Introduction

The structure of the English verb in terms of single-word
verbs, two-word verbs and multi-word verbs has fascinated many
scholars and since this phenomenon is extremely complex in the
language, it has given rise to a number of labels, distinctions
and descriptions of the system. For the purposes of this study,
we have used the term Verb-Particle Constructions (VPC) to
include not only two-word verbs in which first element is a verb
proper and the second element is a particle (both prepositional
and adverbial), but also the three-word verbs in which the verb
and particle is followed by a preposition. In other words, we
have included Quirk et al.'s (1972) phrasal verbs, prepositional
verbs and phrasal-prepositional verbs.

A good deal of work has been done so far on the different
aspects of VPC's in Standard English (SE) both British and
American. The major findings are regarding the syntactic behaviour
of different VPC's leading to their classification in terms of
phrasal verbs, prepositional verbs and phrasal-prepositional
verbs on the one hand and their semantic properties including
literal and idiomatic meanings, on the other.

More recently a comprehensive study of the phenomenon
using a different model (space grammar) has been accomplished.
This study rejects the dichotomy between lexis and syntax
and tries to explain the data containing VPC's in terms of a

comprehensive linguistic theory. It is a lexico-semantic analysis of VPC's.

The object of our study is to investigate how far the behaviour of VPC's in Indian English (IE) conforms to that of SE. A comprehensive investigation of this aspect of IE should include the syntactic behaviour, semantic properties and their literal and idiomatic usage. Since such an investigation would be too vast we have limited the scope of this work to the study of what may roughly be described as the semantic aspect of the VPC's in IE.

As far as the present investigator knows no large scale study of verb-particle constructions in IE has so far been carried out. The behaviour of VPC's in IE has, however, been observed to be deviant by some investigators as part of larger studies of aspects of IE. The only full-fledged study is of Vayangankar (1985) whose major focus is the nature of phrasal verbs in English and the problems of teaching them in the Indian context. As a part of this study he has analysed phrasal verbs that occur in some imaginative works by Indian writers in English, and found them also marginally deviant.

The consensus of opinion of investigators so far is that particles in VPC's are either superfluous or redundant or idiosyncratic in many ways.

The specific objective of this study is to investigate the behaviour of VPC's with 'up' and 'down'.

The study is divided into four chapters. The first chapter reviews the features of IE in general and the nature of syntactic peculiarities in particular. The second chapter summarizes the theoretical views of various scholars on VPC's. It traces the study of VPC's from investigators who first recognized the complexity and richness of this phenomenon through purely syntactic approaches to the problem up to the latest which looks   /
at it as a lexico-semantic phenomenon in a larger theoretical framework. The various aspects of the behaviour of VPC's are noted — syntactic and semantic on the one hand and literal and idiomatic/figurative on the other. In conclusion it is proposed to investigate the semantic properties of VPC's in IE. The third chapter begins with a description of the materials and methods used in the investigation and goes on to present the actual analysis of VPC's. Some observations on the behaviour of VPC's in IE based on the analysis are offered. In the fourth chapter a summary of conclusions is given and the possible pedagogical implications of this are mentioned.

There are three appendices, the first lists all the VPC's that occur in the data indicating their frequencies and distribution over the different texts that comprise the data. The second is a list of VPC's which are common to the Indian data and one SE (American) source. The third appendix lists the full contexts in which all the VPC's identified as displaying peculiar features in IE occur.

The report of investigation is documented following a
slightly modified version of MLA style. A consolidated bibliography
of all the references is given at the end of the report.