



# **LEXICAL-SEMANTIC AND GRAMMATICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF PHRASAL VERBS IN ENGLISH AND THE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN TRANSLATING THEM INTO UZBEK**

**Rasulova Malika Anvarjon kizi**

**A Master's student at national university of Uzbekistan  
named after Mirzo Ulugbek**

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## **ABSTRACT**

*Phrasal verbs are one of the most distinctive and complex features of the English language. They consist of a verb combined with one or more particles, such as adverbs or prepositions, forming meanings that are often idiomatic and context-dependent. This article explores the lexical-semantic and grammatical characteristics of English phrasal verbs and analyzes the challenges encountered in translating them into Uzbek. The study highlights structural differences between the two languages, semantic ambiguity, and cultural nuances as key sources of translation difficulty. Strategies for effective translation are also discussed.*

**Introduction.** Phrasal verbs play a significant role in English communication, especially in informal speech and writing. They are widely used by native speakers and are often considered essential for achieving fluency. However, for learners and translators, phrasal verbs pose serious challenges due to their unpredictable meanings and flexible grammatical behavior.

The Uzbek language, belonging to the Turkic language family, differs significantly from English in terms of structure and expression. Unlike English, Uzbek does not have direct equivalents of phrasal verbs. Therefore, translating them requires not only linguistic knowledge but also cultural and contextual understanding.

This article aims to analyze the lexical-semantic and grammatical features of English phrasal verbs and to identify the main challenges in translating them into Uzbek.

**Lexical-Semantic Characteristics of Phrasal Verbs.** Phrasal verbs are a distinctive and highly productive feature of the English language. They consist of a main (lexical) verb combined with one or more particles, which can be either adverbs or prepositions. These combinations function as a single semantic and syntactic unit, often producing meanings that differ significantly from the meanings of the individual components.

**Definition of Phrasal Verbs.** A phrasal verb can be defined as a multi-word verb formed by a base verb and one or more particles, where the overall meaning may be literal, semi-idiomatic, or fully idiomatic. [1, p. 12]

**For example:**

- *come in* – to enter (relatively literal)
- *look after* – to take care of (semi-idiomatic)

- *give up* – to quit or abandon (fully idiomatic)

This variability in meaning is one of the key lexical-semantic features that distinguishes phrasal verbs from other verb constructions.

**Literal vs Idiomatic Meaning.** One of the most important lexical-semantic features of phrasal verbs is the distinction between literal and idiomatic meanings. This distinction plays a crucial role in understanding, using, and especially translating phrasal verbs, as their meanings are not always directly derived from the individual components.

**Literal Meaning of Phrasal Verbs. Literal phrasal verbs are those whose meanings can be easily understood by analyzing the meanings of the verb and the particle separately. In such cases, the particle retains its basic spatial or directional sense, and the overall meaning remains transparent. [2, p. 21]**

Examples include:

- *sit down* – to move into a sitting position
- *stand up* – to rise to one's feet
- *go out* – to leave a place
- *come in* – to enter

In these examples, the particle (*down, up, out, in*) clearly indicates direction or position, and the meaning is predictable. Literal phrasal verbs are generally easier for learners and translators because they do not require deep contextual interpretation.

**Polysemy.** Polysemy is one of the most significant lexical-semantic characteristics of phrasal verbs in English. The term polysemy refers to the phenomenon where a single word or expression has multiple related meanings. In the case of phrasal verbs, this means that one phrasal verb can express several different meanings depending on the context in which it is used. [3, p. 24]

**Nature of Polysemy in Phrasal Verbs. Phrasal verbs are highly polysemous because the combination of a verb and a particle can develop various meanings over time. These meanings are often connected through metaphorical or extended usage rather than being completely unrelated.**

For example, the phrasal verb *take off* can have several meanings:

- to remove clothing (*She took off her jacket*)
- to leave the ground (*The plane took off*)
- to become successful (*His business took off*)
- to imitate someone humorously (*He took off the teacher's voice*)

**Grammatical Characteristics of Phrasal Verbs.** Phrasal verbs in English are not only lexically complex but also grammatically distinctive. Their grammatical behavior involves specific rules related to transitivity, separability, word order, pronoun placement, and tense usage. Understanding these features is essential for correct usage and accurate translation into Uzbek. [4, p. 43]

**Transitivity of Phrasal Verbs. Phrasal verbs can be classified into transitive and intransitive depending on whether they require an object.**

**Transitive phrasal verbs** take a direct object:

- *turn off the light*
- *pick up the book*

**Intransitive phrasal verbs** do not take an object:

- *The plane took off*
- *He suddenly woke up*

Some phrasal verbs can function as both:

- *He turned off the radio* (transitive)
- *The machine turned off* (intransitive)

This flexibility adds to their grammatical complexity.

**Separable and Inseparable Phrasal Verbs.** One of the most important grammatical features of phrasal verbs is their ability or inability to be separated. This characteristic directly affects sentence structure, word order, and correctness in English usage. Phrasal verbs are therefore divided into two main categories: separable and inseparable.

**Pronoun Placement.** Pronoun placement is one of the most important grammatical rules related to phrasal verbs in English. It is especially crucial for separable phrasal verbs, where the position of the object affects both the grammaticality and clarity of the sentence. Incorrect placement of pronouns can lead to ungrammatical or confusing sentences, making this a common challenge for learners and translators.

**Tense and Aspect.** Tense and aspect are fundamental grammatical features of English phrasal verbs, governing time reference and the type of action expressed. Despite their multi-word structure, phrasal verbs follow the same rules as single lexical verbs when it comes to tense and aspect. Understanding how phrasal verbs interact with tense and aspect is essential for accurate usage and translation into Uzbek.

**Structural differences between english and uzbek.** English is an analytic language, while Uzbek is an agglutinative language. This leads to significant differences:

- English relies on word order and auxiliary words.
- Uzbek uses suffixes and morphological changes.

For example:

- *give up* → *voz kechmoq*

In Uzbek, the meaning is expressed through a single verb rather than a multi-word construction.

**Challenges in Translating Phrasal Verbs into Uzbek.** Translating English phrasal verbs into Uzbek presents unique challenges due to **structural, semantic, and cultural differences** between the two languages. Phrasal verbs often combine a verb with one or more particles to create meanings that may be **idiomatic, polysemous, or context-dependent**, while Uzbek typically expresses these ideas through **single verbs, verb suffixes, or descriptive phrases**. This section explores the main difficulties translators face and why phrasal verbs are particularly challenging for Uzbek speakers.

**Lack of Direct Equivalents.** One of the main challenges in translating English phrasal verbs into Uzbek is the **absence of one-to-one equivalents**. English phrasal verbs often combine a verb with one or more particles (adverbs or prepositions) to create meanings that **do not exist as single verbs in Uzbek**. As a result, translators cannot simply replace the English phrasal verb with a single word; instead, they must find **descriptive phrases, contextual equivalents, or idiomatic Uzbek verbs**.

Idiomatic Nature. Another major challenge in translating English phrasal verbs into Uzbek is their **idiomatic nature**. Many phrasal verbs do not have meanings that can be directly inferred from their individual components (the verb and the particle). Instead, the combination often expresses a **figurative, metaphorical, or culturally specific meaning**, which makes literal translation impossible. Understanding and conveying the idiomatic meaning is crucial for producing accurate and natural translations. [5, p. 25]

Idiomatic expressions cannot be translated literally:

- *break down* (emotionally) → *ruhan tushkunlikka tushmoq*

Context Dependence. Another significant challenge in translating English phrasal verbs into Uzbek is their context dependence. Many phrasal verbs are highly polysemous having multiple related meanings and the correct interpretation often depends on the linguistic, situational, or cultural context. Without understanding the context, translation can become inaccurate, misleading, or even nonsensical.

The meaning depends heavily on context:

- *take off* may require different translations depending on usage.

Cultural Differences. A further challenge in translating English phrasal verbs into Uzbek arises from cultural differences. Many phrasal verbs reflect cultural norms, social behaviors, or idiomatic expressions that are specific to English-speaking communities. These cultural nuances often do not have direct counterparts in Uzbek, requiring translators to adapt meaning rather than translating literally.

Translation Strategies for Phrasal Verbs. Translating English phrasal verbs into Uzbek requires careful consideration of lexical, grammatical, semantic, and cultural factors. Because phrasal verbs often combine polysemy, idiomatic usage, separable structures, and context dependence, a translator must use strategies that preserve meaning, clarity, and naturalness in the target language. This section outlines the most effective strategies for translating phrasal verbs into Uzbek.

Conclusion. Phrasal verbs represent a complex and essential component of the English language. Their lexical-semantic richness and grammatical flexibility make them difficult to master and translate. The differences between English and Uzbek, especially in structure and expression, create additional challenges. Effective translation requires a deep understanding of context, meaning, and cultural nuances. By applying appropriate translation strategies, translators can convey the intended meaning accurately and naturally.

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