Phrasal Verbs
in English and Arabic: A Contrastive Study With Reference to Some Scientific Texts

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Section One

Introduction

Phrasal verb, in both English and Arabic languages can be defined as a type of verb consisting of a sequence of a lexical elements. English phrasal verbs could be transitive or intransitive e.g. *come in, get up, look out for*; subtype may be distinguished on syntactic grounds into separable and inseparable. The particles may be classified into prepositional or adverbial types.

Arabic language includes a linguistic item that shares some features of English phrasal verbs (often called prepositional verbs). Arabic phrasal verbs are classified as a subtype of transitive verbs. Transitive verbs in Arabic are classified into two types: transitive by itself such as يلقي in ﴿وَأَلْقِ عَصَاكَ﴾ (النمل: ١٠); and transitive through a preposition such as يعشو in ﴿وَمَن يَعْشُ عَن ذِكْرِ الرَّحْمَنِ نُقَيِّضْ لَهُ شَيْطَانًا فَهُوَ لَهُ قَرِينٌ﴾ (الزخرف: ٣٦) this later type is parallel to the English phrasal verbs.

The present study is an attempt to show the syntactic and semantic aspects of phrasal verbs in both English and Arabic to find out the similarities and differences between the two languages in relation to this type of verbs.

Thus, the study tries to answer the following questions:

1. How are phrasal verbs defined in English and Arabic?

2. What are the main semantic and syntactic features that characterize phrasal verbs in the two languages?

3. What are the similarities and differences between English and Arabic in relation to phrasal verbs?

4. Is this type of verbs used in the scientific languages in both English and Arabic? And if yes, which type is used more frequently?

The study is an attempt to achieve the following aims:

1. Investigating the syntactic and semantic aspects of phrasal verbs in both English and Arabic languages.

2. Outlining the points of similarity and difference between English and Arabic in relation to the use of phrasal verbs.

3. Showing the frequency of using the types of phrasal verbs in the analyzed English and Arabic scientific texts.

It is hypothesized that:

1. Phrasal verbs are used in both English and Arabic scientific texts; medicine, engineering and chemical text in particular.

2. The literal use of phrasal verbs in scientific texts in both English and Arabic languages are expected to be much more than the figurative use.

The procedures adopted in the present study are the following:

1. Presenting a number of definitions of phrasal verbs, their structure and the semantic and syntactic features in English and Arabic.

2. Explaining the types of phrasal verbs in both languages from syntactic and semantic points of view.

3. Finding out the main points of contrast between the two languages in regard to phrasal verbs.

4. Making a comparison between English and Arabic scientific texts to highlight the similarities and differenced between the two languages in regard of the use of phrasal verbs.

Section Two

Phrasal Verbs in English

2-1 Definitions

Phrasal verbs can be defined as verbs that consist of more than one element: a verb and a particle, (the particle could be a preposition or an adverb as in *go on, look for*, or a verb and two particles: an adverb and a preposition, as in *get on with, look forward to*) (McCarthy and O'Dell; 2004:3).

Similarly, McArthur (1992:772) states that most phrasal verbs consist of two words: the first word is a verb and the second is a preposition or an adverb. Examples of common phrasal verbs are: *get up,* put off, turn on, object to, and apply for. There are also some three-word phrasal verbs, such as look forward to and get away with.

Also, Crystal (1985:232) says that a phrasal verb is a type of verb consisting of a sequence of lexical elements plus one or more particle(s), e.g. come in, get up, look out for.

Semantically speaking, Kolln and Funk (1998:35) adopt the view that phrasal verbs include only those combinations that form an idiom, a phrase whose meaning can not be predicted from the meaning of its parts. In this regard, Parrot (2000:108), sees the phrasal

verb as an inseparable single unit of meaning. This unit is made up of two parts (a verb plus a particle).

Summing up the semantic definition, one can say that a phrasal verb can be defined as a single semantic unit consisting of a verb and a particle. This semantic unit can not be understood based upon the meanings of the individual parts in isolation, but rather it can be taken as a whole.

A purely syntactic definition of phrasal verb could be put in the following form: a phrasal verb is a grammatical association between two units: a verb and a particle starting with the verb not the with the particle. The particle could be one word: a preposition or an adverb such as *drink up, dispose of.* Or it could be two words a preposition and an adverb as in *get way with.* These units can not be totally separated without affecting the meaning of the whole grammatical unit.

2- 2 Phrasal Verbs vs Free Combinations

Quirk et.al. (1985:1152) differentiate between phrasal verbs and what they call free combinations. They put phrasal verbs as a type of multi word verbs and add that a distinction can be drawn between such phrasal verbs, on the one hand, and free combinations. In phrasal verbs like *give in* [=surrender], *catch on*[=understand] and *blow up* [= explode], the meaning of the combination cannot be predicted from the meanings of verb and particle in isolation. But in free combination the verb acts as a normal intransitive verb, and the adverb has its own meaning. For example:

(1) *He walked past.* [= 'past the object/place]

(2) *I waded across.* ['across the river/water/etc.]

Past and *across* here are adverbs, but their function is equivalent to that of a prepositional phrase of direction. Quirk et.al. (ibid) explain that the separability of verb and adverb in terms of meaning is shown by possible substitutions: for *wade* in example (2) above, one could substitute *walk, run, swim, jump, fly,* etc.; and for *across,* one could substitute *in, though, over, up, down,* etc.

Another important difference between phrasal verbs and free combination is that in free combination, it is possible to separate the verb and the adverb particle by a modifying adverbs like *right* or *straight,* as in examples below:

(3) *Go right/straight* on.

(4) *Walk straight in.*

2- 3 Semantic Features of English Phrasal Verbs

The meaning of phrasal verb is unpredictable. That is, one cannot know what a given phrasal verb construction means based upon what the verb and the particle (or particles) mean.

McArthur (1992:740) says that some phrasal verbs can have a multitude of different meanings depending on the context. He (ibid) presents the following examples of the phrasal verb (*pick up*):

(5) *Pick up that book.*(to take up by hand)

(6) *Please, pick up your room.*(to tidy up)

(7) *The airport van picked up its passengers.*(to take on)

(8) *He picked up this ring on sale.*(to acquire casually).

Talking about semantic features, it is good to site Murphy (2012:274) who says that particles like *on, off, out,* etc. are used with verbs of movement, e.g.:

(9) *The bus was full. We couldn't get on.*

(10) *A woman get into the car and drove off.*

(11) *Sarah is leaving tomorrow and coming back on Saturday.*

(12) *When I touched him on the shoulder, he turned round.*

Murphy (ibid) mentions that the second word (the particle) gives a special meaning to the verb. For example:

(13) *Sorry I'm late. The car broke down.* (the engine stopped working)

(14) *Look out! There's a car coming* (be careful)

(15) *It was my first flight. I was nervous as the plane took off.* (went into the air)

(16) *How was the exam? How did you get on?* (How did you do?)

(17) *My French isn't very good, but it's enough to get by.* (manage).

Murphy (ibid:282) states that a considerable number of verbs plus the preposition (*on*) mean continue doing something: *Drive on, walk on, play on* mean continue *driving, walking, playing*,

But *get on* means *progress*:

(18) *How are you getting in your new job?* (How is it going?)

Get on with somebody means have a good relationship:

(19) *Joanne and Karen don't get on. They are always arguing.*

BUT

Get on (with something) means continue doing something you have to do, usually after interruption:

(20) *I must get on with my work. I have a lot to do.*

(McCarthy and O'Dell; 2004:3) add that it is probably best to think of phrasal verbs as individual vocabulary items. They often –but not always– have a one-word equivalent. For example:

(21) a. *You can come across a new phrasal verb*

   b. *You can encounter it.*

(22) a. *You can pick up a language.*

   b. *You can acquire it.*

Come across and *pick up* in examples (21) and (22) above sound less literary or formal than *encounter* or *acquire*.

2-4 Syntactic Features of Phrasal Verbs

Sometimes a phrasal verb has an object, usually there are two possible positions for the object, after or before the particle, (Murphy; 2012:274). So one can say:

(23) *I turned on the light.*

Or

(24) *I turned the light on.*

If the object is a pronoun (*it, them, me, him* etc.) only one position is possible:

(25) *I turned it on* (not **I turned on it*)

More examples :

(26) *Can you fill in this form? (or fill this form in?)*

But

(27) *They gave me a form and told me to fill it in.*

(28) *I'm going to take off my shoes. (*or *get my shoes off)*

But

(29) *These shoes are uncomfortable. I'm going to take them off.* (not * *take off them*).

Quirk et.al. (1985:1156) mention that when the object of a particle verb is a definite pronoun, it can and usually precede the particle. In contrast, the object of a preposition can never precede the preposition, for example:

(30) a. *You can bank on Susan.* (*on* is a preposition)

   b. **You can bank her on.* (The object of the preposition cannot precede the preposition)

(31) a. *You can take on Susan.* (*on* is a particle)

   b. *You can take her on.* (The object of the particle verb can precede the particle).

(32) a. *He is getting over the situation.* (*over* is a preposition)

   b. ** He is getting it over.*(The object of a preposition cannot precede the preposition).

(33) a. *He is thinking over the situation.* (*over* is a particle)

b. *He is thinking it over.* (The object of the particle verb can precede the particle).

The object of a preposition must follow the preposition, whereas the object of the particle verb can precede the particle especially if it is a definite pronoun.

The verb and particle/preposition form a chain, and as such, they are qualified as a concrete unit of syntax. The following trees illustrate this point:
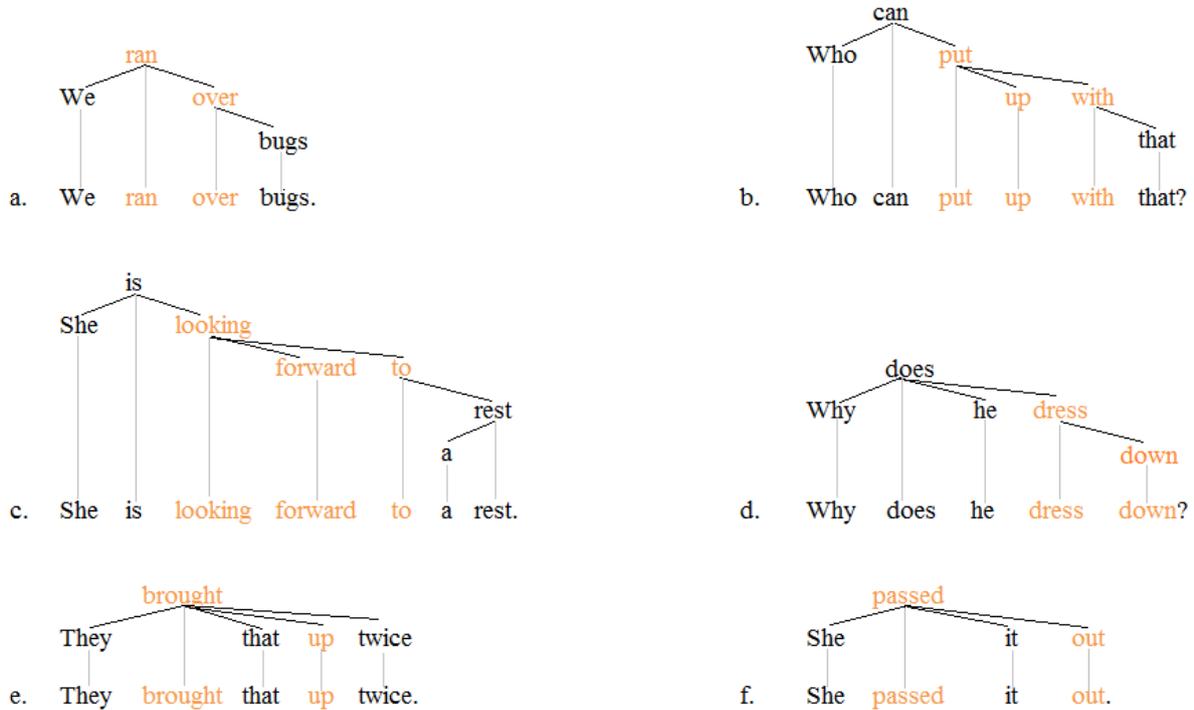
(The words of each phrasal verb construction are highlighted in orange). These words form a chain because they are linked together in the vertical dimension. They constitute units of meaning, and these units are stored as multi-part wholes in the lexicon. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phrasal_verb#Some_notes_on_terminology

2- 5 Phrasal Verb Types

In this section the phrasal verbs are going to be classified into their different types. The classification is going to be done in two different ways: semantically and syntactically.

2-5-1 Semantic Classification of Phrasal verbs

McArthur (1992:773) indicates that phrasal verbs can be classified into literal and figurative types. He (Ibid) explains the two types through the following examples:

(34) She put down the book.(literal)

(35) The army put down the rebellion.(figurative/idiomatic)

In addition, Singh (1997:13) argues that the combination of the verb and particle is considered phrasal if this combination generates a meaning that is either 'obvious', i.e. literal, like *take off* in (36) below, or 'highly idiomatic', i.e. figurative, as in (37):

(36) I took off my jacket

(37) The plane took off.

Thus, the difference between the particle and the preposition in English is that a particle can affect the meaning of the verb and provides a figurative meaning to the verb, but prepositions do not change the literal meaning of the verb. This is because the verb article combination may not be phrasal in one context, as in (38) below, but can be phrasal in another, as in (39) below:

(38) Please do not step on that carpet

(39) We're late, we'd better step on it.

Bolinger (1971:144) refers to the idiomatic phrasal verbs as the verbs that cannot be interpreted by the sum of their combinations: e.g. hang out is used figuratively in sentence (40) below, it means that the *speaker is looking forward to visiting Europe*.

(40) *My tongue is hanging out to visit Europe*

2- 5-2 Syntactic Types

Phrasal verbs can be divided into transitive (which can be sub divided into separable, inseparable), and intransitive:

2-5-2-1 Transitive Phrasal Verbs

Transitive Phrasal verbs usually need an object to make sense (Mc Arthur, 1992:773). The object is usually placed between the two parts of the phrasal verb or after the phrasal verb as a whole, consider the following examples:

(41) a. *Drink up your coffee. We have got to go.*

 b. *Drink your coffee up. We have got to go.*

However, transitive phrasal verbs can be separable or inseparable.

2-5-2-1-1 Separable Phrasal verbs

Phrasal verbs can be separated by their object. When the object is a noun, it is entirely optional whether the object is placed between the verb and the particle or placed after the particle (Ibid). Both sentences a. and b. in (42) below are correct:

(42) a. *I took my shoes off.*

 b. *I took off my shoes*.

However, when a pronoun is used instead of a noun, the pronoun must be placed between the verb and the particle:

(43) a. *I took them off.*

Not: b. **I took off them*.

2-5-2-1-2 . Inseparable Phrasal verbs

Inseparable phrasal verbs remain together, they cannot be separated by their object as in the following example:

(44) a.   He ran into a tree.

Not   b. *He ran a tree into.

2-4-2-2 Intransitive Phrasal verbs

When the phrasal verbs do not take an object, it means it is intransitive (Ibid). For example:

(45) Suddenly all the lights in the building went out.

(46) Rachel works out at the gym three times a week.

(47) Good luck in the future, I hope everything works out well for you.

(48) David fell out with his father and left home.

(49) I checked a few websites and find out about hotels in the town.

(Murphy;2012:278)

Section Three:

Phrasal Verbs in Arabic

The discussion presented in section two shows the definitions, features as well as the semantic and syntactic types of phrasal verbs in English. Similarly, Arabic includes a linguistic item that shares some features of English phrasal verbs (often called prepositional verbs).

3-1 Definition of Arabic Phrasal Verbs

The majority of Arab grammarians, like Ibn-Aqeel (1964: 498) and Al Ghalaiyini (2004:39) define phrasal verbs as a subtype of transitive verbs saying that there are two types of transitive verbs:

1- Verbs that pass on their objects by themselves (الفعل المتعدي لوحده)

(1)﴿وَتُحِبُّونَ الْمَالَ حُبًّا جَمًّا﴾   ﴿الزلزلة:٢٠)

(2)﴿وَأَلْقِ عَصَاكَ﴾   (النمل: ١٠) ,

The two verbs "تحبون" and " ألقِ " are transitive verbs reached their objects without prepositions.

2- Verbs that pass on their objects through a preposition (الفعل المتعدي بحرف).

(3)﴿وَمَن يَعْشُ عَن ذِكْرِ الرَّحْمَنِ نُقَيِّضْ لَهُ شَيْطَانًا فَهُوَ لَهُ قَرِينٌ﴾) (الزخرف: ٣٦(

The transitive verbs, as Heliel (1995:144) states transitive verbs governs either the accusative of a noun, which means that transitive verbs "pass on their objects through themselves, like English transitive verbs", or a preposition with a noun in the genitive case

and not the accusative, which means that these verbs "pass on their objects through a preposition". For example,

(4) رجع الى صوابه (means *he returned to his senses*)

(5) رجع الى بلاده (means *he came back home/to his country*)

or there is

(6) رجع في كلامه (means *he broke his promise*).

3-2 Semantic Features

The phrasal verb in Arabic is modified by the meaning of its preposition. Thus, each verb could have more than one meaning due to the preposition attached to it. For example, in sentences (7) and (8) below, the meaning of the phrasal verb has been changed because of the change of the preposition attached to that verb, i.e., the preposition (إلى) has changed the meaning of the verb (رغب) (*which means very much interested in)* into the contrary (*uninterested in*) (يَرْغَبُ عَن). Such an effect is attributed to the preposition itself rather than the verb:

(7) إنَّا إلَى اللهِ رَاغِبُونَ (التوبة٥٩)

(8) وَمَن يَرْغَبُ عَن مِلَّةِ إبْرَاهِيمَ (البقرة:١٣٠)

Al Batliyosi (1973:264), in his explanation of the preposition (على) as a particle, says that it refers to the height of something. For example:

(9) (أشرفت على الجبل) (means *I overlooked on the mountain*).

The preposition من *min* also has several uses; it means 'from' when used in contexts like (10) below, or is used in certain contexts to mean 'through' in cases like (11) below:

(10) أطلقه من سجنه (means: *he released him from prison),*

(11) دخل من الشباك (means: *he came through the window*).

The preposition عن *an* has a meaning that has to do with the 'distance away from' for example:

(12) حجب عن التلفاز (means: *he is shielded from television*).

3-3 Syntactic Features

Talking about the syntactic features of Arabic phrasal verbs, the main point is that the transitivity of these verbs is achieved by the preposition not by the verb itself. This is clear in the following example:

(13) (لَيَبْعَثَنَّ عَلَيْهِمْ إلَى يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ مَن يَسُومُهُمْ سُوءَ الْعَذَابِ) (الأعراف:١٦٧)

The transitivity of (بَعَثْنَا) is achieved by the supreme preposition which implies obsession as Allah Almighty

Al Ghalaiyini (2004:39) adds that both Kuffians and Bassrians agree that the meaning of the phrasal verb, the verb which is transitive by a preposition (الفعل المتعدي بحرف) is highly dependent of the meaning of the preposition.

A. Kuffians and their advocates state that the replacement of some prepositions with the same verb would change the meaning of the verb. like 'في' when replaced by 'على', the meaning will be reversed.

B. Bassrian and their proponents support the point of view that the verb implication of another meaning is achieved by means of a preposition.

This fact is clearly shown in comparing sentence (13) above with sentence (14) below:

(14) إِنَّ اللَّهَ قَدْ بَعَثَ لَكُمْ طَالُوتَ مَلِكًا (البقرة:٢٤٧)

The preposition in the Arabic phrasal verbs, in contrast with their English counterpart, can be omitted without affecting the meaning, (عوض الله 2003:242) as in the following example:

(15) مررتُ بِزيدٍ

In this example the transitivity of the verb (مررت) is achieved through the preposition (بِ). This preposition can be omitted resulting in:

(16) مررتُ زيداً

This omission does not affect the meaning of the verb, it only affect the parsing of the object.

He (ibid) highlights that this omission is only possible if the omitted preposition is one specific preposition and can not be substituted by another preposition giving an accepted similar verb with a different meaning. For example it is not possible to omit the preposition in the following sentence:

(17) رغِبتُ عن زيد

It is not right to omit the preposition عن because it can not to be understood whether the omitted preposition is عن (as in sentence (17) above) or في (as in sentence (18) below:

(18) رغبتُ في زيد .

The omission is not possible in cases when there is more than one possible place for the occurrence of the preposition, as in the following example:

(19) اخترت من القوم بني تميم

(20) اخترت القوم من بني تميم

Finally, when أنَّ is used, it will be always possible to omit the preposition as in the following examples:

(21)a. عجبتُ من أن يتقاعسوا

b. عجبتُ ان يتقاعسوا

(22) a. رغبتُ في ان تقوم

b. رغبتُ ان تقوم

http://d-scholarship.pitt.edu/9147/1/cheonys_pitt2006.pdf

Ryding (2005:367) states that the prepositions that form part of phrasal verbs in Arabic are seven and are frequent. The prepositions are: عن *ala,* على *la-ba',* الباء *ila,* الى Arabic are seven and are frequent. The prepositions are: *an,* في *fi,* اللام *al-lam* and من *min*, and each have a wide range of meanings.

3-4 Phrasal Verbs Types

Phrasal verbs can be classified in different ways: according to its semantic features and according to it syntactic features:

3-4-1 Semantic types

Phrasal verbs can be divided into two different semantic types according to their uses. They can be divided into: figurative (also called abstract or idiomatic) and literal.

1- Figurative type is the type of phrasal verbs which is used to express an abstract muse.

The preposition عن , for example, has a meaning connected with the concept of ' concerning' or 'about'. For example:

(23) عبر عن تأييده (means *'he expressed his support'*)

The preposition على can denote a range of meanings in contexts like:

(24) أخذ على عاتقه (which means *he took it upon himself*)

(25) أخذ على يدهِ العلم (which means *'he learned from him personally*)

The preposition في can also give a figurative meaning to the verb expressing manner in cases like:

(26) انفجر في وجهه (means: *he shouted at him*)

and used in an abstract way in an example like (27) below:

(27) يقضي لياليه في الصلاة (means: *he spends his nights in prayer*).

Another semantic classes can be though of depending on meaning: so the following semantic types could be listed:

1- Instrumental: For example, the preposition (بِ) *bi* is used as an instrument to accomplish something as in (28) below:

(28) طعنه بالسكين (means *he stabbed him with the knife*)

or in:

(29) ذهب بسيارته) means *he went in his car*).

2- Direction: In the case of لِ /li/, Ryding (ibid) indicates that it is used to express a direction toward a destination as in (30):

(30) ذهب للجامعة (means *he went to the university*).

3- locative: the preposition في /fi/ is an "essential locative preposition in Arabic"(ibid). It is used to express location in an example (31) below:

(31) جلس في المقهى (means *he sat in the café*)

4- Manner: The preposition بِـ /bi/ is used with a noun to modify a verb phrase by describing the manner in which an action took place. When used in this way, the *bi*-phrase answers the question "how?", and the object of the preposition is usually an abstract." For instance:

(32) يدافع بشدة مضاعفة (means to defend with redoubled intensity),

Or

(33) ينمو ببطء (means he grows slowly).

5- Reason: the preposition لِـ li is used to express reason, for example:

(34) جئتُ الى هنا لأنني واثق من قدرتي (means I came (to) here because I am confident in my ability).

3 -4-2 Syntactic Types

As mentioned in section (3-1) above Arabic phrasal verbs form a subtype of transitive verbs. The transitivity of the phrasal verbs is achieved only by means of prepositions as in the following quranic verse:

(35) (إِنَّ اللَّهَ قَدْ بَعَثَ لَكُمْ طَالُوتَ مَلِكًا)(البقرة:٢٤٧).

So, unlike the English phrasal verbs, all the Arabic phrasal verbs are transitive i.e. there is no intransitive phrasal verbs in Arabic. Al Ghalaiyni (2004: 338) states that transitivity in Arabic phrasal verbs is achieved by different ways: by the preposition, by an adverbial particle and by more than one preposition as pointed below:

1- The phrasal verbs which achieve their transitivity through the preposition, as in example (36) below:

(36) مررتُ بزيدٍ

2- Transitivity could also be done by means of the adverbial particle (في) as in the following Holy verse:

(37) (هُوَ الَّذِي بَعَثَ فِي الْأُمِّيِّينَ رَسُولًا مِّنْهُمْ يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِهِ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَإِن كَانُوا مِن قَبْلُ لَفِي)
(ضَلَالٍ مُبِينٍ) (الجمعة:٢)

3- The transitivity of a verb could be done by more than one preposition and thus, such a change in the meaning of that verb could be rare and uncommon.

Other syntactic types could be noted according the type of the preposition accompanying the verb:

1- A verb+ a one letter preposition

The one-letter prepositions (بـ *bi* and لـ *li*) consist of one short consonant plus a short vowel and they do not exist as independent orthographical items, and they need to be prefixed to the noun that follows. For example:

(38) درى بالأمر (means *he found out*)

(39) رثى له (means *he felt sorry for him*).

2- A verb+ two letter preposition

Ryding (ibid: 370) maintains that the في *fi* is an "essential locative preposition in Arabic" as in sentence below:

(40) جلس في المقهى (means *He sat at a cafee*)

Another example is the preposition من which is used in contexts like:

(41) اطلق من سجنه

The preposition عن as in

(42) حجب عن التلفاز (means *He was prevented from watching TV*)

3- A verb+ three letter preposition

Arabic also includes three-letter prepositions, such as على *ala* and الى *ila. على ala* designates the concept of '*on*' or '*upon*' in sentences like (43) below:

(43) عثر على هيكل عظمي (which means *he stumbled upon a skeleton*).

The other three letter preposition الى has a general meaning '*to*' or '*toward*'. For example:

(44) ذهب الى المدرسة

http://d-scholarship.pitt.edu/9147/1/cheonys_pitt2006.pdf

Section Four:

Contrastive Analysis

4-1 Introduction

The discussion given in sections two and three above show that phrasal verbs in both English and Arabic languages have their own syntactic and semantic features, with some similarities and differences, which are going to be highlightened in the current section.

4-2 Similarities between English and Arabic Phrasal Verbs

Examining the definitions, features and types of phrasal verbs in both Arabic and English languages, the following similarities are noted:

1- Phrasal verbs are present in both English and Arabic languages, that is both languages have verbs which consist of more than one single element: a verb and a particle.

2- Arabic phrasal verbs are complex as English phrasal verbs, since both are semantically affected by the particle/preposition. The meanings of the phrasal verb in both languages is supported by the particles/ prepositions.

3- Both English and Arabic phrasal verbs may use more than one preposition with different meanings: An Arabic example is the verb ذهب:

(1) رغب في الدراسة (means: *interested)*

(2) رغب عن الذهاب الى النزهة (means: *not interested*)

An English example is the verb *look*:

(3) *Nurses look after patients* (means: *take care*)

(4) *I don't understand why does he look down me* (means: *show disrespect*)

(5) *Look out! There is a snake over there.* (means: *be careful*)

4- Some English verbs, such as the verb *get*, form a combination with a wide range of particles. Others, like *make* or *do* are more selective. The same can be said about Arabic verbs, as they can be attached to different prepositions forming new words with different meanings as in:

(6) a. ذهب عنه الالم

b. ذهب من هذا الطريق

5- Both Arabic and English phrasal verbs are classified according to uses into two semantic types: figurative and literal.

6- In both languages the meaning of a phrasal verb can be totally changed by changing the preposition attached to the verb.

4-2 Differences between English and Arabic Phrasal Verbs

1- English grammarians define a phrasal verb as an association between a verb precedes a preposition or an adverb. While Arabic grammarians define a phrasal verb as the verb that influences one, two or three objects with or without prepositions.

2- All phrasal verbs in Arabic are transitive, while English phrasal verbs could be transitive or intransitive.

3- In Arabic, the phrasal verb, which is transitive, reaches its object through a preposition. While in English, when the object of the phrasal verb is transitive and if it is a noun phrase, it is usually put before or after the particle. But when the object is a pronoun, it could be put before the particle.

4- The preposition in the Arabic phrasal verbs can be omitted in certain cases without affecting the meaning of the whole phrasal verb (see section 3-3). This is not possible in

English phrasal verb, when ever a particle is omitted, the meaning of the resulting verb will be totally changed.

Section Five:

Texts Analysis

5.1 Introduction

This section is devoted to the analysis of some English and Arabic scientific texts. It aims at investigating the use of phrasal verbs in both languages. The chosen texts are taken from three different scientific fields namely medicine, architecture and biology in both languages. These texts will be analyzed semantically and syntactically.

5.2 Analysis of English Texts

This section deals with the analysis of phrasal verbs in three selected English scientific texts. A sample of thirty pages of English scientific texts were carefully chosen to fulfill the following conditions:

1- The sample was chosen from three scientific books in medicine, architecture and biology.

2- The writers of the three books are native speakers of English.

3- All the books published after the year 2000 to achieve modern language and to avoid any difference related to chronic reasons.

Going through the English texts, a number of free combination verbs was found. Free combinations are different form phrasal verbs but are often confused (see section 2-1). These verbs are only counted, they are not included within the analysis because they are out of the scope of the present study.

Moreover, the chosen texts will be analyzed syntactically and semantically as well.

5-2-1 The Medicine Text

Ten pages from the book *Practical Physiology* by Reddy and Reddy (2009:2- 11) were analyzed looking for phrasal verbs. All the verbs of the different types (phrasal verbs, free combinations and single word verbs) used in the selected text were counted to find out the rate of the phrasal verbs in relation to total number of the verbs used.

It was found that the total number of the whole verbs used in the medicine text is 553; among which, only four phrasal verbs (*find out, carry out, come in* and *act as*) were found, one of these verbs which is *find out* was found twice.

It is useful to draw the attention that a considerable number of (116) free combination verbs was also found. Examples of such verbs are *consist of, used for, used to, collected by, collected from,* etc. These verbs are excluded from the analysis as they are not part of phrasal verbs (see section 2-2), being so, they are out of the scope of the study.

The four verbs found in the medicine text along with the page and line numbers are listed in table (1) below with a reference to the syntactic type and semantic type of each verb:

Table (1) The phrasal verbs found in the English Medicine Text

The phrasal verb	Page no.	Line no.	Syntactic type	Semantic type
Find out	3	29	Transitive – inseparable	Literal
	9	2	Transitive – inseparable	Literal
Carry out	5	13	Transitive – inseparable	Literal
Com in	6	4	Transitive – inseparable	Literal
Act as	8	11	Transitive – inseparable	Literal

It can easily be noted that only one semantic type of phrasal verbs is used that is the literal type. No figurative use was found at all.

In regard to the syntactic types, all the four verbs found are of one type that is transitive inseparable type.

5-2-2 The Engineering Text

Ten pages taken from the engineering (architecture) book *Applying AutoCAD 2004* by Terry T. Wohlers (2005:1-10) were examined to find out the frequency and types of phrasal verbs used.

The total number of all the types of verbs (i.e. phrasal verbs, free combination verbs as well as single word verbs) was 265: 257 are single word verbs, six verbs are of the type free combinations such as *located in, located at, zoom in,* etc., and only one phrasal verb. The only phrasal verb that was found in the engineering text. That is *make up* which is used twice, as shown in table (2) below:

Table (2) The phrasal verbs found in the English Medicine Text

The phrasal verb	Page no.	Line no.	Syntactic type	Semantic type

Make up	10	1	Transitive – inseparable	Literal
	10	15	Transitive – inseparable	Literal

Talking about the semantic type this only one verb found in the mentioned text is used literally not figuratively. And talking about the syntactic types this verb, *make up*, is of the type transitive inseparable phrasal verb.

5-2-3 The Biology Text

Again ten pages of the biology book *Kinesilogy: Scientific Basis of Human Motion.*by Hamilton et.al. (2008:1-10) were analysed looking for the phrasal verb.

It was found that a total number of 264 verbs of different all types of verbs are used in the this text. The majority of these verbs are single word verbs which come up to a total number of 260. The rest are four verbs of the type free combinations, such as *consist of, flow into,* etc. Only one phrasal verb was found that is *take up* , it is found on page 10; see table (3) below:

Table (3) The phrasal verbs found in the English Biology Text

The phrasal verb	Page no.	Line no.	Syntactic type	Semantic type
Take up	10	25	Transitive – inseparable	Literal

As shown in the table above, this one phrasal verb found in the text is of the syntactic type transitive– inseparable and the semantic type literal not figurative.

Gathering the results found in the three scientific texts, one can reach to the following cumulative result: The total number of the verbs found in the three texts is 1082 verb of all the types of verbs (i.e. single word verbs, free combinations and phrasal verbs) . Only 7 phrasal verbs were found in all the three scientific texts. So the percentage of phrasal verbs in relation to the whole verbs used is 0.64% which is regarded as a very small rate.

5.3 Analysis of Arabic Texts

This section deals with the analysis of phrasal verbs in three selected Arabic scientific texts. The Arabic texts were chosen to fulfill the same condition sought in the English texts and mentioned above at section (5-2) but all the texts were sought to be originally written by native speaker of Arabic not translations of English texts. For that reason, a sample of thirty pages was chosen: ten pages taken from a medicine book, the same

number of pages taken from an engineering book and the same from a book in biology. Finally, all the three books were chosen to have been published after the year 2000, (2005, 2009 and 2011 respectively).

Moreover, the chosen texts will be analyzed syntactically and semantically as well.

Keeping in mind that the Arabic phrasal verbs are classified as a subtype of transitive verbs, only the transitive verbs were sought. All the transitive verbs were counted with a deep attention given to the phrasal verbs (i.e. transitive verbs by a preposition الفعل المتعدي بحرف).

4-3-1 The Medicine Text

Ten pages from the medicine book طب الاجنة (The embryo Medicine) by Mohammad Hassan Al-Hmood and Wleed Hameed Yousef (2005:13-23) were analyzed. Only the transitive verbs were counted, the intransitive verbs and any other type was not taken into consideration.

The number of all the transitive verbs was 44. The number of the phrasal verbs (also called prepositional verbs or transitive verbs by a preposition) was 19. All are listed in table (4) below:

Table (4) The phrasal verbs found in the Arabic Medicine Text

The phrasal verb	Page no.	Line no.	Syntactic type: the omission of the preposition	Semantic type
يصل الى	13	2	Not accepted	Literal
يعمل بـ	13	3	Not accepted	Literal
تُدعى بـ	13	6	Not accepted	Literal
يُعرف بـ	13	9	Not accepted	Literal
تُعرف	13	15	Not accepted	Literal
يبدأ بـ	16	8	Not accepted	Literal
تُدعى بـ	16	12	Not accepted	Literal
يتألف من	16	22	Not accepted	Literal
يستمر في	18	1	Not accepted	Literal
يعود الى	18	3	Not accepted	Literal
يؤدي اى	18	4	Not accepted	Literal
يُدعى بـ	18	17	Not accepted	Literal
يبدأ بـ	18	18	Not accepted	Literal

يحتوي على	20	3	Not accepted	Literal
يُدعى بـ	20	3	Not accepted	Literal
يسمى بـ	20	5	Not accepted	Literal

Analyzing the verbs found in the texts it was noted that all the verbs are of the same semantic type namely the literal. The figurative type was not used at all.

Talking about the syntactic features of the verbs found, it is noted that all the verbs used are of the type in which the preposition appears not omitted (For the possibility of omitting the preposition without affecting the verb meaning, see section 3-3).

4-3-1 The Engineering Text

Ten pages from the engineering book اساسيات الرسم الهندسي (The Principles of Engineering Drawing) by Sufian Tawfeeq (2009:13-23) were analyzed. Again only the transitive verbs were counted, the intransitive verbs and any other type was not taken into consideration. The number of all the transitive verbs was 43. The number of the phrasal verbs was 8. All are listed in table (5) below:

Table (5) The phrasal verbs found in the Arabic Engineering Text

The phrasal verb	Page no.	Line no.	Syntactic type: the omission of the preposition	Semantic Type
يُستَخدم في	16	3	Not accepted	Literal
يتكون من	16	3	Not accepted	Literal
تبدأ بـ	16	5	Not accepted	Literal
يُرمز لـ	18	7	Not accepted	Literal
تقترن بـ	18	7	Not accepted	Literal
يصل الى	21	2	Not accepted	Literal
يُنصح بـ	21	3	Not accepted	Literal
يُنصح	22	7	Accepted	Literal

Regarding the semantic types of the phrasal verbs used in this text, all the 8 phrasal verbs found are of the literal type, no verb was used figuratively.

Syntactically speaking, only one verb was used in away that the preposition is omitted that is the verb ينصَحُ in the sentence يُنصَحُ عادة استعمال أقلام الرصاص which appears in page

22 line 7. If the preposition is used, the sentence would be: يُنصحُ عادةً باستخدام أقلام الرصاص .
The preposition appeared in all the other seven verbs.

4-3-1 The Biology Text

Finally, ten pages of a chemical text were also analysed. Again all the transitive verbs were counted concentrating on the phrasal verbs.

The number of the total transitive verbs found in the text is 41 verbs. The phrasal verbs form only 7 while the transitive verbs by themselves is 34. Examples of the transitive verbs by themselves are: تساعد لـ ، يتضمن، يجري، توضح etc. Examples of phrasal verbs are تطرأ على ، تتعامل مع etc. In table (6) below all the phrasal verbs found in the texts are listed:

Table (6) The phrasal verbs found in the Arabic Biology Text

Phrasal Verb	Page no.	Line no.	Syntactic type: the omission of the preposition	Semantic type
تُساعد لـ	13	2	Not accepted	Literal
يَهتَم بـ	13	3	Not accepted	Literal
تَطرأ على	13	3	Not accepted	Literal
تعود الى	13	5	Not accepted	Literal
نتعامل مع	13	7	Not accepted	Literal
تعتمد على	15	2	Not accepted	Literal
يُقصد بـ	15	9	Not accepted	Literal

All the phrasal verbs found in the text are of one semantic type that is the literal type. Syntactically speaking all the verbs are of the type in which the preposition appears and cannot be omitted.

The cumulative result of the analyses of all the Arabic scientific texts shows that the total number of all the transitive verbs used is 129 transitive verbs including the two types of transitive: transitive by themselves and transitive through a preposition. The number of the phrasal verbs that is the transitive though preposition is 24 verbs. The number of phrasal verbs in relation to the whole number of the transitive verbs found in the Arabic scientific text form the percentage 18.69%.

The percentage of the phrasal verbs in the Arabic scientific texts, though still too small, is much more than that of the percentage of phrasal verbs in the English scientific texts.

Section Six:

Conclusions

6-1 Theoretical Conclusions

At the end of the study the following conclusions are reached to:

1. Both English and Arabic languages have phrasal verbs. In English they are called phrasal verbs whereas in Arabic are called transitive verbs.

2. English phrasal verbs are classified into transitive (separable & inseparable) and intransitive. Whereas in Arabic are called transitive verbs which, in turn, are divided into transitive by itself and transitive by means of particles including prepositions and adverbs.

3. In both languages, phrasal verbs can be literal or figurative.

4. English grammarians define phrasal verbs as an association between a verb precedes a preposition or an adverb. While Arabic grammarians define phrasal verbs as the verb that influences one, two or three objects with or without prepositions and, in turn, leads to transitivity of verb.

5. Generally speaking, the phrasal verbs in English have a meaning that is totally different from the meaning of its constituents. While in Arabic , the matter is totally different. That is the meaning is easily predicted from the meaning of the verb and the preposition.

6-1 Practical Conclusions

From the discussion given in section five, the following conclusions have been drawn:

1. Phrasal verbs are used in both English and Arabic scientific texts, which validates the first hypothesis given at the beginning of the study.

2. The percentage of use of phrasal verbs in Arabic scientific texts is more than that in the English scientific texts: 18.60% in Arabic texts, versus 0.64% in the English texts. This fact could be justified: the Arabic phrasal verbs are simply transitive verbs and the meaning of the verb is predictable from the meaning of its elements.

3. All the verbs used in the English as well as the Arabic texts are of one semantic type that is the figurative. This validates the second hypothesis of the study.

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