

PHRASAL VERBS IN RICK RIORDAN'S NOVEL *THE HAMMER OF THOR*: A SYNTACTIC ANALYSIS

Tegar Arif Topan

English Department, Gunadarma University

E-mail: ariftopantegar@gmail.com

Received: 2022-09-09

Accepted: 2023-06-10

Published: 2023-12-29

Abstract

The study about syntax is quite significant because some people may write sentences yet they have no idea the proper structure of grammar. In this study, the writer focuses on syntax which has something to do with phrasal verbs discussed in tree diagram. This study uses *The Hammer of Thor* novel by Rick Riordan as the data source. The objective of the study is to find out kinds of phrasal verbs in *The Hammer of Thor* novel and the meaning of those phrasal verbs. This study used qualitative method. There are 33 phrasal verbs found in the novel as the source of data. Those particles which form the phrasal verbs are *out, up, for, down, about, back, on, off, into, away, through, from, and over*. Based on the data found, the phrasal verbs are different from verb phrases in written form. Furthermore, the tree diagram gives more understanding how phrasal verbs are formed and how to use them syntactically.

Keywords: *linguistics; phrasal verbs; syntax; tree diagram*

1. Introduction

Language is one of the most important aspects in human life, because in daily activities people cannot avoid using language. They communicate each other by using language. Language is also one of tools of communication. According to Hornby (2010), language is the system of communication in speech and writing used by people of a particular country or area. Language is a natural communication tool for people and it is important for them in their daily life. Wijaya and Helmy (2019) also state that language is a system as communication tools built from the customs that are closely related to the place are located. Chomsky (2017) also said, "Language is meaning with sound (or some other externalization, or none); and the concept is richly significant." English is an international language surely has its own structures. The structure is used in classifying the categories and patterns of each word which is formed by phrases, clauses, and sentences. Language is very wide to study. There are types of linguistics such as phonetics, phonology, morphology, semantics, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, and syntax. Everaert (2017) stated, "Language is structured at all levels: phonology (sound structure), morphology (word structure), semantics (meaning structure), and syntax (phrase structure). Syntax is a branch of linguistics which studies about patterning words into phrases, clauses, and sentences." According to Adger & Svenonius (2015), syntax is the cognitive capacity of human beings that allows us to connect linguistic meaning with linguistic form. Robert & Valin (2001) also states that syntax can thus be given the following characterization, taken from Matthews

(1982: 1); the term 'syntax' is from the Ancient Greek *syntaxis*, a verbal noun which literally means 'arrangement' or 'setting out together'. Syntax is the study of the principles and processes by which sentences are constructed in particular languages. Syntactic investigation of a given language has as its goal the construction of a grammar that can be viewed as a device of some sort for producing the sentences of the language under analysis (Chomsky, 2002). According to Council (2016), syntactic categories such as noun and verb into which newly learned words can be assimilated and knowledge of how these categories can be combined into phrases and sentences. Some studies used syntactic analysis to study sentences and their elements (Agajie, 2020a; Agajie, 2020b; Yasmin, Indrawati, and Rahayuni, 2017).

This study discusses the use of phrasal verbs in *The Hammer of Thor* novel. The objective is to analyze phrasal verb because it is interesting to study. In addition, phrasal verb will have different meanings from the natural words. According to Gairns & Redman (2011), phrasal verbs are combinations of words consisting of an adverb or preposition, and some are composed of an adverb plus a preposition. From the statement above, this study tells that phrasal verb is a phrase that consists of verb, adverb and preposition formed to be a phrase. According to Lu & Sun (2017), a phrasal verb is a construction that consists of a verb and an adverbial particle or a morphologically invariable preposition and functions as a single unit lexically and syntactically. Moreover, Lingga (2006) said, "Phrasal verbs is a group of words that has a special meaning in form of phrase there are verb + preposition or verb + adverb or verb + adverb + preposition."

It is done in attempt to give understanding and development of language in literature, especially how to use phrasal verbs properly and how to know phrasal verbs syntactically. Moreover, it is important to know how phrasal verbs are formed. It will affect the language use either in written text or spoken way. The language itself is as a medium of the study to learn such context related to linguistics. Many studies include news articles as their objects of observation (Indarti, 2020; Msuya, 2020; Olugbenga, 2020; Ziyayeva, 2020). The writer provides more explanation of phrasal verbs by giving the tree diagram in order to be more explicitly described.

2. Literature Review

Language is a system of communication which is largely employed by humans to persuade, convince, criticize, inform and influence from one to another either by written or spoken language. It is said that humans have disparate methods to utter their intention or to convey their feelings through a language; therefore, the way humans communicate to deliver information and aim lead to the distinction of the way animals do. It can be said that language has become the basic and essential need for humans to live together as the relation between humans is connected by language (Medina & Saraswati, 2021). The scope of linguistics covers many essential disciplines in producing language. As mentioned beforehand, there are phonology, morphology, semantics, and syntax.

Medina and Saraswati (2021) state that by specifying the meaning into more comprehensive elaboration, this would ease the readers or listeners to understand what aim a speaker or writer intends to present, and how the selective utterance could represent a writer or a speaker's true feeling. This study is mainly focused on analyzing phrasal verbs in semantic perspectives. When humans express their feelings, or give opinion and thought, sometimes, there are specific purposes or intention implied behind the language used, and they are often implicit. It means that not all words and utterance reflect the interpretation

exactly in the dictionaries. Distinguishing types of meaning can be done carefully to fit them into the total composite effect of linguistic communication (Leech as cited by Medina & Saraswati, 2021).

According to the study, it was found different implied meanings and phrasal verbs types in the commencement speech. Regarding the implied meaning, most phrasal verbs are from affective meaning that reflect the true feeling from the speaker and give impact to the listeners, as in this speech Hillary Clinton mostly criticized the government and showed her disappointment and displeasure of the presidential election in 2017. There are 5 of basic meaning types which were used: literal, connotative, affective, social, and thematic. Meanwhile, to figure out what phrasal verbs types produced by Hillary Clinton, the writer used Celce-Murcia and Larsen-Freeman's theory consisting of literal phrasal verbs, aspectual phrasal verbs, and idiomatic phrasal verbs. There are 40 phrasal verbs with the percentage number of 100%, consisting of 10 conceptual, 4 connotative, 16 affective, 7 social, and 3 thematic. It is clear that the most dominant implied meaning of phrasal verbs used by Hillary Clinton was affective since most of her aims were to express her true feeling, anger, displeasure, respect and friendliness where these points could give impact to the audiences. On the other hand, the writer also examined closely the types of phrasal verbs produced by Hillary Clinton in her commencement speech. The writer used the theory from Larsen-Freeman and Celce-Murcia who categorized phrasal verbs into three different categories which are literal phrasal verb, aspectual phrasal verb, and idiomatic phrasal verb. The numbers of data analyzed are similar with the implied meanings which are 40 phrasal verbs with the percentage number of 100%, comprising 17 literal phrasal verbs, 10 aspectual phrasal verbs, and 13 idiomatic phrasal verbs.

3. Research Method

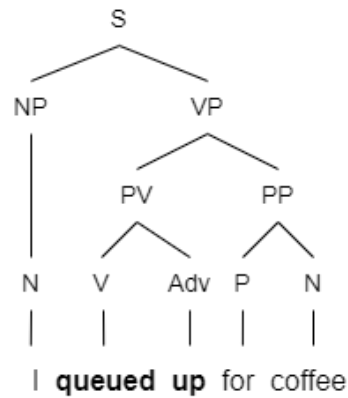
This study used qualitative descriptive method. According to Thomas, Riggs, and Stothart (2013), a qualitative descriptive design is a method considered useful for exploring phenomena which are shared by groups or individuals, in order to discover the meaning and patterns. Qualitative research which produces descriptive data, word or speech and behavior can be observed by the subject itself. In addition, qualitative research begins with assumptions, a worldview, the possible of theoretical lens, and the study of research problems inquiring into the meaning of individual or groups ascribed to a social or human problem (Creswell, Hanson, and Clark: 2007).

The data of this study were taken from *The Hammer of Thor* novel. The techniques of collecting data were conducted by several steps, from reading the novel as the data source to describing the data into tree diagram.

4. Result and Discussion

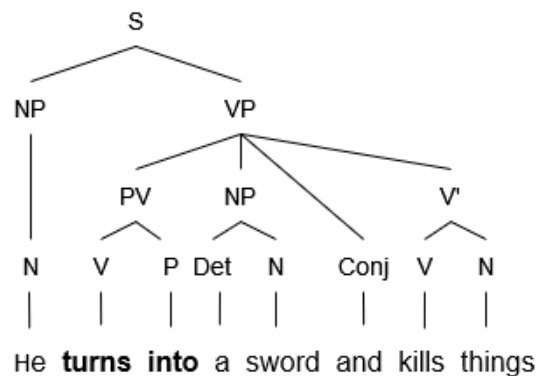
The results show that there are 33 English phrasal verbs taken from the novel of *The Hammer of Thor* from the first 3 chapters. Based on typically of phrasal verbs, there are only two selected types of phrasal verbs; transitive phrasal verbs and intransitive phrasal verbs. The writer finds 21 transitive phrasal verbs and 12 intransitive phrasal verbs.

All together, the writer finds 33 data of English phrasal verbs in the novel of *The Hammer of Thor* by Rick Riordan. The writer analyzes the data by using tree diagram and explains them syntactically. Next, the writer finds the meaning of each phrasal verb. In addition, phrasal verb has many meanings and cannot be translated word by word.



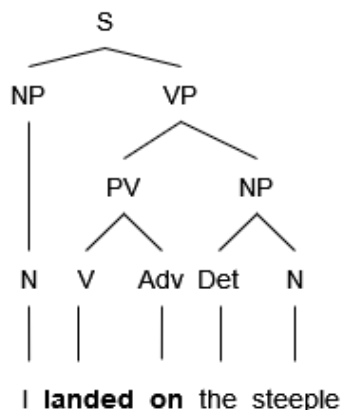
Data 1:

Syntactically, the phrasal verb **queued up** which comes from the phrase queue up consists of two words formed by a verb **queue** and an adverb **up**. These words are categorized as a phrasal verb since it is built from a verb as well as adverb combined to create a new meaning. It belongs to intransitive phrasal verb because it does not have a direct object followed. Semantically, the phrase **queue up** consists of the verb **queue** which means *to wait in a line of people, vehicles, etc.* (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, Oxford University Press, 2015), and the adverb **up** means *towards or in a higher position* (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, Oxford University Press, 2015). Therefore, the phrasal verb **queued up** has different meanings. It is to be remembered or recorded in a particular way (Cambridge Dictionary, Cambridge University Press, 2019).



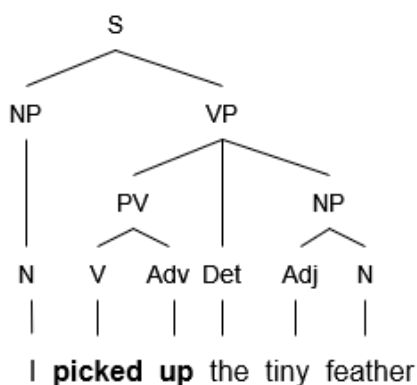
Data 2:

The focus on data 2 is also the phrasal verb which is the first verb of the sentence. The phrasal verb **turns into** which comes from the phrase turn into consists of two words formed by a verb **turn** and a preposition **into**. These words are categorized as a phrasal verb since it is built from a verb and a preposition combined together to create a new meaning. It is a transitive phrasal verb because it has a direct object *a sword* which follows. Semantically, the phrase **turn into** consists of the verb **turn** which means *to move or make something move around a central point.* (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, Oxford University Press, 2015), and the preposition **into** which means *to a position in or inside something* (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, Oxford University Press, 2015). Therefore, the phrasal verb **turns into** has its own meaning different from being translated word by word.



Data 3:

The tree diagram above shows that the phrasal verb **landed on** which comes from the phrase land on consists of two words formed by a verb **land** and a preposition **on**. These words are classified as a phrasal verb because it is formed from a verb and a preposition that join one another to create a new meaning. It is a transitive phrasal verb because it has a direct object *the steeple* which follows. Semantically, the phrase **land on** consists of the verb **land** which means *to come down through the air onto the ground or another surface*. (Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary, Oxford University Press, 2015), and the preposition **on** which means *in or into a position covering, touching or forming part of a surface* (Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary, Oxford University Press, 2015). Therefore, the phrasal verb **landed on** has its own meaning.



Data 4:

Syntactically, the phrasal verb **picked up** which comes from the phrase pick up consists of two words formed by a verb **pick** and an adverb **up**. These words are categorized as a phrasal verb since it is built from a verb as well as an adverb to create a new meaning. It is a transitive phrasal verb because it has a direct object *the tiny feather* which follows. Semantically, the phrase **pick up** consists of the verb **pick** which means *to choose somebody/something from a group of people or things* (Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary, Oxford University Press, 2015), and the adverb **up** which means *towards or in a higher position* (Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary, Oxford University Press, 2015). Therefore, the phrasal verb **pick up** has its own meaning.

5. Conclusion

Based on the results of the data analysis, there are 33 English phrasal verbs found in the novel as the data source. Those particles which form the phrasal verbs are *out, up, for,*

down, about, back, on, off, into, away, through, from, and over. There are two categories syntactically selected as the main objective, transitive phrasal verb and intransitive phrasal verb. While transitive phrasal verb has a direct object, intransitive phrasal verb does not have a direct object. Those data of phrasal verbs are analyzed by using tree diagram to show how those phrasal verbs are formed and they are explained by defining the meaning of those phrasal verbs. The writer finds 21 transitive phrasal verbs and 12 intransitive phrasal verbs in the novel. The data also show that the difference between phrasal verb and verb phrase in the written form.

References

- Adger, D & Svenonius, P. (2015). How linguistic is the language faculty: A view from generative syntax. *Frontiers in Psychology (Language Sciences)*doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2015.01421
- Agajie, B. A. (2020a). Syntactic structure of adjective, adverb, and prepositional phrases of Awgni. *LLT Journal*, 23(2), 368-382. doi:10.24071/llt.v23i2.2527.g2011.
- Agajie, B. A. (2020b). The syntactic structure of awgni noun phrases. *LiNGUA: Jurnal Ilmu Bahasa dan Sastra*, 15(2), 111 - 122. doi:https://doi.org/10.18860/ling.v15i2.9079
- Cambridge Dictionary. (2019). *Cambridge Dictionary*. Cambridge: University Press.
- Chomsky, N. (2002). *Syntactic structures*. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter GmbH.
- Chomsky, N. (2017). Language architecture and its import for evolution. *Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews*, 1–6.
- Council, N. (2016). *A syntactic approach to part-of-speech categories author (s):* Ralph B. Long Published by: National Council of Teachers of English Stable URL. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/371993>
- Creswell, J. W., Hanson, W. E., & Clark, V. L. P. (2007). Qualitative research designs: selection and implementation, 35(2), 236–264.
- Everaert, M. B. H., Huybregts, M. A. C., Berwick, R. C., Chomsky, N., Tattersall, I., Moro, A., & Bolhuis, J. J. (2017). What is language and how could it have evolved ? *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 21(8), 569– 571.
- Grains, R. & Redman, S. (2011). *Idioms and phrasal verbs*. London: Oxford University Press.
- Hornby, A. S. (2010). *Oxford advanced learner's dictionary, 8th edition*. London: Oxford University Press.
- Indarti, D. (2020). Lexical richness of newspaper editorials published in Southeast Asian countries. *Studies in English Language and Education*, 7(1), 55-69. doi: 10.24815/siele.v7i1.15032.
- Lingga, H. D. (2006). *Advance english grammar for toefl preparation*. Jakarta: Puspa Swara.
- Lu, Z., & Sun, J. (2017). Presenting english polysemous phrasal verbs with two metaphor-based cognitive methods to chinese efl learners. *System*, 1–9.
- Medina, A. & Saraswati, R. (2021). *A semantic analysis of phrasal verbs produced by hillary clinton in the commencement speech*. <https://doi.org/10.30998/jedu.v1i3.5900>
- Msuya, E. A. (2020). Analysis of newspaper headlines: A case of two Tanzanian English dailies. *Journal of Education, Humanities, and Sciences*, 8(2).
- Olugbenga, A. S. (2020). A linguistic-stylistic analysis of newspaper headlines of Metele attack on Nigerian army by Boko Haram insurgents. *International Journal of Scientific and Research Publications*, 10(2), 880-887. doi: 10.29322/IJSRP.10.02.2020.p98108.

- Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary. (2015). *Oxford advanced learners dictionary*. Oxford: University Press.
- Riordan, R. (2016). *Magnus chase and the gods of asgard*. New York: Hyperion
- Robert, D. & Van Valin, J. R. (2001). *An introduction to linguistic*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Thomas, K., Riggs, R., & Stothart, K. (2013). The meaning of changing expectations : a qualitative descriptive study. 26(1)
- Wijaya, F. R., & Helmie, J. (2019). An analysis of directive speech acts in the fault in our stars movie script. *Jurnal JOEPALLT (Journal of English Pedagogy, Linguistics, Literature, and Teaching)*, 7(1).
<https://doi.org/10.35194/jj.v7i1.300>
- Yasmin, A. R. Indrawati, N. L. K. M., & Rahayuni, N. K. S. (2017). Syntactic analysis of headline structure in the Jakarta Post online. *Jurnal Humanis*, 19(1), 7-73.
- Ziyayeva, D. (2020). Verbs of speech activity in the newspapers. *Theoretical and Applied Science*, 84(4), 1005-1008. doi: 10.15863/TAS.2020.04.84.185.