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Section Lectures / Sektionsvorträge

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Meaning of prepositions in English predicative prepositional phrases in *ICE-GB*

This paper is aimed at analyzing the meaning of prepositions in English predicative prepositional phrases (henceforth, PPP). After introducing different concepts, the polysemous nature of prepositions will be underlined, which is described as "a very challenging, but necessary task" (Saint-Dizier, 2005: 163).

Different scholars propose a variety of types of meanings that can be conveyed by prepositions. Thus, for example, whereas Schibsbye (19692: 302) draws a distinction between three types of content ("distinctive, reduced, or all but lost"), Cruse (2000: 199) mentions "literal" and "non-literal" meanings and Lindstromberg (20102: 20) classifies them into "prototypical" (also called "primary" or "representative") and "secondary" (or extended).

Another possibility is to refer to the existence of literal (locative) as opposed to metaphorical (abstract) meanings. Thus, for instance, Quirk et al. (1985: 685-7) include examples such as "to be in danger" and "The bridge is under construction". In the former, the preposition does not express a location but a state or condition, whereas in the latter "under" conveys a process rather than vertical direction.

Attention should also be paid to the fact that the same preposition in the same PP may express either a literal or a metaphorical meaning depending on the immediate context where a given example is found. That would be the case, for example, of "on the shelf" in "The torch was still on the shelf where he'd put it when he came in" (BNC:ABX 3408) and "I am clearly not good enough for them because I'm on the SHELF" (ICEGB:W1B-005 #86:4)" (the meaning of the latter is defined as "unlikely to find a partner or get married, usually because of being too old" in MEDAL3).

The analysis of different structures will help us draw the conclusion that, rather than using just two labels, the use of gradations in the meaning conveyed by prepositions would allow for greater flexibility, moving from purely literal meanings to metaphorical ones, as stated by Quirk et al. (1985: 685).

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Content, Genre, and Domain: Are They All the Same? A Profiling Investigation

As content creation grows on a global scale, the need for translation and natural language processing (NLP) solution increases in tandem. Accordingly, profiling content for machine translation (MT) and NLP routing decisions is becoming more imperative. However, the task of classifying text is arduous and there is no consistency on how to classify them. Such complexity arises from the fact that various scholars and practitioners working under different traditions or orientations use terminology differently. For instance, within the fields of Linguistics, NLP, and the Language Industry, different terms are used to refer to the same concepts and vice-versa: in Linguistics, it is possible to find the terms genre, text types, and register (Trosborg, 1997; Taavitsainen, 2001); while in NLP the most used terms are domain and topic, but not rarely the terms genre, text types and register are also used (Lee, 2001); and finally, in the Language Industry, content profiling (Castilho and O'Brien, 2016) seems to be the most used term.

This lack of agreement on terminology and structures causes confusion and makes the classification task essentially impractical. As content creation grows on a global scale and the need for translation increases in tandem, profiling of content for translation routing decisions and NLP solution will become more imperative. The goal of the present article is to provide a comprehensive review of the literature on the task of profiling content within the localisation are for fields, and to identify how different approaches work and what their limitations are. Three different main practices on content profiling in the are identified: Linguistics - genre, text types, register; Natural Language Processing - domains, topics and sometimes genres, text types and