

COMPOUND WORD IN *HOME ALONE* MOVIE (1990)

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Abstract

The aim of this research is to categorize the various types of compound words found in the film *Home Alone* (1990). This American holiday comedy film was directed by Chris Columbus and debuted in cinemas in November 1990. The author applies Katamba's idea of compounding from his publication *Morphology*. Descriptive qualitative research methods are employed to analyze the dialog's vocabulary. This study identified fifteen instances falling under the first category (compound noun). However, the author was unable to locate any examples that fit within the second (compound adjective) and third (compound verb) categories of compounding.

Key words : word, compounding, movie.

A. INTRODUCTION

Morphology involves examining how words are internally organized (Katamba 1993, page 16). A word represents the smallest element in a sentence that conveys meaning. Typically, words can function independently. This is because they can independently convey meaning. Nevertheless, the writer found that merging two or more words can form a new expression. This process is referred to as compound words.

Base on (Quirk 1985, page 313), a compound represents a lexical element which consists of multiple bases that operate as one word in terms of grammar and meaning.

Numerous new terms are generated by merging two or more existing words. These compound terms are readily identifiable in various forms of media, including films, newspapers, books, social networks, and beyond.

In addition to compound words, compound sentences also exist. Established on (Greenbaum, Nelson, page 110), a compound sentence consists of two or more clauses joined by coordinating conjunctions such as (and, or, but). Often, clauses can be placed next to each other and connected using a semicolon.

In this study, the writer aims to analyze the compound words found in Chris Columbus' *Home Alone* (1990).

The primary concept of the research was introduced by Katamba in 1993. This concept is used to analyze various types of compound words. Based on their lexical categories, Katamba (1993) classified the different types of compound words in the following manner:

1) Compound Noun

The first kind of compound word is a compound noun, which is composed of a noun followed by another noun, an adjective followed by a noun or a preposition followed by a noun (Katamba 1993, p. 305). The picture below shows the phrase structure rule necessary for compound nouns.

$$N \rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{c} N \\ V \\ A \\ Prep \end{array} \right\} N$$

Example :

- Noun + noun

Toothbrush

“Tooth” (noun) + “brush” (noun)

In terms of vocabulary, the terms "tooth" and "brush" are distinct words that have no relationship with one another. While “tooth” means hard structure used for biting food (Oxford Learner Dictionary), “brush” means an object made of stiff wires used for many things, such as cleaning, painting and tidying hair (Oxford Learner Dictionary). When both words are merged together, “toothbrush” becomes a small brush for cleaning the teeth (Oxford Learner Dictionary).

- Verb + noun

Runway

“Run” (verb) + “way” (noun)

The word “run” means going faster than walking using legs (Oxford Learner Dictionary). Meanwhile, “way” means a road taken to reach a place. By meanings, the two words are unrelated, but when both words are combined, “runway” creates meaning, “Long narrow piece of ground with a hard surface for aircraft taking off and landing on.” (Oxford Learner Dictionary).

- Adjective + noun

Blackboard

“Black” (adjective) + “board” (noun)

Established on the Oxford Learner Dictionary, “Black” is an adjective that describes the deepest hue, similar to coal or the nighttime sky. Conversely, “board” refers to a wooden plank utilized for specific functions (Oxford Learner Dictionary). Separately by meanings, the word “black” and “board” are not interconnected, but when both are fused together, the term “blackboard” means large black board with smooth surface, used by teachers to write on (Oxford Learner Dictionary).

- Preposition + noun

Online

“On” (preposition) + “line” (noun)

The term “on” functions as a preposition signifying “In a position that covers, touches, or forms part of a surface.” (Oxford Learner Dictionary). Whilst, the word “line” means a long thin mark on a surface (Oxford Learner Dictionary). As a compound word, “online” means availability on the internet (Oxford Learner Dictionary).

2) Compound Adjective

A compound adjective consists of a preposition that is succeeded by an adjective, and a particular form of compound word where one adjective comes after another adjective (Katamba 1993, p. 306). The picture below shows the phrase structure rule needed for compound adjectives.

$$A \rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{c} N \\ A \\ \text{Prep} \end{array} \right\} A$$

Example :

- Noun + adjective

Colorful

“Color” (noun) + “ful” (suffix in adjective)

The term "color" functions as a noun that refers to the utilization of the entire spectrum of colors, rather than just black and white (Oxford Learner Dictionary). Nevertheless, “ful” is an adjective. It means having the qualities of something (Oxford Learner Dictionary). When the word “color” and “ful” are combined into “colorful” it produces a meaning full of bright colors (Oxford Learner Dictionary).

- Adjective + adjective

Bittersweet

“Bitter” (adjective) + “sweet” (adjective)

Both “bitter” and “sweet” are adjectives. The term “bitter” refers to a powerful, unappealing flavor, while “sweet” refers to something that has a high sugar content (Oxford Learner Dictionary). Although these two terms are antonyms, they combine to create a compound word that describes an emotion that blends joy and sorrow (Oxford Learner Dictionary).

- Preposition + adjective

Underpaid

“Under” (preposition) + “paid”
(adjective)

The term “under” functions as a preposition, whereas “paid” serves as an adjective. Established on the Oxford Learner Dictionary, the word “under” means a position that is below something. As an adjective, the word “paid” means people who receive money (Oxford Learner Dictionary). In the compound word “underpaid”, the word “under” adds the context of payment that is below the minimum. So, the full meaning of “underpaid” is when a worker receives inadequate compensation for their labor (Oxford Learner Dictionary).

3) Compound Verb

A term made up of a verb along with a prepositional or adverbial particle is known as a compound verb (Katamba 1993, p.307). A somewhat familiar type occurs when a verb is succeeded by the prepositional or adverbial particle (P). In English, phrasal verbs represent a particularly prevalent form of compound verb. The phrase structure rule necessary for compound verbs is illustrated in this image.

$$V \rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{cc} P & V \\ & \\ & \\ & \\ V & P \end{array} \right\}$$

Example :

- Preposition + verb

Overcome

“Over” (preposition) + “come”
(verb)

As a preposition, “over” means to cross something and become on the other side (Oxford Learner Dictionary). Whereas, “come” means arriving or reaching a place (Oxford Learner Dictionary). When both words are combined, the word succeeds in dealing with a problem (Oxford Learner Dictionary).

- Verb + preposition

Look after

“Look” (verb) + “after”
(preposition)

Referring to the Oxford Learner Dictionary, the word “look” means turning your eyes in a particular direction. Meanwhile, as a preposition, the word “after” means later than something (Oxford Learner Dictionary). When both words are blended, “look after” means to take care of something (Oxford Learner Dictionary).

The author concludes that a compound word arises from the union of two separate words that together form a new meaning. This new word can function as a noun, verb, adjective, or preposition, according to the views of three specialists.

The author selected *Home Alone* (1990) for analysis due to its accolade as Best Comedy Film at the British Comedy Awards in 1991. Uniquely, this film is frequently broadcast on TV during the Christmas season, specifically in December, and the author finds great enjoyment in the humor and mischief displayed by the performers, especially while celebrating the holiday by watching television. In the storyline, a boy works to defend his home from intruders. The boy employs various methods to thwart the burglars. This cleverness and bravery in overcoming challenges is what deeply impresses the author about the boy.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

1. Method of the Research

This research uses the qualitative research method. The researcher begins by gathering detailed information from participants and then forms this information into categories or themes. These themes are

developed into broad patterns, theories, or generalizations that are then compared with personal experiences or with existing literature on the topic (Creswell 2018). Instead of concentrating on numerical data, these approaches place an emphasis on comprehending the viewpoints, interactions, and circumstances of participants. The purpose of qualitative research is to gather information about the present condition of the situation being studied in the subject in question. The research methodology involves steps such as watching films, listening to conversations, gathering information, assessing the information, and the author's interpretation of the data's significance.

1. Time and Place of the Research

This research starts from 28th of December 2024 to 10th of January 2025 considering the research is qualitative, the writer can conduct the study anywhere, hence the study's location is irrelevant. The writer's residence, North Bekasi City, was location of most the research.

2. Setting of the Research

Disney+ Hotstar serves as the research's setting. The writer obtained the English subtitles on the Disney+ Hotstar setting page.

3. Technique of the Data Collection

The approach taken by the author for their research includes viewing films, studying them, gathering, and categorizing the compound words present in the film, with written documents acting as tools for analysis. During the course of the research, the investigator may collect qualitative documents. Information is acquired through observational techniques, which are subsequently organized using data collection methods. The writer will choose and emphasize specific words that will undergo analysis during the data collection phase.

4. Technique of the Data Analysis

After observing the movie, the writer will examine some words that include compounding. The author intends to use Oxford Dictionary, a dictionary to identify the meaning of the corresponding word.

5. Instrument of the Research

Considering the research is qualitative, the author serves as the instrument. The author analyzes the data by determining the compounding words and then analyzes each word combination by distinguishing nouns or adjectives and even word endings.

C. RESEARCH RESULT AND DISCUSSION

These are representations of compounding words from Home Alone movie 1990. Additionally, the author will offer explanations that are pertinent to the study.

Datum 1 girlfriend



“Buzz, your girlfriend! Woof!”

The first compound word found in *Home Alone* (1990) is “**girlfriend**”. In order to explain the word “**girlfriend**”, the writer breaks the word down into two parts of nouns; “**girl**” and “**friend.**”

Example :

1. Beautiful **girl**

In the phrase “beautiful girl”, the word “**girl**” is the head of the phrase that is explained by the adjective that precedes it. Thus, “beautiful” is an adjective that adds context and complements the noun “**girl**”, highlighting its significance. This will clarify for the reader that the topic in question is a woman who is characterized as lovely. The descriptive word serves as an indicator for the noun phrase.

2. Best friend

Here, in the noun phrase “best friend”, “**friend**” functions as the main element, while “best” functions as the modifier that provides more additional context. As an adjective, “best” helps the reader to grasp that the “**friend**” being described is someone closest.

The term “**girlfriend**” presented in the film can be examined as a compound noun since it includes one noun followed by an additional noun.

[girl] n [friend] n

→ [**girlfriend**] n

The term “girlfriend” is created by combining two distinct words; “girl” and “friend”. Furthermore, after those two words are merged into “**girlfriend**”, the resulting term conveys a definition related to a female individual who is involved in a romantic connection with another person (Oxford Learner Dictionary).

In the term “girlfriend,” the term “**friend**” serves as the main component of the compound word. The word “friend” is explained by the word “girl”, which adds more context that the “friend” being mentioned is a woman.

Datum 2 christmas time



“**Sure. You know, it’s Christmas time.**”

The second compound word found in *Home Alone* (1990) is “**christmas time**”. To clarify the term “christmas time,” the author separates it into two distinct nouns: “christmas” and “time.”

Example :

1. Merry **christmas**

The term “**christmas**” signifies the primary noun in the phrase. It is signified by the addition of the adjective “merry”. As an adjective, “merry” adds context to “**christmas**”, so the reader knows that the “**christmas**” being addressed is happy and cheerful (Oxford Learner Dictionary).

2. Show **time**

The noun phrase “show time” features “**time**” as its main component. The term “show” functions as the identifier that adds further meaning to the word “time”. Lexically, show time means time when performance will begin (Oxford Learner

Dictionary). So, the “**time**” being referred to is when the show will start.

The term “**christmas time**” depicted in the film can be examined as a **compound noun** since it includes one noun after another.

[christmas] n [time] n

→ [christmastime] n

The combined term “christmastime” is created by merging two distinct words, namely “christmas” and “time.” When these terms are fused into “christmastime,” it signifies the duration that encompasses Christmas Day, along with the days that precede and succeed it (Oxford Learner Dictionary).

In the compound expression “christmas time,” the word “**time**” serves as the **primary component**. Meanwhile, “christmas” functions as the identifier that provides additional meaning to “time.” By placing “christmas” in front of “time,” it clarifies that the discussed “time” is specifically during the Christmas season.

Datum 3 suitcase



“Go pack your suitcase.”

The third compound word found in *Home Alone* (1990) is “**suitcase**”. To clarify the term “suitcase,” the author divides the word into two noun components: “suit” and “case.”

Example :

1. Black **suit**

The term “**suit**” functions as the **main component** of the noun phrase. The adjective “black” acts as a descriptor that conveys the significance of the “suit.” “Black” provides extra information to enhance the understanding of the term “suit.” This assists the reader in grasping that the suit in question is black.

2. Criminal **case**

In “criminal case”, the term “**case**” serves as the **main component** of the noun phrase. It is being highlighted by the word “criminal.” As the noun, “criminal” gives context that signifies “**case**.” It means, the “**case**” being mentioned is a case about criminals.

Thus, the term “suitcase” presented in the film can be examined as a **compound noun** since it is made up of one noun followed by another noun.

[suit] n [case] n

→ [suitcase] n

The term “suitcase” is formed by combining a pair of unrelated terms; “suit” and “case.” After the words are combined, the resulting word is “suitcase”. Lexically, according to the Oxford Learner Dictionary, suitcase is a flat-sided case with a handle to carry clothes while travelling.

For the term “suitcase”, the **primary component of the compound is “case”**. The term “suit” adds extra context that enhances the understanding. It signifies that the “case” is intended for holding the suit.

Datum 4 blowtorch



“I’m gonna burn his head with a blowtorch.”

The fifth compound word found in *Home Alone* (1990) is “**blowtorch**”. To clarify the term “blowtorch,” the author divides it into two components, which

are nouns: “blow” and “torch.”

Example :

1. Strong **blow**

The verb phrase's head is the word “**blow**”. This refers to the action of expelling air from the mouth (Oxford Learner Dictionary). By adding “strong”, it adds more additional context to it. As an adjective, “strong” emphasizes the significance of the blow.. The reader will understand that the act of blowing is done strongly.

2. Flame **torch**

In this noun phrase, “**torch**” represents the head. While “flame” adds more context to it. Oxford Learner Dictionary mentions that “flame” means a hot bright stream of gas from fire. So, “flame torch” means the torch is shining brightly and creates the flame on the fire.

So, the word “**blowtorch**” shown in the movie can be analyzed as a **compound noun** because it consists of a noun followed by another noun.

[blow] v [torch] n

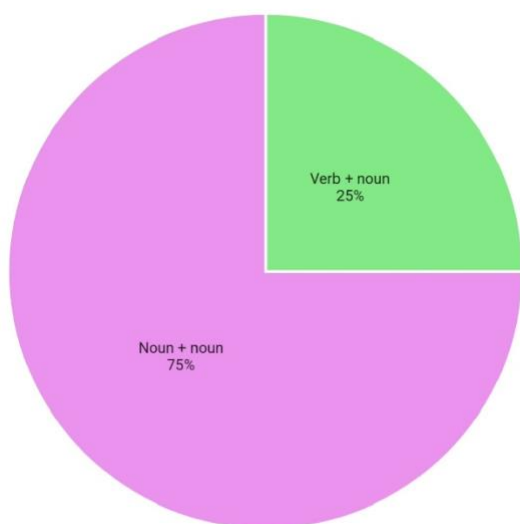
→ [blowtorch] n

The term “blowtorch” is created by bringing together two distinct and unrelated terms, namely “blow” and “torch.” When these unrelated terms are fused, a new word with a fresh meaning is formed. Oxford Learner

Dictionary stated that blowtorch means a tool to direct a very hot flame onto part of a surface (Oxford Learner Dictionary).

In the combined term "blowtorch," the element "torch" serves as the main component. "Torch" means the core thing that is being discussed. By placing "blow" before the word "torch", it gives more context that makes the meaning clearer. It becomes clear that the "torch" that is being discussed is specific. It means a torch that can blow a fire.

According to what has been discussed earlier, the author found three data, or 75%, that refer to compound noun (noun + noun). Additionally, the writer found one datum, or 25%, that refer to compound noun (verb + noun).



D. CONCLUSION

The author has identified fifteen data in the film Home Alone, released in 1990. The author focuses the study on elaborating on these fifteen data using Katamba's idea of compounding as presented in his book Morphology, published in 1993. The writer wants to evaluate the movie using Katamba's concept of compounding. She has found four data that are connected to Katamba's first category of compounding (compound noun): Datum 1, Datum 2, Datum 3, and Datum 4. The author is unable to discover any information that fits Katamba's second category of homonyms (compound adjective) and the third category (compound verb) within this movie.

| No | Types of Compound Word | Total |
|-----------|---------------------------|----------|
| 1. | Compound Noun | 4 |
| | Noun + noun | 3 |
| | Verb + noun | 1 |
| | Adjective + noun | 0 |
| 2. | Compound Adjective | 0 |
| | Noun + adjective | 0 |
| | Adjective + adjective | 0 |
| | Preposition + adjective | 0 |
| 3. | Compound Verb | 0 |
| | Preposition + verb | 0 |
| | Verb + preposition | 0 |

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