

## Compounding in Gojri

Badar Zaman,

*Ph.D Scholar*

*School of Foreign Languages*

*Shanghai University*

*China*

Feng Qi, Ph.D

*School of Foreign Languages*

*Shanghai University*

*China*

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**Abstract:** This paper is an attempt to explore the compound words in Gojri language. A qualitative descriptive approach is employed to analyse the data. Like other Indo-Aryan languages, Gojri also involves compounding as a productive word formation process. This morphological operation is concatenative in nature. Gojri compounds are left-headed with the first component of the compound as the head. Root or primary compounds, attributive compounds, determinative compounds and coordinative compounds occur in Gojri. Rhyming compounds in the form of full and partial reduplication are found in Gojri.

**Keywords:** Compounding, Gojri, Formation

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### Introduction

Compounding is a morphological operation of the word formation in the languages of the world. Hladky (1998) states that a compound is a lexical item that functions as a single word grammatically and semantically. Bauer (1983) states that a compound is a lexeme that comprises at least two potential stems. Huddleston (2002) is of the view that a compound is a base consisted of two smaller bases. Adams (1973) sees a compound as a fixed combination. Bauer (2001) asserts that a compound is a lexeme consisting of two or more constituents that can occur as an independent linguistic unit. Katamba (1993) avers that the compounds are the words made up of two units, neither of which can act as an affix and which may or may not exist on its own. Koul (2008) claims that in Indo-Aryan languages, one meaningful lexeme gets into compounding with an absurd word which does not convey meaning on its own but it gives meaning when is compounded with the meaningful linguistic unit.

Some phrases are also composed of two words and it poses a problem to distinguish compounds from free phrases. The elements of a compound are hyphenated and written as one word that acts as one grammatical and semantic unit. Hladky (1998), Marchand (1969), Lyons (1977) are agreed that the primary stress makes the status of a compound. Bloomfield (1933) gives the example of the compound, 'white house'. 'White house' is a compound as well as a phrase and stress pattern resolves the problem of distinction between a compound and a phrase. Same is the case with 'green house'. Warren (1978) declares that the components of a compound are connected in such a way that they act as one unit and any insertion between its components breaks the compound and alters the meanings. For instance, the insertion of any word between the components of the compound word, 'green house' breaks the compound and alters its meanings.

On the other hand, it is possible for the phrase to have insertion without the danger of breaking of meanings. The phrase 'green house' can take other words as 'green small house' 'green big and beautiful house' It can be said that compounds are indivisible and phrases are divisible. The stress criterion for identifying the status of a compound cannot be successfully generalized. Huddleston (2002) suggests to check the compound status with the pro-one construction, whereby in a repeat occurrence in a co-ordinate construction, a (countable) nominal head is replaced by the pro-form, one. The identification of the status of a compound is somewhat difficult. The compound acts as a lexical unit and the meanings of a compound are different from that of its constituents.

So, a compound is a syntactic and semantic unit consisted of more than one stem. A compound is a lexical item consisted of at least two stems and functions independently as one lexeme. Therefore, a compound is a one lexical unit from syntactic and the semantic point of view and falls in a certain word class.

### Headness of Compounds

The head is the dominant constituent of the compound word as it carries the syntactic and semantic information of a compound. The noun compound has noun as the head and the verbal compound verb as the head. 'School boy' and 'bed room' are the examples of noun compounds whereas 'moneylender' and 'roads weeper' are example of verbal compounds as the head is a verb in these compounds. Head also shows gender and number of compounds. For instance, 'head master' indicates masculine noun as the head is masculine and 'head masters' refer to the plural form of 'head master'. Booij (2005) reveals that headness is a phenomenon that is language specific. Some languages are left-headed, like English and some, like Maori, an African language, has the head on the left. The head of a compound word is the right-hand member of that word. In right-headed compounds, the right most member of the word is the head of the word. The right-hand head rule is not applicable to all the languages. English is the language where the head of a compound occurs on the right. Italian and French are examples of such languages where the head of the compound normally occurs on the left (Scalise, 1984). English has a minority of left-headed compounds because of the inflectional affixes attached to the left-hand heads. Apart from right-headed and left-headed compounds, headless compounds also exist which do not contain any constituent functioning as the semantic head and where both the constituents have equal status.

### Gojri Compounds

"Linguists have considered Gojri language a branch of Indo- Aryan family. European and Asian researchers have given different names to Gojri language e.g. Gojri, Gujri etc. But its real name is Gojri. At present, Gojri language is spoken in most of the areas of Azad Kashmir whereas in Pakistan, it is spoken in upper Punjab, KPK, and Northern areas (Zaman and Qi, 2019:68)."

Gojri is abundant with compound words. Gojri compounds have two stems as two words take part in compounding. These two words can be of the same class or of different classes. The Gojri compounds are left-headed. Root or primary compounds, attributive compounds, determinative compounds and coordinative compounds occur in Gojri. Rhyming compounds in the form of full and partial reduplication are found in Gojri.

### Root or Primary Compounds

Roeper and Seigel (1978) state that root or primary compounds are concatenated by two syntactic units where the second constituent of a compound is not the derivative of a verb. Consider these illustrations :

[kʊɽi: - dʒ ə ŋ ɔ̃ ] 'Spouse'  
[mɑ: - bɑ: p ] 'Parents'  
[ t̪ ihi: - pu: t̪ ] 'Children'  
[ t̪ ə heɪ r - pə t̪ eɪ r ] 'Cousins'  
[ʃ i: pɔ - hə kɽ ɪ ] 'whistling'  
[g ɑ: - bə tʃ h ɔ̃ ] 'Cattle'  
[d̪ ʊ d̪ - kɪ hi: ] 'Dairy product'  
[ɑ:tɔ - d̪ ɑ ŋ ɔ̃ : ] 'Food items'  
[hə l - d̪ ɑ: n̪ ] 'Plough and oxen'

### Rhyming Compounds

Masica (1991) states that South Asian languages are abundant with this type of compounding. Rhyming compounds are made up by the concatenation of two identical words. Rhyming compounds involve the repetition of the first stem. The full and partial reduplication falls in the category of rhyming compounds . Consider these examples:

[pi: l ɔ - pi: l ɔ ] 'Very yellow'  
[ʊ tʃ ɔ - ʊ tʃ ɔ ] 'Very high'  
[bə hlɔ - bə hlɔ ] 'Very quickly'  
[mə tʰ ɔ - mə tʰ ɔ ] 'Very slowly'  
[rɔ z - rɔ z] 'Every day'  
[nɪ kɔ - nɪ kɔ ] 'Very small'  
[kə d̪ e - kə d̪ e] 'Sometimes'  
[mə sɑ̃ - mə sɑ̃ ] 'Hardly'  
[keɽ ɔ - keɽ ɔ ] 'Which persons'  
[kə d̪ ɛ - kə d̪ ɛ ] 'What time'  
[hə st̪ ɑ̃ - hə st̪ ɑ̃ ] 'While laughing'  
[rɔ t̪ ɑ̃ - rɑ: t̪ ] 'While weeping'

[pu: tʃ<sup>h</sup> - pɑ: tʃ<sup>h</sup> ] ‘To wipe thoroughly’

[rə g ə ʀ - rʊ g ə ʀ ] ‘To rub thoroughly’

[d̥ ə s- d̥ ʊ s] ‘To brief completely’

[sʊ ŋ - sə ŋ ] ‘To listen carefully’

### Coordinative Compounds

Coordinative compounds have two words which are yoked together. The elements of the coordinative compounds have syntactic coordination and neither of the elements acts as head to dominate the compound. Plag (2003) affirms that coordinative compounds indicate one unit and both the components of a compound represent that entity. Coordinative compounds can have two words with the same meanings as well as with different meanings and these may contain N+N, V+V, and A+A syntactic categories.

[dɔ g ɔ - dɔ g ɔ ] ‘Field to field’

[kɔ nɔ - kɔ nɔ ] ‘Corner to corner’

[g ə rā - g ə rā ] ‘Village to village’

[kə hə r - kə hə r ] ‘House to house’

[bə tʃ ɔ - bə tʃ ɔ ] ‘Every child’

[t̥ eɦɑ:ɾi: - t̥ eɦɑ:ɾi: ] ‘Day to day’

[nɪ kɔ - bə ʀ ɔ ] ‘Small and big’

[mɑ: ʀ ɔ - mɔ tɔ ] ‘Weak and healthy’

[ʊ tʃ ɔ - nɪ: mɔ ] ‘High and low’

[ʊ t<sup>h</sup> t̥ ɑ̃: - bɛɪ s̥t̥ ɑ̃: ] ‘While standing and sitting’

[lə ŋg t̥ ɑ̃: - k<sup>h</sup> ə l̥t̥ ɑ̃: ] ‘While passing and standing’

[sɔ t̥ ɑ̃: - jɑ:g t̥ ɑ̃: ] ‘While sleeping and awaking’

[ə g - pɑ:ŋ i: ] ‘Fire and water’

Coordinative compounds can also have the components with similar meanings, as :

[sɑ: g - sə bzi: ] ‘Vegetables’

[ʃɑ: d̥ i: -bejɑ: ] ‘Marriage’

[pəɦɑ:ndə -bə r̥t̥ ə n] ‘Pots’

[pə lɑ: - kə prɑ: ] ‘Clothes’

Coordinative compounds are also made up by the concatenation of one meaningful and meaningless component, as:

[lɔ ʀ - lɑ: ʀ ] ‘To search thoroughly’

[ku: tʃ - kɑ: tʃ ] ‘To clean thoroughly’

[mʊ n - mə n ] ‘To trim thoroughly’

[kə p - kʊ p ] ‘To cut thoroughly’

[t̥ ɔ hɔ - t̥ ə hɑ: ] ‘To wash thoroughly’

### Determinative Compounds

Determinative compounds contain one dependent component where the first component of a compound syntactically depends on the second one. Different semantic relations exist between the two elements of a determinative compound.

Consider these examples:

[kʊ kə ʀ - kɔ t̥<sup>h</sup> i: ] ‘Chicken coop’

[fɔ dʒ i: - bə ŋg l̥ ɔ ] ‘Army barrack’

[ə fsə r - mə hə lɔ ] ‘Officer colony’

[d̥ esi: -kɪ hi: ] ‘Local butter’

[jə ŋg l̥ i: -kʊ kə ʀ ] ‘Wild chicken’

### **Attributive Compounds**

Attributive compounds are compounds where one constituent of the compound acts as an attribution. These compounds are formed by the concatenation of adjectives and nouns.

[də hda : - lə k ] ‘ Powerful people’

[kə tʃ i : - ʊ mə r ] ‘Immature age’

[sə tʃ ə - peɪə : r ] ‘True love’

[pə kə -wə hɔ̃ ə ] ‘Commitment’

[zehni : -bi : mə : rɪ ] ‘Mental disease’

### **Conclusion**

Compounding is a morphological operation that is extensively employed to generate new words in Gojri. Gojri compounds comprised of two stems and the left stem carrying the syntactic and semantic information of a compound, acts as the head of the compound. Gojri compounds are called left-headed compounds. Rhyming compounds are produced by the partial and full reduplication of words. Root or primary compounds are made up simply by yoking together two syntactic units where the second component is not deverbal. The elements of coordinative compounds have syntactic coordination and neither of the elements acts as the head to dominate the compound. Attributive compounds are formed on the basis of attribution-entity relationship. Determinative compounds contain semantic relations between the constituents.

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