

STRUCTURAL MODELS OF ENGLISH BINOMIAL CONSTRUCTIONS AND THEIR CHARACTERISTICS

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Annotatsiya. Ushbu tezisdagi ingliz tilidagi binomial konstruksiyalarning asosiy strukturaviy modellari va ularning o'ziga xos xususiyatlari tahlil qilinadi. Asosiy e'tibor komponentlarning grammatik kategoriyalariga hamda ot, fe'l, sifat, ravish va predloglardan tashkil topuvchi strukturaviy modellarga qaratiladi. Avvalgi lingvistik tadqiqotlarga tayangan holda ushbu modellarning qo'llanish chastotasi va taqsimoti ham ko'rib chiqiladi. Tahlil natijalari umumiy materialda otli binomiallar eng katta guruhni tashkil etishini, yuqori chastotali binomiallarda esa ravishli va predlogli modellar nisbatan faolroq namoyon bo'lishini ko'rsatadi. Shuningdek, strukturaviy modellarning taqsimoti janrga ko'ra farqlanishi mumkinligi hamda binomial konstruksiyalarning shakllanishida bog'lovchi elementlarning o'rni qisqacha yoritiladi. Tadqiqot natijalari grammatik tuzilish, qo'llanish chastotasi va bog'lovchi elementlar ingliz tilidagi binomial konstruksiyalarning strukturaviy tashkil topishini tavsiflashda muhim omillar ekanini ko'rsatadi.

Kalit so'zlar: binomial konstruksiya, strukturaviy model, grammatik kategoriya, otli binomial konstruksiya, fe'lli binomial konstruksiya, chastota, bog'lovchi element, koordinatsiya.

Аннотация. В работе рассматриваются основные структурные модели английских биномиальных конструкций и их характерные особенности. Основное внимание уделяется грамматической принадлежности компонентов, а также структурным моделям, образованным существительными, глаголами, прилагательными, наречиями и предлогами. На основе предшествующих лингвистических исследований также анализируются частотность и распределение данных моделей. Результаты показывают, что в общем материале наиболее многочисленную группу составляют биномиальные конструкции с существительными, тогда как среди часто употребляющихся биномиальных конструкций возрастает доля наречных и предложных моделей. Кроме того, отмечается, что распределение структурных моделей может варьироваться в зависимости от жанра, а также кратко рассматривается роль связующих элементов в образовании биномиальных конструкций. Полученные результаты показывают, что грамматическая структура, частотность употребления и связующие элементы являются важными факторами при описании структурной организации английских биномиальных конструкций.

Ключевые слова: биномиальная конструкция, структурная модель, грамматическая категория, именной биномиал, глагольный биномиал, частотность, связующий элемент, координация.

Abstract. This paper examines the main structural models of English binomial constructions and their characteristic features. Particular attention is given to the grammatical categories of the components and the structural patterns formed by nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and prepositions. Drawing on previous linguistic studies, the analysis also considers the frequency and distribution of these models and shows that noun binomials constitute the largest group in the overall material, while adverbial and prepositional patterns become more prominent among frequently occurring binomials. The study further notes that the distribution of structural models may vary across genres and briefly considers the role of linking elements in the formation of binomial constructions. The findings demonstrate that grammatical structure, frequency, and linking elements are important factors in describing the structural organization of English binomials.

Keywords: binomial construction, structural model, grammatical category, noun binomial, verb binomial, frequency, linking element, coordination.

Introduction. Binomial constructions are a type of coordinated word combination in English in which two elements are linked, usually by conjunctions such as *and* and *or*. Expressions such as *bread and butter*, *safe and sound*, and *come and go* illustrate how words belonging to the same grammatical category can form a coordinated structure. Although binomials have been studied from semantic, pragmatic, and phraseological perspectives, their structural organization is also important for understanding how these constructions are formed and used in English.

One of the main ways of describing binomial constructions is to classify them according to the grammatical category of their components. On this basis, English binomials may occur as combinations of nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and prepositions. These structural patterns differ in their frequency and distribution, with some models occurring more commonly than others. A clear description of these models provides a useful basis for understanding the grammatical organization of binomial constructions in English. Therefore, the present study examines the main structural models of English binomial constructions and discusses their characteristic features, drawing on previous linguistic studies.

Structural classification of binomial constructions

One of the main criteria for classifying binomial constructions is the grammatical structure of their components. Malkiel's early definition provides an important structural basis for this approach: he describes a binomial as a sequence of two words belonging to the same form-class and placed at the same level of syntactic hierarchy, usually connected by a lexical link [5.1959.B.113]. A similar structural principle is found in later studies. Siyanova-Chanturia, Conklin, and van Heuven similarly characterize the structural composition of binomials as involving two content words from the same lexical class connected by a conjunction [6.2011.B.777]. Thus, membership of the components in the same grammatical category can be regarded as one of the central structural features of binomial constructions.

Kopaczky and Sauer develop this principle further by defining a binomial as a coordinated pair of linguistic units belonging to the same word class and having a semantic relationship [4.2017.B.3]. They also regard structural repetition as a defining feature of binomials, since one member of a grammatical category is coordinated with another member of the same category [4.2017.B.16]. For descriptive purposes, this structure can be represented as X + conjunction + Y, where X and Y normally belong to the same word class. Malkiel uses A and B to represent the two members of a binomial and l to represent the link between them [5.1959.B.114]. He later presents A + l + B as the basic frame of a binomial [5.1959.B.134].

Biber, Conrad, and Leech also illustrate four structural types of binomial expressions: verb + verb, noun + noun, adverb + adverb, and adjective + adjective [1.2002.B.448–449].

According to the grammatical category of their components, English binomial constructions can be divided into several major structural patterns. Kopaczky and Sauer note that noun pairs are the most frequent, followed by verb and adjective pairs, while combinations of adverbs and prepositions are less common [4.2017.B.3].

1. Noun + Noun (N + N).
This model consists of two coordinated nouns. Examples include *bread and butter*, *man and wife*, and *heaven and earth* [4.2017.B.3].

2. Verb + Verb (V + V).
Verb binomials consist of two coordinated verbs. Examples include *to have and to hold*, *hit and run*, and *divide and conquer* [4.2017.B.3].

3. Adjective + Adjective (Adj + Adj).
This pattern consists of two coordinated adjectives. Examples include *hot and spicy* and *dead or alive* [4.2017.B.3].

4. Adverb + Adverb (Adv + Adv).
This model consists of two coordinated adverbs. An example is *loud and clear* [4.2017.B.3].

5. Preposition + Preposition (Prep + Prep).
This model consists of two coordinated prepositions. An example is *in and out* [4.2017.B.3].

Frequency and distribution of structural models

The structural models of English binomials are not equally represented in actual language use. Gustafsson's corpus-based analysis demonstrates considerable differences in the distribution of binomials according to the grammatical category of their components. In her overall material, noun binomials constituted the largest group, accounting for 50.18% of all occurrences. They were followed by verb binomials at 17.67% and adjective binomials at 12.75%, while adverbial and prepositional binomials represented 7.78% and 5.82%, respectively [2.1976.B.630].

These figures support the observation of Kopaczky and Sauer that nouns represent the most frequent word class in binomial constructions. However, Gustafsson's results also show that the distribution changes considerably when only frequently occurring binomials are considered. In this group, noun binomials account for 36.80%, while adverbial binomials rise to 34.13% and prepositional binomials to 16.27%. By contrast, verb and adjective binomials constitute only 5.47% and 1.73%, respectively [2.1976. B.630].

This contrast suggests that the numerical dominance of a structural model in the overall material does not necessarily mean that the same model will dominate among highly recurrent expressions. Noun binomials are clearly the largest structural category in the complete dataset, whereas adverbial and prepositional patterns become much more prominent among frequently repeated binomials. Gustafsson herself notes that approximately half of the frequent occurrences in her material consist of adverbial and prepositional binomials, including expressions such as *here and there*, *more and more*, *sooner or later*, and *up and down* [2.1976.B.629].

These findings show that grammatical classification and frequency distribution describe different aspects of binomial constructions. Structural models identify the word-class composition of binomials, while frequency data show how prominently each model is represented in actual use.

The distribution of structural models may also vary across genres. Gustafsson's later study shows that the proportion of particular word classes differs in different types of English prose. In legal texts, for instance, adjective and adverb binomials occur less frequently than in the overall material, indicating that genre may influence the distribution of particular structural patterns [3.1984.B.132].

Linking elements in binomial constructions

The components of binomial constructions are commonly linked by conjunctions. Kopaczky and Sauer note that *and* is used most frequently, while *or* and other connectors also occur [4.2017.B.3]. Malkiel shows that the link may also be a preposition [5.1959.B.129–130]. Thus, the linking element forms an important part of the structural organization of binomial constructions.

Conclusion

The analysis shows that English binomial constructions are primarily based on the coordination of two components belonging to the same grammatical category. The main structural models include N + N, V + V, Adj + Adj, Adv + Adv, and Prep + Prep, with noun binomials forming the most prominent group in the overall material. At the same time, the frequency of particular models may change when highly recurrent expressions or different genres are considered. The structural organization of binomials also involves linking elements: *and* occurs most frequently, while *or* and other linking elements also occur. Therefore, the structural classification of binomial constructions provides a clear basis for describing their grammatical organization and patterns of use in English.

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