

*A Contrastive Study of Prepositions in English and Spoken  
Arabic in Lower Zab Villages*

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**Abstract:**

Prepositions express certain relations between two parts of a sentence. The phrase following the preposition is called its complement. In English, morphologically two kinds of prepositions are distinguishing; *simple* and *complex*. A simple prepositions consist of one word: *in* , *on* , *after* , *before*. Complex prepositions consist of one more than one word; a part from, instead of , in view of , in case of. The research paper aims at pointing out the similarities and differences in both languages standard English and colloquial Arabic spoken in lower Zab villages. Both languages will be contrasted so as to stand upon the main similarities and differences. A worthnote point to be mentioned; not to fear of colloquial dialects and accents since the standard Arabic is still existed and used in different situations. Data is collected of informants from the area; they are typical Arabic speakers. In conclusion: contrasting both language will reveal similarities and differences of preposition in position whether they are postponed or fixed. Conclusions, will be obtained from data analysis.

## دراسة مقارنة لحروف الجر باللغة الإنجليزية واللغة العربية المنطوقة في قرى الزاب السفلي

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### المخلص:-

تعتبر حروف الجر عن بعض العلاقات بين جزأين من الجملة. يسمى العبارة التالية حرف الجر تكملة لها. في اللغة الإنجليزية ، شكليا نوعين من حروف الجر تميز. بسيطة ومعقدة. تتكون حروف الجر البسيطة من كلمة واحدة: before، after، on، in. تتكون حروف الجر المعقدة من أكثر من كلمة واحدة. جزء من ، بدلا من ، في ضوء ، في حالة. تهدف ورقة البحث إلى توضيح أوجه التشابه والاختلاف في اللغتين القياسيتين واللغة العربية العامية المنطوقة في قرى الزاب الدنيا. ستتم مقارنة كلتا اللغتين بحيث يقفان على أوجه التشابه والاختلاف الرئيسيتين. نقطة تستحق الذكر؛ عدم الخوف من اللهجات العامية واللهجات لأن اللغة العربية القياسية لا تزال موجودة وتستخدم في حالات مختلفة. يتم جمع البيانات من المخبرين من المنطقة. هم المتحدثين باللغة العربية النموذجية. في الختام: سيكشف التباين بين اللغتين عن أوجه التشابه والاختلاف في حرف الجر في الموضوع ما إذا تم تأجيلها أو إصلاحها.

## 1. Introduction:

The various types of relational meaning, those of *Place* and *Time* are the most prominent and easy to identify. In the most general terms, "a preposition expresses a relation between two entities one being that represented by the prepositional complement" ( Quirk, et al, 1973:143). The most productive word forms used for prepositional verbs tend to be different from those used for phrasal verbs. Only the verbs *get* and *go* overlap among other lexical verbs for instance ( took , work, know, hear, use etc). While only *in* and *on* are productive as both adverbial particle and preposition. Besides, in general there are a large number of verbs used to form prepositional verbs , and these are distributed widely across semantic domains. The preposition ' *in* 'and its spoken colloquial Arabic in this area (LZV) equivalent /bi:/ express a place relation obtaining between the subject e.g. Sarah in the kitchen. The relation between Sarah and the place "Kitchen" . On the whole, the position of prepositions in both English and spoken Arabic (LZV) is before its complement and this is rigidly fixed for Arabic.

## 2. prepositions in English:

Prepositions typically states place or time ( at, in , before), direction (to, from, into, down), causation (for) , or relation (of, about, with, like, as, near). They are invariable in form and have to occur before a noun, in the examples below the prepositions are in bold and the nouns they go with are underlined:

- **With** their blocks about linguistics, they went **to** school

The difference between prepositions and adverbs is that prepositions come before the nouns they relate to and that adverbs are on their own:

- He went *in*; they ran *out*; and he jumped *down*

(Gelderen, 2010 : 18)

Some other examples of one word prepositions are (*during, around, after, against, despite, except, without, towards, until, till, and inside*). Sequences such as (*instead of, outside of, away from, due to*) and are also considered to be preposition even though they consist of more than one word . Infrequently , prepositions are transformed into verbs as in the following examples:

- They *upped* the taxes.

Some prepositions have very little lexical meaning and are mainly used for grammatical purposes. For instance *of* expresses a relationship between two nouns rather than a locational or directional meaning:

- The door *of* that car

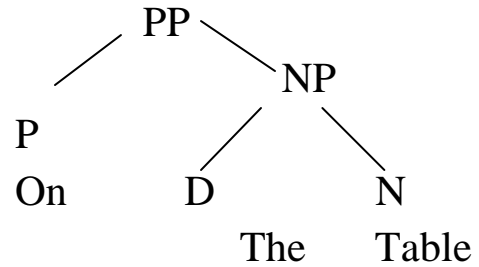
Prepositions are there for a category with lexical meaning and grammatical characteristics. These preposition are treated as lexical . A partial list given to illustrate them as follows:

*About, above, across, after, against, along, amidst, among, around, at, before, behind, below, beneath, beside(s), between, beyond, by, despite, down, during, except, for, from, in, into, inside, like, near, of, off, on, onto, opposite, outside, over, post, since, through, to, toward(s), under, underneath, until, up, upon, with, within, without.*

(ibid:19)

The prepositional phrase (pp) is built around a preposition. These prepositions indicate relations in space and time. PPs include a P and NP, as in the following example:

- The book is on the table



(ibid: 41)

## 2.1 Simple and Complex Preposition

Prepositions may be *simple* or *complex*. The former, which are the commonest, consist of a single word, whereas the latter consist of two words or three as follows:

(a) **Simple**: These consist of one word : *in, on, at, over, by, between, etc*

(b) **Complex**: these are two-and three-word prepositions.

(i) Two-word prepositions: These may consist of the following:

- preposition + preposition: *along with, excepts*
- Adjunctive + preposition: *prior to, contrary to.*
- Adverb+ preposition: *instead of, apart from.*
- Conjunction+ preposition: *because of, as for.*

(ii) Three word prepositions: These consist of preposition+(the) noun + preposition.

*by means of, at the expense of, on behalf of, with regard to, in front of, with reference to.*

Most of the common English prepositions, such as (*at*, *in*, and *for*) are simple . i.e. consist of one word. Other prepositions, consisting of more than one word, are called complex. Most of these are in one of the following categories:

[A] ADVERB or PREP+PREP: along with, as for, away from, out of ,up to, etc.

[B] VERB/ ADJECTIVE / CONJUNCTIONS/ etc.

PREP: owing to , due to, because of, etc.

[C] PREP+NOUN+PREP: by means of, in comparison with, in front of etc.

In [C] which is the most numerous category, the noun in some complex prepositions is preceded by a definite or indefinite article:

- in *the* light of ; as *a* result of

A worth mentioning point, simple prepositions are normally unstressed, whereas in complex preposition the stress falls on the word ( adverb, noun, etc.), preceding the final preposition.

(Quirk, R. 1973: 145).

An important distinction can be drawn between *Free VS. bound* prepositions. Free prepositions have an independent meaning; the choice of preposition is not dependent upon any specific words in the context. In contrast, bound prepositions often have little independent meaning , and the choice of the prepositions depends upon some other word( often word the preceding verbs). Normally prepositions are placed before their complements. There are however, a few cases where prepositions are placed before their complements. There are a few cases which prepositions are postponed, positions of prepositions and classification of preposition as follows :

- (i) in questions: What are you looking at?
  - (ii) in relative clauses: This is the book I was looking for.
  - (iii) In exclamations: What a strange thing dreams are made of!
  - (iv) In the passive voice: This answer was agreed upon.
  - (v) In to-infinitive : He is pleased to talk to.
  - (vi) In –ing constructions: That man is not worth listening to.
- (Quirk, et al, 1999:74)

## 2.2 Syntactic Functions of the prepositional phrase in English:

The syntactic functions of prepositional phrase in English can be summarized as follows:

- (i) Adjunct: They are studying in the library.
- (ii) Disjunct: in brief, there is no solution for the problem.
- (iii) conjunct: on the contrary, she was very cooperative.
- (iv) Complementation of a verb: she is looking after her son.
- (v) Complementation of an adjective : He is fond of sweets.
- (vi) postmodifier of a noun phrase: The book in the corner is valuable.

### 2.2.1 A prepositional phrase can also function as follows:

- (i) A postmodifier in a noun phrase:  
ex:- The students *in the college* are cooperative.
- (ii) An adverbial:  
ex: They were shouting *on the bus*.
- (iii) Complementation of a verb or an adjective  
ex: He is looking *at* the door.  
ex: He is afraid *of* the dog.

## 2.3 Deferred (stranded) prepositions:

Prepositions may appear at the end of a sentence, forming a discontinuous prepositional phrase as follows:

- Has it been paid *for*?
- He is impossible to agree *with*.
- Who can we deal *with*?
- The mobile is what I am asking *about*.
- I hate being gazed *at*.
- What she is worried *about* is the exam result.
- What was the accident *due to*?

(Ibid: 423-425)

#### 2.4 Modification of prepositional phrases:

A prepositional phrase may optionally be modified by an adverb; creating the following sequence: adverb + preposition + complement.

ex: *totally out of date; quite near hear; directly opposite the mosque; just before midnight; badly in debt.*

(Quirk, et al, 1999:74)

##### 2.4.1 Expansion of prepositional phrases:

A prepositional phrase can be expanded by having two prepositional coordinated by "and" , "or".

- I go by bike to *and* from school.
- is she for *or* against the idea?

(Ibid:75)

##### 2.4.2 Homomorphs of prepositions:

English has a number of lexical items that function as both *prepositions* and *verbs* or *adverbs* or *conjunctions*.

(i) preposition and verb: *baring, considering, expecting, following, including, regarding, given, granted.*

- preposition: The shops open seven days a week *excluding* official holidays.



- verb: they are not *excluding* the possibility of an agreement.
  - (ii) preposition and Adverb : *abroad of , off, up , between, a long, etc*
- English has a combination of verb plus particle the latter element may be either a preposition or an adverb:
- Preposition: The book is on the desk.
  - Adverb: He turned on the radio.
  - (iii) prepositions and conjunction: Since , until
  - Preposition: I haven't seen her since March.
  - Conjunction: I haven't seen him since we were kids.

### 3. Semantic features of prepositions:

(i) The choice of prepositions is sometimes governed by the part of speech to which the preceding word belongs as follows:

- Noun + preposition: *concern for, pride in.*
- Verb + preposition: *depend on, worry about.*
- Adjective+ preposition: *angry with, at, happy about.*

(ii) A single verb may acquire a large number of meanings depending on the prepositions that follows it. For example, the verb *look* combines with the following prepositions: *for, after, up, down on, out of, to, into, beyond, and a head.*

(iii) Prepositions exhibit the semantic relation of polysemy ( one form; several meanings). For example, the preposition *by* expresses the following semantic functions.

- Position near: I sat *by* my father.
- movement near : I walked *by* the shop.
- agency: The message will be sent *by* the cell-phone.
- relative to a point in time: He will reach the airport *by* evening.
- means: They will be sent *by* E-mail.
- extent: The stamps measure 4 cm *by* 2cms.

### 3.1 prepositional meanings:

Different prepositions, express different semantic relations. The most common relations expressed by English prepositions are the following:

#### (i) Spatial relations:

Some prepositions express spatial relations such as position and destination.

- Position            She is *at* school.
- Destination      He went *to* school.
- Space                She was drawing *at* my table.

Other prepositions that express the notion of position are: *away from, off, out of, over, under, above, below*, etc. Examples of preposition that denote space are: *by, beside, near(to), with, close to, opposite, around, round and about*.

#### (ii) Temporal relations:

Temporal relations are expressed by: *at, on, in, by*.

- They arrived *at* eight o'clock.
- She always travel *by* night.

(iii) Duration is expressed by: *for, during, over, throughout, until, up to*, etc.

- They have waited *for* three hours.
- He waited over three *until* dawn.

(iv) Other prepositions of time are: *before, after, since, by*.

- He has been studying here *since* October.
- He will be here *by* noon.

### 3.2 Other Meanings Expressed by English Prepositions are in the Following:

- *cause / reason / motive* : *because of, on account of, for, from.*
  - She failed *because of* his carelessness.
- *recipient / goal/ target* : for, to, at
  - He arranged an invitation *for* Maria
- *Source / origin* : from.
  - He comes *from* France.
- *Manner* : like, with
  - life is *like* a stage.
  - The team played with great moral.
- *means by* :
  - I go to school *by* bus.
- *instrument*: with:
  - He broke the window with a stone.
- *agentive*: by
  - He was shot *by* the gang.
- *Stimulus*: at, about
  - He is worried *about* her.
- *accompaniment*: with
  - He said he was waiting *with* us.
- *Support*: for, with
  - They are *for* the refugees suffering.
- *Opposition*: against
  - He agreed well *against* birth control.
- *having*: of, with, without
  - He is a man *of* action.
- *concession*: in spite of, for all, with all.
  - He came to school *in spite of* the traffic jam.

- *respect*: with respect to, with regard to, as for
  - *With regard to* the appointment, the doctor will come next week.
- *exception*: except (for), a part from, aside from, but.
  - There was nothing left *except* some bread
- *addition*: besides, in addition to, as well as
  - *Besides* my interest in swimming, I have a flair for languages.
- *Source*: from, out of
  - Bricks are made *out of* mud.

(ibid: 103-105)

#### **4. Preposition of Spoken Arabic in lower Zab Villages (LZV) and data analysis:**

The Arabs lack a single governmental system that could put the final touch to the language and its dialects as it exists today and command general acceptance under the tent of standard Arabic. To be successful, the task must be under taken jointly by all the Arabic speaking peoples regardless of present day political circumstances.(Al-Ani, 1978:38-39) . In colloquial Arabic spoken in this area prepositions govern the complement in the genitive case. The position of the preposition is like English, but in Arabic it is rigidly fixed before its complement. Prepositions in LZV govern their complement in the genitive case and they can be classified into the following:

**4.1 Simple prepositions in (LZV):** Instead of the preposition/ *fi* /, used /*bi:*/ commonly in literary Arabic in the sense "in", we hear /*bi*/ in spoken hear Arabic, although / *fi* / also occurs, especially in common expressions and also frequently in the

colloquial speech of more educated people. Preposition in the spoken Arabic (LZV) occurs in forms like /b/ or /ib/ as follows:

- /b/ or /ib/ is used with personal suffixes /bi:ha/ , /bi:hum/ is the moral expression for "in" preceding nouns.

- /bi/ and its usage:

•in local sense:

•/b-ʔfu:r/ "in Assur".

•/bi-L-qaʕa/ "in the fortress"

•/bi-L-ʕra:g/ "in Iraq"

•/bi-L-ʕa:lam/ "in the world"

•/bi-f-ʕirga:t/ "in sharqat"

•/ʔi:zittu:nu bi-n-nahr ʔa-Za:b/ "they throw him into Al-Za:b river"

•/bi-L-manʕaqa/ "in the area"

•/bi-L-madi:na/ "in the twon"

•/bi-dʒarja/ "in the village"

•/b-baʕd aLmana:tiq/ "and in some areas"

•in a temporal sense:

•/bi-L-Li:L/ "in the night"

•/b-ʕaʕrunʕa L-ħa:dir/ "in our present time"

•/bi-L-ʕahd ʔaL-qadi:m/ "in the ancient time"

•/b-ʔauqa:t alʔafra:ħ/ "during wedding feasts"

•/bi-ʕ-ʕe:f/ "in the summer"

•in an instrumental sense:

•/ji:ħmu:nha b-na:r/ "they heat it in fire"

•/ji:Luffu:n bi:ha ra:ʕhum/ "they cover their head with them"

•/tuʕbuYha b-lo:n ʔswad/ "she dyes it with black colour"

•/bi-L-ʕasa/ "with the stick"

•/az-za:raʕ jaðru:nu: ʔajdan bi-L-miðra:/ "the crop they winnow also with the winnowing fork"

The preposition /li/ is the normal expression for "to". Apart from this form we can also find /ʔil/, /ʔal/, /l/ and /La/. The texts provide us with some examples of /ʔila/, which should preferably be regarded as a borrowing from literary Arabic /ʔila:/, Apart from the meaning "to" –in a local and temporal sense – or in the sense of "for" /li/ often occurs as an expression for "I have, you have, he has, she has" etc. Sometimes as a genitive. The following quotations from the text constitute examples of the use of the forms mentioned in various senses:

(a) "to", "for", or in the dative sense:

•/li/

- /makʃu:fa li-l-ʕaraʔ Li-ʔ-ʔabi:ʕa li-mutar/ "open to the open air, to nature, to the rain"

•/l:/

- /ma:jdal lha ʃuʕul bi:ha/ "she no longer has any use of them"  
- /tithajaʔ-lhum dʒamaʕa ʔaXri:n/ "other people are ready for them"

•/ʔila:/

- /jru:ħu:n ʔila:l-mulla wa-ʕand af-ʃjeX/ "they go to the mullah (a religious man) and the sheikh" tribe in chief.

(b) In a local sense:

•/li:/

- /ra:ħaw li-l-madrasa/ "they went to the school"

-/w-jru:h li-lrawdə/ "and he goes to the kindergarten"

-/Li-l-ʕamal/ "and I come to work"

-/ʔa:rdʒʕ li-l-bjet/ "I come back home"

-/mn iʕ-farq li-Lʕarəb/ "from the east to the west"

•/ʔi:/

-/min bj:t ʔIbjet/ "from house to house"

•/la:/

-/jirdʒaʕ La-ʔahaIu/ "he comes back to his family"

•/ʔiIa:/

-/taħarak min bjit ʔila ʔa:Xar/ "he moved from one house to another"

-/min bjet ʔil bji:t/ "from house to house"

-/ʔla mantaqt al-ʕamal/ "to the place (locality of the work)"

(C) In a temporal sense:

•/ʔila/

-/dalaw hie:n ʔila sint ʔalf w-tisʕa mi:ja w-ʔarbaʕtaʕʕ/ "they remained here up to the year 1914"

In the sense of "I have, you have, he/she has " etc. :

•/ʔil/

-/ʔilhen ta:ri:X ʕari:q/. "they have an ancient history"

-/ʔilha ʕəwt min baʕi:d tismaʕha/. "it has a sound which you hear from afar"

-/ʔilha ʔʕal qadi:m b-taqa:li:d alʕra:q/ "they have an old origin in the traditions of Iraq".

•/ʔel:/

-/ʔelha moəal la:əa:t / "there are triangles in it"

•/la:/

-/la:ha min ʔaʃl ta:ri:Xi: moħima: b-ʕaʃurna l-ħa:der/ "they have an important position in our present time, because of their historical origin".

•/l/:

This form occurs together with the suffix of the 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular masculine:

-/Lu:dʒarnje:n/ "it has two horns "

-/w-kol ʔnsa:n ħori:jtʊ w-kara:mtʊ/ "and every human being has his freedom and dignity"

-/l-Xʃu:r mu: - lħe z-zi:na/. "the pearls have no decorative (purpose):

-/Lʊ ʔʊθom tʃbi:r/. "it has a big mouth"

-/Lʊ: ʔʊθom ʃʔi:r/ "it has a small mouth".

/ʕala/, abbreviated /ʕal/ or /ʕa/ "on , to" ( often a synonym to li, la, ʔila):

•/ʕala/:

-/jiqra ʕala ħadi:da/ "he reads over a piece of iron"

-/jħutu:n al-ħadi:da ʕala lisanħom/. "they put the piece of iron on their tongue"

-/w-dʒi:t ha:-f-ʃikil ʕala widʒhi/ "and I came (fell down) in this way on my face"

-/ʕala dħrʊ/ "on his back"

-/w-tru:ħ ʕala bje:tha/ " and she goes to her house"

-/titmadad ʕaliha l-mara/ "the woman is stretched on it"

-/w-rsmʊaw ʕali:ha/ "and they drew on it"

-/jdʒi:bu:nʊ ʕale:na: l-ʕaṭa:ri:n/ "the sellers of perfume bring it to us"



## •/ʕal/:

-/jru:ħu:n ʕala ʔaħad/ "they go to somebody"

•/tigi ʕal-libas edʒa:sa:d/" you come to ask about the clothing of the body"i.e. outdoor clothes.

## •/ʕa/:

-/w-bji:ʕha ʕa-L-ʔadʒa:nib/ "and their selling to the foreigners"

-/ha:ði L-Xa:fu:ga jiħmu:nha ʕa-n-na:r/ "they heat this spoon on the fire"

-/ ʔiða raħit ʕal-ʕuṭa:r/ "if you go to the perfume vendor (druggist)

-/ʕa-L-bajsikil/ "on bicycle"

-/ʕa-tari:q/ "on the road"

-/ʕa-L-maṭaʔa/ "on the area"

-/ʕa-L-sida wa-dalaker/ "with tool and the tractor"

-/qabil ʕa-L-ʕida waθo:r/ "before with tool and the bull"

-/w-da:js dʒa:n ʔajdan ʕa-L-bugar/ "And the threshing happened also with cows"

## ●/min, mn/. "from, of"

-/dʒai min ʔalsu:g/ "he came from the market"

-/min ʕind ʔaldi:ra/ "from the locality"

-/bidaw mn ʔal faḍzir/ "they started from the dawn"

-/min zima:nha ʔalfak/ "for a long time they have called it ʔalfak the same area"

-/qisem min ʔabjaḍ/ "part of it white"

-/mansu:dʒ min aʕu:f/ "an aba- a cloak of wool"

-/warda min ḍahab/ "rose of gold"

-/min ʕina:ʕat arʕja:n/ "this necklace belongs to the work of the shepherds"

-/*ʔagwa minhum jsu:lbɔ:nhum*/ "they who are stronger than them, rob them"

•/*ʕan*/ "about, of, for":

-/*majaʕrfu:n ʕanha kulʕi*/ "they do not know anything of it"

-/*ʔal taqa:li:d al-biʕa*/ "the traditions of the ordeal"

-/*ʔəha ngu:l maji: ʕan al-ma:/* "we say the word maji:(water) instead of alma:"

•/*ʕind*/

It is used particularly with personal suffixes */ʕid/*, "at, with, to". It is very often used in the sense " I have, you have, he/she has "etc.

-/*jru:ħu:n ʕind afje:X*/ "they go to tribe in chief"

-/*darast bilma:drasa ʕind ʔahali* / "I studied at school (living) with my family"

-/*ʕindak*/ "you have "

-/*ʕindɔʔ ʕiXtija:r*/ "the choice remains with him"

-/*kɔl biet ʕindɔ taqali:d hasa:ʕ*/ "every house has specific traditions nowadays"

-/*ʕidha ma:da*/ "she has got material"

-/*ʕidhom - ʕidna ma:da*/ "they have material"

•/*maʕ, maʕa*/ "with"

-/*wjfi:lu:nha maʕhom*/ "and they carry it with them"

-/*jiəawlu:n maʕ alħəra:s*/ "they ignored the watchmen"

-/*wa:ldu ja:Xoð tfam ridʒa:l maʕa:h*/ "His father takes some men with him"

-/*maʕa:h ridʒa:len, əla:əa*/ "with him(=he has) two, three men"

-/*wanisa:ʔ tfu:t bidabtʕa maʕa ʔaridʒa:l* / "and the women go to the dabcha (dance) with men".

-/*ʕa:lu maʕa:hɔm*/ "they took with them"

•/wija/ "with"

-/jfi:u:lnu wija:hum/ "they carry it with them"

-/ʔaħuʔ wija ʔati:n milħ/ "I put salt together with the mud"

-/ha:ða ʔanħutu wi:ja ʔati:n/ "we put this together with the mud"

•/ʔaəna:ʔ/ "during"

-/waqabil waʔaəna:ʔ jawm azawa:dʒ/ "and before and during the wedding day"

•/gabul/ "before"

-/gabul alħarb alʔa:lamja ʔalʔula:/ "before the first world war"

-/gabul duXu:L ʔalħada:ra/ "before the coming of civilization"

-/gabul taʔaəurhum bi-L-ħaḍ:ra/ "before they had been influenced by civilization"

-/ʔal iħtila:l ʔalamri:ki: gablu/ " the American occupation before it"

•/baʕd/ "after"

-/ʔal ʕarab dʒaw baʕd ʔal-ʔa:fu:riji:n/ "the Arabs came after the Assyrians"

-/baʕd ʕamlija:t ʔal-ħaʕa:d/ "after the harvesting operation"

•/dʒida:m/ "in front of"

-/dʒida:m sifi:ft ʔal-fuda suwa:r/ "in front of a (sifi:fa) plate of silver there is a bracelet"

-/ʔasifi:fa dʒida:mha swa:r/ "in front the (sifi:a) plate there is a bracelet"

-/dʒida:m aleswa:r/ "in front of the bracelet"

•/Xalf/ "behind"

-/tirkab wi:ju radʒul, Xalfu/ "She rode with a man, behind him"

•/wara/ "after, behind":

-/toʃloʃ wara ʔal- ʔanam/ "she goes after the sheep"

-/hasa:ʃ minhu: jimʃi: wara ʔaθo:r/ "now who goes after the bull"

-/hasa:ʃ minhi tirkab wi:ja radʒil, Xalfʊ/ "now who rides with a man , behind him"

-/tirkab wara faXeʃ/ "she rode behind a person"

•/fo:g/ "above, over, on":

-/ʔaħʊt ʔala:Xar fo:gʊ/ "I put the other one on it"

-/w-fo:g ʔal kʊl tilbas ʃaba:h/ "and over everything she wears a cloak "

•/taħt/

-/ma: ʔitbajin taħt ʔalʔəta ʔal ʔawal/ "it does not appear under the first cover"

•/ ben/ "between , among"

-/bjen ʔal ta:ʔaθar bi-L-ħada:ra/ "among those who have been influenced by culture"

•/bena:t/ "between"

-/jtīm ʔal ʔitifa:q bēna:t hōm/ "the agreement will be made between them"

•/dʒʊwa, dʒowa/ (because of the very quick pronunciation of the vowel after /dʒ/ it is difficult to make an exact transcription, i.e. to decide which vowel value is the most correct: /dʒʊw/ , /dʒow/ or /dʒaw/. "insidender " :

-/sawow Xana:deq dʒʊwa:ha/ "they made trench inside it"

-/jfu:tu:n dʒuwa:ha jimna: jisra:/ "they went into it from the right side, from the left side"

-/θo:b wa:ħid , ma:kv dzuwa: kōl fi: la: jitag wa la: liba:s wa-la: sirwa:l/ "one clock, there was no under it, neither an underskirt nor underclothes, not even drawers"

•/miəl/ "like, as"

-/miəl ʔal Xana:deq/ "as the trench"

-/miəl gla:da/ "like the necklace"

•/ħawa:li/ "about, circa, approximately"

-/ħawa:li θa:la:θ mi:t sana/ "about three hundred years"

-/ħawa:li sabʕat ʔa:la:f nasma:/ "about seven thousands person"

•/naħwa/ "towards" :

-/w-hom jizħafu:n naħwa ʕadʒnu:b/ "and they advanced towards the south"

•/Xa:riɖʒ/ "outside":

-/Xaridʒ ʕal-byet/ "outside the house"

•/da:Xil/ "inside"

-/da:Xil Xema / "inside a tent"

•/ba:la:/ "without":

-/gabōl ʕeb bil.mara timfi: ba:la ħza:m/ "a shame for the woman to walk without any belt"

•/bida:/ "instead of":

-/tlbas bida:lha ʔaswa:r/ "instead of them she wears (genuine) bracelet"

•/wakt/ "durind in time/ :

-/w-l-mara ma:ʒsi:r ʕindha ħeða: ʔila wakt ʔal ʕais/ "and at is not possible for the woman that she has (wears) shoes except at the time of the wedding feast"

#### 4-2. Compound Prepositions

• /*ʕala fiʕil*/ "like":

-/*gabəl ʔana:s ʔidʒaw ʕala fiʕil na:s roħal*/ "people came like nomadic(wandering) people.

• /*ʕala tu:l*/ "continually through"

-/*ʕala tu:l ʔal jo:m mista:mar:n bil ʕamalija*/ "they start continually through the day going on with the operation"

• /*bala , bidu:n , bdu:n (bi-du:n , b-dun)* / "without "

-/*bidu:n taħdi:d ʔalmara*/ "without any limitation for the woman "

-/*jimskʊ:n ʕadʒid ʕid mula: bdu:n maħkama*/ "they make a contract with mula without any court"

• /*da:jr ma: do:r*/ "round" :

-/*w-bini:jt da:ʔij da:i:jru ma: libin*/ "and (when) I have built round it adobes"

• /*min gabəl*/ "before , prior to ":

-/*jdʒi:na pla:stik min gabəl ʔal- Xamsi:na:t*/ "plastic came to us before the fifties"

#### 5. Comparison of prepositions in Standard English and Spoken Arabic in Lower Zab Villages (LZV)

The semantic function and syntactic function in both varieties reveal the aspects of prepositions. As far as the syntactic function is concerned in both languages , prepositions are proposed before their complements. In very few cases, English prepositions may be proposed: fragment in the genitive case. Morphologically, they are of two main types : (i) Inseparable and separable. Inseparable preposition consist of one consonant prefixed to a noun: /*Xa:bar bilmo:bail*/ (He phoned with a phone cell). Separable prepositions are of two or three types: Those that are made of two or three

consonants and end in different vowels (from since): /*min gabul*/ and prepositions comprising nouns in the accusative: /*bi:n , dʒawə*/ (between , under). The preposition phrase has various syntactic function and the place of the preposition is fixed before the complement:

(i) constituent of a sentence: /*hwa jfta ʔal bilmaʔsam*/ he is working in the restaurant.

(ii) Predicate in nominal sentence: /*ʔalqo:ri fog ʔaltbaX*/ the teapot on the cooker.

It is to be noted that if the subject is indefinite, it is placed after the prepositional predicate to avoid starting a sentence with an indifinte noun. The inverted order is syntactically equivalent to the formal subject 'there' in (Aziz. 1989: 187).

English .CF /*fog ʕalraf mazharija*/ there is a vase on the shelf /*fog ʕalraf mazharija*/.

(iii) Modifier of a noun: /*naʕr ʕalhag bilmsa:wa:t*/ (Justice's victory in equality) /*nasur ʔalhag-bi lmsa:wa:t*/

(iv) Complement of a verb: (I look for the reference) /*dawarit ʕal maʕdar*/.

(v) Complementation of an adjective : /*hum ʔmwalaʕi:n bil ħalawja:t*/ "they are fond of sweets"

(vi) Disjunct: /*min ʔalwadiħ ʔin ʔalmuʕkilah tʕibi:rah*/ "clearly, this problem is big"

(vii) conjunct: /*bilra ʔum min ʕa:lk lam jofliħ bi drasaihi*/ "in spite of that he didn't succeed in his study'

The complement of English prepositions has a common case or the objective case if the complement is a pronoun (e.g. to her).

(ibid:187)

(i) English prepositions may be either simple or complex where as preposition of spoken Arabic in (LZA) are all simple:

(ii) Unlike English, some Arabic prepositions consist of a letter or sound, e.g., /bi/ , /l/ , /k/ , /t/ , /w/ .

(iii) Unlike English prepositions, in spoken Arabic of (LZV) as a colloquial Arabic, the prepositions govern the noun that follows them in the genitive case.

(iv) unlike preposition of spoken Arabic in (LZV) standard, English ones may be standard or deferred, creating a discontinuous prepositional phrase.

(v) unlike preposition of spoken Arabic (LZV) standard, English prepositions and prepositional phrases may be pre-modified by an adverb.

(vi) unlike preposition of spoken Arabic in (LZV) standard, English ones may have multiple class membership, e.g., adverbs, conjuncts, verbs.

(vii) unlike preposition of spoken Arabic in (LZV) standard, English has a large number of phrasal verbs that consist of a verb plus a particle that may be either a preposition or an adverb. For example, the verb AGREE combines with several prepositions, each expressing a different relationship.

-AGREE: with, about, on , to, as follows:

(viii) English allows coordination of preposition, whereas , preposition in lower Zab Villages does not. For example the following English sentence is rendered differently from the spoken Arabic in lower Zab villages.

- I go by bike to and from the college. /?aru:ħ ?ila l-kulija wa?ardʒaʃminha: bi-d-dʊradʒa/

(Literally : I go to the college and come back from it).



(vx) there is no one-to-one correspondence between meanings of prepositions expressed by English and spoken Arabic in lower Zab villages. This contrast explains inference errors made by Arab EFL learners who rely heavily on literal or word-for-word translation from English. For example, the English adjective word (*afraid*) if followed by (*of*) whereas the adjective as spoken Arabic in lower Zab villages is /*ʔaijf*/ "afraid of" is followed by /*min*/ "from". This clarifies the erroneous phrase "afraid from". So in such case of one-to-one translation, the meaning will be spoiled and grammatically the sentences will not be well-formed. Moreover, in some contexts, as English preposition may have a zero equivalent in standard and colloquial Arabic for example, the prepositions *on*, *at*, and *in*, in the following sentences are not realized by a prepositions when translated into Spoken Arabic in (LZV).

-She arrived *on* Monday. /*waʃlt jawm ʔaəni:n*/

-She left home *at* seven. /*ra:ħat min ʔal bet b sabʕa*/

-She suffers from cancer. /*hija ʔib ħalat ʔalʂarṭa:n*/

As far as, prepositions of Spoken Arabic in lower Zab Villages, they may have a zero equivalent when translated into standard English. For example the following sentence in spoken Arabic has the preposition /*ʕala:*/ "on , about" whereas the standard English translation does not have a preposition. /*ʔiṭalʕa ʔalʕamal bi qisim ʔaltaħqīqa:t ʔal dʒna:ʔijah*/ "has a work at the process of investigation in the department of criminal cases". This point has its impact during the process of interpretation and can be tackled and taken into consideration. Besides, the aspect of /*tana:wub*/ "alternation" in Arabic.

A further syntactic feature of prepositions namely those traditionally called transitive preposition which they share in common with transitive verbs is the fact that they occur and immediately follow object pronoun their complement like *us / me*. It should be noted that since *right / straight* serve to intensify the meaning of a preposition, they can only be combined with those uses of prepositions which express the kind of meaning and sentence structure which can be intensified in the appropriate way (contrast the grammaticality of *He may right / straight for the exit* with the ungrammaticality of *He bought a present right / straight for Mary*).

(Radford: 34-35)

**5.1** The semantic relations expressed by prepositions in English and spoken Arabic in lower Zab Villages (LZV) are best summarized in a table as follows:

Semantic relation	Standard English	Spoken Arabic in (LZV)
Position: Position	In, on, at	/ʕan/ , /ʕal/ , /b/
Destination	To, on, into	/li/ , /ʔal/ , /dʒawa/
Neg. position	Off, away from	/ʕan/
Relative position	Over, under	/fog/ , /dʒawa/
Relative Destination	Over, under, behind, etc.	/fog/ , /dʒawa/ , /wara/
Passage	Across, on, in	/fog/ , /b/ , /ʔe:r/
Reference	Along, across	/maʕa/ , /ʕabr/

Orientation	Beyond, over	/fog/ , /wara/
Resultative	Over, out of	/fog/ , /wara/
Pervasive	All over	/bikol/
Time when	At, on, in	/b/
Duration	For, from,...to	/min/ , /ll/
Point relation	Before, after, since, between, up to, till	/gabal/ , /baʕad/ , /min/ , /be:n/ , /ll/ , /ll/
Cause purpose	For	/ll/ , /ll/
Source. Origin	From	/min/
Manner	With, in, like	/b/
Means. Instrument	By, with, without	/bala:/
Agentive	by	/b/ , /ll/
Alarm	at	/ll/
Accompaniment	with	/b/ , /maʕa:/
Modifiers – Genitive 'of'	of	----- -----
Possession	of, with, without	/ʕala/

Concession	in spite of, despite	-----
Reference	with regard to, as to	/ma:ʕada/ , /ma:Xala/
Exception	except for, except	-----
Negative condition	but, for	/ʔal/ , /ʕan/ , /b/
Subject Matter	on, with	/min/ , /b/
Ingredient	of, with	/b/
Respect	at	/ʕal/ , /ll/ , /l/
Reaction	at, to	

It must be noted that this is only a rough and cursive way of comparing the subtle meanings of prepositions in English and spoken Arabic in lower Zab Villages (LZV). English has been taken as a basis of discussion; this is more a matter of convince since syntactic study of English preposition is available. On the other hand, a dash(-) is used under Spoken Arabic as colloquial and standard Arabic, this means that Arabic expresses this sense not by means of preposition, but by other means which needs to be tackled in further study.

**5.2** The semantic relations of preposition are notoriously difficult to delimit in a precise way, and any attempt to do justice even to the main sense of prepositions will require a detailed study which falls outside the scope of the present research. On the other hand, preposition of spoken Arabic in

lower Zab area, The linguistic situation in the Arab world, however great some of its problems, has been more favorable than that existing in certain politically united countries such as , china, India... etc. The Arabs could be said to have a 'common denominator' in the Arabic language . However, they lack a single governmental system that could put the final touch to the language and its dialects as it exists today and command general acceptance under the tent of standard Arabic. To be successful, the task must be undertaken jointly by all the Arabic-speaking peoples regardless of present-day political circumstances.

(AL-Ani, 1978: 38-39).

#### **6. Conclusions:**

1. Prepositions of spoken Arabic in lower Zab Villages (LZV) govern their complement in the genitive case . They are of two types: inseparable and separable. In Standard English two kinds of prepositions are distinguished: simple and complex. A simple preposition consist of one word (in, on , after, before). Complex prepositions consist of more than one word : (in case of , apart from, instead of , in view of ). in (LZV), prepositions are compound as English is an analytic language.

2. prepositions play a large part in Arabic language and its structure and are the cause of many difficulties to the foreign students. There is no logical reason why a speaks is right in certain contexts and right in another . Idioms- in which preposition are frequently concerned – are peculiarities of language whose "rightness" or "wrongness" is based on usage, not on logic or etymology.

#### **7. Suggestions:**

The subject can be studied from different points of view, their functions and semantic point of view .

**Phonetic Symbols:**

symbols	Description
/h/	voiceless glottal fricative
/ʔ/	voiceless glottal stop
/ħ/	voiceless pharyngeal fricative
/g/	voiced velar stop
/ɣ/	voiced uvular fricative
/q/	voiceless uvular stop
/x/	voiceless velar fricative
/ð/	voiced dental fricative
/θ/	voiceless inter-dental fricative
/ʕ/	voiced pharyngeal fricative
/k/	voiceless velar stop
/ʃ/	voiceless post-alveolar fricative
/tʃ/	voiceless palato-alveolar affricate
/dʒ/	voiced palate-alveolar affricate
/r/	voiced alveolar liquid
/j/	voiced palatal glide
/z/	voiced alveolar fricative
/s/	voiceless alveolar fricative
/S/	voiceless alveolar emphatic fricative
/d/	voiced dental stop
/t/	voiceless dental stop
/T/	voiceless dental emphatic stop
/f/	voiceless labio-dental fricative
/b/	voiced bilabial stop
/m/	voiced bilabial nasal
/n/	voiced alveolar nasal
/l/	voiced alveolar lateral
/w/	voiced labio-velar glide

**Vowels**

/i/ high front short unrounded

/ee/ mid front long unrounded

/oo/ mid back long rounded

/uu/ high back long rounded

/aa/ low central long unrounded

/ii/ high front long unrounded

/e/ mid front short unrounded

/o/ mid back short rounded

/u/ high back short rounded

/a/ low central short unrounded

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