



# PARTICLE VERB CONSTRUCTIONS IN HISTORICAL GERMAN AND WHAT CORPUS STUDIES REVEAL ABOUT THEM

Svetlana Petrova, Bergische Universität Wuppertal  
[petrova@uni-wuppertal.de](mailto:petrova@uni-wuppertal.de)

## CURRENT TOPIC

- status and annotation of compound verb forms of the type in (1)a-d found in historical stages of German (e.g. OHG)

- (1) a. Prep + V    *inbizan* ‘eat’, *duruhbizan*, *ufgan* ‘emerge’  
     b. Adv + V    *dananeman* ‘take away’, *hinawerfan* ‘throw away’  
     c. Adj + V    *ebanwirken* ‘take part’, *follasingan* ‘sing completely’  
     d. N + V    *fuozfallon* ‘bow to so’, *abandmuosen* ‘eat supper’

- forms in (1)a-d are treated as lexicalized compounds and listed as dictionary entries (e.g. Schützeichel <sup>6</sup>2006)
- but they do not behave in a uniform way
- Wilmanns (<sup>2</sup>1930), Henzen (<sup>3</sup>1965) distinguish two categories similar to well-known types of compounds in modG:
  - separable** compounds: *anrufen* ‘call’, *wiederkommen* ‘return’, *fertigstellen* ‘complete’, *preisgeben* ‘reveal’
  - non-separable** compounds: *überwinden* ‘overcome’, *wiederholen* ‘repeat’, *vollbringen* ‘complete’, *lobssingen* ‘glorify’

## BASIC PROPERTIES – SEPARABLE COMPOUNDS

- separable compounds share basic topological properties of complex predicates, e.g. resultative and similar constructions (Lüdeling 2001, Müller 2002, Kolehmainen 2005)

–PRT appears immediately to the right of V in basic order

- (2) *dass Peter Maria **anruft** / die Tür **grün** **streicht***  
that Peter Mary PRT-calls the door green paints
- (3) a. *dass Peter Maria **nicht anruft** / die Tür **nicht grün** **streicht***  
b. *dass Peter Maria \***an nicht ruft** / die Tür \***grün nicht** **streicht***

–PRT does not move with Vfin to C in main clauses

- (4) a. *Peter ruft<sub>i</sub> Maria **an** t<sub>i</sub>* ‘Peter calls Mary’  
b. *Peter \***anruft** Maria*

–scrambling of PRT and fronting to SpecC are restricted (5)-(6)

- (5) *dass die Sonne **AUF** im **OSten** und **UNter** im **WESten** geht*
- (6) ***Auf** **geht** die Sonne im Osten / **Fest** steht, dass, ... / **Los** **ging** die Geschichte / \***Los** **ist** die Geschichte gegangen*

## BASIC PROPERTIES – NON-SEPARABLE COMPOUNDS

- non-separable compounds pattern with prefix verbs in (7), where the first component is a bound morpheme

(7) *behandeln* ‘treat’, *erreichen* ‘reach’, *versuchen* ‘try’, *zerreißen* , ‘tear in pieces’, etc.

- no separability
  - Prefix/PRT immediately precedes V in all contexts, both in basic order and in contexts requiring verb fronting
  - in the latter case, Prefix/PRT +Vfin are both in C, another XP may go to SpecCP

- (8) a. *dass Peter alles erreicht / hinterfragt*  
           that Peter everything achieves / questions  
           ‘that Peter succeeds in everything/puts everything into question’
- b. [<sub>SpecCP</sub> *Peter<sub>j</sub>* [<sub>c°</sub> *erreicht/hinterfragt<sub>i</sub>* *t<sub>j</sub>* *alles t<sub>i</sub>*]]



## ADDITIONAL FEATURES

- in special contexts, separable compounds require obligatory morphological separation, while non-separable compounds, like prefix verbs, disallow it

—zu-Infinitive (e.g. modal zu-Inf. with *haben* and *sein*)

- (9) a. *Peter hat anzurufen* vs. *Peter hat \*zu anrufen*  
'Peter has to call'
- b. *Alles ist zu erreichen / zu hinterfragen* vs. *\*erzureichen / hinterzufragen*

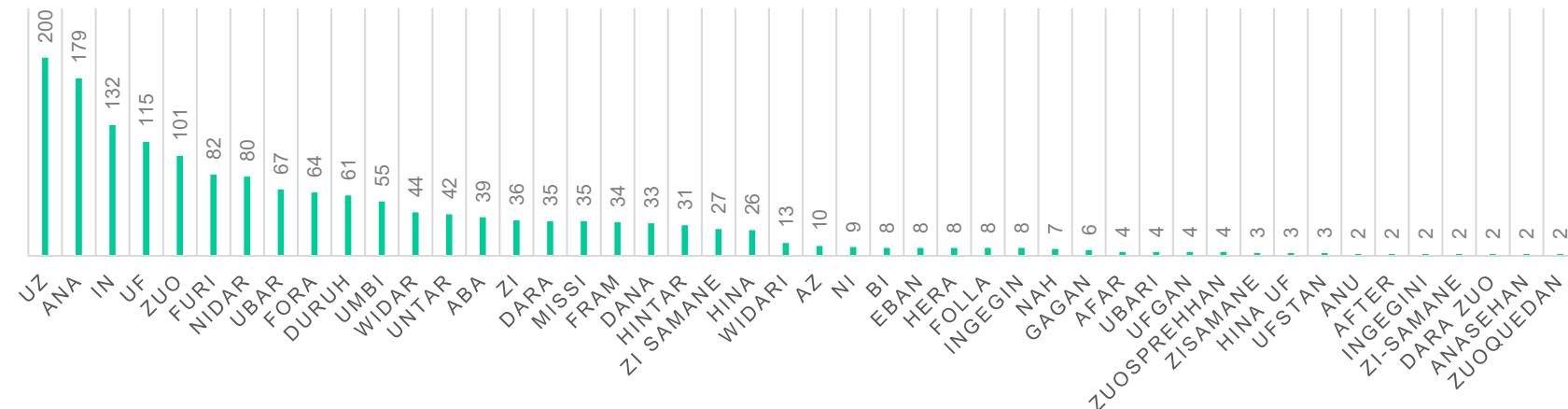
—ge-Prefixation of Past Participles

- (10) a. *Peter hat an-ge-rufen / alles er-reicht / \*ge-er-reicht / \*er-ge-reicht / alles hinterfragt / ge-hinter-fragt / hinter-ge-fragt*  
'Peter has called / has succeeded in everything/ has questioned everything'

## TREATMENT IN DDD-REA 1.0

- DDD-Referenzkorpus *Altdeutsch* (REA) 1.0,  
<https://korpling.org/annis3/ddd/>
- DDDTS: tagset includes PTKVZ ‘abtrennbarer Verbzusatz’  
(11) pos="PTKVZ" & lemma & #1\_= #2 & meta::language="ahd."
- Result: 1699 hits / 103 lemmata

**GRAPH 1: INVENTORY AND DISTRIBUTION OF PTKVZ IN  
DDD-REA 1.0**



## CONSISTENCY CHECK AND FURTHER QUESTIONS

- some obvious misparsings
  - ni* (Negation Particle, 9x)
  - graphical variation *zisamane* / *zi-samane* / *zi samane* ‘together’,  
*gagen* / *gagan* ‘against’
  - more than 50 „hapax legomena“ → different problems
- (12) *umbifahan*, *umbihaben*, *ur*, *dar*, *fol*, *lib*, *ana*, *fuoz*, *hant*, *inne*, *ouga*,  
*wola*, *zuotuon*, *aband*, *gagen*, *umbiringen*, *ingan*, *wider*, *untartuon*,  
*forastan*, *uzfrummen*, *nidarsehan*, *hera in*, *hinasin*, *hinafaran*, etc.
- most frequent items are equivalents of well-known separable particles in modG, but we also find some potential equivalents of prefixes (*zi* ‘zer-’, *bi* ‘be-’) and particles with double status, both separable and non-separable (*ubar*?)
- Do the items annotated as PTKVZ really behave like separable particles in compounds?

## FIRST ACCESS

- some of the items annotated as PTKVZ display separability in the proper contexts

(13) a. *aba za snidanne ist*

‘is to be cut off’ / lat. *amputandum est*

DDD-AD-Benediktiner\_Regel\_1.0 > B\_33 (edition 3 - 13)

b. *uzkikanganer* / lat. *egressurus*

*uzgan*-PastPart.Masc.Nom.Sg ‘whoever will go away’

DDD-AD-Benediktiner\_Regel\_1.0 > B\_35 (edition 87 - 97)

c. *uzkakangan uuesan* / lat. *egredi*

*uzgan*-PastPart be ‘whoever has gone out’

DDD-AD-Benediktiner\_Regel\_1.0 > B\_58 (edition 278 - 288)

(14) so    *losét sih alliu íre hût ábo*

so    peels    REFL    all         her skin    PRT

‘then all its skin peels off’

DDD-AD-Physiologus\_1.0 > APh\_11\_Schlange(edition 144 - 154)

## ...BUT

- there is data suggesting that no separation takes place

- (15) *craft, tiuflon za **uuidar**stantanne*  
 power devils-DAT.PL to resist-INF.DAT.SG  
 ‘power to resist the devils’ DDD-AD-  
*Kleinere\_Althochdeutsche\_Denkmäler\_1.0 > W\_Wess* (edition 107-118)
- (16) *Vuer uuirdit rehtere **kikagen**mazzit demo husherren*  
 ‘Wer wird zurecht mit dem Hausherrn verglichen’  
 DDD-AD- *Kleinere\_Althochdeutsche\_Denkmäler\_1.0 > APB\_PredigtsammlungB* (edition 456 - 466)
- (17) *so siu uuíle drinkán, so **uzspîget** siu zerest dáz eitér*  
 ‘whenever it wants to drink, it spits out the poison first’  
 DDD-AD-*Physiologus\_1.0 > APh\_11\_Schlange* (edition 180 - 190)
- (18) *So danne div iungîde giuuáhssent in iro uuane, so **durehbîzzent** sîe sî unde gant so vîz*  
 ‘when the babies have gown in her womb, they bite it through and go out in this way ’ *DDD-AD-Physiologus\_1.0 > APh\_11\_Schlange* (edition 60 - 70)



## GOALS OF STUDY IN PROGRESS

- Investigation (Petrova, i.prep.) into the behaviour of **each individual compound** wrt morphological and syntactic separability
  - in contexts requiring morphological separability (zu-Inf, ge-PastPart)
  - in clauses involving verb fronting, taking into consideration potential Latin influences
  - in those cases in which we find evidence for systematic separability: what about the syntactic behaviour of the particle, e.g. wrt movement (topicalisation and scrambling)?

## SOME OBSTACLES

- some compounds never occur in contexts triggering separation, and consequently, nothing can be said about the status of PTKVZ, e.g. (19)

- (19) *alles des ih io missasprah eddo missateta eddo missadahta*  
'all I spoke bad things about or I did evil to or thought badly of' DDD-  
AD-Kleinere\_Althochdeutsche\_Denkmaeler\_1.0 >AB\_AltbairischeBeichte  
(edition 12 - 22)

- the properties of PTKVZ in (20) cannot be determined

- (20) *abandmuosen* 'eat supper', *ebanbringan* 'use', *ebengesizzan* 'sit with so.', *ebansprehan* 'discuss with', *ebansttan* 'stand up', *ebanwirken* 'participate', *follasingan* 'sing to the end', *follastan* 'remain', *followahsan* 'become full', *fuozfallon* 'bow to so.', *innestekkian* 'sink', *libfestigon* 'reanimate', *missisprehhan* 'speak badly about', *missidenken*, 'think badly of', *ougazorhton* 'reveal'

## RESULTS 1: ZU-INF

- zu-Inf. is tagged as PTKZU at the level of parts of speech/pos
    - PTKZU precedes PTKVZ in non-separable compounds
- (21) pos="PTKZU" & pos="PTKVZ" & #1. #2 & meta::language= "ahd."  
(5 hits / 4 lemmata) → **PTKVZ inappropriate**
- (22) *inbiotan* 'command', *ubarmuoton* 'become proud', *ubarscricken* 'overleap', *widarstantan* 'resist'
- PTKZU follows PTKVZ in separable compounds
- (23) pos="PTKZU" & pos="PTKVZ" & #2. #1 & meta::language= "ahd."  
(13 hits /12 lemmata, except (25)) → **PTKVZ is justified**
- (24) *abasnidan*, *anafahan*, *anaqueden*, *furegezihen*, *duruchgefremian*,  
*hinaufspringan*, *ingangan*, *nidarneman*, *umbestritten*, *uzgangan*,  
*zuotuon*, *zuosezzen*
- (25) *inti árstuont úf zi lesanne* 'stood up to read' DDD-AD-Tatian\_1.0 >  
T\_Tat18 (edition 20 - 31)

## RESULT 2: GE- IN PAST PARTICPLES

- (26) pos="PTKVZ" & pos="VVPP|VVPPA|D|N|S" & #1.#2 &  
meta::language="ahd." (154 hits, 2 misparsings)

- caveats: separability cannot be determined on this criterion
  - no ge- in the PastPart, e.g. compounds of *queman*, *werdan* or *bringan* (13 hits), see (27)
  - no ge- in compounds with double prefixes, e.g. *uf-ir-heffen* ‘elevate’ (22 hits), see (28)
  - ge- already in the infinitive of some verbs, e.g. *ebangisizzen* ‘sit together’ (14 hits), see (29)

- (27) *si [...] duruhqhueman* ‘be-SUBJ PRT come-PAST.Part ’/lat. *pervenietur*  
Benediktiner\_Regel\_1.0 > B\_0 (edition 737 - 747)

- (28) *ther sih giomotigot uuirdit ufarhaban* ‘whoever humiliates himself will  
be elevated’ DDD-AD-Tatian\_1.0 > T\_Tat110 (edition 219 - 229)

- (29) *ebankesizzan* / lat. *consedere* DDD-AD-Benediktiner\_Regel\_1.0 >  
B\_63 (edition 338 - 348)

## RESULT 2: *GE-* IN PAST PARTICPLES

- separable compounds in (30) → **PTKVZ is justified**

(30) *abaneman, abazucken, anafahan, analoggen, analleiten, anascinan, anaspiwan, anazeihhanen, dananeman, daraladon, darasenten, forastrecken, foraquedan, hinawerfan, ingangan, inladon, nidarbiogan, niderhelden, nidarleggen, nidarwelzen, ubariquedan, ufgangan, ufleggen, umbibiogan, umbinuscen, uzfrummen, uzgangan, uzgiozan, uezsendten, uztragan, zisamanebintan, zisamaneduhen, zisamanefuogen, zisamanegiozan, zisamaneheften, zisamanerennen, zisammaneknupfen, zisamanezellenzuobouhhan, zuomanon, zuotuon*

- non-separable compounds in (31) → **PTKVP is inappropriate**

(31) *bituon ‘close’, duruhfremmen, duruhfullen, duruhmisen, duruhspanan, duruhstehhan, duruhtulten, duruhtuon, follawahsan, furifaran, furiilen, furiloufan, gaganmezzon, inbigan, inbrennen, intuon, ubardenen, ubarkoboron, ubarneman, ubarsagen, ubarstigan, ubarwinnan, ubarwintan, umbiringen, untardionon, untardiuten, untarfolgen, untargeban, untarquedan, untarslihhan, untartuon, untarweban, untarwerfan, widarmezzan, widarstozen, zigangan, ziteilen, ziwerfan*



## SYNTACTIC SEPARABILITY

- clauses in which PTKVZ precedes a fronted V

- the verbs in (32) always precede Vfin when fronted

(32) *duruhbījan* ‘bite through’, *duruhfremman*, *duruhwonen* ‘remain’,  
*ebanbruhen* ‘interact’, *folla-trinkan/queman/stan*, *gaganloufan* ‘meet,  
attend’, *gagenmâzzen* ‘compare’, *hantslagon* ‘applaud’, *hintarqueman*  
‘marvel’, *missetoun* ‘treat badly’, *ubarfaran*, *ubarwinnan*, *ubarwintan*  
‘overcome’

- General non-separability, Latin imitation or PRT-tolicalization?
  - PRT+V against Latin

(33) *Hantslagot · allo deotun / lat. Omnes gentes plaudite manibus*  
DDD-AD-Monsee\_1.0 > MF\_2\_VG.XXVIII (edition 60 - 70)

- PRT+V like in Latin?

(34) *so thin fuoz bisuuicha thih, abasnit inan inti aruuirf fon thir*  
‘if your feet irritates you, cut it off and throw it away from you’  
T\_Tat95 (edition 89 - 99) / = lat. **abscide** eum et proice abs te

## CASE STUDY – RESULTS (I)

- compounds in Monsee Fragments (free translation, n=41 / 2 misparsings)
- non-separation displays a Latin counterpart

(35) *Dese ni uz tribit tiubila* / lat. *hic non eicit demones* (MF V. 20)  
DEM NEG PRT drives devils 'He does not expel [the] devils'

(36) *ubar ferita=transferauit* (I. 5)  
*ubar saita = superseminavit* (IX. 26)  
*ni uui dar stritit=non contendit* (V. 9)  
*uuart ... fram brungang=oblatus est* (V.14)  
*ih uz fuor= exivi* (VII. 14)

- no separation, no direct Latin influence

(37) *hantschlagot=plaudite manibus* (XXVIII. 15)

## CASE STUDY – RESULTS (II)

- OHG PRT in distance from V against Latin

- a Latin compound verb ist present

(38) *In demo tage genc ihs uz fona hûs = exiens*  
 in that-DAT day-DAT went Jesus PRT from house  
 ‘on that thay, Jesus went out from the house’  
 MF\_Monsee-fragment-1\_M.VII (edition 362 - 372)

(39) *fuor uz=exiit (VIII. 4), fuorun uz=egressi (XV. 21), urphun uz=foras*  
*misserunt (X.20), ken gun zuo=accesserunt (XXIII. 13), steic*  
*nidar=discendit (XXXVIII. 23), faru fora=ante te ibo (XXXIV. 6) (???*  
 Preposition)

- no Latin compound present

(40) *ferit auuar uz=ite ergo (XV. 20), genc uph=ceciderunt (VIII.8),*  
*sprah im filu zuo=locutus est eis (VIII. 3)*

- separability is a genuine property of native grammar

## TOPICALIZATION OF PARTICLES?

- Maybe the particle precedes V because it has been topicalized itself, see (41)-(42)

(41) **úzgiang** sar tho líndo ther díufeles gisindo  
 PRT-went quickly then smoothly the devil-GEN friend  
 'at once, the friend of the devil went out smoothly'  
 O\_Otfr.Ev.4.12 (edition 459 - 469)

(42) **ana si kimahchot imu uuerah**  
 PRT be-SUBJ done him-DAT work  
 'he should be given some work to do' / *iniungatur ei opus*  
 DDD-AD-Benediktiner\_Regel\_1.0 > B\_48 (edition 509 - 519)

- but if we assume topicalization, we get V3-effects, see (43)

(43) *Thô uespera uuas, úzgiengun* *fon theroburgi*  
 when evening was PRT-went from the-DAT town  
 'When it was evening, [they] went out from the town' / *Et cum vespera facta esset, egrediebantur de civitate T\_Tat121* (edition 72 - 82)

## MOVEMENT WITHIN THE MIDDLEFIELD

- Obviously possible in OHG, but without a contrastive interpretation required in modG

(44) *Ward tho ménnisgen wé, / thaz er nan úz thoh ni spe*  
 became then people sorrow that he him PRT though NEG spit  
 ‘It brought great sorrow to the people that he [Adam] did not spit it [the apple]’ O\_Otfr.Ev.2.6 (edition 301 - 311)

(45) *diu bezeichnet unsirin trotin, ter al manchunne zu zimo*  
 DEM represents our lord who all mankind PRT to-him  
*geladita turih tie suzi sinero genadon*  
 invited through the sweetness his-GEN mercy  
 APh\_physit-Text\_collection\_Phys.2\_Panther (edition 118 - 138)

- Indicative of substantial differences in syntactic behaviour between OHG and modG separable compounds, but maybe modern dialects can tell another story (Schallert, p.c.)



## CONCLUSION

- Although I reject the general use of PTKVZ as a tag for all OHG compound verbs, this annotation was useful to detect the respective instances
- consequences → in a new reliese, the annotation at that point should be reconsidered
- overall picture
  - we find clear instances of non-separable compounds for which the tag PTKVZ is definitely inappropriate
  - we find clear cases in which separation applies, but the behaviour of the particle does not exactly map their modG counterparts
  - in a class of cases, we still cannot decide if separation applies



References can be provided upon request

**MANY THANKS AND  
DISCUSSION**