



# FORMATION, STRUCTURE, AND USAGE OF COMPOUND WORDS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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## Abstract

Word formation plays an essential role in the development and enrichment of vocabulary in any language. One of the most productive methods of word formation is compounding, which involves combining two or more lexical units to create a new word with a specific meaning. The present article investigates the formation, structural characteristics, and functional usage of compound words in English and Uzbek. The study focuses on the semantic and morphological features of compounds and analyzes similarities and differences between the two languages. Particular attention is paid to the classification of compound words and their role in expanding lexical resources. The findings demonstrate that although English and Uzbek belong to different language families, both languages employ compounding as an effective mechanism of vocabulary development.

**Keywords:** compound words, word formation, compounding, morphology, lexical structure, English language, Uzbek language.

## Introduction

Vocabulary is one of the most dynamic components of any language system. New words constantly appear in response to social, technological, and cultural developments. Word formation processes play an important role in this lexical expansion. Among these processes, compounding occupies a special position because it allows speakers to create new words by combining existing lexical elements. Compound words are lexical units formed by joining two or more



independent words into a single semantic unit. These combinations often express concepts that cannot be easily conveyed by a single lexical item. Compounding is widely used in many languages and serves as a productive means of enriching vocabulary. In English, compound words are extremely common and appear in different structural forms such as blackboard, toothbrush, sunlight, and mother-in-law. Similarly, Uzbek also employs compounding in the formation of words such as temiryo‘l, oshpaz, ishchi-xizmatchi, and ko‘zoynak.

The comparative study of compound words in English and Uzbek provides valuable insights into the similarities and differences between the two languages in terms of morphological structure and semantic organization. The aim of this article is to analyze the formation, structure, and usage of compound words in English and Uzbek and to identify the main patterns of compounding in both languages.

### **Literature Review**

The study of word formation has been an important area of linguistic research for many decades. Scholars have examined the processes through which new words emerge and become integrated into the vocabulary of a language. According to John Lyons, word formation processes such as compounding, derivation, and conversion contribute significantly to the growth of lexical systems [Lyons, 1977]. Compounding, in particular, is considered one of the most productive methods of creating new lexical units. In English linguistics, compound words have been widely studied as part of morphological analysis. Researchers emphasize that English compounds may be written as single words, hyphenated forms, or separate lexical units depending on their degree of lexicalization. In Uzbek linguistics, compounding has also been recognized as an important word formation process. Uzbek compound words often reflect cultural concepts, professional terminology, and everyday activities. Scholars note that many Uzbek compounds originate from the combination of nouns, adjectives, and verbs. Comparative linguistic studies show that although English and Uzbek differ typologically, both languages use compounding to create new lexical items and express complex concepts.



## Methodology

The present study employs several linguistic methods commonly used in morphological analysis. The descriptive method is used to identify compound words and analyze their structural characteristics. The comparative method is applied to examine similarities and differences between English and Uzbek compounds. The semantic analysis method allows the investigation of the meanings and functions of compound words. Examples from dictionaries and linguistic literature serve as the primary material for the analysis.

## Materials and Discussion

Compound words are formed through the combination of two or more lexical bases that function together as a single unit. In English, the most common types of compounds include “Noun + Noun” as: *schoolboy, football*; “Adjective + Noun” as: *blackboard, greenhouse*; “Verb + Noun” as: *pickpocket, breakwater*. Similarly, Uzbek compound words are formed through combinations such as: “Noun + Noun”: *temiryo ‘l, ko ‘zoynak*; “Adjective + Noun”: *oqqush, qorako ‘z*; “Verb + Noun” as: *oshpaz, yozuvchi*.

These structures demonstrate that compounding is a productive morphological process in both languages.

Structural Types of Compound Words. Compound words may be classified according to their structural organization. In English, compounds are typically divided into three categories:

1. Closed compounds – written as a single word: *notebook, sunflower*.
2. Hyphenated compounds: *mother-in-law, well-known*.
3. Open compounds: *post office, high school*.

In Uzbek, compounds are often written as single lexical units or through morphological fusion. Examples include: *temiryo ‘l, qo ‘lbola, ko ‘zoynak*.

Such compounds gradually become fixed lexical units within the language.

While speaking about semantic characteristics of compounds it should be pointed that compound words often express meanings that are more specific than those of their individual components. For example: *blackboard* → a board used for writing in classrooms. Or in Uzbek: *temiryo ‘l* → a railway.

In many cases, the meaning of the compound cannot be fully predicted from its components, which demonstrates the semantic unity of compound words.



Now about the usage of compound words. Compound words are widely used in various spheres of communication, including everyday speech, technical terminology, and literary language. In English, compounding is especially productive in scientific and technological vocabulary, producing terms such as: *software, database, smartphone*. Similarly, Uzbek also forms compound words for professional and social concepts, including: *ishxona, mehnatsevar, yo'ltarakati*.

These examples illustrate the important role of compounding in expanding lexical resources.

## **Results**

The comparative analysis of compound words in English and Uzbek reveals several significant findings.

First, compounding represents a productive word formation process in both languages.

Second, compound words are formed through the combination of different lexical categories such as nouns, adjectives, and verbs.

Third, although English and Uzbek differ typologically, their compound words perform similar semantic and communicative functions.

Finally, compounding contributes significantly to the enrichment and development of vocabulary.

## **Conclusion**

The analysis of compound words in English and Uzbek demonstrates that compounding is an important morphological process that contributes to the expansion and development of vocabulary in both languages. Compound words allow speakers to express complex ideas and concepts through the combination of existing lexical elements. The comparative examination shows that although English and Uzbek belong to different language families and possess distinct grammatical structures, they share several common principles in the formation and usage of compound words. In both languages, compounds are formed through the combination of lexical bases such as nouns, adjectives, and verbs, and they function as unified semantic units.



Furthermore, compound words play a significant role in various spheres of communication, including everyday speech, scientific and technical terminology, journalistic discourse, and literary expression. Their structural flexibility and semantic richness allow speakers and writers to create precise, compact, and descriptive meanings, which makes compound formations an essential instrument of linguistic creativity and lexical expansion. In both English and Uzbek, compounding enables the language to respond effectively to the emergence of new concepts, technological innovations, and cultural phenomena by forming new lexical units from already existing elements. For example, in English compounds such as *smartphone*, *greenhouse*, or *worldview* demonstrate how two lexical bases combine to produce a conceptually unified meaning. Similarly, in Uzbek, compounds like *temiryo'l*, *ishbilarmon*, and *qo'lmehnat* illustrate the productive nature of this word-formation process.

In addition to their nominative function, compound words often contribute to stylistic expressiveness, particularly in literary texts. Writers frequently employ compounds to create vivid imagery, emphasize descriptive details, or convey complex ideas in a concise manner. This stylistic function enhances the aesthetic quality of language and enriches narrative discourse. Moreover, compound formations may reflect cultural and conceptual features of a speech community, since the elements chosen for compounding often correspond to culturally significant notions or social realities.

Therefore, the study of compound words contributes to a deeper understanding of morphological processes, lexical development, and semantic organization within a language. A comparative analysis of compound formation in English and Uzbek highlights both structural similarities and typological differences between the two languages, particularly in the patterns of word combination, semantic relations between components, and orthographic representation. Such research not only broadens our knowledge of word-formation mechanisms but also provides valuable insights into how languages expand their vocabularies and adapt to the communicative needs of society. Future studies may further explore the semantic evolution of compound words, their productivity in modern discourse, and their role in the ongoing development of contemporary English and Uzbek lexical systems.



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