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Teasing out the meaning of *out*

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Transitive phrasal verbs with the particle *out*, *PV out*, exhibit an intriguing variety of semantic combinations. The semantic properties of *PV out* can range from fully transparent to idiomatic entailing a spectrum of aspectual features, ranging from inchoative to exhaustive and varying degrees of intensification (Bolinger 1971, Fraser 1976, Brinton 1985, Svenonius 1996, Jackendoff 2002, Tyler and Evans 2003, Machonis 2009). While Machonis (2009) argued that compositional *PV*'s with *up* appear to vary from aspectual precision to stylistic concerns and even help with disambiguation, this study attempts to ascertain the various meanings associated with the particle *out*. We therefore constructed an exhaustive lexicon-grammar (Maurice Gross 1994) of 504 purely transitive *PV out* expressions indicating a continuum of 10 semantic features systematically characterized for the meanings that apply to individual phrasal verbs.

Keywords: lexicon-grammar, phrasal verbs, aspectual features, compositionality

1. Compositionality and the lexicon-grammar tables

The corpora of 504 transitive *PV out* expressions¹ were analyzed in their simple form all of which can appear in the continuous and discontinuous order. The matrix consists of purely transitive verbs with full NP complements and the moveable particle *out*. This is syntactically represented as (1) where N_0 indicates the subject and N_I indicates the first complement.

(1) $N_0 V N_I out \leftrightarrow N_0 V out N_I$

a. *Clowns totally freak Peter out* \leftrightarrow *Clowns totally freak out Peter*

The data was divided into two tables: (1) compositional *PV out*, consisting of 247 expressions, with a plus [+] sign under $N_0 V N_I$ indicating relative synonymy with $N_0 V N_I out$, and (2) non-compositional *PV out*, consisting of 257 expressions, with a negative [-] under $N_0 V N_I$ (Machonis 2009). If the arrow (\leftrightarrow) indicates relative synonymy, then examples (2a-c) are compositional whereas (3a-c) are considered non-compositional.

(2) $N_0 V N_I \leftrightarrow N_0 V N_I out$

- a. *Clowns totally freak Peter* \leftrightarrow *Clowns totally freak Peter out*
b. *Lily spread the peanut butter* \leftrightarrow *Lily spread the peanut butter out*
c. *Evan spilled the juice* \leftrightarrow *Evan spilled the juice out*

(3) $*N_0 V N_I \leftrightarrow N_0 V N_I out$

- a. **Katie wigs her son* \leftrightarrow *Katie wigs her son out* 'scare'
b. **Ty burned the teacher* \leftrightarrow *Ty burned the teacher out* 'exhaust'
c. **Max threw his friend* \leftrightarrow *Max threw his friend out* 'get rid of'

The variety of semantic features was tested by inserting the phrasal verb expression into a syntactic formula that bears a synonymous relationship with the simple verb phrase. The particle in each formula is replaced with the relevant aspectual feature. The analysis makes no conclusions on the semantic contribution of the particle itself to the phrasal verb expression as other factors like verb class, verbal arguments, and argument number features may influence the aspectual interpretation of the construction. Section 2 deals with the analysis of the compositional *PV out* expressions and section 3 the non-compositional expressions.

2. Semantic Features of Compositional *PV out*

Following Machonis (2009), testing whether the particle is locative was determined by replacing the particle with a spatio-directional prepositional phrase, represented with a [+] under the column labeled as (4).

(4) $N_0 V N_1 out = N_0 V N_1 Loc N_2$

- a. *Max threw the ball out* ↔ *Max threw the ball out of the court*
- b. *Evan spilled the juice out* ↔ *Evan spilled the juice from the bottle*
- c. *The editor chucked the paper out* ↔ *The editor chucked the paper into the trash*

The particle of phrasal verb expressions has been most commonly analyzed as contributing a sense of completed aspect from Bolinger (1971) to Jackendoff (2002). The sense of completion was tested by inserting the phrasal verb into the following formula (Machonis 2009) represented in the lexicon-grammar table as (5).

(5) $N_0 V N_1 out = N_0 V N_1 completely$

- a. *Casey sketched the play out* ↔ *Casey sketched the play completely*
- b. *Manny scraped the paint out* ↔ *Manny scraped the paint completely*

Other formulae used to test the completed aspect of the event included (5c-d).

- c. $N_0 V N_1 out$ ↔ $N_0 finished verb ing N_1$: *Casey finished sketching the play*
- d. $N_0 V N_1 out$ ↔ $N_0 took an hour to V N_1$: *Casey took an hour to sketch the play*

This relevant aspectual feature can range from slight to intense and thereby overlaps with features from all other categories. These categories comprise a variety of forms including inchoative, exclusion, exhaustion, and iteration. The semantic features of the compositional *PV out* expressions were tested by employing Svenonius' (1996) analysis of causative or resultative particle verbs to express $N_0 cause N_1 to go out by means of verb$.

The inchoative feature indicates the appearance or beginning of the direct object, N_1 (Bolinger 1971, Fraser 1976, Tyler and Evans 2003). Inchoation was tested by inserting the *PV* into the syntactic formula (6) where *reveal* can be replaced by an inchoative verb, such as *make*, *produce*, or *start*.

(6) $N_0 V N_1 out = N_0 reveal N_1 by verb ing$

- a. *The drummer taps a beat out* ↔ *The drummer makes a beat by tapping*
- b. *The lawyer pried the information out* ↔ *The lawyer revealed the information by prying*
- c. *The nervous student stammered the answer out* ↔ *The nervous student produced the answer by stammering*

The extension feature entails the extension of the first complement, N_1 , as coming to be exterior to its original position either through time or space. The extension feature was verified by the following test where *extend* can be replaced with a synonym, like *expand*, *disperse* or *prolong* (Tyler and Evans 2003) as in (7a-c).

(7) $N_0 V N_1 out = N_0 extend N_1 by verb ing$

- a. *The driver stretched his arm out* ↔ *The driver extended his arm by stretching it*
- b. *The girl spread the peanut butter out* ↔ *The girl dispersed the peanut butter by spreading it*
- c. *The chef rolled the dough out* ↔ *The chef expanded the dough by rolling it*

The exclusion feature entails the exclusion of the N_I in the sense of becoming invisible or inaccessible to the speaker (Bolinger 1971, Fraser 1976, Tyler and Evans 2003). Exclusion was tested by inserting the expression into the formula represented in (8) where *exclude* can be replaced with a synonym.

(8) $N_0 V N_I \text{ out} = N_0 \text{ exclude } N_I \text{ by verbing}$

- a. *Manny scraped the paint out* ↔ *Manny removed the paint by scraping*
- b. *Firefighters blocked the entire area out* ↔ *Firefighters excluded the area by blocking it*
- c. *The editor chucked the paper out* ↔ *The editor got rid of the paper by chucking it*

Aspectual particles have also been analyzed by Bolinger (1971) as denoting a deteriorating or resultant end state and Brinton (1985) as indicating a definite end point. This feature was inserted into the formula represented in (9), where the verb *exhaust* can be replaced by an appropriate synonym.

(9) $N_0 V N_I \text{ out} = N_0 \text{ exhaust } N_I \text{ by verbing}$

- a. *The compulsive shopper maxed her credit card out* ↔ *The compulsive shopper exhausted her credit card by maxing it*
- b. *The judge closed the case out* ↔ *The judge ended the case by closing it*
- c. *Franco blew the candles out* ↔ *Franco extinguished the candles by blowing*

The iteration feature denotes the action as happening repeatedly until the event comes to a state of completion (Bolinger 1971). This feature was tested by inserting the *PV out* into a syntactic formula modified by an iterative adverb represented in the lexicon-grammar table as (10).

(10) $N_0 V N_I \text{ out} = N_0 V N_I \text{ repeatedly}$

- a. *The chef grinds the garlic out* ↔ *The chef grinds the garlic repeatedly*
- b. *The driver spun the car out* ↔ *The driver spun the car repeatedly*
- c. *Lina combed her long hair out* ↔ *Lina combed her long hair over and over again*

Phrasal verb expressions also convey a sense of intensification of varying degrees including pure, immediate, and audible. Pure intensification was tested by inputting the adverb *really* into the following formula (Machonis 2009) indicated by the column labeled as (11).

(11) $N_0 V N_I \text{ out} = N_0 \text{ really } V N_I$

- a. *Clowns freak Peter out* ↔ *Clowns really freak Peter*
- b. *The deejay was blasting the music out* ↔ *The deejay was really blasting the music*
- c. *The couple argued the details out* ↔ *The couple really argued the details*

The sense of immediacy was tested by inserting the adverb *quickly* into the formula in (12).

(12) $N_0 V N_I \text{ out} = N_0 V N_I \text{ quickly}$

- a. *The manager rapped the orders out* ↔ *The manager rapped the orders quickly*
- b. *The water flushed the dirt out* ↔ *The water flushed the dirt quickly*
- c. *The reporter blurted the news out* ↔ *The reporter blurted the news rapidly*

Finally, audibility was tested by inserting the verbal expression in (13).

(13) $N_0 V N_I \text{ out} = N_0 V N_I \text{ aloud}$

- a. *Lily read the story out* ↔ *Lily read the story aloud*
- b. *The musician banged the drums out* ↔ *The musician banged the drums loudly*
- c. *The manager barked the commands out* ↔ *The manager barked the commands aloud*

The following table shows the variety of semantic features compositional *PV out* constructions display.

Table 1: Semantic features of compositional *PV out* constructions

$N_0 \text{ :: } N_{hum}$	$N_0 \text{ :: } N_{-hum}$	Verb	Particle	Example of N_1	$N_1 \text{ :: } N_{hum}$	$N_1 \text{ :: } N_{-hum}$	$N_0 \text{ } V \text{ } N_1$	Synonym	$N_0 \text{ } V \text{ } N_1 \text{ out} = N_0 \text{ } V \text{ } N_1 \text{ Loc } N_2$	$N_0 \text{ } V \text{ } N_1 \text{ out} = N_0 \text{ } V \text{ } N_1 \text{ completely}$	$N_0 \text{ } V \text{ } N_1 \text{ out} = N_0 \text{ reveal } N_1 \text{ by verbing}$	$N_0 \text{ } V \text{ } N_1 \text{ out} = N_0 \text{ extend } N_1 \text{ by verbing}$	$N_0 \text{ } V \text{ } N_1 \text{ out} = N_0 \text{ exclude } N_1 \text{ by verbing}$	$N_0 \text{ } V \text{ } N_1 \text{ out} = N_0 \text{ exhaust } N_1 \text{ by verbing}$	$N_0 \text{ } V \text{ } N_1 \text{ out} = N_0 \text{ } V \text{ } N_1 \text{ repeatedly}$	$N_0 \text{ } V \text{ } N_1 \text{ out} = N_0 \text{ really } V \text{ } N_1$	$N_0 \text{ } V \text{ } N_1 \text{ out} = N_0 \text{ } V \text{ } N_1 \text{ quickly}$	$N_0 \text{ } V \text{ } N_1 \text{ out} = N_0 \text{ } V \text{ } N_1 \text{ aloud}$
+	-	crush	out	the cigarette	-	+	+	extinguish	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	-
+	+	cut	out	the photo	+	+	+	cut	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
+	+	deal	out	the cards	-	+	+	pass out	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	-
+	+	deck	out	the room	+	+	+	improve	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
+	+	dial	out	the numbers	-	+	+	telephone	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
+	-	dig	out	the truth	-	+	+	search for	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-
+	-	dole	out	money	-	+	+	give	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
+	+	drag	out	the garbage	+	+	+	take	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-
+	+	drain	out	the gunk	-	+	+	drain	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-
-	+	drown	out	the sparrows	+	+	+	flood	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
+	+	drown	out	the noise	+	+	+	cover up	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
+	+	drum	out	the rhythm	-	+	+	play	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+
+	+	dry	out	the T-shirt	-	+	+	dry	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-
+	-	dust	out	the particles	-	+	+	get rid of	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	-
+	+	eat	out	the coconuts	-	+	+	consume	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	-
+	+	edit	out	the clip	-	+	+	remove	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	-
+	-	empty	out	the dishes	-	+	+	empty	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
+	+	even	out	the concrete	-	+	+	make level	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-
+	-	fan	out	the cards	-	+	+	spread	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
+	+	farm	out	the land	-	+	+	overuse	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	-
+	+	fill	out	the paper	-	+	+	write down	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-
+	-	fill	out	paperwork	-	+	+	complete	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
+	+	filter	out	chemicals	+	+	+	remove	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	-
+	-	find	out	the truth	+	+	+	discover	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	-
+	+	fish	out	the shells	+	+	+	remove	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	-
+	-	flash	out	anger	-	+	+	reveal	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-
+	+	flatten	out	pavement	+	+	+	make flat	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-
+	+	flood	out	the rats	+	+	+	flood	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-
+	-	flunk	out	the boy	+	-	+	force to leave	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-
+	+	flush	out	the dirt	-	+	+	clean	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	-

3. Semantic Features of Non-Compositional *PV out*

This semantic criterion also lends itself to non-compositional phrasal verbs. First, the locative particle was determined by replacing the particle with the ***out of N₂*** phrase indicated by a plus value under the column ***N₀ V N₁ out of N₂*** in the non-compositional table, such as (14).

(14) **Locative:** *N₀ V N₁ out = N₀ V N₁ out of N₂*

- a. *The coach weeded the player ↔ The coach weeded the player out ↔ The coach weeded the player out of the game
- b. *The mugger whipped the knife ↔ The mugger whipped the knife out ↔ The mugger whipped the knife out of the pocket
- c. *Supermodels cut sweets ↔ Supermodels cut sweets out ↔ Supermodels cut sweets out of their diet

Completed aspect was verified employing Brinton's (1985) proposal that the prepositional phrase *in an hour* is only compatible with telic events, events with a definite end point, whereas the phrase *for an hour* is only compatible with atelic events, events with no definite end point. Completion was tested by the *PV*'s compatibility with the telic phrase *in an hour* indicated in the column labeled as (15). Examples (15a-c) are under the interpretation as the amount of time it takes for the action to be completed, not the amount of time the action is in progress.

(15) **Completion:** *N₀ V N₁ out = N₀ V N₁ out in an hour*

- a. Martha tuned the T.V. out in seconds/*for seconds
- b. Stephanie threw her boyfriend out in an hour/*for an hour
- c. The news reporter cranked a story out in an hour/*for an hour

This sense of completed aspect ranges across the same spectrum as compositional *PV out*. Non-compositional *PV out* features were verified employing Svenonius (1996) analysis omitting the ***by*** ***verbing*** phrase and read as ***N₀ caused N₁ to go out*** indicating relative synonymy with the simple verb expression. This is syntactically represented as ***N₀ V N₁ out = N₀ out N₁*** where *out* is replaced with the same relevant verbal substitutions.

(16) **Inchoative:** *N₀ V N₁ out = N₀ reveal N₁*

- a. The linguist teased the meaning out ↔ The linguist revealed the meaning *by teasing
- b. The band rolled a new album out ↔ The band produced a new album *by rolling it
- c. Caroline pours her feelings out ↔ Caroline reveals her feelings *by pouring them

(17) **Extension:** *N₀ V N₁ out = N₀ extend N₁*

- a. The teacher stretched the class out ↔ The teacher extended the class *by stretching it
- b. The boss drew the meeting out ↔ The boss prolonged the meeting *by drawing it
- c. Lina strung the relationship out ↔ Lina prolonged the relationship *by stringing it

(18) **Exclusion:** *N₀ V N₁ out = N₀ exclude N₁*

- a. Franco cuts carbohydrates out ↔ Franco excludes carbohydrates *by cutting them
- b. The shrink ruled the possibility out ↔ The shrink excluded the possibility *by ruling it
- c. Anne kicked her boyfriend out ↔ Anne got rid of her boyfriend *by kicking him

(19) **Exhaustion:** *N₀ V N₁ out = N₀ exhaust N₁*

- a. The coach wore the athlete out ↔ The coach exhausted the athlete *by wearing her
- b. The race car driver burned the tire out ↔ The race car driver exhausted the tire *by burning it
- c. The weather rained the event out ↔ The weather ended the event *by raining

Intensifying features were tested by using the formula $N_0 \text{ out } N_1$ where **out** can stand for any of the above aspectual interpretations with the addition of the modifying adverb, as in (20).

(20) Iteration: $N_0 \text{ V } N_1 \text{ out} = N_0 \text{ out } N_1 \text{ repeatedly}$

- a. *Clarke wheeled an excuse out* ↔ *Clarke made an excuse repeatedly *by wheeling*
- b. *The factory churns the products out* ↔ *The factory produces the products over and over again *by churning*
- c. *A poker star knocks the opponents out* ↔ *A poker star gets rid of the opponents repeatedly *by knocking*

(21) Pure Intensification: $N_0 \text{ V } N_1 \text{ out} = N_0 \text{ really out } N_1$

- a. *The students burned the teacher out* ↔ *The students really exhausted the teacher *by burning*
- b. *The professor dragged the lecture out* ↔ *The professor really prolonged the lecture *by dragging*
- c. *The hurricane blew the windows out* ↔ *The hurricane really destroyed the windows *by blowing*

(22) Immediacy: $N_0 \text{ V } N_1 \text{ out} = N_0 \text{ out } N_1 \text{ quickly}$

- a. *Leslie batted thank you cards out* ↔ *Leslie produced thank you cards quickly *by batting*
- b. *The accountant cranked a report out* ↔ *The accountant made the report quickly *by cranking*
- c. *The trainer tapped the athlete out* ↔ *The trainer exhausted the athlete quickly *by tapping her*

(23) Audibility: $N_0 \text{ V } N_1 \text{ out} = N_0 \text{ out } N_1 \text{ aloud}$

- a. *Denise got her thought out* ↔ *Denise revealed her thought aloud *by getting it*
- b. *The girl trotted an excuse out* ↔ *The girl made an excuse aloud *by trotting*
- c. *Caroline poured her feelings out* ↔ *Caroline revealed her feelings loudly *by pouring them*

PV out expressions may reveal a number of overlapping features relevant to both compositional and non-compositional phrases, as in *Lily poured/ spilled/ spit her feelings out* ↔ *Lily quickly revealed her feelings aloud repeatedly *by pouring/ spilling/ spitting*. In addition, the semantic class and argument features of the verb may influence not only its compositional status but also its semantic interpretation, as in *wheel out the chair* literally meaning ‘to remove the chair by wheeling’ (exclusion) versus *wheel out an excuse* meaning ‘to make an excuse repeatedly *by wheeling’ (inchoative). There are also a number of underlying implicit structures that can be involved in the present analysis thereby not allowing for a tight fit between the expression and the formulae, such as ‘psyche’ verbs like *wig out*, *sketch out*, *creep out*, and *trip out*, which are inchoative in the sense of *Katie wiggled/ sketched/ crept/ tripped her son out* ↔ *Katie caused her son to feel scared/ happy *by wiggling/ sketching/ creeping/ tripping him*.

Table 2 shows the non-compositional *PV out* matrix demonstrating the variety of semantic features these verbs exhibit.

Table 2: Semantic features of non-compositional PV out constructions

$N_0 \vdash\vdash N_{hum}$	$N_0 \vdash\vdash N-hum$	Verb	Particle	Example of N_1	$N_1 \vdash\vdash N_{hum}$	$N_1 \vdash\vdash N-hum$	$N_0 \vee N_1$	Synonym	$N_0 \vee N_1 \text{ out} = N_0 \vee N_1 \text{ out of } N_2$	$N_0 \vee N_1 \text{ out} = N_0 \vee N_1 \text{ in 1 hour}$	$N_0 \text{ out } N_1 = N_0 \text{ reveal } N_1$	$N_0 \text{ out } N_1 = N_0 \text{ extend } N_1$	$N_0 \text{ out } N_1 = N_0 \text{ exclude } N_1$	$N_0 \text{ out } N_1 = N_0 \text{ exhaust } N_1$	$N_0 \text{ out } N_1 \models N_0 \vee N_1 \text{ repeatedly}$	$N_0 \vee N_1 \text{ out} = N_0 \text{ really out } N_1$	$N_0 \vee N_1 \text{ out} = N_0 \text{ out } N_1 \text{ quickly}$	$N_0 \vee N_1 \text{ out} = N_0 \text{ out } N_1 \text{ aloud}$
+	-	sniff	out	details	+	+	-	find	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
+	-	snuff	out	taxes	-	+	-	end	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	-
+	-	sort	out	problems	-	+	-	find a solution for	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	-
+	+	spell	out	the idea	-	+	-	explain	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
+	-	spill	out	the secret	-	+	-	say quickly	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+
+	-	spit	out	the truth	-	+	-	reveal	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	+
+	+	spit	out	clothes	-	+	-	get rid of quickly	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	-
+	-	squeeze	out	Max	+	-	-	exclude	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-
+	-	squeeze	out	a goal	-	+	-	achieve	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-
+	+	stamp	out	disease	-	+	-	get rid of	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-
+	-	stick	out	tongue	-	+	-	project outward	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	-
+	-	stick	out	the job	-	+	-	tolerate	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
+	-	stick	out	a project	-	+	-	endure	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	-
+	+	straighten	out	situations	-	+	-	resolve	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
+	-	strike	out	a player	+	-	-	strike in baseball	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-
+	+	string	out	the class	-	+	-	prolong	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
+	+	take	out	Max	+	+	-	kill/defeat	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	-
+	-	talk	out	problems	-	+	-	discuss	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+
+	+	tap	out	Max	+	-	-	exhaust	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	-
+	-	tease	out	meaning	-	+	-	discover	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
+	-	think	out	situations	-	+	-	cogitate	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-
+	-	thrash	out	situations	-	+	-	discuss fully	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
+	-	throw	out	trash	+	+	-	dispose	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-
+	-	tough	out	ordeals	-	+	-	endure	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
+	+	trip	out	Max	+	-	-	excite	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
+	-	trot	out	a partner	+	+	-	show off/display	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
+	-	trot	out	excuses	-	+	-	repeat	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	+
+	-	tune	out	the T.V.	+	+	-	stop listening	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-
+	+	turn	out	the lights	-	+	-	stop	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-
+	+	turn	out	products	+	+	-	manufacture	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
+	-	want	out	Max	+	+	-	force to leave	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-
+	+	wear	out	Max	+	-	-	exhaust	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-
+	+	wear	out	engine	+	+	-	exhaust	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-
+	-	weed	out	players	+	+	-	get rid of	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	-
+	+	weird	out	Max	+	-	-	scare	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-
+	-	wheel	out	excuses	-	+	-	use repeatedly	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+

4. Conclusion

The data reflects the following percentages of aspectual interpretations exhibited by compositional and non-compositional transitive *PV out*.

Table 3: Relative frequency of semantic features of compositional *PV out*

Locative	Completion	Inchoative	Extension	Exclusion	Exhaustion	Iterative	Intensity	Immediacy	Audibility
75%	87%	23%	23%	40%	13%	39%	37%	73%	13%

Table 4: Relative frequency of semantic features of non-compositional *PV out*

Locative	Completion	Inchoative	Extension	Exclusion	Exhaustion	Iterative	Intensity	Immediacy	Audibility
39%	73%	30%	17%	26%	25%	8%	33%	61%	17%

Machonis (2009) argued that *PVs* with *up* vary in aspect, directionality, and intensity, and considered some pragmatic reasons for the stylistic variation between these options. We extended this analysis to a spectrum of aspectual features of *PV out*, ranging from inchoative to exhaustive and different types of intensification. Are these aspectual features relevant to other particle verb expressions? To what extent does the semantic class contribute? How about the argument features? A lexicon-grammar provides a systematic analysis of phrasal verbs which could uncover some of the universal properties that unite all particle expressions. A comparative study may even reveal the semantic contribution the particle adds to the single verb itself. In addition to the present semantic investigation, we have classified up to 25 morpho-syntactic properties of *PV out*. In the future, combining the data of these two studies could show the relationship and principled mapping between the morpho-syntax and semantics of these verbs.

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¹ The corpora of *PV out* entries is an extension of a previously constructed table by Machonis (2009b.) while the remainder were collected from the Longman Phrasal Verb Dictionary, online dictionary websites, such as dictionary.com and urbandictionary.com, and in books and linguistic articles cited. Also, *PV* constructions are highly productive since native speakers constantly create new expressions; these expressions would need to be added to the corpora as they appear.