Actualization between exemplar-based analogy and recontextualization: *up* in British English and American English during the years 1750-1900

Ljubica Leone
Lancaster University, UK
l.leone1@lancaster.ac.uk

The English word *up* is characterized by a complex linguistic behavior that derives from its multifunctional substance. According to modern grammars (Quirk et al. 1985; Biber et al. 1999) *up* can be a preposition working as the head of a prepositional phrase (e.g. *up the hill*), or it can behave as an adverb specifying place and direction (Bolinger 1971) which, on many occasions, is paradigmatically linked to *upstairs* (e.g. *it is up/upstairs*); On the other hand, it may occur as an adverbial particle in phrasal verbs (e.g. *to give up*) or in phrasal-prepositional verbs (e.g. *to live up to*) (Denison 1985). The multifunctional substance and the existence of a great amount of variability in the use of *up* that is registered in modern times are the results of interacting factors that prompted the linguist renewal of this form over time.

Existing studies have demonstrated that *up* underwent syntactic reanalysis driven by exemplar-based analogy and was affected by recontextualization intended as the process resulting in "new options for the re-use of a linguistic construction" (von Mengden & Kuhle 2020: 253) which favored divergent paths of development and phenomena of layering. The actualization of the multifunctional status of *up* has been linked to processes of recontextualization leading it from the status of a free preposition or an adverb to a bounded status: syntactic reanalysis and analogy transformed *up* into a particle occurring in phrasal verbs and phrasal-prepositional verbs. These processes characterized the history of *up* since earlier periods of English (Denison 1981; Hiltunen 1983; Thim 2012) and were particularly prominent in the Early Modern English (EModE) time (Claridge 2000; Elenbaas 2007). However, despite extensive research that has been undertaken to examine the processes of actualization of *up* as a multifunctional word, some areas require further investigation. These concern the description of an important aspect of actualization, that is "the order in which new uses appear" (De Smet 2012:601), and the extent to which it is possible to generalize the observed uses of *up* from British English (BrE) to other varieties such as American English (AmE).

The present study aims to fill this gap and to discuss changes driven by recontextualization and exemplar-based analogy by taking *up* as a case study. Specifically, the aims are: (1) to describe processes of actualization characterizing *up* in two varieties, that is BrE and AmE, during the years 1750-1900; (2) to interpret the results in the light of language ecology which covers "interactions between any given language and its environment" (Haugen 1972: 325).

The present research is a corpus-based investigation undertaken on the ARCHER corpus, which is a multi-genre corpus that is available online on the CQPweb server (Hardie 2012; 2018). Concordance-based analysis will be matched to quantitative evaluation of the results to depict the order the various uses of *up* appeared in the course of actualization. At the same time, the examination of the uses of *up* in the two subcorpora of BrE and AmE can give evidence, if any, of a potential influence of the extralinguistic context in the order of change affecting *up* over time.

It is expected that recontextualization and examplar-based analogy could result in differential effects in BrE and AmE and that there could be some divergence in the order of change depending on standardization processes which may work at different speeds in diverse varieties.

Keywords: *up*, actualization, recontextualization, analogy, varieties

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