



METHODOLOGY OF INVESTIGATING L2 ACQUISITION OF WELSH PHRASAL VERBS

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Outline

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1. Why phrasal verbs?

Learning Swedish as a German native speaker has pros and cons

- pros: real friends
 - Swedish *ge upp* equals German *aufgeben* (English: *to give up*)
- cons: false friends
 - Swedish *ge sig av* **does not** equal German *sich abgeben* (English: *to depart* vs *to have someone in your social circle*)

Oh no! Will I encounter similar issues learning Welsh?

2. What is the project about?

Main question: Do adult second language learners of Welsh produce native like speech regarding phrasal verbs?

Other arising questions:

- Do Welsh learners and native speakers show same or different patterns of avoidance?
- Do non-linguistic factors (gender, age, engagement with formal style, location of speaker) influence the use of phrasal verbs?
- If people have another native language than English, does it affect the use of phrasal verbs?

3. What is a phrasal verb? (*Definition*)

- Verb + particle (preposition or adverb or a combination of the two)
→ not free compositional (Dickins 2020)
- Single semantic unit → unpredictable meaning (Peters (2009), Celce-Murcia and Larsen-Freeman (1983: 265f.))
- Verb and particle can be separated or can't be separated, eg. *to look up* vs. *to come across* (Celce-Murcia and Larsen-Freeman (1983: 265f.))
- Various other terms have been used in research so far (Bolinger (1971))

3. What is a phrasal verb? (*Phrasal verbs in Welsh*)

How do they look in Welsh?

■ Thomas (1996: 560f.):

➤ **Transitive:** dod â rhywbeth yn ôl (bring something back)

Example: Da i â llyfr yn ôl i'r llyfrgell.

(Translation: I will bring the book back to the library.)

➤ **Intransitive:** mynd i ffwrdd (go away)

Example: “Y mae wedi mynd i ffwrdd i'r Coleg.”

(Translation: He/She has gone away to College.)

3. What is a phrasal verb? (*Phrasal verbs in Welsh*)

How do they look in Welsh?

■ Rottet (2005: 41):

➤ **Separated:** “Mae 'r drefn bresennol yn **gadael** teithwyr **i lawr** ar bob cyfrif.”

(Translation: “The present system **lets** travelers **down** by all accounts.”)

➤ **Non-Separated:** “Mae'n amser **gwneud** i ffwrdd â 'ch dillad gaeaf a dechrau gwisgo rhywbeth ysgafnach.”

(Translation: “It's time to **do away** with your winter clothes and begin wearing something lighter.”)

3. What is a phrasal verb? (*Phrasal verbs in Welsh*)

English influence on Welsh phrasal verbs

■ Rottet (2005: 53 and 55):

- “[D]yw'r lle ddim cweit fel y pentre' bach gwledig y **tyfodd** e lan ynddo.”
(Translation: “The place isn't quite like the small rural village he **grew up** in.”)
- “Mae **siopa o gwmpas** yn werth y trwbwl.”
(Translation: “**Shopping around** is worth the trouble.”)
- “Dase fo yn y capel, wel di, mi fase yn cael y **kick out** yn syth. Ond pryd y gwelest di neb yn cael 'i dorri allan o 'r Eglwys?”
(Translation: “If he were in the chapel, he would be **kicked out** at once. But when did you ever see anybody get kicked out of Church?”)

4. How to answer my main question?

- Rottet (2005: 40): “Verb-adverb constructions are also attested in Welsh (Jones 1998, Rottet 2000, Rottet 2001), but in that language too, **they are nearly absent from the descriptive and the pedagogical literature.**”
- Why acquisition of phrasal verbs needs to be addressed
 - Phrasal verbs are processed differently from other vocabulary
 - Two components with their own meaning
 - Literal vs. metaphorical meanings
 - Learners avoid phrasal verbs if the structure is unknown to them (Dagut and Laufer (1985))
 - Learners avoid phrasal verbs because of semantic ambiguity (Hulstijn and Marchena (1989))

4. How to answer my main question?

(Adapting studies)

- Study based on Dagut and Laufer (1985) and Hulstijn and Marchena (1989):

2. After having failed to have a decent conversation with a German couple I had met in the pub, I decided that it was time to ____ my German.
(calm down, improve, abolish, brush up [82%] / *ophalen*)

Fig. 1: Hulstijn and Marchena's sentence with blank.

4. How to answer my main question?

(Adapting studies)

- 100 most common phrasal verbs in English (Gardener and Davies (2007))
- Translation into Welsh using *Geiriadur yr Academi* and *Dictionary of Welsh and English Idiomatic Phrases*
- Choosing verbs that have both a phrasal verb structure and a one-word equivalent
 - Result 41 one phrasal and one-word verbs

4. How to answer my main question?

(Adapting studies)

Tab. 3: Selection of 41 one-word and phrasal verbs in Welsh.

Welsh phrasal verb	Welsh one-word verb	English phrasal verb	English one-word verb
tynnu sylw (at rth)	dangos, arddangos (rhth)	show off	boast
rhoi sglein ar	caboli, gloywi	brush up	improve
torri allan, torri mas	cychwyn	break out	start (begin)
rhoi ei bryd ar/ rhoi ei meddwl ar	penderfynu	make up ones mind	decide
dod i	dechrau	take up	begin (job)
cydio mewn	derbyn	take up	accept (idea)
dod i lawr o'r cymylau	callio	runterkommen	to calm down
dod yn ei blaen, cael hwyl ar	llwyddo, ffynnu	get on	succeed
edrych yn fach arni, edrych i lawr arni hi	bychanu, dirmygu, dibrisio	look down	belittle/disregard
troi ei chefn ar	cefnu	turn back on someone	turn back on someone

4. How to answer my main question?

(Designing Questionnaire)

Sentences with blanks:

- Mae o mor falch o'i beintiad. Dyna pam mae o'n [_____] ei greadigaeth. (tynnu sylw at, (ard)dangos, two distractors)
Translation: He's so proud of his paintings. That's why he is [_____] his creations. (showing off, boasting)
- Mae fy llyfr yn dal ganddi hi! Gobeithio bydd hi'n ei [_____] fo i fi yn fuan. (roi'n ôl, ddychwelyd, two distractors)
Translation: She still has my book! I hope she will [_____] to me soon. (give back, return, two distractors)

Pilot study to choose appropriate verbs and sentences:

- Pilot study with two participants
→ Results: 13 - 14 acceptable verbs and sentences.

4. How to answer my main question?

(Designing Questionnaire)

- Multiple choice task:
 - Blanks in sensible places
Example: Mae Gareth wedi anghofio talu'r bil. Mae Dŵr Cymru wedi [_____] ei ddŵr. (torri i ffwrdd, datgysylltu, diffodd)
Translation: Gareth has forgotten to pay the bill. Dŵr Cymru has [_____] his water.
(cut off, disconnect, turn off)
 - Choosing distractors
- Translation task:
 - Cues in native language could bias participants
- Memorisation task:
 - Cues in native language could bias participants
 - Blanks must not be too big
- Finding participants

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