



An Analysis of Compound Words in English Captions of the British Embassy's Instagram Account (@ukinindonesia)

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Article Info

Article History:
Received 20 February
2024
Accepted 11 May 2024
Published 20 June 2024

Keywords:
Compound Words,
Caption, Instagram

Abstract

The primary goal of this research is to determine the writing forms and functions of compound terms discovered in English captions from the British Embassy in Indonesia's official Instagram account, @ukinindonesia. The data in this study was analyzed using a descriptive qualitative approach with document analysis. The theory from Akmaijan (2010) is used to determine the writing formation of a compound word in an English caption, whereas McCarthy's (2002) theory is used to determine the type of function of compound words. The findings of this analysis reveal that there are 120 compound terms in the English caption of the British Embassy's account @ukinindonesia. From the writing perspective, single-form compound words are the most used compared to the separated compounds. The hyphenated compound is the least used because the compound is not so commonly used in the making or writing captions containing compound words in English, and the captions on the account are mostly written in a simple, understandable way. The three functions of compound words are compound nouns, compound adjectives, and compound verbs. The account of the British Embassy mostly used compound nouns rather than compound adjectives and compound verbs, because compound nouns are the easiest compound to create and apply in making sentences and caption under the post. Based on the data found in this study, the compound words used in the English captions of the British account @ukinindonesia on Instagram are varied, rich, and unique, and play a vital role in delivering information and engaging with its followers on Instagram.

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p-ISSN 2087-0108
e-ISSN 2502-4566

INTRODUCTION

People communicate with one another using language and words either in real life or on social media. Improved word recognition is required for people to understand communication effectively. As a result, the word is an essential component of language; without it, the phrase is incoherent and incomprehensible to readers or listeners. The growth of the language is fast, interesting, and flexible, including the words. New words are formed daily and follow the current development, especially in today's modern era. Related to the new formation of words in languages, morphology is a branch of linguistics that studies how words are produced and constructed, ranging from word grouping to meaning (Haspelmath, 2010). In many different languages, a word can be created through numerous ways, particularly compounding. Haspelmath (2010) explained that a compound is a complex lexeme made up of two or more base lexemes. In addition, compounding is the process of joining individual words together to form a compound term (Akmaijan, 2010), for example, the noun playground consisted of the verb play and the noun ground, and the adjective sour combined with the noun dough to create the noun sourdough, and the preposition under joined with the verb cut to create a new verb undercut, etc.

According to Akmaijan (2010), in written text, a compound word can be written in single words or there is no space between each word like *sunflower*, *homework*, and *kickstart*, and can also be separated or written with space between combined words like *break down*, *pit stop*, and *follow up*, or can be in hyphenated words or by adding hyphen in between words such as *sugar-free*, *first-hand*, and *binge-watch*, etc. Meanwhile, McCarthy (2002) stated that there are several functions of compound words in English. They are compound nouns, compound verbs, and compound adjectives. Those three compounds are the combination of the part of speech of noun-nouns such as keynote, adjective-nouns such as blackboard, noun-adjective such as

gluten-free, adjective-adjective such as dark blue, verb-noun such as playdate, preposition-verb such as outgrow, and preposition-nouns such as downstairs, etc. It means, there is various potential to develop new sorts of compound words in any business, including technology, online work, and social media.

Many people increasingly rely on technology, which has been used for several purposes over decades. Technology also has significantly influenced teacher-student interactions with researchers exploring its influence on instructional methods and student learning outcomes (Wahyuni, 2018). It has also enhanced linguistic abilities such as listening, speaking, writing, and even vocabulary. Furthermore, social media is also essential for people who want to participate, discover, or acquire followers to help their business expand, or it can also be used to communicate with people around the world. Instagram is one of the most trending social networking apps for download.

People use Instagram to express their opinions, experiences, and feelings by sharing images, videos, and words or captions that explain the relevance of their postings. They utilize compound terms in their posts, and many words that originated concerning social media and online communication, such as compound words, have now infiltrated common speech without our knowledge. It even makes it more logical to focus on its huge impact on our ways of communication, making this research much more worthwhile. Moreover, language learners who learn and understand compound words can utilize them to investigate sentence structure and potential relationships between its constituents. It will additionally assist them to develop a reputation in English and broaden their vocabulary for social media and in-person interactions. Biermann (2024), stated that understanding compound words assists children and young English learners acquire phonological skills as they older, such as detecting rhythm, tone, and syllable words, as well as reading comprehension and fluency.

There have been various previous studies on compound words. This shows that compound words are an intriguing topic that deserves additional exploration. First, compound words can be found in literacy works such as novels and books (Hadiati, 2011; Anggi, 2022; Rohmanuddin, 2020; Zikri, 2018; Wibowo, 2014), books and novels mainly help younger language learners deepen, elevate, and build a sophisticated knowledge of languages, word structures, and its essential skills. Besides, compound words in a paragraph can be identified not just in novels and books, but also in news items (Aristy, 2018; Vinney, 2017). In addition, compound words have also been the main topic in learning and analyzing the new terminology related to COVID-19 (Fitria, 2021; Sisvinda, 2021). On the other hand, several academics have embraced Instagram as their major research topic to uncover a wide range of problems like discovering English language components for English learners (Kusumaningrum & Pertiwi, 2022), for promoting business, brands, and purchasing decisions (Michelle & Susilo, 2021). Furthermore, Instagram also was employed as a platform to examine key issues among its users (Lewallen, 2016).

Despite this to bridge the research gap between the researchers and all past studies that had been examined, the researchers observed that none of them worked with compound terms in English captions on Instagram. As a result, this research gap may serve as a differentiator between the author and earlier studies. By applying the theories from Akmaijan (2010) and McCarthy (2002), this study aims to analyze the writing forms and the function of compound words in English captions used by the British Embassy's official account @ukinindonesia on Instagram.

Therefore, this study would answer the following questions: (1) What are the writing forms of compound words in the English captions of the British Embassy's official account on Instagram? And (2) What are the functions of compound words (noun, verb, adjective) in the

English captions of the British Embassy's official account on Instagram?

METHOD

This study is a descriptive qualitative study with a document analysis approach. The researchers used this strategy because the study's data consisted of words, phrases, sentences, and photos gathered from English captions on Instagram. On top of that, all data must be collected in an unbiased manner from facts or events. Consequently, this research provides a detailed written explanation and seeks to comprehend a specific study issue or topic, specifically the use of English compound phrases on the British Embassy's official Instagram account, @ukinindonesia.

English captions that contain compound words as the data sources are taken from the British Embassy in Indonesia's official account @ukinindonesia on Instagram. The account joined Instagram in August 2014 and has 103.000 followers and 2177 posts. The British embassy's Instagram account was selected over other foreign diplomatic accounts due to its clear English captions and reliable information. The account also enjoys uploading and creating English captions for their Instagram posts to engage with their followers. The researchers analyzed 80 posts containing 120 English compound words from the period January 2023 – May 2024. In conjunction with this, the researchers discovered the English compound words used in captions as part of this study, improving the variety and depth of the data.

To get a better and deeper understanding of the information in the data, the researchers then used a thematic analysis to examine the data and answer the questions related to the research. This also enables the researchers to draw theoretical links based on practical evidence in the study. The steps of analysis of the data samples in this research are displayed in the table below:

Table 1. Instrument of Thematic Analysis

Analysis Question	Codes	Categories	Themes
RQ1:	Football	Single	Writing Forms of Compound Words
What are the writing forms of Compound Words	Spicy quest	Separated	
	Hand-delivered	Hyphenated	
RQ2:	Guidebook	Compound Nouns	Functions of Compound Words
What are the functions of Compound Words	Heart-wrenching	Compound Adjectives	
	Stay tuned	Compound Verbs	

The researchers also did several steps to obtain the data for this study, such as organizing all the compound words found on the English Instagram captions of the British Embassy's official account @ukinindonesia, classifying the data according to the forms and functions of the compound words, rechecking the data classification to certify the compound words belong to the right forms and function, and finally describing the compound words that used in the English captions of the British Embassy on Instagram based on their writing formation and its functions.

Since this study was conducted by using more than one theory, therefore the theory of triangulation was chosen to find the validity of the data and to get a more comprehensive understanding of the phenomena, especially in analyzing compound words contained in English captions of the British Embassy's account @ukinindonesia on Instagram.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

After analyzing the data, 120 data of compound words were found in the English caption of the British Embassy's official account @ukinindonesia on Instagram. All the data are shown in the table. The results are provided below:

Writing Formation of Compound Words in English Caption

The following table displays the data on the writing formation of compound words as found in English caption writing in the British Embassy's official account @ukinindonesia on Instagram.

Table 2. Writing Formation of English Compound Words

No	Writing Formation	Total
1	Single	87
2	Separated	15
3	Hyphenated	18
Sum		120

In this study, the researchers used the theory from Akmaijan (2010) to find out the writing form of compound words in English captions. He stated that there are three forms of compound word writing: single, hyphenated, and separated forms. Based on the table shown, there are 87 data of compound words written in a single formation or written in no space between combined words. Some examples taken from the data of caption in the single writing formation are *footprint*, *birthday*, *guidebook*, *healthcare*, and *mentorship*. Meanwhile, compound words found in the English caption data that formed in a separate writing or there is a space between two words joined in compound words are 15 words, and the sample data from this formation such as *break down*, *finger food*, *talk show*, and *green growth*. Similarly, there are 18 data found in the hyphenated writing formation of compound words, like the words *net-zero*, *world-class*, *heart-wrenching*, and *first-hand*. Precisely, all the data consisted of compound nouns, compound adjectives, and compound verbs.

Based on that, it indicates that single-word formations are the most used and dominant in writing English captions in the British Embassy's official account @ukinindonesia on Instagram.

Type of Functions of Compound Words in English Caption

The following table data displays the functions of compound words as found in English caption writing on the British Embassy's official account @ukinindonesia on Instagram.

Table 3. Type of Functions of Compound Words

No	Type of Function	Total
1	Compound Nouns	73
2	Compound Verbs	15
3	Compound Adjectives	32
Sum		120

To analyze the functions of compound words in English captions, the researchers used the theory from McCarthy (2002). He stated that the function of compound words can be as a noun, verb, or adjective in a sentence. According to the displayed table, there are 73 data of compound nouns, and there are 32 compound adjectives found, meanwhile, compound verbs found only 15 data.

Based on that, it indicates that compound nouns are the most used and dominant in English captions in the British Embassy's official account @ukinindonesia on Instagram. Additionally, the following section discusses each type.

1. Compound Nouns

A compound noun type is a word formed by combining at least two or more words, with the head acting as a noun. In English, compound nouns are frequently formed by modifying a noun with other nouns, verbs, prepositions, or adjectives (McCarthy, 2002). The following is a list of several noun compound word structures and types taken from the English caption of the British Embassy's official account on Instagram:

a) Noun + Noun

Data 1: Storybook

Each place unfolded like a storybook, each experience shared a thread of laughter and wonder.
(Posted on December 26th, 2023)

The word *storybook* in this caption above is a compound noun. This word is combined from the words *story* (noun) and *book* (noun). The first-word *story* modifies the word *book* as the head of the compound. Therefore, the word *storybook* is classified as a compound noun since the noun *book* functions as the rightmost morpheme.

b) Verb + Noun

Data 2 and 3: guidebook, workplace

The Summit launched a new set of disability guidelines, formulated as part of the Tech to Empower program, and promoted equal employment opportunities as well as produced a guidebook on how micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) can better support people with disabilities in the workplace. (Posted on February 2nd, 2023)

The word *guidebook* (noun) in the caption above is a compound noun. That consists of the words *guide* (verb) and *book* (noun). The first morpheme *guide* modifies the second morpheme *book* as the head of the compound. Thus, the word *guidebook* is classified as a compound noun since the noun *book* functions as the rightmost morpheme.

Similarly, the word *workplace* (noun) in the caption above is a compound noun. That consists of the words *work* (verb) and *place* (noun). The first morpheme *work* modifies the second morpheme *place* as the head of the compound. Thus, the word *workplace* is classified as a compound noun since the noun *place* functions as the rightmost morpheme.

c) Adjective + Noun

Data 4: Spicy quest

... fascinated by his first Nasi Uduk with Sambal Merah, he's set on a spicy quest for more sambal varieties. (Posted on November 9th, 2023)

The word *spicy quest* in the caption above is a compound noun. It is created from the words *spicy* (adjective) and *quest* (noun). Both words *spicy* and *quest* are free morphemes because they can stand independently as words. The word *quest* (noun) functions as the rightmost morpheme and as the head of the compound, and the word *spicy* modifies it.

d) Preposition + Noun

Data 5: underworld

At the pagan winter solstice, the fire was thought to chase away evil spirits from the **underworld**. (Posted on December 26th, 2023)

The word underworld is created from the words under (preposition) and world (noun). Both words under and world are free morphemes because they can stand independently as words in a sentence. The rightmost element world (noun) inherits its grammatical category to the compound underworld (noun).

The words: storybook, guidebook, workplace, spicy quest, and underworld are compound nouns. Most of them are combination forms of a single noun with either a noun, verb, adjective, or preposition to create a new form, meaning, and function as a noun in the sentence.

2. Compound Verbs

Compound verbs are less common compared to affixed verbs. It is basically when one or more than one word is combined to make a single verb. It can be paired with a noun, an adjective, a verb, or a preposition. Nonetheless, other varieties can be recognized based on their structure:

a) Verb + Verb

Data 6: stay tuned

Leave your recommendations in the comments below, and **stay tuned** for his next #SambalDiplomacy journey! (Posted on May 24th, 2024)

The word stay tuned in the caption is a compound verb. It is created from the verbs stay + tune + the suffix -d. Both words stay and tuned are free morphemes with the suffix -d as the only bound morpheme that should be attached to the free morpheme tune.

b) Noun + Verb

Data 7: hand delivered

I am honored to receive a congratulatory letter from the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom H.E. Rishi Sunak @rishisunakmp, which was **hand-delivered** directly by the Ambassador of the UK H.E. Dominic Jeremy. (Posted on February 18th, 2023)

The word hand-delivered in the caption is a compound verb. It is created from the noun hand + the verb deliver the suffix -ed. Both words hand and deliver are free morphemes with the suffix -ed as the only bound morpheme that should be attached to the free morpheme deliver. The rightmost element delivered (verb) matches the grammatical category of the compound hand-delivered (verb).

c) Adjective + Verb

Data 8: safeguard

The UK has funded a one-week Cyber Bootcamp for @ojkindonesia (Financial Service Supervisor) in Jakarta, reinforcing our commitment to foster a culture of cyber compliance and **safeguard** against cyber threats. (Posted on November 7th, 2023)

The word safeguard in the caption is a compound verb. It is created from the words safe (adjective) and guard (verb). Both words are free morphemes, and the rightmost element guard (verb) matches with the grammatical category of the compound safeguard (verb).

d) Preposition + Verb

Data 9: upholding

Let's champion #PressFreedom and celebrate their efforts in **upholding** democracy and shaping a brighter future! (Posted on May 3rd, 2024)

The word undertaken in the caption is a compound verb. It is created from the words up (preposition) + hold (verb) + -ing (suffix). Both words up and hold are free morphemes that can stand alone as words. Whereas, the suffix -ing is the only bound morpheme that should be attached to the free morpheme hold. The rightmost element holding (verb) matches the grammatical category of the compound verb upholding which functions as a verb in the sentence.

According to the data, stay tuned, hand-delivered, safeguard, and upholding the verb is always the element on the right in a compound. Furthermore, the activity indicated by the compound in its entirety is usually a variant of the activity indicated by the element on the right. Like most English compounds, these compounds are right-headed because the head is the most lateral element.

3. Compound Adjectives

In morphology, a compound adjective is any word mixed form that can be adopted as an adjective in a sentence. Here are some instances of right-headed compound adjectives based on the following analogy:

a) Adjective + Adjective

Data 10: Extraordinary

The Chevening Scholarship is your gateway to an extraordinary journey of knowledge, growth, and global impact. (Posted on September 18th, 2023)

The word extraordinary in the context is a compound adjective. It is created from the word extra (adjective) + ordinary (adjective) and creates a new meaning, function, and form, and are free morphemes that can stand independently as words. The rightmost element ordinary (adjective) matches with the grammatical function as the compound extraordinary (adjective).

b) Noun + Adjective

Data 11: Worldwide

Journalists play a critical role in sharing stories of climate and biodiversity crises, shedding light on their impact on billions worldwide. (Posted on May 3rd, 2024)

The word worldwide in the context functions as a compound adjective. It is created from the words world (noun) and wide (adjective), and both words are free morphemes that can stand independently as words. The rightmost element wide (adjective) matches with the grammatical function as the compound worldwide (adjective).

c) Preposition + Adjective

Data 12: insightful

Next, the delegation had an insightful meeting with Fiona Bruce MP, the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief, sharing best practices on our collective efforts in advocating against religion-based discrimination. (Posted on November 17th, 2023)

The word insightful in the caption is a compound adjective. It is created from the preposition in + the adjective sightful, and both words in and sight are free morphemes with the suffix -ful as the only bound morpheme that

should be attached to the free morpheme sight. The rightmost element sightful (adjective) matches the grammatical category of the compound insightful (adjective). As it is shown in the data all the compounds in the words proactive, worldwide, and insightful are compound adjectives with the right-headed.

In this study, the researchers discovered that compound nouns are used most often in the English caption of the British Embassy's statement. In Octavianti's (2021) research, compound nouns were utilized in the Jakarta Post based on Katamba's (1993) theory, while McCarthy's (2002) theory was used in this study due to this difference, this study's findings were different compared to the previous one. The last study focused on how compound nouns can be produced by combining noun + noun, preposition + noun, and adjective + noun. On the contrary, the researchers's investigations revealed that compound nouns can be formed by combining noun + noun, verb + noun, and adjective + noun. The results were different because the base theory used in this study differed from the prior study on a comparable topic. Therefore, these differences made this study more unique and understandable, especially for those interested in learning compound words.

CONCLUSION

The researchers has examined the writing forms and types of functions of compound words in English captions from the British Embassy in Indonesia's official Instagram account, @ukindonesia. Based on the study and discussion, 120 compound word data were found by the researchers, of which 87 were compound words in single-word form, 18 were compound words in hyphenated form, and 15 were compound words in separated form. This indicates that while writing the caption for the account @ukinindonesia, compound words in the single writing form are most frequently utilized.

Furthermore, the kind of function of compound words reveals that 73 data points were discovered to be compound nouns, 15 data

points were compound verbs, and 32 data points were compound adjectives. It shows that the most prevalent words in the caption of the British embassy's account on Instagram are compound nouns.

Based on the data found in this study, it can be concluded that the compound words used in the English captions of the British account @ukinindonesia on Instagram are varied, rich, and unique, and play a vital role in delivering information and engaging with its followers on Instagram.

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