COMPOUNDING AS THE WORD FORMATION TYPE OF INSECT NAMES IN GERMAN

COMPUNEREA MOD DE FORMARE A DENUMIRILOR DE INSECTE IN LIMBA GERMANA

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Abstract: *Compounding is a productive word formation process in German by which new words of any lexical category are formed. Most of the compounds are nouns and they obey the "right-hand head rule" meaning that the rightmost word is a noun and determines the semantic and morphsyntactic properties. The present paper tries to classify the insect names in German according to this type of compounding.*

Rezumat: *Comunerea este un process productive de formare a cuvintelor in limba germana cu ajutarul caruia cuvinte noi apartinind oricarei categorii lexicale sint formate. Cele mai multe cuvinte compuse sint substantive si ele urmeaza" regula minii drept", acest lucru insemnind ca purtatorul caracteristicilor lexicale si morfosintactice esteultimul substantiv din partea dreapta. Actuala lucrare incearca sa clasifice numele germane de insecte conform acestui tip de compunere*

Key words**:** *words, compound, modifier, head*
Cuvinte cheie**:** *cuvint compus, baza, determinant*

INTRODUCTION

Composition is defined as a common very productive process by which words are put together to form a third more complex word meaning that two words are linked together to form a third one German composition is always binary, i.e. a word A plus a word B are put together and form a new word C. It must be underlined that both word A and word B can be in their turn compounds and in the process of compounding they are taken as single words. German compounds are commonly written as a single word. From the semantic point of view the German compounds can be classified as it follows: endocentric/Determinativkomposita, exocentric /Possessivkomposita-, and copulative /Kopulativkomposita (FLEISCHER, BARZ, 1995)

The goal of this paper is to analyze to what extend the insect names in German are formed by means of compounding and which types are mostly used.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The linguistic investigation is carried out on a corpus of German insect names found in the following books: CHINERY, MICHAEL, 2004, **Pareys Buch der Insekten**, über 2000 INSEKTEN EUROPAS, KOSMOS VERLAG, Stuttgart and REICHHOLF JOSEF, 2008, **Schmetterlinge**, BLV Buchverlag GmbH & Co KG, München.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

1. **Endocentric compounds** (Determinativkomposita)

Most German insect names belong to the group of the endocentric compounds (Determinativkomposita). This type consists of two elements: the left-hand element called the *modifier* (Determnians or Bestimmungswort) and the right hand element called the *head*

(Determinant or Grundwort) of the compound. It must be underlined that the head of compounds in German always occurs on the right hand side i.e. it obeys the so called "right-hand head rule" (WILLIAMS, 1981), which means that the *head* determines the semantic and morphosyntactic properties of the noun (gender, number and case).

The modifier can be a noun, an adjective, a verb or a numeral. The noun modifier has sometimes an inflection that can be either the plural form of the noun or its genitive form.

According to this criteria this large group can be divided as it follows, when taking into consideration the modifier

1.1. N + N.

By far this is the most common type of compounds of the German insect names. According to ELKE DONALIES (2007) this is the oldest type of German compounds.

Aaskäfer, Ameisenwanze, Adonislibelle, Augenfalter, Bachläufer, Birkenspanner, Birkenspinner, Blattflöhe, Blattkäfer, Blattlaus, Blutzykade, Brotkäfer, Bienenkäfer, Feuerfalter, Distelfalter, Feuerfalter, Feuerlibelle,Fliegenkäfer, Frostspanner, Mistkafer, Feldgille, Gartenwanze, Goldwespe, Halmfliege, Pelzbiene, Sandbiene, Märzfliege, Maikäfer, Julikäfer, Junikäfer, Hirschkäfer, Kugekkäfer, Kugelwanze, Laubfalter, Lederwanze, Lindenwanze, Maikäfer, Maizünsler, Malvenwanze, Möhrenrüssler, Mehlkäfer, Mistbiene, Nesselzünsler, Ohrwurm, Ohrzykade, Ölkäfer, Pechlibelle, Rübenzünsler, Rüsselkäfer, Samenmotte, Saumwanze, Tabakkäfer, Sumpfkäfer, Tannenlaus, Teppichkäfer, Totenkäfer, Waldgrille, Wasserskorpion, Wollkäfer,;

Words like *Auge, Bach, Blatt, Baum, Birke, Blut, Eiche, Fichte, Getreide, Gemüse, Gold, Holz, Kiefer, Kohl, Pflaume, Rübe, Toten, Trauer, Wald, Wasser, Weide, Wiese* and *Winter* are mostly used as modifiers, whereas *Biene, Laus, Käfer, Falter, Spanner, Wanze, Wurm, Zykade* are the most common heads.

German insect names belonging to this type and having more than 2 elements are rare but they exist. In this case either the modifier or the head can be a compound or even both.

1.1.2. N (a simplex) + N (a compound)

Ameisenbuntkäfer, **Baum**schwammkäfer, **Eichen**prachtkäfer, **Bienen**schwebefliege, **Binden**blutzykade, **Blatt**hornkäfer, **Ameisen**-Sackkäfer, **Sand**laufkäfer, **Frühlings**mistkäfer

1.1.3. N (a compound) + N (a simplex)

Ödland**schrecke**, Beilfleck**widderchen**, Bergahorn**wickler**, Maulwurfs**grille**, Schachbrett**falter**, Totenkopf**schwärmer,** Därrobst**motte**,

1.1.4. N (compound) + N(compound)

Bergahorn-Winterzykade, Bergwaldlaufkäfer, Bilsenkraut-Blüteneule, Keilfleckschwebfliege

1.2. Adjective + N

Blindbremse, Breitrussler, Buntkafer, Bunteulchen, Edelfalter,Schmalbock, Schnellkäfer,

The number of German insect names having an adjective as modifier is very small and only the monosyllabic adjectives are used in such cases.

1.2.1 Multiple compounding with advectives

Braundickkopffalter- In this particular case the modifier is an adjective "braun" and

the head is a compound Dickkopffalter consisting of a modifier "Dickkopf" and a head "Falter". Such compounds are very rare. In "Langbauchschwebfliege" both the modifier and the head are compounds. The modifier hasas component parts an adjective and a noun. The head in its turn is formed by a verb stem and a noun.

1.3. Verb + N

Laufspinne, Bohrkafer, Bohrfliege, Beißschrecke, Zitterspinne, Springbock Schwebfliege, Moderkäfer, Stinkwanze, Schwimmwanze, Schlupfwespe, Schmeißfliege, Taumelkäfer, Bombardierkäfer, Glühwürmchen, Schwebfliege, Raubfliege, Stechmücke, Zuckmücke, Springschwanz, Fangwanze, Schmierlaus, Zuckmücke, Stelzmücken, Stolperkäfer, Stuzkäfer .

When looking closer to the compound German insect names, which have a verb as a modifier we can say that the verb stem is used to form the modifier. The only verb ending in -*ieren* that forms a modifier is "bombardieren".

2. **The Exocentric compounds** form the second group of compounds. Another term for this class of compounds is **bahuvrihi a** word coming from the ancient Sanskrit grammar. Sometimes these compounds are also called **Possessivkomposita** (possessive compounds) as the compounds denote the property. The exocentric compounds do not have a semantic head, meaning that they cannot be understood from words building them up. An "Erpelschwanz" (large Chocolate –tip) is not a "Schwanz"(tail) of an Erpel (duck) . It is a butterfly named in German after the position of the wings,- giving the impression of a duck tail - when standing still. In such compounds the relation is a metaphoric or a "pars pro toto" one.

But if other properties regarding these compounds are taken into consideration it must be said that the part of speech is inherited from the right hand rule, as it is the case with the endocentric compounds. So from the standpoint of their morphological properties these compounds behave just like their endocentric counterparts.

Pfauenauge, Blaupfeil, Granatauge, Heupferd, Kaisermantel, Landkärtchen, Nierenfleck, Ochsenauge, Plattbauch, schwalbenchwanz, Totengräber, Trauermantel, Vierfleck, Buntrock,

CONCLUSIONS

As a conclusion it can be said that most of the German insect names belong to the endocentric compounds. The greatest part is formed by a simple modifier and a simple head. Modifiers can be nouns, adjectives and verb stems. As a peculiarity it can be noticed that no endocentric compound has a numeral as modifier. There are also German insect names that are formed by multiple compounding. In this case either the modifier of the head or even both can be compounds.

There are by far less exocentric compounds among the German insect names. As the meaning must be sought outside the compound, metonymy is the most used means of building such compounds.

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