

CHAPTER FOUR

CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS OF MALAY AND ENGLISH PREPOSITIONS

4.1 Introduction

The methodology employed in this study is the Contrastive Analysis / Error Analysis approach. The results of the CA and the EA are compared to see whether they tally. If they do, it can be said that the CA hypothesis is correct. This means that the more similarities there are in the two systems of prepositions, the easier it would be for Malay students to learn English prepositions.

Basically, there are two main steps when conducting a contrastive analysis. The first step is the description of the prepositions in both languages. In order to compare and contrast prepositions in English and Malay, the researcher selected some grammar books to obtain the information about both English prepositions and Malay prepositions. The reference books on English prepositions are written by Quirk and Greenbaum (1983), Leech and Svartvik (1983), Thompson and Martinet (1983), and Allsop (1986). On Malay prepositions, the reference books are by Sulaiman Masri and Ahamd Khair (2006), Asmah Hj.Omar (2008), and Nik Safiah et al. (2008). The second step is the contrastive analysis itself i.e. analysing the similarities and differences of the two systems. This is followed by establishing a hierarchy of difficulties based on the comparison.

4.2 Contrastive Analysis Procedures

Executing a contrastive analysis involves a few steps namely describing, contrasting and predicting the English prepositions which may be difficult for Malay students. The focus of this study is to examine the subsystem of prepositions in English

and Malay in terms of usage and functions of the prepositions in order to identify the major similarities and differences between both languages.

4.3 Description of English Prepositions

Allsop (1986:105) defines prepositions as “words which show relationship between things, people and events. They are normally followed by a noun, pronoun or noun phrase.” Prepositions can also be placed before a gerund and a noun clause beginning with a wh-word or with how.

For example:

1. The students are **in** the hall. (followed by a noun)
2. Please pass the table salt **to** me. (followed by a pronoun)
3. The girls are **in** the room downstairs. (followed by a noun phrase)
4. He is very interested **in** cycling. (followed by a gerund)
5. They were surprised **at** how friendly the aborigines were. (followed by a noun clause)

The following are examples of simple prepositions and compound prepositions in English that are commonly used (Allsop, 1986:105 -120).

Simple Prepositions:

above	across	against	along	along	around
at	among	about	after	before	by
between	beyond	beneath	behind	below	besides
beside	during	down	for	from	like
inside	in front of	in	into	on	onto
out of	of	off	opposite	over	near

with **without** **within** **since** **to** **through**
towards **under** **up** **till/ until**

Some prepositions consist of two or three words and are called Compound Prepositions. Examples of complex prepositions are as follows:

in addition to	at the bottom of	according to
on behalf of	in the centre of	ahead of
in favour of	in front of	apart from
by means of	in the middle of	because of
in spite of	at the side of	instead of
in view of	on top of	other than
as well as		owing to

Likewise, Nik Safiah et al. (2008:265) posits that “kata sendi nama ialah perkataan yang letaknya di hadapan frasa nama.” They defined a preposition as a word placed before a noun phrase. Both English and Malay prepositions are defined as a word which is placed in front of a noun or noun phrase. They can be categorized according to their relationships with the nouns or noun phrases that follow after. These relationship are:

- i. location
- ii. time
- iii. duration
- iv. direction
- v. accompaniment
- vi. means
- vii. manner
- viii. purpose
- ix. the agentive
- x. cause or reason
- xi. metaphorical/ figurative usage

- xii. negation
- xiii. inclusions and exclusions
- xiv. relationships

Some words which are prepositions can be used as adverbs and conjunction in English and Malay. The following examples show two different uses of the word “inside” and “after”. The cupboard is a noun phrase and the object of “inside” in sentence (1). Therefore, **inside** is a preposition. In sentence (2), “inside” has no object; so it is an adverb. May is a noun; so **after** is a preposition in sentence (3). In sentence (4), “I’ve finished this job” is a clause; thus “after” is a conjunction.

For example:

1. The children put up their books **inside** the cupboard. (a preposition)
2. It was raining heavily, so they decided to stay inside. (an adverb)
3. Which month comes **after** May? (a preposition)
4. I’ll keep it after I’ve finished this job. (a conjunction)

For the purpose of this study, the researcher is only looking at the use of the words as prepositions and not the other aspects.

The usual position for a preposition is immediately before its object as shown in the above sentences (1) and (3). When creating a stylistic effect or emphasis, the prepositional phrase can be moved to the beginning of the sentence. There are cases in which the object of the preposition is moved to the beginning of a clause or sentence, leaving the preposition at the end.

When the object of a preposition is a wh-pronoun (or wh-determiner + noun) as in direct and indirect questions, or an exclamation phrase beginning with what, or a

relative clause, or in passive constructions, they can be placed at the beginning of the sentence, leaving the preposition at the end.

For example:

1. Where does she come **from**? (wh-pronoun in a direct question)
2. Whom were you talking **to**? (wh-pronoun in a direct question)
3. She asked the doctor what the medicine was **for**. (a indirect question)
4. What an awkward situation you've put me **in**! (what-exclamation)
5. "Don't they listen to your advice?" "My advice is rarely listened **to**."

(passive constructions)
6. I recognized the woman who he was speaking **to**. (a relative clause)
7. I want a box to put these shoes **in**. (a relative clause: to-infinitive construction)
8. A hospital is not a suitable place for playing rock music **in**. (a relative clause: for + -ing construction)
9. This is the saw I an looking **for**. (a relative clause used for emphasis)

The researcher noted that only certain prepositions can be placed in different positions of a sentence without changing its meaning as well as grammatical sense. Malay also share this similarity. In sentences (1) and (2), **since** and **sejak** can be placed in the initial and medial positions without affecting its meaning and grammatical sense. If **by** and **oleh** are placed in the beginning of the sentence as shown in sentence (4), the sentences become ungrammatical.

For example:

1. **Since** he moved, I haven't seen him.

Sejak dia berpindah, saya tidak berjumpa dengannya.

2. I haven't seen him **since** he moved.

Saya tidak berjumpa dengannya, sejak dia berpindah.

3. The short story is written **by** Catherine Lim.

Cerpen itu ditulis oleh Catherine Lim.

4.* **By** Catherine Lim, the short story is written.

** Oleh Catherine Lim, cerpen itu ditulis*

The following are some of the examples of the different positions of prepositions in English and Malay.

Table 4.1 : Distribution of English and Malay Prepositions in the Initial, Medial and Final Positions

Positions of Prepositions	English	Malay
Initial	1. Since he moved, I haven't seen him.	1. Sejak dia berpindah, saya tidak berjumpa dengannya.
Initial	2. With whom did you eat just now?	2. Dengan siapa anda makan tadi?
Medial	3. The short story is written by Catherine Lim.	3. Cerpen itu ditulis oleh Catherine Lim.
Medial	4. When did Radzi arrive at Malacca?	4. Bilakah Radzi ke Melaka?
Final	5. No one dares to go up .	5. Sesiapa pun tidak berani ke atas .
Final	6. When did she go inside ?	6. Bilakah dia masuk ke dalam ?

4.4 A Contrastive Analysis of Prepositions in English and Malay

4.4.1 Prepositions Indicating Location

i. Before

When a preposition has one-to-one function, meaning and distribution, it is easier to learn. As shown in sentences (2) and (3), a preposition is not required to relate the position of something in Malay as required in English. Instead, another word that bears the meaning (“mendahului”) is used. On closer examination of sentence (2), Malay learners have to understand the implicit and explicit meaning in the context - being physically facing the judge as well as judgement. Such differences between **before** and **sebelum** may pose some difficulty to Malay students who are learning to use this particular English preposition.

Table 4.2 : Prepositions Indicating Location - Before

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Difficult	1. Your name comes before mine on the list.	Di dalam senarai itu, nama anda <u>mendahului</u> nama saya.
Very difficult	2. The murderer will be brought before the judge.	Pembunuh itu akan <u>dihadapkan ke</u> <u>depan</u> <u>pengadilan</u> .

ii. Across

Across is used to indicate location as well as a verb. We can note that there is no exact equivalent preposition(s) for **across** in Malay but there is a word “seberang” to mean across. Malay learners use **di** which is followed by another word to indicate location. It is mentioned in Chapter Three, that they are known as “kata arah” (Nik Safiah et.al., 2003:286). Only through frequent exposure reading or listening and using this preposition, Malay learners can use **across** as a preposition without difficulty.

Table 4.3 : Prepositions Indicating Location - *Across*

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Difficult	They live across the road.	Mereka tinggal di seberang jalan.

iii. Opposite

Opposite is a locational preposition for sentence (1) and its meaning is easy to understand. In sentence (2), the learner has to understand the context but it does not have its equivalent(s) in Malay too. When **opposite** is used to show orientation, Malay learners may face some difficulty in learning especially in the context of sentence (2).

Table 4.4 : Prepositions Indicating Location - *Opposite*

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Easy	1. She is sitting opposite Leela.	1. Dia duduk <u>bertentangan dengan</u> Leela.
Difficult	2. She always dreamed of appearing opposite Romeo.	2. Dia mengimpikan berlakon sebagai <u>pasangan</u> Romeo.

iv. Against

In sentence (1), **against** has **pada** as its equivalent indicating location. **Pada** is also used as **on** to indicate location. Malay learners may resort to use **on** instead of **against** to show location as **on** is easier to understand than **against**.

Table 4.5 : Prepositions Indicating Location - *Against*

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Difficult	Don't lean against the wall.	Jangan bersandar pada dinding itu.

v. Between

Both **between** and its equivalent **antara** are used to indicate location of a person and an object in relation to other objects. Nik Safiah et al. (2008: 286) pointed out that **di antara** is a word to show direction (“kata arah”) after the preposition **di** though it means **between** as shown in sentence (2). Sometimes Malays themselves made errors in using **antara** and **di antara** interchangeably too.

Table 4.6 : Prepositions Indicating Location - *Between*

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Very easy	1. She sits between her two best friends.	Dia duduk antara dua orang kawan baiknya.
Very easy	2. His school is situated between a hill and a paddy field.	Sekolahnya terletak di antara bukit dengan sawah padi.

vi. By

This preposition can be represented by several prepositions in Malay such as **di sisi/ di tepi** to show the relative position of people or objects. So it is easy to learn and use to indicate location.

Table 4.7 : Prepositions Indicating Location - *By*

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Very easy	She was standing by her brother.	Dia berdiri di sisi abangnya.

vi. Beside

Beside and **besides** are often confused by second language learners as both words are only differentiated by a single “s”. **Beside** means “by the side of.” In Malay, there are other prepositions used for **beside** namely “*di sisi / di tepi / di sebelah*”. It also shares the same equivalents with **by**. Learners would find it easy to use it.

Table 4.8 : Prepositions Indicating Location - *Beside*

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Very easy	She is sitting beside John.	Dia duduk di sebelah John.

vii. About

About means “near” in this context. It uses **di** followed by a word implying direction (**di** sini) as the Malay equivalent. In another sense, **di** sini means “here” too. Malay learners may face some difficulty as **about** is used to indicate time, direction and subject matter too. There are various equivalents of **about** in Malay too.

Table 4.9 : Prepositions Indicating Location - *About*

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Difficult	I dropped the key somewhere about here.	Agaknya kunci saya terjatuh di sini.

viii. On

On can be represented by **pada**, **di atas**, **di sebelah**, **di dalam** and **di tepi** for location. As shown in the examples earlier, **pada** is used to represent **against** and **by**. The other Malay equivalents have other meanings such as **di atas** means **above**, **on** or **up**; **di sebelah** and **di tepi** means **beside**; and **di dalam** means **in**. Malay learners have

to identify which Malay equivalent is for which context in order to understand the sentences. In sentences (1), (2) and (3), **on** is easier to understand. In sentences (4), (5) and (6), **on** as “inside” the train in sentence (4), **on** as “along” the main road in sentence (5) and **on** as “with” the shoplifter in sentence (6), is harder to understand.

Table 4.10 : Prepositions Indicating Location - On

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Easy	1. He hung the picture on the wall. 2. Write your name on the paper.	Dia menggantungkan gambar itu pada dinding. Tulis nama anda di atas sehelai kertas.
Easy	3. On your right you can see the bank.	Di sebelah kanan anda boleh nampak sebuah bank.
Difficult	4. They had lunch on the train.	Mereka makan tengahari di dalam keretapi.
Difficult	5. Her house is on the main road.	Rumahnya terletak di tepi jalan utama.
Difficult	6. The shoplifter was caught with stolen goods still on him.	Pencuri itu ditangkap <u>bersama</u> hasil curiannya.

ix. Above, Below and Behind

Above, **below** and **behind** are used to indicate location. They are represented by words showing direction and are known as “kata arah” and not as prepositions in Malay. **Above** has an equivalent in Malay which is *di atas*; **below** is *di bawah* and **behind** is *di belakang*. The literal meaning of these “kata arah” also help the Malay learners to use these preposition easily.

Table 4.11 : Prepositions Indicating Location - Above, Below and Behind

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Very easy	The plane flew above the clouds.	Kapal terbang itu terbang di atas awan.
Very easy	The temperature in the room was below 20°C.	Suhu di dalam bilik itu di bawah 20°C.

Very easy	She hid behind the door.	Dia bersembunyi di belakang pintu.
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x. At

When **at** is used to indicate a place in relation to a noun as shown in sentence (1), it is easy to learn. Moreover, in Malay, **di** is used at the same position and also as a locational preposition. Malay learners can apply this rule easily. In sentence (2), there is no Malay equivalent for this preposition. So, it is more difficult for Malay learners to understand **at** in this sentence.

Table 4.12 : Prepositions Indicating Location – At

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Very easy	1. James is at home.	James berada di rumah.
Difficult	2. Can you read the car number plate at fifty metres?	Bolehkah anda membaca plat nombor kereta <u>sejauh</u> lima puluh meter jaraknya?

xi. In

In is used to show position and location. This concept is easy to learn as there is a preposition in Malay with the same function. In sentence (1), (2) and (3), the location is implied as the room is a place surrounded with four walls, Ipoh is a larger area but it has its boundary and the army does not have physical boundaries but has its limits.

Table 4.13 : Prepositions Indicating Location - In

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Very easy	1. I am watching television in the room.	Saya sedang menonton televisyen di dalam bilik.
Very easy	2. His father works in Ipoh.	Ayahnya bekerja di Ipoh.

Easy	3. His brother is in the army.	Abangnya berkhidmat di dalam pertahanan awam.
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xii. Of and Up

Of has **di** as its equivalent in Malay. **Di** is used to show location in Malay too. Thus, the learners would not face any difficulties in using or understanding this preposition.

Normally, **up** is combined with a verb to indicate movement towards a direction. Malay learners may be confused when **up** is used to indicate location and it can be replaced with other prepositions to convey the same function. The sentence below can be rephrased using a different preposition: “We live **along** the road, past the shop.”

Table 4.14 : Prepositions Indicating Location – *Of and Up*

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Very easy	The hotel is situated north of Tampin.	Hotel itu terletak di utara Tampin.
Difficult	We live up the road, past the shop.	Kami tinggal di penghujung jalan itu, melepasi sebuah kedai.

xiii. From

From is represented by the Malay preposition **dari**. This preposition is used to indicate location and direction. Likewise, **dari** is also used to indicate location and direction in Malay. Malay learners find this preposition easy to learn as the similarity expedites learning.

Table 4.15 : Prepositions Indicating Location - *From*

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Very easy	1. She comes from Kelantan.	Dia berasal dari Kelantan.

Very easy	2. She fainted fifty metres from the finishing line.	Dia pingsan lima puluh meter dari garis penamat.
Very easy	3. From this angle, the line looks crooked.	Pandangan dari sudut ini, garis itu kelihatan bengkok.

xiv. Over

In English, **over** may be used in most contexts and there is no one-to-one representation in Malay. In one context, one Malay preposition is used and in another a different Malay preposition is used as shown in sentences (1 – 6). Another preposition can be used to replace the one used to indicate location in sentence (1) which is, **above**. So, learners find it easier to understand sentence (1) compared to the other sentences below.

Table 4.16 : Prepositions Indicating Location - Over

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Very easy	1. They hang a piece of red cloth over the door during Chinese New Year.	Mereka akan menggantungkan sehelai kain merah di atas di pintu sepanjang sambutan Tahun Baru Cina.
Difficult	2. They live over the road.	Mereka tinggal di seberang jalan.
Difficult	3. At last we were over the crest of the hill.	Akhirnya kita berjaya sampai ke puncak bukit.
Difficult	4. Leaves lay thick over the path.	Lorong itu dipenuhi dengan dedaun kering.
Difficult	5. To build a bridge over the river costs millions.	Untuk membina sebuah jambatan <u>menyeberang</u> sungai itu melibatkan berjuta Ringgit.
Very difficult	6. The bus toppled over the cliff.	Bas itu telah terjatuh dari tebing itu.

xv. Near

The notion of “near” is implied in both English and Malay in the sentences. The word “berdekatan” means “near” though it is not a preposition in Malay. This preposition would be easy for learners of English as second or foreign language.

Table 4.17 : Prepositions Indicating Location - Near

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Very easy	Does she live near here?	Adakah dia tinggal <u>berdekatan</u> ?

xvi. Off

In sentence (1), **off** indicates the location and direction. Similarly in Malay, **dari** is also used to show location and direction. This preposition used in sentence (1) is easy to learn compared to sentence (2). In sentence (2), the phrase “live **off** Jalan Universiti” means living a distance away from Jalan Universiti. When it is translated into Malay, the phrase “tidak jauh **dari**” is used to convey a similar meaning.

Table 4.18 : Prepositions Indicating Location - Off

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Very easy	1. I fell off the ladder.	Saya jatuh dari tangga.
Difficult	2. We live off Jalan Universiti.	Kita tinggal <u>tidak jauh</u> dari Jalan Universiti.

xvii. Within

This preposition indicates location and is relatively easy to understand both in English and Malay. The Malay equivalent of **within** is **dalam** which also indicates “inside something”. This meaning also helps Malay learners to learn this preposition easily.

Table 4.19 : Prepositions Indicating Location - Within

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Very easy	They bought a house within a mile of the school.	Mereka membeli sebuah rumah dalam sebatu dari sekolah itu.

4.4.2 Prepositions Indicating Time

i. After and Against

After as used to indicate time has only one equivalent in Malay. Malay learners will find the word easy to learn and make other sentences with it.

In sentence (1), **after** is used to show sequence and it has no equivalent in Malay. In this context, **after** is more difficult to learn.

As **after** and **selepas** can be placed in the beginning or medial position as shown in sentences (2), (3) and (4) without changing its function and meaning, this makes learning easy.

In sentence (5), **against** and **selepas** show a point of time indirectly, that is, to say that the receipts are given out when payment is made. This preposition is also used to indicate location, thus learners may find it confusing as **pada** is used. Moreover, **pada** is used to show location and time too. So, learners may take some time to understand the concepts before they are able to use it effectively.

Table 4.20 : Prepositions Indicating Time - After

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Difficult	1. They had trouble one after another.	Mereka menghadapi masalah bertimpa-timpa.
Very easy	2. After the game, we ate together.	Selepas pertandingan itu, kita makan bersama-sama.
	2. He slept after taking his bath.	Dia tidur selepas mandi.
Very easy	3. Please shut the door after you leave.	Tolong tutup pintu selepas anda keluar.
Very easy	4. After everything I've done for her, she still refuses to talk to me.	Selepas bermacam-macam saya lakukan, dia masih enggan bercakap dengan saya.
Very difficult	5. Receipts are issued only against full payment.	Resit hanya dikeluarkan selepas pembayaran penuh dibuat.

ii. Before

When a preposition has a one-to-one function, meaning and distribution, it is easier to learn as shown in sentences (1), (2) and (3). Moreover, learning is also enhanced because **before** and **sebelum** can be placed in the beginning or medial positions of a sentence in both English and Malay.

Table 4.21: Prepositions Indicating Time - *Before*

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Very easy	1. Before 6.00 a.m., his father had already left the house. 2. I will be back before dark.	Sebelum jam 6 pagi, bapanya telah bertolak dari rumah. Saya akan pulang sebelum senja.
Very easy	3. He walked for miles and miles before he found water.	Dia berjalan berbatu-batu sebelum menjumpai air.

iii. By, On, At and About

By, on, at and **about** are prepositions to specify a point of time and their Malay equivalent, **pada** is also used to refer to a specific point of time. Malay learners can apply this similarity and use this preposition without difficulty.

Table 4.22 : Prepositions Indicating Time - *By, On, At and About*

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Very easy	1. By the end of May we will have another PTA meeting.	Pada hujung bulan Mei, satu mesyuarat PIBG akan diadakan.
Very easy	2. They came on Tuesday.	Mereka sampai pada hari Selasa.
Very easy	3. He came at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.	Dia tiba pada pukul 2 petang.
Difficult	4. I will meet you about five in the evening.	Saya akan berjumpa dengan anda pada jam 5 petang.

iv. Near

In the sentence below, **near** is used to indicate a point of time. Though it does not have an exact equivalent in Malay, “dekat dengan” implies the meaning of “near”. So, it is an easy preposition to learn.

Table 4.23 : Prepositions Indicating Time - Near

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Very easy	My birthday is very near Labours’ Day.	Harijadi saya <u>dekat</u> dengan Hari Pekerja.

4.4.3 Prepositions Indicating Duration

i. By

This particular preposition is used to indicate duration and is also used in passive constructions and authorship, so Malay learners may find it difficult to use. They need to identify the function of the preposition first before they are able to use it. As for duration, there is no Malay equivalent, as shown in the sentence below. This makes it even more difficult to learn.

Table 4.24 : Prepositions Indicating Time - By

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Difficult	KFC workers are paid by the hour.	Pekerja KFC dibayar <u>mengikut</u> bilangan jam yang mereka bekerja.

ii. During

Dalam and **semasa** can be used to show the duration of time the event is taking place. Both these prepositions can be easily learnt as there is a one-to-one relationship as shown in sentences (1), (2) and (3). In sentence (1), we can imagine a long duration

of time that is about three months. In sentence (3) the time span is seen as a specific time which is static. In addition, **semasa** is commonly used when we want to stress that an event ends during the time allotted as in sentence (2).

Table 4.25 : Prepositions Indicating Time - *During*

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Very easy	1. During winter, the polar bears hibernate.	Semasa musim dingin, beruang kutub akan berhibernat.
Difficult	2. Flood is a normal happening during the raining season.	Kejadian banjir adalah perkara biasa semasa/ dalam musim tengkujuh.
Difficult	3. Her phone rang during the meeting.	Telefonnya berdering semasa mesyuarat itu.

iii. Since, Sejak and Semenjak

Since, sejak and **semenjak** are prepositions used to indicate the starting point of time for an event or an action until now. The medial position of the preposition is identical for both languages and this makes learning very easy.

Table 4.26 : Prepositions Indicating Time - *Since*

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Very easy	She's been living here since her mother died.	Dia telah tinggal di sini sejak/ semenjak ibunya meninggal dunia.

iv. In

In is used to show duration of time, location and direction. The concept is easy to learn as there is a preposition in Malay with the same function – **dalam** and **pada**. In sentence (1) and (2), **in** indicates the duration of time needed for the pizza to be ready and the span of time of Queen Victoria's reign.

Table 4.27 : Prepositions Indicating Time - In

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Very easy	1. The pizza will be ready in a minute.	Piza itu akan siap dalam seminit lagi.
Very easy	2. Much development happened in the reign of Queen Victoria.	Banyak pembangunan dilakukan pada/dalam zaman pemerintahan Peraisuri Victoria.

v. From

The Malay preposition **dari** is used to represent **from**. **Dari** and **from** are used to indicate duration as shown in the sentence below. This similarity helps learners to use this preposition correctly.

Table 4.28 : Prepositions Indicating Time - From

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Very easy	That shop is open from 9.00 a.m. till 6.00 p.m.	Kedai itu buka dari jam 9.00 pagi hingga 6.00 petang.

vi. For

This preposition can be used to indicate duration. Its equivalent in Malay is **selama**. Malay learners may find this preposition easy to learn as the word **selama** implies duration.

Table 4.29 : Prepositions Indicating Time - For

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Very easy	She slept for two hours.	Dia telah tidur selama dua jam.

vii. Over

In English, **over** can be used in many contexts and there is no one-to-one representation in Malay. In one context, one Malay preposition is used and in another a different Malay preposition. This makes it difficult to learn. **Over** can indicate duration besides other functions.

Table 4.30 : Prepositions Indicating Time - Over

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Difficult	They discussed their holiday plans over dinner.	Mereka berbincang tentang percutian semasa makan malam.

viii. Until / till, Throughout, and All Through

Some prepositions used to specify a point of time are **until / till** and **sehingga / hingga / sampai**, whereas other prepositions like **throughout, all through** and **sepanjang** are used with time expressed or specific periods to show how long something or an event takes place. Malay learners learning English as a second language would not be faced with difficulties using these prepositions as they are similar both in functions and meanings with their mother tongue as given in the examples below.

Table 4.31 : Prepositions Indicating Time - *Until/till* and *throughout/ all through*

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Very easy	1. The exhibition is held until / till next week.	Pameran itu diadakan hingga / sampai minggu depan.
Very easy	2. He stays there throughout / all through the school holidays.	Dia tinggal di sana sepanjang cuti persekolahan.

ix. Within

This preposition implies the idea of a range of time. The Malay equivalent of **within** is **dalam** and it is an easy preposition to learn.

Table 4.32 : Prepositions Indicating Time - *Within*

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Very easy	You would receive a reply within a week.	Anda akan menerima jawapan dalam seminggu.

4.4.4 Prepositions Indicating Direction

i. After

After and its equivalent - **selepas** can be used to indicate direction besides location and time. Using the word **selepas**, Malay learners may translate the sentences word for word and maintain the position of the preposition but it will be illogical in their mother tongue as in **Mereka mengejar selepas peragut itu*. They have to be aware of the limitations of applying the rule – **after** is **selepas**. They may find it difficult when **after** is used to show direction.

Table 4.33 : Prepositions Indicating Direction - *After*

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Difficult	They ran after the snatch thief.	Mereka mengejar peragut itu.

ii. Across

We can note that there is no exact equivalent for prepositions such as **across** in Malay. Malay learners have to understand the meanings and functions of these prepositions before they make new sentences using these prepositions. To illustrate,

across means moving from one side to the other side of the road in sentence (1) and a diagonal line on the page in sentence (2). In Malay, the learner does not need to use a preposition to express a similar meaning in sentence (1) as the verb “menyeberangi” describe the action of crossing. In sentence (2), “garis penjuru” is the line across the page. Only through frequent exposure reading or listening and using this preposition and the others, Malay learners can use these prepositions without difficulty. **Across** may pose some difficulty among the Malay learners.

Table 4.34 : Prepositions Indicating Direction - *Across*

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Easy	1. He walked across the busy road.	Dia <u>menyeberangi</u> jalan yang sibok itu.
Difficult	2. Draw a line across page 2.	Lukis satu <u>garis penjuru</u> pada mukasurat 2.

iii. Against

Since there is no exact equivalent(s) for the preposition **against**, Malay learners may find this preposition difficult to master. In addition, the multiple functions and meaning of **against** makes learning this preposition even more difficult. In the following context, **against** is used to indicate the opposite direction.

Table 4.35 : Prepositions Indicating Direction - *Against*

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Very difficult	They swam against the current.	Mereka telah berenang <u>melawan</u> arus.

iv. Between

Between as used in the sentence below is not to show location but direction. The plane leaves Kuala Lumpur for its destination and returns to its original place. The movement is also explained by its Malay equivalent **dari ... ke** too. Here, **between** does not function as a preposition for location which may confused some learners. Thus, it can be difficult for some learners.

Table 4.36 : Prepositions Indicating Direction - *Between*

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Very difficult	Air Asia flies between Kuala Lumpur and Penang twice daily.	Ada dua kali penerbangan Air Asia dari Kuala Lumpur ke Pulau Pinang setiap hari.

v. About

The concept of moving around is implied by the preposition **about** in the sentence below. **About** can be replaced by other prepositions in Malay to show other functions but in this context, a Malay preposition is not used in the translated sentence. Malay learners may face some difficulty when they want to use this preposition.

Table 4.37 : Prepositions Indicating Direction - *About*

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Easy	I will be travelling about the world in two weeks time.	Saya akan melancong <u>mengelilingi</u> dunia dalam dua minggu lagi.

vi. At

In the sentence below, **at** is used to show direction and **ke** has an identical function in Malay. This would facilitate learning. **Ke** is the “kata arah” as the gun is

directed towards a target and the direction of the hand is into the pond. Learners would find this preposition easy to learn.

Table 4.38 : Prepositions Indicating Direction - At

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Easy	He aimed the gun at the police.	Dia mengacukan pistolnya ke arah polis itu.
Easy	Dip your hand in the pond.	Masukkan tangan anda ke dalam kolam itu.

vii. Up, Down and Along

Up is combined with verbs to indicate motion to express movement towards a direction. In Malay, the movement of going up is not represented by a preposition as shown in sentence (1) and (2). Moreover, the preposition can be dropped from sentence (1) as in a direct translation into Malay, the meaning is still conveyed. Other times, **up** can be replaced with the preposition **along** as in sentence (2) .

For example:

- a. He climbed the hill.
- b. Can we go for a cruise **along** the river?

In this case, Malay learners may not find learning **up** useful as it can be replaced by **along**.

Down can indicate vertical and horizontal movements. Vertical movement would be easier to understand as the Malay equivalent is “**ke** bawah”. Malay learners may be confused by the horizontal motion. They have to remember that “go down the road...” means horizontal movement. The Malay equivalent is **sepanjang**. Therefore, learning **down** to show vertical movement is easier to comprehend than the horizontal movement.

Along does not have any vertical implications in its movement. This preposition would be easy to learn for Malays.

Table 4.39 : Prepositions Indicating Direction - *Up, Down and Along*

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Difficult	1. He ckimbed up the hill.	Dia mendaki bukit itu.
Difficult	2. Can we go for a cruise up the river?	Bolehkah kita menaiki bot untuk <u>memudiki</u> sungai itu?
Very easy	3. He ran down the stairs.	Dia berlari ke bawah.
Difficult	4. Go down the road till you reach the roundabout.	Berjalan sepanjang jalan itu sehingga anda sampai ke bulatan.
Very easy	He drove along the coast.	Dia memandu sepanjang pantai.

viii. For

For is used to show various functions. Several Malay prepositions can be used to represent the preposition **for** as the functions vary. Malay prepositions such as **selama, demi, ke, dengan** and **untuk** are used when the sentences are translated. When it is used to indicate direction, **ke** is used. Malay learners find this preposition easy to learn as **ke** also indicates direction.

Table 4.40 : Prepositions Indicating Direction - *For*

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Very easy	Where is he heading for ?	Dia menuju ke mana?

ix. To, From and Over

In English, the preposition **to** can be used to show the intended recipient, movement towards a new direction, comparison and emotional response. Malay learners may find it a little bit difficult to learn as there is no one-to-one equivalent.

To is represented by **kepada** in sentence (1) and **ke** in sentence (2). In Malay, **kepada** and **ke** are used to show direction, so Malay learners can learn this preposition easily.

In sentence (3), the direction where the letter originates is clearly indicated using the preposition **from**. Moreover, the Malay preposition is also used to indicate direction. Learners are able to understand this concept and use **from** correctly as it is similar to the one in their mother tongue.

The act of the splashing of the paint towards the target as implied by the preposition in sentence (4) is easy to comprehend. However, in sentence (5), covering the child with a blanket is more difficult to understand as there is no equivalent preposition in Malay. Another word that carries the meaning of covering is used in the Malay sentence. This may pose some difficulty in learning **over** in the latter sentence.

Table 4.41 : Prepositions Indicating Direction - To, From and Over

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Very easy	1. I sent the letter to him.	Saya menghantar surat itu kepadanya .
Very easy	2. Gobind is going to Japan.	Gobind akan bertolak ke Jepun.
Very easy	3. The letter is from the Income Tax Department.	Surat itu dari Jabatan Cukai Hasil.
Difficult	4. They splashed paint over me.	Mereka menyimbah cat ke arah saya.
Very difficult	5. They put a blanket over the sleeping child.	Mereka <u>menyelimutkan</u> anak yang sedang tidur.

4.4.5 Prepositions Indicating Accompaniment

This preposition is used before a concrete noun or noun phrase. In sentence (1), the idea of accompaniment is implied although there is no Malay equivalent for the preposition **with**. Malay learners may not use this preposition in other similar sentences, since it is not required in their mother tongue. **With** and **dengan** share some similar functions, meanings and distributions in sentences (3 - 8) thus making it easy to learn. In sentence 2, the word “bersama” implies the meaning “with” even though **dengan** is not used in the Malay sentence. Malay learners would not face any difficulty in learning or using this preposition despite the slight variations.

Table 4.42 : Prepositions Indicating Accompaniment - *With*

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Difficult	1. With all Delilah’s faults, Samson loved her.	Samson mencinta Delilah <u>seadanya</u> .
Easy	2. The shiplifter was caught with the stolen goods still on him.	Pencuri itu ditangkap <u>bersama</u> hasil curiannya.
Easy	3. My mother could never part with this ring.	Emak saya tidak akan berpisah dengan cincin ini.
Very easy	4. He went to the movies with his friends.	Dia menonton wayang dengan kawan- kawannya.
Very easy	5. The pie is made with berries.	Pai itu dibuat dengan menggunakan buah beri.
Very easy	6. The meal with dessert came to twelve Ringgit.	Hidangan itu bersama dengan pencuci mulut bernilai RM dua belas.
Very easy	7. He quarreled with his father just now.	Dia bergaduh dengan bapanya tadi.
Very easy	8. Leave your phone with me.	Tinggalkan telefon anda dengan saya.

4.4.6 Prepositions Indicating Means / Instruments

i. By

By and **dengan** can be used to indicate the method of transport as well as the way something is done. There are other functions of **by** and **dengan** has other functions

too in Malay. When a preposition is not represented by an equivalent, it is difficult to learn. In the second sentence, **by** does not have an equivalent preposition in Malay. This would hinder comprehension.

Table 4.43 : Prepositions Indicating Means/ Instruments - *By*

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Difficult	1. I usually go to work by bus.	Saya pergi bekerja dengan <u>menaiki</u> bas.
Difficult	2. Carry the pot by the handle.	Angkat tangkai periuk itu.

ii. **On**

In sentence (1), **on** implies that the news was transmitted through television and has a Malay preposition as an equivalent - **di**. In, sentence (2), **on** indicates the cars' dependence but does not have a Malay equivalent. Comparatively, the first sentence is easier to understand by Malay learners despite the fact that in both sentences **on** functions as to how something happens.

Over is also used to indicate how the news was broadcasted. Sentences (1) and (3) are quite similar except for the type of media and different prepositions used. In addition, the Malay prepositions used are also different. Learners may find difficulty in understanding the use of this preposition. As mentioned earlier, **over** is also used to indicate other functions.

Table 4.44 : Prepositions Indicating Means/ Instruments - *On*

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Easy	1. The news was broadcasted on television.	Berita itu disiarkan di television.
Difficult	2. Most cars run on petrol.	Kebanyakan kereta menggunakan petrol.
Difficult	3. The news on the kidnapping of the rich man's son was broadcasted over the radio.	Berita penculikan anak orang kaya itu disiarkan melalui radio.

iii. With

With is used when you want to say what a person uses to do something as in sentence (3) which is easy to understand as it is a concrete object. In other situations, **with** is also used when the thing you use for doing something is not an object or a tool as in sentences (1) and (2).

Table 4.45 : Prepositions Indicating Means/ Instruments - With

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Difficult	1. The yacht sailed with the wind.	Kapal layar itu belayar menggunakan tiupan angin.
Difficult	2. Skills comes with experience.	Kemahiran datang melalui pengalaman.
Very easy	3. Raja cut the wood with an axe.	1. Raja membelah kayu dengan kapak.

4.4.7 Prepositions Indicating Manner

i. By, With and At

By, with and **at** describes the manner in which something is done. Sentence (1) has a Malay preposition equivalent and the concept is easy to understand. In comparison, sentences (2) and (3) also use the same preposition but they are more difficult to understand as there are no Malay prepositions used.

In sentences (4) and (5), **dengan** is used as the equivalent in Malay for both the different prepositions. The learners may find “**at** once” more difficult to comprehend compared to “**with** a sweet smile”.

Table 4.46 : Prepositions Indicating Manner - *By, With and At*

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Easy	1. They do it bit by bit.	Mereka membuat kerja itu sedikit demi sedikit.
Difficult	2. The price of houses went up by 10% .	Harga rumah <u>bertambah</u> sebanyak 10%.
Very difficult	3. They met by chance.	Mereka berjumpa secara kebetulan.
Very easy	4. She always serves her customers with a sweet smile.	Dia selalu melayan tetamu dengan senyuman yang manis.
Difficult	5. He came at once.	Dia datang dengan segera.

ii. On, In and Within

On can be used to express the manner of using money as in sentences (1 - 3). There is no exact equivalent in Malay as three different prepositions are used. Malay learners may not be able to understand and identify the preposition in their mother tongue that is used to show manner.

In sentence (4), **in** is used to state the status of the country. **Dengan** is also used as an equivalent for **in** here. Malay learners may find it hard to differentiate the two prepositions **in** and **on**, as they do not know when to use which one to express manner. So, it is difficult for them to use these two prepositions.

The word **within** is self explanatory thus making it easier to understand despite the various functions that it can represent. In sentence (5), it states the limitations of the person's income.

Table 4.47 : Prepositions Indicating Manner - *On, In and Within*

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Difficult	1. The dress is on special offer.	Baju itu dijual dengan harga tawaran istimewa.
Difficult	2. The loan sharks charge high interest on their loans.	Along mengenakan faedah yang tinggi untuk setiap pinjaman yang dibuat.

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Difficult	3. She has to live on her meagre pension.	Dia bergantung hidup kepada pecten yang sedikit itu.
Difficult	4. That country is rich in tin ore.	Negara itu kaya dengan bijih timah.
Easy	5. She finds it hard to live within her income.	Dia mendapati susah untuk hidup dengan gajinya.

iii. Off

Off as used to indicate manner is more difficult to understand compared to using it to state location or distance. Moreover, there is no equivalent Malay preposition.

Table 4.48 : Prepositions Indicating Manner - Off

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Very difficult	He's finally off drugs.	Akhirnya, dia tidak menagih dadah lagi.

4.4.8 Prepositions Indicating Purpose

i. After and Against

After can be used to indicate time, comparison and purpose. When it is used to imply purpose, there is no equivalent in Malay thus making it difficult to understand. Learners may also omit using the preposition since a preposition is not needed in their mother tongue. Moreover, the sentence is not one that is commonly used by peers of learners when they want to describe someone seeking information.

In sentence (2), **against** is used to provide protection from something. This preposition has no equivalents in this sentence, as the Malay prepositions – **kepada** and **tentang** are used to indicate other functions like, mainly direction and subject matter.

Table 4.49 : Prepositions Indicating Purpose - *After* and *Against*

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Difficult	1. They inquired after you.	Mereka bertanyakan khabar anda.
Difficult	2. He warned me against the dangers of smoking.	Dia memberi amaran kepada saya tentang bahaya merokok.

ii. For

For is used to express a purpose or reason. In sentences (1), (2) and (3), **for** is represented by three different equivalents in Malay. Learners may find difficulty in learning this preposition. **Demi** and **untuk** imply purpose but they cannot be used interchangeably as in **bagi** and **untuk**. **Demi** means “for the sake of” which is slightly different from the meaning of **for** or **untuk**. **Demi** connotes a stronger drive. When **dengan** is used as an equivalent in sentence (3), learners may find it difficult to understand. Moreover, learners can substitute the preposition **with** instead of **for** as in “Please change this car **with** a new one.”. They may not be able to understand the reason for using a different preposition.

From sentences (5) to (9), **for** is easy to learn as a preposition because the Malay equivalents – **bagi** and **untuk** have the same functions in Malay sentences. The learners can see the similarity and identify the common usage of the preposition thus making learning easier compared to for the sentences above.

Table 4.50 : Prepositions Indicating Purpose - *For*

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Difficult	1. He’ll do anything for money.	Dia akan melakukan apa-apa saja demi duit.
Difficult	2. His family is right behind him to stand for the election.	Keluarganya menyokong keputusannya untuk bertanding dalam pilihanraya itu.
Difficult	3. Please change this car for a new one.	Sila tukar kereta ini dengan yang baru.
Difficult	4. We voted for the proposal.	Kita menyokong cadangan itu.

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Easy	5. Do ask the policeman for directions.	Mintalah bantuan dari pegawai polis itu untuk dapatkan penunjuk arah.
Easy	6. You get a coupon for every twenty Ringgit spent.	Anda akan mendapat sekeping kupon untuk setiap pembelian melebihi dua puluh Ringgit.
Easy	7 Please take care of him for my sake.	Tolong jaga dia bagi pihak saya.
Very easy	8. My father bought the bicycle for my brother.	Bapa saya membeli basikal itu untuk adik saya.
Very easy	9. What can I get for you?	Apakah yang boleh saya dapatkan untuk anda?

4.4.9 Prepositions Indicating the Agentive

By can occur in a passive sentence and as a postmodifier to signify authorship.

Likewise, in Malay **oleh** has these two functions. Malay learners know how to use this preposition easily.

Table 4.51 : Prepositions Indicating Purpose - *By*

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Very easy	1. The window was broken by the naughty boys.	Tingkap itu telah dipecahkan oleh budak-budak nakal.
Very easy	2. He read a novel written by Sheldon.	Dia membaca sebuah novel yang ditulis oleh Sheldon.

4.4.10 Prepositions Indicating Cause or Reason

Behind, from, over and **of** are prepositions used to express the causes of something. There are no Malay equivalents for **behind, from, over** and **of**. In sentence (1), **behind** is more difficult to comprehend as the concept is abstract as the man is not physically there but his existence is known. Learners may not be able to associate the

preposition with the idea of contributing (“menyumbang”) as they have previously used this preposition to indicate location of concrete nouns or noun phrases.

The word “kerana” explains the cause of the sickness (in sentence 2), the argument (in sentence 3) and death (in sentence 4). These three sentences used three different prepositions and may make the learners difficult to understand the reason behind the choice of prepositions - **from**, **over** and **of**.

Table 4.52: Prepositions Indicating Cause or Reason - Behind, From, Over and Of

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Very difficult	1. He is the man behind the idea to build a new bridge.	Dialah yang <u>menyumbang</u> ide dalam pembinaan jambatan baru itu.
Difficult	2. She fell sick from tiredness.	Dia jatuh sakit <u>kerana</u> keletihan.
Difficult	3. We had an argument over money.	Kami bertengkar <u>kerana</u> wang.
Difficult	4. He died of old age.	Dia meninggal dunia <u>kerana</u> sakit tua.

4.4.11 Prepositions Indicating Metaphorical / Figurative Usage

As is used as a preposition to indicate “like”. It has its equivalent in **seperti**. So it is easy for Malay learners to learn to use this preposition.

Table 4.53 : Prepositions Indicating Metaphorical / Figurative Usage - As

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Easy	1. The ‘h’ is silent as in honest.	Huruf ‘h’ tidak dibunyikan seperti terdapat di perkataan ‘honest’.

4.4.12 Prepositions Indicating Negation

Next, **without** is the opposite of **with**. It is one of the easy prepositions to learn as **tanpa** is its equivalent in Malay. The functions, meanings and distribution are identical in both languages as shown in the sentences below.

Table 4.54 : Prepositions Indicating Negation - Without

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Very easy	1. She prefers to drink tea without sugar.	Dia lebih suka minum teh tanpa gula.
Very easy	2. They can't make a decision without a chairman.	Keputusan tidak dapat dibuat tanpa ada yang mengengerusikannya.
Very easy	3. The letter was posted without a stamp.	Surat itu telah dipos tanpa setem.
Very easy	4. She left without saying goodbye.	Dia pergi tanpa mengucap selamat tinggal.

4.4.13 Prepositions Indicating Inclusion and Exclusion

Prepositions such as **with** and **without**, **including** and **excluding**, **inside** and **outside**, **like** and **unlike**, **apart from** and **aside from**, **except**, **besides** and many others of the like are used when we want to express the idea that people or things are together and similar or the opposite of it. It is easy to learn as these prepositions have their equivalents - **with** and **without** (**dengan** and **tanpa**), **including** and **excluding** (**dengan** and **tanpa**), **inside** and **outside** (**di dalam** and **di luar**), **like** and **unlike** (**seperti** and **berbeza / berlainan daripada**), **apart from** and **aside from** (**selain daripada**), **except** (**kecuali**) and **besides** (**di samping**).

Besides means “other than” or **in addition to**. In Malay, **selain itu / tambahan lagi / di samping** are the equivalents for **besides**. This preposition may be difficult as there is another preposition that looks like it but without the “s” behind. Malay learners

may be confused by the spelling and be unable to differentiate them – **beside** and **besides**.

Table 4.55 : Prepositions Indicating Inclusion and Exclusions

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Difficult	1. Besides being a dentist, she helps her husband in his shop.	Di samping bekerja sebagai seorang doktor gigi, dia membantu suaminya di kedai.
Easy	2. Every employee went to the hall except Kassim.	Setiap pekerja pergi ke dewan kecuali Kassim.
Easy	3. Play in any room you like apart from the bathroom.	Boleh main di mana-mana bilik selain daripada / kecuali bilik air.

4.4.14 Prepositions Indicating Relationships

i. Sharing

Between is used to indicate the relationship between people or things, though in sentence (1), the Malay equivalent is not mentioned but implied by the word “berkongsi”. If a Malay learner looks at the sentence for the first time, he may associate **between** in this sentence to indicate location and not the relationship of sharing. So, it can be difficult.

Thompson and Martinet (1983:79) suggest that **between** is generally used to relate a person or an object to one other person or object and when we have a definite number in mind whereas “**among**” relates a person or an object to more than two others and we do not have a definite number in mind as illustrated in sentence (2). Malay learners who do not know this rule may use **between** and **among** interchangeably and thus make errors.

In sentence (3), the preposition is easily understood as there is a similar preposition in Malay and there is a link between the two factors mentioned.

Table 4.56 : Prepositions Indicating Relationships - Sharing

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Difficult	1. We ate a plate of rice between us.	Kita berkongsi sepinggan nasi.
Easy	2. They discussed the matter among siblings.	Mereka berbincang hal itu antara adik-beradik.
Very easy	3. There is an obvious link between obesity and eating habit.	Terdapat perkaitan yang jelas antara obesiti dan pemakanan.

ii. Comparison

Some prepositions are used to show comparison or contrast. **Against** has no equivalents in Malay and it shows contrast in sentence (1) but **di** shows location. It is clear that the two languages present the meaning from different perspectives. This may cause some difficulty to the Malay learners.

Over, above, behind, from...to, and **to** indicate comparison in the following sentences (2 - 7). These prepositions would be quite difficult to learn as there are no equivalent Malay prepositions for the Malay learners to associate them with and instead they are represented with words that carry similar meanings in their mother tongue. They may omit these prepositions when they are writing English or replace them with other words. For instance, sentence (2) may be written as “He is more than eighty years old.”

At, for, between, from and **with** are prepositions found in sentences (8 - 12) and there are equivalents in Malay. The concepts implied in sentence (8) and (9) are more general therefore they are more difficult than the ones implied in sentence (11) and (12). Learners can understand the ideas of weight and past experience easier than comparisons to games or people of the same age not mentioned. In sentence (10), **between** is represented by two Malay prepositions – **antara ... dengan** and learners may not see the relationship clearly.

Table 4.57 : Prepositions Indicating Relationships - Comparison

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Very difficult	1. The girl's red dress stood out clearly against the white backdrop.	Budak perempuan berbaju merah itu lebih menyerlah lagi di hadapan latar belakang berwarna putih.
Very difficult	2. He's over eighty.	Umurnya <u>melebihi</u> lapan puluh tahun.
Very difficult	3. That student wouldn't lie – he is above that.	Pelajar itu tidak akan bercakap bohong kerana dia pelajar <u>yang baik</u> .
Difficult	4. This sack weighs above ten kilos.	Berat karung ini <u>melebihi</u> sepuluh kilo.
Difficult	5. The project is behind schedule.	Projek itu <u>lewat</u> disiapkan.
Difficult	6. Things have gone from bad to worse.	Perkara itu menjadi <u>bertambah</u> teruk.
Difficult	7. Brazil won by two goals to nil.	Pasukan Brazil menang dengan mata 2-0.
Difficult	8. They are good at chess.	Mereka mahir dalam permainan catur.
Difficult	9. She is a bit too tall for her age.	Ketinggiannya tidak sesuai dengan umurnya.
Difficult	10. Can't you tell butter from margarine?	Anda tidak dapat membezakan antara mentega dengan majerinkah?
Easy	11. A durian may weigh between one and two kilos.	Berat sebiji durian mungkin satu hingga dua kilo.
Very easy	12. This is much easier to learn compared with last time.	Hal ini mudah dipelajari berbanding dengan dulu.

iii. Measurement

By and **over** indicate measurements. They may be difficult for Malay learners as they cannot be translated word for word. Learners have to understand the concept of these prepositions before they can use them in their writing or speech.

Table 4.58 : Prepositions Indicating Relationships - Measurement

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Difficult	1. The room is ten feet by fifteen feet.	Bilik itu sebesar sepuluh kaki <u>kali</u> lima belas kaki.
Difficult	2. Alexander ruled over a great empire.	Zukarnain telah memerintah sebuah empayar yang besar.

iv. Mathematical Expression

The preposition **by** is used in mathematical expressions and Malay learners are very familiar with these as they use them in their Mathematics lessons.

Table 4.59 : Prepositions Indicating Relationships - Mathematical Expression

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Easy	Two multiplied by three equals to six.	Dua darab tiga ialah enam.

v. Source

The preposition **after** is placed before a noun and carries the meaning “to follow the example of someone” in sentence (1). Normally, **after** is used to indicate time or sequence and is known as **selepas** in Malay but in this context the word means **daripada**. Malay learners may find it difficult to understand due to the difference in meaning.

Of and **from** are used to indicate the source of something in sentence (2) and (3). Malay learners may be confused as only one preposition - **daripada** is used in their mother tongue but two prepositions in English. In sentence (4), **from** is easy to learn as it indicates the source of the book – a person.

Table 4.60 : Prepositions Indicating Relationships – Source

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Difficult	1. He was named after his grandfather.	Nama yang digunakannya itu diwarisi daripada datuknya.
Difficult	2. This box is made of gold.	Kotak ini dibuat daripada emas.
Very easy	3. That table is made from teak wood.	Meja itu diperbuat daripada kayu jati.
Very easy	4. I borrowed a book from her.	Saya telah meminjam sebuah buku daripadanya .

vii. Reactions

To and **at** are common prepositions to indicate time and location which the learners are familiar with. Here, they are used to express emotion or reactions. The equivalents are either not found or **dengan** is used as the preposition to show manner or means. This can create difficulty among learners.

With is used to express reactions. In sentence (3), **with** is implied thus it is more difficult to understand the reason for using this preposition in the sentence since it is not required in Malay. In sentence (4), the use of **with** is direct and **dengan** is the equivalent.

Table 4.61 : Prepositions Indicating Relationships – Reactions

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Difficult	1. To my surprise, she did not reply my call.	Dia tidak membalas panggilan telefon saya.
Difficult	2. I am amazed at your suggestion.	Saya kagum dengan cadangan anda.
Difficult	3. He trembled with fear.	Dia menggigil ketakutan.
Easy	4. Her father is pleased with her exam results.	Bapanya berpuas hati dengan keputusan peperiksaannya.

viii. Membership

On and **with** have the implicit meaning of belonging to an organization. Malay learners are familiar with the other functions of these two prepositions which have their equivalents in Malay and may not understand the use of these two prepositions in the sentences below.

Table 4.62 : Prepositions Indicating Relationships – Membership

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Difficult	1. Are you on the PTA committee?	Anda masih menjadi ahli jawatankuasa PIBG?
Difficult	2. I hear he's with IBM now.	Khabarnya dia bekerja dengan IBM sekarang.

ix. State

At, of, in and **from** precedes nouns to indicate the state of people or things. **Dengan (at)** usually indicates either manner or means whereas **oleh (of)** is used in passive constructions or as the agent in the sentences in Malay structures. Malay learners may not be able to use **at** and **of** effectively as their equivalents function differently in sentences (1) and (2).

Of has other meanings too. In sentences (3) and (6), **of** means a part of something, whereas in sentences (4) and (5), it carries the meaning of the origin of something or someone. There are no equivalents in Malay for all these different meanings. Malay learners may find difficulty in using **of**.

For sentences (7), (8) and (9), **in** shows the state of the situations. Other words are used in Malay to imply the meanings and there are no prepositions needed to express the meanings. Such differences could hinder the learners from using them effectively. In sentence (9), Malay learners may substitute **in** with other prepositions such as **on** as the equivalents to **kepada** without considering its function or meanings.

The learners are used to hearing the expression in (10) in Malay during their marching training in schools. So, familiarity helps these learners to use this preposition with ease.

When the preposition has an equivalent that learners have used before, this helps in the understanding of the function and meaning of the preposition. For instance, learners would less likely face difficulties in learning to use prepositions such as **from ... to**.

Table 4.63 : Prepositions Indicating Relationships – State

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Difficult	1. These apples are sold at one Ringgit each.	Buah epal ini dijual dengan harga seringgit sebiji.
Difficult	2. The role of a mother is a difficult one.	Peranan yang dimainkan oleh seorang ibu amat sukar.
Difficult	3. She gave me a piece of cake.	Dia memberi saya sekeping kek.
Difficult	4. She sent me a photo of her hamster.	Dia telah mengirimi sekeping gambar tikus belandanya kepada saya.
Difficult	5. The man of Maori descent was killed in the airport.	Lelaki keturunan Maori telah terbunuh di lapangan kapal terbang.
Difficult	6. The lid of the dustbin is broken.	Penutup tong sampah itu telah pecah.
Difficult	7. He is badly in debt.	Dia banyak berhutang.
Difficult	8. The things are piled in a heap.	Barangan itu dilonggokkan setempat.
Difficult	9. I believe in God.	Saya percaya kepada Tuhan.
Easy	10. Stand in rows of threes.	Berbaris dalam barisan bertiga-tiga.
Very easy	11. The tickets are sold from three to ten Ringgit.	Tiket itu dijual dari harga tiga hingga sepuluh Ringgit.

x. Subject Matter

Of is commonly used in collective nouns but it is not found in Malay as shown in (2) and (3). Learners may omit using **of** as it is not required or may find it difficult to

understand the function of **of** in such sentences. **On** is represented by **tentang** and the function is clearly expressed in sentence (3). Likewise, **off** carries the meaning of “taken away” and its equivalent **dari** also helps Malay learners to understand its function and meaning easily.

Table 4.64 : Preposition Indicating Relationships – Subject Matter (*Of, On and Off*)

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Difficult	1. Buy me two kilos of potatoes.	Tolong belikan dua kilo ubi kentang.
Difficult	2. His family suffered a lot of hardship.	Keluarganya mengalami banyak penderitaan.
Easy	3. He gave an interesting talk on “Careers in the Army”.	Dia memberi ceramah yang menarik tentang “Kerjaya dalam Pertahanan Awam.”
Very easy	4. I want an inch off the back of my hair.	Saya hendak memotong seinchi dari rambut di belakang.
Very easy	5. He was given five days off work.	Dia diberi lima hari cuti dari kerja.
Very easy	6. He knocked one thousand Ringgit off the car.	Dia mengurangkan RM1000 dari harga kereta itu.

In a discussion or conversation, **about** and **on** can be used to indicate the subject matter and be used with certain verbs and nouns. In English, **about** can only be used with certain verbs and nouns and words used to describe the state of the mind such as dream **about**, think **about**, know **about**, etc, whereas **on** tends to be focussed on the subject and restricted to formal speaking or writing.

For example:

speak about/on	teach about
talk about/on	learn about
argue about/on	read about
write about/on	quarrel about

A book **about/on** a story **about**
 A lecture **about/on** ignorance **about**

In Malay, **tentang** is used to refer to something in general or uncertain to show the subject matter. **Tentang** and **mengenai** are synonyms. Nik Safiah et al. (2008) reminds us that **mengenai** is used both as a preposition and as a verb which means targeted at as in “Anak panah itu mengenai dadanya.” Likewise, **melalui**, and **menerusi** are also used as prepositions and verbs.

Table 4.65 : Preposition Indicating Relationships – Subject Matter (*About*)

Hierarchy of Difficulty	English	Malay
Difficult	1. Mind what you’re about to do.	Berhati-hati dengan apa anda hendak lakukan.
Very easy	2. They are discussing about the mass killing.	Mereka berbincang tentang pembunuhan beramai-ramai itu.

4.5 Summary

English prepositions which have only one representation in Malay will be easier to learn compared to those prepositions that have more than one function. Based on the above description and contrastive analysis, the following hierarchy of English prepositions is drawn up according to its difficulties.

Table 4.66 : Hierarchy of Difficulty of Prepositions in English and Malay - Very difficult

Types of Prepositions	Hierarchy of difficulty	English	Malay
Location	Very difficult	before	ke depan
Direction, Cause & Comparison	Very difficult	against	di selepas
Direction	Very difficult	between	dari
Cause / Reason	Very difficult	by	-
Comparison	Very difficult	above	-
Location	Very difficult	behind	-
Location, Direction & Comparison	Very difficult	over	dari -
State	Very difficult	off	-

Table 4.67: Hierarchy of Difficulty of Prepositions in English and Malay - Difficult

Types of Prepositions	Hierarchy of difficulty	English	Malay
Direction, Purpose & Source	Difficult	after	daripada
Location	Difficult	before	-
Location & Direction	Difficult	across	di pada
Location	Difficult	opposite	-
Location & purpose	Difficult	against	pada -
Duration, Measurement & Comparison	Difficult	by	-
Time, Location & Cause/ Reason	Difficult	besides	di samping
Time, Location & Cause/ Reason	Difficult	about	pada di dengan
Location, Membership & Manner	Difficult	on	di dalam - di tepi untuk dengan kepada
Comparison	Difficult	above	-
Location & Comparison	Difficult	behind	-
Duration	Difficult	during	dalam semasa
Reaction, State & Distance	Difficult	at	dalam dengan

Types of Prepositions	Hierarchy of difficulty	English	Malay
Duration & State	Difficult	in	kepada dengan pada/ dalam
Location & Direction	Difficult	up	-
Direction	Difficult	down	sepanjang
Comparison & Reason	Difficult	from	dengan -
Location, Time, Direction & Cause/ Reason	Difficult	over	melalui semasa di ke dengan ke arah -
Source & Cause/ Reason	Difficult	of	daripada oleh -
Location	Difficult	off	tidak jauh dari
Comparison & Reaction	Difficult	to	-
Direction, Membership & Cause/ Reason,	Difficult	with	dengan - melalui

Table 4.68: Hierarchy of Difficulty of Prepositions in English and Malay - Easy

Types of Prepositions	Hierarchy of difficulty	English	Malay
Direction	Easy	across	menyeberangi
Location	Easy	opposite	bertentangan dengan
Relationship	Easy	among	antara
Location	Easy	between	antara, di antara
Comparison & Mathematical expression	Easy	by	demi -
Direction	Easy	about	dalam
Location, Direction, Means, & Subject matter	Easy	on	pada di atas di
Direction	Easy	at	ke
Location, Direction & State	Easy	in	dalam di ke
Comparison & Cause/ Reason	Easy	for	untuk bagi
Manner	Easy	within	dengan

Table 4.69: Hierarchy of Difficultiy of Prepositions in English and Malay – Very Easy

Types of Prepositions	Hierarchy of difficulty	English	Malay
Time, Location & Cause/ Reason	Very easy	after	selepas,
Time	Very easy	before	sebelum
Location & Relationships	Very easy	between	antara, di antara
Location, Time, & The Agentive	Very easy	by	pada oleh di
Location	Very easy	beside	di sebelah/ di sisi/ di tepi
Subject Matter	Very easy	about	tentang/ mengenai
Time	Very easy	on	pada
Location	Very easy	above	di atas
Location	Very easy	below/ beneath/ under	di bawah
Duration	Very easy	during	semasa
Time	Very easy	since	sejak/ semenjak
Location & Time	Very easy	at	di pada
Location & Duration	Very easy	in	di
Location	Very easy	down	ke bawah
Direction	Very easy	along	sepanjang
Location, Duration, Direction & Comparison	Very easy	from	dari daripada
Duration, Direction & Cause/ Reason	Very easy	for	selama ke untuk
Location	Very easy	over	di atas
Location	Very easy	of	di
To indicate distance & duration of time	Very easy	near	dengan
Location & Subject Matter	Very easy	off	dari
Direction	Very easy	to	kepada, ke,
Duration	Very easy	throughout / all through	sepanjang
Duration	Very easy	until/ till	hingga/ sampai
Means, Manner, Subject Matter, Accompaniment, Comparison & Cause/ Reason	Very easy	with	dengan
Location, Means & Accompaniment	Very easy	without	tanpa
Location & Duration	Very easy	within	dalam