
PHRASAL VERBS: STRUCTURAL AND SYNTACTIC FEATURES

Egamberdiyeva Madina Bo'ron qizi

Master student of Termez state university

Abstract: Phrasal verbs are one of the most versatile and complex structures in the English language, and studying their structural and syntactic aspects is of great significance from a linguistic perspective. This research analyzes the structural composition and syntactic characteristics of phrasal verbs, highlighting their classification into transitive and intransitive, as well as separable and inseparable types.

Key words: phrasal verbs, particle, transitive, intransitive, separable, inseparable

Phrasal verbs are one of the distinctive, versatile, and essential features of the English language. These units are widely used in English, making speech more natural and expressive. However, their idiomatic nature poses significant challenges for language learners.

A phrasal verb consists of a verb and a particle, which together form a new semantic meaning. This meaning may differ from the literal meanings of the individual words. For example, give up means “to surrender,” while bring up means “to raise (a child).”

Additionally, phrasal verbs follow specific syntactic rules, and using them correctly helps make speech clearer and more comprehensible. This research analyzes the structural characteristics of phrasal verbs, focusing on their separable/inseparable and transitive/intransitive classifications.

As mentioned above, phrasal verbs consist of a verb and a particle. The most commonly used verbs in phrasal verbs include: **take, set, break, bring, call, come, run, put, pull, knock, pick, keep, cut, get, give, go, look, make, pass, turn** (M.McCarthy and F.O'Dell,2017,pp.8-200).

The second element of a phrasal verb is the particle, which modifies the meaning of the base verb. The most frequently used particles are: **up, on, out, across, about, through, by, down, off, over**. Particles can function as either adverbs or prepositions(Catherine,1977,pp.6).

Structural Types of Phrasal Verbs

Phrasal verbs can be categorized into three structural types:

1. Verb + Adverb → turn down, give away, pick up
2. Verb + Preposition → look for, turn on

3. Verb + Adverb + Preposition → put up with, look forward to, catch up with

Linguist Martin Shovel classified phrasal verbs into these three groups. Understanding this classification is essential for analyzing their semantic and syntactic properties(Sh.Martin,1992,pp5-96).

Transitive and Intransitive Phrasal Verbs

Phrasal verbs are divided into two types based on whether they take an object:

Transitive (requiring an object):

You may **turn off** the TV, I am not watching it.

(The TV is the object, and turn off is linked to it.)

Intransitive (not requiring an object):

The lights **went out** suddenly.

(Went out does not require an object.)

Some phrasal verbs can be used both transitively and intransitively, but their meanings differ:

I can **drop you off** at the station. (drop off is transitive, meaning "to take someone somewhere.")

I was sitting in an armchair, and I **dropped off**. (drop off is intransitive, meaning "to fall asleep.")(M.McCarthy and F.O'Dell,2017,pp8-190)

These distinctions help in understanding the semantic and syntactic usage of phrasal verbs.

Separable and Inseparable Phrasal Verbs

Phrasal verbs are also categorized based on whether the verb and particle can be separated by an object:

Separable Phrasal Verbs (the object can come between the verb and the particle):

You can **turn off** the TV. ✓

You can **turn** the TV **off**. ✓

However, if the object is a pronoun, it must be placed between the verb and the particle:

You can **turn** it **off**. ✓

You can **turn off** it. ✗ (incorrect)

If the object is a long phrase, it should come after the phrasal verb:

The French **carried out** a series of six nuclear tests. ✓(Longman,2000,pp.xii-608)

Linguist Care W. Hart stated that all three-word phrasal verbs (verb + adverb + preposition) are transitive, except for one exception. He also noted that most three-word phrasal verbs are inseparable, with only a few being separable, usually requiring two objects to make sense.

Additionally, Hart pointed out that the phrase **get over with** is intransitive but always used in a separated form.(C.W.Hart,p432)

Conclusion

In summary, phrasal verbs are rich and complex linguistic units in English. Studying their structure and syntactic properties is crucial for language learners. Understanding these features helps in using phrasal verbs more effectively and accurately, contributing to more natural and fluent communication in English.

References:

1. McCarthy, M., & O'Dell, F. English Phrasal Verbs in Use – Intermediate. 2nd ed., Cambridge University Press References, 2017, pp. 8-200.
2. Von Schön, Catherine Virginia. The Origin of Phrasal Verbs in English. 1977, p. 6.
3. Shovel, Martin. Making Sense of Phrasal Verbs. 1992, pp. 5-96.
4. McCarthy, M., & O'Dell, F. English Phrasal Verbs in Use – Advanced. 2nd ed., Cambridge University Press, 2017, pp. 8-190.
5. Longman Phrasal Verbs Dictionary. Longman, 2000, pp. xii-608.
6. Hart, Carl W. The Ultimate Phrasal Verb Book. 2nd ed., Barron's Educational Series, 2009, p. 432.