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Michelle García-Vega

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Transitive phrasal verbs with the particle *out*:
A lexicon-grammar analysis*

Michelle Garcia-Vega
Florida International University

Abstract

Using a lexicon-grammar approach developed by Maurice Gross (1992), this project involved systematically mapping the structural properties of over 550 transitive phrasal verbs with the particle *out*, *PV out*. The data is analyzed in terms of two main tables or matrices. The first table illustrates the morpho-syntactic properties of purely simple *PV out* expressions, like *freak out the kid ↔ freak the kid out*. The second table illustrates the morpho-syntactic combinations of complex *PV out* expressions, as in *take the boxer out of the fight*. The research shows that *PV out* expressions may involve up to 25 syntactic features, including $N_2$ promotion, as in *The girl spilled the water out of the glass → The girl spilled the glass out*, complex-neutral constructions, like *The water spilled out of the glass*, and reversed constructions, like *The company farmed the oil out of the land → The company farmed the land out of oil*. The research shows that these syntactic combinations are highly lexical in that a unique combination of features applies to individual phrasal verbs.

1. Introduction

Verb particle constructions or phrasal verbs, *PV*, have long intrigued linguists, since van Dongen (1919), Bolinger (1971) and Fraser (1976), and up to recent times as reflected in the works of Jackendoff (2002) and Dehé (2002). This article builds on recent work on phrasal verbs by Machonis (2008 & 2009), who uses a lexicon-grammar framework (Maurice Gross 1992 & 1994) to provide an extensive description of a full body of language data in order to draw conclusions. We constructed an exhaustive lexicon-grammar of 562 purely transitive phrasal verbs with the particle *out*, *PV out*, indicating up to 25 varying syntactic properties and transformations specified by plus or minus signs (cf. sample Tables 1-5 in this article). Even though certain verb classes show some syntactic similarities in our classification, it will be shown, nevertheless, that this information is highly lexical with a unique combination of pluses or minuses applying to individual verbs rather than to broad semantic categories.

In constructing lexicon-grammar tables, we use elementary sentences (Gross 1996) of the type subject-verb-particle-essential complements, such as $N_0 \ V \ Part \ N_1$, where $N_0$ indicates the subject and $N_1$ indicates the first complement. All of the *PV out* expressions analyzed are transitive and can appear in both the continuous and discontinuous order, as in the following examples where the arrow (↔) indicates relative synonymy:

\[
(1) \ N_0 \ V \ N_1 \ out \leftrightarrow N_0 \ V \ out \ N_1
\]

Clowns totally *freak* Peter *out* ↔ Clowns totally *freak out* Peter

* I would like to thank my professor Peter A. Machonis for his inspiration and guidance throughout this project. I would also like to thank the audiences at the SECOL 77 conference and FIU’s 2010 linguistic colloquium for their comments and feedback.
In contrast to *intrinsically* simple expressions like (1) above, some of these *PV out* constructions can also be analyzed as complex expressions. These introduce a second complement indicated by $N_2$, representing longer prepositional phrases generally by *out of*, signified as $N_0 V N_1$ *out of* $N_2$. While simple *PV out* constructions may appear in both the continuous and discontinuous form, complex expressions can only appear in the discontinuous form.

\[(2) \ N_0 V N_1 \text{ out of } N_2 \quad \leftrightarrow \quad *N_0 V N_1 N_2 \text{ out of}\]

Katie took the booties *out of* the basket \(\leftrightarrow\) *Katie took the booties the basket out of*

All the complex constructions examined, however, have the possibility of being reduced to simple *PV out* phrases, in which case the particle can be moved.

\[(3) \ N_0 V \text{ out } N_1 \quad \leftrightarrow \quad N_0 V N_1 \text{ out}\]

Katie took *out* the booties \(\leftrightarrow\) Katie took the booties *out*

In our lexicon grammar tables, subjects and complements were analyzed as simple NPs entailing the properties of human (*Nhum*) and non-human (*N-hum*) indicated by a plus or minus value in the appropriate column. The meaning of the *PV* was also included in the table under *synonym*. The data of 562 *PV out* expressions\(^2\) was divided into two tables: (1) simple *PV out* expressions of the form $N_0 V N_1$ *out*, consisting of 201 constructions, and (2) complex *PV out* expressions, of the forms $N_0 V N_1$ *out of* $N_2$, $N_0 V N_1$ *out* $N_2$, and $N_0 V N_1$ *out Prep* $N_2$ – all of which can be reduced to the simple form, consisting of 361 constructions. The tables (c.f. sample tables 1-5) include morphological information on the nature of the subject and possible complements, as well as the subset of related sentences and transformations in the sense of Harris (1956).

### 2. Simple *PV out*

Section 2 briefly discusses the disambiguation and compositional status of *PV out* expressions. In section 2.1, it will be shown that much of the compositional status of *PV out* expressions is highly contextual. Section 2.2 presents the variety of transformations intrinsically simple *PV out* expressions exhibit showing that a unique set of features (plus or minus) apply to each phrasal verb and that this data is highly lexical and cannot be generalized based solely on semantic categories. Section 2.3 presents a sample table of the data.

#### 2.1 Semantic Compositionality of Simple *PV out*

Bolinger (1971) was among the first to recognize that particles can contribute an aspectual or intensifying sense to regular verbs. Others have analyzed the compositional status of *PV* expressions as a semantic continuum ranging from fully transparent to fully idiomatic (Bolinger 1971, Fraser 1976, Dehe and Jackendoff 2002, Baldwin 2002). While such analyses provide a more comprehensive view of the verb particle combination, compositionality in a lexicon-grammar framework entails simply two distinct semantic classes defined by the column, $N_0 V N_1$, which indicates relative synonymy with $N_0 V N_1$ *out* (Machonis 2009). The following examples, where the particle *out* is an optional element, seem to imply some type of aspectual or intensifying interpretation to the simple verb and are thereby viewed as compositional.
(4) $N_0 \ V \ N_1 \leftrightarrow N_0 \ V \ N_1 \ out$

a. Classical music *mellows* Max $\leftrightarrow$ Classical music *mellows* Max out
b. The boxer *punched* the opponent $\leftrightarrow$ The boxer *punched* the opponent out

A plus $[+]$ in the column $N_0 \ V \ N_1$ serves to distinguish compositionally transparent PV out from idiomatic PV out expressions. In 92 of the 200 simple PV out entries examined, the particle can be deleted showing that almost half of these expressions are compositional. On the other hand, a negative value in the $N_0 \ V \ N_1$ column indicates the particle is an essential element of the verb phrase illustrating a more idiomatic PV construction. Idiomatic PV’s, such as (5), are those that cannot delete the particle without causing a significant change in meaning and thus must be listed in the lexicon as complete units (Jackendoff 2002). The ($\neq$) means the expressions are not synonymous.

(5) $N_0 \ V \ N_1 \neq N_0 \ V \ N_1 \ out$

a. The gangsters *took* the boy $\neq$ The gangsters *took* the boy out ‘kill’
b. The mischievous students *burn* the professor $\neq$ The mischievous students *burn* the professor out ‘exhaust’

In these examples although the $N_0 \ V \ N_1$ column forms an acceptable expression, as in The gangster took the boy meaning literally ‘to take’, they do not mean the same as the idiomatic verb plus particle combination The gangster took the boy out meaning ‘to kill’. The particle is as an essential component to the construction and the PV expression is consequently non-compositional.

Deleting the particle in other idiomatic PV’s can sometimes result in an unacceptable $N_0 \ V \ N_1$ expression altogether, as in (6).

(6) $N_0 \ V \ N_1 \rightarrow N_0 \ V \ N_1 \ out$

a. *Talented journalists will knock a story* $\rightarrow$ Talented journalists will *knock* a story out ‘produce quickly’
b. *Casey really needed to get her feelings* $\rightarrow$ Casey really needed to *get* her feelings out ‘release by saying’

The unacceptability of the single verb construction, $N_0 \ V \ N_1$, above is attributed to the arguments of the verb, as it does not allow *to knock a story* or *to get your feelings*. When the particle is added to the construction, it allows the verb to introduce complements that it would not typically take, or as Ishikawa (1999) notes, it allows for unusual selectional properties, as in to knock a story out and to get your feelings out.

Machonis (2008) observes that many of these expressions can be disambiguated by specifying more precisely the type of arguments the verbs may take. For instance, the following two expressions yield semantically different interpretations solely because of the difference in verbal complements, where in this case distinguishing between the literal and idiomatic expression can be disambiguated by the $[+/-\ \text{hum}]$ feature.

(7)

a. The boxer will *knock* the fighter out ‘render unconscious’
b. The boxer will *knock* a good story out ‘produce quickly’
While the verb phrase under the literal interpretation (7a) selects its usual complement, the verb phrase in (7b) selects an atypical complement and is therefore idiomatic. Other examples show that disambiguating PV out expressions can go beyond specifying the argument of the verb and the [±/hum] feature, thereby indicating that much of this information is intrinsically pragmatic.

(8)

a. The gangster took the boy out (of the fight) 'withdraw/ remove'
b. The gangster took the boy out (to the fight) 'take to a social event'
c. The gangster took the boy out 'kill'

(9)

a. The boss punched the employee out (of work) 'record end work time'
b. The boss punched the employee out 'render unconscious'

(8) and (9) show that the direct object of the verb does not distinguish the literal from the idiomatic expression. Examples (8a-b) and (9a) can be analyzed as complex PV expressions that introduce an implicit or explicit second complement, \( N_2 \), into the construction that can be analyzed as a locative particle. When this longer expression is made explicit, it serves as a distinguishing factor between its idiomatic counterparts, examples (8c) and (9b). For this reason, disambiguating these examples requires that the particle be specified according to the interpretation it conveys, i.e. whether it forms a complex expression indicating an implicit (or explicit) prepositional phrase, or whether it forms a simple PV expression of the aspectual type. Furthermore, when the longer expression in the complex PV construction is not explicit, disambiguating between these expressions is solely pragmatic, whereas when the longer expression is made explicit disambiguation between the two lexical entries requires distinguishing the particles of and to of the prepositional phrase as in (8a-b). These expressions were disambiguated in the lexicon-grammar by entering examples (8a-b) and (9a) in the complex PV out chart as separate entries and examples (8c) and (9b) in the simple PV out chart.

2.2 Simple PV out: The Neutral Construction

Simple transitive PV out expressions exhibit the causative alternation (Levin 1993) or the neutral construction (Boons, Guillet, & Leclère 1976) in 85 of the 200 entries examined. The causative alternation or neutral construction is a process in which transitive PV out undergoes an intransitive transformation. In the process of intransitivizing, the \( N_1 \) rises and takes the subject position and the \( N_0 \) is explicitly omitted from the construction, yielding the following derivation:

(10) \[ N_0 \; V \; N_1 \; out \rightarrow N_1 \; V \; out \]

a. The chef rolled the dough out \rightarrow The dough rolled out
b. The couple aired their problems out \rightarrow Their problems aired out
c. The accountant balanced the checkbook out \rightarrow The checkbook balanced out

Some of these verbs are fully compositional, \( N_0 \; V \; N_1 \leftrightarrow N_0 \; V \; N_1 \; out \), and also exhibit the neutral construction with or without the presence of the particle, \( N_1 \; V \leftrightarrow N_1 \; V \; out \), showing that the particle is an optional element in the neutral structure. This combination is indicated in the lexicon-grammar tables by a [+ ] in all of the following columns, as we can see for spread out in (11).
(11)
   a. \( N_0 \ V \ N_1 \) The doctor *spread* the patient’s legs
   b. \( N_0 \ V \ N_1 \text{ out} \) The doctor *spread* the patient’s legs *out*
   c. \( N_1 \ V \) The patient’s legs *spread*
   d. \( N_1 \ V \text{ out} \) The patient’s legs *spread* *out*

Other PV out expressions only exhibit the neutral structure when the particle is part of the construction and deleting the particle in the neutral structure will render the expression unacceptable. Out of the 85 PV out expressions that exhibit the causative alternation, 60 or 70% of them require that the particle be an essential component to the transformation. This feature is demonstrated in the lexicon-grammar table with a [-] under the column \( N_1 \ V \) but [+\( N_1 \ V \text{ out} \), as in *roll* out in (12).

(12)
   a. \( N_0 \ V \ N_1 \) The chef *rolled* the dough
   b. \( N_0 \ V \ N_1 \text{ out} \) The chef *rolled* the dough *out*
   c. \( *N_1 \ V \) *The dough* rolled
   d. \( N_1 \ V \text{ out} \) *The dough* *rolled* *out*

Not all the verbs that are fully compositional undergo the causative transformation; thus, there are some verbs which display full compositionality but do not undergo the derivation, like (13).

(13)
   a. \( N_0 \ V \ N_1 \) The professor *argued* the situation
   b. \( N_0 \ V \ N_1 \text{ out} \) The professor *argued* the situation *out*
   c. \( *N_1 \ V \) *The situation* argued
   d. \( *N_1 \ V \text{ out} \) *The situation* argued *out*

Then, there are cases in which the phrasal verb is non-compositional and does not undergo the causative alternation, as in (14).

(14)
   a. \( *N_0 \ V \ N_1 \) *The professor* talked the situation
   b. \( N_0 \ V \ N_1 \text{ out} \) *The professor* talked the situation *out*
   c. \( *N_1 \ V \) *The situation* talked
   d. \( *N_1 \ V \text{ out} \) *The situation* talked *out*

But there are also cases in which the phrasal verb is non-compositional, *\( N_0 \ V \ N_1 \), but can undergo the causative alternation with or without the particle making the particle an optional element in the transformation, even though it is an essential component to the transitive construction, as in (15).

(15)
   a. \( *N_0 \ V \ N_1 \) *High speed racing* wears the tires
   b. \( N_0 \ V \ N_1 \text{ out} \) *High speed racing* wears the tires *out*
c. \(N_1 V\) The tires wear

d. \(N_1 V \text{ out}\) The tires wear out

Other idiomatic expressions can undergo the causative alternation only if the particle is present, such as (16).

(16)

a. \(*N_0 V N_1\) *The trainer wears the athlete ‘exhaust’

b. \(N_0 V N_1 \text{ out}\) The trainer wears the athlete out
c. \(*N_1 V\) *The athlete wears
d. \(N_1 V \text{ out}\) The athlete wears out

This morpho-syntactic behavior can also depend on the arguments of the verb, as changing the complements can cause a change in the acceptable structural combinations the construction may undergo. This is seen in (16c) where the particle seems to be essential for the causative alternation to occur, while in (15c) it is not.

Expressions can even fall under the same semantic category and exhibit different syntactic combinatorial properties. The following examples, where the arguments are constant, demonstrate that while the \(PV \text{ out}\) expressions all mean ‘to exhaust’, they each exhibit a unique set of syntactic combinations.

(17)

a. \(N_0 V N_1\) The trainer tired the athlete ‘exhaust’

b. \(N_0 V N_1 \text{ out}\) The trainer tired the athlete out
c. \(N_1 V\) The athlete tired
d. \(N_1 V \text{ out}\) The athlete tired out

(18)

a. \(*N_0 V N_1\) *The trainer wiped the athlete ‘exhaust’

b. \(N_0 V N_1 \text{ out}\) The trainer wiped the athlete out
c. \(*N_1 V\) *The athlete wiped
d. \(*N_1 V \text{ out}\) *The athlete wiped out

(19)

a. \(*N_0 V N_1\) *The trainer burned the athlete ‘exhaust’

b. \(N_0 V N_1 \text{ out}\) The trainer burned the athlete out
c. \(*N_1 V\) *The athlete burned
d. \(N_1 V \text{ out}\) The athlete burned out

These examples demonstrate that the unique set of features \(PV \text{ out}\) expressions exhibit cannot be predicted solely on the general semantic interpretation, as examples (15)-(19) all mean ‘to exhaust’ and behave syntactically distinct.

There is one combination of acceptable structures, however, that is unattested in our \(PV \text{ out}\) tables. If the single verb expression is unacceptable \(*N_0 V N_1\), and it cannot undergo the neutral construction with the particle \(*N_1 V \text{ out}\), then it also cannot undergo the neutral construction without the particle. Thus the following combinatorial possibility does not seem to exist for \(PV \text{ out}\):
If the single verb expression is unacceptable $N_0 V N_1$, and it cannot undergo the neutral construction with the particle $N_1 V_{out}$, then it cannot undergo the neutral construction without the particle $N_1 V$; thus, it must also have a [-] value under $N_1 V$, as in (20) above.

### 2.3 Simple PV out: The lexicon-grammar table

*Table 1* is a sample lexicon-grammar of the purely simple *PV out* constructions. The first two columns represent potential subjects, $N_0$, which are specified for human, *Nhum*, or non-human, *N-hum*, followed by a verb and an example of a direct object, $N_1$, which is also classified as *Nhum* or *N-hum*. The next column, $N_0 V N_1$, indicates the compositional status of the phrasal verb as defined by a lexicon-grammar approach. A [+] value under this column indicates the particle is optional, whereas a [-] value indicates the particle is an essential component to the construction and must therefore be lexically listed as an idiomatic expression. Following this row is the $N_1 V_{out}$ column, where a [+] indicates the *PV* expression can undergo the causative alternation. Finally, the $N_1 V$ column demonstrates if the particle is a necessary component for the causative transformation. This row is then followed by the particle *out* and a synonym.
Table 1

Sample matrix of Simple PV out

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Example of N₁</th>
<th>N₁ Nhum</th>
<th>N₁ N-hum</th>
<th>N₁ V N₁</th>
<th>N₁ V out</th>
<th>N₁</th>
<th>N V</th>
<th>Particle</th>
<th>Synonym</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>deck</td>
<td>the room</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>improve</td>
<td>improve the look of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>the story</td>
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<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>extend</td>
<td>extend</td>
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<td>draw</td>
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<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>reveal</td>
<td>reveal</td>
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<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
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<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>dry</td>
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<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
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<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>perform</td>
<td>perform sexual act</td>
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<td>+</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
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<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
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<td>make more fat</td>
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<td>+</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
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<td>+</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
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<td>out</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>out</td>
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<td>last</td>
<td>the concert</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>endure</td>
<td>endure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At times the particle is necessary for the neutral construction to occur, while in other cases it is not, while still in others the verb does not exhibit the neutral construction at all. The variety of pluses and minuses shows that neither the compositional nature nor the semantic category of the PV expression can be used to predict its syntactic behavior.
3. Complex Constructions

The majority of the data consisting of 361 PV out entries are analyzed in the Complex PV out table. Complex PV out constructions are those which the particle can be analyzed as a locative or prepositional expression that introduces a second complement, $N_2$, generally by means of the prepositional phrase out of. When complex PV out appears in its simple form, $N_0 V N_1$ out, the $N_2$ complement seems to be an intrinsic property of the locative particle. For instance, the simple expression *The man scrubbed the gunk out* intrinsically entails that he scrubbed the gunk out of something, and thereby gives rise to the more complex expression *The man scrubbed the gunk out of the tub*. When the second complement, $N_2$ phrase, is an implicit part of the phrasal verb expression, the construction appears in its simple (continuous or discontinuous) form, $N_0 V N_1$ out $N_2$, but when made explicit, it appears in the more complex structure, $N_0 V N_1$ out of $N_2$ appearing only in the discontinuous form. The following sections demonstrate the variety of complex structures transitive PV out’s exhibit.

3.1 Complex PV out: The nature and limits of the locative particle

Complex PV out introduce a longer (implicit or explicit) locative phrase into the construction. Machonis (2009) tests whether the particle can be analyzed as contributing a locative interpretation by replacing the particle with a full prepositional phrase, represented as Prep $N_2$, where Prep indicates an appropriate directional preposition. A positive value under the column labeled $N_0 V N_1$ Prep $N_2$ indicates that the particle may be derived from a locative prepositional phrase, such as (21).

\[
(21) \quad N_0 V N_1 \text{ Prep } N_2 \rightarrow N_0 V N_1 \text{ out}
\]

a. Max squirts water through the hole \hspace{1cm} \rightarrow \hspace{1cm} Max squirts water out
b. The kids tossed the ball from the window \hspace{1cm} \rightarrow \hspace{1cm} The kids tossed the ball out
c. The girl was dragging the garbage from the house \hspace{1cm} \rightarrow \hspace{1cm} The girl was dragging the garbage out
d. The clumsy boy spilled the water from the bucket \hspace{1cm} \rightarrow \hspace{1cm} The clumsy boy spilled the water out

These examples show that replacing the particle with a full PP entails that the particle is intrinsically locative. The lexicon-grammar tables demonstrate that the nature of the locative phrase is semantically and syntactically varied and complex. First of all, it is not always the case that locative out can be replaced by a full prepositional phrase.

\[
(22) \quad N_0 V N_1 \text{ Prep } N_2 \neq N_0 V N_1 \text{ out}
\]

a. *The manager punched the employee from work \hspace{1cm} \rightarrow \hspace{1cm} The manager punched the employee out of work

In example (22a) the locative particle cannot be replaced by a full PP; however, it still forms a locative expression. Such examples are indicated with a plus value under the column $N_0 V N_1$ out of $N_2$, but a minus under $N_0 V N_1$ Prep $N_2$ in the lexicon grammar table.

Secondly, only two types of locative constructions were accepted in the analysis of complex PV out phrases, i.e. directional and spatial expressions. Jackendoff (2002) defines directional particles as full prepositional phrases that can replace the particle (as illustrated in (21a-d)) and select a directional path as its complement. Ishikawa (1999)
defines spatial particles as those which can be replaced by a full PP indicating a spatial relation rather than a directional one, as in (23).

(23) \( N_0 V N_1 \text{ Prep N}_2 \rightarrow N_0 V N_1 \text{ out} \)

a. The parent blocked sensitive material from the internet \( \rightarrow \) The parent blocked the sensitive material out
b. The gardener bedded the plants around the garden \( \rightarrow \) The gardener bedded the plants out
c. The team beat their opponents from the competition \( \rightarrow \) The team beat their opponents out

Both directional and spatial locative phrases were accepted as comprising a complex PV out construction. In contrast, metaphorical particle expressions (Dirven 1997, Baldwin 2002) were excluded from the analysis and the phrasal verb was inputted into the simple PV out table to be interpreted as an aspectual modifier, as in (24).

(24) \( N_0 V N_1 \text{ Prep N}_2 \rightarrow N_0 V N_1 \text{ out} \)

a. Jenny had to blot the entire experience from her mind \( \rightarrow \) Jenny had to blot the experience out
b. Ty picked a name out of his head \( \rightarrow \) Ty picked a name out
c. The students wiped the teacher out of energy \( \rightarrow \) The students wiped the teacher out

Once again, there may be more than one entry in the lexicon for a phrasal verb. These separate entries serve to disambiguate lexically similar PV’s by inserting one in the complex PV out table for the literal expression to pick a shirt out of the rack and one in the simple PV out table for the less transparent interpretation to pick a name out.

The complex PV out lexicon-grammar charts so far describe a range of structures entailing a variety of relationships. First, the locative or spatio-directional particle out can be optionally deleted and the expression is analyzed as compositional, indicated with a plus under the column \( N_0 V N_1 \), while idiomatic PV out expressions have a negative value under \( N_0 V N_1 \).

(25)

a. Max squirts the water \( \leftrightarrow \) Max squirts the water out (of his mouth) ‘squirt’
b. *Max casted Katie \( \leftrightarrow \) Max casted Katie out of the group ‘exclude’

While example (25a) illustrates that the PV is fully compositional, example (25b) shows that although an idiomatic expression, the particle can still be analyzed as locative, i.e. Max casted Katie out of the group, showing that the construction is partially compositional. Furthermore, some of these partially compositional expressions can still have the particle replaced by a full PP, shown by a minus in the \( N_0 V N_1 \) column but a plus under \( N_0 V N_1 \text{ Prep N}_2 \), for instance:

(26) \*Max casted Katie \( \rightarrow \) Max casted Katie from the group ‘exclude’

However, other idiomatic expressions cannot, illustrated with a negative under both columns, \( N_0 V N_1 \) and \( N_0 V N_1 \text{ Prep N}_2 \), such as:

(27) \*Max left Katie \( \rightarrow \) *Max left Katie from the plan ‘exclude’
Examples (26) and (27) highlight how two semantically similar phrasal verbs can have a distinct syntactic behavior. The variety and unpredictability of these expressions is not based on its semantic categorization alone.

3.2 The prepositional phrase out of constructions

Transitive PV out expressions in the discontinuous form can also appear in a variety of longer structures when the second complement, N₂, is an explicit part of the construction, representing prepositional phrasal verb expressions. The most common complex PV out expression, comprising 85% of the data, introduces the second complement as an out of N₂ phrase, represented with a plus in the N₀ V N₁ out of N₂ column.

(28) N₀ V N₁ out of N₂

- a. The woman whipped out the bill ↔ The woman whipped the bill out → The woman whipped the bill out of her bag
- b. Manny washed out the stain ↔ Manny washed the stain out → Manny washed the stain out of the shirt
- c. Lily picked out a dress ↔ Lily picked a dress out → Lily picked a dress out of the rack
- d. The teacher flunked out the boy ↔ The teacher flunked the boy out → The teacher flunked the boy out of school

Likewise, there will be exceptions to the out of N₂ phrase indicating that this is not necessarily a property of all locative PV out expressions.

(29) *N₀ V N₁ out of N₂

- a. Martha gave joy to the students → Martha gave joy out → *Martha gave joy out of the students
- b. Katie put the flowers on the table → Katie put the flowers out → *Katie put the flowers out of the table
- c. We bedded the plants around the garden → We bedded the plants out → *We bedded the plants out of the garden

Unacceptable *N₀ V N₁ out of N₂ comprise 55 of the 361 entries examined. The tables show that in this form the longer phrase is associated with prepositions, such as to N₂, around N₂, and on N₂, in contrast to the out of N₂ constructions which are closely associated with a from N₂ prepositional phrase (compare columns N₀ V N₁ out of N₂ with N₀ V N₁ Prep N₂ in Table 2). In addition, most of these verbs are dative, as in (29a-b), and also include hand out, deal out, and email out, all of which reject the out of N₂ construction.

3.3 The complex out N₂ construction

Another longer construction appears with the N₂ itself surfacing directly following the particle, represented as N₀ V N₁ out N₂. As observed in the lexicon grammar tables, the out N₂ phrase essentially indicates a literal spatio-directional phrase, as in the following examples:

(30) N₀ V N₁ out N₂

- a. Max squirted out the water ↔ Max squirted the water out → Max squirted the water out of the hole
- b. The kid is tossing out the ball ↔ The kid is tossing the ball out → The kid is tossing the ball out of the window
- c. The student wheeled out the keg ↔ The student wheeled the keg out → The student wheeled the keg out of the door
- d. The house belched out smoke ↔ The house belched smoke out → The house belched smoke out of the chimney
This structure is not very common appearing in 43 of 361 or 12% of the complex phrases and seems to be dependent on the type of $N_2$ complement that follows the particle. For instance, while examples (30a-d) above are acceptable constructions, changing the $N_2$ in these examples can yield unacceptable expressions, such as (31).

\[(31) \quad *N_0 \, V \, N_1 \, \text{out} \, N_2\]

a. *Max squirted water out the tube
b. *The kid is tossing the ball out the court
c. *The student wheeled the keg out the tub
d. *The house belched smoke out the doors

The acceptability of the $N_0 \, V \, N_1 \, \text{out} \, N_2$ construction seems to not only be dependent on the meaning of the $PV$ but also on the nature of the $N_2$ complement. If a construction was possible with any $N_2$, we marked it plus, however syntactic variation resulting from differing $N_2$’s is a topic for further research.

### 3.4 The complex out Prep $N_2$ construction

The second most common locative structure, besides the $\text{out of} \, N_2$ phrase, introduces the second complement $N_2$ conjoined with $\text{out}$ plus a prepositional phrase commonly observed as $\text{from} \, N_2$ but also includes $\text{to} \, N_2$, $\text{at} \, N_2$, $\text{for} \, N_2$, $\text{on} \, N_2$, and $\text{through} \, N_2$. The $\text{Prep} \, N_2$ phrase usually introduces a longer locative or spatio-directional phrase; the non-locative or non-spatio-directional type was disregarded. This complex construction is represented with a plus under the column labeled $N_0 \, V \, N_1 \, \text{out Prep} \, N_2$ where $\text{Prep}$ indicates a spatial or directional PP.

\[(32) \quad N_0 \, V \, N_1 \, \text{out Prep} \, N_2\]

a. The students wheeled the keg out through the door
b. Manny washed the stain out from the shirt
c. Police officers blocked people out from the parade

There are exceptions to this construction as well. For example, some constructions do not sound so natural yielding unacceptable, or at least awkward, sentence forms as in examples (33).

\[(33) \quad *N_0 \, V \, N_1 \, \text{out Prep} \, N_2\]

a. ?*Sasha showed her uncle out from the house
b. ?*Teens were booming music out from the window
c. *The detective sniffed the details out from the crime

Additionally, unlike the $\text{out} \, N_2$ and the $\text{out of} \, N_2$ construction in which the $PV$ must appear in the discontinuous form in order to introduce the $N_2$ into the structure (i.e. $*\text{The kid tossed out the ball the window}$ and $*\text{The reporter yelled out his name of the car}$), this is not the case with the $\text{out Prep} \, N_2$ phrase. The $\text{out Prep} \, N_2$ construction can appear in both the continuous and the discontinuous form.
(34) \( N_0 \ V \ out \ N_1 \ Prep \ N_2 \)

a. The students *wheeled out* the keg *through the door*
b. Manny *washed out* the stain *from the shirt*
c. Police officers *blocked out* the people *from the parade*

The tables show expressions that reveal both acceptable and unacceptable \( N_0 \ V \ N_1 \ out \ Prep \ N_2 \) indicated by a plus or minus value under this column. Because of its close relationship to the *out of* \( N_2 \) phrase, this construction comprises 80% of the data. The column is challenging to fill out as differing opinions accept or reject some of these expressions.

*Table 2* shows the various complex constructions discussed so far. The first two columns represent the potential human and non-human properties of the subject followed by the verb and an example of the \( N_1 \) also indicating the human/non-human dichotomy. After this, there is the particle *out* and an example of a possible preposition. The \( N_0 \ V \ N_1 \ Prep \ N_2 \) column indicates whether the particle can be replaced by a full PP. The next three columns show the various complex constructions, namely, the most common \( N_0 \ V \ N_1 \ out \ of \ N_2 \) phrase, the \( N_0 \ V \ N_1 \ out \ Prep \ N_2 \) phrase, and the less common \( N_0 \ V \ N_1 \ out \ N_2 \) phrase discussed above, followed by an example of the \( N_2 \) marked for the properties human and non-human.
### Table 2

**Detail of complex PV out chart**

| N<sub>o</sub> | N<sub>hum</sub> | N<sub>1</sub> | Example of N<sub>1</sub> | N<sub>2</sub> | N<sub>hum</sub> | N<sub>1</sub> | Particle | Preposition | N<sub>o</sub> V N<sub>1</sub> | Prep N<sub>2</sub> | N<sub>o</sub> V N<sub>1</sub> out of N<sub>2</sub> | N<sub>o</sub> V N<sub>1</sub> out Prep N<sub>2</sub> | Example of N<sub>2</sub> | N<sub>o</sub> | N<sub>hum</sub> | N<sub>1</sub> | Synonym |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| + - | hose | the rats | + + out | from | + + + + | + | the house | - + | get rid of with water |
| + + | hollow | the wood | - + out | from | + + - + | + | the log | - + | hollow |
| + + | hold | the paper | + + out | from | + + + + | + | the window | - + | hold |
| + + | hew | branches | + + out | from | + + - + | + | the tree | + + | remove by sawing |
| + + | help | Mary | + - out | from | + + - + | + | a bad situation | - + | help |
| + - | heave | the sails | - + out | from | - + - + | + | boom | - + | Nautical: remove |
| + - | have | a tooth | - + out | from | - + - + | + | POSS mouth | - + | remove |
| + - | hash | the issue | - + out | from | + + - - | - | the problem | - + | discuss thoroughly |
| + - | hang | the washing | - + out | from | + + - - | - | the house | - + | hang |
| + - | hand | the papers | - + out | to | + - - + | + | the class | - + | distribute |
| + + | grind | the rubber | - + out | from | + + - + | + | the tires | - + | extinguish by rubbing |
| + + | gouge | the eyes | - + out | from | + + - - | + | the sockets | + + | remove by gouging |
| + + | give | my number | - + out | to | + - - + | + | the group | + - | tell information |
| + + | give | music | - + out | to | + + - + | + | the public | + - | distribute |
| + + | get | the lipstick | + + out | from | + + - + | + | the bag | - + | take out |
| + - | get | the prisoner | + - out | from | + + - - | + | jail | - + | take from |
| + + | get | the dirt | - + out | from | + + - + | + | the shirt | + + | get rid of |
| + + | get | the album | - + out | to | + - - + | + | the public | + + | produce to sell |
| + + | gasp | a cry | - + out | from | + + - + | + | the window | - + | say by gasping |
| + - | fork | the money | - + out | from | + + - + | + | his pocket | + + | give |
| + - | fork | the money | - + out | to | + - - + | + | Katie | + + | give |
| + + | force | the nail | + + out | through | + + - + | + | the hole | + + | get rid of by force |
| + + | fly | Katie | + + out | from | + - - + | + | the city | - + | go by plane |
| + + | fly | Katie | + + out | to | + - - + | + | the city | - + | go by plane |
| + + | flush | the dirt | - + out | from | + + - - | + | the sink | - + | get rid of with water |
| + + | flush | the terrorists | + + out | from | - + - - | + | the country | + + | force to leave |
| + - | flunk | the boy | + - out | from | + + - + | + | school | - + | fail |
| + + | flood | the rats | + + out | from | + + - + | + | the house | - + | get rid of by flooding |
4. Complex Constructions: Other Transformations

Along with transformations like the neutral construction or the causative alternation, which we already observed with the simple PV out, complex PV out expressions can also undergo a variety of transformations, such as N₂ promotion, reversed constructions and complex neutral structures. Section 4 is dedicated to the variety of transformations complex transitive PV out constructions exhibit in the sense of Harris (1956).

4.1 N₂ Promotion

Complex PV out structures at times appear in its simple form with the N₂, the second complement, in the direct object N₁ position and the N₁ complement becomes implicit or omitted altogether yielding the relationship \( N₀ V N₁ out of N₂ \rightarrow N₀ V N₂ out \), which we refer to as N₂ promotion. The new expression, which promotes the original N₂ into the N₁ position, appears to become a simple verb phrase indicated with a plus under the column \( N₀ V N₂ out \). In this form the new expression, derived from the longer prepositional phrase, is reanalyzed as an aspectual modifier appearing once again in both the continuous and discontinuous forms, like (35) and (36).

(35) \[ N₀ V N₁ out of N₂ \rightarrow N₀ V N₂ out \leftrightarrow N₀ V N₂ out \]

a. The man scrubbed the gunk out of the tub \( \rightarrow \) The man scrubbed the tub out \( \leftrightarrow \) The man scrubbed out the tub

This construction can also be derived from any one of the longer \( N₀ V N₁ out of N₂ \), \( N₀ V N₁ out N₂ \), or \( N₀ V N₁ out Prep N₂ \) structures.

(36) \[ N₀ V N₂ out \]

a. The girl spilled the water out of the glass \( \rightarrow \) The girl spilled the glass out \( \leftrightarrow \) The girl spilled out the glass
b. Exterminators smoke rats out the house \( \rightarrow \) Exterminators smoke the house out \( \leftrightarrow \) Exterminators smoke out the house
c. Manny washed stains out from the shirt \( \rightarrow \) Manny washed the shirt out \( \leftrightarrow \) Manny washed out the shirt

However, N₂ promotion is not a property of all complex phrasal verb expressions. Unacceptable expressions are marked by a minus value under the column \( N₀ V N₂ out \), for instance:

(37) \[ N₀ V N₁ out of N₂ \rightarrow *N₀ V N₂ out \]

a. His parents left Dustin out of the plan \( \rightarrow \) *His parents left the plan out
b. The government flushed the terrorists out of the country \( \rightarrow \) *The government flushed the country out
c. Denise got her girlfriend out of jail \( \rightarrow \) *Denise got jail out

A positive value under the \( N₀ V N₂ out \) column denotes that the new structure is compositional, example (38a), while a negative shows that it is not, (38b).

(38) \[ N₀ V N₂ out \leftrightarrow N₀ V N₂ \]

a. The girl spilled the water out of the glass \( \rightarrow \) The girl spilled the glass out \( \leftrightarrow \) The girl spilled the glass
b. The runner *wore* the rubber *out of his shoes* → The runner *wore out* the shoes ↔ *The runner *wore* the shoes

The promotion of the second complement to the $N_1$ position constitutes 116 of the 361 entries or 32% of the complex expressions. After this transformation, the number of the purely simple $PV_{out}$ expressions increases from 200 to 316 constructions representing 56% of the entire corpus. The column labeled $N_0 \ V \ N_2 \ out$ in the complex $PV_{out}$ table shows that the particle, which once stood for a complex phrase $N_0 \ V \ N_1 \ out \ of \ N_2$, comprises part of a simple expression of the aspectual type in the form of $N_0 \ V \ N_2 \ out$. This column implies that 37% of purely simple $PV_{out}$ constructions entail some kind of intrinsically implicit $N_1$ phrase.

4.2 Reversed Constructions

The structure previously described as $N_2$ promotion at times can introduce the $N_1$ back into the expression in the position where the $N_2$ originated exhibiting a reversed order as in $N_0 \ V \ N_1 \ out \ of \ N_2 \ → \ N_0 \ V \ N_2 \ out \ of \ N_1$. This $N_1$ and $N_2$ inversion, comprising 30 of the complex expressions, is also a characteristic of the other longer forms, i.e. the $N_0 \ V \ N_2 \ out \ N_1$ and $N_0 \ V \ N_2 \ out \ Prep \ N_1$ phrases described below.

Reversed constructions appear as inverted forms of the $N_0 \ V \ N_1 \ out \ of \ N_2$ phrase giving rise to the new expression $N_0 \ V \ N_2 \ out \ of \ N_1$ indicated by a positive value under the appropriate column, where the ↔ indicates a relationship between the two structures that is not necessarily synonymous, for example (39).

\[
(39) \quad N_0 \ V \ N_1 \ out \ of \ N_2 \ ↔ \ N_0 \ V \ N_2 \ out \ of \ N_1
\]

\[
a. \quad \text{The workers *mined* the coal *out of the cave*} \quad ↔ \quad \text{The workers *mined* the cave *out of coal*}
\]

\[
b. \quad \text{The company *farmed* oil *out of the land*} \quad ↔ \quad \text{The company *farmed* the land *out of oil*}
\]

c. \quad \text{The scientist *filtered* chemicals *out of the water*} \quad ↔ \quad \text{The scientist *filtered* the water *out of chemicals*}

d. \quad \text{Max *squirted* the paste *out of the tube*} \quad ↔ \quad \text{Max *squirited* the tube *out of paste*}

As the lexicon-grammar tables illustrate, not all of the $N_2$ promotions can be reanalyzed as reversed constructions, indicated with a negative value in $N_0 \ V \ N_2 \ out \ of \ N_1$, as in (40).

\[
(40) \quad N_0 \ V \ N_1 \ out \ of \ N_2 \ ↔ \ *N_0 \ V \ N_2 \ out \ of \ N_1
\]

\[
a. \quad \text{The terminator *hosed* the rats *out of the house*} \quad ↔ \quad *\text{The terminator *hosed* the house *out of the rats*}
\]

\[
b. \quad \text{The cleaner *shook* the dirt *out of the rug*} \quad ↔ \quad *\text{The cleaner *shook* the rug *out of dirt*}
\]

c. \quad \text{Alex *sanded* the stains *out of the wood*} \quad ↔ \quad *\text{Alex *sanded* the wood *out of stains*}

d. \quad \text{The therapist *rubbed* the pain *out of my shoulder*} \quad ↔ \quad *\text{The therapist *rubbed* my shoulder *out of pain*}

4.3 Reversed constructions derived from dative verbs

Another type of reversed construction is derived from the $N_0 \ V \ N_1 \ Prep \ N_2$ and $N_0 \ V \ N_1 \ out \ Prep \ N_2$ forms appearing as $N_0 \ V \ N_2 \ out \ N_1$, in which the of and Prep is omitted in the inversion. This new structure is derived from dative verbs as it is the object of the PP that is moving into the $N_1$ position. This structure is illustrated in the following examples indicated with a plus sign under the column $N_0 \ V \ N_2 \ out \ N_1$ in the lexicon-grammar table.
(41) \[ N_0 V N_2 \text{ out } N_1 \]

a. Ty dealt the cards to the players \[ \leftrightarrow \] Ty dealt the players out the cards
b. The teacher handed some papers out to the students \[ \leftrightarrow \] The teacher handed the students out some papers
c. Evan gave his number out to some girls \[ \leftrightarrow \] Evan gave some girls out his number
d. The employee rents movies out to customers \[ \leftrightarrow \] The employee rents customers out movies

These examples show that dative verbs, like make, send, print, pour, hand, pass, give, and rent commonly followed by a Prep \( N_2 \) phrase, undergo the reversed order. Prior to the inversion the expression can appear in both continuous and discontinuous forms (The teacher handed some papers out to the students \[ \leftrightarrow \] The teacher handed out some papers to the students), but can no longer do so after the inversion (*The teacher handed out the students some papers). Regular transitive verbs do not accept this particular inverted construction, marked with a minus under \( N_0 V N_2 \text{ out } N_1 \).

(42) \[ N_0 V N_1 \text{ out } N_2 \leftrightarrow *N_0 V N_2 \text{ out } N_1 \]

a. The pool guy pumped the water out of the pool \[ \leftrightarrow \] *The pool guy pumped the pool out water
b. The massage therapist rubbed the pain out of my leg \[ \leftrightarrow \] *The massage therapist rubbed my leg out pain
c. The exterminator hosed the rats out of the house \[ \leftrightarrow \] *The exterminator hosed the house out rats

In Table 3 the columns following the preposition illustrate the acceptable \( N_0 V N_1 \text{ out } N_2 \), \( N_0 V N_1 \text{ out } N_2 \) and \( N_0 V N_1 \text{ out Prep } N_2 \) followed by an example of the \( N_2 \) marked for human and nonhuman features. The \( N_0 V N_2 \text{ out } N_1 \) column, discussed in 4.1, shows the constructions which can promote the \( N_2 \) to the \( N_1 \) position reappearing in its simple form, and the \( N_0 V N_2 \) column reveals the compositionality of the new expression. Following this column are the reversed structures, \( N_0 V N_2 \text{ out } N_1 \), \( N_0 V N_2 \text{ out } N_1 \) and \( N_0 V N_2 \text{ out Prep } N_1 \). Ultimately all expressions have the property of appearing in the simple continuous and discontinuous forms \( N_0 V N_1 \text{ out } \leftrightarrow N_0 V \text{ out } N_1 \) by deleting the \( N_2 \) PP following the verb.
Table 3
Sample of Complex PV out matrix highlighting the reversed constructions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>( N_0 )</th>
<th>( N_1 )</th>
<th>( N_2 )</th>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Example of  ( N_1 )</th>
<th>( N_1 ) :  ( N_0 )</th>
<th>Particle</th>
<th>Preposition</th>
<th>( N_1 ) V  ( N_0 ) out  ( N_2 )</th>
<th>( N_2 ) :  ( N_0 )</th>
<th>( N_1 ) V  ( N_2 ) out  ( N_0 )</th>
<th>( N_0 ) :  ( N_2 )</th>
<th>( N_1 ) V  ( N_2 ) out  ( N_0 )</th>
<th>( N_0 ) :  ( N_2 )</th>
<th>Example of  ( N_2 )</th>
<th>Synonym</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+ +</td>
<td>email</td>
<td>the test</td>
<td>- +</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>to</td>
<td>+ - - +</td>
<td>the students</td>
<td>+ - - + - - +</td>
<td>email</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ -</td>
<td>empty</td>
<td>the dishes</td>
<td>- +</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
<td>+ + - +</td>
<td>the dishwasher</td>
<td>- + - + - - -</td>
<td>empty</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ +</td>
<td>even</td>
<td>the concrete</td>
<td>- +</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>on</td>
<td>+ - - +</td>
<td>the street</td>
<td>- + + + - - -</td>
<td>make even</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ +</td>
<td>farm</td>
<td>the oil</td>
<td>- +</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
<td>+ + - -</td>
<td>the land</td>
<td>- + + + + - -</td>
<td>exhaust by drilling</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ +</td>
<td>filter</td>
<td>the chemicals</td>
<td>+ +</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
<td>+ + - +</td>
<td>the land</td>
<td>- + + + + + -</td>
<td>get rid of by filtering</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ +</td>
<td>flatten</td>
<td>the pavement</td>
<td>+ +</td>
<td>out on</td>
<td>- -</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>the water</td>
<td>+ + + + - - -</td>
<td>make flat</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ +</td>
<td>flesh</td>
<td>the characters</td>
<td>+ +</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
<td>+ + - +</td>
<td>the story</td>
<td>- + + + - - -</td>
<td>give reality to</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ +</td>
<td>flood</td>
<td>the rats</td>
<td>+ +</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
<td>+ + - +</td>
<td>the house</td>
<td>- + + + - - -</td>
<td>get rid of by flooding</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ +</td>
<td>flush</td>
<td>the dirt</td>
<td>- +</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
<td>+ + - -</td>
<td>the sink</td>
<td>- + + + - - -</td>
<td>get rid of with water</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ -</td>
<td>fork</td>
<td>the money</td>
<td>- +</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>to</td>
<td>+ - - +</td>
<td>Katie</td>
<td>+ - - - - - -</td>
<td>give</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ +</td>
<td>give</td>
<td>my number</td>
<td>- +</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>to</td>
<td>+ - - +</td>
<td>the group</td>
<td>+ + - - - - -</td>
<td>distribute</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ +</td>
<td>grind</td>
<td>the rubber</td>
<td>- +</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
<td>+ + - +</td>
<td>the tires</td>
<td>- + le - - -</td>
<td>exhaust by rubbing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ -</td>
<td>hand</td>
<td>the papers</td>
<td>- +</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>to</td>
<td>+ - - +</td>
<td>the class</td>
<td>- + - - - - -</td>
<td>distribute</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.4 The Causative Alternation and Neutral Structures in Complex Constructions

Similar to section 2.2, which illustrated the causative alternation or the neutral construction in simple PV constructions, i.e. \( N_0 \) \( V \) \( N_1 \) \( out \) \( N_2 \) \( \rightarrow \) \( N_1 \) \( V \) \( out \) \( N_2 \), complex phrasal verb expressions can also undergo this transformation followed by a variety of acceptable and unacceptable longer locative phrases. The most common prepositional phrasal verb expression which undergoes the causative alternation is the \( N_1 \) \( V \) \( out \) \( N_2 \) phrase, as in (43).

(43) \( N_0 \) \( V \) \( N_1 \) \( out \) \( N_2 \) \( \rightarrow \) \( N_1 \) \( V \) \( out \) \( N_2 \)

- a. The girl spilled the water out of the glass \( \rightarrow \) The water spilled out of the glass
- b. Manny washed the stain out of the shirt \( \rightarrow \) The stain washed out of the shirt
- c. The carpenter screws the nail out of the wood \( \rightarrow \) The nail screws out of the wood
The construction is also prone to the longer complex version:

\[(44) \quad N_1 V \text{ out from } N_2\]

a. The water *spilled out* from the glass

Moreover, this complex neutral construction can yield a new expression of the form \(N_1 V \text{ out } N_2\).

\[(45) \quad N_0 V N_1 \text{ out of } N_2 \rightarrow N_1 V \text{ out } N_2\]

a. The water *spilled out* the glass

However, in these cases it cannot appear in both the continuous and discontinuous order.

\[(46)\]

a. *The water spilled the glass out*\(^{14}\)

The column labeled \(N_1 V \text{ Prep } N_2\) shows whether the particle can be replaced by a PP in the neutral form.

\[(47) \quad N_1 V \text{ Prep } N_2 \rightarrow N_1 V \text{ out } N_2\]

a. The water *spilled out* the glass \(\rightarrow\) The water *spilled* from the glass

The particle cannot be substituted by a PP in all cases.

\[(48) \quad N_1 V \text{ out of } N_2 \rightarrow *N_1 V \text{ Prep } N_2\]

a. The umpire *struck* the player *out of* the game
b. The player *struck out* of the game \(\rightarrow\) *The player *struck* from the game

Altogether we get the following six possible combinations of neutral structures from simple to complex expressions, as in (49) and (50).

\[(49) \quad \text{The scientist *squirited* chemicals out the hole} \rightarrow\]

a. \(N_1 V \text{ out}\) The chemicals *squirited out*

b. \(N_1 V \text{ out of } N_2\) The chemicals *squirited out of* the hole
c. \(N_1 V \text{ out Prep } N_2\) The chemicals *squirited out* from the hole
d. \(N_1 V \text{ out } N_2\) The chemicals *squirited out* the hole
e. \(N_1 V \text{ Prep } N_2\) The chemicals *squirited* from the hole

\[(50) \quad \text{The band was *booming* the music out the window} \rightarrow\]

a. \(N_1 V \text{ out}\) Music was *booming out*
b. \(N_1 V \text{ out of } N_2\) Music was *booming out* of the window
c. \(N_1 V \text{ out Prep } N_2\) Music was *booming out* through the window
d. \(N_1 V \text{ out } N_2\) Music was *booming out* the window
e. \(N_1 V \text{ Prep } N_2\) Music was *booming* through the window
While some expressions exhibit each one of these longer structures as in (49) and (50), not all the phrasal verb expressions that undergo neutrality display each combination, as in examples (51) – (60).

(51) The carpenter *screws* the nail *out* of the wood →
   a. $N_1 V \text{out}$ The nail *screws* out
   b. $N_1 V \text{out of } N_2$ The nail *screws* out of the wood
   c. $*N_1 V \text{out Prep } N_2$ *The nail screws* out from the wood
   d. $*N_1 V \text{out } N_2$ *The nail screws* out the wood$^{15}$
   e. $*N_1 V \text{Prep } N_2$ *The nail screws* from the wood

Employing Levin’s (1993) verb classes, some expressions seem to reveal similar combinatorial properties with some slight variations based on general semantic classes, as shown by the following verbs of sound emission.

(52) Verbs of sound emission

   a. The musicians were *blasting* / *booming* / *blaring* music out of the house
   b. Music was *blasting* / *booming* / *blaring* out
   c. Music was *blasting* / *booming* / *blaring* out of the house
   d. Music was ?*blasting* / ?*booming* / ?*blaring* out the house
   e. Music was *blasting* / *booming* / *blaring* from the house

These examples, however, comprise a minority of the verbs within a particular verb class. For instance, of the 15 verbs of sound emission, only three, as illustrated in (52), exhibit syntactically similar properties in the neutral or causative alternation. The following examples show syntactic behavior can vary even within the same general semantic class:

(53)

   a. The musicians *banged* / *clapped* / *thumped* / *tapped* music out
   b. The musicians ?*banged* / *clapped* / *thumped* / *tapped* music out of the house
   c. Music *banged* / *clapped* / *thumped* / *tapped* out
   d. Music *banged* / *clapped* / *thumped* / *tapped* out of the house
   e. Music *banged* / *clapped* / *thumped* / *tapped* out the house
   f. Music *banged* / *clapped* / *thumped* / *tapped* from the house

Other examples show that variation can be attributed to the arguments of the verb, governing the possible syntactic combinations the expressions reveal as in the unacceptability of *The musician roared the music out*, in contrast to *The musician roared the announcement out.*
Similar behavior is seen in Levin’s ‘verbs of removing’ class:

(54)  
Verbs of removing

a. \( N_0 V N_1 \) out of \( N_2 \)  
Manny cleaned / rinsed / rubbed / washed stains out of the shirt
b. \( N_1 V \) out  
The stain *cleaned / rinsed / rubbed / washed out
c. \( N_1 V \) out of \( N_2 \)  
The stain *cleaned / rinsed / rubbed / washed out of the shirt
d. \( N_1 V \) out Prep \( N_2 \)  
The stain *cleaned / *rinsed / *rubbed / *washed out from the shirt
e. \( N_1 V \) out \( N_2 \)  
The stain *cleaned / *rinsed / *rubbed / *washed out the shirt
f. \( N_1 V \) Prep \( N_2 \)  
The stain *cleaned / *rinsed / *rubbed / *washed from the shirt

Likewise, the following ‘verbs of substance emission’ show a high degree of variability when the arguments are kept constant.

(55)  
Verbs of substance emission

a. \( N_0 V N_1 \) out of \( N_2 \)  
Max spewed / *spilled / *spit / *spurted / *squeeze / squirted water out of his mouth
b. \( N_1 V \) out  
Water spewed / spilled / *spit / *spurted / *squeezed / squirted out
c. \( N_1 V \) out of \( N_2 \)  
Water spewed / *spilled / *spit / *spurted / *squeezed / squirted out of his mouth
d. \( N_1 V \) out Prep \( N_2 \)  
Water *spewed / *spilled / *spit / *spurted / *squeezed / *squeezed / *squirted out from his mouth
e. \( N_1 V \) out \( N_2 \)  
Water *spewed / *spilled / *spit / *spurted / *squeezed / *squeezed / *squirted out his mouth
f. \( N_1 V \) Prep \( N_2 \)  
Water *spewed / *spilled / *spit / *spurted / *squeezed / *squeezed / *squirted from his mouth

Changing the arguments can demonstrate a higher degree of syntactic similarity as in the following examples where the neutral construction in its prepositional phrasal form are acceptable, as opposed to (55), solely by modifying the arguments of the prepositional phrase.

(56)

a. Water spewed out of his mouth ↔ Water spewed out his mouth
b. Water spilled out of the bucket ↔ Water spilled out the bucket
c. Water spits out of the sprinklers ↔ *Water spits out the sprinklers
d. Water spurted out of the sprinklers ↔ *Water spurted out the sprinklers
e. Water squeezes out of the sponge ↔ *Water squeezes out the sponge
f. Water squirted out of the tube ↔ Water squirted out the tube

Other examples, though not synonymous, show that the same \( PV\ out\) demonstrate similar syntactic formations with varying arguments, one giving rise to the literal interpretation and the other the more idiomatic one, as exemplified with the \( PV\ roll\ out\).

(57)

a. Max rolled the chair out of the house\(^{17}\)  
The company rolled the products out of the factory
b. The chair rolled out  
The products rolled out
c. The chair rolled out of the house  
The products rolled out of the factory
d. ?The chair rolled out the house  
?The products rolled out the factory
e. *The chair rolled from the house  
*The products rolled from the factory

21
But changing the phrasal verb yet not the meaning or the arguments can yield radically different acceptable constructions, as seen by comparing the literal PV *roll out the chair* with the semantically similar expression *wheel out the chair*.

(58)

a. Max wheeled the chair out of the house  
  b. *The chair wheeled out  
  c. *The chair wheeled out of the house  
  d. *The chair wheeled the house  
  e. *The chair wheeled from the house

The direct object of the verb can be responsible for the possible combinatorial properties of each expression, like (59).

(59)

a. Max printed his name out (on the paper) → *His name printed out (on the paper) write in print  
  b. Max printed the papers out (of the computer) → The papers printed out (of the computer) print from computer

In other expressions it is the arguments of the prepositional phrase that serve to disambiguate expressions and govern the acceptability of possible transformations. In these examples unless the prepositional phrase is made explicit, disambiguation is purely contextual, as in (60).

(60)

a. The pitcher struck Max out of the list → *Max struck out of the list erase  
  b. The pitcher struck Max out of the game → Max struck out of the game strike out in baseball

In sum, examples (52)–(53) demonstrate how morpho-syntactic similarity can be seen in general semantic categories illustrated with the *verbs of sound emission*. However, these examples show that only a few *sound emission* verbs display similar combinatorial features. Other broad semantic classes demonstrated more varied structural combinations as in (54)-(55), but by changing the argument more suitable to the expression reveals a higher degree of combinatorial similarities, as in (56)-(57). This information is unpredictable based on general semantic classes, (49)-(56), nor the meaning of the PV as demonstrated by (57)-(58). Many of these expressions can be disambiguated by distinguishing between the purely simple form and the (implicit or explicit) prepositional phrasal form, (57), while others can only be disambiguated by the nature of its prepositional complement or context (60).

4.5 Reversed-neutral Constructions

In addition to the complex neutral structures, in some cases the second complement, $N_2$, may even rise to the subject position of the sentence, exhibiting structures similar to Salkoff’s (1983) ‘swarm alternation’ in what we refer to as the reversed-neutral construction. In other words, the original $N_2$ complement appears in the $N_0$ subject position indicated with a plus under $N_2 \ V \ out \ N_1$. This new expression can then once again appear in both the continuous and discontinuous order.
(61) $N_0 V N_1 \text{ out of } N_2 \rightarrow N_2 V \text{ out } N_1 \leftrightarrow N_2 V N_1 \text{ out}$

a. The kids *squirited* water out of the gun $\rightarrow$ The gun *squirited* out water $\leftrightarrow$ The gun *squirited* water out

b. Max *prints* papers out of the computer $\rightarrow$ The computer *prints* out papers $\leftrightarrow$ The computer *prints* papers out

c. The couple *rents* out movies from the store $\rightarrow$ The store *rents* out movies $\leftrightarrow$ The store *rents* movies out

d. The business *churns* clothes out of the factory $\rightarrow$ The factory *churns* out clothes $\leftrightarrow$ The factory *churns* clothes out

e. The government *pumps* money out of banks $\rightarrow$ Banks *pump* out money $\leftrightarrow$ Banks *pump* money out

In few cases reversed-neutral structures may even appear as longer complex constructions in which the $N_1$ appears as part of a longer locative phrase, as in (62).

(62) $N_2 V \text{ out of } N_1$

a. The store rents out of movies
b. The streets cleared out of people\(^{18}\)
c. The water filters out of chemicals
d. The gun squirited out of water
e. The tube squeezes out of jelly

There can also be a significant change in meaning between the constructions, as ‘The store rents movies out’ implies that there are movies available for renting, whereas ‘The store rents out of movies’ implies that there are none left.

Table 4 illustrates some of the PV out expressions that exhibit the complex neutral and reversed-neutral structures. Following the example of an $N_2$ phrase, we see the most common complex neutral constructions of the $N_1 V \text{ out of } N_2$ form, and then the slightly less common $N_1 V \text{ out Prep } N_2$. The next structure is the less complex $N_1 V \text{ out } N_2$, followed by $N_1 V \text{ Prep } N_2$ which shows whether the particle can be replaced by a full PP in the neutral order. Finally the columns $N_2 V \text{ out } N_1$ and $N_2 V \text{ out of } N_1$ illustrate the variety of reversed-neutral constructions.
Table 4
Sample matrix of complex $PV \ out$ highlighting neutral and semi-neutral constructions

| $N_0 = N_{\text{hum}}$ | $N_2 = N_{\text{hum}}$ | Verb | Example of $N_1$ | $N_1 = N_{\text{hum}}$ | $N_1 = \overline{N}_{\text{hum}}$ | $N_1 \ V \ out$ | Particle | Preposition | Example of $N_2$ | $N_2 = N_{\text{hum}}$ | $N_2 = \overline{N}_{\text{hum}}$ | $N_2 \ V \ out \ Prep_1$ | $N_2 \ V \ out \ Prep_2$ | $N_2 \ V \ out \ Prep_3$ | $N_2 \ V \ out \ Prep_4$ | $N_2 \ V \ out \ Prep_5$ | $N_2 \ V \ out \ Prep_6$ | $N_2 \ V \ out \ Prep_7$ | $N_2 \ V \ out \ Prep_8$ | Synonym |
|------------------------|------------------------|------|------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------|----------|-------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| + -                    | bark                   | commands | - + + | out | from | the speakers | - + + + + + + + - | shout                |
| + +                    | belch                  | smoke   | - + + | out | from | the chimney  | - + + + + + + + - | belch                |
| + +                    | black                  | the memories | + + - | out | from | POSS-0 mind | - + - - - - + + - | unconscious           |
| + +                    | block                  | sensitive material | - + - | out | from | the internet | - + - - - - - - - | stop broadcast       |
| + +                    | blot                   | the memories | + + - | out | from | POSS-0 mind | - + - - - - + + - | obliterate            |
| + +                    | blow                   | the glass | + + + | out | from | the window  | - + + + - - - - + | destroy              |
| + +                    | boom                   | the music | - + + | out | from | the house   | - + + + + + + + + | play loudly           |
| + +                    | bring                  | the personality | + - - | out | from | Max         | + - - - - - - - + | expose               |
| + +                    | bring                  | the facts   | - + - | out | from | the discussion | - + - - - - + + - | reveal               |
| + -                    | check                  | the books  | - + + | out | from | the library | - + - - - - + + - | borrow or rent       |
| + +                    | churn                  | the clothing | - + + | out | from | the factory | - + + + + + + + + | produce to sell      |
| + +                    | close                  | the account | - + + | out | from | the bank    | + + - - - - + + - | end                   |
| + -                    | count                  | Katie     | + + - | out | from | the plan    | - + - - - - + + - | exclude              |
| + -                    | cut                    | the baby   | - + - | out | from | the plan    | - + - - - - + + - | exclude              |
| + -                    | dish                   | the truth | - + - | out | from | Katie       | + + - - - - + + - | reveal               |
| + +                    | drain                  | the gunk   | + + + | out | from | the sink    | + + + + + + + + + | drain                 |
| + +                    | factor                 | Katie     | + + - | out | from | the plan    | - + + - - - + + + | exclude              |
| + -                    | flash                  | anger     | - + + | out | from | POSS-0 eyes | - + + + + + + + + | reveal               |
| + -                    | rent                   | the movies | - + + | out | from | the store  | - + + - - - + + + | rent                  |
| + +                    | squeeze                | water     | - + + | out | from | the tube   | - + + + - - + + + | extract by squeezing |
| + +                    | squirt                  | water    | - + + | out | from | the tube   | - + + + + + + + + | squirt               |
5. Conclusions

*Table 5* illustrates the complete set of structural combinations of complex *PV out* analyzed in this article.

**Table 5**

Sample matrix of complex transitive phrasal verbs with the particle *out*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N₂: Nhum</th>
<th>N₁: Nhum</th>
<th>Example of N₁</th>
<th>N₁: Nout</th>
<th>N₂: Nout</th>
<th>Nᵥ N out Prep N₁</th>
<th>Nᵥ N out Prep N₂</th>
<th>Example of N₂</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+ + factor</td>
<td>Katie</td>
<td>+ + - - - -</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
<td>- + -</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>the plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ - fan</td>
<td>the cards</td>
<td>- + - - - -</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>on</td>
<td>- + -</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>the table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ + farm</td>
<td>the oil</td>
<td>- + - - - -</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
<td>+ + -</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>the land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ - farm</td>
<td>the vegetables</td>
<td>- - - + - -</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
<td>+ + -</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>the land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ - farm</td>
<td>the workers</td>
<td>+ - - - -</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>to</td>
<td>+ + -</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ - farm</td>
<td>the duties</td>
<td>+ + - - -</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>to</td>
<td>+ - -</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>the workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ + ferret</td>
<td>the details</td>
<td>+ - - - -</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
<td>+ + -</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>the clerk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ + ferret</td>
<td>the rabbits</td>
<td>+ - - - -</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
<td>+ + -</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>the burrows</td>
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<td>+ + filter</td>
<td>chemicals</td>
<td>+ + - + + +</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
<td>+ + -</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>the water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ + fish</td>
<td>the shells</td>
<td>+ + - - -</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
<td>+ + -</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>the tank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ - flash</td>
<td>anger</td>
<td>- + - - + +</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
<td>+ + -</td>
<td>POSS-0 eyes</td>
<td>- - - - - - -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ + flatten</td>
<td>the pavement</td>
<td>+ + - + + +</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>on</td>
<td>+ - -</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>the street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ + flesh</td>
<td>characters</td>
<td>+ + - + + +</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
<td>+ + -</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>the story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ + flood</td>
<td>the rats</td>
<td>+ + - + - -</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
<td>+ + -</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>the house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ - flunk</td>
<td>the boy</td>
<td>+ - - + + +</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
<td>+ + -</td>
<td>school</td>
<td>- + - - - - + + - -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ + flush</td>
<td>the dirt</td>
<td>- + - + + +</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
<td>+ + -</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>the sink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ + flush</td>
<td>the terrorists</td>
<td>+ + - - -</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
<td>- + -</td>
<td>the country</td>
<td>+ + - - - - - -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ + fly</td>
<td>Katie</td>
<td>+ - - + + +</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>to</td>
<td>+ + -</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>the city</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ + fly</td>
<td>Katie</td>
<td>+ - - + + +</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>to</td>
<td>+ + -</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>the city</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As we can see, each phrasal verb expression exhibits a range of various properties. While some properties can be attributed to verb class, verb complements, stress and intonation, and pragmatics, our lexicon-grammar analysis demonstrates that this information is highly lexical, in that unique combinations of pluses or minuses in the matrix apply to individual verbs. Although some of these judgments might vary from dialect to dialect, *Table 6* demonstrates the relative frequency of the various structures studied in this article.
Table 6

Relative frequency for structures of transitive phrasal verbs with the particle out

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Simple PV out</th>
<th>Complex PV out</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Simple PV out</th>
<th>Complex PV out</th>
<th>Relative Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compositional</td>
<td>Compositional</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-compositional</td>
<td>Non-compositional</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Simple PV out</th>
<th>Complex PV out</th>
<th>Relative Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compositional</td>
<td>Compositional</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-compositional</td>
<td>Non-compositional</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Transitive PV out expressions can exhibit a combination of up to 25 morpho-syntactic features. At present, syntactic theories do not take into account the range of variability that lexicon-grammar demonstrates, resulting in many competing analyses (Jackendoff 1997, Hoekstra 1988, Olsen 2000, Dehe 2002) on the governing principles of PV expressions. A lexicon-grammar approach raises some imperative questions about the underlying principles that govern verb phrases, while providing a thorough depiction of the data along with a systematic analysis of the possible and impossible structural and semantic features. This syntactic description can thereby provide competing theories with an empirical framework to verify hypotheses and account for transformations that phrasal verbs undergo. In addition to the present syntactic investigation, we have been classifying the semantic properties of PV out. This new data so far shows that phrasal verbs with out can entail a continuum of 10 aspectual features, ranging from inchoative to exhaustive, and varying degrees of intensification. In the future, the data of these two studies would be combined thus creating a principled mapping between the syntax and semantics and thereby contribute to the development of a restrictive theory of grammar.

1 In the case of a pronominal direct object, the particle must appear in the discontinuous order.

N₀ V ProN₁ out ↔ *N₀ V out ProN₁; Clowns totally freak him out ↔ *Clowns totally freak out him

2 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.

3 Both literal and metaphorical interpretations were considered as compositional as long as the single verb expression was semantically acceptable and relatively synonymous with the phrasal verb expression.

4 All PVs in the data can appear in the continuous and discontinuous order, thereby excluding idiomatic expressions of the ‘frozen’ or ‘fixed’ type, like examples in Jackendoff (2002) Harold sang his heart out, in which particle movement is not possible: *Harold sang out his heart.

5 For each sense of the PV out expression, a separate entry was added to the lexicon-grammar table. In this case, one for the literal meaning of The gangster took the boy out meaning ‘to take’ and one for the idiomatic meaning ‘to kill’.
6 The example *The athlete wiped out* is a well-formed sentence but is intransitive PV and not synonymous with *The trainer wiped the athlete out* meaning ‘to exhaust’, hence the reason for its unacceptability in this example.

7 Machonis (2009: 256) observes that this combination is possible with particle verbs with *up*. This combination of features is exemplified in Machonis’ article with the verb *stink up*, which demonstrates the morpho-syntactic combination which *PV out* does not seem to exhibit.
   a. *The old food stinks the room*
   b. The old food stinks up the room
   c. The room stinks
   d. *The room stinks up

8 That locative *out* cannot be replaced by a full prepositional phrase is especially true in the more idiomatic expressions as omitting the particle and replacing it with a PP renders the expression unacceptable. However, it will be shown that even the particle in some idiomatic expressions can be replaced by a full PP, illustrating the variety of combinatorial properties of these expressions.

9 *Max left Katie* does not mean the same as *Max left Katie out*; thus, the single verb expression is considered unacceptable.

10 In other cases, it has been observed (Olsen 1996, Dehé 2002) that the particle *out* may surface in the discontinuous form following the *Prep N₂* phrase as in *Prep N₂ out*.
   a. The student filled the application from the website *out*
   b. The student filled *(out)* the application *(out)* from the website *(out)*

While this *Prep N₂* phrase indicates adjectival modification of the *N₂*, it is not the type of syntactic prepositional phrase under discussion. In fact, the type of locative PP under analysis cannot appear at the end of the construction (i.e. *The students wheeled the keg through the door out* and only two structures are acceptable, namely *N₀ V out N₁ Prep N₂*, or *N₀ V N₁ out Prep N₂*.

11 This number does not include expressions which can undergo the derivation, but in doing so the meaning changes, as in:
   a. The student checked the books out of the library → The student checked out the library

While the new expression is an acceptable construction, it is not synonymous with the original longer structure and therefore a [-] under the *N₀ V N₂ out* column.

12 This syntactic behavior was also observed by den Dikken (1995) and Dehé (2002), in the following examples:
   a. They sent a schedule out to the stockholders ↔ They sent the stockholders out a schedule
     (den Dikken 1995:55f.)
   b. Andrew will print a copy out for his teacher ↔ Andrew will print his teacher out a copy
   c. Susan poured a drink out to the man ↔ Susan poured the man out a drink
     (Dehé 2002:2)

13 Dehé (2002) refers to complex particle verbs as the *N₀ V N₂ out N₁* type and gives the example *He made John out a liar* which appears to be derived from the construction *He made a liar out of John*. This PV was not included in the data because it cannot appear in the simple continuous and discontinuous order (*He made a liar out ↔ *He made out a liar), and therefore not the type of PVs analyzed in this paper.

14 This expression is not synonymous with *The water spilled out the glass*.

15 This example has an alternative meaning which seems to surface when an adverb follows the expression, i.e. *The nail screws out the wood easily*. This is known as the ‘pseudo-passive’ construction and was not considered in the analysis since these constructions do not imply an agentive subject.

16 It was commonly brought to attention that some of these questionable examples seem to sound better when followed by an adverb exhibiting the ‘pseudo-passive’ construction, as in *The stain rinses/ washes/rubs out the shirt easily*. Again pseudo-passive constructions were not considered in the analysis, and thereby marked [-].

17 As noted, changing the arguments of the verb yields differing syntactically acceptable constructions; thus, in this example changing *chair* to *ball* results in acceptable constructions in (57a-e) and (58a-e).
This example comes from *The police cleared the people out of the streets* forming the new expression *The streets cleared out of people.* Depending on the speaker, some of these expressions vary in acceptability.

**REFERENCES**


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