

A Study on the Role of Compound Adjectives in Enhancing Editorial Writings of Selected Newspapers

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Abstract:

The work analyzes compound adjectives of selected newspapers editorials and maps their usage. Main focus of this work lies in the study of the role of compound adjectives in enhancing editorial writings of selected newspapers and the description, analysis and classification of found compound adjectives. The classifications of compound adjectives is based on their grammatical structure as well as on their central lexical element. The thesis comments on orthographical and semantic features of identified compound adjectives. Data for the study were collected from 40 editorials selected from different newspapers.

Key words: Compound Adjectives, Editorial Writing, grammatical structure, central lexical element

Introduction

Compounds combine together two or more word-forms which then function as a single lexical item. Compounding thus

enables more or less free production of newly coined complex lexical word-forms which can express more precisely a given matter of fact. Compounds occur in all areas of English language; they are used in everyday spoken and written colloquial English language as well as in literary language.

A compound adjective is an adjective that contains two or more words. In general we put a hyphen between two or more words (before a noun) when we want them to act as a single idea (adjective) that describes something.

I live in an English-speaking country.

'English-speaking' is an adjective used to describe the country. We use a hyphen to connect the word 'English' with 'speaking' to show that it is one adjective (or one idea). This adjective with two words joined by the hyphen is called a compound adjective.

Some more examples of compound adjectives are:

- I have just finished reading a 300-page book.
- He is a well-known writer.

Review of literature

Marchand (1969) said that the coining of new words proceeds by way of combining linguistic elements on the basis of determinant / determinatum relationship called syntagma. When two or more words are combined into a morphological unit on the basis just stated, we speak of compound.

Adams (1973) said that a compound word is usually understood to be the result of the (fixed) combination of two free forms, or words that have an otherwise independent existence. These items clearly composed of two elements, have the identifying characteristics of single words: their constituents may not be separated by other forms, and their order is fixed.

Meys (1975) said that no surface structure classification of compound adjectives is possible without a

preceding (implicit or explicit) analysis which is based on their underlying structure.

Bauer (1983) explained that when two (or more) elements which could potentially be used as stem are combined to form another stem, the form is said to be a compound. A compound lexeme (or simply a compound) can thus be defined as lexeme containing two or more potential stems. Since each potential stem contains at least one root, a compound must contain at least two roots.

Mathews (1991) explained that compounding is a process by which a compound lexeme is derived from two or more simpler lexeme.

Adams (2001) explained that bases may be free elements , able to occur on their own , or they may be bound forms with no independent existence , as in words like dental , holism , amorphous , whose bases have meanings like those of English words – ‘tooth’ , ‘whole’, ‘form; , Bound bases will be referred to as stem , Bases , both words and stems may combine to form compounds : credit card, oviraptor, pesticide .

Bauer (2003) analyzed the formation of new lexeme by adjoining two or more lexemes is called compounding or composition. Nearly all languages have compounds.

Plag (2003) explained that a compound is a word that consist of two elements, the first of which is either a root, a word, a phrase, the second of which is either a root or a word.

Puffer & Plag (2003) analyzed the delimitation between suffixation and compounding for other productive formatives, i.e. ‘-ful’, ‘-type’ and ‘-wise’. As the authors claim that labels like “semi-suffix” do not provide any further insight in the nature of complex formations, they conclude that it is preferable to draw a clear distinction between compounds and suffixation. Concerning ‘-wise’, they identify two kinds of this formative having different morphological status.

The largest group is represented by formations with an adverbial function, as in “(cut) crosswise”, where –‘wise’

means “in the manner of...” and is classified as a suffix. Conversely, formations like “streetwise (ex-cop)” have an adjectival function and the formative –‘wise’, meaning “experienced, knowledgeable”, has the status of an independent lexical element. Thus cases like the latter, which are characterized by growing productivity, are clearly compounds.

Booij (2005) analyzed in many languages, compounding (also called composition) is the most frequently used way of making new lexemes. Its defining property is that it consist of the combination of lexemes into larger words.

Conti (2006) said that compound adjectives seemed a promising area of investigation - and studying them has actually proved fruitful - because the phenomena to be analyzed were a large variety of types and their treatment was full of open problems, still lacking systematic and convincing solutions. This neglect in the literature was even more surprising to my perception as, at a cursory survey of various text types, these formations appeared extremely frequent and performing interesting functions. Advertising and the press in general, appeared preferential genres for compound adjectives and where especially they exhibited novelty and freshness. Three main factors, namely attested frequency, easiness of formation and the capability of combining a much variegated array of constituents predicted a large set of phenomena worth of description and theoretical discussion.

Harley (2006) said that compounding occurs when two independently meaningful roots are directly combined to form a new , complex word , usually a noun or adjective .

Katamba & Stonham (2006) analyzed a prototypical compound is a word made up of at least two bases which can occur elsewhere as independent words , for instance , the compound greenhouse contains the bases green and house

which can occur as word in their own right) e.g, in the noun phrase the greenhouse , i.e. the house that is green .

Patcova (2008) explained that Compound adjectives are considered all complex lexical items which are analyzable into two or more individual word-forms, which can operate as independent lexical units in a text. Such complex lexical items function grammatically and semantically as adjectives; thus modify nouns, can be gradable and usually have single primary stress. The clear distinction of a compound from a free phrase remains one of the main problems as it often cannot be sufficiently proven and stays disputable. In many cases it is also not clear whether a complex lexical unit is a compound or a product of derivation. Controversial issue can be also classing nonce formations as compounds since they are not established within English language.

Materials and methodology

Population (Data collection)

The editorials are taken from:

- 1- *The Hindu*
- 2- *The Hindustan Times*
- 3- *The Times of India*
- 4- *The Indian Express*

Sample size:

40 editorials are analyzed from four newspapers, i.e.10 editorials from each one, the characteristics of compound adjectives are identified in 10 editorials from each newspapers.

Methods:

This is an analytical study and it analyzes the role of compound adjectives in enhancing editorial writings of selected newspapers .The study identifies the various types of

compound adjectives and their roles, orthographic, as well as semantic features.

Methodology:

The researcher examined all the written content of the editorials and categorized all the examples of compound adjectives into various groups according to their grammatical structure, central lexical element and their classification. The pattern of classification of compound adjectives will be identified through the examples that the researcher will find in the selected editorials.

Calculation of percentage /style frequency

The analysis of data is based on calculation of percentage and style frequency, which are used to express how large or small a quantity is, relative to another quantity. Below is the formula used for calculation to find out the number of compound adjectives that are used to enhance the editorial writings of selected newspapers:

$$\frac{Gn}{Tn} \times 100 = (\%)$$

Gn=Given number

Tn=Total number

For example:

If in an editorial there are 8 compound adjectives the calculation will be follows:

$$\frac{1}{8} \times 100 = (12.5 \%)$$

Results and discussion

Analysis of Selected Editorials

As mentioned before, four different Indian newspapers are selected and ten editorials are chosen from each newspaper to be analyzed.

Comparison of The Hindu, The Hindustan Times, Times of India and The Indian Express newspapers editorials

Newspaper	Adjective-centred	Noun-centred	Verb-centred	Phrasal Compound Adjectives	Compound Nouns in attributive position
The Hindu	12.82%	56.41%	25.64%	-	5.12%
The Indian Express	34.48%	48.27%	3.44%	6.89%	6.89%
The Times of India	40.38%	46.15%	11.53%	1.92%	1.92%
The Hindustan Times	15.15%	63.63%	9.09%	12.12%	-
Percentage	25.70%	53.61%	12.42%	5.23%	3.48%

The table reveals that the most frequently used category of compound adjectives to enhance the editorial writings in the Hindu newspaper editorial is that of noun-centred compound adjectives which represent 56.41% of the total number of compound adjectives used in the Hindu newspaper editorials . This type of compound adjectives represent the highest percentage for other newspapers editorials, which are chosen in this study. The percentage in four newspapers is 53.61%.

The second frequent category of compound adjective to enhance the editorial writings in the Hindu newspaper editorials is verb-centred compound adjectives which represent 25.64% of the total number of compound adjectives used , while the second frequent category in the Times of India newspaper editorials is that of Adjective-centred compound adjectives which represent 40.38% of the total of compound adjectives used ; This category is the second most frequent of compound

adjective in the Indian Express newspapers editorials which represent(34.48%)of the total number of used ; the second most frequent type of compound adjectives in The Hindustan Times newspaper is that of adjective-centred compound adjectives which represent 15.15% of total number of compound adjectives.

The third frequent category of compound adjectives in the Hindu newspaper editorials is Adjective-centred compound adjectives which represent 12.82% of total number used and the third most frequent category of compound adjectives in the Hindustan Times newspaper editorials is Phrasal compound adjectives which represent 12.12% of total number used, while the third frequent category of compound adjectives in the Times of India newspaper editorials are verb-centred compound adjectives which represent 11.53% of total number used.

But the third frequent category of compound adjectives in the Indian Express newspaper editorials are Phrasal compound adjectives and Compound noun in attributive positions which represent 6.89% for each of the of total number used.

The final percentage of compound adjectives that are used to enhance the editorials writings in 40 editorials is that of Noun-centred compound adjectives which represent 53.61% is the most common category of compound adjectives used in all newspapers editorials ; The Adjectives-centred compound adjectives which represent 25.70% is the second one and the Verb-centred compound adjectives which represent 12.42% is the third one .

This table shows us that the phrasal compound adjectives represent 5.23% of the total number of compound adjectives used in 40 editorials and the Compound noun in attributive position represent only 3.48% of the total number of compound adjectives , which is the lowest one in use .

Conclusions:

Compound adjectives seemed a promising area of investigation and studying them has actually proved fruitful as there are various types of compound adjectives and their treatment was full of open problems, still lacking systematic and convincing solutions. This neglect in the literature was even more surprising to my perception as, at a cursory survey of various text types, these formations appeared extremely frequent and performing interesting functions. Advertising and the press in general, appeared preferential genres for compound adjectives and where especially they exhibited easiness novelty and freshness.

Within the scope of the study and the procedures followed the findings of the study have led the following conclusions :

- 1- The total number of compound adjectives used in all editorials is 153. In The Hindu newspaper editorials , 39 compound adjectives are used ; In The Hindustan Times newspaper editorials , 33 compound adjectives are used ; In The Times of India newspaper editorials , 52 compound adjectives are used and in The Indian Express newspapers editorials , 29 compound adjectives are used.
- 2- The most frequent category of compound adjectives used in all selected newspapers is noun-centred compound adjectives which represent in The Times of India 46.15%, in The Hindu 56.41% in The Hindustan Times 63.63% and in The Indian Express is 48.27%.
- 3- The phenomenon of compound adjectives has been widely used to enhance the editorial writings of selected newspapers.
- 4- The reasons behind using compound adjectives in the editorials are :

- a. They carry very rich semantic information. The richness of semantic content of compound adjectives is given by the fact that compounds in a very specific way combine meanings of two or more individual lexemes, thus the resulting semantic information must get richer and more complex.
- b. Compound adjectives have the ability to significantly shorten sentences in which they occur and thus they make such sentences and whole text more semantically condensed.
- c. Compound adjectives are giving extra information. The writers try to use compound adjectives to make their expression meaningful and make the reader acquire better understanding.

Recommendations:

In the light of the findings of the study, the following recommendations are put forward:

- 1- As matter of fact, compound adjectives has a great role in English grammar and semantics. Therefore, it is important to have more materials about compound adjectives .The teachers and students should consider the use of compound adjectives in classroom instruction and how the incorrect use of compound adjectives can harm the relation or the meaning of discourse so as to understand the use of compound adjectives.
- 2- In order to avoid misunderstanding of compound adjectives, the writer should pay more attention to the use of compound adjectives in editorials so that he can use them properly.
- 3- Compound adjectives carry extra information and wide value of semantic features. Therefore, the writers should use it to improve and enhance their writings.

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