

現代英語の比喩的表現

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比喩的表現は修辞学において、一群の表現の技巧を総称している。この比喩的表現に含まれる主なもののだけでも隠喩 (metaphor) をはじめとして、直喩 (simile)、換喩 (metonymy)、提喩 (synecdoche)、擬人法 (personification)、誇張法 (hyperbole) など20種類あまりあるが、隠喩、直喩が主なものである。

比喩的表現は、たとえを用いて相手の興味をひいたり、表現に精彩を添えたりする。またわれわれの言語生活にユーモアを与え、生活の潤滑油になっている面もある。そして抽象的なことをわかりやすく、具体的に述べようとする。

本稿で紹介しようとする比喩的表現は、すべて最近 (1991年前後) の Time 誌と Newsweek 誌から拾ったものであり、アルファベット順に並べてある。現代の英米人 (主としてアメリカ人) が用いる比喩的表現を観察することは、その国の習慣や文化、伝統などを知ることになる。従って英語を学習・研究している者にとって、その習得のどのレベルにあるにせよ、比喩的表現に習熟することは、英語をマスターするうえで重要な要素であることは言うまでもない。

AIDS victim

“The Soviet Union is dying like an AIDS victim,” he says. “It will be long and painful but there is nothing anyone can do.” (Newsweek, June 24, 1991)

(現在のところ AIDS にかかる、死を待つしかないようだ。決定的治療薬がまだ製造されていない。破滅の道しかない比喩として、AIDS victim が使われている。それほどソビエト経済は崩壊の瀬戸際に立たされている。)

apple

“After all the concessions we made, the U. S. goes and sells subsidized wheat in our

biggest market,” said one Menem critic. “So what were all these concessions for?” The frustrating episode, however, may help inject a bit more realism into Argentina’s foreign policy. “As Menem starts to see that giving an apple to the teacher isn’t enough to get good grades, he will have to start making adjustments in his policy,” said Roberto Russell, an expert in international relations. (Newsweek, July 15, 1991)

(エデンの園でアダムとイブが食べた禁断の木の実、一般には apple であるとされる。花言葉は「誘惑」である。文中の to give an apple to the teacher は get special favor or attention

from the teacher ということである。「ごまをする」に近い。米俗語に to polish apples という成句があるが、同じ意味である。「ごまをする人」を apple polisher という。このような表現ができたのは、apple が「誘惑」にたとえられているからであろう。Menem はアメリカにごまをするとうとするが、それがうまくいかないことがわかると、彼は政策を調整しなければならないと、国際関係専門家の Roberto Russel はいう。）

arrow

After earning a law degree from Yale in 1980, also with honors, Hill spent a year in private practice in Washington before being hired as special counsel to Clarence Thomas at the U.S. Department of Education's office for civil rights. She had reservations about living in Washington, which seemed too loose and unbuckled a place. "She was a real straight arrow," says Micheal Middleton, who worked with both Hill and Thomas at the Department of Education and later at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. "Very proper and straitlaced. She was certainly no bimbo." (Time, October 21, 1991)

(a real straight arrow つまり「まっすぐに飛んで行く矢」のことだから、「必ず命中する、失敗することはない、何事も立派にこなす」そういう意味がこめられている表現である。Hill 女史はイエール大学から法学士の学位を得、しかも優等で卒業している優秀な女性である。a real straight arrow であり、very proper and straitlaced で no bimbo であると言っている。)

ashes

Although the negotiations for Aristide's life while he was in military custody last week touch and go, Haitians were not surprised that he escaped unscathed. They are used to watching him emerge from the ashes without a scratch. (Time, October 14, 1991)

(ash は「火・死・悲惨」などを比喩する。上記の用例では「落ちぶれた人生」を意味している。その他「廃墟」の意味でもよく使う。次に ashes の用例をいくつか紹介する。

The new generation came of age in a much different world. Ozawa, Hashimoto and those they represent in the LDP had their formative experiences not in the devastation of World War II but in the country's stunning rise from its ashes. (Newsweek, November 4, 1991)

(小沢、橋本その他の自由民主党を代表する政治家は第2次世界大戦の廃墟の中から、日本が奇跡的に立ち直る過程で政治家としての経験を積んでいった。)

As it happens, the IMF, in conjunction with the world's other major economic agencies, has already completed an exhaustive study of the Soviet economy. The IMF lays out a detailed program for creating a modern capitalist phoenix from the ashes of collapsing communism. (Newsweek, July 29, 1991)

(IMF は崩壊しつつある共産主義の廃墟から、ソビエト経済を救出しようとしている。)

ax

For a leader who once vowed to wield an ax once he became president, it is painful to have to protest, as he did last week, that "I am not powerless." Not so long ago, the topic would never have come up. (Newsweek, February 17, 1992)

(to wield an ax は、政治的には「大胆な政策をとる」という意味である。経費の削減をしたり、会社で言えば首切り、解雇などをするにもなる。get the ax という表現があるが、これは「首になる、解雇される、放校される」などという意味がある。大統領になったら、大胆な政策をとると誓った指導者が弱音を吐くのは痛々しいことである。)

backseat driver

How, then, to explain Leyraud's subsequent abduction? "Rafsanjani may be in the driver's seat," says Sir John Moberly, a former British ambassador to both Iraq and Jordan, "but there are quite a few backseat drivers." (Time, August 19, 1991)

Some took heart in Thatcher's proposal to become "a very good backseat driver." (Newsweek, August 19, 1991)

(後部座席から運転手におせっかいな助言や注意をする乗客を backseat driver というが、これがさらに比喩的に発展して「余計な口出しをする人」という意味に使われるようになった。前者の用例では、Rafsanjani 大統領が主導権を握っているが、余計な口出しをする者が多数いる。後者の用例では、サッチャー首相は後部座席に座って上手に口出しをすると提案したので、安心した者もいるといっている)

同じbackを使った表現でto stay in the background, to take a back-bench seatがあるが、「表面に立たないでいる」という意味である。

banana

Resident Chinese who speak the Cantonese dialect have strong but contradictory views on language. Among themselves they talk in Cantonese; anyone who speaks English is labeled a heong chew, or banana — yellow on the outside, white inside. (Time, September 16, 1991)

(banana は外は黄色で中は白いことから、「白人側についている東洋人」のことをいう。これは俗語である。日本人にも白人文化崇拝になりきっている人、つまり banana がたくさんいると思われる。)

bandwagon

Bush can still stand firm and hope that a quick recovery—aided by Fed easing on interest rates — will relieve the pressure. But the

political bandwagon is off and running. The question now is whether Bush can catch up and control it. (Newsweek, November 4, 1991)

(bandwagon は昔アメリカで馬に車をひかせ、そこに楽隊を乗せて群衆を楽しませるため演奏した楽隊車のことである。また、選挙運動中には、政治家たちが自分の立候補に人々の注意をひくためにこの楽隊車を用い、そこを演台として群衆に演説をした。当選するに違いないと確信している人たち、またはその人が当選したらお世話になろうと思っている人たちは、その楽隊車にとび乗り、支持の気持を表わしたのである。比喩的には、時流に乗った動き、人気のある側を意味するようになった。Bush 大統領は political bandwagon に飛び乗って国民の支持を回復したいところである。bandwagon は Time 誌や Newsweek 誌を読んでいるとよく出会う単語である。次にいくつか用例を紹介する。)

Syrian President Hafez Assad also needs financial aid and is scrambling onto the U.S. bandwagon after years in the Soviet camp. (Newsweek, August 19, 1991)

(Assad 大統領は財政的支援が欲しいばかりに、アメリカの bandwagon に乗り移ろうとしている。)

Officially, France remains firmly on the anti-Saddam bandwagon. During the CSCE summit in Paris two weeks ago, President Francois Mitterand repeatedly told Bush that "we're not going to leave you alone in the desert." (Time, December 10, 1991)

(フランスは反 Saddam bandwagon から決して降りるようなことはしないと、Bush 大統領をくり返し慰めている。)

bear

The search for a successor to the court's only black justice could be a political minefield. "Choosing a brilliant and unexpected nominee like David Souter and getting him

confirmed — that was fun, for the President and for all of us,” said a top Administration official. “But this one is going to be a bear.” (Time, July 8, 1991)

(bear は醜く粗暴なイメージがある。「乱暴者」という意味がある。David Souter のような人物を指名し、承認を得ることは大統領にも我々すべてにもおもしろいことだが、この人物は乱暴者である、というのである。)

Japan's relations with the other industrialized democracies, already strained, are likely to become more so. As the Japanese see it, they have put up with a lot of bashing from Europe and the U.S. in part because they need Western protection from the big bad bear. (Time, September 9, 1991).

(the big bad bear は上記の英文からはわからないが、NATO のことを指す。日本人は乱暴者の NATO から西側が日本をかばってほしいということもあるので、ヨーロッパやアメリカのバッシングを我慢してきた。)

beast

Field's bias clearly is that of the Japanese left: she believes in the ideal of the pacifist Constitution, yet fears the military beast lies not far below the surface. (Newsweek, December 23, 1991)

(beast は粗野で残酷なイメージがある。Field は日本の軍国主義復活を恐れている。)

belt

People are being taught how to work their own small plots. They are acquiring skills — as mechanics, carpenters, electricians — so they can build their own small businesses. What we are instilling in their minds is that they can make a living only through hard work and by tightening their belts. (Time, September 16, 1991)

(かつて食糧難の時代に、ベルトをきつく締めて

空腹感を紛らわせた。このことから、to tighten the belt は「辛苦にじっと耐える、耐乏生活をする」という意味に用いられるようになった。この表現は、お金が足りないことを認識し、それに積極的に対処していこうとする意志や具体策があることを含んでいる。勤勉と耐乏生活をすることによってのみ、生計を立てることができると、人々に教え込んでいる。)

Hanoi lived on through 30 years of war and, because of the harsh costs of the conflict and the ensuing Draconian belt tightening, was spared the communist government's plan to flatten the city's picturesque old quarters and put up rows of concrete boxes instead. (Time, December 2, 1991)

(ハノイの人々は30年間に戦争を経験し、そのつげとして厳しい耐乏生活を強いられた。)

boat

“From Day One, I have argued that Gorbachev and Yeltsin are in the same political boat — they swim together; they sink together,” says Princeton Sovietologist Stephen Cohen. (Newsweek, September 2, 1991)

(boat はちょっと大きな波が寄せれば、バランスを失い転覆しかねない。危険である。ここから be in the same boat は「境遇(運命、危険、困難など)を共にする」という意味がうまれた。上記の in the same political boat は政治的なことに関してであるが、political のところをいろいろ他の形容詞を使えば、おもしろい表現が可能である。)

“Most Taiwanese are conservative and are not looking for drastic revolutionary change,” says Michael Kao, a Brown University political scientist. “Taiwan has enjoyed unprecedented prosperity. Why rock the boat?” (Newsweek, December 23, 1991)

(to rock the boat とは、ひどくゆすれば boat がひっくりかえるかもしれない、安定した状態をひどく乱すことから「(無用の)波風を立てる」

という意味がある。大抵の台湾人は保守的で革命を望んでいない。その上前例のない繁栄を享受している。無用の波風を立てる必要はないのである。もう一例同じ表現を紹介する。

As the leader in Asian economic development, Japan has the most to lose in gambling on educational innovation. Aside from trying to improve the teaching of science, practically no one wants to rock the boat. "Everyone realizes that the present system is wrong," says Yutaka Endo, "but they don't know what to do about it." (Newsweek, December 2, 1991)

(現在の日本の教育制度は間違っていると誰でも悟っているが、それにどう手をつけたらよいかわかっていない。また科学的分野を除いては改善したいと思っている人もいない。無用の波風は立てたくないのである。)

bridge

Hill said she saw little harm in maintaining cordial relations with Thomas now that she no longer worked with him and no longer felt threatened by him. "I did not feel that it was necessary to cut off all ties or to burn all bridges or to treat him in a hostile manner," she said. (Time, October 21, 1991)

(to burn [one's] bridges [behind one]) という表現は、bridge を燃やしてしまうところから、「あと戻り出来ない状況を自らつくる、背水の陣を敷く」という意味になった。bridge の代りに boat を使うこともある。この類句に to cross [pass] the Rubicon, to hold one's ground がある。Hill 女史は Thomas ともう一緒に働いていないから彼に脅迫されることもない。従って彼と縁を切る必要もないし、背水の陣を敷く必要もなくなった。)

bulldog

I'll tell you one thing about George Bush. He's a bulldog. He hangs in there. Everybody

thinks he's dying, and he keeps on fighting. He's not gonna be an easy guy to beat. (Newsweek, March 2, 1992)

(bulldog は「執拗で勇敢な人」を意味する。bulldog は勇敢な犬なのでこのような比喻ができた。Bush 大統領を bulldog にたとえている。)

card

The more exciting and unpredictable free skating, featuring increasingly difficult jumps, became the key competition. As a result, the 1991 U.S. championships produced three first-time winners in the four major events. "There are a lot of wild cards out there," said Paul Wylie, a 1988 Olympian. "Nobody is a shoo-in in this sport anymore." (Newsweek, January 20, 1992).

(形容詞 wild が card と一緒になり、wild card という表現がよく使われる。この wild はトランプゲームでは「手札が思い通りになる」という意味である。上記用例の中での wild card は「有力候補」の意味で使われているようである。be more powerful than other cards という意味である。更に wild card の用例を2つ紹介する。)

Santiago is the real wild card. She is the candidate of the outsiders, people who are fed up with crooked politicians and greedy oligarchs. (Newsweek, May 25, 1992)

(Santiago は「手札が思い通りになる」card、つまり有力候補である。)

Yet, in 34 years on the high court, he grew into one of the great justices. Others, with similarly little or no judicial experience, would also be highly regarded: Warren, Douglas and Felix Frankfurter. Supreme Court justices have long been the wild cards in American government. They serve for life, and their jurisprudence evolves in unpredictable ways. (Newsweek, July 15, 1991)

(最高裁判事は有力な card である。)

次は trump card の用例を紹介する。トランプ

遊びの「切り札」である。)

North Korea needs to learn those lessons far more than the South. Seoul has a trump card in the form of a strong economy and solid industrial base. And Roh's "northern diplomacy" of recent years has shown considerable diplomatic flexibility. (Newsweek, September 30, 1991)

(Seoul は強い経済と堅実な産業基盤という形の切り札がある。)

The Bush administration, which still hopes to use Desert Storm as a trump card during the 1992 campaign, is eager to keep the current rumbles of dissent and recrimination under wraps. (Newsweek, January 20, 1992)
(ブッシュ政権は湾岸戦争を大統領選の切り札に使うことに期待をかけている。ほとんどのトランプ遊びでは、切り札(trump)と呼ばれる種類の札で勝ち負けが決まったり、カードの種類や数によって点数が決められたりしている。したがって、そのゲームに勝てるかどうかは、配られた手を見れば、ある程度見当がつくものである。card を使った表現が手元に多数あるが、その一部を紹介する。)

With Hun Sen still holding strong cards, the resistance guerrillas are not likely to give up the armed struggle until they have gained a good deal more territory than they now hold. (Newsweek, February 26, 1990)

Many South Koreans believe that unless Pyongyang is hiding something, it has no reason to delay international inspection. "North Korea played its nuclear card very successfully against South Korea and the United States," says Seoul arms-control expert Park Young Kyu. (Newsweek, January 13, 1992)

Senior officials in Germany, France and Italy, three G-7 countries for which Soviet instability would carry particularly grave consequences, seized on the developments of

the past two weeks to push for significantly higher levels of aid. But the U.S.-backed position prevailed last week at a meeting of senior G-7 officials in London. Asked about the aid question at a press conference, Bush said he would continue to oppose large increases until "the cards are all laid down on the table. (Time, September 9, 1991)

Indeed, the king still holds all the cards, including control of the nation's mammoth oil revenues. (Newsweek, March 16, 1992)

carrot

Early last week, Baker seemed to say that if Saddam got out of Kuwait, the United States would not attack him on some other pretext, such as his effort to build nuclear weapons. "We've got a carrot-and-stick policy," said Baker. (Newsweek, December 17, 1990)

(carrot は「報酬」の意味でよく使われる。特に carrot and stick とセットで使われる場合が多い。「(馬の好物の) ニンジンとむち、報酬と罰、あめとむち」という意味で使われる。アメリカは独裁者 Saddam をあめとむちであやつろうとしている。次にいくつか用例を紹介する)

Persuading North Korea to stop its nuclear program will not be easy. What the rest of the world needs is a strategy that effectively mixes carrots with sticks and implement it with force and persistence. (Newsweek, December 9, 1991)

(北朝鮮に核政策を止めさせるために、世界はあめとむちの戦術を使おうとしている。)

The diplomats worry that nothing they do will matter. "We're trying to use rational carrot-and-stick incentives to influence irrational people—people in the grip of centuries-old passions and hatreds," said a U.S. official. (Newsweek, July 15, 1991)

(道理をわきまえない人間にわからせるには、道

理にかなったあめとむちを使わなければならない。)。

Whenever American politicians try to use trade as a carrot or a stick abroad, the result is almost always a domestic brawl. (Time, August 26, 1991).

(アメリカの政治家が貿易とのひきかえに、あめとむちを使えばその結果アメリカ国内は口論が絶えなくなる。)

cat

In his recent book, *Smoking: The Artificial Passion*, David Krogh writes, "Addiction and attachment, pharmacology and behavior, personality, culture and genetics all chase each other around like a cat after its own tail when we start to consider the issue of why people smoke." (Time, December 23, 1991)

(猫が自分の尾を捕えようと追いかけてまわす。これは無駄な行為である。従って to chase each other around like a cat after its own tail は、「進歩がない」という意味である。)

Waving green boughs, protesters in adjoining streets chanted for peace. Riot police fired tear gas, and the sound of warning shots echoed off the cinderblock walls of nearby houses. The protest quickly degenerated into a vicious game of cat-and mouse, as squads of police pursued bands of young men through the ramshackle neighborhood. (Newsweek, November 25, 1991)

(to bell the cat という表現があるが、「(特に他人のために)危険を冒す、難事を引き受ける」という意味である。これはイソップ物語の中のねずみの話からできた表現で、猫の首に鈴をつけて猫の接近が分かるようにすることに賛成したものの、その危険を冒すものはいなかった。また to play cat and mouse with という表現があるが、猫がねずみに対してするように、「わざと(人・動物)をまごつかせる、(特に真意や実情を隠して人を)もてあそぶ、じらす」という意味で

ある。以上からだいたい推測できるが、a game of cat and mouse は、「もてあそぶ、なぶり殺しの、追いかけてこのゲーム」という意味である。)

checkbook

The event does have its inspiring moments. Steve Dunleavy, the Outback Geraldo Rivera, who cut his journalistic teeth at Rupert Murdoch's sensationalist New York Post and now does checkbook journalism for A Current Affair, regularly turns up in public places. (Time, December 16, 1991)

(checkbook は「小切手帳」のことである。checkbook journalism とは「金にものを言わせて人目を引く記事を仕立てる新聞(雑誌)」のことをいう。checkbook diplomacy という表現もある。日本のように“金を使うだけの、金の方での外交”をいう。更にその用例を紹介する。)

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker visited Tokyo last week and, after embracing new Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, called on Japan to join the United States in a new global partnership. Japan, said Baker, should move beyond its "checkbook diplomacy" and play a far greater role in international affairs. (Newsweek, November 25, 1991)

(アメリカは日本が checkbook diplomacy から脱皮して、もっと国際貢献をすることを期待している。)

chicken

President Corazon Aquino proceeded to call for a public referendum on the treaty despite widespread doubts about the constitutionality of such a step. Four of her senior cabinet members threatened to quit if she went ahead with her plan, and palace advisers warned that the president was rapidly losing public support. "Aquino is running around like a headless chicken," complained Sen.

Orlando Mercado, an opponent of the treaty. (Newsweek, September 20, 1991)

(首を切りとられた鶏は思考力もなくなってしまふ。アキノ大統領が正常な判断力も理性もなくなった状態を chicken にたとえて to run around like a headless chicken と表現したものである。)

It is simplistic to conclude that homosexuality has only biological causes, for LeVay's results leave a chicken-and-egg question. (Newsweek, September 9, 1991)

(which came first, the chicken or the egg? という表現があるが、これは「鶏が先か卵が先か(2つの密接に関連した見方・論拠・情報などについて)どちらが原因でどちらが結果か、」という意味である。従って a chicken-and-egg question は「どちらが原因でどちらが結果かわからない問題」をいう。)

Syria, which earlier had agreed to Baker's plan for direct talks with Israel four days after the opening conference began, suddenly balked in a dispute with Israel over the site. Baker, meeting in his hotel suite late that afternoon with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa and Saudi Arabian Prince Bandar bin Sultan, was furious at the Syrians' apparent betrayal. "They gave their word!" Baker kept saying. But Moussa and Bandar told Baker they thought the Syrians were playing a game of chicken, and would bend with a little more persuasion. (Newsweek, November 11, 1991)

(鶏は臆病者である。上記の chicken はその意味で使っている。だから bend with a little more persuasion といっているのである。)

china

Gorbachev merits respect. History will honor him for having set in train the second Russian revolution. The White House, however, has favored him not for his historic

qualities but for his personal and political ones: he was the polished, predictable; if dictatorial, leader of a unitary Soviet state. Yeltsin was the crude, rash, populist leader of a new political animal (Russia), a china-breaking democrat. (Time, October 21, 1991)
(瀬戸物は壊れやすい。不器用な者ほど壊しやすい、従って china-breaking とは clumsy に近い意味である。)

church bell

Since the New York Times put her on Page One, producers for talk shows have kept calling, photographers have continually rung her doorbell, and somehow, through it all, Arlette Schweitzer has continued to radiate a sense of calm. "Christa has no………," a reporter hesitantly ventures. "That's right," replies Arlette, her voice as clear and as strong as a church bell. "Christa has no uterus." (Time, August 19, 1991)
(church bell の音は clean で strong なので、このような表現がある。)

climate

In the sullen political climate brought on by worsening shortages and hardening conservative reaction, the loss of Sakharov's leadership and moral presence is another setback to the cause of reform. (Newsweek, January 1, 1990)

Still, in South Africa's volatile political climate, the risk for de Klerk is real. (Newsweek, March 2, 1992)

(climate は「気候」から、比喩的に「(ある地域・時代の) 風潮、思潮」を意味するようになった。特に「政治的風潮、環境」などの意味の時に climate が好んで用いられる。上記2例とも political climate が使われているが、political landscape, political wind ともいう。気候が変わりやすいように、政治も「一寸先は闇」だからである

う。更に climate の用例をいくつか紹介する。)

Will the United States be more interventionist in the unsettled climate after the cold war? (Newsweek, January 8, 1990)

Thailand has had 17 coup attempts since the overthrow of the absolute monarchy in 1932, but somehow the ones in 1985 and 1991 didn't disturb the investment climate. (Newsweek, June 1, 1992)

Wilson's private talks with Li and other Chinese leaders produced no agreements to improve the climate of confidence in the territory. (Time, January 22, 1990)

cocoon

Following last year's war in the gulf, in which Tokyo's hesitant response embarrassed many Japanese, there has been a clamor among a lot of citizens to show that Japan is not the self-absorbed cocoon of a nation it so often appears to be. (Newsweek, January 13, 1992)

(cocoon は「まゆ」のことであるが他との関係を断った孤立状態を意味している。湾岸戦争で日本政府は遅速な反応しか示さなかった。これに対して、多くの国民から、日本はいつまでも孤立した状態を続けていてはならないという声があった。)

Japan, it is true, is cocoonlike in its insularity. But there is diversity inside the cocoon, there is debate, there is some quiet discontent. (Newsweek, December 23, 1991)

(日本はまゆのように孤立しているが、その中にも多様性があり、デベートがあり、静かな不満もある。)

color

Last week, as accounts of PRI chicanery in the election spread, editorial pages in the United States, notably those of The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal,

called upon Salinas to show his colors as a political, and not just economic, reformer. (Newsweek, September 9, 1991)

(colors は personality, characteristics, attitude の意味である。従って to show one's colors は「本性を現わす。意見を明らかにする」という意味である。新聞の社説は Salinas に本性を現わすことを要求した。)

country bumpkin

Though reserved, Hill was popular among classmates at Morris High School, finding time for the Pep Club and the Future Home makers of America before graduating as commencement speaker for her class. "She was so smart it wasn't even funny," recalls Bill Bearden Sr., the former basketball coach. "She was very polite, well groomed, and never missed a day of school." At Oklahoma State University, she majored in psychology, and graduated with honors in 1977. "We were both country bumpkins," says former roommate Susan Clark. "We socialized, but not to the extreme of getting rowdy." (Time, October 21, 1991)

(country bumpkin は「田舎者」という意味であるが、ここでは unsophisticated, socially shy, very naive のような意味で使っている。Hill 女史は very polite で well groomed で、また country bumpkin であった。)

cowboy

Gorbachev anticipated the threat from communist hard-liners as early as August 1990, during a vacation in Yalta. It was then, Raisa recalls, that her husband told her, "We've got the most difficult time ahead of us. There is going to be political fighting it's very alarming But we mustn't give in to the conservatives We mustn't surrender the fate of the country to cowboys. They

would ruin everything.” (Time, September 16, 1991)

(cowboy は無鉄砲だったので、ここでは「無鉄砲者」という意味である。Gorbachev は無鉄者である保守派に国家の運命を引き渡してはならない、と述べている。)

crockery

At 69, he says he will not seek a second five-year term. Since he does not have to worry about re-election, he can break crockery, step on toes and generally give the organization the shake-up it so badly needs. Now all he has to do is do it. (Time, February 3, 1992)

(crockery は「焼物、瀬戸物」の意味であるが、he can break crockery は he doesn't have to be careful, he doesn't worry about what voters think という意味を現わしている。)

crocodile

If anything, the Assembly may be too representative: the 64 seats are divided among 22 political parties, all of them national in name but regionally based. “If one leading personality has a party, another needs his own party,” says Adrien Houngbedju, the National Assembly president — who was sentenced to death by Kerekou's regime and spent 16 years in exile. “For now, two crocodiles can't be in the same river. But in four or five years, the system will improve.” (Newsweek, December 9, 1991)

(crocodile はけんか早い動物なので、仲良くやって行けないのであろう。Two crocodiles can't be in the same river は two parties can't get along well with each other という意味で使われている)

cross bun

The creation of the European Community gave Italy a rich market nearby. Cheap and

well-designed Italian products, from pasta to leather goods and iceboxes, caught the taste of European consumers and sold like hot cross buns in the Common Market. (Newsweek, September 23, 1991)

(bun は「うす甘の小さな丸パン」のことである。a [hot] cross bun は「Good Friday に食べる習慣になっている十字形の型をおした甘パン」のことである。to sell like hot cross buns は to sell like hot cakes と同じ意味で、「すぐに売れる、飛ぶように売れる」という意味である。)

cuckoo

Among the seven states served by the Colorado River, California has become the cuckoo in the nest, its cities expanding, their thirst apparently unquenchable. (Time, July 29, 1991)

(cuckoo は他の鳥の巣に卵を生む。従って the cuckoo in the nest は親子関係を乱す「侵入者」の意味である。the Colorado River は7つの州に水を供給しているが、California がいつの間にかその仲間入りをしてしまったというわけである。)

driver's seat

With the annual party conference season about to open in Britain — Labor meets this week in Brighton, the Conservative Party convenes next week in Blackpool — senior Tories feel increasingly confident they are in the driver's seat. (Newsweek, October 7, 1991)

(driver's seat に座って車を運転しているということ、つまり in the driver's seat にいるということは「責任者の立場にある、権力の座にある、支配的立場にある」ということである。保守党長老は権力の座についていることに、益々自信を深めている。)

drop in the bucket

Lee Iacocca recently paid Chrysler's white-collar employees a \$600 Christmas bonus. Why, Iacocca was asked, was Chrysler paying out \$12 million when it was doing so poorly? Iacocca didn't miss a beat: "What the hell, that's a drop in the bucket with all the money we're losing." (Newsweek, January 13, 1992) (a drop in the bucket は「大海の一滴、スズメの涙」という意味である。Chrysler 社の損益にくらべれば、600ドルのクリスマス・ボーナスは微々たるものであると Iacocca は言う。)

duck

"Instead of encountering a swarm of enemy fighters," recalled Saburo Sakai, pilot of a Zero fighter, "We looked down and saw some 60 enemy bombers and fighters neatly parked. They squatted there like sitting ducks. Our accuracy was phenomenal. The entire air base seemed to be rising into the air with the explosions. Great fires erupted, and smoke boiled upward." (Time, December 2, 1991) (猟師が飛んでいる duck を射落すにはかなりの熟練がいる。これに比べて、どこかに止まっている duck はねらい易い。a sitting duck は「容易に狙える的、いいカモ」のことである。敵機が sitting ducks のように空軍基地に待機している。その挙についてゼロ戦闘機が爆撃したのだから、敵はたまったものではない。もう 1 つ用例を紹介する)

MiG-29 pilots often fly with their eyes glued to instrument-panel readouts, not the surrounding airspace where the enemy might be. The deadly weakness of that system was revealed in the gulf war, when U.S. bombers destroyed Iraq's ground-based tracking radars and control stations during the first hour of combat. Without ground controllers to guide them, the few Iraqi MiG-29s that ventured aloft became sitting ducks. (Time.

November 25, 1991)

elephant

The launching of peace talks is an American triumph and a personal coup for Baker. But as talks resume this month in Washington, even Baker aides admit that they might not have pulled the whole thing off without Bandar's help. They also concede they'll have trouble keeping it going without him. Bandar has the gift they need for translating Arab and American sensibilities to each other. "For us, dealing with the Americans is a bit like sleeping with an elephant. We're afraid that in love and eagerness, they'll roll over and crush us," Bandar likes to say. (Newsweek, December 9, 1991)

(アメリカと取りひきすることは、a bit like sleeping with an elephant だという。つまり the elephant is so big that it could crush you to death ということである。アメリカは巨大で、危険だと言いたいのである。)

Ellis Island

Today he still doesn't have a green card but continues to work 70 hours a week as a dishwasher in Brooklyn. "When you're illegal, there's not much you can do," says Luis. Immigration fraud is as old as Ellis Island, but the confusion created by recent reforms in U.S. laws has created a surge in immigration scams. (Newsweek, December 2, 1991)

(Ellis Island はニューヨーク市、ハドソン河口にある小島。1892年から1954年の間、合衆国移民局の施設が置かれ、約1200万の移民の入国審査が行われ、新世界への玄関と呼ばれた。ここで immigration fraud が as old as Ellis Island というのは、今に始ったことではなく、昔からあるというのである。)

express elevator

Helmut Kohl's reputation is rattling downward faster than as the express elevator in the Empire State Building. (Newsweek, May 11, 1992)

(コール首相の人気の急落しているのを、Empire State Building の express elevator にたとえている。このビルディングの express elevator はアメリカ人の目には急落するものの代表なのである。)

feet

As the debates in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary show, the real issue is political — not economic — development. By dragging their feet on reforms, Eastern European governments are proving to be their own worst enemies. (Newsweek, June 1, 1992)

(人が足をひきずって歩くと、ゆっくりとした足どりになる。このことは少なくとも、待っている人はいらだって、もっと敏速な行動を、と思っていることを示す。仕事ののろさはまた、そのことに対する情熱の欠如、または、意図的に遅らせているようにとられる。to drag one's feet はそういう意味である。東ヨーロッパの政府は遅々として、政治改革を進めないでいる。)

fence

As the Financial Times put it in a recent editorial, "Sitting on the fence is not doing much good. Major's house is divided; his job is to show he is head of the household." (Time, July 8, 1991)

(fence に座って傍観する、つまり to sit on the fence は「日和見的な態度をとる」の意味である。Major 首相は日和見的な態度をとっていないで、リーダーシップを発揮せよ、ということである。to straddle the fence ともいう。また fence sitter, fence straddler という表現もあるので、次に紹介する。)

Aquino's intelligence chief, Rodolfo

Canieso, concedes that 60 to 70 percent of the military was straddling the fence, willing to accept whichever side prevailed. (Newsweek, January 8, 1990)

Of 21 League members, 12 voted for the resolution; three (Iraq, Libya and the Palestine Liberation Organization) voted against it, and the rest either did not vote or expressed reservations and took no position. Among the latter was Jordan, whose king is a notorious fence sitter. (Newsweek, August 20, 1990)

The anti-Gorbachev demonstrations that followed the crackdown in Lithuania have begun to mold the diffuse movement into a serious force capable of winning over the liberal fence straddlers. (Time, February 4, 1991)

finger

Drexel partisans complained that the government bails out Mexico wouldn't lift a finger for a securities firm. (Newsweek, February 26, 1990)

(普通否定文で用いて not lift a finger という。「少しも (……する) 労をとらない、横のものを縦にもしない」という意味である。)

Since 1963, when John F. Kennedy and Nikita Khrushchev signed the first nuclear test-ban treaty, the diplomats, weapons experts and strategists who constitute the high priesthood of the nuclear age have struggled to contain the upward spiral of doomsday technology — while ordinary mortals the world over crossed their fingers and hoped for breakthroughs in vain. (Newsweek, October 7, 1991)

(to cross one's fingers という表現は、主に背中に回した手の中指を人さし指に重ねる動作をいう。「(魔よけ・願いごとのしぐさで) 祈る」という意味である。外交官、武器専門家などが、急速に進歩する核技術を抑制しようと奮闘してきた。そして世界中の一般市民がその打開策を探して

祈ったが、無駄であった。)

fire

Aristide is a man of contradictions. Soft-spoken and relaxed in private, he is like a pillar of fire when he addresses the police. (Time, October 14, 1991)

(fire は言うまでもなく「火」を意味するが、比喩的に「燃えるような情熱、激情」という意味もある。a pillar of fire とはいかにも火をはくような熱弁をふるう人物であろう。さらに fire の形容詞 fiery を使った表現もあるので追加する)

The show of force failed to bring a quick end to the turmoil and violence that have plagued Algeria for weeks. Muslim militants clashed with troops in Algiers and elsewhere following the arrest of Madani and Belhadj, a preacher known for his fiery sermons. (Newsweek, July 15, 1991)

fly

Now Nepal, which already has a huge unemployment problem, must find a way to absorb thousands of young men. "We have shed much blood for Britain," says a retired Gurkha soldier. "But now they are throwing us out like a fly from milk." (Newsweek, September 23, 1991)

(fly は不潔・あざむきなどの象徴である。milk の中に入った fly はたしかに誰れでも不潔に思う。利用し終わったら不潔なものとしてばいっと捨てる。それを to throw us out like a fly from milk とはいかにもこの場にぴったりの表現である。)

fork

Bush knows Deng from his good old days as envoy to China. And he has an easy rapport with Gorbachev. In some sense, he even thought he knew Saddam, preferring the devil

he knew to some unknown Shiite or Kurdish revolutionary. There is an element too of snobbery. Bush is comfortable with the club of world leaders of which he is dean. He prefers men of rank to upstarts and pretenders. The existing rulers may be quick on the trigger. But they know how to hold a fork. (Time, October 21, 1991)

(to know how to hold a fork とは to know the rule of a game と言いかえられるだろう。)

hairbreadth

A few Americans, bolder or luckier than the rest, fled by car before the Iraqis closed the borders, and there were news accounts of hairbreadth escapes across the desert into Jordan and Saudi Arabia. (Newsweek, August 20, 1990)

(hairbreadth escape はかろうじて逃げることであるが、それを hairbreadth にたとえている。「危機一髪」の意味である。数人のアメリカ人が危機一髪で砂漠を横断することに成功し、ヨルダンとサウジ・アラビアに逃亡したという話である。)

helm

The chief difference between the Warren and Rehnquist courts isn't judicial activism at all. It's simply who's got the votes —and the conservatives are firmly at the helm now. (Newsweek, July 8, 1991)

In his nine years at the helm, Hawke, 62, has proven to be the most successful leader in the history of the Labor Party. (Time, December 23, 1991)

(helm は「舵輪」のことである。従って at the helm とは「実権を握っている、指導者である」といった意味である。)

heavy hitter

Bush aides also were pleased by the results of the Democratic primary in New Hampshire, which had the effect of keeping heavy hitters like Mario Cuomo and House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt out of the presidential race. (Newsweek, March 2, 1992)

(野球でいう heavy hitter を政治家にたとえて使っている。「強豪、実力者」といった程度の意味である。Bush 大統領は民主党の予備選で、実力者である 2 人の民主党候補が敗北したので喜んでいる。)

hurricane

Bush's more cautious friends, like Brady, warn that tax cuts will have little immediate effect on the economy, and that Bush runs the risk of being branded as the rich man's friend if he pushes on capital gains. Visibly frustrated by the debate, Bush told his aides that he felt like he was standing in the middle of a hurricane. All he could hear was the noise swirling around him. (Newsweek, November 11, 1991)

(デベートですっかり欲求不満になった Bush 大統領は、hurricane のまん中に立っているようだとして側近にもらす。聞えるのは騒音だけだったという。hurricane は猛烈な騒音をたてて襲う暴風雨なのである。)

ice

According to government sources and foreign diplomats, Chung confided that the last U.S. nuclear weapons had been removed from South Korean soil, one of Pyongyang's insistent demands. The two sides then scrambled to break the ice. (Time, December 23, 1991)

(「氷を割る」という意味の to break the ice は、比喩的に「(パーティーなどで) 話の口火を切る、座を打ち解けさせる、(困難なことの) 糸口を見つける」という意味である。最後のアメリカ

の核兵器が韓国の領土から排除された。これは北朝鮮の要求の 1 つであり、その結果南北朝鮮は会談の糸口を見つけることになった。次に紹介する表現は international をつけて to break the international ice という興味深い表現である。)

Nearly three years after the brutal crushing of Beijing's Tiananmen Square protests, Li, the official most closely identified with the crackdown, managed to break the international ice a bit. (Time, February 10, 1992)

insect

One of the most searing moments came when a man in copper-tipped cowboy boots stood on Jenco's head. "I am not an insect!" Jenco cried out. "I am a person of worth!" (Time, December 16, 1991)

(insect は、クモ・ダニ・ムカデなどの虫をいうが、比喩的に用いられると、「虫けら同様の者、つまらぬ人」という意味になる。)

Kansas

There is something very Kansas about Robert Gates, the man President Bush has nominated to succeed William Webster as the new director of the CIA. His open face, wide-set eyes and ready grin, even his prematurely gray corn-silk hair, somehow evoke the state where he was born 47 years ago. At the same time, there is something very Washington about Gates — the slightly self-satisfied air of the successful bureaucrat who has managed to survive in a city where survival is sometimes all it takes to succeed. (Time, September 23, 1991)

(Kansas は米国中部の州である。上記 Kansas は friendly, like country people という意味である。これに対し文中にある something very Washington about Gates の Washington は Kansas と反対の意味である。)

kid

Menem is also revamping his own less-than-statesman-like image. During his first 18 months in office, the diminutive president acted like a kid left alone in a toy store. He parted with luminaries, wore garish Elvis-style shirts, suffered through a noisy divorce and sped around in a donated red Ferrari that he refused to give to charity, saying it was "mine, mine, mine." (Newsweek, July 15, 1991) (Menem は大統領に就任した最初の 1 年半は、like a kid left alone in a toy store のように振舞ったというのである。おもちゃ屋で 1 人ぼっちにされた子は、その行動を自制できなくなる。Menem 大統領もそんな子供に似ていたというのである。)

ladder

Kaifu owes his political advancement almost entirely to Takeshita. It was he who propelled Kaifu to the top of the LDP ladder. (Newsweek, October 14, 1991)

(ladder は「野心の象徴」で、「出世」と同義でよく使われる。海部前首相が自由民主党の階段〔はしご〕の頂上に登ることができたのは竹下元首相のお陰であった。更に ladder の用例を 2 例紹介する。)

Indeed, says a former national intelligence officer, there is fear at the CIA that "Gates' return would mean a new party line." Senator William Cohen, a Republican former member of the intelligence committee, once described Gates as "an ambitious young man, Type A personality, climbing a ladder of professional success. (Time, September 23, 1991)

Last week he suddenly resigned as chief executive, still denying reports that he had been shoved out. For Dilenschneider, it was a heartbreaking fall, 24 years after he began to climb the company ladder (Time, October 7, 1991)

landscape

It has become popular in the Philippines to blame Aquino for souring relations with the Americans — and for everything else that has gone wrong. True, she revived democratic institutions and plans to step aside peacefully — no small achievement in this twisted and violent political landscape. (Newsweek, May 25, 1992)

(landscape は「展望、見通し」という意味である。Aquino 大統領はいろいろ非難されているが、民主的制度を復活させたし、フィリピンの政界〔political landscape〕にあっては、少なからざる業績を残した。また political climate もよく使う。)

leaf

In the supercharged atmosphere surrounding B.C.C.I., sensational — if largely unconfirmed — allegations swirled like leaves in a storm. Many originated in Britain, where newspapers and television stations competed fiercely for scoops. (Time, August 5, 1991)

(「あらしの中の葉のように渦巻く」 sensational allegations というのだから、どんな様子であったか、想像がつくというものである。)

lips and teeth

Asian communists had reason to feel upbeat. They were knocking on the door in Hong Kong and Southeast Asia, while the U. S. was gradually withdrawing from South Vietnam. Chinese leaders liked to pronounce that Beijing and Hanoi were as close as lips and teeth. (Time, September 9, 1991)

(非常に接近しているたえとして、lips and teeth を使っている。それほど北京とハノイは近い仲となったのである。)

major league

The other candidate is Michio Watanabe, 68, a crusty and colorful politician with a rawboned manner of speaking. He is making the run largely to increase his prestige and power within the party. "Watanabe wants to be in the major leagues with Miyazawa and other faction leaders," says Kobayashi. (Time, October 14, 1991)

(major league は言うまでもなく野球の大リーグのことであるが、上記の文では、「主流派」という意味である)

mantle

Time and again, Kim II Sung has appeared on the verge of passing the mantle to his son — most recently in February, on the Dear Leader's 50 birthday. (Newsweek, April 20, 1992)

(mantle は「権威の象徴」である。to pass the mantle は「権力の座を譲る」という意味である。)

matchstick

Gunfire crackled over Tiananmen Square. First the soldiers shot out the loudspeakers of the demonstrators. Then tanks rolled in from the south, flattening makeshift tents. One tank lurched onto a sidewalk outside the square, crushing four young people like matchsticks. (Newsweek, January 6, 1992)

(戦車がマッチ棒を倒すごとく、4人の若者を押しつぶしたというのである。マッチ棒がいかにもろいか、それを倒すように人間を押しつぶしたというのだから、恐ろしいことである。)

mice

"Within an hour of the presidential order there was no one to talk to anymore," said Vladimir Gubaver, an editor at Pravda, which, like all other party newspapers, was

suspended on Aug. 23 and failed to appear for the first time since the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution. "There is no one in the Central Committee Secretariat. No one in the Politburo. They all fled like mice. (Time, September 9, 1991)
(mice はさっと逃げる。その素早さを mice にたとえて、to flee like mice といったのである。)

mosquito

Did George Bush stop the war too soon? At first the question was a mere irritant, like a mosquito at a Fourth of July celebration. Sure, Saddam Hussein was still alive and in power, but his Army was shattered, his weapons destroyed. Well, almost destroyed. (Newsweek, September 30, 1991)

(上記の mosquito は just a slight problem といった程度の意味である。それはすぐ前に a mere irritant といっているところからもわかる。しかし次に紹介する mosquito はかなり気になる存在のものである。顔に mosquito が 1 ぴきでもとまっていればとても不快なしろものだからである。)

As Bush appeared increasingly vulnerable on key issues, the Democrats saw their 1992 prospects brighter. Many began to speculate aloud that Bush might actually be defeated. James Carville, the Louisiana consultant who engineered Wofford's Pennsylvania upset, insisted that the Democrats could turn Bush's habit of changing his mind to their advantage. "You can move him around real good," said Carville. "If I were running against him, I'd be like a mosquito in his face." (Time, November 18, 1991)

mountain

Some of Genscher's countrymen also have feelings of angst. "We Germans are developing an exaggerated image of ourselves," says Arnult Baring, a professor at West Berlin's

Free University and author of a cautionary best seller called "Our New Megalomania."

"There is a powerful urge to overestimate ourselves," he says, "to irrationally believe that we Germans can move mountains." (Newsweek, February 26, 1990)

(聖書の中に、「山が動く」と固く信じるならば、山をも動かすことができる」といった趣旨の聖句があるが、そこから to move mountains という表現が生まれたのではないと思われる。Arnult Baring によれば、我々ドイツ人には山をも動かすことができる、つまりどんなことでもできないことはない、不合理にも信じようとする強い衝動があるという。)

church mouse

Hill, who is single, allows few diversions from her work. But her friends insist that she has never been prudish or hypersensitive. "She was not a church mouse," says William Kennard, a Washington lawyer who was a close friend at Yale. (Time, October 21, 1991) (church mouse は「ひどく貧乏な人」のことである。as poor as a church mouse はよく知られたイディオムである。独身の Hill 女史が仕事から気をそらすこともなかったのは、金がなかったからではない。)

nut

Plans for a common European defense, which was expected only recently to be the second hardest nut for the negotiators to crack, have been almost fully completed. (Newsweek, December 9, 1991)

Political prisoners will be a tougher nut to crack. The government has said it will release only those convicted of crimes that don't involve violence. (Newsweek, February 19, 1990)

(nut はヤシの実やマンゴーの実など、いくつかの例外はあるにしても、nut の特徴は全般的に

小さくて、殻が堅いことである。だから nut を割るには、石、金槌、クルミ割りなどが必要である。このことから a hard [tough] nut to crack は「困難な問題、扱いにくい人、またはもの」という意味である。)

octopus

It is sure to redouble fears that Europe's computer industry will soon be just another arm of the Japanese octopus — only months earlier, Mitsubishi Electric bought Apricot Computers, a British PC maker, for £39 million. (Newsweek, June 24, 1991)

The most important of these is a four-member commission headed by Ivan Silayev, prime minister of the Russian republic, that is charged with drawing up an economic-reform plan for the whole Soviet Union. In addition, Silayev will oversee the ministries of finance, defense, internal and foreign affairs, and the KGB. That dreaded octopus was both shrunk and beheaded. The KGB's 230,000—strong armed forces were put under the control of the regular army and its governing collegium was dismissed. (Time, September 9, 1991)

(octopus は英米では人の血をしぼる悪魔を連想させ、ほとんど食用にしない。これが比喩的に使われて、「多方面に有害な勢力をふるう組織・団体・黒幕」を意味する。前者では、三菱電気がイギリスのコンピー会社を買収したように、ヨーロッパのコンピューター産業は another arm of Japanese octopus になる恐れがあるという。後者の用例では、Ivan Silayev を octopus にたとえている。)

paper

He sprinted for his battle station above the bridge. At first, all that crossed his mind was "to see if we could get some of those suckers knocked out of the air." Then a bomb fell into the forward magazine, and a fireball 500 feet

high swirled over the ship. "That battleship weighed 35,000 tons and it just shook like a piece of paper," he says. (Newsweek, November 25, 1991)

(戦艦は3万5千トンの重さであったが、それが shook like a piece of paper だというのである。このような時日本語は何にたとえていうのだろうか。)

peacock

If in the past Americans and others in the West often saw Paris as a withered peacock, strutting grandiosely when it was not per-versely kicking up dust, the firmness with which Mitterrand steered his nation after the gulf war's outbreak gave their old ally a taller stature. France is still a tough customer on many issues — agricultural subsidies, for example, the big snag in the current, troubled round of world trade talks. (Time, July 15, 1991)

(peacock は「栄華・不滅の象徴」である。比喩的には「虚栄をはる人」という意味である。用例によると、過去においてアメリカや他の西側諸国は「フランスはかつては栄華を極めたが、今ではその栄華もしぼんでしまった」と見ていたが、湾岸戦争後ミッテラン大統領がフランスをしっかりひっぱってきたので、以前よりも国威を高揚したというのである。)

pie

As their numbers have grown, Hispanics have become more strident in their demands for a larger slice of the economic and political pie, American banks, long accustomed to being the senior partner in the minority coalition, fear that those gains will come at their expense. (Time, July 29, 1991)

(pie は「肉・果物などを練り粉で包み焼いた料理または菓子」のことである。the economic and political pie とは「経済的、政治的にうまい話」

といったところである。pie in the sky という表現があるが、「当てにならないうまい話」という意味である。もう1例 pie の用例を紹介する。)

By Lederman's calculations, if inflation is taken into account, federal funding in 1990 for both basic and applied scientific research in universities was only 20% higher than in 1968, while the number of Ph.D.-level scientists working at the schools doubled during the same time period. In other words, twice as many researchers are scrambling for smaller pieces of a slightly bigger pie. (Time, August 26, 1991)

(ここでは pie は federal funding のことをいっている。)

pigs and dogs

Most of the women became infected with venereal diseases, Hwang says. "Girls who suffered from infections that could not be cured were killed. We were treated like pigs and dogs." (Newsweek, January 20, 1992)

(人間をひどい扱いをする場合、to treat like pigs and dogs という。犬は愛玩動物としてかわいがられるが、きたない動物として見られる一面もあるのである。)

potato

How do the candidates handle this hot potato? By speaking in sly code or by ignoring the issue altogether. Bush avoids any rhetoric that smacks of racism, but he inveighs against quotas and threatens to veto the civil-rights bill now before Congress. (Newsweek, October 14, 1991)

(焼きたての a hot potato を手に持つと、熱くてさっと手から離さないと、やけどをする。そんなところから、a hot potato は比喩的に「扱いにくいもの」を意味するようになった。これとは反対に a small potato という表現がある。a person, people or thing(s) of no great importance

or worth といった意味である。つまり「つまらぬもの、つまらぬ人」という意味である。次に用例を紹介する。)

Brendel's actions might seem like small potatoes compared with the revelations of fraud, deception and collusion that have poured out of the Tokyo Stock Exchange and Wall Street all summer. (Newsweek, October 28, 1991)

(次に respond like a sack of potatoes というめずらしい表現を紹介する。)

Ronald Reagan flew to Moscow through seven time zones in 1988, when he was 77 years old, and at moments responded like a sack of potatoes. Jimmy Carter frazzled himself and his entourage by racing through seven countries in Europe, Asia and Africa in nine days in 1978. (Time, January 20, 1992)

(A sack of potatoes ともなればとても重い。従ってこれを持ち運ぶのは dull で lifeless である。to respond like a sack of potatoes は「いかにも疲れた」といった動作のことである。それを a sack of potatoes にたとえたわけである。)

pulp fiction

Books that offer a personal look at the chairman and the people who knew him well, like the biography "Mao Zedong and His Secretary Tian Jiaying," are selling like pulp fiction (Newsweek, July 8, 1991)

(pulp fiction とは「俗悪な小説」のことであるが、そういうものは良く売れるものである。to sell like pulp fiction とはそういう意味である。)

rabbit warren

Then there's the sleek, white, ultramodern museum by Richard Meier of New York rising in the old Gothic quarter; it's arresting to come upon it in the rabbit warren of narrow streets and ancient crumbling buildings,

like an ocean liner run aground. (Newsweek, December 16, 1991)

(ひと頃、経済大国日本人は、「ウサギ小屋」に住んでいると、欧米から嘲笑されたものだ。rabbit warren は「ウサギの繁殖地、飼育場」のことで、「過密住居、ごみごみした地域」を意味する。用例では、過密地域の中であって、sleek で white で ultramodern な博物館が人目を引く様子が描写されている。)

rag

In his September appearance before the Senate's Judiciary Committee, Thomas himself was a disaster. Prepped by White House handlers to avoid anything that smacked of controversy, however mild, Thomas repeatedly invoked the compelling tale of his rags-to-fame life. (Time, October 21, 1991)

(rags は「ぼれ切れ」の意味であるが、この単語は「貧乏」をも暗示している。Thomas は貧乏な生活から名声のある人生を築きあげた。これと似た表現に rags-to-riches があるので次に紹介する。)

The firm, Art B, rocked into the stratosphere of high finance, reporting profits of \$30 million on revenues of \$300 million last year. It seemed like a rags-to riches success tale, Polsh style. (Newsweek, August 19, 1991)

rat

"I am totally innocent," he told Time in the first interview he has granted since his imprisonment. With his wire-rimmed glasses, black designer sweatshirt and expensive watch, he looks like an investment banker on vacation and comes across as the aggrieved innocent. "The Luxembourgers and the Americans are keeping me here like a rat — they are after me like Saddam Hussein," he says. (Time, July 29, 1991)

(rat は dirty, negative image を持っている。相

当に劣悪な状態で投獄されている様子がわかる。更に to crush ~ like rats という表現を紹介する。)

Kenya's President Daniel Karap Moi had seemed impervious to criticism of his autocratic ways and once boasted that he would crush his political opponents like rats. (Newsweek, January 6, 1992)

razor

For the time being, the bill is given a slightly better than fifty-fifty chance of passage. The L.D.P. has a solid majority in the lower house, but the opposition holds a razor-thin advantage in the upper chamber. (Time, October 29, 1990)

(razor-thin は「カミナリのように薄い」という意味から、比喩的に用いられて「紙一重の」という意味がある。参議院では野党がかろうじて過半数を占めている。)

rock

Despite the optimism in Paris, a bit of caution is in order. Some international high-tech strategic alliances, like some marriages, end up on the rocks. (Newsweek, February 10, 1992)

(日本語で「暗礁に乗り上げる」という表現があるが、to end up on the rocks はまさにそれにぴったりの表現である。)

roller-coaster

More important, what Turner recognized in the mid-'80s was that his roller-coaster emotional life, which had served him well in his risk-taking entrepreneurial days, was not particularly useful in running an international company with long-term ambitions and an estimated worth well in excess of \$7 billion. (Time, January 6, 1992)

(roller-coaster は遊園地などにある「ジェットコ

ースター」のことであるが、上に登った時は「希望・感激」を象徴し、下に落下した時は「絶望」を象徴する。その落差を表現する時に、roller-coaster がよくひきあいに出される。Turner の落差の大きい感情的な生活は、冒険を伴う事業家の時は役に立っていた。更に 2 例紹介する。)

The roller-coaster of events in Moscow—first the ominous coup, then the return of Gorbachev and the triumph of Yeltsin—has resolved Gorbachev's dilemma. (Newsweek, September 2, 1991)

The POW/MIA movement has been riding a roller-coaster of alternating hope and despair for 20 years: a disappointment now, when hope is at an all-time high, could crush the movement and turn many of its members into emotional wrecks. (Newsweek, July 29, 1991)

rope

With Fidel Castro on the ropes, is it time for George Bush to try to deliver a knockout blow? The Soviet Union no longer stands in the way. (Newsweek, October 14, 1991)

They also predict that organized crime will run rampant in Soviet cities while the KGB and local police are on the ropes. (Newsweek, September 9, 1991)

(rope は「束縛」を象徴している。on the ropes という表現は、ボクシングでは「ロープに追いつめられて」という意味がある。これが比喩的に用いられると、「窮地に陥って」という意味になる。前者の用例では、Castro 大統領が窮地に陥っているので、Bush 大統領は彼に knockout blow の打撃を与えるチャンスだという。後者の用例では、KGB も地元の警察も窮地に陥っているので、組織的犯罪がはびこることが予測されるという。更に 2 例 the end of one's rope という表現を紹介する。)

The victims are psychologically at the end of their rope; they've found out that friends

or family have spied on them. (Newsweek, January 20, 1992)

Faced with rising pressure from the United States, Saddam Hussein may be nearing the end of his rope. U.S. officials have been told that the dictator last month called 14 senior Army generals to Baghdad on the pretext of awarding them medals — then executed them, possibly to avert a coup attempt. (Newsweek, July 22, 1991)
(the end of one's rope は体力・能力などの「限界」のことである。)

rubble

Until World War II, Reggio was known more for the quality of its wine and ham than for the excellence of its schools. But as the Germans retreated, the women of Reggio decided to build a school from the rubble. (Newsweek, December 2, 1991)

Gorbachev proved his skills as a go-between when he negotiated the last, never signed union treaty. Whether the nation that emerges out of the rubble now takes the form of a federation, confederation or commonwealth, there will still be a need for some kind of government body to judge the conflicting claims of the member states. The President of the Soviet Union is the logical candidate to assume such an executive role, and that means Gorbachev. (Time, September 9, 1991)
(rubble は石・れんがの「破片」という意味であるが、比喩的になると「がらくたの山」のことである。上記2例は rubble は ashes と言いかえてもよいであろう。前者の用例では、ドイツ兵が徹隊すると、Reggio の女性は瓦れきの山から学校を作る決心をした。後者では荒廃したソビエトの国家再建について述べている。)

Rubicon

Europe, if its leaders are to be believed, stands at the Rubicon. Next week, in the most highly touted and intensively prepared summit in its history, the 12-nation European Community will take a series of decisions that will guide its development into the next century. (Newsweek, December 9, 1991)
(the Rubicon [ルビコン川] はイタリア中北部の川で、アドリア海に注いでいる。紀元前49年 Julius Caesar が属州 Cisalpine Gaul とイタリアの境界であったこの川を渡り Pompey と対決した。比喩的には「境界」の意味があり、to stand at the Rubicon は「重大な岐路に立っている」という意味である。12カ国より成る EC は今重大な岐路に立っていると用例は述べている。to cross [pass] the Rubicon という表現もあるが「あとに引けない決定的な行動に出る、重大決意をする」という意味である)

saber

Saddam, however, has proved to be a most uncooperative host. He repeatedly has balked at opening up his secret bases to the U.N. inspectors, acquiescing only after the Bush administration rattled its saber. (Newsweek, September 30, 1991)
(saber は騎兵の「サーベル」のことである。定冠詞 the をつけると「武力」という意味もある。to rattle one's saber は「武力で威かくする」ことである。Bush 大統領が武力で威かくしてはじめて、独裁者 Saddam 大統領は秘密基地を公開して、国連の査察を受けることを黙認した。)

sheet

As Prime Minister Miyazawa cradled the head of his guest, Bush's entourage gently lowered him to the floor. The president's eyes fluttered open, and he quipped to his personal physician, Dr. Burton Lee, "Roll me under the table until the dinner's over." The panicky

moment passed; within a few minutes, Bush was on his feet, white as a sheet, but gamely smiling. (Newsweek, January 20, 1992)

(sheet は「死・亡霊」などの象徴である。シーツはまっ白であり、white as a sheet とは恐怖・病気などで「顔が真青で」という意味である。Bush 大統領が訪日した時、晩さん会で突然倒れなかった時の様子である。)

shoe

Another MIA relative, George Brooks of Newburgh, N.Y., is still bitter at being “scammed” for \$28,000 by a swashbuckling former Green Beret who promised to go to Laos and Vietnam to search for MIAs. “We had this secret operation going and we were going to bring men back. Then at 2:30 a.m. a radio station called and said, did I know …… the operation had failed? My heart went right down to my shoes,” Brooks said. (Newsweek, July 29, 1991)

(my heart went right down to my shoes とは実に大げさな表現であるが、英米人は時々 exaggerate された言い方をする。この意味は be extremely disappointed ということである。)

Orbos once stood a good chance of gaining Aquino’s endorsement as well, but Medacanang Palace insiders say she began to suspect that he was boosting his own reputation at her expense through alleged press leaks and other betrayals. His shoes will be hard to fill nonetheless; Aquino used to consider him her “action man.” (Newsweek, July 22, 1991)

(to fill one’s shoes とは「～の後がまに座る」という意味である。to take one’s place と同じである。Orbos の人気がいよことに対し Aquino 大統領は不愉快なのだが、彼の後がまに座る人物を見つこることは難しい。)

shoulder

Libyan officials have been putting out feelers during the past year to see if the U.S. might be ready to renew contacts, but the response from Washington has been frosty. European Community countries have also turned a cold shoulder in retaliation against Gaddafi’s support for the failed Soviet coup. (Time, September 23, 1991)

(a cold shoulder は19世紀の英国であり大切でないお客に、羊の冷えた肩肉を出す習慣があったことから出た表現である、といわれている。to turn a cold shoulder は比喩的に「冷淡に扱う」という意味で使われる。coldshoulder という動詞もある。アメリカばかりでなく EC 諸国もリビアの Gaddafi 首相が、失敗に終わったソビエトのクーデターを支持した報復としてリビアを冷たくあしらった。)

silk

Though his Singapore stopover proved to be as smooth as silk, his awaiting hosts — South Korea and Japan — had cause to fear more friction. (Time, January 13, 1992)

(silk は「美・ぜいたく」の象徴であるが、as smooth as silk は「平穩無事な」という意味である。silk のように「なめらか」ということは、デモもない、マスコミも味方である、といった凹凸もない状況を silk にたとえていったのである。)

smile

A foreign ministers’ session in the Hague offered a fresh understanding of why the city’s name is the Dutch word for hedge. The ministers were all smiles as they greeted their counterparts from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, but failed to spell out how much or what kind of aid the newly independent Baltics might get. (Time, September 23, 1991)

(全身が all smiles という英米人好みの大げさ

な表現は「満面笑みを浮べる」という意味である。all ears, all eyes という表現もある。）

snail

Dzardyan admits, "We are socially and culturally backward and our economy is in crisis." Indeed, most of the country is moving out of the past at a snail's pace. (Newsweek, July 30, 1990)

(「非常にのろい」ことを as slow as a snail というが、日本語は「牛歩戦術」という表現があるように、「牛」にたとえるようである。社会的にも文化的にも後進国であり、経済は危機にひんしているが、国民の大部分はゆっくりではあるが過去から脱皮しつつある。)

spoon

As a country that Kaunda liked to brag was "born with a copper spoon in its mouth" — a reference to vast ore deposits in the north — Zambia could probably have withstood those sacrifices. (Time, November 11, 1991)

(be born with a silver spoon in one's mouth という成句があるが、「金持ちの家に生れる」という意味である。be born under a lucky star といったところである。a silver spoon を a copper spoon といったのは、Zambia の北部で copper が採掘されるからである。)

stone

While the politicians chattered, the economy was sinking like a stone. According to the latest scary statistics, only 54 million metric tons of grain have been stored up for the winter. (Newsweek, October 21, 1991)

(「まっすぐに落ちる」を stone にたとえた表現である。to plummet という動詞と同じ意味である。そうになったらその国の経済は確産宣告を受けたのも同然である。ちなみに日本語では「まったく泳げない人」つまり「まっすぐに水に落ちていく人」を「金槌」という。更に stone を使った

用例を紹介する。)

He subjected her to a no-stone-unturned cross-examination that revealed what he said were inconsistencies in her testimony on such matters as whether she screamed during the reported rape. (Time, December 16, 1991)

(to leave no stone unturned という表現があるが、「あらゆる手段を尽す」という意味である。a no-stone-unturned cross-examination とは「あらゆる手段を尽くして厳しく取り調べること」である。石という石をすべてひっくり返して下に何かないか調べるわけである。)

Mitterrand himself maintained a stony silence in his Elysee Palace, and insiders said it was likely even Cresson had no knowledge of his plans. (Newsweek, April 6, 1992)

(静まりかえって状態を a stony silence という。たしかに「石」は無言だから、英語ではこういう表現がうまれたのであろう。日本語では「水を打ったような静けさ」と「水」にたとえる。)

swallow

In nine days the Community dispatched three delegations to Belgrade. It led the efforts of the 35-member Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe to address the crisis. Foreign ministers including Germany's Hans-Dietrich Genscher winged in and out of the Balkans like swallows, then met in a special session at the Hague. (Newsweek, July 15, 1991)

(swallow は巣に頻繁に入ったり、出たりしてエサを運んでくる。その様子を swallow にたとえて winged in and out of the Balkans like swallows といったわけである。)

table

After hearing a number of gentle lectures on reform in closed-door sessions, the 64-year-old revolutionary turned the tables on his 20 fellow heads of state with a public tongue-

lashing. (Newsweek, July 29, 1991)

“Something with high quality and low cost, provocative and fun,” says Nicolas Hayek, whose Zurich company saved a dying watch industry in the 1980s and outperforms the Japanese competition today. Why not turn the tables on Honda and Toyota? (Newsweek, February 26, 1990)

(to turn the tables という表現は、チェスなどのゲームの途中で盤 [table] を半回転させて攻守所を変えるようにしたという昔の習わしから出た表現である。「不利な立場から一転して、有利な立場に立つ、形勢を逆転させる」という意味である。前者の用例では、64才のこの革命家は毒舌さわやかに、20人の元首に対して不利な立場から一転して、有利な立場に立った。後者の用例では、Honda や Toyota に対し形勢を逆転させようではないかというわけである。)

tiger

Although President Corazon Aquino restored democracy, her administration has done little to open the economy to the outside world or break the hold of the ruling class. Since her inauguration in 1986, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand have begun catching up with East Asia's four tigers — Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea — by copying their recipe of encouraging foreign investment and developing export industries. (Time, August 19, 1991)

Brazilian President Fernando Collor made an equally bold move to eradicate inflation. Proclaiming on taking office in March 1990 that he would use the “single bullet” in his gun to slay the “inflation tiger,” he froze bank accounts and outflawed wage and price hikes. (time, October 28, 1991)

(tiger は「残忍な人、凶暴な人」という意味があるが、East Asia's four tigers とは、「驚くべき発展をとげている東アジア4ヶ国」といった程

度の意味で使われている。inflation tiger は「猛威をふるうインフレ」という意味である。いずれも「残忍なもの、凶暴なもの」という意味が含意されている。更に用例を紹介する。)

There have been angry words between the two countries; an irresistible force seems to be hurtling toward an immovable object. Bush hasn't backed down. His advisers are betting that, on this issue, the once feared Israeli lobby will turn out to be a paper tiger. (Newsweek, March 9, 1992)

(a paper tiger は「見かけだけのもの・人・脅し、こけおどし」という意味である。中国の政治家毛沢東の言葉である。日本語の「絵にかいたもち」に相通ずるものがある。)

tightrope

He scrapped her hated “poll tax” and successfully walked a tightrope at last December's European Community summit in Maastricht, the Netherlands, where he managed to look pro-European while preserving Britain's right to opt out of a common currency if it chooses. (Newsweek, April 20, 1992)

(tightrope とは「綱渡りの綱」のことであるが、従って to walk a tightrope は「綱渡りをする、危ないことをする」という意味である。tightrope walker は「綱渡り芸人」のことである。Major イギリス首相は国民から嫌われた“人頭税”を廃止し、オランダで12月に開催された EC サミットで、危ない綱渡りに成功したのである。)

toe

From the start, lawyers for the Hispanic plaintiffs consulted with blacks to ensure that their voting strength was not diluted by the redistricting. “We shared our plans with them, they shared their plans with us, and we came up with a plan that didn't step on anybody's toes,” says Richard P. Fajardo, an

attorney for the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund. (Time, July 29, 1991)

(to step on someone's toes とは「(特に相手の信条や意見に逆らって)人の感情を害する、人の〔責任〕領域に踏みこむ」という意味である。step の代わりに tread も使うことがある。弁護士 Fajardo がいうには、誰の感情も傷つけない計画を考え出したという。)

towel

Far from throwing in the towel, Gorbachev came out fighting, lambasting the leaders of Russia, Belorussia and Ukraine for their declaration of a "commonwealth" to replace the U.S.S.R. (Time, December 23, 1991)

(to throw in the towel という表現はボクシングからうまれたもので、ボクサーにこれ以上戦闘を続けさせることは無理だと判断すると、セコンドがリング上にタオルを投げ込むことがある。つまり「負けを認める。降参する」という意味である。Gorbachev は決して降参しなかったのである。)

umbrella

What if Washington withdrew its nuclear umbrella from its allies? Without the glue of common defense, the world might slip into hostile trading blocs, Europe vs. North America vs. Asia. (Newsweek, January 8, 1990)

The bill arose last year when many Japanese lawmakers were privately humiliated to see South Korea and the Philippines sending medics to the gulf while Tokyo just wrote checks. But sending troops abroad — even under a U.N. umbrella — remains a sore topic in Japan. (Newsweek, December 9, 1991)

(umbrella は比喩的には「保護」の意味である。日本は日米安保条約により、アメリカの「かき」の下にある。アメリカが同盟国から核の「かき」を回収したらどうということになるか、また日本

の海外派兵は、国連という「かき」に保護されていても、日本では頭痛の種である。)

Uncle Tom

Though he may endure some tough questioning about his two terms as chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under Ronald Reagan — and some name calling from blacks who consider him an Uncle Tom because of his conservative views — Thomas is all but certain to be approved. (Time, September 16, 1991)

At his confirmation hearings, Thomas can probably dodge questions about abortion. Last week Vice President Dan Quayle suggested that Thomas follow the practice of other court nominees, who have often refused to discuss matters that might come before the court. Still, women's groups will openly oppose his nomination. Civil-rights groups may or may not follow suit. But they have launched a whispering campaign aimed at portraying him as an Uncle Tom. (Newsweek, July 15, 1991)

(Uncle Tom はストウ夫人 (Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811-96)) 作の小説・Uncle Tom's Cabin の主人公である。Uncle Tom は敬虔なキリスト教信者で、主人に忠実ですべての人に親切な黒人奴隷である。

黒人が白人と平等の意識をもつようになるにつれ、Uncle Tom は普通名詞として、白人におもねる卑屈な黒人を意味するようになった。前者の用例では、Thomas を an Uncle Tom because of his conservative views とみなしている。後者の用例は更にそのことを補強している。)

violet

Many working-class women simply couldn't believe that Hill would tolerate sexual harassment. "A lot of women out there are quite

comfortable telling a guy to knock it off," says Suzanne Fields, a conservative columnist for the Washington Times. "Hill had had all these privileges. They couldn't believe she was a shrinking violet. They rejected her as a victim." (Newsweek, October 28, 1991)

(violet は「謙譲・貞節・薄命」の象徴とされる。a shrinking violet は「恥しがり屋」という意味である。Hill 女史が恥しがり屋であるとは女性達は信じることができなかった。)

wagon train

What is the California Dream? And whatever it is, where can it be found? In the past seven years, 118,000 modern-day pathfinders have located a form of it in Moreno Valley, a new city 112km southeast of Los Angeles and and 68 km from Disneyland.

This is a place for hardwing parents, with wagon train hearts, seeking picket-fenced yards, swing sets and quiet streets, for people who can endure temperatures above 40°C and can drive three hours a day to work and back. (Time, November 18, 1991)

(wagon-train は西部開拓時代の「ほろ馬車隊」のことである。wagon train hearts とは「開拓魂を持った心」である。従って wagon train は strong-minded, taking the challenge, rugged に近い意味を持っている。)

water

It seemed easy to say who won't be the next president. At the top of the list is Corazon Aquino, who decided more than two years ago not to run. She didn't stand much chance anyway: after six years of her treading water as president, most Philippine voters crave a change. (Newsweek, May 11, 1992)

(to tread water は「立ち泳ぎする」ことであるが、after six years of her treading water as

president でも推測できるように、比喩的に用いられて、「前進がない、進歩がない」という意味で、この用例では「実績がない」といった方がびったりした訳である。もう1例 to tread water を紹介する。)

High school is dominated by preparation for university entrance exams. The universities themselves are not rigorous; almost everyone who gets in graduates. Still, Stevenson says Americans ignore the lessons of Japan at their peril. In a poll of parents he conducted, most Americans were satisfied with their schools; Asian parents wanted more. Clearly Asians are out to break records while Americans seem content to tread water. (Newsweek, June 1, 1992)

(この tread water は「現状維持をまもる」といった程度の意味である。アメリカ人は現状維持に満足のように思われるが、アジア人は記録を破ろうと欲ばっている。)

With his margin there, he should be able to govern effectively for the next five years, controlling — as British prime ministers do — both the executive and legislative functions of government. "Today John Major can walk on water," said Robert Worcester, chairman of the MORI polling group. (Newsweek, April 20, 1992)

(イエス・キリストはいろいろな奇跡を行った。

海水の上も歩いた。to walk on water は多分聖書にある言葉に由来しているものと思われる。

上記の用例では Mayor 首相は「何んでもできる、不可能なことはない」という意味で使っている。)

A grinding internal struggle is threatening to destroy Nichiren Shoshu, Japan's largest religious organization. A rift between its religious leadership and the lay organization that gives the sect its disciples and funding has split Nichiren Shoshu's estimated 17 million followers into two camps. The confrontation,

which some partizans liken to Martin Luther's 16th century Reformation against the Roman Catholic Church, has roiled the political waters. (Time, January 13, 1992)

(政治を water にたとえて、political waters と言っている。roil という動詞を使うことによって、the political waters が生きてくる。)

weight

It is Tommy who draws the most attention these days. The public knows him as Mr. Auto Racing and a man about town often seen with the popular singer Maya Rumanitir; competitors claim that his Humpuss Group is throwing its political weight around. (Time, February 3, 1992)

(to throw one's weight around は「いばりちらす」という意味であるが、これを比喩的に政治記事に使って、to throw its political weight around としたのである。Tommy の支援グループである Humpuss Group は政治的にもいばりちらしているという。)

wheel

Gorbachev said he was committed, at long last, to rapid reforms that would give "land to all those who want to work on it" and "full freedom for entrepreneurship." But with all the uncertainties facing the union, the economic reform committee seemed to be spinning its wheels. "There is no time for any long-term programs at the moment," said economist Yasin. "The main task is to stabilize." (Newsweek, September 9, 1991)

(to spin its wheels とは「車輪を回す」という意味であるが、to go nowhere, to make no progress と同じである。ソビエトはいろいろ不安定な状態に直面しているが、経済改革委員会は何の進歩もなく、空まわりしているようだった。)

wheeler-dealer

Clean and well ordered, Toronto hums efficiently, compared with large U.S. cities to its south. It is as powerful a magnet for immigrants as Los Angeles. Fortunes are made and lost overnight in a wheeler-dealer climate that can rival Wall Street's. (Time, October 21, 1991)

(wheeler-dealer は頭の回転が早く、巧妙な取引をする金融の策士のことをいう。「抜け目なく商売をする」という意味で動詞としても使う。a wheeler-dealer climate は quick, fast business に近い。)

wind

It is the change in Chinese policy that carries the most weight. Says a Western ambassador in Hanoi: "China sees the way the international wind is blowing and wants a settlement, so it has unleashed Sihanouk to see what he can get. (Time, July 8, 1991)

(wind は比喩的に「(変化などの) 風向き、動向」という意味で使う。the way the international wind is blowing は blow という動詞を使うことによって wind が生きてくる。中国は外交政策で風向きに気を使う。更に wind を使った用例を 3 例紹介する。最後の to follow the wind. は「迎合する」という意味である。)

As the winds of glasnost blew more strongly, the top echelons of the organization grew nervous. (Time, September 2, 1991)

Chirac, the new boss at city hall, backed planning rules that generally outlawed high buildings. Likewise, sensing the political wind, then President Valery Giscard d'Estaing opted to transform the elegant Orsay train station into an art museum, rather than have it torn down. (Time, July 15, 1991)

Bureaucrats and businessmen who have seen Li since say he is unbowed. "He is quite confident," said one Chinese banker last

week. "In the bottom of his heart he may not like what is happening, but he knows how to follow the wind." (Newsweek, April 27, 1992)

wing

Kohl and Genscher pressed their European allies to bring the Eastern European states under the wing of the Community. (Newsweek, September 2, 1991)

(under the wing of は under the umbrella of とほとんど同義である。)

wolf

Indiana University professor Carol Brooks Gardner, author of a forthcoming book called "Passing By," argues that it should be considered illegal harassment when a man makes an obscene comment to a woman in the street. Of course, not all street comments are threatening. A simple wolf whistle probably wouldn't traumatize most women. (Newsweek, October 21, 1991)

(wolf は野生・色欲・残忍・強欲・戦争・狡猾などの象徴である。a wolf whistle は「魅力的な女を見た時に吹く口笛」のことである。単なる a wolf whistle ぐらいでは、大抵の女性は傷つきはしないであろう。)

The bleak budget picture makes the issue even more critical. Both the Air Force and the Navy have their eyes on new tactical fighters. But Robert Hale, director of national-security programs in the Congressional Budget Office, contends the money to buy the planes won't be there without sharp cuts in current purchases: "This time the wolf is really at the door, and I don't think we have quite grasped the implications of that yet." (Newsweek, July 15, 1991)

(the wolf は比喩的に「危険」という意味で使われている。空軍も海軍も戦術戦闘機に目をつけているが、これを購入するためには機数を削減しなくてはならない。今回それができるかどうか [the wolf] は本当は身内にある。)

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