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APPLICATION OF DETERMINERS IN PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS CONTAINING NAMES OF HUMAN BODY PARTS

The article deals with formal expressive means of the category of determination which are applied in phraseological units of the English language containing names of human body parts (nouns ear, eye, face, foot, hand, head, heart are the focus of our attention). At first, the article provides a brief introduction into the linguistic area of determination. Three types of determiners (predeterminers, central determiners, postdeterminers) are classified in order to provide background information for further research. Moreover, general rules dealing with the use of articles with reference to body parts are introduced. The above mentioned types of determiners find their realization also within the framework of the analysed phraseological units. Possessive pronouns, the definite, indefinite and zero articles represent the most spread types of determiners in the studied area.

Key words: phraseological unit, determination, determiner, article, pronoun.

1. Introduction

Linguistic determination is an analogical term with the scientific term determinism. Determination originates as a way of relations arrangement between communication activities and language systems. From the functional point of view, determination is to a certain level close to quantification.

A determinative structure is an expression form of functional and semantic meanings of language area informational surroundings. Determinative structures find their potential in a language system; they are activated during language operation and they may be directly expressed in a text. These aspects contribute to the fact that the category of determination belongs to evaluative and contextual categories [5].

The category of determination represents one of the most complex noun categories in languages of the world. Meanings which are transferred via the category are crucial for successful communication acts. Owing to this, the category has acquired the position of a universal semantic category and of a universal element of interpretation in most languages.

In individual languages there are numerous semantic elements that find their realization in the category of determination, but most generally, it is possible to state that the category is based on two basic semantic opposition systems: definite/indefinite, specific/general.

The category of determination has not acquired a grammatical status in all languages. Therefore the category is divided into gram-

matized and nongrammatized from the point of view of its formal expression.

In the frame of Germanic languages we talk about grammaticalized category of determination since they possess a system of formal expressive means on the surface linguistic structure in order to express the above mentioned meanings of the category.

We will base our research on the following classification of formal expressive means of the category of determination in the English language; in fact, we distinguish three basic types of determiners [6]:

1. predeterminers;
2. central determiners;
3. postdeterminers.

Predeterminers – *all, both, half, double, three times, one third, what, such* – appear before central determiners in a noun phrase.

Articles – the definite article *the*, the indefinite article *a, an*, the zero article – represent the most typical central determiners. Except for the articles, central determiners include:

- possessive pronouns as determiners *my, our, your, his, her, its, their*;
- relative determiners *whose a which*;
- wh-determiners in *-ever*, e.g. *whichever*;
- interrogative determiners *what, which, whose*;
- assertive determiner *some*, nonassertive determiner *any* and negative determiner *no*;
- quantitative determiner *enough*;
- demonstrative determiners *this, that, these, those*;

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- universal determiners *every* and *each*;
- nonassertive determiners *either* and negative determiner *neither*.

Postdeterminers follow predeterminers and central determiners and they precede other modifying elements of the noun phrase. Postdeterminers include:

- cardinal numerals: *one, hundred*;
- ordinal numerals: *the second, the twentieth* + expressions *next, last, past, other, another, additional, further*;
- closed-class of quantifiers: *few, little, many, several, much, plenty of, a lot of, lots of*;
- open-class of quantifiers: *a number of, a deal of, a quantity of, an amount of*.

2. The use of determiners with reference to body parts

From the most general point of view, the nouns in our focus - *ear, eye, face, foot, hand, head, heart* - are countable nouns which means that they are preceded by the indefinite article in singular and the zero article is acceptable only in plural. The definite article may also be used to mark the noun as definite.

It is also necessary to take into account specific issues connected with the use of determiners in this context [1].

The definite article *the* is often used instead of possessive pronouns when referring to parts of the body and clothes and following a preposition: *He pulled her by the hair/the sleeve. He shook my hand.*

There is a similar use of the in other impersonal contexts where the possessor is either irrelevant or already clear: *You will feel much better if you keep the back straight when sitting.*

It is not possible to use the (the possessive pronoun must be used) if the body part does not refer to what is denoted by the direct object: *She plays tennis with her left hand. She plays tennis with the left hand.* (she is left-handed)

The use of the is preferred when we describe unpleasant conditions of the body. Only verbs which can take the personal direct object without the prepositional phrase can occur in this construction: *He turned red in the face when he heard the news.*

The definite article *the* is sometimes used instead of possessives in a masculine style of speech [2]: *How is the leg?* (talking about an injury)

3. The use of determiners with reference to phraseological units containing body parts names

The following formal expressive means of the category of determination are applied in phraseological units containing the noun ear [3], [4]:

1. the quantifier *all* - *be all ears*;
2. the cardinal numeral *one* - *go in through one ear and out of the other*;
3. the zero article
 - a) singular - after a preposition - *play sth by ear, from ear to ear*;
 - b) plural - *fall on deaf ears; ears are flapping; have good ears*;
4. possessive pronouns - *come to your ears; get your ears; lend your ears to*;
5. the indefinite article - *give sb a thick ear; have a good ear for; turn a deaf ear to sb/sth*;
6. the definite article - plural - *set sb/sth by the ears; still wet behind the ears*;
7. cataphoric reference - *have the ear of sb*.

When taking into account phraseological units containing the noun eye, these determiners are used [3], [4]:

1. the quantifier *all* - *be all eyes*;
2. the zero article
 - a) singular - after a preposition - *see eye to eye with sb*;
 - b) plural - after a verb - *cast eyes at sb; make eyes at sb; clap eyes on*;
3. possessive pronouns - *cannot take your eyes off; catch your eye; close your eyes to sth*;
4. the indefinite article - *give sb a black eye; an eye for an eye; have an eye for sth*;
5. the definite article
 - a) singular - *do sb in the eye; the eye of the day; with the naked eye*;
 - b) plural - after a preposition - *in the eyes of*;
6. possessive pronouns + *very* - *before your very eyes; under your very eyes*;
7. cataphoric reference *meet the eye of sb = meet sb's eye*;
8. the possessive pronoun *my* - *my eye!*;
9. possessive pronouns + *own* - *not believe your (own) eyes*.

Analysing phraseological units containing the noun face, the following means of determination are found [3], [4]:

1. the zero article - after a preposition - *face to face*;
2. possessive pronouns - *cast sth in your face; fall flat on your face; fling sth in your face*;
3. the indefinite article - *have a face as long as a fiddle; pull a long face; keep a straight face*;
4. the definite article
 - a) singular - after a preposition - *be black in the face*;

- look sb in the face;*
fly in the face of;
- b) singular – after a verb – *have the face to do sth.*

The below listed forms of determination appear in phraseological units containing the noun *foot* [3], [4]:

1. the cardinal numeral *one* – *have one foot in the grave;*
2. the zero article
 - a) singular – after a preposition – *be on foot;*
set sth on foot;
 - b) singular – after a verb – *set foot on;*
 - c) plural – *get cold feet;*
have feet of clay;
3. possessive pronouns – *be run off your feet;*
carry sb off your feet;
drag your feet;
4. the indefinite article – *shake a foot;*
have a foot in both camps;
not put a foot wrong;
5. the definite article
 - a) singular – *get off on the right/wrong foot;*
catch sth on the wrong foot;
6. the possessive pronoun *my* – *my foot!;*
7. the quantifier *both* – *have both feet on the ground.*

Hand is the most frequent body part noun in phraseological units and naturally it allows the greatest variety of determiners:

1. quantifiers – *many hands make light work;*
on every hand;
on all hands;
2. the zero article
 - a) singular – after a preposition – *at hand;*
get out of hand;
from hand to hand;
 - b) singular – after a verb – *be hand in glove with sb;*
tie sb hand and foot;
go hand in hand;
 - c) plural – *be in good hands;*
change hands;
with clean hands;
 - d) before ordinal numerals – *at first hand;*
at second hand;
3. possessive pronouns – *cross your hand with silver;*
dip your hand in your pocket;
eat out of your hand;
4. the indefinite article
 - a) after a verb – *bear a hand with;*
take a hand with;
play a good hand;
 - b) after a preposition – *with a high hand;*
 - c) *a fresh hand;*
an old hand;
5. the definite article
 - a) singular – *ask for the hand of;*
bite the hand that feeds one;

- get the upper hand;*
- b) plural – *at the hands of;*
6. possessive pronouns + *own* – *for your own hand.*

The noun *head* is preceded by these determiners in phraseological units of the English language [3], [4]:

1. the cardinal numeral *two* – *two heads are better than one;*
2. the zero article
 - a) singular – after a preposition – *from head to foot;*
over head and ears;
 - b) singular – after a verb – *be head and shoulders above sb;*
fall head over heels in love;
be unable to make head or tail of sth;
 - c) plural – *heads or tails;*
heads will roll;
3. possessive pronouns – *bang your head against a brick wall;*
be above your head;
beat your head against a brick wall;
4. the indefinite article – after a verb/preposition
– *bring sth to a head;*
have a head like a sieve;
by a short head;
5. the definite article – singular – *knock sth on the head;*
6. the possessive pronoun *my* – *I will eat my head if;*
7. the possessive pronoun *its* – *stand on its head;*
8. possessive pronouns + *own* – *on/upon your own head;*

Phraseological units containing the noun *heart* offer these combinations of a determiner and the noun [3], [4]:

1. the zero article
 - a) after a preposition – *have sth at heart;*
be in (good) heart;
be out of heart;
 - b) after a verb – *lose heart;*
take heart;
 - c) *heart and soul;*
heart of oak;
2. possessive pronouns – *bare your heart to;*
break your heart;
find it in your heart;
3. the indefinite article – *have a heart of gold;*
have a heart of stone;
4. the definite article
 - a) singular – *from the heart;*
have the heart to do;
5. the quantifier *all* – *be all heart;*
6. possessive pronouns + *own* – *after your own heart;*

4. Conclusion

There are several factors which influence the choice of a determiner in the studied fixed phrases. Semantics and communication goals are the aspects that determine this choice in the first place. Another one is frequency – the more frequently used noun we

take into account, the more petrified phraseological units it offers and the more constructions against the rules we can observe.

Only a limited number of determiners occur in phraseological units which contain names of human body parts. The definite article, the zero article, the indefinite article and possessive pronouns represent the most frequent ones; on the other hand, quantifiers, cardinal, ordinal numerals, assertive determiner *some* and negative determiner *no* are only marginally used; the remaining classes of determiners mentioned in Part 1 are not applied at all.

We analysed 440 phraseological units, only 6 of them are exceptions to the generally excepted rules concerning the usage of determiners, which represents 1.36%. The noun *foot* in *set foot on*; the noun *hand* in *be hand in glove*, *at first hand*, *at second hand*, and the noun *heart* in *be in good heart*, *lose heart* behave against the rules.

Approximately 15 % of the studied phraseologisms allow a certain variation in the usage of a determiner within them; in these

cases, it is possible to apply equally the definite article, the indefinite article/a possessive pronoun; the zero article/the definite article, the indefinite article (a slight variation in semantics may appear):

two equal determiners – *make some/no head against*;

an/the iron hand in a velvet glove;

lay - /your hands on;

put your/the best foot forward;

loose face/loose your face;

make/pull a face/faces;

be up to the/your ears in sth;

have an/your eye on;

three equal determiners – *run an/the/your eye over*.

Two determiners are combined in front of one noun in approximately 2% of the analysed fixed phrases:

the quantifier *all* + the possessive pronoun *my* – *all my eye*;

the quantifier *all* + possessive pronouns – *with all your heart and soul*;

the definite article + *one/other* – *on (the) one hand/on the other hand*.

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