4. Transformation
4.0. **Introduction**

A sentence has to undergo many a change when used in a proper context just to fulfil the need of communication. The preposition being a semantico-syntactic component has to bear with the change, i.e. transformation in terms of deletion, substitution, addition, and/or extraposition.

4.1. **Preposition Deletion**

When the indirect object is put just after the verb, then the preposition 'to' or 'for' is dropped, eg. :

She gave a book **to** him.

→ She gave him a book.

The tree-diagrams clearly show this transformation (preposition-deletion) thus:
She gave a book to him

She gave him a book
He bought a book for me.

→ He bought me a book.

When sentences of the type discussed above are passivised, then also the preposition is deleted, eg.:
She gave a book to him.

→ He was given a book (by her).
4.2. **Preposition-addition**

In passive transformation, the subject NP in the active sentence is transformed into a PP and thus it takes 'by', eg.:

He opened the book.

→ The book was opened by him.
In sentence-embedding, one sentence has to be reduced to a phrase. The phrase sometimes takes a preposition, eg. :

When he was asked his name,
   he kept mum.

On being asked his name, he
   kept mum.

4.3. Preposition-Substitution

Sometimes an 'of-phrase' can be substituted for any PP when the sentence is transformed. The following are few examples :

(i) He has love for music.
    → His love of music ...

(ii) There are flowers in the garden.
    → The flowers of the garden ...

(iii) The water in the glass ...
    → The water of the glass ...
Emonds (1976: 94) calls these as 'possessive transformation'.

(iv) The water is so hot that I cannot drink it.

→ The water is too hot to drink.

(v) His sorrow is so deep that he cannot express it.

→ His sorrow is too deep to express.

(vi) It is so bad (shocking) that I cannot bear it.

→ It is too much for me.

(vii) The trunk is so heavy that Mohan cannot carry it.

→ The trunk is too heavy for Mohan to carry.

(viii) You are wise enough to say so.

→ How wise of you to say so!

→ It is wise of you to say so.
(ix) He was kind enough to help me.
→ How kind of you to help me!
→ It is kind of you to help me.

4.4. **Preposition-Movement**

Preposition-movement is common in informal situations like the following (cf. 3.5):

(i) **From** where have you come? (Formal)
    Where have you come **from**? (Informal)

(ii) **With** what do you write? (Formal)
    What do you write **with**? (Informal)

4.5. **Prepositions used in place of Adverbs**

(i) He thanked me because I helped him.
    → He thanked me **for** helping him.

(ii) He was punished because he had stolen my book.
    → He was punished **for** stealing my book.
4.6. Interchangeability of Prepositions

There are examples in English that show certain prepositions to be interchangeable in certain occasions, eg.: on ~ upon; in ~ into; on ~ about; to ~ into; etc. This change, however, takes place more or less either in the same situation with a slight change in style or allowing an obligatory transformation. On the other hand this leaves ground for learners/speakers of English to deviate somehow from the norm and thereby trace a new line of usage.

Most of the examples cited below are from Crowell Jr., (1977).

1. (i) About ~ at ~ over:

   I got angry about what John has said.
   I got angry at John's remark.
   I got angry at John over his remark.

(ii) About ~ on:

   That lawyer is an authority on tax matters.
   Mr. Tindall is an authority about Yeats.
   I expressed my opinion on/about it.
(iii) About ~ of:

Jimmy keeps boasting about having seen the President.
A wise man does not boast of his knowledge.
I am not very hopeful about/of passing the exam.

(iv) About ~ with:

Don't bother me about that trifle.
Let's don't bother with cooking tonight.

(v) About ~ for ~ over:

Mrs. Smith showed no grief about/for/over her husband's death.

2. On ~ upon:

You can rely on/upon me for help.
He is solely dependent on/upon his salary.
3. (i) **To** towards:

Mr. Mattison is generous **to/towards**
his children.

(ii) **To** for:

Practice is essential **to** play the
piano well.
A liking for figures is essential **for**
work in a bank.

(iii) **To** into:

Bob changed from a shy person **to/into**
quite a politician.

(iv) **To** with:

Caucer is comparable **with** Dante.
A bird's wings are comparable **to**
a fish's fins.

4. (i) **In** into:

You can't fit all those dishes
**in/into** that barrel.
You can insert additional pages in/into that book.

(ii) In ~ at:

He appeared at/in the exam.

5. (i) Of ~ from:

That country is free from/of mosquitoes.

(ii) Of ~ about:

Are you positive of/about that?

6. Around ~ about:

Young man often hand around/about drugstores.

7. (i) With ~ against:

His store competes with/against ours for customers.
(ii) \textbf{With} \sim \textbf{on}:

Mr. Beaver is too lenient \textbf{with/on} his children about their bad manners.

8. \textbf{On} \sim \textbf{against}:

Please don't lean \textbf{on/against} my chair.

4.7. \textbf{Optionality in the use of Prepositions}

In English, the use of temporal/spatial prepositions is sometimes optional. "The preposition is usually optional with deictic phrases refering to times at more than one remove from the present, such as \textbf{(on) Monday week}, \textbf{(Br E)}, \textbf{(in) the January before last}, \textbf{(on) the day before yesterday}. So too with phrases which identify a time before or after a given time in the past or future: \textbf{(in) the previous spring}, \textbf{(at) the following weekend}, \textbf{(on) the next day}. On the whole, the sentence without the preposition tends to be more informal and usual." (Quirk et al, 1990 : 156)
Some more examples are as under:

(i) I walk \textit{(for)} two hours every day.
    We have been here \textit{(for)} six weeks.
    We shall stay here \textit{(for)} another fortnight.
    I will see you \textit{(on)} Sunday.

You may come \textit{(at)} anytime.

(ii) I will be \textit{(at)} home today.