HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY

Title	Research on the Verb-particle constructions : Hunt up and Hunt down
Author(s)	田部, 千絵子
Citation	研究論集, 12, 157(左)-167(左)
Issue Date	2012-12-26
Doc URL	https://hdl.handle.net/2115/51965
Type	departmental bulletin paper
File Information	008_TABE.pdf

Hokkaido University Collection of Scholarly and Academic Papers : HUSCAP

Research on the Verb-particle constructions: *Hunt up* and *Hunt down*

（句動詞構文に関する調査 ── hunt up と hunt down の比較）

Chieko Tabe

要　旨

一般的に up と down は反対の意味を持つとされ，日常会話でも頻繁に用いられている。しかし Lindner（1982）は，up と down は純粋な反対語であるという認識では不十分で，それぞれが多義的であり，句動詞内での意味によって反対語になる場合もあれば，まったく関係のない意味になる場合もあるということを指摘した。その考えに従い，Lindner は hunt up と hunt down を以下のように分析している。

hunt up と hunt down では，hunt は同じ意味，すなわち獲物を見つけるという狩りを示しているが，up と down が異なる意味をコード化しているため，意味が異なっている。それらは反対の意味を持たず，それぞれの統合的な概念から特定の意味が生じている。すなわち，up は標的が視界に入ったことを示すのに対し，down は捕えられた獲物の身体的位置をコード化している。

この Lindner (1982) の分析に関し，本稿では以下の 2 点について議論したい。

Q 1：hunt up と hunt down の意味における違いは，up と down の意味の違いだけから生じているのか。動詞 hunt の意味は同一だと言えるのか。

Q 2：hunt up と hunt down はそれぞれメタファーを持つのか。

以上の 2 点に関して，コーパス（COCA）を用いた調査から，以下の結果・考察が得られた。

A 1：句動詞 hunt up と hunt down において hunt の意味は同一ではなく，finding と capturing というように，hunting の過程の中で焦点を当てている部分が異なることが分かった。そのような hunt の意味の違いと，up（視界に入ってくる）と down（身体的位置の変化）の意味の違いが足し合わされることで，hunt up と hunt down の意味の違いが生じている。

A 2：動物以外の目的語をとるケースが多くみられた。また，物理的な上下の関係だけでなく，視界や支配への意味拡張も見られたことから，動詞（hunt）と，不変化詞（up，down）のそれぞれがメタファー的な意味拡張を経て使用されていることがわかった。

本稿では，句動詞 hunt up，hunt down に関する考察を以上のように議論していく。

1. Introduction

Generally, *up* and *down* are considered to be the opposite in their meanings, and *in* and *out* are also considered to be the opposite. However, this understanding sometimes fails to explain the meanings of verb-particle constructions (VPCs) such as *settle up* and *settle down*. They would be expected to be the opposite in their meanings, but they aren't. Lindner (1982) points out that those understandings somewhat oversimplify the characteristics of those particles and their behavior in VPCs. She suggests that each particle has a unified concept from which specific senses arise, so the relationship between particles, such as *in* and *out*, should be viewed "not in terms of the lexical items as wholes, but rather, in terms of the relationships among their specific senses" (Lindner 1982: 306). With this base concept, she provides explanation of the particles in VPCs: *in, out, up*, and *down*.

As for *up* and *down*, Lindner (1982) suggests that they are the opposite in some specific senses. For example, in *stand up* and *sit down*, they are the opposite in the respect of the trajector's physical path. *Up* means that trajector's initial displacement is smaller (lower) than the final displacement, while *down* codes the reverse of it. Furthermore, in 'Turn up the light.' and 'Turn them down.' [Lindner 1982, example (29c)], for example, *up* codes the increase of perceptual salience, and *down* codes the decrease of it. *Up* and *down* can also be opposites in abstract domain like perception and cognition. Contrary to those examples, she gives some cases in which they are not in the opposite relation. In some cases, *down* codes neither the absolute disappearance nor the absolute reverse of 'into view' meaning of *up*. Moreover, there is no opposite *down* of *up* which codes 'into existence/access', and finding.

At this point, she explains the difference between *hunt up* and *hunt down* as the example of the cases in which *down* and *up* are not opposite. In *hunt up*, *up* codes 'into view or access' aspect of finding, while in *hunt down*, *down* codes the change of body

posture of the hunted animals. It is obvious that there is no opposite relation between them. However, she also claims that "both *hunt up* and *hunt down* express hunting until the object of the hunt is found" (Lindner 1982: 319). This means that she supposes that the verb *hunt* expresses identical scene, and the particles *up* and *down* code different aspects of the process. One question arises here:

(Q1) Do the differences between *hunt up* and *hunt down* in their meanings arise only from the difference between *up* and *down*? Is the verb meaning of *hunt* identical through *hunt up* and *hunt down*.

There is one more thing to be considered. Lindner (1982) and Morgan (1997) study VPCs from the respect of metaphor. As mentioned above, Lindner (1982) focuses on particle in VPCs, and finds metaphors there. For example, *up* and *down* are essentially profiled in physical space organized in terms of vertical and horizontal dimensionality; however, they can also be profiled in abstract domain, such as perception, cognition, and society, with the similarities of vertical dimensionality. So, *up* in "*wake up*" has metaphorical extension of meaning, no physical space is concerned here. Instead, there is a metaphor "CONSCIOUS IS UP (UNCONSCIOUS IS DOWN)". The level of consciousness is compared with vertical dimension. Morgan (1997) follows Lindner's examination and expanded it into the examination of VPCs as a whole. For instance, in the VPC *figure out*, she sees three metaphorical extensions in the meaning. The verb *figure* extended the meaning with the idea that "THINKING IS CALUCULATING" and the particle *out* extended its meaning with the idea "ACCESSIBLE IS OUT". As the entire construction of *figure out*, she sets the metaphor "KNOWING IS SEEING". She thinks that the component verb and particle are interacting, and composing the whole meaning of the VPC. Thus, there is a further question which needs to be asked:

(Q2) Do the VPCs have metaphors? or are they used only in literal meaning?

The aim of this paper is to answer these two questions and to examine the VPCs *hunt up* and *hunt down* as a whole. As the answers to these questions, the following results are obtained.

(A1) The verb meaning of *hunt* in *hunt up* and *hunt down* is not identical. Both the verb and the particle affect the whole meaning of the VPC.

(A2) Almost all attested examples are used metaphorically, and there are metaphorical ideas under the VPCs.

This paper is divided into 3 sections. This first section is the introduction, and the next section will examine the VPCs *hunt up* and *hunt down* with corpus data. The final section is the conclusion.

2. Examination of *hunt up* and *hunt down*

2.1. The examination of the differences between *hunt up* and *hunt down*

Let us begin with the examination of the VPCs *hunt up* and *hunt down* with the data. First of all, we need to reconfirm the meanings of *hunt*, *hunt up*, and *hunt down*. They are defined as follows in the *Oxford English Dictionary*;

> hunt: (trans.) To pursue (wild animals or game) for the purpose of catching or killing; to chase for food or sport; often spec. to pursue with hounds or other tracking beasts. Also said of animals chasing their prey.
>
> hunt up: To prosecute the search for, until one finds; to pursue with eager investigation; to 'look up' (what is not found without energetic search).
>
> hunt down: To chase (an animal) until caught or killed; to run to earth, to bring to bay; fig. to pursue and overcome or destroy; also, to pursue until one gets possession or mastery of.

We can see from these definitions that *hunt up* focuses on the finding, while *hunt down* focuses on catching something. We can also find that each scene is one of the processes of hunting. Generally, hunting starts from searching the game, and it ends with capturing or killing it. Thus, we consider that the verb *hunt* has four processes: (1) searching, (2) finding, (3) chasing, (4) capturing.

Next, we will examine the examples of *hunt up* and *hunt down*, and make their differences clear. In this research, *Corpus of Contemporary American English* (COCA) is adopted as data source. It consists of 410 million words of American English collected from spoken data, fiction magazines, newspapers, and academic texts. In this research, 70 citations of *hunt up* are found and examined. As for *hunt down*, 713 citations are found, and 70 citations selected at random are examined. As the result of the examination, the differences in (a) their meanings and (b) the direct objects are found:

(a) The meanings

As we reconfirmed with the *OED* above, the meaning of *hunt up* is to find something/someone, while *hunt down* refers to capturing something/someone or getting mastery of it. (1) and (2) are the examples *hunt up*, and from (3) to (5) are the examples of *hunt down*.

(1) I had to hunt up a camera so I could show you what I'd found. (Analog Science Fiction & Fact, 2009, FIC)
(2) She'd been in this kitchen only once or twice, to make coffee and to and to hunt up food, ... (Salmagundi, 1995, FIC)
(3) The Colorado man detained in Pakistan for trying to hunt down Osama bin Laden speaks out in an EARLY SHOW exclusive. (The life and Legacy of Source, 2010, SPOK)
(4) From her father and brothers she knew men were changeable, keen to chase women, just as they might hunt down a hare, but then losing interest the instant their quarry was captured. (A knight's captive, 2009, FIC)
(5) "The police here were overloaded, and they couldn't give the case a lot of time," says the single Williams, who quit her job as an assembler at an electronics factory to hunt down her daughter's killer. (People, 2005, MAG)

(b) The direct objects

Table 1: The objects of *hunt up*

Objects	
Animals	2
Human beings	14
Inanimate objects	54
total	70

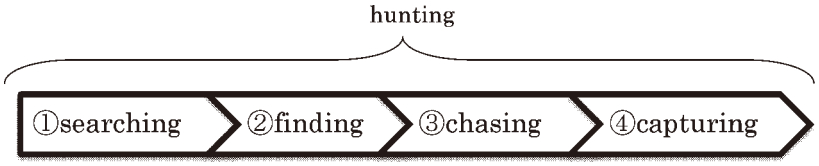
Table 2: The object of *hunt down*

Objects	
Animals	16
Human beings	46
Inanimate objects	8
total	70

As Table 1 shows, 77% of the direct objects of *hunt up* are "Inanimate object" which cannot move under its own power. It means that they won't run away from the metaphorical hunters who have been searching them. So, if the direct object is found, it means that the hunting has almost finished. On the contrary, 88 % of the direct objects of *hunt down* are "animals" and "human beings". They can run away from the (metaphorical) hunters, so it may happen that a (metaphorical) hunter fails in the (metaphorical) hunting even if the object has been found.

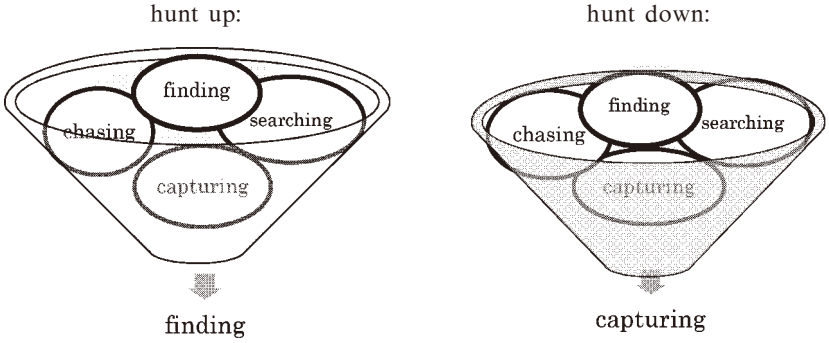
From the differences (a) and (b), we find that the different aspects of hunting are inherited from the verb *hunt* into the VPCs *hunt up* and *hunt down*. In other words, *hunt up* focuses on the first and the second step of hunting, while *hunt down* focuses on the fourth step hunting as the figure shows below:

Figure 1: The process of hunting



We might think that the verb *hunt* in the VPCs has something like unified concept, and one specific meaning is selected by interacting with the function of particles. As Figure 2 shows, 'to find' is selected as a specific sense for *hunt* in *hunt up*, and 'to capture' is selected for *hunt* in *hunt down*.

Figure 2: The unified concept of *hunt* and the specific sense for the VPC *hunt up* and *hunt down*

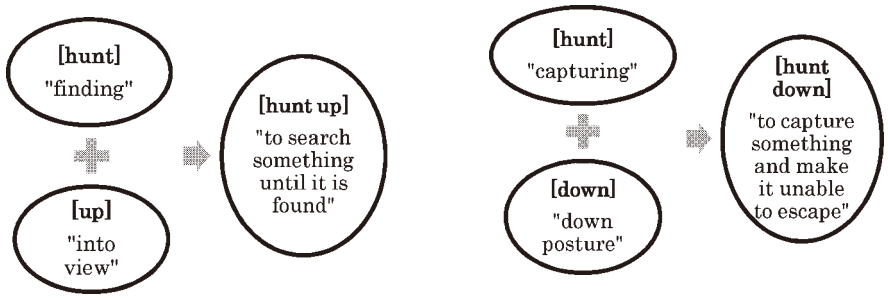


Although Lindner (1982) only focuses on the differences between the particles, we now know that the verb *hunt* in *hunt up* and *hunt down* are not identical strictly. So it would be better to examine the VPCs from the both respects of the component verb and the component particle than only from the particle in order to know the VPCs as a whole well. Morgan (1997) points out that the meaning of a VPC is inheritance of the individual meaning of the component verb and particle, and she studied VPCs from the respects of both component verbs and particles. Let us follow her and examine the

VPCs as a whole.

There is no objection to Lindner's analysis (1982) of the particles *up* and *down*. She states the particle *up* refers to "into view or access", and the particle *down* expreses "the body posture of the hunted objects". (*Down* has more room for further discussion. It will be discussed in the section 2.2.) As for the verb *hunt*, we found that the verb *hunt* in *hunt up* refers to finding something/someone, and the verb *hunt* in *hunt down* refers to capturing something/someone. Those meanings of the components of the VPCs seem to be related, so they would interact with one another and the meaning of the VPCs has arisen. Figure 3 shows that.

Figure 3: The composition of the VPCs

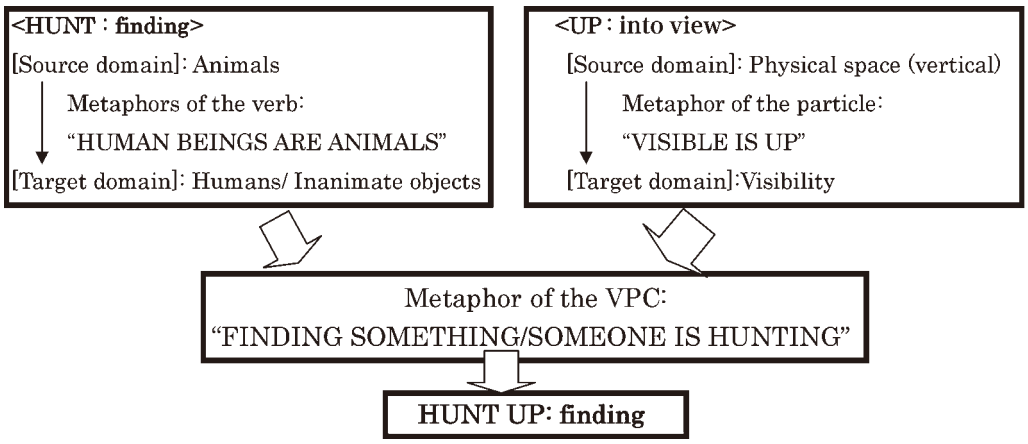


2.2. The examination of the metaphors in the VPCs

As mentioned in the introduction, Lindner (1982) finds metaphor in particles of VPCs, and Morgan (1997) follows Lindner's examination and expanded it into the examination of VPCs as a whole. She thinks that the component verb and particle interact to compose the whole meaning of the VPC. Since we have been examining the two VPCs as a whole, we will follow the way of Morgan (1997) again and examine them as a whole in terms of metaphor.

Both *hunt up* and *hunt down* have two patterns. In other words, there are the case that the direct object of hunting is animal and the case that it is not animal. If the direct object is animal, the component verb *hunt* wouldn't be a metaphor, but if it is not animal, it means that the verb *hunt* is used metaphorically. As Table 1 shows, only 2 citations show "animal" as direct objects in *hunt up*. This means that *hunt up* is frequently used in a metaphorical meaning, so let us consider the metaphorical extension of *hunt up*, which Figure 4 & (1) show. The meaning of *hunt* is extended with the idea that "HUMAN BEINGS/INANIMATE OBJECTS ARE ANIMALS". The meaning of

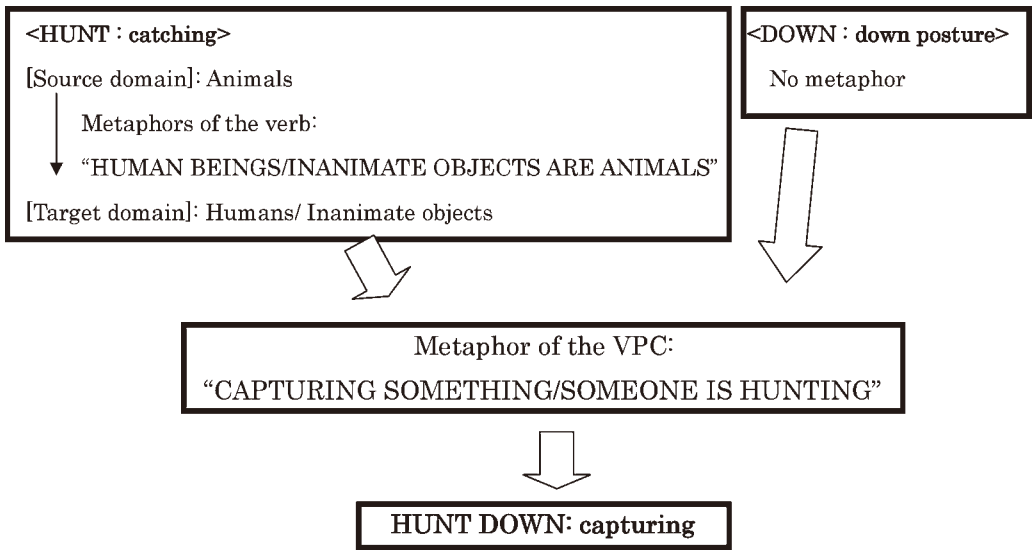
Figure 4: Metaphorical extensions of *hunt up*



up is extended with the idea that "VISIBLE IS UP". This idea is seen in other VPCs such as 'show up'. With those extensions of meanings, the meaning of the VPC has arisen with the metaphor that "FINDING OUT SOMETHING/SOMEONE IS HUNTING".

As for *hunt down*, only 10% of the citations are literal hunting, and 90% of them are metaphorical hunting in which the direct object is a human beings or an inanimate object

Figure 5: Metaphorical extension of *hunt down* [type A: with physical change of body posture]



(See Table 2). The metaphorical extension of *hunt down* can be divided into 2 types. Figure 5 expresses the case in which the target is forced to assume a down posture physically, thus *down* in *hunt down* isn't used metaphorically. Example (6) is the example of this type.

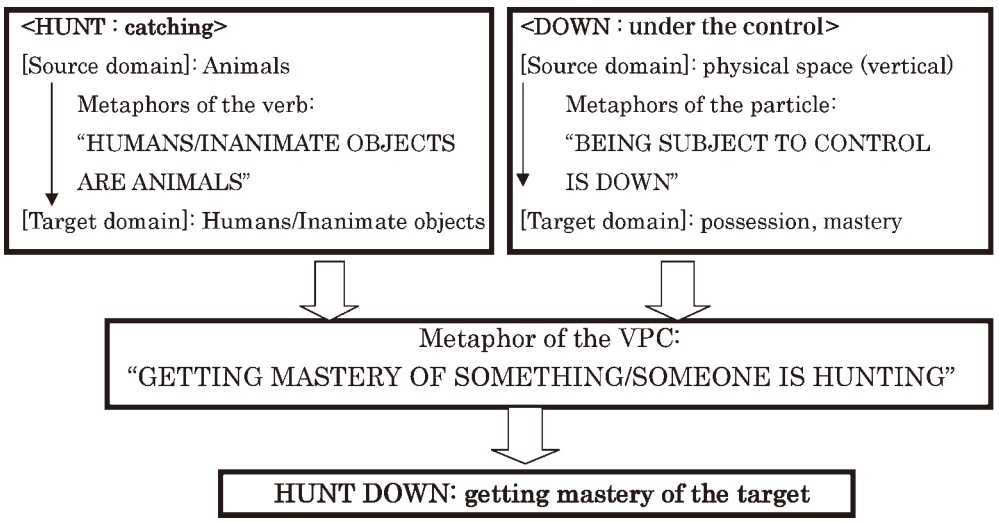
(6) In 2004 the US deployed some troops in Mauritania and along the Chad-Niger border to "hunt down terrorists." (Black Scholar, 2010, ACAD)

On the other hand, there are some citations which have a meaning 'to get possession or mastery of it'. They seem to have no physical change of body posture (Example (7) and (8)). Instead, they extend their meaning with the metaphor "BEING SUBJECT TO CONTROL IS DOWN". This metaphor is often observed in phrases like 'under the control'. Figure 6 express this type of metaphorical extension.

(7) Get the name of the requesting company or agency, hunt down the company's phone number independently, then initiate the call. (Consumer Reports, 2007, MAG)

(8) To do that, Mandese says advertisers today are scrambling to hunt down their once-captive audience. (CBS_Morning, 2006, SPOK)

Figure 6: Metaphorical extension of *hunt down* [type B: without physical change of body posture]



In sum, each component of the VPCs has its own metaphorical ideas. Those meta-

phors interact with one another, and then the metaphorical meanings of the VPCs arise.

3. Conclusion

We have reached the conclusion that:

1. The verb *hunt* in *hunt up* and *hunt down* are not identical. They focus on the different processes of 'hunting'. The differences between *hunt up* and *hunt down* arise from both the component verb and the particle.
2. Each component has its own metaphorical uses, and the metaphorical meaning of the VPC arises from the interaction of those metaphors.

There are two remaining problems. First, the interaction between the verb and the particle could not be explained well. They seem to be related and interacting with each other, but clear evidence for that couldn't be shown here. Moreover, there are possibilities that the particle decides the meaning of the verb. To be concrete, the particle *up* decided the meaning of the meaning of *hunt* to be 'finding' instead of 'capturing'. This point should be discussed further. Second, some will say that the meaning of *hunt* should not be divided into 'searching', 'finding', 'chasing', and 'capturing' because hunting is a successive process. However, I divided it into the four processes because they are different actions.

（たべちえこ・言語文学専攻）

References

Lindner, Susan. (1982) "What goes up doesn't necessarily come down: The ins and outs of opposites." In Papers from the Eighteenth Regional Meeting, Chicago Linguistic Society, 305–323. Chicago Linguistic Society, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

Morgan, P. S. (1997) "Figuring out *figure out*: Metaphor and the semantics of the English verb-particle construction." Cognitive Linguistics 8: 327–357.

Data Base

Corpus of Contemporary American English
http://corpus.byu.edu/coca/

Dictionary

Oxford English Dictionary
http://www.oed.com/