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MORPHOLOGICAL AND SYNTACTIC ANALYSIS OF VERB-PARTICLE COMBINATION

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ABSTRACT

This study deals with verb-participle combination which forms either a compound verb or a phrasal verb. The particle is either the first element or the second element in the combination. The study consists of five sub-headings one is introduction it gives a brief definition of the problem, purpose delimitation, procedure and value of the study. This paper represents a survey of literature (what has been done about the problem) from different points of view which include traditional, structural and post structural. It deals with the formation of verb particle combination in the field of lexical morphology. It analyses the constituents of combination formed of particles or other parts of speech plus verb the syntactic analysis of verb particle combinations constitutes the core of which beginning with grammatical categories of verb particle combinations. Besides, it also presents a general account of works dealing with verb particle and pedagogical implications.

Key Words: Morphological Analysis, Syntactic Analysis, Verb Particle Combinations, Lexical morphology, Pedagogical implications.

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INTRODUCTION

Verb – particle Combinations in English form such a vast topic that we need to exert genuine efforts to overcome the difficulties the learner might face. These difficulties are semantic when the foreign learner tries to comprehend the meaning of a verb morphologically, when he tries to construct a compound or phrasal verb in order to use it in speech or writing. Compound verbs give the reader a bigger understanding of the action taken by the subject of the sentence.

A compound verb is a multi-word compound that functions as a single verb. One component of the compound is a light verb or vector, which carries any inflections, indicating

tense, mood, or aspect, but provides only fine shades of meaning. The other, "primary", component is a verb or noun which carries most of the semantics of the compound, and determines its argument.

A compound verb is also called a "complex predicate" because the semantics, as formally modeled by a predicate, is determined by the primary verb, though both verbs appear in the surface form. Whether Noun+Verb (N+V) compounds are considered to be "compound verbs".

The problem with phrasal verbs is that their meaning is often, at first, obscure, and they often mean several different things. *To make out*, for instance, means to perceive or to see something; if

someone chooses to turn up the street that is a combination of a verb and a preposition, but it is not a phrasal verb. On the other hand, if your neighbors unexpectedly turn up (appear) at a party or your brother turns up his radio, those are phrasal verbs.

Verbs can be combined with different prepositions and other words, sometimes with dizzying effect: stand out, stand up, stand in, stand off, stand by, stand fast, stand pat, stand down, stand against, stand for. Further, the verb and the word or phrase it connects to are not always contiguous: "Fill this out," we would say, but then we would say, Fill out this form.

For beginners of language learning, the challenge of mastering phrasal verbs is so great that only intensive instruction and practice in an ESL program and a great deal of time spent listening and reading carefully can address the problem. (Bollinger, 124)

Purpose of the study

This study aims at:

- 1- Explaining the status of compound and phrasal verbs in English
- 2- Analyzing the formation of particles phonologically and phrasal verbs syntactically from the available literature on the English verbal system.

Delimitation of the study

This study is restricted to the treatment of *compound verbs* in the field of lexical morphology (**word** formation in the traditional view), and the semantic treatment of phrasal verbs syntactically. In addition to this, the study includes information about prepositional verbs which belong to verb particle combination.

Procedures

The procedures to be followed in dealing with the subject be outlined as follows:

- 1- presenting a description of two kinds of

verbal combinations:

(Compound and phrasal).

- 2- Presenting the formation of compound verbs (recently lexical morphology)

Based on traditional and structural treatment.

- 3- Presenting a syntactic analysis based on traditional, structural and transformational treatment of phrasal verbs. Besides, the

study gives syntactic analysis of prepositional verbs and phrasal – prepositional verbs.

- 4- Summary and conclusion of the study which include finding, implication, suggestions for further studies and general account of works dealing the verbal combinations.

This study is concerned with two kinds of verbal combinations; First those which consist of a particle or any other parts of speech (as their first element) plus a verb; secondly, these which consist of a verb plus a particle as their second element. The first kind will be called Compound Verbs and the second Phrasalverbs.

Compound Verbs:

The principal particles are over, under, out, up. They are used in different related senses. For examples:

With Over there is a good number of compound verbs : overcome, overlook, overestimate, overeat, overset, overbear, overrun, etc.

With under the list of compound verbs is fairly long underbid, underlay, undermine, understudy, etc. many such compounds are used chiefly as participles like underdone, underpaid, etc.

With up the list rather short uphold, upset, upbraid, etc.

Out forms a list of combination in most of which it means surpass: outbrave, outdo, outface, outfit, etc.

The normal position of an adverbial modification is after the verb but only a few particles are capable of coming before the verb to form combination these are over, under, out, up, less commonly used particles are for, with and back : forhear, forbid, forcast, forego, foretell, withdraw, withhold, backbite, etc.

When the word order of some particles is reversed, the result is phrasal verbs or prepositional verbs, where the particle follows the verb but written separately. Generally speaking, phrasal verbs are formed by adding various particles to verbs. If the particle is an adverb, it is called a phrasal verb, like takeover, give in and if it is a

preposition, it is called a prepositional verb like call on, approve of, depend on.

Phrasal verbs:

Phrasal verbs consist of a verb and another word or phrase, usually a preposition. The resulting combination creates what amounts to a new verb, whose meaning sometimes be puzzling to non-native speakers. Phrasal verbs often arise from casual uses of the language and eventually work themselves into the mainstream of language use. Phrasal verbs are both intransitive (The children were sitting around, doing nothing. The witness finally broke down on the stand.) And transitive in meaning (Our boss called off the meeting. She looked up her old boyfriend.) The word that is joined with a verb in this construction (often a preposition) is called a particle (Bolinger, 1975: 123).

Value of the Study

This study is very significant for both teachers and text – book writers and to those who are interested specially, those who are concerned with English as a foreign language. It also helps students understand verb – particle combination and the problems related to them.

The value of the investigation undertaken in this study is twofold: theoretical and practical. The theoretical value which concerns the research to identify the positions and functions of the different forms and uses of English participle constructions. In practice, the study is expected to make the following pedagogical contributions:

- The results may help the textbook writers by providing them with an insight into the problematic spots in the presentation of verbs.
- They will also help language instructors by providing them with a model of analysis which helps in the presentation of both the lesson plan and the material.
- They may help advanced learners to overcome the difficulties they face when using such structures in communication.
- In modern English, it is very usual to use prepositions or adverbs after certain verbs so as to get a variety of meanings. Such combinations behave as single units. The meaning of a combination is independent of separate

elements that constitute it. The meaning of combination cannot be predicated from the meanings of the verb and the particle in isolation.

- The inflection of verb-particle combination goes regularly with the lexical verb. For example, **call up** is inflected as **calls up, called up, calling up**.

Definitions of Basic Terms

1- Compound **verb** may be defined as a combination of particle (or other parts of speech) plus verb. The combination represents a single word and their order is fixed. The particle is always the first element and the verb the second.

e.g. Over come

2- A **phrasal verb** is a grammatical and lexical association between a verb and an adverb particle. The verb precedes its particle. (Sinclair, 1972 : 261)

e.g. Come in, send away

3- A **prepositional verb** is the combination of a verb plus a preposition. (Adams, 1973 : 9)

e.g. Come with, receive from

4- A **particle** is a word which follows and precedes the lexical verb and is closely associated with it; It is a neutral term which belongs to two distinct but overlapping categories, that of preposition and that of spatial adverb, although such adverbs are not necessarily used with spatial meaning.

e.g. He called up his friend. (up is an adv. Particle)
He called on his friend (on is a preposition). (Quirk, 1985 : 1150)

5- An **idiomatic combination** is a combination which semantically represents a unit. The meaning of a combination cannot be predicted from the meanings of a verb and a particle in isolation.

e.g. call up, give in

6- A **non - idiomatic combination** is a combination which does not represent a unit in meaning. The verb and the particle have their own meanings.

e.g. climb up, Bring down

7- A **nominal compound** is a combination of two or more words which function as a single word. It may be derived from compound or phrasal verbs.

e.g. Income; output, input, girlfriend. (Bauer, 1983 : 33).

CONCLUSION

This study is an attempt to explore the morphological behavior of compound verbs and the

syntactic behavior of phrasal verbs in English. The researcher arrived at the following findings:

- a. The English language has both compound verbs and phrasal verbs which are composed of the same elements as in: **upgather** and **gather up**, **uproot** and **root up**, **overlook**, **look over**, **overtake** and **take over**.
 - b. The meanings of a compound and a corresponding phrasal verb may be the same as in: **upgather** and **gather up**, **overhang** and **hangover**. In other cases the meaning may be different, as in **undergo** and go **under** and **overtake** and **take over**. **Upset** and **setup** are almost opposite in meaning, and **backfire** does not mean the same as to **fire back**:
e.g. A new manager took over last week.
(assume control)
 - c. The runner soon overtook the other competitors. (caught up with and passed)
1. Compound verbs usually result from particle plus verb, but may result from noun, adjective and verb plus verb: **overcome**, **daresay**, **globe-trot**.

Compound verbs function both grammatically and semantically as single words. They are written as single words as well. On the other hand, phrasal verbs result from verb plus particle. The particle is the second element of the combination.

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