

O'ZBEKISTON RESPUBLIKASI  
OLIIY TA'LIM, FAN VA INNOVATSIYALAR VAZIRLIGI  
FARG'ONA DAVLAT UNIVERSITETI

**FarDU**  
**ILMIY**  
**XABARLAR-**

1995-yildan nashr etiladi  
Yilda 6 marta chiqadi

2023  
MAXSUS SON

**НАУЧНЫЙ**  
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Издаётся с 1995 года  
Выходит 6 раз в год

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## SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH PHRASAL VERBS

## СЕМАНТИЧЕСКИЙ АНАЛИЗ АНГЛИЙСКИХ ФРАЗОВЫХ ГЛАГОЛОВ

## INGLIZ TILIDAGI FRAZALI FE'LLARNING SEMANTIK TAHLILI

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*This article discusses and analyzes the semantics of phrasal verbs providing with examples. Furthermore, there are some controversial statements of different linguists about some meaning types of phrasal verbs that are clarified below.*

**Аннотация**

*В данной статье рассматривается и анализируется семантика фразовых глаголов и приводятся примеры. Кроме того, существуют противоречивые высказывания разных лингвистов о некоторых типах значений фразовых глаголов, которые поясняются ниже в статье.*

**Annotatsiya**

*Ushbu maqolada frazemali fe'llarning semantik tahlili misollar bilan yoritilgan. Bundan tashqari, turli tilshunoslarning frazemali fe'llar ma'nolarining ayrim turlari haqida bir-biriga qarama-qarshi fikrlar mavjud bo'lib, ular quyida tushuntiriladi.*

**Key words:** *phrasal verbs, semantics, literal, figurative, semantic relations.*

**Ключевые слова:** *фразовые глаголы, семантика, прямое, переносное, смысловые родственники.*

**Kalit so'zlar:** *frazemali fe'llar, semantika, adabiy, ko'chma, semantik aloqadorlik.*

**INTRODUCTION**

Nowadays it is impossible to imagine every day English without phrasal verbs as they own a brief structure, understandable meaning, content capacity, and completeness of receiving information. Phrasal verbs have always been on the interest area of linguists and academics. Despite the fact that phrasal verbs are an outstanding target of phraseology, yet have quite different purpose and own particular separate and extensive investigation [Grant & Bauer, 2004]. If we look through each component of phrasal verb combination separately, they deliver different meanings which are absolutely irrelative. Yet, by combining them we can get a truly new meaning.

**LITERATURE REVIEW**

As mentioned by Kollen & Frank [2012], English PVs are those verb combinations that only carry idiomatic meaning and cannot relate to the meaning of its word components or phrases. However, from our point of view and from semantic perspective phrasal verbs do not only have idiomatic meaning but they can also have related meaning to the word components of verb combinations and can be guessed without any background information or dictionary. These types of PVs usually carry "literal" meaning. For example:

**Turn off**

*I forgot to **turn off** the lights.*

**Pick up**

*He **picked up** the key from the table.*

Bolinger cited [1971] that PVs are "the combination of a verb and a particle". As was mentioned particles that are used to combine verbs are limited by the semantic relation and cohesion. For example, prefixes "**out**", "**off**", "**up**" and "**down**" usually go with the verbs that express action or movement such as "**drive**", "**carry**", "**reach**", "**arrive**", "**bring**".[7].

According to Boers and Lindsternberg (2012) as a lexical unit, phrasal verbs should independently stand on their own. So, one should know more than just the meaning of the terms "**go**" and "**away**" to understand what "**go away**" implies when used as a phrase.

Gardner & Davies [2007: 341] mentioned that “linguists and grammarians struggle with nuances of PV definitions, however, such differences less matter for average L2 learner”. [7]

A number of English linguists and grammarians admit that a phrasal verb is a combination of a lexical verb and a preposition or an adverbial particle whose meaning cannot be simply predicted from its word components [Quirk et al., 1985]. Bolinger illustrated the distinction between “**literal**” and “**figurative particles**” and claims a root of literal meanings surrounded at different distances by figurative meanings [Neag, 2007]. Some linguists like Lipka [1972] cited that particles can imply meaning to PVs only when united with semantically empty verbs like **make, do, have, get**.

So, let us distinguish what the particles are and their role in phrasal verb combination. Many linguists of Russian language in the process of delivering PVs meaning or translating it into Russian language mainly try to focus on the translation of the particles. Usually in PVs combination particles are either prepositions or adverbs. Particles are functional units that do not have a nominative meaning of its own, yet delivering a particular meaning while setting in phrases.

### RESEARCH METHODS

Comparing works of Rudzka-Ostyn and the ones put forward by Tyler & Evans, the works of former author covers a large amount of phrasal verbs and particles (16 adverbial particles) and provides clear usage of visual imagery to instruct the comprehension of the meanings of adverbial particles. Yet, the works of Tyler & Evans were mostly intended to account for prepositions and their semantic extensions do not relate to any PV constructions.

Rudzka-Ostyn’s description for the particle **up** is wider as it also covers the notion of “approach”, e.g. *A boy drove up to the office*. According to Celce-Murcia and Larsen-Freeman (1999) following Fraser (1976) categorized phrasal verbs in 3 semantic levels

1. Literal
2. Completive
3. Figurative

Literal phrasal verbs are those where the meaning of verb-particle can be guessed without any dictionaries or additional explanations. Their meanings are obvious. Examples for Literal PVs as follow:

*He **put** his bag **on** the table.*

Figurative phrasal verbs are the ones that do not have any systematic criteria of semantic aspect associating Verb + Particle. It opposes above mentioned PVs as the meaning of PVs cannot be guessed from the separate parts. For example:

*I have to **take out** a loan to pay for my new Iphone 15.*

Completive phrasal verbs depict a complete or completed actions with the help of their particles.

*He **tore up** the letter.*

Another scale of PVs’ categorization is presented in the Collins Cobuild Dictionary of Phrasal verbs [1990] and partially depicted in Celce-Murcia and Larsen Freeman’s [1999] classification. [7]. In accordance with their classification scale phrasal verbs are divided into 3 types in terms of semantic relations of the verb and the particle:

1. Opaque
2. Translucent
3. Transparent

Opaque PV’s meaning cannot be guessed from the definition of the constituents separately. These PVs are usually composed of the verbs such as **make, do, go** or **take** as their polysemous nature above given verbs are accepted as opaque ones.

*He **called off** the meeting.*

Translucent phrasal verbs opposed to the opaque ones have a related meaning to the main verb but not the particle. If in opaque PVs meaning cannot be deciphered by their separate constituents, translucent PVs’ definition can be guessed from the verb, however, the particle changes the meaning of the verb making it less literal.

*Oxygen is **used up** by organisms faster than it can be replaced. [4].*

Transparent phrasal verbs are those verbs whose meaning can be deduced from the verb and the particle in isolation or combining.

*Britney has just **come in**.*

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As you can see, particles do not just have syntactic and phonological role in the phrasal verb combination but have a semantic relation with the verb they are phrasing as a way of collocating and reflects to the whole phrase. Functional elements like the description of the process or the condition and the level of completion expressed by a phrasal verb has a big share of the particle being used in a phrase.

Taking more radical point Fraser [1976:77] underlined that “particles do not have semantic association but for only phonological and syntactic features”. Cognitive grammarians proposed the arbitrariness of PVs by particles and demonstrated that the meanings of particles form a network of united senses where one or several meanings are prototypical (central) while the rest are less prototypical (peripheral). [4]

The most frequently researched particles are considered “**up**” together with “**out**”. [6]. If we take up as an example the functional element in that entities which are considered in a high position, in a condition of readiness and enhanced control. [7]. Furthermore, if entities are physically increased, they possibly become visible, accessible or salient to humanity. According to Mahpeykar and Tyler [2015] and also Rudzka-Ostyn another meaning of up (higher up is more visible, accessible, known; e.g. *A lot of my acquaintances **showed up** in the party*).

Thus, we can be somewhat bewildered while learning through the meaning categorization of phrasal verbs as there are diverse opinions and controversial statements. While some of the Idiomaticity scales mentioned by linguists have similar features like Literal = Transparent or Figurative = Translucent that have no semantic relation to the root meaning of the word components, yet there are oppositional criteria as well (Completive and Opaque).

In Russian as well we cannot find a phrasal verb combination which makes English language study more difficult for nonnative speakers. A number of Russian linguists in the process of delivering PV’s meaning or translating it to their own language, mainly try to focus on the translation of the particles. Usually, the particles are either prepositions or adverbs. There are several reasons why understanding particles is so complicated for nonnative speakers like the conceptual discrepancy between Russian and English languages. This is owing to the semantic and grammar incongruity and permanent growth of phrasal verbs in numbers and usage among language users. Let’s see some of examples:

*She suddenly opened the door and **went away** (verb+adverb).*

*I asked him to **turn up** the volume. (verb + preposition).*

Mentioned in the sentences above phrasal verbs are easy to comprehend and catch the meaning. They have literal meaning. Some PVs can have both literal and idiomatic meaning according to their contextual usage.

Phrasal verbs with Literal meaning:

*He **run out** of the room.*

Phrasal verbs with Figurative meaning:

*We have **run out** of petrol.*

As a lexical unit PVs own semantic consistency and communicative value for language users. Nowadays it is impossible to imagine every day English without phrasal verbs as they own a brief structure, understandable meaning, content capacity, and completeness of receiving information. A number of linguists like A.B. Kunin studied phrasal verbs from different perspectives. According to his suggestions Phrasal verbs are phraseological adjuncts that were made up of a verb and a postposition (that is either a particle or an adverb) [13; pp 101-102].

## CONCLUSION

As we can see, phrasal verbs are capable of delivering more than one meaning i.e. they own polysemous nature. According to the researchers, in scientific style phrasal verbs used primarily with one meaning, at the same time, when there are several meanings fixed in dictionaries. Because of the structural diversity, linguists have some challenges in translation of phrasal verbs. Moreover, particles, for example in Russian, as a secondary component of the structure have both semantic and structural difference and are called postposition that are sometimes neither preposition nor adverb. “Semantic cohesion” in PV case is explained by the choice of the main word whose responsibility is to phrase and express an integral, yet dissected concept. As aforementioned above a postposition can either be an adverb or a preposition. Furthermore, a prepositional adverb becomes adjacent to the verb and forms a verb and an adverb

combination when it performs the functions of an adverb while being secondary component of the structure.

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