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PHRASAL VERBS NOMINALISATION : A MINIMALIST APPROACH

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Abstract: The nominalisation mechanism of English verbs is quite particular for phrasal verbs. In addition to the verb standard nominalisation process which goes through the suffixation of *-ing* to the verb, phrasal verbs have another nominalisation mode. Some nominalized forms have the particle in a pre-verbal position whereas some have the particle in a post-verbal position. Some do not even have a noun form deriving from the particle position. As regarding the two formers, the two patterns i.e. *verb - particle* and *particle - verb* forms are contradictory to the uniformity of constraints in one single language. The existing two patterns in English phrasal verb structure raise some questions. Does English admit two structures for particle-verb noun forms? If not, what is the base structure for nominalised forms? What is then the constraint that forces the particle to precede or follow the verb root? Within a Minimalist perspective, especially in a syntactic approach, I will show in this paper that both patterns are derived from only one common minimal structure. The structural difference is due to the focus feature of the verb.

Keywords : Phrasal verb, particle, root verb, feature, nominalisation

LA NOMINALISATION DES VERBES À PARTICULES : UNE APPROCHE MINIMALISTE

Résumé : Le mécanisme de nominalisation des verbes anglais est assez particulier pour les verbes à particule. En[1] plus du processus standard de nominalisation des verbes, qui passe par la suffixation en *-ing* au verbe, les verbes à particule ont un autre mode de nominalisation. Certaines formes nominalisées ont la particule en position préverbale tandis que d'autres ont la particule en position postverbale. Certaines n'ont même pas de forme nominale dérivant de la position de la particule. En ce qui concerne les deux premières, les deux schémas, c'est-à-dire *verbe - particule* et *particule - verbe*, sont contradictoires avec l'uniformité des contraintes dans une seule langue. L'existence de ces deux schémas dans la structure des verbes à particule en anglais soulève certaines questions. L'anglais admet-il deux structures pour les verbes à particule nominalisés ? Sinon, quelle est la structure de base des formes nominalisées ? Quelle est alors la contrainte qui oblige la particule à précéder ou à suivre la racine du verbe ? Dans une perspective minimaliste, en particulier dans une approche syntaxique, je montrerai dans cet article que les deux modèles dérivent d'une seule structure minimale commune. La différence structurale est due au trait focus du verbe.

Mots-clés : Verbe à particule, particule, radical verbal, trait, nominalisation

[1] Deepl traduction and we translate the abstract from English into French.

Introduction

"The verb-particle construction in Modern English is extremely complex to analyse and describe coherently in synchronic terms, but its origin and diachronic development is even more problematic." (A. R. Olteanu: 2012:7). This aforementioned statement outlines how complex is any analysis about Modern English phrasal verbs[2] in particular and English phrasal verbs in general. In fact, the idea of writing a paper on nominalisation of phrasal verbs arose after the grammar course of licence 1 on *Nouns and adjectives based on phrasal verbs*. During the course, I was wondering why in contemporary English some phrasal verbs get nominalized by shifting the particle before the verb stem while some not. After some time of reflexion without any answer, I decided to investigate the mechanisms of noun creation from phrasal verbs for a deeper understanding of it[3]. Nominalisation which is noun creation from other parts of speech is a common phenomenon to all natural languages. However, the process varies depending on the language or the part of speech involved. When it comes to English, one can nominalize verbs in various ways. Verbs can get nominalized through the process of derivation or stress shift. For example, the shift of the stress from the second syllable to the first syllable of some verbs turns them into noun. As regarding the nominalisation of the verb by derivation, there are various mechanisms depending on the verb. There is a derivation procedure par excellence which is the suffixing of *-ing* to the verb.

All verbs go about that procedure, including phrasal verbs. In addition to the general nominalisation mechanism via *-ing* suffixation to verbs, phrasal verbs have a particularity as mentioned above. This particularity is twofold. The particle in nominal phrasal verbs in contemporary English can be either postposed to the verb stem or preposed to it. The examples below well illustrate the double nominalisation mode for English phrasal verbs as far as the particle position is concerned.

(1)

Verb form	Noun form
a. Cast out	Outcast
b. Drop out	Dropout
c. Show off	show-off/show off
d put off	offput

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These examples suggest that particles or verbs have a double position in nominalized forms. They do not have a fix position. There is a nominal form where the particle precedes the verb stem (Cf 1a &1c) i.e. it functions as a verbal prefix. There is a form where the particle functions as a verbal suffix or follows the verb stem (Cf 1 b&1d). This coexistence of particle-base nominal constructions such as *dropout* and *outcast* or *show off* and *offset* in Modern English contrasts with the admittance of a unique linear ordering in language. It rather hypotheses two particle constructions for lexicalised or constructed nominal forms, that is preposing particles constructions and postposing particles constructions. This double structural position challenges the unique linear ordering claimed in Generative syntax. Since Generativists require a unique linear ordering in language, we cannot admit two sub-jacent positions for particles or verbs of the same category. If so, then, what is the base position of the particle in English phrasal verbs? Does particle have a double position in nominal

[2] In this paper, I define phrasal verb with reference to Quirk et al.'s (1985) definition of phrasal verbs.

[3]The first attempt to write a paper about the topic dates back to April 2022. A brief overview was made during Wetalk of April 27, 2022 at UFHB, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. Wetalk is a weekly tribune where teachers and students are invited to present their scientific work for discussions and suggestions.

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phrasal verbs such as in *outbreak* and *breakout*? If not, what is the constraint that forces the particle to precede the verb root or not? For a minimal theory, I maintain one base position which is particle-verb. Upon the universal knowledge basis, generativist suggest a unique basic architecture of any linguistic system (Culicover, W. P., 1977: 4). They relate structural differences to parameters whereas structural uniformity is related to principles (Cuicover, W. P., Ibidem). In line with the uniformity principle, the structural position of the particle must be unique in verb- particle noun forms. This leads to the general hypothesis that preposing particles have the same structural position with postposing particles in nominal forms. The different positions observed are due to the parameter features of the verbs involved in the derivation. This paper aims therefore at uncovering the base-generated position of the particle or the verb before any derivation[4]. Furthermore, it shall demonstrate that the double structural position is related to the parameter features of the stem verb. The study is organised into four sections. Section one reviews some past literature about the topic. Section two deals with the methodology and theoretical framework. The next section presents the two nominal forms collected from various sources. The last section tackles several hypotheses to find a solution to the problem.

1. Review of literature

A. R. Olteanu (Op. cit., p. 7) pointed out that English phrasal verbs have been much studied. His work entitled "A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO PHRASAL VERBS[5]" published in 2012 was one more to the large existing literature about English phrasal verbs. This paper will not exhaustively cover all the past literature about phrasal verbs but will only review what is deemed greatly significant for the current topic. The pioneering work on nominalization within a generative perspective is attributed to N. A. Chomsky (1970). In his work untitled "Remarks on Nominalizations", Chomsky favored the lexicalist hypothesis over the transformationist position (Chomsky 1970, p. 17-18) arguing that derived nominals are nouns at the underlying level rather than underlying verbs transformed into nouns. In other words, nominalizations and their corresponding verbs are part of the lexicon. They are not related by a transformational syntactic rule. It Follows from this approach that nouns made from *verb - particle* are nouns at the underlying level. They are not *verb -particle* at the underlying level before being transformed into nouns. The lexicalist approach, however, is rejected within the Minimalist program, especially in Distributed Morphology, which essentially reduces all operations to Merge operation.

In fact, in his book, *Syntax Within the Word*: *Economy, Allomorphy, and argument selection in distributed morphology*, D. Siddiqi (2009, p. 12) explained why A. Marantz (1977) rejected the lexicalist approach. He rather suggested a Distributed morphology approach of nominalization, which shall not be considered in this paper. Concerning A. R. Olteanu (2012), he studied the syntactic, semantic, morphological and pragmatic aspects of phrasal verbs whilst reviewing the theses about it. Though, he covered the derivation aspect of phrasal verbs, he did not focus on the double structural position of particles. Talking about the structural position of the particle in a diachronic perspective, A. C. Baugh (1993) and E. C. Traugott (1972) cited in A. R. Otleanu (2012, p.11) pointed out that the particles were originally prefixed to the verbs. They were either bound or separated. Millward (1996), cited

[4] It would be very pretentious to cover all the particles in this paper. I also believe that the space provided to fit this article in will not be sufficient enough to do so. Therefore, I mainly focus on particles out & off. Other articles or extensive work covering this phenomenon can go beyond more than two particles.

[5] Much data has been taken from Olteanu's work.

in A. R. Otleanu (Idem) also argued that modern phrasal verbs originated from old English prefixed verbs. Still, on this aspect of the particle structural position, M. Akimoto (1999, p.58) stated this: "Old English prefixes often remained before the verb because Old English had strong *object-before-verb* tendencies, whereas present day English is largely a VO language. This has made it possible for particles to travel to post verbal positions".

This statement diachronically explains the emergence of the post verbal position of the particle in phrasal verbs without saying why the particles of nominal forms have a double syntactic position (pre-verbal position or/and post verbal). Since this paper is a syntax-based analysis of present-day English phrasal verbs, I shall not say much about the transitional syntax of particles from old English to modern English. However, despite the predominant of the preverbal position of particles in old English, M. Akimoto (Idem) pointed out the existence of post verbal particles at that period. So, both preverbal and post verbal particles of phrasal verbs transcend the periods of English. The problem of the double structure of particles remains therefore unsolved in the syntax of neither English phrasal verbs nor nouns made from verb + particle[6]. Although O. Fischer (1992, p. 386) asserted that nominal phrasal verbs derived from inseparable particle + verb and verbs+ separable particle, still the double syntax of particles remains unsolved in present-day English nominal phrasal verbs. In this work, I shall strive to settle the problem of the double syntax of particles in nominalized counterparts of phrasal verbs. The methodology and Merge theory used to sustain my thesis will be presented briefly in the upcoming section.

2. Methodology and Theoretical framework

The present section gives an account of the data collected including the methodology design. It also presents the theoretical framework i.e. Merge theory.

2.1. Methodology

This paper adopts a qualitative approach as generativists do. The data collected are only used to sustain my stance and demonstrations. As advocated by Chomsky (1965), the methodology adopted here seeks to establish a rule that underlies the actual use of post and pre- verbal nominal forms, that is a competence theory. It therefore not only relies on the data collected from previous work and grammar books but also appeals to my intuition. It relies also on a lot of counterexamples to explain and defend the idea of the parameter features use that yields two syntactic positions of particles in nouns made from phrasal verbs.

2.2. Theoretical framework

Minimalism is basically about the operations Merge and Agree. According to Adger (2003, pp. 66-67), Agree is motivated by some legibility conditions such as *Full Interpretation* and *Checking Requirement* imposed on interfaces. In fact, each lexical or functional item of the lexicon has different categories of features. These features are at play in Agree operation. Thus G. Puskas (2013, p.88) defines Agree as follows: "La connexion qui s'établit entre deux éléments porteurs de traits de même nature est ce que l'on appelle **Accord** (Agree)"[7]. As for Merge, A. Radford (2004, p.68) defines it as an operation that combines two constituents together to construct larger structures. According to Chomsky et al. (2023, p.2), Merge is the primary structure-building device of syntax. It applies under

[6] *Verb - particle* is not the chosen order pattern yet. It refers to either *verb + particle* or *Particle + verb*.
[7] What is called Agree is the matching that is established between two objects bearing the same nature of features.

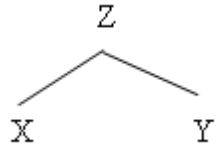
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some constraints which are external or internal to language. Chomsky (2013) stated two types of Merge, namely External Merge and Internal Merge.

-External Merge

This operation consists in combining two elements taken directly from the lexical sample to derive an item as represented in (2). For example, X and Y represent selected constituents taken directly from numeration or workspace (WS)[8] to derive Z.

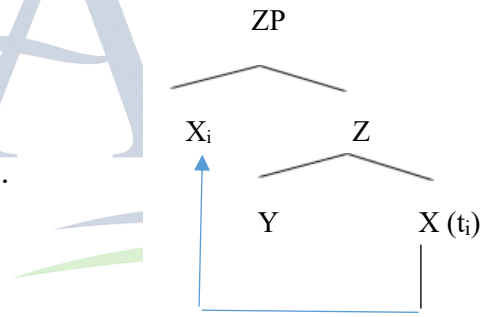
(2)



-Internal merge

Internal Merge consists in the recombination of two elements that have already been associated to derive a new syntactic structure. Structure (3) is an illustration.

(3).



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In the Principles &Parameters model, when a constituent moves, its starting position is occupied by a trace noted t. The trace theory is abandoned in Minimalism and replaced by the Copy theory with the introduction of the inclusiveness condition. This condition states that: …*No new objects or features are introduced by the computational system during derivation* (Chomsky 1995, pp. 225-228). Since "t" is not part of the lexicon, then it must not present in the derived structure.

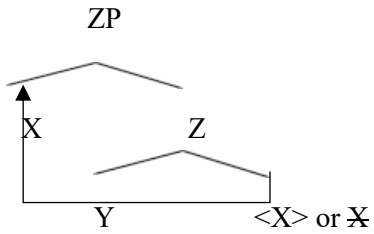
-Copy theory

According to this theory, when a constituent moves, it leaves a copy on its starting site (source site). This copy can be either phonetically full or empty (no phonetic content). Therefore, movements that result in empty categories on the starting sites are noted by the symbols < > (strictly lower and strictly higher) or crossed out (~~Yq~~)[9]. If we adopt the copy theory, diagram (3) is then represented in (4) as follows:

[8] An illustration of WorkSpace: suppose the WS consists of the lexical items shown in (i). (i) WS = [the, see, I, child]. Merge can take this WS as input and target the inscriptions of the lexical items the and child to create the set {the, child}, adding that set to the WS, and yielding (ii).
(ii) WS' = [see, I, {the, child}] Chomsky et al. (2023, p.2)

[9] ~~Yq~~ represents any syntactic object copied to be pasted elsewhere in the structure.

(4)



Most of the analyses in this paper shall rely on the copy theory. The facts used to support our analyses are presented in the next section.

3. Presentation of facts

This section presents two tables with two different structure patterns of the corresponding nominal forms of the verb phrases.

Phrasal verbs		Corresponding nominal forms (verb root - particle)
a.	Show off	Show-off
b.	Hide out	Hideout
c.	Drop out	Dropout
d.	Break out	Breakout
e.	Rip off	Rip-off
f	Keep up	*Keep up

Table 1 displaying verb - particle noun

Phrasal verbs		Corresponding nominal forms (particle - verb root)
a.	Cry out	Outcry
b.	Set out	Outset
c.	Hide out	*Outhide
d.	Break out	Outbreak
e.	Rip off	* Off-rip/*Offrip
f	Keep up	Upkeep
h	Set off	Offset

Table 2 displaying particle - verb noun

A careful observation of both tables shows that in table A, particles follow the verb root in all corresponding nominalized forms whereas in B, they do precede the verb root. However, the particle can follow the verb root (Cf table1-d) or precede it (table 2-d). The table also show that some particles other than *out* and *off* can occupy two different syntactic positions in nouns based on phrasal verbs (Cf table 1-f & table 2-f). All this suggests that the particle or the verb has a double position in nominalizations. They do not have a fix position. But, as mentioned in (footnote 4), I will mainly focus on particles *out* and *off* in this paper. Let us remind that the paper aims at sorting out the base position of the particle including the minimal theory that accounts for the different syntax of the particle. In order to arrive at that objective, we shall state the base-generated structure of phrasal verbs and discuss many hypotheses.

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4. Different Hypotheses and Discussion

In this section, the base-generated structure of phrasal verbs will be firstly presented. Secondly, some alternatives hypotheses will be analyzed for solving the particle double-structure problem.

4.1. The base-generated structure of phrasal verb

One of the objectives of this work is to determine the base-generated structure of particle-verb constructions. Out of the ancestors of present-day phrasal verbs, the base-generated structure of phrasal verb before derivation can be structured as displayed in (5).

(5) particle-verb

This structure is corroborated by German which is a sister language of English. In German, the infinitive form is particle-verb as illustrated in (6).

(6)

a. **Auf**machen
Particle-verb
"Shut on"

b. **Zu**machen
Particle-verb
"Shut down"

c. **Ans**drehen
Particle-verb
"Switch on"

d. **Aus**drehen
Particle-verb
"Switch off"

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(7)

Ich machte die Tür **auf**
1Sg/shut/Def-Fem/Particle
"I shut the door on"

Item (7) exemplifies the verb-particle structure in the predicative construction. The items in (6) and (7) respectively highlight the particle-verb structure and verb-particle structure of phrasal verbs before and after any derivation. Structure (5) suggests that the post-verbal particle noun form is due to the move of the verb to the pre-particle position.

4.2 The diachronic hypothesis

This hypothesis suggests that the shift or not of the stem verb depends on the period of the English. Despite its frequent use in generative grammar to explain or support linguistic facts, the diachrony hypothesis will be addressed here. Because it is not consistent with the minimalist approach which is basically synchronic and built on feature system, merge operations and interface interpretation. Furthermore, the diachronic approach cannot evidence the underlying structure of the Verb- particle form because both pre-verbal and

post-verbal forms exist in all English periods. The rejection of the diachronic hypothesis paves the way for another hypothesis, that is the particle nature.

4.3 The nature of the particle hypothesis

With respect to this hypothesis, the move or not of the verb depends on the nature of the intrinsic object that combines with the verb stem to form phrasal verbs. Nonetheless, the nature of the particle attached to the verb stem to form the phrasal verb is not commonly shared by all scholars. Some scholars such H. Adamczewski & J.P. Gabilan (1992, pp. 155-165), E. Vlad (1998, p.93) and D. Silué (2014) exclusively attributed the adverbial category to the particle of phrasal verbs. Others maintain that the particle that follows the stem verb is either a preposition or an adverb or both. One of the latter, R. Courtney (1983, p. 85) distinguished three types of phrasal verbs. Her distinction relies on three different natures of the particle that follows the main verb, that is a preposition, an adverb and an adverb + preposition. R. Courtney (Idem) provided some examples (Cf 8) to support her phrasal verb typology.

(8)

a. **Verb-adverb**[10] as in:

The old lady was taken **in** ('deceived') by the salesman. [Courtney 1983: 605]

b. **Verb-preposition** as in:

She set **about** ('started') making a new dress. [Idem]

c. **Verb-adverb-preposition** as in:

She/He cannot put **up with** ('bear') him because he is always complaining. [Adapted from Courtney 1983: 605] While the scope of this paper does not encompass the identification of the nature of the particle that follows the main verb, it could help. For example, the identification of the particle that favors either the preverbal or the postverbal nominal phrasal verbs or both can contribute to the scientific debate relating to the nature of the particle of phrasal verbs. Referring to examples in (8), Courtney, on the one hand, admits that the particles *in* and *up* in (8a) and (8c) are adverbs whilst *about* and *with* in (8c) and (8a), on the other hand, are prepositions. The former have both a preverbal and postverbal nominal forms like *intake* and *take-in*. The latter can neither be preverbal nor postverbal. Example (9) is sufficient to illustrate it.

(9)

a. The *intake* of oxygen or food can save the sick

b. The *take-in* of the salesman must be punished

c. *The Setabout/*set-about of business

d. The Aboutset/ About-set of business[11]

(10) a. The runabout can be used to run about all the week (Oxford English Dictionary

Following Courtney's (Idem) classification of phrasal verbs and examples in (9), I can state that an adverb can either be preverbal or postverbal while a preposition cannot. Consequently, *out* and *off* are adverbs. This is the reason why *out* can be either preverbal or postverbal as in *outbreak* and *breakout*, so is *off* in *show-off* and *offset*. However, the nature

[10] Courtney used (+) to show items concatenation. (+) is replaced by (-) in this paper because (+) indicates merging two or more words into one.

[11] (10d) is grammatical because it has the base-generated structure advocated in this paper.

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of the particle is not responsible for the move or not of the verb. For example, the particle *about* which is considered as a preposition in (8b) was impossible to be in a post verbal position with the verb *set* in (9c). But it can do so with the verb *run* in *runabout* (Cf 10). This suspects the verb stem feature to be responsible for the verb move. Put another way, the nature of the particle does not constrain the move or not of the verb. Because, both adverb and preposition can be in postverbal position in nouns based on phrasal verbs. Moreover, the difference between preposition and adverb cannot be captured morphologically because of form sameness. The particle *in* described in (8a) as an adverb is also described as a preposition by H. Adamczewski & J.P. Gabilan (Op. cit. pp. 155-165). In that, one cannot determine which nature of the particle is involved in the pre-or post-verbal nominal phrasal verbs. Given that the particles *out* and *off* can also alternatively be described as preposition or adverb, it is hard to identify which nature is involved in the pre- or post-verbal nominal phrasal verbs.

Additionally, for a theory which aims at building an explicit and minimal picture of syntactic structures, it is overloading to build structures out of the memorization of the nature of the different types of particles in the language. Also, recently, L.C.K BOHOUSSOU (2024, pp. 35-36) asserted that there is no preposition on one side and adverb on the other side in prepositional or phrasal verbs. There is only preposition in the two types of complex verbs. As a result, the preverbal or post verbal particle position in verb+ particle noun forms cannot be accounted for by the particle nature. This conclusion leads us to explore another hypothesis, especially the one of features. Since any word is a bundle of features, the difference might be due to the distinctive feature of any word. The constraint might result from the distinctive feature of each item of the complex verb mainly the verb.

4.3. The verb-feature hypothesis

The failure of the two aforementioned hypotheses to account for the double pattern of particle-verb noun forms, paves the way to look at the verb feature. If we admit the verb feature to cause the two particle positions in nominal particle-verb constructions, then which specific constraint of the verb legitimates both structures? Why the verb *break* constructed with the same particle *out* can either precede or follow it in noun forms (Cf table 1-d & table 2-d)? Does the verb *break* in particular have two different features? Do some root verbs in general have different features? In other words, why the verbs *break* and *take* have two syntactic positions in particle-verb noun forms? Actually, some stem verbs bear the focus features once in the derivation while others do not. The stem verbs do not inherently carry the focus feature but they acquire it during the nominalization process. The root verb which carries the interpretable focus feature during the nominalization process agrees with the *un*interpretable focus feature of [Foc°]. Then, the probe-goal agreement relation between the probe ([Foc°]) and the goal (V) forces the verb to raise higher than the particle to value its interpretable focus feature with the *un*interpretable focus feature of [Foc°]. Once the features are valued through Agree, the derivation can converge. The verb remains *in situ* when it does not carry the focus feature in the nominalization process. It therefore lacks the verb movement triggerer. Since in Minimalism any movement is driven by feature checking or probe-goal agreement relation, the verb lacking the focus feature remains *in situ* for economy principle reasons. Examples (11) and (12) respectively well illustrate the former and the latter structures.

(11)

a. Her son **dropped out** of college last year. [M. MacCarthy & E. O'Dell: 2004, p.9]

b. There were a lot of **dropouts** that year. I wonder why? [Idem]

c. I got **ripped off** when I phoned that …number [Idem]

d. Yes, those numbers are a big **rip-off.** [Idem]

(12)

c. I **cast out** the devil far from my flock

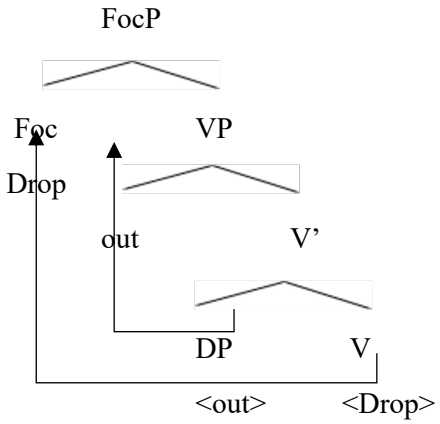
b. The **outcast** of demons is not a game

c. The teacher **sets off** a good project for his students

d. The **offset** of the project is in 2026.

A representation of example (11) in a tree diagram to make the movement more visible is provided in (13) below.

(13)



The verb is first merged as the head of VP in the abstract structure. When VP is nominalized, the verb enters the derivation with the focus feature. V is then copied and remerged in [Foc°]. V is merged back in [Foc°] in a head-to-head movement. Since the particle must be adjacent to the verb in the nominal form, then the particle, which is the complement of V, moves from its base-generated position into [Spec, VP]. After being merged back, lower V and the particle are erased. As regards the verb *break* or *take* and all verbs which have an asymmetric structure, they are governed by the parametric edge feature distribution on [Foc°]. In other words, their structural asymmetry is due to the edge feature variation on [Foc°]. In fact, those verbs enter the derivation with a parametric edge focus feature. When the verb enters the derivation with the edge focus feature [*u*Foc°], this one triggers a movement of the verb. The verb therefore moves into [Foc°] (Cf 14 a-a') because it must check its interpretable [Foc°] feature with the *un*interpretable feature of [Foc°]. The verb remains *in situ* at the phonological interface because there is absence of an edge focus feature associated with the verb during derivation. There is therefore no movement of the verb due to derivation economy. In this regard, there is no word order variation as the verb does not move (Cf 14b-b'). This is the reason why the verbs *break*, *take* and their likes have two syntactic positions in verb-particle noun forms i.e. a pre-particle and post-particle position.

(14)

a. It is a real shock to start having **breakouts** in the mid-twenties to late thirties.

a'. The **take-in** of the salesman must be punished.

b. The sudden **outbreak** eruption of hantavirus endangers people's lives.

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b'. The **intake** of oxygen or food can save the sick.

Conclusion

The objective of this paper was two-fold. The first component was to determine the base-generated structure of particle-verb constructions. The second one was to explain the different structures observed with verb-particle noun forms within the Minimalist perspective. After reviewing the literature relating to the mechanism of verb nominalization, I presented the theoretical framework. The data collected from various sources clearly highlighted the double structure of verb-particle made in noun forms. This double structure which seemed to challenge the uniqueness of structures within one language as advocated by generativists raised some following questions: can the particle occupy two different positions in particle-verb noun forms? If not, what is the underlying structure of verb-particle constructions in English? The data analyzed with the minimalist approach argued for the particle-verb structure as the abstract structure of English phrasal. It also explained the double structure in connection with the verb feature. As regards the verb-particle noun form, the verb enters the nominalization process with a focus feature. This focus feature triggers the movement of the verb which raised higher into [Foc°] to precede the particle. Regarding the particle-verb nominal form, the verb remains *in situ* because it does not carry the focus feature in the derivation process. Since the verb does not bear the focus feature, it does not raise.

Concerning the verbs that have two syntactic positions i.e. pre- and post-particle positions, the verb moves on one hand and on the other hand it deos not. The asymmetric structure of the same verb was accounted for by the edge feature parameter on [Foc°]. The presence of the edge feature on the verb forces it to value its interpretable [Foc°] feature with the *un*interpretable focus feature lest the derivation crashes. This probe-goal agreement relation triggers the displacement of the verb from its base-generated position into [Foc°]. When the edge feature is absent on the verb in the derivation, the verb remains in situ. Nominalization, which is a cross-linguistic mechanism, can lead other researchers to extend cross-linguistically or typologically this study. Furthermore, apart from this formal approach of the structural asymmetry of the same verb, can we not argue for a syntax-semantic approach of the problem?

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