

MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF ENGLISH PHRASAL VERB CLASSIFICATIONS

Abdullaeva Nozimaxon Abdusalim qizi

n.abduhalimova2455@gmail.com 90-783-83-03

Abstract: Phrasal verbs possess an exceptional complexity, individual characteristics making them difficult to classify and the meanings that should be deduced according to the context. The above-mentioned aspects of phrasal verbs make it impossible to combine phrasal verbs along with other phraseological units and are the reason for ever ongoing topic of debate among linguists.

Аннотация: Фразовые глаголы обладают исключительной сложностью, индивидуальными характеристиками, что затрудняет их классификацию, и значениями, которые должны быть выведены в соответствии с контекстом. Вышеупомянутые аспекты фразовых глаголов делают невозможным объединение фразовых глаголов с другими фразеологическими единицами и являются причиной вечно продолжающейся темы дебатов среди лингвистов.

One version of categorizing phrasal verb as an individual phraseological unit as follows:

1. A phrasal verb that is possible to substitute with a polysemous single verb: **to call of = cancel, to carry on = continue, to carry out = execute.**
2. A phrasal verb that possesses idiomatic meaning whose components make up a new meaning uniting as a phrase. The components individual meanings cannot characterize or relate to the meaning of the phrase (verb + particle): **leave out – omit, make out – see, pass out – distribute.**
3. The disposition of adverbial particle that defines the semantic burden of PVs.

The above mentioned neither complete nor perfect criteria that underlines specific features and characteristics of PVs is a means of categorizing them into different level of classifications.

Even though having a lot in common with other groups of phraseological units, phrasal verbs are not included in any of them, making its own specific group. Moreover, the actuality and popularity of phrasal verbs is explained due to the newly emerging meanings of phrasal verbs and the scopes of use¹.

Nevertheless, another series of classifications put forward by both Russian and foreign linguists on the basis of among more important classifications of phraseological units are illustrated on the table below:

E.I.Anichkov (1997)	Semantic classification of phrasal verbs depending on the meanings expressed by postpositions
Povey (2009)	Classification of phrasal verbs depending on the form and type of post positive
I.V.Arnold (2012)	Grammatical and syntactic classification of phrasal verbs

¹ А.И. Смирницкий Лексикология английского языка. — М.: МГУ, 1956. ст. 38-41

We should also mention that the majority of phraseological units are far from having identificatory word i.e. lexical synonyms because of losing a core meaning of its own. According to Sh.Bally's theory of identification, the most general feature of a phraseological unit is either possibility or impossibility of substitution of the unit with just a simple word. However, more than 89% of phrasal verbs, for example, can be replaced with a word or an independent phrase.

Looking through the classification of phraseological units, we can conclude that they are mainly divided into two criteria:

1. Lexical semantic;
2. Structural grammatical.²

In accordance with I.V. Arnold who initially suggested structural grammatical classification, we can categorize PVs into three subgroups:

- I. Prepositional verbs - prepositional verbs built on a scheme (verb - preposition) that cannot be separated in a sentence:

He doesn't **believe in** coincidences.

- II. Phrasal verbs – verbs with the form (verb + adverb) which are divided into transitive and intransitive depending on the presence of a direct object:

I **picked** my friend **up** from the library and **gave** him **a lift** home.

- III. Phrasal – prepositional verbs - verbs consisting of three words: phrasal verb with two postpositions:

She should better **come up with** a better excuse than that³.

Povey underlines that the grammatical correctness of Phrasal Verbs has a great effect not on the semantics but the “emotional richness of the utterance”⁴.

Another classification on semantic criteria which was put forward by linguists T.B. Pivonenkova and A.R. Zabolotskoy is a clearer and more detailed, yet not always convenient way to study phrasal verbs. Pivonenkova subdivided phrasal verbs into verbal-adverbial which consists of a verb and a prepositional adverb. The following factors served as criteria for the classification:

1. Phrasal verbs which characterize the personal state
2. Success/failure
3. Interpersonal relations
4. Social behavior
5. The start and the end of the actions
6. Mental operations

² О.П. Дмитриева, Фразовый глагол как часть фразеологической системы английского языка. Филологические науки. Вопросы теории и практики. — М, 2016 г.; №8-1 (62); сс. 106-109

³ Арнольд, Стилистика. Современный английский язык, — М, 2012, ст. 47

⁴ J.Povey, Get it right 2008, — Saint Petersburg, ст. 16

Non-compositional phrasal verbs own idiomatic features which makes it impossible to grab the meaning from separate components. All above mentioned helps us to classify phrasal verbs according to semantic factors as follows:

1. Phrasal verbs that combine a postposition and a verb that has a wide semantic extent, e.g. give up, make out.
2. Phrasal verbs that combine a postposition and a verb with monolexemic features. In this case, the meaning of the whole combinations can be predicted from the components, e.g. to breathe out, to go away, to get ahead.
3. Phrasal verbs that combine a postposition and a verb with monolexemic features and metaphoric meaning which helps a verb to dominate over a particle in semantic scale, e.g. to breeze in, to weed out.
4. Phrasal verbs that combine a postposition and verb with monolexemic features and metaphoric meaning which helps a verb to dominate over a particle in semantic scale. Moreover, the meaning of the particle is greatly weakened, e.g. to chew through/away/into, to bubble over/under.
5. Phrasal verbs that combine the particle “up” and a verb with monolexemic features. This subdivision was concluded according to the basis put forward by Smirnitsky who claimed about a syntactic pattern of “verb + adverb “up”. The meaning of the particle hardly plays a role in phrasal verb combination which gives a full dominance of a verbal component, e.g. to bottle up, to speak up, to bubble up⁵.

Authors of a famous dictionary “Macmillan Phrasal Verbs Plus” draw the attention of the readers to the semantic classification of the most active particles, setting them into a group of 12⁶. We are presenting the classification in the following table with example sentences in order to create a clearer view of the differences:

Meaning	Postposition	Examples
Increasing/decreasing	Up, down, out	Warm up, speak up, slow down
Happiness and sadness	Up, down	Get down, weigh down, cheer up
Completeness	Up	Clean up, add up, drink up
Ending	Down, away, off, out	Fade away, end off
Time: past, future	Back, behind, forward, ahead	Bring forward, put back

Another general classification of phrasal verbs also drew our attention as a basic introduction to the unit:

⁵ Смирницкий А.И. Лексикология английского языка. — М.: МГУ, 1956, с.214

1. Transitive phrasal verbs which require a direct object, e.g. shut down smth;
2. Intransitive phrasal verbs which do not require a direct object e.g. break down.

Transitive phrasal verbs subdivide into two:

1. Inseparable phrasal verbs: we cannot place a direct object between the elements of PV combination, e.g. come across. This category of PVs can include all transitive and partially intransitive verbs.
2. Separable PVs: we can place direct object between the elements of separable PVs, turn up the music – turn the music up. This category contains only transitive verbs.

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