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**THE MAIN ASPECTS of English – Arabic
Compoundings : Comparative Study**

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Abstract

This study deals with the aspects of compounding in English and Arabic. It also includes some classification of compounds in English and Arabic . The study designs some compounding tests which are syntactic and semantic ones . A functional classification of compounding in Arabic is also provided . The study concludes that compounding is different from inflection and derivation in both languages . In addition , stress is an unreliable guide in identifying a compound word .

Introduction;

Linguistics has shown interest in word-formation because such a topic constitutes one of the major elements in a Language. Some scattered comments and works have been done on the subject of word-formation . There was also an attempt to provide a detailed description of Sanskrit word-formation (Bauer 1975: 2) .

In recent years , works on the subject have been revealing the linguist's interest in word-formation from various view points . As a result, there have been studies on the subject from the syntactic ,the semantic and the phonological point of view. Nowadays linguists have shown efforts in reflecting their interest in how word-formation reflects language behaviour in general.

This paper seeks to shed light on various aspects of "compounding" in English and Arabic. The focus in the present paper will be on the essential features of compounding in these two languages.

We hope that it will be of value to other students doing comparative linguistic studies. The paper falls into two sections.

The first section deals with the aspects of compounding in the English language with some examples.

The second section deals with the aspects of Arabic compounding with reference to some examples.

1- Compounding in English:

Although there is no one criterion to be used for a general definition of compounds in English as Quirk (1983,444) puts it, compounding can be defined as the process of adding two bases together to form a new lexical item. For example, when adding the bases "road" , "warning" , and "child" to bases "Lock", "light" , and "like" , we can have new elements : road lock , child like , warning light.

A compound word undergoes phonetic changes to the extent that it becomes different from the words of which it was made up. What generally takes the change is the unstressed element , e.g.

Break + fast----- breakfast.

Police + man-----policeman.

Paper + clip----- paperclip.

1.1 Compounding tests

There are two reliable tests for compounding:

1. Syntactic test:

Syntactically speaking , this test shows that compounding behaves as one unit , i.e. We cannot inset a word between the two elements of the compounding word , e.g.

* A black - ugly - bird. But a black ugly bird.

In Addition, we cannot modify the element of the compound, e.g.

* A very blackbird. But a very black bird.

2. Semantic Test:

This test shows that compounds have a specialization of meaning. i. e . a compound form means more than its parts . For example, the word "darkroom" does not mean "darkroom" but "a room in which photographs are developed". Another example is the word "madman" which is limited in meaning to "Lunatic", while "mad" can also have the meaning "enthusiastic", "angry". The word "madman" cannot be the same as words like "rather", "quite".

1-2 Classification of compounding:

From the structural point of view compounding can be classified as the following :

1. Endo centric compound: This expanded form can be subdivided into:
 - a. Endo centric subordinate: It comprises a head as the most important element of the structure plus a modifying element "modifier". Grammatically, the head functions as the compound as a whole, e.g.

Living room (room for living) (a kind of room)

Mill wheel (wheel for milling) (a kind of wheel)

b. Endo centric coordinate: It consists of two heads with no modifier ; each element can stand as a head, e.g.

Pathway (a path which is away)

Hose pipe (a hose which is a pipe)

(A pipe which is a hose)

2. Exocentric Compound :

In this type of compounding , each element has the same grammatical function as the compound. In this case , "exocentric compounds have no head at all". (Selkirk: 1983) e.g.

A goldsmith (a smith who works in gold)

A runaway (a person who runs away)

There is a special sub-class of this form known as the "bahuvrihi" type or" exocentric compound "where the feature of a person, an animal or a thing refers to the referent as a whole "Since the semantic head is unexpressed in such compounds, the compound is frequently seen as a metaphorical or synecdochic" (Bauer 1975: 30). Here are two examples: Egghead (an intellectual) (it is not a kind of head) Redcap (a kind of bird) (it is not a kind of cap).

There is a special type of compounding where some root morphemes have bound allomorphs, a non-distinctive variant of a morpheme (Hartman & Stock 1972: 10). But as roots, they form compounds when they combine with other roots. In English , the same root morphemes have special variant in (- O) / - a u / when they represent the first element of a compound, for example, Franco-German, Anglo-Indian, Politico - economic.

Only Latin and Greek elements are the first elements in compounds of this type. In the words Franco - British and Anglo-French, the first element can be considered as an objective. Thus, the element (- O) is considered as an adjectival suffix, one that can be equivalent to;

- ish " English "
- al " political "

2. Functional classification of compounds:

According to their function, compound can be classified into the following:

1. Noun - compounds: a Shift of stress is often used to define noun-compound. For example , instead of "raw hide" we say "rawhide" and so for "hardwood" , "wise crack" and "retaining wall" . But this is an unreliable criterion. "Some speakers vacillate, preferring to stress the second element in "chocolate cake" and the first in "Spice cake".

This type is sub-divided into the following:

- a. Endocentric - Single Noun Centre, e.g.
- Adjective pronoun Modifier + Noun Head as in Madman, blackbird, She wolf.
 - Noun Modifier + Noun Head as in: Snowball, folksong, picture book .
 - Verbal Modifier + Noun Head as in: Dancing, hangman, Watch do.

In this example, the (Noun) may name the performer of the verbal activity or the goal of the verbal activity.

- Adverb Modifier + Noun Head as in: Outside,
down train, inside.

b. Endocentric Coordinate Noun centre . Two possible types are:

- Equative, which is the common type as in: Girlfriend,
prince regent, pathway.

- Additive, which exists in geographical names like: Schleswig - Holstein.

c. Exocentric Noun Compounds: No centre in this type it may involve "a
modifier - head" as in:

- Adjective modifier + Noun Head, e.g.

Blackhead, bluebell.

- Noun modifier + Noun Head, e.g.

Butterfinger, egghead.

- Adverb modifier + Verb Head e.g.

Butterfinger, egghead.

- Adverb modifier + Verb Head e.g.

Income, outbreak

- Constructions without a clear head as in :

Pickpocket (verb Head + Noun object)

Household (Noun subject + verb)

Mouthful (noun object + objective)

Compound Adjectives : This type can lie divided into three groups:

a. Endocentric Single Adjective centre :

In this group, the adjective is the second position. The present and past participle as an adjectival form can be exemplified of this type.

- Man - made , home - made .

- Self denying, seagoing.

- high - born , ever-lasting .

b. Endocentric coordinate Adjective centre, e.g.
Anglo - Norman , bitter - sweet.

c. Exocentric Adjective compound centre .

In this group, the head is not the centre because it can not represent the entire compound. This group differs from the "bahuvirihī" in the fact that the former has the adjective or the adverb in the second position as in: Upside down, heartsick.

2. Verb compound

- Non modifier + Verb “House hunt, daycare.

- Adjective modifier + Verb Head : White wash , roughride .

- Participle Modifier + Verb Head: Over Head: Overstep , downgrade .

3. Compounding in Arabic:

In Arabic , compounds can be constructed by adding two independent Lexemes to form a new lexical element. Spelling is not a reliable guide to identify a compound . For example:

Qaws quzah قوس قزح (rainbow)

Aqwas quzah اقواس قزح (rainbows)

Qaws quzahy قوس قزحي (like a rainbow)

The word undergoes different forms, varying from singular, plural to adjective. Stress can be considered as a reliable guide in identifying compounds , e.g.

Mawsim 1- hasadi (harvest season)

Rafiu 1- mustawa (of a high rank)

In the two examples, the second element takes the primary stress. But in Sabaha masaa (morning and evening) both elements can take the primary stress.

Compounding in Arabic, as in English, involves a specialization in meaning, e.g. Rabi (spring) + Al umr (age)

The isolated words which form the compound refer to different meanings, but when they are combined, they form a new form with a different meaning.

4. Functional Classification of Compoundings.

All Arab grammarians almost agree that compounds in Arabic are classified into the following:

1. Compound Nouns which can be classified into five Forms:

a. Al-Muraab Al-Idaffy (a noun added to another noun)
e.g. Siyaju 1. Haqli (Farm's fence) (10 action)

hizamu 1. Amani (Safety belt) (purpose)

b. Al-Murakkab Al-mazjy (two nouns are juxtaposed)

Some Arab grammarians like " Abbas Hassan" relate this type to proper nouns like : Hadramawt حضرموت ; balabak بعلبك

c. Al-Murakkab Al-Isnady (a finite verb and a noun) Like : "Surra man ra " سر

تأبط شرا " ta'abbata Sarran" من رأى

d. Some forms which are loan translations are becoming more common in Arabic ,e.g.

Difda basary (Frogman)

e. A feature of the referent is signalled out to refer to the referent as a whole . Examples of this type are:

Abu, ibn , bint, umm , sahib

Faqiru 1. Hali (poor) Wasis 1. Sabri

(patient) Daifu 1. Basari (short sighted)

2. Two other phrase structure Rule Schemata one obvious exception to the theory of phrase structure presented so far is coordination . It is generally agreed that the node dominating conjoined Ss is an S that the node dominating conjoined NP, and So forth .

Ex. Ali laughed and Layla smiled.

5. Coordination of syntactic category .

5.1 Coordination

A compound sentence contains two or more clauses .

Ex: Her daughter was a teacher and her son was studying medicine .

Coordination is not the only possible constructional relation between clauses other than subordination's the clauses may be simply "juxtaposed". Thus, other kinds of compound sentence are illustrated in its parts, doesn't it? Where an interrogative tag is juxtaposed to a declarative. The more you look into it, the clearer it seems, the correlative comparative construction, and soon (Huddleston, 1988).

5.2 Basic Coordination.

We speak of her daughter was a teacher and her son was studying medicine as the - coordinated elements in the construction. They are coordinated here by means of "and", but in terms of constituent structure , the "and" belongs more closely with the second element.

Subordination involves inequality, a relation between a dependent (subordination element) and a head (the super-ordinated one). Because coordination elements are equal syntactic status, no functional labels are given to the immediate constituents of the coordination in.

Ex: The governor, the premier or the Mayor could open the Exhibition.

The subject position is filled by the Governor, the premier or the Mayor as a whole, but we do it assign functions within the coordination construction to the three NPs which are its immediate constituents.

The coordination construction has the following properties applying to the most central instances of it; not all properties will necessarily be found in every language:

1. Coordinator.
2. Reducibility to one element.
3. Order change.
4. Likeness of class and function.
5. Open - endless.
6. Range of occurrence.

5.3: Non - basic coordination

Non - basic coordination involves

1. Discontinuity
- 2 Bound ellipsis or
- 3-Restructuring

Discontinuity arises where the second coordinate element is brought forward to appear as interpolation within the first , instead of following it:

Ex: Kim and She's a disinterested witness - say he is innocent. Bound ellipsis contrasts with free ellipsis.

Ex: Liz ordered a martini and Bill a beer (Bound ellipsis)

Ex : Liz ordered a martini but Bill didn't.
(Free ellipsis)

Restructuring occurs in coordination , but it is also found in subordination with prepositions as whereas , while , although .

Ex: Joan has read, and Pat is planning to read, the complete works of Sarah Grand .

5.4: Coordinate structures

There are three types of coordinate structures:

1. Both Kim and Sandy .
2. Kim , Sandy and Lee .
3. Kim and Sandy and Lee .

In (1) we have two conjuncts , the first introduced and the second by and in (2) we have three conjuncts . In (2) the first two have no marking and the third are introduced by and , while in (3) the first has no marking and the second and third are introduced by and . In (2) further unmarked conjuncts could be added at the beginning, and in the (3) further marked conjuncts could be added at the end . If we assume that a coordination - introducing particle like both is specialized conjunction , we can say that these examples instantiate structures. (Borsley , 1996) .

6. Conclusion

Having dealt with compounding in English and Arabic, we can conclude

- In both languages, compounding is different from inflection and derivation since it does not involve affixes.

Compounding in both languages involves a specialization of meaning.

Compound verbs and adjectives whose left member is a verb does not exist in English and Arabic.

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الخلاصة

تتناول هذه الدراسة جوانب في المركبات في اللغتين الانكليزية والعربية و بعض التقسيمات للمركبات في الانكليزية والعربية ، لقد صممت هذه الدراسة بعض مقاييس نحوية ومعنوية للمركبات في اللغتين و تصنيف وظيفي للمركبات في العربية .
لقد توصلت هذه الدراسة إلى إن المركبات هي مختلفة في اللغتين من ناحية الاشتقاق والصرف.