

Chapter 6

Summary and Conclusion

6.1 Summary

The work in this thesis is focused on the English phrasal verbs (EPVs) and their translation equivalents in Hindi. The work is primarily based on a corpus of English phrasal verbs and their translation equivalents developed for the purpose of this study. A corpus of 16500 sentences containing EPVs were developed by extracting relevant examples from the British National Corpus (BNC) and other sources like online dictionaries of EPVs (15000 from BNC and 1500 from other sources). These 16500 EPV sentences were manually translated into Hindi to obtain the Hindi equivalents of the EPVs. Thus, an English-Hindi comparable corpus of 33000 sentences is the example base to carry out the analysis for this study. This study is presented into six chapters.

Chapter 1 has provided a brief outline of the topic by introducing the research context and establishing the motivations for carrying out this study. The chapter has also briefly outlined the main objectives, the major research questions addressed and the relevance of the study.

Chapter 2 has presented a brief overview of the English phrasal verbs by discussing their complex syntactic and semantic structures. The chapter also briefly discussed the major corpus-based research for the identification of the frequency of occurrences of phrasal verbs in major English corpora. The discussion of the corpus-based research was used in the selection of the EPVs for this study. This chapter also

highlighted the significance of the study and challenges posed by the EPVs in their analysis, processing and acquisition.

Chapter 3 discussed some of the major existing literature on the study of English phrasal verbs and their contextual equivalents in different target pair languages. In these comparative studies, primarily the contextualisation process of multiple contextual meanings of the English phrasal verbs and their mapping patterns have been discussed. A total of 21 language pairs from non-Indic languages and about 40 works (including research papers and dissertations) have been surveyed and their gist are presented in this chapter. The discussion in this chapter also highlighted the research gap towards motivating the present study. The discussion in the chapter also provided insights in the form of observations from specific pairs of languages that helped in the analysis of the Hindi data.

In Chapter 4, the resources and the approaches adopted in the study have been discussed. The chapter first presented an overview of the various resources that have been used (and created) for the study. In the second part, the chapter has briefly outlined the approaches that have been followed. The chapter highlighted the importance of corpus-based study and the lack of relevant corpus that motivated for the development of in-house-corpus for the study. The chapter has also discussed the various steps that I followed for the creation of the dataset, including the selection of most frequent phrasal verbs, identifying their potential senses from the English WordNet, selecting English example sentences and manually assigning Hindi equivalents for them. The second part of the chapter has briefly presented some of the theoretical assumptions including the cognitive linguistics approaches for the analysis of the semantics of the particle elements in the EPVs. It has primarily discussed the assumption useful in the analysis of the representation of the spatial directional sense of the English phrasal verbs in Hindi.

Chapter 5 presents the analysis of the relevant data towards obtaining the Hindi equivalents of the English phrasal verbs. The first part of the chapter has compared the selected examples of the English phrasal verbs with their Hindi equivalents to determine the mapping patterns and the possible divergences. It examined the morpho-syntactic structures of Hindi verbs for identifying the possible equivalents for the English phrasal verbs. This was done to understand the essence of semantic nuances of the phrasal verbs in English and the respective strategies to map those nuances into Hindi. In the second section, the compositional semantics of the selected particle elements of the EPVs were examined to identify their mapping strategies in their Hindi equivalents. In this section, certain types of phrasal verbs along with their Hindi equivalents were also discussed. The equivalent Hindi verb forms were examined to determine the semantic correspondence between English and Hindi.

In chapter 6 are listed the brief summary of the works (the present section). In the subsequent sections are highlighted some of the limitations of the work and the related areas and directions in which further research on the topic is needed.

6.2 Limitations, Future Work and Conclusions

The study has attempted to identify strategies in the mapping patterns of the English phrasal verbs to their Hindi equivalents. However, the multiple meanings that emerge from the various contextual occurrences of the phrasal verbs presented considerable challenges. As outlined in the previous chapter, the polysemy of phrasal verbs is one of the major challenges in obtaining the appropriate Hindi equivalents. The study showed complexities in capturing all the contextual nuances that influence the choice of a Hindi equivalent. The multiple factors (such as idiomatic and polysemous phrasal verbs with

semantic nuances, absence of direct structural equivalents, dialectal, regional and other kinds of variations) play significant roles in determining the selection of appropriate Hindi verbs for an English phrasal verb. Further, determining the exact equivalent of English phrasal verbs in Hindi can be subjective, similar to the translation of a text from one language to another (Munday, et al 2022). There are cases where multiple Hindi expressions are possible equivalents, making it difficult to establish a definitive one.

Another limitation is the sample data size and their representativeness. The study has been limited by the size and the type of data employed. A larger corpus encompassing various genres and registers of both English and Hindi could have revealed some more nuanced patterns. In this regard, the corpus representativeness is also essential. If the corpus did not adequately represent the full range of English phrasal verbs and their contextual usage, the findings might not be entirely generalisable. However, in the present study, we tried our best to capture a more diverse range of contextual occurrences of EPVs in selecting the English examples. Some of these limitations may also help open further areas for future research.

The multiple possibilities of the Hindi equivalent expressions for a single English phrasal verb are open to further explorations. The present study examined the representation of the compositional semantics of the respective English phrasal verb particles in Hindi. The compositional senses are the primary attested meaning and these are the basic meaning from where the multiple senses of PVs are derived. Thereby, it opens the path for examining the representation of metaphorical senses of English phrasal verb particles in Hindi for further research

A comparative study of English phrasal verbs and their equivalents in Hindi can be a reference for cross-linguistic semantic representation across related Indic languages.

The present study is limited to examining some of the most frequent phrasal verbs in English and the rest of phrasal verbs are open to further investigations. The insights from this study can be extended for developing machine translation models, particularly handling the translation of English phrasal verbs into Hindi, that may require a larger database and much more precise analysis for formalization of mapping rules. The findings of the study can be further examined in the context of language instructions, particularly for English-Hindi language pairs. Some of the related topics (such as contrastive particle pairs: in-out, on-off, up-down, etc. in EPVs, synonymy in the Hindi equivalents, etc.) could not be accommodated because they required a larger example base making that beyond the scope of one thesis. In brief, the present study can be approached as an initial effort to address a complex and large research area, leaving many more interesting topics for further explorations and research.

