

A Contrastive Study of English and Arabic Multi-Word or Two-word Verbs in Selected Novels

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Abstract

The present study is concerned with a linguistic contrastive analysis of one characteristic of grammar and vocabulary in English and Arabic languages which is combinations of lexical verbs with adverbial and/or prepositional particle(s), which are commonly known as: Multi-word verbs; Two-Word verbs or PVs (الافعال المركبة).

In addition, the study attempts to prove that there are fundamental similarities and dissimilarities between English and Arabic multi-word verbs. Such similarities and dissimilarities are investigated at length through a theoretical comparison of these combinations in both languages and through the analysis of two selected novels below.

The present study falls into five sections as follows: it starts with an introductory section where an introduction of the notion of multi-word verbs in both languages is provided followed by section two and three which are devoted to the theoretical backgrounds of the multi-word verbs in English and Arabic respectively. Section four is the analysis of the target verbs in English novel (*East of Eden*) by Steinbeck (1952) and Arabic novel (*Palace of Desire*) [Qaṣr āl shawq] by Maḥfūz (1957). And section five reveals the conclusions and results.

Key words: *English and Arabic Contrastive Grammar, English Multi- Word or Phrasal Verbs, Arabic Two word or Phrasal Verbs, English and Arabic Phrasal Verbs in Two Novels.*

1. Introduction

The English multi-word verbs are defined as a combination of a verb with a preposition or an adverb; these verbs are either idiomatic or non-idiomatic with concern to their meaning (Swan and Walter, 2001, p.138). As for Arabic multi-word verbs, they are the product of the previous combination, but they differ in that they do not include adverbs to follow the verb, i.e. lexical verb plus a preposition only.

English multi-word verbs are one of the difficulties that learners of English as well as the translators face when translating such type of idiomatic verbs into their own languages. This is simply because of the semantic and syntactic complexity of these problematic verbs.

Although simple in many ways, English language presents major problems for Arabic-speaking students, especially in its colloquial use of the verb when followed by a preposition or in a more general sense (a particle). However, the challenging characteristic of the multi-word verbs in the two languages (English and Arabic) is the motivation of the present contrastive study.

Since there is no “multi-word verbs” heading in Arabic, this study hypothesizes that “Arabic multi-word verbs, transitive verbs by means of preposition and verb-preposition expression” all are equivalent to English multi-word verbs. Moreover, this paper hypothesizes that the multi-word verbs in both languages are similar in content but are different in form. The last hypothesis is that the

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idiomatic use of multi-word verbs in Arabic and English texts is expected to be more than non-idiomatic one.

In addition, the paper is limited to the theoretical description of English and Arabic semantic and syntactic features of the multi-word verbs, and also to their practical analysis in two novels: (*East of Eden*) written by Steinbeck (1952) and (*Palace of Desire*) [Qaṣr āl shawq] written by Maḥfūz (1957), these two novels represent a sufficient data to be analyzed and the results can be generalized.

Along the study of thirty quotations of the two novels which are decided as samples in this study, Quirk et al. (1985) and Celce-Murcia and Larsen-Freeman (1999) are adopted as a theoretical model for English language. While Wright (1996) is adopted as a theoretical model for Arabic multi-word verbs. Cowie (1993) is adopted as a practical model for the analysis of English multi-word verbs as well as Arabic ones.

2. English Multi-word Verbs

The English multi-word verbs have been dealt with in several ways by grammarians; linguists; lexicographers and pedagogues. Such kind of verbs are introduced by those scholars as verbs consisting of a sequence of lexical elements. They are also defined as fixed expressions whose meanings are not predictable from the meanings of their parts, or as phrasal verbs which functions as a single unit in which the meaning cannot be figured out from the meanings of the single elements (Hart, 1990, p. 1).

Multi-word verb involves one of the quite difficult problems for learners and non-native speakers of the English language (Nasir, 2015, p.1). For the first glance, they seem easy to the non-native speaker, but their meanings can be different from what one would expect.

Following Live (1965, p. 428), multi-word verbs are a group of the basic verbs that are linked with a preposition or a particle, the two elements constitute one discontinuous verb. While Heaton (1965, p. preface) points out that "an adverbial particle combines with a verb to form a collocation possessing a new meaning. Each multi-word verb must be considered as a unit".

Multi-word verbs in Sroka's words (1972, p.14), are "the verb and particle, or the verb and a group of particles, are said to constitute in this case a kind of integral functional unit".

Correspondingly, Crystal (1997, p. 232) states that multi-word verb is a type of verb involving a sequence of lexical elements plus one or more particle(s). Dixon (1991, p. 274) adds that English has hundreds of multi-word verbs, each one is a combination of verb plus preposition(s), the meaning of that combination is not inferable from the individual meanings of verb and preposition(s), so that it must be considered as an independent lexical item.

As far as the particle is concerned, it refers to the second component of the multi-word verb, it can be one word, which is a preposition or an adverb like '*drink up*', '*dispose of*'. Or it could be two words: a verb plus a preposition plus an adverb as in '*get away with*'. These units cannot be completely separated without affecting the meaning of the whole grammatical unit (Mubarak, 2015, p. 1). Jowett (1964, p.53) declares that the role of the particle is valuable to the construction, because the particle changes the meaning of the verb and some of the times adds a new meaning to the verb, thus, the particle have the task of forming new verbs, therefore, the sense of the lexical verb "make" is not the same with the meaning of the multi-word verb "*make up*" or the verb "take" is different from "*take off*" as far as the meaning is concerned (ibid.).

The particle, when is added to a verb, often adds something to the meaning, such as completeness, for example, someone can say:

1. I'll finish my work and then I'll go out (Parkinson, 2001., p. vi)
Or
2. I'll *finish off* my work and then I'll go out (ibid.). (*Finish off*), here, emphasizes that he is completing his work.

2.1 Syntactic Features of English Multi-Word Verbs

A pure syntactic definition of multi-word verb can be formulated in the following form: a multi-word verb is a grammatical association between two units: a verb and a particle, starting with the verb not with the particle, sometimes it is called phrasal verb (Quirk et al., 1985, p.1150). Moreover, Quirk et al. (ibid.) distinguish between this type of combinations and "the free combinations", expressing that, in multi-word verb type, the meaning of the structure cannot be clearly expected from the meaning of the

verb and the particle in isolation, while in free combination, the verb functions as an intransitive verb and the adverb keeps its own meaning.

It is necessary here to highlight the main categories or constructions of verb-particle combinations. The categories involves three types of combinations (Jacobs, 1995,p. 248):

1. Verb-adverb combination.

2. Verb-preposition combination.

3. Verb-adverb-preposition combination.

The first category (verb-adverb) consists of a verb and an adverbial particle:

3. We *gave up* (McArthur, 1992, p. 17) .
4. My mother *freaked out* (Thim, 2012, p. 21) .

While the second one (verb-preposition) consists of a simple verb followed by a preposition then by a prepositional object i.e.

5. He *switches on* the radio (ibid., p. 26)

Lastly (verb-adverb-preposition) involves a verb plus an adverb plus a prepositional particle then followed by an object. Such a combination is exemplified by Jacobs (1995, p. 250) as in the following:

6. *Drop in on* "visit casually"(ibid.).
7. *Cut down on* "reduce"(ibid.).

Quirk et al. (1985, p.1150) point out that the first type (verb-adverb) includes two types: intransitive multi-word verbs and transitive ones. Quirk et al. (ibid., p.1156) add that when the object of the multi-word verb is a definite pronoun, it can precede the particle, as in:

8. You can *take her on*.

2.2 Semantic Features of English Multi-Word Verbs

Semantically speaking, McArthur (1992, p.775) states that the multi-word verbs combination is semantically unified. Kolln and Funk (2012, p. 40) state that multi-word verbs consist of only those combinations which form an idiomatic expression whose meaning cannot be inferred from the meanings of its parts. In this regard, Parrot (2010, p.108), considers the multi-word verb as an inseparable single unit of meaning. which is made up of two parts (a verb plus a particle).

McArthur (1992, p.773) says that multi-word verbs can be classified into (non-idiomatic) and figurative (idiomatic) multi-word verbs. He (ibid.) explains the two types through the following examples:

9. She *put down* the book (non-idiomatic) (ibid.).
10. The army *put down* the rebellion (figurative/idiomatic) (ibid.).

In addition, Singh (1997, p.13) emphasizes that the combination of the verb and particle is considered as multi-word if this combination creates a meaning that is either 'obvious' (non-idiomatic), like (*take off*), or 'highly idiomatic' (figurative) as in the examples below:

11. I *took off* my jacket (non-idiomatic) (Parkinson, 2001, p. 255).
12. The plane *took off* (idiomatic) (Quirk et al. , 1985, p. 1151).

Summing up the semantic definition, it is appropriate to say that a multi-word verb is a single semantic unit consisting of a verb and a particle. The meaning of this semantic unit cannot be understood based upon the meanings of the individual parts in isolation, but rather it can be taken as a whole.

2.3 English Multi-Word Verbs Types

In the present section, the multi-word verbs are going to be classified into different types. The classification is going to be done in two different syntactic and semantic aspects.

2.3.1 Syntactic Classification Of English Multi-Word Verbs

Multi-word verbs can be divided into transitive (which in turn can be subdivided into separable and inseparable), and intransitive multi-word verbs :

2.3.1.1 Intransitive Multi-Word verbs

Intransitive multi-word verbs are made up of a verb plus an adverb. In fact, these types of verbs do not necessitate any object. However, Quirk et al. (1985, p.1152) give the following examples:

13. The plane has now *taken off* (ibid.).
14. The plane has just *touched upon* (ibid.).

2.3.1.2 Transitive Multi-Word Verbs

Transitive multi-word verbs are formed by combining a verb with a particle plus a direct object. The two elements require an object to complete their meaning (Quirk et al., *ibid.*, p.1153), they (*ibid.*) exemplify such type of multi-word verbs as follows:

15. She's *bringing up* two children (*ibid.*).
16. They have *called off* the strike (*ibid.*).

The particle in such type of multi-word verbs can precede the direct object or follow that object:

17. Someone *turned on* the light (*ibid.*).
18. Someone *turned* the light *on* (*ibid.*).

Separable and inseparable are the two types of the transitive multi-word verbs. The object, with separable one, goes before the particle, but with inseparable transitive multi-word verbs it must go after the particle (Gairn& Redman, 2011, p. 12). The matter is clear below when '*sth*' reflects an object which appears to be placed between the verb and particle. This clarifies that the object can go before or after '*up*' :

19. Don't *tear up* the letter (*ibid.*).
20. I don't *tear* the letter *up*. (destroy it by tearing it to pieces)(*ibid.*).

But, when the object is a pronoun, this object must be placed between the verb and the particle:

21. Don't *tear it up*.(*ibid.*).

2.3.1.2.1 Separable Transitive Multi-Word Verbs

Transitive multi-word verbs can often be separated by their objects, whether that object is a noun or a pronoun. When the object is a noun, it is optional whether the object is placed between the verb and the particle or at the end after the particle, both sentences below are correct(McArthur, 1992, p. 773):

22. I *took* my shoes *off* (*ibid.*).
23. I *took off* my shoes (*ibid.*).

However, when a pronoun is used instead of a noun as an object, it should come between the verb and the particle, only the first sentence below is acceptable:

24. I *took* them *off* (*ibid.*).
25. * I took off them (*ibid.*).

2.3.1.2.2 Non-Separable Transitive Multi-word verbs

Non-separable multi-word verbs components remain together, they cannot be separated by the object as in the following example:

26. He *ran into* a tree (Dhayf, 2019, p. 6).
27. * He ran a tree into (*ibid.*).

2.3.2 Semantic Classification Of English Multi-word verbs

In this section, the paper would be interested in the semantic properties of the multi-word verbs. The aim is to draw a clear picture of the multi-word verbs in order to compare it with its Arabic counterpart.

In addition to classify multi-word verbs based on syntax, as illustrated in the last section, English linguists classify them based on meaning, semantically, they can be classified as follows:

2.3.2.1 Non-Idiomatic Multi-Word Verbs

The English multi-word verbs are not only a verb and a particle fused together into a single word, in fact, lots of verbs can be combined with a preposition or an adverb, when these verbs are used in a non-idiomatic sense with a preposition, they will be easy to be understood, like:

28. He *walked across* the square (Quirk et al., 1985, p. 662).
29. *Take it out* (Cowie, 1993, p. 39)

2.3.2.2 Semi-idiomatic Multi-word verbs

Such type of multi-word verbs is manifested in that one element of the construction keeps its meaning while the other element is less transparent(Quirk et al, 1985, p. 1162), for example:

30. *Knock him out* (*ibid.*).
31. *Drink your milk up* (*ibid.*).

2.3.2.2.1 Idiomatic Multi-word verbs

The elements of the combination fuse together and assume a new meaning which is different from their original meaning. The meaning of the idiomatic multi-word verbs cannot be figured out from the meanings of their individual parts (Quirk et al, 1985, p. 1162; Celce-Murcia and Larsen-Freeman, 1999, p. 433; Cowie, 1993, p. 38), for example:

32. I will never *give up* (Cowie, *ibid.*).

3. Arabic Two-Word Verbs

The discussion presented in the first section shows the definitions; the features as well as the semantic and syntactic types of multi-word verbs in English. Likewise, Arabic language includes linguistic elements that share some features of English multi-word verbs (Alkhuli, 1999).

Regarding the Arabic language, there are many combinations consist of a verb followed by preposition, for instance: (يَتَوَقَّى إِلَى to crave), (يَتَحَدَّثُ عَنْ to talk about), (يَعْلُقُ عَلَى to comment on), (يُفَكِّرُ فِي to think of) etc. all these constructions are common and broadly used in both spoken and written Arabic. However, Arabic grammarians are not like English ones, they do not set constructions like the previous ones under a specific heading. Thus, the question is that is it right to consider them as multi-word verbs? And do they resemble the previously mentioned semantic and syntactic criteria of English multi-word verbs?

Arabic language, actually, has a similar phenomenon, but it does not allow verbs to combine with adverbs to form Arabic multi-word verb, but rather allows them to merge with prepositions, as in: (مَالٌ إِلَى *mala 'ila*) which means (*to like, to sympathize*), and (مَالٌ عَنْ *mala 'an*) which refers to (*avoid, dislike*), (وَقَعَ فِي *waqa'a fi*) that gives the sense of (*to happen*), and (وَقَعَ عَلَى *waqa'a 'ala*) referring to (*be responsible for*) etc. Classical Arabic linguists have not categorized these combinations under a particular heading, the cause is that they do not integrate prepositions when studying Arabic verbs (Aldahesh, 2017, p. 13).

So, in both English and Arabic languages, multi-word verbs can be defined as a type of verb consists of a sequence of lexical elements. Arabic language consists of a linguistic item that shares certain features of English multi-word verbs (Mubarak, 2015, p. 8).

Moreover, there are some verbs called (non-idiomatic multi-word verbs) that do not occur without (بِ *bii*) like (أَمِنَ بِ *to believe in*), (اعْتَرَفَ بِ *to confess*), (تَرَعَّعَ بِ *to donate*) etc. (Lentzner, 1977, p. 172). There are, however, some other verbs that they are passive in the form or the meaning, and use (بِ *bii*) to indicate an agent or instrument, such as: (فُوجِيَ بِ *to be surprised at*), (أُخِذَ بِ *to be influenced by*) etc. (*ibid.*).

Najjib (2001, p. 71) maintains that multi-word verbs exist in the Arabic. Furthermore, he uses the following examples to illustrate them:

43. (رَغِبَ عَنْ *to avoid*) (*ibid.*).
44. (رَغِبَ فِي *to desire*) (*ibid.*).
45. (مَالٌ إِلَى *to like*) (*ibid.*).
46. (مَالٌ عَنْ *to dislike*) (*ibid.*).

In their monolingual Arabic-Arabic dictionary that tackles idiomatic expressions, (Siinii, et al., 1996, p. 3). give about 2000 Arabic idiomatic expressions, the expressions are collected from various sources such as linguistic studies, ancient and modern Arabic-Arabic dictionaries, arts and history literature, and proverbs as well. Siinii, et al. do not mention Arabic multi-word verbs as such, but the most of the listed Arabic idiomatic expressions involve combinations in which verbs are followed by prepositions. Examples below are cited from the dictionary for more illustration:

47. (أَخَذَ بَعِينَ الْإِعْتِبَارِ) He *took into* consideration) (Siinii, et al., *ibid.*, p. 3).
48. (أَخَذَ فِي حِسَابِهِ) He *took into* his account) (*ibid.*).
49. (تَقَطَّعَتْ بِهِمُ الْأَسْبَابُ) They *got lost*) (*ibid.*).

3.1 The Syntactic Features of Arabic Two-Word Verbs

When talking about the syntactic features of Arabic multi-word, however, the main point is the transitivity of these verbs when it is achieved by the preposition not by the verb itself. The idea is clear in the following example:

50. (وَإِذْ تَأَذَّنَ رَبُّكَ لِيُبْعَثَنَّ عَلَيْهِمْ إِلَى يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ مَنْ يَسُومُهُمْ سُوءَ الْعَذَابِ)

"Behold! thy Lord did declare that He would send against them, to the Day of Judgment, those who would afflict them with grievous penalty" (Ali, 1987, p. 106)

However, the transitivity of the verb (بَعَثَ عَلَى) is achieved by the supreme preposition which implies obsession as Allah Almighty (Mubarak, 2015, p.9). The transitivity of a Arabic verbs could be achieved by either transitive verbs that pass on to their objects by themselves, or by verbs are traditionally known as verbs passing on to their objects through a preposition.

However, the second way of achieving transitivity of a Arabic verbs could be done by different prepositions and, hence, such a change in the meaning of the verb could result in committing errors by some speakers or linguists because of the different use of many prepositions with several verbs to indicate different meanings (Al-Andulusy, 1983).

Arab grammarians and linguists state that replacing some prepositions with the same verb will change the meaning of the verb, like the preposition (عَلَى) when it is used with the verb (بَعَثَ) the two elements as a single unit will lead to a specific meaning which is different from when the preposition is replaced by (فِي) with the same verb, as in the following verses :

51. (بَعَثَ عَلَيْهِ رِجَالَهُ) (He sent his men against him) (Dhayf, 2019, p.8).
52. (بَعَثَ فِيهِمُ الْإِمْلاَءَ) (He motivated them) (ibid.).

3.2 The Semantic Features Of Arabic Two-word verbs.

It is worthy known that each preposition has its own meaning. It modifies the meaning of the verb in accordance with the noun that comes after the preposition, hence, each verb may have more than one meaning because of the preposition that attached to it. In this regard the following example will illustrate the abovementioned view:

53. (إِنَّا إِلَى اللَّهِ رَاغِبُونَ) "To Allah do we turn our hopes" (Ali, 1987, p. 120).
54. (وَمَنْ يَرْغَبْ عَنْ مِلَّةِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ - إِلَّا مَن سَفِهَ نَفْسَهُ) "And who turns away from the religion of Abraham but such as debase their souls with folly?" (ibid., 18).

Consequently, the meaning of the multi-word verbs above has been changed due to the change of the preposition attached to that verb, which is (عَنْ) that has changed the meaning of the verb (يَرْغَبُ إِلَى) which means wanting or being interested in something into the contrary uninterested in (يَرْغَبُ عَنْ). Such a kind of effect is attributed to the preposition itself rather than the verb (Alkhutabi, et al.,1548/1991).

3.3 Two-Word Verbs Types

Like English multi-word verbs, Arabic ones can be also classified according to two different features: the syntactic features and according to the semantic ones.

3.3.1 The Syntactic Classification of Arabic Two-Word Verbs

The traditional classification of verbs in Arabic grammar classifies the verbs into two types: transitive and intransitive verbs. The former types of verbs reach their objects by themselves. Whereas the latter verbs are traditionally known as verbs which reach their objects through a preposition. Arabic multi-word verbs are classified as a subtype of transitive verbs by means of preposition.

3.3.1.1 Transitive Verbs by Means of Prepositions.

This type of verbs is equivalent to English multi-word verbs. They are transitive verbs that reach their objects by a preposition (Heliel, 1994, p. 144), for instance :

55. (رَجَعَ إِلَى صَوَابِهِ) (He returned to his sense) (ibid.).
Or there is:
56. (رَجَعَ فِي كَلَامِهِ) (He broke his promise) (ibid.).

Different prepositions sometimes be joined to the same verb leading to different meanings (Wright, 1996, vol.(2), p. 45) ; e.g.

57. دعا له (He *prayed* that he might receive something as a blessing) (ibid.).
58. دعا عليه (He *curse*d him)(ibid.).

3.3.2 The Semantic Classification Of Arabic Two-Word Verbs

Arabic multi-word verbs can be classified into three different semantic types: They can be divided into idiomatic; semi-idiomatic and non-idiomatic multi-word verbs.

3.3.2.1 Idiomatic Two-word Verbs

The idiomatic multi-word verb is the type of verbs that is used to refer to an abstract meaning, the idiomatic multi-word verb is the construction of verb-preposition, and that verb changes its basic meaning. In such combinations, Abboud and McCarus (1968, p. 352) elucidate that a verb-preposition idiomatic expression involves a single unit of meaning that is distinct from the verb alone. i.e. the preposition (عن 'an) when it is combines with a verb, it has a meaning connected with the concept of (about, or concerning) (Mubarak, 2015, p. 11), i.e.:

59. عَنَّرَ عَنْ تَأْيِيدِهِ (He *expressed* his support) (ibid.).

Meanwhile, the preposition (على) refers to a range of meanings when combined with a verb and comes in contexts like:

60. أَخَذَ عَلَى عَاتِقِهِ (He *took* it upon himself) (ibid.).

Or

61. أَخَذَ عَلَى يَدِهِ الْعِلْمَ (He *learned from* him personally) (ibid.).

3.3.2.2 Semi-Idiomatic Two-Word Verbs

It is worth noting that there is a another type between the idiomatic and non-idiomatic types of Arabic multi-word verbs, which is the semi-idiomatic one (Aldaresh, 2008, p. 87), the semi-idiomatic type is, however, manifested in many Arabic verb-preposition constructions. One illustrative example is (أَعْتَمَدَ عَلَى to depend on), such verb cannot be substituted for one word, moreover, the preposition in this phrase cannot be deleted without any change in the whole meaning, this is because that the verb (أَعْتَمَدَ to authorize) sacrifices its meaning when combining with preposition, while the preposition have its basic meaning. That is why this type of Arabic constructions can be termed (semi-idiomatic) rather than idiomatic one (ibid.).

3.3.2.3 Non-Idiomatic Two-Word Verbs

The third kind of construction is verb-preposition in which the verb keeps its basic meaning, i.e. the verb (أَمَنَّ to believe) and the combination (أَمَنَّ فِي believe in) are the same as far as the meaning is concerned (non-idiomatic).

4 English and Arabic Two-Word or Multi-Word Verbs in Two Selected Novels

4.1 English Multi-word Verbs in (*East of Eden*) (1952) by Steinbeck

In this section, the analysis procedures discussed previously are put into practice. As a contrastive analysis, this section goes through two sub-sections: the first one tackles multi-word verbs phenomenon in English data and their meanings; their syntactic and semantic features and syntactic and semantic classifications in (*East of Eden*) (1952) written by Steinbeck. While the second one aims at analyzing the same phenomenon but in Arabic data, and stating the syntactic and semantic features and syntactic and semantic and types as well.

Accordingly, Utterances from the novels referred to above are chosen as samples containing multi-word or phrasal verbs. All the meanings for these phrasal verbs are taken from "*NTC's dictionary of phrasal verbs and other idiomatic verbal phrases*" which is written by Spears (2005) and "*Oxford Phrasal Verbs Dictionary*" which is written by Parkinson (2001). Likewise, the English multi-word verbs in the coming quotations (Utterances) can be transitive or intransitive and separable or inseparable.

1. Salinas River winds and *twists up* the center until it *falls* at last *into* Monterey Bay".

- (*twist up*): to move upward in a twisting path (Spears, 2005, p.724). The multi-word verb, here, is semantically non-idiomatic one, that is because the meaning can be understood by looking for the verb and the preposition separately in a dictionary. And syntactically, it is (verb-adverb) construction that has been referred to in chapter two. From a classification viewpoint, it is non-separable transitive multi-word verb followed by an object. It is non-separable because the particle precedes the object noun.

Following the same procedures applied by the model Cowie (1993) on English verb-particle combinations to find out whether they are idioms or not, there are two tests mentioned previously, the first test manifested in substituting the whole phrase with one word. This leads to the statement states that if the 'verb-particle' construction can be substituted with one word so it is an idiomatic multi-word verb, thus, concerning the verb (*twist up*), it has non-idiomatic meaning, because both components of the combination keep their individual lexical meanings, and there is no lexical word that can substitute this combination with the same meaning literally. The second test is the deletion of the second word of the phrase, hence, can (*up*) be deleted without affecting the meaning?. The answer is (Yes), and the meaning of the base verb still there. So, it is non-idiomatic multi-word verb.

- (*fall into*): to make something falls into something else (Parkinson, *ibid.*, p. 94). It is also non-idiomatic multi-word verb in that the meaning can be inferred from the individual meanings of verb and particle, and they (the verb and the particle) are easy to be understood. This multi-word verb is clearly non-idiomatic one, that is when the tests both are applied, the results are: there is no lexical word to substitute this multi-word verb, and the deletion of the second unit is possible with no fundamental change in meaning of the base verb. And with regard to syntax, such a verb is non-separable transitive multi-word verb.

2. "unless it could be that the morning *came over* the peaks of the Gabilans and the night *drifted back* from the ridges of the Santa Lucias".

- (*Come over*): to move over and above something (Spears, 2005, p. 114). The aforementioned multi-word verb is a fixed expression whose meaning is not predictable from the meanings of its parts, thus it is an idiomatic multi-word verb, it is an idiomatic one because deleting the second word leads to different meaning. Syntactically speaking, it is a grammatical association between two units: a verb and an adverb, such multi-word verb is non-separable transitive one.
- (*drift back*): to move back to someone or something slowly (*ibid.*, p. 173). Concerning the semantics of the multi-word verb (*drift back*), it is normally a verb of motion, and it is worth mentioning that English multi-word verb is not only the fusing of the base verb and the particle into a single word. Lots of verbs in English like (*drift*) can be combined with an adverb or a preposition, when this verb is used in a literal sense with an adverb like (back), it will be easy to be understood by the reader or the recipient, thus, it is non-idiomatic expression, at the same time, it is an intransitive multi-word verb.

3. "From both sides of the valley little streams *slipped out of* the hill canyons and *fell into* the bed of the Salinas River".

The quotation above includes two multi-word verbs:

- (*slip out of*): to sneak out of a place unnoticed (*ibid.*, p. 615); to do something quickly and easily (Parkinson, 2001, p. 268). The multi-word verb, here, is semantically an idiomatic one, that is because the meaning cannot be understood by looking for the verb and the preposition separately in a dictionary. And syntactically, it follows the third construction which involves (verb-adverb-preposition). From a classification viewpoint, it is non-separable transitive multi-word verb followed by an object. It is non-separable because the particle precedes the object noun.
- (*fall into*): to drop into something (Spears, 2005, p. 201). This multi-word verb is semantically non-idiomatic one, the components of the combination are transparent, and the whole meaning of the component can be obtained from the total sum of the lexical meanings of its individual parts. By applying the tests, the word (fall) has its literal meaning, and the particle (into) can be omitted without any change in the meaning. Syntactically, it is categorized as (verb-preposition) construction which is the second construction that can form multi-word verbs. Typologically, it is non-separable transitive multi-word verb followed by a prepositional object.

4. "The river *tore* the edges of the farm lands and *washed* whole acres *down*".

- (*wash down*): to wash something down-wards away from its original position, i.e. *Tons of earth had been washed down by the storm* (Parkinson, 2001, p. 335). The present multi-word verb is semantically idiomatic, that is because the components of the construction both united together and produced a new meaning, the two tests are applicable here, since there is another lexical word that can substitute this

multi-word verb which is (drift) , and the second part of the multi-word verb (*wash down*) cannot be deleted, because the meaning is inevitably changed. And the construction from a syntactic viewpoint is (verb-preposition) construction. It is a separable transitive multi-word verb, where the particle moves to be placed after the object.

5. "It trapped cows and pigs and sheep and drowned them in its muddy brown water and carried them to the sea".

- (*drown in*): to be asphyxiated in some liquid (Spears, 2005, p. 178). The verb is combined with preposition (*in*) and both components of the combination keep their individual lexical meanings, thus deleting the second unit of the construction, as a test set by the practical model, does not affect the meaning of the verb because the verb maintains its meaning. Syntactically speaking, such a verb is a separable transitive multi-word verb, it is separated by its object. However, it is worth mentioning here that when a pronoun is used instead of a noun as an object, it should be placed between the verb and the particle, that is why the present multi-word verb is a transitive separable one.

6. "The tules and grasses grew back, and wil-lows straightened up with the flood debris in their upper branches".

- (*straighten up*): to stand up straight from a bent position (Parkinson, 2001, 289). On the ground of meaning, the verb referred to above is non-idiomatic multi-word verb, that is because the components of the combination are transparent, and the whole meaning of the multi-word verb can be obtained from the total sum of the lexical meanings of its individual parts. On syntax ground, it is a type of verb involving a sequence of lexical elements include a verb plus one particle, and it is an intransitive one.

7. "The drill came up first with topsoil and then with gravel and then with white sea sand full of shells and even pieces of whale-bone".

- (*come up with*): to find or supply someone or something; to manage to find or improvise something (Spears, *ibid.*, p. 116). It is better to be mentioned here that the elements of this multi-word verb sacrifice their individual meanings and by the new combination assume a new meaning, the meaning of that combination is not inferable from the individual meanings of the verb and the particle, so that it must be considered as an independent lexical item (idiomatic). Syntactically speaking, The particle refers to the second component of multi-word verb, it can be one word which is a preposition or an adverb. Or it could be two words: a verb plus an adverb plus a preposition as in the present combination '*come up with*'. These units cannot be completely separated without affecting the meaning of the whole grammatical unit. Syntactically, such combination is non-separable transitive multi-word verb.

8. "And under the mossy banks of the water courses whole clumps of five-fingered ferns and goldy-backs hung down".

- (*hang down*): to be suspended from someone or something(Spears, 2005, p. 280). The structure of this multi-word verb is (verb-adverb) combination which consists of a simple verb and an adverbial particle. It is worth noting that the adverbial particle in this multi-word verb operates as predication adjuncts, and usually can be separated from its lexical verb. However, with regard to the meaning of the combination, this multi-word verb is semi-idiomatic one, that is because the first component of the construction holds its lexical meaning while the other one is less transparent. By applying the aforementioned tests, there is no specific word to substitute this multi-word verb, and the deletion of the second component is allowed since the result is a meaningful lexical element.

9. "Men working in the fields wore goggles and tied handkerchiefs around their noses to keep the dirt out".

- (*keep out*):to remain uninvolved with something(Parkinson, 2001, p. 157). With regard to what was mentioned above, (*keep out*), according to Cowie's (1993) tests, is an idiomatic multi-word verb because there is another word that have the same lexical meaning which can substitute this multi-word verb, that word is (remove). And in the normal way, omitting the particle denotes changing in meaning, thus such multi-word verb is an idiomatic one. Likewise, the aforementioned multi-word verb is a separable transitive verb, that is because the verb is followed by an object. The particle, in its turn, follows that object. Accordingly, this is what is called ' the mobility' of the particle (Campbell, 2004, p. 275). Such multi-word verb results from (verb-adverb) combination.

10. "Some families would sell out for nearly nothing and move away".

- (*move away*): to move with one's entire household to another residence (Spears, 2005, p. 442). With respect to semantics, this multi-word verb is semi-idiomatic one, it is so because one component of the construction keeps its lexical meaning while the other one is not clear enough. On the ground of syntax, such construction is (verb-adverb). And at the same time it is an intransitive one.

11. "And this is about the way the Salinas Valley was when my grandfather brought his wife and settled in the foothills to the east of King City".

- (*settle in*): to get used to living in a place or a new dwelling (ibid., p. 599). The aforementioned verb is semantically idiomatic multi-word verb, the meanings of its individual parts are different than when they are combined together, and this multi-word verb have a synonymous word (live), however, the omission of the second component of the construction affect the general meaning of the phrase and makes it means (solve). Syntactically speaking, the structure results from a verb plus a preposition combination, and at the same time, it is a transitive inseparable multi-word verb.

12. "It is not likely a charge of rebellion drove him out".

- (*drive out*): to make sb/sth leave or disappear, or get expelled (Parkinson, 2001, p. 85). It is an idiomatic multi-word verb consisting of a verb followed by an adverb whose meaning cannot be inferred from the meaning of its parts, however, the two tests can be applied here, the first test is manifested in subsisting the multi-word verb with one word, thus, the present multi-word verb can be substituted by (expel), and at the same time the omission of the second part of the multi-word verb entails different meaning for the verb, then it is idiomatic. Moreover, the structure of the verb in the above sentence shows that the verb is a transitive separable multi-word verb. Such multi-word verb is separated by its object. However, the object, here, is placed between the verb and the particle because when a pronoun is used instead of a noun as an object, it should be placed between the verb and the particle.

13. "She had a dour Presbyterian mind and a code of morals that pinned down and beat the brains out of nearly everything that was pleasant to do".

- (*pin down*): to determine or fix something, such as a date, an agreement, an amount of money, a decision, etc. (Spears, 2005, p. 500).
- (*beat out*): to try very hard to do something (ibid., p. 37). the meaning of the previous combinations cannot be clearly expected from the meanings of the verb and the particle in isolation, actually, this is one feature of the semantic features that idiomatic multi-word verbs hold. However, any deletion for the second parts of the combinations above leads to diverse meanings, and this is one way of ensure the idiomaticity of the multi-word verb, so the two combinations are idiomatic. While syntactically, the first multi-word verb is transitive non-separable one, while (*beat out*) is a separable transitive multi-word verb.

14. " Even the sagebrush struggled to exist".

- (*Struggle to*): do something to strive or battle to do something (ibid., p. 657). Such a verb is semantically non-idiomatic one, it results from a verb combined with a preposition, this verb is used in a literal sense with a preposition. However, the deletion of the preposition, here, is possible since it does not make any change in the meaning of the verb. With respect to syntax, it is an intransitive multi-word verb.

15. "The cattle kept thin running about looking for enough to eat".

- (*look for*) to search for sb/sth, either because you have lost them/it, or because you need them/it (Parkinson, 2001, p. 176). This combination consists of more than one component, these components are a verb and a particle, and the meaning is completely different from the meaning of the sum of its parts, thus it is an idiomatic multi-word verb. In order to verify the idiomaticity of this multi-word verb, this construction can be subjected to the two tests that were previously determined by Cowie (1993), where the test is represented by the presence of a word that carries the same meaning of the multi-word verb intended in this text, it is actually so, as there is a word that carries the same meaning which is (seek). As for the second test, it is to delete the second part of the combination, and the meaning of this structure changes, however, this is one property of the present multi-word verb, deleting the second part of this multi-word verb alters the meaning of the combination completely and makes the word indicates another meaning.

4.2 Arabic Two-word Verbs in (*Palace of Desire*) (1957) [qaṣr āl shawq] by Mahfouz

This section is a practical investigation of the Arabic two-word verbs i.e. (two word verbs; transitive verbs by means of preposition or phrasal verbs) and their meanings in the Arabic novel (*Palace of Desire*) (1957) [qaṣr āl shawq] which is written by Maḥfūz. However, the researcher, here, adopts the English translated version of Arabic data translated by Hutchins, et al. (1991).

In addition, the (verb-preposition) constructions are checked in Al-Ahmadi (1979) 'Mu'jam Alaf'al Almut'adia biharf'. And the translations of Arabic two-word verbs into English are checked in Baalbaki's "Al-Mawrid: A Modern Arabic-English Dictionary"(1995). It is necessary, here, to remind the reader that all Arabic multi-word verbs are of a (verb-preposition) type. Moreover, all verbs below are ' transitive by means of a preposition ', they can be separable or inseparable.

16. "وطرف عصاه ينغرز في الارض الترية كلما توكأ عليها في مشيته المتثابة"
"His step was lethargic, and his walking stick sank into the dusty earth whenever he *leaned on* it wearily"
(Hutchins, et al., 1991, p.1).
- (غرَزَ في) (Al-Ahmedi, 1979, 257): to stick into (Baalbaki, 1995, p. 797). Such two-word verb is, semantically, non-idiomatic one, that is because its meaning, as a whole, can be derived from its parts. Syntactically speaking, this two-word verb is a transitive non-separable one. The two tests can be applied on this multi-word verb, the first test will show that there is no other words that share the same meaning with (غرَزَ في). And the second test which manifested in deleting the second word of the construction proves that this two-word verb is non-idiomatic, because the deletion of the second part does not have an effect on the meaning of the verb.
 - (توكأ على) (Al-Ahmedi, 1979, 440): to lean on (Baalbaki, 1995, p. 31). This combination, from a syntactic view point, consists of a verb plus a preposition, and it is a transitive inseparable two-word verb, while semantically, it has a meaning which is inferable from the individual meanings of the verb and the preposition, so that it is an independent lexical item that has non-idiomatic meaning.
17. "فهش لفكرة الماء البارد حتى انبسطت اساريره"
"Cheered by the thought of cool water, he smiled" (Hutchins, et al. 1991, p.1).
- (هَشَّ لـ) (Al-Ahmedi, ibid., 411): to smile on or receive cheerfully (Baalbaki, ibid., p. 1208). This combination, from a syntactic view point, consists of the verb (هَشَّ) plus the preposition (لـ), and it is a transitive inseparable multi-word verb, while semantically, it has a meaning which is not inferable from the individual meanings of the verb and the preposition separately, actually applying the test will confirm the idiomaticity of this two-word verb, however, the first test will state that there is a word that have the meaning embedded by the multi-word verb which is (فرَحَ at become glad) and this is one feature of the idiomatic multi-word verb which is the possibility of substitution. The second test when applied on this multi-word verb will state that removing the second part of the combination will change the meaning hold by that combination, in fact, the deletion may leads the reader to another meaning of the word (هَشَّ) which is make something soft (Baalbaki, ibid., p. 1208). So that it is an independent lexical item that has an idiomatic meaning.
18. "ولما جاز باب السلم لاح له الضوء الوائي الهابط من أعلى يتحرك على الجدران"
"When he entered the door leading to the stairway, he could see a faint light coming from above"
(Hutchins, et al. ibid., p. 1).
- (لاح له) (Al-Ahmedi, ibid., p. 336): come into sight (Baalbaki, ibid., p. 909). It is an idiomatic multi-word verb in that the meaning cannot be inferred from the individual meanings of verb and particle. This two-word verb can be substituted by another word like (وُضِحَ loom) so it is right to say that this multi-word verb have an idiomatic meaning. And with regard to syntax, such a verb is transitive non-separable two-word verb.
19. "...حتى انحسر جناحا الجبة عن قفطانه".
"The sides of his cloak fell open" (Hutchins, et al, 1991, p. 1).
- (انحَسَرَ عن) (Al-Ahmedi, 1979, p. 54): to reflow (Baalbaki, 1995, p. 184). This two-word verb results from a combination of the verb (انحَسَرَ) and the preposition (عن). The resulting compound verb is non-idiomatic, its meaning can be derived from the dictionary meaning of its parts. Such combination is transitive and separable by means of the subject.
20. "وتوَدَّ لو تواتبها شجاعها فتسأله ان يعفي نفسه من الدأب على السهر الذي لم تُعد تنهض به صحته"
"She wished she had the courage to ask him not to stay out so late-now that his health could no longer shrug off excesses" (Hutchins, et al. ibid.).
- (عفا من) (Al-Ahmedi, ibid., p. 242): to exempt from (Baalbaki, ibid., p. 132). The elements of this two-word verb left their meanings and submit to the new meaning of the new combination. The meanings of the individual parts tell us little or nothing about the meaning of the whole, so it is idiomatic. However, to make sure of the idiomatic feature of this multi-word verb, the two tests are the best way, the first test points out that this multi-word verb can be replaced by another lexical verb which is (to stop), and omitting the second part reveals that the meaning will be different like (أعفى لحيته grow a beard). In relation to syntax, this grammatical association emerged from the interconnectedness of the two elements (base verb plus a preposition), such type of verb is a separable transitive two-word verb.
 - (نَهَضَ بِ) (Al-Ahmedi, ibid., p. 401): to bear (Baalbaki, ibid., p. 1193). Once again, the elements of this two-word verb sacrifice their meanings and submitted to the new meaning of the new combination. The meanings of the individual parts tell us little or nothing about the meaning of the whole, so it is idiomatic. However, this multi-word verb can be replaced by another lexical verb to be sure of its idiomatic state,

this verb is (to stand *تَحَمَّنَ*), and omitting the second part reveals that the meaning will be different. In relation to syntax, this grammatical association emerged from the interconnectedness of the two elements (base verb plus a preposition), such type of verb is a non-separable transitive multi-word verb.

21. "ولكنها لم تدر كيف تُفصح عن افكارها الاسيفة!"

"but she did not know how to express her sad thoughts"(Hutchins,et al.,1991,p.2)

- (اَفصَحَ عن) (Al-Ahmedi, 1979, p. 275): to express (Baalbaki, 1995, p. 142). In this combination, the meaning of the lexical verb and the preposition when combined together is different than when they are separated, they together have an idiomatic meaning, such multi-word verb can be replaced by (express *بَيَّنَ*). And when the preposition (عن) is deleted, the meaning will vary, and the verb will mean (speaks eloquently). However, the category under which this multi-word verb is categorized is verb plus a preposition. And it is a transitive non-separable multi-word verb.

22. "وكيف اعتذر عن ضعفه ببريد اصاب معدته"

"and how he had apologized for his weakness, attributing it to an upset stomach"(Hutchins, et al., ibid.).

- (اعتذر عن) (Al-Ahmedi, ibid., p. 231): to apologize (Baalbaki, ibid., p. 128). This combination is non-idiomatic multi-word verb because the lexical verb and the particle keep their meanings when combined together. And the construction from a syntactic viewpoint is (verb-preposition) construction, which is a transitive non-separable multi-word verb.

23. "فيم فآخر هو في صآخب الحديث الضاحك بأنه يستطيع ان يشرب حانة دون ان تضطرب له معدة!؟"

" then why had he himself boasted in the merry hubbub that he could drink a whole tavern of wine without ill effects?" (Hutchins, et al., 1991, p. 2).

- (افتخر بـ) : be proud of (Baalbaki, 1995, p. 139). The verb (افتخر) is combined with preposition (بـ *bi*) and used in a literal sense. With regard to what was mentioned above, both components of the combination keep their individual lexical meanings. Therefore, removing the particle changes nothing with concern to the meaning. Syntactically speaking, such a verb is a separable transitive multi-word verb, it is separated by its subject. It is worth mentioning here that the subject is sometimes placed between the verb and the particle making a separation between them, that is why, the present multi-word verb is a separable one.

24. " وأخيراً تربع في جلسته مستعرضاً نسمة الهواء التي تهفو في لطف ما بين المشربية والنافذة المطلة على الفناء"

" Afterwards he sat with his legs folded beneath him, enjoying the gentle breeze flowing between the latticed balcony and the window overlooking the courtyard"? (Hutchins, et al. ibid.).

- (تربع في) (Al-Ahmedi, 1979, p. 118): To sit cross-legged (Baalbaki, ibid., p. 305). If the verb (تربع) comes with the preposition (in *في*), then it means sitting cross-legged in a position, but when the preposition is changed and substituted with (على) then the meaning will be changed completely and becomes meaning (to seize) (Baalbaki, ibid., 305), like: (تربع على العرش) to sit on the throne (ibid.). Therefore, if the meaning is changed directly with the change of the preposition, so the meaning is idiomatic. In relation to syntax, the construction is combined with simple verb followed by a preposition. Such construction requires an object to complete the meaning, therefore it is an transitive inseparable multi-word verb.

25. "تخفت واسطال وجهها، أو لعله تراءى اطول مما هو لما حل بالخدن من رقعة"

" She had grown thin, and her face seemed longer, if only because her cheeks were hollow" (Hutchins, et al. 1991, p. 2).

- (حل بـ) (Al-Ahmedi, 1979, p. 64): to happen (Baalbaki, 1995, p. 484). The aforementioned multi-word verb is a fixed expression whose meaning is not predictable from the meanings of its parts. Actually, there are many prepositions that can come with the verb (حل) to form various meanings, like the preposition (في *fi*), when this preposition is added to this verb, the meaning will be (to stay at or to camp at), and also, this multi-word verb have a synonymous word which is (happen), thus it is an idiomatic multi-word verb. Syntactically speaking, it is a grammatical association between two units: a verb and a preposition, such multi-word verb is a non-separable transitive verb.

26. " فاضفى عليها روح كبر اكبر مما تستحق"

"and made her seem older than she was"(Hutchins, et al., ibid.).

- (ااضفى على) (Al-Ahmedi, ibid., p. 210): grant (Baalbaki, ibid., p. 121). Two components form this multi-word verb, they are (a verb and a preposition), these two components fuse together and produce a new meaning, so it is an idiomatic multi-word verb, that is clear when the tests are applied on this multi-word verb, the two test shows that there is a word that can replace this multi-word verb which is (to grant *مَنَحَ*), and the second test shows that the deletion of the preposition changes the meaning of the base verb, and with respect to syntax, this multi-word is non-separable transitive one.

27. " حين نمت عينها عن شروود مزج بالآزن"

"Her eyes now revealed a mournful absentmindedness"(Hutchins, et al. 1991,p. 2).

- (نَمُّ عَنْ): to indicate (Baalbaki, 1995, p. 1191). The aforementioned multi-word verb is a fixed expression whose meaning is not predictable from the meanings of its separated parts, and it functions as a single unit where the meaning cannot be figured out from the meaning of the single elements, so, it is an idiomatic multi-word verb. To prove this assumption, the two tests are good ways, the first test indicates that there is a word shares the same meaning with the present multi-word verb, this word is (to show), and the second test which is manifested in the deletion of the second part states that the absence of the preposition makes the verb means (to betray وَشَى), it can be summed up to say that this multi-word verb is an idiomatic one. Syntactically, this multi-word verb is a separable transitive one.
- 28. "كما اشتدت حيرتها لما طرأ عليها من تغير".
" Her anguish over the changes that had befallen her was considerable" (Hutchins, et al. 1991, p. 2).
- (طرأ على)(Al-Ahmedi, 1979, p. 213): happen unexpectedly (Baalbaki, 1995, p. 723). Both components of the combination have their individual lexical meanings, and by combining the verbs with the prepositions, the result is a meaning resembles that of the base verb, so in this case the combination is called non-idiomatic. In relation to syntax, this multi-word verb is a transitive non-separable one.
- 29. "ولئن كانت قد رحبت به بادئ الأمر على سبيل التعزي"
" although at first she had welcomed them as an expression of her grief" (Hutchins, et al. 1991, p. 3).
- (رحبَ بـ): to welcome (Baalbaki, ibid., p. 579). The verb (رحبَ) is combined with preposition (بـ bi) and used in a literal sense, therefore, it is easy to be understood and the it is non-idiomatic. With regard to what was mentioned above, both components of the combination keep their individual lexical meanings when combined together. Syntactically speaking, such a verb is a non-separable transitive multi-word verb.

5 Conclusions

The phrasal verb or two-word verb as title is there in English and Arabic. However, English multi-word verbs are used in informal English, while Arabic verbs are formal in standard Arabic. The paper proves that there is Arabic multi-word verbs under the heading (transitive verbs by means of a preposition).

Through the analysis of the verbs in thirty quotations, the verbs in the two languages are equivalent as far as semantics is concerned. However, many similarities are there in both languages i.e. English multi-word verbs are combinations of lexical verbs and prepositions or adverbs, whereas Arabic multi-word verbs are constructions consist of lexical verbs with the prepositions only).

English multi-word verbs can be intransitive or transitive, whereas Arabic multi-word verbs are transitive verbs by means of a preposition. However, they can be separable or inseparable in both languages. Transitive verbs in English gain different meanings according to the prepositions attached to them, and the same is in Arabic, various meanings of the same preposition add new meanings to the same verb to the extent it changes meaning to the reverse.

Arabic non-idiomatic and idiomatic multi-word verbs are similar to English multi-word verbs in sharing the same semantic properties. But the distinction between them is limited to their syntactic features. And both idiomatic English multi-word verbs and idiomatic Arabic multi-word verbs have the same property in that they can be substituted by a one word.

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