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# BREAKING DOWN THE ROLE OF COMPLEMENTS IN TRANSITIVE PHRASAL VERBS

## Abstract

This article explores syntactic and pragmatic constraints involving transitive phrasal verbs (TPV) in English within a theoretical framework grounded in Usage-based models aligned with principles of Construction Grammar approaches. Variable particle placement is a well-documented feature of TPVs and this study traces historical patterns of usage in order to elucidate distributional tendencies and pragmatic factors that have influenced particle positioning overtime. A diachronic analysis is conducted to provide further insights into variable particle placement in phrasal verbs, with a particular focus on the variable positioning of the particle *out* in relation to the verb and its complement. The research is based on diachronic corpus data from the 17th to the 20th centuries, taken from the British National Corpus and A Representative Corpus of Historical English Registers. Apart from indicating a strong interaction between end-weight and information packaging, the findings highlight the gradual expansion and increasing flexibility of particle placement over time.

## Keywords

Phrasal verbs. Construction grammar. Diachrony. Historical data.

## Phrasal verbs

Highly frequent in the English language, phrasal-verb constructions have been the focus of linguistic analyses from various theoretical perspectives, as specific features are involved in the use of these constructions. Particularly in their transitive expression, phrasal verbs consist, essentially, of a verb (V), a particle (P) and a com-

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plement. Many a time a phrasal verb allows the particle to appear adjacent to the verb (1) or discontinuous from it (2), as illustrated below with the verb *pull* and the particle *out*:

(1) The agent **pulled out a gun** and shot him dead.  
BNC. A5M 468

(2) The latest development is a drug called clomipramine, which has the endearing quality of reducing the desire to **pull your hair out** when under stress. BNC. A1S 216

The examples above demonstrate transitive phrasal verbs (henceforth TPVs) in which the particle *out*, whether adjacent to V or discontinuous from it, do not (significantly) affect the meaning of the expression *to pull out*, that is, the sense of removal is conveyed in both constructions, regardless of the particle's position.

This article focuses on a thorough analysis of TPVs, aiming at identifying motivations behind particle alternation (if we can refer to it as so), but more specifically based on the information structure carried by the complement within the construction. In order to ensure greater precision in the results, the study has been narrowed down to examining key aspects related to the properties of the noun phrase (NP) complements with regard to the adjacency or discontinuity of the particle. Considering the extensive list of English particles, I have chosen to focus on *out*, due to its high versatility in TPVs. Drawing on written texts, I investigate the positioning of elements based on the weight and informational status of the complements, from a Usage-based perspective – more specifically, that of Construction Grammar.

## Theoretical perspective

This study is based on a functionalist perspective, which emphasizes the close relationship between linguistic structure and usage events. From this perspective, language is conceived as a system, which is shaped by processes that also govern other forms of human cognition. Within a framework that partially rejects the use of introspection as the sole source of linguistic data, language is viewed as contextually situated. One must take into account that “Phenomena of morphosyntactic or strictly syntactic nature are, in most cases, only clarified at the intersection of various components” (Scherre & Paiva, 1999, p. 212, my translation),<sup>1</sup> and rarely can a variable linguistic phenomenon be explained by a single parameter or principle. For this reason, the study thereby seeks to identify multiple motivations underlying the linguistic phenomenon in question.

The investigation is grounded in Usage-based models aligned with principles of Construction Grammar or CxG (Kemmer & Barlow, 2000; Bybee, 2006, 2010; Traugott & Trousdale, 2013;

<sup>1</sup> In the original:  
“Fenômenos de natureza morfossintática, ou estritamente sintática, na maior parte das vezes, só se esclarecem na confluência de componentes diversos.”

Hilpert, 2014; Diessel, 2015), where grammar is understood as a network-like system composed of form-meaning pairings, also referred to as *constructions*. Given that any linguistic unit can qualify as a construction, CxG dissolves traditional boundaries between lexicon and grammar. According to Goldberg (1995), this network is referred to as a *construct-icon*, where constructions are linked through various types of connections: semantic, syntactic, and/or pragmatic. Regarding TPVs, which are considered more schematic constructions, we can posit a moderately abstract construction such as [V P NP], which in turn licenses more specific or less schematic instantiations, such as [make out NP] and [make NP out]:

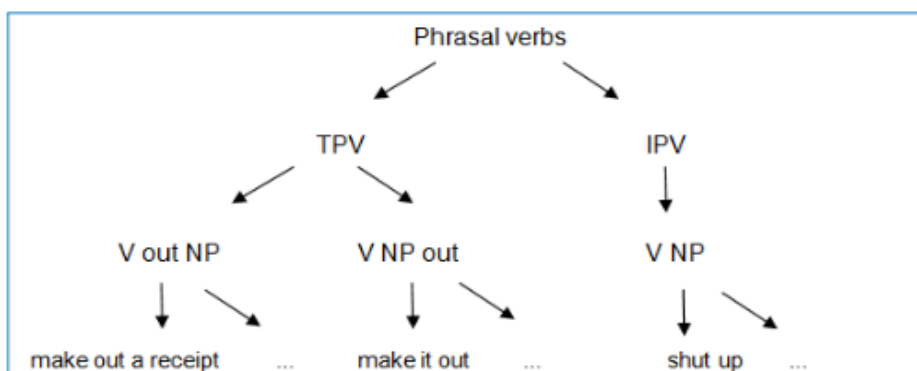


FIGURE 1 – Constructional network of transitive phrasal verbs.

Source: the author.

The representation shows phrasal verbs categorized into transitive phrasal verbs and intransitive phrasal verbs. The detailed structure of the constructional network is centered on TPVs, including both continuous and discontinuous constructions, specifically involving the particle *out*, as exemplified by the constructs *make out a receipt* and *make it out*, which will be addressed in greater detail in the following section. Firstly, the guiding question of this study: to what extent the properties of the noun phrase (NP) complement in TPVs influence particle positioning in relation to the verb? The analysis is focused on the information conveyed by the NP complement in [V out NP] and [V NP out], under the hypothesis that the NP weight co-operates with the informational status of the referent, thereby motivating a preference for one construction over the other.

Although the meaning of certain TPVs can be inferred from the lexical transparency of their components, the same lexical item may also yield more metaphorical interpretations. In other words, these constructions exhibit varying degrees of compositionality.

## Compositionality

Although it is the case for many TPVs to present no (significant) difference in meaning, whether in the continuous configuration [V P

NP] or the discontinuous one [V NP P], it is important to emphasize that sentence interpretation goes beyond syntactic requirements: one must dive deep into the discourse-pragmatic factors that operate at other levels of linguistic analysis. As Paiva and Gomes (2015) point out, the understanding of certain linguistic phenomena demands considering broader contexts that allow for some degree of control over linguistic structures. From this perspective, the meaning of the instances in (3) represents how syntactic demands alone are insufficient for the full comprehension of specific utterances:

- (3)        a. I'm going to make out a receipt for you.  
              b. I couldn't make it out at all.

In 3, (a) and (b) differ semantically, even though the same verb (*make*) and the same particle (*out*) are used. In (3a), the meaning of the construction can be inferred from the lexical knowledge of *make*, since the adding of a particle does not result in a combination which significantly diverges from the meaning of the verb when used independently. In contrast, (3b) provides us with a construction whose meaning cannot be readily recovered from the verb alone, making it less semantically transparent or less compositional (Thim, 2012; Rodríguez-Puente, 2012; Traugott & Trousdale, 2013).

Regarding the non-adjacent position of *out* in relation to the verb in (3b), Lambrecht (1994) points out that pronominal topics tend to occur close to the verb when unstressed. The pronominal complement *it* places it, logically, within the discontinuous construction, both due to its minimal length and the fact that clitic pronouns consistently encode evoked referents.<sup>2</sup> According to Gorfach (2004), the almost categorical placement of pronouns in discontinuous TPVs reflects more general communicative principles (see also Capelle, 2009):

[P]ronominal objects show a tendency to follow the verb immediately, but this tendency can be explained semantically, on the one hand, and is not universal, on the other. Pronouns usually have immediate antecedents in the discourse and refer to some previously known information. Therefore, their position between the verb and the particle reflects the main communication principles of the placement of new information, the end-focus, and the weight and balance principle, placing the emphasis on the particle (Gorfach, 2004, p. 38).

<sup>2</sup> It is expected that the syntactic ordering of constructions with pronouns is the discontinuous pattern; however, there are cases in which the pronoun is prosodically marked in order to achieve contrastive focus: pick up HIM – not her (Quirk et al., 1985; Diessel & Tomasello, 2005).

As Gorfach highlights, the near-categorical placement of clitics in discontinuous TPVs can be attributed to the pronominal complement weight. At the same time, there is evidence suggesting that heavier complements tend to occur in the continuous configuration (Gries, 2001, 2003; Lohse et al., 2004), as also pointed out by Haddican & Johnson (2012, p. 31) in the following example:

- (4) a. **She turned off** the fan that I brought in.  
 b.? **She turned** the fan that I brought in **off**.

Although (4b) is considered an ungrammatical statement, the distance between V and P creates a sense of awkwardness, possibly because of the NP level of complexity, which includes an embedded relative clause modifying the NP *the fan*. Therefore, the continuous order in (4a) seems more consistent with the end-weight principle (Quirk et al., 1985; Biber et al., 1999; Gries, 2001, 2003; Lohse et al., 2004). The preference for the [V P NP] order also appears to correlate with the degree of idiomaticity of the utterance. Previous studies have shown that a lower degree of compositionality tends to align more closely with the continuous pattern (Bolinger, 1971; Quirk, 1985; Biber et al., 1999; Capelle, 2005; Rodríguez-Puente, 2012; Goldberg, 2016):

- (5) They advised me to **give up** sugar in all forms.

The particle adjacency in (5) is closely tied to the meaning of ceasing an activity, but this interpretation is only possible if the two elements are grouped together, as the meaning of the verb alone – *give* – conveys an entirely different meaning, that of *transfer*.

According to Thim (2012), there are both compositional and non-compositional (or idiomatic) phrasal verbs. The idiomatic phrasal verb, as exemplified in (5), is understood as a natural outcome of the loss of compositionality and its gradual shift toward more metaphorical meanings. Examples (3), (4), and (5) illustrate general tendencies regarding continuous and discontinuous configurations in relation to idiomaticity and the weight of NPs in TPVs.

While utterances with a high degree of idiomaticity are more frequently attested in the [V P NP] pattern, “lighter” complements tend to align with the discontinuous configuration, in accordance with the end-weight principle. However, this principle does not always govern the choice of construction. Let us observe example (6):

- (6) It was a visit to Peking by the Soviet president in May that helped to **bring** more than a million demonstrators **out** on to the streets on two successive days. BNC. A57 72

The example provided reveals that particle discontinuity is not solely determined by the length of the complement, which indicates that the analysis of this factor alone is insufficient to account for particle placement across different configurations.

## Information and End-Weight in TPVs

The analysis of the discourse-pragmatic properties of TPV complements offers insights into particle positioning within cons-

tructions. When considering the degree of information novelty and the way in which information is processed, we observe how these factors contribute to textual structuring. Chafe (1976) establishes a relationship between the concepts of information status and common ground (CG): the processing of information and referent identification requires interlocutors to share mutual interests and background knowledge. Common ground is in constant change, since the sharing of information is guided by pragmatic imperatives aimed at communicative efficiency. Thus, an adaptive process is necessary to facilitate the recognition of conveyed information: *information packaging*. Metaphorically, this process can be compared to the packaging of a product and its role in successful marketing: the manner in which information is conveyed can be more important than its actual content (Chafe, 1976, p. 28). According to Krifka (2008), there is a direct relationship between the act of “packaging” information and shared knowledge:

(...) the CG changes continuously and information has to be packaged in correspondence with the CG at the point at which it is uttered. CG does not only consist of a set of propositions that is presumed to be mutually accepted (...), but also of a set of entities that have been introduced into the CG before. Such entities can be explicitly introduced, e.g. by an indefinite NP (...). They can be taken up by pronouns or by definite NPs, which express requirements to the input CG. The choice of anaphoric expression depends on the recency of the antecedent, again a notion that falls squarely within Chafe’s notion of packaging. (Krifka, 2008, p. 246)

From this perspective, the informational status of a constituent can be broadly divided into given information and new information (Chafe, *op. cit.*):

- a) **Given:** speaker assumes hearer is already familiar with the information
- b) **New:** speaker believes information is new to hearer

As Lambrecht (1994) emphasizes, knowing something and thinking about something represent distinct mental states. Therefore, information identification depends on both the utterance topic and its proposition. While the former is expressed through a constituent whose relation to the utterance’s predication may be spatial or temporal, the latter, in turn, is what is said about the topic. The referent can be identified depending on its cognitive status in the interlocutors’ minds, as proposed by Chafe (1994) on informational acceptability hierarchy:

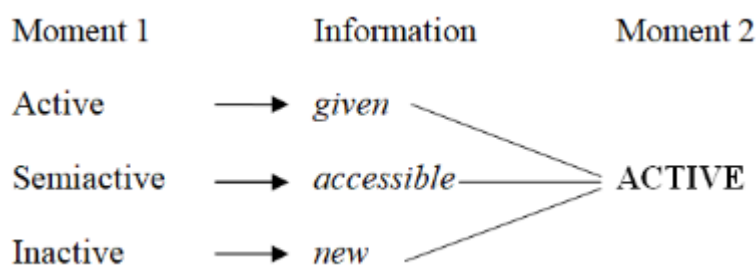


FIGURE 2 – Activation states. Source: Adapted from Chafe (1994, p. 73)

The image illustrates a gradient activation state regarding the degree of acceptability based on how referents within an utterance are cognitively recognized by language users. From Moment 1 to Moment 2, information changes status in accordance with activation: a topical referent is considered inactive when it encodes new information, as it demands greater cognitive effort, but it becomes active and accessible in Moment 2.

Gries (1999) supports this perspective on the informational structure of TPVs, claiming that new information can be conveyed by a linguistic expression regardless of whether the referent is identifiable or not. Prince (1981), in turn, emphasizes textual relations and proposes that entities are new if they have not been previously mentioned in the discourse, while evoked entities are those whose referents can be textually retrieved. Inferable information, on the other hand, is accessed through shared world knowledge among interlocutors. These theoretical approaches often overlap, considering that recovering information based on activation status or textual trace relies on context-sensitive mechanisms. However, Prince's approach is particularly applicable to the present study, given its focus on textual discourse analysis.

Previous studies have also suggested that the informational status of the NP complement is a major factor motivating particle placement in TPVs (Svenonius, 1996; Dehé, 2002; Gries, 2003, among others). There is a tendency for NPs in continuous constructions - [V P NP] - to encode new information, whereas shared information is more frequently associated with the discontinuous pattern - [V NP P] - (Gries, 2003; Rodríguez-Puente, 2012). Essentially, the direct object in continuous constructions appears to be more strongly associated with the encoding of new information, particularly in SVO languages (cf. Chafe, 1992; Lambrecht, 1994). Dehé (2002) states that complements introducing new information typically occur in [V P NP] because this would be the neutral configuration for TPVs, while complements referring to familiar entities would tend to occur in [V NP P].

When considering only complements headed by lexical nouns, it becomes evident that the NP may introduce different types of information:

#### I. New

(7) The Cancer Research Campaign said (...) a third of 15,000 victims a year could be saved. The test **picks out** a protein made by a defective gene. BNC. AKF 5

#### II. Shared knowledge

(8) ...in my Name shall they **cast out** Devils. ARCHER. 1741steb\_h3b

#### III. Inferable

(9) Peter McEnery and Dorothy Tutin play the middle-aged ex-lovers who **iron out** the wrinkles and get together just in time for the final curtain. BNC.A2B 57

#### IV. Evoked

(10) So far, drafts of the Basic Law have skated awkwardly around the post-1997 political structure and the role of direct elections. China has recognised that to **rule out** direct elections would be bad public relations (...). BNC.A1V 255

The information conveyed by the referent *a protein* in (7) is new, since it is unknown to the reader. In contrast, the direct object's referent in example (8), *devils*, encodes information that is part of shared knowledge between interlocutors. In example (9), *direct elections* represents evoked information, as it has been previously mentioned in the discourse. The cognitive processing cost is lower for information that is already shared (Chafe, 1992; Gries, 1999), and the NP position in relation to V and P in TPVs is strongly influenced not only by the communicative context, but also by its discourse-pragmatic properties.

Although it is essential to consider the informational value of NPs, it is also necessary to take into account the role of complement weight, given the general principle that heavier NPs tend to occur later in the clause (Quirk et al., 1985; Gries, 2001, 2003; Lohse et al., 2004). When the weight of a phrase is measured in terms of length – i.e., the number of words or syllables – its size is proportional to its processing weight (Hawkins, 1994; Gries, 1999). The sample data show that the NP complements are predominantly composed by 1 to 6 elements, as presented in (11) and (12), respectively.<sup>3</sup>

(11) The masquers during this dialogue **take out** others to dance with them. ARCHER.1613camp\_d1b

(12) I know no surer or better way to **find out** the nature and properties of those Steams, than by observing the Effects, and all the Alterations of the Air. ARCHER. 1675beal\_s2b

<sup>3</sup> There are few occurrences of complements with more than 6 items, mostly in continuous constructions.

As Cappelle argues “variation in word order is largely influenced by issues of weight and newness, and the variation in question is certainly no exception” (Cappelle, 2005, p. 265). Thus, the order in which the constituents of a construction appear often reflects the type of information they encode.

In addition to informational factors, expectations regarding the particle *out* in written discourse suggest that the [V out NP] configuration is more likely to be associated with longer NPs, whereas shorter ones tend to occur more frequently in the [V NP out] pattern. The following section presents the sample and the methodology adopted for the analysis of TPVs with *out*.

## Methodology

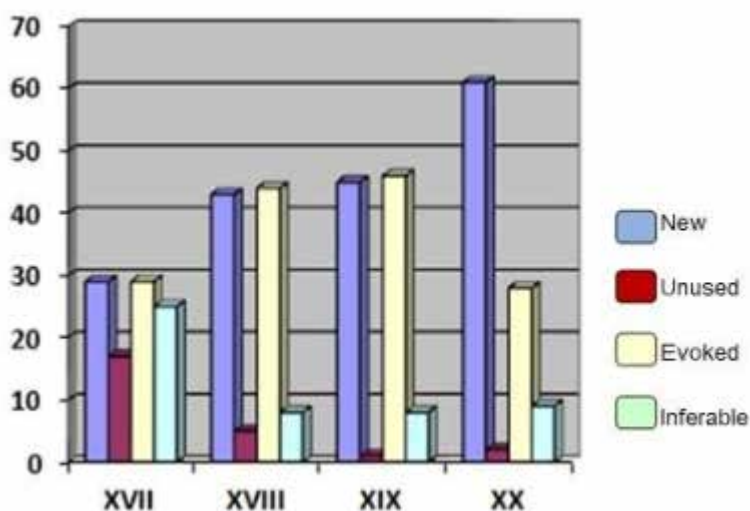
In order to test the hypothesis that certain properties of the NP complement influence particle placement in TPVs, this study examines the role of informational status and the end-weight principle in the constructions [V out NP] and [V NP out]. The investigation is based on written data from the 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. Naturally, it is important to acknowledge that the tendencies observed must be interpreted with caution. One ought to consider not only the limitations of working with historical data, but also the fact that we are dealing with a relative scarcity of material from earlier periods. As Paiva and Duarte (2003) emphasize, this is one of the challenges that constrain inferences drawn from diachronic data; however, such difficulties should not discourage linguists, for whom identifying language change remains a central goal. Moreover, even if the validity of certain data may occasionally be questioned, the use of samples from different synchronic stages can reveal broader tendencies in a language.

The sample was compiled using data from ARCHER for the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, and from BNC for the 20th century. ARCHER (A Representative Corpus of Historical English Registers) is a diachronic corpus comprising 1,710 texts written between 1600 and 1999, totalling 3,790,899 words. The BNC (British National Corpus), in turn, contains 100 million words, 90% of which come from written texts: 60% from books and 30% from periodicals, magazines, and newspapers. For the purposes of this study, the sample includes data extracted from newspaper texts on the following topics: art, science, and society.

## Results

Results reveal that clausal complements are naturally aligned with the [V out NP] construction due to the end-weight principle, both in terms of length and level of syntactic complexity. On the other hand, pronominal NPs occur almost categorically in the [V NP out] configuration. Therefore, the statistical data presented in this section exclude clausal complements and clitic pronouns in order to investigate other tendencies related to particle placement in TPVs.

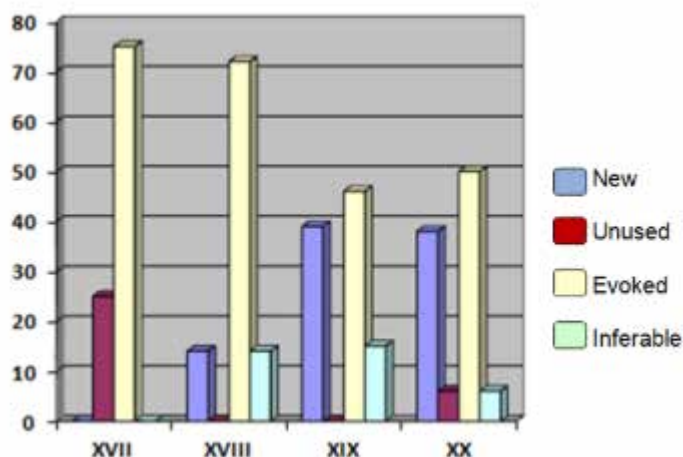
As previously discussed in this article, it is important to emphasize that the unpredictability of a given piece of information is closely linked to the need for additional linguistic material, which brings together the two central aspects of this study: informational status and end-weight. It is expected that less morphosyntactically complex structures will occur more frequently in utterances that convey information whose referents are shared between interlocutors. Furthermore, the continuous construction [V out NP] is expected to show a preference for complements that introduce new entities. The results concerning the informational status of the NP in continuous constructions across the four centuries analyzed are presented below:



GRAPH 1 – Informational status – [V out NP]

The results show that up until the 19th century, new and evoked information appear with similar frequency. In the 17th century, complements conveying new or evoked information occur at equivalent rates (29%), a pattern that persists into the following century, with 43% of NPs with reference to new information and 44% to evoked information. This trend continues in the 19th century (45% and 46%, respectively), but a significant shift is observed only in the 20th century: the proportion of new information (61%) becomes considerably higher than that of evoked information (28%). Inferable referents prevail in the 17th century (25%), but their frequency steadily declines over the subsequent centuries. A similar pattern is observed for unused referents: while they appear in 17% of utterances in the 17th century, there is a consistent decrease, reaching only 2% in the 20th century.

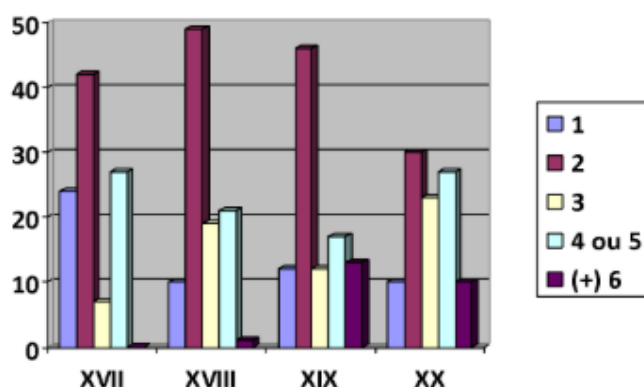
Graph 2 illustrates the results for informational status in the discontinuous configuration:



GRAPH 2 - Informational status - [V out NP]

Complements with evoked referents in the [V NP out] pattern are particularly frequent in the 17th century, while new information begins to gain prominence in the following century. This frequency continues to increase over the period analyzed, indicating a specialization of the discontinuous structure in terms of how information is organized and adhering to a principle of linear ordering: more topical information tends to precede other constituents, while new information generally requires more linguistic material (Givón, 1984), revealing a strong relationship between the informational status of the NP and its weight. This trend can be observed through the amount of linguistic material present TPVs with *out*.

Graph 3 illustrates the correlation between complement length and the continuous construction:

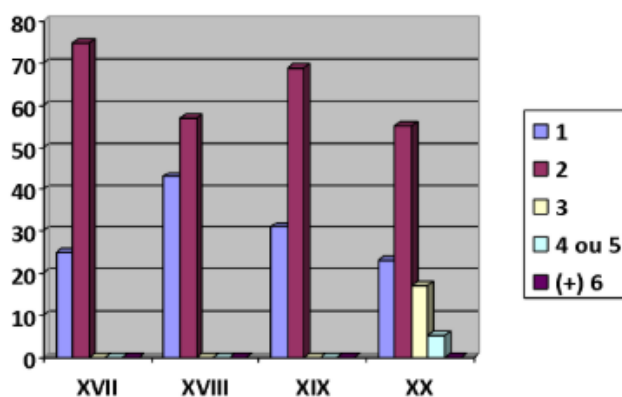


GRAPH 3 - NP length - [V out NP]

Between the 17th and 19th centuries, the frequent use of light NPs in continuous constructions is particularly noteworthy: complements consisting of three elements are initially rare, but their productivity increases over time, reaching 23% of the utterances analyzed in the 20th century. The graph highlights that longer complements – such as the one exemplified in (12) and reproduced below under a new numbering (13) – show a significant increase in the 19th century:

(13) I know no better way to **find out** the nature and properties of those Steams, than by observing the Effects, and all the Alterations of the Air ARCHER. 1675beal\_s2b

While the results indicate that [V out NP] is less restricted in terms of complement length, the distribution for [V NP out] is notably different:

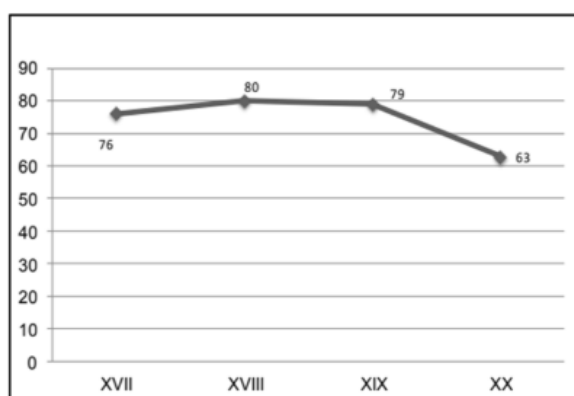


GRAPH 4 – NP length [V NP out]

The presence of two-element complements in discontinuous TPVs with *out* is systematic, which confirms the influence of final weight and supports previous studies (Gries, 2003; Cappelle, 2006, 2009; and Rodríguez-Puente, 2016). It is noteworthy that [V NP out] becomes a less restrictive construction over time, allowing the complement slot to be filled by increasingly longer NPs, as exemplified in (6) and reproduced again, in (14):

(14) It was a visit to Peking by the Soviet president in May that helped to **bring more than a million demonstrators out** on to the streets on two successive days. BNC. A57 72

As previously discussed in this article, pronominal complements, or clitics, are used in an almost categorical manner in the [V NP out] construction, which reinforces the influence of the end-weight principle. On the other hand, this study highlights that the frequency with which they are used decreases dramatically over the centuries, as shown in the following graph:



GRAPH 5 – Frequency of clitic pronouns in [V NP out] throughout the centuries

The graph highlights the increasing versatility of the discontinuous pattern with respect to the NP type that fills the complement slot. Considering the anaphoric role typically played by pronouns, there appears to be a clear correlation between information status and length, which makes it difficult to determine whether the distinction between [V out NP] and [V NP out] is primarily due to an influence played by the end-weight principle or the way information is packaged. In other words, the two principles seem to operate together.

For the purpose of identifying the role of both factors, I conducted a cross-analysis of the variables *length* and *informational status*, which revealed an overlap in [V out NP]. Although NPs consisting of up to two elements may convey evoked information, the complement tends to become increasingly specialized in the continuous configuration as its length increases. In contrast, the same does not apply for [V NP out]. In the 17th century, most complements exhibit a balanced distribution with respect to reference type, i.e., they express either new or evoked information. By the 20th century, however, the discontinuous construction stands out. Essentially, the cross-analysis of the variables indicates that it becomes more restricted to light complements, conveying shared information between interlocutors.

## Final remarks

This article addressed issues related to transitive phrasal verbs, aiming at identifying possible motivations for the continuous or discontinuous placement of the particle in relation to the verb with a focus on the complement properties. By breaking it down and looking for motivations that could interfere in the particle positioning, the NP complement analysis – along with the discursive-pragmatic contexts surrounding the use of [V out NP] and [V NP out] – confirmed the relevance of principles related both to constituent weight and informational status. The results for the particle *out* indicate a strong connection between the NP length and the type of information conveyed: when the referent introduced by the direct object is accessible in discourse, chances are it will occur in the discontinuous construction, whereas non-identifiable referents will tend to appear in the continuous construction. The correlation between clausal complements and the continuous schema was also confirmed: as the NP increases in length, it aligns more strongly with [V out NP] and with referents that convey new information – even though such complements may still introduce evoked, inferable, or unused referents. This pattern reflects principles related to information packaging and constituent weight (Gries, 2001, 2003; Lohse et al., 2004; Haddican & Johnson, 2012). The diachronic analysis reveals a clear correlation between [V NP out] and shorter com-

plements encoding, predominantly, information shared between interlocutors, though only during the earlier centuries. In the 20th century, this trend no longer holds, as longer NPs appear in contexts of evoked information within the discontinuous configuration.

In addition, the study presented highlights that [V NP out], initially limited to light complements and evoked reference (clitics), becomes less restrictive from a diachronic perspective. Over time, this configuration increasingly allows complements with lexical noun heads in the NP slot, thereby expanding the range of elements incorporated into the schema.

All in all, it is unquestionable the relevance of principles associated with information packaging and end-weight when it comes to the variable positioning of certain elements. However, since these two aspects often overlap, the challenge in understanding the ordering of these constructions lies in determining which principle offers greater explanatory power. Although there is a clear correlation between weight and informational status, the results show that it is not possible to establish a direct implicational relationship between [+weight] and [+new information].

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## ANALISANDO O PAPEL DOS COMPLEMENTOS EM PHRASAL VERBS TRANSITIVOS

### Resumo

Este artigo explora restrições sintáticas e pragmáticas envolvendo phrasal verbs transitivos (PVTs), dentro de quadro teórico fundamentado em Modelos Baseados no Uso, alinhados aos princípios da Gramática de Construções. A posição variável da partícula é uma característica bem documentada na literatura de PVTs, e este estudo rastreia padrões históricos de uso a fim de elucidar tendências distribucionais e fatores pragmáticos que influenciaram o posicionamento da partícula ao longo do tempo. Por meio de uma análise diacrônica, procuram-se insights com foco particular no posicionamento variável da partícula *out* em relação ao verbo e ao seu complemento. A pesquisa baseia-se em dados de corpora diacrônicos dos séculos XVII ao XX, provenientes do British National Corpus e A Representative Corpus of Historical English Registers. Além de indicar uma forte interação entre o conceito de peso final e organização da informação, os resultados destacam a expansão gradual e a crescente flexibilidade da posição de *out* ao longo do tempo.

### Palavras-chave

Phrasal verbs. Gramática de construções. Diacronia. Dados históricos.