

## COMPOUND WORDS IN ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGES

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The discussion of word composition processes is well-represented in both educational and scientific literature domestically. Preliminary remarks on terminology are necessary for this coverage. The English term «compound» can be interpreted as both «complex» and «composite»:

- Compound: 1) composite; complex [1].

In the context of English language units, it is appropriate to use both the terms «complex» and «compound,» especially since the latter encompasses both components. Furthermore, the term «composite» is also employed to describe a certain class of compound words, «in which the meaning of the last element is altered by the preceding one, such that the relationship between these elements resembles case relations of control» [2]. In this discussion, the terms «complex» and «compound» are used interchangeably.

E.S. Ginzburg, S.S. Khidekel, and others assert that compound words in English are distinguished by the following characteristics:

1. They are composed of at least two components, which serve as derivational bases.
2. The structural and semantic focal point is the second component, which dictates both the part of speech and the semantic category.
3. Phonetically, these words may exhibit one stress, both primary and secondary stresses, or two primary stresses. It is noted that the first two stress patterns are more common. The presence of two main stresses is deemed atypical for contemporary English usage and norms. For instance, D. Jones's dictionary does not mark compounds or compound words with two primary stresses.
4. From a graphical standpoint, they can be written continuously or with hyphens; some word groups show variability in graphical representation.
5. The meaning of compound words emerges from the amalgamation of the meanings of their components and the derivational model.
6. Various aspects can characterize compound words. From the standpoint of semantic independence of components, they can be categorized into coordination and subordination types, with modern English compounds typically featuring subordinate relations. In terms of parts of speech, most compound words are nouns and adjectives, formed either with or without word-forming elements. Based on the order of components, compounds can be classified as asyntactic (not corresponding to phrase structure) or syntactic. According to the nature of their bases, they can be divided into pure compound words and those with derived stems. Relative to the types of structural-semantic relationships with free combinations, compound words can be segmented into adjectival-nominal compound adjectives, and verbal-nominal, verbal-adverbial, and nominal-nominal types .

I.V. Arnold defines compound words as those consisting of at least two stems that function in the language as independent words. Arnold's work delves into issues such as the definition of this type of word, the relationship between its components, and the distinction between transparent and idiomatic meanings. In line with the discussions in the «Lexicology of the English Language» mentioned earlier, Arnold differentiates between syntactic and asyntactic compound words, as well as endocentric and exocentric types. Arnold references the viewpoints of researchers like Yu. Naida, L. Bloomfield, G. Paul, R. Quirk, B. Block, D. Trager, G. Marchand, and A.I. Smirnitsky, who are commonly cited in discussions on this topic.[3]

Arnold highlights a particular challenge in English language education with examples like «stone wall,» indicating that an increasing number of nouns are regularly used to form noun phrases with meanings derived from their components. Yet, these phrases often develop a sense of cohesion and

unified referential meaning. Such noun phrases coexist alongside nominal compounds, blurring the boundaries between these categories, with many compound words evolving from free combinations. Phrasal verbs, Arnold argues, warrant detailed analysis from a phraseological perspective.

Arnold's research also categorizes types of compound words, thoroughly examining compound nouns, adjectives, and verbs. The study includes analyses of reduplicatives, combinations with ablaut and rhyme, pseudocompounds, and the historical evolution of compound words [Arnold 1986].

Domestic linguists explore various facets of compound words, investigating their semantics, stylistic features, distributional-valence characteristics, structural-semantic classifications, and models. Composition is examined in terms of neology, as well as from phonetic and orthographic perspectives. Researchers analyze complex words in comparison to phrases and study combinations of various structures.

We will delve in more detail into the coverage of the problem of complex words in the latest foreign sources based on the following considerations:

- The presentation of the problem in this literature is not associated with the tradition of describing the phenomenon under study in domestic linguistics. Therefore, instances of the same or similar interpretation give grounds to consider them as established and objective points of view on a particular issue.

- Not all the information presented in these sources has been introduced into scientific circulation in domestic science.

- The described grammars are based on a corpus, which allows us to judge the representativeness of the data and examples. In addition, corpus data on complex words have not been considered in domestic scientific literature until now.

All of the above leads us to recognize the expediency and necessity of taking this information into account, and in some cases, relying on it in studies devoted to the corpus approach to the analysis of translation problems.

S. Greenbaum notes that compounding (or composition) is one of the four main methods of word formation in modern English, alongside prefixation, suffixation, and conversion. It is a combination of two or more bases. By «base,» S. Greenbaum refers to the motivating word; for example, «doubt'» is the basis for «doubted,» «undoubted,» and «undoubtedly.» In the linguistic system, compound words are contrasted with phrases consisting of two or more words and having grammatical relationships. For example, «postcard» and «picture postcard» are considered as examples of compound words, whereas 'a large card' and 'beautiful pictures' are phrases.[4]

The following criteria are put forward to distinguish between complex words and phrases:

- 1) semantic;
- 2) orthographic;
- 3) phonetic.

In terms of semantics, the difference between a word and a combination consists in the fixation of a complex word in dictionaries, since it names one object, whereas in a phrase each member names individual objects, and the phrase as a whole is not recorded in dictionaries as a separate dictionary entry. The scientist illustrates his reasoning by comparing textbook examples *blackbird* and *blackboard*, on the one hand, and *black bird* and *black board*, on the other hand, and also considers other cases, including transitional ones. In particular, *sleeping partner* is a transitional case between a phrase «спящий компаньон» and a complex word «компаньон, активно не участвующий в деле»

Meanwhile, the semantic criterion is not completely satisfactory, since it is not always possible to rely on dictionaries when distinguishing between complex words and phrases, since different dictionaries consider non-single-word expressions differently in terms of their attribution to complex words. This applies in particular to cases such as *black pepper*, *white people*, *summer school*, *winter vacation*. If in front of us is a continuous (*postcard*) or hyphenated (*bird - watching*) spelling, then it can definitely be considered in favor of the fact that we have a complex word. At the same time, one and the same expression may have a separate meaning in different dictionaries. (*paper knife*), hyphen (*paper - knife*) and continuous writing (*paperknife*). On the other hand, many units that are not written together or with a hyphen can be considered as complex words according to the semantic criterion: *fancy*

*dress , hay fever , hot dog , house arrest , space flight , travel guide .*

Word stress is considered as a phonetic criterion. Compound words tend to have primary emphasis on the first component. This same tendency occurs when writing separately: for instance, «news conference», «travel agent». Unlike compound words, two-syllable combinations have the main emphasis on the second component: «good reference», «personal agent». However, word stress cannot be a reliable criterion in distinguishing between complex words and word combinations.

Firstly, there are significant individual differences in pronunciation, and secondly, differences in stress depending on the national variant of the language. For example, in British English the pronunciation pattern «hot dog» and «class-consciousness» places the stress on the second component, whereas in American English it is with the stress on the first component. Note that the English Pronouncing Dictionary provides both British and American versions with the emphasis on the first syllable, but in this case, we follow S. Greenbaum in presenting the material. Additionally, there are many exceptions to the typical stress distribution pattern.[5] Thus, S. Greenbaum concludes that none of the criteria is decisive and all three considered parameters should be used.

The researcher notes that compound words are found in all classes, but among new formations, there are mainly nouns and adjectives. Some compound nouns are reduplicatives—repetitions, or both parts differ slightly from each other: «clever-clever», «teeny-weeny».

Among compound nouns, the most common type is one in which the second (or last) component denotes the class of entities to which the compound word as a whole belongs: 'travel guide' is a type of guide, «roar group» is a type of group. In other nouns, such a relationship is absent or, at least, hidden: 'white lady' is not a type of lady, «hotdog» doesn't mean dog. S. Greenbaum believes that the relationships between the components of a complex word can be described using grammatical terminology. In this case, the following typical models of complex words are built: subject + predicate: «bee sting» («bee stings»); predicate + subject: «answerphone» («phone answers»); predicate + object: «chewing gum» (chews gum).

object + predicate: *air - conditioner* («conditions air») subject + object: *cable car* («the cable operates the car») object + subject: *honey - bee* («bee produces honey») predicate + instrument: *hearing aid* (hears with aid) tool + predicate: *gunfight* (fights with a gun) predicate + place: *dance hall* (dances in a hall) place + predicate: *boat ride* (rides on boat) predicate + time: *closing time* (closes at that time) time + predicate: *daydreaming* (dreams during day). In some compound nouns, which consist of two nouns or an adjective and a noun, the subject + predicate relationship can be expressed using a linking verb *to be* :

adjective + noun : *passive smoking* (the smoking is passive)

noun + noun

IN is A: *booster shot* (the shot is a booster)

B is like A: *magnet school* (the school is like a magnet)

B is for A: *ashtray* ('the tray is for ash)

B is part of A *door handle* (the handle of a door).

One type of compound noun with a first component of a noun or adjective corresponds to the compound word in its entirety:

*loudmouth* (person who has a loud mouth) *paperback* (book that has a paper cover).

Greenbaum presents the semantic relations between the components of complex adjectives in this way: subject + predicate: *English - speaking* ( speaks English ) place/time/reason + predicate: *far - reaching* (reaches far ) noun + adjective

A is B : *footsore* (the foot is sore)

as In as A: *dirt-cheap* (as cheap as dirt)

B in respect of A: *camera-shy* (shy in respect of cameras)

A and B : *bitter - sweet*

In presenting S. Greenbaum's classification, we used the term «predicate», whereas in the author's text *verb* was used. We believe that «predicate» is more appropriate in the context of the semantic structure than the verb.

Longman's *A Grammar of Spoken and Written English* presents grammatical units in the form

of the following hierarchy of levels: phoneme/grapheme - morpheme - word - phrase (phrase) - clause (a simple sentence as part of a complex one) - sentence - discourse (text). At each level, grammatical units can be characterized by four aspects: structure, syntactic role, meaning, distribution, and discourse function. This grammar, like the previous one, is built on a corpus basis and presents a view of the word, including from the standpoint of a corpus of texts. The following types of units are highlighted in the text:

1) Spelling (graphic) word - a word form separated by spaces in written text, and corresponding forms in oral speech;

2) Grammatical word – «word» considered in the aspect of grammar;

3) Lexeme - a number of word forms with the same lexical meaning that belong to the same class of words.

Lexical units, as they are presented in this grammar, can be simple, consisting of one morpheme, or complex (complex X). Complex words in this understanding are the result of three main processes: inflection, derivation, and composition. Inflection is understood as the addition of inflectional affixes to simple words to express grammatical relations.[ 6]

Derivation consists of prefixation and suffixation. As a result of inflection, complex words are formed consisting of a base (a base) and one or more affixes. When compounding words, independent stems are combined to form new lexemes. Thus, complex words are understood, firstly, as word forms formed with the help of inflectional affixes, secondly, as derivatives - derivative words motivated by one stem, thirdly, as complex words - derivative words motivated by two or more simple stems. To avoid possible terminological confusion, it is necessary to stipulate the semantic content of a particular concept. In what follows, we will use the term «compound word» to refer to derived words motivated by more than one stem.

The wide range of compounds includes, but is not limited to, the following patterns:

noun + noun: *chairman* , *textbook* , *girlfriend* noun + noun/verb -er : *dressmaker* , *fire - eater*  
noun +verb -ing : *housekeeping* , *window shopping* adj .+noun: *bluebird* , *flatfish* , *nobleman* verb +  
noun: *cry - baby* , *playboy* verb - ing + noun: *filing cabinet* , *printing press* noun +adj.: *care - free* , *color - fast* , *sky - blue* .

The unity of compound words is manifested in the tendency of their pronunciation with a single emphasis on the first component and spelling in one word or with a hyphen. There is, the grammarians note, considerable diversity in both phonological and orthographic patterns. The difference in the spelling of compound words is explained by the fact that there is no strict distinction between compound words and free combinations of words. The above is especially true with respect to the most productive model of noun + noun. In addition, compound words often have meanings that are not inferred from the meanings of the components.

From the point of view of syntactics, complex words demonstrate limited possibilities of substitution in comparison with phrases. Word combinations show substitution of components: *blue* , *black* , *rare* , *small* , *yellow - birds* , *blue - birds* , *flowers* , *noses* , *walls* (emphasis on the second component), while complex words - limited substitution: *bluebirds* , *blackbirds* , *bluenoses* (emphasis on the first component). In cases where substitution occurs in complex words, the meaning may be different than what might be assumed based on the meanings of the components. *Bluebirds and blackbirds* represent the names of different birds, and not just birds that differ in color; *bluenoses* - These are Nova Scotians or Puritans.

Longman grammar identifies the so-called «non-single word lexical units» (multi-word lexical units). A non-word lexical unit is a sequence of words that functions as one grammatical unit; the sequence of words becomes lexicalized. A typical example is look into, which is used in most cases in the same way as the verb investigate. Non-single word lexical units differ from free phrases in the same way as compound words differ from phrases, that is, they demonstrate a limited possibility of substitution. Compound words can be considered a type of non-single-word lexical units that tend to be written as a separate word. Non-word units that exhibit meaning not inferred from their constituents are often characterized as idioms. Among non-word lexical units, phrasal verbs, compound prepositions, coordinating and subordinating conjunctions stand out.

Non-single word lexical units should be distinguished from collocations, consisting of individual words occurring together. Authors of Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English consider the opinion that the attribution of the combination noun + noun to be controversial (for example law report), and it is preferable to compound nouns. Nevertheless, the distinction between compound nouns and combinations of «nominal determiner + noun» is really relevant. The criterion for this division is the emphasis on the first element: heart attack (with the main emphasis on heart) - compound word glass bottle (with the main emphasis on bottle) - combination of noun + noun. Spelling is also a relevant indicator. Some compound words are written together (seaweed, waterbed), while others have a hyphenated spelling (milk-yield, steam-hammer) and represent, according to the authors of the Grammar, an intermediate case. Combinations of noun + noun written in two words, for example asphalt rooftop, silk necktie, in which the first noun functions as a modifier, indicating (in this case) the material from which the object is made. At the same time the word waterbed, given in the Grammar, provides an example of how shaky the spelling criterion is in such cases. This word recorded with fused writing V Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, Macmillan English Dictionary, Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English and separate - in Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary and English Pronouncing Dictionary.

Longman Grammar considers the spelling criterion (separate spelling) as an identifying criterion for determining the combination of noun + noun. In the chapter devoted to the syntactic description of these constructions. At the same time, since it is not always possible to draw a dividing line between words and combinations, the description of this construction as a syntactic phenomenon will be relevant from the point of view of non-word lexical units.

The combination of noun + noun. represents two extreme points in communicative priorities: «On the one hand, such combinations provide a very dense packaging of referential information; on the other hand, they lead to a very predictable implicit meaning, requiring the addressee to make a conclusion about the assumed logical relations between the defined noun and the noun in the function of defining» [7]. Among the many complex logical relationships between the components of the combination, the following stand out:

**Composition :** N1 made from N1; N2 consists from N1: *glass windows, metal seat, tomato sauce*

**Purpose :** N2 serves purpose for N1; N2 is used for N1: *pencil case, nursery program*

**Identity:** N2 has the same referent as N1, but classifies it in different ways: *exam paper , grant aid*

**Contents :** N2 about N1; N2 has case from N1: *currency crisis, set theory, color adjectives*

**Source :** N2 from N1 : *irrigation water, crop yield*

**Object type 1:** N1 object of the process described by N2, or the action represented by the agent named in N2: *case study , corn farmer , computer users*

**Object type 2:** N2 object of the process described by N1: *pilot projects , substitute forms*

**Subject type 1:** N1 subject of the process described by N2: *child development , leaf appearance*

**Subject type 2:** N2 subject of the process described by N1: *labor force*

**Time :** N2 occurs in time designated N1 : *summer conditions, Sunday school, Christmas raffle*

**Place type 1:** N2 located in N1: *home areas, administration officials, tunnel train*

**Place type 2:** N1 located in N2: *job center , sushi bar, staff room, theme park*

**Institute:** N2 establishes institutionalization for N1: *insurance company , ski club*

**Participation :** N2 is identified as part of N1: *family member , rifle butt*

**Specialization:** N1 defines the area of specialization for the person or occupation named N2: *finance director , education Secretary , gossip columnist*

Some examples may belong to more than one classification group. For example, *heart attack* And *thigh injury* can be considered in terms of object type 1 and additionally in the group «place type 1». In addition, a large number of combinations of the noun + noun model. does not fit into any of the above types. So, *riot police* may serve as an example expressing the relationship of the target, but there is also an additional component of meaning: these police are used to control disorder, not to create it.

Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English also presents a corpus analysis of noun + noun combinations. The Grammar describes the following functional styles ( registers ): conversational ( conversation ), artistic ( fiction ), journalistic ( news ) ( news ) and scientific ( academic ) prose ).

The largest number of productive nouns used as a determiner in the construction of nouns. + noun, takes place in journalistic texts. Next comes the scientific style. The productivity of a noun occupying position N1 in the N 1+ N 2 scheme does not necessarily correspond to frequency. In journalistic texts, only four nouns are highly productive (more than 100 nouns are identified) and high-frequency (occurrence in this function is more than 100 times per million word uses). This *government* , *police* , *home* , *world* . *Government* And *police* actually combine with more than 200 nouns in the construction described. 12 nouns are highly productive (more than 100 combinations) and relatively frequent (more than 50 cases per million uses): *business*, *car*, *city*, *council*, *family*, *health*, *labor*, *market*, *party*, *record*, *security*, *TV*. *Family* used with more than 200 different nouns. 11 nouns are high-frequency (occurring in combination with more than 100 defined nouns) and low-frequency (less than 50 occurrences per million): *cash* , *club* , *community* , *computer* , *drug* , *food* , *future* , *safety* , *school* , *state* , *tax* , *water* .

150 nouns are relatively productive (more than 50 combinations); most are low frequency (less than 50 occurrences per million). They can be combined into several semantic groups:

- business : *bank*, *company*, *consumer*, *price*, *trade*;
- mass media : *film*, *media*, *newspaper*, *press*, *telephone*;
- other social institutes : *church*, *county*, *court*, *hospital*, *office*, *prison*;
- sport : *football*, *soccer*, *star*, *team*;
- conflict : *army*, *defense* , *terrorist*, *war*;
- time : *day*, *holiday*, *morning*, *night*, *summer*, *weekend*;
- People: *baby*, *child*, *fellow*.

The frequent use of these words can be partly explained by the goals of speech economy, since the combination noun + noun. conveys complex meaning in condensed form. As noted above, the use of this construction requires great independence from the reader. The news mainly uses nouns from semantic areas, mostly associated with current events (such as government, business, education, mass media, sports). «These are areas in which the authors of journalistic texts can reasonably expect highly developed pragmatic knowledge from readers and are therefore able to decode relations in the noun + noun combination without much difficulty» (our translation ) [7].

Plural nouns can also be used as determiners in the constructions described. Corpus data provided in LGSWE indicate that plural nouns have a more limited distribution than singular nouns. They are most commonly used in media discourse. Plural qualifiers are more productive in British than in American English, and this difference is most obvious in media discourse. Many of the most productive plural nouns (combining with over 20 different qualifying words) are common to British and American English: *appeals* , *arms* , *arts* , *cattle* , *communications* , *customs* , *personnel* , *police* , *sales* , *savings* , *securities* , *sports* , *rights* , *systems* , *telecommunications* , *women* .

Other nouns are noticeably productive in British English but are rare in American: *drugs* , *games* , *jobs* , *schools* . Among the relatively productive nouns in British English (combination of at least 5 defined nouns) there are those that are also relatively productive in American English: *antiques* , *awards* , *chemicals* , *drinks* , *firearms* , *girls* , *boys* , *kids* , *ladies* , *merges* , *payments* , *points* , *singles* , *stores* . Some nouns are rarely, if ever, found in American English: *animals* , *borders* , *careers* , *clothes* , *complaints* , *courts* , *highways* , *parents* , *pensions* , *profits* , *roads* , *students* , *talks* , *wages*.

The most frequent defined nouns that are used with plural nouns include words from the thematic groups « person 's » job or occupation and « unit or organization ».

D. Crystal in The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language considers compound words as vocabulary units that consist of more than one lexical stem. At first glance, words of this type consist of two (or more) lexemes, but in fact they function as one unit, which has its own meaning and grammatical characteristics. The scientist gives an example *flower - pot* , which does not mean a flower and a pot, but a single object. The word is pronounced with one main stress, like a phonetic word, and

is used grammatically as a linguistic unit: the plural form will be *flower - pots* , and not <sup>^</sup> *flowers - pots* . As for the spelling criterion, it cannot be considered reliable. If the components are connected by a hyphen ( *flower - pot* ) or written together ( *flowerpot* ), then such spellings do not cause difficulties in interpretation. However, the option *flower pot* may also occur, and in such cases, in order to make sure that we have a compound word and not two separate words, it is necessary to carefully consider the meaning of this combination and its grammatical features. This question, believes D. Crystal , is especially relevant for American English, in which hyphenated spellings are less common than in British. He also believes that compound words can be classified using categories such as subject, verb (predicate), object [ 8].

Modern American University Textbook Contemporary Linguistics . An Introduction also views compounding as a combination of two already existing words. With very few exceptions, compounding produces nouns, verbs, and adjectives. The authors describe possible structural types of compound nouns, verbs and adjectives. Among the criteria for delimitation, as in other sources, are spelling, phonetic and grammatical. As a grammatical one, it is proposed to use, in addition to those mentioned above, combinability, for example: *We live next to a [ very ] green / house* . In this the authors follow JI . Bloomfield , who noted: «The word black «black» in the phrase black birds «black birds» can be qualified by the qualifier very «very», but the word blackbird «thrush» cannot have such a determinant» [ 9].

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