

THE ENGLISH PHRASAL VERB,
1650–PRESENT

Providing a detailed and comprehensive account of the development of phrasal verbs from Early Modern to present-day English, this study covers almost 400 years in the history of English, and provides both a diachronic and synchronic account based on over 12,000 examples extracted from stratified electronic corpora. The corpus analysis provides evidence of how registers can inform us about the history of English, as it traces and compares the usage and stylistic drifts of phrasal verbs across ten different genres – drama, fiction, journals, diaries, letters, medicine, news, science, sermons, and trial proceedings. The study also sheds new light on the morphosyntactic and semantic features of phrasal verbs, proposing a new approach to the category, considering not only their grammatical features, but also their historical development, by discussing the category in terms of a number of central mechanisms of language change.

PAULA RODRÍGUEZ-PUENTE is PhD Lecturer of English Language and Linguistics at the University of Oviedo, Spain. She has published widely in international journals such as *English Studies*, *English Language and Linguistics*, and *Folia Linguistica Historica* and has contributed to prestigious edited volumes.

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Cambridge University Press
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THE ENGLISH PHRASAL
VERB, 1650–PRESENT

History, Stylistic Drifts, and Lexicalisation

PAULA RODRÍGUEZ-PUENTE

Universidad de Oviedo



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-10174-6 — The English Phrasal Verb, 1650–Present
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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India
79 Anson Road, #06-04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107101746
DOI: 10.1017/9781316182147

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First published 2019

Printed and bound in Great Britain by Clays Ltd, Elcograf S.p.A.

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Rodríguez-Puente, Paula, author.

Title: The English phrasal verb, 1650–present : history, stylistic drifts, and lexicalisation / Paula Rodríguez-Puente, Universidad de Oviedo.

Description: Cambridge; New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2018. |

Series: Studies in English language |

Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2018039894 | ISBN 9781107101746 (hardback) |

ISBN 9781107499249 (paperback)

Subjects: LCSH: English language – Verb phrase.

Classification: LCC PE1319.R74 2018 | DDC 425/.6–dc23

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2018039894>

ISBN 978-1-107-10174-6 Hardback

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Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-10174-6 — The English Phrasal Verb, 1650–Present
Paula Rodríguez-Puente
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

Acknowledgements

This book deals with the development of phrasal verbs from the end of the Early Modern English period to the present day, and with the relationship between these structures and the processes of lexicalisation, grammaticalisation, and idiomatisation. The manuscript is a revised version of my doctoral dissertation, which was publicly defended at the University of Santiago de Compostela in September 2013. The structure of the chapters has been changed, new data have been added, and a number of valuable comments that I have received on the original version have been taken into consideration. The final result represents a significant personal achievement, one which would not have been possible without the help and support of many people over many years.

First of all, I would like to acknowledge the support of the research team *Variation, Linguistic Change and Grammaticalization* (University of Santiago de Compostela), sponsored by the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (grant FFI2017-86884-P). I am especially grateful to María José López-Couso, my PhD supervisor, for her professional guidance, constructive criticism, and constant encouragement, and Teresa Fanego, the team leader, for supporting my research from the outset.

I would like to express my deepest appreciation for the guidance of those who have helped to orientate and refine my research during various visits abroad, namely Christian Mair (University of Freiburg), David Denison and Nuria Yáñez-Bouza (University of Manchester), and Terttu Nevalainen and the members of the *Research Unit for Variation, Contacts and Change in English* (VARIENG) at the University of Helsinki. The greatest debt of gratitude goes to Nuria, not only as my ‘supervisor- and mentor-in-the-shadows’, but for generously providing me with her self-collected data, which made possible an important part of the corpus research presented in this monograph. To her I owe my enthusiasm for historical sociolinguistics, historical pragmatics, and corpus analysis. This book would not have been written without her unfailing help and encouragement.

I would also like to thank Helen Barton, the Commissioning Editor for Linguistics at Cambridge University Press, for her support and understanding from the first moment she received the initial book proposal and manuscript, and especially Merja Kytö, the editor of the series *Studies in English Language*, for her valuable comments and suggestions for improvements, these always made in a friendly and sympathetic way.

My gratitude also goes to colleagues and friends from various departments of the Faculty of Philology of the University of Santiago de Compostela and the Faculty of Philology and Translation of the University of Vigo for support on both the academic and personal level. I am likewise very grateful to my colleagues and friends from the Department of Philology of the University of Cantabria, especially to my *P.*, for his support, encouragement, and valuable friendship during the years I spent in Santander, and to my friends and colleagues from the Department of English, French, and German from the University of Oviedo, where I currently hold the position of PhD Lecturer (*Ayudante Doctora*).

Last but by no means least, I would like to express my warmest gratitude to the closest members of my family. So, I dedicate this book to *Uxía*, *Álvaro*, and *mamá*, in recompense for the many hours that it has kept me away from them. Thank you all for your patience, understanding, and constant support.

Abbreviations

Corpora

- ARCHER = *A Representative Corpus of Historical English Registers*
 BNC = *British National Corpus*
 BROWN = *A Standard Corpus of Present-Day Edited American English*
 CED = *A Corpus of English Dialogues*
 CLMETEV = *A Corpus of Late Modern English Texts Extended Version:
 1710–1920*
 COCA = *A Corpus of Contemporary American English 1990–2010*
 COHA = *Corpus of Historical American English*
 CONCE = *A Corpus of Nineteenth-Century English*
 FLOB = *Freiburg-LOB Corpus of British English*
 FROWN = *Freiburg-Brown Corpus of American English*
 HC = *Helsinki Corpus of English Texts 850–1710*
 ICE-GB = *International Corpus of English, Great Britain*
 LOB = *Lancaster-Oslo/Bergen Corpus*
 OBC = *The Old Bailey Corpus*

Dictionaries

- BT = *An Anglo-Saxon Dictionary*
 CCDPV = *Collins Cobuild Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs*
 CALD = *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary*
 COD = *Collins Online English Dictionary*
 DGTL = *A Dictionary of Grammatical Terms in Linguistics*
 KCLL = *Key Concepts in Language and Linguistics*
 LDOCE = *Longman English Dictionary Online*
 MDO = *Macmillan Dictionary Online*
 MPVP = *Macmillan Phrasal Verbs Plus*
 MWO = *Merriam-Webster Online*

ODCIE = Oxford Dictionary of Current Idiomatic English

OED = Oxford English Dictionary

RDLL = Routledge Dictionary of Language and Linguistics

TFD = The Free Dictionary

Grammatical Terms

AdvP = Adverb Phrase

DO = Direct Object

IO = Indirect Object

NP = Noun Phrase

O = Object

P = Particle

PartP = Particle Phrase

PP = Prepositional Phrase

PredC = Predicative Complement

PrepO = Prepositional Object

S = Subject

V = Verb

Periods

EME = Early Middle English

EModE = Early Modern English

LME = Late Middle English

LModE = Late Modern English

ME = Middle English

OE = Old English

PDE = Present-Day English

Other

AN = Anglo-Norman

NF = Normalised Frequencies

Tkns = Tokens

TTR = Type/Token Ratio