



## “STRUCTURAL AND SEMANTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF COMPOUND NOUNS DENOTING NOMINAL CONCEPTS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS”.

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**Annotation:** This thesis explores the structural and semantic characteristics of compound nouns that denote nominal concepts in English and Uzbek. Compound nouns play a crucial role in both languages, contributing to lexical expansion and semantic precision. The study highlights similarities and differences in the formation, classification, and meaning representation of compound nouns in English and Uzbek. The comparative analysis provides insights into linguistic typology, cognitive processes, and translation practices. Empirical data from dictionaries, linguistic corpora, and scholarly articles support the findings.

**Keywords:** Compound nouns, nominal concepts, English language, Uzbek language, morphology, semantics, comparative linguistics, word formation, lexical semantics.

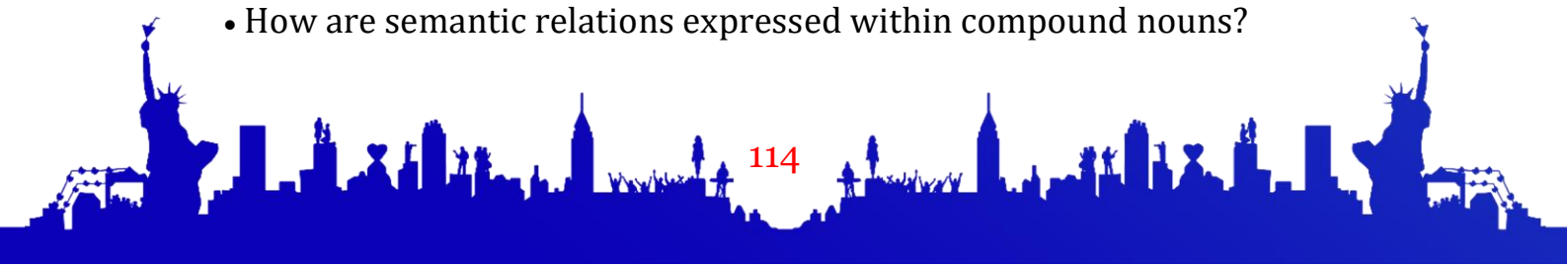
### **Introduction:**

Compound nouns are lexical units formed by combining two or more words, which function as a single noun and express a specific concept. In English, compound nouns are prevalent and flexible, allowing productive creation of new lexical items. For example, “toothpaste,” “railway station,” and “software engineer” illustrate the diversity of English compounds in daily usage.

In Uzbek, compound nouns also serve as essential instruments for concept denotation, often combining nouns, adjectives, or participles in morphologically rich structures. For instance, terms like “*ta’lim muassasasi*” (educational institution) or “*daryo bo’yidagi qishloq*” (village by the river) demonstrate productive nominal compounds in Uzbek.

The present research aims to analyze the structural and semantic properties of compound nouns in both languages, focusing on the following questions:

- What are the main structural types of compound nouns in English and Uzbek?
- How are semantic relations expressed within compound nouns?





- What similarities and differences exist in the formation and interpretation of nominal compounds between English and Uzbek?

**Analysis and Discussion:**

**Structural Characteristics of Compound Nouns in English:**

English compound nouns can be classified according to structure into three main types: *noun + noun*, *adjective + noun*, and *verb + noun* [5]. The *noun + noun* type, often seen in “schoolbag” or “bookstore,” is the most productive and widely used. These compounds frequently follow a head-modifier order, where the right-hand noun functions as the head denoting the main concept, and the left-hand noun serves as a modifier [6].

Adjective-noun compounds, such as “blackboard” or “highway,” highlight descriptive properties, while verb-noun compounds like “swimming pool” or “washing machine” focus on actions or processes. Semantically, English compounds may convey endocentric or exocentric meanings [7]. Endocentric compounds indicate that the meaning of the whole can be inferred from its parts, e.g., “toothbrush” (a brush for teeth), while exocentric compounds, like “pickpocket,” have meanings not directly derivable from their constituents.

**Structural Characteristics of Compound Nouns in Uzbek:**

Uzbek nominal compounds often exhibit the *noun + noun*, *adjective + noun*, and *possessive constructions* structures [8]. The *noun + noun* compounds, such as “*shahar markazi*” (city center), resemble English in head-modifier organization but follow agglutinative rules that include case endings, possessive suffixes, and plural markers.

Adjective-noun compounds, e.g., “*yashil maydon*” (green field), emphasize attributive qualities, while participial compounds like “*o‘qituvchi tayyorlagan darslik*” (teacher-prepared textbook) integrate verbal derivation into nominal constructions. Unlike English, Uzbek compound nouns often require overt morphological marking for grammatical relations, which influences syntactic behavior [9].

**Semantic Characteristics and Nominal Concept Representation:**

Compound nouns in both languages serve to condense complex concepts into a single lexical unit. In English, semantic relations such as purpose, location, composition, and function are common. For example, “coffee cup” expresses purpose, “railway station” denotes location, and “gold necklace” indicates material [10].

In Uzbek, semantic relations within compounds are more explicit due to morphological markers. Terms like “*tibbiyot muassasasi*” (medical institution)





combine semantic roles of profession and institution, while *“daryo bo‘yidagi qishloq”* expresses location and spatial relation. Uzbek compounds may also include possessive relationships, e.g., *“ota-onaning uy-joyi”* (parents’ house), which is less frequently lexicalized in English.

### **Comparative Analysis:**

A comparative perspective reveals several similarities and differences. Both languages utilize compound nouns to denote specific concepts efficiently and exhibit productivity in forming new terms. Head-modifier organization is common, although English favors a fixed right-head pattern, while Uzbek relies on agglutinative morphology to mark relational nuances.

Semantically, English compounds often rely on context for interpretation, particularly in exocentric types, whereas Uzbek compounds encode semantic relations more overtly via suffixes and possessive markers. Furthermore, translation between English and Uzbek sometimes requires paraphrasing to preserve semantic accuracy, especially when exocentric or idiomatic compounds are involved [1], [3], [8].

### **Cognitive and Linguistic Implications:**

Compound nouns reflect cognitive strategies for concept categorization. Both English and Uzbek speakers create compounds to economize expression and facilitate understanding. However, differences in morphological structure influence processing; Uzbek learners of English may initially struggle with unmarked compounds and flexible semantic shifts, while English speakers learning Uzbek must account for case endings and possessive agreements [2], [9].

### **Conclusion**

This study highlights the structural and semantic characteristics of compound nouns denoting nominal concepts in English and Uzbek. While both languages employ compound nouns as key lexical tools, their formation principles, morphological marking, and semantic transparency differ. English relies heavily on fixed word order and context-dependent meaning, while Uzbek utilizes rich morphological markers to express relations explicitly. These findings have practical implications for bilingual lexicography, translation studies, and language pedagogy, offering insights into cognitive linguistic strategies and cross-linguistic nominal representation.

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