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PROSPECTIVE SEMANTICS OF POSTPOSITIVES OF ENGLISH PHRASAL VERBS

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Abstract. This article analyzes the temporal-aspectual syncretism of postpositives of English phrasal verbs that express the meaning of chronological succession, their functioning, and referential ties. The study focuses on a detailed examination of the lexical significance of these elements, their capacity to modify the original lexical meaning of the verb, as well as the characteristics influencing the formation of the temporal context of the utterance and its aspectual categories. The research employs the methods of mental-logical analysis and translation comparison, which allows identifying the connections between the thematic structures of the text and the temporal-aspectual meanings conveyed by postpositive particles in English phrasal verbs.

Within the framework of this study, the article analyzes the works of both Russian and foreign linguists, confirming the fact that the meaning of the postpositive particle is a key component in the formation of the lexico-semantic system of English phrasal verbs. Research indicates that the role of the particle goes beyond a simple functional purpose and actively participates in creating semantic images that reflect such concepts as movement, completion of an action, change of state, and others. This significantly broadens the theoretical understanding of the semantics of such constructions. The semantics of the postpositive particle can determine the aspectual properties of the verb, for example, indicating the completion of an action, and can also play an important role in expressing prospective and future tense meanings, as well limit or facilitate their realization within a specific context.

The investigation takes into account the initial-reference, situational-reference, and referential points, facilitating an in-depth analysis of the temporal structure of the text. Particular attention is paid to the issue of semantic importance of postpositives in shaping the temporal context with a prospective orientation, as well as how postpositives such as “on, off, upon, forward” and others demonstrate spatial and temporal relations, indicating not only the movement of objects in space but also their progression along a temporal scale.

The object of the study covers English phrasal verb postpositives that express the meaning of chronological succession outside nominal adverbial constructions. The material comprises works of the 19th century English writers and their translations into Russian, which makes it possible to analyze the specific features of functioning of postpositives in various contexts. The results indicate the multifunctionality of postpositive particles and broaden our understanding of the semantics of chronological succession and aspectual meanings in the English language.

Keywords: English literature; English writers; literary genres; literary discourse; literary texts; prospective semantics; English language; English verbs; phrasal verbs; temporality; chronological succession; postpositive; initial-reference point; situational-reference point; referential point

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ПРОСПЕКТИВНАЯ СЕМАНТИКА ПОСТПОЗИТИВОВ АНГЛИЙСКИХ ФРАЗОВЫХ ГЛАГОЛОВ

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А н н о т а ц и я . Данная статья посвящена анализу темпорально-аспектуального синкретизма постпозитивов английских фразовых глаголов, выражающих значение временного следования, их функционирования и референтных связей. В центре исследования находится детальное рассмотрение лексической значимости этих элементов, их способности модифицировать исходное лексическое значение глагола, а также характеристик, влияющих на формирование темпорального контекста высказывания и аспектуальных категорий. В рамках работы применяются методы ментально-логического анализа, а также сопоставления переводов, что позволяет выявить связи между тематическими структурами текста и темпорально-аспектуальными значениями, реализуемыми посредством постпозитивных компонентов в английских фразовых глаголах.

В процессе исследования были проанализированы работы российских и зарубежных лингвистов, подтверждающие, что значение постпозитива является ключевым элементом в формировании лексико-семантической системы английских фра-

зовых глаголов. Исследования показывают, что роль частицы выходит за рамки простой служебной функции и активно участвует в создании смысловых образов, отражающих такие концепты, как перемещение, завершение действия, изменение состояния и другие. Это существенно расширяет теоретические представления о семантике подобных конструкций. Семантика постпозитива способна определять аспектуальные свойства глагола, например указывать на завершенность действия, а также играть важную роль в выражении проспективных и будущих смыслов, а также ограничивать или способствовать их реализации в конкретном контексте.

Исследование включает учет исходно-опорной, ситуативно-опорной и референциальной точек, что способствует проведению глубинного анализа временной структуры текста. Особое внимание уделяется вопросу семантической значимости постпозитивов в формировании темпорального контекста с проспективной ориентацией, а также тому, каким образом послелогов, такие как *on, off, upon, forward* и другие, демонстрируют пространственные и временные отношения, указывая как на перемещение объектов в пространстве, так и на продвижение по временной шкале.

Объектом исследования являются конкретные английские послелогов фразовых глаголов, выражающие значение временного следования вне именных обстоятельственных конструкций. Материалом служат произведения английских писателей XIX в. и их переводы на русский язык, что позволяет проанализировать особенности функционирования послелогов в контексте. Представленные результаты свидетельствуют о многофункциональности постпозитивных компонентов и расширяют представления о семантике временного следования и аспектуальных значениях в английском языке.

Ключевые слова: русская литература; русские писатели; литературное творчество; литературные жанры; литературные сюжеты; литературные образы; горнозаводская цивилизация; мифологизация завода; предреволюционный период; журналы; очерки; индустриальная идентичность; промышленные районы

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Introduction

Modern English communication is virtually impossible without the use of phrasal verbs, which make up approximately a third of the entire vocabulary of native speakers. Their history dates back to the Anglo-Saxon period, indicating the long-standing origins of this lexical layer. The formation process of contemporary English phrasal verbs involves not only linguistic development through lexico-semantic changes but also deep historical roots extending into Old English. A special role in this process is played by prefixes, many of which originate from the Old English period – prefixes associated with aspectual, temporal, and spatial meanings. In modern language, phrasal verbs are a popular and familiar element, but their predecessors – in Old English – were used much less frequently; these verbs possessed high idiomaticity: their meanings often were not obvious and did not reduce to a simple combination of the component meanings, making their interpretation complex. This demonstrates that the development of the semantic potential of phrasal verbs was lengthy, accompanied by an increase in their inherent semantic richness and an expansion of their functions and usage boundaries. Understanding this history helps to better grasp their current usage features and reveals their role and significance in English communication and literature.

Most researchers agree that the complex, multi-stage process of localizing Old English prefixes within modern phrasal verbs is influenced both by internal linguistic factors and by the historical conditions of the development of the English language. Ongoing research confirms the presence of archaisms dating back to ancient prefixes, making them an important object of study for understanding the structure and evolution of the English verb. It was previously thought that Old English prefixes and prepositions had almost disappeared, giving way to new constructions. However, studies show that some of these elements have survived and transformed, integrating

into phrasal verbs and acquiring new semantic functions or preserving their original meanings.

M. Akimoto was the first to propose the theory that many modern prefixes and prepositions are direct successors of Old English elements, retained through the language's historical evolution. He explained the prepositional localization of Old English prefixes relative to the verb by the syntax model OV – Object-before-verb – characteristic of Old English, whereas in modern English, with its fixed sentence structure favoring the VO – Verb-object – model, the postposition of the particle within a phrasal verb is more justified [Collocational and idiomatic aspects... 1999: 204–205].

Representatives of the traditional semantic approach considered the meaning of phrasal verbs as arbitrary and peculiar. B. Fraser, emphasizing systematic and nonsystematic combinations, focused on the idiomatic meaning of the collocation (VPC – verb-particle construction) and denied a separate semantic meaning of the particle in the phrasal verb. He believed that the overall desemantization of the combination was directly due to the loss of the concrete, literal meaning of the particle [Fraser 1976: 77].

Research on the development of prefixes shows that some of them are archaic remnants that have undergone semantic shifts but have preserved their structure. During lexicalization and grammatical fixation, these prefixes acquired a function as markers of aspect and directionality of action. Modern linguistic studies highlight the importance of the lexical meaning of the postpositional element as a critical factor shaping the semantic structure of a phrasal verb.

The semantic unity of the phrasal verb and its ability to form paraphrasal pairs with simple verbs is illustrated in J. Lamont's work, where the author analyzes the structure of more complex forms (consisting of three components), emphasizing the mobility and placement of adverbial particles [Pavlenko, Nikitina 2018].

Exploring the evolution of modern phrasal verbs from Dene-English forms within the long-term typological process of the transition of the English lan-

guage system from synthetic to analytic, A. Kennedy compares them with Romance mono-component analogs and analyzes the paraphrasal synonyms formed by combining one verb with different particles. The author also sketches the idea of the potential semantic importance of the particle within a phrasal verb, which functions as a modifier, intensifier, or even transformer of the verb's original meaning. By using different verbs with the same particle to express a similar overall meaning, the researcher focuses on diversifying the forms of expressing the same idea rather than on the semantic potential of the particle itself [Kennedy 1920: 27–28].

Russian linguistics confirms and supplements Western classifications by emphasizing the role of the lexical meaning of the particle as a factor of coding semantic nuances and expanding the possibilities of variative expression of meanings through phrasal verbs. Russian researchers have made significant contributions to developing the component analysis theory of phrasal verbs, showing that the lexical meaning of the particle facilitates the formation of so-called “semantic cores” and broadens the potential for semantic differentiation. These approaches confirm that the semantic properties of the postpositional element are not limited to their formal function but include additional semantic components.

E. E. Golubkova's works highlight three main tasks of the postpositional particle that complement the verbal component's meaning: direction of movement, diagnostic (when identifying latent components in the verb's meaning), and emphasis [Pavlenko, Nikitina 2018].

The shift in focus from understanding the overall semantics of the collocation to the significance of the postposition and the relationship between the component meanings can be traced in cognitive studies of phrasal verbs. These studies emphasize the polysemy of particles and their role in generating new meanings of phrasal verbs. By involving a broad range of phenomena associated with the verb, proponents of the cognitive approach aim to explain the specific judgment about the action signified by the verb and its component.

Dr. S. Lindner notes a systematic connection between the components of a phrasal verb and the correlation of their literal or metaphorical meanings with an overall model-image, influencing the meaning of the combination. P. Morgan deepens the investigation into the expansion of the metaphorical meaning of phrasal components, distinguishing between literal, metaphorical, metonymical, and other types. For example, in analyzing the components of the verb figure out: 1) figure – to find a solution through reasoning (based on the idea that reasoning involves calculating possible options); 2) out – beyond capacity (assuming the problem is a closed container); 3) figure out – to make a thoughtful decision based on acquired knowledge; 4) achievable / obvious – beyond + clear knowledge = to make something known or to learn something through reflection [Lu Zhi, Sun Juan 2015].

Many Russian researchers note that the lexical load of the postposition significantly influences the

semantics of the phrasal verb. The particle is not merely a functional element but possesses its own lexical meaning, which is integrated into the overall semantic dramatic structure of the verb, creating additional shades and possibilities for diverse meanings. Through a differentiated understanding of the particle's lexicon, it is possible to better understand the mechanism of semantic differentiation among structurally similar verbs.

N. Yu. Golitsina classifies phrasal verbs into groups associated lexically with the main meanings of the postpositions that form concepts of movement, completion, or change of state. For example, the postposition on primarily involves ideas of object placement above or on something, movement toward another object, and includes key meanings such as movement and positioning; attachment, addition; continuation of action; moving forward, development; initiation and control; influence, feelings; attack; proximity, connection; discovery; content and topics; dependence, expectation [Golitsina 2019: 33].

Modern studies of English phrasal verbs in Russian linguistics are based on considering the role of the lexical meaning of the postpositional element – the second component of the phrasal verb – as confirmed by analyses of its functioning in speech. Some scholars' work shows that the influence of the particle's lexical meaning manifests also at the pragmatic level, since some particles are used to express emotional and evaluative semantics, which contributes to expanding the communicative characteristics of verbs.

In the area of semantic expansion, cognitive theorists attribute a much greater semantic potential to particles than to verbs. For example, E. S. Kubryakova interprets a phrasal verb as a designation of condensed situations involving descriptions of relationships and interactions between objects of reality, a specific cognitive model presuming a certain action structure, their temporal localization, and various circumstances (words-terms filling the active syntactic valence of the verb and depending on it, but not matching any of its semantic valences and thus not reflected in the interpretation of the verb's meaning). The condensed semantics of phrasal verbs is revealed through establishing differences in the conceptualization process of reality, which the author terms as “cognitive (conceptual) metaphor”.

Highlighting the directional (with motion verbs and certain cases of attributing dynamic content to static verbs such as *come back, go away, turn away, look down, breathe in*, etc.), aspectual (indicating the ability of the postposition to modify the verb), and intensifying (where the postpositional particle enhances the idea of the action's limit or its absence – *end up, fix up, lay down, smoke away, talk away, laugh away*) – meanings of the postpositions, N. N. Amosova emphasizes the role of context and specific language situation. The work points out the semantic potential of different particles to complement the same verb with the same clarification, as well as the non-perfective verb in the perfective forms (*sit down, stand up, speak out*), and the intensifying function (where the postpositional particle emphasizes the idea of the action's boundary or lack thereof).

Amosova also notes that the same postposition can clarify the meanings of different verbs equally. By recording their high frequency of use, the linguist explains this repetition by the situational context and denies the possibility that this fact influences the transition of phrasal verbs not only into idiomatic expressions but also into stable linguistic units, since the original verb's meaning and the specific functional load of the postposition are preserved.

Attention is also drawn to the specific features of verb-postpositional combinations such as polysemy and the ability to form homonymous pairs with free combinations: *go on* – move forward, continue; *look out* – be alert [Amosova 1963: 131–135].

In summary, the works of Russian linguists show that the meaning of the postposition is a crucial element in the formation of the lexico-semantic system of English phrasal verbs. Their research shows that the particle's role goes beyond a purely functional part – it participates in creating semantic images reflecting movements, completion, changes of state, and other concepts. This significantly expands theoretical concepts of the semantics of such constructions.

The semantics of the postposition can not only determine the aspectual properties of the verb (for example, the completeness of the action) but also facilitate or limit the expression of future or prospective meanings. For example, in combinations like *look on* or *set off*, the semantics of the particle carry the potential to express the starting point of an action, its initiation, or orientation towards the future.

Prepositions *on*, *upon*, *off* may carry semantic load related to the beginning, continuation, or obligatory consequence of an action, which indirectly relates to outlook or future time. For example, *set off* can indicate the start of an action oriented towards the future, and *upon* can refer to the occurrence of a specific moment or condition.

The semantics of the prepositions shape a “plane” of the future not only through grammatical forms (will, going to) but also through the shades of meaning contained within the particles. Prepositions like *on* and *upon*, creating semantics of “initial point” or “prospect,” help understand the motivation and directions of action, which are important for interpreting temporal aspects related to the future. The semantics of such prepositions often form part of semantic complexes that allow speaking of prospective (future-oriented) semantics, especially within the context of ongoing actions.

Let's examine the semantics of some English prepositions in phrasal verbs concerning their ability to give the action a future-oriented direction.

On and upon: These prepositions carry the semantics of “initial moment” or “onset”. In the context of phrasal verbs containing these particles, the idea of initiative or beginning of an action is often realized, which can be interpreted as preliminary preparation for a future event. For example, *look on* (to hold a view, consider) in certain contexts can imply a prospective assessment of events that anticipates future decisions.

Off: The preposition *off* often indicates separation, completion, or retreat, which in discourse about

the future can mean the possibility of moving away from the past or completing the current stage, transitioning to the next. In some cases, it is associated with preconditions for future changes.

The semantics of the postposition in these verbs further modify the interpretation of future time. For example, *set off* (to start, to set out) gives the action a prospective orientation.

Our previous studies have assessed the influence of the second component of phrasal verbs on their overall meaning from the perspective of temporal reference theory. Particular attention was paid to the referential potential of prepositions, which plays a key role in expressing the temporal semantics of events sequence within phrasal verbs [Rakhmatullina 2009, 2016]. Modern linguistic research dedicated to the issues of reference covers a wide range of languages and cultural contexts. For instance, M. N. Zakamulina, G. F. Lutfullina, and G. R. Mullakhmetova conducted comparative analyses of the temporal and aspectual semantics based on French, Russian, and Tatar languages, which revealed universal and language-specific features of representing temporal relations [Zakamulina 2000; Lutfullina 2016; Mullakhmetova 2018]. D. A. Demidkina and E. V. Marzoeva analyze the correlation between the aspectual and referential-temporal status of the aorist form in French, English, and Russian, emphasizing the priority of the referential-temporal component as the main element of the semantic value of these forms [Demidkina, Marzoeva 2018]. These studies collectively contribute to a deeper understanding of the mechanisms of temporal reference functioning in various languages and expand theoretical ideas regarding the interaction of lexical-grammatical means in expressing temporal relations.

Goal and objectives

The study presents the results of an in-depth functional-semantic, syntactic comparative analysis using the material of the English and Russian languages from the perspective of the temporal reference theory. The subject of this study is the semantic and referential features of postpositions in English phrasal verbs that constitute the aspectual-temporal context of an utterance, as well as additional factors influencing the formation and modification of the contextual meaning of prospective temporal direction.

The goal of the research is a comparative functional-referential analysis of the linguistic means with primary paradigmatic and secondary context-dependent semantics of temporal succession in languages with different structures. To achieve this goal, the following tasks are outlined:

- to examine the functioning of phrasal verbs as actualizers of the sequence temporal meaning;
- to establish the importance of the lexical meaning of the postposition in the formation of the overall semantics of English phrasal verbs;
- to analyze the referential features of certain postpositions of English phrasal verbs that give the utterance the semantics of temporal succession by identifying the temporal semantic characteristics of the postpositions “on”, “off”, “upon”, “forward”;

– to identify the capacity of the postposition to modify or completely transform the original verb meaning by analyzing the influence of particle semantics on the meaning of the phrasal verb and the entire utterance;

– to analyze the representation of the sequence temporal meaning in Russian by studying the corresponding tools for expressing this meaning in the translation of English verbs into Russian.

Materials and methods

The empirical basis of the study consists of examples from 19th-century English authors, particularly William Thackeray's novel *Vanity Fair* and its Russian translation. It draws on a corpus of 113 English phrasal verbs, each containing a predominantly verb of motion as a base component and the particles "on", "off", "upon", and "forward" as postpositions. This article analyzes phrasal verbs containing a limited set of particles that serve to express the meaning of temporal succession, without forming part of a noun-based adverbial group. The choice of material is motivated by an interest in the historical transition of phrasal verbs from one stylistic layer to another, associated with increased frequency of use, their lexical features of polysemy and synonymy, the acquisition of new meanings, and the loss of original ones. In the 19th century, long before Logan Pearsall Smith coined the term "phrasal verb" in his book *Words and Idioms*, these units were used primarily in colloquial speech and could be classified as stylistically debased vocabulary. Many of them are reflected in the language of fiction, whereas today their use is noted in texts of various functional styles. All this confirms the flexibility of language as a system and the need for a comprehensive study of its components functioning at different historical stages.

The relevance of comparing the original text and its literary translation into a language of a different structure is determined by the interest in the linguistic analysis of numerous forms in different structured languages, their ability to express the same temporal meaning of time sequence, especially elements present in one language and absent in another, and, consequently, in identifying isomorphic and allomorphic features of the analyzed languages.

The methodological basis of the research includes mental-logical analysis and comparative translation analysis. The goal is to conduct an in-depth referential analysis of the temporal structure of the text, based on comparing events with explicit or implicit referential points. The referential point is understood as a specific contextual temporal meaning that determines the positioning of an event in the temporal sequence relative to two types of referential moments:

– an initial or anchor point, serving as the autonomous localization of the action in time;

– a situational or anchor point, indicating a linear temporal interval between the initial event and this referential point.

Results

The study presents the results of a functional-semantic comparative analysis using the material of

the English and Russian languages from the perspective of the temporal reference theory.

According to modern linguistic studies, the transition of prepositions into adverbs can occur as a result of syntactic transposition. In particular, the postposition *on* possesses spatial meanings, such as indicating movement or advancement (e.g., *to move on*), as well as the contact with an object. One of the meanings of the phrasal verb *put on* is the act of putting on clothes (e.g., *to put the coat on*).

Considering the close relationship and overlap between spatial and temporal relations, it can be noted that the same preposition is capable of expressing not only movement of an object in space but also movement in time – from a previous moment to a subsequent one or, conversely, in the opposite direction. Thus, the postposition *on*, indicating in space removal or progression from a certain place, semantically corresponds in the temporal domain to a change in the object's duration in time, showing a transition from one time point to the next and, accordingly, reflecting the future state of the object.

The study of temporal relations at the level of utterance and text is closely connected with research into the functional-semantic categories (FSC), which have both content and expression planes. According to the theory of functional-semantic fields, which are a way of representing the existence of FSCs, the FSC of temporality is in close interaction with the FSC of aspectuality. Therefore, it is often quite difficult to precisely delineate the boundaries between the intersecting meanings of temporal and aspectual values.

For example, in adverbial noun groups with the preposition *on* combined with a noun (e.g., *on his arrival*), as well as in phrasal verbs containing the postposition *on*, one can identify not only a temporal meaning of sequence but also an aspectual meaning of development or continuation of an action (e.g., *to carry on*, *to keep on*). When analyzing aspectual relations, it is important to consider various means of action (MA), which in languages lacking a category of aspectual type are expressed through different levels of linguistic devices unified by their common semantic function of attributing a temporal characteristic to the action.

In expressing the meaning of sequence in English, it is possible to clearly trace the autonomous functioning, or nominative status, of the postposition initially functioning as a component of a phrasal verb in sentences where the verb is omitted, and the transposed postposition begins to operate as an adverb. It is interesting to note the means of expressing this meaning in Russian, where phrasal verbs are absent. In the analyzed translations, the missing verbal form is supplemented, and the temporal-aspectual semantics of the postposition is reflected either through the lexical meaning of the verb itself or via a word-formation component (most often a prefix) with the relevant meaning.

(1) "Send the letters to the agents," he said; "they will **forward** them; for you will write to me, won't you? I shall be away a long time" (W. Thackeray "Vanity Fair"). «*Направляйте письма моим агентам, – отвечал он, – они будут пересылать их дальше.* Ведь вы

будете писать мне? Я уезжаю надолго» (У. Теккерей «Ярмарка тщеславия»).

In example (1), one can observe the manifestation of a syncretic meaning that combines the temporal sense of sequence with an aspectual indication of the action result intended for future application. This is reflected in the transposed adverb *forward*. The analytical future tense form of the verb, with its primary aspectual semantics of unspecified duration of the action and a future orientation, used in the Russian translation, expresses a secondary meaning of temporal sequence. This secondary meaning accompanies the aspectual meaning, with the original reference point expressed by the verb *send* (e.g., *направляйте – “direct” or “send”*).

Among the varieties of aspectual meanings related to the methods of action, prepositions like *on (upon), into, out, off* can be associated with the initiatory aspect. This meaning can accompany the temporal sense of sequence, indicating the beginning of a stay in a particular temporal space and direction toward a position in the subsequent temporal period.

(2) “For on the evening appointed for the Vauxhall party, George Osborne *having come* to dinner, and the elders of the house *having departed*, according to invitation, to dine with Alderman Balls at Highbury Barn, there **came on** such a thunder-storm as only happens on Vauxhall nights, and as obliged the young people, perforce, to remain at home” (W. Thackeray “Vanity Fair”). «В тот вечер, когда намечалась поездка в Воксхолл, когда Джордж Осборн *прибыл* к обеду, а старшие члены семьи *уехали* на званый обед к олдермену Болсу в Хайбери-Барн, **разразилась** такая гроза, какая бывает только в дни, назначенные для посещения Воксхолла, и молодежи волей-неволей пришлось остаться дома» (У. Теккерей «Ярмарка тщеславия»).

The primary aspectual meaning of initiativity in example (2) is accompanied by a secondary meaning of temporal sequence, with initial reference points *having come, having departed*, situational reference point *thunderstorm* and referential reference point *come on (разразилась)*.

(3) “Once, in looking over some drawings which Amelia had sent from school, Rebecca suddenly **came upon** one which caused her to **burst into tears** and leave the room. It was on the day when Joe Sedley made his second appearance” (W. Thackeray “Vanity Fair”). «Однажды, рассматривая папку с рисунками, которые Эмилия присылала домой из школы, Ребекка неожиданно **наткнулась** на какой-то лист, заставивший ее **разрыдаться** и выбежать из комнаты. Это произошло в тот день, когда Джо Седли вторично появился в доме» (У. Теккерей «Ярмарка тщеславия»).

In example (3), the primary initiatory meaning of *burst into tears (разрыдаться)* is complemented by the meaning of suddenness of the action *come upon (наткнулась)*, which is additionally intensified by the adverb *suddenly (неожиданно)*.

A similar syncretic aspectual-temporal meaning of movement or removal from a place in space or time can be expressed primarily by the postposition *off*

when combined with movement verbs.

(4) “He had lived for about eight years of his life, quite alone, at this charming place, scarcely seeing a Christian face except twice a year, when the detachment arrived to **carry off** the revenues which he had collected, to Calcutta” (W. Thackeray “Vanity Fair”). «В этой очаровательной местности он прожил около восьми лет в полном одиночестве, почти не видя лица христианского, если не считать тех двух раз в году, когда туда наезжал кавалерийский отряд, чтобы **увезти** собранные им подати и налоги и **доставить** их в Калькутту» (У. Теккерей «Ярмарка тщеславия»).

(5) “Don't call names,” Dobbin said, **getting off** the bench very nervous” (W. Thackeray “Vanity Fair”). «Не ругайся! – сказал Доббин, в волнении **вскакивая** с парты» (У. Теккерей «Ярмарка тщеславия»).

(6) “They **went off** to the piano, which was situated, as pianos usually are, in the back drawing-room; and as it was rather dark” (W. Thackeray “Vanity Fair”). «Они **отошли** к фортепьяно, находившемуся, как это обычно бывает, в малой гостиной, и, так как было уже довольно темно, мисс Эмилия, естественно, взяла под руку мистера Осборна, которому, разумеется, было легче, чем ей, проложить себе путь между кресел и оттоманок» (У. Теккерей «Ярмарка тщеславия»).

(7) “She shall **go off** tomorrow, the little artful creature,” said Mrs. Sedley, with great energy” (W. Thackeray “Vanity Fair”). «Завтра же она **уедет**, лукавая девчонка, – решительно заявила миссис Седли» (У. Теккерей «Ярмарка тщеславия»).

The examples (4–7) can be interpreted as expressions of inchoative meaning, indicating a change from an initial state. The meaning of temporal sequence in this context is secondary, and the previous state will always be an implicit, initial reference point relative to the subsequent one – the referential point.

In example (7), the postposition *off*, combined with the verb *go*, expresses a syncretic meaning of a single-resultative action with a temporal sense of sequence. At the same time, in the English phrasal verb, the primary aspectual meaning is that of resultfulness, whereas in the Russian translation, the temporal meaning of sequence is foregrounded. In the Russian example, the temporal meaning of sequence is conveyed by the future tense form *уедет (will leave)*, whereas in English by the future tense *shall go off*.

The preposition *out* can also express a similar aspectual meaning of initiativity and intensification of action. In example (8), the semantics of intensity is reinforced by the lexical meaning of the verb *burst out laughing (разразился хохотом)*.

(8) “A chili,” said Rebecca, gasping. “Oh yes!” She thought a chili was something cool, as its name imported, and was served with some. “How fresh and green they look” she said, and *put* one into her mouth. It was *hotter* than the curry; flesh and blood could bear it no longer. She *laid down* her fork. “Water, for Heaven's sake, water!” she *cried*. Mr. Sedley **burst out laughing** (he was a coarse man, from the Stock Exchange, where they love all sorts of practical jokes). “They are real Indian, I assure you,” said he. “Sambo, give Miss

Sharp some water" (W. Thackeray "Vanity Fair"). «Чили?» – спросила Ребекка, едва переводя дух. «А, хорошо!» – Она решила, что чили – это что-нибудь прохладительное, и взяла себе немного этой приправы. «Как он свеж и зелен на вид!» – заметила она, *кладя* стручок в рот. Но чили *жег* еще больше, чем карри, – не хватало человеческих сил вытерпеть такое мученье. Ребекка *положила* вилку. «Воды, ради Бога, воды!» – *закричала* она. Мистер Седли **разразился хохотом**. Это был грубоватый человек, проводивший все дни на бирже, где любят всякие бесцеремонные шутки» (У. Теккерей «Ярмарка тщеславия»).

In this example (8), several initial reference points can be identified, expressed by the verbal predicates in the English text (in the Russian translation, participle forms are possible), representing a series of sequentially interdependent actions: *put one into her mouth, was hotter, laid down, cried* (*кладя стручок в рот, жег, положила, кричала*).

The referential component is the postposition *out*, while the situational reference point is provided by the gerund *laughing*, which in the Russian translation is expressed by the process noun *смех*.

The postposition *away* conveys similar meanings: movement or removal in space / time, prolonged / continuous movement or action, or a change or end of a state / action.

(9) "I'll go and see the Forty Thieves," said he, "and Miss Decamp's dance"; and he **slipped away** gently on the pointed toes of his boots, and disappeared, without waking his worthy parent" (W. Thackeray "Vanity Fair"). «Не поехать ли мне на "Сорок разбойников", – подумал он, – посмотреть, как танцует мисс Декамп? И, ступая на носки своих остроносых сапог, он тихонько **выбрался** из комнаты и исчез, не потревожив сна достойного родителя» (У. Теккерей «Ярмарка тщеславия»).

(10) "It kept me awake last night, and I was trying to hum it this morning, in bed; I was, upon my honour. Gollop, my doctor, came in at eleven (for I'm a sad invalid, you know, and see Gollop every day), and, 'gad! there I was, **singing away** like – a robin" (W. Thackeray "Vanity Fair"). «Я не спал из-за вашего пения всю ночь, а сегодня утром еще в постели все пробовал припомнить мотив. Даю вам честное слово! Голлоп, мой врач, приехал ко мне в одиннадцать (ведь я жалкий инвалид, как вам известно, и мне приходится видеть Голлопа ежедневно), а я, ей-богу, сижу и **распеваю**, как чирик!» (У. Теккерей «Ярмарка тщеславия»).

(11) "Miss Sharp has **frightened him away**," said Mrs. Sedley. "Poor Joe, why WILL he be so shy?" (W. Thackeray "Vanity Fair"). «Мисс Шарп **спугнула** его, – заметила миссис Седли. – Бедный Джо! И отчего он такой робкий?» (У. Теккерей «Ярмарка тщеславия»).

In examples (9–11), we can speak of inchoative (9), terminative (*singing away* / *распеваю*) (10), and resultative-canceling (*frightened away* / *спугнула*) (11) means of action (MA). In this case, phrasal verbs express the referential point.

It is interesting to observe some differences in

the nature of conveying the meaning of inchoative MA with the prepositions *on* and *away*. The preposition *away* implies the inclusion of a final time point of the previous action or state, indicating its result, while *on* involves the initial point of the following action within the designated time interval.

The professor gave away all the papers – the meaning of the final result of the process, conveyed by the preposition *away*, is accompanied by an additional meaning of terminativity.

He took on working with the project – the preposition *on* indicates the beginning of a subsequent prolonged action (working on the project), with an additional meaning of resultfulness.

The preposition *back* signifies backward movement in space: *they moved back* – and, consequently, should denote the reverse direction of movement in time (from the original point to the previous one).

(12) "The world is a looking-glass, and **gives back** to every man the reflection of his own face." (W. Thackeray "Vanity Fair"). «Мир – это зеркало, и он **возвращает** каждому его собственное изображение» (У. Теккерей «Ярмарка тщеславия»).

Example (12) represents the primary meaning of temporal sequence of the referential moment, expressed by the phrasal verb *give back* (*возвращает*), relative to an implicit initial reference point, which is recoverable through the method of semantic primitives: the moment when a person looks into the mirror (or in a figurative sense performs some action with a potential response in the future), they see their reflection (or a response is *returned* to them for their prior action).

This model "V + back" reflects a specific reaction in response to a preceding action performed by another or the same object; therefore, we cannot speak of any backward movement in time here. In such cases, it is justified to distinguish a mutually reversible complex degree of meaning and the sense of sequence relative to an antecedent, either implicit or presented in the context, which intersects with the causal meaning (*she smiled* – cause, stimulus; *he smiled back* – consequence and result, a reaction).

The postposition *forward*, also functioning as a postposition in the phrasal verb, can convey a prospective temporal orientation of action toward the result of planned / desirable activity in the future, which is explained by its lexical meaning: forward in space and time. (13) "Always to be right, always to **trample forward**, and never to doubt, are not these the great qualities with which dullness takes the lead in the world?" (W. Thackeray "Vanity Fair"). «Всегда быть правым, всегда **идти напролом**, ни в чем не сомневаясь, – разве не с помощью этих великих качеств тупость управляет миром?» (У. Теккерей «Ярмарка тщеславия»).

In example (13), the meaning of temporal sequence relative to the initial reference moment is conveyed by the referential moment expressed by the phrasal verb *trample forward*. At the same time, the temporal semantics is complemented by an aspectual meaning of rapid action, which in English is expressed by the lexical meaning of the verb *trample*, while in the Russian translation, the lexically neutral movement

verb *идти* (to go) is accompanied by the adverb of manner *напролом* (headlong).

(14) “They **looked forward** with pleasure to the time when, the family house in Gaunt Street being repaired and beautified, they were to meet again in London” (W. Thackeray “Vanity Fair”). «Они **возлагали надежду** на скорую встречу в Лондоне, когда семейный дом на Гонт-стрит будет отремонтирован и отделан заново» (У. Теккерей «Ярмарка тщеславия»).

In example (14), the primary meaning is aspectual (prospective MA), while the secondary is the temporal sense of sequence. The initial reference point is the moment of speech, reconstructed as the referential point for the main action expressed by the phrasal verb *look forward*. The auxiliary referential point is the preposition *forward*.

In this example, we see an idiomatic combination with a high degree of component interconnectedness: with the addition of this preposition, the primary meaning of the verb *look* (*смотреть*) is completely lost (*look forward* – *ждать с нетерпением*). It is also noticeable that the semantic weight of the preposition not only preserves its prospective meaning but also actively “overlays” it onto the verb, transforming it implicitly (to wait for what will happen in the future).

(15) “All parties and entertainments, of course, were to be **put off**. No communications were made to his future son-in-law, whose marriage-day had been fixed: but there was enough in Mr. Osborne’s appearance to prevent Mr. Bullock from making any inquiries, or in any way **pressing forward** that ceremony” (W. Thackeray “Vanity Fair”). «Приемы и развлечения были, конечно, **отменены**. Будущему зятю ничего не говорилось о свадьбе, и хотя день ее был уже давно назначен, один вид мистера Осборна удерживал мистера Буллока от расспросов или каких-либо попыток **ускорить** приготовления» (У. Теккерей «Ярмарка тщеславия»).

In example (15), the sense of sequence is conveyed by two phrasal verbs: *put off* (*отменены*) and *press forward* (*ускорить*). The primary meaning is the temporal sequence, explained by the internal semantics of the verb *put off* (to postpone to the future), for which the initial reference point is the planned in advance appointments and events. The reconstructed referential point for the action expressed by the gerund form of *press forward* is the upcoming wedding, with the auxiliary referential point being the preposition *forward*. The secondary meanings are the aspectual prospective MA *put off* (delaying, with a focus on the future) and the rapid MA *press forward* (implying a swift action). Due to the absence of similar formations in Russian, future semantics are conveyed by other means: the lexical meaning of the verb itself or a morphological element

(the prefix *от-*): *откладывает* – necessarily to postpone things for the future.

Conclusions

The study presents the results of an in-depth functional-semantic, syntactic comparative analysis using the material of the English and Russian languages from the perspective of the temporal reference theory. Having analyzed the semantic and referential features of English phrasal verbs postpositions, as well as additional factors influencing the formation and modification of the contextual prospective temporal meaning and its representation in Russian translation we identified isomorphic and allomorphic features of the analyzed different structured languages.

As a result of the English phrasal verbs postpositions functioning analysis – the classic prepositions in post-position *on / upon, in / into, off, out*, which have transformed into adverbs through syntactic transposition – as well as original adverbs *away, back, forward* in combination with certain verbs, primarily motion verbs, the following conclusions have been formulated.

These linguistic tools are capable of conveying a syncretic aspectual-temporal meaning in utterances, in which the aspectual component generally prevails, reflecting different stages of the action, while the temporal sense of sequence plays a secondary but significant role.

Postpositions can independently impart a temporal directional semantics to a phrase, emphasizing future orientation, complementing or in some cases fully transforming the original lexical meaning of the verb. Their semantic influence significantly affects the formation of the overall temporal context of the utterance, confirming the high importance of postposition semantics in meaning construction. Particularly significant is the semantic dominance of prepositions in cases where the verbal component within the phrasal verb is omitted or when the verb loses its initial lexical meaning, becoming a part of a phraseological construction with highly connected components.

Thus, all this confirms the flexibility of different structured languages systems in representing the same temporal meaning and the need for a comprehensive study of their components. Postpositions serve not only as auxiliary elements of lexico-grammatical structure but also as key carriers of temporal and aspectual information, significantly influencing the interpretation and the semantic field structure of the phrase. Further research into postpositions roles and interactions with the verbal component appears to be a promising direction for deepening the understanding of the semantic-syntactic mechanisms of phrasal verbs.

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