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Light verbs: A contrastive approach  
between English, Spanish and French in  
translation

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2021

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## **Abstract**

*Light verbs* are defined as verbs completely devoid of meaning of their own. Hence the term itself defines them as "light". Unlike full verbs, they must be complemented with an eventive noun, forming a complex predicate and therefore have meaning. This grammatical structure is known as *light verb constructions*. The thesis aims to make a comparative study of these constructions between English, Spanish and French. To achieve this, the investigation was carried out in the literary field and in translation. The hypothesis was that *light verbs* are rarely known and studied, therefore their use is often unknown. For the research, an analysis of these verbs in a literary work was used, taking into account only the light verb "take". The data have been collected across the three versions of the same text. The results show that this type of constructions are not very used at literary level, being in the Germanic language where they are more abundant.

**Keywords:** light verbs, light verb constructions, verbos de apoyo, verbes support, light verb take

## **Resumen**

Los verbos de apoyo se definen como verbos completamente carentes de significado propio. De ahí que el propio término lo defina como “soporte”. A diferencia de los verbos plenos, estos deben ser complementados con un nombre eventivo, formando un predicado complejo y así ganar significado. A esta estructura gramatical se la conoce como construcciones de verbos de apoyo. La tesis que se presenta tiene como objetivo hacer un estudio comparativo de estas construcciones entre el inglés, español y francés. Para ello se ha hecho una investigación centrada en el ámbito literario y la traducción. La hipótesis era que los verbos de apoyo son raramente conocidos y poco estudiados, y por ello su uso es poco conocido. Para la investigación se utilizó un análisis de estos verbos en una obra literaria, teniendo solo en cuenta un único verbo ligero “take”. Los datos han sido recolectados a través de las tres versiones de la misma novela. Los resultados demuestran que este tipo de construcciones no son muy usadas a nivel literario, siendo en la lengua germánica donde más abundan.

**Palabras clave:** light verbs, light verb constructions, verbos de apoyo, verbes support, light verb take

## **Acknowledgments**

I would like to give special thanks to my tutor. This project has been possible because she has dedicated her time to me, encouraging me and giving me ideas, helping me to have a more enriching experience. I would also want to thank my parents for trusting me and believing in my abilities and capacities. And to my best friends for giving me all their support and for being by my side whenever I need it.

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## 1. Introduction

How similar or different are the light verb constructions (LVCs) in the Germanic languages and their translations into the Romance languages? This research aims to offer an answer to this question by doing a contrastive approach of LVCs between the Germanic language English, and the Romance languages Spanish and French. The thesis will develop a theoretical and practical comparison that can help to better understand the use and function of these verbs in grammar and literature in the three languages. In addition, this will also contribute to an awareness of LVCs and their cross-linguistic differences, something that can be really beneficial in the fields of L2 teaching and in translation.

It is useful to have a quick review that verbs in general have a very important function within a sentence in all languages. They represent the head of the phrase and mostly, act for a physical action, a mental action or a state of being. These verbs are called *full verbs* since they carry a distinctive semantic meaning on their own. However, this project will focus on other verbs, which, unlike full verbs, have no semantic value by themselves; therefore they are called *Light Verbs (LV)* or *Support Verbs*. They are also known as *delexical verbs*, *thin verbs*, *semantically weak verbs* or *empty verbs*. As seen, all this names are denoting negative connotation portraying the lack of semantic meaning. These types of verbs had been gone largely unnoticed in history, and they do not only exist and have presence in the English language, but also in others as in Spanish, French, Portuguese, Chinese, Korean, and other languages (Butt,2003). Moreover, they tend to be confused with auxiliary verbs, since they are pretty similar, however their rules portrait that they are completely different in use.

The origin of the term “light verb” has been due to the linguist Otto Jespersen; a Danish linguist specialized in grammar of the English language, in *A Modern English Grammar on Historical Principles*. The term has been applied to the English verb + noun constructions, such as *take a bath*, being them called “Light Verb Constructions” (LVCs) (Jespersen, 1942). His words portrait that LVCs are formed by complex predicates, the verb is semantically “light” or “whiten”, and their only function is to indicate the aspect or the directionality of the predicate (Jespersen, 1942).

The following examples show more clearly this type of structure:

- (1) Yesterday I took a walk on the beach.
- (2) I gave him a kiss.
- (3) She had a long conversation with her parents.

As seen above, LVCs are formed by a verb, which is light, and a noun, which is eventive. In (1) the light verb is “took” and the noun it follows is “walk”, which is the same as saying “Yesterday I walked on the beach”. In (2) the LV is “gave” and the noun is “kiss”, which is equivalent to “I kissed him”. In (3) the LV is “had” and the noun is “conversation”, it can also be said as “She talked with her parents for a long time”. It can be seen as well that this kind of constructions also can have other syntactic categories between the LV and the eventive noun. In the three examples there is the indefinite article “a”, in the (2) there is the pronoun “him”, and in (3) there is adjective the (3) “long”.

To achieve the aim of this project, the paper will consist of two sections:

The third section of this thesis will cover the theoretical review. The general normative of light verbs in the three selected languages will be developed, explaining what they are and their uses, as well as developing various characteristics.

The fourth section will consist on the practical analysis. This part will be fully focused on the comparative analysis. In order to achieve this, the investigation will carry out this research on the basis of a parallel corpus. Therefore, the text selected for the research is the first book of J.K. Rowling's famous saga of novels *Harry Potter*, in this case *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. The reason for this decision is that its translation is more or less parallel in many languages, since the first book and the translations into French and Spanish were published near in time. The original book was first published in the United Kingdom on 1997. The text in Spanish was published in 1998 with the title "*Harry Potter y la Piedra Filosofal*", as well as in French under the title "*Harry Potter à l'école des sorciers*". On that account, the data will be similar and very useful for the contrast. Moreover, the methodology used for the recollection and analysis of the data of this section will be included.

## **2. Methodology**

The main goal of this project, as mentioned in the introduction, is to do a contrastive analysis of LVCs between the English language and the Romance languages Spanish and French. In order to do so, this investigation will be divided into two different parts, the literature review and the data analysis.

In section three, all the principal concepts and characteristics of LVCs in the three languages will be exposed. The theory will be based on online information of all kinds, meaning articles, previous researches and books. With all the relevant and necessary data collected, the first part of the investigation will be done based on the theory acquired.

In section four, the data from a comparative analysis of a literary work will be presented, having the English text as a base and the translations of the same text in Spanish and French. This section will focus on the light verb “take” as its use seems to be the best option since it is widely used and more abundant but there are not many previous studies with focus on this verb (Garcia-Vega, Machonis, 2016). Therefore, there will be many different examples which will help to obtain enough data for the research, and have a more rich comparison.

The first step will be to look for how many instances of this LV are found in the English text. Once the examples are collected, there will be a table in order to classify the data and analyse them. The first column of this table will show the number of entries found. The second one will contain all the examples with the verb "take" and its irregular form "took". The third one will contain the page number on which each example is found. The fourth will determine whether the verb in the example is a LV or not, and the fifth and last one will contain the justifications. Once the data retrieval is done (Appendix), a conclusion will be presented with a syntactic analysis of the entries considered as LVCs (Table 1).

Having made the analysis of the English version, the next step will be the comparison with the other languages. There will be another two tables focusing the first one on Table 2 and the second one on Table 4.

In both tables there will be seven columns. The first one will show the number of LVCs found in the English text that will be written in the second column. The third one will consist again on the page number of these instances. The fourth one will have the translation of its instances in the Spanish version (in Table 2) and in the French version (in Table 4). The fifth one will contain the number of the pages of the translated

instances. The sixth one will determine if the instances translated in both languages are LVs or not, and then there will be a last column with the justifications. Below the both tables, as same as in the English one, there will be a table (Table 3 and Table 5) with the analysis of the syntactic features found in each of the LVCs examples in the two languages. This section will then end up with three different graphs that will show the percentages of the results obtained to have a more visual contrast, and then followed by a final conclusion.

### **3. Light Verb Constructions**

As said previously, these verbs contain very little value in terms of lexical and semantic meaning in content, which is why they express a more precise and complex information when they are attached and combined with other words. It is usually a nominal phrase (some also include a preposition) that provides sense and helps to form the predicate of the sentence; therefore it gives meaning to the verb. Consequently, even though their unproductive denotation, they carry out big constructions in semantics in many ways (Seiss, 2009).

#### **3.1 LVCs in English**

Verbs such as “do”, “give”, “have”, “make” and “take” are the most common LVs in English that serve this function (Nordquist, 2020).

- (4) Do your tasks!
- (5) Give me a break!
- (6) Let's have a drink.
- (7) I'm going to take a shower.

(8) You have to make a decision.

It is shown that these examples and expressions portrait that the semantic content is provided by the nominal complement, not by the verb itself. In other words, taking the example number (6) above, one does not literally “have a drink”, but rather “drink”, the event is only one. This also leads us to the fact that LVCs often have an equivalent with the use of a unique verb, that is to say, for example in number (8), “make a decision” is equivalent to “decide”.

This helps to see that the term "light" refers to the fact that, although the light verb constructions follow the idea of the base verb complement in English, these verbs do not predicate in their entirety. This type of LVCs sometimes are referred to as *stretched verbs* and they are constituted by light verbs and eventive nouns, meaning that they predicate together (V+N), and therefore they form complex predicates (Nordquist, 2020).

As said, one of the aspects of LVs is that they do not describe a specific action with the verb itself, but with the predicate that follows it, so there may be expressions that have different verbs but the meaning is the same, which is called “shared meaning”. This is often the case with the verbs "take" and "have" and they are considered to have the same meaning on such occasions.

(9) I’m going to have dinner.

I’m going to take dinner.

(10) They are taking a nap.

They are having a nap.

However, the same case happens with other LVs:

(11) Will you get the picture?

Will you take the picture?

(12) What present did you get for your anniversary?

What present did you take for your anniversary?

What present did you have for your anniversary?

As can be seen in the examples, each of the sentence use a distinct LV, being this the only difference between them. Therefore, this leads to the conclusion that they can be considered as synonyms, since the verb is different but the meaning in context is the same. This helps to show more clearly the fact that LVs depend in their entirety of the eventive noun (Butt, 2003).

LVs are very similar semantically with auxiliary verbs according to what they contribute in the meaning of the sentences. Therefore, they are complicated to distinguish and need a deep and detailed analysis to determine whether it belongs to the category of auxiliary verbs or LVCs. It is important to take into account the prescriptive rules of each type of verbs to identify which are the ones that are talk about. Auxiliaries work with other verbs to create a whole and unique meaning. They produce different verb tenses, to indicate modality expressing probability, ability, obligation, advice, permission or habits, and to make the negation of the verb. With the examples below we can see some distinctions that may help to understand them better and have a clear idea of the difference (Seiss, 2009).

(13)Does she manage it?

(14) I like to make toys for my grandsons.

(15) I believe I made a mistake by talking to him.

(16) He had been there for years.

Analysing these examples, (13) “does” is an auxiliary verb since LVs cannot do the inversion with the subject and also it creates an interrogative sentence with the verb “manage”. (14) “make” is a full verb that substitutes the meaning of “to create”. (15) “made” is a LV that goes with “mistake” to have a meaning. (16) the verb “had” is an auxiliary since it serves to form the past perfect tense along with the verb “been”.

Although LVs resemble to auxiliary verbs in terms of their contribution of meaning to the clauses in which they appear, LVs do not fulfil the requirements implied by auxiliary verbs, therefore this make them different. Moreover, LVs are identical in form to full verbs, even though they do not predicate in the same way, they share exactly the same form. This is another characteristic that helps to distinguish LVs from Auxiliaries (Butt, 2003).

### **3.2 LVCs in Spanish**

Now that it is known what LVs are and what is their function and use in the English language, this section will focus on the theoretical analysis of these verbs constructions in Spanish.

In the Spanish language, LVs are known as *verbos de apoyo (VA)*, *soporte*, *ligeros*, *livianos*, *desemantizados* or *deslexicalizado*. The first two names express the principal characteristic of these verbs: they support the predicative nouns to which they accompany and give the possibility to function in the discourse. (Alonso Ramos, 2004).

For the rest of the names, as same as in English, they have negative connotation reinforcing the fact that they have no meaning on their own.

The most common Spanish LVs are “dar” (‘give), “tener” (‘have’), hacer (‘do’), “tomar” (‘take’), “echar” (‘throw’) and “poner” (‘put’), however, “tener” and “poner” are most frequently used (Camacho Coma, 2020).

(17) Vamos a dar un paseo!

(18) Le voy a dar un libro por su cumpleaños.

Taking a look at the sentences above it can be distinguished a difference in meaning to understand better the case: In (17) the eventive noun “paseo” represents the semantic head, not the verb. In contrast, in (18) the verb in this case does add semantic meaning, it is a full verb. In other words, someone does not give to someone a walk, but can indeed give a book.

The sentences below are examples of all the most common verbs used in LVCs in Spanish.

(19) Dar un abrazo.

(20) Tener deseos.

(21) Hacer un trabajo.

(22) Tomar un hábito.

(23) Echar piropos

(24) Pedir disculpas.

(25) Poner un castigo.

As seen, LVs in Spanish, as in English, tend to have an equivalent. (19) is parallel to “abrazar”, (20) to “desear”, (21) to “trabajar”, (22) to “habituarse”, (23) to “piropear”, (24) “disculparse” and (25) to “castigar”. As demonstrated, LVs in Spanish, just like in English, are formed with verbs that are empty in meaning and nouns are the ones that give lexical content to the construction.

### 3.3 LVCs in French

Once knowing how LVCs work in the English and Spanish languages, the literature review will finish by focusing on the use of these verbs in the French language.

In French, LVCs are known as *Verbes support*, showing that its name is the same in English *Support Verbs* and in Spanish *Verbos soporte*. LVs in French are considered the “auxiliaries” of nominal predicates, however, as seen in the English theory, they are not the same in use but look very similar (Gross, 1999). These verbs play the same role with nominal predicates as auxiliary verbs with verbal predicates. In French, the most common LVs are “faire” (‘do’), “prendre” (‘take’), “avoir” (‘have’), “donner” (‘give’), and “être” (‘be’).

(26) Il a pris la decision d’épouser la fille.

He made the decision to marry the girl.

(He took the decision to marry the girl).

(27) Les pirates font le partage du butin.

The pirates share the booty.

(The pirates do the share of the booty).

(28) J’ai de l’admiration pour més parents.

I admire my parents.

(I have admiration for my parents).

(29) Faire de la cuisine.

Cooking.

(Do the cooking).

(30) Il donne de l'information aux clients.

He provides information to customers.

(He gives information to customers).

LVCs in French have similar characteristics with the ones in English and Spanish. The principal feature is that they do not have a predicative function by themselves, as said in the other two languages. Furthermore, LVCs in French also tend to have an equivalent, (26) “pris la decision” is equivalent to “decider”, (27) “font le partage” is equivalent to “partager”, (28) “J’ai de l’admiration” is equivalent to “admirer”, (29) “faire de la cuisine” is equivalent to “cuisiner” and (30) “il donne l’information aux clients” is equivalent “informer”.

Moreover, the LV in a phrase can be erased without losing the sense of the sentence.

(31) Tu veux savoir la réponse que Julien a donnée?

(32) Tu veux savoir la réponse de Julien?

As seen in the example above, there is no difference between the two sentences, since it is not necessary to have the LV *donner* in this question for the sentence to have meaning (Gross, 1999).

#### 4. Analysis of the light verb “take”

This section will focus on the practical analysis, where the contrast of the use of LVCs between the three languages will be presented. For this purpose, as portrayed in the methodology, the focus will be on the verb "take", and the necessary and essential materials for the analysis are the three versions of the first book of the Harry Potter saga.

##### 4.1 English data

Taking the English text as the base, 126 instances of the verb to take were found (63 of take and 63 of took), as can be seen in the Appendix.

The data have been classified into three different kinds of occurrences. The first one being “take” as an ordinary verb, where there is found 83 instances. The second one, “take” as a LV, where there are 23 instances. And the third and last one, “take” in an idiomatic expression, where there are 20.

Below there are some examples of every kind found in the Appendix:

“Take” as an ordinary verb:

- (1) (...) he’s ready to take it?
- (3) (...) we could take him to the zoo.
- (46) Your detention will take place (...)

“Take” as a LV:

- (25) (...) they learned how to take care of all the strange plants (...)
- (43) (...) and take him away (...)
- (55) I take one step forward.

“Take” in an idiomatic expression:

(10) (...) I was so keek ter take on the job.

(36) (...) not to take sides.

(47) I’ll take over from here.

Therefore, as portrait in the table, there are not many examples with LVCs compared to all the instances of the verb founded. Most of the entries of "take" and “took” in this case, are ordinary verbs with no eventive nouns or simply idiomatic expressions.

Looking more deeply into the LVCs instances, some of them have different syntactic features, beyond being composed only of the LV and the eventive noun:

The table portraits that there are 11 instances in these LVCs that contain the determiner “a”, an indefinite article. This portrait that in this case, articles are the most common syntactic categories found in English LVCs along with the verb itself and the noun. As well there are 8 instances that have an adjective that modifies the noun. Moreover, there are no instances of the LV followed by a bare noun.

**Table 1 – English syntactic data**

<b>Nº</b>	<b>English LVCs</b>	<b>Articles</b>	<b>Adjectives</b>
6	(...) Uncle Vernon would take a sharp turn (...).	“A” is a determiner, an indefinite article.	“Sharp” modifies the eventive noun.
55	I take one step forward (...)	X	“One” modifies the eventive noun.

57	Harry tried to take a step backward (...)	“A” is a determiner, an indefinite article.	X
73	He took a few deep breaths and (...)	“A” is a determiner, an indefinite article.	“Few” and “deep” modify the eventive noun.
75	(...) he took a swig from before (...)	“A” is a determiner, an indefinite article.	X
76	The giant took a gulp of tea (...)	“A” is a determiner, an indefinite article.	X
94	(...) and as Percy took a step toward them (...)	“A” is a determiner, an indefinite article.	X
101	He took a great running jump (...)	“A” is a determiner, an indefinite article.	“Great” modifies the eventive noun.
102	Quirrell took one look at the troll (...)	X	“One” modifies the eventive noun.
116	He took a step forward (...)	“A” is a determiner, an indefinite article.	X
117	He took a deep breath (...)	“A” is a determiner, an indefinite article.	“Deep” modifies the eventive noun.
121	She took a long drink (...)	“A” is a determiner, an indefinite article.	“Long” modifies the eventive noun.
122	Harry took a deep breath (...)	“A” is a determiner, an indefinite article.	“Deep” modifies the eventive noun.

#### 4.2 Spanish data

To continue with the Spanish text, as seen in Table 2, from the 23 LVCs instances found in the English one, 12 were translated as LVCs in Spanish. Moreover, only 3 instances were translated with the same LV, that is to say, “take” translated to “tomar”.

Instead, the other 9 instances were translated with different LVs, being “Dar” (‘give’) and “Tener” (‘have’) the most common.

**Table 2 – Spanish LVCs translation**

Nº	English LVs	P	Spanish translation	P	LV?	Justification
1	(...) Uncle Vernon would <u>take</u> a sharp turn (...)	32	(...) tío Vernon <u>daba</u> la vuelta (...)	28	Dar	“Vuelta” is an eventive noun that goes along with “daba”, so they predicate together (V+N)
2	Enter, stranger, but <u>take</u> heed.	55	Entra, desconocido, pero <u>ten</u> cuidado	50	Tener	“Cuidado” is an eventive noun that goes along with “ten”, so they predicate together (V+N).
3	(...) will <u>take</u> place in a few minutes (...)	83	(...) <u>tendrá</u> lugar dentro de pocos minutos (...)	79	Tener	“Lugar” is an eventive noun that goes along with “tendrá”, so they predicate together (V+N).
4	(...) they learned how to <u>take</u> care of all the strange plants (...)	97	(...) aprendían a cuidar de todas las plantas extrañas (...)	93	X	
5	Charlie can <u>take</u> care of him (...)	171	¡Charlie lo cuidará (...)	164	X	

6	Your detention will <u>take</u> place (...)	180	Vuestro castigo <u>tendrá</u> lugar (...)	171	Tener	“Lugar” is an eventive noun that goes along with “tendrá”, so they predicate together (V+N).
7	I <u>take</u> one step forward (...)	203	Yo <u>daré</u> un paso adelante (...)	196	Dar	“Paso” is an eventive noun that goes along with “daré”, so they predicate together (V+N).
8	<u>Take</u> care.	206	(...) <u>ten</u> cuidado...	199	Tener	“Cuidado” is an eventive noun that goes along with “ten”, so they predicate together (V+N).
9	Harry tried to <u>take</u> a step backward (...)	211	Harry trató de retroceder (...)	204	X	
10	He <u>took</u> a few deep breaths and (...)	29	Respiró profundamente y (...)	25	X	
11	(...) he <u>took</u> a swig from before (...)	38	(...) <u>tomó</u> un trago antes (...)	33	Tomar	“Trago” is an eventive noun that goes along with “tomó”, so they predicate together (V+N). The verb also is equivalent to

						“beber”.
12	The giant <u>took</u> a gulp of tea (...)	38	El gigante <u>tomó</u> un sorbo de té (...)	33	Tomar	“Sorbo” is an eventive noun that goes along with “tomó”, so they predicate together (V+N). The verb also is equivalent to “beber”.
13	(...) <u>took</u> care of yer mum (...)	43	Fue la que terminó con tu madre (...)	38	X	
14	(...) and as Percy <u>took</u> a step toward them (...)	93	(...) y cuando Percy se acercó (...)	90	X	
15	Potions lessons <u>took</u> place down (...)	99	Las clases de Pociones se <u>daban</u> abajo (...)	95	Dar	“Abajo” is an eventive noun that goes along with “daban”, so they predicate together (V+N).
16	He <u>took</u> a great running jump (...)	127	(...) corrió, <u>dando</u> un gran salto (...)	122	Dar	“Salto” is an eventive noun that goes along with “dando”. Even though it has an adjective between the verb and the noun,

						they predicate together. Moreover this LVC is equivalent to “saltar”.
17	Quirrell <u>took</u> one look at the troll (...)	127	Quirrell dirigió una mirada al monstruo (...)	123	X	
18	He <u>took</u> a step forward (...)	196	Dio un paso hacia (...)	188	Dar	“Paso” is an eventive noun that goes along with “dio”, therefore they predicate together (V+N). The verb also is equivalent to “avanzar”.
19	He <u>took</u> a deep breath (...)	201	Respiró profundamente (...)	193	X	
20	The key <u>took</u> flight again (...)	202	(...) la llave salió volando otra vez (...)	194	X	
21	She <u>took</u> a long drink (...)	206	Se <u>tomó</u> de un trago (...)	199	Tomar	“Trago” is an eventive noun that goes along with “tomó”, so they predicate together (V+N). The verb also is

						equivalent to “beber”.
22	Harry <u>took</u> a deep breath (...)	206	Harry respiró profundamente (...)	199	X	
23	(...) <u>took</u> one look at him	217	(...) lo miró (...)	211	X	

In the following table, there will be a syntactic analysis from the Spanish LVCs instances that have more syntactic features aside from being only V+N:

As seen in this table, Spanish LVCs can also have other syntactic categories in the construction as in English. It can be seen that articles are the most abundant, since from the 12 instances of Spanish LVCs found in Table 2, 7 of them have articles between the LV and the eventive noun. Moreover, there is one instance with an adjective, and another one with a preposition, meaning that this type of syntactic categories can also be part of LVCs in Spanish. In addition, once again, there are no instances of LV followed by a bare noun.

**Table 3 – Spanish syntactic data**

Nº	Spanish LVCs	Articles	Adjectives	Prepositions
1	(...) tío Vernon daba la vuelta (...)	“La” is a determiner, a definite article.	X	X
7	Yo <u>daré</u> un paso adelante (...)	“Un” is a determiner, an indefinite article.	X	X
11	(...) <u>tomó</u> un trago antes (...)	“Un” is a determiner, an	X	X

		indefinite article.		
12	El gigante <u>tomó</u> un sorbo de té (...)	“Un” is a determiner, an indefinite article.	X	X
16	(...) corrió, <u>dando</u> un gran salto (...)	“Un” is a determiner, an indefinite article.	“Gran” modifies the eventive noun.	X
18	Dio un paso hacia (...)	“Un” is a determiner, an indefinite article.	X	X
21	Se <u>tomó</u> de un trago (...)	“Un” is a determiner, an indefinite article.	X	“De” is a preposition.

### 4.3 French data

Furthermore with the French text, Table 4 portrays the comparison between the English text base and the French one. Once more, from the 23 entries of LVCs in English, 8 of them are translated with LVs in French. In addition, in this case only 2 instances were translated with the same LV, “Take” translated to “Prendre”. The other 6 LVs found are “Avoir” (‘have’), “Être” (‘be’) and “Faire” (‘do’).

**Table 4 - French LVCs translation**

Nº	English LV	P	French translation	P	LV?	Justification
1	(...) Uncle Vernon would <u>take</u> a sharp turn (...)	32	(...) l'oncle Vernon <u>faisait</u> demi-tour (...)	27	Faire	“Demi-tour” is an eventive noun that goes along with “faisait”, so they

						predicate together (V+N).
2	Enter, stranger, but <u>take</u> heed.	55	Entre ici étranger si tel est ton désir (...)	48	X	
3	(...) will <u>take</u> place in a few minutes (...)	83	La Cérémonie de la Répartition <u>aura</u> lieu (...)	77	Avoir	“Lieu” is an eventive noun that goes along with “aura”, so they predicate together (V+N).
4	(...) they learned how to <u>take</u> care of all the strange plants (...)	97	There is no translation.			
5	Charlie can <u>take</u> care of him (...)	171	Charlie s'occupera de lui (...)	156	X	
6	Your detention will <u>take</u> place (...)	180	Votre retenue commencera ce soir à onze heures (...)	163	X	
7	I <u>take</u> one step forward (...)	203	Je vais avancer (...)	187	X	
8	<u>Take</u> care.	206	<u>Sois</u> prudent (...)	190	Être	“Prudent” is an eventive noun that goes along with “sois”, so they predicate together (V+N).
9	Harry tried to	211	Harry essaya de	194	Faire	“Pas” is an

	<u>take</u> a step backward (...)		<u>faire</u> un pas en arrière (...)			eventive noun that goes along with “faire”, so they predicate together (V+N).
10	He <u>took</u> a few deep breaths and (...)	29	Il respira profondément à plusieurs reprises (...)	24	X	
11	(...) he <u>took</u> a swig from before (...)	38	(...) dont il avala une gorgée avant (...)	32	X	
12	The giant <u>took</u> a gulp of tea (...)	38	Le géant avala une gorgée de thé (...)	32	X	
13	(...) <u>took</u> care of yer mum (...)	43	(...) qu'il a détruit tes parents et leur maison (...)	37	X	
14	(...) and as Percy <u>took</u> a step forward them (...)	93	Percy qui dut <u>faire</u> un pas de côté (...)	87	Faire	“Pas” is an eventive noun that goes along with “faire”, so they predicate together (V+N).
15	Potions lessons <u>took</u> place down (...)	99	Le cours <u>avait</u> lieu dans l'un des cachots (...)	91	Avoir	“Lieu” is an eventive noun that goes along with “avait”, so they predicate together (V+N).

16	He took a great running jump (...)	127	(...) il <u>prit</u> son élan, sauta (...)	117	Prendre	“Élan” is an eventive noun that goes along with “prit”, so they predicate together (V+N).
17	Quirrell took one look at the troll (...)	127	Quirrell jeta un coup d'œil au troll (...)	118	X	
18	He took a step forward (...)	196	There is no translation.			
19	He took a deep breath (...)	201	Il <u>prit</u> une profonde inspiration (...)	184	Prendre	“Inspiration” is an eventive noun that goes along with “prit”, so they predicate together (V+N).
20	The key took flight again (...)	202	(...) la clé s'envola à nouveau (...)	185	X	
21	She took a long drink (...)	206	Elle but une longue gorgée (...)	190	X	
22	Harry took a deep breath (...)	206	Harry respira profondément (...)	190	X	
23	(...) took one look at him	217	There is no translation.			

As in English and Spanish, LVCs in French present different syntactic features:

It is shown in this syntactic analysis that as in English and Spanish, articles are the most abundant in French LVCs, however adjectives are also present. From the 4 instances, there were found 3 with articles and 2 with adjectives.

**Table 5 – French syntactic data**

Nº	French LVCs	Articles	Adjectives
9	Harry essaya de faire un pas en arrière (...)	“Un” is a determiner, an indefinite article.	X
14	Percy qui dut faire un pas de côté (...)	“Un” is a determiner, an indefinite article.	X
16	(...) il prit son élan, sauta (...)	X	“Son” is a possessive adjective modifying the eventive noun.
19	(...) Il prit une profonde inspiration	“Un” is a determiner, an indefinite article.	“Profonde” is an adjective modifying the eventive noun.

#### 4.4 LVCs in contrast: English, Spanish and French

The sentences mostly translated with LVCs are the following (the number of the examples are from the Appendix and below of each with their respective translations):

(6) (...) Uncle Vernon would take a sharp turn (...)

(...) tío Vernon daba la vuelta (...)

(...) l'oncle Vernon faisait demi-tour (...)

(23) (...) will take place in a few minutes (...)

(...) tendrá lugar dentro de pocos minutos (...)

La Cérémonie de la Répartition aura lieu (...)

(57) Take care.

(...) ten cuidado...

Sois prudent (...)

(96) Potions lessons took place down (...)

Las clases de Pociones se daban abajo (...)

Le cours avait lieu dans l'un des cachots (...)

(101) He took a great running jump (...)

(...) corrió, dando un gran salto (...)

(...) il prit son élan, sauta (...)

These 5 examples are the ones that were translated with a LV in both Spanish and French translations. It can be seen that sentences (23) and (29) have in common that both have the meaning of “to happen somewhere”. Moreover, sentences (6) and (101) also share the fact that in both there are articles and adjectives, and the meaning of them have relation with physical actions, “turn” and “jump”. In addition, example (57) portrays the principal rule of LVCs that the three languages have in common, that is to say, LVCs are formed by a verb and an eventive noun that predicate together. Therefore, it can be understood that these are the most usual cases where a LV can be found in English, Spanish and French.

To continue, the sentences that were translated in both versions with a synthetic verb are (again, the number of the examples are from the Appendix with both translations):

(41) Charlie can take care of him (...)

¡Charlie lo cuidará (...)

Charlie s'occupera de lui (...)

(73) He took a few deep breaths (...)

Respiró profundamente y (...)

Il respira profondément à plusieurs reprises (...)

(78) (...) took care of yer mum (...)

Fue la que terminó con tu madre (...)

(...) qu'il a détruit tes parents et leur maison (...)

(118) The key took flight again (...)

(...) la llave salió volando otra vez (...)

(...) la clé s'envola à nouveau (...)

(122) Harry took a deep breath (...)

Harry respiró profundamente (...)

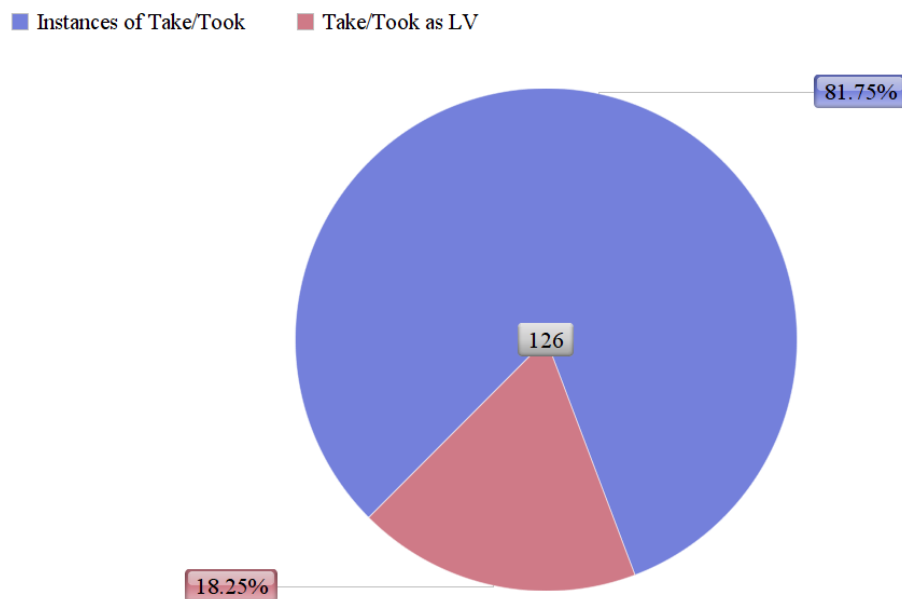
Harry respira profondément (...)

Taking a look at these examples, it is possible to have some conclusions concerning why they are not translated with LVs in Spanish and French. In (41) although there is the LVC “take care” that can be also translated with a LV in the other two languages, the translation opts rather for a full verb. This may occur because as the sentence is more directed towards the future, the translation chooses to use a synthetic verb in both versions. In example (78), once more, even though there is the LVC “took care”, the meaning here is “to kill”. Therefore, its translations are different since the meaning it is not the same in the other two languages. In examples (73) and (122) both have the same verb “took” and noun “breath” along with the adjective “deep”, however, they were not translated with LVs in the other two languages. It can be said that this has to do with translation terms, the expression in both languages were translated with the full verb “respiró” in Spanish and “respira” in French, directly complemented with the adverb “profundamente” and “profondement”. This demonstrates that in Romance languages there are expressions that even if they can have a LV, they are more used with synthetic verbs. The case is similar with example (118), the translation opts rather for a full verb.

The following graphs will show clearly the percentages of the data collected in the previous analysis. Graph 1 presents the percentage of the verb “take” used as a LV in the first book of Harry Potter in the English version. Graph 2 and Graph 3 the amount of LVs in English that are translated into the other two languages of the same book.

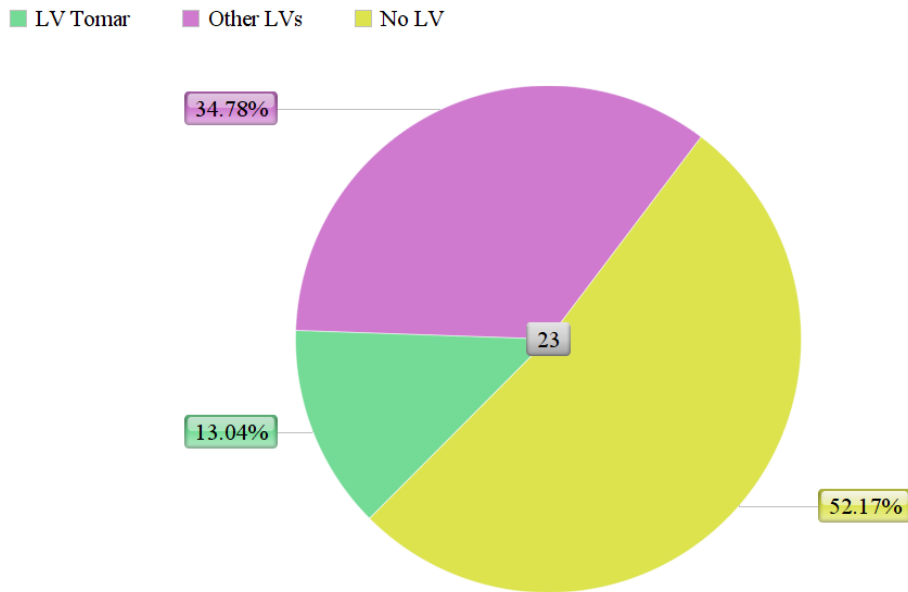
**Figure 1 – English percentages**

This graph shows that from the 126 entries of the verb “take” and its irregular form “took”, only 18.25% of the examples of this verb is used as LVCs



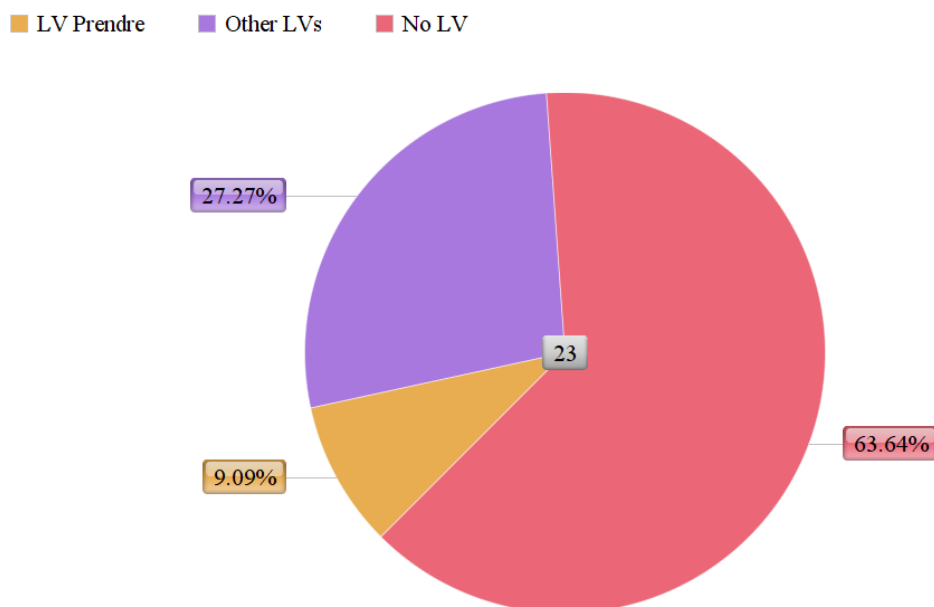
**Figure 2 – Spanish percentages**

In this second graph, the data obtained from the Spanish translation are more specific. From the 23 entries of LVCs found in the English text, 13.04% use the same LV "tomar", 34.78% use other LVs, and 52.17% of the examples have not been translated with LVs.



**Figure 3 – French percentages**

In this third and last graph, there is the data obtained from the French translation. From the 23 entries of LVs found in the English text, 9,09% use the same LV "prendre", 27,27% use other LVs, and a 63,64% of the examples have not been translated with LVs.



## 5. Conclusion

To conclude, in this section there will be a general contrast of the results obtained in this study, describing the most relevant aspects found throughout the comparative analysis.

The most important thing to take into account is that the main characteristic to identify this type of constructions is that LVs do not have any semantic value by themselves, and therefore they must be joined to an eventive noun in order to make sense, forming a complex predicate in the sentence.

Another point to note, it is that, indeed, LVCs go unnoticed due to their little use, considering the few instances found of the LV “take” in the English literary text. However, in the Spanish and French texts, the use is even more lousy, since in their translations they opt more for the use of other verbs or simply other expressions.

It can also be seen that in the translation of the LV “take” in the other two languages, other types of LVs are used providing the same semantic meaning. Some examples could be the ones seen in the section 4.4:

(7) (...) Uncle Vernon would take a sharp turn (...)

(...) tío Vernon daba la vuelta (...)

(...) l'oncle Vernon faisait demi-tour (...)

In this example, the English text has the LV “take”, the Spanish translation has “dar” (give) and the French translation has “faire” (do).

57) Take care.

(...) ten cuidado...

Sois prudent (...)

In this one, the English text has the LV “take”, the Spanish translation has “tener” (‘have’) and the French translation has “être” (‘be’).

This demonstrates that as they do not have meaning on their own, as mentioned in the literature review, other different light verbs can be used, since on several occasions they share meaning when they are joined to the noun that follows them.

Moreover, the constructions collected in the three languages have in common that they are usually complemented by a determiner, in this case as previously observed, the indefinite article "a", as well as other syntactic categories such as adjectives and prepositions. Therefore, LVCs do not only need to be V+N to fulfil the construction, other grammatical groups can join them and complement them.

Furthermore, taking a look to the sentences mostly translated with LVCs and the ones that are mostly translated with a synthetic verb, it is not clearly that they follow a specific pattern which indicates whether to use a LV or not. However, there are some cases where it can be sensed that the three languages tend to use a LVC, as for example, the expressions with the meaning “to happen somewhere”. This can be seen in example (23) in section 4.4:

(23) (...) will take place in a few minutes (...)

(...) tendrá lugar dentro de pocos minutos (...)

La Cérémonie de la Répartition aura lieu (...)

It can then be concluded that these verb constructions are similar between the Germanic and Romance languages, as they share the same rules, usage and functions, but their use differs somewhat as they are more frequent in English. Moreover,

regarding the translation of the data, it is also seen that the three versions differ a lot in terms of translating the LVCs, whether why they are not translated with the same LV or because they use other synthetic verbs.

Therefore, it can be considered that the objectives stated in the introduction have been met. It has been possible to observe in this study a contrast with the differences and similarities of the LVCs in the Germanic and Romance languages, focusing specifically on English, Spanish and French, and on the light verb "take".

Further studies that can be done starting with the findings of this dissertation, could be the same analysis of the same book, however focusing on the other LVs. With all the data collected, this could help to see if the results obtained have similitudes with the study of the LV "take" and its translation in Spanish and French. In addition it could also help to find a more stable pattern of the use of LVCs, in order to have a more clear idea how these constructions are used in English in contrast with the Romance languages.

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## 7. Appendix

Nº	Instances	Page	LV?	Justification
1	(...) he's ready to <u>take</u> it?	13	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb. “It” makes reference to the whole previous sentence, therefore it is not an eventive noun.
2	She can't <u>take</u> him?	19	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb and its meaning is “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
3	(...) we could <u>take</u> him to the zoo.	20	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to bring someone somewhere”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
4	(...) coming to <u>take</u> him away.	24	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to bring someone somewhere”, in this case, “away”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
5	<u>Take</u> this stuff upstairs, now.	29	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to bring something somewhere”, in this case “the stuff upstairs”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
6	(...) Uncle Vernon would <u>take</u> a sharp turn (...)	32	Yes	“Turn” is an eventive noun that goes along with “take”, so they predicate together (V+N).
7	I'll <u>take</u> them.	33	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive

				noun.
8	(...) he still couldn't <u>take</u> his eyes off the giant.	38	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb and there is no eventive noun.
9	(...) at least to <u>take</u> the yellowish envelope.	40	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
10	(...) I was so keek ter <u>take</u> on the job.	45	X	“Take on” is an idiomatic expression, therefore it is not a LV.
11	Enter, stranger, but <u>take</u> heed.	55	Yes	“Heed” is an eventive noun that goes along with “take”, so they predicate together (V+N). The event is only one “Caring for someone”.
12	For those who <u>take</u> , but not earn.	55	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
13	We've come ter <u>take</u> some money outta (...)	56	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
14	I will have someone <u>take</u> you down to both (...)	56	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to bring someone somewhere”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
15	Just <u>take</u> it and give it a wave.	62	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.

16	(...) would <u>take</u> him back to the Dursleys (...)	64	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to bring someone somewhere”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
17	I just <u>take</u> the train from (...)	67	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb and “train” is not an eventive noun.
18	We'll <u>take</u> you to King's Cross.	67	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to bring someone somewhere”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
19	Harry, trying to <u>take</u> Ron's mind off houses.	78	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb, and there is no eventive noun.
20	(...) but Harry didn't <u>take</u> it.	79	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
21	I will <u>take</u> them from here.	83	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
22	(...) before you <u>take</u> your seats in the (...)	83	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
23	(...) will <u>take</u> place in a few minutes (...)	83	Yes	“Place” is an eventive noun that goes along with “take”, so they predicate together (V+N). The expression also means “to happen”.
24	(...) he'd had to <u>take</u> a	84	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with

	school report (...)			meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
25	(...) they learned how to <u>take</u> care of all the strange plants (...)	97	Yes	“Care” is an eventive noun that goes along with “take”, so they predicate together (V+N). Moreover, the event is only one “caring for someone”.
26	<u>Take</u> him up to the hospital wing.	101	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to bring someone somewhere”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
27	(...) I <u>take</u> this boy to the hospital.	107	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to bring someone somewhere”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
28	(...) up a little to <u>take</u> it even higher.	108	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
29	I'd <u>take</u> you on anytime on my own.	111	X	“Take” goes along with the preposition “on” forming an idiomatic expression, therefore it is not a LV.
30	(...) a second'd there to <u>take</u> over if you die.	111	X	“Take” goes along with the preposition “over” forming an idiomatic expression, therefore it is not a LV.
31	(...) he'd <u>take</u> Filch.	116	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to choose”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
32	<u>Take</u> this.	122	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb

				meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
33	(...) to <u>take</u> his mind off his nerves (...)	132	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb and there is no eventive noun.
34	(...) could <u>take</u> any more points (...)	132	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
35	(...) Gryffindor <u>take</u> the Quaffle (...)	135	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
36	(...) not to <u>take</u> sides.	136	X	“Take sides” is an idiomatic expression, therefore it is not a LVC.
37	(...) he wouldn't <u>take</u> his eyes off you.	138	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb, and there is no eventive noun.
38	(...) still not daring to <u>take</u> his eyes (...)	161	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb, and there is no eventive noun.
39	(...) to <u>take</u> his Nimbus two thousand (...)	162	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
40	(...) Neville tried to <u>take</u> on Crabbe and Goyle.	163	X	“Take” goes along with the preposition “on” forming an idiomatic expression, therefore it is not a LV.
41	Charlie can <u>take</u> care of	171	Yes	“Care” is an eventive noun that

	him (...)			goes along with “take”, so they predicate together (V+N). Moreover the event is only one “Caring for someone”.
42	I'd be glad to <u>take</u> the Norwegian (...)	172	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
43	(...) and <u>take</u> him away (...)	176	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to take someone somewhere”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
44	It doesn't <u>take</u> a genius to work it out.	179	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb, and there is no eventive noun.
45	That'll <u>take</u> a lot of explaining.	179	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb, and there is no eventive noun.
46	Your detention will <u>take</u> place (...)	180	Yes	“Place” is an eventive noun that goes along with “take”, so they predicate together (V+N). The expression also means “to happen”.
47	I'll <u>take</u> over from here.	192	X	“Take” goes along with the preposition “over” forming an idiomatic expression, therefore it is not a LV.
48	(...) he wouldn't <u>take</u> his cloak off.	195	X	“Took” goes along with the preposition “off” forming an idiomatic expression, therefore it is not a LV.
49	I'll <u>take</u> another fifty points from (...)	195	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to obtain possession”.

				Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
50	(...) he was trying to <u>take</u> over?	198	X	“Take” goes along with the preposition “over” forming an idiomatic expression, therefore it is not a LV.
51	You can <u>take</u> the cloak (...)	202	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
52	I suppose we've got to <u>take</u> the place (...)	202	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
53	(...) you <u>take</u> the place of that bishop (...)	203	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
54	(...) leaves you free to <u>take</u> that bishop (...)	203	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb since “bishop” is not an eventive noun.
55	I <u>take</u> one step forward (...)	203	Yes	“Step” is an eventive noun that goes along with “take”, so they predicate together (V+N).
56	(...) she'll <u>take</u> me (...)	203	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb and there is no eventive noun.
57	<u>Take</u> care.	206	Yes	“Care” is an eventive noun that goes along with “take”, so they predicate together (V+N)
58	Harry couldn't <u>take</u> it in.	208	X	“Take” goes along with the preposition “in” forming an idiomatic expression, therefore

				is not a LV.
59	Harry tried to <u>take</u> a step backward (...)	211	Yes	“Step” is an eventive noun that goes along with “take”, so they predicate together (V+N).
60	(...) manage to <u>take</u> it from you.	213	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
61	(...) it will merely <u>take</u> someone else who (...)	214	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb, and there is no eventive noun.
62	It <u>takes</u> a great deal of bravery (...)	219	X	“Takes” is an ordinary verb, and there is no eventive noun.
63	Hagrid was there to <u>take</u> them down (...)	220	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb meaning “to bring someone somewhere”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
64	(...) as he <u>took</u> a golden watch from his pocket (...)	12	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
65	Dumbledore <u>took</u> Harry in his arms (...)	14	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
66	(...) <u>took</u> a letter out of his cloak (...)	14	X	“Took” goes along with the preposition “out” forming an idiomatic expression, therefore it is not a LV.
67	(...) and <u>took</u> out the silver Put-Outer.	14	X	“Took” goes along with the preposition “out” forming an idiomatic expression, therefore it is not a LV.

68	(...) his parents <u>took</u> him and a friend out (...)	19	X	“Took” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to bring someone somewhere”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
69	Aunt Petunia <u>took</u> Dudley to London to buy (...)	26	X	“Took” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to bring someone somewhere”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
70	Aunt Petunia <u>took</u> it curiously and read (...)	28	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
71	(...) and he <u>took</u> both Harry and Dudley by (...)	29	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
72	(...) when we <u>took</u> him in (...)	29	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
73	He <u>took</u> a few deep breaths and (...)	29	Yes	“Breaths” is an eventive noun that goes along with “took”, so they predicate together (V+N).
74	It only <u>took</u> Harry one trip upstairs (...)	30	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
75	(...) he <u>took</u> a swig from before (...)	38	Yes	“Swig” is an eventive noun that goes along with “took”, so they predicate together (V+N). Moreover the verb is equivalent to “drink”.

76	The giant <u>took</u> a gulp of tea (...)	38	Yes	“Gulp” is an eventive noun that goes along with “took”, so they predicate together (V+N).
77	We swore when we <u>took</u> him (...)	41	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
78	(...) <u>took</u> care of yer mum (...)	43	Yes	“Care” is an eventive noun that goes along with “took”, so they predicate together (V+N). However, in this case it has the meaning of “to kill”.
79	<u>Took</u> yeh from the ruined house myself (...)	43	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to bring someone somewhere”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
80	He <u>took</u> off his thick black coat (...)	46	X	“Take” goes along with the preposition “off” forming an idiomatic expression, so it is not a LV.
81	Harry <u>took</u> up two seats and (...)	51	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
82	Harry <u>took</u> the parchment envelope (...)	51	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
83	It <u>took</u> almost ten minutes to get away (...)	53	X	“Took” goes along with “almost ten minutes”, it is an expression of time therefore it is not a LV.
84	He <u>took</u> a year off (...)	54	X	“Took” goes along with “a year

				off’, it is an expression of time therefore it is not a LV.
85	To drag them off to <u>took</u> at racing brooms (...)	58	X	“Took” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to bring someone somewhere”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
86	Harry <u>took</u> the wand (...)	62	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
87	Harry <u>took</u> the wand (...)	63	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
88	They don't think they <u>took</u> anything (...)	78	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
89	He and Ron <u>took</u> off their jackets (...)	80	X	“Take” goes along with the preposition “off” forming an idiomatic expression, therefore it is not a LV.
90	But at other it <u>took</u> a little while to decide.	87	X	“Took” in this case is an ordinary verb and it forms an expression of time. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
91	The hat <u>took</u> a long time to decide (...)	87	X	“Took” in this case is an ordinary verb and it forms an expression of time. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
92	He <u>took</u> off the hat (...)	88	X	“Took” goes along with the preposition “off” forming an

				idiomatic expression, therefore it is not a LV.
93	(...) and <u>took</u> the Sorting Hat away.	89	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
94	(...) and as Percy <u>took</u> a step toward them (...)	93	Yes	“Step” is an eventive noun that goes along “took”, so they predicate together (V+N).
95	(...) first class he <u>took</u> the roll call (...)	97	X	“Took” is an ordinary verb with meaning “To obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
96	Potions lessons <u>took</u> place down (...)	99	Yes	“Place” is an eventive noun that goes along with “take”, so they predicate together (V+N). The expression also means “to happen”.
97	Harry <u>took</u> out his wand (...)	114	X	“Took” goes along with the preposition “out” forming an idiomatic expression, therefore it is not a LV.
98	(...) Wood <u>took</u> out a bright red ball (...)	121	X	“Took” goes along with the preposition “out” forming an idiomatic expression, therefore it is not a LV.
99	<u>Took</u> out the fourth and last ball.	123	X	“Took” goes along with the preposition “out” forming an idiomatic expression, therefore it is not a LV.
100	It <u>took</u> several purple firecrackers exploding (...)	125	X	“Took” is an ordinary verb, and there is no eventive noun.

101	He <u>took</u> a great running jump (...)	127	Yes	“Jump” is an eventive noun that goes along with “took”, so they predicate together (V+N).
102	Quirrell <u>took</u> one look at the troll (...)	127	Yes	“Look” is an eventive noun that goes along with “took”, so they predicate together (V+N).
103	It <u>took</u> perhaps thirty seconds (...)	138	X	“Took” in this case is an ordinary verb that forms an expression of time. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
104	Hermione <u>took</u> out a list (...)	143	X	“Took” goes along with the preposition “out” forming an idiomatic expression, therefore it is not a LV.
105	As long as it <u>took</u> to find out (...)	148	X	“Took” is an ordinary verb, and there is no eventive noun.
106	(...) <u>took</u> a different view of things.	156	X	Not an eventive noun.
107	(...) Nimbus two thousand and <u>took</u> off.	162	X	“Took” goes along with the preposition “off” forming an idiomatic expression, therefore it is not a LV.
108	(...) was in that book Malfoy <u>took</u> (...)	172	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
109	Filch <u>took</u> them down to Professor (...)	176	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “bring someone somewhere”. Moreover, there is

				no eventive noun.
110	Hagrid <u>took</u> the left path while (...)	182	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to choose”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
111	(...) <u>took</u> the right.	182	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to choose”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
112	Ronan <u>took</u> a while to answer.	183	X	“Took” is an ordinary verb that forms an expression of time. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
113	It <u>took</u> a minute or two to pass.	185	X	“Took” is an ordinary verb that forms an expression of time. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
114	(...) the sorta creatures I <u>took</u> after (...)	192	X	“Took” is an ordinary verb, and there is no eventive noun.
115	Go and <u>took</u> through my books (...)	195	X	“Took” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
116	He <u>took</u> a step forward (...)	196	Yes	“Step” is an eventive noun that goes along with “took”, so they predicate together (V+N).
117	He <u>took</u> a deep breath (...)	201	Yes	“Breath” is an eventive noun that goes along with “took”, so they predicate together (V+N).
118	The key <u>took</u> flight again (...)	202	Yes	“Flight” is an eventive noun that goes along with “took”, so they predicate together (V+N). Moreover the verb is equivalent

				with “flew”.
119	(...) Harry, Ron and Hermione <u>took</u> .	202	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
120	The white king <u>took</u> off his crown (...)	203	X	“Took” goes along with the preposition “off” forming an idiomatic expression, therefore it is not a LV.
121	She <u>took</u> a long drink (...)	206	Yes	“Drink” is an eventive noun that goes along with “took”, so they predicate together (V+N).
122	Harry <u>took</u> a deep breath (...)	206	Yes	“Breath” is an eventive noun that goes along with “took”, so they predicate together (V+N).
123	That <u>took</u> a while (...)	216	X	“Took” is an ordinary verb that forms an expression of time. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
124	(...) <u>took</u> one look at him (...)	217	Yes	“Look” is an eventive noun that goes along with “took”, so they predicate together (V+N).
125	(...) a towering Gryffindor lion <u>took</u> its place.	220	X	“Take” is an ordinary verb with meaning “to obtain possession”. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.
126	It <u>took</u> quite a while for them (...)	220	X	“Took” is an ordinary verb that forms an expression of time. Moreover, there is no eventive noun.