

الجوانب الدلالية لتركيب البديل في اللغة الإنكليزية القياسية

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الملخص

يعتبر تركيب البديل علاقة بين وحدتين تشيران إلى نفس الإسناد. تم تخصيص القليل من الدراسات لدلالات وبرجماتية تراكيب البديل ووظائفهم في الكلام. وتشير وحدتا التركيب إلى نفس الإسناد. وتكون العلاقة بين تركيب البديل والمبدل منه جزئية أو كلية، وقد يكون هذا التكافؤ بين العنصرين كلياً أو جزئياً، فالعنصر الثاني يحدد العنصر الأول. العلاقة الدلالية بين هذين العنصرين هي علاقة إضافة، حيث يوضح العنصر الثاني من تركيب البديل إسناد العنصر الأول، أو قد يصحح خطأ ارتكبه المتحدث في العنصر الأول. يعد تركيب البديل تركيباً مستقلاً ولا يقيد المبدل منه. تظهر العلاقة المرجعية في تركيب البديل إما علاقة مرجعية صارمة أو علاقة مرجعية للمتحدث وكما يمكن أيضاً تضمين مرجعية البديل في المبدل منه. وتستخدم علامات الترقيم والتنغيم لحل مشكلات الغموض التي قد تحدث في تراكيب البديل.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الدلالي، البديل، جزء، كلياً، المبدل منه، عنصر

The Semantic Aspects of Appositives in Standard English

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Abstract

Apposition has been considered as a relation that consists of two units that refer to the same reference. Few studies have been dedicated to the semantics and pragmatics of appositives and to their functions in discourse. The two units of an appositive construction can refer to the same reference, and sometimes it is a whole/part relationship between the appositive and its anchor, so the coreference can be exact equivalence or partial equivalence. The units in appositive constructions are coreferential; the second unit names the first unit. The semantic relation between these two elements is an additive relation in which the second element of the appositive clarifies the reference of the first element, or it may correct a mistake made by the speaker in the first element. Appositives represent independent content and do not restrict their anchors. Coreferential relations in appositive constructions show either strict coreference or speaker coreference. Also, the reference of the appositive may be included in its anchor. To solve ambiguous cases in appositives, punctuation and intonation are used to solve this issue.

Keywords: semantic, apposition, part, whole, anchor, element

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1- Introduction

Apposition is a relation in which the second element of the appositive construction provides extra information about the first element to clarify or correct the content of their antecedents. Also, they might conclude the antecedent by providing an explanation of the antecedent.

2- Semantics in English Appositives

The aim of using appositive is to give descriptive information about a preceding NP ⁽¹⁾. Appositives do not intervene in the construction of the NP referent as a whole, but they represent independent content, and an appositive does not restrict its anchor. Although appositives are not necessary for the referent content, they are necessary to the understanding of the utterances in which they appear ⁽²⁾. Appositives may add new information, as can be seen in the following example:

1. The woman, who hadn't slept on the previous flight, was bleary-eyed, but still had some fascinating stories to tell ⁽³⁾.

Appositive constructions have an additive relation between their elements; a relation in which the second element of the appositive adds to the discourse. The second elements clarify and focus the reference of the first element, or it may correct a mistake made by the speaker in the first element and the second element may define the first element. The second element in the appositive construction is more specific than the first element, and it identifies the referent of the first element ⁽⁴⁾.

Appositives can express a corrective function when the speaker interrupts the flow of discourse to correct either the anchor or the informational content of the main clause, as can be seen in:

¹ COATES-STEPHENS, S., 1992- **The analysis and acquisition of proper names for robust text understanding**. (Unpublished Doctoral thesis). UK: University of London. p.114. Retrieved on 11/11/2020 from: https://openaccess.city.ac.uk/id/eprint/8015/1/The_analysis_and_acqui

² LOOCK, R., 2010- **Appositive relative clauses in English: Discourse functions and competing structures**. USA, Philadelphia: John Benjamins. p.9.

³ CONSTANT, N., 2011- **Appositives after all**. Reevaluating Mandarin relative clauses. Massachusetts: USA. P.10. Retrieved on: 10/8/2020 from: <https://people.umass.edu>

⁴ MEYER, C.F., 1992- **Apposition in contemporary English**. Boston: University of Massachusetts. pp. 91-120. Retrieved on 13/12/2020 from: www.bookdepository.com

2. He took my ticket (which actually/in fact/to tell the truth I meekly gave him), returned triumphant...⁽¹⁾.

According to ⁽²⁾, appositive constructions contribute supplemental information and they minimize complexity effects even in discourse contexts trying to prove that "processing a complex filler-gap dependency was easier when the filler-gap dependency spanned an appositive relative clause (b) than when it spanned a lexically matched restrictive relative clause (a)", as can be seen in the following two examples:

3. a. The butcher asked who the lady who bought Italian ham **had invited_** to dinner tonight.

b. The butcher asked who the lady, who bought Italian ham, **had invited_** to dinner tonight ⁽³⁾

The example (a) is less acceptable than (b).

Appositives can also express an assessment or conclusion by providing an interpretation of the anchor⁴, as can be seen in:

4. Addiction is a pathological relationship with an object or event, which means it can happen in any job ⁽⁵⁾.

3-Types of Appositives

The two items of an appositive construction can be characterized by the semantic relations existing between them: either referential or non-referential ⁽⁶⁾. Appositive constructions are classified depending on whether the second item of the appositive provides information about the first that is: a) more specific, b) less specific, or c) equally specific. However, not all appositives consist of units that are coreferential, and to limit appositives to only those constructions

¹ LOOCK, R., 2010- **Appositive relative clauses in English: Discourse functions and competing structures**. USA, Philadelphia: John Benjamins. p. 127.

² DILLON, B; CLIFTON, L; FRAZIER, C., 2018- **No longer an orphan: Evidence for appositive attachment from sentence comprehension**. *Glossa: A Journal of General Linguistics* 3(1): 32. P.4, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5334/gjgl.379>

³ *ibid.* p.4

⁴ LOOCK, R., 2010- **Appositive relative clauses in English: Discourse functions and competing structures**. USA, Philadelphia: John Benjamins.p.127.

⁵ LOOCK, R., 2010- **Appositive relative clauses in English: Discourse functions and competing structures**. USA, Philadelphia: John Benjamins.p.127.

⁶ MEYER, C.F., 1992- **Apposition in contemporary English**. Boston: University of Massachusetts. pp. pp.5-91. Retrieved on 13/12/2020 from: www.bookdepository.com

whose units are coreferential, this strictly restricts the number of constructions that can be considered appositives ⁽¹⁾.

The elements of an appositive construction are sometimes coreferential², as can be seen in the following example:

5. Not many days elapsed before a stranger wrote to say that at the suggestion of **his friend, Mr Alexander Goodrich**, he was asking Harold to take charge of his income-tax return ⁽³⁾.

Coreferential relations between elements in appositive constructions show either strict coreference or speaker coreference⁴. These two types of coreference are distinguished by the extent to which the meaning of the items that "corefer parallel" their referents ⁽⁵⁾, as can be seen in the following example:

6. A pastoral letter from **the Bishop of Bristol, Dr. Tomkins**, was read today in churches throughout the diocese ⁽⁶⁾

As can be seen in example (7), the reference of the second element of the appositive construction can be included within the reference of the first element, resulting in a part/whole relation between the elements, as can be seen in the following example:

7. I haven't heard from them, but I think I was never at all in the running. They had, they shortlisted **five people**, including **me** ⁽⁷⁾.

Appositive units "must normally be identical in reference or else the reference of one must be included in the reference of the other"⁸, as can be seen in:

8. Paul Jones, **the distinguished art critic**, died in his sleep last Night ⁽⁹⁾.

¹ ibid. p. 57.

² ibid. p. 58.

³ ibid. p. 58.

⁴ ibid. pp. 58-60.

⁵ ibid. pp. 59-60.

⁶ MEYER, C.F., 1992- **Apposition in contemporary English**. Boston: University of Massachusetts. p.60. Retrieved on 13/12/2020 from: www.bookdepository.com

⁷ MEYER, C.F., 1992- **Apposition in contemporary English**. Boston: University of Massachusetts. p.59. Retrieved on 13/12/2020 from: www.bookdepository.com

⁸ QUIRK, R.; GREENBAUM, S.; LEECH, G.; SVARTVIK, J., 1985- **A comprehensive grammar of the English language**. London: Longman. p.515.

⁹ ibid. p.515.

Paul Jones and the distinguished art critic refer to the same reference and the relationship underlying apposition is an intensive relationship.

According to (¹), appositives can be divided into: identification, justification, and labeling. Identification relates to the category of identificational copular sentences and such appositives answer the question "who or which one." The justification category contains appositives that "ascribe a property to their anchor, while the labeling category generally gives the proper name of the referent of the anchor"

4-1- Strict Coreference Appositives

Strict coreference is a relation that exists between: place adverbials, time adverbials, and certain types of noun phrases², as can be seen in the following examples, respectively:

9. They lie **on either side of the spinal cord**, that is to say, **above the notochord**, and consist either of one nodule on each side of the segment, through the middle of which the ventral nerve-root emerges, or of two separate nodules, with the nerve between them.

10. AT LEAST six Camden secondary schools and most local primary schools were closed yesterday (**Wednesday**) as a result of a one-day national strike by the National Union of Teachers in support of a pay claim (³).

4-2 Different Reference Appositive

In the following example, the elements have distinct meanings and different referents, as can be seen in the following example:

11. There's a chapter on **the aesthetics of Piggott**, or, or **an aesthetic of Piggott** (⁴).

These types of appositives may have a variety of different referents, including individuals, objects, and abstractions, as can be seen in the following examples respectively:

¹ LOOCK, R; O'CONNOR, K. M., 2013- **The discourse functions of nonverbal appositives**. In: *Journal of English Linguistics*. DOI: 10.1177/0075424213502236. P.10. Retrieved on 26/5/2020 from: <https://journals.sagepub.com>abs>

² MEYER, C.F., 1992- **Apposition in contemporary English**. Boston: University of Massachusetts. P.60. Retrieved on 13/12/2020 from: www.bookdepository.com

³ MEYER, C.F., 1992- **Apposition in contemporary English**. Boston: University of Massachusetts. P.60. Retrieved on 13/12/2020 from: www.bookdepository.com

⁴ ibid. p.60

12. Linda dragooned **her uncle, Donald Murkland**, into a lunch the next day to find out what had happened.
13. An anonymous letter-writer who has lost his job is threatening to burn down a church in retaliation for his misfortunes. **The church, St. Michael's and All Saints, Pelsall, Staffs**, has been closed, except for services, until police find the author.
14. He had **an easy masculine grace** about him, **the kind that kids don't have, but that I had sometimes admired in other older men**⁽¹⁾.

4-3 Speaker-Oriented Appositives

Appositive constructions are "not relative clauses with a distinguished syntax or prosody, but rather they contribute supplementing meaning. Appositives contribute speaker-oriented "conventional implicature" meaning a separate dimension" ⁽²⁾.

According to ⁽³⁾, appositives are not questionable nor deniable, as can be seen in the following examples:

15. a. #The party, which they held yesterday, was quiet, but they didn't have a party.
- b. #If they had a party, then the party, which they held yesterday, was quiet ⁽⁴⁾.

Apposition is supposed to express invariably a commentary of the speaker on the proper assertion of a sentence conveying a secondary information of a sentence ⁽⁵⁾ because the appositive element is used to specify the anchor element providing extra information on it ⁽⁶⁾.

4-4- Restrictive and Non-Restrictive Appositives

The classification of appositives depends on whether or not the second element of the appositive construction restricts the reference of the first one. Nominal appositives are always nonrestrictive or non-

¹ ibid. pp.59-61

² CONSTANT, N., 2011- **Appositives after all**. Reevaluating Mandarin relative clauses. Massachusetts: USA. p.7. Retrieved on: 10/8/2020 from: <https://people.umass.edu>

³ ibid. p.32

⁴ CONSTANT, N., 2011- **Appositives after all**. Reevaluating Mandarin relative clauses. Massachusetts: USA. p.32. Retrieved on: 10/8/2020 from: <https://people.umass.edu>

⁵ KOKTOVA, E., 1985- **Apposition as a pragmatic phenomenon in a functional description**. *University of East Anglia Papers in Linguistics*, p.70.

⁶ DE VRIES, M., 2002- **The syntax of relativization**. Utrecht: LOT. p.214.

nominal for which the notions restrictive and nonrestrictive are not relevant and the restrictive/nonrestrictive dichotomy does not apply to them and this depends on the syntactic form of the appositive and on whether the first element is a noun phrase which is capable of taking a restrictive or nonrestrictive second element¹, as can be seen in the following example:

16. In order for the definitions to yield the desired results, we have to interpret **the words 'stand for' and 'about'** in the light of our knowledge of what is being defined (²).

The previous example is a restrictive appositive because it has a syntactic form that permits restrictive apposition – "the first unit is a definite noun phrase, the second element a linguistic citation - and because the first unit is a cataphoric-linked nominal, a nominal whose determiner points ahead to a unit that restricts the reference of the nominal" (³).

5- The Semantic Relation in Appositives

The relation in appositive constructions sometimes is represented as a relation of hyponymy in which the second element of such appositives is a hyponym of the first element: the meaning of the second element is included within the more general meaning of the first element, as can be seen in the following example:

17. The nitrogen in **organic matter (dead roots and shoots, manure, soil humus, etc.)** is changed during decomposition to an ammonium form....

Because the second element (dead roots and shoots, manure, soil humus...) is more specific than the first element (organic matter), the semantic features needed to characterize organic matter (e.g. + animate, —human) would be two of the many features needed to characterize the meaning of the more specific second unit. The second element specifies precisely the meaning of the first element. There is a relation of meaning inclusion between the units in apposition (⁴).

¹ MEYER, C.F., 1992- **Apposition in contemporary English**. Boston: University of Massachusetts. p.82. Retrieved on 13/12/2020 from: www.bookdepository.com

² ibid.p.83

³ MEYER, C.F., 1992- **Apposition in contemporary English**. Boston: University of Massachusetts. p.83. Retrieved on 13/12/2020 from: www.bookdepository.com

⁴ ibid. pp.71-79

The second element of an appositive construction can be a noun phrase that provides general characteristics of the first element. The second element of the appositive construction can paraphrase the first element; it provides a definition of the first element, which may correct a mistake made in the first element, or may correct errors in reference in the first element of the appositive constructions ⁽¹⁾.

6- Ambiguity in Appositive Constructions

According to ⁽²⁾, syntactic ambiguity known as the NP/S ambiguity is exemplified in the following examples:

18. Becca found (that) the security guard who Anne argued is a trained cop fell asleep on duty. (RRC)
19. Becca found (that) the security guard, who Anne argued is a trained cop, fell asleep on duty. (ARC)
20. Becca found (that) the security guard, who – Anne argued – is a trained cop, fell asleep on duty (ARC+Paren) ⁽³⁾.

When the complementizer "that" is absent in the previous examples, the phrase "the security guard who Anne argued is a trained cop" is ambiguous. It could "either be attached as the direct object of "found", or it could be attached as the subject of a clausal complement to "found" ⁽⁴⁾.

Intonation or using punctuation usually resolves the ambiguity in apposition interpretation ⁽⁵⁾, as can be seen in:

20. They sent Joan a waitress from the hotel⁽⁶⁾.

The noun phrases are interpreted as indirect object and direct object respectively giving the meaning of "They sent a waitress from the hotel to Joan". However, if the second noun phrase is separated from what precedes by a tone unit in spoken English or by a comma in

¹ MEYER, C.F., 1992- **Apposition in contemporary English**. Boston: University of Massachusetts. pp.79-82. Retrieved on 13/12/2020 from: www.bookdepository.com

² DILLON, B; CLIFTON, L; FRAZIER, C., 2018- **No longer an orphan: Evidence for appositive attachment from sentence comprehension**. *Glossa: A Journal of General Linguistics* 3(1): 32. P.11, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5334/gjgl.379>

³ ibid. p.11

⁴ ibid. p.11

⁵ QUIRK, R.; GREENBAUM, S.; LEECH, G.; SVARTVIK, J., 1972- **A grammar of temporary English**. England: Longman Group Ltd. p.517.

⁶ ibid. p.517.

written English, then the interpretation of the first noun phrase as direct object with the second noun phrase as apposition to it ⁽¹⁾.

7- Apposition and Synonymy

The difference between apposition and synonymy is that in appositive constructions, the appositive and its anchor are synonyms. i.e., they have the same reference, as can be seen in the following examples:

21. a. But the head of department is **a little bit idiosyncratic, an awfully nice chap.**
 b. But the head of department is an awfully nice chap.
 c. But the head of department is a little bit idiosyncratic.
 d. But the head of department is an awfully nice chap, a little bit idiosyncratic.

In the previous example, "an awfully nice chap" and "a little bit idiosyncratic" are not synonymous, that is why they are considered coordinate sentences rather than appositives.

22. a. The address was in the Holborn district; it sounded **shabby, dismal.**
 b. ...it sounded dismal.
 c. ...it sounded shabby.
 (...d) ...it sounded dismal, shabby.

Semantically, the previous example "shabby" and "dismal" are in apposition because they are synonymous ⁽²⁾.

8- Conclusion

In case of appositives whose elements are coreferential, the correspondence between the elements and their referents is exact. On the other hand, when there is no exact correspondence between the elements and their referents, the reference of the second element is included within the reference of the first element. The second unit does not restrict the reference of the first unit and the second unit contains new information not previously introduced into the discourse. Coreferential relations between elements in appositive constructions show either strict coreference or speaker coreference distinguished by the extent to which the meaning of the items that corefer parallel their referents. Sometimes, the reference of an appositive can be included in

¹ ibid, p.517.

² MEYER, C.F., 1992- **Apposition in contemporary English.**

Boston: University of Massachusetts. p. 43. Retrieved on 13/12/2020 from: www.bookdepository.com

the semantic content of its anchor. Strict coreference is a relation that exists between: place adverbials, time adverbials, and certain types of noun phrases. On the other hand, when the elements have distinct meanings and different referents, the type of the appositive is different reference appositive. Punctuation in writing and intonation in speaking are the ways to solve ambiguity problems in appositive constructions. The difference between synonymy and apposition relies on the fact that if the apposition and its anchor have the same reference, they are appositive constructions.

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