



# A Comparative Study of Phrasal Verbs in English and Persian

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**Abstract:** *Phrasal Verbs are there in many languages such as English and Persian and extensive research has been conducted in English on the Semantic and Syntactic structure of Phrasal Verbs. However, in Persian, they have not been causally motivated in a systematic manner. In this paper; an attempt has been made to examine the structure of phrasal verb formation in Persian and English. A detailed analysis of the various patterns of phrasal verb formation are discussed. For example, the PV occurring with adverbial and verb complements, the PV without prepositions, the PV s independent parts in ancient texts, and the PV expressing irony are discussed. They are compared and contrasted with English phrasal verbs. From the analysis it has been observed that there is a cognitional divergence or variation in the formation of Phrasal Verbs in English and Persian. First of all, at the basic level, PVDSC operates in the unmarked structure of the sentence: Persian is SOV but English is SVO; modifiers follow the nouns; prepositions are used instead of postpositions; and there is scrambling. Then at the level of interrogatives, 'va:ja' which is a yes/no question particle appears at the beginning of a question; at the level of honorificity, there is T-V distinction which is lost in Modern English. In the case of phrasal verbs, there are three components (a preposition, a noun and a verb) which is not the case in English which has generally only two (lexical verb + particle). Moreover, 'az' is compulsory in Persian phrasal verbs and Persian phrasal verbs are figurative or ironic which is not necessarily the case with English. In view of this variation, it is proposed that a causal linguistic motivation is not possible without invoking dispositional choices such as three vs two components with a compulsory 'az'; and figurative or ironic vs literary meaning choice. These choices are basically dispositional as formal or semantic choices.*

**Keywords:** *Phrasal Verbs, English, Persian, Causal Motivation, Dispositional Cognitive Linguistic Perspective, Cognitional Divergence*

## INTRODUCTION

A phrasal verb consists of a verb, usually a monosyllabic verb of action or movement, and one or more particles where the combination behaves as a syntactic and semantic unit. The particle may be an adverb, a preposition, or a word that can act as either adverb or preposition. Often the meaning of these verb phrases is idiomatic and cannot be determined by knowing the meaning of their individual parts. Phrasal verbs are extremely common, especially in spoken language, and used more informally than their Latinate synonyms, for instance, 'use up' Vs. 'consume', 'gather together' Vs. 'assemble', and 'put out' Vs. 'extinguish'. Moreover, many English phrasal verbs can be replaced with little change of meaning, by single word verbs, e.g., 'give in' by 'yield', and 'put up with' by 'tolerate'. In most cases, the phrasal verb is less formal, more colloquial, and

more image or emotion laden than the single word. English Phrasal verbs and their noun derivatives account for a significant number of new words now being coined in the English language.

Although the phrasal verb has been present in English for many centuries, the term was first used in print in 1925 (Logan Pearsall Smith 1925). The terminology of phrasal verbs is inconsistent. Modern theories of syntax tend to use the term phrasal verb to denote particle verbs only; they do not view prepositional verbs as phrasal verbs. The EFL/ESL literature (English as a foreign or second language), in contrast, tends to employ the term phrasal verb to encompass both prepositional and particle verbs. The terminology used to denote the particle is also inconsistent. Sometimes it is called an adverb, and in the other times an intransitive prepositional phrase. The inconsistent use of terminology in these areas is a source of confusion about what does and does not qualify as a phrasal verb and about the status of the particle or a preposition.

Originally, the concept is based on translation linguistics; as many single-word English and Latinate words are translatable by a phrasal verb complex in English, therefore the logic is that the phrasal verb complex must be a complete semantic unit in itself. One should consider in this regard that the actual term phrasal verb suggests that such constructions should form phrases. In most cases however, they clearly do NOT form phrases. Hence the very term phrasal verb is misleading and a source of confusion, which has motivated some to reject the term outright.

The aspect of phrasal verb constructions that makes them difficult to learn for non-native speakers of English is that their meaning is non-compositional. That is, one cannot know what a given phrasal verb construction means based upon what the verb alone and/or the preposition and/or particle alone mean, as emphasized above. This trait of phrasal verbs is also what makes them interesting for linguists, since they appear to defy the principle of compositionality. An analysis of phrasal verbs in terms of catenae (=chains), however, is not challenged by the apparent lack of meaning compositionality. The verb and particle/preposition form a catena, and as such, they qualify as a concrete unit of syntax.

The main aim of this study was to contribute how Persian Language can be a useful study in English language by several illustrations and drawing inferences. The study was supplemented by examples and illustrations. It aims to appropriate and effective use of the phrasal verbs in both languages. It also aims to focus on the differences and similarities in English and Persian verbs because English native speakers use phrasal verbs more than Persian native speakers.

## **Methodology**

Methodology applied to study was based on Library consultation at Osmania University Library, Persian Department and local sources.

### **Phrasal Verbs in English**

Bolinger (1971) defined phrasal verb as "the lexical unit in the strict sense of a non-additive compound or derivative, one that has a set meaning which is not the sum of the meanings of its parts'. Thus unlike the morpheme which is a unit of grammar, the phrasal verb is a 'lexical' item which forms part of the vocabulary of the language. For Bolinger the phrasal verb is nothing more than an idiomatic expression.

The dichotomy of synchrony vs. diachrony has led to deplorable limitations of linguistic interests and insights throughout much of the 20th century. Over the past years, the traditional dichotomy has been transcended by a large body of usage-based functionalist, variations and typological research. Many of the problems of analysis which have beset the discussion of phrasal verbs for a long time are best solved within a constructional framework, not least if historical developments are to be accounted for as well; the present study is decidedly functionalist (Dik, 1997; Traugott, 2003; Croft, 2006; Fischer, 2007; Haspelmath, 2008, 2010; Bybee 2010; Smirnova and Mortelmans 2010).

Phrasal verbs are considered by Graver (1963: 261) as "semi compounds", but Palmer (1965) regards them as "Single units in the grammar. He elaborates the reasons for naming them like that by saying that "there are

severe collocations restrictions. We can give up but not give down. We can look after someone but not look before him”.

Kollin and Funk (1998) defined it as “phrasal verbs are common structures in English. They consist of a verb combined with a preposition like word, known as particle”. Crystal in the Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English language calls this linguistic phenomenon a “multi-word verb” that is best describes as a lexeme, a unit of meaning that may be greater than a single word.

Different labels such as ‘verb –adverb combination (Kennedy, 1920), Discontinuous verb (Live, 1965), phrasal verb (Bolinger, 1971), ‘verb-particle combination’ (Fraser, 1974), and ‘Two – word verb’ (Meyer, 1975) have been used to refer to this type of construction. The term phrasal verb is preferred because it seems to be the least controversial and the most comprehensive. Other terms are not enough. For example, two –word verb will exclude do away with whereas verb-particle combination cannot include ‘take after’ because after is not a particle (intransitive preposition) but an object take preposition. ‘Phrasal verb’ serves well because it succinctly indicates that it contains a verb and some other elements which altogether make up a phrase.

### **Nature of Phrasal Verbs**

What is so special about phrasal verbs in English is the fact that they are of native origin and also that a large number of them (monosyllabic in structure as they are) can correspond with the disyllabic words of Romance origin which can be used as synonyms for some of them, e.g. put off for postpone, look into for investigate, and so on. Moreover, they form a significant device in the Anglo-Saxon way of forming new words; in most cases their origin can be traced to the Old English period (when an adverb was used before a verb to form a compound). One of the reasons for their success and popularity seems to be the way in which two living words from the language with which most of the speakers are quite familiar are put together, thus making it unnecessary to look for the meaning and use of the dead paraphernalia of prefixes and suffixes when they are joined to the roots to form new words.

### **Origin of phrasal verb**

Phrasal verbs were not a common feature in Old English. Although they did exist, their form was not similar to the form we know now and they were very rare. The most common form of Old English phrasal verbs was the inseparable-prefix verb. During the period of Middle English, we can follow French, Anglo-Norman and Old Norse influence on the development of English language. Old Norse had to incite the growth of phrasal verbs in English as the phrasal verbs were a strong feature of Old Norse. On the other hand, after the Norman Conquest the rapid borrowing of French verbs into Middle English likely slowed the development of phrasal verbs because of the competition on semantic fields, as French brought in the Romance verbs that could fill the semantic fields of the Old English prefixed verbs (as cited in Lamont, 2005). Lamont (2005) explained that despite the strong French influence, phrasal verbs did not disappear from English but they became highly informal. Also their syntactic structure changed. The post verbal particles were added to some prefixed verbs.

### **Occurrence of Phrasal Verbs**

Phrasal verbs mainly represent spoken form of English language. According to Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English (1999) phrasal verbs are used most commonly in fiction and conversation but they are rare in academic writing. However, as it is claimed in Academic Vocabulary in Use (2008) specific collocations and meanings of phrasal verb can be used in formal English e.g. put forward, go through, point out, carry out, look back over etc. All the phrasal verbs listed in previous sentence have one-word synonym: put forward = present, go through= check, point out = observe, carry out = conduct, and look back over = revise. As it is explained in Academic Writing in Use one word synonyms are usually of Latin origin and sound more formal and appropriate for academic writing than phrasal verbs.

According to Biber et al. (1999) prepositional verbs are particularly common in fiction and are three to four times more common than phrasal verbs. As he also points out prepositional verbs are relatively common in academic prose since they do not have the informal overtone as phrasal verbs.

### **Structure of Phrasal Verbs**

The structure of the phrasal verb is 'stem + particle (s)'. It is possible to distinguish between items like 'up' and 'down' when they are used as particles in phrasal verbs and when the same items are found in prepositional phrases like 'up the hill' or 'down the drain'. The particle in a phrasal verb belongs to the verb itself, it is an integral part of it, but in the prepositional phrase, the preposition is always governed by its noun or pronoun object which follows it.

### **Characteristics of the verb formation and the elements in the phrasal verbs**

The analysis of certain phrasal verbs like look into (but not see into), put up (but not place up), cut short (but not break short) will bring home to anyone the fact that just any verb cannot be combined in an arbitrary manner with any particle (adverb or preposition) to make a compound verb. Moreover, it is possible to characterize those verbs which go to the making of the phrasal verbs of the literal class and not those which form idioms. Semantically speaking usually those verbs which are more or less synonymous with one another are followed by a particular particle and thus form a category by themselves. For example, the verbs which are followed by 'down' in the sense of 'joining' or 'putting things together' can be listed in the following manner: 'bolt', 'cement', 'glue', 'nail', 'paste', and 'rivet'. However, there are some exceptions. Thus we come across compounds like 'bake up', 'cook up', 'fry up', 'broil up', and 'brew up', but not 'roast up' or 'braise up' as such. Moreover, many of such phonetically disyllabic verbs can be phonologically analyzed as just monosyllabic, since they contain a final syllabic liquid or nasal, such as battle out, bottle up, buckle down, bundle up, and bungle up. In some cases, initially stressed and phonologically disyllabic words combine with particles such as carry out, curry up, dirty up, and empty out. At the same time there are some monosyllabic verbs which cannot be used with particles. e.g. 'nod', 'rock', 'chide', 'dive', 'fast'. This indicates that phonological criteria alone cannot determine the conditions for verb-particle combinations.

### **The syntactic features of phrasal verbs**

Phrasal verbs are not difficult to learn only because of their mostly idiomatic meanings, but also because of their syntactic patterns. The parts of a phrasal verb do not necessarily follow each other. Sometimes the parts may be separated. Phrasal verb always consists of the lexical verb and a particle which can be an adverb, preposition or both. Collin Cobuild Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs (1990) introduced a list of widely spread particles as well as the less known ones.

Phrasal verbs can be classified into three groups. First group of phrasal verbs consists of phrasal verbs which can be only used as undivided phrases e.g. leave off. Second group consists of phrasal verbs whose verb and particle are separated by another sentence element e.g. keep open and third group includes verbs which can be used in both ways e.g. blow up. Another point of view of classifying phrasal verbs concentrates on the transitivity and intransitivity of the verbs. Transitive verbs require an object, therefore the pattern of phrasal verb with transitive verb will always include a noun, a pronoun or reflexive pronoun. On the other hand, if the verb is intransitive, the pattern will not include any of the parts of speech named above.

### **Properties of Lexical Verbs in Phrasal Verbs Combinations**

Smith (1984:178) states that phrasal verbs have two characteristics: the syntactic characteristics and the semantic ones. According to Smith, the syntactic characteristics indicate that the constitute elements that are used to form the phrasal verbs are composed of verbal element plus prepositions used as adverbs. Quirk et al (1985:115) argue that the lexical verbs that are found in the combinations of phrasal verbs are the most common lexical movement. They add that these lexical verbs are connected greatly with the physical movement or state. Fraser (1974) states that the second element of the phrasal verb which is the particle can be connected with both the transitive and intransitive verbs. He puts focus on these kinds of verbs and how they can be affected when they are connected with the particles. The transitive lexical verbs turn to be intransitive verbs when they are phrasalized and vice versa.

### **The General Characteristics of the Particles in Phrasal Verb Combinations:**

Jowett (1964:53) states that the particles have five functions which are: 1-The particles make the phrasalized verbs have new meanings which differ from the meaning of the original lexical verbs. 2-Some particles do not change the meaning of the lexical verb, yet, they add new meaning to the lexical verbs when they are combined with them to form the phrasal verbs. 3-Some particles add sense of completion to the meaning lexical verb. 4-Some particles help to form collocations. These particles function as adverbs. The collocation consists of both the verb and the particle (adverb). The particle retains the meaning of both elements as in 'go out'. 5-Some other particles function as prepositions but they are more attached to the verb. These prepositions differ from the pure prepositions in that the complement which follows them can be omitted and easily understood from the context. To answer the question of how to identify the function of the particles, Fraser (1974:11) mentions that there are three criteria which are as follows:

1. **Substitution:** A word is supposed to be considered as an adverbial extension when it is connected with the verb to form a unit and this unit can be replaced by one single verb without making any change in the structural arrangement of the sentence.
2. **Expansion:** This criterion can be adopted when the particle is considered as a preposition but it can not be adopted in the case when the particle is an adverb. If the particle is a preposition, an additional element can be inserted between the verb and the preposition.
3. **Re-arrangement:** The difference between the two kinds of particles (a preposition or an adverb) can be manifested through changing the position of the particles themselves.

### **Nature and Characteristics of particles**

The particle is the second and/or third element in the phrasal verb. Its nature is rather complex. Broadly speaking the words forming particles are usually adverbs and/or prepositions. But Dixon (1982) has called them all prepositions (irrespective of whether they are adverbs or prepositions). It is interesting to note here that the nonverbal components of the phrasal verbs are prepositions in literal constructions, but adverbs when forming part of idioms made from phrasal verbs. The following are the prepositions that (generally) function as second element of the phrasal verb in literal constructions: about, across, after, against, along, (a) round, at, behind, by, down, for, in, off, on, out, over, through, to, under, up and invent. The particles functioning as adverbs in the literal constructions are: apart, ahead, aside, away, back, forth, forward. Often the unmentioned context supplies the missing prepositional object:

-She pulled the table cloth off (the table).

### **Adjectives and Infinitives as Particles in Phrasal Verbs**

In addition to the adverbs and prepositions there also are some adjectives and infinitives that function as particles in phrasal verbs. The following example shows how the combination of verb plus adjective functions exactly like a phrasal verb:

- I cut open the melon.

### **Semantics of the Particles**

The great majority of phrasal verbs involve a preposition which refers (in a literal sense) to motion, and not to a position of rest. That is why those prepositions which are not found in phrasal verb combinations are the ones referring to position only. Bolinger (1971) has something very suggestive to say regarding the nature of the adverbial particles that form part of a phrasal verb. Thus for him in its core meaning the particle must have two features: (i) motion through location, and (ii) terminus or result. Of course this excludes manner, time, place -adverbials. According to Palmer (1965) 'to' is used as an adverb only in a phrasal verb. Everywhere else it is a preposition, e.g. 'come to' and 'bring to'.

### **Use of more than one Particle**

Though it is a matter of general observation that two particles can be combined in some cases to form a compound verb, even more than two can be heard occasionally:

- The dog crawled back in under.

### **Combinations with Particular Particles**

There is a sort of ranking whereby the last particle is the most resultant condition-like, while the preceding ones are more direction-like, e.g. 'It slipped down off'. Moreover, if there is clearly a natural order of positions through which the motion takes place, the particles arrange themselves accordingly. Two particles signifying result cannot occur together, e.g. 'They broke the door down out'.

### **Particles joined by conjunctions**

Conjunctions can join particles in a phrasal verb in a phrasal verb by two different ways:

(1) For temporal sequence: They came up and out. (2) For intensiveness: here the particles are intended to express the sense of continuation or interaction, but not all the particles are regularly used in this way. But in this context we have to note a semantic restriction. Thus the meanings of 'tint', 'by', 'aside' and 'across' are not amenable to continuation. According to another restriction the conventional order of the particles cannot be reversed for purposes of joining: walked forth and back.

### **The Relation of Particles to Prefixes**

In systematic combinations the particle has a consistent and predictable effect on the interpretation of the verb. In the figurative cases, on the other hand, the verb along with its particle must be taken as a single semantic unit unanalyzable into its component parts. A similar phenomenon can be observed in the case of prefixes.

### **The Position of Particle**

Broadly speaking the position of the particle in the case of a transitive compound verb depends on whether it is a phrasal verb (having an adverbial as its second element) or a prepositional verb or a phrasal verb followed by a pronominal object. What is to be noted here is that the adverbial particle in a phrasal verb is often separable, but the prepositional particle is not separable at all. In other words, (a) if the particle is an adverbial, it can either precede or follow the noun object in the sentence with a transitive verb; (b) If the particle is a preposition it usually precedes its object (noun/pronoun); (c) If the object in the sentence is a pronoun, the particle (adverbial) will only follow it, the preposition will precede it; (d) When in final position, the preposition does not have nuclear stress (except in contrast) whereas the adverb always has it; (e) When the finite verb in a sentence is an intransitive phrasal verb and as such is not followed by any noun or a pronoun, it will have only an adverb particle immediately following it.

### **Transitivity and Intransitivity of English Phrasal Verbs**

Some English phrasal verbs are transitive such as 'get over'; others are intransitive such as 'get up'; while some others are both transitive and intransitive such as 'call up'.

Intransitive phrasal verbs, on the other hand, have "Three characteristics which tend to be common to intransitive VAC; and which can be used as VAC tests" as stated by Stageberg (1965). The first characteristic is that the meaning of a certain phrasal verb as a unit is different from that of individual meaning of the two parts added together. The second characteristic is that the adverbial particle in an intransitive VAC is not moveable. The third characteristic is that the verb and the adverbial particle are inseparable. It is concluded that English phrasal verbs may be intransitive or transitive. In the case of an object (noun) receiving the action of the verb, the object may come before or after the particle.

### **Separability and Inseparability of English Phrasal Verbs**

This is a very important aspect to notice certain phrasal verbs can be separated and some others cannot. Even if a certain phrasal verb can be separated then the new sentence may carry a very different meaning. Praninskas (1957) states that "separable two-word verbs permit the object between the two parts in certain cases and require it there in others". To clarify what has been stated by Praninskas, it is possible to place the short noun object after the particle or before it without changing the meaning of the sentence. In long noun objects, however, the verb and its particle are never separated and the noun stays at the end. On the other hand, in the case of pronoun objects, they are to be placed after the verb. Moreover, there is a type of phrasal

verb where the object never comes between the two strings of the verb. Examples of such phrasal verbs are 'call on', 'get over', 'go over', 'keep into', 'run across', and 'run into'. This type called inseparable phrasal verb. In addition to what has been written about some of the inseparable phrasal verbs, Broukal and Woods (1990:190) emphasize that "when the verb is followed by a preposition (not an adverb particle), the verb and the preposition are not separated and the pronoun is placed at the end". Thus, some particle can be separated from the verb so that a noun or pronoun can be inserted and some particles, on the other hand, cannot be separated from the verb.

#### **Phrasal Verbs and Prepositional Verbs:**

Phrasal verbs play an important role in English today, particularly in spoken English. A few simple words are used to give a large number of different meanings by adding prepositions or adverbs. An area which has not been yet touched upon in this paper is the differences between phrasal verbs (VAC+O) and prepositional verbs (V+PP) which cause confusion. Gardener and Davies (2007) make a comparison between phrasal verbs and prepositional verbs. They mention the differences between phrasal verbs and prepositional verbs in the following points:

- 1) All prepositional verbs must take a direct object but phrasal verbs do not have to.
- 2) Most phrasal verbs allow the particle to be separated from the verb. In contrast, prepositional verbs do not allow the preposition to be separated from the verb.
- 3) Phrasal verbs have their own intonation pattern; the particle is always stressed.
- 4) The most frequent phrasal verbs consist of a small number of highly frequent verbs like 'take', 'get', and 'put' combined with a small number of particles. Whereas prepositional verbs consist of a wide range of verbs combined with a wide range of prepositions.

#### **The semantic properties of English phrasal verbs**

Some grammarians, such as Kollin and Funk (1998:35), take the view that English phrasal verbs define only those combinations that form an idiom, a phrase whose meaning can not be predicated from the meaning of its parts. This is a semantic point of view which focuses mainly on the meaning of the verb combination. On the semantic basis, Fraser (1974:12) points out that phrasalized verbs can be grouped into different classes according to the semantic features. To support what has already been stated, concerning the meaning of phrasal verbs, Clark and Nation (1981:217) state that "the ability to guess the meaning of a word without referring to a dictionary saves time and allows the reader to continue reading without interruption". Of course, what applies to words applies to phrasal verbs as there is always possibility of guessing their meanings, using the clues referred to earlier.

#### **Literal and Idiomatic Usage of English Phrasal Verbs**

It is the idiomatic application in everyday speech which makes phrasal verbs so important. In addition, some phrasal verbs carry very vague meanings. Even if such phrasal verbs are used in context, one may not be able to know their meaning unless he/she looks their meanings up in the dictionary or in any book on idioms. Seidl and McMardie (1978:113) mention that "sometimes, the combination of the verb +preposition or particle results in a separate unit of meaning, which may be highly idiomatic". Sometimes a difference in syntax or word order of an idiom will result in different meanings.

#### **The components of the phrasal verb**

The phrasal verbs have two obligatory components: the verb and the following non-verbal element. As for the verb component of the phrasal verb, it is variably a monosyllabic verb of Germanic (native) origin. As for the non-verbal component of the phrasal verbs are concerned, there are three element of non-verbal, which are called an adverb, a particle or simply a preposition.

#### **Classification of English phrasal verbs**

Phrasal verbs can be classified into two different Ways: grammatically and semantically. From the grammatical point of view, we must take into account the nature of the particle and see if it is adverbial or

propositional. According to the semantic criterion we can classify tease compound verbs as idiomatic, or simply as literal combinations in which both the components of the phrasal verb retain their individual identity. Thus, according to the grammatical classification there are four possible types of the phrasal verbs:

- 1) Phrasal Verbs without object or Intransitive Phrasal Verbs which consists of a verb + a particle. For example, 'The ship came about'; it is clear that in such cases the particle cannot be separated from its verb. We also come across here as a subtype; a verb prepositional adverb (adprep) combination, in which the particle can function both as an adverb and a preposition: For example, 'They walked past. (the school)'.
- 2) Phrasal Verbs with object or Transitive Phrasal Verbs. All the compound verbs belonging to this class take direct object, e.g. 'They will set up a new factory soon'. Some combinations like 'give in' or 'set up' can be used both transitively and intransitively. With most of the transitive phrasal verbs the particle can either precede or follow the object noun phrase: e.g., a) He turned on the light. b) He turned the light on.
- 3) Prepositional Verbs, in which the preposition must always precede its object. Thus, it is possible to contrast a prepositional verb like 'look at' with the phrasal verb 'look out'. For example, 'he can get over his difficulties very easily'. The prepositional verb allows the insertion of an adverb between the verb and the preposition; for instance, 'the tiger at which the hunters shot'. Some of the prepositional verbs allow pronominal questions with 'who'/'whom', for personal noun phrases and 'what' for non-personal noun phrases. But they do not allow adverbial questions for the whole prepositional verb, e.g. 'They called on us' – 'Whom did they call on?'.
- 4) Phrasal Prepositional Verbs, in which some compound verbs consist of a verb followed by two particles, one adverbial, the other prepositional, e.g. 'I can't put up with injustice'.

### **Phrasal Verbs in Persian**

#### **Persian Verb Structure**

While Persian has a subject–object–verb (SOV) word order, it is not strongly left-branching. Normal sentences are ordered subject–preposition–object–verb. If the object is specific, then the order is "(S) (O + "rā") (PP) V". However, Persian can have relatively free word order, often called "scrambling." This is because the parts of speech are generally unambiguous, and prepositions and the accusative marker help disambiguate the case of a given noun phrase. This scrambling characteristic has allowed Persian a high degree of flexibility for versification and rhyming. The verb is an essential element of Persian language - only the nouns occur more frequently in the written and spoken language. Verbs have always been a major problem for students no matter what system or approach the teacher uses.

In Syntax or Morphology verb is one of the seven experimental variant of the verb word. Because today, in terms of morphological types of Persian words can be categorized into seven types: nouns, adjectives, pronouns, verbs, adverbs, word, sound, or the like. The main characteristics of verbs are:

- 1) The time, the verbs into three groups based on past, present and future are shared.
- 2) One person, the first person, second person and third person singular and plural component is.
- 3) Transition means to be a verb or transitive. Due to this feature, we have three species act.
- 4) Intransitive verbs, transitive verbs (transient) and two-dimensional verbs in a sentence and the sentence may be transitive.
- 5) Active and passive, which is determined according to the verb.

### **Phrasal verbs**



Phrasal verbs are a particular aspect of Persian grammar. Rosemary Courtney (1990) explains this grammatical phenomenon as "combinations of a verb and adverb, or a verb and preposition (or verb with both adverb and preposition)". To explain the definition in other words being familiar with the meaning of the verb itself and the particle itself do not guarantee the understanding of the combination. On the contrary, the extrapolation of the meaning can lead to misunderstandings. Collins Cobuild Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs (1990) offers us categorizing them into four main semantic groups. The linguist, Modarresi (2007) consider including them in terms of meaning and ironic sentences in the following states:

1. Combination where the meaning of the whole cannot be understood by knowing the meanings of individual verbs and particles e.g. put off (postpone)
2. Combinations where the verb is always used with a particular preposition or adverb, and is not normally found without it e.g. refer to
3. Combinations where the particle does not change the meaning of the verb, but is used to suggest that the action described by the verb is performed thoroughly, completely and continuously e.g. spread out
4. Combination where the verb and particle both have meanings which may be found in other combinations and uses, but where there is overwhelming evidence in our data that they occur together e.g. fight back.

Phrasal verbs in Persian are composed of several integral part of the meaning of a verb supplies. In other words, the meaning of a phrase is used with the verb is a verb such as multiple components; it is called the verb phrase. Phrasal verb is including at least three ingredients, often a preposition, a noun and a verb.

*For example:*

az khāb bar khāstan (to wake up)

In these phrases, the words "az" (*to*) are preposition, the name after noun and finally it is a verb.

The phrasal verb is sometimes more than three components.

*For example:*

dast-e kam gereftan (to underestimate, to depreciate)

The phrasal verb is a unit; the unit will mean that the combination of a verb and often have simple or compound. Phrasal verbs mean figurative sense and often ironic.

*For example:*

be-miān āvardan (to mention)

az-kore-dar-raftan (to get angry)

az-pay-dar-āmadan (to be tired)

be-gel-neshastan (staying sedentary)

Phrasal verb as a verb, has all other verbs features, including: intransitive, transitive, aspect, and person itself, but some of these phrases are used mostly in intransitive meaning. Phrasal verb also like other words have stress. Intensity, pitch or stretch syllables acts on it over the next syllable, highlights and clarifies the accent is called stress. In simpler terms, is featured on the phonetic part of the word (usually syllables) than the rest of the word, or in conflict with other words. According to the frequency components of the current term, it seems that none of the components, stress no more than all the other words one has to rely. Because of the relationship between all components in the current term, meaning the unit is received, and none is more important than the other bumps. However, because the present value of the group (phrase stress), it may be possible to rely on a group attribute.

### **Phrasal verbs and complement**

Complements are two types:

1. *adverbial complement:* The group that comes after the preposition and functioning as an adverb in a sentence. For example: «ou-be-dāneshgāh-raft», 'she went to the university' which the sentence is complete without complement.

2. *Verbal complement*: The complement comes after a preposition, but it needs to be a verb. For example: « in-lebās-be-ou-mi-barāzad», ‘This dress looks good on her’ which the verb ‘mi-barāzad’ (looks good) needs complement. In other words, for some special verbs needs prepositions so they need to have complement. However, in the verb phrase, the preposition knows the kind of morphological and structural, because other companies do it, and the letter for the role of his words after the verb does not show in the final, that is mean the word after the preposition, so the relationship does not end with the verb. Another point, as already mentioned above, such that its verb phrase is present, it means the verb is independent and can take many complements; complement requires that the verb is present, it is forced to. Third point, the acts which adverbial complement (optional), you can remove complement or any other complement or complements brought in while the current value is not. For example in the sentence «ou-be-zamin-khord» (she fell down on the ground) we cannot say to what she fell down and put a complement, because the whole “be-zamin-khord” means “fell down” and ‘khordan’ does not have real meaning in this phrase.

### Phrasal verbs and Illusion

Many of the phrasal verbs, only a sense of irony, and irony are indeed. *For example*: ‘be-pay-e-kasi-residan’ (being equal to someone) (*irony of having competence*)

### Removal of preposition of phrasal verb

Sometimes the preposition is omitted in the phrasal verb; for example, ‘ou-zamin-khord’ (she fell down). In this example it could be ‘ou-be-zamin-khord’ (she fell down), but the preposition “**be**” has been omitted. In the case of compound verb is still not possible to distinguish among the syntactic relationship between the verbs. In such cases, besides the fact that they were compound verb, Prepositional morpheme can hide them and as a result the whole sentence will call as phrasal verb. Some particular prepositions in Persian such as “dar” (in), “bar” (on), “beh” (from, to) and sometimes even “az” (from) are hidden in the phrase or sentence.

### Phrasal verb in ancient texts

The linguist, Doctor Khanlari, in the book «**The History of Persian Language**» and «**Historical Grammar**» which Farsi (Daari) examines changes in the first few centuries, deemed phrasal verbs as a kind of independence types of verbs. His segmentation - in Persian language Dari - can be divided into five types: 1- Simple verb, 2- Verb Prefix, 3- Compound verb, 4- Verb phrase, 5- Transitive verb (Khanlari, 1990).

### Types of Phrasal Verbs

Phrasal Verbs with three components: As stated earlier, this consists of a preposition, a noun and a verb, simple or compound prefix is formed; such as:

“az hāl raftan” (to lose consciousness)

From prepositions usually «az, dar, be» (from, in, to) are the most applicable. Most current three-part phrase is associated with «be» “from” preposition.

### Usage

- 1) Old and obsolete phrasal verbs: These phrases in ancient texts, are frequently seen, but today no application:

“az xāter raftan” (to be forgotten)

- 2) Expressions are also common in the past and today:

“az pāy dar āmadan” (to be tired)

- 3) The statements made are new in the contemporary period:

“be tasvir kešidan” (to depict)

- 4) Phrasal verbs which are used in the most popular current search terms:

“az kato kol oftādan” (to be tired)

- 5) Phrasal verbs of literary aspect of the criteria used in the literary language:

“be sotoh āmadan” (to be tired)

Some of these statements are accompanied by illustrations:

“be reštēye tahrir dar avardan” (to write)

Sometimes, instead of a simple or compound verb, some people with simple and effortless, long phrases to employ; for example instead of “koštān” (*to kill*), we use “be qatl resāndan” (*to murder*).

### Various existing phrasal verbs in Persian language and literature

Verb structure in Persian language diversity is essential. In a brief classification, structure simple and compound verbs are classified into which we call the compound also linking and verb phrase; However, in order to verb structure a verb, it is better that it is composed of six parts of comments will be noted grammarians and language experts. In this classification, phrasal verb of a particular structure of interactions come:

- 1) Phrasal Verb: Khanlari (1987) and Tabibzadeh (2006) define phrasal verb as «Verb phrase in the sentence, but the sentence structure is not».
- 2) Groups of verb: Some linguists and grammarians, satisfied the expression group of verb and known that as the English equivalent (Phrase). They call a word (verb) a group which is the name is not compatible with the lexical meaning of words. Usually refers to the number of words in the same sentence are responsible manner.
- 3) Verb Group: Sometimes a group of words that come together and do the same thing. These kinds of verbs are called as Verb Group (Arzhang, 2008)
- 4) Idiomatic Verbs: The linguist Tabibzadeh (1994) by using the verb phrase writes: «The lexical elements of the general in command of the Persian language and culture and history to be recorded is (idiomatic verbs) or (verbal expressions). These verbs functionally as a whole act as category of verb».
- 5) Supportive Verbs: Supportive verbs, verbs that regardless of the verb, the verb of the verb to have more impact.

### Phrasal verbs from structural aspects

Structure of phrasal verbs		
A phrasal verb can be made up of:	a verb + adverb	throw away “dur andakhtan”
	a verb + adverb + preposition	put up with “qarar dadan”

Structure of prepositional verbs		
A prepositional verb is made up of:	a verb + preposition	look after, look at wait for, think about talk about, complain about

Preposition in their use indicate place relation and then, by extension, temporal relations. In course of time, prepositions tend to acquire figurative meaning; and their sub-categorization frames may also change. Though the label ‘preposition’ indicates that it is pre-positioned to (place before) some words (NP), this is not only relationship that it has. In Persian phrasal verbs some sentences are coming with one or two complements. These complement can change the meaning of the sentence in to transitive or intransitive verbs.

### Comparison between Persian and English Multi-word items (Idioms and Phrasal verbs)

#### Idioms in English

An **idiom** is a combination of words that has a figurative meaning owing to its common usage. An idiom's figurative meaning is separate from the literal meaning. There are estimated to be at least twenty-five

thousand idiomatic expressions in the English language. Idiomatic expressions in the form of entire sentences are called proverbs if they refer to a universal truth:

- **The devil is in the details.**

Proverbs such as these have figurative meaning. When one says "The devil is in the details", one is not expressing a belief in demons, but rather one means that things may look good on the surface, but upon scrutiny, problems are revealed. Many idiomatic expressions, in their original use were not figurative but had literal meaning.

### **Properties of idiomatic meaning**

Idiomatic meaning cannot be transparently derived from the meaning of the idiom's parts. In any case, an expression that is interpreted idiomatically must have a separate meaning entry for the whole expression from its parts. Regarding the relationship between the overall meaning of the expression and the meaning of its parts Nunberg et al. (1994) distinguish two properties: conventionality and compositionality. Conventionality refers to the fact that idiomatic interpretation cannot be fully predicted from the meaning of its parts used in isolation, whereas compositionality reflects "the degree to which the phrasal meaning, once known, can be analyzed in terms of the contributions of the idiom parts" (cf. also Gibbs and Nayak 1989; Gibbs et al. 1989; Abel 2003). Finally, we also expect to have idioms that are highly transparent and highly analyzable, such as *drop a bomb* 'unexpectedly announce something shocking', where the idiomatic meaning of the phrase is more or less obvious from extensions of the meaning of its parts.

### **Determiner Phrase variability in idiomatic expressions**

The availability of the idiomatic interpretation of VPs of the form [VP V + DP] varies depending on the type of determiner in the DP. In their idiomatic meaning, these VPs take an unmarked D, for example, *the* is the default, unmarked D in *kick the bucket*, whereas in *pull strings*, D is null. We will refer to instances of an idiomatic meaning with a default determiner as **unmarked idiomatic meaning**, and to the D more readily acceptable in an idiomatic interpretation of VP as the **default determiner**. Non-default Ds allow for an idiomatic meaning to varying degrees depending on the idiom and the type of D. Whether the idiomatic meaning can be preserved with a non-default D also depends on whether the determiner is interpreted quantificationally or not. Quantificational operators require semantic compositionality, that combines highly constant, literal meaning, and a meaning dependent on the context, and the open proposition with a bound variable.

The more semantic transparent and compositional the idiom is, the more acceptable it should be with a quantificational determiner. By contrast, determiners that are not interpreted quantificationally should be more acceptable both with opaque and transparent idioms. Following Heim (1983) and others, we assume that definite and indefinite determiners are not interpreted quantificationally, so they should be more acceptable than universally quantified determiners.

### **Syntactic properties of idioms**

Expressions with an idiomatic meaning cannot undergo many syntactic operations (Nunberg et al. 1994). Similarly, idiomatic meaning has frequently been quoted as a diagnostic for the difference between raising and control structures. Passivization is also restricted in idioms. Certain expressions can be passivized, others cannot (cf. Katz and Postal, 1964; Chafe, 1968; Fraser, 1970; Katz, 1973; Newmeyer, 1974; Van der Linden, 1993; Nunberg et al. 1994, 509).

### **Syntactic Restriction and Satiability**

The stability in idioms in English and Vietnamese is so high. That is to say. we cannot modify, omit or replace parts without breaking or distorting their real meaning. Restriction in idioms can be found in grammar and syntax. This is an illustration for grammatical restriction. Syntactic differs from idiom to idiom.

### **General Syntactical Glimpse at Idiomatic Structures**

The phrases idioms have the following common patterns:

- (i) Noun group. e.g.: crashing borer

- (ii) Verb group. e.g.: treat sb like dirt
- (iii) Adjectival group. e.g.: free with one's money
- (iv) Prepositional group. e.g.: like a lamb
- (v) Adverbial group. e.g.: as the crow flies

The clause idioms have the following common patterns:

- (i) Verb + preposition. e.g.: take M. take out
- (ii) Verb + particle. e.g.: make up. come to
- (iii) Verb + complement, e.g.: go berserk
- (iv) Verb + direct object, e.g.: ease somebody's conscience
- (v) Verb + direct object + complement. e.g.: paint the town red
- (vi) Verb + direct object + indirect object. e.g.: do somebody credit
- (vii) Verb + direct object + adjunct. e.g.: take something amiss

### **The Unity of Form and Meaning in Semantic Idioms**

While describing an idiom its internal specific features must be taken into consideration. The element of idioms cannot be regarded as lexical units. The function which an idiom carries out within a sentence is equal to the function of a single word in the sentence. As an ordinary word an idiom can't be broken into parts in a sentence, neither can be changed.

#### **Syntactic Changes within Idioms**

The idioms which can easily be subjected to syntactic changes are more flexible. The usage of different grammar tenses within the idioms, the usage of moods of the verb (active, passive voices), change of places of words, inclusion of additional words or reduction of the words within the constructions are the criteria causing difficulties in the investigation of the idioms. It should be noted that the changes as to the tense forms and as to the number appear as minimal changes in idioms.

#### **Idioms in Persian**

Many English idioms are similar to expressions in other languages and can be easy for a learner to understand. Some idioms come from older phrases which have changed over time. Other idioms come from such things as sports and may require some special cultural knowledge to understand them.

#### **Structure of Persian Idioms**

Nida (1964) argued that there are two different types of equivalence, namely formal equivalence and dynamic equivalence. Formal equivalence deals with the message itself, in both form and content whereas dynamic equivalence translation is based on the principle of equivalent effect. Dynamic equivalence fits the receptor language and culture in order to make translated messages intelligible and natural to target language receptors. Idiomatic expressions make no sense when translated literally from one language to another. Most idioms are fixed in their grammatical structure. Other idioms are the result of a change in grammatical structure and would generally be considered to be incorrect. There can also be changes in nouns, pronouns or in the verb tenses. Adjectives and adverbs can also be added to an idiomatic phrase.

#### **Idioms and Other Language Units**

##### **Idioms and Phrases**

Idioms and phrases are similarly considered as the combination of words. "The free phrase can be used to say and response to problems and make sentences independently" such as "teachers and students", whereas "the fixed phrase cannot be used to response to problems" (Buren, 1974). We cannot add or remove any word from idioms or change their orders without breaking their meanings. In addition, the meanings of idioms cannot be inferred from the meanings of its parts. Whereas, the meaning of phrases is the free addition of the meanings of the words existing in the phrase. Their components have loosely related and can be changeable.

##### **Idioms and Collocations**

Collocations and idioms share several common features. Both of them are fixed groups of words, are highly restricted and have arbitrary limitation in use. Idioms also involve collocation of a special kind. It is not related to the meaning of the individual words but is sometimes nearer to the meaning of a single item.

### **Idioms and Proverbs**

Proverbs are complete sentences regardless of how short it is while idioms are phrases or groups of words treated as single words. The meanings of idioms are equivalent to those of phrases whereas semantic features of proverbs are judgments, estimates or confirmation about certain truths.

### **Overview of Phrase Structures**

1. Noun Phrases: Sidney Greenbaum defines the noun phrase as a phrase "has as its head a noun, a pronoun, a nominal adjective or a numeral" (Coffin, 1934).
2. Verb Phrases: "A verb phrase has as its head a main (or lexical) verb. The main verb may be preceded by up to four auxiliaries (or auxiliary verb)." (Coffin, 1934).
3. Adjective Phrases: "The adjective phrase has as its head an adjective, which may be preceded by premodifiers and followed by postmodifiers". Premodifiers are chiefly adverbs. The premodifier is also an intensifier such as very, quite, a bit or so. Postmodifiers are typically adverbs, prepositional phrases, clauses.
4. Adverb Phrases: "The adverb phrase has as its head an adverb, which may be preceded by premodifiers and (less commonly) followed by postmodifier" (Coffin, 1934).
5. Prepositional Phrases: The prepositional phrase consists of a preposition and the complement of the preposition. The preposition may be premodified by an intensifying adverb.

### **Conclusion**

The primary goal of this report is to identify the structure and use of phrasal verbs, and how to distinguish them from expressions and idioms. A few simple words are used to offer a large number of different meanings altogether by adding prepositions, particles or adverbs. Persian and English phrasal verbs refer to a combination consists of lexical verbs plus a particle. The presence of the verb-particle construction in English is traced to English having intransitive and transitive preposition (particles). Whereas in Persian the verb particle is always transitive verb-particle. English and Persian phrasal verbs consist of two basic components: a lexical verb and a particle.

In Persian the structure of phrasal verbs cannot be less than three units, it is consisting of some separate parts which is totally provide a unique meaning, and it illustrates the function of the verb inside. Although the name of the current value of the new orders raised, but the ancient history of the Middle Persian and Dari Persian literature is. The phrasal verb is significant and ironic, figurative and literal, sometimes beautiful words and pictures can be seen among them. Some of them are more colloquial usage. In Persian, Phrasal verbs are used with the most famous preposition "az" (From) and there is no possibility to omit. In Persian phrasal verbs are a unit that is mean the group which has a unique meaning and usually it is equivalent to a simple or compound verb. Sometimes the meaning which implies from Persian phrasal verbs are figurative sense or ironic. In English and Persian multi-word items (idioms and phrasal / prepositional verbs) provides a detailed overview of the syntactic form and semantic content of each type and include in a contrastive analysis of these items in their respective languages.

The study recommended that those who are involved in process of learning and teaching English and Persian have to fully acquaint themselves with as many phrasal verbs as possible; especially these are frequently used both in speaking and writing exercises.

It was indicated in the overview that multi-word items have significant characteristics that distinguish them from a single word such as the figurative meaning and fixed structure. The figurative meaning is what makes multi-word items difficult to understand because the literal meaning does not reveal the intended meaning of

the item. Regarding the fixed syntax, the overview indicated that some multi-word items may allow syntactic changes without affecting metaphorical meaning, such as pull one's and bury the hatchet. The two relative idioms allow passivization and still keep the figurative meaning intact, but there are cases in which the syntax of multi-word items is frozen and does not allow passivization because it affects the intended meaning, such as 'shoot the ball' and 'sit on pins and needles'. In Persian most of the idioms and expressions are not having their real meaning in translating them in English. Most of them have their own figurative and ironic meaning and depends on the context and situation the reader implied from the phrase.

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