# Sudan University of Science and Technology College of Graduate studies and Scientific Research



An investigation into the University EFL Students use of Phrasal Verbs: A case Study of Third Year Students at Sudan University of Science and Technology

استخدام أفعال العبارات الفعلية لدي دارسي اللغة الانجليزية بوصفها لغة أجنبية دراسة حالة طلبة السنة الثالثة بجامعة السودان للعلوم والتكنولوجيا

A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for a M.A Degree in E LT.

## **Submitted by:**

### Mutwakil Abdallah Ali GarElzain

Supervised by:

Dr. Salaheldin Adam Ahmed Eldouma

# **Dedication**

To my dear father and the soul of my mother

To my dear brothers and sisters, friends and

colleagues.

## **Acknowledgements**

First of all my thanks are due to the almighty Allah who helped me to accomplish this study. The researcher wishes to express his gratitude to Dr. Salahedin Adam Ahmed Eldouma, the supervisor, for his encouragement and guidance throughout of this research. Also would like to thank EFL university students at Sudan University of Science and Technology (Faculty of languages) for their assistance in collecting the data for this study.

Finally, my gratitude's are also due to my family members, in particular, brothers: Alhadi and Alsadig who were continuously supporting and encouraging me to complete the study.

#### Abstract

This study aims at investigating the uses of phrasal verbs and prepositional verbs by university EFL learners. the study also surveyed the learners attitudes towards using phrasal verbs and prepositional verbs. The descriptive analytical method was adopted in this study.

To collect the data required, a test and a questionnaire were administered to seventy two third year English language students at Sudan university of science and technology.

The findings of the study have revealed that most of the university EFL students were unable to use phrasal verbs and prepositional verbs; they didn't have enough vocabulary so that they could easily understand phrasal verbs and prepositional verbs.

The findings of the study have also showed that most of the students had negative attitudes towards using phrasal verbs and prepositional verbs, for they considered them the most difficult areas of language and that the meanings of phrasal verbs can't be inferred from the meaning of individual words.

The study recommends that the use of phrasal verbs and prepositional verbs should be further emphasized in the syllabuses. Effective strategies of teaching these language items should be introduced to help promote learners awareness in using phrasal

verbs and prepositional verbs, and that more practical approaches to teaching and learning phrasal verbs and prepositional verbs should be used in EFL classroom. Other sources of phrasal verbs also should be included.

تهدف هذه الدراسة إلي بحث مستوي الطلاب في استخدام أفعال العبارات الفعلية لدي دارسي اللغة الإنجليزية بوصفها لغة اجنبية و معرفة انطباعات الطلاب نحو ذلك. استخدم الباحث المنهج الوصفي التحليلي في هذه الدراسة.

جمعت البيانات الخاصة بهذه الدراسة بأداتين هما: الاختبار والاستبيان صممت لإثنين وسبعين طالباً وطالبة حيث تم إختيارهم من جامعة السودان للعلوم والتكنولوجيا كلية اللغات قسم اللغة الانجليزية المستوي الثالث.

أظهرت نتائج البحث أن معظم الطلاب لايستطيعون استخدام أفعال العبارات الفعلية لأنهم لايمتلكون مفردات لغوية كافية تمكنهم من سهولة معرفة ذلك. كما أظهرت الدراسة أن هؤلاء الطلاب لديهم انطباعات سالبة نحو استخدام أفعال العبارات الفعلية لأنهم يعتبرون أفعال العبارات الفعلية من أصعب مجالات اللغة، وأن أفعال العبارات الفعلية لايمكن استنتاجها من معاني المفردات.

أوصت الدراسة بأن تعطي أفعال العبارات الفعلية أهمية خاصة في المنهج. كما يجب وضع خطط فعالة تساعد على رفع مستوى أداء الطلاب في استخدام أفعال العبارات الفعلية. بالاضافة إلى ذلك يجب استخدام وسائل تعليم عملية في قاعات الدراسة.

## **Table of contents**

	Topic	Pages			
	Dedication				
	Acknowledgements				
	Abstract				
	Abstract (Arabic version)				
	List of tables				
	Chapter One: introduction				
1.0	Overview	1			
1.1	The Statement of the problem	3			
1.2	The Questions of the study	4			
1.3	The Hypotheses of the study	4			
1.4	The Objectives of the study	5			
1.5	The Significance of the study	5			
1.6	The Methodology of the study	5			
1.7	The Limits of the study	6			
	Chapter Two: Literature Review				
2.1	Introduction	7			
2.2	The historical background of English phrasal verbs	7			

2.3	Ancestors of phrasal verbs in old English	8			
2.4	Phrasal verbs in present-day English, and regional	11			
	variation				
2.5	Key verbs of English phrasal verbs	12			
2.6	Formal characteristics of phrasal verbs and prepositional	20			
	verbs				
2.7	Verbs plus prepositions	25			
2.8	Prepositional phrases	27			
2.9	Syntactic tests for phrasal verbs and prepositional verbs	28			
2.10	Idiomatic phrasal verbs and prepositional verbs	31			
2.11	The best way of learning phrasal verbs	35			
2.12	Previous studies	38			
	Chapter Three: Methodology				
3.1	Introduction	41			
3.2	Subject of the study	41			
3.3	The tools of the data collection and procedures	41			
3.4	The validity and reliability of test and questionnaire	42			
	Chapter Four: Data Analysis, Results and Discussion				
4.1	Introduction	44			
4.2	Analysis of students' questionnaire	44			
4.3	The results of students' responses to the questionnaire	44			
4.4	The Test	52			
4.5	Testing hypotheses	53			
	Chapter Five: Summary, Conclusion,				
	Recommendations and Suggestions for further studies				
5.1	Introduction	55			
5.2	Summary findings	55			
5.3	Recommendations	56			
5.4	Suggestion for further studies	57			
	References	58			
	Appendices	60			