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This paper is a study on the meaning and usage of the Japanese compound verb “～komu”, from a contrastive viewpoint with Mandarin Chinese. Corpus data for “～komu” is gathered from “Balanced Corpus of Contemporary Written Japanese” and “Chinese-Japanese Translation Corpus”. There are three points in this study.

First, when viewed in contrast with Mandarin Chinese, “～komu” is expressed not only with an inner-directional complement “～jin” ; but also with an attachment complement “～shang”. Almost all the research has so far treated inner-movement and attachment as identical. However, from a viewpoint of Mandarin Chinese, they belong to different categories. I start the investigation into the inner-movement concept of “～komu” from here.

Second, “～komu” gets an adverbial meaning through semantic extension. If we just study the concept of inner-movement, it is difficult to explain the meaning of “～komu” especially when V1 contains a meaning of inner-movement, such as “hairikomu”.

“Tsurekomu” is another example. “Tsurekomu” co-occurs with predicative verbs such as “satsugaisuru” and “kanunkinsuru”. This is connected with the adverbial meaning of “～komu”. However, most of research so far has been based on introspective data, and doesn’t refer to the correlation between adverbial meanings. As such, the semantic system of “～komu” is not adequately captured.

Third, despite being a difficult concept for Japanese language learners to understand, contrastive studies with learners’ mother tongue language and research into the causes of learning difficulties are few and far between. Understanding the causes of such difficulties is useful to the study of “～komu”. In this paper, we will sort out the expression system of “～komu” in Chinese to find the causes of learning difficulties to Chinese native learners.
With a focus on the 3 points mentioned above, the concept of inner-movement and the adverbial meaning, and the Chinese system of "~komu", this paper is structured as follows.

In chapter 1, I will give an overview of previous research and explain the classificatory criterion of "~komu". From the "Balanced Corpus of Contemporary Written Japanese", I extracted 223 words and 64361 examples of "~komu". The research is based on these data.

In chapter 2, I will examine the concept of inner-movement of "~komu". In most compound verbs, V1 shows the manner, means, attendant circumstances, while V2 means inner-movement. In some verbs, V1 contains the meaning of inner-movement or change of state, and V2 means existence or attachment. So "~komu" gets a meaning continuum of "movement→existence→attachment". On the other hand, postural verbs and psychology-physiology verbs also combine with "~komu". Postural verbs mean the change of state, and are treated as "self-inner-movement" in Japanese. Some "~komu" verbs express the reduction of quantity or price, and feelings of depression. These examples are regarded as abstract self-inner-movements.

In chapter 3, I will research the adverbial meaning of "~komu". Himeno(1999) presents four nuances, namely, deep-movement, fixation, resistance, and purposiveness. Matsuda(2004) proposes that fixation becomes the focus when V1 contains the meaning of inner-movement. On this occasion, "~komu" becomes ambiguous, because of nuances such as deep-movement and fixation. These studies don't give a clear description about the polysemy of "~komu". Based on these studies and corpus data, I made further examination with a framework of valuation. The study shows that there are two other adverbial meanings, abundance and congestion, besides the four meanings mentioned above. Furthermore, resistance is from heterogeneity. In these six valuations, heterogeneity is worth valuation, and the others are quality valuations. Heterogeneity explains why some "~komu" can't be used in polite expressions.

In chapter 4, I collected "~komu" in "Chinese-Japanese Translation Corpus" to give a Chinese representation system of "~komu". The data shows that not only the inner-movement directional complement "~jin", but also other complements, "~shang/xia/dao" are used to express the concept of "~komu". In some cases, the polysemy of "~komu" could not be expressed in Chinese.

In chapter 5, I did a contrastive study between "~jin/shang/xia/dao/you/zhe" in order to make the meaning system of "~komu" more clear. Although both "~jin" and "~komu" means inner-movement, "~komu" could combine with verbs which do not
mean manner or means of movement because of semantic extension, while "~jin" does not combine with these verbs. "~shang" and "~komu" have the same semantic extension, expressed as "movement→attachment→accomplishment". The point in common between "~xia" and "~komu" is that they can express downward-movement, downward-postural-change and creation. Moreover, "~jin" co-occurs only with inner space while goal of "~zai" does not have this limitation. In the case of postural verbs and verbs of creation, the goal is often the surface of objects, so we use "~zai" instead of "~jin". In passive construction, we use "~you/zhe" to express "~komu".

In chapter 6, I will explain on Chinese expressions of adverbial meaning of "~komu". According to this study, the adverbial meanings could be expressed in "chen/shen+V", "time adverb+ V", "V+zhe+ complement", "V+DE+complement" and so on. "~komu" is always used in contexts containing the meaning such as deep movement, or attachment, but in contrast, Chinese expressions do not have this function. It is, therefore, difficult for Chinese native learners to master "~komu".

Chapter 7 summarizes the above arguments.