Words vs. phrases

LING 481/581
Winter 2011
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Phrases</th>
<th>Compounds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>semantic</strong></td>
<td>dependent noun may be referential</td>
<td>dependent noun virtually always generic</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>head may be replaced by an anaphoric pronoun</td>
<td>head may not be replaced by an anaphoric pronoun</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>phonological</strong></td>
<td>less cohesion</td>
<td>greater cohesion</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>e.g. compound as domain of stress assignment,</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>vowel harmony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>morphological</strong></td>
<td>no cohesion</td>
<td>greater cohesion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>e.g. compound as domain of affixation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>syntactic</strong></td>
<td>separable</td>
<td>inseparable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>dependent noun expandable</td>
<td>dependent noun not expandable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>coordination ellipsis possible</td>
<td>coordination ellipsis impossible</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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 REL.M 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:
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 house* (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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>compound</th>
<th>[path-ilaŋ]</th>
<th>'field'-'ridge'</th>
<th>'the ridge of a field'</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>phonology:</strong> Coda Neut, no Pal</td>
<td>[pat]PrWd [ilaŋ]PrWd</td>
<td>[pa.di.raŋ]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>compound</td>
<td>[talk-əmi]</td>
<td>'chicken'-'mother'</td>
<td>'mother chicken'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>phonology:</strong> l Deletion</td>
<td>[tak]PrWd [əmi]PrWd</td>
<td>[ta.gə.mi], *[tal.gə.mi]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- Italian—compounds not single domain for s-Voicing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>within word, morphologically complex or not:</th>
<th>a[z]ola</th>
<th>'button hole'</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a[z]ilo</td>
<td>'nursery school'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ca[z]e</td>
<td>'houses'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ca[z]ina</td>
<td>'little house'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>biccana[z]i</td>
<td>'busy bodies'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not if compound-initial:</td>
<td>tocca[s]ana</td>
<td>'cure all'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

| 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 \text{\l} seát |
| morphologically cohesive? (infl placement?) | back seats |
dependent noun referential? no
coordination ellipsis possible? *back and headboards (black and whiteboards)
anaphoric replacement of head? *backboards and head ones
separability of components? *back clear board
expandability of dependent noun? *very backboard
phonologically cohesive? (stress?) backboard
morphologically cohesive? (infl placement?) (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?)
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)?

   1ACT-buy-FUT one thing
   ‘I will buy something.’

   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.’