICE - VICE is the definitive guide to enlightening information*. Retrieved from vice.com: <https://www.vice.com/en>
- Wang, C. (2020). Implicit Cognitive Meanings of The Spatial Prepositions in, on, and at in English. *International Journal of Linguistics and Translation Studies*, 1(2), 70-83. doi:<https://doi.org/10.36892/ijlts.v1i2.33>
- Wene, I. W., & Dayu Putri, A. R. (2018). Challenges in Implementing prepositions of Time, Place, and Direction for First Semester Students of English Language Education Study Program. *English Language Teaching and research Journal*, 2 No.2, 80-90. doi:doi.org/10.37147/eltr.2018.020203
- Wikipedia. (2021, March 31). *Vice Media*. Retrieved from [en.wikipedia.org: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vice_Media](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vice_Media)

