

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH AND UZBEK COMPOUND WORDS

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to compare and analyze compound words in English and Uzbek by examining their structural, morphological, and semantic features. It explores the patterns of word formation in both languages and identifies key similarities and differences. The research highlights how compound words function within each linguistic system, contributing to a better understanding of their usage and classification.

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Recognizing a scenario where the fusion of words into a compound word leads to confusion, ambiguity, or the possibility of misinterpretation due to the new meaning created by the combination, especially when the individual words in the compound have various interpretations or can be understood differently based on the context. This paper focuses on the comparative study of compound words, highlighting the structural, semantic, and cultural differences in compound lexical formation between English and Uzbek, two linguistically distinct languages.

Utilizing a combination of methods, compound words from both languages were examined to recognize patterns in morphology, usage, and cultural influences.

Results revealed that English predominantly employs closed compounds (e.g., hotdog), while Uzbek relies on agglutinative open compounds (e.g., chet tili [foreign language]). The discussion highlights how grammatical structures and ethnic values shape compounding strategies, offering insights for language learners and typological research. By comprehending these distinctions and parallels between Uzbek and English compounding methods, linguists can gain a better understanding of the cognitive mechanisms that underlie

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language usage and development.

English is a Germanic language with a rich history of borrowing and adapting words from other languages. Compound words in English are typically formed by combining two or more words to create a new word with a specific meaning. These compounds can be classified into three main types: open compounds (e.g., “ice cream”), hyphenated compounds (e.g., “mother-in-law”), and closed compounds (e.g., “notebook”). The formation of compound words in English is highly productive, allowing for the creation of new words as needed.

Uzbek, a Turkic language spoken primarily in Uzbekistan, also employs compound words extensively. However, the structure and formation of these compounds differ significantly from those in English. Uzbek compound words are often formed by combining nouns, adjectives, or verbs, and they are typically written as single words without spaces or hyphens. For example, “kitobxon” (book + reader) means “reader” or “book lover.” The formation of compound words in Uzbek is deeply rooted in the agglutinative nature of the language, where suffixes and prefixes are added to root words to modify their meaning.

In order to generate a single word or phrase that may be used as an independent term, two or more words are combined to form compound words. Nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and even prepositions like throughout, outdoors, within, and without may all be employed in a particular manner. A compound word's meaning is distinct and frequently not identical as the meanings of the separate words that compose it up. The compound term “headquartered”, for example, is made up of the words “head” and “quartered”, but it has a meaning that is entirely its own.

Compound words are categorized into three types based on how the words are joined: open compound words, closed compound words, and hyphenated compound words.

Open compound words

Open compounds are made up of least two or more words that have spaces in between the words, which can make them hard to identify. However, regardless of their appearance, open compound words always act like single words. They always look together in the same order, and they each have their own unique meanings.

Oliy sud	High court	Waiting room	Kutish xonasi
Kitob do'koni	Bookshop	Role model	O'rnak bo'ladigan shaxs
Yo'l harakati	Traffic	Full moon	To'lin oy
Musiqa festivali	Music festival	Baby sitter	Enaga
Elektr toki	Electric current	Post office	Pochta bo'limi
Temir yo'l	Railway	Living room	Mehmonxona
Sport zali	Gym	Air condition	Havo konditsioneri
Havo shari	Hot air balloon	Peanut butter	Yeryong'oq pastasi
Savdo rastasi	Market stall	Sleeping bag	Uyqu qopi
Matbuot xizmati	Press service	Traffic light	Yo'l chirog'i

Typically, only the final word in open compound nouns in the group takes the plural form, not

all the words.

They stuffed themselves with ices creams.

They stuffed themselves with **ice creams**.

When compound words are written separately and function as verbs, they are often referred to as phrasal verbs. Phrasal verbs follow specific guidelines, but typically, only one word in the phrase is conjugated, while the remaining words stay in their original form.

Our apple tree fell downed in the storm.

Our apple tree fall downed in the storm.

Our apple tree **fell down** in the storm.

Closed compound words

A closed compound word is a term created by merging two or more words together without any spaces or hyphens, resulting in a singular, cohesive word. These terms act as one grammatical element and frequently develop over time from distinct words into a unified word [1]

Qizilishton	Woodpecker	Airline	Havo yo'li
Ko'zoynak	Glasses	Armpit	Qo'ltiq
Tog'olcha	Mountain cherry	Backbone	Umurtqa
Qo'lqop	Gloves	Sunroof	Tom iyuki
Boshqotirma	Puzzle	Cowboy	Kovboy
Kitobxona	Library	Deadline	Muddatning tugash vaqti
To'rtburchak	Rectangle	Download	Yuklab olmoq
Quyoshbotar	Sunset	Fingernail	Qo'l tirnog'i
Qo'shoyoq	Tripod	Upload	Yuklamoq
Qo'ziqorin	Mushroom	Jellyfish	Meduza

Hyphena compound words

A hyphenated compound word is a combination of two or more words joined together by a hyphen (-) to create a single concept or modify a noun. Hyphenated compound words are commonly used in English to clarify meaning, avoid ambiguity, or adhere to grammatical rules. [2] Below are some examples and explanations of hyphenated compound words, along with references for further reading:

Ko'z-ko'z qilmoq	Boast	Check-in	Ro'yxatdan o'tish
Lom-mim	Nothing	Well-being	Farovonlik
Qo'shib-chatish	Exaggeration	High-quality	Yuqori sifat
Bordi-keldi	Relation	Long-term	Uzoq muddatli
Dedi-dedi	Gossip	Ex-president	Sobiq prezident
Mosh-guruch	Blend	Co-worker	Hamkasb
Oldi-sotti	Trade	Self-confidence	O'ziga ishonch
Yugur-yugur	Chore	Mother-in-law	Qaynona
Uzl-kesl	Completely	Editor-in-chief	Bosh muharrir

When “high” or “low” (or other adjectives) combine with another word to form a compound adjective that directly modifies a noun, a hyphen (-) should be used to connect them in English.

Low flying airplanes contribute to noise pollution.

(In this sentence, “low” functions independently, which may lead to ambiguity.)

Low-flying airplanes contribute to noise pollution.

(Here, “low-flying” operates as a unified descriptive term, clearly indicating the manner in which the airplanes fly.)

In hyphenated compound words, the plural suffix is added to the main noun if the compound contains a noun (Editors-in-chief). If there is no noun, the plural suffix is added to the end of the word (Forget-me-nots).

In the Uzbek language, hyphenated compound words are predominantly formed through pairing (do'st-dushman) or reduplication (yugur-yugur). The plural suffix is consistently affixed to the final element of the compound structure (dedi-dedilar). English (an Indo-European language) and Uzbek (a Turkic language) utilize compounding differently due to their grammatical structures: English is analytic, while Uzbek is agglutinative. Despite their prevalence, cross-linguistic comparisons of compounding in these languages remain limited. The study adopts a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative analyses to investigate compound words in English and Uzbek. The research aims to explore the morphological structure, semantic themes, and cultural-linguistic differences in compound words across the two languages.

1. English Data:

125 compound words were extracted from the “Oxford English Dictionary” and academic texts. Words were classified into three types: closed compounds, open compounds, hyphenated compounds and also grouped into categories such as nature, technology, family,

and others.

2. Uzbek Data:

125 compound words were collected from the “National Encyclopedia of Uzbekistan” and modern Uzbek literature. The same classification system (closed, open, hyphenated) was applied. Words were grouped into culturally relevant categories, such as traditional practices, nature, and social relationships.

The study uses Lieber’s (2005) taxonomy of compounding to analyze the structure of compound words. This framework examines how roots, stems, and affixes combine to form compounds, providing insights into the morphological rules of each language.[1]

Wierzbicka’s (1996) cross-linguistic principles are applied to identify cultural nuances in compound words.[2] This approach highlights how language reflects cultural concepts, values, and worldviews, particularly in Uzbek compounds.

With only 125 compounds per language, the findings may not fully capture the diversity of compound word usage in English and Uzbek. Differences between the two language: English compounds tend to favor closed forms (e.g., “sunflower”), while Uzbek compounds often use open or hyphenated forms (e.g., “erta-indin” for “some day”) and frequently incorporate culturally specific roots, reflecting traditional values and practices.

English compounds are heavily represented in technology and science-related categories. Uzbek compounds often reflect themes related to nature, family, and traditional customs. Uzbek compounds reveal a strong connection to cultural heritage, with many words rooted in historical or traditional contexts.

English compounds, by contrast, often reflect modern, globalized concepts.

Quantitative Findings:

Compound Type	English(%)	Uzbek(%)
Closed words (anybody,oshxona[kitchen])	68%	12%
Open words (Post office, har kun [every day])	22%	73%
Hyphenated words (mother-in-law, do’stu-dushman [friend and enemy])	10%	15%

In English, the head of a compound word is usually the second element, while the first element acts as the modifier. For example, in the compound “sunflower,” “flower” is the head, and “sun” is the modifier. This structure is consistent across many English compounds, making it relatively easy to predict the meaning of new compounds.

In Uzbek, the head-modifier relationship is also present, but the structure can be more flexible due to the agglutinative nature of the language. For example, in the compound “kitobxon” (book + reader), “xon” (reader) is the head, and “kitob” (book) is the modifier. However, Uzbek compounds can also involve more complex morphological processes, such as the addition of suffixes to indicate possession, plurality, or case.

3. Morphological Analysis of Compound Words

English compound words are primarily formed through the combination of free morphemes (words that can stand alone). The morphological process is relatively straightforward, with minimal changes to the individual components. For example, in the compound “blackboard,” both “black” and “board” retain their original forms. However, some compounds may undergo phonological changes, such as stress shift (e.g., “greenhouse” vs. “green house”).

Uzbek compound words, on the other hand, often involve bound morphemes (affixes that cannot stand alone). The agglutinative nature of Uzbek allows for the addition of multiple suffixes to a root word, resulting in more complex compounds. For example, the compound “o'qituvchi” (teacher) is formed by combining “o'qi” (read) with the suffix “-tuvchi” (one who does). This morphological richness allows Uzbek to create highly specific compound words that convey nuanced meanings.

Syntactic Analysis of Compound Words

In English, the syntactic relationship between the components of a compound word is often straightforward. The modifier typically precedes the head, and the compound functions as a single lexical unit. For example, in the compound “toothpaste,” “tooth” modifies “paste,” and the entire compound functions as a noun. English compounds can also function as different parts of speech, such as adjectives (e.g., “heartwarming”) or verbs (e.g., “babysit”).

In Uzbek, the syntactic relationship between the components of a compound word can be more complex due to the language's agglutinative nature. The head-modifier relationship is still present, but the addition of suffixes can alter the syntactic function of the compound. For example, the compound “yozuvchi” (writer) is formed by combining “yoz” (write) with the suffix “-uvchi” (one who does). The resulting compound functions as a noun, but the addition of case suffixes can change its syntactic role in a sentence (e.g., “yozuvchiga” means “to the writer”).

Semantic Analysis of Compound Words

The meaning of English compound words is often transparent, with the combined meaning of the components being relatively easy to deduce. For example, “sunflower” clearly refers to a flower that resembles the sun. However, some English compounds have opaque meanings that are not immediately obvious from their components (e.g., “butterfly” does not literally mean a fly made of butter).

In Uzbek, the meaning of compound words can also be transparent, but the agglutinative nature of the language allows for more nuanced and specific meanings. For example, the compound “qo'lyozma” (manuscript) is formed by combining “qo'l” (hand) with “yozma” (writing), literally meaning “handwriting.” However, the compound has taken on a more specific meaning over time, referring to a written document or manuscript. This semantic shift is common in Uzbek compounds, where the combined meaning of the components can evolve to represent more specialized concepts.

Cultural and Linguistic Implications

The formation and usage of compound words in both English and Uzbek are influenced by cultural factors. In English, the flexibility and productivity of compound word formation

reflect the language's history of borrowing and adaptation. English speakers often create new compounds to describe emerging technologies, social phenomena, and cultural trends (e.g., "smartphone," "selfie").

In Uzbek, the use of compound words is deeply tied to the language's agglutinative structure and the cultural context of Uzbekistan. Many Uzbek compounds reflect the country's agricultural heritage, social structures, and traditional values. For example, the compound "o'zbekistonlik" (Uzbekistani) is formed by combining "O'zbekiston" (Uzbekistan) with the suffix "-lik" (denoting belonging), reflecting a sense of national identity and pride.

The comparative analysis of English and Uzbek compound words within the Imrad structure reveals important linguistic differences and similarities. English compounds tend to be more straightforward in terms of morphology and syntax, reflecting the language's analytical nature. Uzbek compounds, on the other hand, are more complex due to the language's agglutinative structure, allowing for greater morphological and syntactic flexibility.

These differences have implications for language learning and translation. English speakers learning Uzbek may struggle with the complexity of Uzbek compounds, particularly the use of suffixes to modify meaning and function. Conversely, Uzbek speakers learning English may find the relative simplicity of English compounds easier to grasp but may struggle with the nuances of opaque compounds.

English compounds are characterized by their simplicity and productivity, while Uzbek compounds are marked by their morphological complexity and cultural specificity. Both languages, however, demonstrate the importance of the head-modifier relationship in determining the meaning and function of compound words.

Understanding these differences not only enriches our knowledge of linguistics but also provides valuable insights into the cultural and historical contexts that shape language use. As languages continue to evolve, the study of compound words will remain a vital area of research, offering a window into the dynamic interplay between language, culture, and cognition.

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