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# 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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# THE ENGLISH PHRASAL VERB, 1650–PRESENT

*History, Stylistic Drifts, and Lexicalisation*

PAULA RODRÍGUEZ-PUENTE

*Universidad de Oviedo*

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# *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*



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*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

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