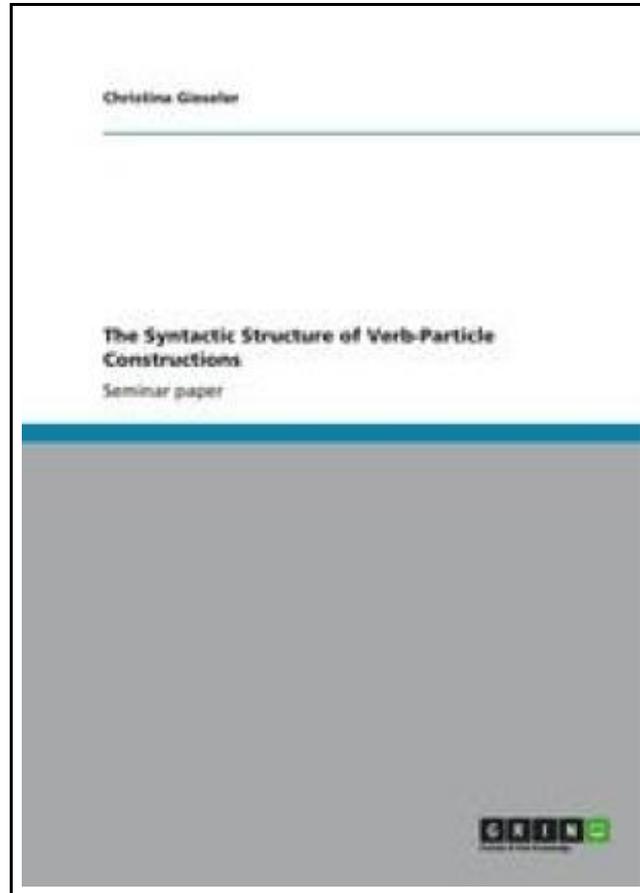


# The Syntactic Structure of Verb-Particle Constructions



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## THE SYNTACTIC STRUCTURE OF VERB-PARTICLE CONSTRUCTIONS



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GRIN Verlag Feb 2012, 2012. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 203x146x2 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2011 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Linguistics, printed single-sided, grade: 1,0, University of Wuppertal, language: English, abstract: IntroductionVerb-Particle Constructions occur in most, if not all, of the Germanic languages (Dehé: 2002:1, Olsen 2000:149). They are also known as verb-particle combinations , phrasal verbs , particle verbs (PVs) or separable (complex) verbs (cf. Dehé *ibid.*, cf. Dehé, Jackendoff, McIntyre, Urban 2002:1). VPCs formally consist of a verbal stem and an intransitive prepositional or adverbial element , a so-called particle (Olsen 2000:149).In linguistic research, there is no uncontroversial definition of particles which reliably demarcates them from similar items and has cross-linguistic validity (Dehé et al. 2002:3)[.]According to Dehé (2002), the perhaps most striking property of transitive PV s in English is their appearance in two alternating orders (3) as the English particle can appear on either side of a direct object, unless it is a (non-contrastively accented) pronoun (Dehé et al. 2002:2, cf. Jackendoff *ibid.*). In the so-called continuous order the particle is adjacent to the verb and precedes the DP-complement as in (1) (Dehé 2002:3-4). In the discontinuous order the particle follows the DP-object (cf. 2) (*ibid.*). In this order the use of unstressed pronouns is obligatory as illustrated in (3) (*ibid.*; the following examples are borrowed from Dehé:*ibid.* as well).(1) He wiped off the table.(2) He wiped the table off. (3) a. He wiped it off. b. He wiped off it.Concerning the syntactic structure of English VPCs, several questions might be asked:1. How does the syntactic structure of VPCs in English look like 2. How do the alternating word orders come about 3. Which of the word orders is...



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