COMPOUND WORDS IN LOVER ALBUM BY TAYLOR SWIFT: A MORPHOLOGICAL STUDY

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the morphological processes of compound words found in the lyrics of Lover, an album by Taylor Swift. The research employs a qualitative descriptive method, focusing on identifying the types, functions, and meanings of compound words present in the album's lyrics. The results reveal six types of compound words, categorized as adverbial compounds, verbal compounds, and nominal compounds, with nominal compounds being the most prevalent. Words such as sweetheart and daylight represent themes of affection and hope, while terms like heartbreak and homecoming convey emotional nuances associated with love, loss, and relationships. This research highlights the role of morphology in songwriting and demonstrates how compound words enhance the emotional and thematic depth of the lyrics. The findings offer new insights into the intersection of language and art, emphasizing the creative use of morphological processes in popular music.

Keywords: *morphology, compound words, song lyrics.*

INTRODUCTION

Language allows us to express ideas, thoughts, and emotions, whether orally or in writing. Language provides individuals with the ability to understand how a person behaves and the importance they place on achieving their goals. English is the most widely spoken language in the world and the one that everyone can understand. While every ideal sentence is made up of a carefully arranged selection of words, the language will not be perfect. Thus, this compilation of terms proves essential to constitute an organized and usable language. In the field of linguistics, a word in an oral language is defined as the smallest phonemic unit that can be articulated in a sentence. The idea of "word" is generally differentiated from that of morpheme, which represents the smallest unit of a word that carries meaning, even if it does not appear in isolation or in other small words. The term is included in the lexicon of individuals and represents an excellent method for differentiating the components of the nation "word" is by explicitly contrasting them (McCarthy, 2002:60 cited in Cahyani, 2016:60). Because the word is used in everyday conversation, it follows that the word is a crucial component of communication. To find out more in-depth about words in language, this focus is discussed in a linguistics study called Morphology.

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Morphology is a branch of linguistics that deals with the internal structure of words. According to Fromkin (cited in Arifin, 2014: 37), the morpheme is a minimal unit of meaning in linguistics. There are two categories of morphemes: independent morphemes and dependent morphemes. Autonomous morphemes are those that can be used independently as a word, such as chair, table, flower and for. In other words, bound morphemes such as affixes (whether prefixes or suffixes), infixes and structures cannot manifest themselves as autonomous words. They must necessarily be associated with another morpheme (Finegan, 2008: 62). In morphology, we analyze the construction of words, including how new terms are created in different languages around the world and how the forms of these words change depending on their use in sentences. (Rochelle Lieber: 2009).

There are a multitude of procedures for creating a word or new words in English. Compounding is one of the methods used to create a word. Compounding is the procedure that allows two autonomous morphemes, such as nouns, adjectives or verbs, to be united in order to form a new and unique compound term. In reference to Falk's (1978: 43) general definition of linguistics, "compounding is one of the word formation process in English". This implies that the process of compounding is how two words come together to form a new meaning based on context. "Compounding is the process of combining two words (free morphemes) to create a new word (commonly a noun, verb, or adjective).

Compounds are written sometimes as one word, sometimes as two hyphenated words, and sometimes as two separate words" (Nordquist,2019). According to O'grady and Dobrovolsky (1996.127) "compounding differs from language to language, while the practice in English deals with the combination of some lexical categories, such as noun, adjectives, verbs, or preposition which most morpheme is called as the head that determines the category of a compounding". According to experts, the process of compounding can be considered as a renowned technique of lexical formation capable of creating new words commonly used in each sentence, if it is feasible.

The writer also becomes aware of the existence of various forms of word creation by assembly. The morphological method can lead to the creation of certain types of words, which are also covered in morphology courses. The techniques mentioned include invention, loan, compounding, blending, cutting, retroformation, conversion, acronym as well as multiple processes and Affixation. Related to morphology, in this study, the writer chooses "Lover" Album by American singer Taylor Swift as the object of the writer's research. In addition, the

writer Opt for examining the lexical category of compound terms in the construction of words within the lyrics, because we find a multitude of linguistic varieties that many people are frequently likely to hear in the texts of songs.

The compound word "sweetheart" is created in Taylor Swift's song "Lover" by fusing the words "sweet" and "heart." This phrase is frequently used to describe someone who is tender, caring, and incredibly loved. "Sweetheart" is a kind and affectionate way to refer to your romantic partner in the song's setting, highlighting the sincerity and warmth of your bond.

METHODOLOGY

The author chose the lyrics of the songs from Taylor Swift's album "Lover" as the subject of study for his research, because of the way in which extensive Taylor Swift's vocabulary is and because of her intense desire to learn some of the compound terms used in the lyrics, the writer chose song lyrics from her album "Lover" as the source material for this study. This research used Approche qualitative descriptive pour analyser les divers genres de mots composés, le rôle de chaque type de mot composé et le sens du mot composé décelé dans les textes de l'album « Lover » de Taylor Swift. Selon Sugiyono (2010), l'emploi d'une méthode descriptive qualitative signifie que les informations ont été collectées à travers des mots plutôt que des nombres. En outre, Ary (2010 : 424) affirme que l'investigateur qualitatif manipule des données présentées sous forme de mots ou d'images plutôt que de chiffres et de statistiques.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Data 1 - "Sweetheart"

- **Components**: "Sweet" + "heart"
- **Type**: Noun + Noun compound
- **Function**: This compound term is used as a term of endearment. It evokes a sense of affection and intimacy, fitting the romantic theme of the song.

The compound word "sweetheart" is created in Taylor Swift's song "Lover" by fusing the words "sweet" and "heart." This phrase is frequently used to describe someone who is tender, caring, and incredibly loved. "Sweetheart" is a kind and affectionate way to refer to your romantic partner in the song's setting, highlighting the sincerity and warmth of your bond.

Data 2 - "Daylight"

- **Components**: "Day" + "light"
- **Type**: Noun + Noun compound

- **Function**: In the song "Daylight," this compound word symbolizes clarity, new beginnings, and a sense of hope or renewal, reflecting the song's theme of moving forward into a brighter future.

The compound word "daylight" in Taylor Swift's Daylight from the Lover album is made up of the words "day" and "light," and it represents positivity, clarity, and hope. "Daylight" is a metaphor for the transition from a state of uncertainty or darkness to one of emotional warmth and brightness. The singer's realisation that she has gone past turbulent or traumatic relationships and is now experiencing a healthier, clearer love is reflected in the song.

Data 3 - "Heartbeat"

- **Components**: "Heart" + "beat"
- **Type**: Noun + Noun compound
- **Function**: In the song "Heartbeat," this compound word symbolizes emotions, feelings, love, passion, and vulnerability. In the context of *Lover*, many songs revolve around emotions tied to love and relationships, with the "heart" often at the center of these themes.

The compound word "Heartbeat" in Taylor Swift's Daylight from the Lover album is made up of the words "Heart" and "beat," and it represents the emotional and physical response to love and memories, while in other songs, the heart and rhythm (beat) are implied through emotions tied to relationships.

Data 4 - "Heartbreak"

- **Components**: "Heart" + "break"
- **Type**: Noun + Verb compound
- **Function**: In the song "Heartbreak," this compound word symbolizes destruction, emotional pain, or loss. In the context of love and relationships, it signifies emotional suffering, distress, or the end of a relationship.

The compound word "Heartbreak" in Taylor Swift's from the Lover album is made up of the words "Heart" and "break," and it represents emotional pain caused by the loss of love or the end of a relationship, both of which are explored in *Lover*. The album contrasts the joy of love with the ever-present risk of heartache, making heartbreak a key theme, even if the word itself is not always directly mentioned.

Data 5 - "Homecoming"

- **Components**: "Home" + "coming"

- **Type**: Noun + Verb compound
- **Function**: In the song "Homecoming" this compound word symbolizes destruction, emotional pain, or loss. In the context of love and relationships, it signifies emotional suffering, distress, or the end of a relationship.

The compound word "Homecoming" in Taylor Swift's from the *Lover* album is made up of the words "Heart" and "break," and it represents emotional pain caused by the loss of love or the end of a relationship, both of which are explored in *Lover*. The album contrasts the joy of love with the ever-present risk of heartache, making heartbreak a key theme, even if the word itself is not always directly mentioned.

Data 6 - "Goodbye"
- **Components**: "Good" + "bye"
- **Type**: Adjective + Noun compound
- **Function**: In the song "Goodbye" this compound word symbolizes closure, transition, or emotional departure. In the context of lyrics or themes in *Lover*, the word "goodbye" would likely symbolize an emotional farewell, be it the end of a relationship, the closure of a chapter, or the act of letting go.

The compound word "Goodbye" in Taylor Swift's Cornelia Street from the Lover album is made up of the words "Good" and "bye," and it represents the act of leaving someone or something behind.

Data 7 - "Flashbacks"
- **Components**: "Flash" + "backs"
- **Type**: Noun + Noun compound
- **Function**: In the song "Flashbacks" this compound word symbolizes nostalgic memories and the deep emotional impact that certain moments or places have on a person. In the context of "Flashbacks" evoke a sense of reflection and attachment to the time spent in Cornelia Street, which holds a special place in the narrator's heart.

The compound word "Flashbacks" in Taylor Swift's from the *Lover* album is made up of the words "Flash" and "backs" and it represents those sudden, emotional recollections of moments that were meaningful and formative, often carrying a bittersweet quality.

CONCLUSION

This research on compound words in the lyrics of Taylor Swift's Lover album reveals the significant role of morphology in enhancing the lyrical meaning and emotional depth of

the songs. Through a qualitative descriptive analysis, the study identified seven types of compound words, with nominal compounds being the most dominant. These compound words are not merely linguistic features but contribute to the thematic richness of the album, reflecting emotions tied to love, relationships, hope, and heartbreak. The study highlights the use of compound words as a stylistic device that enriches the language of popular music. By blending words with specific emotional and symbolic connotations, Taylor Swift creates a unique narrative that resonates with listeners. For instance, words like "sweetheart" evoke affection, while terms like "heartbreak" symbolize emotional pain, each serving to deepen the listener's connection to the song's themes.

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