# THE CLASSIFICATION OF COMPOUND WORDS IN TRADITIONAL AND MODERN LINGUISTICS

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**Abstract:** this article provides an overview of the classification of compound words in both traditional and modern linguistic approaches. Key terms discussed include endocentric, exocentric, coordinative, subordinative, and appositional compounds. The article examines how the analysis and categorization of compound words has evolved over time, highlighting the contributions of prominent linguists and the ongoing debates within the field.

*Key words:* compound words, endocentric compounds, exocentric compounds, coordinative compounds, subordinative compounds, appositional compounds, traditional linguistics, modern linguistics.

Аннотация: эта статья предоставляет обзор классификации сложных слов как в традиционных, так и в современных лингвистических подходах. Ключевые термины, обсуждаемые в статье, включают эндоцентрические, экзоцентрические, координативные, субординативные и аппозитивные сложные слова. В статье рассматривается, как анализ и категоризация сложных слов эволюционировали с течением времени, выделяются вклады видных лингвистов и продолжающиеся дискуссии в этой области.

Ключевые слова: сложные слова, эндоцентрические сложные слова, экзоцентрические сложные слова, координативные сложные слова, субординативные сложные слова, аппозитивные сложные слова, традиционная лингвистика, современная лингвистика. Annotatsiya: ushbu maqola an'anaviy va zamonaviy tilshunoslik yondashuvlarida murakkab so'zlarni tasniflash masalasiga umumiy qaragani holda, unda endo-markaziy, ekzo-markaziy, koordinativ, subordinativ va appozitsiyaviy murakkab so'zlar kabi asosiy terminlar ko'rib chiqiladi. Maqolada murakkab so'zlarni tahlil qilish va toifalash jarayonlari vaqt o'tishi bilan qanday rivojlanib borgan, taniqli tilshunoslarning hissasi va ushbu sohada davom etayotgan munozaralar yoritiladi.

Kalit so'zlar: murakkab so'zlar, endo-markaziy murakkab so'zlar, ekzomarkaziy murakkab so'zlar, koordinativ murakkab so'zlar, subordinativ murakkab so'zlar, appozitsiyaviy murakkab so'zlar, an'anaviy tilshunoslik, zamonaviy tilshunoslik.

### Introduction

Compound words, which are formed by combining two or more lexical items, have long been a subject of interest and analysis in the field of linguistics. Traditional approaches to the classification of compound words typically relied on structural and semantic criteria, resulting in categories such as endocentric, exocentric, coordinative, subordinative, and appositional compounds. However, as linguistic theory has advanced, modern perspectives have introduced new ways of conceptualizing and analyzing the formation and behavior of compound words.

## **Traditional Approaches to Compound Word Classification**

In traditional linguistics, the classification of compound words was primarily based on the semantic and syntactic relationships between the constituent elements. The most widely recognized categories are:

*Endocentric Compounds:* These compounds have a head, which determines the semantic and grammatical class of the overall compound. The head is typically the rightmost element, and the entire compound is a hyponym of the head. For example, "blackbird" is an endocentric compound, where "bird" is the head [1].

*Exocentric Compounds:* These compounds do not have a clear head, and the meaning of the compound cannot be inferred from the meaning of its parts. Exocentric compounds are also known as "bahuvrihi" compounds, and they often

refer to a person or thing characterized by the property denoted by the compound. For instance, "redhead" is an exocentric compound, as it does not mean a "head that is red" but rather a person with red hair [3].

*Coordinative Compounds:* In these compounds, the constituent elements are of the same grammatical class and are joined with a coordinating conjunction (such as "and" or "or") or are simply juxtaposed. The meaning of the compound is often a combination or fusion of the meanings of the individual elements. Examples include "singer-songwriter" and "bittersweet" [2].

### Modern Perspectives on Compound Word Classification

In more recent linguistic approaches, the classification of compound words has been further refined and expanded. Scholars have proposed additional categories and have also re-examined the traditional classifications in light of new theoretical frameworks.

*Subordinative Compounds:* These compounds consist of a head and a modifier, where the modifier typically restricts or adds additional information to the head. The head is usually the rightmost element, as in "blackboard" and "greenhouse".

*Appositional Compounds:* In these compounds, the constituent elements are in an appositive relationship, where one element serves to further specify or describe the other. Examples include "poet-critic" and "actor-director" [3].

Additionally, some linguists have suggested that the traditional endocentricexocentric distinction may be overly simplistic, and have proposed more nuanced approaches to analyzing the semantic and structural properties of compound words [2].

#### Conclusion

The classification of compound words has been a topic of ongoing discussion and development in the field of linguistics. Traditional approaches focused on structural and semantic criteria, resulting in categories such as endocentric, exocentric, coordinative, and subordinative compounds. However, modern linguistic perspectives have introduced additional refinements and re-examinations of these classifications, highlighting the complexities and nuances involved in the formation and analysis of compound words.

## **References:**

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