

# English multi-word verbs expressing the concept of PERSUASION, and their Croatian counterparts

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Undergraduate thesis / Završni rad

2017

*Degree Grantor / Ustanova koja je dodijelila akademski / stručni stupanj:* **Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences / Sveučilište Josipa Jurja Strossmayera u Osijeku, Filozofski fakultet**

*Permanent link / Trajna poveznica:* <https://urn.nsk.hr/urn:nbn:hr:142:689854>

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*Download date / Datum preuzimanja:* **2023-10-02**



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Preddiplomski studij Engleskog jezika i književnosti i Filozofije

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and their Croatian counterparts**

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Mentor: doc. dr. sc. Goran Milić

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## **ABSTRACT**

*This paper provides a brief overview of the types of multi-word verbs in English language. The types of multi-word verbs are phrasal, prepositional, and phrasal-prepositional. The paper touches upon each of the types while specifically focusing on multi-word verbs expressing the concept of PERSUASION. The analysis of the verbs includes the classification of said verbs by type as well as their usage in sentences, their definitions and Croatian counterparts as well as possible translational equivalents. The analysis shows that such verbs belong greatly to the group of prepositional verbs, and therefore have limited idiomaticity. That, however, does not mean their translation is easy due to the sheer number of different translational possibilities along with their motives that can be expressed.*

**Key words:** multi-word verbs, persuasion, phrasal verbs, prepositional verbs, translation, Croatian counterparts

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# 1. Introduction

The English language is known to have a huge number of verbs, which are able to express a huge variety of different feelings, actions, occurrences or states. This is not done exclusively by inventing a number of arbitrary words as it would unnecessarily flood the vocabulary, but rather by combining normal verbs with either adverbs or prepositions and giving them a different meaning which can be either fully based on the meaning of the components, or an idiomatic one.

This paper consists of three major parts. The first part deals with the theoretical background behind the multi-word verbs and includes, but is not limited to, the differences between the various types based on examples of sentences with multi-word verbs and other comments on the verbs themselves.

The second part of the paper concentrates on the differentiation between free combinations and multi-word verbs as well as specifying the exact type of multi-word verb used in the list of multi-word verbs expressing the concept of *PERSUASION*.

The third and final part of the paper is the research. Twenty seven different verbs expressing the concept of *PERSUASION* have been isolated and analyzed in both the source language which is English, and the target language which is Croatian. All of the translations were done by the author to showcase the uniqueness and value of multi-word verbs which increase the depth of a vocabulary by a huge margin compared to a language which does not use multi-word verbs in such a way.



## 2. Theoretical background

Almost every sentence consists of at least the three main parts: subject, verb, and object. This paper will be dealing with verbs, but not just any verbs. In order to broaden the number of possible meanings and usages, English language can add various prepositions to certain verbs, such as “bluff”, meaning “to deceive” (COD), to which “into” is added to form a multi-word verb with more of a persuasive meaning.

Such multi-word units are divided into three categories: phrasal verbs, prepositional verbs, and phrasal-prepositional verbs. Free combinations will be mentioned as well, since they share the form of multi-word verbs.

### 2.1. Phrasal verbs

Phrasal verbs consist of two parts: the main verb and an adverb particle (COD). The second component is mostly called a preposition as they do function as prepositions in literal constructions, such as “about”, “off”, “on”, but some also function as adverbs: “apart”, “aside” (Dixon 2). Dixon states that those account “for no more than 5% of the more than 800” he had surveyed (ibid.). Interestingly enough, Smith (qtd. in Thim 3) states that while there are some examples of phrasal verbs in other languages like German as he gives the example of “aufgeben” which behaves the same as its translation “give up”, the phrasal verb construction seems to be distinctively English.

COD makes an important point by stating that phrasal verbs often have meanings which are hard to guess from their individual parts. Therefore, non-native speakers of English often have problems with these verbs due to the need to learn them by heart, similarly to irregular verbs.

COD also states that the formality of phrasal verbs can be questionable, as in most cases a single word would be much more precise especially when presuming usage in formal documents:

- 1) We need to *sort* the problem *out*.
- 2) We need to *resolve* the problem.

Some further examples of phrasal verbs in context would be:

- 1) The book first *came out* in 1997 (COD).

- 2) I *gave up* the job there and headed for Brazil (qtd. in Thim 10).
- 3) After some negotiation, we *brought* him *round* to the idea.

The phrasal verb in 3) has a persuasive connotation and as such will be one of the verbs that have been selected for analysis later on.

## 2.2. Prepositional verbs

COD states that “prepositional verbs have two parts: a verb and a preposition which cannot be separated from each other” offering examples such as:

- 1) Someone *broke into* his car and stole his radio
- 2) Hannah *reminds* me of a girlfriend of mine.

It is evident that the separation can occur, as it does in 2), so the definition is lacking, even if it is still technically right. Therefore, it is better to say that “a prepositional verb consists of a lexical verb followed by a preposition with which it is semantically and/or syntactically associated (Quirk 1155).

The main difference between prepositional verbs and phrasal verbs is that prepositional verbs always mean exactly what the sum of their components means, so there is little to no idiomaticity. Secondly, unlike phrasal verbs which may or may not take objects, prepositional verbs, according to COD’s page on multi-word verbs, always have an object. Not only that, but in 2) there are two different types of objects, one being the direct object, and the second being the prepositional object. This type of prepositional verb is called a transitive prepositional verb as opposed to an intransitive prepositional verb in 1). However, since phrasal verbs may take an object, they might seem superficially similar to transitive prepositional verbs. Therefore, COD suggests a test where the object is moved before or after the particle:

- 1) Do you always *look up* every new word in a dictionary?
- 2) Do you always *look* every new word *up* in a dictionary?
- 3) Could you *look after* my bag while I go and buy the tickets?
- 4) \*Could you *look* my bag *after* while I go and buy the tickets?

The conclusion is very simple. If the degree of idiomaticity is disregarded, one can distinguish the phrasal verb in 1) and 2) from the prepositional verb in 3) and 4) by simply seeing if the

object can or cannot come before the particle/preposition. If the sentence structure holds up, the multi-word verb is phrasal. If the sentence structure fails, the multi-word verb is prepositional.

### 2.3. Phrasal-prepositional verbs

The third category of multi-word verbs describes those that contain both “an adverb and a preposition as particles” in addition to the verb (Quirk 1160). Such verbs include, but are not limited to, examples such as:

- 1) He had to *put up with* a lot of teasing at school.
- 2) Why don't you *look in on* Mrs Johnson on your way back?

Quirk states that the idiomaticity can be easily distinguished by the existence of a one word paraphrase such as “tolerate” for the example no. 1) and “visit” for the example no. 2), which is the case with phrasal verbs as well.

Quirk also states that there exist both the phrasal-prepositional verbs that do and those that do not require a direct object (Quirk 1160).

### 2.4. Free combinations

Quirk does not consider free combinations as multi-word verbs, and rightly so, but rather as a category of possible constructions for multi-word verbs (Quirk 1162). In free combinations, “the individual meanings of the components are apparent from their consistency in possible substitution” (Quirk 1162). Example of such a construction would be the verb “bring” coupled with either “in” or “out”, or the verb put with “on” or “under”:

- 1) She told me to *bring* the stereo *in* the house.
- 2) They *brought out* the dead for the undertaker.
- 3) They *put* the TV *on* the sofa for now.
- 4) We *put* all the boxes *under* the bed.

As we can see, the action is still the one of moving an object somewhere regardless of the actual preposition.

Depending on the degree of idiomaticity, Quirk describes two other categories, one of which is that of semi-idiomatic constructions where a component keeps its meaning even if the other one is changed; for example, both “drink up” and “use up” imply completion of a task (Quirk 1162). The other category is of highly idiomatic constructions such as “turn up” as in “make an appearance” or “come by” as in “acquire” (Quirk 1163).

### 3. Multi-word verb testing

There are specific tests to check if the multi-word verbs fall into the category of free combinations or phrasal verbs as well as to distinguish between the subtypes of the multi-word verbs

The tests to differentiate between free combinations and multi-word verbs are:

- 1) Semantic substitution
- 2) Insertion of a modifying adverb
- 3) Syntactic substitution
- 4) Placement of the adverb before the verb with subject-verb inversion
- 5) Adverb fronting

The tests to differentiate between types of multi-word verbs are:

- a) Passivization
- b) Stress placement test
- c) Particle placement test

We will illustrate these on some multi-word verbs expressing the concept of *PERSUASION*, as the focus of this paper.

1. *Argue into* – I let him argue me into anything.  
Adverb fronting – \*Into I let him argue me anything. (MWV)  
Particle placement – I let him argue me into anything/\*I let him argue into me anything.  
(PPV – transitive due to two objects – TPPV)
2. *Beguile into* – I let him beguile me into anything.  
Behaves the same as example no. 1)
3. *Blandish into* – I let him blandish me into anything.  
Behaves the same as example no. 1)
4. *Blarney into* – I let him blarney me into anything.  
Behaves the same as example no. 1)
5. *Bluff into* – I let him bluff me into anything.  
Behaves the same as example no. 1)
6. *Bring around* – I gave him a chance to bring me around.  
Semantic substitution – I gave him a chance to *convince* me. (MWV)

Particle placement test – I gave him a chance to bring around me.\* (TPPV)

7. *Browbeat into* – I let him browbeat me into anything.  
Behaves the same as example no. 1)
8. *Coax into* – I let him coax me into anything.  
Behaves the same as example no. 1)
9. *Coerce into* – I let him coerce me into anything.  
Behaves the same as example no. 1)
10. *Charm into* – I let him charm me into anything.  
Behaves the same as example no. 1)
11. *Con into* – I let him con me into anything.  
Behaves the same as example no. 1)
12. *Decoy into* – I let him decoy me into anything.  
Behaves the same as example no. 1)
13. *Dupe into* – I let him dupe me into anything.  
Behaves the same as example no. 1)
14. *Entice into* – I let him entice me into anything.  
Behaves the same as example no. 1)
15. *Get around* – I tried to get around my father, but to no avail.  
Semantic substitution – I tried to *circumvent* my father, but to no avail. (MWV)  
Passivization – My father got around, but to no avail.\* (IPV)
16. *Intimidate into* – I let him intimidate me into anything.  
Behaves the same as example no. 1)
17. *Inveigle into* – I let him inveigle me into anything.  
Behaves the same as example no. 1)
18. *Jolly into* – I let him jolly me into anything.  
Behaves the same as example no. 1)
19. *Lure into* – I let him lure me into anything.  
Behaves the same as example no. 1)
20. *Maneuver into* – I let him maneuver me into anything.  
Behaves the same as example no. 1)
21. *Mislead into* – I let him mislead me into anything.  
Behaves the same as example no. 1)
22. *Persuade into* – I let him persuade me into anything.  
Behaves the same as example no. 1)

23. *Seduce into*– I let him seduce me into anything.

Behaves the same as example no. 1)

24. *Sweet talk into*– I let him sweet talk me into anything.

Behaves the same as example no. 1)

25. *Talk into*– I let him talk me into anything.

Behaves the same as example no. 1)

26. *Tempt into*– I let him tempt me into anything.

Behaves the same as example no. 1)

27. *Wheedle into*– I let him wheedle me into anything.

Behaves the same as example no. 1)

### 3.1. Categorization of the above-listed verbs

The classification of the verbs is presented in Table 1.

Phrasal verbs	Get around
Prepositional verbs (transitive)	Argue into, Beguile into, Blandish into, Blarney into, Bluff into, Bring around, Browbeat into, Coax into, Coerce into, Charm into, Con into, Decoy into, Dupe into, Entice into, Intimidate into, Inveigle into, Jolly into, Lure into, Maneuver into, Mislead into, Persuade into, Seduce into, Sweet-talk into, Talk into, Tempt into, Wheedle into
Phrasal-prepositional verbs	-

**Table 1. Categorization of multi-word verbs expressing the concept of PERSUASION**

After testing every single verb chosen for this research, the results are clear, as twenty six of the verbs are transitive prepositional verbs, and only one is an intransitive phrasal verb. None of them are free combinations, which was to be expected. The research may seem uniform but this is not surprising considering almost every multi-word verb expressing PERSUASION that was taken into consideration consists of *verb + into*.

## 4. Research Design

A total of twenty seven multi-word verbs expressing the concept of *PERSUASION* have been selected for analysis through translation. The verbs have been taken from a number of online dictionaries such as Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, Oxford Online Dictionary, and Cambridge Online Dictionary and have mostly been selected as less popular variants than the single-word versions of themselves, such as “argue into” compared to “argue”.

The research of the corpus is divided as follows:

- 1) Identification of the multi-word verb in the source language via an example sentence
- 2) Analysis of the phraseological meaning
- 3) Translation of the phraseological meaning closest to the multi-word verb in the source language
- 4) Example sentence in the target language

Translations are always taken from EHSR if not stated otherwise, whereas the translation of the example sentence is given by the author to the best of her abilities, in order to show how much the actual translation differs from the dictionary entry due to the context in which the particular verbs are used, as well as due to potential lack of exact terms in Croatian language. After each particular study, a comment on the verb and the structural variant in L2 (Croatian) is given by the author.

The definitions of multi-word verbs expressing the concept of *PERSUASION* slightly vary from dictionary to dictionary. Some of them cannot even be found in every dictionary. If that is the case, it is noted next to the verb.

### 4.1. Analysis of the corpus

The verbs are ordered alphabetically depending on their English spelling, as English is considered to be the source language for the research, while Croatian is the target language.

#### 1. Argue into (OOD)

- 1) Sometimes, you can *argue* them *into* dropping the requirement but sometimes you cannot.
- 2) Persuade someone to do something by giving reasons



- 3) *Nagovoriti koga našto*
- 4) Ponekad ih možeš nagovoriti da zanemare kriterij, ali nekada to nijemoguće.

The first and the biggest problem with translating to Croatian arises as early as the first selected verb, the problem being the lack of words which could pinpoint the slight nuances between a verb such as “persuade” and “argue into”. In order to get the full point across in Croatian, other words would have to be added, making the sentence longer and possibly cluttering it too much. This, in turn, makes the translation from Croatian to English even more complicated, which points out to the lack of elegance possible in such translations.

An example of this would be: “Ukazavši na svoju stručnost i lojalnost, Marija me nagovorila da joj dam posao” which puts importance on arguing a point rather than persuasion through other means, but adds a whole sentence making it a thankless job for a translator.

## 2. Beguile into

- 1) They were *beguiled into* thinking they had heard the whole story.
- 2) To trick someone into doing something
- 3) *Obmanuti*
- 4) Bili su obmanuti misleći da su čuli cijelu priču.

The verb “beguile into” seems to correlate with its translation counterpart well enough, but one cannot help but feel that once again Croatian language lacks the refinement to express the severity of a person being beguiled but rather standardizing all the possible levels of deception into one or two moderately severe verbs.

## 3. Blandish into (MWOD)

- 1) They *blandished* her *into* doing all their work by complimenting her seamlessly.
- 2) To coax with flattery
- 3) *Laskati nekome*
- 4) Bestidnim laskanjem su ju nagovorili da obavi posao za njih.

The Croatian equivalent in this example lacks the persuasiveness aspect, which means another word has to be added, as was the case with “argue into”. However, this time it is the word denoting the persuasive aspect rather than the one which would unveil the subtleties in meaning.

## 4. Blarney into (OOD)

- 1) He had *blarneyed* the Jaguar driver *into* taking him along.

- 2) To influence or persuade using charm and pleasant flattery
- 3) *Ulagivati se, grubolaskati*
- 4) Uspješno se ulagivao vozaču Jaguara kako bi ga povezao.

The verb “ulagivati se” does not see a lot of use in Croatian and is mostly substituted by “laskati” or “ulizivati”, but none of those terms are assertive enough. Therefore, it can be inferred that “laskati” and “ulagivati se” share the same increase in severity as “blandish into” and “blarney into” do.

### 5. Bluff into

- 1) She *bluffed* the doorman *into* thinking she was a reporter.
- 2) To deceive someone by making them think that you are someone else
- 3) *Zavarati, blefirati*
- 4) Zavarala je vratara predstavivši se kao novinarka.

There is no viable way of emphasizing the “bluff” in Croatian other to change the verb into a noun. The sentence would retain its meaning and emphasized the “all-in” nature of bluffing if the translation was as follows: “Predstavila se kao novinarka na blef, no zavarala je vratara.” Still, such a translation uses a different sentence structure which utilizes a relative clause so the translation can be considered imperfect.

### 6. Bring around

- 1) I think he is the fellow to *bring* them *round*.
- 2) To persuade someone to do something, especially to adopt one’s point of view
- 3) *Pridobiti*
- 4) Mislim da je on taj koji će ih uspjeti pridobiti.

While the counterparts in question do seem to correlate well, it is important to add additional clarification to the translation into Croatian such as the implication that this was not the first attempt of persuasion. This phenomenon, present in other verbs as well, tells that the richness of the English language owes a lot to

### 7. Browbeat into

- 1) Earlier this week the Ministry tried to *browbeat* the teachers *into* compliance.
- 2) Intimidate someone into doing something
- 3) *Zaplašiti*

- 4) Početkom tjedna ministarstvo je pokušalo dovesti profesore u red metodama zastrašivanja.

In this translation it is almost impossible to use the exact verb as it does not mesh well enough with the rest of the sentence. Therefore, to have an elegant translation, conversion of the verb to a noun has been made along with collocating the word “zastrašivanje” with its tie-in “metoda”.

### **8. Coax into**

- 1) I smiled and walked faster, *coaxing* him *into* walking faster too.
- 2) Persuade someone gradually or by flattery to do something
- 3) *Laskati*
- 4) Nasmiješio sam se i ubrzao hod, ohrabrujući ga da učini isto.

Once again, Croatian language fails in its richness as the same official translation is found for the third time in just eight examples. However, the verb “ohrabriti (nekoga)” can be used in a semi-idiomatic form which gives a little room to work with for the translator. This would not work in every single use of “coax into”, so the translations may vary.

### **9. Coerce into**

- 1) They were *coerced into* silence.
- 2) Persuade (an unwilling person) to do something by using force or threats.
- 3) *Iznuditi, prisiliti*
- 4) Bile su prisiljene na šutnju.

The source and the target sentences are the exact same, which has been proven to be a rare occurrence. The sentences share the exact same structure in both language, having the exact same number of words as well. This leads to a conclusion that the difficulty the translator can find himself in can vary greatly.

### **10. Charm into (OOD)**

- 1) He *charmed* her *into* going out.
- 2) Use one’s ability to please and attract in order to influence (someone)
- 3) *Očarati<nekoga>, šarmirati da bi, zavesti*
- 4) Šarmom je došao do izlaska s njom.

This verb owes its trickiness concerning translation to the fact that Croatian language does not have a multi-word verb which is an exact translation to “charm into”, but rather uses the single

word variant, sometimes even being paraphrased into a noun in order to emphasize the importance of being persuasive through sheer charisma.

### 11. Con into

- 1) I *conned* him *into* giving me your home number.
- 2) Persuade someone to do something, typically by deception
- 3) *Nasamariti, prevariti*
- 4) Varkom sam ga natjerao da mi da tvoj kućni broj.

An alternative translation would be: “nasamario sam ga da mi da tvoj broj” which is good enough but lacks formality. OOD does consider the verbal use of the word “con” an informal one so the jury is still out on how the translation should look. As was the case with some of the previous examples, a non-strict one was used in order to avoid repeating the verbs or destroying the structure of the sentence just so the verb could be shoehorned in.

### 12. Decoy into (MWOD)

- 1) First time tourists were *decoyed into* spending their hard earned money
- 2) Luring into entrapment by artifice
- 3) *Namamiti*
- 4) Namamili su turiste novajlije u trošenje njihovog krvavo zarađenog novca.

As was the case with “coerce into”, the target and the source language sentences are extremely similar and the target language provides a precise, albeit idiomatic, verb to use.

### 13. Dupe into

- 1) The newspaper was *duped into* publishing an untrue story.
- 2) Persuade to do something by deception or trick
- 3) *Varati, nasamariti*
- 4) Nasamarene novine su objavile neistinitu priču.

Although “dupe into” has a lighter connotation to it than “con into”, both translations share the same words in Croatian. Thus, the translator to English would have to judge which verb to use simply out of context and knowledge about the usage of the verbs.

### 14. Entice into

- 1) The adverts *entice* the customer *into* buying things they do not really want.
- 2) To persuade someone to do something by offering them something pleasant

- 3) *Primamiti, namamiti, zavesti*
- 4) Reklame primamljuju kupca ka kupnji stvari koje on zapravo ne želi.

Although the translation is awkward enough due to the alliteration with the letter “k”, the verbs seem to correlate well enough. What is becoming noticeable is the trend of Croatian language not being able to deal well with the translating the multi-word verbs as far as retaining the strict sentence structure due to the language’s inability to retain the “MW verb – object – MW verb preposition – verb” structure.

### 15. Get around

- 1) Her hope was that by convincing her mother to allow her to go, she would thus *get around* her father.
- 2) To persuade someone to do or allow something they initially did not want to
- 3) *Smotati, pridobiti*
- 4) Nadala se da će, nagovorivši majku da joj dopusti da ide, pridobiti oca.

An alternative translation using a literal translation of the phrasal verb could be used with a degree of idiomaticity: “Nadala se da će zaobići oca nagovorivši majku da joj dopusti izlazak.”

### 16. Intimidate into

- 1) They were *intimidated into* accepting a pay cut by the threat of losing their jobs.
- 2) To frighten someone in order to persuade them to do something that you want them to do.
- 3) *Zastrašiti*
- 4) Zastrašivanjem prijateljama gubitka posla, natjerali su ih da private manju plaću.

The translated sentence requires revising and careful structure change as the target language simply cannot handle the versatility English has with the multi-word verbs.

### 17. Inveigle into

- 1) Her son tried to *inveigle* her *into* giving him the money for a car.
- 2) To persuade someone to do something in a clever and dishonest way
- 3) *Primamitilaskanjem, namamiti, zavestikoga (da štoučini)*
- 4) Njen sin ju je pokušao namamiti da mu da novac za auto.

Using the linking word “da” in Croatian is very clumsy but cannot be avoided if the general structure is to be preserved.

### 18. Jolly into

- 1) I will try to *jolly* my parents *into* letting me borrow the car this weekend.
- 2) To encourage someone to do something by putting that person in a good mood and persuading them gently
- 3) *Oraspoložiti, laskati*
- 4) Pokušat ću laskanjem nagovoriti roditelje da mi posude auto ovaj vikend.

The Croatian equivalent uses two verbs instead of one multi-verb word.

### 19. Lure into

- 1) The child was *lured into* a car but managed to escape.
- 2) They *lured* the child *into* the car but it managed to escape.
- 3) Tempt someone to do something by offering some sort of reward
- 4) *Mamiti, namamiti*
- 5) Dijete je bilo namamljeno u auto ali je uspjelo pobjeći. (Passive voice)
- 6) Namamili su dijete u auto ali je uspjelo pobjeći.

While the passive construction is inherently awkward in the Croatian language, the translation feels good enough to work even if we retain the structure. However, in order to also see how the formal translation (see 6)) of an active voice would look like it was given as well (see 2)).

### 20. Maneuver into

- 1) They were *maneuvering* him *into* a betrayal of his countryman.
- 2) Carefully guide or manipulate someone into doing something
- 3) *Navesti, namamiti*
- 4) Navodili su ga na izdaju vlastitog sunarodnjaka.

This is one of the rare examples where the linking word “da” does not have to be used after the multi-word verb translation.

### 21. Mislead into

- 1) Public education and the media *mislead* us *into* thinking America is a just and fair country.
- 2) Cause someone to have a wrong idea or impression about someone or something
- 3) *Zavaravati, zavesti*
- 4) Javno obrazovanje i mediji zavode nas u mišljenje da je SAD pravedna i poštena država.

Same as the above example, no linking word “da” is needed as the preposition “u” serves well enough as a natural replacement for “into”.

## 22. Persuade into

- 1) Her legal advisors *persuaded* her *into* mentioning the names of the people involved in the robbery.
- 2) To make someone do or believe something by giving them a good reason
- 3) *Uvjeriti, nagovoriti*
- 4) Njeni odvjetnici uvjerali su ju da spomene imena ljudi umiješanih u pljačku.

The linking word “da” makes a return as the verb “persuade” requires a more formal meaning in this context than the one usually associated with it.

## 23. Seduce into

- 1) Consumers were easily *seduced into* buying more for less.
- 2) Attract someone to a belief or into a course of action that is inadvisable or foolhardy
- 3) *Navesti*
- 4) Potrošače se lako navelo nakupnju više proizvoda za manje novca.

There are no problems with this translation as the only real dilemma is whether to use the literal translation of the word “seduce” or not. The semi-idiomatic option was chosen to retain a differentiation between the verb “seduce” being used in a romantic context compared to a purely passion-driven one.

## 24. Sweet talk into

- 1) The detectives *sweet-talked* them *into* confessing.
- 2) Insincerely praise someone in order to persuade them to do something
- 3) *Prijazniti se, laskati*(Author)
- 4) Detektivi su slatkorječivošću izvukli priznanje iz njih.

The whole sentence structure has to be changed in order to retain the meaning. The dictionary input was not available for the translation so the usage of a compound seemed the best solution along with shifting the structure around.

## 25. Talk into

- 1) The lady who owns the shop talked me into buying an ice-cream.
- 2) Persuade someone to do something by talking

- 3) *Nagovoriti*
- 4) Gospođa koja je vlasnica trgovine me nagovorila na kupnju sladoleda.

The correlation between the source and target language is almost complete which is to be expected as this example of verbs expressing the concept of *PERSUASION* is one of the most common ones in both formal and informal speak.

### **26. Tempt into**

- 1) Do not allow impatience to tempt you into overexposure and sunburn.
- 2) Entice someone to do something they know to be wrong or not beneficial.
- 3) *Iskušati, namamiti*
- 4) Ne dopusti da te nestrpljenje namami u pretjerano izlaganje i opekline.

Although “iskušati” would be a perfect solution for the translation, the sentence would have to be changed structurally and does not mesh well with the dangers indicated in the sentence.

### **27. Wheedle into**

- 1) He eventually wheedled me into helping him after a week of whining.
- 2) Persuade someone to do something
- 3) *Dodvoravati se, nagovarati*
- 4) Na kraju mi se uspio dodvoriti da mu pomognem nakon tjedan dana prigovaranja.

As with most other multi-word verbs, “wheedle into” also has a problem concerning the actual usage of the translation. While “dodvoravati se” is an excellent word to use, it is hard to find the context in which it would serve well when the multi-word version of “wheedle” is concerned.



## 4.2. Categorization of the above-listed verbs depending on the modus of PERSUASION

Multi-word verbs with malicious, selfish intent		Multi-word verbs with benevolent intent	
Multi-word verbs implying subtle persuasion - trickery	Multi-word verbs implying direct persuasion - threat	Multi-word verbs implying subtle persuasion – winning over	Multi-word verbs implying direct persuasion - argumentation
Beguile into	Browbeat into	Bring around <sup>1</sup>	Argue into <sup>2</sup>
Blandish into	Coerce into	Charm into	Bring around
Blarney into <sup>3</sup>	Intimidate into	Get around <sup>4</sup>	Entice into <sup>5</sup>
Bluff into		Seduce into <sup>6</sup>	Get around
Coax into		Sweet-talk into <sup>7</sup>	Talk into
Con into			
Decoy into			
Dupe into			
Inveigle into			
Jolly into			
Lure into			
Maneuver into			
Mislead into			
Seduce into			
Sweet-talk into			
Tempt into			
Wheedle into			

<sup>1</sup>The author has decided to put “bring around” in two columns due to the fact that people may swing their opinions without being actively persuaded

<sup>2</sup> A case can be made that this MWV could be used with malicious intent as well but for the sake of clarity will be kept here as arguments are mostly based on truth which has positive connotations

<sup>3</sup> As was already mentioned in the analysis of this MWV, “blarney into” has a significant increase in severity compared to blandish into

<sup>4</sup> See footnote nr. 1)

<sup>5</sup> While enticement may not be the most straightforward and direct way to persuade someone, due to the fact that the pros and cons of an action are presented clearly to the person being persuaded.

<sup>6</sup> Seduction can be used both malevolently and benevolently, therefore the author placed it in both columns

<sup>7</sup> Sweet-talk is a way of charming but with a wider array of possible actions to persuade someone into.

It is obvious that trickery is the most prominent type of persuasion when these verbs are used. Most of them have the same meaning and around the same severity, or at least would if Croatian had good counterparts, but as the analysis above has shown, that is not the case and general terms have to be constantly re-used which showcases the lack of depth in Croatian vocabulary compared to English.

## **5. Conclusion**

Multi word verbs are divided into three groups: phrasal verbs, prepositional verbs and phrasal prepositional verbs. Phrasal verbs have a strong degree of idiomaticity and are the least formal. Prepositional verbs always take an object and have less idiomaticity than phrasal verbs. Phrasal prepositional verbs are the least common and consist of a lexical verb coupled with both an adverb as well as a preposition. A free category is a verb which can substitute its constituents without losing the original meaning. As shown via the tests, verbs expressing the concept of *PERSUASION* mostly belong to prepositional verbs. The thesis that multi-word verbs in general are best used in Germanic languages is proven correct in the final part of the paper where it has been extremely hard to find enough different verbs in the target Slavic language to translate the variety that multi-word verbs offer. Therefore, a translator's job is not easy at all when it comes to such combinations as expressing all the nuances and exploring every nook and cranny of meanings behind words is no easy task.

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## **Abbreviations**

Cambridge Online Dictionary – COD

Oxford Online Dictionary – OOD

Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary – MWOD

Englesko-Hrvatski ili Srpski Rječnik – EHSR

Multi-word verb – MWV

Prepositional verb – PPT

Transitive prepositional verb – TPPT

Intransitive phrasal verb – IPT