

Compounding As a Morphological Process in Igbo in Respect to the Concept of Endocentric and Exocentric within the Compounds

BY

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Introduction

A morphological process is a means of changing a stem to adjust its meaning to fit its syntactic and communicational context, morphological processes serve different functions. Some occur to alter meaning and/or part of speech (derivational) others shows grammatical relationship between words (inflectional). There are various types of processes but the principal's source of word formation in Igbo is compounding.

Compounding, which is also refers to as composition is the morphological process that has been variously defined as the combination of two or more lexemes. It is also a part of derivational morphology that is universally recognized and commonly used for enlarging the vocabulary of any language (Fromkin Redman and Hyams 2011). In discussing compounds, a distinction is usually drawn between endocentric

and exocentric compounds. For Booij (2005) compounds have a binary structure. That is a compound consists of a combination of two words in which one word modifies the meaning of the other.

Compounding: An overview

Compounding is a morphological process in which two or more words are joined to make one longer word. In Linguistics, a compound is a lexeme (a word) that consists of more than one stem. According to Ndimale (2015: 70), “Compounding is a process of joining two or more formerly independent roots to form a single word”. For Slay and Jindas (2010) compounds are formed by joining two or more bases. They further opine that those bases are in some cases, separated by a hyphen, while in other cases, the hyphen appears to have disappeared with the passage of time. There is no rule governing the presence or absence of the hyphen, Yule (2010:55), says that compounding is a joining of two separate words to produce a single form. Bauer (2003) in his own definition, says that, compounding is the creation of a new lexeme by combining two or more already existing lexemes.

In other words, compounding is a process of combining two bases to form a complex word. The meaning of compounds cannot be predicted from the meaning of their individual morphemes. The words: greenhouse, team manager, truck-driver are cases in point. Compounding is complex words created by concatenation, i.e by linking together base and affix as in a chain. Compound words are formed when two or more words are put together to form a new word with a new meaning. They can function as different parts of speech, which can dictate what form the compound takes on. For example, the word carry over is an open compound word when it is used as a verb but it is closed when used as a noun and an adjective. This surplus will carry over to next season. The extra supplies were part of the carryover from the budget.

Categories of Compound Words

Compound words fall within three categories. Here are the three types of compound words with an explanation and examples of each.

Closed Compound Words are formed when two unique words are joined together, they don't have a space between them and they are the type that generally comes to mind when we think of compound words for example.

English

Cannot baseball

Elsewhere grandmother

Anybody sometimes

Inside upside

Igbo

nwaada (eldest daughter)

nwanne (brother/sister)

umụazi (children)

umunna (half-brother)

nwadiala (son of the soil)

dinta (hunter)

Hyphenated Compound words are connected by a hyphen. To avoid confusion modifying compounds are often hyphenated, especially when they precede a noun examples:

Mary-go-round

Mother-in-law

Well-being

Part-time

Open compound words have a space between the words but when they are read together a new meaning is formed. Examples:

English

Ice cream

post office

Igbo

isi ewu

Full moon	middle class	aka nri
Real estate		anụ ezi
		ụlọ ọgwụ
		nwa nnụnụ
		akwa oche
		aka ekpe
		umụ agboghọ

Compounds are classified into various semantic types (Bauer .L.2001, Besetto and Scalise 2005, Bloomfield 1933, Spencer 1992, Booij 2005, etc). They include:

- Endocentric
- Exocentric (also bahuvrihi)
- Copulative (also dvandva)
- Appositional.

Endocentric Compound

An endocentric compound consists, a head, i.e the categorical part that contains the basic meaning of the whole compound, and modifiers, which restrict this meaning. In other words a compound is said to be endocentric when the second component is the grammatical headword and the first word becomes the modifier. Endocentric compounds are hyponyms. E.g., the English compound doghouse, wristwatch, where house and watch are the head and dog and wrist are the modifiers. Endocentric compounds tends to be of the same part of speech (word class) as their head, as in the case of doghouse, wristwatch! This implies that the language differ with regards to the position of the head in compound words. Germanic languages are characterized by right heads (Booij 2005) while maori, a Polynesian language a cost — headed. and Tiachichilco Tepehua a Totonacan language seem to have both left and right head compounds.

Exocentric Compound

An exocentric compound is a compound construction that lacks a head word: that is the construction as a whole is not grammatically and or semantically equivalent to either of its parts. “It is also called a headless compound. An exocentric compound is a hyponym of some unexpected semantic category (such as a person, plant, or animal). None. (neither) of its compounds can be perceived as a formal head, and its meaning often cannot be transparently guessed from its constituent parts. For instance, the English compound white-collar is neither a kind of collar nor a white thing. Scapegoat not referring to a kind of goat rather, a kind of person, a pickpocket is not a type of pocket but someone who picks things from pockets.

Copulative Compounds

Copulative compounds are joining together two semantic heads in other words copulative compounds are compounds with two semantic heads. In copulative compounds name separate components which one is neither a hyponym of the other nor being the grammatical headword. E.g., names like slater-walker etc. (see Osten 2001 and Booij 2005).

Appositional Compounds

Appositional compound is an arrangement of words in which a noun or noun-phrase is followed by another noun. In other words an appositional compounds is a grammatical construction in which a word,, especially a noun phrase, is placed after another to modify its meaning. In this case the hyponymy is bidirectional e.g., learner-driver. They are also lexemes that have (contrary) attributes that classify the compound.

Type	Description	Examples
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Endocentric	a + b donated a special and of B	Dark room Small talk
Exocentric	A + B denotes special kind of an unexpressed Semantic head	Skin head pale face (head person)
Copulative	A+ B denotes the sum of what A and B denote	Sleepwalk Bitter Sweet
Appositional	A and B provides different description for the same Referent.	

It is possible to classify compound based on what Guevara and Scalise (2008) refer to as input and output categories. When compounding are classified based on the output categories, we have such labels as nominal compounds adjectival compounds, verbal compound etc., whereas if the classification is based on input categories, that is, based on the word class of the individual constituents, we have labels such as noun-noun compound (N+N), Noun + verb (N+V) etc. Scalise and Bisetto (2009) however offer a new proposal for classifying compounds based on a simple assumption that the two constituents are linked by a grammatical relation that lacks overt expression. The relations holding between the two constituents of a compound according to them are .basically the relations that hold in syntactic constructions. They therefore propose that compounds be classified as subordinate,

attributive and co-ordinate and that the compounds of these three classes can be both endocentric and exocentric compounds are classified as subordinate when there is a complement relation between the two constituents, for instance in taxi driver, taxi is seen as the complement of the verbal head driver. An attributive compound is formed by either a noun or an adjective as in red cheese or by two nouns as in jelly fish, sword fish where the non-head is metaphorically used to express the attribute of the head. The coordinate compounds however are seen as compounds whose constituents are tied by a conjunction and which from a semantic point of view can be said to have two heads as in dancer, singer and diner dance.

In the study of compounding, the concept of headedness is also crucial as most compounds are characterized as either left headed or right headed. The head of a compound word is the constituent that determines the category and the broad meaning of the entire word. Compound with head are usually called endocentric compounds. Booij (2009) further notes that the differences with respect to the position of the head in compound suggest that head position is a parametric difference between languages. He observes that English and German compounds are right headed, Welsh and Helmas compounds are predominantly left headed while other languages like mandarin and Vietnamese have both left headed and right headed compounds.

Compounding as a morphological process in Igbo

In Igbo, compound is the primary morphological process in constructing words. Examples of compound words in Igbo:

nwa + ada	>	nwaada eldest daughter
nwa + nne	>	nwanne brother
ola + edo	>	olaedo goldring
ụlọ + nche	>	xlqnche tower
osi + Ite	>	osi-ite tripod/cooker pot
di + ochi	>	diochi wine tapper

nwa + di + ala	>	nwadiala	son of the soil
obi + oha	>	obioha	people's minds
kpo + nye	>	kponye	'call into'
tu+ nye	>	tunye	'Throw into'
ogwu + ego	>	ogwuego	Money ritual

Nwaozuzu 1991 and Mgbemena 2011 investigate compounding in Igbo and identified three types of combination in Igbo namely, Noun + Noun, Noun + Adjective, and Noun + verb. They further posit that endocentric nominal compounds in Igbo are generally left headed while the synthetic compound exhibit the possibility of either being left-headed or right headed. Their additional observation reveals that apart from the general compounding has been used copiously in naming concept particularly i names, named through compounding.

Igbo names are endocentric, where the left-heads of the name determines the syntactic function of the entire compound forming the name. Each compound consists of two or more words. For compound names made up of the words they follow the order of one of the three categories of:

- (1) Noun + Noun
- (2) Noun + Adjective
- (3) Noun + Verb

Examples of the three categories can be seen in the following charts.

Compounds names made up of Noun + Noun

N + N →

1. (a) Ike + Chukwu → Ikechukwu God's power
- (b) Ezi + nwaanyi → Ezinwaanyi Goodwoman
- (c) Ada + nna → Adanna-fathers first daughters
- (d) Agu + nwa → Agunwa -Strong child
- (e) Oge + Chukwu → Ogechukwu God's time

(1) Izu + Chukwu → Izuchukwu -God's plan(g) Ada
+ qha → Adaoha -daughter of the people

2. Compound names made up of Noun + Adjective.

N + A = N

- (a) Uzo + Oma → Uzoma - 'good way'
(b) Ada + nta → Adanta - 'small daughter'
(c) Nwa + nta → Nwanta - 'small child'
(d) Ukwu + Oma → Ukwuma - 'good luck (leg)'
(e) nwa + ocha → Nwacha - 'white child'
(f) Uzo + ukwu → uzoukwu - 'big way' (Gospel)
(g) Ozi + oma → Ozima - good message

3. Compound names made up of Noun + verb:

- (a) Chukwu + du → Chukwudu - 'God leads'
(b) Chi + nwe → Chinwe - 'God owns'
(c) Chukwu + ka → Chukwuka - 'God is greater'
(d) Chi + nye → Chinye - 'God gives'
(e) Chi + kwado → Chikwado - 'God supports'
(f) Chukwu + di → Chukwudi - 'God is present/alive'

For Igbo names that are made up of three words or more, the names follow the structure of noun + verb + noun. The verb and the second noun expresses the function of the first noun in the left-head. These three worded names are used to acknowledge the supremacy of the Igbo God, Chukwu.

4. Compound names made up of Noun + verb + Noun:

A	Chukwu + nwe + ndu	Chukwunwendu	God owns life
B	Chukwu + di + ndu	Chukwudindu	God is alive/living

C	Chi + kere + uwa	Chikereuwa	God created the world'
D	Chukwu + di + ike	Chukwudike	God is strong/powerful
E	Chukwu + ka + dibia	Chukwukadiba	God surpasses herbalist
F	Chukwu + ji + ndu	Chukwujindu	God holds life

Compounds nouns in Igbo

Igbo language has compound nouns. The positioning of the words (i.e. the most common order of constituents in phrases where nouns are modified by adjectives, by possessors, by other nouns etc.) varies according to the language (Backovic, 2000). Compound nouns are often formed by left-hand heads.

Compound words, in Igbo where nouns are modified by, nouns you write them separately: examples:

Isi + ewu	Isi ewu	'goat head'
aka + ekpe	aka ekpe	'left hand'
anụ + ezi	anụ ezi	'porkmeat'
ụlọ + ọgwụ	ụlọ ọgwụ	'hospital'
nwa + nnụnụ	nwa nnụnụ	'small bird'
ụmu + agbọghọ	ụmu agbọghọ	'ladies'

Compound of verbs in Igbo

Compound in Igbo has received both morphological and syntactic analysis. Anagbogu (1990) claims that a compound verb is derived morphologically. Compound verbs can be used in various grammatical constructions. The outcome of verb compounds may result in verb- prepositional constructions (Keizer, 2009).

Compound verbs are very common in Igbo language. Verb is the only grammatical category in the Igbo language that undergoes inflection. Through inflection, certain number of verb forms with particular grammatical functions can be produced. Verbs can be inflected for tense or aspect. This implies that in a compound verb, one of the verb is the primary, and determines the primary semantics and also the argument structure. The secondary verb, often called a vector verb or explicator, provides fine distinctions, usually in temporality or aspect, and also carried the inflection. (tense and/or agreement markers). Verb compounding is productive in the language. A compound verb contains at least two independent simple verbs.

Simple verb compound

These simple verbs have the same structure with the imperative forms. The differences lie in the fact that the imperatives end with an open vowel suffix that is obligatory on a high tone. (Tone in the Igbo language performs both lexical and grammatical functions (Nwachukwu 1995) example:

- a. Zù + gbú zùgbu - mal-train
b. Bù + kó - buko - carry and place on
c. Kwá + pù - kwapu - push out

Bi - positional verb morphology in Igbo

e.g

Kuwa

Gbuda

Gbaji

Gbawa

When you said that a word is a compound word. It means that, you can separate them, use them independently and also use them together. E.g

Gbuda - Obi gburu osisi

		Obi dara
Zoda	-	Eze zoro nsi/aja
		Eze dara

In this case, the meaning remain constant as you change the verb. These two examples have passed the true test of compound because you can separate them and also use them independently.

Verb - verb compounds

Verb-verb compounds are sequences of more than one verb acting together to determine clause structure.

Examples of compound words in Igbo where we have two or more verb root together.

Ba + ba -baba ba+cha -bacha

Ba + gbu-bagbu fa +gbu -fagbu

Ba + pu -bapu

gba+ gbu-gbagbu

Three verb root

a. We + la + ga - welaga

b. Bi + chi + ri - bichiri

c.Me + ka + ri - mekarị

d.Me + kq + ba - mekoba

e. Me + bi +do - mebido

Four verb root

a.Me + chi + do + ro - mechidoro

b.Me + gha + r i + ri - meghar iri

c. Kwu + bi + chi + ri - kwubichiri

d. Che + ka + r i + ri - chekar iri

e.kwu + chi + bi + do - kwuchibido

Summary

From these, it can be observed that there are certain steps in compounding that are common to Igbo language. It is observed that Igbo language tend towards the inflectional morphology with the deviational supportive for appropriate processes. In Igbo language, compounding and affixation are available. Tone plays a vital role in the meaning of words, as well as their morphological process. The two types of compound - endocentric and exocentric were properly examined. The concept of headedness was also examined as most compounds are characterized as either left headed or right headed.

Conclusion

This paper has tried to expose the variety of ways in which new words can be formed, involving compounding as morphological processes.

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