

**SYNTACTIC AND SEMANTIC CHARACTERISTICS
OF ENGLISH VERBS WITH THE PREFIX OUT-**

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1. Verbs with the prefix *out-*, such as *out-stay*, *out-laugh*, *out-put*, etc., have been chosen for the analysis because of their relatively high productivity and comparatively heterogeneous semantics.

The prefix *out-* when added to the base verb modifies its meaning, which determines the changes in syntactic properties and lexical combinability of the derivative.

The aim of the present paper is to describe *out-verbs* in opposition with base verbs from the viewpoint of their syntactic and semantic properties.

The analysis is corpus-based. The corpus is a complete list of 107 *out-verbs* registered in Webster's New International Dictionary (W) and A. S. Hornby's Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (H).

2. Syntactic characteristics of verbs with the prefix *out-*.

Two derivational syntactic models can be distinguished from the viewpoint of transitivity/intransitivity of verbs in the derivative opposition: $V_i \rightarrow V_t$ and $V_t \rightarrow V_t$.

The model $V_i \rightarrow V_t$ indicates that the prefix *out-* derives a transitive verb from an intransitive base, i. e. an intransitive verb is transitivity, as in *reign* ($V_i \rightarrow out-reign$ (V_t), cf. (1) a. *The king reigned for fifty years* (cf. H. 710) \rightarrow b. *The king outreigned his father* (cfw. 1531), whereas no changes in transitivity are reflected by the model $V_t \rightarrow V_t$, where both the base verb and the derivative are transitive, as in *flank* ($V_t \rightarrow out-flank$ (V_t), cf. (2) a. *The troops flanked the enemy* (cf. H. 325) \rightarrow *The troops outflanked the enemy* (cf. H. 595).

The two models can be subdivided into syntactic oppositions in which the relations of verbs and dependant elements are reflected.

2.1. The model $V_i \rightarrow V_t$ covers two types of logically possible syntactic structure changes:

1. $N^1 V_i \rightarrow N^1 V_t N^2$;
2. $N^1 V_i \rightarrow N^2 V_t N^1$.

However, only the syntactic opposition $N^1 V_i \rightarrow N^1 V_t N^2$ is registered in the corpus. It indicates that V_i (the predicate) when transitivity opens a valency position for N^2 , the subject (N^1) remaining unchanged, as in (3) a. *He worked* \rightarrow b. *He outworked his neighbour*, cf. c. **He worked his neighbour*.

The following verb pairs conform to the syntactic opposition under consideration: *dare* (V_i) 'to meet defiantly' (W. 568) → *outdare* (V_t) 'to surpass sb in daring' (W. 1529), *stare* (V_i) 'to look earnestly at' (W. 2034) → *outstare* (V_t) 'to excel or overcome sb in staring' (W. 1532), *live* (V_i) 'be, remain alive' (H. 496) → *outlive* (V_t) 'live longer than' (H. 596), etc.

Approximately 63% of verbs in the corpus change their syntactic structure in this way.

2.2. The model V_t → V_t covers six logically possible syntactic structure changes:

1. N¹V_tN² → N¹V_tN³;
2. N¹V_tN² → N¹V_tN²;
3. N¹V_tN² → N²V_tN³;
4. N¹V_tN² → N³V_tN⁴;
5. N¹V_tN² → N³V_tN¹;
6. N¹V_tN² → N²V_tN¹.

However, only syntactic oppositions (1), (2), and (3) are registered in the corpus. The oppositions indicate retained transitivity whereas combinability relative to the syntactic position is changed.

2.2.1. In the syntactic opposition (1) N¹V_tN² → N¹V_tN³ the derivative takes the same subject (N¹) as the base verb whereas the direct object position is filled in by a nominal element (N³) which is lexically different from N². The prefix *out-* changes the meaning of the base verb (see 3.1.). The following examples illustrate this instance:

(4) a. *She sold apples* (cf. W. 1916) → b. *She outsold everyone* (cf. W. 1531), cf. c. **She outsold apples*;

(5) a. *He wrote novels* (cf. H. 997) → b. *He outwrote other novelists* (cf. W. 1532), cf. c. **He outwrote novels*.

Approximately 24% of verbs in the corpus conform to the syntactic change in question.

2.2.2. In the syntactic opposition (2) N¹V_tN² → N¹V_tN² the nominal elements of the derivative are identical with those of the base verb. However, the meaning of the derivative changes (see 3.2.2.). The following example illustrates this instance:

(6) a. *They lawed the killer* (cf. W. 1222) → b. *They outlawed the killer* (cf. W. 1530).

Approximately 11% of verbs in the corpus conform to the syntactic change in question.

2.2.3. In the syntactic opposition (3) N¹V_tN² → N²V_tN³ the direct object of the base verb (N²) is promoted to the subject position of the derivative, its subject being deleted, whereas the direct object position of the derivative is occupied by the nominal element N³ which belongs to the same lexico-semantic class as the subject N². The following example illustrates this instance:

(8) a. *He sharpened the knife* (cf. W. 1936) → b. *The knife outsharped the axe* (cf. W. 1531), cf. c. **He outsharped the knife*.

Approximately 2% of verbs in the corpus conform to the syntactic opposition in question.

3. Semantic characteristics of verbs with the prefix *out-*.

As has been mentioned above, in the process of prefixation syntactic and semantic properties of the base verb undergo a change. In order to show the correlation between the syntactic properties and meaning verbs conforming to the four syntactic oppositions registered in the corpus (see 2.1. and 2.2.) are described in terms of semantic changes marked by the prefix *out-*.

3.1. The model $V_i \rightarrow V_t$ covers the syntactic opposition $N^1 V_i \rightarrow N^1 V_t N^2$. In the verbs conforming to this opposition the prefix *out-* adds the component of meaning 'longer than', 'more than' which can be generalized as 'surpassing', 'gaining advantage over' [see Еропова, 1958. С. 12]. The following examples illustrate this instance:

(9) a. *He stayed at home* (cf. H. 844) \rightarrow b. *He outstayed the other guests* (H. 597); where *stay* (V_i) 'be, remain in a place or condition' (H. 844) \rightarrow *outstay* (V_t) 'stay longer than' (H. 597).

The combinability relative to the subject position is preserved whereas V_t opens a valency position for N^2 , in this case a human noun.

(10) a. *The sun shines* (cf. H. 788) \rightarrow b. *The sun outshines the moon* (cf. W. 1531), cf. c. **The sun shines the moon*; where *shine* (V_i) 'emit rays of light' (H. 788) \rightarrow *outshine* (V_t) 'shine more brightly than' (H. 596).

In this instance valency positions are filled in by nouns both denoting inanimate objects, viz. *the sun* and *the moon*, (see also (1), (3)).

Special mention should be made of the verbs *outhector* and *outherod*. Their derivation can be illustrated by the following chains: *Hector* (N) \rightarrow *hector* (V_i) \rightarrow *outhector* (V_t), *Herod* (N) \rightarrow *herod* (V_i) \rightarrow *outherod* (V_t).

The second constituent of the two derivative chains (V_i) is derived from proper nouns (from the names of literary (*Hector*) and Biblical (*Herod*) characters) by means of grammatical conversion.

The combinability of these two derivatives is extremely limited as the direct object position is filled in exclusively by the proper noun (N) from which V_i is derived, as in *to outhector Hector*, *to outherod Herod*.

The meaning of the derivatives can be generalized as 'surpassing', 'exceeding' those qualities which are denoted by the base verb [see Меунков, 1976. С. 101], as in *herod* (V_i) 'be cruel or violent like Herod' (W. 1008) \rightarrow *outherod* (V_t) 'be more cruel and violent than Herod' (H. 593).

3.2. The model $V_t \rightarrow V_t$ covers three syntactic oppositions registered in the corpus (see 2.2.). In the majority of verbs conforming to these syntactic oppositions the prefix *out-* adds the component of meaning 'longer than', 'more than' (see 3.1.), or the component of meaning 'out', 'from' (see 3.2.3.)

3.2.1. The syntactic opposition (1) $N^1 V_t N^2 \rightarrow N^1 V_t N^3$. The following example illustrates this instance:

(11) a. *He generated the army* (cf. W. 900) \rightarrow b. *He outgenerated the enemy* (cf. W. 1530), cf. c. **He outgenerated the army*; where *general* (V_t) 'act as general of' (W. 900) \rightarrow *outgeneral* (V_t) 'gain advantage over (enemy)' (W. 1530).

In this instance the direct object position of the base verb is filled in by the noun *army* whereas the verb *outgeneral* takes the noun *enemy* in the same position.

3.2.2. The syntactic opposition (2) $N^1V_tN^2 \rightarrow N^1V_tN^2$. The following example illustrates this instance:

(12) a. *He braved the storm* → b. *He outbraved the storm* (cf. H. 595); where *brave* (V_t) 'face, go into, meet without showing fear' (H. 100) → *out-brave* (V_t) 'defy, resist openly' (H. 595).

The phrase to *outbrave the storm* can be paraphrased as 'to be braver (stronger) than the storm' [see Еропова, 1958. C.11].

3.2.3. Verbs such as *output*, *outset*, etc. conform to the syntactic opposition in question. It should be pointed out that instead of these obsolete verbs where the prefix adds the component of meaning 'out', 'from' their synonyms – materially identical phrasal verbs with the postverbal particle *out* – are used in Modern English (cf. *put out*, *set out*) [see Еропова, 1958. C.12].

The process of ousting prefixed derivatives by phrasal verbs began in the Middle English period (11–15th cc.) at the end of which the number of prefixed verbs in the language decreased considerably [see Hiltunen, 1983. P. 99]. The great number and wide use of phrasal verbs in Modern English makes it unique among other Germanic languages where verbal prefixation is still highly developed [see Аничков, 1961. C.247–248; Клиюнайте, 1986. C.15–17].

3.2.4. The syntactic opposition (3) $N^1V_tN^2 \rightarrow N^2V_tN^3$. The following example illustrates this instance:

(13) a. *He sharpened the knife* (cf. W. 1936) → b. *The knife outsharpened the axe* (cf. W. 1531), cf. c. **He outsharpened the knife*; where *sharp* (V_t) 'make sharp, sharpen' (H. 786) → *outsharp* (V_t) 'exceed in sharpness' (W. 1531) (see also 2.2.3.).

4. The findings of the present analysis can be summed up as follows:

4.1. Verbs with the prefix *out-* can be derived both from intransitive and transitive bases; if the base verb is intransitive the prefix *out-* always converts it into a transitive one; when added to a transitive verb the prefix *out-* does not change its valency.

4.2. Lexico-semantic combinability of transitivized derivatives always undergoes a change.

4.3. If the transitivity of the derived verb is retained its combinability can undergo a change.

4.4. The meaning of the derivative is always different from that of the base verb. The derivatives acquire the meaning 'exceed', 'surpass', 'gain advantage over', as in *outlaugh*, *outsail*, *outstay*, etc., or 'out', 'from', as in *output*, *outset*, etc.

СИНТАКСИЧЕСКИЕ И СЕМАНТИЧЕСКИЕ ОСОБЕННОСТИ АНГЛИЙСКИХ ГЛАГОЛОВ С ПРЕФИКСОМ OUT-

Резюме

Настоящая статья посвящена описанию производных глаголов с префиксом *out-* типа (напр., *out-stay, out-laugh, out-put*) в современном английском языке. Цель работы состоит в анализе синтаксических и семантических особенностей названных глаголов в оппозиции с исходными. Проведенный анализ показал, что синтаксические свойства глаголов с префиксом *out-* определенным образом коррелируют с семантическими свойствами. В большинстве дериватов префикс маркирует значение 'привосходства' или 'изнутри, наружу'.

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