



Morphosemantic Study Of Compound Words In The New York Times Articles

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Abstract. *The New York Times is USA's most popular digital news platform which can be accessed easier by people around the world. Due to many new words that can be combined to become compound words, it is interesting to see the compound words that are applied on the New York Times website. This study looked at the different the types and meanings of compound words used in the New York Times articles. The study describes the types of compound words with the theory proposed by Katamba (1993). Then, to analyze the meanings of compound words, the theory by Palmer (1991) was used. To achieve the objectives, descriptive qualitative methods were used in the study. The data were taken from the New York Times website. In collecting data, the documentation method with note-taking techniques was applied. From 58 data collected, the results showed that compound nouns become the most common types of compound words used in the articles with 33 compound words, followed by compound verbs with 13 compound words, and compound adjectives with 12 compound words. Referring to the meaning of compound words, there are 34 compound words with opaque meanings and 24 compound words with transparent meanings.*

Keywords : *compound word, morphosemantic, New York Times*

Abstrak. New York Times adalah salah satu platform berita digital terkenal yang mudah diakses oleh semua orang. Dikarenakan banyak kata baru yang dapat digabung menjadi kata majemuk, sangat menarik untuk melihat kata majemuk yang digunakan pada websie New York Times. Penelitian ini mengidentifikasi jenis dan makna kata-kata majemuk yang digunakan pada artikel-artikel New York Times. Penelitian ini menguraikan jenis-jenis kata majemuk menggunakan teori dari Katamba (1993). Untuk menjelaskan makna dari kata majemuk, penelitian ini menggunakan teori dari Palmer (1991). Metode deskripsi qualitative digunakan untuk mencapai tujuan penelitian. Data penelitian diambil dari website New York Times. Metode dokumentasi dengan teknik pencatatan digunakan dalam proses pengambilan data. Dari 58 data yang terkumpul, hasilnya menunjukkan kata benda majemuk menjadi kata majemuk yang paling banyak digunakan dengan 33 kata, diikuti oleh kata kerja majemuk dengan 13 kata dan kata sifat majemuk dengan 12 kata. Berdasarkan maknanya, terdapat 34 kata majemuk dengan makna yang tidak terlihat dan 24 kata majemuk dengan makna yang terlihat.

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LATAR BELAKANG

Compound words are two or more words that are made up to form a new word. Quirk (1985) stated, “A compound is a lexical unit made up of more than one base that functions as a single word both grammatically and semantically.” Many new words combined become compound words and are applied in every aspect of communication, such as newspapers, novels, TV reports, digital newspapers, and face-interface communication.

In this era, digital news become a source for people easier to know more about world situations. Digital information can be accessed everywhere and every time using only a mobile phone or computer. The New York Times has become the USA’s most popular digital news platform. This platform publishes much news worldwide that people can access everywhere. Many articles on the New York Times website consist of compound words.

In addition to defining the sorts of compound words, the study will examine their meaning. It is known as semantics, a discipline of linguistics that investigates the meaning of language. Compound words combine two words and have a new meaning after combining them. The meanings can be determined from the parts of words. However, some words have a new meaning and cannot be determined from their parts.

Previously, Damayanti and Malini (2020) studied the types of compound words in Sri Chinmoy’s book, *Seventy-Seven Thousand Service-Trees*. This study focused analysis of the types and structures of compounds. The study discovered 390 data, most classified as compound nouns, compound verbs, and compound adjectives. The study then found that there are two ways to spell compound words; hyphenated and solid. Moreover, the study found sub-classes of compound words: exocentric compound, endocentric compound, and copulative compound.

A recent study has revealed a significant understanding of compound words and their meanings. It divides compound words into compound verbs, compound nouns, and compound adjectives. Furthermore, the latest study also investigated the meaning of compound words classified as opaque or transparent.

Based on the stated above, the study focused on two objectives. First, the different sorts of compound words found in the New York Times articles. Second, the meaning of compound words. It is significant because it may have distinct meanings.

KAJIAN TEORITIS

The main theory used in the study was proposed by Katamba (1993). It is used to analyze the types of compound words. Meanwhile, the supported theory proposed by Palmer (1981) is used to analyze the linguistic meaning of compound words.

1. Types of Compound Word

Katamba (1993) divided the types of compound words based on the lexical category as follows:

a) Compound Verbs

A compound verb is a word made up of a verb and a prepositional or adverbial component (Katamba 1993:305). A prepositional or adverbial particle (P) followed by a verb is a very common kind. A phrasal verb is the most prevalent sort of compound verb in English. Picture 2.1 shows the phrase structure rule necessary for compound verbs.

$$V \rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{cc} P & V \\ V & P \end{array} \right\}$$

Picture 2.1 Structure rule for compound verbs

b) Compound Adjectives

A compound adjective is a type of compound word that consists of an adjective followed by another adjective, a noun followed by an adjective, and a preposition followed by an adjective (Katamba 1993:306). The phrase structure rule required for compound adjectives is given in Picture 2.2.

$$A \rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{c} N \\ A \\ Prep \end{array} \right\} A$$

Picture 2.2 Structure rule for compound adjectives

c) Compound Nouns

A compound noun is a type of compound word that consists of a noun followed by another noun, an adjective followed by a noun, or a preposition followed by a noun (Katamba 1993:307). The phrase structure rule required for compound nouns is given in Picture 2.3.

$$N \rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{c} N \\ V \\ A \\ \text{Prep} \end{array} \right\} N$$

Picture 2.3 Structure rule for compound nouns

2. Meaning of Compound Word

Palmer (1981) categorizes compound word meanings as opaque and transparent meanings.

a) Opaque Meaning

Palmer (1981: 35) defines opaque meaning as those whose meaning can be deduced from their parts' meaning. The "windfall" is an example of opaque meaning. The word "wind" means a natural air movement. Meanwhile, the "fall" smith means an act of falling or collapsing. Therefore, the meaning of the compound word "windfall" does not mean a falling act of air movement. The word "windfall" means an expected gain or piece of good fortune. From the example above, it can be concluded that the meaning of compound words cannot be divine from the meaning of their constituent parts.

b) Transparent Meanings

Palmer (1981: 35) defines transparent meaning as those whose meaning could be deduced from the meaning of their constituent parts. "Paintbrush" is an example of transparent meaning. The word "paint" means a colored liquid put on a surface, and the word "brush" means a tool with stiff hairs, fibers, etc., used for cleaning, smoothing, or painting something. Then, the word "paintbrush" means a tool used for applying paint. It implies that the meaning of the compound word can be deduced from its constituent parts.

METODE PENELITIAN

The descriptive qualitative approach was utilized in the study. The study obtained the data from The New York Times website in the Business column of Today's Paper sections. The data will be collected from New York Times articles published in the fourth week of January (22-28 January 2023). This study used the documentation approach to obtain data. The technique of note-taking data was used to sort and classify the relevant data. The analysis of the study was provided in informal methods to present the data. The problems in the study were presented narratively in informal ways to make the analysis clear.

HASIL DAN PEMBAHASAN

This part provides the findings and discussion of the data from The New York Times articles.

1. Compound Verbs

a) Overhaul

The compound word “overhaul” is produced by merging two separate words, namely “over” and “haul”. The word “over” represents a preposition, while the word “haul” represents a verb. The merger of these words created the compound word “overhaul” which belongs to a verb.

Semantically, the word “over” and “haul” have distinct lexical meanings. The word “over” can be defined as extending directly upward from. Meanwhile, the word “haul” can be defined as pulling or dragging something with effort. Furthermore, after these two words are combined, they become the compound word “overhaul” which means taking apart the equipment to examine and repair it if necessary. Based on the meaning, the compound word “overhaul” can be considered to have an opaque meaning. It is because the meaning of “overhaul” can’t be determined from the word “over” and “haul”.

b) Paid off

The compound word “paid off” is produced by merging two separate words, namely “paid” and “off”. The word “paid” represents a verb, while the word “off” represents a preposition. The merger of these words created the compound word “paid off” which belongs to a verb.

Semantically, the word “paid” and “off” have distinct lexical meanings. The word “paid” can be defined as giving money to someone in exchange for work done, commodities obtained, or a debt committed. Meanwhile, the word “off” can be defined as moving away and often down from. Furthermore, after these two words are combined become the compound word “paid off” whose meaning is to yield good results. Based on the meaning, the compound word “paid off” can be considered to have an opaque meaning. It is because the meaning of “paid off” can’t be determined from the word “paid” and “off”.

2. Compound Adjectives

a) Little-known

The compound word “little-known” is produced by merging two separate words, namely “little” and “known”. The word “little” represents an adjective, while the word “known” represents an adjective. The merger of these words created the compound word “little-known” which belongs to an adjective.

Semantically, the word “little” and “known” have distinct lexical meanings. The word “little” can be defined as a small amount of something. Meanwhile, the word “known” can be defined as recognized or familiar. Furthermore, after these two words are combined become the compound word “little-known” whose meaning is something that is not popular or famed. Based on the meaning, the compound word “little-known” can be considered to have a transparent meaning. It is because the meaning of “little-known” can be determined from the word “little” and “known”.

b) Trustworthy

The compound word “trustworthy” is produced by merging two separate words, namely “trust” and “worthy”. The word “trust” represents a noun, while the word “worthy” represents an adjective. The merger of these words created the compound word “trustworthy” which belongs to an adjective.

Semantically, the word “trust” and “worthy” have distinct lexical meanings. The word “trust” can be defined as someone or something that is honest and can be relied on. Meanwhile, the word “worthy” can be defined as having good qualities in a specified way. Furthermore, after these two words are combined become the compound word “trustworthy” whose meaning is worthy and able to be trusted. Based on the meaning, the compound word “trustworthy” can be considered to have a transparent meaning. It is because the meaning of “trustworthy” can be determined from the word “trust” and “worthy”.

c) Brand-new

The compound word “brand-new” is produced by merging two separate words, namely “brand” and “new”. The word “brand” represents a noun, while the word “new” represents an adjective. The merger of these words created the compound word “brand-new” which belongs to an adjective.

Semantically, the word “brand” and “new” have distinct lexical meanings. The word “brand” can be defined as a variety of products created by a certain corporation under a specific name. Meanwhile, the word “new” can be defined as not existing before. Furthermore, after these two words are combined become the compound word “brand-new” whose meaning is a thing that is completely new and unused. Based on the meaning, the compound word “brand-new” can be considered to have a transparent meaning. It is because the meaning of “brand-new” can be determined from the word “brand” and “new”.

3. Compound Nouns

a) Policymakers

The compound word “policymakers” is produced by merging two separate words, namely “policy” and “makers”. The word “policy” represents a noun, while the word “makers” represents a noun. The merger of these words created the compound word “policymakers” which belongs to a noun.

Semantically, the word “policy” and “makers” have distinct lexical meanings. The word “policy” can be defined as a principle that is adopted or suggested by a government, party, corporation, or individual. Meanwhile, the word “maker” can be defined as a person that produces something. Furthermore, after these two words are combined become the compound word “policymakers” which means a person responsible for or involved in formulating policies, especially in politics. Based on the meaning, the compound word “policymakers” can be considered to have a transparent meaning. It is because the meaning of “policymakers” can be determined from the word “policy” and “makers”.

b) Bottlenecks

The compound word “bottlenecks” is produced by merging two separate words, namely “bottle” and “necks”. The word “bottle” represents a noun, while the word “necks” represents a noun. The merger of these words created the compound word “bottlenecks” which belongs to a noun.

Semantically, the word “bottle” and “necks” have distinct lexical meanings. The word “bottle” can be defined as a container with a narrow neck, usually made from glass or plastic. Meanwhile, the word “necks” can be defined as a narrow part of something. Furthermore, after these two words are combined become the compound word “bottlenecks” whose meaning is a situation that causes a delay in a process or system. Based on the meaning, the compound word “bottlenecks” can be considered to have an opaque meaning. It is because the meaning of “bottlenecks” can’t be determined from the word “bottle” and “necks”.

c) Wholesale

The compound word “wholesale” is produced by merging two separate words, namely “whole” and “sale”. The word “whole” represents an adjective, while the word “sale” represents a noun. The merger of these words created the compound word “wholesale” which belongs to a noun.

Semantically, the word “whole” and “sale” have distinct lexical meanings. The word “whole” can be defined as the full amount of something. Meanwhile, the word “sale” can be defined as an act of selling something. Furthermore, after these two words are combined

become the compound word “wholesale” whose meaning is the selling of items on a large scale to be marketed by others. Based on the meaning, the compound word “wholesale” can be considered to have a transparent meaning. It is because the meaning of “wholesale” can be determined from the word “whole” and “sale”.

d) Guardrails

The compound word “guardrails” is produced by merging two separate words, namely “guard” and “rails”. The word “guard” represents a verb, while the word “rails” represents a noun. The merger of these words created the compound word “guardrails” which belongs to a noun.

Semantically, the word “guard” and “rails” have distinct lexical meanings. The word “guard” can be defined as protecting someone or something from harm or damage. Meanwhile, the word “rails” can be defined as a horizontally fixed bar of wood or metal used for various purposes. Furthermore, after these two words are combined become the compound word “guardrails” whose meaning is a rail used to prevent or protect someone from falling off. Based on the meaning, the compound word “guardrails” can be considered to have a transparent meaning. It is because the meaning of “guardrails” can be determined from the word “guard” and “rails”.

e) Downturn

The compound word “downturn” is produced by merging two separate words, namely “down” and “turn”. The word “down” represents a preposition, while the word “turn” represents a noun. The merger of these words created the compound word “downturn” which belongs to a noun.

Semantically, the word “down” and “turn” have distinct lexical meanings. The word “down” can be defined as a lower part or point. Meanwhile, the word “turn” can be defined as a change of direction when moving. Furthermore, after these two words are combined become the compound word “downturn” whose meaning is a decrease in the amount or success of something. Based on the meaning, the compound word “downturn” can be considered to have an opaque meaning. It is because the meaning of “downturn” can’t be determined from the word “down” and “turn”.

Table 1. The Occurrence of Various Types of Compound Words

No.	Types of Compound Words	Frequency
1.	<i>Compound Verb</i>	13
	Preposition + Verb	5
	Verb + Preposition	8
2.	<i>Compound Adjective</i>	12
	Adjective + Adjective	2
	Noun + Adjective	10
3.	<i>Compound Noun</i>	33
	Noun + Noun	18
	Verb + Noun	4
	Adjective + Noun	8
	Preposition + Noun	3

Table 2. Frequency Compound Word Meanings Found

No.	Meaning of Compound Words	Frequency
1.	Opaque Meaning	34
2.	Transparent Meaning	24

KESIMPULAN DAN SARAN

This study identifies the types and meanings of compound words found in the New York Times article. Based on the types of compound words, the study found compound nouns as the most common type of compound word used in the New York Times articles, with 33 compound words belonging to this type. Then, compound verbs became the second common type with 13 compound words. Last, the least common types of compound words found were compound adjectives, with 12 compound words. Then, based on the meanings, the result of the study found that opaque meanings become the most common meanings found in the New York Times articles. It consists of 34 compound words. It indicates that the majority of the meaning of compound words cannot be deduced from their constituents. Furthermore, compound words with transparent meanings have fewer numbers than opaque meanings. It consists of 24 compound words, which the meaning can be divine from their parts.

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