

Journal of Iranian Languages & Linguistics

7(2), Fall & Winter 2022

<https://doi.org/10.22099/jill.2023.7095>

Extended Abstract

Exocentric compounds in the Laki language

Faranak Naderi

Assistant Professor, Farhangian University,
Khorramabad, Iran

naderifaranak20@gmail.com

Introduction

Compounding is one of the major processes of word formation in world languages, which has always been the focus of researchers in the field of morphology. In this word formation process, two existing words in the language are combined to form another word, which is called a compound word. Considering the importance and frequency of compounding in different languages of the world, various classifications have been proposed to classify compound words, in which the concept of “head” plays a pivotal role. In one of the most important classifications, compound words are divided into four types: endocentric, exocentric, dvandva, and appositive (Bauer, 1983, 2017). Laki language is one of the Iranian languages spoken in the western regions of Iran, especially in some areas of Lorestan, Kermanshah, Ilam, and Hamadan provinces. Dabir-Moghaddam (2013: 862) considers Laki language to belong to the Northwestern branch of Iranian languages, which is spoken in the northern and northwestern regions of Lorestan province, some areas of Khorramabad, as well as in some areas of Hamadan, Kermanshah, and Ilam provinces. Like many other languages in the world, the most important process of word formation in Laki is compounding, and a considerable number of words in this language are compound words. In this study, we focus on exocentric compounds in the Laki language.

Materials & Methods

The present article aims to investigate exocentric compounds in the Laki language. In this regard, the morphological structure of different types of exocentric compounds and their constituent parts will be examined. The research data include exocentric compounds extracted from the daily speech of Laki speakers heard in the researcher's family, work environment, and surrounding community, as well as from the two-volume book *Laki dictionary and glossary* (Kiani Kulivand, 2012). These data were then analyzed based on Bauer's classification (2017). Compounds have always been one of the favorite topics of

researchers in the field of morphology in different languages, and one of the important research lines in this field has been the classification of compound words. In one of the latest classifications, Bauer (2017) has classified exocentric compounds into five types based on their meaning and the way they are formed: bahuvrihi compounds, synthetic compounds, coordinative compounds, exocentricity by language change or social change, and metaphorical compounds. In the present study, this classification will be the basis of our work.

Results & Discussion

Bahuvrihi compounds in the Laki language consist of possessive and synecdoche compounds. Structurally, possessive compounds can be in the following forms:

Noun + Adjective: *dæm vela* (Lit. mouth-wide) = inept, incapable

Adjective + Noun: *bælæh mel* (Lit. prominent-neck) = bold, audacious

Noun + Noun: *berindz das* (Lit. rice-sickle) = a kind of plant

Quantifier + Noun: *ʃæf mel* (Lit. six-neck) = strong, powerful

Synecdoche compounds are either a combination of [Adjective + Noun] or [Adjective + Verb].

Adjective + Noun: *zærdæ xænæ* (Lit. yellow-laughter) = grin, sneer

Adjective + Verb: *ʃær xer* (Lit. evil-buy) = someone who seeks trouble or fuss

In synthetic compounds the head is a verb and the other element is a noun, adjective, adverb or preposition. The structure of synthetic compounds in Laki is as follows.

Noun + Verb: *dæŋ hati* (Lit. sound-come) = nagger; someone who annoys people by constantly finding fault.

Adjective + Verb: *tæxt berya* (Lit. plane-cut) = handsome, statuesque

Adverb + Verb: *færæ væʃ* (Lit. Very-speak) = talkative, chatterbox

Preposition + Noun + Verb: *ʔé roy ʃin* (Lit. from-face-go) = to blush, to be embarrassed

In coordinative compounds in Laki the lexical category of the compound may be the same as its constituent parts or not. Thus, these compounds can either be category-preserving or category-changing. The first type can be as [Noun + Noun] and the second can be [Verb + Verb], [Noun + Noun] or [Adverb + Adverb].

Noun + Noun: *pæl puo* (Lit. feather-leaf) = foliage (Noun)

Verb + Verb: *büær gof* (Lit. cut-open) = someone who makes the final decision (Noun)

Noun + Noun: *ʔelo ælâ* (Lit. this side-that side) = to evade, to dodge (Verb)

Adverb + Adverb: *hüt hüt* (Lit. fast-fast) = a very quick movement (Noun)

In metaphorical compounds, one of the elements contains a figurative meaning, and this causes the whole compound to refer to a meaning other than the meaning of its constituent parts, which includes a metaphor as well. For example, the word ‘*tül tær*’ (Lit. sapling-wet) refers to a child or very young person. Exocentricity by language change or social change refers to compounds whose meaning has changed over time. In Laki there are instances of compound words that have undergone semantic changes over time and today, their whole

meaning cannot be obtained from the meaning of their constituent parts, such as the example below:

Noun + Noun: ʃəjæm rü (Lit. eye-face) = pudency, shame

Conclusion

The findings of the study show that compound words in the Laki language have significant diversity in terms of structure and meaning. All types of exocentric compounds in Bauer's (2017) classification, including bahuvrihi, synthetic, coordinative, metaphorical and exocentricity by language or social change are found in the Laki language. However, the structural diversity of bahuvrihi and synthetic exocentric compounds is greater than the other three types. One important feature of exocentric compounds in the Laki language is the high frequency of body parts of humans and animals. This is rooted in the lifestyle of Laki-speaking people, which has been based on agriculture and animal husbandry since ancient times. They make extensive use of body parts such as hands and feet for daily activities. In other words, embodiment, body parts, and physical activities play a prominent role in the formation of exocentric compounds in the Laki language.

Keywords: Compounding; Compound Words; Word Formation; Exocentric Compound, Laki Language

References

- Aronoff, M. (1976). *Word formation in generative grammar*. Cambridge: MIT Press.
- Azadpour, R. (2014). *Laki dialect: Phonetics, grammar, lexicon*. Qom: Negaran Noor [in Persian].
- Azizi, Z. (2015). *Word formation processes in Laki dialect based on generative theory*. M.A. Thesis. Sanandaj: Kordestan University, [in Persian].
- Bauer, L. (1983). *English word formation*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Bauer, L. (2008). Exocentric compounds. *Morphology*, 18:51–74.
- Bauer, L. (2017). *Compounds and compounding*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Booij, G. (2007). *The grammar of words: An introduction to linguistic morphology* (2nd ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Dabir Moghaddam, M. (2013). *Typology of Iranian languages*. Tehran: SAMT [in Persian].
- Fabb, N. (1998). *Compounding*. in A. Spencer and A.M. Zwicky (eds). *The handbook of morphology* (pp. 66-83). Oxford: Black well.
- Gholami, B. (2017). *Basak dictionary: Etymology of Laki words*. Khorramabad: Parakandeh [in Persian].
- Haspelmath, M. (2002). *Understanding morphology*. London: Arnold.
- Izadpanah, H. (2012). *Laki dictionary*. Tehran: Asatir [in Persian].
- Katamba, F. (1993). *Morphology*. Macmillan: Macmillan Press LTD.
- Kiani Kulivand, K. (2012). *Laki dictionary and glossary*. Khorramabad: Sifa [in Persian].
- Lieber, R.W. (1980). *The organization of the lexicon*. Doctoral dissertation. Cambridge: MIT.
- Tabatabaee, A. (2003). *Compound noun and adjective in Persian language*. Tehran: University Publication center [in Persian].