

FUNCTIONS OF URDU SUFFIX IN ENGLISH NOUN

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the compounding of Urdu suffixation with English roots in plural noun formation. The formation of compounding is based on joining two or more constituents from different languages. Urdu is the language of 9.8 million people throughout the world (Jadoon, 2022) and a flexible language to adopt words from different languages. The phenomenon of compound formation in Urdu is not new, it already has adopted different suffixes from Persian and Arabic. English root words with Urdu suffixation are an existent fact that is being observed regularly. This study investigates the phenomenon at the morphological level. For this purpose, Generative morphology theory was adopted and Aronoff's 1976 model was applied. This research is descriptive and qualitative in nature and in terms of investigation at the morpheme level. A list of thirty words comprised of English roots with Urdu suffixes in six semantical categories of clothing, office items, households, professional titles transportation, and places. Further, a four-step model of data analysis was adopted. The result revealed that two major Urdu suffixes -یں (-even) and -وں (-oon) (-were used commonly with English in the compound words formation process.

Keywords: Morphology, Compounding, Suffix, Inflection, and Urdu.

INTRODUCTION

The average speaker uses a new word without thinking about how it was created, Adams (1973). Words can be extended and modified in a variety of ways – sometimes by adding morpheme and sometimes by making an internal change. Word is independent, and it can be divided into smaller elements. On the other hand, morpheme is independent and further indivisible. Bauer (1983, p. 14) defines a morph as the smallest unit of grammatical consideration, and they are further divided into two completely distinct groups: bound and free morphemes. According to Benczes, R. (2006) an isolated morph is called free morpheme. Whereas, a morph that occurs in the word formation process together not less than one other morph is considered as bound morpheme. In addition to this, Fabb, and Nigel (1998) stated that bound morphs that do not grasp unanalyzable lexemes are affixes. Affixes are further divided into suffixes, which are linked after a base, prefixes, which are attached before a base, and infixes which are connected inside a base.

Moreover, suffixation is inserting a suffix after the base, more frequently with, a change of a word class and sometimes with no change” Olsen and Susan (2000). He further claims that suffixes do not have a major semantic role, their fundamental and primary function is to modify the grammatical aspects and functions of the base. Although they are often associated with a word class, it is more suitable to categorize them according to the word class that results when added to the base word, as suggested by MAVM (morphological attribution value matrix). Hence, we speak and talk about verb suffixes, noun suffixes, etc. To understand the suffixation in Urdu consider the following sets of Urdu words, where the suffix (na:) derives gerundive nouns from verb stems. The suffixes (a:r, ə, i) are also used to derive abstract nouns from verb stems. For Instance : **(xdri:d) to (Xdri:da:r), (kha:) to (kha:na), (dhərdk) to (dhərkan), and (khel) to (khila:ri:) ,** etc.

However, compounding is the process of combining two distinct words or elements to create a single form (Yule, 2019). A universally accepted definition of compounds does not exist (Kavka & Stekauer, 2006). He further describes compounding as a combination of two or more words and lexical elements "which has a different meaning from that of simple words in a free syntactic combination". It is the most common and important word-building process in language, the combination of two or more existing words or adding affixation of any other language to create a new word. Furthermore, it is one of the generative word-formation processes and is based on combining lexical elements such as words or stems (Hacken, 2017). The Dictionary of Lexicography (1998) defines a compound word as "a word formed by joining two or more simple words" (p. 26). The effects of compounding can be seen in countless English and Urdu words. For example, street light, and Biryani master. Biryani master is an example of a hybrid Urdu compound noun.

According to Professor Fatihi (2013) etymologically, a compound is a term in morphology that has one element from one and another element derived from another language. In addition to this, Mohsin Khan (2013) further explained that the most prevalent form of words in Urdu is the amalgamation of integrated elements and morphological constraints from English and Urdu etymologically. Since some affixations, suffixes, and prefixes in Urdu are of Arabic and Persian origin, it is a straightforward approach to add affixations from another language to Urdu or compound other language words with Urdu, to create a word. In addition to this, in the Urdu language usually occurs when a root/bund morpheme in English is compounded with a root morpheme in Urdu. For example: /bə'kri:ⱱjā:/ /bə'kri:ⱱjõ:/ (Bakeries), and /bikiⱱja:n/ (Bikes), etc.

According to Roy, et al (2020) semantically, compound words can be of four types exocentric

(compound words which consist of a head, and there exists a head modifier relationship i.e. “small talk”, in English, and “**sabzi market**” in Urdu. Secondly, exocentric compounds (they are semantically headless compounds i.e. “scarecrow” in English and, “**kali- zaban**” in Urdu. None of the components of the exocentric compound "mention the referent directly" (Clark, 1986). Thirdly, copulative compounds are words that consist of two semantic heads i.e. “ladies and gentleman” in English, and “**khawateen-o-hazraat**” in Urdu. Copulative compounds are also called coordinative compounds because words in these types of compounds are in a coordinated relationship. Finally, appositional compounds are when the elements of a compound are in opposition to each other. For example “bitter-sweet” in English and “**khamoosh cheekhein**” in Urdu, etc. (Kavka & Stanislav, 2009).

In addition to this, Bauer (2010) explained the usual way of classifying compounds is by the function they play in the sentence. This syntactic division is made according to the word class of the compound as a whole and the word classes of the individual constituents of the compound (Bauer, 2010, p. 31). Further, it can be distinguished using the syntactic criterion, compound nouns, adjectives, verbs, etc. (Bauer, 2010, p. 201). However, the spelling of compounds varies. There are three possible ways to write a compound. It can be solid, i.e. written as one word, e.g. sunflower. Often compounds are spelled with a hyphen placed between the constituents, e.g. brown-eyed. Many compounds are also spelled as separate words, e.g. human being, ice cream. Some compounds may even be spelled in two or even all three ways, as mentioned above, e.g. flowerpot, flower-pot, and flower-pot.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The theoretical framework of this study is derived by Generative morphology. This theory has two models. The current study follows Aronoff's model (1976).

All word formation process is based on words. A new word is created by applying a regular rule to an already-existing word. Both the new words and existing words are the new members of the major lexicon category. (Aronoff, 1977, Pg 122)

LITERATURE REVIEW

A large number of works have been done on the compounding word-formation process and compound words. Many scholars have worked on compound words (Fabb,1998), (Katamba,1993), (Olsen,2000), (Plag,2018). Researchers have worked on compound nouns (Bauer, 2001), the compositionality of compound nouns (Reddy et al., 2011), Creative Compounding in English (Benczes, 2006), and the semantic relations between two nouns in a compound noun (Gong et al.,). Scholars (Gagne et al., 1997) have studied the influence of thematic relations on the comprehension of Modifier-Noun Combinations. Research scholars have also worked on the extent to which compound nouns in the English language are challenging for learners of English as a second language and identified some causes of this comprehension difficulty (Charteris-Black, 1998). Furthermore, some research scholars have also investigated the creation and use of English compound nouns (Downing, 1997). Moreover, (Reddy, 2011) worked on "An empirical study on compositionality in compound nouns", where he studied the relationship between the parts of compound nouns and the compositionality of the compound noun.

Bilal et al (2012) researched Pakistani English, and they explained that several loan words from Urdu and other dialects of different provinces in Pakistan have been recorded in Pakistani English. In addition to this, in the word formation processes, affixation also played an important role in improving the lexical resource of Pakistani English. Furthermore, Reima Al-Jarf's (2012) research on lexical hybridization in the Arabic language, in this research explained that Urdu lexical resources and affixes from Arabic and Persian were loaned out from (Khan and Alward (2011).

For example, the word formation process with borrowed affixes, as in the case of the suffix -i/ i:/ of Arabic added to country names that refer to a variety of nationalities and languages for a citizen of Pakistan, as Pakistan(i), Punjab as Punjab(i) etc.

Moreover, Tallat (2003) highlighted the significance of loan words in Pakistani English, when they are used by speaker of the local language they contain their Urdu meaning. However, in (1994) two different hypotheses subjected to lexical borrowing purposed by Kachru, he explained that Englishes in South Asia use compounding which puts on display “productiveness and creativity.” In this process of compounding, one word from English is combined with another word from the local language, and sometimes this merger takes place at a syllable level for example Rickshaw driver, Lathi charge, etc (Kachru, 1983).

METHODOLOGY

The study is Qualitative in nature. That was conducted to find out the compounding noun formation of English roots/stems with Urdu suffixation. A descriptive method for analysis was applied. The data of this study is based on regular observation of both researchers that was confirmed later by different university colleagues and a former professor of Urdu. At the first stage, a random list of thirty words was developed.

List of thirty compound Nouns

No	Compound words	Urdu	Urdu IPA	English
1	Agenday	ایجنڈے	/ə'dʒendə/	Agendas
2	Baekrien/Bakreian	بیکریوں/بیکریاں	/bə'kri:ˌjɑː//bə'kri:ˌjoʊː/	Bakeries
3	Bikiyaan	بائیکوں/بائیکیں	/bɪkiˌjɑːn/	Bikes
4	Brushean	برشیں	/bər'ʃeɪ/	Brushes
5	Buttonean	بٹنیں	/bʌtˌniːjɑːn/	Buttons
6	Chairoan/ Chairean	چیریں/چیروں	/'ʃeɪrəʊː/ 'ʃeɪrɑːn/	Chairs

7	Classain/classon	کلاسیں / کلاسوں	/kə'la:su:/ /kə'la:sja:n/	Classes
8	Creamean	کریمیں	/kri:mən/ /kri:ma:su:/	Creams
9	Doctroan	ڈاکٹروں	/'dɒktər oʊ /	Doctors
10	Filean	فائلیں	/faɪlɛ:/ /faɪloʊ/	Files
11	Filmian	فلمیں	/filmeɪ:/ /film oʊ/	Films
12	Framean	فریمیں	/freɪmɪ:/	Frames
13	Hoteloan	ہوٹلوں	/hoteloun/	Hotels
14	jektiyaan	جیکٹیں	/dʒæki'ti:ən/	Jackets
15	Karen	کارس	/ka:reɪ:/ /ka:r oʊ /	Cars
16	laiṭiyaan	لائٹیں	/lartɪ, æn/ /lartɪ, oʊ /	Lights
17	Marketean	مارکیٹیں	/'ma:rkɪtɛ:/	Markets
18	Mechanicon	میکینکوں	/mə'ki:noun/	Mechanics
19	Mashinain	مشینیں	/mə'ʃi:naɪ/	Machines
20	Motorean	موٹریں	/mou'toreɪ:/	Motors
21	Nurso	نرسوں	/'nɜrsən/.	Nurses
22	Paintean	پینٹیں	/peɪntiyaan/ /peɪnteɪən /	Paints
23	Plumbroan	پلمبروں	/'pelʌmbroun/	Plumbers
24	Picturean	پکچریں	/pɪktʃəreɪ:/	Pictures
25	Professroan	پروفیسروں	/prə'fesroun/	Professors
26	Saiklayn	سائیکلیں	/saɪklən/	Cycles
27	Shirṭiyaan	شرٹیں	/ʃɜ:rtɪ.ja:n/	Shirts
28	Tablean	ٹیبلیں	/teɪbl̩.ɛ:/	Tables
29	Teacheroan	ٹیچروں	/titʃroun/	Teachers
30	Truckon	ٹرکوں	/troks/	Trucks

This list of Compound nouns is further divided as per semantic classification for morphological analysis, to find the specific patterns of compound nouns in several household items, clothing, specific places, professional titles, vehicles and office items and associated terms, etc.

DATA ANALYSIS

Morphological analysis is used to analyze the structure and formation of words. In this process, words are broken down into their smallest units. That is called morphemes, and examining how these morphemes contribute to the meaning of the word. The Generative Morphological Analysis model proposed by Aronoff (1976) was applied to analyze the data.

Generative morphology is concerned with rules and processes that generate words. One generative theory is the Lexical Morphology theory, which involves multiple processes of analysis.

That are follows:

1. A hierarchical structure to find out Lexeme/stem, Affexes at first stage
2. while the second stage based on morphological Rules as
 - i. Rule 1: Attach the prefix.
 - ii. Rule 2: Attach the suffix.

For this study, only rule two was found to be applicable in the formation process of plurals in Urdu.

3. Suffixation Process: Apply Rule: "Bike" + "een" = "**Bikiyeen**" یں (-een):

4. Interpretation:

Generative morphology explains how the word "**Bikiyeen**" is derived through a series of morphological rules applied to the stem/root Bike"

Table 1: Clothing.

No	Compound Form	English Words	Urdu Suffix	Suffixation process	Urdu Inflectional/ Derivational	Gc English	Morphological process
1	Jekṭiyaan	Jackets	یں (-een)	Jacket+ een	Inflection	Noun	Suffixation
2	Paintean	Paints	یں (-een)	Paint+ een	Inflection	Noun	Suffixation
3	Shirṭiyaan	Shirts	یں (-een)	Shirt+ een	Inflection	Noun	Suffixation

Explanation of Table# 1.1

Jekṭiyaan /dʒɛkʈiːjaːn/ جیکٹیئن: A noun that has English root **Jacket** with Urdu inflection **یں (-een)** to make it plural. This word is derived from "jacket" in English. In Urdu, it refers to jackets or outerwear as Jekṭiyaan.

Paintean /pemtem/ پینٹین: This word is related to "paint" in English. In Urdu, it could refer to paints or Paintean. It is a compound noun that has the English root **Paint** with Urdu inflection **یں (-een)** for pluralization.

Shirṭiyaan /ʃɪrṭiːjaːn/ شرٹین: In this word "Shirṭiyaan" is used as part of clothing. Also, a noun that is associated with "shirt" in English. In Urdu, it would refer to shirts, or Shirṭiyaan for the formation English root **Shirt**, and Urdu inflection **یں (-een)** is typically used as part of clothing.

Table 2: House Hold Items

No	Compound Form	English Words	Urdu Suffix	Suffixation process	Urdu Inflectional/ Derivational	Gc English	Morphological process
4	Brushean	Brushes	یں (-een)	Brush + een Brush + een	Inflection	Noun	Suffixation
5	Buttonean	Buttons	یں (-een)	Buttons + een	Inflection	Noun	Suffixation
6	Creamean	Creams	یں (-een)	Cream + een	Inflection	Noun	Suffixation
7	Filmain	Films	یں (-een)	Flims + een	Inflection	Noun	Suffixation
8	Framean	Frames	یں (-een)	Frames + een	Inflection	Noun	Suffixation
9	laiṭiyaen	Lights	یں (-een)	Laiṭiyaen	Inflection	Noun	Suffixation
10	Mashinain	Machines	یں (-een)	Machin+ een	Inflection	Noun	Suffixation
11	Picturean	Pictures	یں (-een)	Picture+ een	Inflection	Noun	Suffixation

Explanation of Table # 2

Brushean /brʌʃeɪn/ برشیں: This term refers to "brushes" in Urdu, in the context of painting or makeup. The formation of this word is based on the English root **Brush** and the Urdu suffix **یں (-een)**.

Buttonean /bʌtʃni:n/ بٹنیں: This word means "buttons" in Urdu, typically used in the context of clothing or accessories. The morphological process of this compound noun is based on English **Button** with Urdu **یں (-een)**.

Creamean /kreɪmi:n/ کریمیں: This term is related to "cream" in English and refers to creams or lotions in Urdu. It also has a similar morphological process of pluralization, English root **Cream** with Urdu **یں (-een)**.

Filmain /filmɛɪn/ فلمیں: This word means "films" in Urdu, commonly used to refer to movies or cinema. To form Plural of this compound word English Head **Film** and Urdu Suffix **یں (-een)** is used.

Framean /freɪmi:n/ فریمیں: This word "frames" in Urdu, is often used in the context of pictures or photographs. While following a similar pattern of English Head and Urdu Suffix.

Laiṭiyaen /ləɪti:ɑ:n/ لائٹیں: This word means "light/ bulb" in Urdu to generate electric light, used to describe sleeping or resting and is part of a fancy decoration item. The plural process of this word also has similar features.

Mashinain /məʃi:nɛɪn/ مشینیں: This term refers to "machines" in Urdu, used broadly to describe mechanical devices. Also falls in the category of plurals.

Picturean /pɪktʃərəɪn/ پکچریں: This word means "pictures" in Urdu, commonly used to refer to images or photographs. A combination of English Roots with Urdu suffixes.

Table 3: Office items

No	Compound Form	English Words	Urdu Suffix	Suffixation process	Urdu Inflectional/ Derivational	Gc English	Morphological process
12	Agenday	Agendas	اے (-aa)	Agenda+ aa	Inflection	Noun	Suffixation
13	Chairoan/ Chairean	Chairs	یں (-een)	Chair+ + een	Inflection	Noun	Suffixation
14	Filean	Files	یں (-een)	File ++ een	Inflection	Noun	Suffixation

Explanation of Table 3

Agenday /ɑ: 'gɛndeɪ/ ايجينڈے: This word consists of the English root **Agenda** and Urdu Inflection اے (-aa). This term is usually used as discussion items of meetings in offices.

Chairoan/ Chairean /'tʃɛroʊn/ or /'tʃɛriən/ چيروں/چيرين: A piece of furniture that has an Urdu word already exists in Urdu language but due to globalization that converted into a hybrid noun. The formation is also based on English Root **chair** and Urdu inflection یں (-een) and وں (-oon).

Filean /'faɪliən/ فائلين: A folder that is used to keep papers in English called File or plural as files. It is used in the Urdu version as Filean English root and Urdu inflection یں (-een) to represent the concept of pluralization.

Table 4: Professional titles

No	Compound Form	English Words	Urdu Suffix	Suffixation process	Urdu Inflectional/ Derivational	Gc English	Morphological process
15	Doctroan	Doctors	وں (oon)	Doctor+oon	Inflection	Noun	Suffixation
16	Mechanicon	Mechanics	وں (oon)	Machenic+on	Inflection	Noun	Suffixation
17	Nurso	Nurses	وں (oon)	Nurse+ een	Inflection	Noun	Suffixation
18	Plumberoan	Plumbers	وں (oon)	Pelumbours	Inflection	Noun	Suffixation
19	Professroan	Professors	وں (oon)	Professors	Inflection	Noun	Suffixation
20	Teacheroan	Teachers	وں (-oon)	Teacher+ een	Inflection	Noun	Suffixation

Explanation of Table # 4

Doctroan /'dɒktroʊn/ ڈاکٹروں : This term is a combination of the English root "**Doctor**" and an Urdu suffix ون (-oon). It is interpreted as plurals for doctors or the medical field.

Mechanicon /mə'ʃi:nɪkən/ مکینیکون : This is a combination of the English "Mechanic " and an Urdu suffix ون (-oon). It is associated with a person who works on out-of-order machinery or mechanical devices.

Nurso /'nɜrsu/ نرسوں : The term doesn't have a clear English equivalent. It is also an Urdu Version of the English word Nurse and for pluralization the English root Nurse is attached with the Urdu suffix ون (oon).

Plumberoan /'pelambroʊn/ پلمبروں : This is an amalgamation of the English "Plumber" and an Urdu suffix (oon). It is related to plumbing or plumbing services.

Professoroon/prə'fɛsroʊn/ پروفیسروں : This is a combination of the English "Professor" and the Urdu suffix ون (oon). It is associated with academic or teaching professions.

Teacheroon: /'titʃroʊn/ ٹیچروں : Similar to "Professroan," this is also a combined word, English "Teacher" and an Urdu suffix ون (oon) related to the teaching profession.

Table 5: Specific Places.

No	Compound Form	English Words	Urdu Suffix	Suffixation process	Urdu Inflectional/ Derivational	Gc English	Morphological process
21	Baekrien /Bakreion	Bakeries	ان (-aan)	Bakery + aan Bakery + oon	Inflection	Noun	Suffixation
22	Classain/ Classon	Classes	یں (-een)	Class + een Class+oon	Inflection	Noun	Suffixation

23	Marketeen/ Markatoon	Markets	یں (-een)	Market + een/ Market+oon	Inflection	Noun	Suffixation
24	Hotelen/ Hoteloon	Hotel	یں (-een)	Hotel+ een Hotel+oon	Inflection	Noun	Suffixation

Explanation of Table 5.

Bækrien / Bakreion /'beikriən/ /'bakreion/ بیکریاں / بیکریوں: This term seems to be related to a bakery or baking."

Classain / Classon /klæ'seɪn/ /'klæsən/ کلاسیں / کلاسوں: This term appears to be derived from "class" and may be related to a classic or traditional context. Similar to "Classain," this term seems to be associated with classes or educational settings.

Marketeen/Markatoon /,mɑ:rkɪ'ti:n/ /,mɑ:rkə'tu:n/ مارکیٹیں / مارکیٹوں

This term could be related to a small market or market-related activities.

Hotelen / Hoteloon /hoʊ'tɛlɪn/ ہوٹلیں / ہوٹلوں: This term seems to be related to hotels or hotel-related activities.

Table 6: Transportations.

No	Compound Form	English Words	Urdu Suffix	Suffixation process	Urdu Inflectional/ Derivational	Gc English	Morphological process
25	Bikiyaan	Bikes	یں (-een):	Bike + een Bike + oon	Inflection	Noun	Suffixation
26	Busean	Buses	یں (-een)	Bus + een	Inflection	Noun	Suffixation
27	Karen	Cars	یں (-een)	Cars + een	Inflection	Noun	Suffixation
28	Motorean	Motors	یں (-een)	Motor+ een	Inflection	Noun	Suffixation
29	Saiklayn	Cycles	یں (-een)	Cycle+ een	Inflection	Noun	Suffixation
30	Trucken	Trucks	یں (-een)	Truck+een	Inflection	Noun	Suffixation

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Explanation of Table # 6

Bikiyaan /bɪ'kja:n/ **بایکین**: The bike is an English word, but due to the usage as a compound the inflectional **ین** (-een) with English Word Bike combined here.

Busean /bʌsi:n/ **بسیں**: This term is associated with buses. While has a similar category formation rule applied here too.

Caren /'kærən/ **کارین**: The term "Karen" is Cars in English. The combination of Kar and Urdu suffixes produced that plural noun.

Motorean /moʊ'tɔri:n/ **موٹورین**: This term is related to motors or motor-related activities. The Morphological process of inflectional addition in root word is followed here to form a plural.

Cycleklayn /saɪkleɪn/ **سائیکلین**: This term is used for bicycles or cycling, as "saikil" in Urdu means bicycle but to for plural an Urdu suffix attached here.

Trucken /'trʌkən/ **ٹرکیں**: This term is associated with trucks.

FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

This research studied how Urdu suffixes with English roots function in the creation of Compound nouns. A Generative Morphology framework based on four steps was applied. In the first step to finding out Lexeme/stem, Affixes of hierarchical structure different tables were formed on the base of semantic classification. The second step of the analysis was based on the morpheme level that was conducted for each word to find the application of suffixation rules in the word formation process. Further, at the last step, the interpretation of every word is discussed in detail.

The findings of these compound nouns show that usually English root words with Urdu suffixes **ین** (-een) **وں** (-oon) and **اں** (-aan) are used to form an equal plural word of English. Only the word “Agenday” as “**اے** (-aa).” in the office items category and “**اں** (-aan)” in Baekrien were found to

be different in the formation process of this investigation. Among all six categories of semantic classification -ین (-een) was the most prominent Urdu suffix that was used in transportation, specific places, office items, household items, and clothing. In contrast, the suffix “و (oon)” was used in professional titles.

CONCLUSION

Urdu is an exceptional language that has absorbed different languages easily. Urdu kept on including the lexical resources from English, Arabic, Persian Sanskrit, and Hindi. In Urdu, plurals are formed by adding specific suffixes to the singular form of a noun. It's important to note that pluralization in Urdu is influenced by gender and grammatical context. Additionally, some irregular plurals don't follow these patterns, and the pluralization of Arabic loanwords may follow different rules. This paper investigated only the inflectional changes of suffixes in Urdu with English as hybrid words. In Urdu, inflectional changes are often expressed through suffixes or changes in vowel patterns. The pluralization rules in Urdu are relatively consistent. Like many other languages, Urdu has a system of inflectional morphology that is more extensive than English language.

In future, different studies can be conducted on vice versa topic of Urdu roots with English suffixations and different types of compounding in similar contexts to fill the existing gap in research. Though the different researches were found during this study, conducted not following specifically the morphology perspectives.

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