

THE COMPARISON OF PHRASAL VERBS IN SRI LANKAN ENGLISH VARIETY IN NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL CORPUS DATA (DAILY NEWS - 2010 & DAILY MIRROR - 2010)

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Introduction

A phrasal verb is a verb and a particle that together function grammatically and semantically as a single unit. A phrase that consists of a verb with a preposition or adverb or both, the meaning of which is different from the meaning of its separate parts: such as *look after*, *work out*, *make up*, *put off*, *make up*, *go away* are some phrasal verbs which constitute one of the most distinctive and creative features of the English language.

The phrasal verb consists of a verb, usually a monosyllabic verb of action or movement such as 'go', 'put', 'take', and one or more particles. 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.

This study is an attempt to explore the most frequently used phrasal verbs in Sri Lankan English variety in newspaper editorial Corpus Data of Daily Mirror and Daily News 2010. Phrasal Verbs demonstrate several specific features such as lexical, lexico-grammatical and semantic and syntactical features. Phrasal verbs, known to represent one of the most difficult aspects of learning English, are highly productive and widely used by native speakers. The purpose of this study is to identify the most frequent phrasal verb combinations in Sri Lankan English variety.

Methodology

Data: Selection of the Newspapers.

Newspapers 'provide excellent sample of acrolectal English, which

has been observed to be norm providing' (Koch et al 2010)²⁰. Hence, the present study used the both Sri Lankan English Newspaper Daily Mirror and Daily news editorials in 2010. So the methodology of the present research is based on Corpus studies.

Data: Compile a Mini Corpus

As the Manual to the South Asian Varieties of English (SAVE) corpus, "mini Corpus" was compiled using the newspaper editorials of both newspapers Daily News and Daily Mirror in 2010. The online achieves of editorials in Daily News and Daily Mirror newspapers in Sri Lanka in the year 2010 were downloaded semi-automatically, cleaned from unwanted HTML code, advertisements and other unnecessary parts of the source files, and combined to compile mini corpora called (SLENEC) Sri Lankan English Newspaper Editorials Corpus with roughly 44868 words. Particular emphasize was put on the removal of articles from news agencies, since they might conceal the typical language use in a given setting.

Selection of Phrasal Verbs:

There are hundreds of Phrasal Verbs used in English. Among them "up, down, on, off, in, out away, back, over, about, round" particles with verbs of movements are the most commonly used particle verbs in Sri Lanka. For the study it is selected few partial

verbs among them such as **up, down, away, off, out, back** which are most commonly shown in Sri Lankan variety.

Method of data analysis: Concordancing

SLENEC 2010 corpus was compiled with roughly 44868 running words. Then using the Concordance Antconc 3.2.1.2w, made an analysis on selected phrasal verb particles up, down, away, off, out, back to find out the frequency of editorials of each newspaper Daily News and Daily Mirror 2010. And the comparison was done between the two newspapers.

Base on the results of concordance finally make a comparison and linguistic analysis on the selected particle verbs syntactically and semantically to study how the phrasal verbs are appear in a sentence.

Results and discussion

According to the concordance results of the newspaper editorials in Daily Mirror and Daily News 2010, the frequency of the above selected particles, the results can be illustrated as in the table 01.

The analysis revealed that around 76% of phrasal verbs out of all the amount of particles are used in Sri Lankan English variety in newspaper editorials. The results also show that in terms of the frequency of phrasal verbs, "up"

and “out” are commonly used for newspaper editorial.
written genre in Sri Lankan English

| Particle | Daily Mirror Editorials2010 | | Daily News Editorials2010 | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Concordance Hits | Frequency of Phrasal Verb particle | Concordance Hits | Frequency of Phrasal Verb particle |
| Up | 206 | 185 | 410 | 349 |
| Down | 75 | 56 | 123 | 103 |
| Away | 43 | 33 | 101 | 50 |
| Off | 44 | 28 | 86 | 65 |
| Out | 244 | 169 | 414 | 334 |

Table 01: Most Common Phrasal Verbs in Sri Lankan English Variety.

Considering the particle “UP” it was found that there were 534 phrasal verbs out of 616 concordance hits. In other word around 87% usages of “Up” particle in Sri Lankan English variety. In the meantime the particle “OUT” was found in 503 times out of 658 concordance hits. It means 77% phrasal verbs use the particle OUT in Sri Lankan English variety.

According to the data analysis, it revealed that “up” and “out” are the most commonly used phrasal verbs in Sri Lankan English newspaper editorials.

Furthermore it can be identified several specific features on phrasal verbs semantically and syntactically. As examples semantically “put-up” is used for different occasions. *put someone up*

is used for accommodate someone temporarily/ propose someone for election or adoption; *put something up* is used for present something for discussion or consideration/ publish banns/ provide money as backing for an enterprise/ offer something for sale or auction/ offer a specified degree of resistance or skill in a fight or contest/ cause game to rise from cover/ archaic return a sword to its sheath.

And “Come-out” also has semantically differences. “*Come out*” is used to mean become known/ happen as a result/ (of a photograph) be produced satisfactorily or in a specified way/ (of the result of a calculation or measurement) emerge at a specified figure/ (of a book or other work) be released or published/ declare oneself as being for or against

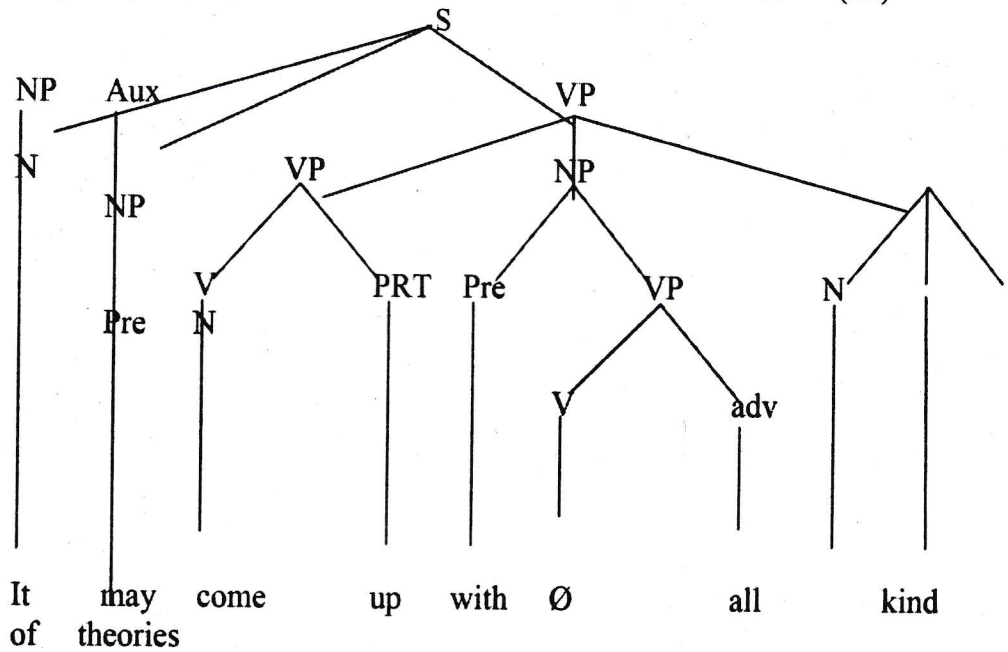
something/ achieve a specified placing in an examination or contest/ acquit oneself in a specified way/ (of a stain) be removed or able to be removed/ British go on strike/ informal openly declare that one is homosexual. / British dated (of a

young upper-class woman) make one's debut in society.

Through syntactically analyzing the sentence it is identified that phrasal verbs are composed of two elements: a verbal element and a particle.

NP => {it, kinds, theories}
 PRT => {up}
 Prep => {with, of}

VP => {come}
 Aux => {may}
 Adv => {all}



(Daily Mirror – 2010.01.14)

Conclusion

Through the present research it is revealed that Phrasal verbs play a large part in English today, and a few simple words are used to give a large number of different meanings

by adding prepositions or adverbs. Through the syntactic and semantic analysis it can be identify that English phrasal verb refers to a combination consists of a lexical verb plus a particle. The particle can

be either a preposition or an adverb. The meaning of the phrasalized combination is not implied in the meaning of the individual units of the phrasal verb.

This study attempts to shed new light on most commonly used Phrasal Verbs in Sri Lankan variety. As the hypothesis of the present research there is a distinctive Phrasal Verbs variety in English and this distinctive structure can be seen in Sri Lankan English Newspaper variety.

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