

## **PROBLEMS OF ETYMOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF ENGLISH PHRASAL VERBS**

**Abbasova Nargiza Kabilovna**

(PhD), Teacher of FSU

**Abdullaeva Nozima Abdusalim qizi,**

Master student of FSU

[n.abduhalimova2455@gmail.com](mailto:n.abduhalimova2455@gmail.com)

### **ABSTRACT**

*This article provides the information about the etymological studies of phrasal verbs and the challenges in the process of which the English language faced structural and semantic changes.*

**Key words:** *phraseology, phrasal verbs, etymology, Old English*

### **АННОТАЦИЯ**

*В данной статье представлена информация об этимологических исследованиях фразовых глаголов и о проблемах, в процессе которых английский язык сталкивается со структурными и семантическими изменениями.*

**Ключевые слова:** *фразеология, фразовые глаголы, этимология, древнеанглийский язык.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

The emergence of the anthropocentric paradigm caused language issues to shift in favor of man and his/her status within society. Language helps an individual to express, illustrate himself/herself as a person and as well as it is a means of delivering cultural heritage, tradition and peculiarities. So, within the paradigm, language is understood primarily as a kind of code, the main manifestation of culture within various linguistic signs and symbols, along with the visual cultural manifestations of the collective, and is “conditioned cultural system of behavior”<sup>1</sup>.

As it is known, the most and fastest changing phenomenon is language and its influence to various aspects of social-labor cases in any language community given or recording a new concept emergence, revoking all those lexical elements that have previously lost their social significance. Progressive development of language nature and accumulation of newly accepted language elements, exclusion of old ones preserving basic notions, steady elements as commonly used words and etc. contribute to the fact that the whole language itself or its vocabulary structure in the moments from history containing the events of series of epochs in which long-

---

<sup>1</sup> Д. О. Петровна Фразовый глагол как часть фраз-ой системы английского языка

established elements coexist with newly based ones. By many popular lexicologists English language has long been studied as a language containing words established by the way of borrowing. It has endured the effect of other languages. L. Smith claims that “The progress of English language is not the result of national prosperity but two national disasters – Danish invasion and Norman conquest<sup>2</sup>.”

Facts of recently made researches depict that phrasal verbs take place on one third of the vocabulary stock of native speakers. Phrasal verbs became so significant that they do not only embellish our daily life communication but they are also noticed in some official documents making themselves an irreplaceable part of the language system. According to V. V. Vinogradova phraseological units are “sustainable” verbal complexes opposed to “free” syntax phrases as ready-made language formations not created, but only reproduced in the process of speech. Phraseology is a unit of linguistics, which functional and semantic indivisible word combinations structurally, semantically and according to its stylistic and pragmatic use.

## DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

Phrasal verbs are the mirror on which one can find the cultural heritage, compelling traditional development of the nation through the periods. From the standpoint of language enrichment and changes in its vocabulary, phraseological units serve as the basis for new formations, which become possible “due to rethinking the meaning of the words that make up phraseological units (11, p. 8-24). Phraseological science studies problematical questions of the study of phraseological combinations in English language, the meaning we use, yet are not able to explain from grammatical and logical point of view.

English phrasal verbs take their origin in Anglo-Saxon period and, yet some claim that they originated in 9<sup>th</sup> century. The term “phrasal verbs” for the first time were mentioned in written form by Logan Smith in his book in 1925. Phrasal verbs were not so in the time of Old English and were too rare. They had huge distinction in form and structure from the current phrasal verbs. They were in a form of a one word with an undivided prefixes. For example, in current English phrasal verb vocabulary the phrase “burn up” – to destroy by heat; have a very high temperature (Oxford language dictionary), had initially in Old English equivalent form **bærnan** and **forbærnan**. In Old English language transitive verbs were particularly idiomatic as there was no fixed rule that they had to express the root meaning. A good example for that is **berædan**, which had a meaning of eject or dispossess, when the root form of the verb was **rædan** owned meaning advise. This fact has still got some

<sup>2</sup>L. P. Smith. The English Language. p18

practicality in the verb “**understandan**” with idiomatic meaning “to comprehend” in Present English, yet it did have an initial meaning “to stand underneath” meaning. Some other simple and other type of verbs had functioned in the way as present phrasal verbs do. In English chronicles, there was a saying, “*ac he teah forð þa his ealdan wrenceas*”(but he drew forth his old tricks). So in Old English it was an uncommon incidence of phrasal verbs adding up post-verbal particles were usually oriented having tight relationship with prepositional meaning. Consequently, implementation of the particle “up” transfer meaning of direction upward, like “to grow up(ward)” rather than the completive sense, as in “to break up(completely)” that would become more common in Middle English and beyond<sup>3</sup>.

There was a time when English people started borrowing words from various languages including French. French language provided verbs which substituted Old English prefixed verbs. For instance, the word “*destroy*” was borrowed from French *deruire* that replaced the word “*forbreacan*”(break down). At that time period using phrasal verbs become an informal way of communication. Apart from French there were other more nations, specifically languages which influenced the development of English language such as Anglo-Norman and Old Norse. As phrasal verbs were the basic language phenomenon in Scandinavia, it played important role on expansion of phrasal verbs in English. From the other side, common borrowings of French words after Norman conquest slowed down the progress of phrasal verbs because Old English prefixed verbs were replaced with by French. Dj. Lamont claimed that despite a powerful influence of a language like French, phrasal verbs could hardly survive becoming an informal form of speech. As the time passed, starting from 15<sup>th</sup> century phrasal verbs were again flourishing and reactivated productivity. Despite the fact that Paston Letters were formal, there were noticed 162 phrasal verbs used. Having overcome outer language effects phrasal verbs were first divided into 3 categories:

- a) Inseparable participle in Old English style + verb (understand – comprehend)
  - b) The ones that include separable participle (take up – write up)
  - c) Compound words including both a, b categories above (outcry - wire-off).
- (7,386)

One of the biggest phrasal verb promoters was Shakespeare. According to some writers and popular critics phrasal verbs were still informal way of communication like it had been before. As Akimoto claimed phrasal verbs were in use mostly in letter and drama poetry rather in essays or academic documentaries.

<sup>3</sup>Dension, “Origins”

The term “phrasal verb” had appeared only by 20<sup>th</sup> century, referred in the book of L. Smith named “Words and Idioms”. V. V. Vinogradov, a Russian linguist, promoted phraseology as a separate branch of Linguistics. Modern Linguistics has various types of directions of researching which was analyzed not only by foreign linguists but also by local ones. The monograph written by A. Kennedy considered that times only available publication which gave detailed description of this linguistic phenomenon “phrasal verbs”. In his work, the scientist tried to cover all problems for the upcoming research works, becoming the first person to consider series of problems that have been seen till this day: development of English model from the Germanic form bonding it with the long process of typological transformation to analytcs in English, individual idiosyncrasies of verbal components according to their etymological side.

In most cases, A. Kennedy analyzed growing construction of verb + participle relying on early literature sources. Yet, some of his researches were absolutely unhistorical in some critical positional aspects: he started initial point of his research with that times modern English, as itself was not quite appropriate. To compare those observations with the ones occurred in the past could hardly ever been completed. D. Bolinger’s remarkable research work was the only “rival” of Kennedy’s monograph and had a more significant complex analysis. According to D. Bolinger’s statement Phrasal verb is gradient verb that correlates with a noun in terms of meaning. Taking phrasal verb unit, he singles out the position of the beginning of the movement and the final landmark – two features that must contain particle in the main meaning of the phrasal verb.

Comparing two linguists work above the one with more detailed, sequential proposition and the one who was able to cover semantic features of particles, indicating the essence of particles and its ability to convey the meaning of directionality and the meaning of the result was noticed in Bolinger’s research works. Additionally, in his research he added the relation between the position of the particle and its value.

A.V. Kunin argued that phrasal verbs are not the study objects of phraseology but a branch of lexicology, covering this by the varying opinions of other linguists. According to A. V. Kunin’s definition Phrasal verbs are stable combination of words that is characterized by a constant lexical composition grammatical structure and well known by native speakers of a particular language with a meaning that is not derived from the meaning of the components of a phraseological unit. (4. 93)

There are diverse options about the origin of phraseology in Modern English. In accordance with A. V. Kunin's proposition the Origin of English phrasal verbs are divided into two categories:

- i. Aboriginal phraseology
- ii. Borrowed phraseology

Most of phrasal verbs are aboriginal and the author of which are unknown. During the process of investigation we confronted the fact that in many cases the use of phrasal verbs was inside of the phraseological unit construction. So in the following examples we tried to compare the old and extracted part of some verbs + prepositions from phraseological units made up by the country folk in Old English that are presently used as independent phrasal verbs in Modern English, like:

**bite off more than one can chew**- *take on a commitment one cannot fulfil* (Oxford Languages)

**bite off**- *to separate something from the main part by biting* (Oxford dictionaries)

**pay through the nose**- *pay an excessive amount for something*  
The core meaning of this term has not been found yet. According to some assumptions it originated from Danish "nose tax" set during 9<sup>th</sup> century in Ireland, where the delinquent payers of taxes were severely punished by slitting their noses

**put through** - *subject someone to an unpleasant or demanding experience*(Oxford dictionaries)

**fall on evil days**- *suffer misfortune or a reversal* ("Paradise lost", John Milton)

**fall on** - *1. attack someone fiercely or unexpectedly;*

*2.be directed towards something*(Oxford dictionaries)

One of the most outstanding linguists and scientists Dr. S. Linder also focused on studying the problems of phrasal verbs. During her research process she went through more than 1800 phrasal verb units with participle up and out assuming that the verbs like, hang out, put up can be analyzed according to semantic viewpoint. P. Morgan, got inspired from S. Linder's thesis dedicated more of his researches and time to deeply investigate metaphorical expansion of phrasal verb units. He tried to analyze phrasal verb **figure out** and claimed that there are several possible approaches to enlarge metaphorically explaining it by the fact that particle "out" can depict literal, metaphorical, metonymical and other types of meanings. Therefore, P. Morgan assumed that analysis of phrasal verb **figure out** can vary in terms of meaning according to its constituent description:

**1 figure** - *have a significant part or role in a situation or process* (Oxford dictionaries)

**2 out** – *away from inside (Cambridge dictionary)*

**3figure out**–*Isolve a problem or discover an answer to the question;*

*2 Reach an understanding of a person's actions, motives or personality (Oxford dictionaries)*

According to Lamont's (2005) researches Denison puts forward the fact that some Old English phrasal verbs could resemble Modern phrasal verbs. For instance, the particle “**up**” gave the meaning of direction as in **go up (ward)** and not the meaning as in **split up (completely)** as was more popular in Middle English.

Despite the fact that there have been done huge number of researches in the field of Phrasal verbs, phraseological units, phraseology in whole, there are still a number of directions in this sphere that still have not been stepped yet and left unknown. It is visible that phraseology carries a long history starting from Old English time till present Modern English and has faced a lot of changes through these timeframe. A lot of linguists and cognitive scientists carried out investigations correlating phrasal verb units between each other, however, carry different opinions that oppose the others. This article tried to depict the etymological background and alterations of phrasal verbs during the centuries and the barriers that researchers came across in the investigation process. To sum up, although phrasal verbs had slightly diverse structure initially, it was able to survive its language history and form.

## REFERENCES

1. Nada Ghadba Galian, A Semantic Study of Phrasal Verbs in Mark Twain's Selected Short Stories
2. А.В. Кунин, КУРС ФРАЗЕОЛОГИИ СОВРЕМЕННОГО АНГЛИЙСКОГО ЯЗЫКА
3. Петрова, И.П. КОГНИТИВНЫЙ ПОДХОД К ЛСГ (на материале соматических фразовых глаголов)—URL: <http://www.sworld.com.ua/konfer34/753.pdf>
4. Akimoto, Minoji. Collocations and Idioms in Late Modern English. Collocational and Idiomatic Aspects of Composite Predicates in the History of English. Eds. Laurel J. Brinton and Minoji Akimoto. – Amsterdam and Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 1999 – 207 p.
5. Fischer, Olga. Syntax. The Cambridge History of the English Language. Vol 2. Ed. Norman Blake, Gen Ed. Richard Hogg. – Cambridge: Cambridge U P, 1992, 207-408 p.
6. Fräser, B. The verb-particle combination in English. In Taishukan studies in modern linguistics.– New York: Academic Press, 1976 – 132 p.

7. Hampe, B. Facing up to the meaning of “Face up to”. In A. Foolen and F. van der Leek (Eds.), *Constructions in cognitive linguistics* – Amsterdam, Philadelphia: Benjamins, 2000, 81-101p.
8. Kennedy, A.G. *The modern English verb-adverb combination*. – StanfordUniv., The University, 1920 – 51p.
9. Lamont, George. *The Historical Rise of the English Phrasal Verb* – URL:<http://homes.chass.utoronto.ca/~cpercy/courses/6361lamont.html>