



An Analysis of Compound Words in Education Issue of the Jakarta Post Edition on April 2021

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Abstract: In learning a language, the first thing to grasp is words. One method of word formation is compounding, which involves combining two elements from existing words to create a new word. Compounds are categorized into three groups based on the part of speech: nominal compounds, verbal compounds, and adjectival compounds. The formation of compound words gives rise to their meaning, involving two kinds of semantic headedness—namely, endocentric compounds and exocentric compounds. These compound words can be identified in articles from the education issue of The Jakarta Post edition from April 2021. The objectives of this study are as follows: (1) to identify the types of compound words; (2) to determine the semantic headedness of compound words; and (3) to calculate the percentages of compound types and semantic headedness. The study employs a qualitative descriptive method. The results reveal three types of compound words: nominal compounds (656 words), verbal compounds (2 words), and adjectival compounds (5 words). Additionally, two types of compound words were identified—650 words were endocentric compounds, and 16 words were exocentric compounds. The percentages of compound word types were as follows: 98.5% nominal compounds, 0.3% verbal compounds, and 1.2% adjectival compounds. Meanwhile, the percentages of semantic headedness were 97.60% for endocentric compounds and 2.40% for exocentric compounds. This study provides valuable information about compound words in the context of language learning.

Keywords: Adjectival compound, Nominal compound, Verbal compound

INTRODUCTION

Linguistics is the study of language as a whole, encompassing both the structure of the language itself and its societal usage. Linguistics, as the scientific study of language, plays a crucial role in language instruction (Syarif, 2016). It also encompasses various scientific branches, one of which is morphology (Sharofat Abdumutaljonovna, 2022). Based on language

system, linguistics is divided into phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics (Li, 2003).

Morphology is a field specializing in the study of word formation (Khamidjanovna et al., 2022). The study of word-formation and word-structure is referred to as morphology (Kamagi et al., 2023). Morphology also examines the rules governing word formation. It is usually defined as the study of the internal structure of words and the rules governing the formation of words in a language (Cahyani et al., 2020). This aligns with Booij's statement (Christianto, 2020) that the branch focusing on the study of words is called morphology, dealing with the internal constituent structure of words. Morphology, as one of the most important studies in linguistics, is vital for teachers and learners of English (Jimmi & Sidauruk, 2020).

Word formation is the main topic studied in morphology (Raja, 2014). It involves creating new words from existing ones. According to Ratih and Gusdian (2018), a new word is created approximately every 98 minutes, or around 14.7 words per day. This data indicates that 14 to 15 new words are created worldwide every day. The processes of word formation include derivation, compounding, inflection, internal change, suppletion, reduplication, cliticization, conversion, clipping, blending, backformation, acronym and initialism, onomatopoeia, and coinage (William O'Grady, John Archibald, Mark Aronoff, 2017). This research focuses on compounding.

In simple terms, compounding involves combining two or more elements to form new words categorized based on the elements composing them (Napitulupu, 2002). Compounding results in new words with new categories and meanings. This aligns with Rafica Sari's statement (2013) that a compound is a word consisting of two or more words. Similarly, Jurida (2020) asserts that compounds yield new meanings, even though the words they are made of are old and familiar. Compounding is a process during which independently existing bases are combined to form new lexemes (Bérešová, 2022). Therefore, compounds are made from words that already exist.

Compound words exhibit certain characteristics. Hikmaharyanti (2020) defines a compound as a word consisting of two elements, with the first being a root, word, or phrase, and the second being either a root or a word (Plag, 2003). Compound words in English generally have a head on the right, and the compound identity is typically found on the right (William O'Grady, John Archibald, Mark Aronoff, 2017). In the most common type of English compound, the rightmost morpheme determines the category of the entire word. Compound words can be a combination of words, root and word, phrase and word, with the head on the right member, as explained above (Plag, 2003).

- a. [X Y] Y
- b. X = {root, word, phrase}
- Y = {root, word}
- Y = grammatical properties inherited from Y

Meanwhile, based on stress, the compound is located on the left. Compounds are characterized by more prominent stress on their first component, while in non-compounds, the second element is generally stressed. Examples: greenhouse, blackboard, wet suit.

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that compounding is a part of word formation learned in morphology. Compound words are words combined from two or more elements, creating new meaning. The elements can be a root, word, compound word, or phrase. Compound words have the head on the right member and have stress on the left (Pasaribu & Nugraha, 2020). There are three kinds of compounds, namely: nominal compound, verbal compound, and adjectival compound (Christianto, 2020).

A nominal compound is a compound whose head is a noun. The process involves a combination, which can be noun-noun, verb-noun, adjective-noun, or preposition-noun. Nominal compounds fall into three subclasses involving nouns, verbs, and adjectives as non-heads (Plag, 2003). Examples of compound noun-nouns are laser printers, book covers, letterheads. Examples of adjective-nouns are redneck, loudmouth, bighead. Examples of verb-nouns are pickpocket, cut-throat, spoilsport. Examples of preposition-nouns are overcoat, underarm, out room.

Verbal compounds are compounds that have a verb as the head. Compounds with a verbal head may have nouns, verbs, adjectives, and prepositions as their non-head (Plag, 2003). This compounding process can consist of verb-verb, noun-verb, adjective-verb, or preposition-verb. Examples of compound verb-verbs are stir-fry, freeze-dry. Examples of noun-verbs are hand-wash, air-condition, steam-clean. Examples of adjective-verbs are dry-cleaned, whitewash. Examples of preposition-verbs are underestimate, outrun, overcook (Carstairs-Mccarthy, 2002).

Adjective compounds have an adjective as their head. Adjective compounds can be formed by combining noun (noun-adjective), adjective (adjective-adjective), and preposition (preposition-adjective). Examples of noun-adjective are sky-high, coal-black, oil-rich. Examples of adjective-adjective are gray-green, squeaky-clean, red-hot. Examples of preposition-adjective are under full, overactive (Carstairs-Mccarthy, 2002).

Besides the types of categories, compound words can also be distinguished by their semantic headedness. Compound words have two types of semantic headedness, namely endocentric and exocentric (Lusekelo, 2019). In terms of semantics, compound words have meanings that come

from the head of the compound. This is called an endocentric compound. In most cases, a compound denotes a subtype of the concept denoted by its head (the rightmost component). Such compounds are said to be (semantically) endocentric (William O'Grady, John Archibald, Mark Aronoff, 2017). Compounds have their semantic head inside the compound; these compounds are called endocentric compounds (Plag, 2003). Examples of this compound are bookstore, which is a type of store, a mailman, which is a type of man, sky blue, which is a type of blue.

If the compound is semantically headless, it is called an exocentric compound. If their semantic head is outside the compound, they are traditionally called exocentric compounds (Plag, 2003). In a smaller number of cases, however, the meaning of the compound does not follow from the meaning of its parts. Such compounds are exocentric (William O'Grady, John Archibald, Mark Aronoff, 2017). An example of this compound is redneck, which is a noun (like neck), denoting a type of person, not a type of neck. Similarly, a bull-head is a type of person rather than a type of head.

From this explanation, compound words have three types based on part of speech. The first is a nominal compound that has a noun as the head of the compound. The second is a verbal compound that has a verb as the head of the compound. The third is an adjectival compound that has an adjective as the head of the compound. Compound words also have two types of semantic meaning based on their head. The first is endocentric compounds, where the meaning is directly related to the head in the compound. The second is exocentric compound, which means the meaning of the compound is not directly related to the head. Compound words can be seen used in all kinds of contexts, such as newspaper articles, daily communication, and so on (Kilambi, 2020).

Related to the object of research, the researcher uses newspapers as the object of research. The researcher examined the compound words contained in it. A newspaper is a mass medium that contains the latest information concerning the surrounding community and government officials, occasionally also popular news in the world. A newspaper is the textbook that provides up-to-date information on local, state/provincial, national, and world affairs; the most current analysis and criticism on executive and legislative decision-making (Ahmmed, 2016).

Newspapers are also a medium available to the public, so they are easy to find (Hassan et al., 2021). This easy availability can be used as an object of research. Newspapers are among the most accessible texts available to the vast majority of people – literate, illiterate, young and old, students, workers, elites, and peasants—in any community (Babalola, 2002). The Jakarta Post is the newspaper used in this study. It is printed and online news available in

Indonesia. Besides that, The Jakarta Post uses the English language and can be used by students learning English (Munawarah et al., 2020).

In accordance with the explanation above, the objectives of this study are to know the types of compound words, the semantic headedness of compound words, and the percentages of types of compound words found in the Education Issue of The Jakarta Post Edition in April 2021.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research utilized a descriptive qualitative method, examining the compounding process in the education issue of The Jakarta Post edition from April 2021 in the form of data presented in tables and descriptions. The data for this study consisted of document data from the articles in the April editions, totaling 10 articles. The collected data, which comprises compound words, will be analyzed based on their categorical processes and meanings.

The data collection process involved several steps: reading the 10 articles, identifying and marking the compound words, categorizing them based on their types, adding the compounding process for each type, calculating the percentage of each compound type, determining the semantic headedness of the compounds, and calculating the percentage of the semantic headedness of the compounds. Data analysis utilized the technique proposed by Miles and Huberman.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Nominal Compounds

The elements that composed them are N+N, Adj+N, V+N, and Prep+N. N+N means that the member of the compound was nouns, for example in the article there is the word **staff members** which can be written down as [staff (N) + members (N)]. Adj+N means that the member of the compound was in the form of adjective, which was found in the word **necessary infrastructures** which can be written down as [necessary (Adj) + infrastructure (N)]. V+N means that the member of the compound was in the form of verb, which was found in the word **lasting harm** which can be written down as [lasting (V) + harm (N)]. And Prep+N means that the member of the compound was in the form of a preposition, which was found in the word **under fire** which can be written down as [under (Prep) + fire (N)].

Verbal Compounds

The elements that compose them are V+V and N+V. V+V means that the member of the compound was in the form of verb, found in the word **keep operating** which can be written down as [keep (V) + operating (V)]. And N+V means that the member of the compound was in the form of noun, found in the word **self-assess** which can be written down as [self (N) + assess (V)].

Adjectival Compounds

The elements that composed them are N+Adj and Adj+Adj. N+Adj means that the member of the compound was in the form of adjective. An example was in the word **nationwide**. The word can be broken down into two elements namely [Nation (N) + wide (Adj)]. The other one is Adj+Adj means that the member of the compound was in the form of adjective, which was found in the word **widespread** which can be written down as [wide (Adj) + spread (Adj)].

Another result is the semantic headedness of the compound that is endocentric compound and exocentric compound. Examples of endocentric words are **academic freedom**, which was a kind of freedom, freedom in academic matters; **prime minister** was a kind of minister; **higher education** was a kind of education, that was, education at a higher level. Meanwhile, an exocentric example was found in the word **under fire**, which was not a type of fire, but a condition in which a person was being subjected to intense criticism or judgment; **white paper**, which was not a type of paper but a document from a company, **government** or organization that offers a product, problem solution, or service that can be offered to the public; and **underway** which was not a kind of street but something that was being done.

The results were accumulated to obtain the final amount and percentage of nominal compounds, verbal compounds, adjectival compounds, as well as endocentric and exocentric compounds. The data is presented in the table below about the number and percentage of compound words found in the education issue of The Jakarta Post edition articles on April 2021.

Table 1. Compound Words Found in Education Issue of the Jakarta Post Edition on April 2021

Article	Total of Compound Words	Nominal Compound	Verbal Compound	Adjectival Compound	Endocentric Compound	Exocentric compound
1	99	98	0	1	95	4
2	69	68	0	1	68	1
3	102	99	1	2	99	3
4	42	41	0	1	41	1
5	77	74	1	2	77	0
6	63	63	0	0	62	1
7	21	21	0	0	21	0
8	66	65	0	1	62	4
9	46	46	0	0	46	0
10	81	81	0	0	81	0
Σ	666	656	2	8	652	14
Percentage	100%	98,50%	0,30%	1,20%	97,89%	2,11%

The compound words found totaled 666 words. According to the type of compound words, the nominal compound is 656 words, while the percentage is 98,5%. The verbal compound consists of 2 words, while the percentage is 0,3%. Adjectival compound consists of 8 words, while the percentage is 1,2%. From this it can be seen that the nominal compound dominates in the analyzed articles, while the adjectival compound is less, and the verbal compound is the

least. Meanwhile, according to the semantic headedness of compound words, the number of endocentric compounds is 650 words, the percentage is 97.60%. Exocentric compound there are 16 words, the percentage is 2.40%. From this it can be seen that endocentric compounds dominate far more than exocentric compounds.

Dominating endocentric compounds indicates that the newspaper uses language that is to the point and easy to digest, because most exocentric compounds are terms that require further researching to understand them. This compound word analysis can be useful for researcher to understand more about compounds and the difference between compound words and phrases. Apart from discussing compound words, the constituent elements are also discussed, namely whether they are roots, words (including compound words), or phrases. The word class of each word is also described, making it easier to find out what type of compound word is whether it is nominal, verbal, or adjective. The semantic headedness of the compound head or word on the far right can determine whether the compound is endocentric or exocentric.

CONCLUSIONS

Referring to the data analysis, some conclusions were found that answer the research problems. They are as follows: the types of compound words found consist of three types, namely: (1) nominal compounds of 656 words with processes N+N, Adj+N, V+N, and Prep+N, (2) verbal compounds of two words with processes V+V and N+V, (3) adjectival compounds of eight words with processes N+Adj and Adj+Adj. The semantic headedness of compound words is divided into two categories: endocentric compounds, which comprise 652 words, and exocentric compounds, which consist of 14 words. The percentages of compound types are 98.5% nominal compounds, 0.3% verbal compounds, and 1.2% adjectival compounds. Meanwhile, the percentages of the semantic headedness of compound words found are 97.89% endocentric compounds and 2.11% exocentric compounds.

Thus, The Jakarta Post uses nominal compounds more than verbal and adjectival compounds and employs endocentric compounds more than exocentric compounds. For future researchers, it is suggested to investigate compound words using various media other than newspapers or novels as research resources, such as speeches of important figures or TV news. This is intended to broaden the scope of this research so that new insights can be obtained about how word formation is present in life.

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