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COMPOUNDS AND COMPOUNDING

Are compounds words or phrases – or are they neither, or both? How should we classify compounds? How can we deal with the fact that the relationship between the elements of *sugar pill* ('pill made of sugar') is different from that in *sea-sickness pill* ('pill to prevent sea-sickness')? Are compounds a linguistic universal? How much do languages vary in the way their compounds work? Why do we need compounds, when there are other ways of creating the same meanings? Are so-called neoclassical compounds like *photograph* really compounds? Based on more than forty years' research, this controversial new book sets out to answer these and many other questions.

LAURIE BAUER is Emeritus Professor at the School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies at the University of Wellington, Victoria. He has published many works on morphology including *English Word-formation* (Cambridge, 1983), *Introducing Linguistic Morphology* (2003) and *Morphological Productivity* (Cambridge, 2001).

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Victoria University of Wellington

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Laurie Bauer
Frontmatter
More Information

Contents

Figures *page* x
Tables xi
Preface and Acknowledgements xiii
Abbreviations and Notational Conventions xv

1 Introduction 1

2 Compounds and Words 3
2.1 Introduction 3
2.2 Words, Words, Words 3
2.3 Orthographic Words 4
2.4 Phonological Words 7
2.4.1 Segmental Criteria 7
2.4.2 Suprasegmental Criteria 9
2.4.3 Discussion 9
2.5 Listedness and Wordhood 10
2.6 The Typology of Words 13
2.7 Grammatically-Related Criteria for Wordhood 15
2.7.1 'Minimal Free Form' 15
2.7.2 Criteria Involving Structural Integrity 16
2.7.3 Accessibility of Elements 19
2.7.4 Coordination 21
2.7.5 Independent Modification 23
2.7.6 Global Inflection 24
2.8 Is There a Non-Word Solution? 26
2.9 Discussion 27

3 The Grammar of Compounds 29
3.1 Introduction 29
3.2 Headedness 29
3.2.1 Headedness in Syntax 29
3.2.2 Extending Headedness to Morphology 31
3.2.3 Headedness in Compounds 35

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CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-41603-0 — Compounds and Compounding
Laurie Bauer
Frontmatter
More Information

3.3	Binarity	41
3.4	Recursion	43
3.5	The Interpenetration of Compounding and Syntax	46
	3.5.1 Phrases as Modifiers in Compounds	46
	3.5.2 Phrases in Non-Modifying Position	49
	3.5.3 Words from Phrases	50
3.6	Exploiting Argument Structure	51
3.7	The Grammatical Function of Compounds	53
4	**The Semantics of Compounds**	**55**
4.1	Introduction	55
4.2	Semantic Features of Word-Formation	55
	4.2.1 Negation	55
	4.2.2 Number	56
	4.2.3 Tense	59
	4.2.4 Other Verbal Categories: Mood, Aspect, Voice	60
	4.2.5 Discussion	62
	4.2.6 Naming versus Describing	63
4.3	Centred or Not: Endocentric versus Exocentric	64
4.4	Variable Semantics in Centred N + N Compounds	71
4.5	Relatively Fixed Semantics in Verb-Based Compounds	79
4.6	Variability in the Semantics of Coordinative Compounds	82
4.7	The Semantics of A + N Compounds	93
4.8	The Semantics of Compound Verbs	95
4.9	The Semantics of Compound Adjectives	100
4.10	Psycholinguistic Approaches	104
4.11	Summary	106
5	**The Classification of Compounds**	**107**
5.1	Introduction	107
5.2	The Sanskrit Classification	107
	5.2.1 Tatpuruṣa	107
	5.2.2 Bahuvrīhi	108
	5.2.3 Dvandva	109
	5.2.4 Avyayībhāva	109
	5.2.5 Other Compound Types	110
	5.2.6 Discussion	110
5.3	Exploring Scalise's Approach	112
5.4	The Value of Classifications	116
	Appendix: Classification Applied to English	120
6	**Facets of English Compounding**	**126**
6.1	Questions of Stress	126
6.2	Phrasal Verbs	132

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CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-41603-0 — Compounds and Compounding
Laurie Bauer
Frontmatter
More Information

6.3 Compound Verbs 136
6.4 Plural Modifiers 140
6.5 Neoclassical Compounds 148
6.5.1 Are Neoclassical Compounds Really Compounds? 150
6.5.2 The Forms of Neoclassical Compounds 152
6.5.3 The Borders of Neoclassical Compounds 156
6.6 Blends 157
6.7 Form and Usage 163
6.8 Envoi 167

7 Discussion 168
7.1 Taking Stock 168
7.2 Some Typological Considerations 169
7.3 Where Next? 172

Appendix: Lexical One 174
References 177

Indexes
Language Index 190
General Index 192

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CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-41603-0 — Compounds and Compounding
Laurie Bauer
Frontmatter
More Information

Figures

5.1 Scalise & Bisetto's (2009: 50) classification of compounds *page* 112
6.1 Relative textual density of forms with unmarked or plural first elements from Google ngrams 145
6.2 Relative textual density of *letter column* vs. *letters column* from Google ngrams 147

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CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-41603-0 — Compounds and Compounding
Laurie Bauer
Frontmatter
More Information

Tables

3.1	Summary of headedness criteria in derivation	*page* 35
3.2	Summary of headedness criteria in compounding	40
3.3	Languages used for the investigation of recursion	45
4.1	Examples of bahuvrihi compounds	66
4.2	Exocentric synthetic compounds	66
4.3	Exocentric coordinative compounds	67
4.4	Exocentricity by language change or social change	67
4.5	Metaphorical compounds	68
4.6	French V + N exocentric examples	69
4.7	Endocentric verbal compounds with arguments and adjuncts	98
4.8	Compound verbs with particles	99
4.9	Exocentric verbal compounds	100
5.1	Summary of proposed feature system	113
6.1	Stress in English compounds: a summary	131
A	Results of the questionnaire	175

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978-1-108-41603-0 — Compounds and Compounding
Laurie Bauer
Frontmatter
More Information

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Preface and Acknowledgements

There are three direct motivations for this work. The first is that early in 2015 I was asked to write a chapter on compounds in English (Bauer *in press*). In writing that chapter it quickly became clear to me that I had much more to say than would fit into a chapter, and that many of the issues that deserved consideration in the study of compounds were worthy of a least a chapter each. Several of them have had books written about them. The second motivation is from a comment I made at the Universals and Typology in Word-Formation II conference held at Šafárik University, Košice, Slovakia, in August 2012. The organisers asked me to provide a summary of that conference at its end, pulling out common threads. One of the things I noted, in an attempt to be provocative, was that we had seen a number of papers where the classification of compounds had been raised as an issue. I suggested that if we had not got a classification of compounds after 4,000 years of work, we might be asking the wrong questions. I may still be asking the wrong questions, but I have tried to change the ground a little here. The third motivation is that I realised in the course of this project that I first started to take the study of compounds seriously at the beginning of 1973, when I narrowed the topic of my PhD down to compounding. So I have been working on and with compounds for more than forty years, and developing my own view of compounds gradually over that period. Some of my ideas remain unchanged from my thesis (completed in 1975 but published as Bauer 1978), many others have changed radically since then, under the influence of my own and other people's research on compounds specifically and my own evolving ideas about language and linguistics. Those ideas have evolved as the linguistic landscape has evolved. When I started my thesis, Chomsky's Extended Standard Theory was a recent innovation and cognitive grammar had not been developed at all. These days, though I would hesitate to call myself a cognitive linguist, I have been strongly influenced by many of the ideas of cognitive grammar and, within that overall framework, by construction grammar and exemplar theory. These trends in linguistic thought have changed my ideas about compounds

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More Information

considerably, and this book is an attempt to formulate my own personal view of what is going on in compounding in the light of such influences. This means that even where I reprise matters that I have covered in earlier publications, my conclusions are not necessarily the same and are not necessarily viewed in the same context. At the same time, I have to recognise that because my viewpoint is unashamedly personal, it is only one viewpoint among many, and that my ideas and conclusions are necessarily controversial. While I try to build my conclusions into a coherent view of what is going on in this area of language, readers may accept some of my conclusions but reject others, and I cannot necessarily assume that everything I conclude will be accepted with equal alacrity by my readers. This accounts for my sometimes appearing to leave my options open.

I should like to thank Winifred Bauer, Natalia Beliaeva, Andrew Chesterman and Liza Tarasova for providing examples, and Natalia Beliaeva, Pavol Štekauer, Liza Tarasova and Peter Whiteford for comments on an earlier version of the typescript. I should like to thank Paul Warren for the data referred to in Section 3.2.3, and my ELT colleagues at Victoria University for responding to the questionnaire discussed in the Appendix. Finally, I should like to thank the team at Cambridge University Press, including the anonymous readers who commented most helpfully on the first draft. Versions of parts of Section 2.7.6 and the Appendix have previously been the subject of presentations at conferences of the New Zealand Linguistics Society. While thanking all these people, I must point out that they do not necessarily agree with me, and they are not responsible for the way in which I have interpreted their comments.

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Frontmatter
More Information

Abbreviations and Notational Conventions

A	adjective
ABE	abessive
ABL	ablative
ABSL	absolutive
ADJLZ	adjectivaliser
ADV	adverb
AORII	aorist of class II
CONT	continuous
DEF	definite
DERIV	derivational marker
DO	direct object
GEN	genitive
ILL	illative
INE	inessive
INF	infinitive
INST	instrumental
LE	linking element
M	masculine
N	noun
NEUT	neuter
NMLZ	nominalization
NON-NEUT	non-neuter
NP	noun phrase
NUM	number
P	preposition
PASS	passive
PAST	past tense
PERS	person-marker
PL	plural
PP	prepositional phrase
PRES	present tense
Q	quantifier

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Laurie Bauer
Frontmatter
More Information

SG	singular
SUBJV	subjunctive
V	verb
3	third person
♦	is morphologically related to
•	break between morphs not indicated in the orthography/transcription
*	unacceptable
?	of questionable acceptability
italics	cited examples; words; word-forms, morphs; titles
SMALL CAPITALS	lexemes; glosses of grammatical items
/ /	enclosing phonological representations
< >	enclosing orthographic representations
[ ]	enclosing constituents; enclosing editorial comment or addition
‘ ’	enclosing meanings or glosses; enclosing terms; enclosing dialogue; enclosing quotations
“ ”	enclosing quotations within quotations; as “scare quotes”

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