

**BỘ GIÁO DỤC VÀ ĐÀO TẠO
TRƯỜNG ĐẠI HỌC DÂN LẬP HẢI PHÒNG**



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GRADUATION PAPER

**A STUDY ON COMPOUND NOUNS IN SOME FAMOUS
LITERATURE WORKS**

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HẢI PHÒNG 2009

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Sinh viên: Mã sinh viên:

Lớp: Ngành:

Tên đề tài:

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2. Các số liệu cần thiết kê, tính toán.
3. Địa điểm thực tập tốt nghiệp.

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1. Tinh thần và thái độ của sinh viên trong quá trình làm đề tài tốt nghiệp.

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1. Đánh giá chất lượng đề tài tốt nghiệp về các mặt thu thập và phân tích số liệu ban đầu, cơ sở lý luận chọn phương án tối ưu, cách tính toán chất lượng thuyết minh và bản vẽ, giá trị lý luận và thực tiễn của đề tài.

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Part one:

INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale of the study

English is considered as the most widely used language with more than 60% of the world population speaking this. It is also a second language that was taught commonly around the world. I, an English major, find it not easy but very interesting to study further this global language.

Students in the process of acquiring this language are always aware that it greatly contributes to bring different nations with different languages and culture close together. And, I myself realize that literature is not only of vital spiritual value of people but also serves as one of the best ways for better understanding between nations, especially in the globalization process.

However, the learners as well as the readers sometimes feel much confused about interpreting literary works thoroughly. The difficulties come from different factors including cultural, literary nuances, language in use, however, one of the parts that attract much of my attention is working on the functions language in use in literary works especially the working mechanism of compound nouns in famous literary works which during the preliminary research, I myself found prominent. This causes readers certain difficulties in understanding and perceiving literature works. Therefore, it drives me to conduct a more thorough study on the problem. I hope that from the comparative study between English and Vietnamese compound nouns in famous literary works, we can find similarities and also differences.

Therefore, the following study shows English learners not only the characteristics but also the usage of compound nouns in literature in order that this research may become effective.

2. Aims of the study

My research is aimed at:

- identifying the structure of compound nouns in some famous English and Vietnamese literary works
- finding out the frequency of compound nouns in English and Vietnamese literature works in order to hypothesize the presence of these nouns in literature
- providing learners some characteristics, classifications of compound nouns in order to facilitate the effective use of these nouns
- pointing out some differences between compound nouns and giving many useful examples to make my research become reliable.
- figuring out some difficulties and suggesting solutions to overcome.

3. Methods of the study

At the first time, I began to study English, I myself find that English is the most common used language in society. I have been trying my best to study for further fields of English. Thanks to the knowledge and experiences which I gain from my teachers as well as reference books I had read in the process of learning English and completed my graduation paper. These are some helpful sources:

First, data collected from literature books, newspapers both in English and Vietnamese as well as internet to have useful information about literature works.

Survey with questionnaire is also made to find out the feedback from students in their literary lessons in perceiving some difficulties.

The data is then analyzed to find out the frequency of compound nouns in English literary works so that the researcher can figure out the reason for their presence.

Furthermore, a comparative study is also made to identify the operating mechanism of compound nouns in English and Vietnamese literary works in order that effective measures can be put forth to deal with the problems possibly arisen in using compound nouns in English and Vietnamese literary works.

4. Scope of the study

Because of the knowledge, experiences, and time frame. I could not take a study on all related to compound nouns.

In addition, the matter word-formation is rather complex with different types including compound nouns.

Therefore, my reserch paper only focus on compound nouns in English literature works and Vietnamese equivalentents. Hopefully, my research will partly help students have an general overview on compound nouns and their effective use in such kind of works.

5. Design of the study

The study composes three parts in which the second part is the most important one.

The first, INTRODUCTION, presents about rationale, aims, methods, scope and design of the study.

The second, namely DEVELOPMENT, consists three following chapters:

Chapter one provides an overview of some theoretical concepts such as definition, criteria, and classification of compounds

Chapter two presents an investigation into compound nouns in literature works.

Chapter three highlights some possible problems faced by Vietnamese readers and learners of English literary works regarding the interpretation of compound nouns.

The third, CONCLUSION, summaries the study mentioned above and give some suggesions for futher study.

Part two: DEVELOPMENT

CHAPTER ONE: THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

1. An Overview of Compounding in English

1.1 Definition

Compounding (or word – composition) is the process of building a new word by joining two or more words together.

Eg: lady-killer schoolboy
 warm-hearted ear shell

1.2 Characteristic features

1.2.1 Structurally, a compound word consists of at least 2 root morphemes:

E.g: front-door sign-post
 coach-man gravel-walk

1.2.2 The components of a compound word

The components of a compound word may be either simple or derived words or even other compound words.

Dust-collector dry land
Easy-going earth-house

For exemple:

Blackboard ---> the components of the compounds “blackboard” consist of 2 simple words “black” and “board”.

Lady-killer---> the compound noun “lady-killer” consist of one simple word “lady” and one derived word “killer”.

Landscape-painter---> the components of this compounds are:

landscape(compound word)

painter(derived word)

1.2.3 The function of a compound word

A compound word can function in a sentence as separate lexical unit due to their integrity, semantic unity and so on.

1.2.4 Common English compounds

In general, English compounds have two stems that are:

+determinatum (basic part): express a general meaning

+determinant (determining part): the determining one

For example: end-product ear-finger
 diving-dress dream-land

In the example above, “product, dress, finger, land” express a general meaning thus being the basic part in the compound (determinatum)

The first part “end, diving, ear, dream” being the determining one (determinant)

Normally, the determinant is the first element in a compound but sometimes it is the second one.

E.g: passer-by
 hanger-on

passer and *hanger* is the determinatum (the basic part in the compounds), *by* and *on* is the determinant (the determining one). Grammatically, determinatum undergoes inflection

E.g: door-step ---> door-steps
 (to) handwash ---> handwashes, handwashed, handwashing
 fly-driver ---> fly-drivers

Concerning compound words there are still many problems that cause controversy, how to distinguish between compounds and free word groups, for example.

1.3. Criteria of compound nouns

1.3.1 Phonological criterion

- In English there is a great tendency to give compounds a heavy stress on the first element. Most compound nouns are stress on this pattern and the stress falls on the determinant.

E.g: ‘sunrise ‘woodwork ‘nightfall
 ‘teapot ‘drawingroom ‘gateman

In the example above, the stress fall on the first element (determinant) “sun, tea, wood, drawing, night, gate”.

- In free word groups, stress falls on every word

E.g: ‘dancing ‘girl
 ‘hot ‘head

- There are also many compound words which have double stress (even stress) :

E.g: ‘bread and ‘butter ‘carrier-‘pigeon
 ‘sleeping ‘bag ‘look-‘out (tram gac)

The compound nouns *bread and butter* stress both *bread* and *butter*

And, in the compound *gray-green* stress put in adjective *gray* and *green*

1.3.2. Inseparability criterion

The components of a compound word are indivisible (It is impossible to insert any other word between elements of a compound word)

E.g: black board (# black and white board)
 redtape (# red and white tape)

These elements lose their grammatical independence and endings are added to the whole word.

E.g: boy-friends doorsteps
 forget-me-nots armchairs

Sometime components of a compound can be separated like the case:

E.g: cigar and cigarette smokers
 women and man doctor

1.3.3 *Semantic criterion*

According to this criterion, Hoang Tat Truong state his views that “A compound word only express a single idea despite the fact that it consists of two or more words.

The meaning of the whole compound word is not the sum of the meanings of its components

For example:

Greenfood = vegetable

green food = food of green color

Similarity, *White hall* = English government

the hall painted white

And *black gold* = petroleum

gold with black color

1.3.4 *Graphic criterion (spelling criterion)*

This criterion means that we can rely on the spelling of a word group to discriminate between free word groups and compounds. In terms of graphic criterion, compound nouns are classified into 3 kinds:

1.3.4.1 *The “solid” or “closed”form (as one word)*

The “solid” or “closed” forms in which two usually moderately short words appear together as one. Solid compounds most likely consists of short units that often have been established in the language for a long time.

For example: housewife, lawsuit, wallpaper

The “close”form, in which the words are melded together:

Example: fortlight handmaid childlike

redhead

secondhand softball crosstown firefly

Sunstone stoneman makeup notebook

1.3.4.2. *The hyphenated form (two words joint with a hyphen)*

The hyphenated form means that two or more words are connected by a hyphen. The hyphen is often as a visual link, so as to make the distinction that is made in speech by stressing the first word of the compound.

E.g: dining – table dog - grass
 breech – sight (muc tieu) front - bench

Compounds that contain *affixes* as well as adjective-adjective, verb-verb are often hyphenated.

E.g: sign – writer blue-green
 double – acting freeze-dry

Compound that contain *articles, prepositions or conjunctions* are often hyphenated such as:

 ren-a-cop mother-of-pearl
 life-and-death sleight-of-hand

To be more specific, these are a few guidelines:

- Hyphenate two nouns in apposition that indicate different but equally important functions. The compounds constitutes a new, single idea.

E.g: tractor - trailer
 city– state

- Hyphenate normally written as two words when they are preceded by a modifier which might create an ambiguity.

E.g: public letter – writers # public writer

The expression “*public letter – writers*” clarify that the letter writers write for the public, rather than that they write letters that are of a public nature.

- Hyphenate compound units of measurement created by combining single units that stand in mathematical relationship to each other.

E.g: person – day
 Kilowatt – hour

- Noun + gerund compounds are not hyphenated. They may appear as separate or single words

E.g: shipbuiding
 decision making

- In compound adjective, hyphenated when attributive but not hyphenated when predicative:

E.g: They were *well-balanced* soldiers
 You have to be *well balanced* to cope with the stress of your job

- A hyphen is generally used to combine different parts of speech to form a compound

E.g set - minded man -of -war
 good -for -nothing woman- of- the town

- A hyphen is also used to avoid the ugliness in word-spelling

E.g: night-time

- When modifying a person with his or her age, the compounded phrase is hyphenated:

For example: my *six-year-old* son.

However, when the age comes after the person, we don't use a hyphen.

My son is six years old. He is, however, a six-year-old.

1.3.4.3 The open or spaced form (as two separate words)

The *open* or *spaced* form consisting of newer combinations of usually longer words.

E.g: drug store tea rose (cay thanh tra)
 dry land road safety

Notes:

- This criterion often causes argument as well. In English spelling, there is lack of consistency. Different people, different dictionaries have different spellings.

We may come across two ways of spelling “*bread and butter*”:

She earns her *bread and butter* by teaching evening classes

She earns her *bread - and -butter* by teaching evening classes

- Sometimes a word may be spelled in many ways:

E.g: night club = nightclub

 city central = citycentral

E.g:

 matchbox ----- match - box ----- match box

 airline ----- air - line ----- air line

 paperclip ----- paper- clip ----- paper clip

- It goes without saying that we can not base ourselves on only one criterion. It is usually necessary to refer to at least two or sometimes all these criteria to decide whether such and such word groups are compounds.

1.4 Classification of compound words

1.4.1 Classification according to the meaning

This classification can be call “semantic classification”. According to the meaning, compounds can be *non-idiomatic* (motivated) or *idiomatic* (non-motivated).

1.4.1.1 Non-idiomatic compounds (motivated)

The meaning of the whole word is easily deduced from the meanings of the components.

For example:

goal-keeper = player who stand in the goal

color-blind = person who can not see any thing

salesgirl = the girl whose occupation is to sell goods or merchandise

love story = the story about love

In some cases, they are partially non-idiomatic since the motivation is partial:

For example:

newspaper = A sheet of paper printed and distributed

mother-in-law = mother of one's wife or husband

However, in some cases, the semantic head is not explicitly expressed.

E.g: a *redhead* = a person with red hair, not a kind of head

1.4.1.2 Idiomatic compounds

Idiomatic compounds are those whose meanings can not be deduced because there is no relationship between the meanings of the components.

Lack of motivation in these words is related to figurative usage of their components:

For example:

monkey-business = buffoonery (there is no relationship between the meanings of "monkey" and "business")

teach-in = seminar, workshop (no relationship between the meaning of "teach" and "in")

lady killer = A gallant who captivates the hearts of women

He makes acquaintances with many people including girls who love him very much. It is true that he is a lady killer.

egghead = very intellectual person

blacksheep = person who brings shame to his family as in below example:

Jame's family is very famous for studiuos tradition. His sibilings all are studying in universities and receives schorlarships every year. But he has failed his extrance exam to become a student. He is certainly the blacksheep of his family.

Because idiomatic compounds are related to figurative usage of their components, It is very difficult for the learners to understand the meaning of these compounds that makes learners misunderstand and confuse when speaking with foreigners as in following example:

John: Nam, there is a *bluebottle* on the table.

Nam: Yes, I know. Why?

John: *Bluebottles* are dirty, you know?

Nam: Nonsense, I've washed it carefully.

In the dialogue below, the Vietnamese people make a mistake because a *bluebottle* here is a fly - one kind of insect which is very dirty and causes many diseases.

In some cases, It also creates a lot of jokes and funny as in a story below:

First women: That doctor is quite a *lady-killer*.

Second women (not very attentive): My God! I'd better go and see another.

The second women makes a mistake when thinking that doctor is a person killing many people, but in fact, he is a gallent who captivates the hearts of women.

1.4.2 Classification according to componental relationship

According to the connection between the components we have:

1.4.2.1 Coordinative compounds

Coordinative compounds are those who components are both structurally and semantically independent.

For example:

actor-manager = actor + manager (actor and manager are both structurally and semantically independent)

Also, *Anglo – Saxon* = Anglo + Saxon (Anglo and Saxon are both structurally and semantically independent)

To be more clearly, see some coodinative commpounds:

willy-nilly

fifty-fifty

hoity-toity

goody-goody

These coordinative components are not numerous but we can coin many for the sake of economy :

Parent-teacher (parent-teacher association)

Coordinative compounds combine elements with a similar meaning, and the meaning of compounds may be generalization instead of a specialization.

E.g: fighter-bomber

Bosnia-Herzegovina, for example, is the combined area of *Bosnia* and *Herzegovina* but a *Fighter-bomber* here is an aircraft that is both a *fighter* and a *bomber*

1.4.2.2 Subordinative compounds

Subordinative compound are those that are characterized by the domination of one component over the other.

The second component is the structural centre, the determinatum (the basic part). And the first component is the determinant (the determining one).

For example:

policman # stonman

structural centre

(police and stone are determinant, help policeman distinguish from stoneman)

Similarly, we can list some compound words

bookhouse = the publisher

boat house = a house for sheltering boats

big house = a prison

bake house = a house for baking

bath house = a bathroom

In the example above, house is the structural centre (the determinant - the basic part). We distinguish each from the others according to the determinant *book*, *boat*, *big*, *bake*, *bat*.

In terms of families of compound, there are many sets of compounds base on the same word. In such sets, the second element is the same, but its relationship with each member of its set likely to be different.

For example:

schoolboy = a boy attend a school

lowboy is not a boy who is short, is a chest of drawers not more than four feet high

Similarly, we have:

air bed = a bed is full of air

flower bed = is not a bed with flowers, is a place in which flowers are growing

In determinative compounds, the relationship is not attributive. These relationships are expressed by prepositions in English, be expressed by grammatical case in other languages

For example:

bookstore = is a store for book

lovestory = is a story about love

breath test = is a test of breathy

This type of compounds is called endocentric compounds because the semantic head is contained within the compound itself

bluewhale is a whale with blue color

office manager is the manager of an office

However, there is often vague borderline between coordinative and subordinative compounds.

1.4.3 Classification according to part of speech

According to the part of speech, compounds are classified as following:

	Nouns
	Adjectives
Compounds	Verbs
	Adverbs
	Prepositions
	Conjunction

1.4.3.1 Compound nouns

Compound nouns are the compounds that function as nouns

E.g: doorkey
 girl hunter

The structure of compound noun can be:

Noun + Noun:	dust-colector, frogman
Noun + Deverbal Noun:	sunrise, blood test
Noun + Verb:	hairdo, haircut
Verb + Noun:	flashlight, hangman
Verbal Noun + Noun:	cooking oil, baking powder, drawing paper
Noun + Verbal Noun:	dress making, day dreaming
Ajective + Noun:	dry-cleaner, easy chair, blackboard
Verb + Adverb:	take-off, breakthrough

1.4.3.2 Compound adjectives

Compound adjectives are those that function as adjectives

E.g: hot-tempered
 easy-going

The structure of the compound adjectives can be:

Noun + -ing participle:	man-eating, breath-taking
Noun+ -ed participle:	manmade, heartfelt
Adjective /Adverb+ -ing /ed participle:	good-looking, well-educated, empty-headed
Noun + Adjective:	class-conscious, duty-free
Adjective + Adjective:	deaf-mute, bitter-sweet
Adjective + Noun-ed:	big-bellied, big-headed

1.4.3.3 Compound verbs

Compound verbs are those that function as verbs

E.g: team-teach
 Whitewash

The structure of the compound verbs can be:

Noun + Verb:	sleep-walk, lip-read
Adjective + Verb:	whitewash, dry-clean
Verb + Verb:	crash-land, go-get

1.4.3.4 Compound Adverbs

Compound adverbs are those that function as adverbs:

E.g:	wholeheartedly
	herein

The structure of the compound adverbs can be:

Compound adjective + ly:	wholeheartedly
Adverb + Preposition:	therein, thereby
Adverb + Noun:	downstream, downtown
Noun + Adjective:	headlong, head most

1.4.3.5 Compound prepositions

Compound prepositions are those that function as prepositions

E.g:	onto, into, throughout
------	------------------------

The structure of the compound preposition can be:

Preposition + Preposition:	throughout
----------------------------	------------

1.4.3.6 Compound pronouns

Compound pronouns are those that function as the pronouns

E.g:	whosoever
	wherever

The structure of the compound pronouns can be:

Pronoun + participle:	whoever
-----------------------	---------

1.4.3.7 Compound conjunctions

Compound conjunctions are those that function as conjunctions

E.g:	meanwhile
	whereas

The structure of the compound conjunction can be:

Verb + Conjunction: meanwhile

Pronoun + Preposition: whereas

1.4.4 Classification according to the compositional types

According to the compositional types, we have:

juxtaposition

Compounds formed by: morphological means

 syntactical means

 morphological and syntactical means

1.4.4.1 Compounds form by juxtaposition (without any connecting elements)

E.g: backache store-keeper

 door-step heart broken

Also, In the compound “bookshelf” and “reading lamp” we can see that:

bookshelf = book + shelf (without any connecting elements)

reading lamp = reading + lamp (also without any connecting elements)

1.4.4.2 Compounds formed by morphological means (with vowel or consonant as a linking element)

E.g: statesman

 Spokesman

Compounds formed by morphological means using linking elements such as:

+ “s” in salesman spokesman

+ “o” in speedometer Afro-Asian

+ “i” in handicraft handiwork

1.4.4.3 Compounds formed by syntactical means (a group of words are condense to make one word)

E.g: merry-go-round up-to-date

 cash-and-carry up-and-up

 never-to-be happy-go-lucky

1.4.4.4 Compounds formed both by morphological and syntactical means

(phrase turn into compounds by mean of suffixes)

E.g:	long-legged	kind-hearted
	teenager	honeymooner
	thin-lipped	blue-eyed
	narrow-minded	short-sighted

1.4.5 Miscellanea of compounds

The type of compounds are extremely varied. A part from the ones previously investigated, there are some others that should be taken into consideration:

- Derivational compounds
- Reduplicative compounds
- Faded compounds
- Dead compound
- Compounds formed by prepositional adverbs

1.4.5.1 Derivational compounds

Derivational compounds are words whose structural integrity is ensured by a suffix:

For example: *go-better* (using a suffix “er”)

Ill -manner (also using am suffix “er”)

Similarity, we can list some:

one -stringed

seven -coloured

1.4.5.2 Reduplicative compounds

Reduplicative compounds are words built by immitating sounds or repeating one of there components in one way or another:

For example: tick- tack ping- pong hoity- toity
 chit-chat fifty- fifty bye- bye

1.4.5.3 Fade compounds

Fade compounds are words whose compositional characteristic have “fade ”and are hardly recognizable:

For example: breakfast
 Sunday

breakfast and *Sunday* look like a word than a compound word, it is very difficulty to recognize

This phenomenon is due to partial simplication (their meanings and pronunciations are completely simplified, only their spelling are not)

1.4.5.4 Dead compounds

Dead compounds are words whose compositional characteristics can be discovered by etymological analysis only:

For example: kidnap England
 husband

In the word “*kidnap*”, there are two components “*kid*” and “*nap*”
kid mean “*child*”, and *nap* used to mean “*steal, arrest*”

Similarity, *husband* = house + bond (master)

England = land of Angles

This phenomenon is due to complete simplification.

1.4.5.5 Compounds form by “prepositional adverbs”

Are words whose final elements are “preposition like adverbs” such as:

Do away with teach- in breakdown
Give up give in bring up
Look for look after put up with

Many linguists call them “the give- up type” because they are borderline case between compounds and set expressions.

The reason for our putting them here, in the category of compounding is that they are more “tightly- packed” units looking more like words than phrases.

Moreover, when dealing with verbs of this type linguists call them “two-word verbs” (although there may be there) or “phrasal verbs”. This means the whole group is one word – a verb. Such verbs can often turned into nouns by means of conversion:

For example:

To shake down	a shake down
To drop-out	a drop-out
To give away	a give-away

Chapter two:

AN INVESTIGATION INTO COMPOUND NOUNS IN SOME FAMOUS LITERATURE WORKS

1. An overview of compound nouns in literature

1. Types of compound nouns

Since English is a mostly analytic language, unlike most other Germanic languages, it creates compounds by concatenating words without case markers. As in other Germanic languages, the compounds may be arbitrarily long. However, this is obscured by the fact that the written representation of long compounds always contains blanks. Short compounds may be written in three different ways, which is presented very clearly in literary works:

- The "solid" or "closed" forms in which two usually moderately short words appear together as one

Example:

Within forty minutes her head was covered with tiny, close-lying curls that made her look wonderfully like a truant *schoolboy*.

(O. Henry _The Gift of the Magi ; 11)

Example:

On Monday, one of the *bargemen* connected with the revenue service, saw an empty floading down the Seine.

(Edgar Allan Poe _The Mystery of Marie Roget ; 116)

- The *hyphenated* form in which two or more words are connected by a hyphen

Example:

He would not cross the *door-stones* of the house, except at night, when he walked just like a ghost about the grounds and in the orchard as if he had lost his senses.

(Charlotte Bronte _Jane Eyre; 47)

Example:

I raised the latch of the door and peeped in at him opposite to it, sitting in the *chimney- corner*.

(Charles Dickens _Great Expectation ; 7)

- The *open* or *spaced* form consisting of newer combinations of usually longer words, such as *distance learning*, *player piano*, *lawn tennis*, etc

Example:

In a few seconds he had uncovered a mass of *human bones*, forming two complete skeletons, intermingled with several buttons of metal, and what appeared to be the dust of decayed woollen.

(The Gold Bug _Edgar Allan Poe; 15)

2. Analyzability (transparency)

In general, the meaning of a compound noun is a specialization of the meaning of its head. The modifier limits the meaning of the head. This is most obvious in descriptive compounds, also known as *karmadharaya* compounds, in which the modifier is used in an attributive or appositional manner. A *blackboard* is a particular kind of board, which is (generally) black, for instance

For example:

It was a species of *tableland*, near the summit of an almost inaccessible hill, densely wooded from base to pinnacle.

(Edgar Allan Poe _The Gold Bug ; 9)

The above type of compounds are called endocentric compounds because the semantic head is contained within the compound itself—a *tableland* is an elevated area of land .

However, in another common type of compounds, the exocentric (or bahuvrihi compound), the semantic head is not explicitly expressed. A *redhead*, for

example, is not a kind of head, but is a person with red hair. Or *dog- days* is not a day for dog, but is the hottest time in year.

For example:

In the *dog-days* his days have been the days of a dog.

(Edgar Allan Poe _ Loss of Breath; 245)

These types account for most compound nouns, but there are other, rarer types as well. *Coordinative, copulative* or *dvandva* compounds combine elements with a similar meaning, and the compound meaning may be a generalization instead of a specialization. *Day-by-day* and *go-go-go* are examples of this type of compound, which has more than one head.

II. The frequency of compound nouns in literature

Although there is no universally agreed-upon guideline regarding the use of compound words in the English languages. In recent decades, written English has displayed a noticeable trend toward increased use of compounds.

In general, compound nouns appear more often in literature work than other compounds. From a corpus of 20 famous literature works it is shown that compound nouns obtained from about 14 to 31 per 1000 words. Every writer has his/her different way with different times of using compound nouns.

2. Non-idiomatic and Idiomatic compound nouns

1.1 Non-idiomatic compound nouns

Non-idiomatic compound nouns is rather common in literature works

Example:

As I placed my foot upon the upper step of the *companion-ladder*, I was startled by a loud, humming noise, like that occasioned by the rapid revolution of a *mill-wheel*.

Khi bước lên bậc thang trên cùng, tôi giật mình bởi tiếng rì rầm rất lớn nghe như tiếng cối xay.

(Edgar Allan Poe _ MS. Found in a Bottle; 40)

Example:

I inquired about my aunt among the *boatmen* first and received various answers.

Lúc đầu tôi hỏi thăm những ngư dân về dì tôi, mỗi người trả lời một kiểu

(Charles Dickens _David Copperfield; 69)

Example:

We had birds, *gold-fish*, a fine dog, rabbits, a small monkey, and a cat.

Tôi có chim, cá vàng, một con chó rất xinh, có thỏ, có một con khỉ và một con mèo

(Edgar Allan Poe _The Black Cat ; 189)

Example:

I sat down on a *doorstep*, quite spent and exhausted with the efforts I had already made.

Tôi ngồi xuống bậc cửa, vừa mệt vừa đói với những gì tôi đã trải qua

(Charles Dickens _David Copperfield ;59)

According to the classification of meaning, Hoang Tat Truong indicates that the meaning of non-idiomatic compound nouns are easily deduced from the meaning of the components. It is not difficult for the reader guess the meaning.

In the short story “The Gift of The Magi”_O.Henry. There are about twenty-five compound nouns per 1000 words in which twenty one compound nouns re non-idiomatic compound nouns (their meaning can be deduced)

Example:

In the vestibule below was a *letter-box* into which no letter would go, and an electric button from which no moral finger could coax a ring.

Dưới tiền sảnh là hòm thư mà không ai thềm gửi đến và chuông cửa không ai thềm nhấn gọi bao giờ.

(O. Henry _ The Gift of the Magi ; 9)

Example:

There was a *pie-glass* between the windows of the room.

Có chiếc gương soi giữa các ô cửa sổ của căn phòng

(O. Henry _ The Gift of the Magi; 10)

Example:

Tomorrow would be *Christmast Day*, and she had only \$1.87 with which to buy Jim a present.

Ngày mai là Noel và cô chỉ còn một đồng tám mươi bảy xu để mua cho Jim một món quà.

(O. Henry _ The Gift of the Magi; 10)

Edgar Allan Poe – A great American writer is also an example with fifteen non-idiomatic compound nouns, but only has four idiomatic compound nouns that non-idiomatic compounds are used more common.

Example:

From billows a thousand times more stupendous than any I have ever seen, we glid away with the facility of the arrowy *sea-gull*.

Trên những con sóng to lớn gấp ngàn lần trước đây, chúng tôi lướt nhanh như loài én biển

(Edgar Allan Poe _MS. Found in a Bottle ; 39)

Example:

There is something in the unselfish and self-sacrificing love of a brute which go directly to the heart of him who has had frequent occasion to test the paltry *friendship* and gossamer fidelity of mere Man.

Trong tinh thần vị tha và tình thương đầy tinh thần hy sinh của con vật, có một cái gì đi thẳng vào lòng nó và thường tạo ra cơ hội để chứng minh tình bạn thấp kém và lòng trung thành rất mong manh của con người.

(Edgar Allan Poe_ The Black Cat; 189)

1.2 Idiomatic compound nouns

According to the study on some literature works, idiomatic compound nouns occur as not frequent as non-idiomatic compound nouns. This seem to be true for almost literature works with small frequency, only about three or even no idiomatic compounds in a work.

Example:

Mr Jagger's room was lighted by a *skylight* only

Căn phòng của ngài Jagger sáng lên nhờ ô cửa sổ trên trần nhà

(Great Expectation_Ch Charles Dickens)

The meaning of the compounds above is very difficult to realize. Because there is no relationship between the meaning of the component “*sky*” and “*light*” in compound nouns “*skylight*”. Their meaning is related to figurative usage of their components.

In a similar manner, “*negro-head*” in the following example is idiomatic compound nouns:

Example:

..., and going through one round of observances with his pipe and his *negro-head* and his jack-knife and his pack of card,

...đi quanh quan sát tẩu thuốc, thuốc lá, con dao và bộ bài của ông ta

(Great Expectation_Ch Charles Dickens)

2. Coordinative and subordinative compound nouns

2.1 Coordinative compound nouns

The components of coordinative compound nouns are not structurally and semantically independent. According to componental relationship, coordinative compound nouns are not numerous and sometimes appears in literature works.

Example:

Whereas I now found Barnard to be a disembodied spirit, or a fiction, and his inn the dingiest collection of shabby buildings ever squeezed together in a rank corner as a club for *Tom-cats*.

(Great Expectation_Ch Charles Dickens)

In the example above, “*Tom-cat*” here is a male cat that is both a *Tom* and a *cat*.

This coordinative compound nouns combined “*Tom*” and “*cat*” with a similar meaning that is generalization instead of specialization.

2.2 Subordinative compound nouns

Subordinative compound nouns are different from coordinative compound nouns that their meaning has dependent relationship between the components as the compound nouns “*eastern coast*” in the following example:

Example:

We got underway with a mere breath of wind, and for many days stood along the *eastern coast* of Java.

Chúng tôi lên đường khi có gió nhẹ, suốt nhiều ngày liền tàu vẫn còn đi gần bờ biển phía đông Java

(_Edgar Allan Poe _MS. Foun in a Bottle; 39)

“*coast*” is the determinatum that express general meaning while “*eastern*” is the determinant that can help distinguish the compound nouns “*eastern coast*” with “*western coast*”, “*southern coast*” or “*northern coast*”.

Similarity, we can list a lot of subordinative compound nouns:

Example:

But, there were no pigeons in the *dove-cot*, no horse in the stable, no pigs in the sty, no malt in the *store-house*, no smells of grain, and beer in the copper or vat.

Nhưng không có một chú chim nào trong tổ, một con ngựa hay lợn nào trong chuồng, không có mạch nha trong nhà kho, trong thùng cũng không có mùi gỗ hay mùi bia.

(Great Expectation _Charles Dickens)

Example:

Each time he left a trail of souvenirs-model tanks and Gurkha knives with handles cases, and German helmets and *cap badge*, and *butzensticks*, and all sorts of military equipment carefully stored away in a long box on top of the wardrobe, in case they ever came in handy.

Mỗi lần ông đều để lại một loạt những đồ kỹ niệm – xe thiết giáp nhỏ, dao thuộc loại dao bộ lạc Gurkha thường dùng có cán vỏ đạn, và mũ lính Đức, và phù hiệu gắn ở mũ, que đồng cài khuy áo và đủ đồ quân trang – xếp cẩn thận trong một chiếc hộp dài để trên nóc tủ áo cho dễ lấy khi nào hữu dụng.

(_Frank O’Corner _My Oedipus Complex; 22)

3. Word-class combination compound nouns

3.1 Noun – Noun compound nouns

Most natural languages have compound nouns. The positioning of the language, i. e. the most common order of constituents in phrases where nouns are modified by adjectives, by possessors, by other nouns, etc. However, Noun – Noun compounds are considered as more popular than others and is used frequently in many famous literature works.

Example: There was no *daylight* in the room, but it was all lighted up with candle.

Trong phòng không có ánh sáng nhưng nó được thắp sáng lên nhờ ngọn nến

(Great Expectation_ Charles Dickens)

Example:

A shriek had been heard by a neighbour during the night; suspicion of foul play had been aroused; information had been lodged at the *police office*, and they had been deputed to search the premises.

Một người hàng xóm nghe thấy tiếng la thất thanh trong đêm, sự việc ấy dẫn đến nghi vấn, cơ quan an ninh đã được báo tin, cử họ đến kiểm tra sơ bộ

(Edgar Allan Poe _The Tell-Tale Heart; 224)

Noun – Noun compound nouns is like an adjective that the first noun “day”, “police” describes or modifies the second noun “light”, “office”. The first nouns tell us the thing, idea, place or person.

Example:

I was sitting on the step of an empty shop at a *street corner*.

Tôi đang ngồi trên những bậc cửa của một cửa hàng ở góc phố

(Charles Dickens_ David Copperfield; 69)

Example:

In painting and gemany Fotunato, like his *country-men*, was a quack- but in the matter of old wines he was sincere.

Về hội họa và đá quý, Fortunato là tay bịp như đồng hương của anh ta, nhưng về rượu nho lâu năm anh ta quả thật là tay tổ.

(Edger Allan Poe_ The Cask of Amontillado; 202)

In the Noun-Noun structure, the second noun is sometimes made from a verb + “er”

Example:

There were buffoons, there were improvisatori, there were *ballet- dancers*, there were musicians, there were beauty, there were wine.

Có những anh hề, có người ứng khẩu, có diễn viên múa balê, có nhạc sĩ, có người đẹp và có cả tiệc rượu nữa

(Edgar Allan Poe_ The Masque of the Red Death; 197)

Example:

‘But I am not a *fortune- teller*’, he said

Anh ấy nói anh ấy không phải là thầy bói

(Great Expectation_ Charles Dickens)

3.2 Noun- Verb compound nouns

This kind of compound nouns consists of a noun + a verb or a noun + Ving that appear very often in literature .However, they seem tobe not as frequent as noun-noun compound nouns in literature.

Example:

“Don’t make mistake, Della,” he said “about me, I don’t think there’s any thing in the way of a *haircut* or a shave or a shampoo that make me like my girl any less. But if you’ll unwrap that package you may see why you had me going a while at first”

Anh nói: “Anh yêu em, Della, dù cho tóc em ngắn hay dài. Hãy mở cái này ra, em sẽ hiểu tại sao khi này anh sẵn sàng sờ đến vậy.”

(O.Henry_ The Gift of the Magi; 13)

Example:

The wonderful shock of feeling had come like the *earthquake* which shook the foundations of Paul and Silas's prison.

Cảm giác choáng váng giống như một trận động đất làm rung chuyển thành Paul và nhà tù Silas

(Charlotte Bronte _Jane Eyre; 40)

The noun- verb compound noun is usually used in literature works. It denotes a kind of action or a kind of stool.

Example:

While musing upon the singularity of my fate, I unwittingly daubed with a *tar- brush* the edges of a neatly- folded studding- sail which lay near me on a barrel.

Trong khi suy nghĩ miên man về số phận kỳ quặc của mình, tôi lơ đãng cầm chiếc bàn chà chải hắc ín bôi lên một tấm buồm phụ được xếp cẩn thận đặt trên một cái thùng tròn

(Edgar Allan Poe_ MS.Found in a Bottle; 44)

Example:

He was tried again for *prison- breaking*

Anh ấy cố gắng để vượt ngục lần nữa

(Great Expectation_ Charles Dickens)

3.3 Verb- Noun compound nouns

A type of compound that is fairly common in the Indo-European languages is formed of a verb and its object, and in effect transforms a simple verbal clause into a noun.

Verb- Noun compound nouns also occupies a large number of compound nouns using in literature works. The noun may stand in an Subject, Object, or Adverbial relation to the verb like the compound nouns "*hangman*". "*man*" stand in a subject relation to the verb "*hang*" as the above example:

Hangman = A person who hangs offender

Example:

Upon its head, with red extended mouth and solitary eye of fire, sat the hideous beast whose craft had seduced me into murder, and whose informing voice had consigned me to the *hangman*.

Trên đầu xác chết, con vật ghê tởm đang ngồi đó, với cái mồm mở rộng đồ ngẫu và con mắt cô độc như ngọn lửa, con vật mà thói tinh ranh của nó đã xúi tôi đi vào tội giết người và tiếng gọi báo tin của nó đã khép tôi thành người bị treo cổ.

(Edgar Allan Poe _The Black Cat; 196)

Also common in English is another type of verb-noun (or noun-verb) compounds, in which an argument of the verb is incorporated into the verb, which is then usually turned into a gerund, such as *breastfeeding*, *finger-pointing*, etc. The noun is often an instrumental complement. From these gerunds new verbs can be made: (*a mother*) *breastfeeds* (*a child*) and from them new compounds *mother-child breastfeeding*, etc

Some compound nouns consist of Ving + Noun (-ing form) is also called ‘gerund’, verbal noun, or ‘-ing noun’)

Example:

..... ‘as sure as there are a sea where the ship itself will grow in bulk like the *living body* of the seaman.’

..... “*Như trên đời này có một vùng biển mà ở đó những con tàu lại có thể phình lớn như thân thể của một thủy thủ*”.

(Edgar Allan Poe_ MS.Found in a Bottle; 45)

Example:

I paid especial attention to a large *writing-table* near which lay confusedly some miscellaneous letters and other papers with one or two musical instruments and a few books.

Tôi đặc biệt chú ý tới cái bàn ăn lớn gần chỗ anh ấy ngồi, trên đó là những bức thư, giấy tờ với những dụng cụ nhạc và một vài quyển sách

(The Purloined Letter _Edgar Allan Poe)

There is a purpose relation between what the noun and the action denoted by –ing form. The first word ends in –ing form, these are things used for doing something such as “*fishing-rod*”, “*frying-pan*”

Example:

He made many attempts to induce me to consent to an exchange; at one time coming out with a *fishing-rod*, at another with a fiddle, at another with a cocked hat, at another with a flute.

Ông ta cố gắng thuyết phục tôi trao đổi, đầu tiên là chiếc cần câu, sau là cây violông, mũ và cả ông sao nữa.

(Charles Dickens _David Copperfield; 66)

Example:

At 7 o’lock the coffee was made and the *frying-pan* was on the back of the stove hot and ready to cook the chops.

7 giờ cà phê đã pha xong, bếp và chảo đã chuẩn bị sẵn sàng cho bữa tối.

(O.Henry _The Gift of the Magi; 11)

3.4 Adjective- Noun compound nouns

This kind of compound nouns appears in literature very often. And the Adjective- noun compound nouns are constructed in a very simple way by combining adjective with noun such as:

Mad + man = madman

Sweet + cake = sweetcake

Example:

One evening, when father was coming in from work, I was playing trains in the front garden. I let on not to notice him; instead I pretended to be talking to myself, and said in a loud voice: “If another *bloody baby* comes into this house, I am going out.”

Một buổi tối, tôi đang chơi xe lửa ngoài vườn trước thì ba tôi đi làm về. Tôi vờ như không để ý đến ông, trái lại tôi làm như đang nói một mình và nói lớn: “Nếu có một đứa nhỏ khốn kiếp nào khác vào nhà này là mình bỏ đi liền.”

(Frank O. Connor _My Oedipus Complex; 33)

Example:

The second and the third day passed, and still my tormentor came not. One again, I breath as a *freeman*.

Ngày thứ hai, rồi ngày thứ ba trôi qua, con vật quấy rối tôi vẫn không đến. Lại một lần nữa tôi thở phào như một kẻ tự do.

(Edgar Allan Poe _The Black Cat; 195)

Example:

There were delirious fancies as the *madman* fashion

(Edgar Allan Poe _The Masque of the Red Death; 199)

Example:

The sun arose with a sickly *yellow lustre*, and clambered a very few degrees above the horizon- emitting no decisive light.

Mặt trời nhô lên với những tia sáng vàng vọt bệnh hoạn. Nó chỉ lê lên được chừng vài độ trên đường chân trời, không tỏa ra mấy chút ánh sáng.

(Edgar Allan Poe _MS. Found in a Bottle; 41)

3.5 Adjective – Verb compound nouns

Adjective – Verb compound nouns are sometimes used in literature with small frequency.

Example:

There were a *sharp cry* and the dagger chopped gleaming upon the sable carpet, upon which, in stantly afterwards, fell prostrate in death in the prince prospero.

Có tiếng kêu thất thanh của một vụ cãi vã, máu rơi trên thảm đen, sau đó có người chết sòng soài trên mặt đất

(Edgar Allan Poe_ The Masque of the Red Death; 201)

Example:

He has thought it sagacious to echo the *small- talk* of the lawyers, who, for the most part, content themselves with echoing the rectangular precepts of the courts.

(Edgar Allan Poe_ The Mystery of Marie Roget; 111)

3.6 Verb- Adverb compound nouns

Example 1:

It would be chance work to give an opinion how a fellow of that sort will turn out in such circumstances, because it is a *toss-up* between two results.

(Great Expectation_ Edgar Allan Poe)

Example:

‘No’, he acquiesced. ‘I heard it had happen every lately. I was rather on the *look-out* for good fortune then.

"Không", anh ấy đồng ý. "tôi nghe tin nó xảy ra trong thời gian gần đây. Tôi phân nào để phòng trước khi có chuyện gì xảy ra.

(Great Expectation_ Edgar Allan Poe)

4 Compositional types of compound nouns

4.1 Compound nouns formed by juxtaposition

In literature, many words in the short stories, novels or detective novels, etc are combined together to make a compound nouns without any connecting elements. By this way, compound nouns occupies a large number of compound nouns rather than other compositional types with about 17 per 21 compound nouns.

Example:

And there stood Mother in her *nightdress*, looking as if her heart was broken between us. I hoped she felt as she looked. It seemed to me that she deserved it all.

Và mẹ tôi cũng đứng đó trong chiếc áo ngủ, trông hình như bà bị tâm can vỡ xé giữa hai chúng tôi. Tôi mong muốn bà cũng có cảm nghĩ như về người của bà. Tôi thấy bà đáng chịu tất cả cái đó.

(Frank O'Connor_ My Oedipus Complex; 30)

Example:

I lift up my eyes to the window above it, where I saw a florid, pleasant- looking *gentleman*, with a grey head, who shut up one eye in a grotesque manner, nodded his head at me several times, shook it at me as often, laughed, and went away.

Tôi bèn ngược nhìn cửa kính tầng trên và nom thấy một người đàn ông vẻ mặt

đẽ ưa, nước da sáng và mái tóc hoa râm, nheo mắt với vẻ lộ bịch và có đến hai, ba lần ông ra cho tôi những dấu hiệu trái ngược nhau, lúc gật đầu, lúc lắc đầu, cuối cùng ông cất tiếng cười và bỏ đi.

(Charles Dickens_ David Copperfield; 71)

Example:

He entered, at some length, into what he conceived to be the nature of his malady. It was, he said, a constitutional and a *family evil*, and one for which he despaired to find a remedy- a mere nervous affection, he immediately added, which would undoubtedly soon pass off.

Rồi anh bắt đầu kể lể dài dòng về bệnh tật. Theo anh đó là một căn bệnh của dòng họ, không có thuốc nào chữa được. Nhưng rồi bỗng nhiên anh lại nói: đó chỉ là một căn bệnh đơn giản và sẽ qua nhanh thôi.

(Edgar Allan Poe_ The Fall of the House of Usher; 152)

Compound nouns is formed by this way is subordinative compound nouns. The first noun can indicate place (*corner shop, street market*), time (*Christmast day, tea time, evening paper*), material (*silver spoon, steel stone*), purpose (*frying pan*), people (*vegetable man, gentleman*)... of the second:

Example:

Pennies saved one and two at a time by bulldozing the grocer and the *vegetable man* and the butcher until one's cheeks burned with the silent imputation of parsimony that such close dealing implied.

Cô mừng cả mãi để mua hoa quả, thịt và rau rẻ nhất cho bữa ăn hàng ngày đến mức mà đôi khi phải cảm thấy xấu hổ vì sự nghèo khổ, tằn tiện của mình.

(O.Henry_ The Gift of the Magi; 9)

Example:

At *teatime*, "talking to Daddy" began again, complicated this time by the fact that he had an *evening paper* and every few minutes he put it down and told Mother something new out of it. I felt this was foul play.

Tới giờ uống trà, cuộc "nói chuyện với ba" lại bắt đầu, lần này sinh rắc rối thêm vì ông đọc một tờ báo xuất bản buổi chiều, và cứ vài phút ông lại đặt tờ

báo xuống và kể cho mẹ tôi điều gì mới lạ ở trong báo. Tôi thấy đó là một trò chơi không đàng hoàng.

(Frank O'Connor _My Oedipus; 25 Complex)

4.2 Compound nouns formed by morphological means

Compound nouns are formed by using vowel or consonant as a linking element such as “s”, “o”, “i”. However, compound nouns formed by this way is not common that occur very little in the literature.

Example:

Mr Pumblechook's premises in the High Street of the market town were of a peppercorny and farinaceous character, as the premises of a corn-chandler and *seedsman* should be.

Khu đất của Pumblechook trên đường cao tốc trên thị trấn trông toàn hạt điều, cây ngũ cốc và hứa hẹn sẽ thành nơi bán lẻ ngũ cốc và hạt giống.

(Great Expectation_ Charles Dickens; 23)

Example:

It was not necessary to explain everywhere that I had come into a handsome property; but whenever I said anything to that effect, it followed that the officiating *tradesman* ceased to have his attention diverted through the window by the High Street, And concentrated his mind upon me.

Tôi không cần phải nói là tôi có nhiều tài sản, nhưng bất cứ khi nào tôi nói điều gì liên quan về nó thì người giao hàng dồn hết sự chú ý vào tôi

(Great Expectation_ Charles Dickens)

In the example above, compound nouns “*seedsman*”, and “*tradesman*” use “s” as a linking element:

Seedsman = seed + “s” + man

Tradesman = trade + “s” + man

4.3 Compound nouns formed by syntatic means

Compound nouns formed by syntatic means that a group of words are condensed to make one word. These compound nouns is usually used in some literature works.

Example:

And here let me call your attention to the fact, that the time elapsing between the first ascertained (biet chac chan), and the second supposed elopementcho rang da chon di), is a few months more than the general period of the cruises of our *men-of-war*.

(The Mystery of Marie Roget_ Edgar Allan Poe)

Example:

My sister had a trenchant way of cutting our *bread-and-butter* for us, that never varied.

Chị gái tôi rất biết cách để chia bánh cho chúng tôi mà không bị thiên vị bao giờ

(Great Expectation_ Charles Dickens)

Example:

They were easy of innocent solution apart- as, for instant, some diner-out or *diner-at-home*

(Great Expectation_ Charles Dickens)

4.4 Compound nouns formed both by morphological and syntactical means

Phrases turned into compound nouns by mean of suffixes. These compound nouns is sometimes used with about 3 within 25 compound nouns per 1000 words .

Example:

He patronised Du Pont, the *bellows- maker*, and died miserably in attempting to smoke a cigar. His was a case in which I feel a deep interest- a lot in which I sincerely sympathise.

(Loss of Breath_ Edgar Allan Poe)

Example:

You will observe that the stories told are all about *money-seekers*, not about *money-finders*.

Bạn sẽ thấy được họ nói về người kiếm tiền chứ không phải người đi tìm tiền

(The Gold Bug_ Edgar Allan Poe)

5. Miscellanea of compound nouns**5.1 Derivational compound nouns**

The structural integrity is ensured by a suffix

Example:

It was sufficiently late in the year for the orchards to be ruddy with ripe apples; and in a few places the *hop-pickers* were already at work. I thought it was extremely beautiful, and made up my mind to sleep among the hops that night.

Vào cuối năm, vườn cây ăn quả với những trái táo chín đỏ, một vài người hái bulông đã làm việc rồi. Cảnh vật thật đẹp khiến tôi thiếp đi trong giấc ngủ tối hôm đó.

(David Copperfield_ Charles Dickens)

5.2 Reduplicative compound nouns

Word built by imitating or repeating the sound of their components. Compound nouns formed by this way is not used very often with one, two, or even zero per 1000 words.

For example:

Miss Havisham would often ask me in a whisper, or when we were alone, ‘Does she grow *prettier and prettier*, Pip?’

(Great Expectation_ Edgar Allan Poe)

5.3 Faded compound nouns

This type of compound nouns is difficult to recognize with small frequency.

Example:

I fell asleep beside her and woke again only when I heard her below in the kitchen, making the *breakfast*.

Tôi ngủ gục bên mẹ tôi và chỉ thức dậy khi tôi nghe thấy tiếng bà ở trong bếp dưới nhà, đang sửa soạn điếm tâm.

(My Oedipus Complex_ Frank O'Conner)

Example:

'Out of a *cupboard*', said I. 'And I saw pistols in it- and jam-and pill.

"Ngoài tủ đây", tôi nói, và thấy những khẩu súng lục và đạn đại bác trong đó

(Great Expectation_ Charles Dickens)

Example:

I remember that at a later period of my 'time', I used to stand about the churchyard on *Sunday* evenings when night was falling

Tôi nhớ là khoảng thời gian sau đó tôi thường đứng ở nghĩa trang vào tối chủ nhật khi màn đêm buông xuống

(Great Expectation_ Charles Dickens)

5.4 Dead compound nouns

Compositional characteristics can be discovered by etymological analysis.

Example:

'Perhaps she fell in love with her second *husband*', Mr. Dick suggested.

Ngài Dick nghĩ là cô ấy đã yêu người chồng thứ hai

(David Copperfield_ Charles Dickens)

Example:

Do you know, or do you not know, that the law of *England* supposes every man to be innocent until he is proved- proved- to be guilty?

Ngài có biết là luật pháp nước Anh cho là tất cả nam giới đều vô tội không cho tới khi biết họ là người phạm tội?

(Great Expectation_ Charles Dickens)

In the example above, compound nouns "*husband*", and "*England*" can be analysis etymologically:

Husband = house + bond

England = land of Angles

5.5 Compound nouns formed by prepositional adverbs

Compound nouns formed by prepositional adverbs make borderline between compound nouns and set expressions. These compound nouns are also not much in literature works.

For example:

I leaped out of bed in an ecstasy, overthrowing all in my way; dressed myself with a rapidity truly marvellous; And *set off*, at the top of my speed, for the doctor's.

Tôi nhảy ra khỏi giường, làm đổ cả mọi thứ, nhanh chóng mặc quần áo và lên đường với tốc lực cao nhất đối với một bác sĩ

(Some words with a Mummy_ Edgar Allan Poe)

CHAPTER THREE: IMPLICATION OF THE STUDY

1. The use of compound nouns and its effects in literature works

From a corpus of 20 famous literature works, it is shown that compound nouns obtained from about 14 to 31 per 1000 words with high frequency.

Yet it is important to note that, being a social phenomenon, language develops together with society. The vocabulary of a language is always in a state of constant development. As human society develops, literature is introduced to Viet Nam with various forms. Compound nouns are needed to express new ideas, new conceptions and new wants. Every writer has his/her different way with different times of using compound nouns.

2. Some considerations into the translation of compound nouns in literary works from English into Vietnamese

2.1 Translation idiomatic compound nouns

In English literary works, translating idiomatic compound nouns is considered the most difficult:

For example:

..., and going through one round of observances with his pipe and his *negro-head* and his jack-knife and his pack of card.

...đi quanh quan sát tàu thuốc, thuốc lá, con dao và bộ bài của ông ta

(Great Expectation_Ch Charles Dickens)

Negro-head here is not a head with black color, but is cigarette to smoke. When translating these idiomatic compound nouns, we have to pay attention for their meanings. Moreover, translating a famous literary work is rather difficult to express the thought and style of the writer effectly.

2.2 The differences between the translation and original

For example:

This I did by removing a small portion of the shifting-boards, in such a manner as to afford me a convenient retreat between the huge timbers of the ship.

Dỡ một mảnh ván cạp vách, tôi dễ dàng tạo được chỗ ẩn giữa những cột kèo đồ sộ của con tàu.

In the above example, many words in the original are not translated. “This I did by removing a small portion of the shifting-boards” is translated “Dỡ một mảnh ván cạp vách”, *shifting-boards* corresponding to *mảnh ván* in Vietnamese. Translating a sentence (including compound nouns) in a literary works is not the same between the translators. Each translator has different way of translating.

3. Common problems related to using compound nouns in some famous literature works

3.1 Some difficulties in recognizing and analysing compound nouns

3.1.1 In sufficient consistency of semantic criterion

According to the semantic criterion in 1.3.3, chapter one, “A compound noun only expresses a single idea despite the fact that it consists of two or more words”. This criterion is quite useful for identifying idiomatic compound nouns as in following example:

Mr Jagger’s room was lighted by a *skylight* only

Căn phòng của ngài Jagger sáng lên nhờ ô cửa sổ trên trần nhà

(Great Expectation_ Charles Dickens)

In the above example, *skylight* = a window in the ceiling or in the roof (no relationship between the meaning of “*sky*” and “*light*”)

However, we can also see that in a number of cases it is difficult to decide whether there is only one single idea. Therefore, basing on this criterion to classify non- idiomatic and idiomatic compound nouns can cause confusions.

3.1.2 In sufficient consistency of graphic criterion

In English, there are no specific rules about how to form a compound noun. One word may be spelt in all three ways: the closed form, hyphenated form and open form or in two ways: close form (*cottonwool*), and hyphenated form (*cotton- wool*) as in the following example:

She was freighted with *cotton- wool* and oil, from the Lachadive Islands.

Nó chở đầy bông vải và dầu ăn từ quần đảo Lachadi

(MS. Found in a Bottle_ Edgar Allan Poe)

We are often confused to identify which way compound nouns can be spelled.

3.2 Difficulties in distinguishing compound nouns and other word classes

3.2.1. Distinction between compound nouns and free word groups

English compound nouns are generally composed of free forms, therefore it is sometimes very difficult to distinguish them from free word groups. In this part, I'd like to give differences between compound nouns and free word groups.

3.2.1.1 Basing on phonological criterion

Most English compound nouns are noun phrases (= nominal phrases) that include a noun modified by adjectives or attributive nouns. How to know the differences between a word modified by an adjective and a compound noun is still a sophisticated problem when the compound is a combination of an adjective and a noun. It is easier to identify noun- noun compound (like *moonlight*), but still must pass the intonation below.

Stress is very important in pronunciation, also help to distinguish between a compound nouns (e.g: *redtape*) and an adjective with noun (e.g: *red tape*). If two words are pronounced with only one primary stress which falls on the first element (the determinant), they form a compound nouns. In adjective + noun compound, stress falls on the adjective.

For example:

This was the time for Wemmick to produce a little kettle, a tray of glass, and a *black bottle* with a porcelain- topped cork.

Đã đến lúc Wemmick làm một ấm đun nước, một khay đựng cốc, và một cái chai màu đen với nút bằng sứ

(Great Expectation_ Charles Dickens)

black **'bottle** = a bottle of black color (noun phrase)

'blackbottle = poison which cause the death (compound nouns)

Additionally, a noun modified by a gerund have even stresses (double stress). Only stress can help us understand the following example:

By "sweeps" were meant cylindrical *sweeping- brushes*, such as are

employed by those who clean chimneys.

(The Murder in the Rue Morgue_Edgar Allan Poe)

‘sweeping- brushes = brushes used to sweep

‘sweeping‘ brush = brushes that are sweeping

3.2.1.2 Basing on graphic criterion

This means that we can rely on the spelling of a word group to discriminate between free word groups and compound nouns. If that word group is spelt with a hyphen or with no separation at all, it is a compound.

Example:

During the whole of a dull, dark, and soundless day in the autumn of the year, when the clouds hung oppressively low in the heavens, I had been passing alone, on *horseback*, through a singularly dreary tract of country; and at length found myself, as the shades of evening drew on, within view of the melancholy House of Usher.

Vào một ngày thu lạnh lẽo, buồn tẻ, tôi một mình trên lưng ngựa tiến về phía ngôi nhà Acso. Khi đã đứng trước ngôi nhà tôi gần như xỉu hẳn đi. Tâm hồn tôi cũng buồn bã và tăm tối như bầu trời lúc đó. Lòng tôi thì u ám như những bức tường xám lạnh lẽo của ngôi nhà trước mắt.

(The Fall of the House Usher_ Edgar Allan Poe)

Example:

Our cable had, of course, parted like *pack-thread*, at the first breath of the hurricane, or we should have been instantaneously overwhelmed.

Dĩ nhiên sợi dây neo đã đứt phăng như một sợi dây cột đồ ngay từ khi đợt gió đầu tiên thổi tới, chứ nếu không chúng tôi đã chìm nghỉm rồi.

(MS. Found in a Bottle_ Edgar Allan Poe)

In contrast, If it is spelt with no hyphen or with separation, It is free word group. However, this criterion often cause argument as well. Because both compound nouns and free word group are spelt with separation (open form).

3.2.2. Distinction between compound nouns and derived words

Compound nouns are made from a combination of free morphemes. But derived words is formed by the addition of a suffix to an existing lexical word (the stem)

We discuss the following example:

Example:

The *Englishman* thinks it the voice of a *German*, and “does not understand German”.

(The Murders in the Rue Morgue_ Edgar Allan Poe)

In the example 1, “man” are independent words, having distinctive meaning, is just only a suffix. Therefore, *Englishman* and *German* is not always a man. Compared with “man” in “policeman”, “man” identifies the person, i.e: male. In this case, it is a compound noun.

“man”, “like”, “-monger”, “-wright”, “self”, “mini” etc. whereas “man” and “like” have great combining ability: workman, postman, Englishman, etc. Such words can be called “semi-affixed”. They have generalised lexical meaning and great ability to be combined with a great number of root

3.3. Others

3.3.1 Some mistakes and difficulties in forming plurals and possessives of compound nouns

3.3.1.1 Forming plurals

Most dictionaries will give variant spellings of compound plurals. When you have more than one truck filled with sand, do you have several truckfuls or trucksful? The dictionary will give you both, with the first spelling usually preferred. (And the same is true of teaspoonfuls, cupfuls, etc.)

The dictionary will help you discover that only one spelling is acceptable for some compounds — like *passersby*.

For hyphenated forms, the pluralizing *-s* is usually attached to the element that is actually being pluralized: daughters-in-law, half-moons, mayors-elect.

The *Chicago Manual of Style* says that "hyphenated and open compounds are regularly made plural by the addition of the plural inflection to the element that is subject to the change in number" and gives as examples "fathers-in-law," "sergeants-in-arms," "doctors of philosophy," and "courts-martial". The NYPL *Writer's Guide* puts it this way: "the most significant word — generally the noun — takes the plural form

This rule is also applied in literature work as in below example:

At the same moment the roaring noise of the water was completely drowned in a kind of shrill shriek- such a sound as you might imagine given out by the *waste-pipes* of many thousand *steam- vessels*, letting off their steam all together.

(A Descent into the Maelstrom_ Edgar Allan Poe)

The significant word may be at the beginning, middle, or end of the term". And then we get examples such as "attorneys at law," "bills of fare," chiefs of staff," notaries public," assistant attorneys general," "higher-ups," "also-rans," and "go-between."

3.3.1.2 Forming possessives

The possessive of a hyphenated compound is created by attaching an apostrophe -s to the end of the compound itself: my daughter-in-law's car, a friend of mine's car.

To create the possessive of pluralized *and* compounded forms, a writer is wise to avoid the apostrophe -s form and use an "of" phrase (the "post genitive") instead: the meeting of the daughters-in-law, the schedule of half-moons. Otherwise, the possessive form becomes downright weird: the daughters-in-law's meeting, friends of mine's cars.

For example:

I had ventured upon deck and thrown myself down, without attracting any notice, among a *pipe of ratlin- stuff* and old sails, in the bottom of the yawl.

Tôi đã mạo hiểm bước lên boong, nằm dài xuống giữa những đóng dây thừng và buồm cũ hoặc trong chiếc xuống nhỏ mà chẳng ai chú ý cả.

(MS. Found in a Bottle_Edgar Allan Poe)

One of the most difficult decisions to make about possessives and plurals of compound words occurs when you can't decide whether the first noun in a compound structure is acting as a noun that ought to be showing possession or as what is called an attributive noun, essentially an adjective. In other words, do we write that I am going to a writers conference or to a writers' conference?

The Chicago Style Manual suggests that if singular nouns can act as attributive nouns — *city* government, *tax* relief — then plural nouns should be able to act as attributive nouns: *consumers* group, *teachers* union. This principle is not universally endorsed, however, and writers must remember to be consistent within a document.

3.3.2 Misunderstanding of the meanings of compound nouns

Concerning to this problem, there are still many complications

According to “semantic classification”, compound nouns are classified into: non-idiomatic and idiomatic compound nouns.

We can guess the meaning of non-idiomatic compounds, because their meaning are easily deduced from the meanings of the components.

But, in term of idiomatic compound nouns, it is very difficult to recognize because there is no relationship between the meanings of the components.

For example:

Mr Jagger's room was lighted by a *skylight* only

Căn phòng của ngài Jagger sáng lên nhờ ô cửa sổ trên trần nhà

(Great Expectation_Ch Charles Dickens)

When idiomatic compound nouns appear in literature works, how to identify the exact meaning of the words makes learners get a troublesome problem, and misunderstand its meaning.

4. Some suggestions to problems

Talking about compounds in general and compound nouns in some famous literature works in particular, I think that many readers may get one of the problems above. In my research, I would like to suggest some solutions:

4.1 Distinguish compound nouns with noun modified with an adjective

Hoang Tat Truong indicated that we can't base ourselves on only one criterion. It is usually necessary to refer to at least two or sometimes all these criteria to decide whether such and such word groups are compound nouns.

Some criteria for the identification compound nouns:

- Phonological criterion: if two words are pronounced with only one primary stress which falls on the first word, they form a compounds
- Semantic criterion: if the combined meaning of two words is out of context, they are idiomatic compounds

Identify compound nouns basing on graphic criterion

We may be ambiguous with the problem of compound nouns and phrase, and where to use hyphenation. To deal with these problems, we can base on some guildes in 1.3.4 (chapter one)

If you are not sure, it better to write as two words, or put a hyphen between two words.

4.3 Other suggestions

Beside the suggestions above, we can list some:

- According to me, leaners should spend much time listening to the tape, dialogues and take part in some English clubs or class ativities in groups for practising pronunciation frequently.
- Finding compound nouns in some famous literature works and analysing they are compound nouns or not, and what kind of compound nouns they are. You can work with a partner or in groups especially effective.
- Noting and paying much attention to the rules of forming compound nouns.

4. It is not easily to know the meaning without looking up dictionaries, basing on contexts, or situations to guess the meanings especially idiomatic compound nouns.

I have listed some solutions for these problems that I had learnt from my teachers, books, internet, and myself experiences. With my research and some suggestions, I hope that my graduation paper will help you futher understand about compound nouns to master your English.

PART THREE:

CONCLUSION

1. Summary of the study

The paper presents a thorough look into the study on compound nouns in certain famous literature works in which a variety of issues are addressed. First, the researcher made attempts in finding out the frequency of compounds in literary works as well as hypothesizing the presence of these items in literature

Also, some relevant theoretical concepts including classification of compounds, an overview of compound nouns in English literary works and their usage and effects are presented in order to support the study thesis.

Each part in my graduation paper is mentioned its own content. The theoretical background knowledge about definition, criteria, and classification of compound words. In chapter two, I give an overview of compound nouns and an investigate the frequency of them in some famous literature works. It is also very useful to list some problems that learners used to across and give some suggestions.

In literature works, there are a great deal of compound nouns which are used very useful. In order to effect the communication among people from different cultures, English literature works are translated into many languages. However, the compound nouns cause many difficulties and confusion for literary translators, learners and readers in distinguishing and analysing. Hopfully, the paper is useful for who are interested in compound nouns.

In short, my research are very attentive and useful. The goal of this paper is to futher study to broaden knowledge, and help readers to master the English. I really want you support and give comment for my reseach in order to make it more effective than I expect.

2. Sugestion for futher study

As mentioned in the part of introduction, not every field in which compound nouns are used is covered in this study. The reseacher can only focus on certain famous literature works of some writers. She finds it only a small part in comparison with a variety of aspects of English rules and the number of stories.

I do hope to be able to study further the functions of compound nouns in literary works as well as cultural factors that may affect the use of this lexico-grammartical phenomenon.

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