

INTERPRETATION OF COMPOUND WORDS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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Abstract. *This thesis examines the interpretation of compound words in English and Uzbek languages. Compound words represent one of the most productive methods of word formation in both languages. The study analyzes their structural, semantic, and functional characteristics, highlighting similarities and differences in the interpretation of compounds. Special attention is paid to semantic transparency, lexicalization, and cultural influences on compound formation. The research demonstrates that despite typological differences between English and Uzbek, compounding serves similar communicative and nominative functions.*

Key Words: *Compound words, compounding, word formation, morphology, semantics, interpretation, English language, Uzbek language, semantic transparency, lexicalization, compound nouns, compound adjectives, derivation, linguistic analysis.*

Introduction

Compounding is one of the most productive processes of word formation in many languages of the world. It involves the combination of two or more lexical stems to create a new lexical unit with a specific meaning. In both English and Uzbek, compound words play an important role in enriching vocabulary and expressing new concepts.

According to Lieber (2016), compounding is a morphological process in which two or more lexical elements are combined to form a single lexical item with a new semantic interpretation (Lieber, 2016, p. 92). Similarly, Bauer (2017) states that compounds are linguistic structures whose meanings may be predictable or partially independent from the meanings of their constituent elements (Bauer, 2017, p. 145).

The interpretation of compound words requires an understanding of both their structural composition and semantic relationships. While some compounds are transparent in meaning, others become idiomatic and require contextual interpretation.

Semantic Interpretation of Compound Words. The interpretation of compound words is based on the relationship between their components. In many cases, the meaning of a compound can be inferred from its constituent elements.

Examples in English include:

bookshop = a shop where books are sold;

classroom = a room used for classes;

sunflower = a flower resembling the sun.

Examples in Uzbek include:

temiryo‘l - (railway);

qo‘lsoat - (wristwatch);

belbog ‘ - (belt).

As noted by Akhmanova (2018), semantic interpretation depends on the degree of transparency between the compound's constituents and the resulting lexical meaning (Akhmanova, 2018, p. 76).

Compounds may be classified as:

1. Semantically transparent compounds

* English: bedroom, toothpaste

* Uzbek: oshxona, qo‘lqop

2. Semantically opaque compounds

* English: butterfly, blackmail

* Uzbek: oybolta, qizilmiya

In opaque compounds, the meaning cannot be fully derived from individual components and often requires historical or cultural knowledge.

Structural Characteristics of Compound Words

English compounds are generally formed through the combination of nouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs.

Pattern	English Example
Noun + Noun	classroom
Adjective + Noun	blackboard
Verb + Noun	pickpocket
Noun + Verb	haircut

Uzbek compounds are formed according to agglutinative principles and often reflect syntactic relations between components.

Pattern	Uzbek Example
Noun + Noun	temiryo‘l
Adjective + Noun	oqqush
Noun + Verb	otboqar
Numeral + Noun	bashbarmoq

According to Akhmedov (2019), Uzbek compounds preserve grammatical and semantic relations more explicitly than English compounds due to the agglutinative nature of the language (Akhmedov, 2019, p. 54).

Similarities between English and Uzbek Compound Words

N Similarities
1 Both languages use compounding as a productive word-formation process.
2 Compound words create new lexical meanings.
3 Both languages have semantically transparent and opaque compounds.
4 Compound nouns are the most common type.
5 Compounds contribute to vocabulary expansion and language development.

The existence of similar semantic mechanisms demonstrates that compounding is a universal linguistic phenomenon despite typological differences between languages.

Differences between English and Uzbek Compound Words

No English	Uzbek
1 Analytic language	Agglutinative language
2 Compounds often written as one word, hyphenated, or separately	Usually written as one lexical unit
3 Stress placement plays a role in interpretation	Stress is less significant
4 Greater flexibility in combining lexical categories	More regulated structural patterns
5 Many compounds become lexicalized quickly	Lexicalization occurs more gradually

These differences reflect the distinct morphological systems of the two languages.

Cultural and Contextual Interpretation

The interpretation of compound words is influenced by cultural and contextual factors. Many compounds encode concepts that are specific to a particular linguistic community.

For example:

English: greenhouse - refers to a structure used for growing plants.

Uzbek: beshbarmoq- refers to a traditional dish and reflects cultural practices.

As Acquaviva (2017) argues, the meaning of compounds is often shaped by cultural conventions and conceptual structures existing within a speech community (Acquaviva, 2017, p. 128).

Therefore, accurate interpretation requires not only linguistic knowledge but also familiarity with cultural and social contexts.



Conclusion

The study of compound words in English and Uzbek demonstrates that compounding is a productive and significant word-formation process in both languages. Although English and Uzbek belong to different language families and exhibit distinct morphological characteristics, they share many common features in the formation and interpretation of compounds.

The analysis reveals that semantic transparency, lexicalization, and contextual factors play crucial roles in determining compound meanings. Furthermore, similarities in compounding reflect universal cognitive mechanisms, while differences arise from language-specific grammatical structures and cultural influences.

Understanding the interpretation of compound words contributes to comparative linguistics, morphology, translation studies, and language teaching.

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