

Multi-word verbs with the particle OFF and their Croatian counterparts

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Studij: Dvopredmetni sveučilišni preddiplomski studij engleskoga jezika i
književnosti i hrvatskog jezika i književnosti

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Višerječni glagoli s česticom *OFF* i njihovi hrvatski pandani

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Mentor: doc. dr. sc. Goran Milić

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Abstract

Multi-word verbs, often simplifyingly named ‘phrasal verbs’, are one of the parts of English language which trouble foreign students the most. Their complexity and multiformity sometimes gives translators a headache when trying to come up with a suitable counterpart. Mastering them gives someone a greater understanding of the language and vastly expands their vocabulary. This paper, based on analysis of verbs extracted from Mark Twain’s *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, shows how phrasal verbs with the particle *off* are translated into Croatian language and what the meanings are that the particle and its Croatian equivalent, in the form of a prefix, can denote.

Key words: multi-word verbs, particle *off*, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain, Croatian counterparts

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1) Introduction

Students of English language often find themselves struggling with multi-word verbs, particularly because of their wide semantic diversity. The particle following the verb can drastically alter the meaning of the whole unit, or even be extremely opaquely related to the verbs, as to render the meaning of the whole semantically-non-transparent and idiosyncratic, so they are often learnt by heart. Their idiomacity is suitable for use in informal varieties of a language.

The goal of this paper is to present multi-word verbs with the particle *off* and their Croatian equivalents. The verbs will be extracted from Mark Twain's novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and its Croatian translation from Bulaja's translation of the book. In the first part of the paper the theoretical background will be provided, showing all types of multi-word verbs and listing several grammatical tests which can be used to differentiate between the types and mitigate any ambiguities. As will be seen, a number of theoretical and methodological difficulties remain despite the tests, which stem from their theoretically and practically challenging semantic and syntactic nature. Possible meanings of the particle *off* appearing in the examples extracted from the corpus is presented.

The second part of the paper provides an analysis of verbs chosen from the book, using the aforementioned tests. Each example is followed by the definition, Croatian translation and comment regarding the meaning of the particle and its correspondence to the Croatian equivalent. Finally, a conclusion commenting on the results is provided.

Before dealing with the particle *off* and its syntactic and semantic characteristics, multi-word verbs and its types will be defined along with examples for the better understanding of the theory.

2) Multi-word verbs

The online version of the *Cambridge Dictionary* defines multi-word verbs as “verbs which consist of a verb and one or two particles or prepositions.” The non-verbal part can be a preposition which then in combination with the verb makes up a prepositional verb (e.g. *get off*). The non-verbal part can also be combined with an adverb making it the phrasal verb (e.g. *take off*). The last possibility is the most complex one; a combination of verb, particle and preposition called phrasal-prepositional verb (e.g. *put up with*).

There is a tendency nowadays, especially in ELT, to put all these types under the name ‘phrasal verb’ which is wrong because the phrasal verb is just one type of a multi-word verb. This statement can be supported by the fact that nearly all books dealing with multi-word verbs have that collocation in their title (e.g. *Phrasal Verbs Dictionary*, which deals with all types of multi-word verbs and not just with phrasal verbs) and that in grammars multi-word verbs are sometimes put under the title ‘Phrasal verbs’ (e.g. in Cambridge’s *English Grammar in Use*)

In the following chapters types of multi-word verbs will be individually described by providing their syntactic and semantic properties followed by examples.

2.1) Phrasal verbs

Stefan Thim (2012: 1) explains that “for a long time phrasal verbs have been regarded as the most characteristic feature of the English language. “ Thim (2012:1) also states that as early as

in 1712, Michael Mattaire in his English Grammar “described the basic syntactic peculiarities of the English verb-particle construction.” The term ‘phrasal verb’ dates back to 1925 when it was used by Logan Pearsall Smith in his work *Words and Idioms* (Dixon 1982: 2)

Phrasal verbs are categorized based on their ability to take the complement, which completes the meaning denoted by the verb. Verbs that take objects as their complements are labeled as ‘transitive’ and those that do not as ‘intransitive’.

2.1.1) Intransitive phrasal verbs

Phrasal intransitive verbs do not require an object to complete their meaning. Such verb consists only of a verb and an adverb particle, e.g. *The tank blew up.*

These verbs are very often used in informal contexts and the meaning of the verb cannot be inferred from the meanings of its constituents, e.g. *The war broke out in 1939* – by trying to comprehend the meaning of *broke* and *out* separately, no result will come out from it. In this example, the combination of the verb *broke* and the particle *out* stands for ‘started’ – *The war started in 1939.*

One problem that arises is mixing intransitive phrasal verbs with free combinations. However, the main distinction is that in free combinations “the verb acts as a normal intransitive verb, and the adverb has its own meaning” (Quirk et al. 1985: 1152).

2.1.2.) Transitive phrasal verbs

These verbs require a direct object in order to complete the meaning denoted by the verb; the action denoted by the verb has to be transferred to an object, e.g. *He took out **the trash.*** The verb without an object would be meaningless and the sentence ungrammatical . It is also important to distinguish

them from free combinations by looking at the meaning of the constituents, e.g. *He fell off the wagon* (=started drinking alcohol again) / *He fell off the bed*. This also confirms their high idiomaticity.

Some verbs can be used both transitively and intransitively, more often than not with a difference in the meaning of the combination, e.g. *He turned up* ('increased') *the volume* / *He turned up* ('appeared').

2.2.) Prepositional verbs

As the name suggests, prepositional verbs are composed out of a preposition and a verb, to which it is a complement. Quirk et. al (1985: 1155) divide them into two types: Type I and Type II prepositional verbs.

2.2.1.) Type I prepositional verbs

This type of a prepositional verb can be understood as intransitive as it does not require a direct object, or it could be argued that it is monotransitive as there is a noun phrase that complements the preposition, These verbs “consist of a lexical verb followed by a preposition with which it is semantically associated” (Quirk et al. 1985: 1155).

In the sentence ‘*He pays for the meal.*’ the noun phrase following the preposition is labelled as ‘prepositional object’ It is important to distinguish Type I prepositional verb from transitive phrasal verbs, the tests for which will be explained later on.

2.2.2.) Type II prepositional verbs

These verbs can be understood as transitive or ditransitive, based on the theory/terminology we choose to follow. “Type II prepositional verbs are followed by two noun phrases, normally separated by the preposition: the former is the direct object, the latter the prepositional object” (Quirk et al. 1985: 1158).

In the sentence ‘*He thanked me for my help*’ the preposition *for* is preceded by a direct object ‘me’ and it is also followed by the prepositional object ‘my help’.

2.3.) Phrasal-prepositional verbs

This type of multi-word verb is structurally the most complex one as it consists of a lexical verb, and both an adverb and a preposition. Quirk et. al (1985: 1160) state that they are mainly found in informal English, e.g. *He had to **put up with** a lot of teasing at school.*

Their idiomaticity is visible in that they can be paraphrased with a single word: *He had to **tolerate** a lot of teasing at school.*

They also can be Type I (without direct object) and Type II (with direct object):

I: *We **look forward to** new semester.*

II: *He **took** his anger **out on** Jim.*

In the second sentence, ‘his anger’ is behaving as the direct object.

3) Syntactic tests

In order to differentiate between various types of multi-word verbs and free combinations, there are several grammatical tests that can help determine the type of the construction.

3.1.) Substitution

Phrasal verbs are often mixed with free combinations because of their similar structure, but the fact that the meaning of the phrasal verb cannot be inferred from its individual constituents leads to the substitution. In the sentence ‘*He **put off** the meeting.*’ the phrasal verb *put off* can be replaced by ‘*postponed*’

“There are many phrasal verbs for which only approximate single-word synonym exist (e.g. *blow up = explode, call off = cancel*), however some phrasal verbs do not have any single-word synonym or partial synonym. (Dixon 1982: 4)

*I didn't like Avicii's new album, but it **grew on** me. / I didn't like Avicii's new album, but I **liked it more and more as time passed.***

3.2) Insertion of a modifying adverb

Another test to distinguish phrasal verbs from free combinations is to insert a modifying adverb between the verb and the particle. Generally, insertion is often possible in free combinations and unacceptable with phrasal verbs.

*Walk **straight** in.* **The tank blew **right** up.* (Quirk et al. 1985: 1153)

3.3) Position of the particle

This test can help to distinguish transitive phrasal verbs from Type I prepositional verbs since “with most Type II phrasal verbs, as with free combinations of the same pattern, the particle can either precede or follow the direct object” (Quirk et al. 1985: 1153)

*Julia **cut off** her hair. / Julia **cut** her hair **off.***

The restriction occurs when personal pronoun is used as an object:

Julia cut it off. / **Julia cut off it.*

Type I prepositional verbs do not allow the particle movement:

He is looking for a job. / **He is looking a job for.*

3.4.) Stress

Quirk et.al (1985: 1157) state that “in the Type II phrasal verb , a higher degree of stress (including nuclear stress when the particle is in final position) usually falls on the adverb particle. In the prepositional verb, on the other hand, the stress normally occurs on the lexical verb preceding the particle.”

He 'called on the dean. -> *The dean was called on.*

She switched 'on the light. -> *The light was switched on.*

3.5.) Adverb fronting

Another way to distinguish free combinations from Type I phrasal verbs is to place the adverb in front of the verb with S-V inversion, it is a test generally applicable only to free combinations:

**Out broke the war in 1939.*

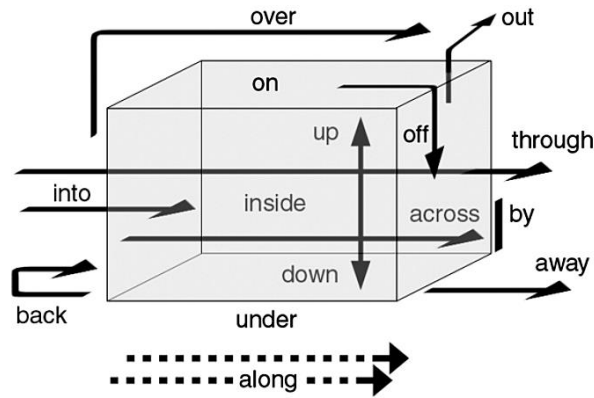
Out came the Sun.

4) The meaning of the particle *off*

As it has been stated, multi-word verbs consist of a verb and its complement(s) and the complement modify and complete the meaning of the verb. As mentioned earlier, when analyzing multi-words verbs one can face a problem when deciding whether the particle carries purely transparent meaning or an idiomatic one. “Many phrasal verbs are said to be impossible to understand on the

basis of their constituting elements, verb and particle... it is no wonder then that even advanced students often show a poor command of phrasal verbs and use them rarely.” (Rudzka-Ostyn 2003:

3)



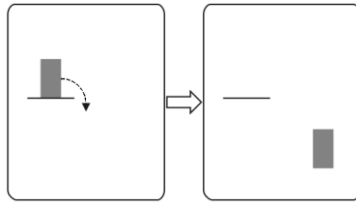
Picture 1 (Rudzka-Ostyn 2003: 4)

According to *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language* “the words which follow the lexical verb in expressions like *drink up*, *dispose of* and *get away* are morphologically invariable and they are given the neutral designation *particles*.” (Quirk et al. 1985: 1150)

Quirk et al. (1985: 1151) state that the articles that follow the lexical verb can be categorized either as prepositions or spatial adverbs (also named ‘prepositional adverbs’) and the particle *off* can be both. The particle *off* does not always require a following noun phrase as a complement (e.g. *He ran off*) which is one of the most obvious differences in distinguishing prepositions from adverbs. According to Rudzka-Ostyn (2003:3) the particle *off*, after *up* and *out*, is the third most frequently used particle and it has several meanings:

1) **loss of spatial contact or spatial separation** – the most important meaning

“Due to the law of gravity loss of physical contact or separation generally results in a downward motion.” (Rudzka-Ostyn 2003: 122)



Picture 2 (Rudzka-Ostyn 2003: 121)

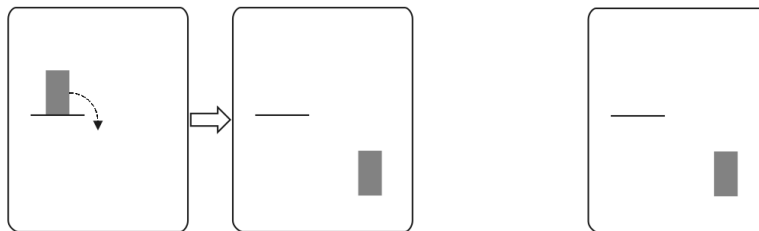
The following examples are given to illustrate this specific meaning:

- a) He *fell off* a ladder and broke both of his legs.
- b) *Break off* the dead branches of the rose bush.
- c) Could you *slice off* about 10 cm of this piece of wood please?

2) **separation as loss of contact**

Objects occupy a certain space or surface and leaving it can be denoted by using the particle *off*.

The mention of the surface is optional.



Picture 3 (Rudzka-Ostyn 2003: 123)

Rudzka-Ostyn has provided several examples:

- a) *Keep off* the grass! the sign said.
- b) Why haven't you *sent* these letters *off* yet?

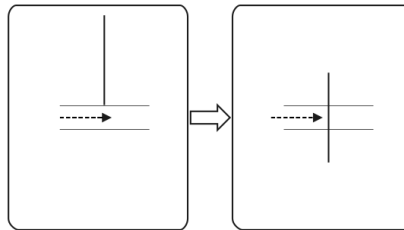
“Additionally, the particle *off* can also be used when an object has no contact with another object or when an area loses contact with its neighbouring area.” (Rudzka-Ostyn 2003: 124)

Several examples are given to present this meaning:

- a) The injured cyclist was *rushed off* to hospital.
- b) She *drove off* to the station to catch the last train home

3) **separation as interruption of flow/supply**

The particle off also expresses interruption of flow/supply and this meaning is often metonymic. For example, turning the water off means in fact the process of turning a tap. The potential amount of water in this case is separated from the already supplied amount.



Picture 4 (Rudzka-Ostyn 2003: 125)

Some of the many examples given are:

- a) The gas has again been *cut off* for two hours. (somebody shut off the valves)
- b) Don't forget to *switch off* the lamp. (press the button)

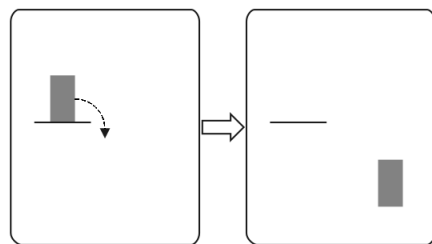
“Other parts of reality such as relations, traffic, cables, speech can also be viewed as consisting of a flow and as a result off can be used to indicate an interruption of it.” (Rudzka-Ostyn 2003: 126)

The following sentences exemplify this notion:

- a) The moderator *cut* the sneering speaker *off*.
- b) Due to a serious accident the motorway was *blocked off* for the rest of the day.

4) **separation due to motion away from its former state, condition or point of reference**

“Loss of physical contact i.e. spatial separation can be extended to any situation in which an object or entity is separated or freed from a given state or condition, or in which one element – no matter how abstract – becomes dissociated from some other element.” (Rudzka-Ostyn 2003: 128)



Picture 5 (Rudzka-Ostyn 2003: 126)

Dozens of examples are given and the ones that depict this concept the best are:

- a) The factory will *let off* about one third of its workers.
- b) His terrible moodiness *turns me off*.
- c) Many people try to *keep off* fats, sugar and other unhealthy products.
- d) Since he started drinking I have *written him off*.

The particle *off* can also be used in a metaphorical sense to present that the current state is different from the one which serves as a comparison.

A few examples show this particular use of the particle *off*:

- a) What a relief! I am *off* all the antibiotics now. (the person moved away from the state in which s(he) took antibiotics)
- b) Young girls sometimes like to *show off* a bit at parties. (At parties they steer away from their normal state of behavior)

The *Oxford Phrasal Verbs Dictionary* lists several meanings that particle *off* can denote:

- 1) departing (*set off, take off, see off*)
- 2) starting (*start off, spark off, lead off*)
- 3) ending (*break off, ring off, call off*)
- 4) becoming less (*wear off, level off, cool off*)
- 5) finishing completely (*finish off, pay off, sell off*)
- 6) rejecting or dismissing (*write off, laugh off, shake off*)
- 7) resisting (*fight off, ward off, hold off*)
- 8) removing (*cut off, take off, rub off*)
- 9) dividing and separating (*black off, fence off, divide off*)
- 10) being absent from work or school (*skive off, bunk off, slip off*)
- 11) drawing attention (*show off, sound off, set off*)
- 12) using (*live off, feed off, run off*)
- 13) exploding (*set off, blast off, go off*)
- 14) cheating (*rip off, fob off, pal off*)

5) Methodology

The research for this paper was conducted by extracting all multi-word verbs with the particle *off* using the Adobe Acrobat Pro PDF reading and editing software and its search function. The research was conducted on the digital copy of Mark Twain's novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

Croatian translation will be provided for every example, using the PDF version of the book *Pustolovine Huckleberryja Finna*; Bulaja Naklada d.o.o., Zagreb, 2018 translated by Zvonimir Bulaja. Alongside the translation, the verb analysis will be presented with the addition of the verb definition, taken from Cambridge, MacMillan and Oxford online dictionary. Each example will be followed by comment regarding the meaning of the particle *off*.

6) Results and analysis

The result showed that the particle off appeared 98 times and after grouping the verbs that appeared multiple times, 76 different multi-word verbs were found and categorized by using the aforementioned grammatical tests. Phrasal verbs appeared in 64% (49 verbs), 52% of which were transitive. Only four prepositional verbs were found (5.3%). Phrasal-prepositional verbs were more common and 9 verbs (11.8%) of such type were found. Free combinations appeared the most after phrasal verbs, with 14 verbs (18.4%) found.

The analysis following will present an overview of illustrative examples in order to illustrate the most commonly occurring cases of verbs and their correspondences. An appendix for a full list of the verbs isolated from the corpus, and classified according to their type, can be found at the end of the paper. All verbs listed in appendix have undergone thorough testing with the aforementioned syntactic tests and for every verb there are at least two tests that confirm its classification. Some verbs, however, appear in multiple categories, which only shows their polyvalence.

1. to chop something off

definition: to cut off part of something with a sharp tool

sentence examples: *Jim told me to **chop off** the snake's head.* (Twain 2005: 59)

*He used to marry a new wife every day, and **chop off** her head next morning.* (Twain 2005: 167)

translation: *Jim mi reče da zmiji **odrežem** glavu.* (Twain 2018: 54)

*On bi oženio drugu ženu svaki dan, a onda bi joj sljedeće jutro **odrubio** glavu.* (Twain 2018: 135)

After applying the aforementioned grammatical tests to this particular verb, it can be categorized as a phrasal transitive verb as it requires a direct object to fulfill its meaning. The verb can be substituted with single word verb such as *amputate* or *sever* (e.g. *Jim told me to **sever** the snake's head.*) According to Rudzka-Ostyn, the particle here denotes spatial separation since the head is no longer connected with/on the man's/snake's head. This verb has two Croatian equivalents, *odrezati* and *odrubiti*. They are synonymous, although *odrubiti* indicates using a sword. Both of them have prefix *-od* which in Croatian language has the same meaning as in English, i.e. (figuratively) denote loss of contact and both of them are transitive too, requiring a direct object in accusative (*Odrubiti/odrezati što*)

2. to let something off

definition: to fire a gun or make a bomb

sentence example: *Stand away!" and the cannon **let off** such a blast right before me that it made me deaf with the noise and pretty near blind with the smoke, and I judged I was gone.* (Twain 2005: 43)

translation: – *Mičite se! – a top **opali** takav hitac točno ispred mene da sam od buke oglušio, a od dima skoro pa oslijepio i mislio sam da sam gotov.* (Twain 2018: 44)

The tests have shown that this is a phrasal transitive verb and its Croatian equivalent is *opaliti*, which can be both transitive (*Opalio je hitac.*) and intransitive (*Pištolj je opalio.*), which is also the case when it comes to its English counterpart. It is formed by combining the prefix *-o*, which is an allomorph of *-ob*, with verb *paliti*. The particle *off* here indicates separation due to motion away from its former point of reference, i.e. the cannon produced a loud sound and sound waves left the space of a cannon. In the Croatian language it indicates a buckshot leaving the barrel of a gun.

3. to rattle off something

definition: to say something quickly, especially something that you have learned by memory

sentence examples: (...) *I wanted to be handy with it and **rattle it off** like I was used to it.* (Twain 2005: 110)

*Buck said she could **rattle off poetry** like nothing.* (Twain 2005: 114)

translation: (...) *pa sam se na njega htio naviknit, da ga mogu brzo **izbiflat**,* (Twain 2018: 91)

*Buck je rekao da je mogla **sipat** poeziju ko ništa.* (Twain 2018: 94)

This is a phrasal transitive verb and it is very informal; it can be replaced by *recite* (e.g. *Buck said she could **recite** poetry like nothing*). According to Rudzka-Ostyn, the particle denotes separation due to motion away from its given state or condition, and it also proves how separation is extended to abstract elements. Two different translations were found in Croatian version of the book, *izbiflati* and *sipati*, both of which are also very informal and could be replaced by *recitirati*. The former is formed by combining the prefix *-iz* with verb *biflati*. The prefix *-iz* in Croatian denotes moving something or someone inside out or bottom-up which corresponds to the English meaning, which indicates that the sound produced is leaving the mouth. The verb *sipati* used in this context is normally found in slang (e.g. *sipati kao iz rukava*) and could be argued to be figurative in nature (lit. pour sth.), which seems to encapsulate the quick movement and/ or change inherent in the semantics of the verb.

4. to cool off

definition: to become cooler after being very hot

sentence example: *Next we slid into the river and had a swim, so as to freshen up and **cool off**...*
(Twain 2005: 129)

translation: *Zatim bi se bacili u rijeku i malo plivali, da se osvježimo i **razladimo**...* (Twain 2018: 129)

The particle used with this verb denotes separation from its former state, i.e. separation from heat. This intransitive phrasal verb translates into Croatian as *rashladiti*, although Huckleberry says *razhladiti*, which is a result of his uneducation. The Croatian counterpart can be used transitively too (e.g. ***Rashladio** je sok.*) The verb is formed by prefix *-raz* combined with verb *hladiti*. The prefix corresponds to the implied meaning of the particle *off*

5. to knock off something

definition: to stop doing something, especially work

sentence example: *I'm for **knocking off** and lightning out.* (Twain 2005: 191)

translation: *Ja sam za to da **zatvorimo** radnju i palimo odavde.* (Twain 2018: 152)

To *knock off something* is an intransitive phrasal verb and it can be replaced by *close* or *stop* in this sentence. The particle here denotes separation due to motion from its former state, i.e. separation from the state of being open and working. The verb is translated into Croatian as *zatvoriti* and it is transitive (*zatvoriti što?*). It is formed by the prefix *-za* combined with verb *tvoriti*. The prefix in the Croatian language has multiple meanings, one of which is encompassing something from the sides and as a whole, and in this context the shop area is encompassed by walls.

6. to touch off something

definition: to make something unpleasant or dangerous happen

sentence example: *I'll up and tell the truth this time, though it does seem most like setting down on a keg of powder and **touching it off** just to see where you'll go to.* (Twain 2005: 203)

translation: *Stat ću i reć istinu ovaj put, iako mi sve to skroz sliči na ono kad sjedneš na bure baruta pa ga **zapališ** samo da vidiš kuda ćeš odletit.* (Twain 2018: 159)

To touch off is a transitive phrasal verb and the particle in this example denotes loss of spatial contact as gun powder will leave the keg when it is ignited. The verb is informal and can be replaced by *ignite*. It is translated as *zapaliti* in Croatian, which would correspond to *ignite*. *Zapaliti* is formed by combining the prefix *-za* with verb *paliti*. The prefix has the inchoative meaning.

7. to die off

definition: to die one after the other until there are none left

sentence example: *"My folks was living in Pike County, in Missouri, where I was born, and they all **died off** but me and pa and my brother Ike."* (Twain 2005: 138)

translation: *"Moji su živili u okrugu Pike u Missouriju, gdje sam rođen, i svi su **izumrli** osim mene i ćaće i mog brata Ikea."* (Twain 2018: 112)

To die off is an intransitive phrasal verb and its Croatian counterpart, *izumrijeti* has the same meaning. The particle here denotes separation due to motion from its former state, in this case separation from life. *Izumrijeti* is formed by combining the prefix *-iz* with verb *umrijeti*. In the Croatian language the prefix *-iz* indicates finiteness, which corresponds to the particle *off* since the life has ended and a new state has occurred.

8. to keep off something

definition: to avoid mentioning a particular subject; to prevent somebody/something from coming near, touching

sentence example: (...) *but I hadn't ever heard anybody say it was any way **to keep off** bad luck when you'd killed a spider.* (Twain 2005: 5)

*We caught fish and talked, and we took a swim now and then **to keep off** sleepiness.* (Twain 2005: 71)

translation: (...) *al nisam nikad nekoga čuo da kaže da postoji neki način da se **otjera** nesreća kad se ubije pauka.* (Twain 2018: 19)

*Lovili smo ribu i pričali, a i zaplivali bi tu i tamo da **odagnamo** pospanost.* (Twain 2018: 64)

This is a transitive phrasal verb as it requires a direct object and according to Rudzka-Ostyn the particle *off* denotes separation as a loss of contact. The example shows not only that the particle *off* denotes spatial separation from a neighboring area, but also that abstract elements, such as luck, can be included and metaphorically dissociated from the elements. In this context two Croatian translations were found, *otjerati* and *odagnati.*, both of which are transitive. The prefix *-od* denotes separation from something which corresponds to the aforementioned meaning of the particle *off*.

9. to doze off

definition: to start to sleep, especially during the day and without intending to

sentence example: *So he **dozed off** pretty soon.* (Twain 2005: 35)

translation: *I tako je uskoro **zadrijemo**.* (Twain 2018: 37)

To doze off is an intransitive phrasal verb and it could be replaced by fall asleep, e.g. So he fell asleep pretty soon. According to Rudzka-Ostyn the particle off here denotes separation due to motion away from its previous state; separation from the state of wakefulness. Croatian translation is *zadrijemati*, which is formed by combining the prefix -za with verb *drijemati* which means to be half asleep. The prefix -za has inchoative meaning; beginning to fall asleep.

10. to leave off

definition: to stop doing something

sentence example: (...) *and the parson begun his solemn talk where he **left off***. (Twain 2005: 196)

translation: (...) *a župnik nastavi svoj svečani govor tamo di je bio **stao***. (Twain 2018: 155)

This is an intransitive phrasal verb and it is somewhat informal so it could be replaced by *stop*, e.g. ...*where he stopped*. The particle *off* here denotes separation due to motion away from its previous state; separation from talking and producing sounds. The verb is translated into Croatian language as *stati*, the meaning of which is ‘to stop’ and it corresponds to the English version. The verb is also intransitive in the Croatian translation.

7) Conclusion

The present analysis of Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* has shown that the particle *off* appears mostly with phrasal verbs, the majority of which are transitive. Free combinations followed in terms of frequency and only several prepositional and phrasal-prepositional verbs were found. Croatian equivalents of the analyzed verbs were mostly formed by combining the prefix with the verb, which is one of the most productive word formation processes.

The particle *off* in most cases directly corresponds, in semantic terms, to the prefix used in Croatian language. For example, prefix *-od* in Croatian language denotes loss of contact/spatial separation and it is completely equivalent to the particle *off* in *odrezati/odrubiti* as in both languages the verb would be incomplete and would lead to ambiguities without the prefix or the particle. In some instances, the Croatian equivalent is formed by the prefix which has inchoative meaning, i.e. with the prefix that denotes the beginning of an action (e.g. *starting to fall asleep – to doze off/zadrijemati*). This shows how prefix in the Croatian language can also indicate the change of aspect.

The analysis has also shown that the Croatian language follows Andre Martinet's principle of language economy as most of the phrasal verbs are translated into Croatian language as a single word verb, e.g. *cool off* → *rashladiti*.

To conclude, this paper has not just provided an analysis on the topic of phrasal verbs formed with the particle *off*, but it has also shown to what degree is Croatian language similar and how it deals with providing adequate counterparts. A limited scope and corpus of the paper make it a pilot study which can provide adequate impetus for future studies on the same topic, especially those that would profit from relying on cognitive linguistic analyses in terms of the suggested theoretical constructs (conceptual metaphors and metonymies). Adding the results of this paper to the other written on similar topic will provide Croatian learners of English with better understanding of phrasal verbs.

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9) Appendix

9.1.) List of multi-word verbs from the *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

	English verb	Croatian counterpart
Phrasal verbs		
1.	Slip off	Skinuti
2.	Run off	Pobjeći
3.	Start off	Krenuti, otići
4.	Take off	Maknuti, skupiti, skinuti
5.	Flip off	Kvrcnuti
6.	Shake off	Tresti
7.	Blot off	Isprati
8.	Clean off	Očistiti
9.	Cross off	Prekrižiti
10.	Borrow off	Posuditi
11.	Drive off	Otjerati
12.	Put off	Zavlačiti
13.	Polish off	Uglancati
14.	Doze off	Zadrijemati
15.	Lay off	Izvaliti, prileći
16.	Float off	Plutati
17.	Let off	Opaliti, pustiti

18.	Slide off	Klisnuti
19.	Hove off	Baciti
20.	Keep off	Otjerati, odagnati, maknuti
21.	Carry off	Ponijeti
22.	Chop off	Odrezati, odrubiti, odsjeći
23.	Break off	Prekinuti
24.	Hack off	Nasjeći
25.	Steal off	Pokrasti
26.	Whack off	Otfikariti
27.	Smash(ed) off	Skršiti
28.	Sheer off	Mijenjati smjer
29.	Change off	Promijeniti
30.	Rattle off	Izbiflati, sipati
31.	Chip off	Oguliti
32.	Go off	Prasnuti
33.	Jump off	Skočiti
34.	Tramp off	Odgacati
35.	Cool off	Rashladiti
36.	Dye off	Umrijeti
37.	Wash off	Isprati
38.	Print off	Otisnuti
39.	Pull off	Skidati
40.	Cut off	Odrezati
41.	Skip off	Sjahati
42.	Draw off	Is crtati
43.	Caper off	Odskakutati
44.	Knock off	Zatvoriti
45.	Leave off	Stati
46.	Work off	Riješiti
47.	Touch off	Zapaliti
48.	Read off	Pročitati

49.	Scrawl off	Nažvrljati
Prepositional verbs		
50.	Fall off	Pasti
51.	Light off	Sjahati
52.	Shake off	Stisnuti
53.	Come off	Stići
Phrasal-prepositional verbs		
54.	Buy off from	Otkupiti
55.	Throw off to	Odbaciti
56.	Tumble off from	Odletiti
57.	Slip off up	Klisnuti
58.	Coax off from	Nagovoriti
59.	Skip off to	Poskočiti
60.	Dance off to	Otplesati
61.	Work off on	Svaliti
62.	Run off from	Uteći
Free combinations		
63.	Walk off	Otići, odšetati
64.	Crawl off	Otpuzati
65.	Slide off	Odgmizati
66.	Slip off	Klisnuti
67.	Run off	Uteći
68.	Shove off	Otisnuti
69.	Go off	Otisnuti, otići
70.	Start off	Krenuti
71.	Take off	Izvesti, skinuti,
72.	Be off	Otisnuti (se), otići, baviti se (nečim)
73.	Paddle off	Veslati
74.	Jump off	Skočiti
75.	March off	Odmarširati
76.	Roll off	Skotrljati