

A ROUGH GUIDE FOR THE PREPOSITIONAL SYSTEM OF THE CROATIAN LANGUAGE

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ABSTRACT: Prepositions are among the most frequent words in the languages that possess them, as Croatian does. In contrast to this fact, little attention is given to their descriptions in Croatian grammar books, only several pages, especially when it comes to pedagogical grammar books intended for usage in schools. In addition to that, the approaches to presenting the morphosyntactic and semantic properties of prepositions in the grammar books and dictionaries could be labelled as inconsistent and unsystematic. This is a major problem, especially when it comes to learning/teaching of Croatian as a second language. The present paper tries to address these issues and present a systematic and general overview of the prepositional system of the Croatian language

Keywords: Croatian language, prepositions, morphosyntactic properties of Croatian prepositions

HİRVATÇADAKİ EDAT SİSTEMİ İÇİN KABATASLAK BİR REHBER

ÖZ: Edatlar, Hırvatça'da da olduğu gibi birçok dilde en çok kullanılan kelimelerdendir. Buna karşın, özellikle okulların dilbilgisi kitaplarında bu konuya pek önem verilmemekte, sadece bir kaç sayfayla geçiştirilmektedir. Ayrıca dil bilgisi kitapları ve sözlüklerde edatların morfosentatik ve anlamsal özelliklerine ilişkin yaklaşımların tutarsız ve sistemsiz olduğu söylenebilir. Hırvatça'yı ikinci bir dil olarak öğrenme ve öğretmede bu durum büyük bir problem teşkil etmektedir. Makalede, bu husus dile getirilerek Hırvat dilinin genel ve sistemli bir edat sistemi sunulmaya çalışılacaktır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Hırvat dili, edatlar, Hırvatça edatların morfosentatik nitelikleri

1. Introduction: One of the most important and encouraging reasons for writing this paper is the fact that Croatian language,¹ as well as Bosnian language, which is based on the same dialect (and therefore shows no major differences in the prepositional system), can be studied at Department of Balkan languages at Faculty of Letters at Trakya University in Edirne, Turkey. The intention of this paper is to present a systematic and general overview of prepositional system of the Croatian language in such manner that teachers, as well as their students can use it. Generally, prepositions are

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¹ Croatian language belongs to the western branch of South Slavic languages and is spoken by approximately 5.55 million people living mostly in Croatia (3.98 million, 2001 census). Except in Croatia, it is one of three official languages in Bosnia and Herzegovina, one of the recognised minority languages (i.e. equal in use to official language) in Vojvodina (autonomous province of Serbia), Montenegro, part of Austria (Burgenland), part of Italy (Molise), and in several Romanian communes (Caraşova, Lupac). It is going to be one of the official languages of the European Union after Croatia receives full membership on 1st July 2013. Croatian language is written in Latin script.

given little attention in Croatian grammar books and their description is usually short, only two or three pages, especially when it comes to school grammars. In addition, approaches to preposition can be described as inconsistent, as there is for instance no general agreement which linguistic units should be included into the list of Croatian prepositions in grammar books. This paper will try to address these issues without going unnecessarily into theoretical discussions.

2. On prepositions: Prepositions are among the most frequent words in the languages that possess them. As an example, among hundred of most frequently used words in Croatian there are thirteen prepositions,² and out of thirty most frequently used words in English, nine of them are prepositions.³ Even though there are „divergences among grammarians on the exact nature and definition of prepositions”⁴ and even though „very different concepts of what a preposition is existed in traditional grammar versus modern linguistic theories“,⁵ most linguists would readily agree on the general classification of prepositions as “a traditional word class, comprising words that relate two linguistic elements to each other”.⁶ Being a relation word, a preposition puts two linguistic units in grammatical and semantic relation by constituting a prepositional phrase with one of them (it is said that the preposition governs this linguistic unit). This prepositional phrase then serves as complement to the other of two linguistic units. For example, in sentence *knjiga na stolu* ‘book on the table’ preposition *na* ‘on, upon, by, in, at, into’ together with noun *stol* ‘table’ forms prepositional phrase *na stolu* ‘on the table’ and this prepositional phrase is the complement of the noun *knjiga* ‘book’. The semantic nature of the relation between these two objects, *knjiga* ‘book’ i *stol* ‘table’, expressed by the preposition *na* ‘on, upon, by, in, at, into’ is spatial. Most linguists agree that spatial relations are the primary meanings which prepositions express, but also that prepositions can extend their meanings with the processes of meaning extensions so that they can express different temporal and abstract contents, e.g. manner, cause, purpose... This is the reason why prepositional semantics is highly complicated and why prepositions are known to be the notoriously polysemic linguistic units

² Milan Moguš, Maja Bratanić and Marko Tadić, *Hrvatski čestotni rječnik*, Zavod za lingvistiku Filozofskog fakulteta Sveučilišta u Zagrebu and Školska knjiga, Zagreb, 1999.

³ Patrick Saint-Dizier, “Introduction to the Syntax and Semantics of Prepositions” in *Syntax and Semantics of Prepositions*, ed. Patrick Saint-Dizier, Springer, Dordrecht 2006, p. 1–26.

⁴ Patrick Saint-Dizier, *ibid*, p. 1.

⁵ Ljiljana Šarić, “Prepositions: A Challenge for Formal Theories and Cognitive Grammar” in *On Prepositions*, ed. Ljiljana Šarić and Donald F. Reindl, Bibliotheks- und Informationssystem der Universität Oldenburg, Oldenburg 2001, p. 1.

⁶ Sylvia Chalker and Edmund Weiner, *The Oxford Dictionary of English Grammar*, Oxford University Press, Oxford 1998.

which meanings is almost impossible to describe accurately. For this reason prepositions are sometimes referred to, mostly in formal approaches to language, as functional units without meaning. However, recent developments within cognitive linguistics have shown that prepositional meaning not only does exist, but that it can be also systematically described.⁷

A preposition is a relation word that is always in front of the linguistic unit it governs. If the relation word is following the word it governs, than it is called postpositon. Sometimes, the relation word can be in the middle of the word it governs and in that case it is called inposition. Since prepositions, postpositions and inpositions, generally speaking, do not differ in anything else than their position, they are best described by the cover term adposition. An adposition is defined as “an unanalysable or analysable grammatical word constituting an adpositional phrase with a term that it puts in relationship, like case affixes,⁸ with another linguistic unit, by marking the

⁷ Traditional approach to prepositional meaning was based on listing of different meanings without establishing relationships between them. This approach did not yielded satisfying results. Cognitive linguistics on the other hand proposes that prepositions are not expression of randomness in language, that different meanings of prepositions are interconnected in principled manner and that they can be represented as a semantic network organized around prototypical sense. Basic assumption of cognitive linguistics is that systematic account of spatial prepositional meanings helps to explain abstract prepositional meanings. For some examples of analysis of meanings of Croatian prepositions conducted within cognitive linguistics framework see Ljiljana Šarić, *Spatial Concepts in Slavic: A Cognitive Linguistic Study of Prepositions and Cases*, Otto Harrassowitz Verlag, Wiesbaden 2008 or Ljiljana Šarić, “The Croatian preposition uz: A Cognitive Approach” *Jeziškoslovlje*, Volume 13, Issue 1, 2012, p. 151–190. Even though there are some other treatments of some Croatian prepositions within cognitive linguistics framework, it can be said that they are analysed in a non-systematic fashion and that there is no book-length methodologically and theoretically coherent analysis of prepositions in Croatian.

⁸ Being relation words, prepositions (and adposition in general) have much in common with case affixes. It is possible to read that “cases and adpositions can be said to be functionally homologous” (Pietro Bortone, *Greek Prepositions: From Antiquity to the Present*, Oxford University Press, Oxford 2010, p. 7), that “cases and adpositions belong to the same syntactic category, sharing the same range of syntactic structures and having the same relationship to the noun” (Anna Asbury et al., “Intorduction: Syntax and Semantics of Spatial P” in *Syntax and Semantics of Spatial P*, ed. Anna Asbury et al., John Benjamins Publishing Company, Amsterdam, Philadelphia 2008, p. 50) and that “no consistent line can be drawn between adpositions and case suffixes, on the basis of morphology or semantics [...] interpretational and distributional overlap can be explained by viewing adpositions and case suffixes as different morphological reflexes of the same underlying syntax, namely inherent case” (Anna Asbury, “Adpositions as Case Realisations - Structures and Consequences” *Leiden Papers in Linguistics*, Volume 2, Issue 3, 2005, p. 69). The idea that prepositions and cases are functionally equivalent is present in European linguistics ever since 16th century and the time when grammars of languages other than Greek and Latin were first written. Since this is not topic of this paper, relation and differences between

grammatical and semantic links between them.”⁹ Some languages have predominantly or only prepositions, like Croatian does, and some have postpositions, like Turkish. For example, the same relation between two linguistic units is coded by a preposition in Croatian (*knjige za Selmu* 'books for Selma') and by the postposition in Turkish (*Selma için kitaplar* 'books for Selma'). It is important to emphasise that there is no one-to-one mapping between prepositions in Croatian and postpositions in Turkish, or between any other two languages, since types of relations, i.e. meanings that are being expressed by adpositions and distribution of these meanings among concrete adpositions differ from language to language. People learning foreign languages can best confirm this.

3. On prepositions in Croatian language: Croatian word for prepositions is *prijedlozi* and it literally means ‘in front, to put’.¹⁰ This is in line with the grammatical tradition originating from the Greek term for prepositions, *próthesis* 'placed in front', and its literal translation in Latin, *praepositio*. This grammatical tradition is observable in many European languages where the name for prepositions is compounded and one part meaning ‘in front’, e.g. German *Vorwort*, Polish *przyimek* or Dutch *voorzetsel*.¹¹ In some other languages the word for prepositions is motivated by their relational nature, e.g. German *Verhältniswort*, Danish *Forholdsord* or Turkish *ilgeç*.¹² Prepositions of one language are usually described in grammar books, word-formation manuals, and dictionaries of that language. Definition of preposition that are to be found in grammar books of Croatian language¹³ all agree and explicitly say two things: (i) that prepositions express/indicate/show relation between words in a sentence and (ii) that they are not able to change their form, i.e. that they are unchangeable parts of speech, just like adverbs, conjunctions, interjections and particles. Although the second statement is true for most of prepositions, some of them do

prepositions and cases won't be explained in detail here, but good overview of the problem can be found in Claude Hagège, *Adpositions*, Oxford University Press, Oxford 2010.

⁹ Claude Hagège, *ibid*, p. 8.

¹⁰ Stjepan Babić et al., *Povijesni pregled, glasovi i oblici hrvatskoga književnog jezika*, Hrvatska akademija znanosti i umjetnosti and Nakladni zavod Globus, Zagreb 1991, p. 724.

¹¹ Pietro Bortone, *ibid*, p. 5.

¹² Pietro Bortone, *ibid*, p. 37.

¹³ Josip Silić and Ivo Pranjković, *Gramatika hrvatskoga jezika za gimnazije i visoka učilišta*, Školska knjiga, Zagreb 2005.; Eugenija Barić et al., *Hrvatska Gramatika*, Školska knjiga, Zagreb 1997.; Stjepan Babić et al., *Povijesni pregled, glasovi i oblici hrvatskoga književnog jezika*, Hrvatska akademija znanosti i umjetnosti and Nakladni zavod Globus, Zagreb 1991.; Dargutin Raguž, *Praktična hrvatska gramatika*, Medicinska naklada, Zagreb 1997.; Sanda Ham, *Školska gramatika hrvatskoga jezika*, Školska knjiga, Zagreb 2002.; Stjepko Težak and Stjepan Babić, *Gramatika Hrvatskoga Jezika: Priručnik Za Osnovno Jezično Obrazovanje* (Zagreb: Školska knjiga, 2000).

change their form in some situations. This change of form is induced by phonetic reasons and it does not indicate any change in their function or meaning, i.e. there is no inflection or derivation. This happens somehow regularly when a preposition is placed in front of the word that begins with a consonant or syllable containing a consonant that is same or similar to the consonant that preposition ends with. This would make the prepositional phrase hard to pronounce so the preposition gets a suffix, namely *-a*. In this manner prepositions *kroz* 'through, during', *niz* 'along, down at', *uz* 'at, by, along with, close to, beside' and sometimes *bez* 'without' can have form *kroza*, *niza*, *uz* and *beza* in front of words beginning with *z*, *s*, *ž* and *š*, e.g. *kroz zrak* or *kroza zrak* 'through the air', *niz stranu* or *niza stranu* 'along the side', *uz zid* or *uza zid* 'by the wall'. Preposition *s* 'with, along with, together' always changes its form to *sa* in this situations, e.g. *sa srećom* but not **s srećom* 'with luck'. Preposition *k* 'toward, to' can have form *ka* in front of words beginning with *k* or *g*, but mostly preposition *k* gets dropped out in this situations, e.g. *ići k Karlu* becomes *ići ka Karlu* or, more often, *ići Karlu* 'go to Karlo'. Prepositions *kroz* 'through, during', *niz* 'along, down at', *uz* 'at, by, along with, close to, beside', *nad* 'over, above', *pred* 'before, in front of, to', *pod* 'under, below, beneath' and *s* 'with, along with, together' always have form *kroza*, *niza*, *uza*, *nada*, *preda*, *poda* and *sa* when they are placed in front of unstressed forms of personal pronouns *ja* 'I' and *ti* 'you', in front of unstressed form of reflexive pronoun *se* 'self', in front of accusative form of personal pronouns *on* 'he', *ona* 'she' and *ono* 'it', and instrumental form of personal preposition *ja* 'I', e.g. *kroza me* 'through me', *uza me* 'by me', *uza se* 'with me', *uza nj* 'by him', *uza nju* 'by her', *poda mnom* 'under me'. Another way prepositions in Croatian language can change their form is to drop their final vocal, e.g. *radi* 'because of, for the sake of' becomes *rad* and *između* 'between, among' becomes *između*, but from today's point of view this can be characterized as archaic or stylistically marked.

By definition, prepositions always stand in front of the word they make a prepositional phrase with. Five prepositions in Croatian language do not fit neatly into this definition, as they can be placed in front of or they can follow the word they govern. Those prepositions are *radi* 'because of, for the sake of', *nasuprot* 'opposite, facing, in contrast to', *unatoč* 'despite, in spite, in spite of', *usprkos* 'despite, in spite, in spite of' and *uprkos* 'in spite of, notwithstanding', e.g. *vozim bicikl vjetru usprkos* or *vozim bicikl usprkos vjetru* 'I'm riding bike in spite the wind'. Generally, there is no difference in the meaning of these two examples, but speakers of Croatian will very often describe the placing of a preposition behind the word it governs as stylistically marked. To precisely describe the nature of this, preposition

linguists use labels as ambipositions, bipositional adpositions, bipositions, alterpositions, and pre-postposition.¹⁴

Although the definitions in Croatian grammar books say that prepositions form prepositional phrases with words that have inflection, this statement is not all that there is to know. It is certainly true that nouns are prototypical linguistic units that follow prepositions and form prepositional phrases with them, as in *ptica na kući* 'bird on the house', but, in addition, prepositions in Croatian language can form prepositional phrases with (i) a nominalized adjective, as in *govoriti na lošem engleskom* 'to speak in bad English', (ii) a pronoun, as in *s njom* 'with her', (iii) another prepositional phrase, as in *to je za poslije ručka* 'this is for after lunch', (iv) an adverb, as in *spavati do podneva* 'to sleep until noon', (v) an infinitive, as in *knjiga za čitati* 'book for reading', or (vi) a number, as in *brojati do tri* 'to count to three'. Even though prepositional phrases with adverbs or another prepositional phrase are more of an exception than a rule in Croatian language, as linguists do admit,¹⁵ this is certainly not a reason to exclude them from grammar books. In addition, a preposition can occur alone in the sentence, without the word it forms a prepositional phrase with, (i) if that word is understood from the context, as in *ja sam za (to)* 'I'm for (that)' or (ii) if the preposition is nominalized, as in *u je prijedlog* 'u is preposition' or (iii) in idiomatic use, as in *za i protiv* 'for and against'.

Preposition selects the case of the nominal word it forms a prepositional phrase with. In Croatian, most prepositions select only one case. For example, prepositions *bez* 'without', *iz* 'from, out of, by, through, for, off', *nezavisno od* 'regardless of, independent of, apart from' and *tijekom* 'during' require only genitive form of nouns, pronouns or adjectives. Some prepositions can select two or three cases. For example, the preposition *s* 'with, along with, together' requires that the word that follows is in genitive or instrumental form as in *pasti s krova* 'to fall of the ruff' and *pričati s prijateljem* 'talk to the friend'. Preposition *za* 'for, to, in, by, with, during' request that the word that follows is either in genitive, accusative, or instrumental form, as in *ne osjećam se dobro za kiše* 'I don't feel well during the rain', *zašli su za kazalište* 'they went behind the theatre' and *našli su se za kazalištem* 'they met behind the theatre'. Of all prepositions, most of them require that the word that they form prepositional phrase with is in genitive form. Nominatives or vocatives cannot be part of a prepositional phrase.

¹⁴ Claude Hagège, *ibid*, p. 115.

¹⁵ Ivo Pranjković, "Suznačne riječi i njihove vrste" in *Zbornik Zagrebačke slavističke škole 2004.*, ed. Krešimir Bagić, FF press, Zagreb 2005, p. 19-28.

Within a sentence a prepositional phrase can function as a complement of a verbal predicate, adnominal complement or as a predicate. As a complement of a verbal predicate a prepositional phrase can be (i) a subject, as in *do Japana je subjekt ove rečenice* 'to Japan is subject of this sentence', (ii) an indirect object, as in *nismo ni sanjali o takvom uspjehu* 'we didn't even dream about such success', (iii) an adverbial, as in *susjed stanuje na kraju ulice* 'neighbour lives at the end of the street' and (iv) an adjunct, as in *studenti uče gramatiku u knjižnici* 'students learn grammar in library'. The difference between an adverbial and an adjunct is that adverbials are obligatory, i.e. semantically required by a verbal predicate and their omission will result in incorrect sentence while adjuncts can be freely omitted from the sentence and the sentence will still be correct. Croatian grammatical tradition does not distinguish adverbials and adjuncts by the name only and uses the term adverbial as a higher item, i.e. a cover term. As adnominal complements prepositional phrases function as attributes and they usually follow the word which meaning they specify, as in *kupili smo televizor u boji* 'we bought a colour TV'. As predicates, prepositional phrases are part of nominal predicates, as in *Hrvatska je u banani* 'Croatia is in bad situation'.

According to the definition, prepositions are analysable and unanalysable linguistic units. Therefore, it is a custom to classify preposition in two sets. The first set is comprised of prepositions "that are neither compounds nor derivatives, that is those that cannot be analyzed into component parts".¹⁶ These prepositions are usually labelled as simple or primary prepositions. The second set of prepositions is comprised of prepositions that have morphological structure and they are usually labelled compound prepositions or secondary prepositions.

Since they consist of only one morpheme, simple prepositions are usually monosyllabic, e.g. Croatian *u* 'in, at, by, into, to, on' or *na* 'on, upon, by, in, at, into', English *in* and *on*, or German *zu* and *für*. Their short and simple form is in direct connection with frequency of their usage, i.e. they are among most frequent words in languages that do have prepositions and they express most frequent and fundamental relations.¹⁷ Semantically they are

¹⁶ Claude Hagège, *ibid*, p. 128.

¹⁷ "There are plenty of examples of simple Adps [i.e. prepositions] marking very frequent functions in the languages of the world. They confirm both Zipfs Law of Abbreviation, and his Principle of Economic Versatility, which establish, respectively, an inverse relationship between the frequency of occurrence of words and their length, and a direct relationship between the number of different meanings of a word and its frequency. For instance, the English Prepositions *for*, *in*, *of*, and *to* are much more frequent and have many more

usually described as highly polysemic and abstract linguistic units. As indicated, their fundamental meaning is of spatial nature, and all their abstract meanings are results of metaphorical extensions of that spatial meaning. They are usually considered as closed sets of linguistic units not subject to rapid change and this stems from their aforementioned primary function in language, and that is „to establish the relation between two entities in the spatio-physical realm. [...] But the speaker’s perception of space is not likely to suffer much variation across different periods for this reason: in most cases, their number does not increase or diminish. This distinguishes prepositions from other grammatical classes that have a direct referent, such as nouns. In particular, when they refer to objects or artefacts their references and the function they fulfil are supposed to change over time.“¹⁸ Croatian grammarians agree neither on the name of this group of prepositions, nor on the list of prepositions that belong to this group. Names used are *pravi prijedlozi* 'real prepositions',¹⁹ *netvorbeni prijedlozi* 'not formed prepositions',²⁰ *neproizvedeni ili podrijetlom nemotivirani* 'not produced or not motivated by their origin'²¹ or *prvotni prijedlozi* 'primary prepositions'.²² According to the author of this paper, all grammar books and dictionaries of Croatian language agree that true primary or simple prepositions in Croatian languages, i.e. those which meaning and form cannot be traced etymologically to any other word are *bez* 'without, *do* 'next to, (up) to, as far as, till, up to, until', *iz* 'from, out of, by, through, for, off', *k* 'toward, to', *na* 'on, upon, by, in, at, into, *nad* 'over, above', *o* 'about, concerning', *od* 'of, from', *po* 'upon, on, about, after, along, during, at, by, in', *pod* 'under, below, beneath', *pred* 'before, in front of, to', *pri* 'at, in, on, near', *s* 'with, along with, together', *u* 'in, at, by, into, to, on', *uz* 'at, by, along with, close to, beside', *za* 'for, to, in, by, with, during'.²³ Some prepositions are closely related to this group but are still not part of it, as for example preposition *kod* 'by, beside, next to, near, at'. Preposition *kod* 'by, beside, next to, near, at' has all prerequisites to be classified as primary

dictionary entries than *about* or *above*, let alone *opposite* or *underneath*”(Claude Hagège, *ibid.*, p. 129.).

¹⁸ Carmen Guardon Anelo, “Some Fundamental Issues in the Semantic Analysis of Prepositions” *Estudios Ingleses De La Universidad Complutense*, Issue 13, 2005, p. 8.

¹⁹ Eugenija Barić et al., *ibid.*

²⁰ Stjepan Babić et al., *ibid.*

²¹ Josip Silić and Ivo Pranjković, *ibid.*

²² Stjepan Damjanović, *Staroslavenski jezik*, Hrvatska sveučilišna naklada, Zagreb 2003.

²³ This list is made on grounds of (sometimes inconsistent) information in grammars and dictionaries of Croatian language. Intention of author of this work is by no means to imply that this is final list of primary prepositions in Croatian. Further research still needs to be done.

preposition in Croatian (it is short, very frequent, designates spatial relation, has metaphorical extensions of primary meaning) but a closer inspection shows that "it is etymologically related to the old form *kon*, originally a noun with the meaning 'beginning', 'end/edge', 'region at the beginning and at the end' [...]. The emergence of the form *kod* ending in *d* is related to the existence of other primary prepositions with a similar structure: *pod* 'under', *nad* 'above', *pred* 'in front of'".²⁴ As implied, some grammarians consider *kod* 'by, beside, next to, near, at' to be primary preposition from today's point of view and same goes for some other prepositions. Therefore, the list of primary prepositions changes from grammar book to grammar book, the list provided here is therefore not to be considered final.

Secondary or compound prepositions are those that have a morphological structure. In addition to *sekundarni prijedlozi* 'secondary prepositions', Croatian grammars label them as *nepravi prijedlozi* 'not real prepositions',²⁵ *proizvedeni ili podrijetlom motivirani* 'produced or motivated by their origin'.²⁶ As opposed to primary prepositions, their meaning is more specific or more granular. These prepositions as their basis have one of the autosemantic words (verb, noun, adjective or adverb), alone or in connection with one of primary prepositions, and their emergence is considered to be one of typical grammaticalization processes. Therefore, list of these prepositions is not final as new members can come into existence by the process of grammaticalization (also 'grammaticization'). This process is generally described as a process in which linguistic elements change into constituents of grammar or in which grammatical items become more grammatical. Some linguists do not consider secondary prepositions to be prepositions, and those linguists that do, do not agree on which linguistic units should be included in the list.²⁷ Nevertheless, contemporary approaches agree that secondary prepositions are proper prepositions, based on their function, and this is reflected in descriptions of languages in grammar books. Same goes for contemporary Croatian grammars, although they do not all agree which linguistic units are to be included into list of secondary or

²⁴ Ljiljana Šarić, *Spatial Concepts in Slavic: A Cognitive Linguistic Study of Prepositions and Cases*, Otto Harrassowitz Verlag, Wiesbaden 2008, p. 142.

²⁵ Eugenija Barić et al., *ibid.*

²⁶ Josip Silić and Ivo Pranjković, *ibid.*

²⁷ For example, Viggo Brøndal says that „it follows directly from the definition of the concept of preposition as the simplest expression of relation in language, that only words of completely simple structure should be recognized as prepositions. As untrue or improper, therefore, must also be distinguished all formations of compound character: both syntactically (such as turns of phrase or compounds) and morphologically (such as derivatives and words of more complex character.” (Pietro Bortone, *ibid.* p. 5.).

compound prepositions in Croatian. For example, Stjepan Babić et al.²⁸ do not consider instrumental form of nouns, such as *pomoću* 'by, with' or *putem* 'by means of, through, by way of', to be prepositions, while Josip Silić and Ivo Pranjković²⁹ on the other hand have the most extensive definition of prepositions in which even prepositional phrases as *bez obzira na* 'regardless of, irrespective of, despite' are considered to be preposition. The approach proposed by Josip Silić and Stjepan Babić³⁰ is in line with contemporary approaches to prepositions in grammar books of other language. We will not go into detail here by discussing possible sources of secondary prepositions in Croatian, but it is important to know that prepositions can be grammaticalized form nouns, adverbs, adjectives, and verbs. Nouns are the most common source of prepositions, e.g. accusative form as in *kraj* 'by, beside' or *mjesto* 'instead of, in place of', instrumental form as in *povodom* 'regarding, with regard to' or *silom* 'by force of' or prepositional phrase as in *u interesu* 'in the interest of' or *u usporedbi s* 'compared with, in comparison with'. Prepositions that have a verb as a source are not common in Croatian and they usually have form of past or present participle, e.g. *isključivši* 'excluding' or *zahvaljujući* 'thanks to, by virtue of, with the help of'.³¹

²⁸ Stjepan Babić et al., *ibid.*

²⁹ Josip Silić and Ivo Pranjković, *ibid.*

³⁰ Josip Silić and Ivo Pranjković, *ibid.*

³¹ What follows is the list of secondary prepositions in Croatian (list is based on the list of prepositions provided by Josip Silić and Ivo Pranjković, *ibid.*). For the purposes of this paper, they are divided in three groups: (i) secondary prepositions that are compound of two primary prepositions – *ispod, ispred, iza* and *iznad*; (ii) secondary prepositions that are grammaticalized form of a noun, verb, adjective or adverb – *blizu, čelo, diljem, dno, duž, dužinom, glede, isključivši, isključujući, izuzev, izuzevši, kod, koncem, kraj, krajem, kroz, među, mimo, mjesto, niz, niže, početkom, pomoću, posredstvom, povodom, preko, prema, prigodom, prije, prilikom, protiv, protivno, put, putem, radi, razmjerno, silom, slijedom, sred, sredinom, sredinom, sukladno, širinom, širom, temeljem, tijekom, tokom, uključivši, uključujući, van, više, vrh* and *zahvaljujući*; (iii) secondary prepositions that are compound of primary preposition and form of a noun, verb, adjective or adverb – *bez obzira na, istodobno s, istovremeno s, između, izvan, na centru, na čelu s, na ime, na kraju, na osnovi, na planu, na području, na polju, na račun, na svršetku, na temelju, nadno, nadohvat, nadomak, nakon, nakraj, namjesto, naprama, naspram, nasred, nasuprot, nauštrb, navrh, nezavisno od, o pitanju, oko, okolo, onkraj, osim, po dužini, po liniji, po mjeri, po pitanju, po sredini, po širini, pod konac, podno, pokraj, polazeći od, poput, poradi, pored, poslije, posred, potkraj, poviše, povrh, preko puta, s ciljem, s gledišta, s izuzetkom, s obzirom na, s pomoću, sa stajališta, sa stanovišta, spram, sudeći po, suprot, suprotno od, u čast, u doba, u formi, u interesu, u korist, u oblasti, u obliku, u odnosu na, u odnosu prema, u okviru, u ovisnosti o, u povodu, u pravcu, u prigodi, u prilog, u razmaku od, u roku od, u skladu s, u slučaju, u smislu, u smjeru, u središtu, u suprotnosti s, u suradnji s, u svezi s, u svojstvu, u tijeku, u toku, u trajanju od, u usporedbi s, u vezi s, u vidu, u vidu, u vrijeme, u zamjenu za, u zavisnosti od, udno, uime, umjesto, unatoč, unutar, uoči, uslijed, usprkos, usred, usuprot, uvrh, uzduž, uzevši u obzir, za vrijeme, zarad, zaradi, zavrh, zbog, zbog.* As already

When it comes to the meaning of prepositions, this is surely their most purely described aspect. Contemporary dictionaries of Croatian language differ in their description of a given preposition,³² and grammar books of Croatian language, especially those for the usage in schools, are satisfied with stating that prepositions express relations, not indicating in any way what the nature of these relations is. Only two grammar reference books, the one by Josip Silić and Ivo Pranjković³³ and the other by Dragutin Raguž³⁴ go into more detail. In short, if we follow Josip Silić and Ivo Pranjković we can say that the meanings of prepositions, i.e. the nature of the relation they express, can be either dimensional or not dimensional. Under dimensional meanings Josip Silić and Ivo Pranjković consider spatial and temporal meanings and under not dimensional all other abstract meanings, e.g. manner, cause, source... Spatial meanings are basic, primary, and (usually) most frequent meanings of prepositions. In addition, they are the basis of other meanings, temporal or abstract, that are their metaphorical extensions. Polysemy of prepositions is extremely complex and it deserves special paper(s) devoted just to it, if it is to be described accurately, so here it will not be discussed. In addition, it must be said that, in linguistic reference books, the meanings of prepositions in Croatian are analysed in a non-systematic fashion and there is no book-length methodologically and theoretically coherent analysis. For those more interested in this subject, it is forth to say that, up to this date, Josip Silić and Ivo Pranjković³⁵ offer the most detailed description of meanings of prepositions in Croatian language that is to be found in grammars.

In the end, what follows is list of 50 most frequent prepositions in Croatian language, together with information on case form of the word they form a prepositional phrase with. The translation is provided according to the dictionary.³⁶

indicated, some grammars consider some of these prepositions to be primary prepositions. Never the less, this list can be considered the most detail list of secondary prepositions in Croatian language, but since new prepositions are emerging regularly as a result of process of grammaticalization, it needs to be thought of as subject to change. Further research still needs to be done.

³² See, for example, definitions of prepositions *u* 'in, at, by, into, to, on' and *na* 'on, upon, by, in, at, into' in Jure Šonje, ed., *Rječnik hrvatskoga jezika*, Leksikografski zavod Miroslav Krleža and Školska knjiga, Zagreb 2000 and in Vladimir Anić et al., *Hrvatski enciklopedijski rječnik*, EPH and Novi Liber, Zagreb 2004.

³³ Josip Silić and Ivo Pranjković, *Gramatika hrvatskoga jezika za gimnazije i visoka učilišta*, Školska knjiga, Zagreb 2005.

³⁴ Dragutin Raguž, *Praktična hrvatska gramatika*, Medicinska naklada, Zagreb 1997.

³⁵ Josip Silić and Ivo Pranjković, *ibid.*

³⁶ Željko Bujas, *Veliki hrvatsko-engleski rječnik*, Nakladni zavod Globus, Zagreb 1999.

Genitive is required with prepositions *od* 'of, from', *iz* 'from, out of, by, through, for, off', *do* 'next to, (up) to, as far as, till, up to, until', *bez* 'without', *kod* 'by, beside, next to, near, at', *oko* 'around', *zbog* 'because of, for', *između* 'between, among', *preko* 'across, over, at the other side, beyond', *poslije* 'afterwards, later on, then, behind', *nakon* 'after, following, afterwards', *iza* 'behind, at the rear', *osim* 'except, besides, apart from', *protiv* 'against', *ispod* 'below, under, beneath', *iznad* 'above, over', *radi* 'because of, for the sake of', *kraj* 'by, beside', *poput* 'like, similar, as', *pored* 'next to, near, beside, alongside, along, close to', *izvan* 'outside of, out of', *usred* 'amidst, in the middle of', *ispred* 'before, in front of, ahead', *pokraj* 'beside, close to, adjoining, by', *sred* 'amid, amidst', *nasred* 'in the middle', *povrh* 'above, on top of', *spram* 'opposite', *potkraj* 'at the end', *uslijed* 'due to, because of' and *vrh* 'on top of'.

Dative is required with prepositions *prema* 'toward, compared to, opposite to' and *k* 'toward, to'.

Accusative is required with prepositions *uz* 'at, by, along with, close to, beside', *kroz* 'through, during' and *niz* 'along, down at'.

Locative is required with the preposition *pri* 'at, in, on, near'.

Dative or genitive is required with the preposition *nasuprot* 'opposite, facing, in contrast to'.

Genitive or accusative is required with the preposition *mimo* 'by, past'.

Genitive or instrumental is required with the preposition *s* 'with, along with, together'.

Accusative or locative is required with prepositions *na* 'on, upon, by, in, at, into', *o* 'about, concerning' and *po* 'upon, on, about, after, along, during, at, by, in'.

Accusative or instrumental is required with prepositions *pod* 'under, below, beneath', *pred* 'before, in front of, to', *među* 'between, among, in the midst', *nad* 'over, above' and *nada* 'over, above'.¹

Genitive, accusative or locative is required with the preposition *u* 'in, at, by, into, to, on'.

Genitive, accusative or instrumental is required with the preposition *za* 'for, to, in, by, with, during'.

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