

CONNECTION ASSEMBLY OF A TRANSMISSION IN A STRUCTURE

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a connection assembly between a drive-side structure and a transmission outer ring sealing a structure arranged radially inside. The transmission is connectable on the drive-side on a drive and on the driven-side by a drive shaft. The recommended connection assembly can be used in many fields of machine building, especially in robotics.

From DE 10 2005 027 290 A1, a connection assembly is known according to the preamble of claim 1.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The problem of the invention is to provide a connection assembly between a drive-side structure and a transmission outer ring sealing a transmission arranged radially inside, which in particular enables a simple, rapid, more economical, and centered installation of a transmission outer ring in the structure.

The invention follows from the features of the independent claims. Further advantageous embodiments and designs are the subject matter of dependent claims. Further features, application possibilities, and advantages of the invention follow from the following description, as well as the explanation of the exemplary embodiments of the invention, which are represented in the figures.

A first aspect of the problem is solved by a connection assembly between a drive-side structure and a transmission outer ring sealing a transmission arranged radially inside, wherein between the transmission outer range and the drive-side structure there is an annular space formed with a connection assembly, and axially at least on one side of the annular space there is a peripheral guide between the transmission outer ring and the drive-side structure.

The connection element according to the invention has bulges that are spaced over the peripheral extension and are elastically deformable, and forms a force-fit

connection between the transmission outer ring and the drive-side structure when the bulges elastically deform. Preferably the bulges are distributed uniformly over the peripheral extent of the connection assembly.

The connection assembly radially distributes the arising forces largely uniformly over the bulges over the periphery of the transmission outer ring. The connection assembly further compensates to the greatest extent the arising different heat-induced material extensions of the transmission outer ring and the drive-side structure. A mechanical overload of the transmission is ruled out due to the force-fit connection between the transmission outer ring and the drive-side structure. For this purpose, the connection element (shape and material property) as well as the annular space (shape) must be suitably chosen so that starting with a predetermined torque, sliding of the transmission outer ring occurs in the drive-side structure.

Here on both sides of the annular space, on the drive-side structure, a peripheral guide is formed, which radially guides the transmission outer ring. Advantageously, both peripheral guides of the structure are radially spaced differently with respect to a longitudinal axis of the annular peripheral guides, so that a separation exists wherein the transmission outer ring is formed to be complementary to the radially spaced peripheral guides, i.e. likewise it has two peripheral surfaces which are radially spaced differently with respect to the longitudinal axis of the transmission outer ring, i.e. here likewise there is a separation. This brings about an at least two-stage guide of the transmission outer ring. In this way the weight of the connection assembly can be reduced, which above all permits lightweight devices. In the region of the recess on the drive-side structure, advantageously there is a chamfered insertion section. Due to the chamfered recess, when the transmission outer ring is pressed into the drive-side structure, the connection assembly is not damaged.

Advantageously the transmission may be connected on the drive side to a drive, an electric motor, hydraulic motor etc., and on the driven side for example to the driven mechanics. The corresponding connection assembly with drive and driven element are to be selected for example in a housing as needed. The transmission is advantageously a shaft transmission or a cycloid transmission or a galaxy transmission or a planet transmission.

The force-fit connection is designed for a static friction that may be set according to need. This means that only when a predetermined torque is exceeded, may a slide or rotational movement of the transmission outer ring occur on the drive-side structure about the longitudinal axis of the transmission outer ring.

The recommended connection assembly may be used to particular advantage in a robot arm, wherein the mechanical integration of the transmission outer ring in the robot arm is considerably facilitated in comparison with the prior art. The connections of gears in robot arms used to date in robotics for this purpose are screw connections, as the transmission types used in robotics (for example shaft transmissions) are available solely as screwable variants in the market. On the other hand, the used transmission types, owing to the high demands on dimensional stability, exert extremely small influences from radial forces. While axial screw attachment of a transmission applies hardly any forces in the radiation direction, even the slightest tolerance deviations in the components upon compression of a transmission outer ring provoke significant effects on the pairing of the utilized transmission parts with one another. For this reason, transmissions are not press-fitted at present, but screwed together. The recommended connection assembly, in comparison with the connections used in the prior art, has a lower weight. Furthermore, the recommended connection assembly also provides a more compact design of a robot arm, which makes possible improved dynamics and sensitivity of the robot arm. In addition, the scalability of the recommended connection assembly is improved in comparison with the prior art, as with size reduction of the screw connections used in the prior art, or in the screws that are used, the stability of the connection diminishes. The recommended connection assembly further provides greater sturdiness. Since with the recommended connection assembly, in addition fewer parts are used for connection/integration of transmissions in a robot arm, in the end the error susceptibility and wear and tear are reduced.

Advantageously, the drive-side structure has an axial guide of the transmission outer ring such that a motion along a longitudinal axis of the peripheral guides is impeded.

Advantageously, the annular space is configured as a peripheral-side recess in the drive-side structure. Alternatively, the annular space is configured as a peripheral-side recess in the transmission outer ring.

The connection assembly advantageously has in the non-installed state a thickness that is greater than the depth of the annular space, so that the connection assembly incorporated in the annular space radially surmounts the annular space (when the transmission outer ring is not installed). The chamfered insertion segment of the transmission outer ring (see above) facilitates an axial insertion of the transmission outer ring in the structure in which a connection element surmounting the annular space is already arranged in the annular space. The chamfered insertion segment presses the connection element surmounting the annular space upon axial insertion of the transmission outer ring continuously into the annular space, so that no snagging occurs.

Advantageously a recess is formed on the transmission outer ring for centering of a drive-side bearing flange. The recess is used in particular for guiding a drive-side bearing flange.

A connection element advantageously has elastic properties. Advantageously the connection element is configured in a band-like shape as a closed or open band with spaced-apart radially extended bulges. Advantageously all the bulges extend along the band radially outward with respect to an installed state of the band in the annular space and a longitudinal axis of the annular space.

Advantageously the bulges are arranged with equal distribution along the band or only in sub-regions of the band. Advantageously the bulges are arranged in sub-ranges of the band which in each case lie radially opposite in the installed state of the connection element. Advantageously the bulges extend over a sub-region of the connection element. Advantageously the bulges are configured in an arc shape.

In a further development of the connection assembly, the connection element is formed in the peripheral direction in a wave-like or jagged configuration. Furthermore, advantageously the connection element is configured as an open or closed ring.

Advantageously, for the connection assembly interchangeable connection elements of diverse geometries and/or materials can be mounted for setting different sliding torques between the transmission outer ring and the drive housing. In this way, the same connection assembly can be configured for different operating scenarios.

The dimensioning of the transmission outer ring for example as regards its thickness, geometric design, or material is selected depending on the specific operating use and on the configuration of the drive-side structure advantageously such that a mechanical deformation of the transmission outer ring by forces operating radially over the connection element is ruled out or at least ruled out to the extent possible.

A further aspect of the invention relates to a robot joint unit or a robot arm with one or several connection assemblies as were described above.

Further advantages, features, and details may be found from the following description in the—optionally with reference to the drawing—at least one exemplary embodiment in detail. The same, similar, and/or equally functioning parts are marked with the same reference symbols.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the drawings:

- Fig. 1 is a representation of an exemplary embodiment of the recommended connection assembly in longitudinal section,
- Fig. 2 a detail view of the connection assembly of Fig. 1, and
- Fig. 3 an exemplary embodiment of a connection element.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Figure 1 shows a schematic representation of an exemplary embodiment of the recommended connection assembly 10 between a drive-side structure 14 and a transmission outer ring 12 sealing a transmission radially arranged inside. The drive-side structure 14 is presently designed as a hollow element. Between the transmission outer ring 12 and the drive-side structure 14 there is an annular chamber 16 with a connection element 18 arranged inside. The annular chamber 16 is configured as a peripheral-side depression in the drive-side structure 14. The connection element 18 has elastic properties, is made of spring steel, and is configured as a open band having

spaced, radially extending bulges 26 (cf. Fig. 3). Under elastic deformation of the bulges 26, a force-fit connection is formed between the transmission outer ring 12 and the drive-side structure 14. The bulges 26 along the band presently all extend radially inward with respect to a mounted state of the connection element 18 in the annular chamber 16 and a central axis (not shown) of the connection assembly 10. The connection assembly further has axially and bilaterally to the annular chamber 16 peripheral guides 17 between the transmission outer ring 12 and the drive-side structure 14.

Figure 2 shows a detail view of the connection assembly 10 from Fig. 1, to which reference is made. It should be noted that bilaterally to the annular chamber 16, a peripheral guide 17 is configured on both sides, that the annular chamber 16 is configured as a peripheral-side recess in the drive-side structure 14, and further, that between the two peripheral guides 17 and the transmission outer ring 12 a recess 22 is formed, wherein in the region of the recess 22, a chamfered insertion section 24 is configured. The recess thus effects a two-stage guide. As a complement to this, on the drive-side structure 14 an indentation 23 is configured, wherein a chamfered insertion section 25 is configured in the region of the recess.

Figure 3 shows an exemplary embodiment of a connection element 18 according to the invention. The connection element 18 is configured as an open band of an elastic material. Along the inner band surface, the connection element 18 has bulges directed inward.

Although the invention in detail is illustrated and explained by preferred exemplary embodiments, the invention is not limited by the disclosed examples, and other variations can be derived therefrom by a person skilled in the art without departing from the scope of protection of the invention. It is therefore clear that a plurality of variation possibilities exists. It is likewise clear that for example the named embodiments in fact only show examples that are not in any way to be understood as a limitation for example of the scope of protection, application options, or the configuration of the invention. Rather, the present description and the figure description enable a person skilled in the art to specifically implement the exemplary embodiments, wherein a person skilled in the art with knowledge of the disclosed invention concept can undertake numerous changes for example regarding the

function or the arrangement of individual elements named in an exemplary embodiment without departing from the scope of protection, which is defined by the claims and their statutory counterparts, as for example the further explanation in the description.

LIST OF REFERENCE SYMBOLS

10	connection element
12	transmission outer ring
13	recess in the transmission outer ring
14	drive-side structure
16	annular chamber
17	peripheral guide
18	connection element
22	recess on the transmission outer ring
23	indentation on the drive-side structure
24	insertion section on the transmission outer ring
25	insertion section on the drive-side structure
26	bulge(s)

CLAIMS

1. A connection assembly between a drive-side structure (14) and a transmission outer ring (12) sealing a transmission arranged radially inside, wherein axially at least on one side of the annular chamber (16) a peripheral guide (17) is configured between the transmission outer ring (12) and drive-side structure (14), wherein the connection element (18) has elastically deformable bulges (26) spaced over the peripheral extension, and under elastic deformation of the bulges (26), forms a force-fit connection between the transmission outer ring (12) and the drive-side structure (14), **characterized in that** between the transmission outer ring (12) and the drive-side structure (14), an annular chamber (16) is configured having a connection element (18) arranged therein, and that a recess (23) is configured between the two peripheral guides (17) on the drive-side structure (14).
2. The connection assembly (10) according to claim 1, characterized in that a peripheral guide (17) is configured on both sides of the annular chamber (16).
3. The connection element (10) according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the annular chamber (16) is configured as a peripheral-side recess in the drive-side structure (14).
4. The connection assembly (10) according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the annular chamber (16) is configured as a peripheral-side recess in the transmission outer ring (12).
5. The connection element (10) according to claim 1, characterized in that in the region of the indentation (23) on the drive-side structure (14), there is a chamfered insertion section (24).
6. The connection assembly (10) according to claim 5, characterized in that the indentation (23) effects at least a two-stage guide of the transmission outer ring (12).

7. The connection assembly (10) according to one of the previous claims, characterized in that on the transmission outer ring (12), a recess (13) is configured for centering of a drive-side bearing flange.
8. A connection assembly (10) according to one of the previous claims, characterized in that the connection element (18) is defined to be band-like with spaced-apart radially extended bulges (26).
9. A robot joint unit with a connection element (10) according to one of the previous claims.
10. Robot arm with a connection assembly (10) according to one of the previous claims.