

# [A diachronic approach to the functional transposition of **ALONG** and **ALONGSIDE** in the English language]

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**[Abstract]** *The paper investigates the evolution of the prepositions and adverbs **ALONG** and **ALONGSIDE** as subjects to the process of functional transposition. The research investigates the formation of **ALONG** as an adverb during the Middle English period and its functional transposition into the category of the preposition in late Middle English. The correlation between the initial and transposed categories has stabilized, and they are more or less equally represented in Present-Day English. **ALONGSIDE** appeared as an adverb at the end of Early Modern English; in Late Modern English, it was transposed into a preposition, which is almost suppressing the initial category of an adverb in Present-Day English.*

**[Keywords]** *diachrony; functional transposition; prepositions; adverbs*

## [Introduction]

In Present-Day English, ALONG and ALONGSIDE are not characterized by a variety of meanings, functions, or definitions; nevertheless, their evolutionary paths are unique. An analysis of contemporary dictionaries shows that the preposition and the adverb ALONG are fully institutionalized as local and temporal lexical units; however, some of their meanings are already on the way to deinstitutionalization. Compared with the aforementioned unit ALONG and the majority of the lexical units which are subjects to functional transposition, ALONGSIDE emerged in the language quite recently (in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century). Taking this into account, it is reasonable to hypothesize that it is not characterized by a great number of meanings, as the short time span has not allowed the unit to actualize and institutionalize them. A definition analysis of the lexical unit ALONGSIDE demonstrates that the meaning of locality, represented by the generalized definitions “by the side of; side by side with; along, near, at, or to the side, in parallel position”, is fully institutionalized by all the analyzed dictionaries, and it is shared by both the preposition and the adverb. The process of institutionalization is almost complete for the meaning “together with”, which has been developed by the category of the preposition via metaphorization; however, it has not been transposed into the category of the adverb. A peculiar feature of the lexical unit ALONGSIDE is that the transposed category of the preposition has developed more meanings (in particular, metaphorical meanings) than the adverb, for instance “in comparison with something”, “important enough to be considered as being in the same class as someone or something else that is well known”, and “do smth or exist together with”. It is also worth noting that a corpus analysis of Present-Day English exposes the use of the adverb ALONGSIDE in the meaning “do smth or exist together with”:

- (1) *After all we've been mates, working alongside at the smithy.* (CLMET: Darke, M.: The first of midnight: 131);
- (2) *'I can't even point that far,' said Gay Brewer, the awestruck 1967 champion practising alongside.* (BNC: Daily Telegraph, electronic edition of 1992-04-11: 94);

This meaning is not registered in the dictionaries among the definitions for the adverb, but it is found among the definitions for the preposition ALONGSIDE. The examples prove that the functional transposition of the preposition ALONGSIDE in the meaning “do smth or exist together with” has already started, and it is only a matter of time before the adverb ALONGSIDE institutionalizes it and receives its definition in dictionaries. This instance undoubtedly testifies that functional transposition is observed only on the basis of locality.

Therefore, the objects of the research presented in this paper are the lexical units ALONG and ALONGSIDE, which represent the categories of the preposition and the adverb as a result of functional transposition. The present paper analyzes the process of functional transposition in the case of the prepositions and adverbs ALONG and ALONGSIDE by tracking down their initial and transposed categories and by

studying the original functions and meanings of each category which served as the basis for functional transposition. I hypothesize that the functional transposition of ALONG and ALONGSIDE was based on the sense of locality, and only later were the initial and transposed categories transposed or developed other meanings.

## [Theoretical background]

The present research has been triggered by the assertion that “one of the most characteristic traits of Modern English is the formal identity of a great many words belonging to different word-classes.” (Jespersen, 1954, p. 84). The development of identical forms has become the subject of numerous linguistic studies which have resulted in various approaches towards categorial shifts.

The major factor that is taken into consideration when linguists deal with shifts between word classes is the morphological forms of the lexical units. Apart from the evident phenomena when morphological forms are changing either significantly or minimally, changes can also be observed during shifts from a minor category to a major one, such as word compounds, multi-word expressions, splinters, univerbation, word blendings, etc. (Ramat, 2021; Norde, 2021), there are shifts “... when one PoS becomes another without any modification or addition, except of course the necessary change of inflection.” (Sweet, 1892, p. 38). Yet Sweet was not entirely fair. This approach declares “the necessary change of inflection,” which is an obscure modification of the form that can be observed only in discourse. In contrast to the derivation (Laca, 2001), replacement (Lieber, 2004) and subtraction (Dressler, 2000) of morphemes, the “necessary change of inflection” is referred to something from the category of “identity operations” (Varvara, 2017, p. 5), and it is usually associated with the notions of conversion (Martsa, 2013), zero derivation (Bauer and Valera, 2005), transcategorization (Ježek and Ramat, 2009), or transposition (Bloch-Trojnar, 2013). All the aforementioned phenomena belong among word formation processes, as they not only change syntactic categories – which is “one of the most robust criteria” (Hacken ten, 2015, p. 187) for word formation – but they also introduce overt or hidden changes of the morphological forms.

Nevertheless, there is another type of categorial shift that keeps the form of the initial and the transposed units identical under any circumstances, paradigmatic relations, or grammatical peculiarities. This means that this categorial shift induces changes in the syntactic category, whereas the morphological form and semantic features remain the same in the initial and transposed categories. These shifts are observed between the categories of the preposition and the adverb, and sometimes conjunctions; however, they have never come to the close attention of linguists. The relevance of studying this phenomenon is intensified by the high number of such shifts (about 40), taking into account the general number of prepositions in the language. This neglect is partially explained by Jespersen’s (1954) statement that “the development of such identical forms must be reckoned one of the chief merits of the language, for this noiseless machinery facilitates the acquirement and use of the language enormously and

outweighs many times the extremely few instances in practical life in which ambiguity can arise.” (p. 85). However, if the phenomenon of identical forms is so easily observed, it undoubtedly requires a thorough linguistic analysis. Therefore, the theory of functional transposition has been elaborated to explain the shifts between closed-closed and open-closed word classes. Functional transposition is defined as a cognitively and communicatively preconditioned diachronic process and its synchronic result which presupposes the ability of lexical-grammatical units by means of grammaticalization and lexicalization, without morphological and/or syntactical markers, to acquire functions inherent to the transposed word class and to remain within the initial word class. The main distinction between functional transposition and other linguistic shifts between word classes can be easily understood by considering a classic triad, i.e. form, meaning, and function. If all the aforesaid processes are characterized by a change of at least two out of the three elements of the triad – form and function – then functional transposition leads to the change of one element only – function, while the other two elements remain the same. This paper presents an attempt to analyze and describe the process of functional transposition between the categories of the preposition and the adverb in a case study of the lexical units ALONG and ALONGSIDE.

## [Methodology]

The history of English is basically split into three periods: Old English, Middle English, and Modern English (Hogg & Denison, 2006); however, “... in theory, [it] could be broken up into as many historical periods as the imagination allows.” (Curzan, 2017, p. 9). So, to analyze functional transposition, which is a diachronic process and cannot be thoroughly comprehended in terms of a detached historical period, it is possible to undertake research on the basis of a 16-span periodization; see Table 1.

Table 1  
16-span periodization of the English language

1	-850	5	1150-1250	9	1500-1570	13	1780-1850
2	850-950	6	1250-1350	10	1570-1640	14	1850-1920
3	950-1050	7	1350-1420	11	1640-1710	15	1920-1990
4	1050-1150	8	1420-1500	12	1710-1780	16	1990-2020

Following the traditional periodization, the first four stages (-850-1150) represent Old English (hereinafter OE), and the next four stages (1150-1500) constitute Middle English (hereinafter ME). Modern English is divided into three subperiods: Early Modern English (hereinafter EModE) comprises three stages (1500-1710), Late Modern English (hereinafter LModE) covers three stages (1710-1920), and Present-Day English (hereinafter PDE) embraces two stages (1920-2020). The difference in the length of the stages enumerated above (from 70 to 100 years) is substantiated by the need to balance the number and size of the manuscripts that can be analyzed within each stage under study.

The empirical basis of this research is represented by four corpora, namely the Helsinki Corpus of English Texts: Diachronic and Dialectal (HCET), which comprises manuscripts and other written records from 850 to 1710; the Corpus of Late Modern English Texts (CLMET), which contains texts from 1710 to 1920; the Corpus of Historical American English (COHA), which has been used to retrieve statistical data from the period 1920–1990; and the British National Corpus (BNC), which is the source of the examples and statistical data from 1990–2020. This research also benefits from examples taken from the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) that complement the general statistics.

The study is based on an analysis of 18 OE examples, 26 ME examples, 295 EModE examples, the statistical data on 48 417 LModE examples, retrieved by means of Lancsbox software, and the data on 260 038 PDE examples provided by the COHA and the BNC. The examples that are found in the corpora and the dictionary were analyzed manually (before the EModE period) or automatically (since the LModE period), and the obtained statistical data were arranged in the tables for each respective period. The overall statistics on the process of functional transposition of the prepositions and the adverbs ALONG and ALONGSIDE have been summarized and represented in the corresponding graphs.

## [Analysis and findings]

### [1] Functional transposition of ALONG in diachrony

#### [1.1] Preposition ALONG

In PDE, the preposition ALONG is represented by three definitions, two of which are fully institutionalized, namely “over the length of, at a point of” and “on a line or course parallel and close to; continuously beside”. This tendency is also observed in OE, when these meanings were formed, e.g.:

(3) *Her for se here up þurh þa brycge æt Paris, & þa up andlang Sigene of Mæterne, of Cariei;* (HCET: Anonymous: Chronicle MS A Early (O2): 1107);

(4) *Upp andlang Ocerburnan tó hálelan mærsce eástæweardan andlang brócæs.* (OED: Charter in Codex Diplomaticus aevi Saxonici V: 220);

In both examples, locality is represented by the direction of movement, which for the most part takes place “alongside something or in parallel with something”. Due to its semantics, the lexical unit ALONG determines the long (in the case of locality) or lasting (in the case of temporality) nature of the object. Over time, however, ALONG has become capable of representing locality not only in terms of direction, but also as a point in space, e.g.:

(5) *Muche lond he him ʒef... an long þare sea.* (OED: Layamon’s Brut: 138);

Such divergences are preconditioned by the semantics of the verbs which are combined with ALONG rather than by the lexical unit itself.

Therefore, modern meanings inherent to the preposition ALONG were laid down in OE and have not been revised throughout their development.

## [1.2] Adverb ALONG

Initially, the adverb *ALONG* represented locality by determining the direction of the movement “onward in the course or line of motion, progressively on”, see 6, or by showing the place of the action “in a line with the length, parallel to the longest dimension or course; lengthwise, longitudinally”, see 7:

(6) *Ten myle they yeode alang.* (OED: Kyng Alisaunder: 3410);

(7) *The contree is sett along upon the ryvere of Nyle.* (OED: Maundeville, J.: *The voiage and travaile of Sir John Maundeville* v: 45);

Later, the adverb started acquiring new meanings due to the metaphorization of the basic meanings of locality, e.g.:

(8) *You, Capulet, shall go along with me.* (OED: Shakespeare, W.: *The tragedie of Romeo and Ivliet*. i. i: 106);

(9) *This Inclination of the Audience to sing along with the Actors.* (OED: Addison: *The Spectator*: №29, 11);

(10) *Along with this he was mild and equitable.* (OED: Mill, J.: *The history of British India* II. v. iv: 467);

Examples 8–10 showcase the development of the meaning “in company with/together”, which was primarily used together with the verbs of motion and designated “on the way with”, see 8, and the meanings “together with”, see 9, and “in conjunction with”, see 10.

The functional transposition of the adverb ALONG into the category of the preposition was based on the transference of the notions of locality and temporality, and it led first of all to the rapid development of the locative/temporal preposition ALONG, and secondly to the reduction and obsolescence of the majority of the possible meanings of the adverb ALONG and the partial institutionalization of others. An exceptional case is the meaning represented by the definition “as a company; in accompaniment or association; together”, which has been fully institutionalized in the language and currently covers over 98% of all examples of the adverb ALONG.

The research testifies that this meaning of the adverb ALONG bears no direct relation to the process of functional transposition of the preposition ALONG into the category of the adverb; however, it has been developed on the basis of locality. It is a self-sufficient process of metaphorization of the adverb ALONG, which in turn had earlier been transposed from the category of the preposition. In other words, the already transposed adverb ALONG generates new meanings that are not directly related to their prepositional ancestor. The metaphorization of the adverb ALONG demonstrates that



this process can lead to a reversal functional transposition, when a transposed adverb with an offshoot meaning forms the foundation for a new functional transposition into a preposition.

### [1.3] Corpus analysis of ALONG in diachrony

The formation of the preposition ALONG in early OE became possible due to the notion of locality, which was represented by the direction of the movement or action, e.g.:

(11)... *cymð þonne up æt þæm æwelme, wyrð þonne to broce, þonne to ea, þonne andlang ea*,  
 (HCET: Alfred: Alfred's Boethius: 377);

The preposition ALONG was used to indicate locality with topographic names as well as with some small objects, for instance human artifacts, e.g.:

(12) *Læte yrman ðæt blod nyðer andlang ðæs weofudes*. (OED: Ælfric: The AS version of the book of Leviticus i: 15);

The development of the preposition ALONG in the OE period is exclusively based on the representation of locality; no examples of the adverb ALONG have been registered in OE, see Table 2.

Table 2  
 ALONG as the preposition and the adverb in Old English

PoS	-850	850-950	950-1050	1050-1150
Preposition	----	100%	100%	100%
Adverb	----	----	----	----

The data from the corpus analysis testify that in OE the lexical unit ANDLANG was exclusively used as a preposition, and it fully corresponded to the PDE preposition ALONG. However, at the end of the OE period and the beginning of the ME period, the preposition ANDLANG experienced two major transformations: it started its transformation into the preposition ENDLONG, with ME substitution of ENDE for the first element; and it underwent structural changes which resulted in the separation of the Proto-Indo-European locative root ANT, which was substituted with the commonly used prepositions ON/AN, e.g.:

(13) *þas swiken þer heo sæten on longen þere streten*. (HCET: Layamon's Brut: 9819);

In the next stage (1250-1350), the prepositions AN and ON were morphologically reduced to the prefix A, and the constructions A LONG and A LANG experienced gradual transformation into the forms A-LONG and ALONG. However, what is more, this absolutely changed the perception of A-LONG/ALONG, because the newly created lexical unit started functioning as an adverb, in contrast to the preposition ENDLONG. This is supported by the overall statistics, as in the second stage of the ME period (1250-1350), ALONG was exclusively used as an adverb, whereas examples of the preposition ALONG were absent. Thus, the PDE lexical unit ALONG appeared in the language in the midst of the

ME period (1250–1350) as a representative of the category of the adverb, and this period is interpreted as a starting point for the further development and functional transposition of the PDE lexical unit ALONG.

In other words, the adverb ALONG did not appear as a result of functional transposition from the category of the preposition ALONG, because the latter did not transpose its functions into the category of the adverb, and the adverb ALONG, in turn, was formed as an independent lexical unit by making use of the prefix A and the adjective LONG which had previously constituted the preposition ANDLANG.

The notion of locality of the adverb ALONG became extended in comparison with the OE preposition ANDLANG, and the unit itself started designating not only the direction of the movement or action, but also an interval in which the action takes place:

(14) *þe castel brugge out of þe med he barnde fram þen ende To þe tubrugge along vor me ne solde out wende.* (HCET: Gloucester, R.: The Metrical Chronicle of Robert of Gloucester: 638);

The fact that the adverb ALONG acquired and developed the aforesaid meaning contributed to the figurative representation of the objects modified by it, see 15, and the metaphorization of the meaning from the physical items onto non-material objects, see 16:

(15) *For evere whan I thenke among How al is on miself along,* (HCET: Gower, J.: Confessio Amantis: 280);

(16) *I charge noght to drawe þe speche alonge in þise þinges.* (HCET: Anonymous: The Cyrurgie of Guy de Chauliac: 393);

The functional transposition of the adverb ALONG into the category of the preposition started in the second half of the ME period (1420–1500) on the basis of the sense of locality, which is the mandatory requirement for the functional transposition (Kovbasko, 2022):

(17) *He swete blood allonge his body,* (OED: Caxton, W.: The Golden Legend: 439/4);

In late ME, the transposed preposition ALONG represented solely locality, and this fact determines its low frequency in discourse. The correlation of the preposition and the adverb ALONG in ME is thus as follows, see Table 3.

Table 3  
ALONG as the preposition and the adverb in Middle English

PoS	1150–1250	1250–1350	1350–1420	1420–1500
Preposition	100%	----	----	11.1%
Adverb	----	100%	100%	88.9%

The statistical data in Table 3 show that the OE preposition ANDLANG went out of use in early ME (1150–1250), giving way to the newly coined adverb ALONG, whose structure met the grammatical requirements of the time and the stylistic and lexical needs of language users. Its formation was not the result of functional transposition; it was a classic example of word formation when the prefix A was added to the base LONG. Therefore, the history and process of functional transposition in the case of ALONG started with the category



of the adverb in the middle of the ME period. Throughout the next stage (1350–1420), the adverb ALONG gradually gained a foothold in the language, and it finally developed the ability to transpose into other categories. In the last stage of the ME period (1420–1500), the adverb ALONG commenced the process of functional transposition into the category of the preposition. The fact that the transposition of the adverb ALONG was occurring simultaneously with the institutionalization of the transposed unit in the category of the preposition proves that there was a linguistic need for the preposition ALONG. This hypothesis is also supported by the statistics from the following stages, which indicate a continuous growth in frequency of the locative preposition ALONG. Such an increase can be explained by a significant change in the semantics of the adverb ALONG, which was thus losing the seme of locality and starting to developing other semes and meanings. Numerous constructions with the adverb ALONG which do not represent locality appeared in the language, e.g.:

(18) *Boy, goe along with this woman, this newes distracts me.* (HCET: Shakespeare, W.: The Merry Wives of Windsor: 353);

(19) *Go along with vs on our iourney* (OED: Bedwell, W.: Mohammedis Impospurae. § 40);

This tendency remained predominant throughout EModE, when the adverb ALONG was increasingly common in constructing various phrasal verbs that were not locative in their nature, see 20, and thereafter the adverb ALONG was used less and less to convey locality, see 21:

(20) *Dunne. I went in along with Mr. Carpenter.* (HCET: Anonymous: The Trial of Lady Alice Lisle: 186);

(21) *... he shall find that A, E, I, O, V, proceed by degrees from the throat, along betwixt the tongue and the roof of the mouth to the lips contracted,* (HCET: Hoole, C.: A New Discovery of the Old Art of Teaching Schoole: 62);

The adverb ALONG was entering LModE not as a locative adverb that served as a basis for functional transposition into the category of the preposition, but as an adverb of multiple semantics which modified the verbs it was used with, and these constructions were gradually superseding the primary locative adverb ALONG:

(22) *I was not long in expecting of 'em; for one of em spying the Hutt, where I was, call'd out to the others to come along;* (CLMET: Chetwood, W.: The Voyages, Dangerous Adventures and Imminent Escapes: 5466);

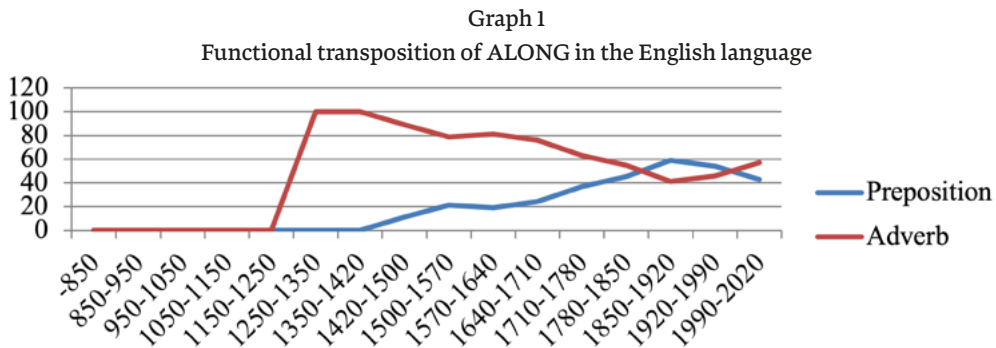
(23) *... we crept along together by the side of a hedge,* (CLMET: Fielding, H.: The History of Joseph Andrews: 2817);

Such a shift from locality to other semes and meanings in combination with different verbs was crucial for the whole category of the adverb ALONG in ModE, as locality became the leading seme for the category of the preposition. This contributed to the increased frequency of the preposition ALONG, see Table 4.

Table 4  
ALONG as the preposition and the adverb in Modern English

PoS	1500– 1570	1570– 1640	1640– 1710	1710– 1780	1780– 1850	1850– 1920	1920– 1990	1990– 2020
<b>Preposition</b>	21.4%	19%	24.2%	36.8%	45.2%	58.9%	54.1%	42.8%
<b>Adverb</b>	78.6%	81%	75.8%	63.2%	54.8%	41.1%	45.9%	57.2%

The above-presented data show that along with the formation and development of new meanings which are not connected with the representation of locality, the adverb ALONG suffered a dramatic decline in frequency, whereas the preposition ALONG, which continued representing locative relations, increased its frequency. Graph 1 depicts the evolution and functional transposition of the lexical unit ALONG since its formation in the first half of the ME period.



Graph 1 lacks data on the development of the OE preposition ANDLANG, because the PDE adverb ALONG bears no relation to the preposition ANDLANG, i.e. the adverb was formed independently, see paragraph 1. 3. Thus, the locative adverb ALONG emerged in the second stage of the ME period (1250–1350), and its functional transposition into the category of the preposition started in late ME (1420–1500). The ME period is characterized by the gradual growth of the transposed preposition ALONG, which represents locality, whereas the adverb ALONG suffered a semantic shift from locality to abstract relations, being dependent on the verbs it is combined with. The popularity and wide use of such VERB + ALONG constructions, known as phrasal verbs, contributed to the high overall frequency of the adverb ALONG. However, the use of the adverb ALONG as a constituent of phrasal verbs has completely superseded the sense of locality from the category of the adverb. The frequency of the locative adverb ALONG in PDE is thus less than 1% in comparison with the non-locative adverb ALONG which is a constituent of phrasal verbs.

Graph 1 therefore displays a general correlation between the categories of the preposition and adverb ALONG, rather than a correlation between the initial adverb and transposed preposition ALONG, both of which represent locality. The statistical data prove that the adverb ALONG emerged as a locative unit and was transposed into the category of the preposition as the locative unit; however, since the ModE period, its frequency as

a locative adverb has been constantly decreasing, and it has currently achieved the level of a statistical error. This leads me to hypothesize that over time, the adverb ALONG will lose all connections with its locative ancestor, and its definitions concerning locality will be labeled as obsolete in dictionaries, whereas the preposition ALONG will be exclusively associated with the seme of locality. Nevertheless, the adverb ALONG will still be used as a constituent of phrasal verbs representing other semes except for locality.

## [2] Functional transposition of ALONGSIDE in diachrony

### [2.1] Preposition ALONGSIDE

Following the OED data, the preposition ALONGSIDE appeared in its primary meaning “in a position parallel to; side by side with” in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century:

(24) *A boat... lying alongside the rock.* (OED: Smeaton, J.: *A narrative of the building, and a description of the construction of the Edystone lighthouse* § 100);

However, a corpus analysis of English texts reveals that the preposition ALONGSIDE functioned in the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, e.g.:

(25) *... now the boat was brought alongside the ship, and the master himself,* (CLMET: Fielding, H.: *Dedication to Ralph Allen*: 1385);

All the other meanings registered in the PDE under analysis are not found in the OED, and this is indicative of their recent formation and unfinished institutionalization in the language.

### [2.2] Adverb ALONGSIDE

As is the case with the preposition, the adverb ALONGSIDE directly represents locality, cf. “along or parallel to the side (of something expressed or understood); side by side with”, see 26, or metaphorically, see 27, e.g.:

(26) *... and so he ran alongside of me;* (CLMET: Richardson, S.: *Pamela or Virtue Rewarded*: 7716);

(27) *A new authority, marching independently along-side of the government.* (OED: Jefferson, T.: *Writings IV*: 347);

Other semes, meanings or functions of the adverb ALONGSIDE have not been registered either in the OED or in any of the PDE dictionaries under analysis. This proves that the secondary meanings of the preposition ALONGSIDE have been developing exclusively in the category of the preposition. The fact that these meanings are not registered in the category of the adverb demonstrates that the process of functional transposition of the

secondary meanings of the preposition ALONGSIDE into the category of the adverb has not yet been completed.

### [2.3] Corpus analysis of ALONGSIDE in diachrony

The initial examples of the adverb and preposition ALONGSIDE are registered in the early LModE period (1710–1780), e.g.:

- (28)... *and wait for a boat, which in less than half-an-hour came alongside from the shore.*  
 (CLMET: Smollett, T.: *The Adventures of Peregrine Pickle*: 1659);  
 (29) *Accordingly at high water hove her off, and moor'd her alongside the beach, where the Stores, etc., lay,* (CLMET: Cook, J.: *Captain Cook's journal*: 6148);

Analyzing the periods in which they functioned, it is worth mentioning that the adverb ALONGSIDE emerged earlier than the preposition in the same LModE stage. I hypothesize that the unit ALONGSIDE was formed as an adverb, and that it was later transposed into the category of the preposition by means of grammaticalization. This idea is supported by the statistics of their correlation in the first stage of the LModE period (1710–1780), when the registered frequency of the adverb is four times that of the preposition. In other words, the functional transposition of the adverb ALONGSIDE was determined by the process of grammaticalization which led to the emergence of the intermediary construction ALONGSIDE OF, see 30–31, and the subsequent loss of the preposition OF. As a result, the transposed preposition ALONGSIDE could function as the adverbial construction ALONGSIDE OF:

- (30) *Those fellows come alongside of dying men, like the messengers of the Admiralty with sailing orders;* (CLMET: Smollett, T.: *The Adventures of Peregrine Pickle*: 3314);  
 (31) *The body was cover'd with a Matt, and over that a white Cloth; alongside of the Body lay a wooden Club,* (CLMET: Cook, J.: *Captain Cook's journal*: 1680);

Another conclusion that can be drawn is that the existence of the construction ALONGSIDE OF has formed a so-called reserve for the further grammaticalization of the construction and its transposition into the preposition ALONGSIDE. To show how this reserve for grammaticalization has been used, the decision was taken to provide statistics on the construction ALONGSIDE OF separately from the adverb, see Table 5.

Table 5

The preposition ALONGSIDE, the adverb ALONGSIDE, and the adverbial construction ALONGSIDE OF in Modern English

PoS	1500– 1570	1570– 1640	1640– 1710	1710– 1780	1780– 1850	1850– 1920	1920– 1990	1990– 2020
Preposition	----	----	----	20%	17.9%	32.2%	69.6%	89%
Adverb	----	----	100%	56.6%	28.6%	44.6%	23.2%	9.6%
Adverbial construction	----	----	----	23.4%	53.5%	23.2%	7.1%	1.4%

The statistical data in Table 5 demonstrate that after functional transposition of the adverb into the category of the preposition in the first stage of LModE (1710–1780), the correlation between the preposition and the adverb ALONGSIDE was 20% to 80% respectively. However, of great interest is the distribution within the category of the adverb, where 23.4% of the examples are the construction ALONGSIDE OF, whereas 56.6% are represented by other types of the adverb ALONGSIDE. During the next stage (1780–1850), the number of transposed prepositions remains almost the same, but the correlation within the category of the adverb changes significantly. The construction ALONGSIDE OF reaches 53.5%, while the adverb ALONGSIDE is 28.6%. This correlation shows that the category of the adverb ALONGSIDE was undergoing the process of grammaticalization by means of acquiring OF to be able to function as a preposition. The next stage (1850–1920) becomes crucial because the construction ALONGSIDE continues its grammaticalization, resulting in the loss of the morphological element OF, though the construction itself was already able to function as a preposition. Due to this, the frequency of the preposition ALONGSIDE continues to grow, and in PDE it has achieved 89%, whereas the necessity of using the adverbial construction ALONGSIDE OF no longer exists, and its frequency has decreased to 1.4% in PDE. Such a growth of the category of the preposition is explained not only by the grammaticalization of the construction ALONGSIDE OF, but also due to the fact that the preposition ALONGSIDE has been developing other meanings, a process that has contributed to its frequency. A special place belongs to the process of metaphorization of the initial seme of locality, e.g.:

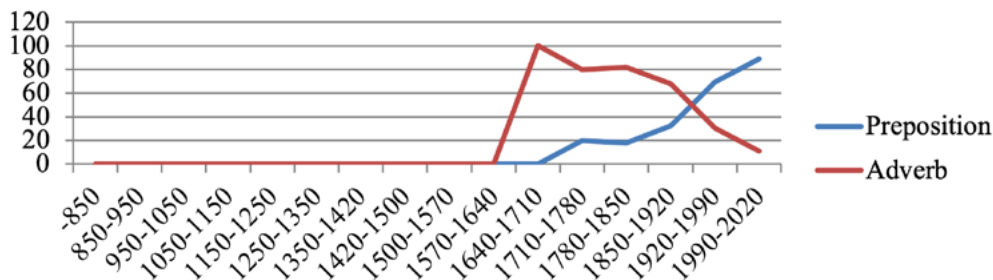
(32) *Happily achievements do take place alongside such nonsense* (BNC: BR in the eighties: 79);

Sentence 32 exemplifies the transfer of locative meaning from physical space onto non-material notions, which has undoubtedly contributed to the increase in the frequency of the preposition ALONGSIDE.

On the contrary, the category of the adverb ALONGSIDE has been shrinking, because it has not acquired any other additional meanings. Therefore, in the PDE stage (1990–2020), the grammaticalization of the construction ALONGSIDE OF has almost been completed, as its frequency ranges from 0.5% to 1.4% according to the COHA and the BNC respectively. This means that the category of the preposition ALONGSIDE does not have a reserve in the form of the construction ALONGSIDE OF to increase its frequency. On the other hand, examples of a reverse *functional transposition* of the preposition into the category of the adverb are registered in discourse, see 1–2, but it can take them a considerable amount of time to be institutionalized in the language.

Graph 2 has been created to sum up the development of the lexical unit ALONGSIDE in the English language.

Graph 2  
Functional transposition of ALONGSIDE in the English language



Graph 2 represents the general development of the categories of the preposition and the adverb ALONGSIDE. The data for the intermediate adverbial construction ALONGSIDE OF is included in the statistics of the adverb, because the construction represents the category of the adverb even though it performs the functions of a preposition.

The locative adverb ALONGSIDE emerged and almost immediately transposed into the category of the preposition in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. The processes of actualization and institutionalization of the preposition ALONGSIDE occurred simultaneously at the beginning of the LModE period. Graph 2 demonstrates the sustainable growth of the category of the preposition, with its turning point in the middle of the LModE period and its peak in PDE.

## [Conclusion]

The analysis of the lexical units ALONG and ALONGSIDE has undoubtedly supported the hypothesis that the phenomenon of functional transposition is based on the seme of locality. Moreover, the cases of ALONG and ALONGSIDE are rather distinctive compared to the majority of other subjects to functional transposition, because the adverb ALONG, which served as the initial category for functional transposition, has almost completely lost the basic seme of locality and has developed a number of other meanings depending on the verbs it is combined with. The transposed preposition ALONG, in turn, has taken over the entire range of locative meanings. The case of ALONGSIDE is peculiar due to its grammaticalization pattern and the semi-grammaticalized construction ALONGSIDE OF, which is still functioning in the language.

The first examples of the construction A/ON/AN LONG are registered in the early ME period (1150–1250), and its grammaticalization started in the next stage (1250–1350); however, in both cases, the constructions represented the direction of movement or action. The grammaticalization of the construction into a one-word lexical unit triggered the development of other locative meanings, for instance the interval in which the action takes place, as well as the figurative representation of the objects modified by the adverb ALONG or the transference of the meaning from the physical items onto non-material objects, etc. At the end of the ME period, the adverb ALONG was transposed into the category of the preposition, which started representing locative relations.



In EModE, the adverb ALONG went through a process of desemantization and almost ceased to represent locality. The notion of locality thus became the prerogative of the preposition ALONG, whereas the adverb almost lost this notion and became a lexical unit of multiple semantics which modifies the meanings of the verbs it is used with. This tendency has been observed since the middle of the EModE period. However, PDE is characterized by an upsurge in the use of phrasal verbs, and functioning as a constituent of these constructions helps the adverb ALONG to regain its occurrence in the language.

When the adverb ALONG started its transformation from a locative unit into a lexical unit of multiple semantics, the language was enriched with a new lexical unit, ALONGSIDE. The preposition and the adverb ALONGSIDE are registered at the same LModE stage, but as the frequency of the adverb is four times that of the preposition, it can be concluded that ALONGSIDE appeared as an adverb and was transposed into a preposition by means of grammaticalization. The process of grammaticalization brought the emergence of the intermediary construction ALONGSIDE OF with the subsequent loss of the preposition OF. In PDE, this construction has almost disappeared in favor of the preposition ALONGSIDE.

Therefore, the locative adverbs ALONG and ALONGSIDE have been transposed into the category of the preposition, but eventually they have either significantly reduced their presence as locative units, or they have made way for the prepositions. Further research needs to be devoted to the study of the extralinguistic factors that triggered the process of functional transposition in the language and which have contributed to the loss of their potential to represent locative relations.

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