

Engl.236 — Introduction to Linguistics

Compounding — Case studies

July 2024

Word-formation

- Compounding:
 - Essentially, this refers to the creation of new items by combining two (or more) words/roots.
 - Noun-noun compounds:
 - Bookcase
 - Textbook
 - Wallpaper
 - Fingerprint
 - Breath test
 - Opera glass
 - Marble museum
 - Street seller

Word-formation

- Compounding:
 - Noun-noun compounds:
 - Note that the meaning of some noun-noun compounds can be inferred based on the meaning of the elements within:
 - Book case -> A case for books.
 - Wallpaper -> paper put on walls.
 - Breath test -> A test for breath.

Word-formation

- Compounding:
 - Noun-noun compounds:
 - However, computing the meaning is not always that straightforward:
 - A street seller is not someone who sells streets.
 - It refers to a person selling on the street.
 - A computer surgery is not a surgery for a computer.
 - It is a surgery used with a computer.
 - A Sunday driver is not someone who drives a Sunday.
 - It is someone who drives on Sundays.

Word-formation

- Compounding:
 - Adjective-noun compounds:
 - Greenhouse
 - Blackbird
 - Greybeard
 - Easy chair

Word-formation

- Compounding:
 - Adjective-noun compounds:
 - Here, too, the meaning can be not fully inferred based only on the meaning of the elements:
 - A greybread means someone with experience.
 - An easy chair is a type of chair, but the exact type can't be inferred based simply on the first element, "easy".
 - A greenhouse is not a house that is green, but a place where plants are grown.

Word-formation

- Compounding:
 - Noun-adjective:
 - Sugar-free
 - Blood-red
 - Knee-deep
 - Capital-intensive

Word-formation

- Compounding:
 - Adjective-adjective:
 - Red-blue
 - Icy-cold
 - Bittersweet (or bitter-sweet)
 - Public-private

Word-formation

- Compounding:
 - Verbal-compounds:
 - Proof-read (Noun-verb)
 - Deep-fry (Adjective-verb)
 - Stir-fry (Verb-verb)
 - Downgrade (Preposition-verb)

Word-formation

- Compounding:
 - Verbal-compounds:
 - For verbal compounds, some of them are better analyzed as the result of back-formation.
 - As in the case of proof-read and baby-sit.
 - Proof-read -> back-formed from proof-reader.
 - Baby-sit -> back-formed from baby-sitter.

Word-formation

- Compounding:
 - Verbal-compounds:
 - For verbal compounds, some of them are better analyzed as the result of back-formation.
 - The reason here has to do with the fact that you can't really create a noun-verb or adjective verb compounds in English:
 - Drive a car -> *cardrive
 - Move slowly -> *slow(ly)-move

Word-formation

- Compounding:
 - Before we discuss prepositional compounds, we'll discuss the notion of headedness:
 - Headedness in compounds refers to the notion that compounds usually have a more “important” element, the head of the compound.
 - Thus, the compound “film society” refers to a type of society.
 - A “laser printer” is a type of printer.
 - A “book cover” is a type of cover.

Word-formation

- Compounding:
 - Headedness:
 - “film society”
 - “laser printer”
 - “book cover”
 - For compounds, usually, the element on the right is the head.
 - It is the element whose category and semantics (meaning) determine the category and most of the meaning of the compound.
 - Since the heads of the compounds here are nouns, then the compounds themselves are nouns.

Word-formation

- Compounding:
 - Headedness:
 - “Red**neck**”
 - Head is a noun so compound is a noun
 - “Proof-**read**”
 - Head is a verb so compound is a verb
 - “pick**pocket**”
 - Head is a noun so compound is a noun
 - “Sugar-**free**”
 - Head is an adjective so compound is an adjective

Word-formation

- Compounding:
 - With headedness being discussed, observe the following “prepositional” compounds:
 - Year-in
 - Sun-up
 - Sleep-in
 - Tuned-in
 - Even though the right element here is a preposition, none of these compounds are actually prepositions.

Word-formation

- Compounding:
 - With headedness being discussed, observe the following “prepositional” compounds:
 - Year-in -> possibly adverb
 - Sun-up -> Noun
 - Sleep-in -> (phrasal) verb
 - Tuned-in -> Adjective

Case study

me	“I”	meni	“we”
ye	“you (singular)”	yeni	“you (plural)”
we	“he”	weni	“they (masculine)”
wa	“she”	wani	“they (feminine)”
abuma	“girl”	abumani	“girls”
adusa	“boy”	adusani	“boys”
abu	“child”	abuni	“children”
Paku	“one Paku”	Pakuni	“more than one Paku”

- The morpheme {-ni} is an inflectional morpheme that marks plural nouns.
- “me” -> “I”
- “Meni”: {me} + {-ni} -> “we”
- “adusa” -> “boy”
- “adusani”: {adusa} + {-ni} -> “boys”

Case study

nokali
nokalimes
mokali
ikali
nopelo

“my house”
“my houses”
“your house”
“his house”
“my dog”

mopelo
mopelomes
ikwahmili
nokwahmili
mokwahmili

“your dog”
“your dogs”
“his cornfield”
“my cornfield”
“your cornfield”

- “nokali” -> “my house”
- “nokalimes” -> “my houses”
- “mokali” -> “your house”
- “ikali” -> “his house”

- {kali} -> “house”
- “nokali”: {no-} + {kali} -> “my house”
- “nokalimes”: {no-} + {kali} + {-mes} -> “my houses”
- “mokali”: {mo-} + {kali} -> “your house”
- “ikali”: {I-} + {kali} -> “his house”

Case study

gledati	"to watch"	nazivaju	"they call"
diram	"I touch"	sviranje	"playing (noun)"
nazivanje	"calling (noun)"	gladujem	"I starve"
dirati	"to touch"	kupuju	"they buy"
kupovanje	"buying (noun)"	stanovati	"to live"
sviraju	"they play"	kupujem	"I buy"
gledam	"I watch"	diranje	"touching (noun)"
stanovanje	"living (noun)"	stanujem	"I live"
diraju	"they touch"	gladovanje	"starving (noun)"
nazivati	"to call"	stanuju	"they live"
kupovati	"to buy"	gledaju	"they watch"
gladuju	"they starve"	svirati	"to play"
gladovati	"to starve"	sviram	"I play"
gledanje	"watching (noun)"	nazivam	"I call"

Case study

	touch	starve	watch	buy	call	live	play
Infinitive	dirati	gladovati	gledati	kupovati	nazivati	stanovati	svirati
1 st , Sing.	diram	gladujem	gledam	kupujem	nazivam	stanujem	sviram
3 rd , Plur.	diraju	gladuju	gledaju	kupuju	nazivaju	stanuju	sviraju
Noun	diranje	gladovanje	gledanje	kupovanje	nazivanje	stanovanje	sviranje

Case study

	touch	starve	watch	buy	call	live	play
Infinitive	dirati	gladovati	gledati	kupovati	nazivati	stanovati	svirati

- We can hypothesize that the morpheme {-ati} marks the infinitive form of the verb.
- As such:
 - “dirati”: {dir} + {-ati} -> “to touch”
 - “gladovati”: {gladov} + {-ati} -> “to starve”
 - “nazivati”: {naziv} + {-ati} -> “to call”

	touch	starve	watch	buy	call	live	play
Infinitive	dirati	gladovati	gledati	kupovati	nazivati	stanovati	svirati
1 st , Sing.	diram	gladujem	gledam	kupujem	nazivam	stanujem	sviram

- Here, we have our first issue.
 - If the roots are “dir”, “gladov”, “kupov”, etc., then it seems that the 1st person singular morpheme changes the root.
 - For “dir”, “gled”, “naziv”, and “svir”, the root stays the same when adding the 1st person singular morpheme:
 - “diram”: {dir} + {-am} -> “I touch”
 - “gledam”: {gled} + {-am} -> “I watch”
 - “sviram”: {svir} + {-am} -> “I play”

	touch	starve	watch	buy	call	live	play
Infinitive	dirati	gladovati	gledati	kupovati	nazivati	stanovati	svirati
1 st , Sing.	diram	gladujem	gledam	kupujem	nazivam	stanujem	sviram

- Here, we have our first issue.
 - If the roots are “dir”, “gladov”, “kupov”, etc., then it seems that the 1st person singular morpheme changes the root.
 - For “gladujem”, “kupujem”, and “stanujem”, however, the inflectional pattern is different:
 - If the root ends in “ov”, then the root changes when adding the 1st person singular morpheme.
 - “gladov” becomes “gladuj”
 - “gladujem”: {gladuj} + {-em} -> “I starve”
 - “kupov” becomes “kupuj”
 - “kupujem”: {kupuj} + {-em} -> “I buy”
 - “stanov” becomes “stanuj”
 - “stanujem”: {stanuj} + {-em} -> “I live”

	touch	starve	watch	buy	call	live	play
Infinitive	dirati	gladovati	gledati	kupovati	nazivati	stanovati	svirati
1 st , Sing.	diram	gladujem	gledam	kupujem	nazivam	stanujem	sviram
3 rd , Plur.	diraju	gladuju	gledaju	kupuju	nazivaju	stanuju	sviraju

- For the 3rd person plural morpheme, the verbs not ending in “ov” give us no issue:
 - “diraju”: {dir} + {-aju} -> “They touch”
 - “gledaju”: {gled} + {-aju} -> “They watch”
 - “nazivaju”: {naziv} + {-aju} -> “They call”
 - “sviraju”: {svir} + {-aju} -> “They play”

	touch	starve	watch	buy	call	live	play
Infinitive	dirati	gladovati	gledati	kupovati	nazivati	stanovati	svirati
1 st , Sing.	diram	gladujem	gledam	kupujem	nazivam	stanujem	sviram
3 rd , Plur.	diraju	gladuju	gledaju	kupuju	nazivaju	stanuju	sviraju

- For the verbs ending in “ov”, it seems that the 3rd person plural morpheme induces a change in the root, like the 1st person singular morpheme. The morpheme also changes in form (realization — allomorphy): {-u}
- “gladuju”: {gladuj} + {-u} -> “They starve”
- “kupuju”: {kupuj} + {-u} -> “They buy”
- “stanuju”: {stanuj} + {-u} -> “They live”

	touch	starve	watch	buy	call	live	play
Infinitive	dirati	gladovati	gledati	kupovati	nazivati	stanovati	svirati
1 st , Sing.	diram	gladujem	gledam	kupujem	nazivam	stanujem	sviram
3 rd , Plur.	diraju	gladuju	gledaju	kupuju	nazivaju	stanuju	sviraju
Noun	diranje	gladovanje	gledanje	kupovanje	nazivanje	stanovanje	sviranje

- What about the noun-forming morpheme?
- What is the pattern here?

	touch	starve	watch	buy	call	live	play
Infinitive	dirati	gladovati	gledati	kupovati	nazivati	stanovati	svirati
1 st , Sing.	diram	gladujem	gledam	kupujem	nazivam	stanujem	sviram
3 rd , Plur.	diraju	gladuju	gledaju	kupuju	nazivaju	stanuju	sviraju
Noun	diranje	gladovanje	gledanje	kupovanje	nazivanje	stanovanje	sviranje

- “diranje”: {dir} + {-anje} -> “Touching”
- “gladovanje”: {gladov} + {-anje} -> “Starving”
- “gledanje”: {gled} + {-anje} -> “Watching”
- “kupovanje”: {kupov} + {-anje} -> “Buying”

	touch	starve	watch	buy	call	live	play
Infinitive	dirati	gladovati	gledati	kupovati	nazivati	stanovati	svirati
1 st , Sing.	diram	gladujem	gledam	kupujem	nazivam	stanujem	sviram
3 rd , Plur.	diraju	gladuju	gledaju	kupuju	nazivaju	stanuju	sviraju
Noun	diranje	gladovanje	gledanje	kupovanje	nazivanje	stanovanje	sviranje

- There is, however, an alternative analysis here — for the roots as well as the morphemes.
- Think about this alternative analysis for Monday's class.