REFERENCE E-BOOK

Constructions in present-day English

Contents

THIS MONTH SECTION

* 

1. LINGUISTIC SECTION
2. THEMATIC SECTION
3. UKRAINE SECTION

Nizhyn - 2016


**THIS MONTH SECTION**

*Advice, advise*

The best advice ever, from the mothers of the world.

We went to question and answer site, Quora, for some of the best pieces of advice from the world’s wise and long-suffering mums.

She grew up “before the world wide web was invented. (‘The horror!’)” her parents’ favourite piece of advice was, ‘Go look it up.’

When she was a little girl her mother advised her that if you want to find out whether a person is really nice or not, “observe the way that person treats salesclerks, waiters, and other people in service professions who can’t defend themselves.”

---

**BREXIT**

*Brexit-constructions*

Older voters are more likely to favour Brexit and more likely to vote.

Tory voters are more evenly divided than supporters of any other party, being 55%-45% in favour of Brexit.

---

*in / out-constructions*

In the great and emerging debate about whether Britain should be in or out of Europe, the "ins" already have their script but there is one narrative they fear.

The plan of those who favour staying in the EU will be to focus on the economy, to demand from the "outs" what the British economy would look like outside the EU.

This is not to say that the ins and outs fit neatly into these camps.

Most regions divide fairly evenly for In and Out.

So in the UK, the Out campaigns will base much of their appeal on promising to regain control of borders, of trade, of sovereignty.

---

*pro-EU-constructions*

Under-30s are most pro-EU but least likely to vote.

University graduates, a high-turnout group, are solidly pro-EU.

---

*Student campaign / movement / protests / demands*

There is another reason that such disputes will continue - and that's because they are part of a much bigger international student movement, fighting over symbols, statues and language.

The Rhodes Must Fall campaign at Oxford follows the Rhodes Must Fall student campaign in South Africa.

And the student protesters are often winning.

This week, Amherst College in Massachusetts accepted student demands and agreed to stop any links with Jeffery Amherst, an 18th Century general, accused of advocating deliberately infecting native Americans with smallpox.

Earlier in this academic year, the president of the University of Missouri resigned amid student protests over the handling of racist incidents on campus.
ARTICLES

*Proper names in article-constructions

Dry weather is forecast for the Brazil-Uruguay border region in the next few days, but in Paraguay and Argentina water levels are still expected to rise.

The Paraguay river in the capital Asuncion, is only 30cm (12in) away from overtopping its banks. Officials warn this could lead to widespread flooding in the area.

And it could also affect thousands of other people who live by the Paraguay - the country's main river - the authorities said (BBC 27.12.2015).

DEICTICS

*Now-constructions: emphatic function

Predicative: And Russian holiday firms could not now sell trips to Turkey (BBC 8.12.2005)

The broadcaster has now admitted it was a "clear misjudgement" and says that since then, it has been "over-whelmed with hate and anger" (BBC 11.01.2015).

Attributive: Besieged by reporters the morning after his now famous Commons speech, Hilary drew attention away from the politics, and the gaping wound of Labour division (BBC 6.12.2005)

Appositional: What has fuelled the sense of crisis is the suspicion - now widely held - that the German establishment is not telling the truth (BBC 11.01.2015).

INFINITIVE

* Constructions with continuous infinitive

But now some fear the same tactic could be being used in Germany, possibly to keep Chancellor Angela Merkel on the back-foot.
OBLIQUE MOODS

*Constructions with Suppositional Mood?

But the concluding statement insisted that he and his team must have no part in Syria's future, and that they must leave power at the start of the transition period which all the main outside powers agree should begin six months into the process under a new Governing Body (BBC 12.12.2015).

The opinion is that Mr. Putin has started this active move exactly for two reasons: one, to show in the home market, in the home stage that he is still a world leader the other will be reckoning with; and the other one is to shift attention from Ukraine and make sure that he goes back into the world leaders' club (BBC 28.09.2015).

PREPOSITIONS

*On-board- constructions

"I was on board of this yacht at the end of March 2002, in Amsterdam. And there was a representative of Mr Abramovich... He said that Roman is the owner of this yacht" ('Putin is corrupt' says US Treasury. BBC 25.01.2016)

SUBJECT AND PREDICATE

*Agreement between subject and predicate

Subject in the singular

Also, needed equipment, such as respiratory devices or surgical masks, are in short supply - or are misused (23.01.2016).

***

*Phrasal subject

"The level of the rivers plus the level of rainfall has created an unprecedented effect, and so some very serious flooding," Cameron said (BBC 24.01.2016).

***

*The number-constructions

And the number of fatalities, which has surged in the last week, is a cause for worry. "The number of cases of sickness are growing, and very many young people have fallen ill."

The number of physicians recommending to their patients to be immunized is extremely low (BBC 23.01.2016).
**TENSES**

*Sequence of tenses*

State investigators are looking into the cause of the blaze, which broke out on Saturday evening, and said arson has not been ruled out.

Britain and France said a peace deal could only be reached if Moscow stops bombing insurgents other than Islamic State.

A senior French diplomat said it would be Moscow's fault if it kept bombing and the peace process failed: "The Russians said they will continue bombing the terrorists.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said that if the peace plan fails, more foreign troops could enter the conflict.

**WORD ORDER**

At the heart of the problem lies a health system that requires major re-structuring and is rife with corruption (BBC 23.01.2016).
2. THEMATIC SECTION

# Finances

*debt-constructions*

Many Chinese businesses **hold debt** in dollars and **managing those debts** with a severely weakened yuan could cause problems and some companies to fail.


# Migrant/refugee crisis

*Cap-constructions*

Austria has decided **to cap** the number of asylum seekers it will accept in 2016, at 37,500.

All the time, **the pressure grows on Mrs Merkel to cap** the number Germany will accept.


Plan B options under discussion by CSU leaders included **capping asylum places** in Germany this year at 200,000.


Merkel has resisted pressure from some conservatives **to cap the influx of refugees**, or to close Germany's borders.

www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-germany-refugees-idUSKCN0V80IH

***

*Flee-constructions*

“We’ve run out of food for days. When our house was bombed we had to **flee the city**. As we made our way out I saw dead bodies everywhere.” (BBC 28.09.2015)

These people are **fleeing for their lives** (BBC 28.09.2015).

Thousands of people **fled their homes** after clashes have erupted on the streets on Bangui (BBC 28.09.2015).

***

*Migrant-constructions*

An earlier version of this article incorrectly referred to Russians living in Germany as refugees. **Migrant** is a more accurate term.

blogs.reuters.com/great-debate/2016/02/07/russia-having-success-in-hybrid-war-against-germany/

***

*Share-constructions*

German leaders have repeatedly said migrants are a European problem, but **that analysis is not universally shared**.

The Germans, according to this narrative, provided the pull factor but are insisting **others share the burden** of dealing with the crisis.

The European Commission believed the answer lay in **sharing out** the refugees between countries.

There would be a **compulsory sharing out of refugees** across the EU - even though it has shown little evidence of this working so far.

*Pressure – constructions*

**Pressure** is growing on Greece to cooperate. All the time, **the pressure grows on Mrs Merkel** to cap the number Germany will accept. **The pressure** the German chancellor is under was reflected in the words of the German President Joachim Gauck.

Merkel has resisted **pressure from** some conservatives to cap the influx of refugees, or to close Germany's borders.

# National belongingness

**Afro-constructions**

**Afro-British** student numbers are rising more slowly, and **Afro-British** scholars even more so.

(John Lloyd. Quest to tear down statues over past racism is intellectually vapid. Reuters. January 21, 2016)

***

**Color-constructions**

**Actors of color** win big at SAG awards amid diversity furor. **Actors of color** claimed a slew of wins amid a furor in Hollywood over the lack of on-screen diversity. That is in stark contrast to the Oscars, where **no actors of color** are nominated this year for the industry's highest honors.

No such view among many **students of color** in Britain’s most famed university. The low representation of **students of color** in the student body, and even more among scholars.

(John Lloyd. Quest to tear down statues over past racism is intellectually vapid. Reuters. January 21, 2016).

***

**Diversity-constructions**

Many of the main awards in Los Angeles were won by **actors of diverse backgrounds**, with industry magazine Variety noting that "**diversity reigns**".

It comes amid controversy over a **lack of diversity** among Oscar nominees. "Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to diverse TV," he said as he presented an award. The series has earned praise for its **diverse cast** and willingness to address race issues. "This is what we talk about when we talk about diversity."

***

**Minority-constructions**

The success of **minority actors** drew most attention. Since then, the organisation behind the awards has promised to double the number of female and **minority members**

***

**Non-whites-constructions**

The absence of any **non-whites** in the four Oscar acting categories for the second year running has prompted discussion on diversity in Hollywood.

***
# New phenomena

*glass-bottomed suspension bridge*, or glass bridge

Glass bridge fever

Such glass bridges were often "primarily a novelty", built as visitor attractions rather than commuter bridges.

Architect Keith Brownlie, who was involved in a glass bridge for The London Science Museum, said that the appeal was "thrill".

But how safe are China's glass bridges

Part of a glass skywalk in Henan province's Yuntai Mountain Geological Park cracked.

But glass bridge enthusiasts remain undeterred.

"I still would not hesitate to visit other glass bridges soon," Ms Li admitted.

Where is the world's longest glass-bottomed walkway?

---

# Objects

*Object-constructions*

Wedding rings and any other items of sentimental value are exempt.

Objects of emotional value are never seized, the government says.

---

# Public

It is often said he has the advantage over his Western peers of not having to worry about public opinion.

Is anything about Western policy a reflection of public opinion?

The publics are as confused as their political masters.

---

# Secession

It succeeded in turning this election into a vote on whether this region should break away from Spain. And as the results came in, they claim they have won a mandate to set a path towards independence (BBC 28.09.2015).

The unrest escalated in March 2014 after Muslim overthrew the president and ceased power (BBC 28.09.2015).
3. UKRAINE SECTION

#Events

*Maidan-constructions*

Alexej Dankwardt, a Leipzig city councilman, was kicked out of the Left Party caucus last month after writing on Facebook that he wished Merkel would be toppled in a “German Maidan”.

blogs.reuters.com/great-debate/2016/02/07/russia-having-success-in-hybrid-war-against-germany/

*power cut constructions*

Hackers caused power cut in western Ukraine – US

A power cut in western Ukraine last month was caused by a type of hacking known as "spear-phishing"

The attack caused a blackout for 80,000 customers of western Ukraine's Prykarpattyaobleenergo utility.

Experts have described the incident as the first known power outage caused by a cyber attack.

Russia has blamed pro-Ukraine saboteurs for the outages (BBC 23.01.2016).

*statue-cide-constructions*

Ukraine commits statue-cide

Ukraine is going through its third bout of statue-cide in a century.

First it was statues of the tsars that were toppled and replaced with Soviet demi-gods.

Then, at the dawn of Ukrainian independence in 1991, most of the major Lenin statues came down.

The de-Leninisation job was carried out only patchily in central regions.

What will replaced the toppled Lenins?

There are still plenty of Ukrainian Lenins left though (BBC 24.02.2014).

#Organizations

The attack caused a blackout for 80,000 customers of western Ukraine's Prykarpattyaooblenergo utility (BBC 12.01.2016).

# Traditions

*food-constructions*

Tables will be bursting with traditional Olivier Salad (potato, chicken or sausage, eggs, carrots, cucumbers, mayonnaise) and Herring in a Fur Coat (herring with a layer of vegetables… and more mayonnaise) (BBC 27.12.2014).