A Linguistic Approach to Comprehensive Study of Compound Words - With Special Reference to Urdu Language

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Abstract

This paper deals with the compounding words in Urdu language. Formation of Compound word is an important aspect of morphological operation to produce new words in languages with a linear morphological structure. It is extensively used as one of the ways to generate new words and word forms in Urdu language. Urdu language has borrowed a large number of compounds from a variety of sources from other Indian languages, Perso-Arabic and English. The present paper attempts to discuss Indic sources and Perso-Arabic compounds, English compounds, some 'hybrid' compounds, etc. These compounds are frequently used in Urdu language. The present paper explores and describes the various compounding phenomena in Urdu and their implication.

Key Words: Compound Word, Morphological operation, Various Sources, Hindustani, Persian, Arabic and English Languages
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Introduction

Compound is a morphologically complex word containing at least two elements, which can otherwise occur as free form, i.e., as independent word (Toman 1992). For example in Urdu, [kuɾsi-ʈebəl] 'chair and table', [qələm-dowat] 'pen and inkpot', [haɵ-

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pɛɾ], [ɾat-dɪn] 'day and night', [subəh-ʃam] 'morning and evening', [zəmɪn-asman] 'earth and sky', [kɪtab-kapi] 'book and copy' [ʧãd-suɾədʒ] ' moon and sun', etc. Thus, compounding is a grammatical device by which complex words can be formed from smaller elements, which under normal circumstances, have word status.

The first known ancient Indian grammarians Panini (5th Century BC) and Patanjali (2nd Century BC) are the first linguists to deal with compounding. They studied Sanskrit compounds and their study was based on Semantic criteria (Mahaveer, 1978). Some of the terminologies used by them are still in use, for example, Dvandva compounds for coordinative compounds, Bahuvrihi compounds for exocentric compounds.

In the European tradition, J.G. Schottelius (1612-76) noted that distinction between the modifying and the modified elements in German compounds.

In 20th Century, a rich descriptive traditions as well as different theoretical approaches were developed. The example of the descriptive approach is that of Marchand (1969). Compounds have also been studied from specialized point of view, i.e., their use in contexts (Downing 1977).

Toman (1992) has listed various properties of compounds. Some of these are discussed below:

1) Word properties i.e., parts of compounds cannot be re-arranged without change in meaning. For example, [dɪlʧəsp] 'Interesting'
2) Relation between parts, i.e., 'determination' and 'coordination'.

In the first case there is a modifier (determinant) and a modified element (determinatum). The characteristics of determinative compound discussed above can be understood through the examples like /pən-ʧəkki/ 'Watermill'.

In the second case, it is represented by coordinative (copulative) compounds such as:

- /mehnət-məʃəqqət/ 'Hardwork'
- /dukh-dəɾd/ 'Pain'
- /kəmzoɾ-sust/ 'Weak'
- /zə'if-kəmzoɾ/ 'Old and Weak'
- /aftab-mahtab/ 'Sun and Moon'
- /faɪda-nuqsan/ 'Profit and Loss'

The above classification is based on semantic intention that the modified part of determinative compound names a set of denotata, while the modifier restricts it to a sub set. Thus the /ʧəkki/ in /pən-ʧəkki/ names a set of denotata called /ʧəkki/, /pən/ restricts it to a subset namely /ʧəkki/ derived by /pani/ 'water'.

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A coordinative compound in contrast, typically names a conjunction of sets of denotata named by the subparts of the compound. Thus in, /aftab-mahtab/, the hyphenated part is a coordinative compound denoting a conjunction of sets of denotata.

3) Internal structure:

Compounds may have a complex internal structure. This is so because each constituent of the compound can be in itself internally complex. Particularly nominal compounds in languages like German can develop a complex internal structure, For example

[[[[[ober]   [sehul]]   [lehrer]]   [Witwen]]   [verein]]
'High—   School—   Teacher—   Widow—   Union'

In this sense compounding rules have certain recursive property.

4) Categories involved in compounding

Depending on the syntactic category of morphemes involved, a variety of compounds can be obtained, including noun + noun, compounds [rat-dın], 'day and night' [subəh-ʃam] 'morning and evening' verb + verb compounds [hə̃səna-khelna], 'laughing and playing' [pəʀhna-lıkhna] 'read and write' adjectives + adjective [bhukhi-pyasi], 'hungry and thirsty' [qudərəti-məsnu'i], 'natural and artificial' etc.

Formation of Compounds in Words in Urdu

In Urdu, compounding is one of the various devices used to form or coin new words. It is a very productive device through which different words are constructed.

Urdu compounds may be *tatsam* or *tadbhava*. Tatsam compounds are those which contain pure Sanskrit forms. These are very rare in Urdu. For example, /akaʃ-vani/, /bharət-rətn/, /viɾ-ʧəkɾ/, etc.

Tadbhava compounds are extensively used in Urdu language. It may be termed as pure Urdu compounds. Formation of these compounds both the components uses tadbhava. It means this compound words are derived from Sanskrit roots.

In Urdu language, except the above discussed varieties, a large number of compounds are borrowed from Perso-Arabic sources, mainly from Persian and Arabic.

Another kind of compound word is also found in Urdu language. It is technologically called 'hybrid compound words'. These compounds are formed by adding a tadbhava component with Perso-Arabic and English words.

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Beg (1988) has classified Urdu compounds very systematically.

1. Pure Urdu compounds can be classified into three types.

A) Copulative compounds

Copulative compounds are those compounds in which both the components are syntactically coordinate members. But the important thing is that the copula (i.e., 'ɔr' 'and') is absent.

These compounds are formed in different ways:

I) When two words having different meaning separately are compounded. They may be noun + noun, verb + verb, adjectives + adjectives. For example.

Noun + Noun	[dɪn-rat]	'day and night'
	[sɪr-pɛr]	'head and leg'
	[sʊbəh-ʃam]	'morning and evening'
Verb + Verb	[ate-jate]	'come and go'
	[ʊʈhte-bəɪʈhte]	'standing and sitting'
	[sote-jagte]	'sleep and awake'
Adjective + Adjective	[ũʧ-nĩʧ]	'high and low'
	[ʧoʈa-bəʀa]	'small and big'
	[bhəla-bʊra]	'good and bad'

II) When two words having same or equivalent meanings are compounded. For example:

[tən-bədən] 'body'
[kənkəʀ-pətthəɾ] 'pebbles'
[səmdʒha-budʒha] 'advisedly'

According to Beg (1988) this class may also belong to the compounds in which one member is tadbhava and the other a Perso-Arabic word. Such compounds are called 'hybrid'. He cited a few examples of these compounds. For example:

Same meaning
[bəvri-dɪvani] 'Lunatic'
[dukh-dard] 'suffering'
[sadɪq-səʧa] 'true'

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[xak-dhul]   'dust'

Different meaning
[gʊlab-jamʊn] 'a type of sweet'
[ɪmam-baʀa]   'A place where functions connected with Moharram are celebrated'

III) These compounds are formed when one of the two components is meaningless. The meaningless component is used for only to rhyme with the other one. For example:

[luʈ-laʈ]   'plundering'
[maɾ-dhaɾ]   'killing'
[bən-ʈhən]   'well dressed'
[bhiʀ-bhaʀ]   'crowd'
[həlka-phʊlka] 'less'

IV) These compounds are formed when the place of copulative conjunction is supplied by a vowel /a/ For example:

[dhəɾ-a-dhəɾ]   'consecutively'
[ʧəp-a-ʧəp]   'sound produced by sword'
[phəʈ-a-phəʈ]   'quickly'
[khəʧ-a-khəʧ]   'packed'
[təʀ-a-təʀ]   'sound produced by rap'

B) Determinative Compounds

In these compounds the first member of the compound is syntactically dependent on the second one. According to Indian grammarians this type compounds may be of three types. John Beams (1966) has also discussed these types by the name of 'tatpurusa', 'kamdharaya' and 'dvigu'. These compounds are:

I) Dependent determinative compounds

In these compounds the relationship between the two components or members is expressed by different cases, i.e., accusative, dative, genitive, locative etc. But the important thing is that the forms indicating these cases are dropped.

For example:

[pən-ʧəkki]   'Watermill'
[ʊʀən-khəʈola]   'Flying cot '
[ʊʀən-təʃtəɾi]   'Flying disc'
[sʊkh-sagəɾ]   'Sea of happiness'

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II) Appositional Determinative Compounds

These compounds are such type of compound in which at least one member or component is used attributively. For example:

[məha-raj]   'Majesty'
[lal-badəl]   'Red cloud'
[ʧənʧəl-nari] 'Restless woman'

III) Numeral Determinative Compound:

In these compounds the first component or member uses to be a numeral.

For example:

[nəo-ləkha]   'Of nine lacks'
[bara-sıŋa]   'Stag'   'having twelve horn'

C) Attributive Compounds

These compounds are also known as possessive compounds. It is the compound, which as a whole is generally adjective that denotes a quality or attributes to some person or thing. For example:

[ədh-jəla]   'half burnt'
[ʧan-bhaɾi] 'Tricky'

2. Perso-Arabic compounds

Urdu language has borrowed a lot of words from Persian and Arabic languages. It is commonly called a Perso-Arabic Compound words. These are very extensively used in Urdu literature, particularly in poetry. These compounds can also be classified as follows:

A) Perso-Arabic copulative Compounds

Perso-Arabic copulative compounds are the same as tadbhava and tatsam compounds in which the copula or coordinator which combines them is absent. This has three forms in Urdu.

I)   When two words having different or same meanings are compounded without conjunction. For example:

a) *Different meaning*

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[zəmin-asman] 'Earth and Sky'
[aftab-mahtab] 'Sun and Moon'
[pedər-mədər] 'Father-mother'
[bʊləndi-pəsti] 'Height and fall'

b) *Same meaning*

[mehnət-mʊʃəqqət] 'Hardwork'
[fəhm-əql] 'Wisdom'

II)   When two words having different or same meanings are compounded by means of the vowel /-a-/. For example:

[gɪrd-a-gɪrd] 'All sides'
[rəɳ-a-rəɳ] 'Many coloured'

III)   When two components are compounded by the preposition /-ba-/ means 'to'. For example:

[qədəm-ba-qədəm] 'Step by step'
[jək-ba-jək]   'All of sudden'
[dəm-ba-dəm]   'Moment by moment'
[dər-ba-dər]   'door to door'

B) Perso-Arabic determinative Compounds

Perso-Arabic determinative compounds used in Urdu are divided into four categories.

I) Perso-Arabic dependent determinative compounds

The first component is syntactically dependent on the second. For example

[jəɳ-nama] 'The book of battle'
[top-xana] 'Artillery house'

II) Perso-Arabic appositional determinative compounds

This compound is formed by at least one of the components is used attributively. For example

[xʊʃ-bu] 'Fragrant'
[xʊʃ-exlaq] 'well behaved'
[xub-sur∂t] 'good looking'

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[n∂o-b∂har] 'early spring'

III) Perso-Arabic numeral determinative compounds
For example:

[do-ʧəʃm] 'two eyes'
[do-aləm] 'two-worlds'
[ʧar-dIn]   'four days'
[həzar-dastan] 'thousand stories'
[sɔ: sal]   'hundred years'
[do-gana] 'prayer consisting of two genuflexions'

IV) Perso-Arabic objective determinative compounds

These compounds are adjectives or nouns. In this type of compounds the first member or component is a noun governed by the second component which is usually a verb and sometimes past participle. For example:

[vəfa-dar]   'Faithful'
[xʊda-ʃənas]   'Godly'
[dɪl-ʧəsp]   'Interesting'
[dɪl-kəʃ]   'Beautiful'

C) Perso-Arabic attributive compounds

Urdu is very rich in Persa-Arabic attributive compounds. These are used as adjectives. For example:

[xub-surət] 'good looking'
[xub-sirət] 'well behaved'
[xuʃ-rəɳ] 'of a pretty colour'
[xuʃ-nəsibi] ' lucky'

D) Perso-Arabic phrasal compounds or 'Loose compounds'

There are certain types of Perso-Arabic nominal and adjectival phrases, which perform the same function of compounds, are treated by John A Boyle (1966) as 'loose compounds'. These compounds are extensively used in Urdu language and literature. These compounds are formed both Arabic and Persian rules. They are as follow:

a)   These compounds are formed when two nouns or adjective are joined by the conjunction [-o-] 'and' to express the single idea. For example:

[ab-o-həva] 'climate'

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[rəsm-o-rəvaj] 'custom and tradition'
[rəŋ-o-roɣən] 'paint'
[dəɾ-o-divaɾ] 'wall'
[ɾoz-o-ʃəb]   'day and night'
[ɾənj-o-ɣəm] 'sorrow'
[kəm-o-bes]   'less and more'
[təɾ-o-taza]   'fresh'
[həsin-o-jəmil] 'beautiful'
[ʃəms-o-qəmər] 'sun and moon'
[ɣəɾib-o-əmiɾ] 'poor and rich
[xab-o-xyal]   'dream and thought'
[qəlm-o-kɪtab] 'pen and book'
[lil-o-nəhaɾ]   'morning and evening'
[dəɾs-o-tədris] 'teaching'

The above mentioned [-o-] conjunction is known as 'vave atf' in Urdu language.

b)   When two nouns or a noun and adjective are joined by -e- 'of' (possession) genitive marker. It is also known as 'izafat zer or hamza' in Urdu language. 'Izafat zer' is used when the first element of compound word ends with a consonant sounds whereas 'izafat hamza' is used when the first element of compound words end with the vowel sounds. For example:

First element of Compound word ends with the Consonant Sounds:
[mɔsəm-e-ɣʊl] 'spring'
[dəɾd-e-dɪl]   'pain of heart'
[xak-e-vətən]   'the soil of homeland'
[jan-e-mən]   'my life'
[sər-e-am]   'in front of everybody'
[qabɪl-e-did]   'viewable'
[əhəl-e-'əɪyal]   'family'
[dɪl-e-nadan]   'little heart'
[rəd-e-'əməl]   'response'

First element of Compound word ends with the Vowel Sounds:

[dəɾzə-e-həɾaɾət] 'temperature'
[jəzbə-e-dɪl]   'feeling of heart'
[nəqtə-e-nəzɾ]   'point of view'

c)   When two nouns or a noun and adjective are joined by -ʊl- or -əl- 'of' (possession) genitive marker. It is formed by Arabic rule and extensively used in Urdu language. For example:

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[daɾ-ʊl-ʿəlum]   'place of Education/learning' or 'Institution/University'
[daɾ-ʊl-hʊkumət]   'place of government' or 'Government'
[əbd-ʊl-həq]   'name of person'
[məlk-ʊl-mɔt]   'angel'
[məkka-əl-mʊkəɾɾəma] 'Holy place of Muslim' 'religious place of Muslim'
[mədina-əl-mənəʊwəɾa]   'Holy place of Muslim'
[xadɪm-əl-həɾmæn-o-ʃəɾifæn] 'Servant of Two Holy Mosques'

3. English compounds

Urdu has also borrowed lots of compounds from English. These compounds are very frequently used in Urdu now-a-days. For example:

[ʈep-ɾekɔɾdəɾ] 'tape recorder'
[moʈəɾ-saikɪl] 'Motor cycle'
[peʈɾɔl-pəmp] 'Petrol pump'
[eəɾ-kəndiʃən] 'air condition'

Besides these, compounds are also found in Urdu, which can be termed as 'hybrid compounds'. These compounds are formed in such a way that one of its components belongs to Urdu and the other one from English. For example:

[moʈəɾ -gaʀi] 'Vehicles driven by mechanical device'
[rel-gaʀi]   'train'
[saikɪl-səvar]   'cycle rider'
[gɔlɖen-ghəʀi] 'golden watch'
[bəs-əɖɖa]   'bus station'
[jɔhəɾi-pəlanʈ] 'atomic plant'
[əʈamɪk-tɔvənai] 'atomic energy'
[ʃobə-e-lɔ]   'Law Department'

Summary and Conclusion:

Compounding is extensively used as one of the various ways to generate new words and word forms in Urdu language and literature. Urdu has borrowed a variety of compounds as well as their formation processes from different sources, i.e., Indic, Perso-Arabic, Turkish and English.

In Urdu language is commonly found two highly productive compound formation processes, namely, 'izafat' /-e-/ 'of' (genitive) and 'vave atf' /-o-/ 'and'(conjunctive) borrowed from Persian and Arabic are very important morphological operations to form new compound words in Urdu language. These are extensively used in literary Urdu.

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Besides, 'hybrid' compounds are also created in Urdu, with the help of Indic, Perso-Arabic and English sources.

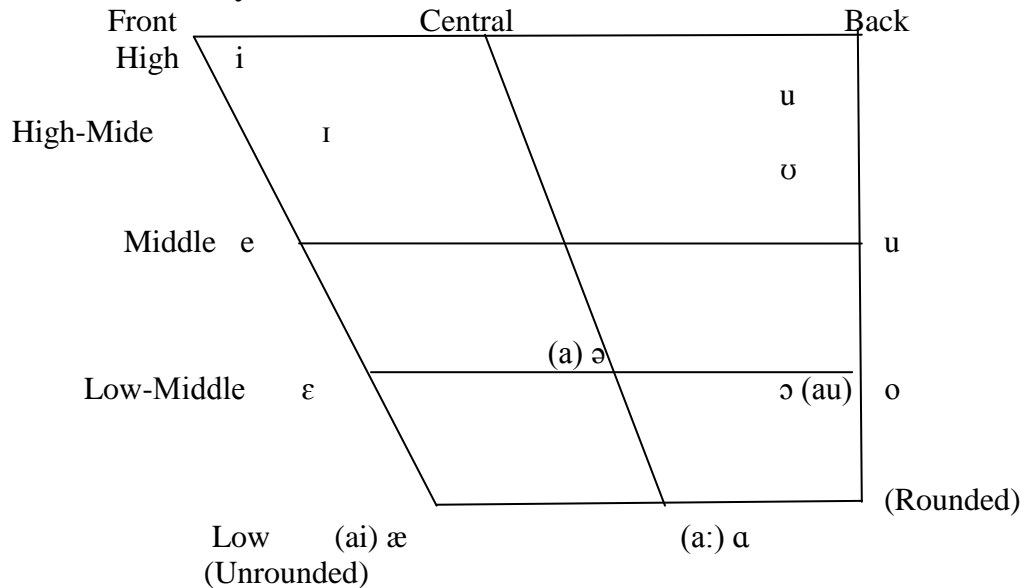==

Phonetic Symbol:

Sound System of Urdu Consonants and Vowels are diagrammatically shown in given below. They are as follow:

Chart-1: Urdu consonants system:

→Point of Articulation Manner of Articulation↓	Bilabial	Labio-dented	Dental/ Alveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Post-alv./ Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
Nasal	M		n	ɳ (N)			ŋ		
Plosive	P b Ph bh		t d th dh	ʈ ɖ ʈh ɖh	ʧ j(ʤ) ʧh jh		k g kh gh	q	
Affricate									
Fricative		F	s z (ź) ź(ž)			ʃ (sh) ʒ	x ğ(ɣ)		ɦ ʔ
Tap or Flap				R Rh					
Approximant		ʋ	l			y w			

Chart-2: Urdu Vowel System

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        Front                Central                    Back
   High     i
                                                   u
   High-Mide          ɪ
                                                   ʊ

   Middle  e                                           u

                              (a) ə
   Low-Middle    ɛ                              ɔ (au)    o

                                                   (Rounded)
        Low    (ai) æ              (a:) ɑ
        (Unrounded)
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