

Words vs. phrases

LING 481/581

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Compounds vs. phrases

- may be difficult to distinguish
 - *gold chain, gold-digger, goldfinger, goldfish, gold nugget, goldrush, gold watch, goldsmith*
 - *gold* can be either Adj (~*golden*) or N
 - which are Adj N phrases? NN compounds?
- A compound predicted to be a single lexeme
 - for syntax, phonology, semantics, morphology
 - variety of tests

BUT no one test is fool-proof 100% of time

	Phrases	Compounds
semantic	dependent noun may be referential head may be replaced by an anaphoric pronoun	dependent noun virtually always generic head may not be replaced by an anaphoric pronoun
phonological	less cohesion	greater cohesion e.g. compound as domain of stress assignment, vowel harmony
morphological	no cohesion	greater cohesion e.g. compound as domain of affixation
syntactic	separable dependent noun expandable coordination ellipsis possible	inseparable dependent noun not expandable coordination ellipsis impossible

Table 9.1 Phrases versus compounds

assumed compound structure:
[dependent][head]

Semantic test: generic reference

Dependent nouns in compounds always have **generic reference**

house-cleaning

(house refers to any house, not *this* house)

road-kill

shoe-shine

hair-dresser

skate bag (could be for any skates)

Your examples:

wristwatch, backpack, garbage can

Semantic (syntactic) test: pronominalization

- (9.6) a. *My aunt has one gold watch and three silver ones*
(i.e. three silver watches). phrase
- b. **My aunt knows one goldsmith and three silver ones*
(i.e. three silversmiths). compound

Your examples:

anklewatch, *one wristwatch and three ankle ones

kidnapper, *one kidnapper and three dog ones

chicken nugget, *one gold nugget and three chicken ones

Syntactic test: expandability

- Can dependent root be modified by Adv or Adj?
 - *gold nugget, very gold nugget*
 - *blue sky, very blue sky*
 - *kingmaker, *illegitimate kingmaker*
 - *crispbread, *very crispbread*
- Your examples
 - *fake goldrush* (Adj N phrase),
 - [fake gold] rush (works or not depending on viability of [X rush])
 - *Fool's gold rush*

Syntactic test: separability

Hausa Adj placement

- (9.5) a. *gida-n-sauroo* *bàbba* (**gidaa bàbba na sauroo*) compound
house-REL.M-mosquito big
'big mosquito net'
- b. *gidaa* *bàbba* *na* *Muusaa* phrase
house big REL.M Musa
'Musa's big house'

English?

restrictions on Adj placement even in phrases

*gold nugget, *gold big nugget (big gold nugget)*

old truck, big old truck (big old might itself be a compound)

*oldschool, *big oldschool*

old school, big old school

old school, old blue school

*skate bag, *skate blue bag, blue skate bag*

Det

*skate bag, my skate bag, *skate my bag*

Syntactic test: ellipsis

Coordination ellipsis in phrases:

I have many Asian and Indian friends. ([Adj and Adj N] phrase)

hot coffee and doughnuts ([Adj N and N] phrase---ambiguous)

Your examples:

No coordination ellipsis in compounds:

- (9.8) a. *Large fish and small fish were mistakenly placed in the same tank.*
b. *Large Ø and small fish were mistakenly placed in the same tank.*

- (9.9) a. *Flying fish and small fish were mistakenly placed in the same tank.*
b. **Flying Ø and small fish were mistakenly placed in the same tank.*

?Flying and goldfish were placed in the same tank.

Our class has many red-heads and bed-heads. → (have bedhead only?)

**Our class has many red-___ and bed-heads. (redheads and bedheads).*

**?I have a back- and a stomachache.*

Your examples:

Phonological cohesion

Compounds tend to act like single domain for phonology

Stress

– one primary stress per word

White House, road-kill, winter-freeze, woodchuck, pan-fry, stir-fry, ready-bake, goldrush, carrot cake

cf. phrases: *a white hóuse* (second stress stronger—phrasal stress), *super funny*

but *chocolate cake*

-*man* compounds: some have completely unreduced vowel

walkman, mailman (also indicate 1 stress)

fireman, policeman (reduced vowel)

- But Korean—compounds not phonologically cohesive

compound	[pat _h -ilaŋ]	
	'field'-'ridge'	'the ridge of a field'
phonology: Coda Neut, no Pal	[pat] _{PrWd} [ilaŋ] _{PrWd}	[pa.di.raŋ]
compound	[talk-əmi]	
	'chicken'-'mother'	'mother chicken'
phonology: I Deletion	[tak] _{PrWd} [əmi] _{PrWd}	[ta.gə.mi], *[tal.gə.mi]

- Italian—compounds not single domain for s-Voicing

within word, morphologically complex or not:	a[z]ola	'button hole'
	a[z]ilo	'nursery school'
	ca[z]e	'houses'
	ca[z]ina	'little house'
	biccana[z]i	'busy bodies'
not if compound-initial:	tocca[s]ana	'cure all'

Morphological cohesion

Compounds tend to demonstrate **morphological cohesion**:

- e.g. inflection applies to the whole (to the head, HS) and not the components

lipsticks

**lipssticks*

couch potatoes

**couches potatoes*

stir-fried

**stirred-fried*

skate bag

**skates bag*

[mother-in-law]s (*[[mothers] in-law]* is
archaic/prescriptive/lexicalized)

Lexical Integrity Principle

(9.4)

Syntactic rules of word order and (phrase) constituency cannot apply to parts of words.

= cohesion!

Compounds act like single words

(even though often composed of free morphemes)

1. At the beginning of Section 9.1, we asked whether *backboard*, *backdoor* and *back seat* are compounds or phrases. Develop an answer to this question, and justify it using tests introduced in this chapter.

back seat

dependent noun referential?

no-generic only

coordination ellipsis possible?

back and middle seats

anaphoric replacement of head?

big middle seat and useless back one

separability of components?

back middle seat

expandability of dependent noun?

very back seat

phonologically cohesive? (stress?)

báck |seát

morphologically cohesive? (infl placement?)

back seats

backboard

no

*back and headboards
(black and whiteboards)

*backboards and head ones

*back clear board

*very backboard

!backboard

(backboards)

dependent noun referential?

coordination ellipsis possible?

anaphoric replacement of head?

separability of components?

expandability of dependent noun?

phonologically cohesive? (stress?)

morphologically cohesive? (infl placement?)

backdoor

dependent noun referential?
coordination ellipsis possible?
anaphoric replacement of head?
separability of components?
expandability of dependent noun?
phonologically cohesive? (stress?)
morphologically cohesive? (infl placement?)

6. Look at the example of noun incorporation in Guaraní (ex. (11.26)). Which criteria can be applied to show that (11.26b) contains a compound, not a phrase like (11.26a)?

(11.26) a. *A-jogua-ta petei mba'e.*
1ACT-buy-FUT one thing
'I will buy something.'

b. *A-mba'e-jogua-ta.*
1ACT-thing-buy-FUT
'I'll go shopping.'
Lit: 'I'll thing-buy.'

(11.27) **A-ha-ta a-mba'e-hepy-jogua*
1ACT-go-FUT 1ACT-thing-expensive-buy
'I'll go shopping for expensive items.'
Lit: 'I will go expensive-thing-buying.'