

## MOTIVATION IN COMPOUND WORDS

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### Abstract

This article is dedicated to compound words are words consisting of at least two stems which occur in the language as free forms. In a compound word the immediate constituents obtain integrity and structural cohesion that make them function in a sentence as a separate lexical unit.

**Keywords:** completely motivated, lexical meanings, compliment, determinant, motivation.

### Introduction

The structural cohesion and integrity of a compound may depend upon unity of stress, solid or hyphenated spelling, semantic unity, unity of morphological and syntactic functioning or, more often, upon the combined effect of several of these or similar phonetic, graphic, semantic, morphological or syntactic factors.

The integrity of a compound is manifested in its indivisibility, i.e. the impossibility of inserting another word or word group between its elements. If, for example, speaking about a “sunbeam” (English) кўкйўтал we can insert some other word between the article and the article and the noun, e.g. a bright sunbeam, a bright and unexpected sunbeam, because the article a is a separate word, no such insertion is possible between the stems sun & beam қора & кўл, for they are not words but morphemes.

In describing the structure of a compound one should examine three types of relations, namely the relation of the members to each other the relation of the whole to its members, and correlation with equivalent free phrases. [5,33]

Compound words are motivated through the individual lexical meanings of their components and the meaning of the structure. In motivated compound words the native speaker can see a connection between the lexical meanings of the stems and the meaning of the order and arrangement of components of the word. Motivation in compound words varies in degree. There are compounds which are completely motivated, i.e. the lexical meaning of these words is transparent

and is easily deduced from the lexical meanings of the stems and the meaning of their distributional formulas. Compound words like wind-driven, sky-blue, foot-step, foot-pump, door-handle, and bottle-opener may serve as examples of completely transparent or motivated compound words. Motivation in compound words may be partial, but again the degree will vary. Compound words like hand-bag, flowerbed, handcuff are all only partially motivated, but still the degree of transparency of their meanings is different: hand-bag, e.g., is essentially 'a bag designed to be carried in the hand', whereas handcuffs retain only a resemblance to cuffs and in fact are 'metal rings placed round the wrists of 3 prisoner'; a lower-bed is not 'a mattress or piece of furniture' as the lexical meaning of the second component suggests; but 'a piece<sup>1</sup> of ground where flowers grow'. Compound words with a smaller degree-of partial motivation may be illustrated" by the words: walkup—'a house without an elevator where one has to walk upstairs', cast-off—'discarded', castle-builder—'a day-dreamer, one who builds castle; in the air'.

There are compound words that lack motivation altogether, i.e. the native speaker does not see any obvious connection between the meaning of their structure and the individual meanings of the stems and consequently cannot deduce the lexical meaning of the word. Compound words like eye-wash - 'something said or done to deceive a person', fiddlesticks - 'nonsense rubbish', wall-flower—'a woman who remains. by the wall as a spectator at a dance, because not chosen as a partner', eye-servant—'a servant who attends faithfully to his duty only when watched', night-cap—'a drink taken before going to bed at night', dog-eared—'having the corners of the leaves turned down' all lack motivation and their lexical meanings cannot be deduced from the meanings of their components and the meaning of their structure. Lack of motivation in compound words may be often connected with the transferred usage of the denotational meanings of the components or of the whole word as in slow-coach—'a person who acts slowly', sweet-tooth—'one who likes sweet food and drink', wall-flower; the words consequently acquire a new co notational meaning not proper to either of their components. Lack of motivation is often due to the specialized and unexpected semantic relations embedded in the compound word as in, e.g., eye-servant, dog-days—'the hottest part of July and August'. [3, pp 58-63]

Sometimes the motivated and non-motivated meanings of the same word are felt as two homonymous words, e.g. night-cap 1) a cap worn in bed at night and 2) a



drink taken before going to bed at night; eye-wash 1) a liquid for washing the eyes and 2) something said or done to deceive a person; eye-opener 1) enlightening or surprising circumstance and 2) a drink of liquor.

### Semantic Classifications

Semantically compound words may be classified (1) according to the degree of motivation, and (2) according to the structural meaning of various distributional formulas described through the interrelation of the components.

1) According to the degree of motivation compound words are subdivided into (a) motivated or non-idiomatic, i.e. words marked either by complete or partial motivation which makes the meaning of the word transparent; (b) non-motivated or idiomatic, i.e. "words the lexical meanings of which cannot be inferred from the individual meanings of their components and the meaning of the distributional formula they are built after.

2) According to the structural meaning or the type of semantic relations between the components compound words may be classified into various groups as words based on the relations of: (a) agent and action, e.g. sunrise, earthquake, (b) object and action, e.g. warship, handshake, (c) the part and the whole, e.g. plum-tree, shirt-collar, eye-ball, etc., (d) the place and the action, or the doer, e.g. street-fighting, grass-hopper, garden-party, (e) the time and the action. e.g. day-flight, night-school, winter-sport, etc., (f) purpose, e.g. table-cloth, driving-suit, bird-cage, etc.

The analysis of the semantic relationship existing between the constituents of a compound presents many difficulties. Some authors have attempted a purely logical interpretation distinguishing copulative, existential, spatial and other connections. This scheme, however, failed to show the linguistic essence of compounds and was cumbersome and artificial. [2,95]

A mistake common with many authors is treating semantic connections within compounds in terms of syntactic relations. Marchand, for instance, when analyzing the type house – keeping, backbiting, housewarming, book – keeping, sightseeing, etc. Writes: "In most cases the first word is the object. A subject/predicate relation underlies earth quaking, cock – crowing, cock – fighting, sun burning .... The first word is the predicate compliment in well – being and short – coming."

N. G. Guterman very convincingly showed that such syntactic treatment should be avoided because syntactic ties are ties between words, whereas in dealing

with compounds one studies relations within a word, the relations between the morphemes, its significant constituents. These two series of relations belong to different levels of abstraction and should not be mixed. In the compound spacecraft space – is not an attribute to – craft. It cannot possess syntactic functions, being not a word but a stem, so it is more convenient to consider it a determinant restricting the meaning of the determinate by expressing the purpose for which – craft – is designed or the medium in which it will travel. Surely, one could combine these two points of view using a more careful Wording, and formulate it as follows: phrases correlated with compounds by means of transformational analysis may show objective, subject/predicate, attributive and adverbial relations. E.g. house – keeping: to keep house, well – being: to be well. In the majority of cases compounds manifest some restrictive relationship between the constituents; types of restrictions show great variety. [1,60]

Some examples of determinative compound nouns with restrictive qualitative relations are given below.

The list is not meant to be exhaustive and serves only to illustrate the manifold possibilities.

Purpose of functional relations underlies such compounds as bathrobe, raincoat, ёмфирпўш, classroom – синфхона, notice – board, and suitcase.

Different place or local relations are expressed in dockland, garden – party, sea – front. Comparison is the basis of blockhead, butter – fingers, floodlight, and goldfish. The material or elements the thing is made of is pointed out silver wear, tin – hat, clay – pipe. Temporal relations underlie such compounds as night – club, night – duty, summer – house and day – train. Sex – denoting compounds are rather numerous: she – dog, he – goat.

### **The List of Used Literature**

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