

## COMPOUNDING FORMATION OF TAMIANG LANGUAGE

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### ABSTRACT

This paper describes preliminarily the compounding formation of Tamiang language. This paper is limited to the description of Tamiang Hulu Dialect (THD). The data used in this research are analyzed by using the structural model of IC analysis proposed by Carl James. This research has been limited to a synchronic study of language due to the time constraint, cost, and data availability. Furthermore, the researcher followed the Item and Arrangement (IA) process due to its strength and process. IA is a morpheme-based approach of word formation. IA also applies the IC analysis for the complex form of word. Besides, IA focuses on the process rather than the product. This research followed Qualitative method. The findings shows that THD has endocentric, exocentric, copulative, and "special" semantic types of compounding. THD has noun compounding with noun, verb, adjective, adverb, and preposition as non-heads. Then verb compounding occurred with verb also as a non-head. THD has both LHHR and RHHR headedness.

**Keywords:** Compound formation, semantic types, compounding patterns, Item and Arrangement, headedness.

### INTRODUCTION

Tamiang language is one of the regional languages in Indonesia spoken by language community in the North East of Aceh which directly borders with North Sumatra area, in a regency name Aceh Tamiang. The regency of Aceh Tamiang borders to East Aceh and Langkat regency, North Sumatra. This regency is the result of spreading from East Aceh.

Aceh Tamiang is the only area in Aceh Province (Nanggroe Aceh

Darussalam) which is dominated by Malay ethnic, instead of Acehnese itself, Gayonese, Javanese, Karonese and some other smaller ethnics.

Tamiang Language belongs to the Austronesian Language family with the classification of Malayo-Polynesian. The linguistic evidence has established Tamiang as one of the Melayic languages, a group including Malay and Minangkabau. Its closest Chamic relatives are acehnese, Phan Ram Cham, Western Cham, Chru, Haroi, Jarai, Hainan Cham and Roglai.

The main problem that concern in this research is the compounding formation of Tamiang Language spoken in the area of Tamiang Hulu, Kejuruan Muda, Kuala Simpang City, Sekrak and part of Karang Baru, Tenggulun and Rantau, or it is to be Tamiang Hulu Dialect.

The issue of compounding is a major problem that will be addressed in this research. The questions that direct this research are:

1. What are the semantic types of compounding occurred in THD.
2. What are the compounding patterns occurred in THD.

Answers to the questions appeared in the main problems are sought through the compounding formation of the Tamiang Language.

The detail objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To identify the semantic types of compounding in THD
2. To classify the compounding pattern in THD

Based on the reality that very few studies about Tamiang Language have been done, particularly in morphological level, so it is regarded important to do any research and produce theory and reference about Tamiang Language in

order to maintain and develop this language.

Next, an exhaustive study and explicit description of the affixation, reduplication and compounding system would be useful which it can serve as a source of reference for grammatical or linguistic purposes.

This research has been limited to a synchronic study of language due to the time constraint, cost, and data availability. Furthermore, the researcher followed the Item and Arrangement (IA) process due to its strength and process. IA is a morpheme-based approach of word formation. IA also applies the IC analysis for the complex form of word. Besides, IA focuses on the process rather than the product.

The data used in this research are analyzed by using James' structural model of IC analysis (see the next part), and Lado's procedure for comparing the dialect.

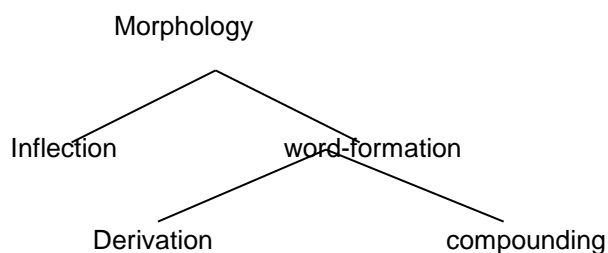
## LITERATURE REVIEW

Literature is relevant to a particular study when it considers the major issue at hand and the various positions offered. It

means to say that the literature review will be relevant if it will be fitted with the research need. Particularly, the relevant literature that is needed to be examined and discussed is on the problem of compounding.

Relevant literature is dependant on the object under study. The aspects of the language could be further specified into its phonological, morphological, syntactical, or semantical components. Specific aspects on these components could be further broken down. Having this in mind, the researcher examined literature on the study about compounding with its components.

This research focuses on the compounding formation, one of the morphological processes which allow to form words. Morphology, Nida (1976), is the study of morphemes and their arrangement in forming word. Varshney (1993) stated that morphology is the science and the study of the smallest grammatical units of language, and their formation into words, including inflection, derivation, and composition. The following is the scheme of morphological processes.



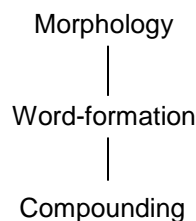
Inflection is any morphological process which refers to the attachment of an affix to a base which does not alter the word-class of the base to which it is attached. Such kind of affix is called inflectional affix. This kind of affix is not able to modify the form of a word so that it can fit into a particular syntactic slot. It can be seen in the instance of the words *locates*, *locating*, and *located*. The suffixes *-s*, *-ing*, and *-d* which are attached to the base *locate*, do not change the nature of *locate* as a verb. The suffixes function to make fit to grammatical need. While derivation is any morphological process which form words in different ways. It is also the attachment of an affix to a base,

but it can form a new word either changing the meaning of a base to which the affix is attached and changing the word-class that the base belongs to (Katamba, 1994). The examples of the words *location*, *locative*, and *dislocate* show that the suffixes *-ion*, *-ive*, and prefix *dis-* change the word class of the base and enable us to derive new word. Compounding refers to the process in which word contains at least two bases which occupy full, single grammatical slot in sentences. Marchand (1969, in Linguistic Encyclopedia) talks of compounding as occurring when two or more words combine into a morphological unit. Examples of compounds are

*blackmail, bathroom, skyscraper, and gearbox.* They function to all intents and purposes like single words: if the room where I have my bath is old it is an *old bathroom*, not a *\*bath old room*. Like single words they will be spoken with only one stress, and any inflectional suffixes will occur at the end of the whole unit (*bathrooms*, not *\*bathsroom*). Compounds may be formed with elements from any word-class but, in English at least, noun + noun compounds are the most common and are very productive; verb + verb compounds are very view. Next we will analyze how compounds exist in Tamiang language.

However, it seems that languages which belong to Austronesian family language as Malay language and Bahasa Indonesia do not recognize any inflectional process to form words. As proposed by Abdullah Hasan (1974), word formations in Malay language are formed from the processes of affixation,

reduplication, and compounding. If we refer back to what happen in English, affixation may belong to derivational process because it carries the derivational characteristics; it is able to change the meaning and the word-class. Chaer (2008) proposes that “sejauh ini alat pembentuk dalam proses morfologi adalah (a) afiks dalam proses afiksasi, (b) pengulangan dalam proses reduplikasi, (c) penggabungan dalam proses komposisi, (d) pemendekan atau penyingkatan dalam proses akronimisasi, dan (e) perubahan status dalam proses konversi”. From the two statements above, it can be summed up that at least Malay, it which Tamiang has related to, has affixation, reduplication and compounding processes of word-formation. Here, the researcher only focuses on the compounding formation. To make clear, we may see the following scheme.



In linguistics, a **compound** is a lexeme (less precisely, a word) that consists of more than one stem. **Compounding** or **composition** is the word-formation that creates compound lexemes (the other word-formation process being derivation). **Compounding** or **Word-compounding** refers to the faculty and device of language to form new words by combining or putting together old words. In other words, **compound, compounding** or **word-compounding** occurs when a person attaches two or more words together to make them one word. The meanings of the words interrelate in such a way that a new meaning comes out which is very different from the meanings of the words in isolation.

This definition contains two crucial assumptions, the first being that compounds consists of two or more elements, the second being that these elements are words.

Then, as stated above, compounding is the combining of two base forms together to form a new word. New words (Fromkin, 1990. in Sibarani, 2002) may be formed by stringing together other words to create compound words. The compounds, as the result of the combining of the base forms, may be nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs or other form classes. The types of compounds are therefore classified in accordance with them. There is almost no limit on the kind of combinations that occur in English as the list of compounds show.

**Noun + noun**

Time bomb  
Boy-friend

**Verb + noun**

Breakfast  
Pickpocket

**Noun + verb**

Sunshine  
Birth control

**adjective + noun**

fast food  
software

**phrase compound**

son-in-law  
dog-in-the-manager  
etc.

**Subclasses**

Plag (2002) proposed classification of compounding into two. They are:

**Semantic classification**

Compounding can be classified semantically into:

- endocentric
- exocentric (also bahuvrihi)
- copulative (also dvandva), divided into:
  - a. appositional compound
  - b. coordinative compound

**An endocentric compound**

consists of a *head*, i.e. the categorical part that contains the basic meaning of the whole compound, and modifiers, which restrict this meaning. For example, the English compound *doghouse*, where *house* is the head and *dog* is the modifier, is understood as a house intended for a dog. Endocentric compounds tend to be of the same part of speech (word class) as their head, as in the case of *doghouse*. (Such compounds were called *tatpuruṣa* in the Sanskrit tradition.)

**Exocentric compounds** (called a *bahuvrihi* compound in the Sanskrit tradition) do not have a head, and their meaning often cannot be transparently guessed from its constituent parts. For example, the English compound *white-collar* is neither a kind of collar nor a white thing. In an exocentric compound, the word class is determined lexically, disregarding the class of the constituents. For example, a *must-have* is not a verb but a noun. The meaning of this type of compound can be glossed as "(one) whose B is A", where B is the second element of the compound and A the first. A bahuvrihi compound is one whose nature is expressed by neither of the words: thus a *white-collar* person is neither white nor a collar (the collar's colour is a metaphor for socioeconomic

status). Other English examples include *barefoot* and *Blackbeard*.

**Copulative compounds** are compounds which have two semantic heads. Both sets of words are characterized by the fact that none of the two members of the compound seems in any sense more important than the other. They could be said to have two semantic heads, none of them being subordinate to the other. Given that no member is semantically prominent, but both members equally contribute to the meaning of the compound, these compounds have been labeled copulative compounds (or *dvandva* compounds in Sanskrit grammarian terms).

- a. singer-songwriter  
scientist-explorer  
poet-translator  
hero-martyr
- b. the doctor-patient gap  
the nature-nurture debate  
a modifier-head structure  
the mind-body problem

The data above are separated into two. The idea behind this differentiation is that copulatives fall into two classes, depending on their interpretation. Each form in [a] refers to one entity that is characterized by both members of the compound. A *poet-translator*, for example, is a person who is both as a *poet* and a *translator*. This type of copulative compound is sometimes called **appositional compound**. By contrast, [b] denotes two entities that stand in a particular relationship with regard to the following noun. The particular type of relationship is determined by the following noun. The *doctor-patient gap* is thus a gap between doctor and patient. This second type of copulative is also known as **coordinative compound**.

Type	Description	Examples
<b>Endocentric</b>	A+B denotes a special kind of B	<i>darkroom, smalltalk</i>
<b>Exocentric</b>	A+B denotes a special kind of an unexpressed semantic head	<i>skinhead, paleface</i> (head: 'person')
<b>Copulative</b>	A+B denotes 'the sum' of what A and B denote	<i>bittersweet, sleepwalk</i>

### Formal classification

#### Noun compounds

Most natural languages have compound nouns. The positioning of the words (i. e. the most common order of constituents in phrases where nouns are modified by adjectives, by possessors, by other nouns, etc) varies according to the language.

#### Verb compounds

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.

Also common in English is another type of verb-noun (or noun-verb) compound, 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.

#### Preposition Compound

Compound prepositions formed by prepositions and nouns are common in English and the Romance languages (consider English *on top of*, Spanish *encima de*, etc.). Japanese shows the same pattern, except the word order is the opposite (with postpositions).

#### Compounds VS Phrases

Some differences could be determined from compounds and phrases, they are:

1. Some processes can not see inside the compound, but only up to the head.  
Plural formation: [classroom light]-s  
NOT classrooms light(s)
2. Words inside a phrase can be affected by grammatical processes:

*Light truck – lighter truck*

3. Some compounds acquire new meanings and new pronunciations. Compounds tend to have stress pattern that is different from that of phrases. That is especially true for nominal compounds. While phrases tend to be stressed on the last element, compounds tend to be stressed on the first.
  - a. noun phrases:  
[the green carpet], [this new house], [such a good job]
  - b. nominal compounds  
[payment problems], [installation guide], [space requirement]
4. Plag (2002) stated that some sequences are not available as phrases, eg. NN sequences are not normally allowed; the compounding rule enables their use.

### METHODOLOGY

This research will follow qualitative method. This method is a procedure conducted to obtain descriptive data, written or spoken form from a language community. The qualitative approach which involves spoken data in the language community will get involved with the information of native speaker from a language being analyzed.

The research performs a conversation between the research and the informant. Data are taken from the use of language in spoken form. Interview had been conducted under the guidance of the question list provided. All the questions were in Bahasa Indonesia. And the researcher asked the informant to find the equal words or answer the questions in THD. This approach touched the informant of the language community directly and entirely. With this reason, in language research, the number of informant can be regarded as the macro cosmos of its language community. For the sake of the purpose of the analysis,

the number of informants can be determined according to the need of the analysis (Djadjasudarma, 1993)

The data collection is in the form of words, phrases, or sentences. It is because of the qualitative method. Thus, this qualitative method is to describe the data characteristics accurately.

This research followed the model of analyzing the data adopted from Carl James' theory (1980). He proposed an analytic technique developed by the structuralists called the Immediate Constituent (IC) analysis. He further explained:

"The claim is that any grammatical construction which is not "simple"(which does not consist of only one element) can be reduced to pairs of constituents: so a construction like disgraceful is analyzed into disgrace + ful, while seemingly identical ungraceful reduces to un + graceful. In other words, given a construction made up of the parts ABC, it will be analyzable as either AB + C or A + BC. The same procedure applies to larger construction..." (James, 1980: 36).

Thus, under the structural model, linguistic data can be classified according to contrast, distribution and formal characteristics. It is based on an Item and Arrangement (IA) model as Hockett (1954) termed them. It is the approach of this research. Carl James (1980) then emphasized the importance of distribution or what naturally "goes with" what in the structural model. For example, the compound word like house keeper is capable of two analysis (AB + C or A + BC) and the decision which analysis is appropriate is determined by what goes with what.

The research was conducted in Aceh Tamiang in which the society uses Tamiang Language, Tamiang Hulu Dialect, they are: Tamiang Hulu, Kejuruan Muda, Kuala Simpang City, Sekerak, parts of Karang Baru, Tenggulun, and Rantau.

The criteria for the selection of information are based on the desire to get at a dialect that has not had influence from the neighboring dialects or

languages. It should be realized that Tamiang Hulu Dialect borders with Tamiang Hilir Dialect, Acehnesse, Gayonese and some other languages like Javanese, Karonese and Chinese which exist in Aceh Tamiang regency.

The criteria of the informants are adopted from Mahsun (2005) and Umaiya (1999).

1. Male or Female, aged 40 to 65 years old.
2. The informants come from middle or lower social status or even never leaved the village
3. The informant had a high appreciation to his/her own language
4. The informant should be healthy physically and mentally.

The data used in this research were both primary and secondary data. The primary data were the spoken form taken from the informants. Each area provided informants according to the research need. It was in the form of conversation and narrative text (Durie, 1985) and oral tradition as folktale, mythology, legends, custom proverb, beliefs (Asmah Hj Omar, 1985).

At the stage of collecting the data, the researcher adopted what Mark Durie (1985) had ever conducted when he did an analysis about the grammar of Acehnesse, and from Asmah Hj Omar (1985) "The ideal thing for the linguist to do is to participate in verbal communication among the speakers of the language he is working on". I preferred to collect data from a conversation and recorded narrative text.

## FINDINGS

### Endocentric Compounding

This compounding follows the DM rule (Head-Modifier). It means the second element modifies the first element. These compounds have their semantic head inside the compound, which is the reason why these compounds are called endocentric compounds. Some data which show this type are:

- [1] anak belo  
Child adopt  
"adopted child"

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| [2] ayor susu<br>Water milk<br>"milk"                        | [9] kaseh sayang<br>Love           |
| [3] tanda tangan<br>Sign hand<br>"signature"                 | [10] rindu dendam<br>Miss revenge  |
| [4] wali koto<br>Representative town<br>"Mayor"              | [11] tukak bantal<br>Change pillow |
| [5] tukang mah<br>Make(r)-Agnt Gold<br>"golden maker"        | [12] turun naik<br>Up down         |
| [6] mah kawin<br>Gold wed<br>"wedding ring"                  | [13] mudo belio<br>Young teen      |
| [7] duik muko<br>Money in front of (prep.)<br>"down payment" | [14] buah hati<br>fruit heart      |
|  | [15] bongka pasang<br>unload fix   |

The data above denote a subclass of the referents of the head: *anak belo* is a kind of *anak* (child), *ayor susu* is a kind of *ayor* (water), *wali koto* is a kind of *wali* (representative), *tukang mah* is a kind of *tukang* (maker), and *mah kawin* is a kind of *mah* (gold). *Duik muko* is a kind of *duik* (money).

#### Exocentric Compounding

Exocentric means literally 'out-centred'. The 'centre' (head) is not in the compound. Its semantics is strikingly deviant. The datum from the preliminary research can be seen below:

- [8] mengurak sela

It is seen that there is no semantic head in the data above. Both elements denote a new meaning. *Mengurak sela* is not a kind of *sela*, but it is a kind of action to ask permission to go away.

#### Copulative Compound

Copulative could also be said to have two semantic heads, none of them being subordinate to the other. No member is semantically prominent, but both members equally contribute to the meaning of the compound. This compound is also been labeled dvandva compounds in Sanskrit grammarian terms. See below:

The data above denote two semantic heads from the two elements of compounding. *Kaseh* is not being subordinate to *sayang* and vice versa. *Rindu* is also not being dependent to *dendam*. The same cases happen to the rest of the data.

#### 'Special' Compounding

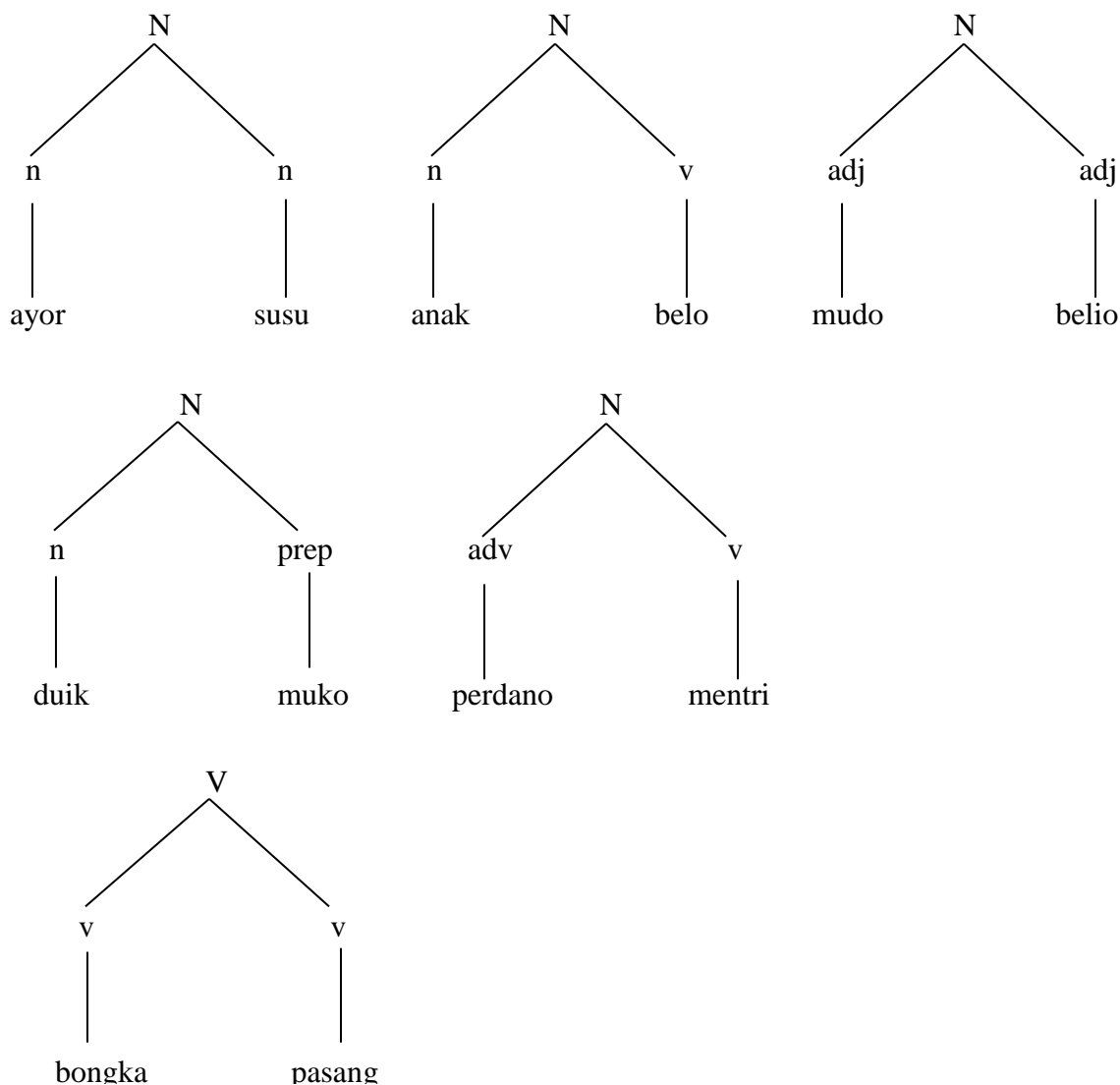
This kind of compounding has a special formation. Normally, Tamiang has head-modifier compounding formation. However, this compounding follows modifier-head formation as seen below:

- |   |
|---|
| [16] pedano menteRi<br>First minister<br>"prime minister" |
| [17] senja kalo<br>Afternoon time<br>"afternoon"          |
| [18] dulu kalo<br>Past time<br>"at the past"              |
| [19] bumi putro<br>Earth boy<br>"the origin"              |

The data show that the first element of each compounding would be the modifier and the second would be the head. *Pedane* modifies *menteRi*. The same cases happen to the rest of the data.

### Formal Classification of Compounds

#### Noun Compounds



The data show that the noun compounding is more productive than the verb one. In terms of part of speech, noun compound falls into four patterns, involving noun, verb, adjective and adverb as non-heads.

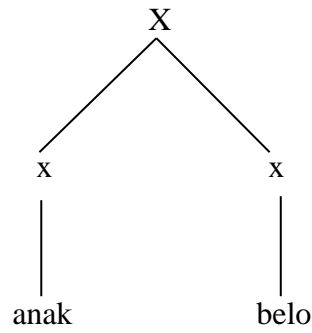
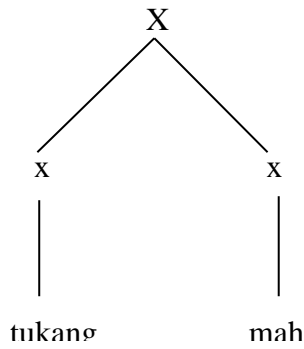
Verb compounding with a verbal head may have also a verb as their non-head.

From the data, noun-noun compounds are the most common type of compound in Tamiang language.

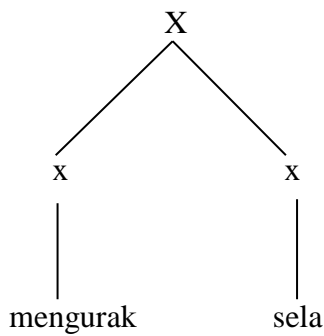
#### Headedness

Consider the difference among the forms, all have in common that they are noun and verb compound. In endocentric compounds, they have mostly head-modifier formation. It is LHHR (left hand head rule). See below:

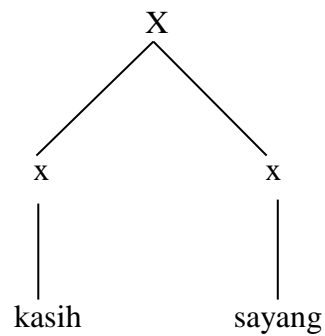
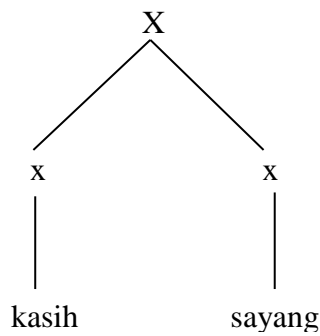




For exocentric compounds, the head is not in compound. So, we fail to determine the head.

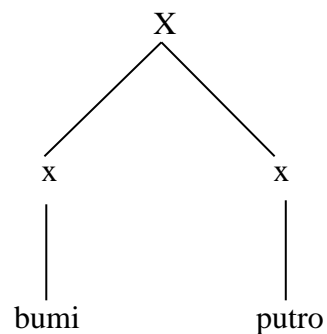
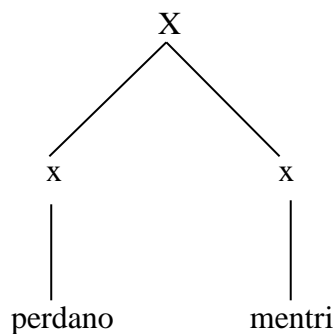


For copulative compounds, they have two semantic heads. No element is semantically dominant. See below:



For 'special' compounds, they have a unique formation. They follow modifier head formation. It is RHHR (right hand

head rule). It is assumed that all compounds included in this type are derived from loan words. See below:



## CONCLUSION

Some points from this preliminary research could be drawn. Tamiang language at least has four types of compounding; endocentric, exocentric, copulative and special type of compounding. The last type is regarded special because it follows the unusual formation or uncommon form of Head Rule. Commonly, Malay language follows LHHR (Left Hand Head Rule), but the special type follows RHHR (Right Hand Head Rule). In short, Tamiang Language has both LHHR and RHHR to present headedness.

Noun compounds are more common in Tamiang Language than Verb compounds. For noun compounds, they have noun, verb, adjective, preposition and adverb as non-heads, and verb compounds have only verb as non-head.

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