

COMPOUNDS

WORDS WITH MORE THAN ONE ROOT

Matthew A. Tucker

Linguistics 105: Morphology
Fall 2012

October 26, 2012



ADMINISTRATION

HOMEWORK

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- HW 4 had a typo — it is not HW 6.
- but it is on Estonian and due Monday.

READING & MISC.

- Monday's lecture is on Chomsky (1970).
- It is not an easy paper — a study guide is on the website as a link on the syllabus.
- It is where X'-Theory comes from.

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HW# 3

- 1 THOUGHTS ON HW 3
- 2 COMPOUNDING: THE EMPIRICAL FACTS
- 3 COMPOUNDING: THEORETICAL THOUGHTS

PART I — NOUN CLASSES

WHAT MAKES A CLASS?

- Some classes in Swahili *do* have common properites. Specifically the *m-/wa-* class.
- *Maybe right*: “living” vs. “non-living” (is a dead person still *mtu*?)
- *Definitely wrong*: “person” vs. “thing” (*mdudu/wadudu* “bug”)
- *Better*: ANIMATE VS. INANIMATE (grammatically defined animacy)

PREDICTING PLURALS

- It *is* possible to predict some plurals, but not by semantics.
- “Every noun that starts with *ki-* has a plural in *vi-*.”
- but obviously this won’t work for singulars in *m-*.

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PHONOLOGY DOES EXIST

PART 1.IV

- It is *possible* to say that $/w/ \rightarrow \emptyset$ in the singular.
- *Better*: $\emptyset \rightarrow /w/ / \# ___ V$.
- Then you need to delete identical vowel sequences (*wa + alimu* \neq **waalimu*).

PART 4.II

- Phonology is a good way to handle some of these alternations.
- E.g.: $/w/ \rightarrow \emptyset / V ___ V /$ (**h-aw-o*; *h-a-o*).
- There are still some basic irregularities that must be stipulated.

Moral: always consider *all* logical analytic options.

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MISCELLANY

PART 3.II

- Two options: ANALYTIC (SUBJ-NEG) and *synthetic* (SUBJ.NEG).
- Analytic option requires allomorphy: (1.sg: /s/ + /ni-/ = [si]).
- Synthetic option is *simpler*; no language is wholly isolating, either.

BANTU FINAL VOWELS

- Every verb ends in a morphologically unanalyzable FINAL VOWEL.
- Historically a remnant of the Proto-Bantu mood system.
- Does change to *-i* in the future — why?
- Cf., Romance THEME VOWELS (Sp. *-ar/-er/-ir*).

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PRELIMINARIES

SO FAR...

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① *Syntax*: via agreement and {c,C}ase.

② *Phonology*: via clitics and root-and-pattern languages.

COMING UP...

- Morphology's interaction with *semantics* (and syntax-semantics).

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② *Next week*: Nominalizations

③ *Further out*: Morphology & ARGUMENT STRUCTURE.

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COMPOUNDING PRELIMINARIES

DEFINITION

COMPOUND =_{def} A “word” which consists of more than one stem/root.

- Orthography is of basically no help here:
- (1) a. *Some Problems of Wordformation* (Rohrer, 1974)
 - b. *Word Formation in Generative Grammar* (Aronoff, 1976)
 - c. *English Word-Formation* (Bauer, 1983)

QUESTIONS:

- ❶ How do we tell a compound from a phrase? an affixed word?
- ❷ How is the meaning of a compound figured?
- ❸ What is the structure of compounds? Affixes on compounds?

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COMPOUNDS OF EVERY CATEGORY

	N	V	A	P
N	bookworm	babysit	user friendly	lookout
V	spoil-sport	freeze-dry	tumbledown	seethrough
A	whiteboard	highlight	blue-green	laid back
P	underdog	off-load	outspoken	(without?)

TABLE : Compounds by Category

- Compounds are RECURSIVE: they can appear inside one another:

- (2) a. Marshall High School football cheerleading squad backup
 b. donau-dampschiffahrts-elektrizitäten-
 haupt-betriebs-werkbau-unterbeamten-gesellschaft
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CLASSIFYING COMPOUNDS

HEADEDNESS

- ENDOCENTRIC compounds have a head member (**airport**).
- EXOCENTRIC compounds do not (turncat).

HEAD DIRECTIONALITY

- RIGHT-HEADED: heads on the right (**over-coat**).
- LEFT-HEADED: heads on the left (**attorneys general**).

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fish-dog
“shark”

(Italian)

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fish-dog
“shark”

(Italian)

COMPOUNDS AND INFLECTION

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(4) a. *firemen*

b. *passers-by*

- but there are exceptions:

(5) a. *crafts-man*

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- In a lot of languages, one does find case markers in compounds:

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COMPOUNDING: THEORETICAL THOUGHTS

- 1 THOUGHTS ON HW 3
- 2 COMPOUNDING: THE EMPIRICAL FACTS
- 3 COMPOUNDING: THEORETICAL THOUGHTS**

SEMANTICS

PRODUCTIVITY

- Compounds can be compositionally interpreted (craftsman)
- or lexicalized (greenhouse).

ARGUMENT STRUCTURE

- DEVERBAL COMPOUNDS often have semantics related to the verb's argument θ -roles.
- Though not all deverbal formations follow this rule.

(8) a. moneylender

b. goalkeeper

(9) a. chain smoker

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c. hand-written

d. time-worn

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ARE THEY WORDS?

- They tend to resist having more than one stress (ACCENT SUBORDINATION):

(10) WHITE house vs. WHITE HOUSE

- They can be formed from bound parts.

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- Their heads must be inflected for syntax:

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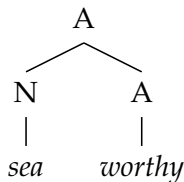
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$$(14) \quad A \rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{c} N \\ A \\ P \end{array} \right\} A$$

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- This predicts a number of things:

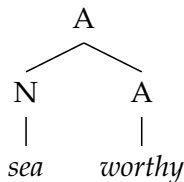
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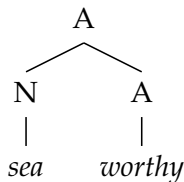
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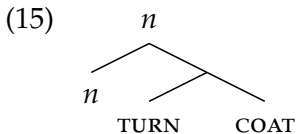
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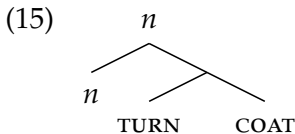
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A CHALLENGE

- It is hard to know how to derive right-headed compounds with morphology on the head:

