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The Analysis of 'Pour': A Lesson Learned for Understanding Vocabulary

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The Analysis of 'Pour': A Lesson Learned for Understanding Vocabulary

Priyono

Abstract - The centrality of lexis has been a prominent issue in lexical studies in second language learning (Richards, 1976; Ard and Gass, 1987; Willis, 1990; Clark, 1993, Coady and Huckin, 1997). This research article aims to shed light on understanding vocabulary in a different perspective by examining the nature of vocabulary through the observation of the verb pour in corpus citations. The results indicate that a large part of the grammatical aspect is lexically related. The corpus citations display the properties of the verb pour that include its various senses of meaning, syntactic structures it can fill in, typical subjects and objects they co-occur with, and argument structures. These properties generally determine the verb meaning and how it should appear in sentences and collocate with other words, and at the same time distinguish from other verbs' behaviour. This corpus-based study confirms the unique complexity of the verb lexicon. The acquisition of lexicon is then the competence that includes the knowledge of the lexical properties. For a learner, it would imply that the encoded structural aspects should be learned as an integral part of learning vocabulary. Hence, it would render the teaching of grammar to some extent redundant.

I. Introduction

Among the four parts of speech (noun, verb, adjective, and adverb), verbs turn out to have the most complex properties (cf. Kilby, 1984; Atkin, Kegl, and Levin, 1986 and 1988; Levin, 1993). From the semantic perspective, verbs often carry more than one meaning and fall into various semantic categories. From a syntactic perspective, there are lexical constraints in the syntactic structures in which verbs are the central element (see Ard and Gass, 1987). A lexical constraint is a rule that restricts verbs to behave in a peculiar way. Some verbs strictly require objects to express meaning in a sentence, some can only appear without objects, and others can appear with or without objects. Hundt (2004) points out that subject animacy is highly related to syntactic patterning, e.g. progressive mode is common with animate subjects. Verbs such as break, cut, sell, read may appear with both animate and inanimate subjects, but write, eat, drink, see with animate subjects only. The syntactic variants of a verb are also lexically constrained. For example, a verb like *give* can dativize, as in *he gave me some money*, but a verb like *eat* cannot, **he ate me some sandwich.* Likewise, the verb *break* can alternate to an unaccusative variant as in *the window broke*, but not *write* in *a novel wrote.

Within lexical conceptual structure, verb properties would include meaning, syntactic constructions, collocation, morphological forms, phonological aspects, and pragmatic (but this corpus investigation restricts the observation area to the first three properties only). Therefore, verb is a strategic element in a grammatically acceptable sentence structure. The nature of the verb meaning determines how it should appear in syntactic construction and selects other syntactic elements to co-occur in a sentence. These elements can be its subjects and objects, and other collocations. In addition, animacy of subject and object is also an important factor contributing to the lexical properties of the verb. This collocational knowledge is an integral part of the acquired lexicon. With this in mind, the selected lexical item *pour* will be observed, analyzed, and discussed in relation to ESL (English as a Second Language) learning.

Knowledge about lexical properties should then be integral part of leaner's lexical competence. With a verb, these properties would cover transitivity (whether the verb is strictly transitive or intransitive); whether the intransitive verb is ergative or unergative; the syntactic structures that the verb can enter into; the verb argument structures which include the typical subjects/objects of the transitive, or the typical subjects of the intransitive; the lexical and grammatical collocation of the verb; and the identification of the verb meaning (cf Grimshaw, 1990).

Priyono (2011) asserts that the above elements constitute a lexical conceptual structure suggesting that verb has inherent property encoding syntactic and semantic aspects. Although this may not be comprehensive, these elements make up the major properties that make the verbs difficult to learn (Ard and Gass, 1987; and Yip, 1994). The difficulty could be attributed to the inherent nature of the English verb lexicon and quite possibly interlanguage. Ard and Gass (1987), and Yip 1994) have found out that the English ergative verbs are troublesome even for advanced ESL learners.

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II. The Observation of the Verb *Pour*

The citations of the verb *pour* were obtained from the corpus compiled by Macquarie Dictionary Research Centre, Ozcorp. Set up by the Macquarie Library Pty Ltdin 1990, this corpus is constantly extended from a wider range of sources – novels, short stories, popular non-fiction books, poetries, magazines, newspapers, autobiographies, manuals/guides/ handbooks, and even transcripts of spoken English, and more. This diversity provides sufficient generality and meets the requirement of this study in terms of being representative, and open-ended collection of texts. At that time, the size of the corpus was more than 20 million words, and currently must be much more than that. With all these features, the observation of the verb *pour* in the citations, is expected to disclose its properties. The programs employed are *Sentence, Concordances, and Collocation.* The *Sentence* program displays all sentences that contain the word under investigation and it provides relatively complete information about the word. *Concordance* is similar to *sentence* program but it does display complete sentences, many of them were truncated. Therefore, *concordance* is not used to observe lexical behaviour of *pour. Collocation* program is useful in showing words that collocate with the verb *pour.* It also provides statistical information about frequency of words co-occurring with the verb *pour.* In addition, the results of *collocation* program display typicality of subject and object that help us understand the conceptual structure of the verb. As a whole the corpus citations of the verb *pour* demonstrate lexical behaviour that provide information regarding aspects of language such as syntax, meaning, and collocational properties.

III. Syntactic Information

The verb *Pour* has both transitive and intransitive uses, but the transitive is much more common than the intransitive (see table 1 below). In addition there are more variants in the transitive uses. An example of each variant will be given later. The corpus also reveals other than verb uses. More than 6% of the 324 total matches are non-verb. This number includes the noun *pour* and foreign words such as *pour un jeune homme* [#81), *c'est tant pis pour lui* (#168), etc which must be excluded from the data.

Table 1 : Frequency of transitive/intransitive uses

Transitive	210 (64%)
Intransitive	87 (27%)
Pure	69 (21%)
Pseudo	18 (5.5%)
Non-verbal (Excluded)	27 (8%)
Total occurrences	324

IV. The Transitive *Pour*

The corpus reveals four variants of the transitive *pour*. The most common construction is POUR + NP + Prep + Location (Goal/Destination) (105 occurrences). The NP is the object, and Prep is prepositions, and the Location sometimes refers to Goal or Destination. The second common variant is Simple Transitive (70 occurrences). This variant is identified from the appearance of a single (direct) object. The third variant is Dative (21 occurrences), and the least common variant is Benefactive (10 occurrences). The following sentences will illustrate each of the transitive variants.

1. I could pour the diesel into the filters (#55).
2. she did pour a drink (#97).
3. will you pour me some more coffee ... (#143).
4. Denise will pour tea for all their family and friends (#206).

V. The Intransitive *Pour*

Unlike the transitive, the intransitive use recognises only two variants: Pure and Pseudo intransitive. This is illustrated in the following sentences.

5. ... and rain began to pour down ... (#7).
6. Pour into a small serving dish, cover ... (#32).

The pure intransitive can be easily identified when the subject is inanimate such as *rain, water, liquid*, although quite a few animate subjects appear with this variant. Sentence 7 below is one of the pure intransitives in the citations with an animate subject.

7. About 500,000 East European were expected to pour into the West every year (#43).

Unlike 7, sentence 6 shows no object but implies one. In this sentence there is something to be poured into the dish. The entity is not expressed but understood from the context. On the contrary, the verb *pour* in 7 does not imply any object.

The subject of the transitive and intransitive

There are 62 sentences in the citations of *pour* that have no subject. These subjectless sentences are mostly imperative, but a few are due to truncation. Sentences 8 and 9 below illustrate the two instances.

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8. Pour a thin layer of jelly on to the base of the mould (#42, also #32).
9. pour down my gullet huge draughts of spirit (#5).

These subjectless sentences mostly occur in the transitive variant. The only other occurrences are in the pseudo intransitive as in 6, which nevertheless implies an object. Except for pronoun and proper name, the list does not suggest any typicality of subject as the rest occur only once or twice. Such rarity of occurrence makes it difficult to characterise a common subject. However, there is a clear tendency for the subject of the transitive *pour* to be animate.

Table 2 : Subject profile of transitive *pour*

Pronouns	132
Proper names	12
Father	2
Each of the following occurred once: sea, bosses, companies, 22-year-old, the plant, rhymester, the throat of the bird, butler, workmen, mother, grandfather, women, sweeper, entity, councilor, the rest of us, mummy.	17
Unidentified subjects	47
Total occurrences	210

Consider the following sentences.

10. It was as though a sea, breaking against a stone wall, had found some breach through which to pour its waters (#3).
11. The plant, in Fukushima district north-west of Tokyo, activated an emergency core cooling system to pour water on the nuclear fuel rods (#44).
12. Foreign-owned companies supplied thousands of Australian jobs and pour millions into the local economy (#26).

The subject *sea* of sentence 10, although an inanimate, is used metaphorically as an animate. This subject plays an agentive role, namely, the doer of the action 'pouring'. In sentences 11 and 12, the subjects*plant* and *companies* involve human so that they can be categorised into animate subjects.

Unlike the transitive variants, the intransitives display a much greater range of inanimate subjects. Table 3 below lists the intransitive subjects from which the typical subjects can be identified. The ones which have similar characteristics can be categorised under one common term. For example, the nominal groups*water, rain, saliva, liquid, tears, chemicals, shower heads* etc. can be listed under 'liquid'. These nominal groups seem to have characterised the common subject of the intransitive *pour*.

Table 3 : Subject profile of intransitive *pour*

Pronouns	16
water	5
Rain	4
Smoke	2
Poems	2
Guests	2
Each of the following occurred once: saliva, words, liquid light, greetings, driver, investors, Europeans, rollers, young hearts, people, heat & sweetness, cascades, beams of light, all, moth, ideas, tears, councilor, Lennie, soldiers, wishes, chemicals, folk, events, immigrants, Chinese, sunshine, question, span, settlers, plains, showerheads, homage, libation, nations, throat.	36
Unidentified subjects	20
Total occurrences	87

The following sentences illustrate the common subjects of the intransitive *pour*.

13. Then the rain started to pour down .... (#46).
14. .... and opening his mouth let his saliva pour on to his slate (#6).
15. .... for the ceiling to rumble and the water to pour down (#203).
16. The shower heads continued to pour .... (#314).
17. .... but the tears began to pour for .... (#157).

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The other nominal groups are non-liquid, but they have the similar characteristics in the manner described in the CCEED (Collin Cobuild Essential English Dictionary), that is, *flowing quickly and in large quantities*. These nominal groups among others are *words, smoke, greetings, immigrants, question*, and have also characterised the typical subjects of the intransitive *pour*. These are illustrated in the following sentences.

18. .... words began to pour from his lips ...(#12).
19. ... smoke continued to pour from their cigarettes .... (#14).
20. About 300 greetings pour in daily from ... (#27).
21. ... while immigrants pour in and take jobs and eat into social services (#222).
22. He scribbles all the while that the questions pour from him (#240).

VI. The Objects of the Transitive *Pour*

The examination of the verb *cook,* (Priyono, 2011) has shown that the subject of the intransitive often corresponds to the object of the transitive. This verb turned out to show similar behaviour. For example, the nominal *water* is the second most frequent subject of the intransitive as well as the object of the transitive *pour*. Both are listed immediately after Pronoun, the first subject in frequency (see tables 3 and 4). However, the remaining nominals do not show any significant correlation. For example, the nominal *tea* is the third common object, but does not exist on the list of the intransitive subject. And the nominal *rain* is a common subject of the intransitive but occurs only once as an object of the transitive with different kind of meaning.

Table 4 : Object profile of transitive *pour*

Pronouns	70
Water	21
Tea	18
Drink	9
Wine	8
Reflexive pronouns	7
Beer	5
Money	4
Oil	4
Concrete	3
Milk	3
Whisky	3
Possessive pronouns	2
Coffee	2
Nip	2
Grievances	2
Soal	2
Brandy	2
Each of the following occurred once : Spirit, millions, juices, batter, energy, jelly, song, diesel, faith, plastic, mayonnaise, shit, fear, life, tale, questions, hatred, woes, story, rum, poison, vials, rain, blessings, disinfectant, sherry, contents, acid, whole being, fish, cocoa, wax, troubles, syllables, solder, treacle, resin, sugar, bottle, glasses, marinade, treasure, pounds.	43
Total occurrences	210

Compare the following sentences with *rain* in each.

23. ... the wind rose and rain began to pour ...(#7).
24. ... so that he can pour his rain down... (#100).

While *rain* in 23 has a concrete meaning, in 24 it has a metaphorical meaning. Also the nominal *words* showing in the list of intransitive subject does not appear on the list of object of the transitive. In spite of the difference, however, both show similar general characteristics. The typical subject of the intransitive has been identified under the category 'liquid' and so is the object of the transitive. The later can be specified into two different categories. The first is drinkable and the second non-drink liquid. Under the first category, the

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nominal groups include *water, tea, wine, beer, milk, whisky, coffee, brandy, juices, and cocoa.* The second includes *oil, diesel, poison, acid, mayonnaise, disinfectant*.

VII. Other Syntactic Information

The other syntactic information provided by the corpus relates to the use of the verbal phrase *to pour*. There are 100 occurrences of this verbal phrase in the total 324 matches or 31%. The most common verbs that form the verbal phrase *to pour* are *begin/start, continue, want, try*, etc. These are illustrated in the following sentences.

25. ... the rest of us began to pour drinks ... (#20).
26. ... the water starts to pour .... (#70).
27. ... she continued to pour out on her ... (#253).
28. ... Mab wanted to pour sacrificial ... (#166).
29. Saul Hardy tried to pour oil ... (#130).

Quite often *to pour* is used with some verbs to express a purpose of an activity. Sentences 30 and 31 below illustrate this variant.

30. ... and went inside to pour another ... (#53).
31. ... working from the drawings makes molds to pour molten plastic into (#61).

This verbal phrase also appears as a complement of the linking verb *be* as in the followings.

32. ... all I had to do was to pour the water...(#57)
33. ... his only motive ... was to pour more...(#126)

As the complement of a passive verbal:

34. ... East Europeans were expected to pour into the West ... (#43).
35. The women are advised to pour this ... (#310).

As part of the complement of preposition *for* :

36. We wait for your money, for Timoshenko, for night for morning, for the ceiling to rumble and the water to pour down (#203).
37. ... 29 billion airport would go ahead was the signal for overseas investors to pour into (#39).

Grammatical collocation (The Prepositions after *Pour*)

There are 15 different prepositions occurring after the verb *pour*. Most of these prepositions except *away, upon, with, to* co-occur quite frequently with *pour*. Among the seven most frequent prepositions are *into, out, in, over, on, down,* and *for* (see table 5 below).

Table 5 : Occurrence of prepositions after *pour*

Into	58
Out	43
In	34
Over	41 24
On	17
Down	13
For	11
From	9
On to	8
Through	5
To	2
Away, upon, with (once respectively)	3
Total	227

These grammatical collocations constitute lexical properties of the verb *pour* together with semantic, and syntactic properties.

The verb argument structure of *pour*

In the following section, we will report on an analysis of the conceptual structure of the verb *pour* that appears with the seven most frequent prepositions. The examination has yielded the following configuration.

Pour : [SUBJ], [OBJ], [SOURCE], [LOCATION]

This argument structure of the verb *pour* is well represented in sentence 38 below.

38. The mother frowned and got up to pour water from the big black kettle into the small brown teapot (#1).

In this sentence, we find the Subject argument *mother*, the Object *water*, the Source *kettle* as indicated by the preposition *from*, and the Location [or Goal/Destination] *teapot* signaled by the preposition *into*. But this might just be the ideal form of representation (cf. Rappaport, Laughren, and Levin 1987; Zubizarreta, 1987). As is evident from the citations, some of these arguments are often optional on

[41] This includes the ones in which the phrase is separated by an object, for example, ... *pour something over...*

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the surface level. Consider the following sentences illustrating the verb with *into*.

39. ... or I will pour it into the ground (#15).

40. Do not just pour money into inadequate road (#18)

41. Pour into a small serving dish, cover and chill 30 minutes (#32).

These sentences show that some of these arguments can be unexpressed. In 39 the Source is not expressed but the Subject, Object, and Location are explicit. In 40 the Subject and the Source do not show up. Sentence 41 likewise has no Subject, Object and Source. The absence of such arguments on the surface structure does not mean the same thing in the mind of the speaker. A larger context in which the verb *pour* occurred would suggest that a sentence such as 39 has something to be poured into, and that sentence 40 has somebody [Agent] to do the pouring, and sentence 41 implies an Agent to do the pouring, and a Source from which the implied object/entity is poured into the Location *serving dish*.

The examination of the preposition *out* shows different lexical behaviour. Location which is obligatory after *into*, is lacking in *pour out*. Let us have a look at the following data.

42. ... he'd pour the water out of the tubs (#11).

43. ... Albert would pour out his questions...(#88).

44. He had answered very little, choosing to light a cigarette and pour out another drink ... (#92).

45. ... my poems simply pour out of me (#107).

None of the four sentences above express any sign of Location as signaled by *pour into*. In 42 all the three arguments Subject, Object, and Source are explicit. In 43 the Subject argument and the Source conflate. Sentence 44 is the instance where the Source is unexpressed while the Subject and the Object arguments are explicit. And sentence 45 displays the intransitive *pour out* where only the Subject and the Source are expressed.

Appearing with preposition*in*, the verb *pour* demonstrates the same argument structure as *pour into* in that there are Subject, Object, Source, and Location arguments. On the surface level, however, *pour in* shows different syntactic structures. Seven different patterns have been identified as follows:

S = Sentence has Subject argument only

O = Sentence has Object argument only

SO= Sentence has Subject and Object arguments

SS = Sentence has Subject and Source arguments

OL = Sentence has Object and Location

SOL= Sentence has Subject, Object, and Location

SOOL= Sentence has Subject, Object1, Object2, Location

These are illustrated in the following sentences.

46. ... while immigrants pour in and ... (#222).

47. Pour that in (#262).

48. ... the overseas bosses pour money in ... (#13).

49. ... 300 greetings pour in daily from around the world (#27).

50. Pour the water and the champagne in a pan...(#41)

51. Now you can pour that sugar in there (#266).

52. If you'll just pour me a nip in the glass...(#115)

Sentence 46 illustrates a sentence that has a Subject only. The absence of object is related to the intransitive use of *pour in*. The Source and the Location do not appear but the sentence implies both. In 47 only the Object pronoun *that* appears. Sentence 48 has an Object and Subject but the Source and Location are unspecified. The intransitive *pour in* of 49 has a Subject and a Source but the Location is unspecified. The imperative *pour* in 50 contains an Object and a Location but lack of Source. Sentences 51 and 52 contain relatively complete arguments but still lack Source.

Pour over exhibits similar syntactic structures to *pour in*, except that some patterns such as S, SO, SS do not appear in the *pour over* construction. The patterns shared by the two constructions are the following.

53. ... pour boiling water over ... (#212) (cf. 7.47)

54. ... and pour some more marinade over chicken... (#307) (cf. 7.50)

55. I pour some of the hot water over a tea bag .... (#236) (cf. 7.51).

Yet a further comparison between *pour in* and *pour over* displays different lexical behaviour. Consider the following sentences.

56. ... so you can pour in the liquid (#28).

57. ... pour in the wine and ... (#305).

58. Pour evenly over vegetables (#30).

59. Pour over the salad just before the dressing is added (#64).

In 56 and 57, *the liquid* and *the wine* are clearly the objects of *pour*, but in 58 and 59, *vegetables* and *the salad* are the locations. Sentences 56 and 57 are therefore identical with sentence 60 below.

60. Now you pour the milk in (#264).

Accordingly 56 and 57 can be alteredto:

a. so you can pour the liquid in.

b. pour the wine in.

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The same alternation is not likely to apply to 58 and 59. With reference to sentence 53, we could expect to find that sentences c and d below can be the paraphrase of 58 and 59.

c. Pour evenly vegetables over.

d. Pour the salad over....

In which case *vegetables* and *salad* are no longer the location but the objects of the verb *pour*, with a new Location as yet unstated.

With the preposition *on*, the verb *pour* mostly occur in SOL construction where the Source is unspecified. This is illustrated in sentences 61 and 62 below.

61. Saul Hardy tried to pour oil on the troubled waters (#130).

62. ... as they're ready to pour some of the concrete on one of the deck ... (#242).

Some of these *pour on*-construction have no subject, or location unexpressed as in the following sentences.

63. Pour it on (#75).

64. I'll pour that stinking oil on... (#147).

And like *out, in,* and *over*, the preposition *on* also appears both separated or unseparated as in 65.

65. He'd throw the leaves directly into it, pour on the boiling water, ... (#134).

Similar constructions are shown with the preposition *down*. Three constructions have been identified as S, O, SOL.

66. ... the rain started to pour down and ... (#46).

67. pour down my gullet huge draughts of spirit (#5).

68. I should pour disinfectant down my sink...(#121).

Among the three, the SOL illustrated in 68 is the most common construction.

The last of the seven most common prepositions is *for*, where all structures but one exhibit Benefactive construction. Some are illustrated in 69, 70, 71, and the non-Benefactive in 72.

69. Pour for yourself (#114).

70. Don't pour another for me (#116).

71. ... and Denise will pour tea for all their family and friends (#206).

72. ... but the tears began to pour for the image of a husband .... (#157).

The three Benefactive constructions (69, 70, and 71) differ in that 69 does not specify its object and state explicitly its subject; 70 shows its object but does not specify its subject; 71 expresses all subject, object, and the Beneficiary. One common thing shared by the three and the non-Benefactive construction is the fact that the preposition *for* does not express Location as well as Source.

VIII. Findings and Conclusion

The citations of *pour* show considerably more transitive than intransitive uses. 210 out of 324 (64%) matches occur as transitive verb, compared to 87 (27%) intransitive. And it should be noted that 18 occurrences out of 87 are the so-called Pseudo intransitive, the kind of intransitive that on the surface implies an object. This reduces the number to 69 (21%) occurrences as pure intransitive.

From the occurrences of both transitive and intransitive, a conceptual structure of the verb *pour* can be developed. The verb is conceived to have four arguments: [SUBJ], [OBJ], [SOURCE], [LOCATION]. These four arguments may not be explicit on the surface structure. The Subject argument, for example, tends to be absent in an imperative statement (see sentences 7.58, 7.59, 7.63, 7.70). The Object argument appears in the transitive only but implied in pseudo intransitive. The Source argument, on the other hand is never apparent unless signaled by a preposition such as *into, in, on, down, over*. These are among the seven most frequent prepositions, and their existence has a clear syntactic role.

However, not all the seven preposition show a clear syntactic role. *Out*, for example, which is the second most frequent preposition, does not always show a clear function in a sentence. Consider the following sentences.

73. She turned to pour out another cup of tea...(#139)

74. ... we will give you tea and come and pour it out for you (#93).

75. ... he'd pour the water out of the tubs (#11).

76. ... as she did pour a drink, ... (#97).

77. She would perch on his knee and pour whisky without measuring it, ... (#108).

The absence of preposition *out* in 76 and 77 would raise some questions regarding the role of that preposition in those sentences. The first question is whether *out* in 73 - 75 is obligatory. With the evidence of 76 and 77, for sentences 73 and 74 the answer is no. If so, what is then the syntactic role of *out* in sentences 73 and 74? The last question is whether *to pour out another cup of tea* (73) is different from *to pour another cup of tea*. There seems to be no problem with this. But sentence 75 does not show a similar case.

78. a. ...he'd pour the water out of the tubs.

b. ...he'd pour the water of the tubs

Sentence 78b does not seem to be the same case as the omission of *out* in *to pour out another cup of tea*. As such counter-evidence (78b) is not found in the citations we have a good reason to be doubtful

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about accepting its grammaticality. Therefore, it can be argued that *out* in 75 is obligatory while in 73 - 74 is optional.

Anyway, with all these evidences we can claim that these prepositions together with the syntactic constructions, argument structures, meanings, the typicality of subjects and objects that appear with *pour* are built-in properties of the verb *pour*. These properties are all linguistic aspects (grammar, meaning, morphologic, syntax, etc) that form its idiosyncratic behaviour. Some of these properties may be shared by other verbs but they are clearly distinctive.

The analysis of the conceptual structures of the verb *pour* has demonstrated that the built-in lexical properties are the determinant factors for the verb to behave syntactically. We have seen how the verb *pour's* behaviour in terms of certain syntactic structures it can fill in; collocational properties that show typical words frequently co-occur with, and the verb argument structures that describe the conceptual meaning of the verb *pour.* These are the determinant factors that make the verb behave uniquely and display special characteristics distinguishing from other verbs. For example, the verb *pour* is different from the verb *cook* in taking arguments and lexical as well as grammatical items to co-occur with. The argument structure of *pour* involves [SUBJ], [OBJ], [SOURCE], [LOCATION], but that of *cook* misses the last two ...[SOURCE and [LOCATION]. The typicality of subjects and objects that forms lexical collocation, and the co-occurrence of function words (prepositions) that forms grammatical collocation also demonstrate significant differences (see Tables 3, 4, 5 and Priyono, 2011). Above all, the most important linguistic phenomenon that can be seen from this study is that a large part of grammar is encoded in the lexicon (see Priyono, 2005). The citations of the verb *pour* have indicated that grammatical relations (Subject, Predicate, Object), syntactic alternations, collocations and so on, should be viewed as lexical rather than grammatical issues. In other words, the availability of syntactic constructions are highly lexically constrained. The syntactic properties of the verb *pour* are evident that only verbs with such distinctive properties can enter into certain syntactic constructions. For example, the verb *cook* is different from the verb *cost* (among other differences) in that the former can enter into Benefactive construction while the latter cannot. So, it is good to say: *She cooked some dinner for me last night;* but not: *The dinner cost some money for me.* Obviously the syntactic structures that a verb can fill in must be due to its lexical properties.

The observation of the verb *pour* through the corpus citations provides evidence that the verb behaviour is obviously idiosyncratic. By this knowledge, we have opened another perspective of understanding vocabulary. This view suggests that vocabulary, particularly the English verb lexicon is an essential part of learning English and that lexical knowledge covers a large part of grammar that is how a word should appear in certain syntactic structures (syntactic properties) or co-occur with other words (collocational properties). When someone claims to have known the word, his or her acquired knowledge ideally includes the ability to articulate, recognize the form, identify the meaning, use it in acceptable sentence constructions, select other words that are possible to collocate with, and use it properly in a given social context. The ideal lexical acquisition then should reduce the formal teaching of grammar which has dominated the EFL (English as a Foreign Language) instruction. Although it does not mean to endorse a total elimination of grammar, the findings should acknowledge the centrality of lexicon language learning. In other words, a large part of what seems to be a problem of learning grammar is lexically based. If syntactic and semantic properties are built into the lexicon, the lexical knowledge which includes these properties will help learners deal with their learning problems, problems which were previously conceived as problem of learning grammar (cf. Jiang, 2004).

These findings also suggest that learning a language is essentially learning vocabulary. In further investigation of this domain, it would be advisable to examine more verbs of high frequency of occurrence and other parts of speech as well, to identify which parts of the grammar area should be incorporated into the learning of vocabulary. In an ESL perspective, a lexical contrastive analysis could be developed to compare the lexical conceptual structure of the English language with that of the learner's native language. By this means it may be possible to predict the areas of difficulties, based on the differences or similarities between the two languages.

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Appendix

Sentence*pour* 4799 words

1. The mother frowned and got up to *pour water from the big black kettle into the small brown teapot.
2. He was amazingly fluent when he wrote letters, could *pour himself out, especially to women, and surely
3. It was as though a sea, breaking against a stone wall, had found some breach through which to *pour its waters.
4. Had now there been at hand some Christian priest, some Christian-spirited man even, no matter of what faith, to *pour into the ears of this poor wretch words of comfort and grace;
5. *pour down my gullet huge draughts of spirit.
6. The blow would not have brought tears from the eyes of a toddler, but this great calf emitted a wild yope, and opening his mouth let his saliva *pour on to his slate.
7. and in less than ten minutes the wind rose and rain began to *pour down in buckets, with no end of thunder and lightning.
8. But when a heavy, soaking *pour of summer rain brought the
9. I would accost him with a slight foreign accent, state my difficulty, and ask him *pour...
10. sailing, <:i2> "*pour faire mes adieux.
11. Or else he'd *pour the water out of the tubs.
12. And then, almost before she knew it, words began to *pour from her lips, things she could not have believed
13. Well, the overseas bosses *pour money in; equipment,
14. The men went on breathing, smoke continued to *pour from their cigarettes, upwards, to form a solid blanket of
15. 'Or I will *pour it into the ground.
16. Now, liquid light was allowed to *pour from great receptacles.
17. The Pringles' guests, however, did begin to trickle in, then to flow, and finally to *pour.
18. Do not just *pour money into inadequate roads; develop and rationalise our railway systems.
19. *Pour half over roll.
20. When cooked *pour over remaining syrup mixture.
21. The rare first editions are for us to *pour over, the collection of chessboards for us to play on,
22. *Pour into a greased and lined 28cm x 18cm lamington tin.
23. Place the fish into a fish kettle or large saucepan and *pour over the Court Bouillon.
24. *Pour over the orange glaze and garnish with blackberries.
25. milk and *pour on to the blended cornflour.
26. Foreign-owned companies supplied thousands of Australian jobs "and *pour millions into the local economy",
27. About 300 greetings *pour in daily from around the world.
28. Of course, the top of his head is missing so you can *pour in the liquid.
29. I decided to keep her home but you wouldn't believe it, it started to *pour an hour later.
30. *Pour evenly over vegetables.
31. The problems start when the driver backs off too quickly, bringing the back end around rapidly into tyre-smoking oversteer, or tries to *pour on the power in the belief
32. *Pour into a small serving dish, cover and chill 30 minutes.
33. L'Etoile in Paris, for which he created his first success, Symphonie *Pour un Homme Seul,
34. *Pour into a sauceboat.
35. Add one cup water, bring to boil, season, and *pour juices into sauceboat.
36. *Pour in tomato puree.

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37. *Pour batter into prepared pan and bake for 40 minutes or
38. Mix in oil and lemon juice and *pour over fish.
39. 29 billion airport would go ahead was the signal for overseas investors to *pour into...
40. The 22-year-old, who was raised on the family's wheat-sheep farm in Koorda, wants to *pour his energy into his latest business venture,
41. Few drops of any liqueur 1/2 bottle champagne Method: *Pour the water and the champagne in a pan and
42. *Pour a thin layer of jelly on to the base of the mould.
43. VIENNA: About 500,000 East Europeans were expected to *pour into the West every year,
44. The plant, in Fukushima district north-west of Tokyo, activated an emergency core cooling system to *pour water on the nuclear fuel rods.
45. Serve when cold with a well-charred egg on a cracked plate, and *pour half a bottle of tomato sauce over the lot.
46. Then the rain started to *pour down and sweep over the
47. Cook Teresa, smiling, handed her millet broom to Min, the new housemaid, and hurried to the dairy to *pour out from the bubbling bucket the glass of new milk,
48. He would rub his ribs with furious hands and lean his tall, supple figure forwards a little, and *pour out such a string of invective,
49. joy of the bush or the ills of the time, Nor *pour out his soul in delectable rhythm Of women and wine
50. 'E waits there on the course To *pour 'is poison in my ear - That 'ound wot knows
51. Choon up yer lyres with me, An' so *pour out yer souls in verse that free -
52. , they sneer and scold At the strange, new passions young hearts would *pour Thro' a sunlit land,
53. She felt lazy and content, and went inside to *pour another cup of tea and
54. How long could the heart and the throat of the bird continue to *pour out the stream of song...
55. I needed an empty tin so I could *pour the diesel into the filters.
56. He began to *pour them but Louise again stopped him.
57. Mickey stirred the chaff-and-bran for a while - all I had to do was to *pour the water out of a dipper,
58. Heat up the wok with oil, *pour the hoisin sauce, ground
59. something to this effect: "Everyone, if he would survive, must *pour himself into another soul.
60. to get in touch with every member of the human race and to *pour the great treasure of faith into that person's heart.
61. working from the drawings makes molds to *pour molten plastic into.
62. but it is better to *pour away the soapy water for the rinsing.
63. The next proceeding is to cut the leaves into very fine shreds, to add a few slices of hard-boiled egg, and finally to *pour over the whole a mysterious mixture known as salad-dressing.
64. *pour over the salad just before the dressing is added.
65. , all that is now needful to complete the herring salad is to *pour over it some mayonnaise sauce, ...
66. That's right, *pour it over his feet - now who's got a match - come on hurry it up...
67. Hundreds of thousands of people *pour onto its golden sands, many of them board riders,
68. guard crashed down and I let *pour forth on the paper a long and passionate
69. Jogging between the cane-field hedges from which heat and sweetness *pour out, Dorahy confronts his demon with the
70. When the water starts to *pour the crowd gives out its bestial sigh.
71. '*Pour me a drink,' the contractor said.
72. 'I could *pour a bucket of good old-fashioned shit over half of these bastards, any time I liked.
73. She had a friend too, a young teacher, to whom she had recently learned to *pour out her fear and bewilderment.
74. We'll *pour it into 'em.
75. *Pour it on.
76. and she was afraid to raise herself to *pour out the tea lest the maid should notice her agitation.
77. She tried with all her being to *pour her life into him through her hand.
78. She went on to *pour out all her grievances.
79. Then you *pour in milk, keeping stirring it like with a
80. murmured an inclusive good-morning and went to *pour himself out a cup of coffee.
81. "Le mariage n'est qu'un desastre *pour un jeune homme,"
82. She stayed to luncheon, and when the butler offered to *pour some St Saturnin wine into her glass she said:
83. The day before, this story would have moved him to *pour out the tale of his own untimely and irreparable loss.
84. And he turned the key of silence upon his secret until he could *pour it into the right ear.
85. It was a wonder he did not *pour it into Mary's, for she
86. The blue was now on his hands, his face, and still he must dilute the sludge so it would *pour, and then
87. 'You will pretend to *pour.
88. Each morning Albert would *pour out his questions and answer them himself.

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89. Cascades *pour to the sea, pulsing from the hills like arterial blood.
90. He brings forth vials o' wrath to *pour on the guilty heads.
91. As much as rises as falls, and the beams of light that *pour through the windows become translucent corridors,
92. He had answered very little, choosing to light a cigarette and *pour out another drink for them both.
93. , and we will give you tea and come and *pour it out for you.
94. The idea is to put this fine earth into one tin dish, and holding it high up in the air, *pour...
95. Father wanted to *pour hot water on the lot and finish
- Let me *pour your tea.
96. Lavinia could believe it, as she did *pour a drink,
97. he had placed himself in position for the rich and the privileged to *pour hatred upon him through their press,
98. The rains *pour down, the storm bird cries aloud to defy
99. spirit who listens for the best magic song so that he can *pour his rain down upon those who have obeyed ...
100. Down the waters *pour, a blinding sheet of rain that
101. I watched him go down to the Rainbow Pool and *pour some of its water on to his head in an ancient ritual of
102. Distortions of her vision made it almost impossible to *pour.
103. if a patient upsets her tea in bed you are to boil up some water and *pour on at once.
104. 'the blood in my veins turns into ink and my poems simply *pour out of me.
105. 'Let me *pour you another,' Matron held up the flagon.
106. the blood in my veins turns into ink and my poems simply *pour out of me.
107. She would perch on his knee and *pour whisky without measuring it, and
108. She liked to *pour from a height, she said.
109. I've always wanted to be the patron saint of a literary journal, you know, to *pour blessings on learned writings.
110. "why do you *pour out all this money on Jakarta...
111. knowing that there was a gate through which all could *pour, but not daring
112. In a temper he got up to *pour hot water in the basin and
113. *Pour for yourself.
114. If you'll just *pour me a nip in the glass there, dearie.
115. but Rita said shortly, "Don't *pour another for me.
116. we'll be able to handle all they can *pour into us.
117. with a glass, *pour himself a Carlsberg, and with his sleeves rolled up share with me,
118. He watched her *pour the tea, something akin to pity in
119. the big brown beetles and the small blacks, and every moth in creation would *pour in, like women at a sale,
120. Above all, I should *pour disinfectant down my sink and
121. and all I can bear to do is *pour cups of water down my throat and walk
122. I *pour more of my sweet sherry into myself.
123. I up-end my water bottle, throw my head back and *pour some of the contents into my eye.
124. He watched Kelly *pour out a nip, his hands trembling
125. although his only motive in coming down to Clarion Street was to *pour more acid into his wound.
126. so that he could whack the little fellow on the back, and *pour a drink into his herring guts.
127. No husband was to be hers, no children, she could never *pour out her whole being in adoration of another.
128. Meenie would *pour it over Bandogera, shrieking with
129. Saul Hardy tried to *pour oil on the troubled waters, but
130. Coonardoo stood waiting to move plates and *pour fresh tea for Hugh when he sat down to his own meal
131. 'I remember they ended up in the kitchen with Mr Hunter telling her to *pour it down the sink.
132. ,for we all knew that Henry did, absolutely nothing around the house except *pour drinks or open the wine.
133. He'd throw the leaves directly into it, *pour on the boiling water, add milk
134. '*Pour yourself a drink, a decent drink.
135. Il a voyage avec moi *pour un certain temps.
136. '*Pour Mark,' Sergio said gravely.
137. 'He's nothing special,' Anne said, asking me to *pour her a sherry as she put on a good-looking blue
138. She turned to *pour out another cup of tea, her hands
139. It was a relief that Olive had moved away: but ideas began to *pour frantically through Louie's brain:
140. while the others started to *pour in around her, through
141. edge of the table and looked round her for a glass of water, which Lennie hastened to *pour for her.
142. 'Mr Pollit, will you *pour me some more coffee, please...
143. and said rudely, '*Pour for yourself, Nurse Putnam...
144. 'I'll *pour it all over your filthy face, if you don't go
145. wanted to see the old maid so you could *pour your woes into her ears,'
146. I'll kill them all tonight, I'll *pour that stinking oil on
147. "*Pour one for yourself if you wish.

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148. "*Pour me a whisky, please," I said.
149. He makes wonderful coffee, but I have to *pour the brandy.
150. in time to see Entity step forward and *pour a beaker of water into a glass flask hanging just in
151. only Cusha, preoccupied these days with the life growing inside her had waded on into the pond to *pour water over her distended belly,
152. 'May I *pour you another cup, Captain...
153. I was shirking a duty by not staying to *pour tea.
154. 'May I *pour you a second glass of wine...
155. She had soon learnt to *pour tea of a strength soothing to his stomach
156. but the tears began to *pour for the image of a husband to whose love she had renounced the right,
157. She was prompted to *pour out the tragic story on the one person close enough to respond to her distress;
158. 'He'll *pour it into a sick beast, either end, no matter.
159. "*Pour me a tot of rum," he says.
160. She added after a bit, 'To *pour poison in the man's ear.
161. Go your ways, and *pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.
162. He would *pour it out, hold it to the light, sip it
163. Jerry had done more than *pour her drinks on the long voyage home...
164. There were four tables, with a governess at the head and foot of each to *pour out tea.
165. shoulders, laughed until Mab wanted to *pour sacrificial wine on himself,
166. "We don't have to do it under the new Probation System," said Roger Keyes, trying to *pour oil.
167. "If anyone thought so, c'est tant pis *pour lui.
168. took fright again: "Voila *pour l'histoire ancienne...
169. councillor returned slowly to *pour, drink the peg of which he felt so badly
170. "said Brevis, cold again, and stretching a steady hand to *pour more tea.
171. when you make cider and *pour it into great barrels to ferment and then
172. Did you *pour it into your coffee...
173. En passant *pour la Lorraine Avec mes sabots,
174. "Will you *pour concrete over us when we're buried...
175. If all goes well, smoke will *pour from the wood without a single blister showing on your palms.
176. He would collect a pocketful and take them home, melt them down, *pour them into a little mould in the mud,
177. "Come and *pour out tea, young woman, and give an account
178. thought for a moment that it might *pour the cocoa into Tabby's ear,
179. Blinky half whistled, "we'd better *pour it all over her
180. " Blinky commanded, "while I *pour it down her throat.
181. Do you want me to *pour you some wine...
182. "*Pour some for old Golden Boy, too.
183. much in the way she would *pour his wine or light his
184. I, who now *pour the wine and tilt The glass, would
185. They *pour out strength...
186. The quiet dismissal switching it off, though, and carrying the last bucket, saline-sickly still undrinkable raw milk to *pour in high for its herringbone
187. said different things: *Pour wax on the earth.
188. and the workers heaving vast stalks up there, the brisk compact workers; jointed soldiers *pour out ...
189. Emptied from a bucket, a pile of shell poured with the numerous headlong *pour of sand onto other shells.
190. she was favourite all of a rush,The folk just did *pour on to lay six to four on
191. By the far Samoan shore, Where the league-long rollers *pour All the wash of the Pacific on the coral-guarded bay,
192. Night and water *Pour to one rip of darkness, the
193. Still shall my bursting heart with rapture swell, Still to my God, its grateful homage *pour,"
194. The full libation *pour...
195. the waves, Unrivalled Commerce flies, And congregated nations *pour The wealth of worlds from every shore...
196. O, could the Muse her glowing wishes *pour, For joys, fair nymph, to grace
197. To *pour, unask'd, within his faithful breast,...
198. he'll have to stay the night; the rain is going to *pour
199. She might talk dirty and *pour a drink into his mouth
200. and the rest of us began to *pour drinks for ourselves.
201. If you *pour water down these holes the scorpions come
202. We wait for your money, for Timoshenko, for night, for morning, for the ceiling to rumble and the water to *pour down.
203. and the water begins to *pour through, slowly at first
204. He watched the wattles around her throat settle and *pour over the starched spillway of her wimple.
205. Denise will *pour tea for all their family and friends.
206. We shall *pour ourselves a film clip of tea, munch a
207. You *pour him a stout.
208. For her sake, too, I *pour wine from the heavy flagon, shake it into a glass.
209. I *pour another glass of floating wine.
210. Une Garde-malade *pour l'amour de l'art.
211. spots, *pour boiling water over and wrap gloves, soap
212. "'There,' he said, '*pour that into the lovely man.
213. Drive carefully, and *pour brandy into him...

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214. now and then; when the brandy's done *pour whisky, then
215. had to *pour in the powder, stick the fuse in through the neck, and cork a
216. pausing to breathe-"after knockin' 'em both out, t'havet' *pour every drop o'
217. 'It was you who wanted to *pour it into the common store.
218. *Pour eux, nous sommes des oui oui, et tout ce qui nous
219. about ten thousand different man-made chemicals *pour into the oceans from continents around the globe.
220. the human potential is developed through ideas that give understanding to the stream of events that *pour through life.
221. ...while immigrants *pour in and take jobs and eat into social services.
222. if it had encouraged the Chinese to continue to *pour into the goldfields in the nineteenth century.
223. *Pour it into a basin and let it stand a day.
224. *Pour...
225. in course of construction as a whole, as fast as workmen could *pour concrete and erect scaffolding.
226. So I just had to *pour out my troubles into the pedal set, and the doctor fix
227. The sunshine continued to *pour down.
228. be nice to go and buy something *pour passer le temps.
229. Big betting operators used Solomons' tip off to *pour thousands of pounds on the winning horse in telephone bets
230. you should always *pour your own because a dry alcoholic pours the way he used to drink.
231. I could *pour a glass of beer with no head on it in a few seconds.
232. Then she would wet a small piece of level ground, make impressions in the damp soil to the size of a stick of solder, and *pour the melted solder into them.
233. Peter left four bags at our gate and father would take a handful of the chaff and *pour it from hand to hand blowing the straw away with his mouth
234. Quickly I ducked behind a bush and watched her *pour a scoopful of water over her shoulders and
235. I *pour some of the hot water over a tea bag placed in a
236. They now *pour forth in a torrent, as if I hope to
237. and took him off to *pour treacle over him and dust him with feathers.
238. 'Aux Heros Australiens morts *pour la defense de Villers-Bretonneux 24-25
239. all the while that the questions *pour from him.
240. "Suit yourself, Con" Harry said "I'll *pour the drinks.
241. "Bob will you look after the flying fox, as they're ready to *pour some of the concrete on one of the decks,
242. game of draughts and the first deck *pour was under way.
243. The second span was ready to *pour.
244. "Let's *pour a few beers into him to liven up his ideas.
245. On most jobs we've been on we mix the cement, *pour it into the formwork
246. because I think this'll take eight hours to *pour.
247. The *pour was still going on.
248. , we chuck the stiffs in and *pour the epoxy resin all over them, then
- they give us one each so we can each *pour out our own," said Ann
249. And it does not *pour often enough.
250. She saw herself move like a wraith to the bathroom cabinet; take down the bottle of tranquillizers, *pour them into her palm,
251. In spite of all that had happened she continued to *pour out on her the unchanged affection that,
252. I have travelled hundreds of miles to step on one flower, to *pour boiling water down one antnest or
253. She then proceeded to *pour out four cups of tea asking
254. and settlers soon to *pour into Kimberley had been foolish optimism...
255. There was something of desperation in the way Grandfather continued doggedly to *pour money into his Ruby Queen show
256. The plains *pour out before him stretching to where the bluemountains lie so solemn and still.
257. When I get all steamed up hear me shout Tip me over *pour me out (SINGING) Just turn around so I can do
258. You can *pour - You know use up those two bottles first C Alright M And you can *pour one cup C Two cups of milk M Yes two cups of milk but just *pour it into the one cup first 'cause we'll use
259. we're going to *pour it into this into the vitamiser C
260. *Pour that in.
261. C Me M OK now, *pour the milk into there.
262. Now you *pour the milk in C You nearly fell M I know.
263. Shake all the sugar down to the bottom and then you tear it off and then *pour it into the cup.
264. Now you can *pour that sugar in there...
265. HELPING M You going to help me stir and *pour [...
266. of tea 125 M I'm going to *pour you a cup of tea, now .
267. I'll *pour all of them out 288 I'll *pour all of them out 289 M Ah yeah, OK
268. "Let's *pour that other bottle into the brew, Jack.
269. if Bee-Bonnet ever again wants me to sample his snake-poison, I'll *pour it on him and
270. I just *pour the hot water into it, like this.

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271. He went to *pour himself a drink, but realising
272. *pour me a beer if you like, Billy, but it will
273. , des habits et des armes; Tu t'eloignas apres *pour
274. We've just got time to *pour 'em out before they start
275. He moves, still disgruntled, to open bottles and *pour glasses, PEARL places the food on the table.
276. And this is the very last beer I *pour this year.
277. you've got another little job to do And that's *pour .
278. (Mm M: *Pour away Adrian C: OK M: Just -
279. Now *pour it all into the dish I'll let go And you *pour it There we are [...
280. M Do you want to *pour the water and make yourself look like you're crying...
281. 12 Could you *pour some in my mouth...
282. 13 M: No I can't *pour some in your mouth.
283. I said it's beautiful R - And I'll *pour out a cup of tea
284. 178 M: I don't want to *pour it right off.
285. You will *pour this in 185 Until it comes up to my thumb.
286. *Pour it in 194 Until it gets up to my thumb.
287. 261 C: *Pour it into here...
288. (RUTH CRIES FOR ATTENTION) 558 C: I'll *pour it in.
289. 559 I'll *pour it in.
290. 560 M: Yes you can *pour it in.
291. 561 C: I'll *pour it in.
292. 562 I'll *pour it in.
293. 357 Can I *pour that in...
294. I want to *pour the hot water out of the kettle ...
295. M: Hmm, would you *pour it in for me...
296. C: Yes I'll *pour it.
297. Right, now *pour your milk in C: Yeah, right M: *Pour
298. I am] M: *Pour it all in.
299. M: (And then we gotta *pour it into the frypan
300. M: No Mummy's gonna *pour it out of the carton
301. Someone to whom he can *pour out his own private grief without any...
302. but there was a concrete *pour on and he
303. add onion and blend together with meat until lightly brown; *pour in the wine and when it
304. in blender and *pour through sieve into a small bowl.
305. Place into a bowl and *pour some more marinade over chicken.
306. Australia was a word, when I was little, my lips poured slowly, as you *pour out treasure.
307. I *pour the syllables, feeling a kinship with transplanted men who grew like
308. The women are advised to *pour this "charmed" oil in a tiny, metallic cylinder and
309. I was so scared that I would *pour out a fish on my body.
310. "Let me *pour you out a nip.
311. Then you *pour in the melted gold and let it cool, and
312. The shower heads continued to *pour forth it's scorching jets till the shower booth was filled.
313. as he stood aside to let the sweeper *pour tea into China's mug.
314. in the Prussian group are the Ordre *Pour Le Merite, the
315. The Ordre *Pour Le Merite was established in 1740,
316. "Will you *pour my tea for me, Maud...
317. *Pour me out some coffee and pass the butter.
318. When the starch is cool, *pour it into paint jars and add
319. " Jamie stepped aside and allowed the swarm of guests to *pour into their house.
320. After Qantas got a different plane for us, it started to *pour with rain.
321. It looks like its going to *pour again," said Abby, the
322. He pull out a pocket knife and some tomato sauce and *pour it on to the knife then he pull one.

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