A Corpus-Based Analysis of Phrasal Verbs in Hanif's
'*Our Lady of Alice Bhatti*'

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Abstract

This study aimed to examine the distinctive syntactic patterns of phrasal verbs in the text of the Pakistani English novel "Our Lady of Alice Bhatti" written by British Pakistani writer Muhammad Hanif. The study also aimed to analyze the polysemous functions of phrasal verbs in the novel. The study was a mixed method in nature as the frequencies of the particles and the lexical verbs were assessed quantitatively through corpus analysis, and the functions of the phrasal verbs were explained qualitatively. The corpus comprised the text of the novel "Our Lady of Alice Bhatti" written by Muhammad Hanif. Drawing on Huddleston and Pullum's (2002) list of 24 particles, Guilquin's (2015) list of the twenty frequent lexical verbs, and Brown's (2002) classification of phrasal verbs, the construction of phrasal verbs and their polysemous functions were analyzed after tagging the data through POS tagger and finding out concordance lines through Anthony AntConc (3.4.4.0) software. The results of the study revealed that 13 particles out of 24 particles from Huddleston and Pullum's (2002) list of particles were present in the corpus. However, only five of the 13 particles had been used frequently by the writer. The results also depicted those 10 lexical verbs from Guilquin's (2015) list of the twenty frequent lexical verbs were used frequently in the corpus. It was also suggested through the findings that transitive inseparable phrasal verbs had been used more frequently than the other categories. Furthermore, the results of the study revealed that the writer had employed certain structural patterns of phrasal verb constructions which had not been categorized in earlier studies. The significance of the study lies in the fact that it can be beneficial for material developers, lexicographers, and second language learners and teachers. In addition, the suggestions made in the study mark its significance in the field.

Keywords: particles, lexical verbs, phrasal verbs, corpus-based study, functions of a phrasal verb, inseparable phrasal verbs

1. Introduction

Phraseology is the branch of linguistics that deals with the phraseological units of language including idioms, phrasal verbs, multi-words, and word pairs. (Granger, 2005; Wray, 2002; Guliyeva, 2016). The scholars have referred to phrasal verbs as 'idiomatic expression', 'multi-word units', and 'two-word verb' (Kamarudin, 2013; Meyer, 1975). Linguistically, this term is also called the post verb. According to Wishon and Burks (1980), a phrasal verb consists of a simple verb + 1 or two particles where the meaning of the compound is often different from the meaning of the individual parts. Crowell (1964) states that a phrasal verb is a combination of a verb and a particle, which together, has a meaning different from the customary meaning of the two words.

Cornell (1985) highlights the importance of phrasal verbs quantitatively and specifies that almost 700 phrasal verbs are used in everyday English. The difficult structure and distinctive semantic aspect of this linguistic feature are problematic for the learners of English as a second language. The study conducted by Celce-Murcia and Larsen-Freeman (1999) considers phrasal verbs as problematic features in second language learning and teaching. It has also been emphasized that comprehension of phrasal verbs for language learners and teachers is necessary (Trebits, 2008; Trebits, 2009). Therefore, realizing the importance of phrasal verbs in the context of language learning and teaching, the list of the most frequent phrasal verbs has been developed by Gardner and Davies (2007) to facilitate curriculum developers, material designers, and English language learners and teachers. The scholars are of the view that non-native students tend to employ simple words in place of phrasal verbs while natives use phrasal verbs more excessively (Chen, 2013a & b; Al Nasarat, 2018).

In the context of Pakistan, the researchers have not examined the use of phrasal verbs by comparing the phrasal verbs existing in the Pakistani English writings with the standard lists of particles and lexical verbs. The studies, in the context of Pakistan, focused on certain particles or lexical verbs used in phrasal verb construction. For example, Azhar and Mahmood (2020) only examined the use of "*up*" in phrasal verb construction in the English writings of Pakistani English language learners. This shows that there exists a gap, and the present study tries to fill the existing gap by providing a detailed analysis of particles and lexical verbs used in phrasal verb construction along with their functions in the text of Pakistani English writings of Fiction. The sample corpus consists of the text of the novel 'Our Lady of Alice Bhatti' by Muhammad Hanif.

1.1 Statement of the problem

Learners of English as a second language face difficulty in recognizing syntactic patterns of phrasal verbs and in understanding the semantic aspects of this linguistic feature. Therefore, the non-native speakers or writers of English use phrasal verbs comparatively less than natives (Zohaib, 2019). At the same time, phrasal verbs are given crucial importance in attaining proficiency in the English language (Troike, 2006). The current paper, therefore, is going to examine the use of phrasal verbs in the Pakistani novel "Our lady of Alice Bhatti". The results of the study can be useful in determining the extent to which the writer, who is a non-native English writer, uses phrasal verbs. The study can also be useful for second language learners in understanding the meanings and functions of phrasal verbs.

1.2 Research Objectives

- To examine the use of lexical verbs and particles in the construction of phrasal verbs in "Our Lady of Alice Bhatti" by Muhammad Hanif.
- To explore the functions of phrasal verbs used in "Our Lady of Alice Bhatti".

1.3 Research Questions

- What are the most frequent particles and lexical verbs used in phrasal verb construction in "Our Lady of Alice Bhatti"?
- What functions are these phrasal verbs performing?

1.4 Significance of the study

The significance of the study lies in the fact that it will help overcome the hurdles of learning the complex syntactic pattern of phrasal verbs in the target language. Furthermore, the current study will help to provide deep insight into a corpus-based analysis of phrasal verbs. It will also be a significant contribution in providing good material for lexicographers, publishers, writers, fiction readers, researchers, second language learners, and teachers. Moreover, the findings of this study will be useful for syllabus designers.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Theoretical Framework

The present study follows Brown's (2002) theory of phrasal verbs that divides the phrasal verbs based on verb plus particle combination and the transitivity of phrasal

verbs. According to this theory, phrasal verbs can be categorized into three types- transitive separable, transitive inseparable, and intransitive inseparable. The transitive inseparable phrasal verb does not allow any insertion between the verb and particle while objects occur after the phrasal verbs. These phrasal verbs cannot be separated. Intransitive phrasal verbs are phrasal verbs that do not require an object and cannot be separated. Transitive separable phrasal verbs are those phrasal verbs in which particles can be separated with the insertion of a noun phrase as an object. This type of insertion takes place between verb and particle.

To explain the functions performed by the phrasal verbs, the polysemous nature of phrasal verbs can be a useful aspect while interpreting the meanings of the phrasal verbs. Moon (1987) defines polysemy and is of the view that a word can be polysemous when it can be interpreted in more than one way, and if so, how related these meanings are. Many phrasal verbs have different senses of polysemous meaning (Celce-Murcia & Larsen-Freeman, 1983; Gardner, 2007). It can be stated that Polysemous phrasal verbs mean the phrasal verbs which have more than one meaning (Consigny, 2015; Aldukhayel, 2014). The polysemous nature of 'put up' has been illustrated in examples a, b and c.

1. He put us up for the night.
2. Who put you up to this?
3. He put up a good fight.

2.2 Research on phrasal verbs

Several studies have been conducted on phrasal verbs from various perspectives. The methodologies adopted in carrying out these studies were different as the perspectives of the studies vary. These studies helped us carry out the present research.

Chen (2013) studied the use of phrasal verbs in academic English writings of Chinese students at the university level in comparison with the writings of American and British students. The study included academic and argumentative writings. The study was corpus-based, and the data was analyzed through POS tagger, CLAWS tagger, and Wordsmith tool. The results of the study suggested that Chinese students used a limited number of phrasal verbs as compared to American and British students. The findings also depicted that use of phrasal verbs in the writings of American students was more excessive as compared to the British students.

Another study, aiming to identify the frequency of the phrasal verb combinations, distribution, and their constituents in the Malaysian ESL textbooks was carried out by

Zarifi and Mukundan (2013). This study was also corpus-based. From the point of view of the instrument, the researchers used Zar-test to recognize the different types of phrasal verbs and investigated the data via Wordsmith tool version 4.0. The findings of the study revealed that the selection and use of the phrasal verbs in the Malaysian ESL textbooks were more intuitive rather than empirical.

Furthermore, Sung (2016) examined production patterns of the phrasal verbs in three learner corpora at different proficiency levels in comparison with the native corpus of Korean-speaking foreign language learners of English. The data was analyzed by employing Huddleston and Pullum's (2002) set of particles. The present study also uses Huddleston and Pullum's (2002) set of particles Sung's (2016)

The scholars have also focused on certain phrasal verbs to study their use and structure in detail. For example, Kiativutikul and Phoocharoensil (2014) noticed the grammatical patterns and collocate of three phrasal verbs including *carry out, find out and point out* through corpus-based research because of their high frequency in BNC. The Corpus of Contemporary American English and Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2010) was used for this study as the main reference whereas the data was investigated through concordance lines. The researcher concluded that the concordance line is the best source to retrieve supplementary real material from any language corpora including fiction, academic material, and newspapers for lexicographers, material developers, and second language learners and teachers.

Another study was conducted by Ansarifar et al. (2018) on phrasal complexity in academic writing by comparing the abstracts written by expert writers and graduate students in applied linguistics. The objective was to compare the abstracts written by M.A level L1 Persian writers, Ph.D. level L1 Persian writers, and published writings of applied linguistics. For this purpose, the data was collected from 99 abstracts written by M.A level students' dissertations and 64 Ph.D. dissertations written by L1 Persian students of applied linguistics. The data were analyzed through the ANOVA test and Biber's stages of syntactic development. The findings showed that the M.A level group uses fewer multi-words than Ph.D. level students.

The difficulties faced by ESL learners in mastering phrasal verbs and the importance of the phrasal verbs in attaining proficiency in the English language are the topics that have been addressed by scholars. Barekat and Baniasady (2014), for example, examined the impact of phrasal verbs' avoidance on Persian learners' writing ability in English. For this purpose, the researcher used three elicitation tests and analyzed the data through the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The study recommended that further research can be conducted on reading, listening, and speaking skills.

The effectiveness of Tyler and Evan's vs Lakoff and Johnson's approach in teaching phrasal verbs was investigated by Talebinezhad (2014). The researcher selected 60 participants randomly for this study. The study was experimental and pre-test (multiple-choice items) and post-test (6 cloze passages with fill-in-the-blank) as instruments were used. The data were analyzed through SPSS software by using mean score differences and their corresponding P-values by running T-Test. The study concluded that the first group learned phrasal verbs effectively through the CL-based.

2.3 Research in Context of Pakistan

Azhar and Mahmood (2020) conducted a study to state the effects of the particle "up" on lexical verbs in Pakistani Language Learners'. The data was analyzed through AntConc software, percentages, and statistical analysis. The findings depicted that a limited number of verbs in phrasal verbs pattern have activity feature which performs the role of achievement verbs and accomplishment verbs

In addition to that, Munir (2018) conducted the corpus-based study by selecting a large corpus based on Hamid's fiction (5 short stories and 3 novels) to check the frequency of phrasal verbs with the particle "go". The study claimed its significance for the language teachers, syllabus designers, and language instructors. Furthermore, Al-Nasarat (2018) investigated students' background level and performance by identifying EFL learners' dilemmas in interpreting and learning phrasal verbs. Similarly, another study was carried out by Zohaib (2019) to discover the perceptions and reasons about the importance and avoidance of phrasal verbs in students' academic writings. The researcher recommended that students had a positive perception of the use of phrasal verbs in their academic writings but felt hesitation in using phrasal verbs.

2.4 Research Gap

The studies, in the context of Pakistan, focused on certain particles or lexical verbs used in phrasal verb construction. For example, Azhar and Mahmood (2020) only examined the use of "*up"* in phrasal verb construction in the English writings of Pakistani English language learners. Therefore, it is required to analyze the use of phrasal verb constructions and their functions in Pakistani English writings in detail. Furthermore, the novel, 'Our Lady of Alice Bhatti, has not been studied from this perspective earlier.

3. Research Methodology

3.1 Overall Methodological Approach

The corpus containing the text of the novel "Our Lady of Alice Bhatti (2011)" was analyzed through the corpus tool, while the functions of the identified phrasal patterns have been discussed qualitatively. Therefore, the research is mixed method in nature.

3.2 The Corpus

The corpus construction for the presented study involved several steps. Firstly, the novel "Our Lady of Alice Bhatti" was downloaded from an online source in electronic format. Secondly, the downloaded EPUB file was converted into a PDF file to transfer the data into a Word file. Thirdly, online PDF sources and PDF to Word converter apps were used to turn the data into a Word file. Then, the data was refined to exclude unnecessary information such as the novelist's name, title, affiliation, reference, and page numbers. Lastly, it was converted into a notepad file. Table 1 contains the details of the corpus.

Table 1

Profile of the corpus used in the recent study

Corpus Details	
Token	82102
Types	7792
L1	Urdu
Genre	Novel
No of Novels	1

3.3 Process of Data analysis

The study employed Brown's theory of phrasal verbs (see section 2.1) and Huddleston and Pullum's (2002) list of particles as an instrument (see Table 3.3.1), which were also used by Gilquin (2015) and Sung (2016) in their studies to extract the most frequent phrasal verbs and particles in Pakistani English writing. Guilqin's (2015) list of the most frequent twenty lexical verbs (see Table 2) were also used to identify the most frequent lexical verbs in phrasal verb combinations. The analysis was carried out through AntConc and Tree tagger.

Moreover, this study adopted five particles including *down, off, into, up,* and *out* in examining the polysemous functions of phrasal verbs and transformation of formal variety into informal expression. Hence, these five particles were also chosen in the recent study due to their highest frequency in simple phrasal verb structure and polysemous phrasal verb structure except *into* particle.

Table 2

List of twenty-four Particles (Huddleston & Pullum, 2002)

Set of Particles			
Abroad	About	Across	Ahead
Along	Apart	Around	Aside
Away	Back	By	Down
Forth	Forward	In	Off
On	Out	Over	Round
Through	Together	Under	Up

Table 3

Guilquin's (2015) list of the twenty most frequent lexical verbs

Lexical Verbs				
Go	Carry	Bring	Put	Move
Come	Stand	Work	End	Turn
Get	Sit	Pick	Make	Give
Take	Point	Start	Look	Set

The corpus containing the text of the novel was tagged through POS tagger at First. Then, the data was analyzed through Antconc (3.4.4.0) software. The frequencies of the particles and the lexical verbs were identified with the help of concordance lines. The identified particles and the lexical verbs were assessed in comparison with Huddleston and Pullum's (2002) list of particles and Gilquin's (2015) list of frequent lexical verbs. Then, the polysemous nature of lexical verbs was explained by keeping in view Brown's (2002) classification of phrasal verbs.

4. Analysis and Results

This section provides the details of frequencies of particles, and lexical verbs. In addition to this, functions of phrasal verbs have been discussed qualitatively. The results obtained after the analysis of corpora have been presented in tabular form according to the research questions.

4.1 Frequency and percentages analysis of Particles

The study aimed to answer the question 'What are the most frequent particles and lexical verbs in phrasal verb construction existing in "Our Lady of Alice Bhatti"?. The corpus file comprising the text of the novel "Our Lady of Alice Bhatti", after tagging through POS tagger, was uploaded in Lawrence Anthony AntConc (3.4.4.0) software to get the frequency of all particles according to Huddleston and Pullum's set of 24 particles. The total hits of particles in "Our Lady of Alice Bhatti" were 764 in number. The total number of thirteen particles (see table 4 & 5) from the Huddleston and Pullum's set of 24 particles were present in the corpus. The frequencies were judged through concordance lines. However, only 5 particles (see Table 4) were used frequently in phrasal verb construction in "Our Lady of Alice Bhatti".

Table 4

Most frequent particles in phrasal verb construction

Rank	Particles	Raw Frequency	Percentages (%)
1	Up	277	39.29%
2	Out	218	30.92%
3	Down	83	11.77%
4	Off	68	9.64%
5	Around	39	5.53%
6	Away	20	2.83%
	Total	705	0.6840346115

Table 4 indicates that reports particle "up" was the most frequently used particle in phrasal verb construction in the Our Lady of Alice Bhatti corpus and was the dominating particle in the whole corpus with a frequency of 277 and a percentage of 39. Furthermore, it can be seen that the particles 'out', 'down', 'off', 'around', and 'away' had the frequencies of 218, 83, 68, 39, and 20 respectively.

Table 5

Frequency analysis of remaining particles in phrasal verb construction

No	Particles	Raw frequency (f)
1	Aside	6
2	Along	8
3	Across	2
4	On	16
5	Through	2

6	Over	17
7	In	6
	Total	**57**

Table 5 presents the details of less frequent particles from Huddleston and Pullum's set of 24 particles in Hanif's novel "Our Lady of Alice Bhatti". It is evident from the table that 'aside', 'along', 'across', 'on', 'through', 'over', and in were having the frequencies of 6, 8, 2, 16, 2, 17, and 6.

The analysis also revealed that some of the particles were not present in the corpus. The details of the particles which were not used in the text of the novel have been provided in Table 6.

Table 6

Zero frequency particles

Particles			
Abroad	Forth	About	Apart
Back	Forward	Together	By
Under	Ahead	Round	

4.2 Frequency and Percentages analysis of lexical verbs

The current study employed Guiquin (2015)'s list of 20 most frequent lexical verbs to find out the frequent lexical verbs in phrasal verb construction. The study extracted only those lexical verbs which had been used with particle (RP) in phrasal verbs (PV) construction through tag set used for lexical verbs such as VVD (past tense form of LV), VVB (base form of LV), VVG (-ing form of LV), VVI (an infinitive form of LV), VVN (past participle form of LV) and VVZ (a -s form of LV). The top 10 lexical verbs (see Table 7) from 20 lexical verbs were identified from a total of 764 lexical verbs plus particle phrasal verb construction.

Table 7

The top 10 lexical verbs in the Pakistani novel corpus "Our Lady of Alice Bhatti"

Rank	Lexical Verbs	Raw Frequency	Percentages (%)
1	Take	40	15.50%
2	Go	37	14.34%
3	Turn	28	10.85%
3	Look	28	10.85%
4	Come	27	10.46%

5	Pick	26	10.07%
5	Get	26	10.07%
6	End	23	8.91%
7	Make	12	4.65%
8	Sit	11	4.26%
	Total	**258**	**0.3463131352**

Table 7 presents the details of the frequently used lexical verbs in phrasal verbs construction in the novel "Our Lady of Alice Bhatti". The frequencies of the identified phrasal verbs revealed that the text contained one phrasal verb construction in around 82 words of the text bearing in mind the overall size of the corpus 82102 (word tokens). It is evident from the detail presented in the table that the lexical verb 'take' had the highest frequency of 40, and the lexical verb 'sit' had the lowest frequency of 11. The rest of the lexical verbs including 'go', 'turn', 'look', 'come', 'pick', 'get', 'end', and 'make' had the frequencies of 37, 28, 27, 26, 26, 23, and 12 respectively.

The lexical verbs from Guilquin's (2015) list of 20 most frequent lexical verbs which are less frequently used in the text of the novel have been presented in Table 8.

Table 8

Remaining 10 Least frequent lexical verbs from Guilquin's (2015) list of 20 most frequent lexical verbs

Rank	Lexical Verbs	Raw frequency
1	Put	10
2	Bring	9
3	Carry	7
4	Move	7
5	Stand	6
6	Set	5
7	Give	4
8	Point	2
8	Work	2
9	Start	1
	Total	**53**

Table 8 shows that the lexical verbs 'put', 'bring', 'carry', 'move', 'stand', 'set', 'give', 'point', 'work', and 'start' were less frequently used by Hanif Mohammed in the text of the novel. The frequencies of the verbs mentioned above were 10, 9, 7, 76, 5, 4, 2, 2, and 1 respectively.

4.3 Analysis of functions of phrasal verbs

The second question of the study deals with the functions of phrasal verbs used in the text of the novel "Our Lady of Alice Bhatti".

The analysis of the corpus revealed that transitive-inseparable type of phrasal verbs has been excessively used in the text of the novel (see Table 9) in comparison to other functions of phrasal verbs according to Brown's theory of phrasal verb. The examples of each type of phrasal verb, in terms of the function being performed, according to Brown's theory, have been provided from the corpus of the novel "Our Lady of Alice Bhatti".

Table 9

Frequency analysis of the types and Functions of phrasal verbs in syntactic pattern

Rank	Types and Functions	Frequency	Percentages (%)
1	Transitive inseparable	379	58.49%
2	Intransitive inseparable	171	26.38%
3	Transitive separable	98	15.12%
	Total	**648**	**0.8509631489**

Table 9 shows that the transitive inseparable phrasal verbs were excessively used by the writer. The frequency of such phrasal verbs was 379 which were the highest. The second in number, according to frequency, were intransitive inseparable phrasal verbs having the frequency of 171, while transitive separable phrasal verbs were less frequently used as their frequency was 98.

4.3.1 Examples of the functions of phrasal verbs in the syntactic patterns drawn from the corpus of the novel "Our Lady of Alice Bhatti"

4.3.1.1 Transitive separable (V + Obj + Part)

1) He tries to flick it away without touching Zainab.
2) You are taking me away.
3) …. then gently pushes it aside.
4) ……. then sent him in.
5) They lift her in the air.
6) He picks them up one by one…
7) Teddy helps her out.
8) Noor would have laughed it off…

9) Teddy had to calm them down.

10) ….. and slapping them around.

4.3.1.2 Transitive inseparable (V + Part + Obj)

1) They are passing around a naan….
2) Then I looked up at the balcony….
3) Things always blow up around the house.
4) Anyone getting out alive from this hospital.
5) Alice Bhatti is living out of her bag.
6) She swore off doctors with leftist tendencies…
7) ….. as she turns off towards him again.
8) I would note down their names….
9) You are throwing away his flesh in the garbage…
10) …. Her mind to go through with it.

4.3.1.3 Intransitive inseparable (V + Part)

1) And he is not even pretending to play along.
2) Now run along.…
3) … the mother of the baby quietly passed away….
4) …. he knows when to move on.
5) …….. you came across.
6) They need to be put down.
7) ….. it had gone off.
8) ….. I have lived in….
9) …. But she battled on.
10) ….. the fly comes spinning out.

4.3.2 Other syntactic Patterns of phrasal verbs in the Pakistani novel corpus "Our Lady of Alice Bhatti"

The analysis of the corpus suggested that the text of the novel contains certain phrasal verb constructions which were not part of Brown's theory of phrasal verbs. Some phrasal verbs constructions other than Brown's theory of phrasal verbs have been provided below:

1) The surgeon's cough was out of control…
2) …. no point in bringing this up.
3) You want me to take this off.

4) They plotted picnics and revenge after the night was over.
5) There should be an overlap half away through…
6) …. And now it was up to…
7) After she has counted up to twenty-five…
8) But why would they drive so far out?
9) … maybe you'll be better off.

Therefore, it can be stated that the study was not limited to Brown's theory of phrasal verbs for finding out the functions of phrasal verbs in the syntactic pattern of the Pakistani novel "Our Lady of Alice Bhatti" as other patterns (i.e., V + Part + RB OR JJ) of the phrasal verbs was also recognized.

4.3.3 Polysemy functions of phrasal verbs

4.3.3.1 Out

a) Get out

I'll try and *get* the word *out*…

Get out more often…

I can never *get* sand *out* of your clothes.

b) Take out

…he *takes* the bar *out* of her hands…

She starts *taking out* her clothes and putting them in the gym…

c) Fill out

… its cheeks already beginning to *fill out.*

You need to apply, *fill out* forms, your husband needs …

4.3.3.2 Up

a) Turn up

… finds the remote and *turns up* the volume.

What kind of Christian never *turns up* for Sunday service?

b) Lookup

I stood and kept *looking up* for forty-five minutes.

Then I *looked up* at the balcony of Ortho Ward…

c) Pick up

… she put the files in her lap, then *picks* it *up* and clasps it….

We can't even *pick up* a common thief from Clifton…

4.3.3.3 Down

a) Go down

…. she has her own bed, adjustable, it *goes* up and *down…*

Then he *goes down* on his knees…

b) Look down

She even volunteered to *look down* their throats…

Looking down into the deluge from the window….

4.3.3.4 Into as a preposition

a) Reach into

She *reaches into* her past and tells him…

Hina Alvi *reaches into* a file…

b) Go into

Teddy *goes into* a corner and assumes….

Some *goes into* Alice's eye…

4.3.3.5 Off

a) Take off

I'll *take* my shalwar *off* but you have to promise…

The Hilux *takes off* as soon as he climbs…

b) Fall off

…the feeling that you feel when a baby is about to *fall off* a bed and your instinctive reaction is to scoop it up in your arms.

… and feels relieved at having delivered a full sentence without *falling off* the stool.

c) Get off

She tries to *get off* the bus in a hurry, the traffic signal turns green…

When Dr. Pereira in his days off community work, tried to *get* him *off* the opium, he said, if I am going to be called…

d) Cut off

…somebody *cut off* his mother's ears to get her earrings, and…

Alice Bhatti is *cut off* sharply by Hina Alvi.

5. Conclusion

This study aimed to find out the use of particles and lexical verbs quantitatively in phrasal verb combinations along with their functions in the novel "Our Lady of Alice Bhatti". The corpus of the text of the novel was tagged through POS tagger, and the frequencies of the particles and lexical verbs used in combination were assessed through Antconc with the help of concordance lines. The results revealed that frequently used particles were *up, out, down, off, around,* and *away* from Huddleston and Pullum's (2002) set of 24 particles. The findings of the study also suggested that *take, go, turn, look, come, pick, get, end, make* and *sit* were the most frequently used lexical verbs in combination with the particles in the text of the novel. Furthermore, the analysis made it evident that the transitive inseparable phrasal verbs, in terms of functions of phrasal verbs, were at the top rank in the corpus. The phrasal verbs performing other functions

were also discovered. Based on the results, the study concludes that Pakistani English writers use the phrasal verbs in their writings, but the use of this linguistic feature by Pakistani English writers is not in excess as some of the particles and the lexical verbs suggest by Huddleston and Pullum's (2002) and Guilquin (2015) or either missing or have the low frequency. The study also concludes that Pakistani English writers use phrasal verb constructions which are not suggested by the previous studies. The study also concludes that the phrasal verbs used in the text of the novel have polysemous functions.

5.1 Suggestions

The present study has been successful in achieving the proposed research objectives concerning the use of phrasal verbs in the text of 'Our Lady of Allice Bhatti'. However, the study has the following limitations and suggestions:

1. The corpus of the study comprised only one novel. Therefore, the study suggests that a corpus comprising a large number of writings should be constructed for the analysis of phrasal verbs used in Pakistani English writings.
2. The focus of the study is on only one genre. It is suggested here that research should be carried out by incorporating texts of various genres.
3. The study focuses on just one linguistic feature. Future studies can be carried out from different perspectives on many other linguistic features as well.

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