

Morphology and Lexicon: Spatial particles meaning UP and DOWN in English and Swedish from a cross-linguistic perspective

Åke Viberg

(Uppsala University)

Keywords: morphology, lexical semantics, corpus-based contrastive study, spatial meanings, English/Swedish/German/French/Finnish

This is part of a general study of all the uses of the English and Swedish spatial particles from a crosslinguistic perspective (Viberg 2017). See also: Larsson & Lundquist (2022). More specifically, this is a continuation of an earlier study that looked at the use of particles meaning UP and DOWN in descriptions of the motion situation (Viberg 2021). This presentation will focus on the other uses. The analysis is based on all the occurrences of the spatial markers *up/down* and *upp/ner* in the English Swedish Parallel Corpus (ESPC, see Altenberg & Aijmer 2000) and in the Multilingual Parallel Corpus (MPC) based on Swedish original texts (novels, in total 600,000 words) and their translations into English, German, French and Finnish (Viberg 2013). From a structural perspective, the spatial markers are regarded as morphemes, which means that even derived and compound forms will be included in the analysis. The use as spatial particles is regarded as basic in examples such as *Ann went up to the attic/Ann gick upp på vinden*. Swedish differs from English by using derived forms of the particles to signal static location (*They were up in a tree/De var uppe i ett träd*) and motion along a path (*walk up the stairs / gå uppför trappan*). In Swedish, compound forms tend to have an abstract meaning, for example *uppgå till* 'amount to, total' lit. 'up-go to'. The alternation can be stylistic *upphöra – höra upp* 'cease' but is not grammatically conditioned as in German. From a semantic perspective, the description will focus on the patterns of extended meanings (cf. Strzelecka 2003). Some are close to the prototype and refer to real space, for example Swedish *upp* meaning 'open' (*Ann sparkade upp dörren* 'Ann kicked the door open'). Most attention will be paid to the Swedish compound verbs with *upp*, which are very language-specific. Several examples appear in each of the semantic fields Creation (e.g. *uppkomma* 'come into existence'), Mental (e.g. *upptäcka* 'discover'), Verbal communication (e.g. *upplysa* 'inform, enlighten') and Aspectual (e.g. *upprepa* 'repeat'). The correspondences of the Swedish compound verbs with *upp-* in the studied languages are (in rough outline): English uses phrasal verbs with *up* but only to a limited extent. Often words of Romance origin are used instead. German uses verbs with separable *auf-* more frequently, but verbs prefixed with *ent-* and *er-* are the most frequent correspondences. French translations seldom reflect the concept of verticality. The same applies to Finnish, but Finnish often uses its productive system of verbal suffixes.

References

Altenberg, Bengt and Karin Aijmer. 2000. “The English-Swedish Parallel Corpus: A resource for contrastive research and translation studies.” In *Corpus Linguistics and Linguistic Theory*, edited by Christian Mair and Marianne Hundt, 15-23, Amsterdam – Atlanta/GA: Rodopi.

Larsson, Ida & Björn Lundquist. 2022. The development of Swedish particle placement. In Ida Larsson & Erik M. Petzell (eds.), *Morphosyntactic change in Late Modern Swedish*, 145–194. Berlin: Language Science Press. DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.5792957

Strzelecka, Elżbieta. 2003. Svenska partikelverb med *in*, *ut*, *upp* och *ner*. En semantisk studie ur kognitivt perspektiv. (Swedish phrasal verbs with *in*, *ut*, *upp* and *ner*. A semantic study from a cognitive perspective.) [Skrifter utgivna av Institutionen för nordiska språk vid Uppsala universitet 62] PhD thesis. Uppsala University.

Viberg, Åke. 2013. Posture Verbs. A Multilingual Contrastive Study. *Languages in Contrast* 13-2, 139-169. Appendix. The 22 Swedish original works in the Multilingual Parallel Corpus (MPC).

--- 2017. Contrasts in Morphology. The Case of UP/DOWN and IN/OUT as Bound Morphemes in Swedish and their English Correspondents. In Janebova, M., Lapshinova-Koltunski, E. & Martinková, M. (eds). *Contrasting English and Other Languages through Corpora*. Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars, 32-74.

--- 2021. Moving up and down in real space. The verbal particles *upp* ‘up’ and *ner* ‘down’ and the typological profile of Swedish. In Čermáková, A., Oksefjell Ebeling, S. Levin, M. & Ström Herold, J. (eds.) *Crossing the borders: analysing complex contrastive data*. BeLLS Vol 11, No 1. DOI: 10.15845/bells.v11i1.3439.