

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces the foundation of the research. It presents the background of the study, which explains the main problems, the significance of the topic, and the rationale for conducting the research. It also outlines the research questions, objectives and scope of the study. Altogether, this chapter provides an overview of why the study is conducted and what it aims to achieve.

A. Background of the Study

Considering the rapid pace of change in society and technology coupled with the constant development of modern life, there are also the needs for new ideas to be articulated in more rapid and more structured ways linguistically. This is the genesis of what is to be considered an elementary branch of linguistics, that is, morphology, which deals with the internal structure of the word and the rules that govern the formation of words.¹ Morphology investigates the processes and the ways in which words are amalgamated/ fused and the functions of such forms in a given language.² Through morphology, a language can be processed and refined in a way that speaks to the economy and productivity of a speech community in an adaptive way to social needs. This is especially significant in the formal and public discourse of a speech community

¹ Andrew Carstairs-mccarthy, 'An Introduction to English Morphology : Words and Their Structure', 2002. p.16

² Francis Katamba, *English Words* (Taylor & Francis e-Library, 2005). Pp.27-30

and can be referred to as academic discourse or mass communication. In the absence of sufficient awareness of the morphs of a given word, the language user will more often than not find themselves in a position where construing a given word or a string of words becomes a complicated process especially where new words or morphologically complex words are used. This is where the practical side of morphology comes in as it is not merely an area of study in theory but a viable basis for the study of the English language as it is used in communicative settings.³

Morphology becomes concerned with the way words can be created and combined from smaller units of language to form meaningful expressions. Compounds become the most productive word formation processes within the English language morphology. Compounds can be defined as the combination of two or more free morphs to form a new lexical word that has its own specific meaning. Compound words become the result of two separate and independent words being combined to form a new word that functions, in its entirety, as an independent unit of grammar, sometimes having meanings that cannot be predicted by the two original units.⁴ Compounds become highly used in the English language, especially in journalistic writing, where complex information has to be transferred in an accurate and short form, and where the developments

³ M. Dini Handoko, *English Morphology* (CV. IQRO, 2019). Pp. 3-5

⁴ Andrew Carstairs-mccarthy. 'An Introduction to English Morphology : Words and Their Structure', 2002. p.59

in technology, politics, and popular culture become solved on a daily basis and need to be defined by new vocabulary in the shortest possible period of time.

Among different kinds of compound words, compound nouns are found to be the most dominant and productive group in English.⁵ Compound nouns are made up of two or more words that function together as a single noun in a manner that normally involves either a noun and a noun or an adjective and a noun. Such combinations are made up of specific notions that cannot be simply encapsulated in single words. Compound nouns are known to encompass notions that go beyond the literal meaning of each constituent part of a compound noun. On similar lines, Handoko points out that compound nouns are of utmost significance for English morphological studies due to a high level of frequency and crucial application in comprehending names of objects, jobs, events, and abstract notions at a daily communication level.⁶ The semantic complexity in compound nouns may often prove problematic for people learning a second language, especially when compound nouns are read within a regular text.

Authentic materials are believed to play a crucial role in ELT because they capture actual communication processes, unlike classroom communication. Authentic reading materials, in particular, are seen as useful because they provide actual contemporary themes found in society. The application of authentic reading materials in ELT has been found useful in improving

⁵ George Yule, *The Study of Language* (Cambridge University Press, 2006).p.55

⁶ M. Dini Handoko. *English Morphology* (CV. IQRO, 2019) pp.25-27

vocabulary growth and comprehension in students because words are processed in a meaningful way.⁷ It is particularly useful for intermediate and advanced levels because students are required to understand meaning in a text and make inferences about things not actually mentioned in a text. For example, intermediate and advanced level students are tasked with comprehending actual expressions that occur in society. It is required that intermediate and advanced level students be required to make inferences based on actual discourse. Such students are also required to demonstrate an understanding of actual expressions found in society.

As one form of authentic material, *Time Magazine* represents a highly reputable source of contemporary English usage. *Time Magazine* is an American weekly news publication first established in New York in 1923 and is widely recognized for its in-depth reporting and global readership.⁸ The magazine publishes articles written predominantly by professional journalists and native English speakers, covering a wide range of contemporary topics such as politics, global affairs, science, technology, business, culture, and lifestyle. Its content is distributed through both printed editions and its official digital platform, making it one of the most influential English-language news media outlets worldwide. Due to its concise, factual, and sophisticated journalistic style, *Time Magazine* provides rich linguistic data, including frequent occurrences of compound nouns

⁷ Tira Nur Fitria, ‘View of Using Authentic Material and Created Material (Teacher-Made) for English Language Teaching (ELT)_ Benefits and Limitations.Pdf’, *JADEs Journal of Academia in English Educations*, 3 (2022). Pp. 117-140

⁸ ‘Time USA,LLC, “About Time”’, *Official Website*.

used to describe modern technological, political, and cultural developments. Therefore, *Time Magazine* articles serve as appropriate authentic materials for examining how compound nouns are employed by native English writers in high-level journalistic discourse.

A number of research works have been done on a section of words in a few studies in the Indonesian English newspapers involving the description of the kinds, the mechanism, and the meanings of compounding. Ningsih and Rosa, in their Studies involving the Super Headline in the Headline News Column of the Jakarta Post Newspaper, have analyzed 10 issues of the Jakarta Post, where she collected 114 compound words, for example, the Super Headline in the Headline News Column. This study was to determine the types of compound words and processes to form compound words. The results showed that compound words in the form of nouns were the most numerous words and that particular category was the most frequent of the 71 entries (62.28%) and in the entire reference, 65.78% of the endocentric compound word types would classify that portion of compound words that form a system in the entire portion of that data.⁹

Likewise, Lisnawati and colleagues' research examined the compound words on the business column of The Jakarta Post published in January 2019 as well. The purpose of this qualitative research was to examine the types and the formation of compound words in articles of the newspaper. The research

⁹ Ayu Widya Ningsih and Rusdi Noor Rosa, 'Types and Processes of Compound Words Used in Headline News Columns in The Jakarta Post Newspaper', *Journal of English Language and Literature*, 2013.

discovered that compound nouns, having 51 of 60 total data entries in the corpus or 60% dominated data, and compound verbs, 22.4%, and compound adjectives, 17.6%, were clearly on the data. The research also described the compound nouns as having different structures of noun + noun and adjective + noun and said these could be useful for teaching elements of the morphology.¹⁰

In her undergraduate thesis, Novitri also investigated compound words in politics entitled *An Analysis of Compound Words Found in the Political Issues News of The Jakarta Post Online Newspaper*. This qualitative descriptive research studied the types and the meanings of compound words in political news articles. A total of 100 compound words were classified, of which compound nouns were the most frequent with 76 occurrences. The other types were compound adjectives (24 occurrences), and there were no compound verbs.¹¹

Also, Sisvinda's study investigated the use of compound terms in *The Jakarta Post* health column during the COVID-19 pandemic. The focus of the study was to discover the different types and meanings of compound words within the week's published articles in the 3rd week of April 2020. The study's result indicated that compound nouns dominated the articles at a staggering 86.4%, and in particular, the patterns of noun + noun and adjective + noun. The

¹⁰ L Iskandar, I Kustatinah, 'A Morphological Analysis of Compound Words Used in Business Column of the Jakarta Post Newspaper Published on January 2019

¹¹ Lastri Novitri, 'AN ANALYSIS COMPOUND WORDS FOUND IN THE POLITICAL', 2021.

study also found that the majority of compound words are endocentric compounds.¹²

Although there has been some pertinent study on the analysis of compound words in journalistic texts, some research gaps are still left in the contemporary literature. The majority of the studies on compound words in journalism and linguistics up to now have focused on general compound words without specifically focusing on compound nouns as solitary research subjects in their studies. The majority of the research studies on the analysis of compound words in journalism and linguistics up to now had data on Indonesian English publications, specifically *The Jakarta Post* in English, containing English scripts, and altogether in English, which are generated mainly by English second language journalists. Consequently, there has been no comprehensive study on compound nouns in high-level journalism production in worldwide English publications for worldwide audiences.

To address these gaps, the study focuses exclusively on compound nouns and investigates their types, structural patterns, and meanings as they appear in selected *Time Magazine* articles. By using an internationally acknowledged English magazine written predominantly by native speakers, this research offers a more refined morphological analysis and contributes new insights into the use of compound nouns in authentic, high-level journalistic discourse.

¹² Felix Stefani Sisvinda, 'ENGLISH COMPOUND WORDS USED IN THE JAKARTA POST HEALTH COLUMN ON THIRD WEEK OF APRIL 2020', 4.4 (2021), 651–64.

This study will be limited to three articles drawn from three major topics, Lifestyle/Daily Life, Technology & Business, and Politics & Global Issues, as these domains have been shown in previous research to be particularly rich in compound noun usage. For example, in Political Articles in The Jakarta Post, written by Hidayatulloh, found that approximately 64% of the compound words collected were compound nouns.¹³ In the Health Column of The Jakarta Post, written by Sisvinda reported that 82.35% of compound words were compound nouns.¹⁴ Additionally, research written by Octavianti, Sutjiati, & Sukarini analyzed articles on technology, lifestyle, and business, and explicitly stated that these topics contain numerous compound nouns relevant to their themes.¹⁵ To ensure contemporary relevance, the articles selected for analysis are restricted to a six-month publication window (September 2025 – January 2026). This temporal limitation is intended to capture current linguistic patterns in modern journalistic English, reflecting up-to-date usage influenced by ongoing global, technological, and sociopolitical developments. By focusing exclusively on compound nouns from these topic areas, this study aims to provide a more detailed understanding of (1) the types of compound nouns, (2) their structural patterns, and (3) their meanings conveyed through the use of compound nouns. Therefore, this study will discuss about “A Morphological Analysis of Compound Noun in Selected *Time Magazine* Articles”

¹³ Ahmad Hidayatulloh, ‘Compound Words in Political Articles of The Jakarta Post’ (Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta, 2019).

¹⁴ Devi Sisvandi, ‘Compound Words in the Health Column of The Jakarta Post’ (Universitas Negeri Jakarta Press, 2021).

¹⁵ Rina Octavianti, ‘An Analysis of Compound Words in Technology, Lifestyle, and Business Articles of The Jakarta Post’ (Universitas Udayana, Bali, Indonesia, 2021).

B. Research Question

Based on the issues discussed in the background of the study, the researcher formulates the following research questions to guide the analysis:

1. What types of compound nouns are found in selected *Time Magazine* articles?
2. What structures of compound nouns are formed in selected *Time Magazine* articles?
3. What meaning are conveyed through the use of compound nouns in the selected *Time Magazine* articles?

C. Purpose of the Study

Referring to the research questions above, this study is intended to achieve the following purposes

1. To identify and describe the types of compound nouns found in selected articles from *Time Magazine*.
2. To identify and describe the structures of compound nouns formed in selected articles from *Time Magazine*.
3. To identify the meaning conveyed through the use of compound nouns in selected *Time Magazine* articles.

D. Scope and Limitation

This study focuses on the morphological analysis of compound nouns found in selected articles from *Time Magazine*, a reputable international publication known for its credibility and well-established editorial standards. *Time Magazine* is selected as the primary data source because it provides authentic written texts produced by native English speakers, allowing the

researcher to analyze compound nouns as they naturally occur in high-proficiency journalistic discourse. Unlike local or instructional English texts, articles in *Time Magazine* present vocabulary choices that reflect real communicative needs, contemporary issues, and advanced language use. Thus, the magazine offers a rich linguistic environment suitable for investigating compound nouns in a context that mirrors genuine English usage beyond the classroom.

The analytical scope of this research is limited to examining compound nouns only, with attention directed toward three main elements: (1) the types of compound nouns, which include; endocentric and exocentric form, (2) the structural patterns of compound nouns, such as Noun + Noun, Verb + Noun, Noun + Verb, Adjective + Noun, Preposition + Noun, Adverb + Noun, Verb + Preposition, and Adjective + Verb; and (3) the contextual meanings of compound nouns as used within the selected articles. These aspects are investigated to provide a clearer and more comprehensive understanding of how compound nouns function morphologically and semantically in authentic texts. Other word-formation processes such as derivation, inflection, blending, clipping, acronyms, or compounding beyond the noun category are deliberately excluded to maintain a focused and manageable scope of analysis.

The articles included in this research are taken from three thematic areas: Lifestyle/Daily Life, Technology & Business, and Politics & Global Issues. These topics are chosen because they represent domains commonly associated with rapid conceptual development, high information density, and frequent

lexical innovation. Previous studies have shown that texts in these fields often contain a higher concentration of compound nouns, as they must efficiently describe new objects, emerging technologies, social practices, and political phenomena. By selecting these categories, the study aims to examine compound nouns within contexts where they are most productively and meaningfully used, thereby enhancing the relevance and depth of the morphological analysis.

Additionally, the study is limited to articles published within the last six months (September 2025 – January 2026) on TIME Magazine’s official website. This time frame is chosen to ensure that the linguistic data reflect recent and contemporary usage, acknowledging that vocabulary patterns especially in media discourse can shift in response to global events, technological advancements, and sociopolitical changes. Focusing on a recent publication period also strengthens the validity of the study by preventing outdated or obsolete linguistic forms from influencing the analysis. Only the editorial written content of the selected articles is included, while advertisements, captions, multimedia descriptions, and non-editorial sections are excluded to maintain consistency in genre, register, and linguistic focus.

E. Significance of the Study

1. Theoretically

Theoretically, this study is expected to contribute to the field of linguistics and illustrating how compound nouns function in authentic journalistic discourse, particularly morphological studies, by providing a more detailed understanding of compound nouns as one of the most

productive word-formation processes in English. By analyzing the types, structural patterns, and semantic functions of compound nouns in selected *Time Magazine* articles, this research offers empirical evidence on how compound nouns are formed and used in authentic, native-produced journalistic texts. Such findings are valuable for enriching the existing body of literature, as previous studies have tended to focus on compound words in general or on texts produced by non-native writers.

Additionally, the study strengthens theoretical discussions related to compounding by illustrating how compound nouns operate in real communicative contexts. The analysis not only describes their forms but also explains how meaning emerges from the combination of lexical elements within different thematic domains. This contributes to a more nuanced theoretical understanding of the relationship between word formation, semantics, and discourse. Furthermore, the findings may support future refinements or expansions of theories concerning English morphology, especially regarding compounding productivity, categorization, and contextual interpretations in modern journalistic writing.

2. Practically

Practically, the findings of this research are expected to be beneficial for several groups. For students and English learners, the study may support the development of vocabulary mastery, reading comprehension, and writing skills by helping them recognize compound nouns more effectively and understand how these forms contribute to meaning in authentic texts. Because

the analysis highlights not only the types and structures but also the contextual functions of compound nouns, learners can gain clearer insights into how compound forms express ideas, emphasize concepts, and enhance clarity in journalistic writing.

For teachers and educators, this research may serve as a reference in developing instructional materials and teaching strategies that integrate authentic texts such as magazines or online articles into the classroom. Such materials may help promote meaningful language exposure and encourage learners to interpret compound nouns based on real language use.

Lastly, for future researchers, this study provides useful data, methodological guidance, and literature support for conducting further research on morphology, media discourse, or lexical analysis. The findings may also inspire comparative studies across genres, time periods, or linguistic features, thereby promoting a deeper understanding of how word-formation processes function in contemporary English communication. Overall, this study bridges theoretical morphology and practical language learning by demonstrating how authentic media texts can serve as resources for understanding compound formation and meaning.

F. Definition of Key Terms

1. Morphology

Morphology is the branch of linguistics that studies the internal structure and formation of words. It examines how morphemes the smallest units of meaning combine to create complex words, including the processes

of compounding, derivation, and inflection.¹⁶ In this study, morphology refers specifically to the structural formation of compound nouns found in written texts.

2. Compound Word

A compound word is a lexical item formed by combining two or more independent words to create a new meaning.¹⁷ Compounding is one of the major word-formation processes in English. In this study, the term refers to compound words that appear in journalistic texts, particularly those classified as compound nouns.

3. Compound Noun

a. Definition of Compound Nouns

A compound noun is a type of compound word that functions as a noun and typically consists of two or more words combined to represent a single concept.¹⁸ For example, schoolteacher, health care, or well-being. In another research explain that, compound nouns are an important aspect of morphology because they show how English creates new words through the combination of lexical items.¹⁹ This study focuses specifically on analyzing compound nouns in terms of their structure, type, and contextual use in *Time Magazine* articles.

b. Structure of Compound Nouns

¹⁶ Francis Katamba. *English Words* (Taylor & Francis e-Library, 2005). Pp.3-5

¹⁷ Ingo Plag, *Word-Formation in English*, 2002. Pp.169-171

¹⁸ George Yule. *The Study of Language* (Cambridge University Press, 2006) pp.55-57

¹⁹ Francis Katamba. *English Words* (Taylor & Francis e-Library, 2005). Pp.29-31

The structure of compound nouns refers to the grammatical relationship between the elements that form the compound. In other words, it explains how two or more words combine to create a new noun that expresses a single concept.(1) According to Bauer and Plag, a compound noun generally consists of two lexical elements, namely the head and the modifier.(2) The head determines the overall meaning and grammatical category of the compound (typically the second element), while the modifier limits or specifies the meaning of the head. For example, in the word toothbrush, the element brush serves as the head (indicating the object's general category), whereas tooth functions as the modifier that defines its specific purpose.. Common patterns include :

1. Noun + Noun
2. Verb + Noun
3. Noun + Verb
4. Adjective + Noun
5. Preposition + Noun
6. Adverb + Noun

c. Type of Compound Nouns

In this study, the types of compound nouns refer to the classification of nominal compounds based on the concept of headedness. Compound nouns are categorized into two main types: endocentric and exocentric compounds.

An endocentric compound is a compound noun whose head is semantically and structurally present within the compound itself. In this type, the compound denotes a subtype of the head element. The rightmost constituent typically functions as the head and determines the grammatical category and core meaning of the compound. For example, a compound such as *toothbrush* refers to a type of *brush*, and *blackbird* refers to a type of *bird*. Therefore, the meaning of the compound can be interpreted as “a kind of X,” where X represents the head element.²⁰

An exocentric compound, on the other hand, is a compound noun whose meaning does not denote a subtype of either of its constituents. In this type, the semantic head is not overtly expressed within the compound. For instance, *pickpocket* does not refer to a type of *pocket*, but to a person who steals from pockets. Similarly, *redhead* does not refer to a type of *head*, but to a person with red hair. Thus, the meaning of exocentric compounds extends beyond the literal interpretation of their constituent elements.²¹

In this research, compound nouns identified in the selected *Time Magazine* articles are classified into endocentric and exocentric types based on their semantic and structural headedness.

4. *Time Magazine*

²⁰ Ingo Plag. *Word-Formation in English*, 2002 pp.185-189

²¹ Ingo Plag. pp.185-189

Time Magazine is a globally recognized English-language publication known for its professional journalistic standards and wide international readership. In this study, *Time Magazine* serves as the data source, with selected articles chosen from its lifestyle, health, and education sections to reflect contemporary, real-life English usage.²²

²² 'Time USA,LLC, "About Time".official website