

UDC 811.134.2

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**PREPOSITION AS A MEANS TO REFLECT THE CATEGORY OF SPACE
IN THE LANGUAGE (BASED ON SPANISH)**

Abstract

The article explores the role of prepositions in expressing spatial relations in Spanish including physical and linguistic space relationship. The article presents the arguments in favour of the idea that the preposition is the main means to reflect the category of space in the language since the semantics of spatial prepositions contains information about objects localization: the Spanish prepositions are able to indicate the direction from the start point and to the given point, the final point of movement, the trajectory of movement as well as the object location. The article pays particular attention to the relationship between the use of spatial prepositions and the situation in which the subject is involved. Thus, the objects that exist in reality can be interpreted by a person in different ways. I argue that this fact plays a key role in choosing a preposition, in some cases a preposition with uncharacteristic semantics, to describe a particular situation. It was found that, in order to express the dynamic spatial relations, in some cases, due to the peculiarities of human perception of reality it is necessary to use a static spatial preposition, and vice versa, when transmitting the static spatial relations, sometimes the dynamic spatial prepositions are used. Another finding was that in some situations that describe the same physical space from the point of view of the objective reality, prepositions with different semantic content often appear. On the whole, it was proven that the choice of the preposition is more dependent on the way a person perceives this category (i. e., the linguistic space) than on the real space itself, which confirms the hypothesis that the linguistic space in a language has priority over the physical space, in particular, when it comes to the use of spatial prepositions.

Keywords: spatial relations, physical space, linguistic space, category of space, spatial prepositions.

doi: 10.22250/2410-7190_2019_5_4_41_51