

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research

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Iraqi EFL Learners' Use of Phrasal Verbs :An Error Analysis Study

A Paper

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Requirements for the Degree of B. A. in English Language
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بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ
تَبَارَكَ الَّذِیْ بِیْدِهِ الْمُلْكُ وَهُوَ عَلٰی كُلِّ شَیْءٍ قَدِیْرٌ
صَدَقَ اللّٰهُ الْعَلِیَّ الْعَظِیْمَ

سورة الملك / الآیة (1)

DEDICATION

**To....a symbol of love, tenderness, sacrifice and
altruism.....**

****Dear mother****

**To..... Imad Al-Khaymah, who was cast in the
shadows of his love and value,
so his tone became ever reflective of the heart and
flowed in my veins as a river of
self-confidence and longing for the truth.....**

****Dear Father****

(may God have mercy on him)

**To.... for whom my heart overflows with love and
tenderness.....**

****my brothers and sisters****

To....whom I love and respect.....

****my teachers****

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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And to everyone who extends a helping hand and help with a sincere heart.

researcher

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Chapter one

Introduction

1.1 The problem

phrasal verbs are verbs which consist of both a verb and a particle. For example;the phrasal verb "look up" consists of the verb "look" which means "to see" and the preposition "up" which is the opposite of "down".In the phrasal verbs we should take the meaning of the two parts and treat them as one unit .So the phrasal verb “look up”may mean "search for information in a book or computer" for example:

1- I will look up for this information in my book.

(McCarthy & O'Dell, 2004, p.6)

This paper tries to answer the following questions:

- 1-What is meant by phrasal verbs?
- 2-What are the types of phrasal verbs?
- 3--What are the common phrasal verbs?
- 4-What is the structure of phrasal verbs?

1.2 Aims

Our present study tries to achieve the following aims:

- 1-Denoting the definition and the types of phrasal verbs.
- 2-Mention the types of phrasal verbs.
- 3-Pointing out the common phrasal verbs.
- 4-Finding out the structure of the phrasal verbs.

1.3 Hypotheses

Our paper hypothesized that:

1-Phrasal verbs are defined as verbs which consist of both a verb and a particle. (McCarthy & O'Dell, 2004, p.6)

2-There are four types of phrasal verbs

a.Transitive phrasal verbs.

b.Intransitive phrasal verbs.

c.Separable phrasal verbs.

d-Inseparable phrasal verbs.(<https://www.studyandexam.com/types-of-phrasal-verb.html>)

3-The most common phrasal verbs are:

go on ,go back ,pick up, come down ,bring back ,turn off, turn on ,set down ,hold on, give up, turn around, move on ,turn over, carry on.

4- Structure of phrasal verbs

A phrasal verb can be made up of:

a verb + adverb throw away

a verb + adverb + preposition put up with

5-There is difficulty faced by Iraqi EFL university students in using phrasal verbs.

1.4Procedures

The following steps will be followed in this paper:

1-Review the literature related to use of phrasal verbs.

2-Testing a random sample of students regarding using phrasal verbs to show the difficulty faced by Iraqi EFL university students.

3- Analyzing the result of the test to point out the difficulty faced by the students.

1.5 Limits

The present study is limited to the study of use of phrasal verbs. As well as , applying a test to (40) sample of students of Iraqi EFL university students taken from the fourth year classes in the Dept of English, College of Education for Human Sciences, University of Babylon during the academic year(2021-2022).

1.6 Value

This paper is hoped to be valuable for all learners and make them understand the use of phrasal verbs.

Chapter Two

Phrasal Verbs

2.1 Definitions

Singh(1997:1) states that phrasal verbs are verbs that come with a preposition or an adverb particle. The meaning of the verbal phrase should be taken as a whole unit, not from separate words.

Gardner and Davies(2007 :341) mention that phrasal verbs refer to an ordinary verb combined with a preposition or an adverbial particle that has at least one meaning which is different from the meaning that would be denoted by taking the literal meanings of the individual words separately.

McCarthy and O'Dell(2004:6) denote that phrasal verbs are “verbs which consist of a verb and particle” .Particle means small words which are known as prepositions and adverbs. For example

2-He got in the car.

2.2 Number of particle

As we mentioned above that phrasal verbs consist of verb and particles ,there are some phrasal verbs which consist of more than one particle:verb+particle+particle, sometimes called a “phrasal-prepositional verb”.

For example

3-Mark broke out in spots.

4-I came down with measles. (Armstrong, 2004, p. 214)

2.3 The most common phrasal verbs

The most common verbs that take a part of phrasal verbs:

break	Look
bring	Make
call	Pass
come	Pick
cut	Pull
get	Put
give	Run
go	Set
keep	Take
knock	Turn

(Ibid)

2.4 The types of phrasal verbs

There are two types of phrasal verbs:

2.4.1 Transitive

2.4.2 Intransitive

2.4.1 Transitive phrasal verbs

Transitive phrasal verbs are verbs which need a direct object(.They are commonly used in regular conversation and written texts.

(Bolinger and Dwight. 1971:180)

For example;

5-We should give up this project.

6-I need to drop off the kids at school.

7-Hang up your jacket.

8-I am looking for my keys.

Transitive phrasal verbs are divided into separable and inseparable.

2.4.1.1 Separable phrasal verbs

It refers to the phrasal verbs which can be separated by the direct object. The object can be placed in the middle of the phrasal verbs and separate the verb from the particle. (Crystal, 1995:118)

For example;

9-I turn on the light

Or

10-I turn the light on.

They are both correct and the meaning is the same.

Other examples

11-I will pick up you from the airport.

Or

12- I will pick you up from the airport.

10-Can you please fill in this questionnaire?

Or

13- Can you please fill this questionnaire in?

2.4.1.2 Inseparable phrasal verbs

It refers to the phrasal verbs which cannot be separated by their object. This means the object must always come after the complete phrasal verb. <https://grammartop.com/phrasal-verbs-separable-and-inseparable/?pdf=1174>

For example;

14-We need to check out of the room by 1:30.

15-You should stay away from bad friends.

16-They carried on their tasks.

17-The nurse looks after the patient.

18-A thief broke into the shop. Constant

2.4.2 Intransitive phrasal verbs

intransitive phrasal verbs are verbs which have no direct object.

(Carter and McCarthy ,2006:433)

For example;

19-Come on, let's just go already.

20-I am so sleepy. I need to wake up.

21-We should dress up for the party.

22-Nobody found out that I didn't have an invitation.

23-I get up at 7 every morning.

24-What time do you think he is going to show up?

2.5 Literal and idiomatic phrasal verbs

Most common phrasal verbs have a literal meaning which you can guess from their two parts.

For example;

25-I ran out of the room.

26-I put my keys in my bag. 15-Then I took them out again.

.(McArthur,1992:772)

Phrasal verbs also have idiomatic meanings which can not be guessed from their two parts (but you might be able to guess from the context).

For example;

27-Oh no! We've run out of milk.

28-My boss expects me to put in 10 hours a day.

29-It's important to take out holiday insurance before you travel.

Chapter Three

The Test

3.1 Testing

A test can be defined as any means of checking what the students can do with the language and what they cannot do with it.(Al-Juboury, 1999:1)

3.2 The Characteristics of a Good Test

The most important features of a good test are:

3.2.1 Validity

Kumar(2011:113) denotes that validity is a test which helps predict whether a person will be successful in a given job.A test that has been validated can be helpful in differentiating between prospective and employees who will be able to perform the job well and those who will not.

The most important types of validity are:

3.2.1.1 Content Validity

It is the extent to which the test related to the features of the material to be tested.(Armstrong,2006:463)

3.2.1.2 Face Validity

It refers to the way in which the test looks to the examinees, supervisors or to the people concerned with students' education, in order to have its face validity.(Al-Juboury, 1999:26)

3.2.2 Reliability

It refers to the standardization of the result of the test.A person who takes a certain score in a certain test ,he should be able to take the same score if the test is given to him another time.(Kumar ,2011:113)

3.3 Test Design

The test consists of two questions ,each question includes (10) sentences to measure the recognition level and the production level of the student's performance in using phrasal verbs .

3.4 Test Material

Most items of the test are taken from grammar books mentioned in chapter two.

3.5 The Sample of the test

The sample of the test consists of (30) students taken randomly from the fourth year level in the Dept. of English , College of Education for Human Sciences ,University of Babylon during the academic year 2020-2022.

3.6 The Result of the Test

The following table shows the result of the recognition level:.

Items	Number of Correct Responses	Percentage%	Number of Incorrect Responses	Percentage%
1	21	70%	9	30%
2	15	50%	15	50%
3	12	40%	18	60%
4	12	40%	18	60%

5	18	60%	12	40%
6	18	60%	12	40%
7	24	80%	6	20%
8	21	70%	9	30%
9	15	50%	15	50%

10	12	40%	18	60%
Total	168	56%	182	44

3.7 Test Analysis

According to the results shown in the table above. It is noticed that the number and the percentage of correct responses (168,56%) are more than those of the incorrect responses (182,44%) .

Items(10,3, 4) the number and percentage of incorrect responses(18,60%) are more than those of correct responses(12,40%) because the students are unfamiliar with these items.

Items(6and 5) the number and percentage of correct responses(18,60%) are more than those of incorrect responses(12,40%) because the students are familiar with these items.

Items(1and 8) the number and percentage of correct responses(21,70%) are more than those of incorrect responses(9,30%) because the students are familiar with these items.

Items(2) the number and percentage of correct responses and incorrect responses are (15,50%).

Items(7) the number and percentage of correct responses(24,80%) are more than those of incorrect responses(6,20%) because the students are familiar with these items.

The following table shows the result of the production level

Items	Number of Correct Responses	Percentage%	Number of Incorrect Responses	Percentage%
1	18	%60	12	%40
2	3	%10	27	%90
3	12	%40	18	%60
4	18	%60	12	%40
5	15	%50	15	%50
6	6	%20	24	%80
7	3	%10	27	%90
8	9	%30	21	%70
9	15	%50	15	%50
10	12	%40	18	%60
Total	107	37%	189	63%

3.8 Test Analysis

According to the results shown in the table above. It is noticed that the number and the percentage of incorrect responses (189,63%) are more than those of the correct responses (107,37%)

Items(3 and 10) the number and percentage of incorrect responses(18,60%) are more than those of correct responses(12,40%) because the students are unfamiliar with these items.

Items(2 and 7) the number and percentage of incorrect responses(27,90%) are more than those of correct responses(3,10%) because the students are unfamiliar with these items.

Items(1 and 4) the number and percentage of correct responses(18,60%) are more than those of incorrect responses(12,40%) because the students are familiar with these items.

Items(6) the number and percentage of incorrect responses(24,80%) are more than those of correct responses(6,20%) because the students are unfamiliar with these items.

Items(8) the number and percentage of incorrect responses(21,70%) are more than those of correct responses(9,30%) because the students are unfamiliar with these items.

Items(5 and 9) the number and percentage of correct responses and incorrect responses are (15,50%) .

Chapter Four

Conclusion

The present study has come out with the following conclusions:

1-Phrasal verbs are verbs that come with a preposition or an adverb particle.

2-The meaning of the verbal phrase should be taken as a whole unit,not from separate words.

3-There are four types of phrasal verbs:transitive phrasal verbs,intransitive phrasal verbs,separable phrasal verbs andIn separable phrasal verbs.

4-According to the result of the test it is noticed that Iraqi EFL university students often find difficulty in using phrasal verbs because the number and the percentage of incorrect responses (184,60%) was more than those of the correct responses (138,40%).

5- The hypotheses in the first chapter has been accepted.

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Appendix(1) The Test

Q1) Fill in the blanks of the following sentences with the appropriate phrasal verb:

1-Would youmy dog for me this weekend.

- a.look
- b.look after
- c.look up

2-My neighbour.....eggs yesterday.

- a.ran
- b.ran out
- c.ran into

3-John.....his leg at the baseball game.

- a.broke
- b.broke down
- c.broke off

4-Our boss.....our meeting until next week.

- a.put
- b.put off
- c.put down

5-Could you.....the music while I'm on the phone?

- a.turn
- b.turn off
- c.turn round

6-I don'tmy new science teacher.

- a.get up
- b.get over
- c.get on with

7-We bothmeeting your new girlfriend.

- a.look
- b.look up
- c.look forward with

8-My caron the highway today.

- a.broke down
- b.broke off
- c.broke away

9-It will be easier to read if you.....the lights.

a.switch

b.switch on

c.switch over

10-I have to.....to the finish line and back.

a.run away

b.run out of

c.run

Q)2 Give meaningful sentences by using the following phrasal verbs:

1-get up

2-found out

3-wake up

4-drop off

5-stay away

6-carried on

7-looks after

8-put in

9-check out

10-fill in

The present test has been approved by the following jury members::

1- Asst. Prof. Muneer Ali(M.A)

2-Prof.Salih M.Addie (Ph.D)

The Answers of the Test

Q1)

1-b

2-b

3-a

4-b

5-b

6-c

7-c

8-a

9-b

10-c

Q2)

1-I get up at 7 every morning.

2-Nobody found out that I didn't have an invitation.

3-I am so sleepy. I need to wake up.

4-I need to drop off the kids at school.

5-You should stay away from bad friends.

6- They carried on their tasks.

7-The nurse looks after the patient.

8-I put my keys in my bag.

9- We need to check out of the room.

10-Can you please fill this questionnaire in?