Compound Nouns in Tamil

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Transliteration followed in this paper is noted in the Table below

Consonants:
\[\begin{array}{llllllll}
\text{f} & \text{w} & \text{f} & \text{h} & \text{l} & \text{ñ} & \text{t} & \text{v} \\
\text{k} & \text{n} & \text{p} & \text{m} & \text{y} & \text{r} & \text{l} & \\
\end{array}\]

Vowels:
\[\begin{array}{llllllll}
\text{A} & \text{A} & \text{a} & \text{e} & \text{o} & \text{u} & \text{i} & \\
\text{a} & \text{a} & \text{i} & \text{u} & \text{u} & \text{u} & \\
\text{e} & \text{e} & \text{e} & \text{e} & \text{u} & \text{u} & \\
\text{e} & \text{e} & \text{a} & \text{a} & \text{a} & \text{a} & \\
\end{array}\]

Grantha letters
\[\begin{array}{llllllll}
\text{s} & \text{S} & \text{k} & \text{K} & \text{Sr} & \text{Sr} & \\
\end{array}\]

Introduction

In English, words, particularly adjectives and nouns, are combined into compound structures in a variety of ways. And once they are formed, they sometimes metamorphose over time. A common pattern is that two words — fire fly, say — will be joined by a hyphen for a time — fire-fly — and then be joined into one word — firefly. In this respect, a language like German, in which words are happily and immediately linked one to the other, might seem to have an advantage. There is only one sure way to know how to spell compounds in English: use an authoritative dictionary.
There are three forms of compound words:

the **closed form**, in which the words are melded together, such as firefly, second hand, softball, childlike, crosstown, redhead, keyboard, makeup, notebook;

the **hyphenated form**, such as daughter-in-law, master-at-arms, over-the-counter, six-pack, six-year-old, mass-produced;

and the **open form**, such as post office, real estate, middle class, full moon, half sister, attorney general.

**Concept of Compound word in Tamil Language**

The concept of Compound word is different from that of English. Compound noun (word) is a noun in which more than one word is combined to act as a noun. Normally two words of which the succeeding word is noun. The preceding word may be noun, verb, adjective, or adverb. Traditional grammar view this as /tokainilai ttoṭar/ (தொகையிலை த்தொடர்) which means a phrase comprising of two words between which a marker is hidden and implicit. For the purpose of reference in this Thesis they are labeled as Marker Implicit Phrases abbreviated as MAIM.

**Compound words in Traditional Grammar**

Traditional grammarians have identified six / tokainilai ttoṭar/s (தொகையிலை த்தொடர்) in Tamil language. They are:

1. /✈ṟṟumaittokainilai ttoṭar/ (✈றறுமையையிலையிலையிலைத்தொடர்) usually labeled as /✈ṟṟumaittokai/ (✈றறுமையை): (MAIMCA – MAMIM Case marker).
3. /paṇputtokainilai ttoṭar/ (பாண்டுபையிலையிலையிலைத்தொடர்) usually labeled as /paṇputtokai/ (பாண்டுபை): (MAMIMQU – MAMIM quality marker).
4. /uvamaittokai nilai ttoṭar/ (ஆுமையையிலையிலையிலைத்தொடர்) usually labeled as /uvamaittokai/ (ஆுமையை): (MAIMSI – MAMIM simile marker)
5. /ummaittokai nilai ttoṭar/ (ஆமையையிலையிலையிலைத்தொடர்) usually labeled as /ummaittokai/ (ஆமையை): (MAIMCO – MAMIM conjunction marker)
6. /aṉmoḻi ttokai nilai ttoṭar/ (ஆம்மூழ் யிலையிலையிலைத்தொடர்) usually labeled as /aṉmoḻi tttokai/ (ஆம்மூழ் யிலை)

Of these the last one is a phrase evolved from any one of the other five and its meaning is syntactically inferred and the morphological structure is like that of the /ttoṭar/ from which it is evolved.
The fifth one is a two word in which the conjunction marker suffixes /um/ (ัณ) are implicit and hidden not only in the first word but also in the second.

For example, /mälai kalai/ (นมละคำ)

This /um/ has the function of 'and'. Hence it treated as two separate words and not as single entity as the other / toṭar/s. Hence /tokainilai toṭar/s which are treated as compound are fall under the following types namely /veṟṟumaittokai/ (MAIMCA), /vinaittokai/ (MAIMTE), /paṇputtokai/, and /uvamaittokai/

For example the phrase or compound word /pūṅkoṭi/ (ปุ่งโคติ) in the morphological aspect it is /uvamaittokai/ (๑๑๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑๒๑ь}

There is another type of compound word or /toṭar/ called /urupum payaṃ uṭaṁ tokkatokai/. This means that a phrase of two words between which a marker and another word are implicit or hidden to reveal meaningful utterance. This is illustrated with the following description.

/mälai vaṅkinēn/ (ลมละวังคีน) can be expanded as /mälai vaṅkinēn/ (ลมละวังคีน). Here the objective case marker /ai/ (ā) is implied. That is hidden in between the two words /mälai/ and /vaṅkinēn/. Therefore it is /veṟṟumaittokai/ (คั่นคีนคีนคีน).

In the sentence /pūṁmälai vaṅkinēn/ (ปุ่มลมวังคีน), the compound word /pūṁmälai/ can be expand not as /pū+ āi +mälai/ (ป+ ถ+ลม) but as /pū+ āi + seyapaṭṭa +mälai/ (ป+ ถ+ seyapaṭṭa +ลม). /āi/ is case marker of ordinal number III. /urupum payaṃ uṭaṁ tokkatokai/s related to other /tokai/s also found in the language.

As explained above compound words fall under any one of the following types.

1. /veṟṟumaittokai/ (MAIMCA), (คั่นคีนคีนคีนคีน) - phrase in which case marker is implicit.
2. /vinaittokai/ (MAIMTE), (คั่นคีนคีนคีนคีน) - phrase in which tense marker is implicit
3. /paṇputtokai/(MAIMQU), (คั่นคีนคีนคีนคีนคีน) - phrase in which quality marker is implicit
4. /uvamaittokai/ (MAIMSI) [คั่นคีนคีนคีนคีนคีน] - phrase in which simile marker is implicit
When the case makers 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 8th phrases in which case markers are implicit, these can be divided into another six types (This is indicated by the number suffix in the abbreviation: Eg. MAIMCA2 means the compound noun in which the case marker 'ai' (அ) 2nd case implicit) making the count 9. /urupum payanum utan tokkatokais can be evolve from each of these phrases. Hence as such the compound words are of 9 types making the count 18.

Further, there is another kind of /tokainilai tto/ (தொக்கைனிலை சொற்கை) which is labeled as /irupeyaroṭup paṇputtokai/ (இறுப்பையரோடுப் பண்புட்பை). It is a kind of /paṇputtokai/ which a morphological combination of two nouns, the first is the sub-ordinate of an entity and the succeeding word is the super ordinate.

For example, the compound noun /vaḷaimaram/ (வளைமரம்) consists of two words (nouns) /vaḷai/ (வளை) and / maram/ (மரம்) in which /vaḷai/ is sub-ordinate and / maram/ is super ordinate. This compound noun is abbreviated as ORIM.

**Consolidated List**

Including this category 19 types of compound words/nouns are seen in Tamil Language. All these types are generally adopted in poetical works. Any how these are the types of compound words considered in this study.

Following table lists the labels of all compound words.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Label in ISO transliteration</th>
<th>Tamil in Tamil</th>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>/iraṇṭām veṟṟumaittokai/</td>
<td>2.வுண்ட் சூழ்த்துமயாக்கை</td>
<td>MAIMC2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>/mūṇṭām veṟṟumaittokai/</td>
<td>3.வுண்ட் சூழ்த்துமயாக்கை</td>
<td>MAIMC3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>/nāṅkām veṟṟumaittokai/</td>
<td>4.வுண்ட் சூழ்த்துமயாக்கை</td>
<td>MAIMC4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>/aṁṭām veṟṟumaittokai/</td>
<td>5.வுண்ட் சூழ்த்துமயாக்கை</td>
<td>MAIMC5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>/āṁm veṟṟumaittokai/</td>
<td>6.வுண்ட் சூழ்த்துமயாக்கை</td>
<td>MAIMC6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>/ēṁm veṟṟumaittokai/</td>
<td>7.வுண்ட் சூழ்த்துமயாக்கை</td>
<td>MAIMC7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>/2āṁm veṟṟumai urupum payanum utan tokkatokai/</td>
<td>2.வுண்ட் சூழ்த்துமயாக்கை பண்பு உண்டு பக்தங்கு தொக்காக்கை</td>
<td>MAIMCA2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>/3āṁm veṟṟumai urupum payanum utan tokkatokai/</td>
<td>3.வுண்ட் சூழ்த்துமயாக்கை பண்பு உண்டு பக்தங்கு தொக்காக்கை</td>
<td>MAIMCA3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>/4āṁm veṟṟumai urupum</td>
<td>4.வுண்ட் சூழ்த்துமயாக்கை</td>
<td>MAIMCA4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusion

The concept of Compound word in Tamil is linguistically same as that of English. But morphologically it is different. This is a separate linguistic entity in which either of case, tense, quality, simile, or conjunction is implicit between two words. It is named as /tokainilaittoṭar/ (æ tokainilaittoṭar ñuṭar). Among /tokainilaittoṭar/s, /aŋmoḷittokai nilaittoṭar/ (æ aŋmoḷittokai nilaittoṭar) is not a morphological entity. It is a syntactic entity whose meaning is inferred morphological pattern. Hence it is included in the other types of compound words. Inferring in this approach Compound nouns are classified into 19 types which are tabulated in the previous section.