

ASSESSMENT AND TESTING OF WORD SUBCLASSES AND COMPOUND PATTERNS USED BY ALBANIAN STUDENTS OF ENGLISH



Linguistics

Keywords: compound words, classroom, blackboard, homework, looking-glass, armchair, nobleman, newspaper, breakdown, zemërluan, buzëqesh, marrëdhënie, hekurudhë, bashkëpunim, keqkuptoj, kryeqytet, shtëpi-muze, etc.

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Abstract

Since contrastive analysis is the focal point of my research, it is essential to emphasize that this method is one of several that examines languages by accentuating their differences and similarities. This study aims to find, contrast, and compare English compounding patterns with subclasses of compound words that correspond to Albanian words regarding meaning and formation. The subject of what defines a compound phrase emerges here. Compound words are formed by amalgamating two or more topics to produce a new term. Their constituents may include nouns, adjectives, verbs, or adverbials as subjects. A compound is a lexeme, specifically a word, in linguistics that comprises multiple stems. Compounding is the process via which compound lexemes are created, with derivation being the alternative process. The capacity and technique of language to generate new words through the combination of existing words is known as compounding or word-compounding. Compounding transpires when an individual amalgamates two or more words to create a singular term with a novel meaning. The interconnection of word meanings can yield a novel interpretation that significantly diverges from the meanings of the individual words. The findings from the collected English and Albanian grammar texts indicate that, although English and Albanian are similar regarding compounds, they diverge in their formation of compounds. The primary objective of this study is to identify analogies and compare compound phrases in both languages.

INTRODUCTION

In the English language, we refer to *compound words*, while in the Albanian language, the most adequate translation for the word “*compound words*” – “*fjalët e përbëra*.” Compound words – are all the words that are compounded from two or more words and both of them create new words with new meanings. For example, for *sunflower*, *video games*, *self-esteem*, etc. (Christensen, 2017:25), the definition of compound words in the Albanian language is “*Fjalët e përbëra janë formuar nga bashkimi i dy ose më shumë temave duke formuar një fjalë të vetme*.” For example, include *zemërluan*, *buzëqesh*, *hekurudhë*, *njëditor*, etc. (Kabashi, 2000:165)

When talking about compound words, it is important to mention that in the Albanian language, if we use words such as *zemërluan*, *ujmirë*, *juglindje*, *zemërgur*, *bashkëpunim*, *marrëdhënie*, *shtëpi-muze*, and *kryeqytet*, one can conclude that the phenomenon is the same in the English language but in fact has a different structure. For example, compound nouns consist of at least one of the following morphemes: *classroom*, *blackboard*, *armchair*, etc. Many syntactic groups have become compound nouns by conversion: *forget-me-not*, *merry-go-round*, etc. In most cases, such nouns are hyphenated to denote their unity. Compounding combined with derivation is quite common: *taxpayer* (*tax-payer*), *gamekeeper* (*game-keep-er*), *window-cleaner* (*window-clean-er*), and *honeymooner* (*honey-moon-er*). (Qesku, 2002: 372)

The components of compound words both in English and in Albanian can include *nouns*, (*emra*), *verbs* (*folje*), *adjectives* (*mbiemra*), *adverbs* (*ndajfolje*) or *prepositions* (*parafrjalë*). In the English language, the most frequent classifications of compounding patterns are as follows:

1. **Noun + noun:** *asht-tray, girlfriend*, etc.
2. **Verb + noun:** *pick pocket, dare devil*, etc.
3. **Adjective + noun:** *black bird, hard cover, blue collar*, etc.
4. **Adverb + noun:** *onlooker, bystander*, etc.
5. **Verb + adverb = noun:** *pushover*, etc. (Jackson, Ze Amwela: 2005:79-85)

Additionally, in the Albanian language, the most frequent classifications of compounding patterns are as follows:

1. **noun + noun** (emër + emër): *bukëpjekës, kryeministër, kryeparlamentar*, etc.
2. **verb + noun** (folje + emër): *thithëlopë, vëmendje, dashamir, ujëvarë*, etc.
3. **adjective + noun** (mbiemër + emër): *bukurshkrim, mirëmëngjes*, etc.
4. **adverb + noun** (ndajfolje + emër): *nënkryetar, nëntokë, drejtshkrim*, etc.
5. **verb + adverb = noun** (folje + ndajfolje = emër): *there is no case in the Albanian language*. (Sherko, 2014:65-84)

In English, as well as in Albanian – the type of compound words, it is written in three ways, even as follows: compound words with the pattern of *nouns* (*emrave*) that are sometimes written as: *two words* (*dyfjalë*) – for example: *credit card, apple tree, bus stop, heart attack, movie stars*, etc., or in the Albanian language: *folje ndihmëse, banka botërore, sintagmë emërore, zëvendës drejtor, sintagmë femërore*, etc. There are also compound words with the pattern of *nouns* (*emrave*) that are sometimes written as *one word* (*një fjalë*) – for example: *sunglasses, bathroom, toothbrush, toothpaste, housekeeper, speechwriter*, etc., or in the Albanian language: *punëtor, zëvendësministër, letërkëmbim, rrufepritës, faqezi*, etc.

It is important to note that there are compound words following the noun pattern (*emrave*) that are: *hyphenated* (*me vizë*) for example: *one-year-old, ex-president, runner-up, fourteen-year-old, great-grandmother* etc, or in the Albanian language: *bar-lulishte, dhomë-muze, besa-besë, postë-telegraf, peshk-kavall, kilovat-orë*, etc. The problem in the Albanian language concerning compound nouns is that the majority of these words are utilized as a single term, for instance: *zëvendësministër, bregdetë, kryeburrë, kryelartësi, rrobaqepës, punëtor, shtypshkruaj, farëhumbur, faqezi, thashetheme*, etc.

Another significant difficulty concerning compounds is that compound words have existed in the English language since the earliest written records during the Anglo-Saxon period and continue to be one of the most prolific word production processes today.

The English language has undergone three phases of evolution:

1. *Old English (449 – 1066)*,
2. *Middle English (1066 – 1476)*, and
3. *Modern English (1476)* – which is further subdivided into *early modern English (1476–1776)* and *modern English from 1766 to the present*. (Quirk, et al, 1958:156)

The first period was influenced by the Anglo-Saxons with words loaned by Old Norse. The Beowulf epic poem is a vivid illustration of the presence of compounds in the OE. Anglo-Saxons Chronicles (867 A.D.) – another document from the OE testifies to the existence of so-called *poetic compounds at that time*. The second period (*Middle English 1066–1476*) is under the influence of French and Scandinavian languages because of the *Norman Conquest (1066)*. Word formation was characterized by the presence of affixes. The third period brought about considerable transformations because of vocabulary expansion. The part of the *Modern Period* of the English language was also *William Shakespeare*, whose influence on the standardization and modernization of the English language is not only quantitative but also qualitative. The famous Shakespeare sonnets are rich, especially in compound adjectives. Currently, the trend of enriching vocabulary through compounding is ongoing to meet the needs of the latest scientific, economic, social and global developments. As per *Bauer and Huddleston (1998)* on “*Compounds and Compoundings*”, they declare that “*Noun + noun compounds are the most productive compounds in the English language*” (Bauer & Huddleston, 1998:69). This is an emphasis that personally I do support because there are many compound words, *noun + noun*, which we mostly use either in writing or in speech, but there are also compound words, *noun + verb*, *noun + adjective or noun + adverb*, which we encounter every day in use. In addition, since my topic is contrastive, I can see that compound words, with the pattern *noun + noun (emër + emër)*, are similar and are in the Albanian language.

Compounding is considered to be one of the most productive ways of word formation in the Albanian language. Compound words have been documented even in the old works of *Gjon Buzuku*, *Pjetër Budi*, *Frang Bardhi*, *Marin Barleti*, and other writers. However, compound words in the Albanian language can be found even in toponymy. Compounding in Albanian went through two stages:

1. *The first period* (which extended to the 20th century) is characterized by incomplete studies, which were often disregarded or studied superficially.

2. *The second period* is characterized by complete studies and definitions. *Kostallari (1972)* presented a comprehensive definition that categorizes compound words in Albanian as follows: “*Words formed by the agglutination of two or more words into a single lexical-semantic unit and is structurally closed.*” Alternatively, in the Albanian language: “*Fjalët e formuarangaaglutinimiidojë më shumëfjalëve në njënjësitëvetmeleksiko-semantike dhe strukturalisht janë tëmbyllura.*” (Kostallari, 1972:77-90)

LITERATURE REVIEW

The author Mariana Celce-Murcia in her book called *“The Grammar Book, p.80”* – states that *“Compounding or putting together existing words to form a new lexical unity (honey + moon = honeymoon) – is a word formation process that occurs in some languages.”* While my research is to address compound words – it is very important to clarify the fact that in the Albanian language, the compound words were reflected relatively late in the grammars of the Albanian language and started from the middle of the XIX century, passing through two streams. *The first stream* includes mainly foreign authors, such as *Hahni, Dozoni, Weigandi* and others, who completely deny the existence of genuine Albanian compositions, and they concluded that compound nouns do not exist. On the other hand, *the second stream* included Albanian language academics, who relied on the popular Albanian language and who provided an objective reflection of compound words. The founders of such traditions are *Gjon Buzuku, Konstandin Kristoforidhi, Androkli Kostallari, Jani Thomaj, Pjetër Budi, Frang Bardhi, Marin Barleti, Sami Frashëri, Naim Frashëri*, and other writers. (Xhuvani, 1972: 69)

A great deal of research has been conducted on contrastive analysis between English and Albanian languages from morphological and syntactic points of view. The research paper by Kurani and Muho (2014) on *“A morphological comparative study between Albanian and English language”* compares the plural forms of noun compounds in the English and the Albanian languages. Their findings show that the plural form of compound nouns in the Albanian language is formed by changing only the second part of the compound nouns, by changing only the first part of the compound nouns, and by unchanging form in the plural the same as the singular. According to Collins Cobuild (1990), in his book *“English Grammar, p.95”*, he states, *“Almost any noun can modify any other noun in English.”* For example, if we take the noun *house*, we will see that these words are formed, such as *housebroken, housemate, house sitter, houseboat, housewife, housework, etc.*, this list is not exhaustive, by any means.

The phenomenon of compound words has been examined in several studies. In the Albanian language, the concept of compound words is also recognized, along with this definition: *“Fjala e përbërë ose kompozita përfitohet kur dy fjalë shkrihen. Dhe te këto fjalë, fjala e dytë është kryesore, kurse e para përcakton këtë më afër.”* Meanwhile, the term *“kompozitë”* in other languages is presented as *kompozitë, kompozita, kompozitat or fjalë të përbëra*.

Norbert Jokli employed the phrase *“bashkëngjituna”* instead of *“kompozitë”* or *“fjalë e përbërë.”* (Jokli, 1974:28). Furthermore, Androkli Kostallari (1972) asserts in *“Mbi disa veçori të fjalës së përbërë në gjuhën Shqipe”* that *“Fjalë e përbërë ose kompozitë e mirëfilltë në gjuhën Shqipe janë fjalë dygjymtyrëshe që formohet nga bashkimi i dy ose më shumë temave, në një njësi të vetme leksiko-semantike dhe strukturalisht të mbyllur, e cila formësohet si një njësi e pavarur*

fonetiko-morfologjike, ka kategoritë e veta potenciale fjalëformuese, zhvillohen semantikisht dhe kryen funksionet e veta sintetike gjithnjë si një tërësi fjalësh.

J. G. Hahn has provided precise compositions in his vocabulary and grammar that significantly enhance the Albanian lexicon. Nevertheless, he did not allocate a specific chapter to it and asserts that such instances are uncommon in our language.

D. Kamarda, in analyzing Albanian music, begins with the erroneous belief that Albanian lacks substantial authentic compositions. Numerous theories from various writers have articulated significant insights into compound terms in both English and Albanian. The primary focus will be on examining these compound words to identify differences, similarities, or analogies between the two languages.

Albanian and English are frequently analyzed in relation to their word generation methodologies. In the English language, there exist thirteen (13) patterns of compound words, whereas the Albanian language comprises twelve (12) patterns of compound words. Shqera (2015) asserts that *“The role of derivation and compounding in the process of English language acquisition” indicates that the unique qualities of each language create disparities that impede foreign language acquisition. In such instances, both theory and practice are essential for pupils. Therefore, particular emphasis should be placed on derivational rules”* (Shqera, 2015:117). The inaugural written document in the Albanian language is *Meshari by Gjon Buzuku*, dated 1555.

The scarcity of resources pertaining to the Albanian language has hindered the ability to ascertain the initial instances of compound usage and recognition within this language. Consequently, the process of compounding has been examined rather late in Albanian grammar texts. Kostallari (1972) provided a compilation of 17 compound nouns from the years 1304 to 1431. (Rushidi, 2015)

Sherko (2014) in his study, *“Përngjitja, përbërja, dhe lokucionet në gjuhën shqipe dhe në gjuhën Angleze,”* examines the two dictionaries as major sources. The Albanian dictionary (Fjalori i gjuhës së sotme shqipe 1980) contained 41,000 entries, while the English dictionary (Oxford Student’s Dictionary [OSD]) comprised between 40,000 and 41,000 entries. The primary findings indicate that the quantity of compounds in the Albanian language exceeds that in the English language according to the statistical data. The Albanian language constituted 11.88% of the compounds, while the English language represented 4.48%. A study by Rushidi (2015) titled *“Contrastive Analysis of English Compounds and Their Correspondents in Albanian Language”* investigated the similarities, differences, and identities between English and Albanian compounding patterns, as well as the errors students made in translating and categorizing the specified compounds based on their components. (Rushidi, 2015)

METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Data gathered for this study is derived from various analyses, citations, and diverse perspectives on compound terms. All information pertaining to compound terms is sourced from the internet and various publications. This study examines significant differences and similarities in English compounding patterns and subclasses of compound words in relation to the Albanian language, with the aim of elucidating the distinctions in compound words between these two languages, which may be contextual, grammatical, or syntactical. Furthermore, grammar books served as the principal sources for this study. The researcher has also addressed several significant difficulties pertaining to preliminary investigations, materials, and descriptions that he now possesses in this context. All pertinent sources for discerning similarities, differences, and identities in the classification of compound terms between English and Albanian will be examined. Fortunately, he can assert that there is an abundance of materials and publications that enable me to engage with this research earnestly.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The two dictionaries are analyzed as primary materials in Sherko's (2014) study entitled as *“Përngjitja, përbërja, dhe lokucionet në gjuhën shqipe dhe në gjuhën Angleze.”* There are 41,000 words in the Albanian dictionary (Fjalori i gjuhës së sotme shqipe 1980) and between 40,000 and 41,000 terms in the English dictionary (Oxford Student’s Dictionary) (OSD). Based on statistical data, the major conclusions indicate that there are more compounds in the Albanian language than in the English language. In particular, 11.88% of the compounds were written in Albanian, while 4.48% were written in English.

Table 1

The number of words in English and Albanian dictionaries and the percentages

The number of words in the English Dictionary and the percentage of compounds (%)	The number of words in the Albanian Dictionary and the percentage of compounds (%)
<i>41.000 – 40.000 words</i>	<i>41.000 words</i>
<i>4.48% compounds</i>	<i>11.8% compounds</i>

Table 1 presents Sherko’s (2014) statistical data, which indicates that there is minimal variation in word usage between the two languages under discussion. Consequently, the English language has between 41,000 and 40,000 words, whereas the Albanian language has about 41,000 words. The Albanian language also has a higher percentage of compound words than the English language, with 11.88% of compound words in Albanian and 4.48% in English. Among the 5270 noun-noun compounds in the English language found in the LDCE corpus, 194 (3.68%) are hyphenated. The hyphenated compound words belong to the nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and gerunds. The Dictionary of the Albanian Language contains 5394 compound nouns (emra të

përbërë), 49 of which are hyphenated and 0.99% of all compound nouns in the dictionary. (Bauer, 1998:69)

Table 2

The number of compound nouns, the hyphenated nouns, and their percentages

<i>The number of compound nouns, the number of hyphenated compound nouns in the English language, and their percentage (%)</i>	<i>The number of compound nouns, the number of hyphenated compound nouns in the Albanian language, and their percentage (%)</i>
5270 – compound nouns 194 – hyphenated 3.68%	5394 – compound nouns 49 – hyphenated 0.99%

The findings presented by Bauer (1998) and Kostallari (1972), as illustrated in Table 2, lead me to believe that both English and Albanian exhibit richness in compounding. Nonetheless, there exist minor distinctions between these two languages; the Albanian language has a greater prevalence of compound nouns, whilst the English language demonstrates a higher frequency of hyphenated compound nouns.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The conclusion, considering the selected topic of "Compounding patterns and the subclasses of compound words in English and Albanian," bears a resemblance to the introduction. Ultimately, the principal subjects are delineated, and all the salient aspects of the research are encapsulated. The primary objective of the conclusion section is to reiterate the points supported by the evidence. The findings of this investigation are as follows. This study analyzed the similarities, dissimilarities, distinctions, trends, and subclasses of compound terms in English and Albanian. This study reveals that the English language contains thirteen (13) patterns of compound words, whereas the Albanian language comprises twelve (12) patterns of compound words. The researcher aimed to highlight that, given the contrastive nature of my topic, this investigation revealed both parallels and typically disparities in the compound terms of the two languages. Regarding the parallels and identities between English and Albanian noun compounds based on their creation, he asserts that the following patterns are analogous in both languages:

noun + noun (*emër + emër*),
adjective + noun (*mbiemër + emër*),
adverb + noun (*ndajfolje + emër*),
noun + verb (*emër + folje*),
verb + verb (*folje + folje*),
adjective + verb (*mbiemër + folje*),
adverb + verb (*ndajfolje + folje*),
noun + adjective (*emër + mbiemër*),
adjective + adjective (*mbiemër + mbiemër*),
adverb + adjective (*ndajfolje + mbiemër*), **and**
adverb + adverb (*ndajfolje + ndajfolje*).

However, dissimilarities in terms of *form* are observed in the following patterns: *verb + noun (folje + emër)* and *verb + adverb = noun (folje + ndajfolje = emër)*.

Concerning the similarities and identities of compound words by meaning in English and Albanian, it is found that the following patterns exhibit similarity in both languages:

*adjective + noun (mbiemër + emër),
adverb + noun (ndajfolje + emër) and
adverb + verb (ndajfolje + folje).*

However, dissimilarities in terms of *meaning* are observed in the following patterns: *noun + noun (emër + emër), noun + verb (emër + folje), verb + verb (folje + folje), adjective + verb (mbiemër + folje), noun + adjective (emër + mbiemër), and adjective + adjective (mbiemër + mbiemër)*. A similar case is for the lexical categories between English and Albanian. We understand that in the English language and in the Albanian language, there are five lexical categories that result from the process of compounding:

1. *The compound noun category (kategoria e përbërëemërore),*
2. *The compound verb category (kategoria e përbërëfoljore),*
3. *The compound adjective category (kategoria e përbërëmbiemërore),*
4. *The compound adverb category (kategoria e përbërëndajfoljore), and*
5. *The compound preposition category (kategoria e përbërëparafjalore).*

Perhaps *nouns (emrat), verbs (foljet), adjectives (mbiemrat), adverbs (ndajfoljet)* and *prepositions (parafjalët)* do not have the same function between these two languages, but what I want to mention is the fact that the lexical compound category is part of both languages.

In this study, the researcher thoroughly examined the similarities and differences of compound terms between English and Albanian. In both English and Albanian, as previously stated, their components are nouns (emra), verbs (folje), adjectives (mbiemra), adverbs (ndajfolje), or prepositions (parafjalë). In the Albanian language, examples of compound words include zemërluan, ujmirë, juglindje, zemërgur, fjalëshume, shtëpi-muze, and kryeqytet. This indicates that while the phenomena exist in English, it possesses a distinct structure. For instance, compound nouns comprise at least one of the following free morphemes: classroom, chalkboard, armchair, homework, newspaper, father-in-law, looking-glass, etc. This study identifies a distinction in the semantic categorization of compound terms in the English language, which comprises four (4) forms of semantic classification.

1. *Endocentric – steamboat.*
2. *Exocentric – skinhead.*

3. Copulative – bittersweet.

4. Appositional – maidservant.

However, in the Albanian language, there are only two (2) types of semantic classification of compound words, even as follows:

1. Bashkërenditëse (këpujore) – nacional-socializmi, marrëdhënie.

2. Nënrenditëse (përcaktore) – bashkëjetesë, zëvendëskryeredaktor.

The study reveals a minimal disparity in the classification of compounding patterns, indicating that the English language comprises thirteen (13) compounding patterns, while the Albanian language contains twelve (12) compounding patterns. This raises the subject of the most prevalent classes of compounding patterns in both English and Albanian languages. The response to this inquiry is provided below.

In the English language, the most frequent classifications of compounding patterns are as follows:

1. noun + noun: *ashtray*,

2. verb + noun: *showroom*,

3. adjective + noun: *blackboard*,

4. adverb + noun: *after-thought*, and **5. verb + adverb = noun:** *pushover*

Additionally, in the Albanian language, the most frequent classifications of compounding patterns are as follows:

1. Noun + noun (emër + emër): *bukëpjekës, kryeministër, kryeparlamentar, letërkëmbim*,

2. Verb + noun (folje + emër): *thithëlopë, vëmendje, dashamir, ujëvarë*,

3. Adjective + noun (mbiemër + emër): *bukurshkrim, mirëmëngjes*,

4. Adverb + noun (ndajfolje + emër): *nënkryetar, nëntokë, drejtshkrim, keqkuptim, mirëkuptim*,

5. Verb + adverb = noun (folje + ndajfolje = emër): *there is no case in the Albanian language.*

Contrastive analysis is a methodology that examines languages by focusing on their differences and similarities. Consequently, compound words, along with all other grammatical and morphological functions, hold significant relevance in the study of English, Albanian, and any other language.

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