The Discoursal Use of Phraseological Units

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Edited by

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PREFACE

Though much has been already done in the field of phraseology during the previous decades some aspects of “life” of phraseological units (PUs) still wait for a more detailed investigation and description by modern scholars. One of such important aspects is the study of discoursal behavior of these picturesque and transferred language units in order to see their contextual potential and the ways of creative use of them in different types of discourse.

The main aim of the book is to explore speech behavior of phraseological units, which is why it presents research of core and instantial use of them from different perspectives and in different genres. A variety of transformation types of phraseological units are under study as well as the experimental approach to the investigation of such units with transferred meaning. The book also presents works of scholars from different countries.

All presentations in the book may be roughly divided into three parts.

The first part deals with core and instantial use of phraseological units.

Spanish and Arabic phrasal verbs as a part of phraseological stocks of both languages are studied from the point of view of literal and metaphorical motion in context by Antonio Pamies and Yara El-Ghalayini. The researchers have proved that the similarity between Spanish and Arabic motion metaphors is unexpectedly high in phrasal verbs, and in some cases striking coincidences in inner form, actual meaning and contextual restrictions are observed.

Frequency of phraseological units in discourse as a part of the phraseographic practice is the subject matter in the chapter presented by Dmitry Yurchenko. Among the most important results of the investigation is the conclusion that the most frequent phraseological units form the core of the phraseological paradigm which is usually reflected in phraseological dictionaries and get a complex description in a wide range of phraseological studies. Taking into consideration this statement the author considers “Das Russische Phraseologische Wörterbuch” (2019) as a new product that lexicographically combines phraseology with paremiology, covers and fixes a wide range of linguistic and cultural phenomena. That’s why this dictionary is much broader in comparison with "classical" phraseological dictionaries.

Usage and occasional transformations of phraseological units designating a woman in Russian have been in the focus of attention of Rakhim Muryasov and Olga Kasymova. The examples of usage of Russian phraseological units were taken from the Russian National Corpus, and the authors have proved that most of the phraseological units under study had a peak in use in the nineteenth century. The following semantic transformations of such units were found: the ability to acquire attributive meaning and, as a result, to be used in relation to men; a more enhanced meaning of the object's feature, which makes it possible for phraseological units designating a woman to serve as a means of designating a group of people; desemantization as a result of which a phraseological unit loses its image and idiomaticity and becomes a free phrase.

The investigations of Wolfgang Mieder from the USA are widely known by the majority of specialists in phraseology. His contribution to paremiology is really great, and the paper in the book deals with innovative anti-proverbs which serve as a basis of modern proverbs. The researcher uses a lot of reliable data to prove the fact that the future will have plenty new proverbs in store that will reflect modern times and changed worldviews as nowadays there are a lot of such new proverbs which started as anti-proverbs and are based on old patterns. This process is very good evidence that proverbs “will be constant companions in human communication throughout the world”.

The second, largest **part** of the book is devoted to the investigation of the use of phraseological units in different genres. The problem of usage of stable expressions with transferred meaning in the works of outstanding writers as well as in different types of texts attracts the attention of linguists as it helps to understand the innovative way such expressions may enrich different genres. Besides, the analysis of different types of their transformations (modifications) is of great value.

This part starts with the study of phraseological units in online comments to *The Guardian* and *The Sun*. The analysis has proved that in these electronic newspapers phraseological units allow authors to express their thoughts succinctly and emotionally. Besides, it was found out that the most common types of transformations are addition of a component/components, replacement of a component/components, and insertion. Ellipses and phraseological reiteration are slightly less frequent. All such transformations with the exception of reiteration are sure to involve changes exclusively in the structure of phraseological units. The authors of the chapter have also proved that the genre peculiarity of the

Internet commentary determines the special use of phraseological units by the authors of comments.

Different types of transformations of phraseological units in the works by D.H.Lawrence are in the focus of attention of Kazan scholars Elena Arsenteva and Nailya Gololobova. The conclusion that 18% of all the phraseological units found in selected works by D.H.Lawrence are transformed by the author is of great interest. The following types of the author transformations were analyzed in the paper: substitution of lexical component or components, insertion of lexical component(s), addition of lexical component(s), ellipsis, phraseological reiteration, extended phraseological metaphor, phraseological saturation, phraseological pun, phraseological contamination.

Elena Ivanyan and Alena Klyushina devoted their paper to the results of investigation of phraseological units with the semantics of extreme in Russian discourse. 348 examples from three areas of Russian discourse were analyzed: scientific, literature and printed media discourse. The following results are of major importance: phraseological units with the verbal markers of the Russian linguistic view of the world is common to all three Russian discourse areas; two features of Russian linguoculture – "concentration on extremes" and the description of the state of affairs as a set of events that cannot be controlled or understood – are presented in the printed media; high-frequency periods of phraseological unit frequency coincided with two peak periods of the collective image of the past: the 1860s – the period of reforms and transformations in Russia, and the last decade of the 20th century.

An insight into Tatar cultural phraseological and lexical units in the novels by prominent Tatar writers Gayaz Ishaki and Amirkhan Eniki is presented in the work of Kazan scholars. Discoursal behavior of culturally marked idioms, types of context and means of translation are the subject of the research. The results of the investigation show that, firstly, phraseological units are either used without any transformations, or suffixes are added to the components of them in Tatar; secondly, culturally marked lexemes should be translated by using the mono lexeme equivalent, in mandatory combination with a detailed cultural and historical reference.

Transformations of phraseological units in political discourse is the focus of attention of Liliia Mirgalimova, Gulnara Gimaletdinova and Liliia Khalitova. The conclusion made is that political blogs both in English and Russian revealed transformations of phraseological units at lexical, grammatical, and structural levels. Transformations at the level of lexical stability include component substitution, attributive (adverbial) extension, deletion of the component(s), and contamination. Violation of morphological stability in the form of adding prefixes was revealed at the grammatical level. Violation of structural stability in political blogs includes inversion, passivization, and contamination.

The chapter of Brazilian scholar Maria Luisa Ortiz Alvarez is devoted to the study of language units with transferred meaning in journalistic texts. The results of the investigation vividly show us that journalism has much to offer readers in terms of contact with everyday experience and the exercise of textualizing reality, using metaphors and other figures of expressive language with the function of illustrating, describing and producing concepts.

Phraseological units in English fairy tales and the problems of their comprehension by young children are analyzed in the paper by Roza Ayupova and Elza Garipova. Three levels of comprehension difficulty were found out during the research. On the whole, it is stated that contextual use of phraseological units is not popular in texts of English fairy tales, and only rather simple types of transformations such as component(s) substitution, and deletion may be found in them.

Peculiarities of the phraseological unit “bear corner” in different Russian discourses are under investigation in the chapter of OlgaParshina and Irina Gurova. The authors come to the conclusion that this phraseological unit may be considered as a language sign of the Russian culture as it represents the semantic field of a province, which expresses a wide range of historically evolved national cultural connotations. The paper presents the description and results of the experiment based on the materials of the National Corpus of the Russian Language in which the unit “bear corner” functions in fiction and journalistic discourses in the period between 1857 and 2018.

Instantial use of metaphorical phraseological units is the object of investigation of Nina Soboleva, Gelinia Gilazetdinova and Aida Sadykova. The paper focuses on the study of metaphorical PUs and their creative (instantial) use in film advertising discourse, aiming to combine both traditional and cognitive views on studying these stable word-combinations. The authors come to the following conclusions: the creative use of phraseological units with modifications in taglines serves as an effective way to attract potential recipients, since a short advertising text harboring instantial phraseological units is rich in imagery, expressiveness, originality; it can be characterized by a high degree of readability and easily memorized by the addressee.

The chapter of Slovak researchers Ol’ga Csalová, Pavol Burcl, Zuzana Kozárova and Elena Zelenická is dedicated to the study of phraseological units in headlines of news websites' reports on coronavirus in Slovakia.

The authors have focused on the latest researched material in selected tabloid and non-tabloid news report headlines. The results of the study prove the fact that phraseological units and phraseological constructions of folk provenance represent a material that serves both the imagery and the emotional charge of journalistic report headlines.

The Internet discourse is another "genre" analyzed in the paper of Rausa Khayrullina and Flyuza Fatkullina. It is stated that there is a tendency of constantly forming new phraseological units in the Internet discourse as they reflect modern socio-cultural trends in the development of the society and penetrate into the national language much faster than in the XXth century due to a great number of the Internet users. Besides, many typical phraseological units acquire new features due to their transformations and language play.

Pragmatic aspect of discoursal use of phraseological transformations in classical works of English and Russian authors is analyzed in the paper dealing with five types of occasional transformations of phraseological units in both languages: wedging, substitution, inversion, phraseological reiteration and extended metaphor. The conclusion is made that transformed phraseological units render certain information, enhance evaluative, emotional and expressive facets of denotative meaning of phraseological units in the works of English and Russian authors.

The last, third part of the book contains works devoted to the experimental study of discoursal use of phraseological units. In this respect Kazan scholars continue the experimental research of phraseological unit potential in terms of the implementation of possible transformations started by the American researcher R.G. Gibbs and his colleagues at the University of California.

The first paper of Elena Arsenteva, Yetzaneth Del Valle Diaz and Inkander Yarmakeev is devoted to the experimental study of two most difficult types of phraseological unit transformations: extended metaphor, and phraseological saturation of context. The purpose of the linguistic experiment was to identify the possibility of using the correct transformation mechanism of English phraseological units denoting a person's age, and their adequate translation into Russian by non-native English speakers. The experiment proved to be successful.

An insight into the experimental use of phraseological units with a name of a person by profession as a component in the English and Russian languages is presented in the work of Leysan Galyavieva, Elena Varlamova and Liliia Sirazova. Three types of PU transformations, namely component(s) substitution, component(s) deletion, and phraseological saturation of context are under analysis. The conducted linguistic experiment confirmed the effectiveness of component(s) substitution and deletion in search of the key component(s).

The last paper of Igor Guryanov, Yulia Arsentyeva and Radif Zamaletdinov is devoted to the description of the experimental study of recognition and translation of bookish phraseological units in English and Russian. The experiments convincingly prove the fact that identification and translation of phraseological units require more time. Besides, the majority of the experiment participants resort to translation of non-equivalent phraseological units into another language by using descriptive translation, lexical translation and combined translation.

As is shown the book presents the analysis of different problems connected with the discoursal use of phraseological units of different languages, and we hope that it will help those working in this field of phraseology.

CORE AND INSTANTIAL USE OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS

CHAPTER ONE

LITERAL AND METAPHORICAL MOTION IN CONTEXT: THE CASE OF SPANISH AND ARABIC PHRASAL VERBS

ANTONIO PAMIES[1], YARA EL GHALAYINI[2]

1. Motion, displacement and satellites

The English term *motion* may be quite ambiguous if compared to *displacement*, a concept which identifies better the class of verbs entailing a final change of location of their agent with respect to the beginning of the event. Thus, *dance, run, swim, walk*, or even *move*, do not belong to this class, since such movements may end in the same place where they had begun, whereas *go*, *come*, *climb*, *enter* or *cross* belong to a more specific category, which internally encodes a process that ends somewhere else (cf. Tesnière 1959, 307-308). Although Stolova defines the "motion verbs" as

> "*those verbs that express self-propelled motion of the subject which involves a change of place: translocation*" (Stolova 2015, 4),

this description corresponds in fact to *displacement verbs*. This lexical-semantic distinction often has direct grammatical consequences, such as, for example, the change of auxiliary in the compound tenses in French, Italian, German or Dutch, where the intransitive verbs of displacement require the auxiliary "to be" instead of "to have"[3].

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[3] In these languages "be born", "die" and "become" also need the auxiliary "be", since these events are culturally associated to a displacement to a new place: fr. *il*

fr. *je **suis** venu* (*I am come) ≠ *j'**ai** dansé* (*I have danced);
it. ***sono** venuto* (*I am come) ≠ ***ho** ballato* (*I have danced);
grm. *ich **bin** gekommen* (*I am come) ≠ *ich **habe** getanzt* (*I have danced);
nl. *ik **ben** gekomen* (*I am come) ≠ *ik **heb** gedanst* (*I have danced).

For the displacement to succeed, there must be a form of self-propulsion and a direction, which not all languages code "inside" the verb. The well-known typology of Talmy (Talmy 1985, Talmy 2000, 49) distinguishes between *satellite-framed languages*, and *verb-framed languages* depending on how they lexicalize the direction (*path*). In one type, this direction is absent: the verb only denotes the form of propulsion (*manner*), whereas the orientation is indicated in an external element (prepositional or adverbial) called *satellite,* as in Germanic, Slavic, Finno-Ugric and Chinese languages[4]. In the other type, the verb contains an inherent *path* but no information about the *manner*, as in Romance and Semitic languages, among others (Talmy 2000, 221, 240-247, Alshehri 2014).

*Pablo **salió** de la escuela corriendo* *Paul exit+PAS3p of ART school running	*Paul ran **out** of the school*
*la botella **entró** flotando en la cueva* *ART bottle enter+PAS3p floating in ART cave	*the bottle floated **into** the cave*

Arabic would totally coincide with Spanish at this point, since both languages use abstract directional verbs: FROM THE INSIDE OUTWARDS (خرج *exited), FROM BELOW UPWARDS (ارتفع /صعد *climbed) FROM THE OUTSİDE İNWARDS (خل□ *entered) etc., leaving the *manner* for another (optional) subordinate verb (p.ej. ركضاً *running), whereas Germanic languages specify a concrete *manner* (*walk, run; ride, drive; fly; swim*) leaving the *path* to a locative complement (*in /out /up /down*) (cf. Wienold and Schwarze 2002; Cifuentes Férez 2008, Maalej 2011).

---

es né, il est mort, it. *è nato, è morto*, al. *er ist geboren; er ist tot*; nl. *hij ist geboren*; *hij ist dood*.

[4] For Talmy et al. (Talmy 2000, 222), there are various types of satellites depending on the language: *particles* of the English *phrasal verbs* or the German *separable verbs*, but also the *prefixes* of the Latin and Slavic verbs, or lexical components of the Chinese *compound verb*, etc.

*(él) **salió** corriendo* *(he) exited running	خرج ركضاً ***kharaja*** *rakDan* *(he) exited running	*he **ran** away*
*(él) **se fue** nadando* *(he) went swimming	ذهب سباحةً ***dhahaba*** *sibāhtan* *(he) went swimming	*he **swam** away*
*(él) **entró** arrastrándose* *(he) he entered crawling+himself	جاء يجر نفسه ***ja‘a*** *yajuru nafsahu* *(he) entered crawling himself	*he **crawled** in*
*(él) **subió** las escaleras corriendo* *he climbed ART stairs running	صعد الدرج ركضاً ***sa‘ada*** *aldaraj rkDan* *(he) climbed ART+stairs running	*he **ran** up the stairs*

However, there are other possibilities that violate this distribution. In both Spanish and Arabic, the mark of the *manner* is not necessarily a second verb. E.g, eng. *he ran up the stairs*, could also be translated with an almost identical system than its English counterpart: sp. *corrió escaleras arriba* / ar. *ركض الدرج لفوق rakaDa ad-daraj lafwq* (‘he ran the stairs upwards’) (Louhichi 2015). In real translations, the two opposed schemes do not necessarily match with the typological prediction, since both models may be available for the same sentence in a given language.

(1a) **sp**. *salió de la habitación arrastrándose*
*(he) exited from the room crawling
ar. خرج جراً من الغرفة *kharaja jarran min alghurfatih*
*(he) exited crawling from the room

(1b) **sp**. *se arrastró fuera de la habitación*
(*he crawled out of the room)
ar. *زحف خارج الغرفة zahafa_kharij alghurfatih*
(*he crawled out of the room).

(2a) **sp**. *el agua entró filtrándose* (*y estropeó la pintura*) /
(*the water entered filtering+self [and it+spoiled the painting])
ar. خل الماء متسرباً (وأتلف الدهان)□*dakhla alma‘ mutasarban (wa ‘tlafa ad-dihan*).
(*entered water filtering [and it+spoiled the-painting])

(2b) **sp**. *el agua se filtró hacia dentro* (*y estropeó la pintura*) /
(*the water itself filtered towards inside [and it+spoiled the painting])
ar. تسرب الماء إلى الداخل (وأتلف الدهان) ár. *tasarraba alma‘ ‘ila ad-dakhil* (*wa ‘tlafa ad-dihan*).
(*filtered the water towards inside [and it spoiled the painting]).

2. Phrasal verbs

The English phrasal verbs (Bolinger 1971) have their correlation in Romance languages, where they are called nowadays *syntagmatic verbs* (Simone 1996)[5], and also in Arabic, where they are called *prepositional verbs* (e.g. Al-Naser 2010, 43-49).

This construction is also an association between a verb and a postponed locative particle (adverbial or prepositional), just as in the satellite pairings, but distinguished from the latter by two essential facts: it is functionally equivalent to a single indivisible unit in the sentence, and semantically, its global meaning is not "calculated" from that of its components (Bolinger 1971).

On the one hand, the phrasal verb has a unitary, indivisible and lexicalized metaphorical meaning (e.g. *blow out*), on the other hand, the components of the satellite verbs preserve their original meaning, therefore their global sense is compositional (*run down* [the stairs] = "run"+"down"), they may even allow the order inversion between verb and particle: *down went the soldiers*; *back hopped the frog* (Jackendoff 2002: 75), whereas a phrasal verb cannot (*blow out* but **out blow*).

- *get by* "to succeed with the least possible effort or accomplishment";
- *drop off* "to fall asleep";
- *fall out* *to cut off relations over a quarrel";
- *take up* "to respond favorably to" etc.

Grammatically, the phrasal verb differs from the combination (V+Prep) because, in the latter, the locative particle heads a prepositional phrase, whereas, in the phrasal verb, the particle is merged into a single unit:

---

[5] Although they are very typical of English and other Germanic languages (Bolinger 1971, Crystal 1995, Booij 2001), Luque-Durán pointed out long time ago (Luque-Durán 1972) the existence of phrasal verbs in Spanish, followed by other authors investigating about Spanish, Italian, French, Portuguese and Catalan (Simone 1996, Jezek 2002; Masini 2005; 2009; 2016; Calvo Rigual 2008; Iacobini 2009; 2015; Diemoz 2016; Artusi 2016; Penas 2016; 2018; Diemoz 2016; Pamies 2019a, 2020a; Pamies & Pazos 2020; Pamies, Pazos & Mironesko 2019).

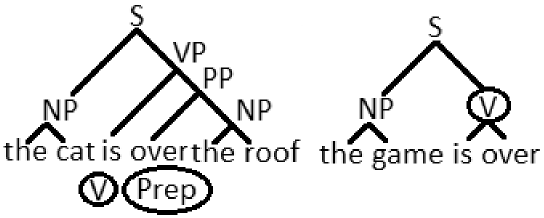
S
VP
PP
NP
NP
the cat is over the roof
V
Prep
S
NP
V
the game is over

Fig.1.
(*cf.* Penas 2018: 245-246).

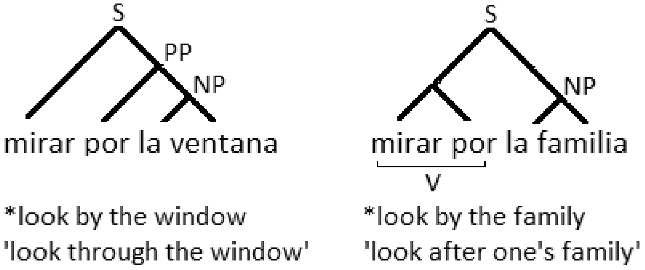
S
PP
NP
mirar por la ventana
*look by the window
'look through the window'
S
NP
mirar por la familia
V
*look by the family
'look after one's family'

Fig.2.
Free combination vs. phrasal verb
(Pamies & Wang 2020).

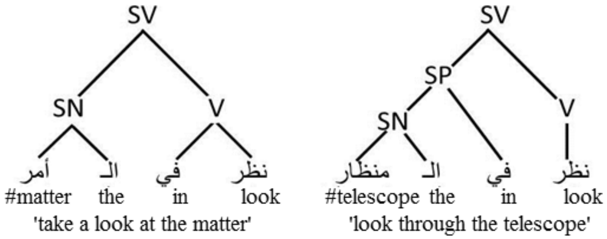
SV
SN
V
أمر
الـ
في
نظر
#matter
the
in
look
'take a look at the matter'
SV
SP
SN
V
منظار
الـ
في
نظر
#telescope
the
in
look
'look through the telescope'

Fig. 3.
(from right to left): free combination vs. phrasal verb

Some obvious examples of Spanish and Arabic phrasal verbs would be:

sp. *echarse atrás* *throw+self backwards "not to comply a deal or promess"

venirse abajo *come+self downwards “collapse”
caer mal *fall badly “be unpleasant / unfriendly”
meterse con put+self with “tease” [someone]
pasar de *pass from “ignore / despise” [someone / something]
salir adelante *exit forwards “survive”
hacerse a *make+self at “get used to”
pasarlo bien *pass well “enjoy” / “have a great time”
echar abajo *throw downwards “destroy”
sentar bien *sit well “make feel good”, etc.

ar. يترك على جنب *yitrik ‘ala janab* *leave aside “to margin”
ينهي على *yunhy ‘ala* [*finish on] “exterminate”
وقعوا عليهم *waqa‘wu ‘alayhim* *fall on “attack collectively”
يتخلص من *yatakhals min* *break+self from “get rid of”
يتدخل في *yatadakhal fy* *put self into “get involved”
ولد لأجل *wulida li‹ajl* *to be born for “have a strong vocation for” /
طلع بـ. *tili‘bi* *exit by “to cost”
رجع في *raja‘ fy* *return in “not to comply a deal or promess”
يتطلع إلى *yatatal‘‹ila* *look towards “wish to obtain” , etc.

Even in English, satellite verbs and phrasal verbs are different categories, despite their surface formal identity, such as *run down*$_{(I)}$ and *run down*$_{(II)}$, since the former is syntactic while the latter is phraseological.

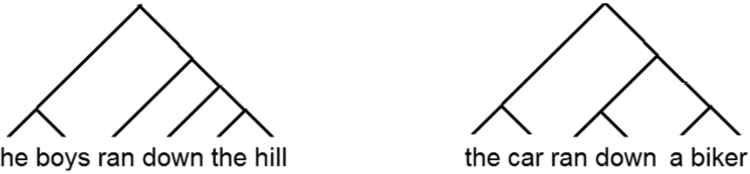

Fig.4. Homonymy between a satellite verb and a phrasal verb

However, the Spanish and Arabic equivalents of these sentences do not need two verbs:

a) In the first one Spanish and Arabic use a satellite verb exactly as English:

sp. *los niños corrían colina abajo* (*the boy **ran** hill **down**). ركض الأولا□ التلة إلى الأسفل *rakaDa al‹awlad at-talah ila al‹asfal* (***ran** the-boys the-hill for **the-down**).

b) In the second one, Spanish and Arabic use a lexicalized “single verb”, which merges the motion and the manner:

> sp. *El coche atropelló a un motociclista*. (*the car **crushed** a biker); اصطدمت السيارة بسائق الدراجة النارية *istadamat as-sayara bisaʿiq ad-darajah al-naryah* (***crushed** the-car with driver the-motorbike).

The fact that some languages (among them Spanish and Arabic) have phrasal verbs, even though they hardly have any satellite verb, confirms the opposition between both categories. Even so, the border between satellite verbs and phrasal verbs is not always evident, as, for example, when, by metonymy, motion is causative and, therefore, does not really entail a displacement of the subject. In eng. *the boy blew **out** the candle,* there is a manner verb (*blow*) followed by a satellite expressing a path (*out*), but *blow* is not a displacement verb. If we look at the translations into verb-framed languages, there are two verbs as predicted by the rule (sp. *el niño **apagó** la vela soplando* /ar. الولد أطفأ الشمعة نفخاَ *al-waladu **ʿtfaʿa** as-sham‘atah nafkhan* *the boy extinguished the candle blowing). However, “extinguish” is not a *motion verb* and does not entail any *path*, whereas the second verb (“blowing”) expresses both *manner* and *path*. Therefore, it seems that the metonymic use is quite less prototypical.

3. 3. Metaphoric motion

Phraseology also abounds in images where motion is just a source domain to conceptualize other kinds of action (cf. Pascual Aransáez 1999, 132). Conversely, "real" motion may be represented as another type of event. English satellite verbs are often translated figuratively by idioms in Spanish and Arabic from. E.g., eng. *fly away* translated as sp. *emprender el vuelo* (*undertake the flight), *alzar el vuelo* (*raise the flight) or ar. *ʿinṯalaqat ar-riẖlah* إنطلقت الرحلة (*undertake the-flight). It seems therefore that satellite verbs have been studied in a "syntactico-centric" approach, without paying enough attention to the specificity of *figurative* motion (cf. Özçalışkan 2003: 189).

If they are metaphoric images, the expressions of displacement become more unpredictable in every language, as in the idioms which map the cognitive domain CHANGE OF PLACE into the domain CHANGE OF STATE, in order to conceptualize SENSATIONS or FEELINGS (cf. Stolova 2015). Thus, for example, in English, French, (Brazilian) Portuguese and Arabic, LOVE is conceptualized as a VERTICAL DISPLACEMENT DOWNWARDS (eng. *to fall* *in love;* fr. *tomber amoureux;* pt. *estar caidinho por ela*; ar. وقع في الحب *waqa‘a fy alhub*).

By contrast, in Spanish, Romanian or Russian, the equivalents of *falling in love* are represented as a DISPLACEMENT INWARDS (sp. ***en**amorarse,* rmn. *se **în**drăgostească,* rs. ***в**любиться*)*,* whereas, in other Slavic languages, it is represented as a DISPLACEMENT BEYOND A LIMIT (sb. се **за**љуби*;* cr. *se **za**ljubiti*; cz. *se **za**milovat* (Pamies 2018,2019b). Manner and direction remain essential, but they are no longer distributed according to Talmy's typology. We may observe something similar in the expression of FEAR, DREAM or DRUNKENNESS, where the distribution of the metaphorical models among these languages does not coincide with that of LOVE: (Pamies and Iñesta 2000; Iñesta and Pamies 2002; Pamies 2018).

This phenomenon is not limited to phraseology. The most basic verbs, such as *ir* /ذهب ('go') *venir* /أتى ('come'), stand out for their huge and varied polysemic productivity, either as isolated words or as generators of idioms and pragmatemes.

(a) as a simple word:

ojalá vengan tiempos mejores *God+wish **come** times better "I wish that better times will come".

ان شاء الله الأيام الجاية أحسن *‘nshalah al‘ayam aljayeh ‘ahsan* *God+wish days that will **come** better "let's hope that better times will come".

el hombre viene del mono *the man **comes** from the monkey "monkeys are the origin of human beings".

أصل الإنسان القر□ ‘sl al‘insan al qird *the man **comes** from the monkey "monkeys are the origin of human beings".

el periódico trae más información *the newspaper **brings** more information "there is more information in the newspaper".

في الجريدة تأتي أخبار أكثر, *fy aljarydah ta‘ty ‘khbar ‘akhthar* *in the newspaper **comes** more information "there is more information in the newspaper".

(b) as a component of a phrasal verb:

este departamento ha venido a menos *this department has **come** to less "this department is not what it used to be".

el lunes no me viene bien *the Monday not for+me **comes** well "Monday doesn't suit me".

el sistema se vino abajo: *the system self+**came** down "the system collapsed".

الموظف أتى على الشركة *almuwathaf ‘ataa ‘ala ash-sharikah* *the employee **came** on the company "the employee destroyed the company.

النظام أتى بفوائد *an-nitham ‘ataa bifawa‘id* *the system **came** with benifits "the system brought benifits".

(c) as a component of an idiom:

hacer lo que nos viene en gana * do what to+us **comes** into desire “he does what appeals to him”.
بيعمل إلي بيجي برأسه *by‘mil ‹ily byijy ‘ala rash* *he does what **comes** to his head.
no me vengas con excusas *don’t to+me **come** with excuses “don’t try to justify what you did”.
ما تيجيني بأعذار *ma tyjyny bi‹thar* *don’t to+me **come** with excuses “don’t try to justify what you did”.
se me va la memoria *to+me memory **goes** “I am losing memory”.
عم تروح ذاكرتي *‘am bitroh thakirty* *to+me memory **goes** “I am losing memory”.
¿a qué viene eso? *to what **comes** that? "what is the reason for saying that?”.
من وين إجيت بهذه الافكار؟ *min wyn ‹jit bihathi al‹fkar* *from where did you **come** with these ideas? “where did you get these ideas from”.

(d) as a component of a pragmateme:

¿cómo te va? *how to+you it+**goes**? “how do you do?”
كيف ماشية معك؟ *kyf mashyeh m‘ak?* *how it **goes** with you? “how do you do?”
كيف الأمور ماشية؟ *kyf elomwr mashyeh?* *¿how **goes** the thing? “how do you do?”;
vamos tirando *we+**go** pulling [upwards] “I’m doing fine”
احلين□ *dahlyn* {Jord.}*we+**go** down “I’m doing fine”
The comparison between Arabic and Spanish is striking in the case of *vamos tirando* /احلين□ *dahlyn*: both use a plural pronoun for a singular referent and metaphoric motion verbs, although with opposed paths: upwards in Spanish and downwards in Arabic.

(e) Grammaticalized as an auxiliary of aspectual periphrases

*me **voy** a jubilar pronto*: *self I+**go** at retire soon “I will retire soon”;
رح أتقاعد قريبا *rah̲ ‹tka‘ad qaryban* *I **go** to retire soon “I will retire soon”;

Conversely, "real" displacement can also be expressed by idiomatic expressions, reducing the predictability of crosslinguistic equivalences and contextual translations. Even the most prototypical satellite verbs (as *run out*) may be paraphrased with phrasal verbs (*clear off*; *brush off; dash off*) or hyperbolic idioms (*to leg it*; *take to one's heels; to show a clean pair of* *heels*; *to bit it quick; to hotfoot it*)[6], whose Spanish and Arabic equivalents do not necessarily use the "predicted" sequence.

sp. *salir pitando* (*exit whistling)*;*
salir disparado (*exit shot+off)*;*
poner pies en polvorosa (*put feet into dusty);
tomar la del humo (*take the smoky one).

ar. هرب يجري ساقيه أعلى من راسه *harab yijry saqyh ‘a‘la min rash* (*exit escaping his feet higher than his head) {Tun.};
خرج مصفراً *kharaja mus̱afiran* (*exit whistling) {Jord.};
طلع مثل الطلقة ṯili‘ mithil at-ṯlaqa (*exit like a bullet) {Jord., Egyp.}.

4. Metaphor and context

In the language system, phrasal verbs often have several meanings, a polysemy that the co-text, the context and/or some shared presuppositions disambiguate in current discourse. A good example of it is the Spanish sequence *estar detrás de* (*be/stay behind of) and its Arabic counterpart (هو وراء/يكون وراء). When it is literal, it is a regular syntactic combination with a locative meaning ('being behind' [something or someone]), whereas this sequence becomes quite ambiguous when it functions as a phrasal verb, with at least four figurative meanings (Pamies & Pazos 2018), which, in principle, oppose each other according to certain contextual features, forming its *phraseographic contour* (Mellado 2018)[7]. The Spanish sequence has been analyzed into a medium-sized lemmatized corpus (*Timestamped JSI*) with 157 million tokens (Pamies & Pazos 2018), where 1052 occurrences of <*estar detrás de*> have been detected, and the contextual meaning of each token has been verified. Interestingly, the (literal) syntactic combination is far from corresponding to the majority: less than 9% of occurrences correspond to this compositional meaning, whereas more than 91% of the occurrences correspond to the other (phraseological) meanings. The Arabic equivalent sequence has been analyzed, using a medium sized lemmatized corpus (*arTenTen*) with 8000 million tokens (also through *Sketchengine*), where 11,209 occurrences of هو وراء/يكون وراء *huwa wara‘/ yakwn wara‘* have been detected, and the results were similar to those obtained in Spanish, though with a few discrepancies.

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[6] English idioms taken from Weibel (2004) and Hotten (2013).

[7] sp. *contorno fraseográfico.*

The question that arises is: would it be possible, in a much larger corpus, to automate, the discrimination process between the five contextual meanings that have been detected "manually" in the previous experiment? This will depend, first of all, on the accuracy of the recognition of each *contour*.

The first meaning (**A**) is a literal combination, with a **locative** value ('to be located at the rear of something [or someone] in space'). Its frequency is surprisingly low: 8.65% in Spanish and 10% in Arabic.

el que ***estaba detrás de*** *mí se hacía el dormido* [8].
*he that **was behind of** me made himself the asleep
‘the one behind me was pretending to be asleep’
con ese arte que conservan los que de toda la vida ***han estado detrás de*** *una barra*[9]
*with this art kept by those that since all the life **have been behind of** a bar
‘with the art of those who have been working in a bar all their life’.
الصف الأول **هو** الذي يلي الإمام **من ورائه** (*as-saf al‘awal huwa alathy yaly al‘imam men wara‘h*)[10]
*row first is the one which is behind of the imam
‘the first row is the one behind the imam’.

In Arabic, there may be a semantic difference, since the literal equivalent of هو وراء (‘behind’) also includes ‘beyond’, thus, points not only to ‘the rear part’ but also, in a more general way, to ‘the other side’.

E.g.
مواطن أقاليم **ما وراء** البحار البريطانية (*muwatin‘aqalym ma wara‘ albihar albirytanyah*)[11]
*citizen of territories **behind of** the seas British.
‘citizen of British Overseas Territories.

The second meaning (B) has a figurative **causative** value ('to be the hidden [or unknown] responsible of an event'), corresponding to the great majority of occurrences (82.03% in Spanish and 84% in Arabic):

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[8] Diario Sur. [03-05-2018]. Accessed April 2, 2019. https://www.diariosur.es/costadelsol/ataque-racista-pegaron-20180503230552-nt.html.
[9] Accessed April 3, 2019. http://blogs.runners.es/material/2009/02/
[10] Islamweb. [26-07-2011]. Accessed November 4, 2020. https://www.islamweb.net/ar/fatwa/161667/.
[11] Rahhal. 2020. Accessed November 13, 2020. https://rahhal.wego.com/blog/.

la mano del hombre ***estuvo detrás de*** *más de la mitad de los 117 incendios forestales*[12]
*the hand of+the man **was behind of** more than the half of the 177 fires forest
‘more than half of the 117 forest fires were intentional’.
كشفت مصا□ر متابعة لصحيفة "الجريدة" الكويتية أن "حزب الله **هو وراء** التظاهرة امام السفارة الأميركية (*kashafat masdir mutabi‘ah lisahyfat “aljarydah” alkuwaytyah ‘ana hizbu allah huwah wara‘ at-tathahurah ‘amam as-safarah al‘mrykyah*) [13].
*revealed sources follow-up to the Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Jarida, that "Hezbollah **is behind of** the demonstration in front of the American embassy"
‘follow-up sources to the Kuwaiti newspaper, Al-Jarida, revealed that Hezbollah incited the demonstration in front of the American embassy’.

The head of the prepositional complement is usually a noun, designating an action whose responsible is more or less concealed. Apart from a few generic hyperonyms, the words that occupy this *contour* share a common connotative feature: they are abstract nouns designating actions or activities which have been already carried out, harming someone. For example:

acto (‘act’), *acontecimiento* (‘event’), *fracaso* (‘failure’), *iniciativa* (‘initiative’), *proyecto* (‘project’), *reforma* (‘reform’), *plan* (‘plan’), *difusión* (‘diffusion’), *propagación* (‘propagation’), *campaña* (‘campaign’), *manifestación* (‘demonstration’), *boicot* (‘boycott’), *huelga* (‘strike’), *compra* (‘purchase’), *rumor* (‘rumor’), *denuncia* (‘denunciation’), *querella* (‘lawsuit), *acusación* (‘accusation’), *mentira* (‘lie’), *calumnia* (‘slander’), *filtración* (‘leakage’), *violencia* (‘violence’), *ataque* (‘attack’), *disturbios* (‘riot’); *conspiración* (‘conspiracy’), *golpe de estado* (‘coup d'état’), *represión* (‘repression’), *asesinato* (‘murder’), *masacre* (‘massacre’), *envenenamiento* (‘poisoning’), *asalto* (‘assault’), *accidente* (‘accident’)...

التحولات *at-tahwlat* (‘transformations’), السبب *as-sabab* (‘reason’), تجميد *tajmyd* (‘freezin’), المشكلة *al-mushkylah* (‘problem’), التهديدات *at-tahdydat* (‘threats’), طموح *tamwh* (‘ambition’), العملية *al‘amalyah* (‘operation’), الأخطار *al‘khtar* (‘dangers’), الجريمة *al-jarymah* (‘crime’), المشروع *al-mashrw‘* (‘project’), السلوك *as-sulwk* (‘behavior’), الإغتيال, *al‘ghtyal* (‘assassination’), الفضيحة *al-faDyha* (‘scandal’), افع□dafi‘ (‘motive’) اختطاف ‘ikhtitaf (‘kidnap’), استقالة *‘istiqalah* (‘resignation’), العنف *al‘unf*

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[12] La opinión de Murcia. [29-05-2018] apud. Sketchengine. Accessed April 3, 2019.

[13] Elnasra. [25-11-2019]. Accessed November 6, 2020 https://www.elnashra.com/news/show/1367198 (access: 06-11-2020).

(‘violence’), *al-hadith* الحادث (‘accident’), إعتداء *ʿtida* (‘assault’). مذبحة *mathbaha* (‘massacre’), مؤامرة *muʿamarah* (‘conspiracy’), انتحار *ʿintihar* (‘suicide’), إصرار ʿisrar (‘determination’), خديعة *khdy‘ah* (‘deception’), الحريق *alharyq* (‘fire’)...

A contextualized example would be:

ما يجري هو موجة عنف وفوضى وتدمير الممتلكات **يقف وراءه** مجموعات تريد إشاعة الفوضى
(*ma yajry huwah mawjat ‘unf wa tadmyr lilmumtalakat yaqyf waraʿhu majmw‘at turyd ʿisha‘at alfawDa*)[14]
*What is going on is a wave of violence, chaos and property destruction, **behind of** which **are** groups want to create chaos.
‘What is going on is a wave of violence, chaos and property destruction, carried out by groups that want to create chaos’.

In a few cases, this position is occupied by concrete nouns, designating people or institutions. It corresponds to an indirect causative chain, where the agent of the event is known, but acts in turn on behalf of someone else, who remains on the sly.

*mientras los partidos políticos **estén detrás de** las asociaciones de estudiantes la mayoría seguirá pasando de votar*[15].
*while the political parties **are behind of** the associations of students the majority will+continue passing from vote
‘as long as political parties will control student associations, the majority will keep on abstaining from voting’.
من وراء نشاط "داعش" في العراق ولماذا؟ (*man waraʿ nashat “da‘ish” fy al ‘iraq wa limatha?*) [16]
*who **is behind of** the activity of ISIS in Iraq and why?
‘who is financing the activities of ISIS in Iraq ad why?’

In the subject position (left contour), there are concrete nouns, whose referents should not commit such acts, hence their need to hide when they do them:

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[14] Almadenahnews. [02-06-2020]. Accessed November 6, 2020. https://www.almadenahnews.com/article/832856.

[15] Periodistas Valencianos. Accessed June 5, 2020. http://www.periodistasvalencianos.es/noticias/seccion-jovenes/id-159/noticia/campus-jove-gu-aveu-nngg-elecciones-universitarias.html).

[16] Alalamtv. [30-04-2020]. Accessed November 13, 2020. https://www.alalamtv.net/news.

...acusó a Irán de ***estar detrás de*** *los terroristas de Hamás*[17]
*accused Iran of **being behind of** the terrorists of Hamas
‘he/she accused Iran of secretly financing Hamas terrorists’.

In addition to personal proper names, we find in subject position names of institutions or collectivities, such as:

estado (‘state’), *organización* (‘organization’), *empresa /compañía* (‘company’), *consorcio* (‘consortium’), *sociedad* (‘society’), *prensa* (‘press’), *cadena televisiva* (‘TV channel’), *candidatura* (‘candidacy’), *trama* (‘plot’), *red* (‘network’), *lobby* (‘lobby’), *gobierno* (‘government’), *sindicato* (‘trade union’), *partido* (‘party’), *asociación* (‘association’)...

Sometimes, by metonymy or metaphorical personification, it may happen that the agent, in turn, is another action, referring to a chain of events, where the first, causing the second, is metaphorically conceptualized as a hidden person, in order to highlight that the causal relation between both facts was (more or less) unknown before:

el síndrome metabólico ***está detrás de*** *casi un 10% de los tumores hepáticos primarios*[18]
*the syndrome metabolic **is behind of** almost 10% of the tumors liver primary
‘the metabolic syndrome is the cause of 10% of primary liver tumors’.
ضغط إيراني **هو وراء** تزويد العراق للنظام السوري بالمحروقات (*Daght ‘irany huwah wara tazwyd al‘iraq lilnitham as-sury bil mahruqat*)[19]
* Iranian pressure **is behind of** Iraq providing the Syrian regime with fuel
‘The Iranian pressure is the reason that makes Iraq provides Syrian regime with fuel’.

Although these are open word lists, the sum of the contour characteristics clearly distinguishes this meaning from the literal one, and also from the other figurative values.

The third meaning (**C**) has a **desiderative** value ('to want/seek' [sth/sb]), and it only appears in 3.42% of the occurrences in Spanish. The left contour is a noun phrase designating persons or institutions, whereas the right contour is a noun phrase designating the object of a a desire whose compliance can never be achieved prior that of the VS itself.

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[17] La Prensa [16-05-2018]. Accessed June 5, 2019. https://www.elcaribe.com.do/.
[18] Ecodiario.eleconomista.es [07-05-2018]. Accessed April 15, 2019.
[19] Syrian economic. [12-05-2019]. Accessed November 4, 2020. http://syrianeconomic.net/home/2019/05/12/.

However, in Arabic, it is more common to find this value in the variant يسعى وراء (*yas‘a wara‘*), where ‘be’ is replaced by ‘seek’ يسعى (*yas‘a*). The Arabic sequence is less frequently used (2.5%) than its Spanish counterpart.

> *ha comentado que las ‘Águilas’* ***estarían detrás de*** *un lateral izquierdo para el torneo*[20]
> *has commented that the 'Eagles' would+**be behind of** a lateral left for the tournament
> ‘he/she has commented that the 'Eagles' would be looking for a left winger for the competition.
> يجب أن يكون هناك هدف واضح **من وراء** استخدام الصوت والفيديو (*yajib ‘an yakwn hunak hadaf waDih min wara‘ istikhdan as-sawt wa alvideo*)[21] .
> *there must **be** a clear objective **behind of** the use of voice and video.
> ‘a clear objective must have motivated the use of voice and video.

Another peculiarity of this meaning is that, if the right *contour* is a verb, it must be a simple infinitive (188 cases), since desire is conceptually oriented towards the future (this property is not found in Arabic):

> ***estoy detrás de*** *comprar una silla de piel o cuero con ruedas*[22].
> *I+**am behind of** buy a chair of skin or leather with wheels.
> *I want to buy a leather chair whith rollers.
> *no me extraña que la banca* ***esté detrás de*** *hacerse con_las pensiones públicas*[23].
> *not me surprises that the bank **is behind of** making+self with the pensions public
> ‘it is no wonder that the banking sector wants to takeover the public pensions’.

The fourth meaning (D) has a **comparative** value ('to be inferior in order'), with a frequency of (4.18%) in Spanish, and even less in Arabic (1.5%). It establishes a hierarchy between individuals, collectives or institutions. Both right and left contour generally exclude verbs and

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[20] Trome. [02-05-2018]. Accessed April 3, 2019.

[21] 123job.org, (apud. Sketchengine). Accessed November 13, 2020.

[22] Vogue. Accessed April 15, 2020. http://foros.vogue.es/viewtopic.php?f=49&t=164270&start=25/.

[23] El Digital de Madrid. Accessed April 15, 2019. http://www.eldigitaldemadrid.es/articulo/comunidad-de-madrid/1438/rato-propone-prolongar-la-edad-de-jubilacion-porque-la-actual-data-de-1900/p1).