

COMPOUNDING IN ENGLISH



Submitted by

Miss ANWAR-MAHJABEEN, 112712003

M.A ELT

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Masters in English Language Teaching (ELT).

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND
LITERATURES (SSH)

In The name of Allah the Most Merciful and the Most Beneficent

Did you see that Allah has given in your control all that is in the earth and the ship that moves upon the sea by his command? And He restricts the Heavens that it may not fall on to earth except by His command; indeed Allah is the most Compassionate, the most Merciful upon mankind.

And it is He who gave your life, then will cause you to die, and will then revive you; indeed man is very ungrateful.

Surrah, Hajj 65:66

i

DEDICATION

I dedicate our each and every effort to Almighty Allah Creator of the Universe and Knowledge and to our beloved Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) whose teaching and the sacred name is always a source of encouragement for me in every dark aspects of life. His Holy name made me brave to face all the challenges.

I am dedicating this work is to my parents and brothers who struggled a lot for me and in my studies. Their appreciation, sacrifices, prayers and, kind guidance and encouragement helped me in the course of life and provides a beam of light in the darkness of life at every moment and I have achieved this Goal. May Allah shower his blessings on them, and may they live long with good health.

This work is dedicated to my honorable teacher, Mr. Shahzad Ahmad whose encouragement and cooperation that helped me to reach this stage.

Last but not least, my special thanks and dedication goes to my spiritual teacher Syed Murtaza Amin Shah, who encouraged me whatever and whenever I needed. He also provided me a medium of encouragement, and prayers for me at every field of my life.

ii

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In the name of Allah, the most Merciful and the most Beneficent, the Sustainer, the Mighty and the great, who created everything and made things possible, prayers to Muhammad (S. A. W), the seal of the Prophets.

My special thanks goes to my helpful Mr. Shahzad, who is my teacher, advisor and also supervise me in this work. I am also thankful to him for his timely guidance. In other words, he has devoted his valuable time to supervise this work. His insightful comments and criticism have been immensely helpful. My gratitude goes to Professor. Rao Jaleel Ahmed, who is the Chairman of DELL (Department of English Language and Literature) who encouraged me regarding my studies in various ways, and treated me as father. I am also indebted to the Dr. Abdul Hameed, the Dean of the School of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) for his valuable contributions, throughout my studies. My heartfelt thanks go to others whose contributions have been invaluable. I also wish to express my appreciation to my grandmother, parents, brothers who stood by me in the most trying moments of this work, who prayed for me a lot. They were always there for showing extra kindness just to make sure I did not fail to achieve my goal. I owed the success of this work to the affection they had for me before and during my Masters in English language teaching (M.A ELT).

On the other hand, it seems difficult to refer to them all by name here, but a few of them ought to be mentioned. They are Syeda Sahib-e-Jmal Kazmi, Shabana Quraishi, Dr. Syed Shoaib Bukhari, and Muhammad Kafeel Khan. The final word of thanks goes to all my friends, and well-wishers, who in one way or the other, have contributed towards the successful completion of this thesis.

ABSTRACT

This study examines the Process of Compounding in English. The Purpose of the study is to explore the word formation processes of compounds, their forms, classifications, different types, lexical categories, the structures, semantic relationships, and the hyphenation rules. The work is presented in five chapters as follows; the first chapter deals with the introduction of the study, statement of the problems, scope of the study, significance of the study, basic assumptions and definition of operational terms. The second chapter is presented in the review of the related literature that is work on English compounds, which has been carried out by various researchers and scholars, the third chapter deals with research methodology, research design (content analysis), and procedure, population and time horizon. Chapter fourth presents the analysis of the data, and the last fifth chapter presents findings and conclusion.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents	Page No
DADICATION-----	i
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS-----	ii
ABSTRACT-----	iii
LIST OF TABLES-----	iv

Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction-----	1, 2, 3
1.1 With hyphenation -----	3
1.2 With a space in between orthographically -----	4
1.3 With no space in between -----	5
1.4 Phonological Criteria of compounding -----	5
1.5 Semantic Criteria of compounding-----	6
1.6 Statement of the problem -----	6
1.7 Objectives of the study-----	6, 7
1.8 Research Questions-----	7
1.9 Scope and limitations of the study-----	7
1.10 Significance of the study-----	8

1.11 Basic assumptions of the study-----	8, 9
1.12 Definition some of the Operational Terms in English -----	9, 10, 11
1.13 The Structure of the research-----	11, 12
1.14 Important abbreviations-----	12

Chapter II

REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE

Review of the related literature (background)-----	13, 14
2.1 Morphological definition of compounding -----	15
2.2 Compounding defined as semantically -----	16, 17
2.3 Characteristics of compounds -----	17, 18
2.4 Establishing of compounds in English-----	18, 19
2.5Types of English compounds -----	20
2.5.1 Primary compounds -----	20

2.5.2 Synthetic compounds	20, 21
2.5.3 Endocentric compound	21
2.5.4 Exocentric compound	21, 22
2.5.5 Coordinate compound	22
2.6 Lexical categories of compounding	22
2.6.1 Noun compounds	23
2.6.2 Verb compounds	23, 24
2.6.3 Adjective compounds	24
2.6.4 Adverb compounds	25
2.7 Other non-prototypical compounds	26, 27
2.8 Compound hood	28, 29, 30
2.9 Semantic Relationships	30
2.10 The structure of compounds	30

2.11 Hierarical structure of compounds -----	31
2.12 Some exceptions -----	32, 33, 34
2.13 Hyphenation rules-----	35, 36, 37
2.14Conclusion-----	38

Chapter III

RESEARCH METHDOLOGY

3.0 Introduction-----	39
3.1 Research design-----	39, 40
3.2 Time horizon-----	40
3.3 Population-----	40
3.4 Instrumentation-----	41
3.5 Procedure-----	41
3.6 Conclusion-----	41

Chapter IV

DATA PRESENTATION AND DATA ANALYSIS

4.0 Introduction-----	42
4.1 Data presentation and data analysis-----	43
4.1.1 Analysis group 1(noun based compounds)-----	45
4.1.2 Analysis group 2 (Adjective based compounds)-----	47
4.1.3 Analysis group 3 (verb based compounds)-----	49
4.1.4 Analysis group 4 (adverb based compounds) -----	51
4.1.5 Analysis group 5 (prepositional compounds) -----	53

Chapter V

SUMMARY, FINDINGS, CONCLUSION

5.1 Summary -----	54
-------------------	----

5.2 Findings -----54

5.3 Conclusion-----55

Glossary -----56, 57, 58

References-----59, 60, 61, 62

List of Tables

Table 1 Compound words are presented into five groups-----43

Table 2 Noun Based Compound-----44

Table 3 Adjective based compounds-----46

Table 4 Verb based compounds-----48

Table 5 Adverb based compounds-----50

Table 6 Prepositional compounds-----52

CHAPTER I

COMPOUNDING IN ENGLISH

1.0 Introduction

We are living in the age of advanced information and in modern period. While living in the age we are in need of new words for communication within the society. English is an international language and lingua franca. It has formed new words by the process of borrowing words from other languages like Latin, Greek, French, Urdu, and Persian. Not only English acquired new words by the process of borrowing, it has different ways of acquiring new words, like blending, backformation, and compounding. This study is about "Compounding in English", Compounding is a linguistic term which is used in lexicology and morphology. "Compounding is a process of combining smaller words lexical categories (nouns, adjectives, verbs, prepositions) into larger words and can be found with many languages world-wide". Compounding is the process of formation of new words. Compound words are used in all kinds of contexts, in newspapers, stories, essays, research articles, daily life communication, and so on. Compound words do not exist only in English; they also occur in other languages, such as Chinese, Urdu, and Arabic. In English, some of the compounds are already incorporated into the lexical system (the study of words, productive elements, grammatical features, semantic relationships), but some may be new even to native speakers of English.

The process of Compounding has been defined by many linguists. It would be worthwhile to look at some of them, as to how they define the process.

“Compound is a term used widely in descriptive linguistic studies to refer to a linguistic unit which is composed of elements that function independently in other circumstances. Of particular currency are the notions of compounding found in ‘compound words’ (consisting of two or more free morphemes, as in such ‘compound nouns’ as *bedroom*, *rainfall*, and *washing machine*) and ‘compound sentences’ (consisting of two or more main clauses); but other applications of the term exist, as in ‘compound verbs’ (*come in*), ‘compound tenses’ (those consisting of an auxiliary lexical verb), ‘compound subjects’, etc. (where the clause element consists of more than one noun phrase or pronoun, as in *the boys and the girls shouted*) and ‘compound prepositions’ (*in accordance with*) (David Crystal, 2008: 96, 97).

“Compounding... involves the combining of stems from the lexicon into a quasi-syntactic structure. This is word-internal structure seems to be unique to compounds, in fact”

(Anderson, 1992: 292).

“Compounding is the process of putting words together to build a new one that does not denote two things, but one and this is pronounced as one unit” (Wisnicwki, 2007).

It is also the process, composed of two elements that function independently in other circumstances. There is a particular change that is the concept of compounding found in compound words consisting of two or more morphemes as in such compound noun as *wash-room*, *snow-fall*, and adjectival compound, *black-bird*, *white-lie*.

It is a very productive mechanism through which different words are constructed, and make new words. Compounded words are normally represented in three ways: with hyphenation, with a space between orthographically, and with no space in between as one word.

1.1 With hyphenation

With hyphenation, compounds are also called a “unit modifier” which is simply defined as a combination of words that joined by a small line that is called “hyphen”, that does not only combine the words but also separate the elements of words; accordingly, uses hyphen between compound words they aid understanding and readability. The purpose of hyphenation, mainly to express the idea of an element and to keep away from uncertainty (ambiguity).

Most of the time, hyphens are used between adjectives, nouns, preposition, and verbs to make compound words but there are some rules for hyphenation to consider whether to use a hyphen or not in adjective compounds, noun compounds, verb compounds, and prepositional compounds. Firstly, we have to know how adjectives communicate to other adjectives. It is important to have a look, when adjectives act as independently (in isolation), in this case, do not hyphenate, they are written down without hyphens. In that case adjectives need a hyphen only, if the compound adjectives modify the noun, they describe the noun, and in this case adjectives appear before the noun.

On the other hand, if the adjectives come after the noun, they are not hyphenated.

Example: *long-term memory, Long-term relationship*

In some compound nouns, they do not use hyphens and in some compounds use hyphens. Unluckily, there is no specific rule to apply when it comes to hyphenating compound nouns. Where and when to apply these rules, and use of hyphens, to know this phenomenon, it is the best way is to consult the dictionary and look up that compound noun (word) in the dictionary. If the compound nouns are not found in the dictionary, the compound noun (words) are not hyphenated. If the dictionary indicates, that they are in hyphenated form. The form of the word is taken as the model form.

Example: *Sister-in-law, Bar-at-law*

Likewise compound nouns, in compound verbs, they are very complicated because some compounds are hyphenated, and some compounds are not. To differentiate between hyphenated compounds and without hyphenated compounds, again it is the best way to consult the dictionary. If it is found in the dictionary, hyphenate compounds, and spell those compounds as the dictionary requires. This type of compounds is also called hyphenated form.

Example: *double-minded, hair-drier*

1.2 With a space in between orthographically

In this type of compounds, there is a space between compounds orthographically, hyphens do not entail between compound words, and they are separate words. It is also called open form, and it is the most common in English language compounds.

Example: *data analysis, fire work*

1.3 With no space in between

In English language formation of compound as one word, it is a developing process. As languages become more popular or adopt special meanings, those compounds follow a gradual development from two or more separate or hyphenated words and change into single words. This type of compounds is also called closed form or solid form.

Example: *news editor news-editor newseditor*

wild life wild-lifewildlife

To summarise, they must have lexical entries in any dictionaries. They may differ from single words only by being written as two or more orthographic words. Compounds in the English language can be described semantically, phonologically, and grammatically.

1.4 Phonological criteria of compounding

According to Phonological criteria of compounding, Compounds can be identified as they are having a main stress on their first word and a secondary stress on the second part of the compound. That is why the adjectival compound *black bird* (a kind of *bird* that is *black*) on which has the stress in contrast with for *black bird*, (a *bird* which is *black*), that is the normal stress pattern for noun phrases in English compounding, which consists of a premodifying adjective. On the other hand, there is a noun head, in some cases may be speakers have a secondary stress on the first element while pronunciation.

For example: *headmaster, sociolinguistics*

1.5 Semantic criteria of compounding

Taking in view of semantic criteria of compounding, compound words may be interpreted as independent word (in isolation) from the syntactic constructions (formations). Because of their meaning that may be related to but they do not simply relate form to the meaning of its elements. This is the reason to say that compounds may be idiomaticised. For example, an adjectival compound *black bird* (a *bird* that is *black*) is not just *black bird*, since many kinds of birds they are not *black birds*; they may be white, blue, or yellow. Likewise, a *coldhouse* is a type of building that have a special use, however, its last unit has common in uses of the word *house* for us to recognize the similarity. On the other hand, it is very difficult to find any immediate connotation between the ordinary noun *tea* and second part in the compound *cold tea*.

1.6 Statement of the problem

The purpose of this study is to explore different processes of word formation in English language.

1.7 Objectives of the study

The proposed study will therefore seek to explore and investigate the following:

- To examine the formation process of compound words of English Language.
- To know about the lexical categories of English compounding.
- To illustrate the types of compounding; endocentric, exocentric, and coordinating compounds.
- To know about the semantic relationship of English compounding within a word.
- To illustrate the rules of hyphenation in compounding.

1.8 Research Questions

In order to achieve the objectives of the research, the following research questions will be addressed.

- What is the Process of word formation in English?
- What are the different types of English Compounds (endocentric, exocentric, coordinating)?
- What will be the lexical categories of compounds?
- What will be the semantic relationship in a compound?
- Will those compound words have lexical entries in the dictionaries?

1.9 Scope and limitations of the study

The study of compound words in English would remain to be the main focus in addition to this; formation processes, structures, lexical categories, types of compound words and its semantic relationship within a word would be discussed. There are many word formation processes in linguistics, such as clipping, blending, derivation, back formation, acronyms but the researcher will only focus on the process of compounding.

1.10 Significance of the study

The present study is of great significance in the field of Linguistics. The present study aims to investigate the compound words of English Language, their lexical categories, structures, semantic relationship in the parts of compound, their characteristics and lexical entries in the dictionaries. Therefore, this study will help the teachers and students of the English language department, to explore other areas for research regarding this topic. The study is also of great significance for linguists, it will help them to work on such topics. This will be useful in many respects; it will be helpful for the lexicographers to compile such lexicon (dictionaries) which contains compound words of English language for the native and non-native speakers of English language.

1.11 Basic assumptions of the study

There are some basic assumptions of this study which are as follows:

- Formation of semantic compounds (endocentric, exocentric), have special meaning.
- Modification: elements of compound words cannot be separately modified, they must be modified noun, and especially with adjectival compounds.

For example: *blue bird*

- Interruptability: in compound noun, they are very rigid (inflexible) in nature, there is no incorporation in between the stems for the purpose of style, and they can be deriving plural.
- In the formation of the compound, word order and their combination could be changed if one expects irregular combination. On the other hand, word order is required and retains in spite of the irregular formation of compounds.
- When the individual words make a compound word, they lose their vowel and tonal length in order to form a new compound word within a different concept and reference.

1.12 Definition some of the operational terms in English

Inflection

Inflection describes "as the external layer of the morphology of formation of words. Furthermore, inflections are attached after all compositional and derivational processes which already have completed. For example: the plural form of *woman* is *women*, *man* and *men*" (Bloomfield, 1993: 222).

Inflection use as morphemes which performs the grammatical function within a word while functioning they do not change the category of such word (Tomori, 1977: 33).

Compound: "a compound is a word that is combined with a morphological element" (Alaove 2000: 29).

“Compound is a word that is joined of two or more elements, the combination of compounds that divided compound into sub parts, their meaning are different from the meaning of the independent components”(George, 1997:65).

Morphology

According to Tomori (1982, p. 21), “the study of the formation of words, the rules of formation of new words in English are different from syntax and the study of the rules of formation of a linguistic element that is larger than the word, at sentence level”.

On the other hand, in English nouns have only two forms of inflection: such as the possessive case as in *boy*; *boy's* and the other is plural form as in *book* and *books*. The morphemes of the possessive are /z/, /s/. Another important point is that those of plural number of regular noun are phonologically conditioned (broken in). Moreover, there are some categories of compounds which are inflected in English language like verbs, pronouns, adverbs and adjectives. The stems are those forms compounds that may already have derivational suffix. Inflectional morpheme is added to a word. As a result of that addition is in grammatical form. The inflectional morphologist studies the way in which word inflects. Grammatical comparison in sentences like singular / plural form or present / past tenses. In the ancient books of grammar, branch of this topic is named by “accident”, for example: *girl* and *girls*, these are two different forms of the similar word. The difference between singular and plural forms is the subject of grammar, and therefore the matter of inflectional morphology.

Morpheme

The morpheme is a smallest meaningful unit of language, which cannot be divided into a smaller meaningful unit. Thus, any formative or new word is the smallest form, which is the analysis of grammar there is no need to analysis to the morpheme without lost its own meaning, (Bloomfield, 1926).

Prefixation

Tomori (1982, p. 33), while a bound morpheme is combined before the base element to another word, this formation process is called prefixation. Such as *re + arrange = re-arrange*, *dis + satisfy = dissatisfy*. “Prefixes are those particles, they can be prefixed to whole words however, they are not an independent words” (Marchand, 1960:85).

Suffixation

In this morphological process a bound morpheme is attached at the end of a base element. The most common processes in English are morphological process, inflectional process and suffixation (Matthew, 1974).

1.13 The structure of the research

The first chapter of this study is based on the Introduction of the study, some scholarly definitions, and three ways of presenting compound words, objectives of the study, research questions, scope and limitations of the study, its significance, some basic assumptions and important abbreviations. In the second chapter that is based on the review of the related literature, in the literature, definitions are discussed; characteristics of compounds, operational definitions of compound, semantic types such as endocentric, exocentric, coordinate and on the other hand lexical categories noun compounds, verb compounds, adjective compounds, adverb compounds, prepositional compounds are discussed within examples. Moreover, semantic relationships, structure of compounds, hyphenation rules and exceptions are given. In the third chapter of the study, which is based on research methodology and research design, population, instrumentation, procedure, and conclusion are given. In the fourth chapter of the study, in this chapter data will be analyzed using the method of qualitative research content analysis. In the fifth and the last chapter of the research, findings, recommendations and conclusion would be given. At the end appendix, references would be given.

1.14 Important abbreviations

There are some abbreviations which are used in the study instead of whole word.

N N Noun + Noun

V N Verb + Noun

N V Noun + Verb

Adj N Adjective + Noun

Adj V Adjective + Verb

V Adj Verb + Adjective

V Prep Verb + Preposition

Pre N Preposition + Noun

Pre Adj Preposition + Adjective

Adv Adj Adverb + Adjective

Adv N Adverb + Noun

Adv Pre Adverb + Preposition