AN ANALYSIS OF ROAD SIGN TERMS FORMED BY COMPOSITIONAL METHOD

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Abstract: *Road signs are a critical communicative interface in modern transportation, demanding rapid and unambiguous information conveyance. This paper presents a linguistic analysis of English road sign terms formed through compositional methods, where multiple lexical units combine to create single, distinct semantic entities. The study investigates the systematic construction and interpretation of these multi-word expressions, aiming to illuminate the linguistic principles underpinning the creation of effective, concise, and universally understandable directives and warnings. Drawing on theories of word formation, particularly compounding as defined by scholars like V.V. Vinogradov, the analysis explores the morpho-syntactic patterns and semantic functions inherent in these specialized terms. The paper identifies prevalent grammatical structures in compositional road sign terms, including Adjective + Noun (e.g., "Two-way traffic"), Noun + Noun (e.g., "Road work"), "No" + Noun/Gerund (e.g., "No entry"), Verb + Noun/Adverb (e.g., "Turn left"), and more complex multi-word constructions. By examining these patterns, the study contributes to a broader understanding of specialized terminologies and the linguistic strategies employed in high-stakes, time-sensitive communication within the vital domain of traffic management and public safety.*

Key words: *Road Signs, Compositional Method, Linguistic Analysis, Terminology, Compounding, Grammatical Structures, Traffic Communication*

Road signs are everywhere, but we don't always think about the words they use. They're a really important way for us to get information on busy modern roads. For these signs to work well, they have to give us information quickly and very clearly. This need for speed and clarity really shapes how their words are chosen and put together. A lot of these special road sign words are compositional terms. This just means they are made by putting two or more smaller words together to create one single, clear meaning.

By investigating how these multi-word expressions are systematically constructed and interpreted, this analysis seeks to illuminate the linguistic principles that underpin the creation of effective, concise, and universally understandable directives and warnings in the vital domain of traffic management and public safety. Furthermore, this study will contribute to a broader understanding of specialized terminologies and the linguistic strategies employed in high-stakes, time-sensitive communication.

The term "compositional word formation" refers to word formation through the process of compounding, or combining words. In particular, two independent words combine in a specific grammatical form, and a grammatical connection between the combining words is evident. As a result of such a combination (connection), it is not a lexical unit, i.e., a lexeme, that is formed, but rather a syntactic unit – a phrase or a sentence.The main essence of this method is to form a new lexical unit from the combination of two or more words or word stems. In English language, this method is expressed through specific forms and phonetic means. V.V. Vinogradov defines compositional units as "a semantic and grammatical combination of two

or more stems". He considers this type of word formation a semantic synthesis that creates an independent semantic unit[1].

We are going to analysis English road signs terms formed by compositional way.

When we talk about "word addition" (or compounding), we're mostly using existing word stems as the basic building blocks. By joining these stems, and sometimes adding other parts, we create new compound words. Often, endings (affixes) are added to the whole combined word, like *in blue-eyed* (from blue + eye + -ed) or *dressmaker* (from dress + make + -er). However, the very first step in making these words is usually joining the core parts or stems (like *blue + eye* or *dress + make*). So, these original stems are the most important elements in forming the compound word.

Sometimes, it's a bit tricky to figure out exactly how a compound word is put together. For instance, think about "first-nighter" (someone attending a premiere), "out-of-towner" (someone from outside town), or the verb "to weekend" (to spend the weekend). Analyzing how these are formed helps us understand word creation. Even if their structure seems complex, these are still considered compound words. For example, words like *first-nighter* and *out-of-towner* are essentially derived from a compound phrase with an ending added (like *first-night + -er* or *out-of-town + er*).

This means that, structurally, not all compound words are made just by simply sticking two existing words together. Some common patterns for making compound words in English include:

adjective + noun + -ed (like *loud-voiced* from *loud + voice + -ed*, or *long-legged* from *long+ leg + -ed)*

noun + verb + -ing (like *hand-clapping* from *hand + clap + -ing)*

noun + verb + -er (like *party-giver* from *party + give + -er)*

When a compound word is formed, it's often describing a particular quality or aspect of something. The second part of the compound frequently determines the main meaning or type of thing being described. For example, in *stone-covered* (street), *mist-covered* (town), or *napkin-covered* (table), the *-covered* part tells us the general state. The first part of these compound adjectives (*stone, mist, napkin*) then specifies *what* is doing the covering or what the covering consists of, clarifying the property of the noun it describes.

In forming compound words, the meaning isn't always just determined by the second part. The first part can also be crucial. For example, in some compound nouns made of two nouns (noun + noun type), the first noun can define or specify the type of the second noun. Consider, for instance, different compound words that include the word "flower".

Compositional road sign terms are generally formed based on the following grammatical structures below:

Adjective + Noun combination: This is one of the most common types, indicating a characteristic or feature of an object or phenomenon expressed by the noun. For **example,** *Two-way traffic – two-way (adjective) + traffic (noun), Slippery road – slippery (adjective) + road (noun), Uneven road – uneven (adjective) + road (noun), Single track road – single track*

(compound adjective/adjectival phrase) + road (noun), Wild animals– wild (adjective) + animals (noun) National Speed Limit – national speed (compound adjective/adjectival phrase) + limit (noun).

Noun + Noun combination: In this type, two nouns combine to form a new, single concept. The first noun often defines or specifies the type of the second noun. **Ex:** *Road work – road (noun) + work (noun), Cycle route–cycle (noun) + route (noun), School crossing– school (noun) + crossing (noun), Traffic signals– traffic (noun) + signals (noun), Speed camera – speed (noun) + camera (noun), Petrol Station – petrol (noun) + station (noun).*

No + Noun/Gerund combination (Prohibitive terms): This type of combination indicates that a specific action or state is prohibited. Examples: *No entry– No + entry (noun), No U-turn – No + U-turn (noun), No overtaking – No + overtaking (gerund), No parking – No + parking (gerund).*

Verb + Noun/Adverb combination (Often indicating a command or direction): *Turn left (ahead) – Turn (verb) + left (adverb), Keep right – Keep (verb) + right (adverb), Give Way – Give (verb) + Way (noun).*

Complex compositional terms (consisting of three or more words): Such terms are used to provide more specific and detailed information. **Examples:** *Road narrows on left, No entry for vehicles carrying dangerous goods, Route for use by pedal cycles only (Faqat velosipedlar uchun mo'ljallangan yo'nalish), Shared route for pedal cycles and pedestrians only.*

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