

PHRASAL VERBS, IDIOMATICITY AND THE FIXEDNESS CONTINUUM

Abstract : Talmy (1985; 2000) assigns *phrasal verbs* to the typological group of the *satellite-framed verb languages*, whose prototype would be Germanic languages, although this construction seems important also in Italian (Raffaele Simone 1996), the so-called *verbi sintagmatici*. Both can be defined as syntagms formed by a verbal head and a complement consisting of a particle (originally an adverb), united by a strong syntactic and semantic cohesion between the parts, which prevents or restricts the commutation proof. These structures have more common features with phrasemes than with syntactic combinations, however, at the same time, the function played by the particle, in relation to the verb, is also similar to the role played by prefixes in many Romance and Slavonic lexical items. This work analyzes different degrees of fixedness and idiomaticity, into a *continuum* going from regular V+Adv combinations to completely lexicalized verbs, whose intermediate degrees are occupied by overlapping constructions forming a bridge between syntax and morphology by means of phraseological mechanisms.