

PREPOSITIONS IN THE ARABIC LANGUAGE

Xasanova Dilsora Baxtiyor kizi

Oriental University Faculty of Philology

Department of Philology and Language Teaching (Arabic Language)

3rd-year Student

Abstract: This article analyzes the structure, grammatical aspects, types and usage of prepositions in the Arabic language. In addition to expressing syntactic relations, prepositions in the Arabic language play an important role in expressing the meaning of a sentence semantically. Of course, this article will be useful for those interested in the Arabic language and students studying it.

Keywords: Arabic language (اللغة العربية) letter word group (حرف), prefixes (أحرف جر), accusative case (جرّ), word in accusative case (مجرور).

In the Arabic language, there are three main parts of speech:

1. **الاسم (ism – noun).** This category includes nouns, adjectives, pronouns, numerals, adverbs, verbal nouns (masdars), participles, as well as some prepositions and modal words, similar to those in the Uzbek language.
2. **الفعل (fi'l – verb).** This category encompasses all verb forms, including tense, mood, voice, affirmative and negative forms.
3. **الحرف (ḥarf – particle).** This category includes the definite article, prepositions, various particles, and, in general, auxiliary words.

Prepositions (الجر حروف – ḥurūf al-jarr), which belong to the category of particles, play an important role in Arabic sentences. They are among the key grammatical elements in the language, as they establish syntactic and semantic relationships between sentence components. Due to the richness and complexity of Arabic grammar, prepositions represent one of the most interesting yet challenging aspects for students and learners of Arabic.

A significant part of auxiliary words consists of prepositions. Since the Arabic case system is rather limited, relations such as time, place, delimitation, and other various connections are mainly expressed through prepositions. A common feature of prepositions is that they always precede the word they govern and require that word to appear in the genitive case.

The case system in Arabic differs somewhat from that of Uzbek. In Arabic, there are three grammatical cases, whereas in Uzbek there are more.

	Case	Definite form	Indefinite form
1.	Nominative case	الهاتف (al-hātifu)	هاتف (hātifu)
2.	Accusative case	الهاتف (al-hātifa)	هاتفًا (hātifan)
3.	Genitive case	الهاتف (al-hātifi)	هاتفٍ (hātifin)

For this reason, they cannot be used independently in other types of sentences. Moreover, in Arabic, case markers (i'rāb) are always placed before the word they govern.

Auxiliary words and prefixes that express meanings such as place, time, purpose, cause, means, and accompaniment are called **prepositions (الجرّ حرف – ḥarf al-jarr)**.

Prepositions in Arabic are divided into three groups:

1. Original (basic) prepositions

These are words that have lost their independent lexical meaning and are used only as prepositions. The following are examples of original prepositions:

- **فِي (fi – in, inside, at):** *The student is at the university.*
- **مِنْ (min – from, out of):** *The student came out of the house.*
- **إِلَى (ilā – to, toward):** *The student went to the university.* الجامعة إلى الطالب دخل
- **عَلَى (‘alā – on, upon, above):** *The notebook is on the table.* الطاولة على الدفتر
- **عَنْ (‘an – about, from):** *The student asked about the lesson.* الدرس عن الطالب سأل
- **بِ (bi – with, by means of):** *He wrote the letter with a pen.* بالقلم الرسالة كتب
- **لِ (li – for, belonging to):** *This book belongs to the student.* للطالب الكتاب هذا
- **كَ (ka – like, as):** *The girl is beautiful like a flower.* كالوردة جميلة البنت

The prepositions **بِ (bi)**, **لِ (li)**, and **كَ (ka)** are considered **attached prepositions**, as they are always written connected to the words they govern.

Arabic	With Definite Noun	With Indefinite Noun	Meaning in English	Particle	Example in English
بِ (bi)	بِالقَلَمِ (bi-l-qalami)	بِقَلَمٍ (bi-qalamin)	with, by means of	بِ	<i>With a pen / By means of a pen</i>
لِ (li)	لِلطَّالِبِ (li-t-ṭālibi)	لِطَّالِبٍ (li-ṭālibin)	for, belonging to, possessed by	لِ	<i>For the student / Belonging to the student / The student has</i>
كَ (ka)	كَالشَّمْسِ (ka-sh-shamsi)	كَشَمْسٍ (ka-shamsin)	like, as, similar to	كَ	<i>Like the sun / As a sun</i>

When the preposition **لِ (li – for)** comes before the definite article **ال (al-)**, the initial **ا (alif)** is not written. For example: **لِ للمدرسة = المدرسة + ل** (for the school).

If the first letter of a noun is **ل (lām)**, then the **ل (lām)** of the article **ال** is also omitted: **ل + اللغة = للغة** (for the language).

1. Nominal (derived) prepositions – Adverbs (الظروف)

This group includes words that, while still retaining their nominal features, can be used as adverbs. These words often function in the accusative case when used adverbially:

- **دَاخِل (dākhil – inside, within):** *Inside the university* – الجامعة داخل
- **خَارِج (khārij – outside):** *Outside the school* – المدرسة خارج
- **عَبْر (‘abr – through):** *Through the book* – الكتاب عبر
- **خِلَال (khilāl – during):** *During the holiday* – العطلة خلال
- **قُرْب (qurba – near, close to):** *Near the house* – البيت قرب
- **أَمَام (‘amām – in front of):** *In front of the car* – السيارة أمام
- **خَلْف (khalf – behind):** *Behind Umar* – عمر خلف
- **بَيْن (bayna – between, among):** *Between two students* – الطالبين بين
- **فَوْق (fawqa – above, over):** *Above the table* – الطاولة فوق
- **تَحْتَ (taḥta – under, beneath):** *Under the table* – الطاولة تحت

- **عند (‘inda – at, with):** *With the teacher* – الأُسْتَاذِ عِنْدَ
- **حول (ḥawla – around, about):** *Around the school* – الْمَدْرَسَةِ حَوْلَ

These nominal (derived) prepositions originate from nouns. They require the word that follows them to be in the **genitive case (جر)**, but they are not classified as **ḥurūf al-jarr (prepositions proper)**. According to original Arabic grammatical sources, such auxiliaries are considered adverbs (ظروف). In sentence analysis, they are treated as **muḍāf (construct state noun)**, while the word that follows is analyzed as **muḍāf ilayh (the governed noun)**.

2. Compound prepositions

These consist of two or three words and express more complex relationships compared to the simple prepositions. Examples include:

- **لأجل (li-ajl) – for the sake of**
- **سبيل في (fī sabīl) – for the sake of, in the path of**
- **من خوفا (khawfan min) – out of fear of**
- **إلى النظر بصرف (bi-ṣarf al-naẓar ilā) – due to**
- **إلى بالنظر (bi-l-naẓar ilā) – because of**
- **عن فضلا (faḍlan ‘an) – in addition to, alongside**
- **غضون في (fī ghuḍūn) – during, in the course of**
- **بجانِب (bi-jānib) – beside, next to**
- **بواسطة (bi-wāsiṭa) – by means of**
- **ل نتيجة (natījatan li) – as a result of**
- **من بالغم (bi-l-gham min) – despite, in spite of**

These compound prepositions are formed by combining derived auxiliaries with the basic prepositions such as **لِ، مِنْ، إِلَى، فِي، بِ**. The above examples illustrate this clearly.

Conclusion

In summary, Arabic prepositions (ḥurūf al-jarr) serve to establish connections between words in a sentence. They not only perform a syntactic function but also carry semantic roles such as indicating place, cause, time, manner, and more. As previously mentioned, they also determine the grammatical case of the following word.

For learners of Arabic, the study of prepositions is essential yet challenging due to their grammatical complexity. Mastering the correct usage of prepositions ensures accuracy and clarity of expression in the Arabic language.

References

1. N.Ibrohimov. Arab tili grammatikasi kitobi. 55-b. T-1997
2. Abduhafiz Abdujabborov. Arab tili darslik.78-bet. T-2005
3. N.Ibrohimov. Arab tili grammatikasi kitobi. 56-b. T-1997
4. [file:///C:/Users/MSI/Downloads/%D0%A1%D1%82%D0%B0%D1%82%D1%8C%D1%8F-28402-ru%20\(2\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/MSI/Downloads/%D0%A1%D1%82%D0%B0%D1%82%D1%8C%D1%8F-28402-ru%20(2).pdf)
5. N.Ibrohimov. Arab tili grammatikasi kitobi. 57-b. T-1997