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Compound Words in Spanish

Theory and history

María Irene Moyna

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COMPOUND WORDS IN SPANISH

THEORY AND HISTORY

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Texas A&M University

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List of abbreviations used

1	first person	GEN	genitive
2	second person	GendP	gender phrase
3	third person	Gr.	Greek
Ø	empty head	Hisp. Arab.	Hispano-Arabic
ACC	accusative	IMPERF	imperfective
ad	by the year	IND OBJ	indirect object
A, ADJ	adjective	It.	Italian
ADV	adverb	L	lexical [feature]
AdvP	adverbial phrase	Lat.	Latin
AgrP	agreement phrase	L.Lat.	Late Latin
AGT	agentive	lit.	literally
AN FUT	analytical future	MASC	masculine
AP	adjectival phrase	NEG	negation
Arab.	Arabic	N	noun
AspP	aspect phrase	NP	noun phrase
AuxP	auxiliary phrase	NumP	number phrase
c.	circa	Occ.	Occitan
Cast.	Castilian	PART	partitive
Cat.	Catalan	PartP	partitive phrase
CL	classifier	PERF	perfective
CONJ	conjunction	PERS-A	personal 'a' (direct object animacy marker)
DegP	degree phrase	PL	plural
DIM	diminutive	Port.	Portuguese
DIR OBJ	direct object	PP	prepositional phrase
DP	determiner phrase	PREP	preposition
Eng.	English	PRES	present
F	functional [feature]	PRET	preterite
FEM	feminine	QP	quantifier phrase
Fr.	French	Rom.	Romanian
Gal	Galician	SC	small clause

SG	singular	V	verb
Sp.	Spanish	VP	verb phrase
SUFF	suffix	WCM	word class marker
SYN FUT	synthetic future	WCMP	word class marker phrase
ThP	theme phrase	X	variable for lexical category
UNACC	unaccusative verb		

Abbreviated primary sources

Dictionaries and databases (for complete citations, cf. References)

A	Diccionario medieval español [Alonso Pedraz]
AD	Archivo Digital de Manuscritos y Textos Españoles [ADMYTE]
Au	Diccionario de Autoridades
C	Tesoro de la lengua castellana o española [Covarrubias]
CORDE	Corpus Diacrónico del Español
CREA	Corpus de Referencia del Español Actual
CS	Suplemento al Tesoro de la lengua castellana o española [Covarrubias]
G	Google
K&N	Diccionario de la Prosa Castellana de Alfonso X [Kasten & Nitti]
M	Diccionario de uso del español [Moliner]
N	Vocabulario romance en latín [Nebrija]
ON	Dictionary of the Spanish Contained in the Works of Antonio de Nebrija [O'Neill]
LHP	Léxico hispánico primitivo [Menéndez Pidal et al.]
DRAE	Diccionario de la lengua castellana por la Real Academia Española (1884)
S	Diccionario del español actual [Seco et al.]
T	Tentative Dictionary of Medieval Spanish [Kasten & Cody]
TL	Tesoro Lexicográfico de la Real Academia Española [Real Academia Española]

Texts

AC	Arte Cisoria
TC	Tratado de Cetrería
LAC	Libro de los Animales de Caza
LCA	Libro de la Caza de las Aves
LH	Libro de los Halcones
LM	Libro de la Montería
MDM	Menor Daño de Medicina
CR	Cirugía Rimada

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Preface & acknowledgments

To say that compounding has been of interest to linguists from the earliest times may sound trite, but it is true. This is evident, for example, in the nomenclature used to identify compound patterns, which is still based on choices made by Pāṇini some 2,500 years ago. Words like *dvandva*, *tatpuruṣa*, and *dvigu* may be mystifying and slightly frustrating to the non-initiate and complicated to typeset even with modern computer keyboards, but they have stood the test of time as a visible manifestation of the collective expertise on compounding accumulated for over two millennia.

Yet, it was not really until the second half of the 20th century that the descriptive accounts typical of earlier periods gave way to theoretical debates. Compounds became a hot topic, because they were possibly the clearest example of the kinds of problems faced by generative grammarians as they tried to tease apart the territories of morphology and syntax. Are compounds rule-generated or stored lexical objects? The more we consider the question with data from language acquisition and processing, the more the answer seems to be 'Yes'.

When I started working on compounding at the tail end of the 20th century, that debate was raging and in many ways, it still is. However, more recent studies have begun to look at compounds for what they are, rather than for what they have to say about the relationship between different modules of grammar. The past decade has seen the publication of a handbook devoted entirely to compounds, as well as works focused on specific compound patterns and their cross-linguistic similarities and differences. Moreover, there are new edited collections that consider compounding from interdisciplinary perspectives including typology, acquisition, and psycholinguistic processing.

For all that, the field still lacks a modern treatise on the historical development of compounding patterns in any given language. To be sure, there is an entire volume of the *Transactions of the Philological Society* devoted to compounding in historical languages (Volume 100, 2002), but the articles are not diachronic in the sense that they do not systematically document the evolution of compounding over time. The chapter in the *Oxford Handbook of Compounding* devoted to diachrony (Kastovsky 2009) presents a taxonomy of the compounding types in the Indo-European family, but it does not trace each pattern chronologically. This book comes to fill a descriptive and theoretical vacuum by taking a first stab at the topic with data from Spanish.

The title of the book is dual, because I expect it to have two main audiences. The first group of readers will probably be theoretical linguists who may come looking for

fresh data to prove one or another hypothesis. The second group will be made up of historical linguists who may seek in this book a description of the changes in the compounding patterns of Spanish. Because I cannot predict how much theoretical background historical linguists will have on the issue of compounding or how much theoretical linguists will agree with my point of departure, I have included a couple of chapters that lay down the theoretical basis for the rest of the book. Readers more interested in description may prefer to skip these chapters or simply scan them for specific information. My hope is that, whatever they opt to do, they will find the book useful and the story of compounding as fascinating and as puzzling as I still do, after all these years of working with them.

This book owes much to the help, inspiration, and encouragement of many people. My initial interest in compounds developed at the University of Florida, where I carried out my doctoral dissertation under the supervision of Gary Miller. I did extensive additional data collection and all of the writing while working at the Department of Hispanic Studies at Texas A&M University. I am grateful to our two department heads during that period, Víctor Arizpe and Larry Mitchell, for allowing me the time I needed to complete the project. I also gratefully acknowledge a stipend and time release granted by the TAMU Office of the Vice President for Research, through the Program to Enhance Scholarly and Creative Activities, and another grant from the Glasscock Center, which helped defray part of the cost of indexing this book.

If the first draft was a long-drawn and lonely effort, its many subsequent rewrites have been more collective and infinitely more enjoyable. First, I wish to thank my writing group at TAMU, organized by Prudence Merton. The members of the group provided the best non-expert feedback one could hope for, a generous supply of dark chocolate, and much needed comic relief and companionship over long months of work. I also wish to thank the linguists who have commented on portions of this work, in particular John Lipski, Esther Torrego, and Robert Smead. Israel Sanz carefully went over my Latin translations, and Steven Dworkin, Larry Mitchell, David Pharies, Juan Uriagereka, and Roger Wright read the entire manuscript and provided valuable feedback that improved its content and readability many times over. David Pharies must be thanked for believing that I would complete this project, at times when my own certainty flagged. For my first single-author book, I was very fortunate to have the guidance and gentle prodding of my editor, E.F.K. Koerner, the unfailing good will and assistance of Anke de Looper, who was in charge of the entire production process, and the collaboration of Do Mi Stauber, who drew up the index. I appreciate their useful suggestions and experience almost as much as their patience. I owe my largest debt of gratitude to my parents, Patrick Moyna and María Cristina Borthagaray, and to my daughter, Matilde Castro, who supported me in too many ways to count.

María Irene Moyna College Station, November 2010

I guess being an unsuccessful poet
isn't as attractive as it used to be.
But where's the risky spirit,
the headlong leap into the vast
unknown of love, where anything
and everything might happen? Where's
the wish to be surrounded by poems,
the great sustaining luxuries and dangers
of poems, or to make one's life itself
a poem, unpredictable, meaning
many things, a door into the other world
through which even a child might walk?
Words have such power, I wanted to tell her.
You never know what may come of them.
Or who will be the beneficiary.

From "On Love and Life Insurance: An argument" by John Brehm (reproduced by kind permission from the author).

Table of contents

List of figures xv
List of tables xvii
List of abbreviations used xxi
Preface & acknowledgments xxiii

Introduction 1
1. Overview 1
2. Structure of the book 2
3. Methodological considerations 6
4. Morphological change and compounds 7

CHAPTER 1
Definitions 11
1.1 Introduction: The problem with compounds 11
1.2 Some preliminary definitions 13
1.2.1 Words and lexemes 13
1.2.2 Internal structure of lexemes 14
1.2.3 Inflection and derivation 15
1.2.4 Functional and lexical categories 15
1.2.4.1 Prepositions and the lexical/functional distinction 16
1.2.4.2 Quantifiers and the lexical/functional distinction 18
1.2.4.3 Word class markers and the lexical/functional distinction 20
1.2.4.4 Verb/aspect vs. person/number as functional heads 22
1.2.5 The lexical/functional feature hypothesis 23
1.3 Definitional properties of compounds 24
1.3.1 Lexical input 24
1.3.1.1 Lexemes and stems in compounding 27
1.3.2 Lexical output 27
1.3.3 Syntactic internal relations 28
1.4 Properties of compounds 30
1.4.1 Fixity 30
1.4.2 Atomicity 31
1.4.3 Idiomaticity 32
1.4.4 Productivity 33
1.4.5 Recursion 33

1.5 Some exclusions by definition 34
1.5.1 Etymological compounds 35
1.5.2 Syntactic freezes 35
1.5.3 Idiomatic expressions 37
1.5.4 Phrasal constructions 38
1.6 Some exclusions by justified stipulation 41
1.6.1 Learned compounds 42
1.6.2 Proper names 43
1.7 Summary of chapter 44

CHAPTER 2
The internal structure of compounds 45
2.1 Preliminaries 45
2.2 Hierarchical compounds 46
2.2.1 Merge compounds 47
2.2.2 Predicative compounds 48
2.3 Concatenative compounds 49
2.4 Endocentricity and exocentricity 54
2.4.1 Headedness of hierarchical compounds 55
2.4.1.1 Some preliminary notions 57
2.4.1.2 Headship assignment in hierarchical compounds 59
2.4.1.3 Headedness and hyperonymy 61
2.5 Compounding and inflection 62
2.6 Meaning of compounds 64
2.7 Summary of chapter 65

CHAPTER 3
Finding compounds: Data sources, collection, and classification 67
3.1 Data sources and their limitations 67
3.2 Identification of compounds 72
3.2.1 Independent status of constituents 72
3.2.2 Compoundhood 74
3.2.2.1 Morphological evidence 74
3.2.2.2 Distributional evidence 74
3.2.2.3 Semantic evidence 76
3.2.2.4 Syntactic evidence 77
3.2.2.4.1 Structural tests 77
3.2.2.4.2 Frequency tests 79
3.2.3 Prosody and orthography 80
3.3 Historical periodization 82
3.3.1 Periods 82
3.3.2 Dating of compounds 83

3.4 Productivity 85
3.4.1 Measuring productivity 85
3.4.2 Limitations to productivity 87
3.4.3 Productivity vs. institutionalization 89
3.4.4 The representativeness of dictionary data 89
3.4.5 Academic folk etymologies 90
3.5 Classification of compounds 91
3.5.1 Lexical category 91
3.5.2 Headedness properties 93
3.5.3 Relationship between constituents 94
3.5.4 Internal structure of constituents 95
3.6 Summary of chapter 96

CHAPTER 4
Endocentric compounds with adverbial non-heads: Bienquerer, bienquisto, bienquerencia 99
4.1 The $[Adv + V]_V$ pattern: *Bienquerer* 99
4.1.1 Structure 100
4.1.1.1 Constituents 100
4.1.1.2 Compound structure 101
4.1.1.3 Compound meaning 102
4.1.2 Diachrony 103
4.1.2.1 Historical antecedents and comparative data 103
4.1.2.2 Frequency and productivity 104
4.1.2.3 Inseparability of constituents 105
4.1.2.4 Orthographic representation 107
4.1.2.5 Endocentric and exocentric uses 108
4.1.3 Special cases 109
4.2 The $[Adv + A]_A$ pattern: *Bienquisto* 109
4.2.1 Structure 110
4.2.1.1 Constituents 110
4.2.1.2 Compound structure 110
4.2.1.3 Compound meaning 111
4.2.2 Diachrony 112
4.2.2.1 Historical antecedents and comparative data 112
4.2.2.2 Frequency and productivity 113
4.2.2.3 Inseparability of constituents 113
4.2.2.4 Orthographic representation 115
4.2.2.5 Endocentric and exocentric uses 116
4.3 The $[Adv + N]_N$ pattern: *Bienquerencia* 116
4.3.1 Structure 117
4.3.1.1 Constituents 117

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4.3.1.2 Compound structure 117
4.3.1.3 Compound meaning 118
4.3.2 Diachrony 118
4.3.2.1 Historical antecedents and comparative data 118
4.3.2.2 Frequency and productivity 119
4.3.2.3 Inseparability of constituents 120
4.3.2.4 Orthographic representation 120
4.3.2.5 Endocentric and exocentric uses 121
4.4 Relationship between $[Adv + V]_V$, $[Adv + A]_A$, and $[Adv + N]_N$ compounds 121
4.5 Summary of chapter 124

CHAPTER 5
Endocentric compounds with nominal non-heads: Maniatar, manirroto, maniobra 125
5.1 The pattern $[N + V]_V$: *Maniatar* 125
5.1.1 Structure 126
5.1.1.1 Constituents 126
5.1.1.2 Compound structure 127
5.1.1.3 Compound meaning 129
5.1.2 Diachrony 129
5.1.2.1 Historical antecedents and comparative data 129
5.1.2.2 Frequency and productivity 130
5.1.2.3 Inseparability of constituents 131
5.1.2.4 Orthographic representation 131
5.1.2.5 Endocentric and exocentric uses 132
5.1.3 Special cases 132
5.2 The integral and deverbal $[N + A]_A$ patterns 132
5.2.1 Structure of integral $[N + A]_A$ compounds: *Manirroto* 133
5.2.1.1 Compound constituents 133
5.2.1.2 Compound structure 135
5.2.1.3 Compound meaning 140
5.2.2 Diachrony of integral compounds 140
5.2.2.1 Historical antecedents and comparative data 140
5.2.2.2 Frequency and productivity 141
5.2.2.3 Inseparability of constituents 142
5.2.2.4 Orthographic representation 143
5.2.2.5 Evolution of formal features 143
5.2.2.6 Evolution of meaning 145
5.2.2.7 Endocentric and exocentric uses 147
5.2.3 Structure of deverbal $[N + A]_A$ compounds: *Insulinodependiente* 147
5.2.3.1 Constituents 147

5.2.3.2 Compound structure 149
5.2.3.3 Compound meaning 150
5.2.4 Diachrony 150
5.2.4.1 Historical antecedents and comparative data 150
5.2.4.2 Frequency and productivity 151
5.2.4.3 Inseparability of constituents 152
5.2.4.4 Orthographic representation 153
5.2.4.5 Evolution of formal features 153
5.2.4.6 Endocentric and exocentric uses 154
5.2.4.7 Evolution of meaning 154
5.2.5 Special cases: Toponymic compounds 155
5.3 The deverbal $[N + N]_N$ pattern: *Maniobra* 156
5.3.1 Structure 156
5.3.1.1 Constituents 156
5.3.1.2 Compound structure 157
5.3.1.3 Compound meaning 158
5.3.2 Diachrony 158
5.3.2.1 Historical antecedents and comparative data 158
5.3.2.2 Frequency and productivity 158
5.3.2.3 Inseparability of constituents 159
5.3.2.4 Orthographic representation 159
5.3.2.5 Evolution of formal features 160
5.3.2.6 Endocentric and exocentric uses 160
5.4 Summary of chapter 160

CHAPTER 6
Endocentric compounds with nominal heads and nominal/adjectival modifiers: Pájaro campana, pavipollo, avetarda, falsa abeja 163
6.1 The head-initial $[N + N]_N$ pattern: *Pájaro campana* 163
6.1.1 Structure 164
6.1.1.1 Constituents 164
6.1.1.2 Compound structure 165
6.1.1.3 Compound meaning 167
6.1.2 Diachrony 167
6.1.2.1 Historical antecedents and comparative data 167
6.1.2.2 Frequency and productivity 168
6.1.2.3 Inseparability of constituents 169
6.1.2.4 Orthographic representation 170
6.1.2.5 Evolution of formal features 171
6.1.2.6 Exocentric and endocentric uses 173
6.1.3 Special cases 173

6.2 The head-final $[N + N]_N$ pattern: *Pavipollo* 173
6.2.1 Structure 174
6.2.1.1 Constituents 174
6.2.1.2 Compound structure 175
6.2.1.3 Compound meaning 176
6.2.2 Diachrony 177
6.2.2.1 Historical antecedents and comparative data 177
6.2.2.2 Frequency and productivity 178
6.2.2.3 Inseparability of constituents 179
6.2.2.4 Orthographic representation 179
6.2.2.5 Evolution of formal features 180
6.2.2.6 Endocentric and exocentric uses 181
6.3 The $[N + A]_N$ pattern: *Avetarda* 181
6.3.1 Structure 182
6.3.1.1 Constituents 182
6.3.1.2 Compound structure 183
6.3.1.3 Compound meaning 183
6.3.2 Diachrony 184
6.3.2.1 Historical antecedents and comparative data 184
6.3.2.2 Frequency and productivity 184
6.3.2.3 Inseparability of constituents 185
6.3.2.4 Orthographic representation 186
6.3.2.5 Evolution of formal features 187
6.3.2.6 Exocentric and endocentric uses 188
6.4 The $[A + N]_N$ pattern: *Falsa abeja* 188
6.4.1 Structure 189
6.4.1.1 Constituents 189
6.4.1.2 Compound structure 189
6.4.1.3 Compound meaning 190
6.4.2 Diachrony 191
6.4.2.1 Historical antecedents and comparative data 191
6.4.2.2 Frequency and productivity 191
6.4.2.3 Inseparability of constituents 192
6.4.2.4 Orthographic representation 194
6.4.2.5 Evolution of formal features 195
6.4.2.6 Endocentric and exocentric uses 196
6.5 Summary of chapter 196

CHAPTER 7
Exocentric patterns: Cuajaleche, mil leches 197
7.1 The $[V + N]_N$ pattern: *Cuajaleches* 198
7.1.1 Structure 198

7.1.1.1 Constituents 198
7.1.1.2 Compound structure 201
7.1.1.3 Compound meaning 202
7.1.2 Diachrony 204
7.1.2.1 Historical antecedents and comparative data 204
7.1.2.2 Frequency and productivity 206
7.1.2.3 Inseparability of constituents 207
7.1.2.4 Orthographic representation 207
7.1.2.5 Evolution of formal features 208
7.1.2.6 Evolution of meaning 210
7.1.2.7 Endocentric and exocentric uses 211
7.1.2.8 Special cases 212
7.2 The $[Q + N]_N$ pattern: *Mil leches* 212
7.2.1 Structure 212
7.2.1.1 Constituents 212
7.2.1.2 Compound structure 213
7.2.1.3 Compound meaning 214
7.2.2 Diachrony 215
7.2.2.1 Historical antecedents and comparative data 215
7.2.2.2 Frequency and productivity 215
7.2.2.3 Inseparability of constituents 216
7.2.2.4 Orthographic representation 217
7.2.2.5 Evolution of formal features 217
7.2.2.6 Endocentric and endocentric uses 217
7.2.2.7 Special cases 217
7.3 Summary of chapter 218

CHAPTER 8
Concatenative compounds: Ajoqueso, agridulce, subibaja, dieciséis 219
8.1 The $[N + N]_N$ concatenative pattern: *Ajoqueso* 219
8.1.1 Structure 220
8.1.1.1 Constituents 220
8.1.1.2 Compound structure 220
8.1.1.2.1 Structure and meaning of identificational concatenative compounds 220
8.1.1.2.2 Structure and meaning of additive compounds 223
8.1.1.2.3 Structure and meaning of hybrid dvandvas 224
8.1.2 Diachrony 225
8.1.2.1 Historical antecedents and comparative data 225
8.1.2.2 Frequency and productivity 226
8.1.2.3 Inseparability of constituents 227
8.1.2.4 Orthographic representation 227

8.1.2.5 Evolution of formal features 228
8.1.2.6 Endocentric and exocentric uses 231
8.1.2.7 Special cases 231
8.2 The $[A + A]_A$ concatenative pattern: *Agridulce* 232
8.2.1 Structure 233
8.2.1.1 Constituents 233
8.2.1.2 Compound structure 234
8.2.1.3 Compound meaning 235
8.2.2 Diachrony 237
8.2.2.1 Historical antecedents and comparative data 237
8.2.2.2 Frequency and productivity 237
8.2.2.3 Inseparability of constituents 238
8.2.2.4 Orthographic representation 240
8.2.2.5 Endocentric and exocentric uses 241
8.2.2.6 Special cases 242
8.3 The $[V + V]_N$ concatenative pattern: *Subibaja* 242
8.3.1 Structure 242
8.3.1.1 Constituents 242
8.3.1.2 Compound structure 243
8.3.1.3 Compound meaning 243
8.3.2 Diachrony 244
8.3.2.1 Historical antecedents and comparative data 244
8.3.2.2 Frequency and productivity 245
8.3.2.3 Inseparability of constituents 246
8.3.2.4 Orthographic representation 246
8.3.2.5 Endocentric and exocentric uses 247
8.4 The $[Q + Q]_Q$ concatenative pattern: *Dieciséis* 247
8.4.1 Structure 247
8.4.1.1 Constituents 247
8.4.1.2 Compound structure 247
8.4.1.3 Compound meaning 248
8.4.2 Diachrony 248
8.4.2.1 Historical antecedents and comparative data 248
8.4.2.2 Frequency and productivity 249
8.4.2.3 Inseparability of constituents 249
8.4.2.4 Orthographic representation 251
8.4.2.5 Endocentric and exocentric uses 251
8.5 Summary of chapter 251

CHAPTER 9
Historical developments in Spanish compounding 253
9.1 Introduction 254
9.2 Counting frequency or productivity? 255
9.3 Word order in syntax and in compounds 258
9.3.1 VO in Spanish syntax 258
9.3.2 Constituent order in compounds 259
9.3.3 Effect of the OV-to-VO shift on compound patterns 260
9.3.4 Effect of constituent order changes on individual compounds 262
9.3.5 Unchanged patterns 264
9.4 Morphological structure and constituent order 266
9.4.1 Two productive head-final patterns 266
9.4.2 Morphological structure and individual compounds 269
9.4.3 The word class marker and constituent order 270
9.5 The $[V + N]_N$ compound pattern 271
9.5.1 Productivity of $[V + N]_N$ 271
9.5.2 The acquisition of agentive deverbal compounds 273
9.5.3 Child acquisition and language change 274
9.6 Relative frequency of compound patterns 279
9.7 Endocentric and exocentric compounds 283
9.7.1 $[Q + N]_N$ compounds and exocentricity 285
9.7.2 Endocentricity/exocentricity of individual compounds 285
9.8 Remaining questions for compounding and beyond 287
9.8.1 What are the prosodic properties of Spanish compounds? 287
9.8.2 What is the status of linking vowels in compounding? 288
9.8.3 Do native speakers recognize the various types of concatenative compounds hypothesized? 288
9.8.4 What happens to compound patterns in situations of language contact? 288
9.8.5 Why is hierarchical compounding always binary? 289
9.8.6 Why is there a crosslinguistic preference for nominal compounding? 290
9.8.7 How can language acquisition data help explain language change? 290

References 293

APPENDIX 1
Compound dataset 303

Subject index 433
Word index 443

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