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PART 02

KAZGUU LIBERAL ARTS DIGEST

RESEARCH
PAPERS



USE OF COMPOUNDS IN SCIENTIFIC TEXTS

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Abstract: Compounds is one of the most popular word types in the English language and scientific style in particular. This article is dedicated to the problem of practical classification of compounds in the texts of scientific register. It focuses on four particular frameworks based on such criteria as part of speech, compliance of word semantics and constituent semantics, remainders of syntactic structure, intermediary segment and formation of constituents. The choice of the method used fell on the qualitative method of content frequencies analysis used for linguistic researches. With the help of this method, the most frequently found compound type found has been nominal, fully motivated, asyntactic, morphological compound. This pattern has been linked to such scientific style features as nominalization, semantic clarity, and concise character. Thus, compounds met appeared to reflect some distinctive peculiarities of scientific register, which has been implied from predominant types in classifications.

INTRODUCTION

The word-formation can be described as a part and a parcel of the natural expansion of language's lexis. In the English language one of the most productive and long-existing word-formation types is composition, which has led to the emergence of numerous compounds varying from everyday colloquial expressions to official terms common for formal style. Special attention should be paid to the domain of scientific and technological lexis, where compounds hugely contribute to the coinage of new terms and fulfil the augmenting language lacuna of this constantly developing sphere. Although the role of compounds for science is difficult to overlook, the prism through which they have already been scrutinized is mostly theoretical, and the problem of practical analysis is still left relatively unsolved. The number of works on practical classification of scientific compounds is limited, and few of them consider semantic and syntactic distributions. Apart from existing gap in knowledge, another reason to classify compounds of scientific register

is to put previously unapplied theoretical frameworks into practice to give direction for future researches in lexicology. This work is aimed to recognize compounds in the scientific article on the topic of chemistry, locate them into categories in line with four paradigms of classification both applied and unapplied previously, determine the prevailing types, and give the sufficient overview of the received findings. The method used for this aim is qualitative method of content frequencies analysis widely met in linguistics. The research begins with defining the notion of compound, its role and classificatory frameworks, and continues with the description of methodological procedures, presentation of findings and discussion.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Notion of Compound

The first and foremost phase to research scientific compounds is to comprehend what this term implies by looking at it from different perspectives and deriving workable term. To

avoid overgeneralization and inconsistency, compound should be signified regarding contrastive features between compounds and phrases, compounds and derivatives. The initial distinguishing markers are postulated by Bloomfield (1933), who partially singles out compounds from the domain of phrases, referring to their narrower semantic scope, pronunciation, and grammatical solidification. However, more intelligible indication is portrayed by Antrushina et al. (2001), who underlines the equivocation of phonetic criteria, inclines to formal orthographic solidity, and expands on the indissolubility of compounded constituents as one part of speech and sentence. As for the status of composited elements, both Bloomfield (1933) and Arnold (1986) highlight their hypothetical autonomy as notional and functional words unlike boundedness of affixes in derivation. Nevertheless, this supposition misses out on the massive cluster of bounded roots and stems, which rely on the conjunction with other morphemes but differ from affixes by means of their notional affiliation (Prčić, 2005). Thus, compound is a graphically, semantically, morphologically, and syntactically consolidated lexeme generated by the compilation of dependent notional, independent notional, and independent functional morphemes.

THE ROLE OF COMPOUNDS IN SCIENTIFIC STYLE

The understanding of compound, constructed around the stark contrast with neighboring classes, exhibits its linguistic ability to aggregate several semantic fields, compared to derivatives that just shadow prevailing meaning. Simultaneously with substantial prolificacy of compounding admitted by Antrushina et al. (2001), aforementioned feat gives an upper hand to compounds as a niche in exponentially augmenting and clear-cut lexis of science. In other words, as Galperin (1977) remarks, science incessantly faces the overriding necessity for brand-new phenomena to be encapsulated lexically, which could be

entirely fulfilled by effective and flexible composition. Furthermore, not only does compounding stamp lexemes, but it also condenses the meaning so that word units are both all-encompassing and clear to funnel through, as dictated by science (Shakhovskiy, 2008). This glaring compliance of compounds' nature and the paradigm of scientific register is also empirically manifested by Horsella and Pérez (1991), who report on the convergence between semantic load in chemistry discourse and accumulation of compounds. By and large, ascribed superiority of compounds as the most suitable lexical shape of scientific style is undeniable and underpinned by their quantitative predominance over remaining word formation, discerned by the analysis of Moskowich et al. (2006). Therefore, compound both conforms to some prescriptions of style and could incarnate its peculiarities.

CLASSIFICATIONAL FRAMEWORK OF COMPOUNDS

With a compound being a perfect fit for scientific lexis, its further correspondence to the style should be traced at more in-depth level of classifications, which foci vary from contemporaneous to separate perception of compound segments. The most holistic subdivision draws on the "part of speech" affinity of a compound with three feasible branches picturing "nouns", "adjectives", and "verbs" (Arnold, 1986, p. 122). Practically, approximate distribution in scientific texts is deployed by Koluh (2019); however, it mixes part of speech and origin criteria by displacing compounds with borrowed components into "neoclassical" (p. 44).

More elaborate division, collating contemporaneous semantic perception and separate semantic perception of composited elements, is presumed by Antrushina et al. (2001), who splits compounds into three levels according to the match of these perceptions (pp. 107-109). Moving further,

constituent-oriented classifications of compounds entailing separate perception of elements come to the forefront. An example of them is Bloomfield's (1933) ranks of compounds spanning from "syntactic", which segments are able to unfold freely in a sentence with no amendments, to "semi-syntactic" and "asyntactic" (p. 233). Another constituent-aimed framework is characterized by Antrushina et al. (2001), who ranges compounds from "neutral" that lack intermediary fragment between root-based ("simple"), affixed ("derivational") or shortened ("contracted") parts to "morphological" and "syntactic" with mediator in the guise of a letter or functional part of speech (pp. 104-106). Practically, constituent-focused tiers in scientific texts are used by Gnatchuk (2016), who pinpoints speech part of every compounded segment, but overlooks dependent notional morphemes that cannot be affiliated with any part of speech (p. 4).

Therefore, since preceding practical divisions of Koluh (2019) and Gnatchuk (2016) have shortcomings in application, the practical lacuna concerning classification of compounds in scientific discourse is quite unexplored. Particularly, four ascribed theoretical paradigms by Arnold (1986), Antrushina et al. (2001), and Bloomfield (1933) can be brought into practice by this research with subsequent insights into the results.

METHODOLOGY

Designating Compounds

To fulfil the practical gap of compound classification in scientific texts within four aforementioned frameworks, the method of qualitative frequencies content analysis mentioned by Robert (1989) is taken. The initial step applied is to settle on the material to scrutinize for data. With the help of ScienceDirect database, "Nanoparticles: Properties, Applications and Toxicities" article by Khan et al. (2017) from peer-reviewed Arabian Journal of Chemistry

has been discovered. Since its subject matter dwells on the chemistry discourse with meticulous account for reactive compartment of nanoparticles, the scientific directive of the language cannot be called into question. Respectively, this text matches with the requirement of scientific linguistic setting to be navigated for compounds. In its turn, the compounds for the distribution are picked out through continuous sampling with a prime criterial role of solid orthography and supportive criterial role of semantic-grammatical interdependence between compounded stems. Namely, the latter distinctive principle is resorted to in borderline cases when separateness in the writing of compounded roots does not imply separateness in meaning and inflection.

ALLOCATING COMPOUNDS

The follow-on categorizations of collected compounds is implemented with regard to part of speech as proposed by Arnold (1986), compliance of word semantics to constituent semantics as put forward by Antrushina et al. (2001), remainders of syntactic structure as suggested by Bloomfield (1933), and intermediary segment in conjunction with constituent formation as also provided by Antrushina et al. (2001). Additionally, such assisting tools as Merriem-Webster Dictionary and Online Etymology Dictionary are involved to verify speech part belonging of words and elaborate on semantic interpretation of roots for relevant allocation of compounds in two first classificational schemes. Finally, within the limits of each categorization compounds attached to each class are counted with successive report in numerical and percental forms. Also, succinct justification of compounds falling into particular category is demonstrated in findings on individual cases for all the classificational frameworks. Later on, the meticulous interpretation of findings is delivered at the discussion section.

FINDINGS

Part of Speech

To come up to findings, all the methodological steps have been successively applied. After the manipulatives from the first part of the methodology section, the total number of 107 compounds has been detected. When examined according to three classes of speech part prism, more than a half appeared to be nouns with insignificantly fewer number of adjectives, and no verbs as displayed in Table 1. The “nouns” can be epitomized by the concepts, such as “wear-resistance”, or concrete tangible objects, such as “seawater”. In its turn, adjectives are illustrated by mainly technical properties, including “high-temperature” and “cost-effective”. The full list with examples of nouns and adjectives can be looked through in Appendix A.

Compliance of Word Semantics and Constituent Semantics

As for the rungs of alignment between contemporaneous semantic perception of constituents in a compounded word and their separate semantic perceptions, the representative of the first, or the most semantically unvarying type, constitute roughly 90% of the sample. At the same time, two other levels comprise drastically fewer compounds as clearly seen in Table 2.

An illuminating instance of absolute semantic compliance from the text can be the compound “carbon-based”, the semantics of which is directly constructed from semantics of words “carbon” and “based” without any variation. The next Table 1

Part of Speech

Category	N	%
Nouns	55	51,4
Adjectives	52	48,6
Verbs	0	0,0
Total	107	100,0

intermediate level can be substantiated by “household”, whose definition lacks the wording of “house” and “hold”, but involves subliminally close categories of “family” and “stability” (Merriam-Webster, n. d.). The third level of virtual incompletion of semantics is illuminated by “cutting-edge”, which is defined without direct reliance on meanings of “cutting” or “edge”, but rather idiomatically associated with something new scraping through something unexplored (Merriam-Webster, n. d.). The exhaustive list of instances for each level is located in Appendix B.

REMAINDERS OF SYNTACTIC STRUCTURE

Concerning the extent to which the constituents of a compound could unfurl into grammatically acceptable element of a syntactic structure, only 8% of them can act as fully-fledged word combinations without any modification of word order or morphological structure and are characterized as “syntactic”. At the same time, the less popular type of compounds having around 7% from total is “semi-syntactic”, which comprises compounds with constituents unfolding into syntactically correct structures exclusively after some changes in inflectional affixes or word order. Ultimately, the most frequent class of “asyntactic” compounds, whose constituents cannot be transformed into syntactically acceptable elements, takes more than three fourth from overall (see Table 3).

The first “syntactic” class is illustrated by Table 2

Compliance of Word Semantics and Constituent Semantics

Level	N	%
1	96	89,7
2	9	8,4
3	2	1,9
Total	107	100,0

the adjective “large-scale”, which can be a normal word combination if the hyphen is removed. The intermediary “semi-syntactic” class could be represented by the adjective “energy-absorbing”, which can act as predicate “absorbing” plus object “energy” if the stems change their places. The illustrative instance of the last “asyntactic” class could be adjective “energy-based”, because even if the stems exchange their places the preposition “on” is necessary for the word combination to sound adequate. More cases can be found in Appendix C.

INTERMEDIARY SEGMENT AND FORMATION OF CONSTITUENTS

From the perspective of morphological paradigm, a bit more than a half of compounds is attached to the “morphological” category with the next “neutral simple” class lagging behind on more than 20%. Among the remained classes the most commonly occurred one is “neutral derivational”. As reflected in Table 4, the others together constitute less than 5%.

The majority of compounds with Latin stems can be the representative cases of “morphological” class, since the vowel “o” is internalized between the stems. For instance, in “lithography”, “o” consolidates two bounded roots “lith” and “graph”. The exemplary “neutral simple” compound is “fingerprint”, whose parts are tied in the absence of linking elements or affixes. The emblematic instance of “neutral

derivational” can be “high-resolution”, since the second stem contains noun-forming suffix “-tion”. The rare cases of “neutral contracted”, involving “Cu-based” and “Ni-based” are built up with the help of shortening the names of chemical elements, i.e. “Cuprum” and “Niccolum”. The only “syntactic” compound with the remnants of word combination, such as preposition “of” and article “the” is “state-of-the-art”. The remained instances are situated in Appendix D. Upon the whole, the leading positions among analyzed compounds are occupied by the morphological, semantically transparent, asyntactic compound nouns. Moving further, such a distribution will be commented upon in the discussion section.

DISCUSSION

Relatedness of Prevailing Compound Types to the Features of Scientific Register

As has been propped up in the review of literature, compound can be looked at as an especially suitable word-formation type for the lexis of science and the representative of some of its functions as well. Hence, the patterns of prevalence among particular compound types under examination through first three classificational prisms discerned in findings could be elucidated by some distinguishing features of scientific style.

First of all, the popularity of the compound nouns could be traced to the propensity of nominalizing articulated by Shakhovsky

Table 3

Remainders of Syntactic Structure

Category	N	%
Syntactic	9	8,4
Semi-syntactic	8	7,5
Asyntactic	90	84,1
Total	107	100,0

Table 4

Intermediary Segment and Formation of Constituents

Category	N	%
Neutral Simple	27	25,2
Neutral Derivational	22	20,6
Neutral Contracted	2	1,9
Morphological	55	51,4
Syntactic	1	0,9
Total	107	100,0

(2008). Namely, the lexis of science is occupied by the tendency to label the phenomena which the nouns are the best suited for. Therefore, the predominance of compound nouns goes along with the trend of scientific register to label newly-coined notions.

Moreover, the overt superiority of the 1st semantic class of compounds as defined by Antrushina et al. (2001) can be unequivocally linked to such a peculiarity of scientific style as semantic transparency. According to Galperin (1977), the concreteness, precision, and straightforwardness of meaning cannot be called into question in scientific discourse. Thus, the predominant non-idiomatic compounds suit the scientific principles of clarity and unambiguity.

Ultimately, the asyntactic compounds can be prevailing due to the focus on the semantically dense lexis rather than grammar relations in scientific register (Galperin, 1977). In other words, compressive character results in the numerous words with no traces of syntax between the constituents. Consequently, asyntactic compounds follow the tendency of scientific style to put emphasis on main lexical meaning. Upon the whole, the compounds that have been found in the text of science are emblematic of its primary stylistic characteristics.

ALTERNATIVE PERSPECTIVES ON CLASSIFICATION

The current analysis of the compound types that has been implemented is based on the classifications developed by different authors, in different time periods using different criteria. On the other hand, some alternative distributions are also possible since some of the frameworks fall short of covering all the cases. For instance, during the allocation of compounds in accordance with the last classification of Antrushina et al. (2001), the incongruities in the attachment of compounds with inflectional affixes either to the “neutral derivational” or “neutral simple”

were met. For this framework taking into account only compounds with derivational affixes or compounds with bare roots, the alternative perspectives are to be furthered by other researches.

CONCLUSION

To sum up, this research achieved stated goal of finding out the most frequently occurring type of compounds in scientific texts as well as shed a light on the feasible explanation of the patterns from the view of stylistic features. To implement it, several theoretical phases, including developing universal term, underlying the role of compounds in scientific register through analysis of previous works and stylistic treatises, and classificational choice, have been undertaken. After that, several methodological procedures such as singling out compounds and analyzing them through the lens of qualitative method of linguistic content frequencies analysis have been introduced. All in all, the most popular type appeared to be a morphological semantically motivated asyntactic compound noun, which has been subsequently lined up with such peculiarities of scientific style as nominalization, preciseness and compressive character in discussion. Consequently, it could be stated that compounds in scientific register possess distinguishing cornerstones of style, which becomes evident when observed through the classifications. In the long-term perspective, the idea of the link between idiosyncrasy of scientific style and the morphology of compounds that texts of this style comprise of is to be researched in more details. Chiefly, the findings of this research are to serve as exploratory basis for further investigatory attempts into the connections of stylistics, morphology, semasiology, and semiotics. Since this paper does not fully solve the problem of lacking knowledge with regard to compounds in scientific style but brings new vision on it, it is left to be resolved in the future researches. By and large, alongside with the issue of research lacuna, the

problem of incompleteness and practical utility of some frameworks has been indicated, and is expected to be addressed in the future through either advancement or substitution of them as well as their practical testing.

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