

CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH COMPOUNDS AND THEIR CORRESPONDENTS IN ALBANIAN LANGUAGE

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Abstract

Contrastive analysis or contrastive linguistics is related to the field of applied contrastive studies which predicts and clarifies the difficulties in the process of second language acquisition. It is also claimed that a comparison of different levels between the mother tongue and the target language (phonology, morphology, syntax, lexis, culture) would identify points of difference or difficulty and provide results that would be important in language teaching. This paper aims at describing and analyzing the similarities, dissimilarities, and identities between the English and Albanian compounds by form and meaning. Considering the fact that the dissimilarities are the main cause of difficulty in the learning of the second language or a foreign language, the paper will look at the most common errors Albanian university students make whilst translating compounds from Albanian to English and vice versa. The research presents a combined methodological design, both quantitative and qualitative approach. Correspondingly, English and Albanian grammar books were used as the primary sources in this contrastive study. The research also included the conducting of a test run questionnaire and the subsequent analysis of its results. Consequently, the results gave some insightful ideas or indications regarding implications in teaching and learning compounds in an ELT context.

Key words: contrastive analysis, compounds, English, Albanian, EFL.

1. Introduction

Contrastive analysis (CA) has been firstly introduced by Charles Fries in (1952), and fully described by Lado in his book *Linguistics across Cultures* (1957). Contrastive analysis is a systematic branch of applied linguistics which deals with the linguistic description of the structure of two or more different languages. Despite the fact that there are ‘linguistic universals’ shared among languages (Lado,1957:239) i.e. all languages have something in common. It is also claimed that this comparison would identify points of difference or difficulty and provide results that would be important in language teaching.

Compounding is a universal word formation device (Libben, 2006), but different languages make use of compounding to different extents. However, compounding as a word formation process is one of the most productive processes in both English and Albanian language.

This paper will contribute to: the theoretical linguistics, to the general theory of contrastive linguistics, to the development of contrastive studies in Albanian. Moreover, from a practical view, it aims to facilitate the teaching and the learning process of compounds.

2. Previous Studies

Much research has been conducted on morphological contrastive analysis between English and Albanian language. Researchers have come up with appealing findings and useful suggestions regarding methodological implications in teaching English lexis to EFL students.

Shqerra, N & Shqerra, E (2015) examine the role of derivation and compounding in the process of English language acquisition and claim the following:

Since each language has its own characteristics, there are always differences, which hamper the foreign language acquisition. In such cases, theory and practice should be considered necessary for students. Consequently, additional focus should be given especially to derivational rules (p.117).

Kurani & Muho (2014) compare English and Albanian compounds in terms of their plural form. Based on their analysis, it is found that the plural of compound nouns in Albanian language is formed by changing only the second part of the compound nouns, by changing only the first part of the compound nouns, and by unchanging form in the plural (the same as the

singular). Nevertheless, the majority of English compound nouns have one basic head, with which they end, and are pluralized in typical way in English. Additionally, a compound that has one head, with which it begins, usually pluralizes its head. Furthermore, two-headed compounds in which the first head has a standard plural form, however, tend to pluralize only the final head (p.33).

The first written document in Albanian is *Meshari i Gjon Buzukut* in 1555. The lack of materials regarding Albanian language has made it difficult to tell about the first time compounds have been used and noticed in this language. Correspondingly, compounding as a word formation process has been analyzed relatively late in Albanian grammar books. However, Kostallari (1972) has come up with a list of 17 compound nouns from the period 1304 – 1431.

Compounding is one of the most productive word formation processes in English and Albanian. In both languages, compounding is almost present in all parts of speech. Sherko (2014) in her study, based on the statistical results, concludes that there is a difference in terms of productivity. The statistical difference between the productivity of compounds is the following: Albanian language consists of 11.8 % compounds whereas English consists of 4.48%. So the number of compounds in Albanian is higher than in English. This analysis is conducted by analyzing two dictionaries. The Albanian dictionary analyzed is *Fjalori i Gjuhës së Sotme Shqipe* (1980) consisted of 41.000 words and the English dictionary analyzed is *Oxford Student's Dictionary* (OSD) consisted of 41.000-40.000 words.

3. Present Study

The theoretical approach consisted of form and meaning was appropriate for this research work since patterns of compounds can be expressed in different forms and have different meanings between these two languages. For instance, patterns of English adjective compounds (noun + adjective & adverb + adjective) can correspond to adverb compounds in Albanian language.

The empirical approach consisted of conducting a test run questionnaire where EFL students were asked to identify patterns of given compounds and translate them from English to Albanian and vice versa.

3.1. Research Questions

1. Are there similarities, dissimilarities and identities between English and Albanian compounds by manner of formation?
2. Are there similarities, dissimilarities and identities between English and Albanian compounds by meaning?
3. Which are the most common errors EFL students make whilst identifying patterns of compounds and translating them from English to Albanian and vice versa?

3.2. Participants

Twenty-six EFL university students from the Law Faculty at South East European University (SEEU) in Tetovo - Macedonia participated in this study. They all attended English for Specific Purposes 2 – Legal Studies at the Language Center at SEEU.

3.3. Instruments

The instruments used were Albanian and English Grammar Books, a test run questionnaire on English compounds (Appendix A), and a test run questionnaire on Albanian compounds (Appendix B).

3.4. The Procedure

The procedure conducted for the data collection regarding the 1st and 2nd research question

The primary sources (grammar books) were used in order to provide a description on compounding in English and in Albanian. Patterns of compounds consisted of two roots were listed only. Afterwards, a morphological analysis was conducted by comparing and contrasting the two languages in order to detect the similarities, dissimilarities, and identities between the classification of compounds in these two languages.

The procedure conducted for the data collection regarding the 3rd research question

The first test run questionnaire conducted for the third research question consisted 26 compounds in English (see Appendix A). Students were asked to translate the English

compounds in Albanian and they were required to classify the English compounds according to their components to the given patterns.

The second test run questionnaire conducted for the third research question consisted of 26 compounds in Albanian (see Appendix B). Students were asked to translate the Albanian compounds into English and classify the Albanian compounds according to their components to the given patterns.

4. Analysis and Discussion of the Findings

4.1 Findings Contributing to the Research Question 1 & 2

Results regarding the similarities, dissimilarities and identities between English (Jackson, Ze Amwela, 2005:79-85) and Albanian (Sherko, 2014:65-84; 138-185; *Albanian Language Grammar 1*, 2002) compounds by manner of formation and meaning are the following:

The classification of English patterns of noun compounds	The classification of Albanian patterns of noun compounds
1.Noun + Noun: ash-tray, arm-chair, test-book	1.Noun + Noun: bukëpjekes, kryeparlamentar, kryeministër,
2. Verb + Noun: dare-devil, pick-pocket	2. Verb + Noun: No case
3. Adjective +Noun: black-bird, blue-collar, hard-cover	3. Adjective +Noun: bukurshkrim, mirëmëngjes,
4. Adverb + Noun: after-thought, back-talk, down-grade.	4. Adverb + Noun: nënkryetar, nëntoke, drejtshkrim

Table 1. Comparison of the classification of English and Albanian noun compounding patterns

After the detailed comparative and contrastive analysis conducted in terms of the formation of noun compounds, English and Albanian grammar are similar/identical regarding the following compounding patterns: N+N (1), Aj + N (3), Adv + N (4) however they are different in terms of V + N compounds (2). It means that the pattern V + N does not exist in Albanian

language as a noun compound pattern because noun compounds are not formed by joining a verb and a noun in Albanian language.

Regarding verb compounds, English and Albanian grammars are similar/identical regarding the following compounding patterns: N+V (5), V + V (6), AJ + V (7), and Aj + V (8). There are no dissimilarities in terms of manner of formation between English and Albanian verb compounds:

The classification of English patterns of verb compounds	The classification of Albanian patterns of verb compounds
5. Noun +Verb: baby-sit, brain-wash, house-keep	5. Noun +Verb: Buzeqesh
6. Verb + Verb: dive-bomb, drop-kick	6. Verb + Verb: Shtypshkruaj
7. Adjective + Verb: dry-clean, sweet-talk, white-wash	7. Adjective + Verb: keqkuptoj, mirëkuptoj, keqadministroj
8. Adverb + Verb: down-grade, over-do	8. Adverb + Verb: bashkëbisedoj, mbingarkoj, nënvlerësoj

Table 2. Comparison of the classification of English and Albanian verb compounding patterns

In terms of adjective compounds (Table.3), English and Albanian grammars are similar/identical regarding the following compound patterns: N + Aj (9), V + Aj (10), Aj + Aj (11), and Av + Aj (12). It is worth of emphasizing that both languages do not have the pattern V + Aj in forming verb compounds whereas the three other patterns are present in both languages.

The classification of English patterns of adjective compounds	The classification of Albanian patterns of adjective compounds
9. Noun +Adjective: earth-bound, ox-eyed, sea-sick	9. Noun +Adjective: syzi, mjekërzi, zemërmirë, shpirtmirë,
10. Verb + Adjective: No case	10. Verb + Adjective: No case

11. Adjective + Adjective: blue-green, metallic-green, south-west	11. Adjective + Adjective: shqiptaro-amerikan, kërkimor-shkencor
12. Adverb + Adjective: near-sighted, off-white	12. Adverb + Adjective: gjysmështrire, gjysmëfjetur, bashkëlidhur

Table 3. Comparison of the classification of English and Albanian adjective compounding patterns

Regarding adverb compounds (Table 4), there is one similarity only. The pattern Av + Av (16) is noticed in both languages whereas Aj + Av (15) does not exist in both languages as a pattern. However, the differences between these two languages is the one of N + Av (13) which does not exist in English but it exists in Albanian language. Moreover, the pattern V + Av = N (14) is present in English whereas does not exist in Albanian language:

The classification of English patterns of adverb compounds	The classification of Albanian patterns of adverb compounds
13. Noun +Adverb: No case	13. Noun +Adverb: gojehapur, balleçelur
14. Verb + Adverb= Noun: drive-in , lift-off	14. Verb + Adverb= Noun: No case
15. Adjective + Adverb: No case	15. Adjective + Adverb: No case
16. Adverb + Adverb: in-to, through-out	16. Adverb + Adverb: gjysmemajtas, gjysmeshtrire, gjysmefjetur,

Table 4. Comparison of the classification of English and Albanian patterns adverb compounding patterns

After presenting the similarities and dissimilarities between English and Albanian compounding patterns by form, it can be noted that in terms of meaning, English and Albanian compounding patterns such as N+N and Aj + Aj are noticed to be similar and identical whereas the rest are dissimilar between these two languages. This can be seen in Appendix A, Part I and Appendix B, Part I where the correct answers are highlighted in grey.

4.2 Findings contributing to the 3rd research question

Results regarding the most common errors EFL students make whilst identifying patterns of English compounds ((Appendix A, Part I) where the correct answers are highlighted in grey) and translating them from English to Albanian (see Appendix A, Part II) show that the most common errors made by students regarding the classification are made with these patterns: N+N, V +N, V+V, Aj + V, Aj + Aj, Aj+ V, Av +V, Aj + Av. However, in terms of translation, the pattern V + Av = Noun is mostly incorrectly translated.

Results regarding the most common errors EFL students make whilst identifying patterns of Albanian English compounds ((Appendix B, Part I) where the correct answers are highlighted in grey) and translating them from English to Albanian (see Appendix B, Part II) imply that the most common errors made by students regarding the classification are made with these patterns: N+N, V+N, Aj + N, Av + N, N+V, Aj+ Aj, Av+ Aj, N+Av, Av + Av. However, in terms of translation, the errors are noticed in the following patterns: N+ Aj, N+Av , Aj + V, Av+V, and Aj+ N.

5. Conclusions

This paper examined the similarities, dissimilarities and identities between English and Albanian compounding patterns and analyzed the mistakes that students make whilst translating and classifying the given compounds according to their components.

The main findings of this research showed that the difference between English and Albanian in terms of the number of patterns is that there are 13 patterns of compounds in English whereas there are 12 patterns of compounds in Albanian.

In terms of the similarities, dissimilarities and identities between English and Albanian compounds by manner of formation, it was concluded that the following patterns are similar in English and Albanian language:

1. N+ N
3. Aj +N
4. Av + N
5. N+V

- 6. V + V
- 7. Aj + V
- 8. Av + V
- 9. N +Aj
- 11. Aj + Aj
- 12. Av+ Aj
- 16. Av + Av

Whereas, the dissimilarities in terms of form are noticed in the following patterns:

- 2. V + N
- 13. N +Av: No case
- 14. V+ Av = Noun

Regarding the similarities, dissimilarities and identities between English and Albanian compounds by meaning, it was concluded that the following patterns are similar in English and Albanian Language:

- 3. Aj +N
- 4. Av + N
- 8. Av+ V

However, the dissimilarities in terms of meaning are noticed in the following patterns:

- 1. N + N
- 5. N +V
- 6. V + V
- 7. Aj + V
- 9. N +Aj
- 11. Aj + Aj

The analysis regarding the most common errors EFL students make whilst identifying patterns of compounds and translating them from English to Albanian and vice versa show/imply that the most common errors made by students regarding the classification are made with these patterns: N+ N, V +N, V+V, Aj + V, Aj + Aj, Aj+ V, Av +V, Aj + Av, Aj + N, Av + N,

N+V,Av+ Aj, N+Av, Av + Av. However, in terms of translation, the following patterns are mostly incorrectly translated: N+ Aj, N+Av , Aj + V, Av+V, Aj+ N, and V + Av = Noun.

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Appendices

Appendix A

Part I. Classify the English compounds according to their components

Student classification of English Compounds	Ashtray	Armchair	Nearsighted	Offwhite	Into	Throughout	Testbook	Babysit	Brainwash	Housekeep	Divebomb	Dropkick	Pickpocket	Blackbird	Bluecollar	Hardcover	Afterthought	Backtalk	Dryclean	Whitewash	Overdo	Earthbound	Seasick	Bluegreen	Southwest	Liftoff
1.N + N	25	25					22		5		6	6	2	6	4					3		1		5	22	
2.V+ N				3			1				20		23													
3.Aj +N	1			4			3							20	19	7	5			1	3			3		
4.Av + N			7	4		3										5	14	5								2
5.N+V								26	21	26		2						7	2	6		6	3			
6.V + V						5						18				1			1	1						
7.Aj+ V				2											3	10				13	4					
8.Av + V		1	6										1			2	2	13	1		19					
9.N +Aj																						19	18		5	
10.V+ Aj = No case																										
11.Aj + Aj			2														2		15				5	18	4	
12.Av + Av			7	13															4							2
13.N +Avb =No case																			3							
14.V + Av= Noun																				2						17
15.Aj + Av= No case			2		2	5										1										
16.Av+ Av			2		24	13												3	1							

Part II. Translate the English compounds into Albanian language.

English Compounds	Students' translation in Albanian
1. ash-tray (N + N)	1.tavëll,shpuzore,
2. arm-chair (N+ N)	2. kolltuk
3. near-sighted (Av + Aj)	3. miop,shkurtpamës
4. off-white (Av + Aj)	4, i/e përhimte,ngjyrë qumshti
5. in-to (Av + Av)	5. në
6. through-out (Av + Av)	6.gjate, përmes,
7. test-book N+ N	7.libër testesh
8. baby-sit N + V	8.kujdesem per femije,
9. brain-wash N + V	9. ndërroj pikëpamjen e dikujt/larje truri
10.house-keep N + V	10.mirëmbajtje shtëpie
11. dive-bomb V + V	11.hedhje e bombës nga lartë, bombë pikiate,
12. drop-kick V + V	12 goditje,shkelmos
13. pick-pocket V + N	13. xhepist,vjedhje xhepash
14. black-bird Aj + N	14. korb, zog i zi, mellenjë,
15. blue-collar Aj + N	15. jakë e kaltërt
16. hard-cover Aj + N	16.kopertinë e fortë
17. after-thought Av + N	17. mendim i mëvonshëm,rihqyrtim,pishman
18. back-talk Av + N	18. flas prapa shpine, përgojoj
19. dry-clean Aj + V	19. pastrim kimik, pastrim I thate, pa ujë
20. white-wash Aj + V	20. zbardh, fshehja e te këqijave,
21. over-do Av + V	21.teproj
22. earth-bound N +Aj	22.tokësor,
23. sea-sick N +Aj	23. semundje deti,
24. blue-green Aj +Aj	24.e kaltërt në te gjelbert
25. south-west Aj +Aj	25. jugperëndim

26. lift-off V + Av = Noun compound	26.nisje, ngritje,
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Appendix B

Part I. Classify the Albanian compounds according to their components

Student classification of Albanian Compounds	Keqkuptoj	Gojehapur	Zemërmire	Shpirtmire	Kokëfortë	Shqiptaro-amerikan	Mirëkuptoj	Bashkëbisedoj	Mbingarkoj	Nënvlerësoj	Kryeminister	Frymëmarrje	Bregdet	Hekurudhë	Bukurshkrim	Mirëmengjes	Nënkryetar	Nëntoke	Drejshkrim	Buzëqesh	Shtypshkrutaj	Syzi	Kërkimor-shkencor	Gjysmëfjetur	Bashkëlidhur	Gjysmëmajtës
1.N + N		6	3			22					14	10	21	23	3	1	4						3	3	2	
2.V+ N		1	2				3	1			3	1	3						1				1			
3.Aj +N		1	1	1			3			1	3				18	12			2	9			1	1		
4.Av + N					1		4				6				2	5	15	17	7					1	1	3
5.N+V			4	3	2			3	5	5		10				3					23	7		4	3	
6.V + V												3									1	11	1	3		
7.Aj+ V		1		3			12													2	3			4		
8.Av + V							2	18	16	15						3			3	1				1	8	
9.N+Aj		18	16	16	15				1		3											17	3			1
10.V+ Aj =No case																						5				
11.Aj + Aj				1	1	3		1	2						1	3							9	3		
12.Av + Aj															1				1		2			1	1	
13.N+Av				4	4										1							1	4			4
14.V + Av= Noun													3		1							2				4
15.Aj + Av= No case							2								2	1			1					3	3	
16.Av + Av			3		3	3											2	4					7	1	9	7

Part II. Translate the Albanian compounds into English.

Albanian compounds	Students' translation in English
1. keqkuptoj Aj+v	1. misunderstand
2. gojehapur N+Aj, n+av	2.
3. zemermire N+Aj,	3. generous/goodhearted/kindhearted
4. shpirtmire N+Aj	4. kind soul/good soul/
5. kokeforte N+Aj	5. stubborn
6. shqiptaro-amerikan aj + aj	6. albanian-american
7. mirekuptoj aj + v	7. understand/well understand
8. bashkebisedoj av + v	8. chit chat/have a conversation/co-conversation
9. mbingarkoj av + v	9. overload
10. nenvleresoj av + v	10. underestimate/discredit
11. kryeminister n+n	11. primeminister
12. frymemarrje n+ n	12. breathing
13. bregdet n+n	13. seashore/coast/bay
14. hekurudhe n+ n	14. railway
15. bukurshkrim aj + n	15. calligraphy/good writing/penmanship
16. miremengjes aj + n	16. good morning
17. nenkryetar adv + n	17. vicepresident

18. nentoke av + n	18. underground
19. drejtshkrim adv + n	19. orthography/right writing/correct spelling
20. buzeqesh n+v	20. smile
21. shtypshkruaj v + v	21. type/written press/typewriting
22. syzi N+Adj	22. black eyed
23. kerkimor-shkencor Aj + Aj	23. scientific-research
24. gjysmefjetur Av+ Aj,Av+ Av	24. half asleep
25. bashkelidhur Av+ Aj, Av+ Av	25. bounded/attached/annexed
26 gjysmemajtas Av+ Av	26. half left/half on the left