Three Complex Prepositions with *And*

Hideo Hirao

College of Policy Science, Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, Japan

Correspondence: Hideo Hirao, College of Policy Science, Ritsumeikan University, 56-1 Tojinkitamachi Kitaku Kyoto, 603-8577, Japan. Tel: 81-75-465-7877. E-mail: hideh@maia.eonet.ne.jp

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Abstract

The discussion on complex prepositions has been centered on the string whose structure is preposition plus nominal plus preposition (PNP). However, there are other strings whose internal structures are quite distinct from the above and which are undergoing the process of grammaticalization and should be treated as single grammatical components, *i.e.* complex prepositions, in given circumstances where they appear. Three of those are *up and above, down and below*, and *from top to bottom and across*. They all share one characteristic that they have *and* in the second final position before the string final prepositions. They all appear in almost every circumstance where a single word preposition may appear. In addition, they all can be used as prepositional adverb which is a prominent major derivational use of single word prepositions.

Keywords: complex preposition, grammaticalization, corpus

1. Introduction

1.1 Complex Preposition as a Part of Grammaticalization

Grammaticalization is a process by which content words become grammatical items (Hopper & Traugott, 1993, 2003) In English there are a number of complex prepositions where prepositions and adverbs combine together and form single word prepositions, *i.e.* into, onto, upon, within, without, although the status of items which are considered as adverbs in these instances may be a little bit controversial. The fact is, they have already completed grammaticalization process and become single lexical items.

What has gathered attention was the existence of PREP₁+NOUN+PREP₂ (PNP) complex prepositions (Quirk et. al., 1972). Since strings of three items are claimed to form grammatical units on their own, their level of grammaticalization posed delicate questions whether they really are functioning as real grammatical entities.

1.2 Previous Discussions

The existence of complex prepositions consisting of PNP was noted by Quirk & Mulholland (1964). Seppanen, Bowen & Trotta (1994) refuted the existence of complex prepositions and claimed that they are instances of free forms. Hoffmann (2005), on the basis of vast corpus study, illustrated that they are actually grammatical units.

What has been absent in their scope of discussion was that there are other strings whose internal structures are quite different and which have gone through the process of grammaticalization and begun to function as complex prepositions. Inoue (2012) has indicated two instances of such fixed expressions.

1.3 Three Other Complex Prepositions

There are still other complex prepositions. Three of which are *up and above, down and below*, and *from top to bottom and across*. They all exhibit distribution patterns which are quite close to those of single word prepositions. In addition, they all can be used as prepositional adverbs. Thus, their unity as integrated strings is even stronger than PNP complex prepositions which can rarely be used as such.

1.4 Tests by Linguistic Functions

A single word preposition acts as a head of a prepositional phrase. This prepositional phrase is used for a number
of linguistic functions. Among them are:

1. Predicative Nominal Modifier
   a cup on the table
2. Intransitive Verb Complement
   The building stands at the corner.
3. Transitive Verb Complement
   I put the car into the garage.

In addition, a major derivational use of single word prepositions is a prepositional adverb.

We stayed on.

If a string in question can be used in all of these functions, it can be considered as a strong candidate for a complex preposition.

2. Distribution Patterns of Three Complex Prepositions with And

In this section, distribution patterns of three complex prepositions, up and above, down and below, and form top to bottom and across, which contain and in the second final position of the strings will be examined. From a semantic relationship between items before and after and within each string, the first two will be called synonymous type and the last, complementary type.

2.1 Synonymous Type

Complex prepositions, up and above and down and below, are called synonymous type because the semantic relationship between elements before and after and within each string is synonymous. Although we can recognize this quite similar semantic relationship in elements within strings, meanings of the two entire expressions are quite the opposite.

In the following, distribution patterns of up and above will be examined first.

2.1.1 Up and Above

Cases in which the string appears in major functions that prepositional phrase, in which up and above will be the head, may perform will be sited one by one. The use as prepositional adverb will be taken up at the last of this section.

In its original sense, up and above indicates the direction toward the opposite of gravitational force. In numerical terms, this means bigger. In metaphorical sense, this means better.

2.1.1.1 Predicative Nominal Modifier

(1) For a while, the return climb doesn’t seem all that bad – a gradual rise up and above a small stream, through a neat hardwood forest.

(2) The small opening at the bottom of the sinkhole opens up into the “ceiling” of the cave 66 feet up and above a huge pile of breakdown.

(3) Whilst you may ideally be after a model up and above a 42 inch LCD TV, don’t go sacrificing quality for size when your budget is limited.

(4) Are there administrative fees or other service charges up and above the property management and leasing fees?
   http://www.definiteanswers.com/q/Are-there-administrative-fees-or-other-service-charges-up-and-above-the-property-management-and-leas-4dd4f5a1df259, retrieved 2012/3/6

2.1.1.2 Intransitive Verb Complement

(5) Just plant higher growing plants that will grow up and above the squash or the squash may smother them out or prevent them from getting proper light.
When the faster (thicker) moving average is moving up and above the slower (thinner) moving average the trend is up, and when it is below the slower moving average and moving down, the trend is down.


If certain employees perform up and above the expectations and help the company to achieve better results, the organization would appreciate their efforts and give them a raise in their salary.


2.1.1.3 Transitive Verb Complement

Squeezing your chest muscles, extend your arms up and above your shoulders.


At Lupi, the decision to build homes up and above our usual exceedingly vivid standards means you truly are buying a luxury home.


2.1.1.4 Prepositional Adverb

Learning to fly is an exciting and rewarding adventure. It gives you the freedom to get up and above.


He then went up and above to improve our sprinkler system.

http://irrigationanddrainage.mobi/, retrieved 2012/3/11

Sam has made our furniture selection so easy and has gone up and above to satisfy our needs as customers!


2.1.2 Down and Below

The entire meaning of the string is the opposite of up and above. The original meaning is toward the direction of gravitational force. In numerical terms, this means smaller or lesser. In metaphorical sense, this means lower.

2.1.2.1 Predicative Nominal Modifier

Here, many decks down and below the waterline, four men were on watch in the lower steering position,

http://ww2today.com/13th-november-1941-hms-ark-royal-sunk, retrieved 2012/03/21

Start at the left side of the wall just to the right of the easy way down and below a wide crack.

http://www.javu.co.uk/Climbing/NewRoutes/WestCornwall_SouthCoast.shtml, retrieved 2012/3/20

This remarkable spring water is sourced from an ancient spring 300 meters down and below the natural filtration beds of limestone rock synonymous with this region of Ulster.

http://www.celticpure.ie/about-us, retrieved 2012/03/21

2.1.2.2 Intransitive Verb Complement

Regulators should be installed with the vent facing down and below a protective cover.


It is also known to change its characteristics, and become more brittle when the temperature goes down and below a certain temperature.


The opposite also holds true, as the short moving average crosses down and below the long moving average, a new downtrend may emerge in the near future.


2.1.2.3 Transitive Verb Complement

Take the top layer and wrap it down and below the other layer.

(21) Drag the top center control handle (the small black boxes) **down and below** the current text.

http://www.xaraxone.com/webxalot/workbook22/page_5.htm, retrieved 2012/03/21

(22) Corn futures ended the week **down and below** mid March levels.


2.1.2.4 Prepositional Adverb

(23) After awhile the sun was starting to go **down and below** is one of those shots.

http://vnsphotography.com/, retrieved 2012/12/4

(24) All committee members stood **down and below** are the elected officers

http://www.doultingskittles.co.uk, retrieved 2012/12/4

(25) Top door opens **down and below** are two doors which open out.


2.2 Complementary Type

2.2.1 From Top to Bottom and Across

**From top to bottom and across** has a very intricate structure. The first item before **and, from top to bottom**, is in itself an idiomatic expression. This expresses vertical dimension of space. The second item, **across**, expresses horizontal dimension of space. Thus the two complement each other in semantic space.

In physical terms, this preposition indicates the whole expanse of any two or three dimensional objects. In metaphorical sense, this means encompassing everything inside.

2.2.1.1 Predicative Nominal Modifier

(26) Can you please tell me the measurements **from top to bottom and across** the chest?


(27) The buttons measure 7/8” (2 cm) **from top to bottom and across** the widest part.


(28) Stakeholders **from top to bottom and across** the organization have to be engaged and aligned.


(29) A complete transformation of the IT infrastructure **from top to bottom and across** business units was necessary so that we could continue to provide the best systems available.


2.2.1.2 Intransitive Verb Complement

(30) Figure 1a is a cross-sectional view with contours indicating how velocity varies **from top to bottom and across** the stream channel.

http://www.colorado.edu/geography/courses/geog_2043_f01/lab01_2.html, retrieved 2012/3/11

(31) The frame is well-designed and supported overall with leather tension strapping going **from top to bottom and across** the waist.


(32) For inside the window frame, measure **from top to bottom and across** the top and center of window.


(33) The measurements are **from top to bottom and across** the widest part of the piece, not including the Bail.


2.2.1.3 Transitive Verb Complement

(34) Heated air flows in a 3608 pattern uniformly across the spiral conveyor from all sides, providing consistent temperature **from top to bottom and across** the belt on each tier.
(35) POWER-TRAC IR protects people and objects by sending infrared signals from top to bottom and across closing aisles.

(36) But by 1918 firepower had been integrated with protective cover and mobility, in the form of tanks and military aviation, and had been complemented by the use of radio to open the lines of communication and facilitate alignment from top to bottom and across units.

2.2.1.4 Prepositional Adverb

(37) The trellises, arbors, and artificial trees have clear mini lights intertwined from top to bottom and across for a sparkling effect.

(38) The stone measures 3/4 from top to bottom and across.

(39) A major factor which must be considered, if the benefits of leadership are to be given full rein in an organization, is the existence of a good communications system, from top to bottom and across.

3. Conclusion

All three strings occur in major functions where single word prepositions are used. In addition, they can be used as prepositional adverbs. This strongly indicates the cohesion of these strings as single units. What these corpus data show is that they are forming some kind of units of their own and that their behavior, in syntactic terms, is very close to that of single word prepositions. Thus, these strings may well be considered complex prepositions.

4. Further Questions

4.1 Synonymous Type

4.1.1 Strings without And

Both complex prepositions have corresponding strings without and. Although their occurrences are rarer than those with and, they can be used in the same syntactic positions including prepositional adverb positions. Consider the following:

(40) Scientific analysis has confirmed that oil bubbling up above BP’s sealed Deepwater Horizon well in recent days is a chemical match for the hundreds of millions of gallons of oil that spewed into the Gulf last summer.

(41) However, this time, the RSI popped up above 70, and shows bullish momentum, although the near-term may be overbought.

(42) I could still hear pieces of masonry crumbling around me, and I said a silent prayer that the next one to fall wasn’t the one that was holding half a building up above my head.

(43) Holding the camera straight up above, more and different patterns appear . . . . and then looking down to the horizon, the sky, of course, goes on forever.

(44) The top number north of the line is called the numerator and the number down below the line is the denominator.
Now, since most don’t have the TBL or Chart mode, what you want to wait for is price to fall down below the trigger number and then move back up towards in with No Demand.

I have been wanting to float my kayak down below Denison dam.

The building will have 74 (likely very expensive) dwelling units up top, with 404,000 sq.ft. of office space, and retail down below.

From the standpoint that every change in surface structure conveys some kind of change in the massage that the string expresses, there should be some differences between the two corresponding strings with and without and. Data are still limited to decide what these differences are. Further research into this question should be needed.

Although quite scarce, we find strings in which the first prepositions are replaced by over or under.

As the short moving average crosses over and above the longer moving average, this can be interpreted as a change in trend to the upside.

I’m having lots of issues with my layout but my most immediate need is to move my top navigation over above my content area instead of above my left navigation bar.

The left side of my neck hurts under and below my jaw.

The main difference between a cluster outline and a formal outline is that it is not linear; it doesn’t necessarily run down a page from top to bottom and across from left to right.

I followed Hello Views, Google Map View and now I want to add a TextView under below the MapView.

Whether they are faulty extensional uses of the strings with up or down, or well-established complex lexical entities of their own is the question we need further study.

We found two examples which indicate that unity between the first element, from top to bottom, and the second element, across, might be weaker.

The idea is to break your photo up into thirds both from top to bottom and across.

In this example the two elements are separated by the expression, both . . . and . . . , indicating independent nature of the two elements.

The main difference between a cluster outline and a formal outline is that it is not linear; it doesn’t necessarily run down a page from top to bottom and across from left to right.

In this example, the second element, across, is modified by the phrase, from left to right. This highlights the contrasting nature of the second element against the first element, from top to bottom.

What these instances indicate is that this string is in its intermediate stage of grammaticalization and that there still remains a certain amount of lexical freedom in elements inside the string.

We found two examples without the string initial preposition, from.

My 25-plus years in technology have earned me the luxury of experience in a number of different work environments, and I’ve learned how intercommunication works at all levels – top to bottom and across all
employees.


(55) The fact that he was able to redesign American commerce **top to bottom and across** is really stunning.


The frequency rate of this string is quite low, so we will have wait and see whether this string is well-established as a complex lexical item.

References


Inoue, A. (2012). *Newly observed phraseological units functioning as group prepositions in contemporary English: The case of be on against and in and of itself*. A presentation read at the 5th meeting of Japan Society for Phaseology held at Umeda Campus, Kwanseigakuin University, Japan on March 3, 2012.


