

An Analysis of Compound Words in The Novel “The Little Prince”

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis compound word dalam novel *The Little Prince*, dengan fokus pada pengklasifikasian compound word menjadi compound noun, compound adjective, compound verb, dan compound adverb. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif untuk menganalisis dan mengategorikan compound word tersebut. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat 28 compound word dalam novel tersebut, yang terdiri dari 22 compound noun, 4 compound adjective, 1 compound verb, dan 1 compound adverb. Berdasarkan analisis, compound noun merupakan jenis kata yang paling sering digunakan dan paling dominan dalam novel tersebut. Hal ini menunjukkan bahwa *The Little Prince* lebih banyak menggunakan compound word berupa compound noun dibandingkan dengan jenis compound word lainnya.

Kata kunci: Compound Word, Novel, Morphosyntax

Abstract

*This study aims to examine compound words in the novel *The Little Prince*, focusing on the classification of compound words into compound noun, compound adjective, compound verb, and compound adverb. The research employs a descriptive qualitative approach to analyze and categorize these compound words. The findings reveal that there are 28 compound words in the novel, consisting of 22 compound noun, 4 compound adjective, 1 compound verb, and 1 compound adverb. Based on the analysis, compound noun are found to be the most frequently used and dominant word type in the novel. This indicates that *The Little Prince* relies more heavily on compound nouns compared to other types of compound words.*

Keywords: Compound Word, Novel, Morphosyntax

1. INTRODUCTION

In daily communication, language is very important to convey information, ideas, and feelings to others. However, miscommunication often occurs due to the use of language that is not in accordance with the context or sentence structure that is less precise. Therefore, there is a need for an explanation of linguistics. One of the branches of linguistics that studies word structure is morphology.

Morphology is a branch of linguistics that discusses word formation and its use and word structure in the context of speech (Sidupa, 2021). According to Crystal (2011), morphology

as a linguistic study, focuses on studying what words are and how words are formed; the main study is morpheme construction. Meanwhile, according to Verhaar (2016), morphology is a branch of linguistics that discusses the smallest elements in sentences, namely words or lexemes. Thus, morphology is a branch of linguistics that studies word formation, word structure, and the smallest elements in sentences, as well as how words are used.

In the study of morphology, compound words exist as an element that provides an understanding of how words are organized and a meaning is created. Compound words are a combination of two or more words that form a new meaning, as explained by Aronoff & Fudeman (2022) that compound words are a combination of two or more words that give rise to a new meaning. Wibowo et al. (2014) adds that a compound word is a word that consists of the insertion of a word base that forms a new word, or a word formed by the combination of two independent words. In addition, Fromkin et al. (2014) also revealed that compound words are one of the most common types of words used in daily life, so these words contribute to vocabulary development when learning a language.

Some previous studies have examined the use of compound words in literary texts, but only a few have examined in depth their application in the novel *The Little Prince*. The previous studies were written by Nurafni & Baskoro (2023), Dewi et al. (2020), and Dahma (2021). These studies discuss compound words in literary works (novels). However, these studies differ in terms of the focus of their analysis. For example, Dewi et al. (2020) identified three types of compound words in Harry Potter novels, namely attributive, coordinative, and subordinative compounds. Most of the compound words found have meanings according to the dictionary, although some of them are uniquely formed in the story.

Meanwhile, Nurafni & Baskoro (2023) studied compound words in the novel *The Fault in Our Stars* and found 207 data consisting of endocentric (73%) and exocentric (27%) compounds, with formation patterns including nouns, adjectives, and verbs. Endocentric compounds are the most dominant type. Finally, Dahma (2021) analyzed compound words in the novel *The Land of Five Towers* and identified four types of compound words, namely nouns, verbs, adjectives, and prepositions.

By understanding compound words in the field of morphology, we can find out how words are formed and produce new meanings. Therefore, this study aims to analyze the use of compound words in the novel *The Little Prince*. Furthermore, this study is also expected to be a useful reference for students and researchers who are interested in linguistic analysis. More broadly, this research aims to improve readers' understanding of *The Little Prince* by providing new insights into the meanings contained therein.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses descriptive qualitative method with compound word analysis in *The Little Prince* novel. According to (Mukhtar & Pd, 2013) descriptive qualitative research method is a method used by researchers to find knowledge or theory on research at a certain time. The data collected in this study consists of compound word found in the novel *The Little Prince*. The process involved careful reading of the text to identify the compound words present in the novel. Furthermore, the data analysis process includes identifying all compound words found in the novel, and classifying or categorizing compound words

based on their types, such as compound noun, compound adjective, compound verb, and compound adverb.

The data analysis is to transcribe the sentences in the novel *The Little Prince*. Then categorize the compound word based on part of speech and finally identify the compound word as compound noun, compound verb, compound adjective, or compound adverb. Everything is described in detail.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Finding

This section presents the findings of the study, focusing on the identification and analysis of compound words found in the novel *The Little Prince*. The data were collected through a careful reading of the text, with particular attention given to words that are formed by combining two or more lexical elements into a single unit of meaning.

In this study, compound words are analyzed based on their structural formation, especially the combination of their parts of speech. Each compound word is broken down into its constituent elements to determine how meaning is constructed through these combinations. This analysis aims to reveal the patterns and variations of compound word formation used in the novel.

The following table provides a list of the compound words identified in the data, along with their corresponding parts of speech. This classification is intended to give a clearer overview of how compound words are structured and how frequently certain patterns appear in the text.

Table 1. Compound Words Found in Novel *The Little Prince*

No	Compound Word	Part of Speech	
1.	Aeroplanes	Noun	Noun
2.	Thunderstruck	Noun	Verb
3.	Windowsills	Noun	Noun
4.	Rosebush	Noun	Noun
5.	Breakdown	Verb	Adverb
6.	Red-faced	Adjective	Noun
7.	Gentleman	Adjective	Noun
8.	Breakfast	Verb	Adjective
9.	Mid-air	Preposition	Noun
10.	Sea-bird	Noun	Noun
11.	Sunset	Noun	Verb
12.	Businessman	Noun	Noun
13.	Streetlamp	Noun	Noun
14.	Lamplighter	Noun	Noun

15.	Homesick	Noun	Adjective
16.	Foot-stool	Noun	Noun
17.	Ready-made	Adjective	Verb
18.	Underground	Preposition	Noun
19.	Vineyards	Noun	Noun
20.	Wheatfields	Noun	Noun
21.	Understand	Preposition	Verb
22.	Passer-by	Noun	Preposition
23.	Butterflies	Noun	Noun
24.	Railway	Noun	Noun
25.	Signalman	Noun	Noun
26.	Window-panes	Noun	Noun
27.	Moonlight	Noun	Noun
28.	Daybreak	Noun	Verb

Based on the table above, a total of 28 compound words were identified in the novel *The Little Prince*. These compound words consist of various combinations of parts of speech, reflecting the morphological richness of the text.

3.2. Discussion

This section discusses the analysis of compound words identified in the novel *The Little Prince*, focusing on how each word is formed and classified based on its grammatical structure. The discussion is organized into several categories, one of which is compound nouns. Each example is examined by breaking down its constituent elements, identifying their parts of speech, and explaining how they combine to produce a unified meaning within the context of the text.

a. Compound Noun

*So I had to choose another job and I learnt to pilot **aeroplanes**.*

The word *aeroplanes* in the sentence is a compound word formed the combination of two words, "aero" and "planes". The word "aero" is a (Noun) and "plane" also a (Noun). Aero comes from the Greek word for air, while planes is the plural form of plane, which means airplane. These two words form a reference to air vehicles. Therefore, *aeroplanes* is a compound word in the form of a **compound noun** where the noun "planes" is the main core.

*I've seen a beautiful house built with pink bricks, with geraniums on the **windowsills** and doves on the roof... 'they would not be able to imagine such a house.*

The word *windowsills* in this sentence is a compound word formed from combination of two words, namely "window" and "sills". "Window" is a (Noun) and "sills" also a (Noun). Therefore, *windowsills* is a compound word of **compound noun**, where the noun "sills" is the main core, and it means a ledge or sill forming the bottom part of a window.

*If it is merely a sprout of radish or a sprig of **rosebush**, it can be left to grow as it wishes.*

The word *rosebush* in this sentence is a compound word formed from combination of two words, namely "rose" and "bush". "Rose" is a (Noun) and "bush" is also a (Noun). Therefore, *rosebush* is a compound word of **compound noun** where the noun "bush" is the main core, it means a shrub that produces roses.

*I was deeply worried as the **breakdown** of my plane was beginning to look extremely serious to me, my drinking water was running out fast and I could only fear the worst.*

The word *breakdown* in the sentence is a compound word formed from a combination of two words, namely "break" and "down". "Break" means (Verb) and down is (Preposition). However, in this case, *breakdown* is not a compound preposition, but it is a **compound noun** because refers to a failure to work or be successful.

*He shook his golden locks in the wind: 'I know of a planet where there is a red-faced **gentleman**.*

The word *gentleman* in the sentence is a compound word formed from the combination of two words, namely "gentle" and "man". "Gentle" is an (Adjective) that means gentle or kind, while "man" is a (Noun) that refers to an adult male. Therefore, *gentleman* is a type of **compound noun** where the noun "man" is the main core, which refers to a man who has that characteristic

*He possessed two active volcanoes and they were very convenient for heating his **breakfast** in the morning.*

The word *breakfast* in this sentence is a compound word formed from combination of two words such as "break" and "fast". The word "break" is a (Verb) and "fast" is an (Adjective). Therefore, *breakfast* is **compound noun** rather than a compound adjective, because it is created new meaning which is the food eaten in the morning.

*He just stood there, quite bewildered, with the dome poised in **mid-air**.*

The word *mid-air* in this sentence is a compound word formed from combination of two words such as "mid" and "air". The word "mid" is a (Preposition) and "air" is a (Noun). Therefore, *mid-air* is **compound noun** where the noun "air" is the main core, which refers to a point in the air, not on the ground.

*If I ordered a general to change himself into a **sea-bird**, and if the general did not obey, it wouldn't be the general's fault.*

The word *sea-bird* in this sentence is a compound word formed from combination of two words such as "sea" and "bird". The word "sea" is a (Noun) and "bird" is also a (Noun). Therefore, *sea-bird* is **compound noun** where the noun "bird" is the main core, which refers to a bird that lives near the sea and gets its food from it.

*"You shall have your **sunset**."*

The word *sunset* in this sentence is a compound word formed from combination of two words such as "sun" and "set". The word "sun" is a (Noun) and "set" is a (Verb). However, in this case, "sunset" is not a compound verb, but it is a **compound noun**. The verb "set" refers to the action of sinking or going down, and in combination with "sun," it refers to the time in the evening when you last see the sun in the sky

*The **businessman** raised his head.*

The word *businessman* in this sentence is a compound word formed from combination of two words such as "business" and "man". The word "business" is a (Noun) and "man" is also a (Noun). Therefore, *businessman* is **compound noun** where the noun "man" is the main core, which refers to a man who works in business, especially one who has a high position in a company.

*When he lights his **streetlamp**, it is as if he brought one more star to life, or one more flower.*

The word *streetlamp* in this sentence is a compound word formed from combination of two words such as "street" and "lamp". The word "street" is a (Noun) and "lamp" is also a (Noun). Therefore, *streetlamp* is **compound noun** where the noun "lamp" is the main core, which refers to a light in or at the side of a road or public area that is usually supported on a tall post.

*When he arrived on the planet, he saluted the **lamplighter** respectfully.*

The word *lamplighter* in this sentence is a compound word formed from combination of two words such as "lamp" and "lighter". The word "lamp" is a (Noun) and "lighter" is also a (Noun). Therefore, *lamplighter* is **compound noun** where the noun "lighter" is the main core, which refers to light from a lamp, especially light that is not very bright and only shines over a small area.

*And he used the extinct volcano as a **foot-stool**.*

The word *foot-stool* in this sentence is a compound word formed from combination of two words such as "foot" and "stool". The word "foot" is a (Noun) and "stool" is also a (Noun). Therefore, *foot-stool* is **compound noun** where the noun "stool" is the main core, which refers to a low support on which a person

who is sitting can place their feet.

I can take a walk as far as the vineyards.

The word *vineyard* in this sentence is a compound word formed from combination of two words such as "vine" and "yards". The word "vine" is a (Noun) and "yards" is also a (Noun). Therefore, *vineyard* is **compound noun** where the noun "yards" is the main core, which refers to piece of land on which vines are grown.

'It has helped me,' said the fox, 'because of the colour of the wheatfields.'

The word *wheatfields* in this sentence is a compound word formed from combination of two words such as "wheat" and "fields". The word "wheat" is a (Noun) and "fields" is also a (Noun). Therefore, *wheatfield* is **compound noun** where the noun "field" is the main core, which refers to the area of land planted or designated for growing wheat.

To be sure, an ordinary passer-by would believe that my very own rose looked just like you.

The word *passer-by* in this sentence is a compound word formed from combination of two words such as "passer" and "by". The word "passer" is a (Noun) and "by" is a (Preposition). However, in this case *passer-by* is **compound noun** not compound preposition because it means someone who is going past a particular place.

I have killed the caterpillars (except for the two or three saved to become butterflies).

The word *butterflies* in this sentence is a compound word formed from combination of two words such as "butter" and "flies". The word "butter" is a (Noun) and "flies" is a (Verb). However, in this case *butterflies* is **compound noun** not compound verb because it refers type of insect with large, often brightly coloured wings.

'Good morning,' said the railway signalman.

The word *railway* in this sentence is a compound word formed from combination of two words such as "rail" and "way". The word "rail" is a (Noun) and "way" is also a (Noun). Therefore, *railway* is **compound noun** where the noun "way" is the main core, which refers to the metal tracks on which trains run.

'Good morning,' said the railway signalman

The word *signalman* in this sentence is a compound word formed from combination of two words such as "signal" and "man". The word "signal" is a

(Noun) and “man” is also a (Noun). Therefore, *signalman* is **compound noun** where the noun “man” is the main core, which refers to a person whose job is operating signals on a railway.

*Only the children press their noses against the **window-panes**.*

The word *window-panes* in this sentence is a compound word formed from combination of two words such as “window” and “panes”. The word “window” is a (Noun) and “panes” is also a (Noun). Therefore, *window-panes* is **compound noun** where the noun “panes” is the main core, which refers to a single piece of glass in the window of a building.

*I replied ‘of course’ and I looked at the sand dunes under the **moonlight** in silence.*

The word *moonlight* in this sentence is a compound word formed from combination of two words such as “moon” and “light”. The word “moon” is a (Noun) and “light” is also a (Noun). Therefore, *moonlight* is **compound noun** where the noun “light” is the main core, which refers to the light of the moon.

*I replied ‘of course’ and I looked at the sand dunes under the **moonlight** in silence.*

The word *moonlight* in this sentence is a compound word formed from combination of two words such as “moon” and “light”. The word “moon” is a (Noun) and “light” is also a (Noun). Therefore, *moonlight* is **compound noun** where the noun “light” is the main core, which refers to the light of the moon.

b. Compound Adjective

*I jumped up, completely **thunderstruck***

The word *thunderstruck* in this sentence is a compound word formed by combining two words, “thunder” and “struck”. “Thunder” is a (Noun), while “struck” is (Verb) and it is the past tense of “strike”. However, in this case, *thunderstruck* is a compound word in the form of **compound adjective** and not a compound verb because it describes a state of surprise or shock.

*He shook his golden locks in the wind: ‘I know of a planet where there is a **red-faced** gentleman*

The word *red-faced* in the sentence is a compound word formed from combination of two words, namely “red” and “faced”. “Red” (Adjective) and “faced” (Noun). However, in this case, the word *red-faced* is a **compound adjective** not a compound noun, because it describes someone with a red face, usually due to embarrassment, anger, etc.

*I may be able to help you one day, if you become too **homesick** for your own planet.*

The word *homesick* in this sentence is a compound word formed from combination of two words such as "home" and "sick". The word "home" is a (Noun) and "sick" is a (Adjective). Therefore, *homesick* is **compound adjective** where the adjective "sick" is the main core, which refers to miss home or unhappy because of being away from home for a long period.

*They buy **ready-made** things in the shops.*

The word *ready-made* in this sentence is a compound word formed from combination of two words such as "ready" and "made". The word "ready" is a (Adjective) and "made" is a (Verb). However, in this case *ready-made* is **compound adjective** because it refers to something that has already been made or prepared.

c. Compound Verb

*And you will **understand** that yours is indeed unique in all the world.*

The word *understand* in this sentence is a compound word formed from combination of two words such as "under" and "stand". The word "under" is a (Preposition) and "stand" is a (Verb). Therefore, *understand* is **compound verb** where the verb "stand" is the main core, which means to know or realize the meaning of words, a language, what somebody says, etc.

d. Compound Adverb

The other steps send m hurrying underground.

The word *underground* in this sentence is a compound word formed from combination of two words such as “under” and “ground”. The word “under” is a (Preposition) and “ground” is a (Noun). However, in this case *underground* is **compound adverb** because it shows direction or place which means below the surface of the earth or beneath the ground.

Table 2. The Total Types of Compound Word in Novel The Little Prince

No	Types of Compound Word	Total
1.	Compound Noun	22
2.	Compound Adjective	4
3.	Compound Verb	1
4.	Compound Adverb	1
Total		28

Based on the above analysis, compound noun are the most frequent word type found in The Little Prince. Whereas, compound adjective, compound verb and compound adverb are used less frequently, with compound nouns clearly dominating the overall word structure. This shows that the story mainly uses compound nouns to convey specific ideas, objects and concepts, which is common in narrative and descriptive writing.

4. CONCLUSION

This study analyzes the use of compound words in the novel The Little Prince, with the focus on the classification of compound word into the categories of compound noun, compound adjective, compound verb, and compound adverb. There are 28 compound words in the novel, consisting of 22 compound noun, 4 compound adjective, 1 compound verb, and 1 compound adverb. Based on the data analysis, compound noun found to be the most commonly used and dominating word type in the novel. Thus, this study provides a deeper understanding of the meaning of compound words in literature, especially in the novel The Little Prince.

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