TRANSITIVE AND INTRANSITIVE PHRASAL VERBS ON THE SHORT STORY “A COSMOPOLITE IN A CAFE” BY O’ HENRY

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Cover Page Footnote

Erratum

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Abstract: This article is about the types of phrasal verbs according to transitivity on the short story “A cosmopolite in a cafe” by O’ Henry.

Key Words: syntactical and semantic peculiarities, verbal element, transitive verbs and intransitive verbs.

In this article we are going to discuss transitive and intransitive phrasal verbs on the short story “A COSMOPOLITE IN A CAFE”. Before scrutinizing the main theme, we are giving some points of view of some linguists’ related to the topic.

Phrasal verbs are verbs that comprise a verb, a preposition and an adverb. As Smith states those kind of verbs have their specific syntactical and semantical peculiarities in the usage. If they are analyzed syntactically, the position of constitute elements are used differently or consistently. According to Smith, the syntactic peculiarities indicate that the constitute elements that are used to form the phrasal verbs are made up of verbal element and prepositions used as adverbs.[1]

Fraser deals with the verbal elements of the phrasal verbs from a syntactic point of view.[2] He claims that the second element of the phrasal verb which is the particle can be connected with both the transitive and intransitive verbs. He gives attention to these kinds
of verbs and how they can be influenced when they are connected with the particles. The transitive
lexical verbs changes into intransitive verbs when they are phrasalized or on the contrary. For example: -After I explained the math problem, she began to catch on (= understand)
-She began to catch on the math problem. In the first sentence, ‘catch on’ cannot take an object, i.e., it is intransitive, whereas in the second sentence ‘catch on’ is transitive verb since it takes an indirect object (math problem).

When we discuss Transitivity and Intransitivity of English Phrasal Verbs they are divided into 6 types in Comprehensive Grammar of English Language.[3]

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Phrasal Verb</th>
<th>Lexical Verb</th>
<th>Direct Object</th>
<th>Particles</th>
<th>Prepositional Object</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Type 1</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>come</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>in</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>crop</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>up</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Type II</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>send</td>
<td>someone</td>
<td>away</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>turn</td>
<td>someone</td>
<td>down</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Type I</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>come</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>with</td>
<td>+ me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepositional Verb</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>come</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>across</td>
<td>+ a problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Type II</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>receive</td>
<td>something</td>
<td>from</td>
<td>+ me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepositional Verb</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>take</td>
<td>someone</td>
<td>for</td>
<td>+ a fool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Type I</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>run</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>away</td>
<td>with</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phrasal-Prepositional Verb)</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>come</td>
<td>up</td>
<td>with</td>
<td>+ it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Type II</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>send</td>
<td>someone</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>into</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phrasal Prepositional Verb B</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>put</td>
<td>someone</td>
<td>up</td>
<td>for</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In comparison with above mentioned types of phrasal verbs, Lindsay Clandfield in her article divided phrasal verbs according to transitivity into five types. [4] These are:

1. **Intransitive** (with no object):
   Why are standing? -*Sit down*, please.
2. **Transitive verbs whose object can come in two positions - after the verb or after the particle:**

I think I’ll put my jacket (Object) on (particle) OR I think I’ll put on (particle) my jacket (object).

If the object is a pronoun, however, it must come between the verb and the particle: I think I put it (pronoun) on (NOT I think I put on it).

3. **Transitive verbs whose object must come between the verb and the particle/preposition:**

   Its high-quality designs sets (verb) the company (preposition) apart from its rivals.

4. **Transitive verbs whose object must come after the particle:**

   Why do you put up with the way he treats you?

5. **Verbs with two objects - one after the verb, the other after the particle:**

   They put (verb) their success down (preposition) to (preposition) good planning. Investigating the phrasal verbs in the short story “A COSMOPOLITE IN A CAFE”, I cipher them (that is (1*5) according to Lindsay Clandfield’s division which was mentioned above.

   1. **My cosmopolite was named E. Rushmore Coglan, and he will be heard from** (1) to receive news or information from someone: (1) next summer at Coney Island.
   2. **He mopped up** (3) the high seas with his napkin. mop something/somebody ↔ up phrasal verb (to remove liquid with a mop, a cloth, or something soft, especially in order to clean a surface) (3)
   3. When ‘Dixie’ was being played a dark-haired young man sprang up. (meaning - suddenly appear or start to exist) (1)
   4. **Why, I’ve seen Kentuckians who hated whisky, Virginians who weren’t descended from** (meaning: somebody to be related to a person or group who lived a long time ago) Pocahontas, Indians
   5. New Yorkers who were too busy to stop for an hour on the street to watch a one-armed grocer’s clerk do up cranberries in paper bags do something ↔ up meaning: to wrap something in paper (3)
   6. I’m not tied down to (tie somebody down phrasal verb to restrict someone’s freedom to do what they want to do) anything that isn’t 8,000 miles in diameter. (4)
   7. I sat reflecting upon (meaning: to influence people’s opinion of someone or something, especially in a bad way) (4) my evident cosmopolite and wondering how the poet had managed to miss him. (4)
   8. I believed in him. (meaning: to be sure that someone or something exists) (4)
   9. Just put me down (to give an opportunity to do something:) (2) as E. Rushmore Coglan, glasses crashed, and men caught their hats up and were knocked down (to hit or push someone so that they fall to the ground) (3)
10. And then a cosmopolite sat in (meaning: to be present at a meeting but not take an active part in it one of them) (1) and I was glad, for I held a theory that since Adam no true citizen of the world has existed.

11. My cosmopolite was sustaining the pride and reputation of the Earth when the waiters closed in on (meaning: to move closer to someone or something, especially in order to attack them) both combatants with their famous flying wedge formation and bore them outside, still resisting.(5)

Results. We have found some transitive and intransitive phrasal verbs in the short story “A COSMOPOLITE IN A CAFE” by O’Henry and present them in table.

After having analyzed phrasal verbs in the short story by O’Henry the following results have been taken. 12 phrasal verbs are found in total. 3 examples out of them were formed according to type 1. The second most used type is type 4, that is, 4 transitive verbs whose object must come after the particle, transitive verbs whose object must come between the verb and the particle/preposition there are 3 The number of the type 2 transitive verbs whose object can come in two positions - after the verb or after the particle and type 5 verbs with two objects - one after the verb, the other after the particle is made up of only one transitive verb each.

The found phrasal verb types are suggested to be used to continue to study, especially on this theme or in learning and teaching purposes.

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