

## Syntactic Classification of Gojri Compounds

BADAR ZAMAN

Ph.D Scholar, School of Foreign Languages  
Shanghai University, China

FENG QI, Ph.D.

School of Foreign Languages, Shanghai University, China

### Abstract

*This research work is a descriptive study of Gojri compound words from the syntactic point of view. Gojri compounds comprised of two stems where the components of a compound either belong to the same syntactic category or different one. Noun-noun, adjective-adjective, verb-verb, pronoun-pronoun and adverb-adverb compounds fall in the same category compounds. Adjective-noun, noun-adjective, noun-adverb, adjective-verb, verb-participle and adverb-verb combinations belong to different category compounds. Semantically empty words also get into compounding with the verbs and the construction is termed as the verb-dummy compound.*

**Keywords:** Gojri, syntactic ,classification, compounds

### INTRODUCTION

Zaman (2018) states that Compounding is a morphological process to form a new word. Rangan (2002) opines that compound is a combination comprised of two or more lexical items that do not undergo any interruption. Saha (1996) claims that a compound is a paired combination of two meaningful lexical items that indicate new references. Hladky (1998) avers that a compound is a lexical item that functions as a single word grammatically and semantically. Bauer (1983) describes that a compound is a lexeme that comprises at least two potential stems. Huddleston (2002) is of the view that a compound

is a base consisted of two smaller bases. Adams (1973) sees a compound as a fixed combination. Bauer (2001) asserts that a compound is a lexical unit consisting of two or more constituents that can occur as an independent linguistic unit. Katamba (1993) declares that the compounds are the words made up of two units, neither of which can act as an affix and which may or may not exist on its own. Gojri compounds consist of two stems. There are two categories of Gojri compounds, compounds formed with the combination of words belonging to the same grammatical categories, and compounds formed with the combination of two different grammatical categories. Noun-noun, adjective-adjective, verb-verb, pronoun-pronoun and adverb-adverb compounds fall in the same category compounds. Adjective-noun, noun-adjective, noun-adverb, adjective-verb, verb-participle and adverb-verb combinations belong to different category compounds. The compounds which are formed by the combination of verbs and semantically empty words do not fall under any structural category. Nominal, adjectival, verbal, pronominal and adverbial compounds are there in Gojri. Pronoun joins only pronoun to make the compound. Following is the detailed discussion on the syntactic categories of Gojri compounds:

**Noun-Noun Compounds**

The prolific way of compounding in Gojri is where two nouns get into compounding. The noun-noun components join together to make a compound that is also a noun. Consider the following examples :

kʊɾi: ‘Woman’ + dʒəŋɔ̃ ‘Man’	[kʊɾi:-dʒəŋɔ̃] ‘Spouse’
beheŋ ‘Sister’+ pa:ha:hi: ‘Brother’	[beheŋ- pa:ha:hi:] ‘Siblings’
dʊd, ‘Milk’+ kɪhi: ‘Butter’	[dʊd- kɪhi:] ‘Dairy products’
kʊkəɾ ‘Cock’+ pu:tʁ ‘Chicken’	[kʊkəɾ - pu:tʁ] ‘Poultry’
peheid ‘Sheep’+ bəkri: ‘Goat’	[peheid- bəkri:] ‘Cattle’
tʰhi: ‘Daughter’+ pu:tʰ ‘Son’	[tʰhi:- pu:tʰ] ‘Children’
gã: ‘Cow’+ bətʰɔ̃ ‘Calf’	[gã: - bətʰɔ̃] ‘Cattle’
ləsi: ‘Whey’+ dʊd, ‘Milk’	[ləsi:-dʊd] ‘Dairy product’
həɭ ‘Plough’+ dā:nd, ‘Oxen’	[həɭ- dā:nd] ‘Plough and oxen’
dʒəndɾɔ̃ ‘Lock’+ kondʒi: ‘Key’	[dʒəndɾɔ̃ -kondʒi:] ‘Lock and Key’
li:r ‘Cloth’ +pələ ‘Cloth’	[li:r -pələ] ‘Clothes’
ma:ɭ ‘Cattle’+ tʃəkʰər ‘Cattle’	[ma:ɭ -tʃəkʰər] ‘Livestock’

tu:ɾɔ ‘meal’+ pəhəɾɔ ‘morsel’                      [tu:ɾɔ - pəhəɾɔ] ‘Food’

The above compounds are noun compounds which are formed by the combination of two nouns. Gojri noun-noun compounds have two stems, either of which is an independent lexeme and the resultant compound is also a noun.

**Adjective - Adjective Compounds**

In Gojri, the second most productive way of making compound word is by combining two adjectives together, as:

lik <sup>h</sup> ɟɔ ‘Educated’ + pəɟɔ ‘Educated’	[lik <sup>h</sup> ɟɔ - pəɟɔ] ‘Learned’
mətɔ ‘Fat’ + ɬɑ:zɔ ‘Fresh’	[mətɔ - ɬɑ:zɔ] ‘Healthy’
sɪdɔ ‘Straight forward’ + sɑ:dɔ ‘Simple’	[sɪdɔ - sɑ:dɔ] ‘Very simple’
lɪsɔ ‘weak’ + mɑ:ɾɔ ‘weak’	[lɪsɔ - mɑ:ɾɔ] ‘Very weak’
rɔk <sup>h</sup> ɔ ‘Dry’+ sɔk <sup>h</sup> ɔ ‘Dry’	[rɔk <sup>h</sup> - sɔk <sup>h</sup> ɔ] ‘unappetising’
sɑ:f ‘Clean’+sɔɬ <sup>h</sup> ɾɔ ‘Clean’	[sɑ:f -sɔɬ <sup>h</sup> ɾɔ ] ‘Very clean’
sɔki: ‘Dry’+ smi: ‘Wet’	[sɔki:- smi:] ‘Dry and wet’
vəli: ‘Difficult’ + səvəli: ‘Easy’	[vəli: -səvəli:] ‘Severe’
tʃəŋgɔ ‘Good’ + məndɔ ‘Bad’	[tʃəŋgɔ - məndɔ] ‘Good and bad’
ni:lɔ ‘Blue’ + pi:lɔ ‘Yellow’	[ni:lɔ - pi:lɔ] ‘Colourful’
dəhdɔ ‘Strong’+ lɪsɔ ‘Weak’	[dəhdɔ - lɪsɔ] ‘Strong and weak’

The above adjective-adjective compounds indicate that there are two possible ways of combining two adjectives. Adjectives with the same meanings and with opposite meanings can be combined together to make a compound. When two adjectives, either with the same meaning or having opposite meanings get into compounding, the resultant compound is also an adjective.

**Verb-Verb Compounds**

Like NN and AA compounds,VV compounds are also formed in Gojri where two different verbs are combined to make a compound that functions as a noun.Consider the following illustrations:

ɑ:ŋɔ̃: ‘To come’ + dʒɑ̃:ŋɔ̃: ‘To go’	[ɑ:ŋɔ̃: - dʒɑ̃:ŋɔ̃:] ‘Meeting’
ɔt <sup>h</sup> ŋɔ̃: ‘To stand’ + beɪsŋɔ̃: ‘To sit’	[ɔt <sup>h</sup> ŋɔ̃: - beɪsŋɔ̃: ] ‘Company’
həsŋɔ̃: ‘To laugh’ +k <sup>h</sup> edŋɔ̃: ‘To play’	[həsŋɔ̃: -k <sup>h</sup> edŋɔ̃:] ‘Happiness’
lɪk <sup>h</sup> ŋɔ̃: ‘To write’ + pəɾŋɔ̃: ‘To read’	[lɪk <sup>h</sup> ŋɔ̃: - pəɾŋɔ̃:] ‘Reading’

leṅṅ: ‘To take’ + deṅṅ: ‘To give’	[ leṅṅ: - deṅṅ:] ‘Dealing’
rehṅṅ: ‘To live’ + sehṅṅ: ‘To live’	[ rehṅṅ: - sehṅṅ:] ‘Life style’
la:ṅṅ: ‘To wear’+ k <sup>h</sup> a:ṅṅ: ‘To eat’	[la:ṅṅ:- k <sup>h</sup> a:ṅṅ:] ‘Life style’

The above verbs are in their infinitive forms and compounds formed as a result function as nouns.

**Pronoun- Pronoun Compounds**

Pronoun-pronoun compounds are not a productive category of compounds. Following are examples of pronoun-pronoun compounds:

ṭṭi: ‘You’ + ṭṭi: ‘You’	[ṭṭi: - ṭṭi:] ‘Insulting behaviour’
mē: ‘I’ + ṭṭi: ‘You’	[mē: - ṭṭi:] ‘Rude behaviour’
ṭṭi: ‘You’ + mē: ‘I’	[ ṭṭi: - mē:] ‘Quarrel’
hū: ‘I’+ hū: ‘I’	[hū: + hū:] ‘Murmuring’

The above examples indicate that second person pronoun ṭṭi:and first person pronouns mē: and hū: get into compounding to make a new word that functions as a noun.

In Gojri, relative pronouns are also reduplicated to form a new word that functions as a pronoun, as:

hər ‘Every’+ kəje ‘Every one’	[ hər - kəje ] ‘Every body’
hər ‘Else’+ kəje ‘Every one’	[ hər - kəje] ‘ Any one else’
kəje ‘Every one’+ hər ‘Else’	[ kəje - hər ] ‘Someone else’

The reduplication of interrogative pronouns is also possible in Gojri. The combination of two interrogative pronouns gives an interrogative pronoun.

kəṅ ‘Who’+ kəṅ ‘Who’	[kəṅ - kəṅ] ‘Who’
kiṭ, ‘Where’+ kiṭ, ‘Where’	[kiṭ,- kiṭ,] ‘Where’
kiṭṅ ‘Who’+ kiṭṅ ‘Who’	[kiṭṅ-kiṭṅ] ‘Who’
ke ‘What’ +ke ‘What’	[ke -ke] ‘What’

**Adverb-Adverb Compounds**

Adverb-adverb compounds fall under the category of compounds which are formed by the combination of the same word class. The adverbs of place are combined together to make a compound, as :

ĩ:ǰā: ‘Here’ +ũ:vā: ‘There’	[ĩ:ǰā: -ũ:vā:] ‘Around’
əǰæ ‘Front’+ pɪtʃʰæ ‘Back’	[ əǰæ -pɪtʃʰæ] ‘ Around’
ʊpər ‘Up’ + bɔn ‘Down’	[ʊpər - bɔn] ‘Up and down’
səjæ ‘Right’ +kʰəbæ ‘Left’	[ səjæ -kʰəbæ] ‘ Around’
ɪᵗ ‘Here’+ ʊᵗ ‘There’	[ ɪᵗ- ʊᵗ.] ‘Here and There’
hɪᵗʰ ‘Beneath’+ʊpər ‘Up’	[hɪᵗʰ-ʊpər] ‘Misplaced’

### Adjective-Noun Compounds

Adjective-noun compounds are a productive way of forming compounds which fall under the category of the compounds formed with the involvement of the words having the two different grammatical classes.

gɑ:vɔ ‘Of cow’+d̪ɔᵗ ‘Milk’	[gɑ:vɔ -d̪ɔᵗ.] ‘Milk of cow’
məɦndʒɔ ‘Of buffalo’ +mɑ:s ‘Meant’	[məɦndʒɔ -mɑ:s ] ‘Beef’
bɑ:krɔ ‘ Of goat’+mɑ:s ‘Meat’	[bɑ:krɔ -mɑ:s] ‘Mutton’
dʒəŋgɪ: ‘Wild’ + kɔkəɾ ‘Cock’	[dʒəŋgɪ: - kɔkəɾ] ‘Wild bird’
d̪əɦɑ:t̪i: ‘Of village’ +lɔk ‘People’	[d̪əɦɑ:t̪i: -lɔk] ‘Villagers’
D̪ɛsi: ‘Local’ + kɪhi: ‘Butter’	[d̪ɛsi: - kɪhi: ] ‘Local butter’
əŋgɾɛzɪ ‘English’+ d̪əvɑ:i: ‘Medicine’	[əŋgɾɛzɪ - d̪əvɑ:i: ] ‘English medicine’
dəɦdɑ: ‘Powerful’+ lɔk ‘People’	[dəɦdɑ: - lɔk] ‘Power people’
məɾd̪ ‘Man’ +kɔɾɪ ‘Woman’	[məɾd̪ -kɔɾɪ] ‘Courageous woman’
pəkɪ ‘Firm’ + gəl ‘Talk’	[ pəkɪ - gəl] ‘Commitment’
kətʃɪ ‘Unripe’ +ʊmər ‘Age’	[kətʃɪ -ʊmər] ‘Immaturity’
pəkɔ ‘Firm’ + vəɦd̪ɔ ‘Promise’	[pəkɔ- vəɦd̪ɔ ] ‘Commitment’
sətʃɔ ‘True’+ pɪjɑ:r ‘Love’	[ sətʃɔ - pɪjɑ:r ] ‘True love’
zɛnɪ ‘Mental’+ bi:mɑ:ri: ‘Disease’	[zɛnɪ - bi:mɑ:ri:] ‘Mental sickness’

The above compounds have two stems consisting of adjectives and nouns. An adjective also qualifies a noun and this combination is not considered as compounding. The difference between an adjective qualifying a noun and adjective-noun compound is divisibility and indivisibility. It means that compounds are indivisible where nothing can be inserted between the two components of a compound and any insertion can alter the meanings of the compound. The composition of meanings is another criterion to check the compound word. The overall meanings of the compounds are different from those of the

individual meanings of the constituents. Warren (1978) declares that the components of a compound are connected in such a way that they act as one unit and any insertion between its components breaks the compound and alters the meanings.

### Noun -Adjective Compounds

Like other Indo- Aryan languages, the NA combination is not productive in Gojri. The following NA compounds are found in Gojri:

həd ‘Bone’ +həram ‘illegitimate’	[həd -həram] ‘Lazy’
nımək ‘Salt’+ həra:m ‘Illegitimate’	[nımək - həra:m] ‘Disobedient’
nımək ‘Salt’ +hələ:l ‘Legitimate’	[nımək - hələ:l] ‘Obedient’

### Noun-Adverb Compounds

This also the less productive category of compounding in Gojri. Noun gets into compounding with and adverb, as :

mũ: ‘Face’+əgæ ‘In front of’	[ mũ: -əgæ ] ‘In front of’
kənd ‘Back’ + pıɬʰæ ‘Behind’	[kənd - pıɬʰæ] ‘In the absence’
əkʰã: ‘Eyes’+ əgæ ‘In front of’	[əkʰã:- əgæ] ‘ very obvious’
sır ‘Head’ +ɔpər ‘above’	[sır -ɔpər] ‘Around the corner’

The combination of noun and adverbs give idiosyncratic meanings. [ mũ: -əgæ ] refers towards the direction and [kənd - pıɬʰæ] conveys the meanings of ‘in the absence of someone or something’. [əkʰã:- əgæ] does not mean that something is in front of eyes, but it means that something is clear and obvious . [sır -ɔpər] means that something is approaching or around the corner. In Gojri, Nouns- adverbs combinations are to convey the idiosyncratic meanings.

### Adjective-Verb Compounds

Adjective-verb combination is not a productive category in Gojri. The following combinations are found in Gojri:

ɔɬi ‘High’+ ɬʰıɬkɨ̃ ‘To pull’	[ɔɬi - ɬʰıɬkɨ̃] ‘ To be proud’
ləmi: ‘Long’+ la:ɨ̃ ‘To have’	[ləmi: - la:ɨ̃] ‘To prolong’
ləmi: ‘Long’+ ɬʰɔɬkɨ̃ ‘To release’	[ləmi: - ɬʰɔɬkɨ̃] ‘To boast’

The given adjective-verb combinations, *utʃi* and *ləmi:* are adjectives and *tʃʰɪkŋ̃*, *lɑ:ŋ̃* and *tʃʰɔŋ̃* are verbs in their infinitive forms and when are joined together ,they function as verbs.

### Verb -Participle Compounds

This is the less productive class of compounding in Gojri. Verb-participle compounds are formed by combining the verbs with participle *gæ* , as :

<i>ɖɛɪkʰ</i> ‘To see’+ <i>gæ</i>	[ <i>ɖɛɪkʰ</i> - <i>gæ</i> ] ‘After waiting’
<i>mər</i> ‘To die’ + <i>gæ</i>	[ <i>mər</i> - <i>gæ</i> ] ‘ Hardly’

The derivation of adverbs by the addition of *gæ* with the verbs is a common phenomenon in Gojri. The above compounds are idiosyncratic in meanings. *ɖɛɪkʰ* and *mər* are the verbs in their infinitive forms whereas *gæ* is a participle. *ɖɛɪkʰ ɖɛɪkʰ gæ* means after a long wait and when *mər mər gæ* is used that means hardly. These compounds are used for augmentation.

### Verb + Dummy Compounds

This is the productive category of compound words in Gojri. The first stem in these compounds is meaningful whereas the second stem is meaningless and does not exist on its own unless it is compounded with the first stem. Consider these examples:

<i>ku:tʃ</i> ‘To clean’+ <i>ka:tʃ</i>	[ <i>ku:tʃ</i> - <i>ka:tʃ</i> ] ‘ To clean thoroughly’
<i>mʊn</i> ‘To trim’+ <i>mən</i>	[ <i>mʊn</i> - <i>mən</i> ] ‘ To trim thoroughly’
<i>lɔɾ</i> ‘To search’+ <i>lɑ:ɾ</i>	[ <i>lɔɾ</i> - <i>lɑ:ɾ</i> ] ‘ To search thoroughly’
<i>kəp</i> ‘To cut’+ <i>kʊp</i>	[ <i>kəp</i> - <i>kʊp</i> ] ‘ To cut thoroughly’
<i>ɬɔhɔ</i> ‘To wash’+ <i>ɬəhɑ:</i>	[ <i>ɬɔhɔ</i> - <i>ɬəhɑ:</i> ] ‘ To wash thoroughly’

In the above compounds, the consonants are reduplicated whereas the vowels are changed in the second stems. The initial and final consonant sounds of the first stems are same in the second stems. *ku:tʃ* , *mʊn*, *lɔɾ* , *kəp* and *ɬɔhɔ* are meaningful words, whereas *ka:tʃ,mən*, *lɑ:ɾ*, *kʊp* and *ɬəhɑ:* are semantically empty words. Zaman(2018) declares that the purpose of reduplicated constructions is to imply an augmentative effect where the second stem does not exist independently and convey meanings unless it gets into

compounding with the first stem. Koul (2008) claims that in Indo-Aryan languages, one meaningful lexeme gets into compounding with an absurd word which does not convey meaning on its own but it gives meaning when is compounded with the meaningful linguistic unit.

### **Adverb-Verb Compounds**

Only one compound in the adverb-verb combination is found in Gojri.

oprũ: 'From above'+ a:i: 'Came'      [ oprũ: - a:i:] 'Something divine'

Here, oprũ: 'from above' is an adverb of place and a:i: 'came' is a verb.

### **CONCLUSION**

The syntactic classification of Gojri compounds indicates that the structure of Gojri compounds is simple where only two components involve in the combination. Noun-noun, adjective-adjective, verb-verb, pronoun-pronoun, adverb-adverb, adjective-noun, noun-adjective, noun-adverb, adjective-verb, verb-participle and adverb-verb combinations exist in Gojri. Gojri noun-noun compounds have two stems, either of which is an independent lexeme and the resultant compound is also a noun. When two adjectives, either with the same meaning or having opposite meanings get into compounding, the resultant compound is also an adjective. The verbs in their infinitive forms when get into compounding, the compounds formed as a result function as nouns. In Gojri, pronouns only get into compounding with pronouns. The second person pronoun tũ: and first person pronouns mẽ: and hũ: get into compounding to make a new word that functions as a noun. Relative pronouns are also reduplicated to form a new word that functions as a pronoun. The reduplication of interrogative pronouns is also possible in Gojri. The combination of two interrogative pronouns gives an interrogative pronoun. The distinction between an adjective qualifying a noun and adjective-noun compound is somewhat difficult and the difference is divisibility and indivisibility. It means that a compound is indivisible where nothing can be inserted between the two components of a compound and any insertion can alter the meanings of the compound. The composition of meanings is another criterion to check the compound word. The overall meanings of the compounds are different from those of the individual meanings of the constituents. The derivation of adverbs by

the addition of gæ with the verbs is a common phenomenon in Gojri that conveys idiosyncratic meanings. In verb-dummy compound construction, the first stem is meaningful whereas the second stem is meaningless and does not exist on its own unless it is compounded with the first stem.

## REFERENCES

1. Adams, V.(1973).An Introduction to Modern English Word Formation. London: Longman.
2. Bauer, L.(2001).Compounding In Martin Haspelma editor, Language Typology and Language Universals Mounton de Gruyter The Hauge.
3. Bauer, L. (1983). English word Formation, Cambridge: Edinburg: Edinburg University Press.
4. Haladky, J. (1998).A Functional Onomatology of English. Brno: Masarykova Universita.
5. Huddleston, R.(2002). The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
6. Katamba, F.(1993). Morphology. Oxford University Press.
7. Koul, O.N.(2008).Modern Hindi Grammar. Dunwoody Press.
8. Rangan, K.( 2002).Compounds in Tamil. Dravidian Studies, Dravidian university, Kuppam.
9. Saha, S.(1995). Reduplication in Bengali, Mundari and Telugu: A Lingustic Study (Ph.D Thesis), P.S.Telugu University, Hyderabad.
10. Warren,B.(1978).Semantic Patterns of Noun-Noun Compounds. ACTA Universitatis Gothoburgensis, Goteborg: Sweden.
11. Zaman, B. (2018).Reduplication in Gojri: A Semantic Analysis. Language in India .Vol. 18:1,637-653