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Particle verbs as constructional idioms

Incorporation of Adverb, Adjective, Noun, Postposition

General structure

[X V]_V

The incorporated constituent is non-projecting



No lexical integrity:

a. De problemen *hopen* zich *op*.

the problems pile refl up

'The problems pile up.'

b. De fabrikant *hoogde* de prijzen *op*.

the manufacturer high-ed the prices up

'The manufacturer raised the prices.'

c. De atleet *vergrootte* zijn voorsprong.

the athlete *ver-big-ed* his lead

'The athlete increased his lead.'



a. SCV: [*op*-[[*hoop*]N]V]V' 'lit.
up-pile, to pile up'

[*op*-[[*hoog*]A]V]V' 'lit.
up-high, to heighten'

b. prefixed verb:
[*ver*-[*groot*]A]V 'lit. *ver*-big, to
enlarge, to increase'



Particle

a. dat Jan de informatie wilde op-
zoeken / op wilde zoeken

that John the information wanted
up-search/ up wanted search

'that John wanted to look up the
information'

b. Jan is de informatie aan het
opzoeken. / *op aan het zoeken

John is the information at the up-
search / up at the search

'John is looking up the information.'



No projection

**dat Jan zijn huiswerk heeft * (helemaal)
af-gemaakt**

**that John his homework has
completely off-made**

**‘that John has finished his homework
completely’**



Semantic classification of particles

a) Resultative particles:

Particles conceptualised as resultative predicates, licensing a Figure participant.

b) Non-resultative particles:

Particles conceptualised as modifiers, not licensing any participant.

Particles conceptualised as relators, licensing a Ground participant.

Particles conceptualised as pure Aktionsart markers, blocking the presence of participants (other than the Agent).



Modifying particle

de groenten *voorkoken*

the vegetables for-cook

'to cook the vegetables beforehand, to
precook the vegetables'



Relator particles

- a. de jongen *aankijken* ‘to look at the boy’
- b. het publiek *toespreken* ‘to talk to the audience’



Aktionsart particle

dat Jan de hele nacht heeft *door-*
gewerkt

that John the whole night has through-
worked

‘that John has been working all night
long’



Lexicalization development of individual phrasal combinations:

completely free >

partly fixed, partly free >

completely fixed



Grammaticalization cline

projecting word – non-projecting word –
clitic - affix



SCVs with A-base	gloss	meaning
<i>op-frissen</i>	up-fresh	‘to freshen up’
<i>in-dikken</i>	in-thick	‘to thicken’
<i>uit-diepen</i>	out-deep	‘to deepen’

SCVs with N-base	gloss	meaning
<i>op-hopen</i>	up-pile	‘to pile up’
<i>af-beelden</i>	off-image	‘to represent’
<i>in-polderen</i>	in-polder	‘to drain, to make into a polder’



- a. [*op*[[*fris*]A]V0]V',
[*op*[[*hoop*]N]V0]V'
- b. [*ver*[*groot*]A]V0, [*be*[*dijk*]A]V0

