



Meeting XII

Word Formation-Compounding

Siti Mukminatun

Compounding

The combination of lexical categories (nouns, adjectives, verbs, or prepositions) to create a larger word.

- There are two kinds of compound:
 1. endocentric
 2. exocentric

Endocentric vs Exocentric Compounds

- a. Endocentric compound : denotes subclass of head.
Ex: spoon feed (feed with a spoon), teaspoon (spoon for tea)

Plural involves making plural of head, even it's irregular

ex: wisdom teeth= type of teeth, plural 'teeth' rather than *wisdom tooths,

Endocentric vs Exocentric Compounds

b. Exocentric compound: denotes something else.

e.g. redneck, redhead (not a red head, but a person with red hair).

Plural usually involves standard 's' plural marker on the end of the entire word.

e.g. walkman ≠ type of men, plural 'mans' rather than *walkmen

Endocentric vs Exocentric Compounds

- Compounding can interact with derivation: a derived word can be part of a compound
e.g. availability list, teenage employment
- Compounds can be formed from other compounds
– Recursion
 1. $N_1 + N_2 \rightarrow N_3$ (dog + food = dog food)
 2. $N_3 + N_4 \rightarrow N_5$ (dog food + box = dog food box)



Types of compound

1. **compound noun**

a. **noun + noun**. This is the largest sub grouping of compound and the majority of in this class is endocentric compound

The exocentric type is very limited in productivity.
e.g. hatchback and skinhead

compound noun

- appositional compound: the first element marks the sex of a person (productive)
e.g. boy-friend, manservant, woman doctor. And some pronominal sex markers used for animals; she-goat, he-cheetah.
- Dvandva compounds are not commonly used in English. However, this type is occasionally coined.
e.g. panty-hose. Example from business mergers: Cadbury-Schweppes, Rank-Hovis-McDougal, Rowntree-Mackintosh.

Endocentric

- It is made up of gerund + noun. It could be treated as N + N or V+N
e.g. a fishing rod 'rod for fishing' just as a **bath towel** 'a towel for the bath'
- **A shooting match** 'a match in which there is shooting' just as **goods train** 'a train in which there are goods'



Recent example: holding pattern, parking orbit,
queuing theory

- The first element of the compound is a proper noun. Some others contain place name.
e.g. Lie algebra, Mao flu, Utah effect.
- Two common nouns. This is the most productive.
e.g. acid rock, domino theory, bang zone, family planning, suicide seat

Compound Noun

b. **verb + noun**

The noun is the direct object of the verb (all are exocentric)

e.g. cut-throat, kill-joy, pickpocket, spoil-sport
(denoting people), breakfast and dreadnought
(not denoting people)

The noun is not the direct object of the verb. (all are endocentric and definitely productive)

e.g. crashpad, giggle-smoke, hovercraft, jump jet,
play pit

Compound Noun

c. **Noun + verb** :

- The problem : knowing whether the second element is a noun or a verb

e.g. nosebleed, sunshine

- it does not appear to be productive

e.g. birth control, nosedive



d. **Verb + verb** :

- **Compound Noun**
this pattern is extremely rare
e.g. make-believe (this pattern is rare)

e. **Adj + Noun** :

- The problem: the difficulty to decide whether it is classified as compound or phrase.
- The criterion : stress
- Compound: stress on adjective 'deep' structure (very limited)
- Phrase ; stress on noun, deep 'structure'
e.g. fast-food, hard-stuff, software



The difference between compound and non-compounds

a. stress

1. compounds: stress on 1st component.
e.g. blackboard
2. non-compounds: stress on the 2nd component.
e.g. black board

b. Modifier

1. compounds: can't take modifier on non-head
e.g. *a very blackboard
2. non-compound: can take modifier on non-head:
a very black board



Compound Noun
f. Part + Noun

- Quite productive

e.g. afterheat, in-crowd, off-islander, off-off-Broadway, over-kill

g. Adverb + noun

- very restricted pattern, partly because only adverbs of time or place occur in such compounds.

e.g. now generation

Compound Noun

h. **verb + particle**

- The majority of words are nominalizations of phrasal verbs.
e.g. drop-out, press-down, put-down, put-on, cop-out
- Minor pattern : the particle precedes the verb, e.g.
throughput
- Not derived from phrasal verb but may be coined by analogy with phrasal verbs,
e.g. fallout, pray-in, teach-in

i. **Phrase compounds**

- The problem: whether it is classified as compounds or lexicalizations of syntactic structures.
- Endocentric phrase

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- Formed by back-formation or conversion from compound nouns.
 - Rather rare

a. **Noun + verb**

- Arise from back-formation and conversion
e.g. carbon-copy (conversion), blockbust, carbon-date, colour-code, sky-dive

b. **Verb + verb**

- Exceedingly rare.
e.g. typewrite (maybe), trickle-irrigate (back-formation from trickle-irrigation, make do, dare say

Compound Verb

C. Adjective + verb

- Through back-formation or conversion)
- Relatively productive

e.g. double-book, fine tune, soft-land, free associate

Compound Verbs

d. Particle + verb

- Some may be back-formation but most seem to be genuine verbal formations.

e.g. outachieve, overachieve, overbook, overeducate, overmark (an exam paper)

e. Noun + noun

- Not particularly common
- Arises from conversion of a compound noun
e.g. to breath-test

Compound Adjectives

3. compound adjectives

a. Noun + adjective

- The most frequent type
 - It would be possible to distinguish between participle and other adjective
- e.g. capital-intensive, card-carrying, host-specific, machine readable

b. verb + adjective

- It is rare and may be new.
- e.g. fail safe



Compound Adjectives

c. adjective + adjective

1) appositional compound

e.g. bitter-sweet, deaf-mute, (classic), proam,

2) endocentric ones

- Normally endocentric
- Productive

e.g. open-ended, ready-made, double-helical

Compound Adjectives

d. adverb + adjective

- Not particularly common
- A more common type has a particle as the first element
e.g. over-qualified, uptight

e. Noun + noun

- Exocentric
- They function as adjectives but their second (head) element is not an adjective.
e.g. back-street (abortionist), coffee-table (book), glassteel
(sky-scraper)

Compound Adjectives

f. adjective+ noun

- The most productive
- Compound or noun phrase?
- Recent example : grey-collar, red-brick (university), solid-state (physic)

g. particle + noun

- Prepositional phrase is converted to a modifier.
e.g. before-tax (profit), in depth (study)



Compound Adverbs

- The most common way is by the suffixation of **-ly** to a compound adjective.
- Other patterns are found.
e.g. double-quick, flat-out, off-hand, over-night