

ON THE GRAMMATICAL RELATION OF PARENTHETICAL CONSTRUCTIONS WITH SENTENCE

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The sentence is a linear sequence that is characterized by definitely organized semantic patterns. Different words and constructions appear in the sentence creating structural and mental unity between parts of sentences and between sentences making up the text. Anyhow, sometimes the construction of English sentences does not follow the rules accepted by the grammar system.

Parenthetical constructions are linearly represented in a given string of utterance, but seem structurally independent at the same time (Wichmann 2001:189). Parentheses are used to enclose parenthetical elements that is, words, phrases, or complete sentences that digress, amplify, or explain something.

The parenthetical element indicated by a word mainly correlates with a part of the sentence. The parenthetical word can be next to the word it defines. Its position can be different from the position which the word would have if it was a part of the sentence.

E.g. *Pike wondered if in one hundred years all human beings (**male**) would be six feet tall and (**female**) exactly like Natasha.*

(N. Spain "Not Wanted on Voyage" p.82)

In this case the parenthetical words are the adjectives *male* and *female* which are semantically linked with the noun *human beings*, defining it. But the position of the parenthetical word – adjective, is distinguished from the position of an attribute expressed by an adjective. One-word adjectives in the function of an attribute are preposed with respect to the word they define (Жигадло и др. 1956:48). Since *male* and *female* are parenthetical words, they can occupy the position after the word they define. As we have already shown, the parenthetical constructions are mobile within the sentence structure.

A parenthetical word can be placed far from the word it defines.

E.g. *The music began again – **a waltz** – and, still as a statue in the recess of the window ... Soames waited.*

(J. Galsworthy "Man of Property" p.187)

Here, the parenthetical element *a waltz* defines the word *music*, but it is not close to it.

Let us compare the given sentence which has a parenthetical word *a waltz* with the following sentence:

E.g. *It was playing a waltz ... that was out of fashion.*

(J. Galsworthy "Man of Property" p.234)

In this example *a waltz* is a part of the sentence (a direct object) and, consequently, has its definite place which is unchangeable (it is after the predicate because there is no other object).

Thus, these examples come to show that the parenthetical words can occupy any position in the sentence. The freedom of the position of the parenthetical construction does not exclude the possibility of coincidence with the position of a sentence part.

Let us analyse the following sentence:

E.g. *Pike was heard to say (**grumblingly**) that ...*
(N. Spain "Not Wanted on Voyage" p.20)

The parenthetical word-adverb is in the post-position to the predicate, but this is the usual place for the adverbial modifier of manner which is expressed by an adverb. Anyhow, **grumblingly** is not a part of the sentence. It is marked intonationally (it is singled out by brackets), and that is why it cannot form a word-combination with the attribute *to say*.

Thus, the position of the parenthetical words is free, independent of the fixed word-order typical of the English language.

Parenthetical element expressed by a word-combination can be correlated both with a separate part of the sentence and with the sentence as a whole.

The analysis of parenthetical word-combinations shows:

- The place of parenthetical word-combinations is free in the sentence. It is not fixed and in this way it is different from the parts of the sentence.
- The position occupied by parenthetical word-combinations is not dependent on the character of its connection with the sentence.

Let us examine these points in detail.

The parenthetical word-combinations can be between any parts of the sentence.

Let us take the following examples:

1. *And by the time you are twenty-one, doubtless you will be fully qualified – **with advice, of course** – to handle your own affairs.*

(J. London "Little Lady of the Big House" p.38)

2. *The dowager might be between forty and fifty: her shape was still fine, her hair (**by candlelight at least**) still black.*

(Ch. Bronte "Jane Eyre" p.222)

3. *A third lady (**with her arms folded**) said she wished he had chosen any other time for fetching Mrs. Gamp, but it always happened so with her.*

(Ch. Dickens "Martin Chuzzlewit" p.387)

The examples make it clear that the parenthetical word-combinations, which are expressed by prepositional groups, can be anywhere in the sentence, whereas the adverbial modifier, expressed by the prepositional groups, should be in the post-position with regard to the predicate. (See example 3 where the parenthetical construction is before the predicate).

The position of the parenthetical word-combinations is not dependent on the character of its connection with the sentence. Its position is not fixed irrespective of the fact if it correlates with a sentence part or with the whole sentence.

Let us analyse the following examples:

1. *... as for his language, he had, **poor boy**, been in a rough land, and had not been fully awakened when he spoke to her.*

(A. Cronin "Hatter's Castle" p.374)

2. ... *the empire was symbolized by the King – Emperor; and the King – poor man! – is always having to dress up as an Admiral or a Field-Marshal or a brass-hat of some kind.*

(R. Aldington “Death of a Hero” p.350)

3. *Even Priscilla – a bitter blow – thought that George Augustus should do something.*

(R. Aldington “Death of a Hero” p.122)

4. *Probably one could not attain to or retain one’s place in so remarkable a world as this unless one was in different to sex, a disgraceful position, of course.*

(Th. Dreiser “An American Tragedy” p.210)

In the first two examples the parenthetical constructions refer to the part of the sentence and in the third and fourth ones – to the whole sentence.

From these examples it becomes clear that the parenthetical word-combination, irrespective of the connection with the sentence, has a free position.

The analysis of the material enables us to distinguish between two types of parenthetical sentences:

- 1) Independent parenthetical sentences;
- 2) Parenthetical sentences which coincide in form with subordinate clauses.

Let us take the cases and examine them in detail:

Independent parenthetical sentences can occupy any position in the sentence, between any parts of a sentence:

a) ... *a gold watch (watches were not so common then as now) shone at her girdle.*

(Ch. Bronte “Jane Eyre” p.67)

b) ... *and that our friendship began in his knocking two of my head tyrant’s teeth out (he says six) before breakfast.*

(Ch. Dickens “Martin Chuzzlewit” p.24)

This position of parenthetical sentences delimits the simple sentence which includes the parenthetical construction from the compound sentence which the first one reminds of. According to O. Alexandrova (Александрова 1984) the specific character of the coordination is that the phenomena and the processes of the reality appear in their natural sequence, the sequence of utterances reflects the sequence of the phenomena that is why the order of the sentences cannot change.

This proposition is true for the English language as well. As for the parenthetical sentences, they have free displacement, because they do not reflect the natural sequence of events. They just introduce the additional and incidental remarks.

Parenthetical sentences which coincide in form with subordinate clauses can be inserted with the help of conjunctions and conjunctive words which are typical of subordinate clauses and can be correlated with: a) a part of the sentence, b) the sentence as a whole

1. *It may further interest you to know that on ethical grounds – which you could not possibly know anything about – I definitely refused.*

(A. Cronin “Hatter’s Castle” p.92)

The parenthetical sentence refers to “**on ethical grounds**”.

2. *He observed us with a genial interest; but there seemed, if I may venture on such a contradiction, nothing selfish in it.*

(Ch. Dickens “Martin Chuzzlewit” p.83)

3. *I had – as I deserved to have – the fate of all other spoonies.*

(Ch. Bronte “Jane Eyre” p.184)

In the last two cases the parenthetical sentences refer to the whole sentence.

These examples show that the position of the parenthetical sentence which coincides in form with the subordinate one is dependent on the character of the connection with the sentence. If the parenthetical sentence is correlated with the part of the sentence (the first example), it is placed near it. If the parenthetical sentence correlates with the whole sentence, its position is not fixed (the second and the third examples).

This type of parenthetical sentences coincides in form with the secondary two-member sentences. However, taking into account the obligatory intonational isolation of this type of parenthetical sentences and their position in the sentence, they can rightfully be regarded as parenthetical sentences rather than a special type of secondary sentences (Blakemore 2006).

The analysis of the position occupied by all the types of parenthetical constructions enables us to draw the following conclusions.

1. In English the parenthetical construction is a mobile element of a sentence which does not have a fixed position in it. It can occupy such a position in the sentence which can never be occupied by any part of the sentence or a part of a compound sentence lexically identical with it.
2. Owing to the peculiar intonation, any parenthetical construction is isolated syntactically to such a degree that wherever it is placed, it does not break the meaning of the matrix sentence and it easily correlates with the word it defines. The position of parenthetical elements in the sentence confirms their syntactic isolation.
3. In the same way as the prosodic articulation can change the role of a word in the sentence, the change of a word’s position in the English sentence may result in the changes of its function. That is why, sometimes, it is enough to take into consideration only one position to define if the given lexical unit belongs to the category of parenthetical construction or not.

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Միջանկյալ կառույցների կապը նախադասության հետ

Սույն հոդվածում քննարկվում է միջանկյալ կառույցների քերականական առնչությունը նախադասության հետ: Միջանկյալ բառերը շարահյուսորեն կապված չեն նախադասության անդամների հետ: Ուսումնասիրությունները ցույց են տալիս, որ միջանկյալ նախադասությունները կատարում են նույն գործառույթները, ինչ միջանկյալ բառերն ու բառակապակցությունները: Դրանք տարբերվում են միայն կառուցվածքային տեսանկյունից, քանի որ վերարտադրում են երկկազմ, ինչպես նաև ավելի հաճախ մեկանդամ պարզ նախադասության տարբեր գծապատկերները: Միջանկյալ կառույցները ամենից հաճախ միանում են հիմնական նախադասությանը շաղկապների միջոցով:

Соотнесенность вводных конструкций с предложением

В данной статье рассматривается грамматическая соотнесенность вводных конструкций с предложением. Исследования показывают, что вводные слова синтаксически не связаны с членами предложения. Вводные предложения выполняют те же функции, что и вводные слова и сочетания слов. Они отличаются от них лишь структурно, так как воспроизводят те или иные схемы простого предложения, как двусоставного, так и, чаще, односоставного. Вводные предложения чаще всего включаются в основном при помощи союзов.