THE ORTHOGRAPHY OF THE COMPOUND NOUNS IN THE MACEDONIAN AND THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE (COMPARATIVE INSIGHTS)¹

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Abstract

The objective of this paper is to compare several orthographic rules of the hyphenated compound nouns in the Macedonian standard language, with the orthography of the hyphenated compound nouns in the English language, which is studied as a foreign language in RM. The rules are compared in order to perceive the possible influence of the English orthography on the Macedonian language in the written practice.

The research has a qualitative paradigm and a descriptive design. The sample consists of several Macedonian orthographic rules of hyphenated compound nouns, which have been excerpted from the Orthography of the Macedonian language, from 2017 as well as the English hyphenated compounds orthography excerpted from several Guide Manuals in English and printed and online dictionaries. The written practice is presented by electronic journalistic texts in Macedonian language.

This research shows that there are many similarities in the orthography of the hyphenated compound nouns in both languages. On the other hand, there are some differences regarding orthography as well, which, among other factors, could be the reason for the differences in orthography of the compound nouns in the Macedonian written practice.

Key words: orthography, compound nouns, Macedonian language, English language

1. Introduction.

The orthography of each language is a system of rules which contributes to the equality of the written practice. It shapes the linguistic expression into an orthographically correct and coherent whole. In the linguistics, when it comes to orthography, it is considered from three aspects. According to this, there are phonetic or phonological, morphological and etymological (historical) orthography. It is also known that there is no pure orthography. The orthography of every language consists of elements of other types of orthography besides the dominant elements (Kepeski, 1980, p. 49). The Macedonian and the English language have different orthography. The phonetic orthography is the base of the Macedonian language with minor concessions in the etymology (Koneski, 2004, p. 57), while the English orthography is etymological (Kepeski, 1980, p. 50).

Both languages belong to the Indo-European language family, but in two different groups, namely the Macedonian language belongs to the group of Slavic languages, while English belongs to the group of Germanic languages. They have different historical development and each of them is distinctive in all language levels. Without discussing those distinctive

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features, in this paper we focus on the current situation in both languages, and the aim (objective) is to make a comparative analysis of the orthography of the hyphenated compound nouns in both languages and at the same time to indicate the possible influence of the English language orthography on the orthography of the Macedonian hyphenated compound nouns.

2. Review of literature

2.1. Macedonian language.

A large number of data for the character of the compound words in the Macedonian language are given in the Orthography of the Macedonian language (Orthography, 2017, pp. 57-80), as well in the Word-Formation by Koneski (1995, pp. 75-87). According to the Orthography, the compound nouns and expressions are written closed, hyphenated or open, in other words they appear as complex words, compound words and complex expressions. In fact, in the compound words, the words are closely related to each other by meaning and function. The orthography provides formal and semantic criteria on the basis of which the orthographic rules of compound words are defined: equality or inequality of the components of the compound word, the dependence or independence of the components which form the compound word, morphological, syntactic, word-forming and accentual forming of the compound word, as well as the authenticity of the word-formation rules of compound words in the Macedonian language and the foreign language influences. On the other hand, Koneski, from the semantic point of view, distinguishes endocentric and exocentric compound words. In the endocentric compounds one or both of the roots are the head of the compound, that is, either one of the roots modifies the other, e.g. zborored – red na zborovite (word order), drvored – red od dryja (avenue) etc. or both of the roots are used to form the meaning of the compound, e.g. severoistok – kolku sever tolku istok (north-east). The exocentric compounds are those whose meaning is beyond the meaning of the members that are part of the compound, e.g. nosorog – zhivotno so rog (rhinoceros), strujomer – instrument za merenje struja (instrument for measuring the electric power) etc. He points out that the classification of the compound words is often made on the basis of the grammatical character of the components being part of the compound and distinguishes several types of compound: a) А = noun, B = noun, e.g. tutunoberach (tobacco picker), glavobolka (headache) etc.; b) A = noun, B = verb, e.g. zhenomrzec (misogynist, woman-hater), naredbodavec (commander) etc.; c) А = adjective, B = noun, e.g. novogradba (new construction) etc.; d) A = pronoun/pronoun adjective, B = noun, e.g., samokontrola (self-control), samokritika (self-criticism) etc.; e) A = number/adjetive of quantity, B = noun, e.g., triagolnik (triangle), petkatnica (five-floor building); f) A = adverb, B = verb, e.g., pravopis (orthography, spelling), dalekuvod (power cable, long distance power line) e.g.; g) A = verb, B = noun, e.g., klukaijdrvec (woodpecker), zajdisonce (sunet) etc. In the Word-formation by Koneski, the orthography of the compound words is not elaborated.

Janusheva and Jurukovska (2017, pp. 1-16), point out that the orthography of the Macedonian compound nouns causes dilemmas in the written practice. The results of their research show that in the new edition of the Orthography, the orthography rules of the compound words are in large part clearer in comparison with the previous edition, and also new information is stated. However, certain dilemmas and the possibility of different interpretation of those rules are still present in the new edition, and that is one of the reasons for overbalanced written practice and many miswritten examples.
2.2. English language.

A large number of data of the English compound words are given in the Lexicology by Stefanovski (2006). According to Stefanovski (2006, pp. 166-167), from semantic point of view, in the English language as in the Macedonian language, there are endocentric and exocentric compound words. In the endocentric compounds one or both of the roots are the head of the compound, that is, either one of the roots modifies the other or both of the roots are used to form the meaning of the compound, or in other words Plag in Word-Formation in English (2002, p. 186), says these compounds have their semantic head inside the compound, e.g. arm-chair (fotelja), boyfriend (momche), apple pie (pita so jabolko), book shop (prodavnica za knigi). In the exocentric compounds neither of the roots is the head of the compound, and its meaning is beyond the meaning of the members that are part of the compound, or what Plag (2002, p. 186) says their semantic head is outside the compound, e.g. rhinoceros (nosorog), rainbow (vinozhito), blackbird (kos), flat-foot (policaec, sleng), hot-head (impulsivna lichnost). In the English language as well as in the Macedonian, the compound words are made of two parts, namely A and B. In Stefanovski’s Lexicology the orthography of the compound words is not mentioned too.

One specific feature of the English language is that the second component of the compound noun has to be a noun in order for the compound word to be a compound noun. This partially coincides with the Macedonian language in which the second component of the compound noun besides a noun can be a verb or an adverb as well. As in the Macedonian language, there are various combinations of the components of the compound. For example, a) A = noun, B = noun, e.g., pen-case (kutija za molivi), south-west (jugozapad); b) A = adjective, B = noun, e.g., hot-head (impulsivna lichnost), blue-collar (rabotnik); c) A = pronoun adjective, B = noun, e.g., self-protection (samozashtita), self-affirmation (samoafirmacija); d) A = verb, B = noun, e.g., pick-pocket (kradec), dare-devil (lichnost shto uzhiva da pravi opasni raboti) etc.

Worldwide, a large number of studies are aimed to compare the English compound nouns with the compound nouns from different languages, in order to demonstrate the similarities and differences of their forming. For example, Al-Jarf (1994), compares the English and Arabic compound words. Eze (2015), compares the noun word-formation in English and the Igbo language (the language of an ethnic group in South Nigeria). Sun (2017), compares the process of noun word-formation in English and Chinese. The review shows that in these papers the question of orthography of the compound nouns is not considered at all, thereby confirming the justification of the topic elaborated in this paper.

3. Methodology of the research.

The subject of this research is to make a comparison of the orthographic rules of the hyphenated compound nouns in the Macedonian and the English language. The aim (objective) of this research is to determine the possible influence of the English orthography of the hyphenated compound nouns on the Macedonian ones. The research is a kind of a descriptive analysis of the results obtained by comparing the orthographic rules of the hyphenated compounds in the Macedonian language and the possible influence of the English orthography on them. The orthographic rules of hyphenated compound nouns in the Macedonian language are excerpted from the Orthography of the Macedonian language (Orthography, 2017, pp. 62-65). These rules are compared with the rules of the English hyphenated compounds given in several of the English Style Manuals (GPO Style Manual, 2016, pp. 97-109; California Style Manual, 2000, pp. 149-156; NARA Style Guide, 2012, pp. 25-30; English Style Guide, 2018, pp. 17-20). In order to make the orthography more
4. Results of the research and discussion.

The orthography of the hyphenated compounds, in fact, means that the constituent parts of the compound are not completely fused and they have certain independence (Orthography, 2017 pp. 62-65). There are a number of rules in the Orthography regulating the orthography of these nouns.

On the other hand, according to The Economist Style Guide (2005, p. 70) and Wroe (2015, p. 74) in the English language there are not certain orthographic rules for the hyphenated compound nouns, although in a large number of Style Manuals recommendations for using the hyphen are given. Apart from the differences in the orthography in these Guide Manuals, there is a great deal of agreement between them in relation of the orthography of the hyphenated compound nouns. The BBC’s announcement (20.09.2007), according to which the use of the hyphen in English compound nouns and verbs is gradually decreasing is a big surprise. This announcement is confirmed in the Oxford Online Dictionary. Furthermore, in the announcement it is stated that that in the compounds which were written with a hyphen in the past, the use of the hyphen increasingly disappears as a result of which the same compounds begin to be written open or closed. Leech (in BBC, 2007), examines publications from 1961 and 1991, and confirms that there is a decline of the hyphen usage for 5%. He says: "When you are sending e-mails, and you have to type pretty fast, on the whole it's easier to type without hyphens. Ordinary people are not very conscious of the fact of whether they are putting hyphens or not." Reflecting this chance, in 2007, in the sixth edition of the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary, hyphens were removed from 16 000 entries, e.g. fig-leaf (smokvin list) (now, fig leaf), pot-belly (chkembe) (now, potbelly), pigeon-hole (pregrada) (now, pigeonhole). Examples taken from Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary: vice-president > vice president (potpretsedatel); air-crew > aircrew (ekipazh na avion); play-group > playgroup (zabavishite); Other examples which in the English were written hyphenated in the past, and later started to be written open: fire-engine > fire engine (protivpozharno vozila); looking-glass > looking glass (ogledalo). Obviously, some of the stated examples in the Macedonian language are not compound nouns. However, the hyphen is still used in a number of English compound nouns.

**A)** One of the rules in the Orthography says that two nouns connected without a vowel -o- and -e- are written hyphenated and denote a notion. In this type of hyphenated compound noun, the first part modifies the meaning of the second and plays a role of an attribute and it is grammatically unchangeable, while the second part changes and determines the grammatical gender and number (Orthography, 2017, pp. 62-65, pt.116 a). Also Plag in his Word-Formation in English (2002, p. 173), states that the vast majority of compounds are interpreted in such a way that the left-hand member somehow modifies the right-hand member. Thus, a film society is a kind of society (namely one concerned with films), a parks commissioner is a commissioner occupied with parks. As an example in the Orthography the following compounds are given: biznis-zaednica, biznis-zaednicata, biznis-zaednici (business community, the business community, business communities); zhiro-smetka (gyro account, drawing account); krem-supra (cream soup); horror-film (horror film); kafe-pauza (coffee break); internet-kafe (Internet cafe); pank-muzika (punk music); shou-biznis (show business); rok-bend (rock band), shoping-centar (shopping centre). As we can see from the examples,
the nouns which are compound nouns in both languages and in which the first part has an attributive function in relation to the second one, in the English language are written as open compounds, while in the Macedonian language they are written hyphenated. In this case, in English, the first noun is considered as a noun (pre)modifier or a noun adjunct. Also, here, it should be noted that in the English language there are many compound nouns which are written closed, but those compound nouns in Macedonian are written open or they are not compound nouns at all. For example, spalna soba (bedroom); glaven shtab (headquarters), kukina pomoshnichka (housemaid); domashna rabota (homework) are written open, while svetulka (firefly); vesnik (newspaper); detsvo (childhood); takovina (fatherland); kum (godfather) etc. are not compound nouns. The orthography of the above mentioned English compound nouns are taken from Oxford Online Dictionary, Cambridge Online Dictionary, Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, 365 Online Dictionary.

Therefore, given the above-mentioned difference, as well as our everyday language practice in which the compound nouns are written according their English orthography, and not according the Macedonian orthography, we can say that the influence of the English language is obvious. The reasons for this phenomenon may be of a different nature. Among other factors, we should mention the role of the educational process and the English language teaching in Macedonia, in which different textbooks with different orthography of the same compound nouns are used. Furthermore, the usage of a large number of English-language written sources in the everyday teachers’ and students’ practice should be mentioned too. In these written sources we can find the same compound noun written differently in each source, and that orthography can be either the same or different from the orthography of the Macedonian compound noun. Finally, we should mention the large number of Macedonian journalistic texts in which we can see that some of the Macedonian compound nouns are written differently than the rule prescribed by the Orthography. This can be a result of not knowing (unacquaintance) (of) the rules for writing the compound nouns from the speakers of the Macedonian language, as well as the ambiguity of the rules which agrees with the research by Janusheva and Jurukovska (2017). The reasons for this can be also found in the English sources from which some of the information was excerpted or the insufficient knowledge of the Macedonian orthography by its speakers. According to this, the orthography of the English compound nouns influences the orthography of the Macedonian compound nouns. Examples from the practice: Vreme e za vkusna krem supa od karfiol... (It’s time for delicious cream soup from cauliflower...) (sezahranamk, 30.01.2018); Spa centarot sodrzhizhi... (The spa centre contains...) (radika.com.mk); ...najdobi horror filmovi na site vreminja... (all-time-best-horror films (kajgana.com).

B) Furthermore, in the Orthography (2017, pp. 62-65, pt.116 b) it is indicated that the relation between the parts of the hyphenated compound nouns can be of reversed order, the second noun supplements and explains the first noun. For example: vagon-restoran, vagon restoranot, vagon-restorani (wagon restaurant, the wagon restaurant, wagon restaurants); zamenik-pretsedatel, zamenik-pretsedatelo (vice president, the vice president); nacrt-zakon (draft bill). In this Macedonian rule for writing the hyphenated compound nouns can be added that the first noun is grammatically unchangeable only in the compound noun, but it is not when it is an independent word. However, this rule often coincides with the first rule for writing the open compound nouns, and as a result, very often we can encounter a grammatical change in the first noun in the spoken language and in the press, although the article should come on the second noun. In addition, the compound is written open according to the rule for writing the open compound nouns (Orthography, 2017, pp. 65-66). In this case, there is inaccuracy of the rule as well, as a result of which there are various orthographic solutions, and this agrees with the research of Janusheva and Jurukovska (2017). Examples
from the practice: ...na zamenik pretsedatel i... (...of the vice president and...) (slvesnik.com.mk, 30.07.2010); ...na pretsedatelot, zamenik-pretstedatel i... (...of the president, the vice president and...) (slvesnik.com.mk, 28.11.2011); General major Azim Nuredin... ja prezema... dolzhnostna zamenik nachalnik... (General major Azim Nuredin... takes over...the duty of deputy chief...) (sitel.com.mk, 18.05.2018).

Such a case in which the head of the compound is considered as first or left element of the compound, and the modifier or the attribute as second or right one, are very rare in English. Examples like these are mostly encountered in legal and official terms and sometimes in terms related to food. Such English examples taken from the Oxford Online Dictionary are: attorney general (državen obvinitel), attorneys general (državni obvinители); court marital (voen sud), courts marital (voeni sudovi); whiskey sour – whiskies sour (вишня коктейл со виски); notary public – notaries public (javni zapisnichar – javni zapisnichari); poet laureate (poet laureat) – poets laureate (poeti laureati); professor emeritus (pochesni profesori). In these cases, the first part of the compound is a noun, while the second part is postpositional adjective which modifies the noun. This means that in the English language they are written open (separate). In Macedonian when we use the article, it comes on the second part of the compound, but in English the inflection always comes on the first part of the compound, when the compound is in plural, that is, the inflection comes on the noun which is considered as the head of the compound.

C) The next rule says that the noun compounds consisting of two or more repeated same or meaningfully or phonemically opposing components should be written with a hyphen. Examples: beri-beri (bolest) (beriberi (desease); voki-toki (aparat) (walkie-talkie (device); ping-pong (sport) (ping-pong (sport); cha-cha-cha (tanc) (cha-cha-cha (dance)); fifty-fifty (ednakva podelba) (fifty-fifty (equal division)) (Orthography, 2017, p. 54, pt. 118). According to the GPO Style Manual (2016), a hyphen should be written in a compound formed of repetitive or conflicting terms and in a compound naming the same thing under two aspects. These compounds in English are called reduplicative compounds. Examples: bye-bye (chao); boogie-woogie (blуз-mузика, танц); devil-devil (зл duh); walkie-talkie (voki-toki) (aparat); knock-knock (chuk-chuk); nitty-gritty (sržh, sushtina); bow-wow (detski izraz za kuche); dilly-dally (se matka, se dvoumi). The orthography of these compounds is also registered in the Oxford and Cambridge Online Dictionary. In this case, in English there are some exceptions as well, e.g. hubbub (metech); nitwit (budala); riffraff (олош) etc. However, in the Macedonian language these examples are not compound words. According to the orthography of these types of compounds given in the online dictionaries such as Oxford, Cambridge and Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, we can conclude that the rules for writing compounds which consist of repetitive or conflicting parts are the same in both languages.

D) According to this rule, the compounds in which the first part is a trade name (sign) are written hyphenated e.g. adidas-patiki (Adidas trainers), adidas-patikite (the Adidas trainers) but: patiki „Adidas” (trainers “Adidas”); viza-kartichka (Visa card); lego-kocka (Lego cube); powerpoint-prezentacija (Powerpoint presentation); Koka-kola (Coca-Cola) (Orthography, 2017, p. 64, pt. 119). When we add an article to these compound nouns or when we change the grammatical category, we should stick to the first rule for writing hyphenated compound nouns, that is, we put the article on the second noun, while the first noun has an attributive function. On the other hand, if these types of compounds change the word order, in other words, if the trade name is the second element, then they are written open. According to the English language guide book for a proper use of trademarks, “A Guide to Proper Trademark
Use” International Trademark Association (2012), the trademarks or trade names should be used only as adjectives and should be written in capital letters. The examples show that these types of compounds are written open or separated: IKEA store (Ikea-prodavnica); KLEENEX tissues (Klineks-maramchinja); Canon® cameras (kanon-fotoaparati). Finally, we can say that the compounds in which the first part is a trademark (name), in the Macedonian language are written hyphenated, while in English they are written open (separated). It is interesting to point out that Coca-Cola as a compound is an exception, it is written hyphenated in English as well as in Macedonian: Coca-Cola company (kompanija „Koka-kola“).

E) This rule applies to the compound nouns composed of two nouns, whose second part is equal and when they are connected, the second part of the first noun is omitted and a hyphen is written, and at the end the two parts are connected with the conjunction “and” (“i”) (Orthography, 2017, p. 64, pt. 121). Several examples are listed here: audio- i videooprema (audiooprema i videooprema) (audio- and video equipment (audio equipment and video equipment); bio- i bibliografija (biografija i bibliografija) (bio- and bibliography) (biology and bibliography); mikro- i makroekonomija (mikroekonomija i makroekonomija) (micro- and macro economics) (micro economics and macro economics). In the English language, according to NARA Style Guide (2012) and The Free Dictionary by Farlex, this type of compounds are called suspended compounds, as a result of the omission of the second part e.g. nineteenth- and twentieth-century (nineteenth-century and twentieth-century) (devetnaesettiot i dvaesettiot vek). In such a way of forming compounds, we note that the formation is the same as in the Macedonian language, there is omission of the second part of the first word, on its place a hyphen is added, and then we add the conjunction “and” (“i”).

F) The next rule says that when in the compound nouns in which the first part is a hyphenated compound having an attributive function, the second part is written open e.g. koktel-shou emisija (cocktail-show program); revolving-kredit limit (revolving-credit limit); rols-rojs avtomobil (Rolls-Royce automobile); hip-hop zabava (hip-hop party); hip-hop izveduvach (hip-hop singer), hip-hop mužika (hip-hop music); Bi-bi-si programa (BBC-program); Ce-dur skala (C-major scale) etc. In the Macedonian language these compounds are noun compounds in which the first part is written hyphenated and the second part is a noun written separately from the hyphenated part koktel-shou (polusloženka) (hyphenated compound) u emisija (program) a noun written separately.

According to GPO Style Manual, in the English language the rule for writing this type of compounds, says that a hyphen should be written between words, or abbreviations and words combined to form an attributive part (modifier) immediately preceding the word modified. This means, that the rule for writing this type of compounds is the same in Macedonian and English, except that in English this applies particularly to combinations in which one element is a present or past participle and in Macedonian the hyphenated compound is always made of noun-noun relation e.g. US-owned property (nedvizhina vo sopstvenost na SAD); Law-abiding citizen (poslussen gragjanin); High-speed line (lenta za brzo vozenje). But also, it should be mentioned that these English examples when translated into Macedonian are not compound words.

On the other hand, also in GPO Style Manual it is stated that where meaning is clear and readability is not aided, it is not necessary to use a hyphen to make a compound e.g. Civil rights case (slучaj za gragiansko pravo); Food control study (studija za bezbednost na hrana); Income tax form (formular za danok na prihod); Natural gas company (kompanija za priroden gas) etc. The same as the previous English examples, these are not compound words in Macedonian.
As we mentioned before in the first rule, in the English language in the compound nouns in which the first part has an attributive function over the other part, are mostly written open or closed, and rarely hyphenated. Therefore, we can conclude that in the English language unlike in the Macedonian, the hyphen is used only when there may be incomprehension in the meaning of the compound.

G) The noun compounds which have a letter or a symbol as first part are written hyphenated (Orthography, 2017, p.64, pt. 123), e.g. A-bomba (A-bomb), X-bomba (H-bomb), A-reprezentacija (A-representation), B-kategorija (B-category), Rh-factor (Rh factor), pH-vrednost (pH value), T profil (T-profile), V-izrez (V-necked). According to the examples given in the Orthography of the Macedonian language, the GPO Style Manual and in the California Style Manual, and in consultation with the Oxford Online Dictionary, we can conclude that in both languages this rule is the same. But, the difference between the Macedonian and English rule for writing this type of compounds can be noticed e.g. Rh-factor, pH-vrednost, where we note that in English they are written open. This is because the rule in English says that a hyphen is written to join a single capital letter to a noun or a participle.

5. Conclusion.

The analysis shows that besides the similarities between the two languages, regarding the orthography of the hyphenated compound nouns, there are a large number of differences as well. Hence, among other mentioned factors, taking into consideration everyday written practice, we can conclude that the Macedonian orthography of the hyphenated compound nouns is influenced by the English orthography of the same compounds. Words to that effect, it is especially important to emphasize the role of the Macedonian and English teaching staff in emphasizing the differences between the languages and in affirmation of the standard language norm of the Macedonian language. Also, the prudent information downloading from English sources should be mentioned, because as we already said, by taking the word-forms we can easily take their orthography, which leads to miswritten words in the practice.

References


**Excerpts**


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