

# Comparative Analysis of English Prepositions *In* and *On* Translated Into Albanian

Meliha Brestovci

Faculty of Philosophy/Psychology, University of Prishtina, Prishtine, Kosovo

Arsim Sinani

Faculty of Philosophy/Anthropology, University of Prishtina, Prishtine, Kosovo

**Abstract**—The most common use of prepositions is to express the meaning of words placed before a noun or a pronoun, and as such they are used very frequently. The English language as well as the Albanian language, uses prepositions frequently, thus enriching the given language and allowing for a clearer expression of the functions of a sentence. This research is centered around certain prepositions in English which have a high frequency of use, and yet are quite simple. While comparing them, we will deepen the knowledge of these most frequent prepositions in English, their use and how they are translated into Albanian. These language comparison studies are becoming increasingly appealing. The structure and norms under which words interrelate are part of the study of language as a method of communication. Scholars are faced with the requirement to perform research on challenging subjects and make global and local comparisons. Therefore, this research looks into analytical and comparative analysis with the aim of enlightening and empowering the current use of prepositions *in* and *on* and giving a clearer picture of their translations in Albanian. The research is based on the analysis of two English novels that have been translated into Albanian.

**Index Terms**—prepositions, analysis, time, *in*, *on*

## I. INTRODUCTION

The most common use of prepositions is to express the meaning of words placed before a noun or a pronoun, and as such they are used very frequently. The English language as well as the Albanian language, uses prepositions frequently, thus enriching the given language and allowing for a clearer expression of the functions of a sentence. According to Fang (2000), “they are statistically frequent in that there is one preposition in roughly every ten running words of English. Functionally, it plays the largest variety of syntactic roles a grammatical phrase can play in a sentence” (p.183).

Prepositions serve as binders and are very important in the sentence because they connect words with each other. Sentences without a preposition could be meaningless, short and fragmented, it would be unclear as to what actions were committed by whom, or when they should occur, or if they have already occurred. These small words such as *in*, *on*, etc., are used often and have different meanings so there is little hope for all those who want to learn English to internalize all the meanings of these prepositions. Therefore, mastering them is not an easy task for foreign students due to these different meanings and their polysemic nature. The meaning of temporal prepositions is again different, Bennett (1975) says that “The study of temporal prepositions is considerably more complicated than that of spatial, because it is intricately bound up with a verbal aspect” (p.360).

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Prepositions are especially difficult for the English Language Learner (ELL) for a number of reasons (Boquist, 2009) “because each language has its own set of rules, there are clash points when learning a second language” (p.8). Since prepositions cause such a problem for ELL, Evans and Tyler (2003) have proposed a new system for understanding prepositions: Cognitive Linguistics, in effect, reveals how we subconsciously think about prepositions. Each preposition has a central meaning, which is the mental picture of a spatial relationship. Once the central meaning of a preposition is found, it becomes clear that the various meanings branch in a polysemic network (p. 26).

The same opinion is shared by many grammarians, such as Lindstromberg (1997), Swan (2002), Quirk (1985) and others. According to Lindstromberg (1997), people think of time in one of two ways:

1. like a stream, tide or road carrying us from the past into the future (e.g., *as we move into the next millennium...*);
- and 2. like a wind or tide that moves toward us out of the future, carrying events and time periods (e.g., *the upcoming meeting, the coming week*) (p. 50).

Of course, this is not to be discouraged, but it is important to note that not all meanings are equally important. We have seen that some prepositions are used more frequently than others. Prepositions *in* and *on*, as prepositions of time (Quirk & Greenbaum, 1973) “are to some extent parallel to the same items as positive prepositions of positions, although in the time sphere there are only two ‘dimension-types’, viz ‘point of time’ and ‘period of time’”(p.154). It seems from the analysis of the novels that spatial prepositions are the most frequent ones and many of them can be used

as prepositions of time as well.

The most common meaning of prepositions is that they are used to express the meaning of words placed before a noun or a pronoun, and as such they are used very frequently. Both the English language and the Albanian language use prepositions frequently. The Albanian language, in terms of grammatical system, has gone through the same route as to that of other Indo-European languages, since it belongs to that linguistic group. Despite the changes that result from that path, languages retain many common features as well as differences in their grammar system. In our case of study, compared to English, Albanian has cases (Xhuvani, 1964) that English does not have (besides genitive case).

The theme of this research is centered around certain prepositions in English which have a high frequency of use, and yet are quite simple. While comparing them, we will deepen the knowledge of these most frequent prepositions in English, their use and see how they are translated into Albanian. These language comparison studies are becoming increasingly appealing. The structure and norms under which words interrelate are part of the study of language as a method of communication. Scholars are faced with the requirement to do research on challenging subjects and make global and local comparisons. Therefore, this research looked into analytical and comparative analyses with the aim of enlightening and empowering the current use of prepositions and giving a clearer picture of their translations in Albanian. The research is based on the analysis of two novels in English translated into Albanian:

- "White Fang" by Jack London, translated by Mikaela Minga as "Dhëmbi i Bardhë" (hereinafter as W. F. and Dh. B.); and - "Dubliners" by James Joyce, translated into Albanian by Ildir Azizi as "Dublinasit" (hereinafter used as D. and Dubl.).

The decision to base the study on the above-mentioned novels derived from the fact that both Jack London and James Joyce stand in high regard in both languages, and as such have been translated into Albanian. Given the complexity of the topic, we admit that there is a great deal to say about English prepositions and their Albanian counterparts, as Blamires (2000) said, "It would not be an exaggeration to say that there is an epidemic of prepositional anarchy around" (p.1).

### III. PREPOSITION *in*

As stated above, so it is with meanings of the preposition *in*, which is one of the most basic and frequently used prepositions in English, not only in cases denoting space but also in cases denoting time. Since the preposition *in* has a meaning of an enclosed space or boundary with the subject inside or expressing something "inside", such as *The key is in the drawer*, in cases of time relation the preposition *in* is used with this "space of time" *They arrived in 2005*.

If we think of the key inside the frames of a *drawer*, then *2005* is considered as a time frame (the main action happened somewhere in 2005). The time phrase expressed in the sentence above (*in 2005*) is not very precise as it doesn't show exactly the time when the action did happen; only that it happened in 2005. This indefinite time may deepen in the past as can be seen even from the following examples when prepositional phrases *in the old days* and *in the past* do not show exact time as *in 2005* does. The moment we see the preposition *in* showing a rather exact time (*in 2005*), the next moment of *in* is indefinite in the past (*in the old days*, *in the past*):

1. *In the old days*, he would have sprung upon White Fang... (W. F. p. 104); (*Mëparëdo t'i ishte sulur Dhëmbi i Bardhë dhe do t'ia...* [Dh. B. p. 108]).
2. *In the past*, he had liked the comfort and surcease from pain. (W. F. p. 154); (*Mëparë ai shikonte rehatin e vet dhe urrente vuajtjen.* [Dh. B. p. 158]).

As both PPs are separated by a comma in English, the translation in Albanian is not found as such, but both prepositional phrases appear translated with the same prepositional phrase (*in the old days/in the past* = *mëparë*). Regarding their indefinite time, the prepositional phrase in Albanian does not show such an indefinite distant time as in English. From the analyses of Albanian novels, the same PP (*mëparë*) appeared translated with the adverb *earlier* or preposition *before*. Therefore, we consider that, in order to show this "distant" indefinite time, an Albanian adverb *dikur* could be replaced with PP *mëparë*, as in Fjalori i Gjuhës së Sotme Shqipe (1981, p. 336) adverb *dikur* expresses time in a distant past; a long time ago; long before now.

The meaning of preposition *in* as a frame of "time" is illustrated very well with the following example:

3. *I ran around the block in less than a minute.*

Lindstromberg (1997) illustrated the meaning of *in* as a line inside the box and not out of it and therefore the time limit is not "gone out of" but the action is finished before that time limit. So, the preposition *in* is used with longer periods in the past (*in October*, *in 1995*, *in the summer holidays*, *in the 16<sup>th</sup> century*) and parts of the day (*morning*, *afternoon*, *evening*) such as:

4. *They ain't had a bite in weeks...* (W. F. p. 16)
5. *In the fall of the year*, when the days were shortening... (W. F. p. 90)
6. *In the morning* it was Henry who awoke first. (W. F. p. 9)
7. *In the evening* my aunt took me with her to visit the house. (D. p. 12)

However, this is not the only meaning of the preposition *in* as it may show different time meanings such as expressing time "in the future". This meaning is stretched within the period in the future, or by the end of that period; (in five minutes) the train will leave, or may express time at the "later boundary" of the time frame (Lindstromberg, 1997, p.79), suggesting all along the meaning of duration of time how long something takes to happen, for example:

8. *The train leaves in five minutes.*
9. *Can you come back in/\*after an hour; I'll be free then?*
10. *He is a good runner. He can run 1000 meters in two minutes.*

From the first two examples one can understand that the focus is on the later edge of the time frame (not more than five minutes or more than an hour, but very close to the end of that time frame), whereas the third example suggests the duration needed to complete that action. The distinction between expressions such as *in a week's/months' time* and *in a week/month*, is used to tell how soon something will happen (a time in the future measured from the present), not how long something takes (Swan, 2002), for example:

11. *I'll see you again in a month's time.*
12. *It'll be ready in three weeks' time (three weeks from now).*
13. *He wrote the book in a month. (NOT ...in a month's time)*

English prepositions have their synonymous meanings with other prepositions, when a certain meaning can be expressed by more than one preposition. In comparison to prepositions indicating place (*by/near; next to/beside; behind/in the back of*, etc.), these synonymous meanings get narrowed when it comes to prepositions of time, as they have fewer synonymous meanings (*during/in; in/at*). As seen in the previous chapter, the Albanian prepositions are richer in this field, given the fact that there are cases when three prepositions can express the same meaning (*afër/kah/nga dreka*). Let us see some examples in two languages:

14. *She always takes a trip to Turkey { during / in } the summer.*
15. *Takohemi aty { kah / nga dreka. }*

In some contexts, we can either use the preposition *in* or leave it out, for example:

16. *Profits were \$50 million, compared with \$30 million (in) the previous year.*

In the following section, let us see some examples of when the preposition *in* can be replaced or not with other prepositions.

#### A. In vs At

As stated above, the preposition *in* is used with periods of time long enough to be considered a time frame (from the basic meaning of *in*) and if we continue with this basic meaning, then the preposition *at* represents points of time. But these two prepositions can interchange their meanings in certain cases, for example in the phrases *in the night* and *at night*. Let us see the following examples:

1. *I heard a noise in the night. (= in the middle of the night)*
2. *The windows are shut at night. (= when it is night)*

The first example includes the meaning of a particular night and the second one has a more general meaning such as any night or nights in general. According to Swan (2002), in an informal style these two prepositions can be left out, "when plurals show activities happening again and again" (p.80)

3. *He would rather study nights than days!*

Other ambiguous phrases are *in the end/at the end*. *In the end* suggests that something "happens after a lot of changes, problems or uncertainty and *at the end* simply refers to position at the end of something; there is no sense of waiting or delay Swan (2002), for example (p.201, 202):

4. *The tax man will get you in the end.*
5. *I wish I was paid at the beginning of week and not at the end.*

#### B. In vs During

Since the preposition *in* has several meanings and uses, one similar meaning is with the preposition *during* when both prepositions are used to say that something happens inside a particular period of time (Swan, 2002) (August, night) and each preposition can be replaced with the other, for example:

1. *We'll be on holiday during/in August.*
2. *I woke up during/in the night.*

According to the same grammarian (2002), besides similarities shown in the examples above, these two prepositions may not have the same meaning when we are talking about an action happening all the time in that period, for example:

3. *The shops are closed during the whole of August. (NOT...in the whole of August).*

#### C. Analysis of Preposition In

The above-mentioned fact, that the preposition *in* is one of the most frequent prepositions, is also based on our research from the analyses of the novels: in *White Fang*, out of 1214 appearances of the preposition *in*, only 68 occurred in sentences denoting time. In *Dubliners*, out of 1056 appearances of the preposition *in*, only 27 denoted time relation. The high numbers in both novels show this preposition's frequency of use. In the following pages we will show these numbers in a tabular way and their translation as well. Regarding translation into Albanian, it was not

always translated with preposition *n ë* as one might expect, but we found several cases translated with adverbs of time (*nd ërkoh ë nes ër; pasdite*), with nouns (*dit ën, nat ën*), and prepositions (*rreth, m ë n ë nga, gjat ë pas*, etc.).

#### D. English *In* → Albanian *N ë*

1. *In the morning, Henry aroused by fervid blasphemy that proceeded...* (W. F. p. 11) (*N ëm ëngjes* Henrikun e zgjoi n ëmallkim i papritur.... [Dh. B. p. 14]).
2. *In the fall of the year, when the dogs were shortening and the bite....* (W. F. p. 90) (*N ëvjesht ë* dit ë ishish shum ë t ëshkurtra dhe n ëaj ër ndiheshin... [Dh. B. p. 94]).
3. *...and, in an ironical moment, the headline of an advertisement ....* (D. p. 103) (...dhe *n ënj ë* *qast ironie* kishte sajuar n ë kaptin ë reklame... [D. p. 138]).
4. *, and if he could get the copy done in time, Mr. Alleyne might give him an order on the cashier.* (D. p. 83) (...dhe n ëse e mbaronte kopjen *n ëkoh ë* z. Allejni mund t ë jepte n ëparadh ënie. [D. p. 115]).

From the examples above, we see that all prepositional phrases with preposition *in* are divided by a comma, regardless whether they are in the beginning or the middle of a sentence, but such a thing is not observed in Albanian translation.

The first three examples (3.2.1.1; 3.2.1.2; 3.2.1.3) are very much into the meaning of the preposition *in*, in two languages (*in, n ë*). In the last example (3.2.1.4), the preposition *in* (in time) expresses something done "before the exact or given time" such as *We were enough in time to have a coffee before the flight*, and the Albanian preposition *n ë* expresses a rather exact time; we think that the prepositional phrase *in time* should be translated with prepositional phrase *me koh ë* as it suggests something done previously (*me koh ë* - *m ëp ëpara*).

#### E. English *In* → Albanian Adverbs of Time

1. *You jes`shut up now, an` go to sleep, an` you`ll be hunkydary in the mornin`...* (W. F. p. 8) (Tani mbylle goj ën dhe fli! *Nes ër* do t ëjesh s ërish fill.... [Dh. B. p.11]).
2. *In the afternoon he blundered upon a ptarmigan.* (W. F. p. 43) (*Pasdite* gjeti n ëth ël ëd ëbore af ër n ë shkurteje. [Dh. B. p. 48]).

The preposition *in*, being used with parts of the day (*in the mornin`, in the afternoon*) appeared translated into Albanian with adverbs of time that fit perfectly to English PP's because both of them denote parts of the day (*in the morning`- nes ër; in the afternoon - pasdite*).

3. *In the meantime, Bill had thought himself of the rifle...* (W. F. p. 21); (*Nd ërkoh ë* Billit iu kujtua pushka... [Dh. B. p. 24]).
4. *And in the meantime, the she-wolf, the cause of it all, sat down contentedly on her ...and watched.* (W. F. p. 34); (*Nd ërkoh ë* ulkonja rrinte shtrir ëdhe shikonte p ërleshjen me qet ësi. [Dh. B. p. 39]).

In the above examples, the English PP *in the meantime* shows the time of the action that was done while something else was expected, or when two actions are performed at the same time. In both sentences we have an Albanian translation the adverb of time *nd ërkoh ë* and translation missing of *in - n ë* which perhaps the translator did not use for economy of language. We think that in the example (3.2.2.3) the use of the preposition *n ë* would be useful, as it would stay close to the meaning of PP *in the meantime*, while the example (3.2.2.4) is sufficient.

#### F. English *In* → Albanian Nouns

1. *But, though he worked in the sled in the day, White Fang did not forego the guarding of his master`s property in the night.* (W. F. p. 1560; (*Dit ën* punonte me zell t ëmadh, nd ërsa *nat ën* ruante me kujdes gj ërat e t ëzotit. [Dh. B. p. 159]).
2. *Not in a day or a generation were the ravaged sheepfolds to be forgotten.* (W. F. p. 171) (...sa p ër delet, edhe *dit ë* nuk do t ëmjaftonin p ë t ënum ëruar viktimat. [Dh. B. p. 175]).
3. *In its first week, insisted of brighter news or at least....* (D. p. 85); (*Java* e par ëe tij, n ëvend t ëmbyllej me n ë lajm... [Dub., p. 82]).

From the examples above, it can be seen that PPs in English are translated with nouns into Albanian and these nouns can be in their definite form, as PP with the preposition *in* appears to be translated with feminine nouns (*dit ën, nat ën, dit ë*), singular, in accusative, definite form but the noun (*dit ë*) is plural. This is the advantage of the Albanian language; because of the case endings, nouns can be used without prepositions.

#### G. English *In* → Albanian Prepositions (*pas, brenda, prej, gjat ë*)

The preposition *in* was found translated with the above-mentioned prepositions into Albanian:

1. *In a few minutes the train drew up beside an improvised wooden platform.* (D. p. 26); (*Pas disa minutash,* treni u shkund pran ënj ëplatform t ësajuar. [Dub., p. 52]).
2. *And so was recorded the second epitaph in two days...* (W. F. p. 15) (...ky ishte fjalimi i dyt ë mortor *brenda dy dit ësh.* [Dh. B. p. 15]).
3. *They ain`t had a bite in weeks...* (W. F. p. 16); (V ëbast se nuk kan ëven ën ëgoj ë *prej jav ësh.*... [Dh. B. p. 20]).
4. *He had not eaten in forty hours, and he was weak with hunger.* (W. F. p. 93); (Nuk kishte futur gj ën ëgoj ë *prej dyzet or ësh.* [Dh. B. p. 97]).

5. *In the meantime, they're willin' to pick up anything' eatable that comes handy.* (W. F. p. 16); (**Gjat ëk ë saj kohe** shohin se mos kushedi rastisin ndonjë gjë tjetër...[Dh. B. p. 20]).
6. *In the summer the fish failed.* (W. F. p. 107); (**Gjat ë ver ë** nuk kishte peshk. [Dh. B. p. 111]).

In the examples with PP's showing rather shorter periods of time (with a modifier: PP = P + NP [*in a few minutes*]) is observed to be translated mainly with a PP in Albanian with the same structure (*pas pak minutash; pas disa minutash*), and here we have a similarity between two languages based on their structure. In all examples, when the preposition **in** is used to show a longer period started in the past and continued for some time or up to the moment of speaking, the PP was translated with the preposition **prej** which is in ablative (*prej javësh, prej dyzet orësh*). However, in sentences showing a shorter period of time (*in a day, in two days*) is always translated with the preposition **brenda** (*brenda një dite, brenda dy ditësh*).

In the last example, the preposition **in** is translated with **gjatë** and here we have similarity in translation and synonyms as well. The preposition **in** has a similar meaning to the preposition **during** (*in/during the summer*) and in Albanian as well the preposition **në** is similar to the preposition **gjatë** (*në verë/gjatë verës*).

#### H. English In → Translation Missing

1. *He straightened up in time to see a dim form disappearing across the snow into the shelter of the dark...* (W.F. p.10); (Drejttoi trupin dhe pa një hije të vogullt, që zhyqej në errësirën mbrojtëse...[Dh. B. p. 13]).
2. *In this time of mystery, White Fang, too, stole away into the woods.* (W. F. p. 108); (Dhe Dhëmbi i Bardhë iku. [Dh. B. p.112]).
3. *In the meantime, the canoe had drifted down the stream.* (W. F. p. 82); (Varkën po e merte vala dhe Kastori i Hirtëmori drejtimin e saj. [Dh. B. p. 88]).
4. *We were to meet at ten in the morning on the Canal Bridge.* (D. p. 13) (...e patëm lënë të takoheshim në orën dhjetëtek Ura e kanalit. [Dubl., p. 36]).

In the analysis of the novels, besides translations, whether with prepositions or adverbs, there were found many examples when the preposition **in** was not translated at all. This phenomenon was found more in the novel *White Fang* translated into Albanian and less in *Dubliners*. In *White Fang*, the translation was missing because the translator had left several paragraphs without translating, underlined PP's were not even translated, and they were not replaced by other words or phrases. We do not know the reason for these gaps, but we believe that these missing translations would have given additional details about the actions in the story. As was seen in the examples above, some of the PP's could have been translated, especially in the last example, because in translation it is not clear (*në orën dhjetë?*) whether the time of the action was in the morning or in the evening. Some of the examples we have already mentioned in the previous chapter when analyzing the above-mentioned Albanian prepositions. On the following page we have illustrated the frequency of use for the preposition **in** for both novels and their translation into Albanian.

TABLE 1.  
WHITE FANG.

Translation used for analysis		Times	%
English PP with the head <b>in</b> used - in total		1214	100%
<b>In</b> denoting time		68	5.60%
			100%
PP with the head <b>in</b> -translated into Albanian	- with prepositions of accusative - në(10)	10	14.70%
	- other prepositions nga - 2 më - 2 prej - 2 gjatë - 6 brenda - 4	13	19.11%
	-with adverbs nesër - 5 ndërkohë - 7 pasdite - 1	13	19.11%
	- cases when translation missing	25	36.76%
	- conjunctions (megjithatë, pastaj, sapo)	3	
	- nouns (natën, ditën)	4	5.88%

TABLE 2.  
DUBLINERS

Translation used for analysis		Times	%
English PP with the head <i>in</i> used - in total		1056 - 29	100%
<i>In</i> denoting time		29	100%
PP with the head <i>in</i> –translated into Albanian	- with prepositions of accusative - në(10)	15	51. 72%
	- other prepositions brenda - 1 pas - 5	6	20. 68%
	- with adverbs menjshërë - 1	1	3. 44%
	- cases when translation missing	3	10. 34%
	- nouns (natën, ditën)	4	13. 79%

From the above tables, one can see that the preposition *in* is mainly translated with the preposition *në* into Albanian, adverbs of time, nouns and other prepositions, but the main burden of translation carries the preposition *në* (10 times in *White Fang* and 15 times in *Dubliners*) as no other preposition has such a high frequency of translation.

#### IV. PREPOSITION ON

Based on the analyzed novels, the preposition *on* is the third most used preposition after the prepositions *in* and *at*. The three prepositions, apart from other adjunctions, can express time, such as *in* and *at* which are the most specific. *On* is the most general because the PPs *in 10 minutes* and *at 10 o'clock* are more specific than *on Monday*. So, *on* is used with days of the week and before months that are used with dates and before *that*. The preposition *on* is used to mean one day of the holiday (Swan, 2002, p. 80, 81), and if we say which morning or afternoon we are discussing about, or if we describe the morning/afternoon, etc. Regarding position in the sentence, this preposition can have all three positions (initial, middle and final positions), for example:

1. *Come and see us on Christmas Day.*
2. *What are you doing on Easter Monday?*
3. *We met on a cold afternoon in early spring.*
4. *His birthday is on October 11<sup>th</sup>.*
5. *The meeting is on 7 August.*
6. *I have to go to an interview on that day.*

The preposition *on* is also used in formal English, in expressions like these (Lindstromberg, 1997), and here preposition *on* can mean “immediately after”, for example:

7. *On arriving, we went straight to the front desk.*
8. *On his arrival, the commander gave a speech to his soldiers.*
9. *I'll bring it on Friday at 16:00. (NOT - at Friday on 16:00)*

As for the last example, as stated in the second chapter on prepositions, certain prepositions are used in one form, *on* can be left out but not the preposition *at* (*The party will meet Friday at 16:00*). When showing special meanings, prepositions (*on*, *in*) can both be used in a sentence: one with a correct meaning and the other one a bit awkward (*I can meet you in the house/I can meet you on the house*). When it comes to indicate time relations, this flexibility is very rarely applied. This is shown from the example above with preposition *on* and *at*, as they cannot be replaced. Therefore, prepositions denoting time can be used only with certain words or in some cases they can be left out and very rarely replaced with other prepositions.

As stated in the second chapter, prepositions are not used before some common expressions of time beginning with *next*, *last*, *this*, *that* (sometimes) *one*, *every*, *each*, *same*, *any* (in an informal style), or sometimes preposition *on* is left out before the week days. This is common in American English (Eastwood, 2005) for example:

10. *Why don't you come for a drink (on) Monday evening?*
11. *I'll see you (on) Tuesday.*

In other cases, we can leave out preposition *ON* before what/which day(s), such as:

12. *What day is your appointment?*
13. *Which day do you have your music lesson?*

##### A. *On* vs *In*

Although prepositions *in* and *at* express a more specific time, the PP *on time* refers to fixed time clock, and it has an idiomatic meaning as it can be more precise than *at ten o'clock*. The PP *in time* (for/to) means “early enough”; but PP *on time* means (Eastwood, 2005, p.307) “punctual(ly)”, for example:

1. *Oh good. You're back in time for tea.*
2. *The train left on time at 11.23.*

According to the same grammarian, these two PPs are a bit clearer in comparison with the following PP's: *in good time* and *just in time*, for example:

3. *We got back in good time for tea. (= with plenty of time to spare)*

4. *We got there just in time for tea.* (= with little time to spare)

Preposition **on** is used not only with days (Monday, Tuesday, etc), but also if a day is named or specified (Lindstromberg, 1997, p. 76) such as:

5. *On the first day/the morning I arrived, it snowed.*
6. *On the day of the earthquake....*
7. *On the twentieth night of Christmas my true love said to me....*
8. *In the evening we sat around and drank beer.*
9. *On the evening of the 9<sup>th</sup> we were sitting around and drinking beer; suddenly...*

In the last two examples above (3.5.1.8; 3.5.1.9), the role of the preposition **on** is to make the time period more compact, therefore **on** is used as there is more information after the first PP. In all the above examples, the preposition **on** is with a complement referring to a part of a day rather than a whole day (Quirk et al., 1973).

#### B. Analysis of On

Preposition **on** was not found to be used very often in *White Fang*, as from the 489 times used in total, only 12 times denoted time relation. In regard to its translation, it was done with NP's more than with other prepositions.

However, different results were found in *Dubliners* as it was used 457 times in total but 24 times denoted time relation. In *Dubliners*, the preposition **on** was translated with its equivalent **të** and with nouns into Albanian, and less with other prepositions.

#### C. ENGLISH ON → ALBANIAN TË

1. *And the men used to go in on Sunday morning before the houses...* (D. p. 120); (Dhe burrat shkonin aty çdo **të diele n ëm ëngjes**.... [Dubl., p. 157]).
2. *... on Saturday nights had begun to weary her unspeakably...* (D. p. 31) (...për punë të hollash **të shtunave mbr ën je** nis ën ta lodhnin sa s'ka. [Dubl., p. 56]).
3. *On special Sundays, when Mr. Kearny went with his family...* (D. p. 80); (Disa **t ë diela** t ë v e çanta, kur zoti Kirnei shkonte bashkë me familjen... [Dubl., p. 175]).

As seen in the above examples, PP's with **on** denoting days of the week along with parts of the day (*On Saturday evenings*, *on Sunday morning*, etc.) or without them (*On special Sundays*) appear translated always with **të** which belongs to the nominative case. It is observed that, whether the noun is singular or plural in English (*on Saturday evenings* - *të shtunave n ëmbr ën je*; *on Sunday morning* - *të shtunave n ëm ëngjes*) the translation into Albanian is the same, meaning that the second preposition **n ë** may or may not be used, and the meaning is the same (*on Saturday night* - *të shtun ën n ë dark ë*, *on Saturday night* - *të shtun ën mbr ëna*).

As stated in the previous chapter on Albanian prepositions, the preposition **n ë** can sometimes be left out and it seems that, for language economy, the translator did not always use **n ë**.

#### D. ENGLISH ON → ALBANIAN NOUN

1. *On nights when he came in very late it was, she who warmed up his dinner.* (D. p. 62); (**Net ëve** kur ai kthehej von ë vet ë ajo ia ngrohte gjell ën e dark ë. [Dubl., p. 92]).
2. *Six o'clock on Christmas morning...* (D. p. 195); (N ë gjasht ë fiks **m ë gjesin** e krishtlindjeve! [Dubl., p. 243]).
3. *In all the days he had lived it had not worked so hard as on this one day.* (W. F. p. 60; Truri i tij i vog ël nuk kishte punuar ndonj ëher ëaq shum ësa at ëdit ë [Dh. B. p. 65]).
4. *Later on that day, Kiche and White Fang strayed into the edge of the wood next to the camp.* (W. F. p. 80); (**Nj ë dit ë** Kisheja dhe Dh ënbi i Bardh ëpo endeshin s ëbashku n ëpyllin aty af ër. [Dh. B. p. 87]).

As can be seen from the above examples, in *Dubliners* the preposition **on** is translated with nouns that can be feminine and masculine, and they appear in their definite form, such as *nat ën* which is a feminine noun, singular in accusative case; and *m ëngjesin* - a masculine noun, singular. The first example is a noun in plural (*net ëve*), and the common characteristic is that they are in their definite form.

Regarding *White Fang*, there were five cases translated with NPs such as the last two examples above: *on this one day* - *at ëdit ë* and *on that day* - *nj ëdit ë*. These are essentially the only NPs translated into Albanian, and they have modifiers (*at ë* - pronoun and *nj ë* - numeral). In almost all these cases, there is the invisible presence of the preposition **n ë**.

TABLE3.  
DUBLINERS

Translation used for analysis		Times	%
English PP with the head <b>on</b> used - in total		457 - 24	100%
<b>on</b> denoting time		24	100%
PP with the head <b>on</b> -translated into Albanian	- with - <b>t ë</b>	14	58.33%
	- other prepositions: me	1	4.16%
	- nouns (3); NP (1)	4	16.66%
	- cases when translation missing	2	8.33%
	- with preposition of accusative - <b>n ë</b>	3	12.5%

## V. CONCLUSION

Prepositions, particularly temporal prepositions, are the focus of our research. The goal of this research was to have a better understanding of the differences between prepositions and how to utilize them correctly. We attempted to update the study in order to aid in ELL's acquisition of English as a foreign language, as well as the work of translators from English to Albanian and vice versa. This research included internal similarities as well as comparisons between the two languages. This raises further issues about parallels, replacement options, and differences. To explain the research, we looked at the usage of prepositions, particularly prepositional phrases with a focus on time prepositions such as *in* and *on*, and compared them to prepositions in Albanian from chosen English books.

The preposition *in* is one of the most common prepositions in English, and as previously indicated, its time meaning originates from its fundamental meaning: a "space time" long enough to be thought of as a window. Its meaning might be exact (as it was *in 2005*) or it can develop through time (*in the old days*). The fact that the preposition *in* is one of the most common prepositions is supported by our findings from novel analyses: in *White Fang*, only 68 of the 1214 times the preposition *in* appeared in sentences denoting time, and in *Dubliners*, only 27 of the 1056 instances of the preposition *in* denoted time relation. This large figure in both works demonstrates how frequently the preposition is used. In terms of translation into Albanian, we discovered that it was not generally translated with the preposition *në*, as one might assume, but rather with adverbs of time (*ndërkohë nesër, pasdite*), with nouns (*ditën, natën*), and prepositions (*rreth, mënjë nga, gjatë pas*, etc.).

The preposition *on* was not found to be used very often in *White Fang* as, from the 489 times used in total, only 12 denoted time relation. It was translated with NP's more than with other prepositions. But we found different findings in *Dubliners*, as it was used 457 times in total but only 27 times denoted time relation. In *Dubliners*, the preposition *on* was translated with *të* and with *nouns*, and less with other prepositions.

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**Meliha Brestovci** (first author) an English language lecturer at the University of Prishtina was born on October 13th 1972 in Gjilan. She obtained her Basic Studies-English Language and Literature at the University of Prishtina in 1996 and worked as a teacher of English. She completed her Master Studies in 2010 at the University of Prishtina, Kosovo being part of the university as well. Her Doctoral Degree in Linguistics was completed in 2015 and she has gained the qualification of Doctor of Philological Sciences from South East European University, Tetovo, North Macedonia in the Faculty of Languages, Cultures and Communication.

Dr. Brestovci is currently working as a lecturer at the University of Prishtina, Kosovo, in the Faculty of Philosophy, Psychology department for the past 10 years. She is also a secretary of the Institute for Social Studies and Humanities.





**Arsim Sinani** professor at the University of Prishtina was born on June 4<sup>th</sup> 1974 in Tetovo. He obtained his Basic Studies in the University of Prishtina Faculty of Philology-Literature in 2008. He completed his Master studies in 2010 International Relationship and Diplomacy in Iliria University in Prishtina. He worked as a professor at the State University of Tetovo in North Macedonia. He completed Doctoral Studies in 2013 in the University of Tirana, Institute for European Studies. From 2012 to 2019 he worked as a founder of the Center for International Relationships and Balkan Studies. He is an editor of the international scientific journal “Diskutime”.

Dr. Sinani is currently a professor in the University of Prishtina’s Anthropology department and is a director of the Institute for Social Studies and Humanities.