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TELICITY, TRAJECTORY, AND PHRASAL VERBS IN BRAZILIAN PORTUGUESE

TELICIDADE, TRAJETÓRIA E PHRASAL VERBS NO PORTUGUÊS BRASILEIRO

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Abstract: This paper investigates the emergence of phrasal verbs (verb-particle constructions) in colloquial Brazilian Portuguese, a phenomenon typically found in Germanic languages. Drawing on a corpus compiled from the social media platform X (formerly Twitter), the study identifies and analyzes over 90 distinct verb-particle constructions, such as *chutar fora* ("kick out") and *pular dentro* ("jump in"). The central argument challenges the typological assumption that Romance languages lack the syntactic and semantic properties required to support phrasal verbs, particularly those that express telicity through particles. Using Talmy's (2000) typology of motion event encoding, the paper shows that informal Brazilian Portuguese satisfies four out of five criteria typical of satellite-framed languages: expression of trajectory through a particle, use of manner or cause verbs, tendency toward telicity, and metaphorical usage. While the final criterion—particles acquiring purely aspectual value—is not fully met, the analysis demonstrates that particles in Brazilian Portuguese contribute to the telic interpretation of motion events, often profiling the endpoint of an action. This constructional pattern diverges significantly from the formal written standard taught in schools, contributing to linguistic stigmatization and sociolinguistic exclusion. The study argues that the verbal action in phrasal verbs is cognitively construed as a means to reach an endpoint, offering communicative nuances unavailable in the formal register. The findings call for a reevaluation of Romance typology regarding motion and aspect, and suggest that Brazilian Portuguese, at least in its colloquial form, is undergoing internal grammatical developments independent of English influence.
Keywords: phrasal verbs; verb-particle construction; Talmy' typology; brazilian portuguese, telicity, verb movement.

Resumo: Este artigo investiga o uso de *phrasal verbs* (construções verbo-partícula) no português brasileiro coloquial, um fenômeno tradicionalmente associado às línguas germânicas. Com base em um corpus compilado a partir da plataforma de mídia social X (anteriormente Twitter), o estudo identifica e analisa mais de 90 construções verbo-partícula, como *chutar fora* e *pular dentro*. O argumento central desafia a hipótese tipológica de que as línguas românicas carecem das propriedades sintáticas e semânticas necessárias para o uso de *phrasal verbs*, especialmente aqueles que expressam telicidade por meio de partículas. Utilizando a tipologia de codificação de eventos de movimento de Talmy (2000), o artigo mostra que o português brasileiro informal atende a quatro dos cinco critérios típicos das línguas com frame no satélite: expressão da trajetória por meio de uma partícula, uso de verbos de modo ou causa, tendência à telicidade e uso metafórico. Embora o último critério — partículas adquirindo valor puramente aspectual — não seja plenamente atendido, a análise demonstra que as partículas no português brasileiro contribuem para a interpretação télica dos eventos de movimento, frequentemente destacando o ponto final da ação. Esse padrão construcional diverge significativamente da norma culta escrita ensinada nas escolas, contribuindo para a estigmatização linguística e a exclusão sociolinguística. O estudo argumenta que a ação verbal nos verbos frasais é cognitivamente interpretada como um meio para se

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alcançar um ponto final, oferecendo nuances comunicativas ausentes no registro formal. Os resultados apontam para a necessidade de reavaliar a tipologia românica no que diz respeito à expressão de movimento e aspecto, e sugerem que o português brasileiro, ao menos em sua forma coloquial, está passando por desenvolvimentos gramaticais internos independentes da influência do inglês.
Palavras-chave: *phrasal verbs*; construção verbo-partícula; tipologia de Talmy; português brasileiro, telecidade, movimento verbal.

1 INTRODUCTION

In Brazil, a serious social issue still persists due to the discrepancy between the Portuguese actually spoken by the majority of the population and the written Portuguese taught in schools. A clear divide persists between the colloquial popular language and the formal written language. This causes social exclusion and educational challenges, as most of the population speaks a linguistic variety that is not the one taught in school (Mattos e Silva, 2004; Kabatek, 2016, p. 630).

The aim of this paper is precisely to describe and analyze a case of discrepancy between formal and colloquial/popular language. Specifically, it addresses the existence, in colloquial Brazilian Portuguese, of constructions that the literature labels in various ways: phrasal verbs, verb-particle constructions, and satellite-framed constructions (Brinton; Akimoto, 1999, p. 3).

While such constructions are typically associated with Germanic languages, this study contends that they are highly productive in Brazilian Portuguese. Among the constructions I will describe are: *chutar fora*, *ralar fora*, *correr atrás*, *arrancar fora*, *pular dentro*, *pular fora*, *cuspir fora*, etc.

This phenomenon should not be attributed to English influence, but rather to a construction characterized by specific semantic and pragmatic properties.

The hypothesis of this article is that Brazilian Portuguese, in its informal register, already presents four of the five characteristics of satellite-framed languages. I also aim to demonstrate that the theory which posits that directional prepositions in Romance languages such as Portuguese solely denote atelic events—and are generally incapable of conveying telicity—is unfounded. To substantiate this claim, we will examine sentences with the preposition *para*, where the event under consideration is unambiguously telic.

The article is organized as follows. The following section outlines the methodology, detailing the construction of a corpus compiled from the social media platform X (formerly Twitter), selected for its capacity to represent unmonitored and informal language use.

In **Phrasal Verbs Revisited**, I contextualize Brazilian Portuguese within the broader debate on motion event encoding.

The fourth section, **Brazilian Phrasal Verbs**, presents empirical data from the corpus and demonstrates that colloquial Brazilian Portuguese meets four out of the five criteria for satellite-framed languages.

The fifth section, **Aspectual Values of Brazilian Phrasal Verbs**, argues that although Brazilian Portuguese particles often indicate the endpoint of an event, they have not yet acquired purely aspectual meanings, as seen in English.

Finally, the **Conclusion** summarizes the findings and highlights the cognitive and communicative functions of phrasal verbs in informal Brazilian Portuguese.

2 METHODOLOGY

I used platform X (formerly Twitter) to build the corpus for this research, as social media offers a real-time view of language in use, making it possible to identify constructions that would normally go unnoticed in more formal contexts. Verb-particle

constructions are associated with popular speech and have often been stigmatized (Viaro, 2001). Social media bypasses this normative filter and can thus be useful for describing the object of this study. Social media provides a vast amount of data that can be analyzed to study how people use language in informal, everyday contexts.

The methodology used was as follows. In X's search system, combinations of verbs and particles were queried, such as "cortar fora," "cuspir fora," and "arrotar pra cima." The list of verbs to be researched consisted of manner verbs—those indicating either modes of movement (e.g., *escorregar*, *pular*), ways of performing an action (*raspar*, *cortar*), or human bodily actions (*espirrar*, *cuspir*). Two dictionaries were used to identify these verbs:

i. *Dicionário Houaiss de Verbos* and

ii. *Dicionário gramatical de verbo do português contemporâneo do Brasil*, by Francisco da Silva Borba.

The particles searched included: *fora*, *dentro*, *para (pra) cima*, *em cima*, *por baixo*, para *(pra) fora*, *pra dentro*, *pra baixo*, *atrás*.

The corpus, currently under development, contains 90 types of verb-particle constructions.

I acknowledge that the corpus is uncontrolled and subject to the platform's algorithmic bias; nevertheless, it effectively serves to illustrate authentic, unmonitored usage.

3 PHRASAL VERBS REVISITED

Satellite-framed languages are those that exhibit phrasal verbs, in which the verb indicates the manner of motion and the preposition or adverb (called a satellite or a particle) indicates the trajectory (as in *jump in*, *run out*, *float down*) (Talmy, 2000). Considering the defining characteristics of satellite-framed languages (Slobin, 1996; Mateu; Rigau, 2010), Brazilian Portuguese fails to meet only one condition:

(v) The satellite (particle) can acquire purely aspectual values.

The other four conditions are satisfied:

i. The satellite (particle) expresses trajectory.

ii. The verb expresses manner or cause.

iii. The event tends to be telic.

iv. There are idiomatic/metaphorical uses.

The linguistic expression of motion events has been a topic of significant interest in recent years (Zubizarreta; Oh, 2007; Croft *et al*., 2010; Pederson, 2017), involving fields such as language typology (Talmy, 2007; Mateu; Rigau, 2010), the relation between cognitive categories and motion (Slobin, 1996; 2006; Hickmann; Robert, 2006; Stolova, 2015), and the role of linguistic variation in motion event expression (Iacobini, 2009; Goschler; Stefanowitsch, 2013; Hijazo-Gascón; Ibarretxe-Antuñano, 2013).

In phrasal verbs, adverbs and prepositions become tightly connected to verbs both syntactically and semantically. The particle forms a syntactic unit with the verb. The

nature of this unit—whether a phrase, collocation, or word—has been debated (Thim, 2012).

In a classic study, Bolinger (1971:112) described particles as "more or less affixal in nature," though not bound morphemes. Thim (2012, p. 55) views the verb-particle construction as a periphrastic word construction. Regardless of the classification, the adverbs and prepositions involved acquire a distinct status, with specific syntactic behaviour and semantic value (Brinton, 1988; Thim, 2012).

There are two main patterns for expressing motion:

1. One focuses on the *manner* of motion and uses a particle to express trajectory.

2. The other emphasizes the *trajectory* and may not express the manner at all.

The first is analytical, using two elements [verb + particle] for two meanings. The second is synthetic, with one verb expressing all information, especially the trajectory. The former corresponds prototypically to Germanic languages; the latter to Romance languages.

The standard view (Talmy, 2000) holds that Romance languages, including Portuguese, express trajectory through the verb root, while manner is optionally expressed via a gerundial subordinate clause: e. g., *Ele saiu tropeçando* (He left stumbling).

Thus, Portuguese, like French and Spanish, would have a lexicalization pattern where the verb encodes trajectory and adjuncts encode manner. This contrasts with Germanic languages like English and German, where verbs typically encode manner and trajectory is expressed by verb-connected particles (e.g., *He stumbled away*).

There is an asymmetry between trajectory and manner in motion event expression. Trajectory must be expressed linguistically, though the element responsible for its encoding varies: verbs in Romance languages and satellites in Germanic languages. Hence, two lexicalization patterns arise:

Verb-framed languages (trajectory in verb)

Satellite-framed languages (trajectory in particle)

Unlike trajectory, manner expression is optional. While all motion has some manner conceptually, its linguistic encoding varies. Satellite-framed languages like English tend to express manner in the verb. Verb-framed languages like Portuguese do so optionally, typically through subordinate clauses or other means (Ferreira; Moura, 2023).

As Slobin (2004, p. 237) puts it, "people are led to focus on and elaborate manner if they use a language with high codability in this domain."

According to this typology, phrasal verbs (verb-particle constructions) should be absent in Brazilian Portuguese. The characterization of a phrasal verb involves at least five criteria:

i. The satellite (particle) expresses trajectory.

ii. The verb expresses manner or cause.

iii. The event tends to be telic.

iv. There are idiomatic/metaphorical uses.

v. The satellite (particle) can acquire purely aspectual values.

4 BRAZILIAN PHRASAL VERBS

Based on the corpus, it will be shown that Brazilian Phrasal Verbs meet most of the criteria for phrasal verbs as defined above.

The last condition "The satellite can acquire purely aspectual values" is not clearly met and deserves further study. For each criterion, five examples from the corpus are presented.

With respect to condition (i), consider the following sentences, in which the satellites/particles are highlighted in italic. In each pair, the first sentence is drawn from the corpus, while the second represents its translation.

(1)

a. A OAB de Santo André chutou *fora* o babaca.
b. The OAB of Santo André kicked the jerk out.

(2)

a. Bia, Madu e as meninas tentando pegar um cachorro que escorregou *dentro* do valão.
b. Bia, Madu and the girls trying to catch a dog that slipped into the canal.

(3)

a. Sassá trupicou *pra dentro* do gol.
b. Sassá stumbled into the goal.

(4)

a. Piquei *fora* o cabelo
b. I chopped off my hair.

(5)

a. O piloto saltou *fora* do carro, mas está bem.
b. The driver jumped out of the car but is fine.

In all these examples, we see a phrasal verb, composed of a verb and a satellite/particle, where the satellite expresses the trajectory. As seen above, these uses in colloquial Brazilian Portuguese fully meet the typology of satellite-framed languages, since in these languages the verb "incorporates the manner of motion, while the other element, the satellite, expresses the path of motion" (Croft, 2022, p. 451-452).

The next criterion concerns condition (ii) (*The verb expresses manner or cause*). The examples below show that this condition is also met in Brazilian Portuguese (the manner verb is in italic):

(6)

a. *Engatinhar* para dentro de seu corpo.
b. Crawl into his body.

(7)

a. *Arranquei* o vestido fora e corri peladona
b. I ripped the dress off and ran naked.

(8)

a. Chegou o prédio do meu trabalho, eu *voei* pra dentro
b. The building where I work came up, and I flew in.

(9)

a. Eu já tive mangá que meu pai pensou que era quadrinho, eu li só um e os outros minha mãe *rebolou* fora.
b. I once had manga that my dad thought were comics; I only read one and my mom tossed the rest out.

(10)

a. Um gato *pulou* dentro de meu quarto.
b. A cat jumped into my room.

These examples demonstrate that verbs indicating manner of motion (*engatinhar, arrancar, voar, rebolar, pular*) combine with trajectory-indicating particles, precisely as predicted in the definition of verb-particle construction.

Let us now turn to condition (iii) (*The event tends to be telic*). Indeed, a significant portion of the examples in the corpus express telicity, as in the examples below (the phrasal verb is in italic):

(11)

a. Toda vez que eu volto do futvolei eu sinto que *corri atrás* de uma humilhação desnecessária.
b. Every time I come back from footvolley, I feel like I ran after unnecessary humiliation.

(12)

a. Morrendo que a Olivia *cascou fora* só pra não ter que dar de cara com a descompensada.
b. Dying at the fact that Olivia ran off just to avoid facing the unstable one.

(13)

a. Tive uma pequena intoxicação alimentar *botei pra fora* até meu rim.
b. I had a mild case of food poisoning and I threw up even my kidney.

(14)

a. Doido pra dar 23:10h e eu poder *ralar fora* dessa loja.
b. I'm just waiting for it to be 11:10 PM so I can get the hell out of this store.

(15)

a. *Tu cambaleou* pra cima da estante.
b. You stumbled onto the shelf.

In all the examples above, the event is presented as completed or potentially completed in the future, as in example 14. Sentences with the verb-particle construction tend to be telic and the verbal action is represented as complete (Brinton, 1988; Aske, 1999; Brinton; Akimoto, 1999; Talmy, 2000; Croft, 2022).

Considering the syntactic and semantic interaction between the particle and the verb, it is reasonable to expect that such compositionality also manifests in the aspectual value of the construction. The particles affect the aspectual value of the verb. As Brinton (1988) states, the particles "may add the concept of a goal or an endpoint to durative situations which otherwise have no necessary terminus. That is, the particles may affect the intrinsic temporal nature of a situation and hence alter its aktionsart." (Brinton, 1988, p. 168).

In English, the particles *up*, *down*, *out*, and *off* most commonly express the endpoint of an action, thus conveying a telic value (Brinton, 1988). In Brazilian Portuguese, the particles *fora*, *dentro*, *cima*, and *atrás,* preceded or not by the preposition *para*, fulfill the same function.

Condition (iv) (*There are idiomatic/metaphorical uses*) is fully satisfied, according to our corpus. Metaphors appear in large numbers, as has already been seen in some of the examples above.

Below are five further examples of metaphorical phrasal verbs (in italic), found in the corpus. When necessary, I provide the meaning of the expression at the end in parentheses.

(16)

a. Querendo *pisar pra cima* da minha amiga q mandou uma foto e figurinha mesmo com o wpp bugado. (humiliate, mistreat)
b. Trying to step on my friend who sent a photo and a sticker even with WhatsApp crashing.

(17)

a. Parece que Pazuello *espirrou fora* mesmo. (get off, get away)
b. It looks like Pazuello really sneezed off.

(18)

a. Eu não bebi*, tropiquei pra dentro* do copo.
b. I didn't drink, I fell into the cup.

(19)

a. Ela se declarou para ele e ele *bostejou em cima*. (*disregard, not give a damn*)
b. She confessed her feelings to him and he crapped on it

(20)

a. Ter que criar uma bolha daqui a pouco e me *enfiar dentro*
b. I'll have to build a bubble soon and shut myself in.

The strong presence of metaphor is one of the characteristics of the verb-particle construction in various languages. In a classic book on the topic, Bolinger (1971, p. xii) states that the verb-particle construction is "a floodgate of metaphor."

5 ASPECTUAL VALUES OF BRAZILIAN PHRASAL VERBS

As previously discussed, Brazilian Phrasal Verbs meet condition iii. *The event tends to be telic*, but they do not meet condition v. *The satellite (particle) can acquire purely aspectual values*.

This section discusses the theoretical implications of these two facts and try to explain why they occur.

As cited above, telicity is a trait typically associated with phrasal verbs. The hypothesis is that the particle defines an endpoint, transforming an atelic event into a telic one. As we have seen, this is exactly what occurs in our corpus. For example, in the sentence *Chegou o prédio do meu trabalho, eu voei pra dentro* ("The building of my job came up, and I flew in."), the verb *voar* ("to fly") is an atelic manner verb, but it acquires a telic value when combined with the particle *pra dentro* ("into").

The presence of this telicity carries a theoretical implication: the assumption that Romance languages lack particles indicating not only direction but also the result of motion must be reconsidered.

In the literature on the subject, it is argued that there are two types of prepositions/adverb: i. directionals without endpoint and ii. telic directionals.

According to Aske (1999), these two types are called *locative path phrase* and *telic path phrase*. Aske (1999, p. 6) states that Spanish typically lacks telic path phrases.

Iacobini (2015) defines these two types of particles as follows:

> Particles that can be used to express movement oriented towards a goal or originating from a source may come to imply attainment of the goal (telic situations), whereas particles that express stasis, location, or motion without a specific endpoint may contribute to indicate atelic situations. (Iacobini, 2015, p. 632).

Thus, in theory, languages such as Portuguese, Spanish, and French would only have particles (prepositions and adverbs) of the second type, that is, *without a specific endpoint*.

Zubizarreta and Oh (2007, p. 7) argue that Romance languages, with the exception of Italian, lack the *Directed-motion construction*, in which "while the activity-denoting event is identified by the verb, the accomplishment-denoting event is identified by the preposition."

The reason for this is that Romance languages supposedly lack prepositions that indicate endpoints, and therefore cannot fulfill the role of the accomplishment-denoting event.

An example of this would be the French preposition *vers*. Consider the example below:

(21) *L'enfant se trouvait près d'un banc de neige lorsqu'il a couru vers la rue.*

The child was near a snow bank when he ran towards the street.

The preposition *vers* in French cannot be interpreted as an endpoint particle, because it does not express the result of the action, but only an atelic trajectory or direction.

As for Brazilian Portuguese, both traditional and descriptive grammars tend to support this theory that Romance prepositions only indicate the direction of movement, serving to express atelic events.

Take, for example, the case of the preposition *para*.

Cunha (1981), in his normative grammar of Brazilian Portuguese, describes the semantic value of *para* and other motion prepositions as follows: "In the expression of prepositional relations with movement, it is important to consider a limit point (A), in reference to which the movement will be one of approach (B → A) or departure (A → C)." (Cunha, 1981, p. 379).

The author gives the following example with the preposition *para*:

(22) *Foi para o Norte.* ("He/she went to the North.") (Cunha, 1981, p. 379)

This sentence is a clear example of the atelic aspectual value of the preposition *para*, indicating a movement of approach, but not of culmination of the event.

This type of definition is the most common model for interpreting motion prepositions in Brazilian Portuguese, reinforcing the mainstream view of Romance language typology.

Such a definition is also found in descriptive grammars, such as that of Moura Neves (2000). Among the various semantic values of the preposition *para*, Moura Neves (2000, pp. 697–701) does not cite the function of marking the endpoint of an event. However, one of the first functions she does mention is that of direction, giving the following example:

(23) *Eu dirigi para a rua Asdrubal Nascimento* ("I drove to Asdrubal Nascimento street.") (Moura Neves, 2000, p. 698).

Again, the example is of an atelic event, as if the preposition *para* were incapable of representing telic events. But this is not what our corpus shows.

It is very common to find in *X* sentences such as these, in which the action was completed, bearing a telic value:

(24)

a. *Marquinhos avançou pela esquerda e finalizou, mas chutou para fora.*
b. Marquinhos advanced on the left and shot, but kicked it out.

(25)

a. *Já vc chutou um cidadão para fora do parlamento brasileiro.*
b. *You, however, kicked a citizen out of the Brazilian parliament.*

Therefore, the presence of condition iv. *The event tends to be telic* leads to a revision of the hypothesis that prepositions such as *para* do not mark the endpoint of an event. On the other hand, it remains to be explained why condition v. *The satellite (particle) can acquire purely aspectual values* does not occur in the examples from the corpus.

In colloquial Brazilian Portuguese, unlike in English, the particle still retains its directional meaning. In the case of the particles studied here—such as *para*, *fora, cima*—the sense of movement away from a point is still present, combined with the marking of the event's endpoint. There is, therefore, simultaneously movement in space and completion of the event in time. Particles such as *para*, *fora*, and *cima* have not yet assumed a purely aspectual value, preserving the metaphorical connection between time and space (Traugott, 1978; Lakoff; Johnson, 1980).

In English, particles such as *up* and *down* can have a purely aspectual value, having diachronically detached from their original spatial meaning. An example of a purely aspectual use of the particle *up* can be found in the following sentence:

(26) He drank the milk up.

It is interesting to note that, in colloquial Brazilian Portuguese, the use of the particle can introduce a clear difference in meaning, indicating that an action was fully completed, affecting, for example, an entire surface. Consider the following example:

(27)

a. *muito ruim ver backstage prefiro pensar q a Julia cortou a mão fora.*
b. Really awful to see backstage, I'd rather think that Julia cut her hand off.

Cortar a mão fora ("cut the hand off") has a different meaning than *cortar a mão* ("cut the hand"). In the first case, with the use of the particle, it indicates that the hand was severed. In the second case (*cortar a mão*), only part of the hand was injured.

Even with this difference in meaning, it is not possible to say that the particle *fora* is purely aspectual, since it still retains the notion of spatial separation or movement away from a point.

In short, condition v does not occur in Portuguese because the metaphorical connection between time and space remains active in usage. This persistence, in fact,

allows for new metaphorical connections to be formed. For example, in the sentence below, also found on *X*, the ideas of spatial removal and completion in time come together with the idea of the end of a relationship:

(28)

a. *Chutou a menina fora porque não concorda com as questões da vida privada dela.*
b. He kicked the girl out because he disagrees with her private life issues.

6 CONCLUSION

In sum, colloquial Brazilian Portuguese does not conform entirely to the patterns typically associated with Romance languages, as it includes a productive set of phrasal verbs. A similar pattern has also been found in informal Italian (Iacobini, 2009).

One important point deserves a final observation. Brazilian phrasal verbs are used in contexts where, in formal register, they would not be used, with the particle being omitted. For instance, in a more formal register, sentence (29b) would be preferred over (29a):

(29)

a. Arranquei o vestido fora.
b. Arranquei o vestido.

In other cases, the phrasal verb would be replaced in formal register by a single verb, eliminating the verb-particle construction, as shown in the pairs below:

(30)

a. Parece que Pazuello espirrou fora mesmo.
b. Parece que Pazuello saiu mesmo. (It seems like Pazuello really left).

(31)

a. Querendo pisar pra cima da minha amiga.
b. Querendo humilhar minha amiga. (Wanting to humiliate my friend)

In the examples above, the pairs of sentences are denotationally equivalent. In a few cases, the use of the phrasal verb actually introduces a difference in meaning:

(32)

a. Prefiro pensar que a Julia cortou a mão fora.
b. Prefiro pensar que a Julia cortou a mão.
(I prefer to think Julia cut her hand.)

However, it can be argued that even in cases where there is denotative synonymy, the *construal* is different. In the case of phrasal verbs, the particle profiles the endpoint, marking the completion of the event, and the action becomes the means to reach that endpoint. This combination of means and a profiled result offers a new construal of the scene.

From a cognitive perspective, the pairs above are not synonymous, and this is perhaps one of the reasons why phrasal verbs are becoming widespread in Brazilian Portuguese. A sentence such as *Prefiro pensar que a Julia cortou a mão fora* illustrates a construal that can be understood in terms of what Langacker (2008, p. 77) describes as 'objective construal': 'construed with maximal objectivity, is the focused object of attention: the entity an expression puts onstage and profiles. Objective construal thus correlates with profiling and explicit mention.'

The expression *cortar fora* includes an explicit reference to the result of the action performed. In this case, the interpretation of 'severing an inalienable body part' emerges as the only possible reading.

Accordingly, the construal associated with the verb-particle construction corresponds to an 'objective' profiling of a temporal segment of the verbal scene. While the result may remain implicit in the single verb (*cortar*), the expression *cortar fora* renders it explicit—or, in Langacker's (2008) terms, it 'puts (it) onstage.'

The single verb construction (e.g., *cortar*) and the verb-particle construction (e.g., *cortar fora*) are two alternative constructions, each associated with a specific construal.

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