

تعدد المعاني في حرف الجر الزمني "In" في الصحافة الإنكليزية

أنجومن محمد صابر

قسم اللغة الإنكليزية، كلية التربية

جامعة صلاح الدين- أربيل

anjuman.sabir@su.edu.krd

جيهان نظام الدين عبد الصمد

قسم اللغة الإنكليزية، كلية التربية الأساس

جامعة صلاح الدين- أربيل

jihanabdulsamad82@gmail.com

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كيفية اقتباس البحث

عبد الصمد ، جيهان نظام الدين، أنجومن محمد صابر، تعدد المعاني في حرف الجر الزمني "In" في الصحافة الإنكليزية ، مجلة مركز بابل للدراسات الانسانية، نيسان 2025، المجلد: 15، العدد: 3 .

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Polysemy of Temporal Preposition “In” in English Journalism

Jihan Nidhamalddin Abdulsamad

Department of English language,
College of Basic Education,
Salahaddin University-Erbil, Iraq

Anjuman Muhammad Sabir

Department of English language,
College of Education, Salahaddin
University-Erbil, Iraq

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خلاصة البحث

يهدف هذا البحث إلى تحليل تعدد المعاني لحرف الجر الإنكليزي "In" للزمن من خلال النهج اللغوي المعرفي الذي يسمى 'مخططات الصور' المستخدم في هذه الدراسة. تستخدم حروف الجر الإنكليزية للتعامل مع المسائل التي تم جمعها من الصحف الإنكليزية الرقمية في المجال الرياضي في كل من كرة القدم وكرة السلة، مثل جريدتي واشنطن بوست والتايمز. تهدف الدراسة إلى التعرف على تعدد المعاني لحرف الجر الزمني "In" في الجرائد الإنكليزية، وتحليل المعنى ووظيفة تعدد معاني حرف الجر الزمني "في". ويتم تحليل البيانات وفقاً لتحديد أكثر الأنواع الشائعة لمخططات الصور التي يمكن أن تعكس تحديد تعدد معاني حرف الجر الزمني في اللغة الإنكليزية والتي تم جمعها من المصادر المذكورة أعلاه. وأخيراً، توضح الدراسة الأنواع الأكثر شيوعاً وفعالية لمخططات الصور مثل: الإحتواء، جزء-كامل، الإنسداد/التوقف، مصدر-مسار -

هدف، والدعم، وكذلك مجموعات من مخططات الصور ودمج مخططات الصور المشار إليها في الجرائد الإنكليزية التي يتم من خلالها التعرف على تعدد المعاني لحرف الجر الزمني لإظهار بأن تعدد المعاني لحرف الجر يتألف من إثنين أو أكثر من المعاني المختلفة ذات الصلة.

Abstract

This paper aims at analyzing polysemy of the English preposition ‘in’ for time from the cognitive linguistic approach called ‘image schemas’ that is used in this study. English prepositions are used to deal with issues collected from digital English newspapers in the field of sport in both football and basketball, such as The Washington Post and The Times. The study aims at identifying polysemy of prepositions in English journalism, analyzing the meanings and the function of polysemy of the preposition, and finding out differences in the frequencies of various polysemy of the temporal preposition ‘in’. The data is analyzed to determine the most common types of image schemas that can reflect the identification of polysemy of temporal preposition ‘in’ in English from the above-mentioned sources. Finally, the study shows the most common and effective types of image schemas like: container, part-whole, blockage, source-path-goal, support, and as well as collections of image schemas and merging of image schemas to show that polysemy of the temporal preposition ‘in’ has two or more distinct related meanings. It is concluded that a preposition's core sense is determined in part by its picture schema. Additionally, it has been discovered that several picture schemata may all play a role in the extension and/or construction of meaning for this particular preposition.

Introduction

English prepositions have been found to pose remarkable difficulties for English learners. These difficulties can have a debilitating effect on acquisition, as prepositions occur frequently in English, where they account: for 12% of word class tokens and are thus more common than adjectives, adverbs, and pronouns (Francis & Kučera, 1982, p.547). Indeed, prepositions are among the most frequently occurring words in English. For example, of, in, to, for, with, on and at, used as prepositions, are the 3rd, 6th, 10th, 12th, 15th, 18th, and 21st most common words respectively (p. 465). The ubiquity and importance of English prepositions has spurred interest in developing adequate semantic accounts of this word class. As discussed by Tyler and Evans (2003), researchers have traditionally sought to account for the semantics of English prepositions from three general perspectives: A homonymy perspective assumes that English prepositions have various senses that are unrelated. This contrasts





with a monosemy perspective according to which each preposition has a single highly abstract meaning. The polysemy perspective, on the other hand, assumes that prepositions have different yet related meanings. They have a variety of purposes, therefore learning how to use them effectively can be challenging because there aren't many guidelines that specify which prepositions to use in which situation.

Polysemy

The notion that a single word form can have several meanings is a widely recognized aspect of language. Polysemy is the term used to describe this phenomenon, which is common in natural languages. Moreover, in general linguistics, Micheal Bréal (1924 [1897]) was the first to introduce the term ‘polysemy’ (‘polysémie’) to describe single word forms with several different meanings (cf. Nerlich 2003). For Bréal, polysemy was primarily a diachronic phenomenon, arising as a consequence of semantic change (Gruyter, 2003, p. 268; Falkum, 2011, p. 12). The linkage of two or more related meanings with a single phonological form is known as polysemy. The definition assumes that methods for accurately recognizing, describing, and counting the meanings of linguistic units are in place. Metaphoric polysemy is the most well-known kind of polysemy, and it typically results from metaphor as a diachronic process. Both are predicated on a rather striking resemblance between two concepts that are part of distinct or even unrelated mental realms. Furthermore, a term does not necessarily signify "something in common" or that all of its senses are related when we say it is polysemous. Instead, polysemy should be thought of as a network or chain of senses (Gruyter, 2003, p. 268, 272).

Furthermore, Apresjan (1973) distinguished between two types of polysemy: regular and irregular. Regular polysemy is a characteristic of metonymy, whereas irregular polysemy is a part of metaphor extensions. On the other hand, Pustejovsky (1996) took a unique stance, observing that there are multiple types of polysemous phenomenon variation that can take into account the speaker's grammatical knowledge. Conversely, Deane (1984) distinguishes between three distinct forms of polysemy based on the sort of relation or relations at play: morphological polysemy, lexical polysemy, and allosemy. As a result, allosemy treats two senses that have different meanings but are same. For instance, the term "newspaper" has the senses of "type of publication" and "publishing organization" (p. 137). The second kind of polysemy, known as morphological polysemy, arises from derivation rules. For instance, a morphological rule allows the verb *warm* to be derived from its adjective form. As a result, there is a normal semantic relation between the sense

and the *warm*, whereby a morphological rule connects the sense both syntactically and semantically, without affecting the phonological form. The absence of morphological and syntactic restrictions leads to the third sort of polysemy, known as lexical polysemy, in which senses are similar but not related to one another. For example: *eye* = ‘part of body’, ‘central region of hurricane’. *Middle* = ‘central region of something’, ‘abdomen’. For Deane (1984), Because it seems more methodical than the other sorts, alloosemy is the most stimulating type. For example, *newspaper* shares the same notion of ambiguity of *magazine*, *journal*, *tabloid*, *newsletter* and the other periodical publication words. Meanwhile, Ceccarelli (1998) distinguishes three types of polysemy depending on the way the term used not theoretically. Although critics usually fail to differentiate among these three types. Crossroads (2017), despite of the two types (Radial= where one sense is more central than the others, and Chain *or* concatenation= secondary meanings of a word develop like a chain), presents two other new kinds of polysemy. The first one is polysemy with broadening of secondary meanings and the second one is polysemy with the narrow meanings. While monocentric polysemy (requires only one original meaning) and polycentric polysemy (two or more semantic centres involved).

Freihat et al., (2016) also finds three distinct forms of polysemy based on WordNet methodology. The first kind of polysemy is metaphoric, in which terms have literal meanings; the second kind Specialization polysemy is the term used to describe a heretical relationship between polysemous meanings. If A is a meaning, then A is the meaning B's most general meaning. Homonymy is the third category, in which the meanings are unrelated, as in *Bank*, despite having different multiple meanings, but their meanings are from different lexemes. While, Evans (2015) introduces two different types of polysemy: a conceptual polysemy and inter-lexical polysemy. In conceptual polysemy a lexical item in distinct contexts can gain different readings.

Image Schemas

One of the most well-known and ancient theories in computer science is the theory of image schemas. This theory was emerged from Lakoff (1987a) and Jonson (1987) (see Johnson, 2005, p. 15). Johnson discovered that none of these things could be accomplished without human imagination when attempting to investigate the function and relationship of meaning in comprehension and reasoning (Johnson, 1987, p. ix). Johnson asserted that the human body is fundamental to the source of meaning, meaning is embodied. Prior to him, objectivists paid little attention to the function of humanness—having a body, human nature,





human experience, etc. (see, Johnson, 1987, Preface, Introduction). He defines an image schema as a ‘recurring dynamic pattern of our perceptual interactions and motor programs that gives coherence and structure to our experience’ . To him, experience includes ‘basic perceptual, motor-program, emotional, historical, social, and linguistic dimensions’ .Thus, it ‘involves everything that makes us human—our bodily, social, linguistic, and intellectual being combined in complex interactions that make up our understanding of our world’ (Johnson, 1987, p. xvi).

The goal of image schema theory is to demonstrate how human physical contact with his living and inanimate surroundings gives rise to meaning, imagination, and reason—symbols of human intelligence .Furthermore, visual schemas aid in the understanding and concretization of abstract ideas by humans .According to Johnson (2005, p. 18) "the bodily sensory-motor nature of various structures of our conceptualization and reasoning" carries out this reification. In summary, we can claim that we can experience the same thing with abstract concepts by analogy using our experience with physical items, image schemas serve as a bridge between language knowledge and perceptual information. Coherent structures are formed out of language knowledge through concepts, categories, and prototype models. The psychological concepts of figure and ground, respectively, are referenced by the ideas of the trajector and landmark, which are important in the semantic description of spatial prepositions (Brenda, 2014, p. 10).

Furthermore, human embodied experience directly affects human cognition, according to cognitive theory. As we grow older, the world as it is experienced by humans directly shapes the reality we see and the ideas we develop. Cognitively, this embodied experience takes the shape of picture schemas, which are basic ideas like CONTACT, CONTAINER, BALANCE, etc. that are closely associated with human perceptual experience (Brenda, 2014, p. 11). It is challenging to give an exact definition of picture schema, despite the fact that it is a widely recognized concept in cognitive linguistics. Image schemas are defined as "mental patterns associated with broad classes of concepts or experience" (Grady 2005: 36). This has been widely accepted. Lakoff and Johnson (1987) first highlighted the part of the sensory experience that is related to the body in image schemas: “Image schemas are relatively simple structures that constantly recur in our everyday bodily experience: CONTAINER, PATHS, LINKS, BLOCKAGE, FORCES, BALANCE, and in various orientations and relations: Verticality (UP-DOWN),

FRONT-BACK, PART-WHOLE, CENTRE-PERIPHERY, etc.” (Lakoff 1987:267; Brenda, 2014, p. 12).

Methodology

Data Collection:

English prepositions used to deal with five issues based on dates of issuing for each English newspaper that were collected from two below-mentioned digital English newspapers taken from sport field of football and basketball, such as The Washington Post and The Times. Such prepositions reflect the way of identifying polysemy. In the current paper, we specifically deal with identifying polysemy of the temporal preposition ‘in’.

Procedure:

Polysemy of temporal preposition ‘in’ in English was gathered from the above-mentioned sources. These polysemy of prepositions were categorized according the image schema. It is analyzed according to the types of image schemas, in which focusing on their similarities and differences. For such preposition, two versions of translation are offered, one of them is a literal translation/ surface meaning and the other one is an expanded English translation/ deep meaning.

Thus, prepositions pose more problems for the non-native speaker or learner of English than any other part of speech. They are just like little words that never change in for; they are pronounced softly, in unstressed syllables; they aren’t even given capital letters in book titles; native speakers choose the correct ones without thinking. The word “preposition” has a straightforward definition: a word placed before a noun or pronoun to define its relationship with another word in the sentence. For the learner of English, however, prepositions are anything but straightforward. Prepositions are difficult, if not impossible, to define without using other prepositions. Therefore, in this paper we try to indicate polysemy of the temporal preposition ‘in’

The following statements are the description of the image schemas used for determining the polysemy of the temporal preposition ‘in’ taken from the above-mentioned English newspapers:

1) The 25-year-old was a major season Miami managed to split the first two games of the series in Denver, where the Nuggets hadn’t lost in the 2023 playoffs before their 111-108 defeat in Sunday’s Game 2 (The Washington Post/ Basketball section/ 6th-June-2023).

Containment schema, and Scale schema

In this part of the statement, ‘where the Nuggets hadn’t lost in the 2023 playoffs’ in gives a general notion of time that is defined by a general frame which is the year 2023. This scene can be represented in figure No.





1 that is set by the researcher. While in the second part of the text ‘before their 111-108 defeat **in** Sunday’s Game 2, the temporal preposition ‘in’ shows a specific period of time that is defined by an identified day of the week which is (Sunday).

1st of January
December 31

Figure No. 1. the Nuggets hadn’t lost **in** the 2023 playoffs.

This indicates that the temporal preposition ‘in’ expresses a relation between two entities: a Trajector (TR) and a Landmark (LM). In ‘the Nuggets hadn’t lost **in** the 2023 playoffs’, the ‘Nuggets’ is the TR, while the ‘playoffs’ is the LM of the preposition. Saeed (200: 358) says that the containment schema can be used to investigate the semantics of the preposition ‘in’. Thus the containment schema can be used to show that the time preposition ‘in’ is polysemous in nature. It denotes the relationship between an inside/interior ‘Nuggets’ and an outside/exterior ‘playoffs’ and the border in between ‘in’. Therefore, ‘Nuggets’ TR is contained within the LM ‘playoffs’. Whereas, the semantic analysis of the preposition ‘in’ indicates the scale schema to show that the temporal preposition ‘in’ is polysemous in nature. It refers to the process of measuring the degree of something in which a profit (TR) ‘Game 2’ causes or correlates with a loss (LM) which is ‘defeat’. The meaning of scale emerges from embodied experience. Thus, the meaning of the preposition ‘in’ in the first part of sentence is different from the second part that clearly indicates different meanings of the same preposition related to time according to dealing with these two types of image schemas.

2) Miami’s defense came up with several crucial stops **in** the closing minutes (The Washington Post/ Basketball section/ 6th-June-2023).

Blockage schema

In this statement, the temporal preposition ‘in’ indicates an unspecified period of time that is defined by a general frame which is the ‘closing minutes’. The semantic analysis indicates that the temporal preposition ‘in’ captures the understanding that the movement can be hindered (Hedblom, 2020, p. 40). Between the two entities: a Trajector (TR) and a Landmark (LM). ‘Miami’s defense’ is the TR, while the ‘the closing minutes’ is the LM of the preposition. This represents that the stoppage is not physically being blocked, but it implies a mental breakdown of Miami’s defense by several stops within the end time of the game. This means that ‘in’ is polysemous because it has a different meaning according to the time of occurring the action.

3) **In** the Game 2 win, he scored 21 points, added nine rebounds and four assists and finished plus-17 in 40 minutes (The Washington Post/ Basketball section/ 6th-June-2023).

Containment schema and part-whole schema

In the first part of the sentence, the preposition ‘in’ means the whole unlimited period of time of Game 2 for basketball that is different from ‘in’ of the second part of the sentence in which the time period is limited within ‘40 minutes’. The semantic analysis indicates that the temporal preposition ‘in’ by using the containment schema expresses a relation between two entities: a Trajector (TR) and a Landmark (LM). In ‘in the Game 2 win, he scored 21 points’, the ‘he’ is the TR, while the ‘Game 2’ is the LM of the preposition. Saeed (200: 358) says that the container schema can be used to investigate the semantics of the preposition ‘in’. Thus the containment schema can be used to show that the time preposition ‘in’ is polysemous in nature. It denotes the relationship between an inside/interior ‘he’ and an outside/exterior ‘Game 2’ and the border in between ‘in’. Therefore, ‘he’ TR is contained within the LM ‘Game 2’. Whereas, the preposition ‘in’ in ‘added nine rebounds and four assists and finished plus-17 in 40 minutes, indicates the part-whole schema that shows a distinct meaning of the preposition in, in which it refers to the scoring of points within 40 minutes is being part of the whole time of Game 2. This determines that ‘in’ is polysemous because it has a different meaning because the part-whole schema is less prototypical for the category structure of ‘in’ than the containment schema.

4) The death of Ryan Keeler, a 20-year-old UNLV player who was found unresponsive in his apartment in February, was caused by a heart ailment, authorities in Las Vegas said. (The Washington Post/ Football section/ 6th-June-2023). **Force schema**

In this statement, the time preposition ‘in’ indicates specified period of time that is defined by a specified month of the year which is the ‘February’. The semantic analysis of the temporal preposition ‘in’ indicates the use of force schema involves the physical entity/ TR which is the ‘player’ to be restricted/restrained of being able to keep on staying in life by the force of the mental entity/LM which is ‘death’. This represents that the force is not physically being blocked, but it implies a mental breakdown by death within the limited period of time-game. This means that ‘in’ is polysemous because it has a distinct meaning according to the time of occurring the action.

5) Poole, who won an NBA Championship with the Warriors in 2022 (The Washington Post/ Basketball/ 23rd-June-2023). **Collection schemas:**

Container schema and Support schema



In this statement, ‘who won an NBA Championship with the Warriors in 2022’ in gives a general notion of time that is defined by a general frame which is the year 2022. This scene can be represented in figure No. 2 that is set by the researcher.

1st _____ of _____ January
December 31

Figure No. 2. Poole, who won an NBA Championship with the Warriors in 2022

This analysis of the temporal preposition ‘in’ expresses a collection of schemas that deals with a “combination of image schemas co-exist to describe a concept, distinct from their own properties. These image schemas are not merged, they are simply grouped together to capture the conceptualization of the concept; that is, they provide relevant properties for the overall schema” (Hedblom, 2020, p. 105). Firstly, the container schema and secondly, the support schema. Concerning the container schema, it indicates the relation between two entities: a Trajector (TR) and a Landmark (LM). ‘Poole’ is the TR, while the ‘2022’ is the LM of the preposition ‘in’. Saeed (200: 358) says that the containment schema can be used to investigate the semantics of the preposition ‘in’. Thus, the container schema can be used to show that the time preposition ‘in’ is polysemous in nature. It denotes the relationship between an inside/interior ‘Poole’ and an outside/exterior ‘2022’ and the border in between ‘in’. Therefore, ‘Poole’ TR is contained within the LM ‘the year 2022’. Whereas, the support schema refers to the process of ‘Poole’s winning the championship’ that is being supported by the Warriors within the time of mentioned year. This means that ‘in’ is polysemous because it has a different meaning according to the time of doing the action.

6) The 35th selection overall, in Thursday’s draft in Boston (The Washington Post/ Basketball/ 23rd-June-2023). **Container schema**

In this statement, ‘in’ Thursday’s draft in Boston’ the temporal preposition ‘in’ gives a specific notion of time that is defined by a specific day of the week which ‘Thursday’. Thus, the container schema can be used to show that the temporal preposition ‘in’ is polysemous in nature, in which this type of schema is formed in the mind of based on human body experiences. It consists of three parts: inside, outside, and border dividing the first from the second (Hamawand, 2023, p. 127). This indicates the relationship between an inside/interior ‘the 35th election’ and an outside/exterior ‘Thursday’s draft’ and the border between the inside and outside is ‘in’ for this preposition.

7) The Wizards also receive guard Landry Shamet and first-round pick swaps in 2024, 2028 and 2030 (The Washington Post/ Football/ 23rd-June-2023). **Container-Linked-path schema**

In this statement, ‘first-round pick swaps in 2024, 2028 and 2030’ gives a general notion of time that is defined by general frames of the years 2024, 2028 and 2030. This analysis of the temporal preposition ‘in’ expresses the use of container-linked-path schema that deals with a “the link between the container schema and the path schema. The contained object moves along a path. Also, the contained entity can move inside the container (Drozdowicz, 1998, p.58). Thus, the contained entity ‘the Wizards’ moves (is moved) along the path ‘first-round’ can move inside the container entity which is ‘the years (2024, 2028 and 2030)’. This means that ‘in’ is polysemous because it has a different meaning according to the time analyzed by the images schemas.

8) In College Park, Jonquel Jones scored 12 points in the first six minutes to help New York (8-3) build a 22-9 lead (The Washington/ Basketball/ 24th-June-2023). **Collection of schemas: Container schema and Support schema**

The time preposition ‘in’ in this statement ‘Jonquel Jones scored 12 points in the first six minutes’ gives an identified period of time that is defined by a specified period of minutes which is ‘the first six minutes’. This analysis of the temporal preposition ‘in’ expresses a collection of schemas; firstly, the container schema and secondly the support schema, that deals with a “combination of image schemas co-exist to describe a concept, distinct from their own properties. These image schemas are not merged, they are simply grouped together to capture the conceptualization of the concept; that is, they provide relevant properties for the overall schema” (Hedblom, 2020, p. 105). Concerning the container schema, it indicates the relation between two entities: a Trajector (TR) and a Landmark (LM). ‘Jonquel Jones’ is the TR, while the ‘first six minutes’ is the LM of the preposition. Saeed (200: 358) says that the container schema can be used to investigate the semantics of the preposition ‘in’. Thus, the container schema can be used to show that the temporal preposition ‘in’ is polysemous in nature. It indicates the relationship between an inside/interior ‘Jonquel Jones’ and an outside/exterior ‘first six minutes’ and the border in between ‘in’. Therefore, ‘Jonquel Jones’/TR is contained within the LM ‘first six minutes’. Whereas, the support schema refers to the process of ‘Jonquel Jones’ scoring the points’ that is can play a role in helping New York build a 22-9 lead within the specified duration of the whole time of the



game. This means that ‘in’ is polysemous because it has a different meaning according to the time of doing the action.

9) The introduction of the Concacaf Nations League-a year-long tournament that culminated with the United States topping Canada in Sunday’s final -put a second, (The Washington/ Football/ 24th-June-2023). **Link schema**

The temporal preposition ‘in’ in this statement ‘tournament that culminated with the United States topping Canada in Sunday’s final’ gives an identified period of time that is defined by a specified day per week which is ‘the Sunday’. According to (Hedblom, 2020, p. 40), link/linkage schema refers to “an enforced connection between objects or regions, where transitivity ensures that the linked object reacts to the stimuli of the other object”. Also, “just like the more complete version of support schema, a more complex link can be created by combining attraction-link with chain-link into a concept in which the chain pulls on the connected objects” (Helbom, 2020, p. 60-61). The analysis of the temporal preposition ‘in’ indicates that link schema consists of two entities, connected physically or metaphorically, in which the preposition ‘in’ links physical entity ‘Concacaf Nations League’ with the conceptual entity ‘the progress of United States in the game’ that is accomplished with a specified day with the final-game. This means that ‘in’ is polysemous because it has a different meaning according to the time of occurring the incident.

10) In a statement, the PGA Tour said, “nothing contemplated in the framework agreement” with the Saudi PIF would affect its eligibility as a non-profit. Thanks to the creation of PIF- funded LIV Golf, more intense than anything it has weathered in the past (The Washington/ Football/ 24th-June-2023). **Scale schema**

The temporal preposition ‘in’ in the second part of the statement ‘more intense than anything it has weathered in the past’ gives a general notion of time that is defined by a general frame of time which is ‘the past’. The semantic analysis of the preposition ‘in’ indicates the scale schema to show that the temporal preposition ‘in’ is polysemous in nature, that “deals with how objects size ranges from small to large, as well as the dynamic transformation of growing/shrinking” (Hedblom, 2020, p. 40). Also, Hamawandi (20232, p. 130) states that “a scale schema is a cognitive structure derived from interaction and observation of the world. Physically, scale refers to the process of measuring the amount of something. Metaphorically, scale refers to the process of measuring the degree of something”. Thus, the preposition ‘in’ indicates the process of measuring the degree of something, that ‘the creation of PIF to fund LIV

Golf/(TR) is more powerful (the increased degree of power) than what they gained within the past period of time’/(LM). Hence, the meaning of the time preposition ‘in’ in the first part is different from the second part that clearly indicates different related meanings of the same preposition.

11) The Buffalo Bills looked up General Manager Brandon Beane and Coach Sean McDermott through the 2027 season. Beane, 46, and McDermott, 49, have transformed what had been a floundering franchise upon their arrival in 2017 into consistent playoff contender (The Washington/ Football/ 24th-June-2023). **Source-path-goal schema**

The temporal preposition ‘in’ in the second part of the statement ‘their arrival in 2017’ gives a general notion of time that is defined by a general frame of year which is ‘2017’. The semantic analysis of the preposition ‘in’ indicates the source-path-goal schema to show that the time preposition ‘in’ is polysemous in nature, that “concerns movement from a source to a goal. It contains spatial primitives such as a path and a trajectory” (Hedblom, 2020, p.40). Also, Hamawand states that “the path schema is an image schema that structures the concept of a journey, in which one moves physically along a linear path toward a destination. It consists of three components: source, path, and goal. The source is the starting point for motion. The path is the series of contiguous locations occupied by the moving object. The goal is the destination or endpoint of motion” (2023, p.129). The semantic analysis of ‘in’ shows that ‘McDermott’ which the source that moves along the path which is ‘a floundering franchise upon their arrival within the year 2017’ toward the goal which is ‘consistent playoff contender’.

12) Washington Commanders President Jason Wright, who was hired in 2020 to improve the culture and business operations of the franchise (The Washington Post/ Football/ 1st-July-2023). **Collection of schemas: Container schema and Support schema**

In this statement, ‘President Jason Wright, who was hired in 2020’ the temporal preposition ‘in’ gives a general notion of time that is defined by a general frame of time which is ‘2020’. Thus, the container schema can be used to show that the temporal preposition ‘in’ is polysemous in nature, in which this type of schema is formed in the mind of based on human body experiences. It consists of three parts: inside, outside, and border dividing the first from the second (Hamawand, 2023, p. 127). This indicates the relationship between an inside/interior ‘Washington Commanders President Jason Wright’ and an outside/exterior ‘2020’ and the border between the inside and outside is ‘in’ for this preposition. Therefore, ‘Washington Commanders President Jason Wright’/TR is contained within the LM ‘2020’. Whereas, the support schema refers to



the process of ‘hiring President Jason Wright’ can play a role in supporting the way of improving the culture and business operations of the franchise’ within the specified year. This means that ‘in’ is polysemous because it has a different meaning according to the time of doing the action.

13) In a September highlight reel, he starts with a dunk and knocks down a three-pointer (The Washington Post/ basketball/ 6th-December-2023).

Verticality (Up/Down) schema

In this statement, ‘in a September highlight reel’ the time preposition ‘in’ gives a specified notion of time that is defined by a identified month of the year which is ‘September’. Thus, the verticality (up/down) schema can used to show that the time preposition ‘in’ is polysemous in nature, in which this type of schema refers to the vertical orientation, also the dynamical movement of Up/Down. The verticality schema is used in language to explain abstract notions that are still rooted in the direct expression with image schemas. This indicates that the doer of action (he) starts to highlight high scoring of points and then he goes down to score the points within the same month (September).

14) Cal State Fullerton went 11-1 on the fields but 12-0 retroactively after learning in March 1985 that its lone conqueror (The Washington Post/ Football/ 6th-December-2023).

Scale schema

The time preposition ‘in’ in the second part of the statement ‘learning in March 1985’ gives a specified notion of time that is defined by a specified frame of time which is ‘March 1985’. The semantic analysis of the preposition ‘in’ indicates the scale schema to show that the time preposition ‘in’ is polysemous in nature, that “deals with how objects size ranges from small to large, as well as the dynamic transformation of growing/shrinking” (Hedblom, 2020, p. 40). Also, Hamawandi (20232, p. 130) states that “a scale schema refers to an increase or decrease in one thing that causes or correlate with an increase of decrease in another thing”. Thus, the preposition ‘in’ indicates the process of measuring the degree of something, that ‘the learning of Cal State Fullerton’ is increased rather than being decreased backward before that identified period of time. Hence, the meaning of the time preposition ‘in’ in the first part is different from the second part that clearly indicates different related meanings of the same preposition.

15) A team that returned nearly all of Freedom (Woodbrive)’s starters from a record-breaking 2022 season and scored 1,765 points in two years never really felt all that stoppable (The Washington Post/ Football/ 12th-December-2023). **Blockage schema**

In this statement, the time preposition ‘in’ indicates an unspecified period of time that is defined by a general frame which is the ‘two years’. The semantic analysis indicates that the time preposition ‘in’ captures the understanding that the movement can be hindered (Hedblom, 2020, p. 40). Between the two entities: a Trajector (TR) and a Landmark (LM). ‘A team of Freedom starters’ is the TR, while the ‘two years’ is the LM of the preposition. This represents that the stoppage is not physically being blocked, but it implies a mental breakdown of the team of Freedom’s starters by a record-breaking of the year 2022 within the duration of the two years. This means that ‘in’ is polysemous because it has a different meaning according to the time of occurring the action.

16) Tomiyasu is useful for Arsenal as he can play across the backline- he featured at left back to counter Mohamed Salah when Arsenal beat Liverpool 3-2 in October (The Times/ Football/22nd-March-2023).

Source-path-goal schema

The time preposition ‘in’ in the second part of the statement ‘when Arsenal beat Liverpool 3-2 in October’ gives a specified notion of time that is defined by a specified month of the year which is ‘October’. The semantic analysis of the preposition ‘in’ indicates the source-path-goal schema to show that the time preposition ‘in’ is polysemous in nature, that “concerns movement from a source to a goal. It contains spatial primitives such as a path and a trajectory” (Hedblom, 2020, p.40). Also, Hamawand states that “the path schema is an image schema that structures the concept of a journey, in which one moves physically along a linear path toward a destination. It consists of three components: source, path, and goal. The source is the starting point for motion. The path is the series of contiguous locations occupied by the moving object. The goal is the destination or endpoint of motion” (2023, p.129). The semantic analysis of ‘in’ shows that ‘Tomiyasu’ which is the source that moves along the path which is ‘across the backline’ toward the goal which is ‘Arsenal beat Liverpool 3-2’.

17) The WTA Tour rulebook states that the protected ranking will be calculated using the actual ranking in the week immediately after the last tournament in which a player received prize money (The Times/ Basketball/ 6th-December-2023). **Scale/ ranking schema**

The time preposition ‘in’ in ‘the protected ranking will be calculated using the actual ranking in the week immediately after the last tournament’ gives a general notion of time that is defined by a general frame of time which is ‘week’. The semantic analysis of the preposition ‘in’ indicates the scale schema to show that the time preposition ‘in’ is polysemous in nature, that “deals with how objects size ranges from small



to large or from low to high, as well as the dynamic transformation of growing/shrinking” (Hedblom, 2020, p. 40). Also, Hamawandi (20232, p. 130) states that “a scale schema refers to an increase or decrease in one thing that causes or correlate with an increase of decrease in another thing”. Thus, the preposition ‘in’ indicates the process of measuring the degree of something, that indicates measuring ‘the protected ranking will be calculated using the actual ranking’ that has become high or (the height of ranking) in which the player received a prize money within the week than the last tournament. Hence, the meaning of the time preposition ‘in’ shows different related meanings of the same preposition. 18) Ten Hag would like to strengthen his squad in the transfer window. His team’s shortcomings were exposed in the first half,... (The Times/Football/ 27th-December-2023). **Support schema**

The time preposition ‘in’ in ‘His team’s shortcomings were exposed in the first half’ gives a general notion of time that is defined by a general frame of time which is the ‘first half of the time-game’. The semantic analysis of the preposition ‘in’ indicates the support schema to show that the time preposition ‘in’ is polysemous in nature, in which the support schema refers to the process of ‘the defect of Ten Hag’s team is shown within an identified duration of the game’s time that needs to be supported by him to strengthen his team. This means that ‘in’ is polysemous because it has a different meaning according to the time of doing the action by the doer.

Conclusion

This paper determines the effective use of cognitive linguistics approach ‘images schemas’ for showing the importance behind identifying polysemy of time preposition ‘in’, in which such preposition has two or more distinct related meanings of the same word (preposition). This can play a vital role to make non-native learners be familiar with distinguishing polysemy of the same preposition that is used in different periods of time. The study shows the identification of polysemy of the time preposition ‘in’ through dealing with the most common and effective types of image schemas like: container, part-whole, blockage, source-path-goal, support, and as well as collections of image schemas and merging of image schemas that are indicated in English newspapers through which polysemy of the preposition ‘in’ can show the existence of having two or more distinct meanings related to time.

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