

COMPARATIVE LEXICON SYSTEM OF RUSSIAN, GERMAN, AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES

RUS, GERMAN VA INGLIZ TILLARINING QIYOSIY LEKSIKON TIZIMI.

СРАВНИТЕЛЬНАЯ ЛЕКСИКОНСКАЯ РУССКОГО, НЕМЕЦКОГО И АНГЛИЙСКОГО ЯЗЫКОВ

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ABSTRACT

This article focuses on defining word-formation terminology in a comparative study of compound words in Russian, English, and German. It highlights the necessity of clarifying terms such as 'confix,' 'shift,' 'addition,' and 'fusion,' as well as finding equivalents among the types of compound words in these languages. This need arises from the unique challenges of comparative research and the diverse theoretical approaches to the study of compound words.

KEYWORDS: confix, attributive and copulative composites, adhesions, compound word, composite shifts, compound word.

ANNOTATSIYA:

Ushbu maqola rus, ingliz va nemis tillaridagi qo‘shma so‘zlarni qiyosiy o‘rganishda so‘z yasash terminologiyasini aniqlashga qaratilgan. Unda “konfiks”, “shift”, “qo‘shimcha”, “birlashma” kabi atamalarga aniqlik kiritish hamda bu tillardagi qo‘shma so‘z turlari orasida ekvivalentlarini topish zarurligi ko‘rsatilgan. Bu ehtiyoj qiyosiy tadqiqotning o‘ziga xos muammolari va qo‘shma so‘zlarni o‘rganishga turlicha nazariy yondashuvlardan kelib chiqadi.

KALIT SO‘ZLAR: konfiks, atributiv va kopulativ birikmalar, bitishmalar, qo‘shma so‘zlar, qo‘shma siljishlar, qo‘shma so‘zlar.



АННОТАЦИЯ

Данная статья посвящена определению словообразовательной терминологии при сравнительном изучении сложных слов в русском, английском и немецком языках. В нем подчеркивается необходимость уточнения таких терминов, как «конфикс», «сдвиг», «сложение» и «слияние», а также поиска эквивалентов среди типов сложных слов в этих языках. Эта необходимость возникает из-за уникальных задач сравнительных исследований и разнообразия теоретических подходов к изучению сложных слов.

КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: конфикс, атрибутивно-копулятивные композиты, спайки, сложное слово, сложные сдвиги, сложное слово.

INTRODUCTION

Researchers observe that affixation in Russian and English and compounding in German are primary methods of word formation [1]. They also note that compounding is a common method for forming nouns in Russian, particularly in scientific and industrial-technical language. The significance of compounding for noun formation in German was highlighted by von Humboldt and echoed in modern studies by L. M. Aichinger, J. Erben, E. Donalis, and others [2]. English compounding issues have been explored in the works of P. V. Tsarev, O. D. Meshkov, A. G. Sadykova, G. Marchand, and P. Downing [3].

The challenge in comparing word composition across languages lies in their established traditional terminologies. It's crucial to identify a conceptual framework that accurately reflects the essence of the linguistic phenomenon in each language. The German language, with its more developed system of compounding, consequently has a more sophisticated terminological system. Similarly, extensive linguistic traditions exist for word composition in Russian and English. Discrepancies in naming word composition methods and differing viewpoints arise from the absence of uniform classification criteria and the variety of compound words.

Given that the study of complex person names is primarily conducted in Russian, the terminological foundation of the research will rely on concepts from Russian word formation. We'll focus on several terms essential for word-formation analysis that need clarification.



The core concepts in comparative composition include compound words, or composites (Zusammensetzung, or Kompositum), types of compound nouns in Russian, English, and German (Wortbildungstypen), word-building models (Wortbildungsmodelle), and terms like stem (free, bound), affixes, prefixes, suffixes, and interfixes. Some concepts already have well-defined equivalents in linguistic dictionaries, such as *аффикс* and Affix, and connected morpheme and bound morpheme / *gebundene Wortbildungseinheit / Morphem*. These correspondences are generally straightforward for researchers.

There are phenomena of interest that are not easily understood or have different meanings despite similar phonetic forms. For example, a confix (Kon-fix) in the Russian word-formation system is a single, two-element word-forming morpheme [4]. In German word formation, a confix refers to borrowed elements that occupy an intermediate position between free morphemes and affixes and are primarily combined with each other [5].

METHODOLOGY

This study employs a comparative linguistic analysis approach to investigate the formation of compound words in Russian, English, and German. Data is collected from linguistic dictionaries, corpora, and scholarly literature to categorize and analyze compound words based on their formation methods and semantic relationships. The analysis framework identifies similarities and differences across the languages, aiming to reveal how linguistic structures influence word formation. Ethical considerations ensure proper citation and acknowledgment of sources, while acknowledging potential limitations in terminology and classification systems. This methodology aims to provide insights into cross-linguistic patterns in word formation processes.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In Russian, addition refers to the combination of two or more stems into one verbal whole, resulting in a compound word, which consists of a combination of one stem and an affix [6]. A compound word, like an affix, is a binary structure formed by a combination of a complex productive stem and a complex word-forming formant [7], for example: *белодомовец* (belo-domovets) - *бело* (white) + *о* (interfix) + *дом* (house) + *овец* (suffix), *законотворец* (zakonotvorets) - *закон* (law) + *о* (interfix) + *твор* (creation) + *ец* (suffix). The final element of the formant can also be zero, taking the



form ...o...ø, for example: водолаз (vodolaz) - вод (water) + o (interfix) + лаз (crawl) + ø (zero suffix), ахматовед (akhmatoved) - ахмат (Akhmat) + o (interfix) + вед (study) + ø (zero suffix). The element located at the junction of two stems (the connecting vowel -o- or -e-) is called an interfix (Fugeelement). The derivational meaning of a compound word is determined based on the typical relationship between the compound word and its generating stem.

Composition (Zusammensetzung or Komposition) in the German language is one of the primary methods (Wortbildungsarten) for forming new words, especially nouns. This process involves combining at least two bases into a single new unit [8]. "Die Composition ist neben der Derivation die meistgenutzte Wortbildungsart. Bei der Komposition werden mindestens zwei Wörter (z. B. Hut, gelb, gieß-, vor, wir) und/oder Konfixe (z. B. bio-, polit-, -therm) zu Komposita zusammengesetzt (z. B. Hutschachtel, Filzhut, Biojoghurt, Biologe, Gießkanne, zitronengelb, Vordach, WirGefuehl)." [9]. In this definition, a конфикс is understood as a borrowed morpheme or stem that can only be combined to a limited extent with native German morphemes: "Confixes are word-forming elements used primarily for analyzing complex and affixed words containing borrowed components. From a morphological perspective, confixes are base-forming but not word-forming units. Like affixes, they function as coherent components (e.g., identisch, Identität) but, like independent words, they can form the basis of complex words (Thermojacke) or explicit derivatives (Thermostat)." [10]. The concept of конфикс as a foreign language morpheme with limited compatibility is discussed in the works of A. Seifert and M. Lode [11].

In Russian word formation, a конфикс is defined as "a combination of a prefix and a postfix, which always act simultaneously, surrounding the root to form a new word (as in the German word ge-lob-t - 'praised')." This view is shared by Kazan linguistic school scientists E. A. Balalykina and G. A. Nikolaev. Empirical data from the analysis of complex person names also suggest that borrowed components in profession designations show an increasing tendency to combine with native morphemes. This indicates that these units are well integrated into the language, and it challenges the notion of конфикс as a borrowed morpheme with a special status. Therefore, in this study, the term конфикс will be used to refer to the combination of a prefix and a postfix.

The main types of compound words typical in Russian composition have been outlined previously. Depending on their formation method, these include: pure addition, addition



combined with suffixation, abbreviation (specifically truncation), and fusion [12]. It should be noted that there are not exact correspondences between these types of compound words in Russian, English, and German. However, scientific literature discusses interspecific and intertype correspondences that convey the structural and semantic features of complex words [13]. The structural and morphological types of Russian compound nouns are similar to those in German, particularly when comparing groups identified by Russian linguists and the Mannheim Institute of the German Language [14]:

- 1) Connecting two bases (noun and verb) with a connecting vowel: сталелитейщик, зерновик, законодатель;
- 2) Connecting two nouns (either equally or with one subordinating the other) with or without a connecting vowel: практический бригадир, волонтёр-спасатель;
- 3) Combination of an adjective and a noun stem: биодизайнер;
- 4) Base as lexicalization of phrases: арендатор, безумец, будущий взгляд (this group also includes formations like диван-кровать, вагон-ресторан etc.);
- 5) Complex abbreviated words in various forms: бомж, обэжээсник.

From the perspective of parts of speech components, complex person names are characterized by a core base denoting the role of the person, with various additions and attributes typically expressed by the initial components of these additions. In Russian, the first components are usually nouns or adjectives, and less frequently adverbs. Similarly, German language composition categorizes complex noun formations into several patterns: noun + noun, adjective + noun, verbal stem + noun, contraction of phrases and sentences into single words, among others.

The foundation of English compounding consists of two-component compound words, categorized by O.D. Meshkov into word-formation models that exhibit similar structures: N+N (rainbow – ‘радуга’, sunrise – ‘восход солнца’); A+N (freshman – ‘новичок’, sicklist – ‘больничный лист’); V+N (findfault – ‘придирчивый человек’, playground – ‘игровая площадка’); G+N (sleeping car – ‘спальный вагон’, writing table – ‘письменный стол’); PI+N (mocking bird – ‘пересмешник’, washing machine – ‘стиральная машина’)[15], where N stands for noun, A for adjective, V for verb, G for gerund, and PI for present participle.

The morphological structure of a complex word directly influences its semantics, highlighting the close relationship between structure and meaning in new formations. This connection is underscored by semantic approaches to complex word formation.



In this context, an important issue in English word-formation theory is the distinction between complex words and phrases formed according to the 'noun + noun' (N+N) model, known as the stone wall problem [16]. This problem remains unresolved to date and proves to be more intricate and multifaceted in English than merely categorizing the structure of a complex word at the morphological or syntactic level. Various perspectives exist within English linguistics regarding N+N formations, where the initial component of the complex may be an adjective derived from a noun through conversion, and the entire construction may be interpreted as either a phrase or a complex word. There is no consensus on the origin of the first element of a complex word, which is referred to as an "attributive noun," a noun base, a potential formation, suggesting ambiguity whether the construction is a phrase or a complex word.

The examples from German composition highlight the issue of blurring distinctions between a word and a syntactic group. Many studies by Russian scholars of German language document instances where parallel constructions exist in German—both compound words and phrases [17]. Semantically, the category of German compound words with a "noun + noun" structure, as discussed by H. J. Heringer and V. Moch [18] in their development of semantic modeling theory for compounds, stands out due to the diverse relationships expressed.

The coexistence of compound words and phrases in German prompts the classification of adjuncts and shifts as a distinct type of compound word. These formations can be interpreted as "phrase units" or derivatives, thereby categorizing them as either attributive compounds (adhesions) or sentence derivatives (shifts) [19].

According to V. Flaysher, copulative or coordinating compounds are complex words where both components are in a relationship of coordination. These relationships are considered fundamental in determining the derivational status of compound words. Due to the type of connection, copulative compounds in the German language and collocations in Russian are considered structurally similar derivational constructions.

Within copulative compounds, there can be changes in the arrangement of components relative to each other, as evidenced by formations such as Kleiderschurze – Schurzenkleid ('apron'). However, such rearrangements are rare: for example, Pulloverjacke – Jackenpullover ('jacket-anorak'), but Hemdhose – Hosenhemd ('shirt-trousers'), Strumpfhose – Hosenstrumpf ('tights'). V. Flaysher explains some of these formations as translational borrowings from Russian in the 1960s-70s: Ingenieurphilologe, Künstler – Kämpfer, Sänger – Darsteller ('singer and actor'), Autor-



Regisseur ('writer and director'), Schauspieler-Regisseur ('actor and director'), Generalpräsident (about De Gaulle, French), Arzt-Kosmonaut ('doctor and cosmonaut'), Reporter-Ingenieur ('reporter and engineer') [20]. Theoretically, such constructions could have emerged from applications.

A somewhat different understanding of noun compounds of this structure is presented in E.V. Rosen's review. "On the periphery of determinative noun compound models are constructions of 'noun + noun', the relationships of which can be interpreted as apposition (Apposition), for example: ChauffeurFreund – 'chauffeur-friend', Flieger-Veteran – 'aviator-veteran', Schriftsteller-Millionär – 'writer-millionaire' [21]." Similar structures exist among compound words in English: test-pilot – 'test pilot', slave girl – 'slave girl'. The appositional construction is identified based on morpho-syntactic features: nouns that function as appositions typically do not have the status of independent words (for example, lack of article in German) and are used to define the main word. In other words, the possibility of rearranging components without changing the semantic relationship within the sentence is not feasible. However, the structural similarity and semantic integrity of such constructions allow for dual interpretation: both as a specific type of apposition (where rearranging components without changing semantics is not possible), and as a copulative or coordinating compound, akin in its properties to Russian semantic collocations.

In German word formation, from a semantic perspective, several types are distinguished: determinative compounds (Patenkind), where the first part serves as a determinant for the second part; copulative or coordinating compounds (krummgelbe Banane, Strumpfhose, bittersweet), consisting of semantically equivalent parts; collocations (den Appetit hemmen + -er), and shifts (Vergissmeinnicht, das Am-Computer-t-zen-Müssen) [22]. Additionally, similar to Russian and English, German includes various forms of complex abbreviations: TV-programme, mathmistress (English), words with repeated components – reduplications: Schickimicki (German), Pops-Pops (English), and cases of contamination: Mammufant (German), brunch (English).

In Russian language, collocation is primarily a word-formation method for adjectives [23], but recently this type of word has been actively supplemented with nouns like "контролер-кассир" (controller-cashier), "актриса-легенда" (actress-legend). This is a special way of creating a new word "by merging a whole phrase into a single lexical unit." [24]. The word remains identical to the phrase from which it originated but



possesses several additional qualities: unified stress, a specific order of parts, and limited combinability. The subordinative connection between its components allows parallels to be drawn with determinative compounds, while the semantic equivalence of the components within the collocation aligns it with copulative or coordinating compounds: Dichter-Diplomat, schwarz-weissrot, fighter-bomber (English).

In Russian language, the basis of a compound word can also be a phrase. Such words often belong to occasional formations and represent expressive expressions, for example, "кабы-чего-не-вышлисты" (about hesitant people, overly cautious, unwilling to act or make decisions due to possible consequences). There is no special term in Russian word formation to denote sentence-like words.

Representatives of the Mannheim Institute of the German Language consider the designation "shift" as a word-formation method unnecessary based on the similarity with derivational processes of word formation. They classify such units, depending on their structure, either as determinative compounds or as derivational products.

CONCLUSION

Therefore, despite the complexity of comparative studies of word formation, opponents' position against distinguishing special types of compound words significantly simplifies the detailed and more granular classification compared to Russian classifications of German compounds. The coincidence of structural classifications of compound words in English, Russian, and German allows for identifying cross-linguistic correspondences. Based on the most common features among the variety of terms and definitions, appropriate general terms can be selected.

Among the types of compound words in the Russian language, there are compounds and collocations with subordinative relationships between components, which correspond to determinative or determinative compounds in German and English; collocations with coordinate relationships between components correspond to coordinating or copulative compounds; borrowed bases correspond to confixes.

Based on structural, morphological, and semantic features, German determinative compounds are most similar to Russian compound words formed by compounding or compounding combined with suffixation. Copulative compound nouns in German correspond to Russian collocations like "плиточник-мозаичник" (tile worker-mosaic worker). The terminology system of English word formation is closer to Russian than German.



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