



DO ADULT L2 LEARNERS OF WELSH FACE ISSUES WHEN ACQUIRING WELSH PHRASAL VERBS?

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Outline

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Quick facts about Wales

- Size: about 20 800 square kilometres
- Population: 3.1 million, 4.8% of the UK population
- 883,300 people aged 3 or over are able to speak Welsh (29.1%)
- Sources
 - <https://www.wales.com/about/facts-about-wales>
 - <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Welsh-Language/Annual-Population-Survey-Welsh-Language/annualpopulationsurveyestimatesofpersonsaged3andoverwhosaytheycanspeakwelsh-by-localauthority-measure>
 - https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Datei:Wales_in_United_Kingdom.svg



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

Various authors use different terms:

Bolinger (1971: 3): “I adopt the term **phrasal verb** purely for convenience, as the one most generally accepted. Others would serve just as well: Abdul Taha’s ‘**two-word verb**’, Anna Live’s ‘**discontinuous verb**’, E. Kruisinga’s ‘**compound verb**’, Bruce Fraser’s ‘**verb-particle construction**’ or Arthur Kennedy’s tentative ‘**verb-adverb compound**’ [...]”

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

Various authors define them differently:

- Peters (2009): “[...] consisting of a common **verb** and a **particle** which combine to form a **single semantic unit**, often paraphrasing a more formal one-word expression.”
- Dickins (2020): “A phrasal verb is a phrase that consists of a **verb** with a **preposition** or **adverb** or **both**, and is **not fully free-compositional**.”
- Celce-Murcia and Larsen-Freeman (1983: 265f.): “[...] as a **verb** followed by a **particle** (variously described as a **preposition**, an **adverb**, or **some combination of the two**) [...] Furthermore, there is also a certain **unpredictability** as to what the **meaning** of a new phrasal verb will be since so many of them are used idiomatically. A final learning problem involves the **optional or obligatory separation** of the verb and the particle depending on a number of factors [...]”

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

Which languages have phrasal verbs?

- Celce-Murcia and Larsen-Freeman (1983: 265): “There are very few non-Germanic languages that have phrasal verbs.”
- Dagut and Laufer (1985: 78): “[...] the phrasal verb structure is a peculiarity of the Germanic languages”
- Rottet (2005: 40): “[a]lthough PVs and similar verb-particle constructions have come to be associated with English and its sister Germanic languages, they are not limited to the Germanic family.”

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

Tab. 1: Verb-particle combinations in selected Indo-European languages.

Concept	Germanic	Romance	Slavic	Celtic
stop/quit	English: to give up German: aufgeben	Italian: lasciare French: quitter/ laisser	Polish: (po)rzucić Russian: бросать	Welsh: rhoi'r gorau i Irish: éirigh as
surrender	English: to give up German: aufgeben	Italian: arrendersi French: abandonner /se rendre	Polish: poddać się Russian: сдаться	Welsh: rhoi'r gorau i Irish: tabhair isteach
send	English: to post German: aufgeben	Italian: spedire French: poster	Polish: nadać Russian: сдать	Welsh: postio, anfon Irish: postáil, cuir (sa phost)

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

Which differences can one observe?

- Structure: Where is the particle?
 - *In the front? In the back?*
 - *Separated morphemes? Non-separated morphemes?*
 - *Separated elements? Non-separated elements?*
- Metaphorization: Which lexical elements are used?
 - *Same or different base verb?*
 - *Same or different particle(s)?*
 - *No phrasal verb*

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

Do they exist?

- Asmus (2005: 9): “[i]f taken as existing”
- 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.”
- Thomas (1996:560): “Mae gan y Gymraeg hefyd nifer o **ferfau ymadroddol**, sef berfau y bydd adferfolion penodol yn cyd-ddigwydd â hwy’n aml.”
 - *Translation: Welsh also has a number of **phrasal verbs**, verbs with which specific adverbs often occur.*

1. 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.)

1. 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.”)

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

How do they look in Welsh?

■ Rottet (2005: 53 and 55):

- *Pleonastic calquing of particle*: “[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.”)

- *Clauing of verb and particle*: “Falle galla 'i i gael napyn bach i **neud lan** am neithiwr.”

(Translation: “Perhaps I can get a little nap to **make up** for last night.”)

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

How do they look in Welsh?

- Rottet (2005: 53 and 55):

- *Loanblends*: “Mae **siopa o gwmpas** yn werth y trwbwl.”

- (Translation: “**Shopping around** is worth the trouble.”)

- *Wholesale borrowing*: “Dase fo yn y cape!, 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?”)

1. What is a phrasal verb? (*Selected research*)

Overview on research on learners with various backgrounds acquiring English phrasal verbs by Jahedi and Mukundan (2015) quotes various researchers.

- Dagut and Laufer (1985): Hebrew learners of English.
 - *Multiple choice test*
 - *Verb translation test*
 - *Verb memorising test*
- Hulstijn and Marchena (1989): Dutch learners of English. Same tasks but:
 - *Different sentences (original sentences unobtainable)*
 - *Division into intermediate and advanced learners*
 - *Substituting a few of verbs from the original study (to maintain multi vs. on-word verb contrast)*

1. What is a phrasal verb? (*Selected research*)

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.

1. What is a phrasal verb? (*Selected research*)

THE 15 PAIRS OF PHRASAL AND ONE-WORD VERBS USED IN THE STUDY WITH DUTCH ESL LEARNERS

Phrasal Verb ^a	One-Word Verb ^a	Dutch Equivalent
1 turn up (show up)	appear	<i>op komen dagen</i>
2 brush up	improve	<i>ophalen</i>
3 let down	disappoint	<i>laten zitten</i>
4 give up	stop (quit)	<i>ermee uitscheiden</i>
5 get through to	reach (contact)	<i>te pakken krijgen</i>
6 get up	rise	<i>uit mijn nest komen</i>
7 go on	continue	<i>doorgaan met</i>
8 break out	start (begin)	<i>beginnen</i>
9 go off	explode (detonate)	<i>ontploffen</i>
10 bring up	raise (educate)	<i>opvoeden</i>
11 hang on (hold on)	wait	<i>een momentje hebben</i>
12 put out	extinguish	<i>doven</i>
13 make up (think up)	invent	<i>uit zijn duim zuigen</i>
14 give in (give up)	surrender	<i>zich gewonnen geven</i>
15 turn down	refuse (reject)	<i>afslaan</i>

^aAlternative responses which were coded as correct in Translation and Memorization are entered in parentheses.

Fig. 2: Hulstijn and Marchena's verb selection.

2. How to answer my main question? (*Adaptation of studies*)

Problems adapting the studies:

- Welsh does not use phrasal verbs for all of the “expressions” used in previous studies
- Which Welsh phrasal verbs are frequently used in everyday speech?
- English being dominant in the UK can create biases
 - *Verb translation test and memorisation test pose issues*
 - *Welsh and English both have phrasal verb and one word verb equivalents*
- Multiple choice test ignoring realities of calquing and borrowing

2. How to answer my main question? (Adaptation of studies)

Tab. 2: Translation of Hulstijn and Marchena's phrasal verbs into Welsh.

Hulstijn & Marchena (1986)			Welsh equivalents for Hulstijn & Marchena (1986)	
Phrasal Verb	One-Word Verb		Phrasal verb	One-word verb
brush up	improve		rhoi sglein ar	caboli, gloywi
let down	disappoint		troi cefn ar	siomi
give up	stop (quit)		rhoi'r gorau i	peidio â
get through to	reach (contact)		-	cysylltu â
get up	rise		-	codi
go on	continue		mynd ymlaen	dal i, parhau i wneud rhth
break out	start (begin)		torri allan, torri mas	cychwyn
go off	explode (detonate)		-	ffrwydro, chwythu
bring up	raise (educate)		-	magu, codi, tyfu
hang on (hold on)	wait		dal gafael yn, hongian wrth (dal gwynt/dŵr)	dal, gafael, cydio yn?
put out	extinguish		-	diffodd
give in (give up)	surrender		rhoi'r gorau i, rhoi'r ffidil yn y to	[g]ildio, ymostwng, plygu
turn down	refuse (reject)		-	gwrthod

2. How to answer my main question? (*Adaptation of studies*)

Tab. 3: Selection of 100 most frequent English phrasal verbs into Welsh.

Welsh phrasal verb	Welsh one-word verb	English phrasal verb	English one-word verb
dod â	dwyn	bring	bring
bod am	eisiau	want	want
taflu'r bai ar	twyllo	make a fool of someone	deceive
dod yn ôl	dychwelyd	come back	return
dod o hyd	darganfod/ffeindio	come upon	find
mynd ar ei waeth	dirywio, gwaethygu	go down	deteriorate
dal ati	dyfalbarhau	carry on	persevere
troi i fyny	torchi	turn up	appear
edrych yn ôl	cofio	look back	remember

2. How to answer my main question? (*Designing questionnaires*)

- Formulating research questions
 - *What questions do I want to answer?*
 - *Which statistical formula fits to which question?*
- What are important factors that could influence the dependent variable?
 - *Age, gender, education, wealth, geographical influences, other native languages*
- How to model certain factors?
 - *Geography: current residency, place of upbringing, place a person has spent most time at?*
- What kind of people will my sample contain?
- KEEP ATTENTION SPAN OF PARTICIPANTS IN MIND!!!

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