

Types of Compounds: esp. Types of Copulative Compounds

1 Types of Compounds

1.1 Determinative Compounds

First constituent (X) restricts the denotation of the second (Y).

- *coffee cup, flash light, desktop publishing* X + Y
- *Kaffeetasse, Taschenlampe, Computergrafik* X|Y

1.2 Copulative Compounds

Representation of a coordinative relationship between the two concepts (X Y), that are both attributed simultaneously to one individual.

- *poet-doctor, diplomat-playboy, songwriter-producer-arranger* X - Y
- *Dichter-Fürst, Dichter-Schauspieler, Autor-Regisseur* X - Y

1.3 Possessive Compounds

An entity characterized by the property named; An XY is something that has a X Y.

- *greybeard, skinhead, bigfoot* XY
- *Krauskopf, Humpelbein, Plattfuß* XY

2 Copulative Compounds in Sanskrit

In Sanskrit copulative compounds do not refer to a single individual, but to several individuals or an amount of individuals.

- *hastyacvau* = elephant (hastin) + horse (acva) + dual: the elephant AND the horse
- *hastyacvas* = elephant + horse + plural: three or more elephants AND horses

Only copulative compounds can contain more than two constituents. (= > simple, flat structure?)

Dual inflection came to marking the final constituent, which had also primary accent and determined gender and inflectional class.

- *simhavyaghrau* = lion (simha) + leopard (vyaghra) + dual: the lion AND the leopard => group of two animals

vs. *lion-leopard* => a leopard with features of a lion or a hermaphrodite?

vs. *Löwenleopard* => Leopard mit Löwen-Eigenschaften o. Zwittertier?

lionleopards/Löwenleoparde = two or more similar animals

=> in English and German an XY is something that has X and Y as parts

- *Time-Warner, Rank-Xerox, Sony CBS, Chrysler-Daimler*
- *Baden-Württemberg, Raiffaisen-Volksbank, Shell-BP*

2.1 A Matter of Morphology

The morphological system of Sanskrit leads to the meaning of the copulative compounds (Fanselow). A morpheme makes always clear whether the compound refers to two individuals (dual-morpheme) or more than two (plural-morpheme) [μ]: $X + Y + \mu$

In German and English it is impossible to combine names, as it would be possible in Sanskrit.

- **Schröder-Fischer, Bush-Powell*
- **Elbe-Elster-Oder, Mississipi-Missouri*

But names can occur in plural.

- *the Clintons* = set of individuals (Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton)
- *die Borers* = das Ehepaar Borer (Thomas und Shawne Fielding-B.)

but:

- **Bill-Hillary*
- **Thomas-Shawne*

In German front constituent has never plural meaning, only „Fugenmorpheme“ [f] (historically Genetiv Singular) can occur.

- *Professorensohn, Freundeskreis, Kindergeburtstage*

2.2 Copulative Compounds of Adjectives in Sanskrit

Copulative compounds of adjectives (composed the same way as nouns) are rare. The relation can be AND, OR, THOUGH and BUT.

- *cuklakrsna* = light AND dark
- *jayaparajaya* = victory OR defeat
- *priyasatya* = agreeable THOUGH true
- *prarthitadurlabha* = sought after BUT hard to obtain

3 Copulative Compounds in Romance

General difference: left-headedness and both constituents are stressed (indication of syntactic conjunction)

Two types of compounds:

left-headed determinative and copulative compounds

- *ciudad dormitorio* = bedroom community
- *cantante-actor* = singer-actor

right-headed compounds are rare (generally borrowed from Germanic)

- *autoescuela* = car school

copulative compounds are dually headed, evidently in plural forms

- *poeta-pintor* – *poetas-pintores* = poet-painter(s)
- *actor-bailarin* – *actores-bailarines* = actor-dancer(s)
- *amigo-enemigo* – *amigos-enemigos* = friend-enemy(s)
- *panaderia-pasteleria* – *panaderias-pastelerias* = bakery-confectionary(s)

when meaning not `X and Y`, but `X serving as Y` or `X like Y`, double plural is possible, but trend is towards plural of first constituent

- *coche-casa* – *coches-casa* – *coches-casas* = camper (lit. car-house)
- *hombre-rana* – *hombres rana* = diver (lit. man-frog)

left-headed compounds in Spanish (not copulative) are pluralized on left constituent only, where the gender is also determined in case of gender-conflict:

- *ano luz* – *anos luz* = light year(s)
- *pez espada* – *peces espada* = sword fish

- *un cantante-actor* = a-masc. singer + actor-masc.
- *una cantante-actriz* = a-fem. singer + actor-fem.
- *un coche-casa* = a-masc. car-masc. + house-fem.

Italian:

- *cassapancha* – *cassepanche* = box-seat(s)

Portuguese:

- *actor-encenador* – *actores-encenadores* = actor-producer(s)

French:

- *guide-interprete* – *guides-interpretes* = guide-interpretator(s)

In Romanic languages compounds are close to syntactic structures, and are not as freely formable as in Germanic languages => `syntactic words` or `fixed phrases`.

low degree of productivity ./ high degree of lexicalization

4 A Kind of Conclusion

- a language with determinative compounds will also have copulative compounds (like Germanic)
- but not vice versa (Romance)
- a language with productive possessive compounds will also have determinative compounds (like Sanskrit)

poss. comp. => det. comp. => cop. comp.

It seems as if Romance does not have any clear type of compounding at all.

Romance endocentric => difficult to reanalyze (the grammar is realized within the word) $X + \mu + Y$

Germanic exocentric => easy to analyze (when the lexical concept is over the grammatic concept is realized) $X + Y + \mu$

A morphological copulative stem can never:

- denote a disjunction of qualities (like or/but/though/and in Sanskrit)
- refer to a group of distinct individuals

5 Copulative Compounds in English and German

5.1 Marking of Categories

Plural, gender and cases are determined by the second constituent.

- *der Linguist-Psychologe, die Linguist-Psychologin / die Linguistin-Psychologin*
- *der Opfer-Zeuge, die Opfer-Zeugin*
- *der Schauspieler-Regisseur, die Schauspieler-Regisseure*
- *der Ingenieur-Student, die Ingenieur-Studenten*
- *des/dem Ingenieur-Studenten, den Ingenieur-Studenten*

- *the writer-director Woody Allen*
- *the writer-directors John Musker and Ron Clements*
- *the writer-director-actors Paul Mazursky, Harold Ramis*

5.2 Structure

are such copulatives flat structured?

- *songwriter-producer-arranger-friend*
[[[songwriter] producer] arranger] friend]
- *brain size-body size proportions*
[[[brain size] [body size]] proportions]

5.3 Determinative ./ Copulative

Is it rather a determinative meaning than a copulative?

- *Arztbruder* = Arzt und Bruder ./ Bruder eines Arztes
- *Spieler-Trainer, Kinder-Gangster*
- Is an *office-tent* a *tent-office*? Is a *comedy-drama* a *drama-comedy*?

Ordering by relevance:

- *actor-environmentalist* (e.g. Robert Redford's new initiative)
- *actor-director* (e.g. Rob Reiner, who acts rarely)
- *director-actor* (e.g. Robert de Niro, who directed just a few films)
- what about Woody Allen (number of films directed \approx films acted in) – must I stress his directing or acting – is there a neutral way?

Ordering by time- or cause-relations:

- *murder-suicide, kidnapper-killer*

Problem: no clear formal distinction between determinative and copulative compounds

5.4 Complexity = Limit

Jürgen Mlynec, the president of Humboldt-University / the Humboldt-University president, a Physics-professor and a father

=> **Humboldt-University president-Physics professor-father* Mlynec

Kennerly was co-writer and co-executive producer

=> **co-writer-co-executive producer* Kennerly

Complexity = limit of copulatives?

suffixes (-er [*singer, producer* etc.], -ian [*comedian, technician* etc], -ist [*novelist, humanist* etc]) are normal in copulatives

prefixes are rather unusual

6 Types of Copulatives

6.1 Profession + Characteristic Activity

- *actor-environmentalist, director-pilot, screenwriter-hermit*
- *Schauspieler-Umweltschützer, Regisseur-Pilot, Autor-Eremit*

6.2 Profession + Property

- *gangster-prophet, poet-drunkard, manager-friend*
- *Wissenschaftler-Säufer, Manager-Freund, Tischler-Humanist*

6.3 Characteristic Properties

- *nerd-genius, owner-driver, lion-human*
- *Besitzer-Fahrer, Löwenmensch*

6.4 Profession + Kinship

- *lawyer-son, steelworker-father, actress-wife*
- *Anwaltssohn / Anwalt-Sohn, Stahlarbeitervater / Stahlarbeiter-Vater, Schauspieleringattin / Schauspielerin-Gattin*

6.5 X - Y + Z

Z denotes a relation between X and Y

- *man-wife team, Ohio-Idaho game, German-French dispute, cost-benefit analysis, USA-Canada border, Schröder-Fischer policy etc.*
- *Mann-Frau-Team, Deutschland-England-Wettstreit, Kosten-Nutzen-Analyse, Polar-Subpolar-Grenze, Schröder-Fischer-Politik*