ABOUT THE PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE IN BULGARIAN

Radka Vlahova

Sofia University

Atanas Atanasov

Sofia University

ABSTRACT

In this paper we analyze the Bulgarian PPs with the preposition "с" (with) in VP. The main goal is to determine types of predicates which allow this PP, its position (predicative, argument, argument-adjunct or adjunct), the syntactic representation and the semantic roles (when the PP is argument or argument-adjunct).

Introduction

The constructions with prepositional phrases in Bulgarian are discussed as a result of the loose of the morphological case declension. The ideas of E. Demina about the so called "old" and "new" declension and also the discussion in Bulgarian linguistics are well known. In Y. Penchev`s description of Bulgarian syntax the category PP is presented in the following way: the PP, apart from being an argument, could be in the syntactic position of adverbial, hence the possible PP-extensions are result of the same function. R. Nicolova studies the preposition phrases in the semantic structure of the Bulgarian sentence. She classifies the PPs as arguments, argument-adjuncts and adjuncts. The prepositions are described as predicative and non-predicative, with respect to the relation between the meaning of the prepositions and the semantic roles of the arguments of the predicate.

Positions of the prepositional phrase (PP)

The prepositional phrase in Bulgarian could be part of:

- verb phrase (VP) – *пее с удоволствие*;

- noun phrase (NP) – *съгласие с удоволствие*;

- adjective phrase (AP) – *направено с удоволствие*;

- adverbial phrase (AdvP) – *винаги с удоволствие*.

Here we will concentrate only on the first case – when the PP is part of VP. There are four possibilities for the PPs in this position – it could be a predicative, an argument of the predicate, an argument-adjunct, and an adjunct.

The Bulgarian PPs with the preposition "*с*" (with) in VP

When the PP with the preposition "с" is in the predicative position (VP → AUX PP), depending on their semantics, three predicate types could be distinguished:
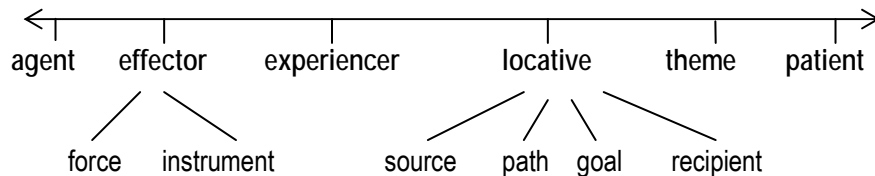
- the first one includes existential predicates (*Дъщеря ми **е с** малко дете.*);

- the second predicate type expresses qualification (*Омбудсманът трябва да **е с** висок морал.*);

- the third type is for quantification (*Офертата **е с** 20 % по-ниска от очакванията на анализаторите.*).

The possible predicate types, which require this PP as an argument, are the following:

- reciprocal, which meaning is "един друг" – each other (*В Сидни се надяваме да **се запознаем с** повече българи.*);

- accepting the adverb "заедно" – together (*Имало случаи, в които и полицаи **действат с** мафията, се казва в публикацията.*);
- competitive (*Мадона ще **се състезава с** Кристина Агилера за грамофонче.*).

The next step is to find out what semantic roles assign the predicates to their PP arguments. Here, as a theoretical framework, we accept Van Valin's approach, stated in the Role and Reference Grammar (Van Valin 1997), where the relations between the predicates and their arguments are presented with the following scheme:

The semantic role of the PPs with the preposition "c" in argument position could be:

- co-agent (*Докато преводачката ги чака в ирландския пъб, те сядат да **вечерят с** екипа на Слави в ресторанта " Александърс Плейс ". **Живея с** родителите си и те се занимават със сметките.*);
- instrument (*Автомобилите на нарушителите **се вдигат с** паяци.*);
- theme (*Обществото също би трябвало да **се ангажира с** процеса на интегритет на църквата. Развивайте талантите и **се борете с** подозрителността му.*).

When the PPs with the preposition "c" are in argument position of the predicate they can function only as indirect objects (*В момента той **се занимава с** бизнес с горива на територията на страната. Щатската валута ще **се изравни с** еврото. Маричков за първи път **изпълни с** група хита от филма " Дунав мост ". Преди това **влизаме в** махалата **с** полицейска кола.*).

When the semantic role of the PP is co-agent it is possible to raise its noun element to the subject position. The subject from the construction before the transformation does not undergo any changes (*Докато преводачката ги чака в ирландския пъб, те сядат да **вечерят с** екипа на Слави в ресторанта " Александърс Плейс ". → Докато преводачката ги чака в ирландския пъб, те и екипът на Слави сядат да вечерят в ресторанта " Александърс Плейс ".; **Живея с** родителите си и те се занимават със сметките. → Родителите ми и аз живеем заедно и те се занимават със сметките.*).

When the semantic role of the PP is instrument it is also possible to raise its noun element to the subject position, but the subject from the construction before the transformation occupies the object position (*Автомобилите на нарушителите **се вдигат с** паяци. → Паяци вдигат автомобилите на нарушителите.*).

When the semantic role of the PP is theme it is not possible to raise its noun element to the subject position (*Обществото също би трябвало да **се ангажира с** процеса на интегритет на църквата. → *Обществото и процесът също би трябвало се ангажират...; Развивайте талантите и **се борете с** подозрителността му. → *Вие и подозрителността му развивайте... и се борете...*).

The predicate types, which allow PPs with the preposition "c" as an argument-adjunct, are the following:

- competitive (*"Спартак" **бие с** 11 : 1.*);
- presenting phase (*Всичко **започва с** невинна бележчица и един единствен въпрос.*);
- presenting "transformation" (*За четири дни в Родопите те **се върнали с** идея за още една лента, посветена на толерантността.*).

The semantic roles, assigned to the PPs in this case are the following:

- theme;
- locative.

In the syntactic structure this PPs can function as indirect objects and as adverbials.

When the PP with the preposition "c" is an **adjunct**, there are no limitations for the predicate type.

Since the predicate assigns semantic roles only to its arguments, here this characteristic is irrelevant.

The adjunct PPs can function as indirect objects (*Ако желаете, пишете ми отново за точната диагноза, за да ви* ***насоча с*** *още съвети.*) and as adverbials (*Сгъването и разгъването му* ***се извършва с*** *натискането на един-единствен бутон.*).

Conclusions
The PP with the preposition "c" as a part of VP in Bulgarian could be: predicative, argument, argument-adjunct and adjunct. It could be in the following syntactic positions: predicative, indirect object (with semantic roles co-agent, instrument, locative or theme) and adverbial.

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