

Syntactic-Semantic Characteristics of Exocentric Compound Words in English

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Annotation: The article deals with syntactic-semantic, linguistic-cognitive and national-cultural characteristics of exocentric compound words in English. The problem of semantic exocentricity of compound words in English, an analogy is drawn between exocomposites and idiomatic expressions; a mechanism is proposed to assess the level of idiomaticity of an exocentric compound word based on the degree of manifestation of metaphorical and metonymic meaning.

Keywords: exocentric compound words, composition, metaphor, metonymy, phraseological union, idiomatic expression.

Word formation in general and composition in particular, is the main channel that ensures the adaptive nature of the lexical system. Composition seems to be the most typical way of English word formation. The questions of composition in English were dealt with by E.S. Kubryakova, O.D. Meshkov, N. Fabb, W. Adams, L. Bloomfield, L. Bauer and other researchers.

Compound words can be classified according to various principles.

1. From the point of view of the ways in which the components are connected, the following types of compound words can be distinguished:
 - words formed by a simple juxtaposition of components (neutral type) in a certain order, and the order of the stems in them may be opposite to the order in which motivating words can be combined according to the syntactic rules of the English language (boatlift, audience-friendly, page-turner), and match the word order in free combinations built according to the rules of syntax (airgate, airbag). This is the most common and most productive way of word formation in modern English.
 - Compound words, the components of which are connected by a linking element - linking vowels - o-, -i- or linking consonant -s- (morphological type): brides-mate, tragicomic. Such a construction was developed in Old English, but is relatively rare in modern language: handicraft, handiwork, tradesman, crowsfeet, Anglo-Saxon.
 - Compound words of the third type are isolated syntagmas that have retained the connecting bases of function words: bread-and-butter, hook-and-ladder, man-of-war, mother-in-law, up-to-date, good-for- nothing, a cock-and-bull story (fiction). This type of wording is called syntactic.
2. From the point of view of semantic independence, two types of relations generally recognized in linguistic literature between the direct components of compound words are distinguished: relations of composition and subordination. Accordingly, compound words are divided into two classes:
 - writing (additive);
 - Subordinate (determinative) compound words.

In composing compound words, both elements are equally important semantically, for example: radio-recorder, n; fifty-fifty, adj; smoke and mirrors, n. The bases of the constituents belong to the same class and often to the same semantic group. There are relatively few compound words.

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In subordinating compound words, the components are not equivalent either structurally or semantically. The main component, which, as a rule, is the second part, is of greater significance, is (semantically and grammatically dominant, predetermines the meaning of the part of speech of the entire compound word. Compare: a clock tower - a tower with a clock; a tower clock - a clock on a tower Subordinating compound words make up the bulk of English compound words.

3. Depending on the type of stem, compound words are divided into:

- actually complex;
- Complex derivatives.

Compound words (blue-eyed, broad-minded) differ from compound words proper in the word-formation basis, as well as in the nature of the second element. The two parts of the compound word blue-eyed are the suffix -ed with the meaning "having" and the stem formed from the free combination blue eyes, the members of which lose their grammatical independence and are reduced to one component of the word - its derivational stem. Graphically, derivation can be represented as follows: (blue eye) + -ed - blue-eyed. On the other hand, such words can be considered as pseudo-complex or as a special group of derivatives, since they are formed on the basis of a free phrase to which a suffix is attached. Compare: actually complex words looking-glass ((V + -ing) + N); owner-driver ((V + -er) + (V + -er)).

4. From the point of view of the structure of the direct components, the following types of compound words are distinguished:

- compound words consisting of simple stems (film-star);
- compound words in which at least one component is a derived stem (chain-smoker);
- compound words in which one of the components is an abbreviation (math-mistress);
- Compound words in which one of the components is a compound word (waste-paper-basket).

5. Depending on whether the meaning and grammatical functions of a compound word are derivable or non-derivable from its components, the following are distinguished:

- endocentric;
- Exocentric compound words.

Endocentric compound words include words whose meaning and grammatical functions are derived from their components. For example, the model Adj + N = N is endocentric, since it forms complex nouns, i.e. the part of speech represented by the second component. Models should also be classified as endocentric: V + N = N, Part I + N = N, Ger + N = N, N + N = N. Examples of endocentric compound words: a playground, a humming-bird, a sleeping-car, an airmail.

Exocentric compound words include words whose meaning and grammatical functions cannot be derived from their components. For example, the pattern Num (cardinal) + N = Adj is exocentric, since it forms complex adjectives, i.e. part of speech not represented by the components of a compound word. Models should also be classified as exocentric: Prep + N = Adj, V + Adj = N, V + V = N. Examples of exocentric compound words: two-way, in-flight, a speak-easy, a make-believe, a hearsay .

6. The classification of compound words according to the degree of semantic coherence of their components and, consequently, according to the degree of their motivation is related to the question whether the meaning of a compound word can be considered as the sum of the values of its constituent components. Depending on this, the following groups of compound words are distinguished:

- Compound words, the meaning of which can be derived from the constituent meanings. The first component of these words, as a rule, denotes the action or state of a person or an object characterized by him: knee-breechers, life belt, stone-breaker, but compare: a living room - a living



room, and not “a room that lives”, a sleeping pill - a sleeping pill, not a sleeping pill. Such words are called fully motivated.

- Compound words, where one of the components changes its meaning: a smoking jacket - a jacket is not necessary and not only for smoking; Indian ink - ink, but not Indian, but black from natural substances; a bath-chair - a chair on wheels for the disabled, not for the bath. Such words are called partially motivated.
- compound words where it is impossible to determine the meaning of the whole based on the meanings of the components: a wallflower – a person who is not invited to dance; a Russian roulette - a dangerous game in which they shoot at random, having only one bullet; a toy-boy is a young man who is maintained by a woman who is older than him. Such words are called idiomatic or unmotivated compound words.

The most developed questions are related to the structure, semantics and functions of endocentric compound words. Interest in exocomposites began to be actively manifested only recently, mainly in foreign studies, most of which seek to "equalize" two types of compound words and prove the word-formation potential of exocentric units that regularly appear in the language in the form of neologisms.

The purpose of this article is to establish the similarity between exocomposites, as well as to establish the level of idiomaticity of one or another exocomposite by analyzing the type of transformation of its meaning. With the development of mass communication, the nomination process has moved to a new level, it involves journalists and writers, politicians and representatives of the creative community, as well as a multi-million audience of Internet users.

The speed of entry and spread of a new word has increased significantly precisely thanks to telecommunication technologies. The Internet space itself is a source of new names, for example, words such as rage-quit (v) – ‘quit a game (usually a video game) in a fit of rage or annoyance’; down vote (n,v) – ‘express disapproval or disagreement with the post or with the person who posted it using a specific pictogram (icon)’; cyberwarrior (n) – ‘information warfare soldier’; concern troll (n) - 'one who insincerely expresses interest or concern about a particular issue (on which he actually has an opposite point of view) with the aim of causing doubt or provoking conflict'. As can be seen from the examples, some neoplasms are created according to the productive model in English [A+N]_n , [N+N]_n , others are represented by less common models with verbs and adverbs [N+V]_{n/v}; [Adv.+V]_v . In terms of form, these are integrally designed and separately designed units. In this case, phrases are equivalent to a word and are equal in nominative terms. From the point of view of semantics, of particular interest are units whose meaning is not unambiguously derived from the values of their components, units with a greater or lesser degree of idiomaticity. First of all, such units stand out against the background of the so-called self-explaining compounds [2, p. 59], or, in other words, endocentric composites with a traditional right-sided nucleus and hyponymic relations between the nucleus and the left-sided component characterizing it – these are words like bookshop, apple tree, dishwasher, diner table. Units of such a plan have been studied in detail and described in the linguistic literature on word formation.

This is partly justified by their significant number, the productivity of the very mechanism for creating such words, the ease of use and interpretation of the meaning.

Summing up, it must be emphasized that exocentric compound words in English word formation deserve closer attention from linguists. The indirect nomination carried out by them is of interest both for grammar and for lexicology and phraseology. The asymmetry of the plane of expression and the plane of content does not prevent the interpretation of the meaning, but only suggests a more “creative” approach to the interpretation of the meaning, the activation of cognitive mechanisms for the formation of meaning, such as metaphor and metonymy. These mechanisms are manifested to a greater or lesser extent in exocentric composites, which makes it possible to variably assess their level of idiomaticity and, in the case of the maximum manifestation of a feature, classify them as phraseological units. The analysis of the language material shows that English exocentric compound words have a rich variety of nominative and derivational properties.



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