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978-1-107-01263-9 - Morphosyntactic Change: A Comparative Study of Particles and Prefixes

Bettelou Los, Corrien Blom, Geert Booij, Marion Elenbaas and Ans Van Kemenade

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MORPHOSYNTACTIC CHANGE

Particle verbs (two separate words constituting a single lexical unit) are a notorious problem in linguistics. Is a particle verb like *look up* one word or two? It has its own entry in dictionaries, as if it is one word, but *look* and *up* can be split up in a sentence: we can say *He looked the information up* and *He looked up the information*. But why can we say *He looked it up* but not *He looked up it*? In English *look* and *up* can only be separated by a direct object, but in Dutch the two parts can be separated over a much longer distance. How did such hybrid verbs arise and how do they function? How can we make sense of them in modern theories of language structure? This book sets out to answer these and other questions, explaining how these verbs fit into the grammatical systems of English and Dutch.

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A comparative study of particles and prefixes

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Preface

This study is the result of a research project on *The diachrony of complex predicates in the West Germanic languages*, undertaken by the authors, with Geert Booij and Ans van Kemenade as principal investigators, and sponsored by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research NWO (project 360–70–050). During the project, Geert Booij, Corrien Blom and Bettelou Los were based at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, and Ans van Kemenade and Marion Elenbaas at the Radboud University Nijmegen. As part of the project, Corrien Blom, whose Ph.D. position was funded by the Vrije Universiteit, wrote a dissertation *Complex predicates in Dutch: Synchrony and diachrony* (Utrecht: LOT), defended on 8 September 2005 at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, and Marion Elenbaas defended her dissertation *The synchronic and diachronic syntax of the English verb–particle combination* (Utrecht: LOT) at the Radboud University Nijmegen on 8 January 2007. The present book integrates parts of these dissertations with the overall results of the project.

The principal investigators organized an international *Workshop on Preverbs* on 19 and 20 January 2001 in Nijmegen; a selection of the papers has been published as a thematic part, edited by the principal investigators, of the *Year-book of Morphology 2003*, edited by Geert Booij and Jaap van Marle, 1–212 (Dordrecht: Kluwer).

There were stimulating contacts with other scholars working on particle verbs and complex predicates: Farrell Ackerman, Nicole Dehé, Andrew McIntyre, Jochen Zeller, Teresa Biberauer, Ian Roberts, Ray Jackendoff, Adele Goldberg and Anke Lüdeling. Corrien Blom also discussed her work with linguists at Stanford University. The project members invited Peter Svenonius (University of Tromsø), who has published extensively on particle systems in the Germanic languages, to Nijmegen on 16 June 2004 for discussions. We thank these colleagues for their input and inspiration.

This book also greatly benefited from the remarks of an anonymous reviewer in the final stages of its going to press, which we hereby gratefully acknowledge.

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Abbreviations and symbols

=	clitic boundary
A	Adjective
ACC	Accusative
AP	Adjective Phrase
AdvP	Adverb Phrase
BPS	Bare Phrase Structure
DAT	Dative
DOR	Direct Object Restriction
DP	Determiner Phrase
ECM	Exceptional Case Marking
eME	early Middle English
eModE	early Modern English
GEN	Genitive
I	head of IP
ICE	Idiomatically Combining Expression
ICV	Inseparable Complex Verb
IEPS	Inferable Eventual Position or State
INF	Infinitive
INTERROG	Interrogative Particle
IOBJ	indirect object
IP	Inflection Phrase
LCS	Lexical Conceptual Structure
LFG	Lexical Functional Grammar
LIP	Lexical Integrity Principle
IME	late Middle English
IOE	late Old English
MD	Middle Dutch
ME	Middle English
MNW	<i>Middelnerlands Woordenboek</i> ('Middle Dutch Dictionary')

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N	Noun
NEG	Negative element
NEUT	Neuter
NOM	Nominative
NP	Noun Phrase
OBJ	Object
OE	Old English
<i>OED</i>	<i>Oxford English Dictionary Online</i>
ON	Old Norse
P	Preposition
PDD	Present-Day Dutch
PDE	Present-Day English
PDG	Present-Day German
PG	Proto-Germanic
POBJ	Pre/postpositional Object
PL	Plural
PP	Prepositional Phrase
PREF	Prefix
Prt	Particle
PV	Preverb
REFL	reflexive pronoun
RES	Resultative
RHR	Right-hand Head Rule
SC	Small Clause
SCV	Separable Complex Verb
SG	Singular
(S)OV	Subject Object Verb
Spec	Specifier
SUBJ	Subject
(S)VO	Subject Verb Object
V	Verb
VP	Verb Phrase
VPC	Verb Particle Combination
V2	Verb Second (Constraint)
W	core (primary) predicate in the resultative LCS
WH	question word
XP	Phrase with X as head

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