THE PHRASAL VERBS AND THE ROLE OF CONTEXT
IN UNDERSTANDING THEM

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Multe verbe ale limbii engleze sunt urmate de prepoziţii, de particule adverbiale, sau de ambele, formând în acest fel verbe complexe cu sensuri complet diferite faţă de cele iniţiale. De exemplu, verbul **to cry** înseamnă **„a striga"**, dar **to cry up** înseamna **„a aprecia, a preţui"**, **to put** înseamnă **„a pune"**, dar **to put up** înseamnă **„a gazdui"**, iar to **put up with** înseamnă **„a se înţelege bine cu (cineva)"**. Această lucrare este destinată tuturor cunoscătorilor de limbă engleză de circulaţie internaţională, dar în egală măsură şi celor care vor studia în viitor şi vor dori să şi-o perfecţioneze, verbele complexe reprezentând un capitol foarte dificil nu numai pentru străini, ci şi pentru vorbitorii nativi. De asemenea, lucrarea este destinată profesorilor, studenţilor şi traducătorilor, pentru că acest subiect prezintă o mare dificultate în predare, studiere şi traducere, fiindcă, un verb complex are mai multe sensuri (fiind folosit şi în registrul familiar, şi în comerţ, navigaţie, legături telefonice, şi în registrul popular). De aceea trebuie să fim cu toţii atenţi la contextul în care se află verbul complex, la structura lui, la sensul lui fie literal sau idiomatic, şi atunci când noi o să înţelegem ce reprezintă el, va fi cu mult mai uşor a-l utiliza în vorbire, şi cu mult mai simplu înţeles în context.

It is common knowledge that in order to provide an adequate translation, the translator must be able to sense nuances in the semantics of both the source and target language texts. English phrasal verbs (e.g. *give up, break in, fall out*) are of great interest to us in this respect because they possess quite a number of semantic, grammatical and stylistic peculiarities, sometimes making their accurate translation into Romanian difficult. In the English language, a **phrasal verb** is a verb combined with a preposition, an adverb, or an adverbial particle, all three of which are uninflected. A phrasal verb is also called **verb-particle construction**, **verb phrase**, **multi-word verb**, or **compound verb**. American English expressions are **two-part verb** or in some cases **three-part verb**.

Some grammarians as Bolinger D., Levitchii L., Bantas A. claim that only the *figurative, idiomatic* or *metaphorical* usage of the combination should be called a phrasal verb, and that the *literal* use, where both the verb and the preposition are analysed, and both are found to have a *literal* meaning in a phrasal context, should be called *verb and particle* or *verb-particle constructions*.

Of course, in dealing with the translation of such lexical units into his or her native language, the translator can consult the appropriate bilingual dictionary. To get a good idea of English phrasal verbs' semantic nuances, we must first look at their conceptual features.

In theory, phrasal verbs are generally considered to be idiomatic combinations of a verb and an adverbial particle. The exact status of the latter is still being debated, scholars being divided on whether it is an adverb, prepositional adverb, postpositional prefix, special part of speech.

In general, the main function of phrasal verbs is conceptual categorization of reality in the speaker's mind.

They denote not only actions or states as "ordinary" verbs do, but also specify their spatial, temporal or other characteristics. This ability to describe actions or states more precisely, vividly and emotionally is determined by the adverbial components of phrasal verbs. By combining with these elements, verbs of broader meaning are subjected to a regular and systematic multiplication of their semantic functions.

While the English verb has no consistent structural representation of aspect, adverbial particles either impart an additional aspective meaning to the base verb, example: the durative verb *sit* merges with the particle *down* into terminative phrasal verb *sit down* or introduce a lexical modification to its fundamental semantics.

In most cases adverbial elements denote the general spatial direction of the action or express its qualitative or quantitative characteristics, like *beginning- set out- a incepe, duration- bum along- a pierde timpul, a trindavi, completion- think out- a planui, intensity-hurry up- a se grabi.*

Such semantic peculiarities of English phrasal verbs must influence the process of their translation into the Romanian language, which has a highly developed system of verbal prefixes, Romanian verbal prefixes resemble English adverbial particles in their semantic functions, also indicating various qualities of actions

and stages. English phrasal verbs can be highly idiomatic their meanings being unpredictable from the sum of their constituents' meanings (*take in- to deceive, lay down- to build, let on- to tell a secret*).

In such cases, where the context or professional experience fails to reveal the sense of a phrasal verb, a good explanatory or bilingual dictionary can be of a great help to translator.

Let's analyse the sentence: "*He liked to **break in** his assistants slowly*". Neither the context, nor the adverbial element of the phrasal verb hint at the real meaning of the combination *break in*, it has the following "unexpected" meaning: to help somebody to become accustomed (*to work, to learn)= a se familiariza,* this is according to Longman Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs.

A word can possess more than one meaning and causes problems of ambiguity. When a word is used in conjunction with other words it possesses only one meaning. Two common examples of this kind in the English language are phrasal verbs and idioms.

Thus, when we translate English phrasal verbs into Romanian we must find the appropriate Romanian equivalent by extracting sense information about the text.

Any description in English of getting up and getting ready will normally contain phrasal verbs. There are different exercises that can be devised on this theme. It may help students to become familiar with some common verb-particle combinations if the teacher provides an initial description. The following verbs may be included*: wake up, switch off, get up, get in, get out, try on, take off, put on.*

Phrasal Verbs in Romanian

There is a big difference while translating phrasal verbs from English into Romanian or vice versa. Because of the fact that English is an analytical language there are lots of exceptions and rules that must be respected and followed. We can distinguish these differences by learning them by heart or by working every time with dictionary.

It is common knowledge that in order to provide an adequate translation, the translator must be able to sense nuances in the semantics of both the source-language and target-language texts. English phrasal verbs (*give up, break in, fall out*) are of great interest to us in this respect because they possess quite a number of semantic, grammatical and stylistic peculiarities, sometimes making their accurate translation into Romanian difficult. In dealing with the translation of such lexical units into his or her native language, the translator can consult the appropriate bilingual dictionary.

To get a good idea of semantic nuances of English phrasal verbs, we must first look at their conceptual features. In theory, phrasal verbs are generally considered to be idiomatic combinations of a verb and an adverbial particle. The exact status of the latter is still being debated, scholars dividing them whether it is an adverb, prepositional adverb, postpositional prefix, special part of speech. H.Palmer and A.I. Smirnițchi consider them preposition like adverbs. Professor I. Ahichkov calls them adverbial postpositions. N. Amasova thinks that they are a special kind of form words, which she calls post-positives.

In general, the main function of phrasal verbs is conceptual categorization of reality in the speaker's mind. They denote not only actions or states as "ordinary" verbs do, but also specify their spatial, temporal or other characteristics. This ability to describe actions or states more precisely, vividly and emotionally is determined by the adverbial components of phrasal verbs. By combining with these elements, verbs of broader meaning are subjected to a regular and systematic multiplication of their semantic functions. While the English verb has no consistent structural representation of aspect, adverbial particles either impart an additional aspective meaning to the notional verb. Such semantic peculiarities of English phrasal verbs must influence the process of their translation into the Romanian language, which has a highly developed system of verbal prefixes. In addition to their function that is analogous to that of English prefixes, Romanian verbal prefixes resemble English adverbial particles in their semantic functions, also indicating various qualities of actions and states.

Strictly speaking, proper translation of English phrasal verbs to a high degree depends on the context in which they are used which suggests the appropriate interpretation of the described action denoted by certain phrasal verb, one can seek a Romanian counterpart prefix, which is the closest in rendering the same idea and meets the lexical and grammatical requirements of translation into the target language. In the cases where the context or professional experience fails to reveal the sense of a phrasal verb, a good explanatory or bilingual dictionary can be of a great help to the translator.

A phrasal verb is an aspect of English grammar that presents a difficulty not only for the foreign speakers, but also for the native speakers.

There are some works in Romanian like "Dictionar englez-roman de verbe complexe" by M.Copaceanu and "Dictionar de neologisme" by Florin Marcu that mentions that the translation of term "phrasal verbs" into Romanian is "verbe complexe", because these phrasal verbs cannot be compound or simple, they are complex, because just one phrasal verb can have hundreds and hundreds of meanings.

For example: *to put* means *a pune, a aseza*, but *to put up* means ***a gazdui*** and *put up with* means *a se intelege bine cu*.

Each verb is followed by its senses, and every time the reader or speaker must choose the appropriate meaning to understand the sense. It is difficult to speak about phrasal verbs in Romanian language because they exist just in English language, and the other languages learn something from them.

There are a lot of questions about phrasal verbs. First of all we learn phrasal verbs to understand normal spoken English. On the other hand, English speakers frequently use these Phrasal Verbs when they speak, but not when they write (especially business writing).

The first objective is to understand the Phrasal Verbs when we hear them, the second objective is to use them ourselves (this makes our English more natural).Earlier work on disambiguation of phrasal verbs has not been very extensive. In fact many phrasal verbs assume that the input text shall be contributed as to minimize occurrences of phrasal verbs.

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