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LINGUISTIC FEATURES OF COMPOUND WORDS IN TEACHING ENGLISH

Abstract: article discusses about linguistic features of compound words in teaching English.

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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. 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. Some compounds are made up of a determining and a determined part, which may be

called the determinant and the determinate group. Thus, a blackboard, томорқа is very different from a blackboard, том орқа (сида). Its essential feature is being a teaching aid → ховли атрофида экин экиладиган Майдон →: not every board of a black color is a blackboard.[1. 111]

A blackboard may be not a board at all but a piece of linoleum or some other suitable material. Its color is not necessarily black: it may be brown or something else. Thus, blackboard → a board which is black. A chatterbox – оташқалб is not a box, it is a person who talks a great deal without saying anything important: the combination is used only figuratively. The same metaphorical character is observed in the compound slowcoach хомсемиз. It is also idiomatic as it does not name a vehicle but a person who acts and thinks slowly. A fuss – pot is a person easily excited and nervous about trifles. Thus for the original motivation of the idiomatic compound could be easily recreated. The following examples illustrate idiomatic compounds where it is not so obvious: “blackleg”, “strike breaker”, “blackmail” getting money or some other profit from a person by threats bluestocking “a woman affecting literary tastes and learning”

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.

Compound words may be classified

- a) from the functional point of view;
- b) from the point of view of the way the components of the compound are linked together and
- c) from the point of view of different ways of composition.

a) Functionally compounds are viewed as words belonging to different parts of speech. The bulk of Modern English compounds belong to nouns and

adjectives: e.g. arm – chair, baby – sitter, boiling – point, knee – high, rain – driven, adverbs and connectives are represented by an insignificant number of words, e.g. indoors, within, outside and we may say that composition on the whole is not productive in adverbs and in connectives. It is of interest to note that composition in verbs in Modern English is not productive either. Verbs that are morphemically compound, such as to (goose) flesh, (to) weekend; prove to be words of second derivation on the word – formation level.[2.69]

b) from the point of view of the means by which the components are joined together compound words may be classified into: 1) words formed by mere placing one constituent after another in a definite order, e.g.: door – handle, rain – driven. This means of linking the components is typical of the greater part of Modern English compounds in all parts of speech.

2) compound words whose components are joined together with a linking element, as in speedometer Fro – Asian; compounds of this type are found both in nouns and in adjectives but present a small group of words considerable restricted by the nature of their components, The components of compound words of this type are mostly joined with the help of the linking vowel [ou] and occasionally the vowel. In both cases the first component often contains a bound root. E.g. Fro – Asian, Sino – Japanese, Anglo Saxon, tragicomic other examples of compound words of this type are electro – dynamic, handicraft, handiwork. This group is generally limited to the names of nationalities and scientific terms. The components of compound nouns may also be joined with the help of the linking consonant [slz] e.g. sportsman, tradesman, saleswoman, bridesmaid, statesman, landsman and etc. This is also a very small group of words restricted by the second component, which is, as a rule, one of the three stems man - , woman - , people - , and the commonest of them being man.

c) Compounds are also classified according to different ways of compounding. There are two ways of composition and accordingly we distinguish two types of compounds: those formed exclusively after a

composition pattern, the so called compounds and those formed by a simultaneous operation of two types of word – formation: composition and derivation, the so – called derivational compounds:

Compound words proper are formed by joining together stems of words already available in the language, with or without the help of special linking elements such as: door – step, age – long, baby – sitter, looking – glass, they constitute the bulk of English compounds in all parts of speech and include both productive and non – productive patterns.

In Uzbek the relationship between the components of compound words are different: They show:

1. Comparison: карнайгул, откулок туякуш, шерюрак, кўйкўз.

2. Relevance, purposed for something: гултувак (vase for flower), молкўра, оловкурак, токқайчи, қийматахта. In English washing – machine, blood – vessel (a tube through which bloods flows in the body).

3. Connection to some places: сувилон (a snake which lives in water), тоғолча, чўлялпиз, кўқонарава like in English zookeeper, postman, house keeper, head – dress, ear – ring. In German Hausfrau, Wesserballspiel, Unterseeboot.

4. The mark of something: аччиктош, олақарға, шўрданак, қизилиштон, Қизилтепа. In English long – legged, bluebell, slow – coach. Here are some examples of German: Dampfheizung, Arbeitskleidung.

5. Relationship to quantity: бешбармоқ, мингоёқ, қирқоғайни, Бешарик. This rule is also relevant to English compounds such as: three – cornered, fifteen – fold, six – fold, five – sided polygon. In German there are examples of this kind: Funfjahreplan.[3. 56]

Uzbek compound words are classified:

a) from the point of view of the way the components of the compound are linked together: хомкалла, кўксултон, искабтопар.

b) from the point of view of agreeing:

тўйбоши, китобсевар, дунёқараш.

C) from the point of view of relationship between subject and predicate: first elements of such kind compound will be predicate: гўшткуйди, келинтушди.

There are 6 types of compound words in Uzbek:

1. Compound nouns
2. Compound adjectives
3. Compound verbs
4. Compound pronouns
5. Compound adverbs
6. Compound number

Most frequently spread English compound words are:

1. Compound nouns
2. Compound adjectives
3. Compound adverbs
4. Compound verbs

German compound words are also divided into 4:

1. Compound nouns
2. Compound adjectives
3. Compound verbs
4. Compound numbers

a) Compound Nouns

Semantically, the relations between the components of a compound mirror the semantic relations between the member-words in correlated word-groups. The semantic relations established between the components, for example, in compound adjectives built after n+ved formula, e.g. duty-bound, snow-covered are circumscribed by the instrumental relations typical of the members of correlated word-groups of the type Ved + by /with+N regardless of the actual lexical meanings of the stems; compound adjectives of the (a+n)+ed pattern like long-legged, straight-backed mirror possessive relations found between words in correlated word-groups of the with+A+N type, e.g. with long legs, with a straight back; compound nouns built after the pattern n+(v+-er)—letter-writer,

bottle-opener, traffic-controller display agentive semantic relations typical of word-groups 'one who writes letters'; 'the thing that opens bottles' built after the general formula N that V+N.

Structural and semantic correlation by no means implies a one-to-one correspondence of each individual pattern of compound words to one word-group formula or pattern. For example the n+nv formula of compound nouns comprises different patterns such as [n+(v+-er)] rocket-flyer, bottle-opener, cover-shooter, [n+(v+-ing)] street-fighting, rocket-flying, cover-shooting; both patterns correlate in the final analysis with verbal-nominal word-groups of one formula—V+N or V+prp+N, e.g. to flyrockets, to fight in the streets, to shoot from a cover. However, the reverse relationship is not uncommon, e.g. one distributional formula of compound adjectives (n+a) in words like age-long, sky-high, colour blind corresponds to a variety of individual word-group patterns which differ in the grammatical and semantic relations between member-words expressed by the preposition, thus, compounds journey-tired, girl-shy, oil-rich, world-wide correspond to tired of journey (A+of+N), shy before girls (A+before+N); rich in oil (A+in+N); wide as the world (A+as+N). Nominal compound made up of two simple noun-stems (n+n) may serve, as another example of the semantic correlation between formulas of compound nouns with a variety of individual patterns of nominal word-groups. Compound nouns like doorstep, hand-bag, handcuffs incorporate manifold semantic relations found between member-words of various patterns of the general formula of word-groups N+prp+N. Nominal compounds appear to express freely in a concise form what can be expressed only in a more elaborate and complicated periphrastic way by word-groups. "It should be remembered that the semantic relations in some cases may be interpreted differently.[4. 24-26]

Even the few examples given as illustration lead us to the conclusion that the structure of compound words, as a rule, is more concise and of much wider semantic range than the structure of correlated word-groups due to the fact that

compound words do not require any elaborates way to express the relationship between their components except their order. Therefore compound words which establish regular correlative relations with word-groups are on the one hand motivated and on the other hand serve as patterns, or sets of structural and semantic rules guiding the spontaneous formation of new compound words. Consequently motivation and regular semantic and structural correlation between compound words and word-groups may be regarded as factors which are most conducive to high productivity of compound words. It is natural that formulas which do not establish such regular correlative" relations and which result in compound words characterized by lack or very low degree of motivation, must be regarded as unproductive, for example, compound nouns built after a+n formula, e. g. blackbird, bluebell, mad-doctor, etc., are marked by lack of motivation or high degree of idiomaticity, hence the formula a+n for compound nouns is unproductive for Modern English.

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