Compound Nouns in the German Terminology of the Border Guarding Sphere

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ABSTRACT

Constant changes in all the spheres of human life certainly affect the development of the vocabulary of the language because the new objects and concepts must be nominated; respectively, new lexical units are formed. Compounding is a common way of word formation in the German language. This phenomenon mostly affects nouns. In German, compound nouns are defined as composites, characterized by specific semantic and structural features as well as certain features of formation and functioning. In the field of border guarding (BG) and protection, German compound nouns function to nominate the relevant border concepts.

Keywords: Border, Schengen, terminology, German, compound noun, structure, gender.

1. Introduction

Compounding as one of the ways of word-formation is characteristic of the German language. T. Shippan, G.-R. Fluck, T. Rölke consider compounding as one of the most productive types of word formation in the German language (Roelcke, 2005; Schippan, 1992; Fluck, 1996). In the field of professional terminology, the increased need for nomination is covered mainly by word-formation. T. Rölke, pointing to the role of compound words in this area, notes that complex words (and among them, first of all, determinative compound words) represent detailed characteristics of notions at the lexical level. This characteristic is considered, as a rule, as a transformation of the attributive nominal complex or construction with a relative sentence or a subordinate clause, which leads to speech savings in terms of expression reduction (Roelcke, 2005).

2. Compounding as a Means of Word Formation

Compounding is one way of word formation, which consists of the morphological connection of two or more bases or whole words or their abbreviations. This is one of the most productive ways of creating words, which results in forming compound words or composites, which function grammatically and semantically as one word. Word formation is one of the most important means of language enrichment. It is one of the oldest ways of word formation, which has preserved productivity in the German language at its development stage. Due to it, the language replenishes its vocabulary and improves its structure. Word formation is closely related to grammar and greatly influences the lexical structure of the language. It reflects the specifics of the language because along with some common features for many languages, there is a national characteristic only for the given language features, being one of the differences between one language and another.
Compounding is one of the most effective types of word-formation in the German language. Compound terms are formed by combining two existing words in the language. The lexical units, which are the part of the composite as part of a new whole, limit their semantic and grammatical (morphological-syntactic) versatility and independence. Based on the semantics of the components, they are subject to the new paradigmatic and syntagmatic functions.

Almost every compound word model has its own syntactic source, which is transformed into an act of derivation: the analytical name is transformed into a synthetic one. The multi-word name is universalized and transformed into a one word-name. As a result of such transformations between a syntactic source and a compound word, there is a distance that influences, mainly, on semantic properties of the units. The value of a composite consists of the combined lexical value of bases and the structural value of the model.

The use of compound words in German is explained by the simplification of grammatical structures because then there is no need to think about the coordination of grammatical categories (e.g., case, number, declension) in phrases. A complex word replaces, in this case, a whole phrase or even a sentence. A compound can be made from nouns, adjectives, verbs or an invariable element (prepositions). There is no limit to the number of the associated words. The last word always determines the gender, the number and the case of the compound noun.

3. Compound Noun-Terms in the German Border Terminology

Terminological units occupy an important place in the vocabulary of any language, and German is no exception. The development of science and technology and the progress in all the spheres of human life predetermine the need to create new concepts and nominate existing ones. Modern linguists study the structural, semantic, functional and cognitive peculiarities of the professional terminology (Yespenko, 2021; Kurakh, 2016; Sydorenko & Dudok, 2014; Shyshliha, 2006). Professional terminology systems can be considered only as relatively independent systems based on a common language, using common language inventory, i.e. grammatical, syntactic, semantic, and other means. Common language is primary in relation to the professional one because the latter is based on the structures and rules of the former develops and creates its own inventory (creation of own lexical units (terms), giving preference to certain syntactic models, etc.).

In our work, we consider and analyze German noun-terms of the border guarding sphere and define them as units denoting border guarding concepts that are created artificially, taken from a natural language or borrowed from related fields with which certain concepts correlate and which is correlated to other notions in this field. German BG noun-terms are 185 lexical units that have been extracted from Schengen Borders Code (Ger.Schengener Grenzkdex) (Verordnung (EU) 2016/399). Compounding as a productive type of word formation in the German BG terminology exists in full accordance with the general tendencies of productive word formation in the modern German language.

The analysis of existing compound words in the German BG terminology shows that the multinomial complex words are usually binary due to the hierarchical structure of compounds in the terminological text. When a compound word includes, for example, three components, it does not mean that they signify three different notions. According to the compounding principles, two of them first form a narrower semantic unit, and together with the third component, which may be in pre- or postposition - a three-part, they form a complex trinomial lexical unit. E.g., in the lexical unit ‘Grenzschutzbeamte (m)’ the base noun is ‘Beamte (m)’. ‘Grenzschutz (m)’ exists in the German BG terminology as a two-base compound, which can form three-base compounds with the other nouns, such as ‘Behörde (m)’, ‘Gebiet (n)’, ‘Polizei (f)’ etc., signifying different notions, which refer to the sphere of border-guarding (Ger.Grenzschutz). A compound noun structure has always been interesting for German linguistic studies because each compound noun component plays a certain role. According to the syntactic and semantic classification of complex words in the German language, there are the following types of connection of components: defining, copulating (conjunctive), possessive (Zaunbrecher, 2016).

1. In the copulative type of conjunction, the first element does not reveal the feature of the main word but has the character of an equal combination, complementarity. Both components, as a rule, belong to the same grammatical class. It should be noted that there is such a connection not very common among nouns, and no lexical units of copulative type were detected within our study.

2. Possessive connection, on the one hand, is close to the definite type, but the newly formed complex word cannot be reformulated using its constituent elements. From a semantic point of view, these are mainly metonymies (synecdoches), when the words used instead of others figuratively. The terminological vocabulary does not typically contain such figures of speech as mentioned above; that is why no lexical units formed by means of possessive connection have been analyzed within our work.

3. Definitive connection. The structure of such a complex word is characterized by an attributive relationship, in which the first component characterizes the second, namely the main component. That is, the first word is considered significant for the second that is central to the structure. According to scholars, “defining compound nouns play an important role in the field of word formation and belong to the most common and most productive way of forming complex nouns” (Lohde, 2006). All the nouns analyzed within the Schengen Borders Code have been
formed on the base of definitive connection. The nouns of this type of word formation are easy to reformulate, transforming them into the syntactic structure of the constituent components of a compound word:

‘Ausreisestempel (m)’ – ein Stempel bei der Ausreise;
‘Binnengrenze (f)’ – eine Grenze, die binnen eines Landes liegt;
‘Kontrollpost (f)’ – eine Post für die Kontrolle.

4. Structural Peculiarities of German Compound Noun-Terms

In a compound noun structure, the main lexeme is distinguishing and is always the last in the compound pattern. The previous word (or words) in its structure can belong to any part of speech. According to the morphological principle of formation of compound nouns, the first element of the nominal compound terms within our study can be:

a. a noun: ‘Dienstpass (m)’, ‘Landgrenze (f)’, ‘Unionsrecht (n)’ etc;
b. a preposition: ‘Binnengrenze (f)’, ‘Durchführungsbevugnis (f)’, ‘Zwischenlandflughaf en’ etc;
c. an adjective: ‘Höchstdauer (f)’, ‘Kurzauffenthalt (m)’, ‘Sonderregelung(f)’;
d. an adverb: ‘Außengrenze (f)’, ‘Außengrenzübergangsstelle (f)’, ‘Zusammenarbeit (f)’;
e. a numeral: ‘Drittstaat (m)’, ‘Drittstaatsangehörige (m)’;
f. a particle: ‘Nichtzurückweisung (f)’;
g. a verb: ‘Begleitperson (f)’.

From the point of view of gender, ie according to the morphological principle, the largest number of 185 noun-composites are masculine gender nouns (74 units): ‘Amtspass (m)’, ‘Einreisemitgliedstaat(m)’, ‘Fingerabdruck(m)’ etc. 72 terminological units belong to the feminine gender (72 units): ‘Flussgrenze (f)’, ‘Grenzkontrolle (f)’, ‘Personengruppe (f)’ etc. 37 nouns-composites are of the neuter gender: ‘Herkunftsland (n)’, ‘Reisedokument (n)’, ‘Verfassungsmerkmal(n)’ etc. Among the compound terms, 2 lexical units are used in the plural: ‘die Binnenwässer (pl)’ and ‘die Vermögenswerte (pl)’.

**Figure 1.** Generic affiliation of German BG terms-compounds

All the compound noun-terms within Schengener Grenzkodex (Verordnung (EU) 2016/399) are divided into two-component, three-component and four-component. Two-component terms significantly predominate in quantitative terms: there have been found 139 two-component noun-terms in comparison with 39 three-component and 7 four-component ones. Thus, four-component terms make up only 4% of the total, three-component terms - 21%. In turn, two-component terms are 75% within the given study, which indicates their high performance.

a. two-component compounds: ‘Asylantrag (m)’, ‘Diplomatenpass (m)’, ‘Fahndungssystem (n)’ etc.

b. three-component compounds: ‘Benelux-Wirtschaftsunion (f)’, ‘Grenzübergangsstelle (f)’, ‘Transferfluggast (m)’ etc.

c. four-component compounds: ‘Außengrenzübergangsstelle (f)’, ‘Flughafentransitvisum (n)’, ‘Zwischenlandflughafen (m)’ etc.
All the above mentioned 139 two-component noun-terms are formed according to the following patterns:

a. noun + noun (130 lexical units): ‘Grenzpendler (m), ‘Identitätsdokument (n), ‘Grenzgebiet (n)’ etc.

b. preposition + noun (4 lexical units): ‘Binnengrenze (f), ‘Binnenflug (m), ‘Binnensee (m)’ etc.

c. adjective + noun (3 lexical units): ‘Höchstdauer (f), ‘Kurzaufenthalt (m), ‘Sonderregelung (f)’ etc.

d. adverb + noun (2 lexical units): ‘Außengrenze (f), ‘Zusammenarbeit (f)’.

The German three-component noun-terms of BG sphere are based on the following patterns:

a. noun + noun + noun (33 lexical units): ‘Bahnbeförderungsunternehmen (n), ‘Grenzschatzbeamte (m), ‘Zielflughafen (m)’ etc.

b. preposition + noun + noun (4 lexical units): ‘Binnenseegrenze (f), ‘Binnenseehafen (m), ‘Durchreiseland (n)’ etc.

c. numeral + noun + noun (1 lexical unit): ‘Drittstaatsangehörige (m)’.

d. particle + preposition + noun (1 lexical unit): ‘Nichtzurückweisung (f)’.

As mentioned above, there are only 7 four-component noun-terms within the study under consideration. They are formed according to the given patterns:

a. noun + noun + noun + noun (3 lexical units): ‘Flughafentransitvisum (n), ‘Flussschiffahrtshafen (m), ‘Personenkraftfahrzeug (n)’.

b. preposition + noun + noun + noun (2 lexical unit): ‘Durchführungrechtsakt (m), ‘Zwischenlandeindflughafen (m)’.

c. preposition + noun + preposition + noun (1 lexical unit): ‘Durchführungsübereinkommen (n)’.

d. adverb + noun + noun + noun (1 lexical unit): ‘Außengrenzübergangsstelle (f)’.

The use of connecting elements for word formation in the German language is not accidental but performs the corresponding functions. From the phonological point of view, there is a closing of an open syllable, avoiding the assimilation or sequence of monosyllabic syllables. From the morphological standpoint, the boundary of morphemes and grammatical parts of the language of the first components is separated. As for the semantic aspect, the meaning of the polynomial first components differ. The typical connecting elements of the German language are ‘-e(n)’, ‘- (e) n’ ‘- (e) s’ ‘- (e) nd’, ‘-s’, but this phenomenon is not typical within the BG vocabulary within our study. The connecting elements within the BG terms under consideration are:

a. –s (49 lexical units): ‘Gerichtshof(m), ‘Herkunftsland (n), ‘Unionsbürger(m)’ etc;

b. –(e) n- (1 lexical unit): ‘Straßenübergang (m)’.

One more structural peculiarity of German compounds of the BG sphere is their graphic form: they can be written together or through a hyphen. The hyphenated nouns of the vocabulary under consideration are:

a. ‘Benelux-Wirtschaftsunion (f)’;

b. ‘Pkw-Insasse (m)’;

c. ‘Offshore-Anlage (f)’.

Their structural peculiarity is predetermined by the fact that the first element is either a proper noun (a), an abbreviation (b), or a borrowing (c).

At the present stage of research on the development of the German language, it is worth noting the strong influence of English on German, which is reflected not only in the borrowing of new words but also in the use of borrowed lexical units in word-formation. Thus, the English borrowing within our work is ‘offshore’ (‘Offshore-Anlage’(f). Considering the fact that German BG terminology is a set of lexical units used in the European Union within the scope of the Schengen Borders Code, there exist following English borrowings, which contain the lexeme ‘union’:

‘Benelux-Wirtschaftsunion(f)’;

‘Unionsbürger (m)’;

‘Unionsebene (f)’,

**Figure 2. The structural classification of compound noun-terms.**
‘Unionsrecht (n)’.

5. Concluding Remarks

This paper outlined the main features of German compound BG noun-terms within the Schengen Borders Code. Composite terms are compound terminological units representing a multicomponent structure and are distinguished by certain semantic integrity and autonomy. German compounds are an effective means of nominating the notions of the BG sphere in the German language.

We can conclude that most compound noun terms in the German terminological vocabulary within our study are of masculine gender (48%). As for their structural classification, 75% of them are two-component terms, formed according to four productive patterns. Three- and four-component nouns are less productive (21% and 4%, accordingly). All the German compound nouns within our research are formed on the basis of 12 patterns, the most productive of which is the combination of two nouns (131 lexical units). The German compounds of the BG sphere are formed in accordance with the principles of productive word formation in the modern German language, both with the use of connecting elements and without them. The possessive type of components proves to be the most productive one.

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