

## COMPOUNDING AS WORD FORMATION PROCESS IN ENGLISH CONTRASTIVE WITH ALBANIAN



### Morphology

**Keywords:** word formation, compounding, English compound words, Albanian compound words, types of compound words, spelling, stress.

Shejma Nanovçe

MA candidate at the State University of Tetova, North Macedonia

### Abstract

The aim of this study was to scrutinize the formation of words according to the compounding process, by considering the similarities and differences between two languages. This contrastive research is focused on compounding as a word formation process from two different language perspectives: English and Albanian. We all know that words are meaningful units that have a function in spoken and written language. Related to the language usage, each human being has a mental lexicon which is “a person’s internalized knowledge of the properties of words” (Al-Dala`ien, Mudhsh, & Al-Takhayinh, 2015, p.1). But we also have a set of word formation rules which allows us to create new words and understand them. Compounding is the most usable word formation process after affixation in the perspective of Albanian and English language. When contrasting the compounding between two languages, there are visibly more similarities than differences. As a word formation process, compound words in written form are similarly structures, despite the combination of grammar functions. In written form two of the language have closed and hyphenated forms, whereas open form is the contrast part of the Albanian compounding compared with the English one. Also the numbers of hyphenated compound word in English are visibly higher than in Albanian language. Finally, mentioning the stress of the compound words, in English there are cases when the stress may occur at the beginning, middle, or at the end of the compound word, based on the combination of grammatical structures. However, in Albanian language stress of compound words occurs usually at the end. In a nutshell, this study reflects the similarities and differences of compounding as word formation process including structure, spelling, and stress, spoken, and written forms from the English and Albanian language perspectives.

## Introduction

### *Word Formation Rules*

We all know that words are meaningful units that have function in language. Generally, words have three senses: phonological, grammatical, and semantical. Phonological aspect describes the function of sounds in a particular word with each other. Whereas, grammatical aspect shows the grammatical function of the word related to other words into sentence. When talking about grammatical function we analyze whether the word is a noun, word, or any other grammar part. Finally, the semantical aspect is related to the meaning of the word in a sentence, without considering its context. Even though the word is considered to the small unit of the language, it can be further divided. The smallest unit of the language which cannot be further divided is called morpheme. There are two types of the morphemes: free and bound. Free morphemes are those who can stand on their own such as *pen*, *tree*, and *cherry*. On the other hand, morphemes that cannot stand alone are called bound morphemes such as *unwipe*, *cherrytrees*, *headbracelet*. Such complex words can be formed using inflection process where items are added to the base form of a word to express grammatical meaning such as the inflection *-s* at the end of the *cherrytree-s*, which turns the noun from singular to plural.

Despite the inflection, derivation is the process of creating completely new words on the basis of the existing word such as *un+happy+ness*, *un+wipe*, *re+pure+ify*. However, derivation is not the only way of forming new words, of course. Many languages included also English and Albanian, also form words that are composed of two or more bases, roots, or stems. This process is called compounding.

## Compounding

Wibowo (2014) stated that compound words consists of addition of stems where two independent words are combined to form a single, meaningful word. In Albanian morphology, compounding is the most used word formation process after affixation. While affixation is the process of adding prefixes and suffixes to the basis in order to create new words with different meanings, compound words consist of two or more independent words that have meaning on their own.

### Compound Nouns, Adjectives, and Adverbs

E.g.

#### English Compound Nouns

*police + man* → *policeman*  
*girl + friend* → *girlfriend*  
*bed + room* → *bedroom*

#### Albanian Compound Nouns

*kombë + shkrim* → *kombëshkrim*  
*vdekje + lindje* → *vdekjelindje*  
*ujë + bore* → *ujëborë*

#### English Compound Adjectives

*terribly + hot* → *terribly hot*  
*extremely + fast* → *extremely fast*  
*icy + cold* → *icy cold*

#### Albanian Compound Adjectives

*ekonomik + shoqëror* → *ekonomiko-shoqëror*  
*elektro + magnetik* → *elektromagnetik*  
*teknik + shkencor* → *tekniko-shkencor*

#### English Compound Adverbs

*there + after* → *thereafter*  
*some + times* → *sometimes*  
*very + well* → *very well*

#### Albanian Compound Adverbs

*kurdo + here* → *kurdoherë*  
*gjithë + sesi* → *gjithësesi*  
*aty + këtu* → *atykëtu*

#### English Noun + Adjective

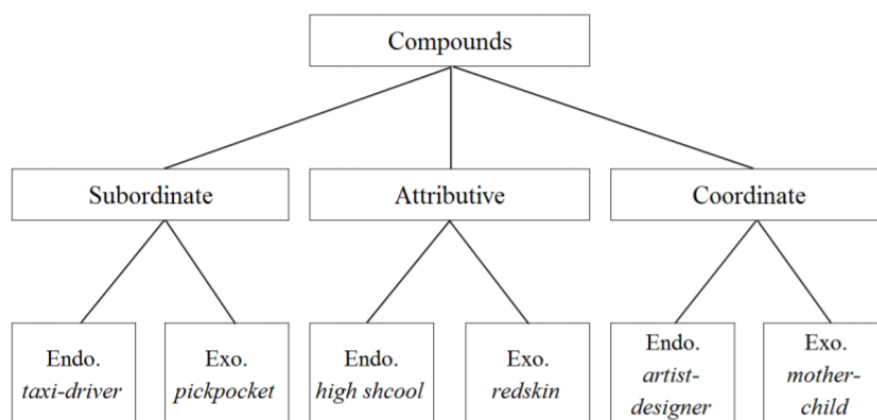
*sky + blue* → *Sky blue*  
*cherry + red* → *Cherry red*  
*rock + hard* → *Rock hard*

#### Albanian

*brenjë + madh* → *Brenjëmadh*  
*bel + hollë* → *Belhollë*  
*fat + bardhë* → *Fatbardhë*

**Noun + Verb English***rain + fall → rainfall**hair + cut → haircut**train + spotting → train spotting***Albanian***gojë + prishur → gojëprishur**zemër + thyer → zemërthyer**kokë + prerë → kokëprerë***Noun + Adverb English***hanger + on → hanger on**passer + by → passer by***Albanian***hundë + përpjetë → hundëpërpjetë**kokë + jashtë → kokëjashtë***Verb + Noun English***on + looker → onlooker**by + stander → bystander***Albanian***keq + dashës → keqdashës**larg + pamës → largpamës***Types of Compound Words**

According to the different grammatical relation between the constituents of the compound words, Bisetto and Scalise (2005) proposed three types of compound words: subordinate, attributive and coordinate compound words. Each type may be endocentric or exocentric.



According to Shen (2015) attributive compounds express a modifier relation between the head and the non-head, in which one element stands in a relation of attribute or modifier to another. However two other types of the compound types in English are similar to the Albanian language. From English and Albanian morphological perspectives, compound words, based on the semantic and grammatical relationships holding between the elements that make them up, are divided into two groups: coordinative and subordinative compounds. In coordinative compounds the first element of the compound does not modify the second, but two of them have the same weight. Whereas, in subordinative compounds one element is interpreted as the argument of the other, in most of the cases as its object.

**E.g.:**

**1. English**

*Actor-director*

<i>Coordinative compounds</i>	→	<i>player- coach</i>
	→	<i>jazz-rock</i>
	→	<i>truck driver</i>
<i>Subordinative compounds</i>	→	<i>hand mixer</i>
	→	<i>cost containment</i>

**2. Albanian**

*Vajtje-ardhje*

<i>Coordinative compounds</i>	→	<i>ngarkim-shkarkim</i>
	→	<i>hyrje-dalje</i>
	→	<i>kryeqytet</i>
<i>Subordinative compounds</i>	→	<i>vetëdije</i>
	→	<i>pikëpamje</i>

Despite the coordinative and subordinative compound words, acronyms and initialisms are noteworthy categories from the perspectives of both languages. Related to word formation process, “an acronym is formed by combining the first letters or several words and pronouncing the result as a word (Mirabela& Ariana, 2009, p.558). However, in Albanian most of the acronyms are formed with the combination of the first syllables of the words. Whereas, in English, most of the acronyms are formed by the combination of the first letters. In most of the cases acronyms are confused with the abbreviations. The main differences between abbreviations and acronyms it that abbreviations are shortened versions of the words, whereas acronyms include initials of the words to create a new word.

**E.g.:**

**1. English**

*NASA – National Aeronautics and Space Administration*

*AIDS – Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome*

*DUMPS – The Durham Market Place*

**2. Albanian**

*MAPO – Magazinë popullore*

*PROFARMA – Prodhime farmaceutike*

*KONARE – Komiteti Nacional Revolucionar*

Initialisms are similar to acronyms in a sense of first letter composition, but unlike acronyms, they are pronounced as series of letters instead of a word (Lieber, 2009). In Albanian morphology, initialism has three sub-categories: letter, sound, and mixed initialisms.

Letter initialisms are formed from the combination of the first letters of the words to form an initial. Sound initialisms on the other hand, are formed by the combination of initial sounds of two or more words to form an initial. Finally, mixed initialisms are the combination of letter-sound and/ or sound-letter initialisms.

**E.g.:**

**1. English**

*NCAA – National College Atlantic Association*

*FBI – Federal Bureau of Investigation*

*PR – Public Relations*

**2. Albanian**

*ATSH – Agjencia telegrafike shqiptare*

*TVSH – Tatimi mbi vlerën e shtuar*

*PVC – Polivinil Kloruri*

**Spelling of the compound words**

Compound words are reflected in the morphology of languages in two forms: written and spoken. In the first part of this study, the written forms of the compound words are analyzed through examples. In this section, the study will focus on the forms of the compound words based on spelling. As far as considering spelling, compound words are divided into three forms: open, hyphenated, and closed compounds. Open compound words put two words together to create a meaningful weird but uses a space to separate them such as high school, middle class, mother tongue, etc. On the other hand closed compound words are those that do not include spaces in between.

**E.g.:**

<i>English</i>	<i>popcorn, basketball, horseshoe, grandmother, keyboard, blackboard</i>
<i>Albanian</i>	<i>kallaballëk, nafakbardhë, kryelidhur, zemërgur, jetëprerë, gjysmëvertja</i>

In addition of the open and closed compound words, hyphenated form is also a noteworthy category in which words place a hyphen between the two words. However, in Albanian morphology hyphenated compound words do not cover a large space compared to closed and open forms. Out of 5394 existed Albanian words, only 49 of them are hyphenated (Sherko, Shumeli & Mine, 2014).

**E.g.:**

<i>English</i>	<i>time-saving, descision-making, washer-drier, well-head, full-length, part-time</i>
<i>Albanian</i>	<i>vajtje-ardhje, cingra-mingra, besa- besë, postë-telegraf, dhomë-muze, bar-kafe</i>

### Compound Words Stress

As mention above, compound words are words composed by the combination of two independent words. Also the word formation and spelling processes are analyzed through examples comparing Albanian and English perspectives. In addition, this study covered the three different forms of the compound words: open, hyphenated, and closed. This section will specifically focus on the stress of the compound words related to these three forms. According to Alimemaj (2014) because of their phonological functions, stress and intonation are two important essentials related to English punctuation. We know that compound words can be written as a single word. As far as stress is concerned, the most familiar type of compounds, compound nouns are known to have the stress on the first element as in:

**E.g.:**

*`Typewriter*  
**English** → *`sunrise*  
 → *`suitcase*  
 → *`teacup*

Based on the examples, it is possible to assume that stress will normally fall in this way on other compound words, too. However, a number of compound words receive stress instead on the second element. This phenomenon happens when we have adjectival first element and the – edmorpheme at the end as in, when the first element is a number, and when the compound word functions as adverb.

**E.g.:**

*bad – `tempered*                      *North – `East*                      *down – `grade*  
*half – `timbered*                        *head – `first*                        *down – `stream*  
*heavy – `handed*                        *back – `pedal*                        *second – `class*

While English is a stress-timed language possessing a speech rhythm in which the stressed syllables recur at equal intervals of time, in Albanian the main stress falls on the last word of a phrase, on the last stem of a compound word, and on the last syllable of a polysyllabic word.

**E.g.:**

*mjekërbardhë`*  
*zemërgur`*

**Albanian**    →    *gjuhëshpatë`*  
                  →    *Zemërgjerë`*  
                  →    *fatbardhë`*

## **Conclusion**

Compounding is one the most used word formation processes where differently from the affixation, as the most used word formation process; it deals with the combination of the independent words that create a single meaningful word. In Albanian language the compound words usually are created by two or more mining words. It is similar to English, ‘ but in this language the phrase has function of the compound such as traffic light, credit card, alarm clock, dining room, movie star’ (Millaku 2017, p.126). In this case, each of the phrases has the function of the compound word, which is not common in Albanian language. When analyzing the grammatical structure of compound forms and their forms, three different forms such as closed, open, and hyphenated are acceptable in English language. Whereas, in Albanian language open forms are showing lack of usage. On the other hand, the hyphenated form is visibly less usable compared to the English language. When analyzing the grammatical structure, through examples the compound nouns, adjectives, and adverbs were contrasted. In addition noun+ verb, noun + adjective, noun + adverb forms are also reflected. In this aspect, these two language show similarities when creating compound words. However, the main difference occurred when analyzing the stress of the compound words between the English and Albanian language.

While in English language stress may occur at the beginning, middle, and at the end of the compound words depending on noun + noun, adjective + number, or adverbial compounds, in Albanian language the stress occurs usually at the end of the compound words.

To sum up, compounding is a common word formation process in both languages: English and Albanian. Even though they show similarities in some aspects related to the written form and grammatical structure, the differences in form are visible. In a spoken form, the stress of the compound words is one of the points that distincts the English compounding from the Albanian one.

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