

BLENDING IN ETULO COMPOUND WORDS

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Abstract

In most languages of the world, compounding is a word formation process that is frequently employed in forming new lexemes. This study attempts to investigate this word formation process in Etulo. It is basically concerned with finding out the noun-noun compounds in the language as well as ascertaining the applicability of the conceptual blending theory to the analysis of the compound words. The data for the study were elicited from Etulo native speakers resident in Adi, Buruku Local Government Area of Benue State. A number of the Etulo noun-noun compounds are analyzed based on the tenets of the conceptual blending theory to show how two different concepts are integrated into one in the language. Our findings show that blending theory can account for the Etulo noun-noun compound words. Furthermore, there is the existence of vital relations such as property, analogy, similarity and uniqueness between the mental spaces and in the blended space. In addition, the principle of integration and the relevance principle are satisfied by the blend. Finally the noun-noun compounds examined trigger the double scope integration network.

Introduction

Compounding is a morphological process that has been variously defined as the combination of two or more lexemes. It is also a part of derivational morphology that is universally recognized and commonly used for enlarging the vocabulary of any language (Fromkin, Rodman and Hyams 2011). In discussing compounds, a distinction is usually drawn between endocentric and exocentric compounds. For Booij (2012) compounds have a binary structure. That is, a compound consists of a combination of two words in which one word modifies the meaning of the other.

Our observations from the literature shows that compounding as a word formation process has been investigated in some African languages like Igbo, Yoruba, Igala, Bantu, Nizaa etc while for some other languages, it is yet to be investigated. Against this backdrop, the present study investigates this word formation process in Etulo, which is one of those languages in which compounding is yet to be investigated. Our focus is basically on noun-noun compounds and our intention is to examine how these combinations are accounted for using the conceptual integration theory. In the section that follows, we provide an overview of compounding.

Compounding: An overview

According to Spencer (1991), compounds are often lexicalized and they are most times subject to semantic drift of a kind associated with stored words. This means that their meaning becomes non-compositional or totally idiosyncratic. We can infer from this that the meaning of a

compound may not necessarily correspond to the meaning of the two or more lexical items that are joined together.

Haspelmath and Sims (2010) view compounding as a relationship that exists between two or more morphologically complex words. Fromkin, Rodman and Hyams (2011) note that spelling does not tell us what sequences of words constitute a compound. This means that whether a compound is spelled with a space between the two words, with hyphen or with no separation at all depends on the idiosyncrasies of the particular compound. For Syal and Jindal (2013), compounds are formed by joining two or more bases. They further opine that the bases of the English compound words in some cases are separated by a hyphen while in other cases the hyphen appears to have disappeared with the passage of time.

Dirven and Verspoor (2004) posit that compounds result from a process of conceptual blending. In addition, they note that during this process of blending, elements from two concepts are selected and combined into a new more complex concept. This view of compounding is adopted as our working definition for this study. For Marchand (1958), compounds consist of two elements which are the determinatum and the determinant. The determinatum is seen as the grammatically dominant part which undergoes inflection and is also narrowed as the second word of a compound. The author however posits that there are combinations in which the essential parts of the determinatum are usually absent. These combinations are called exocentric compounds.

Various studies on compounding have classified compounds into two; namely, endocentric and exocentric compounds (Bloomfield (1933), Marchand (1958), Haspelmath (2010), Booij(2012)). An endocentric compound is a type of compound in which one of the constituents identifies the class to which the entire word belongs. For instance, in the English compound word *dumptruck*, the rightmost element *truck* determines the word-class of the entire word hence *dumptruck* is a type of truck and also a noun. On the other hand, an exocentric compound is a type of compound whose meaning does not follow from the meaning of any of the constituent words. For instance, the English compound *redneck* though a noun is not a type of neck.

It is also possible to classify compounds based on what Guevara and Scalise (2008) refer to as input and output categories. When compounds are classified based on the output categories, we have such labels as nominal compounds, adjectival compounds, verbal compounds etc whereas if the classification is based on input categories, that is, based on the word class of the individual constituents, we have labels such as noun-noun compounds[N+N], noun-verb[N+V] etc. Scalise and Bisetto (2009) however offer a new proposal for classifying compounds based on a simple assumption that the two constituents are linked by a grammatical relation that lacks overt expression. The relations holding between the two constituents of a compound according to them are basically the relations that hold in syntactic constructions. They therefore propose that compounds be classified as subordinate, attributive and co-ordinate and that the compounds of these three classes can be both endocentric and exocentric. Compounds are classified as subordinate when there is a complement relation between the two constituents, For instance in *taxi driver*, *taxi* is seen as the complement of the deverbal head *driver*. An attributive compound is formed by either a noun or an adjective as in *blue cheese* or by two nouns as in *jellyfish/ swordfish* where the non-head is metaphorically used to express the attribute of the head. The co-ordinate compounds however are seen as compounds whose constituents are tied by a conjunction and which from a semantic point of view can be said to have two heads as in *dancer singer* and *dinner dance*.

In the study of compounding, the concept of headedness is also crucial as most compounds are characterized as either left headed or right headed. The head of a compound word is the constituent that determines the category and the broad meaning of the entire word. Compounds with a head are usually called endocentric compounds, a term which to Booij (2012) suggests that the category of the whole construction is identical to that of one of its constituents. Booij (2009) further notes that the differences with respect to the position of the head in compounds suggest that head position is a parametric difference between languages. He observes that English and German compounds are right headed, Welsh and Hebrew compounds are predominantly left headed while other languages like Mandarin and Vietnamese have both left headed and right headed compounds. In the section that follows, the theoretical framework adopted for the study is examined.

Conceptual framework

In this section, we provide an overview of the theoretical framework starting with the background to the theory of conceptual blending. We also highlight aspects of the theory that are relevant for the present study. The development of conceptual blending theory began with mental space theory propounded by Fauconnier (1985). The theory is basically concerned with people's psychological operation in meaning construction, hence Fauconnier (1985) describes mental spaces as partial assemblies that are constructed as we think and talk for the purposes of understanding and action. Another significant source of inspiration for the conceptual blending theory is the conceptual metaphor theory propounded by Lakoff and Johnson (1980). Though aspects of the conceptual blending theory were earlier treated, the theory was systematically described and further developed in Fauconnier and Turner (2000, 2002). Conceptual blending also known as conceptual integration involves a basic mental operation in which a partial match is constructed between two input mental spaces to project selectively into a novel blended space. For Fauconnier and Turner (2008), blending, as a general cognitive process, brings two or more spaces together and during this process, a partial mapping is constructed between the input spaces. Link between two input spaces is referred to as outer space relation but when this link is compressed into the blend, it becomes an inner space relation (Fauconnier and Turner 2002). Furthermore, mapping is the systematic set of correspondence that exists between the elements in the mental spaces. These mappings can be based on a number of different relations which include identity, similarity, analogy, cause-effect, part-whole, time, property, space, change, representation, role, disanalogy, category, intentionality and uniqueness. The vital relations that are relevant to the study are explained based on Dzanic (2007) as follows:

- Similarity: a vital relation that connects elements with properties they have in common.
- Part-whole: a relation which fuses part-whole mappings across spaces into one.
- Analogy: a vital relation that connects two different mental spaces that obtains the same structure through blending.
- Property: an inner space relation which links elements with their properties
- Space: a relation that brings inputs separated in different spaces into one space within the blended space.
- Uniqueness: a crucial vital relation because many relations are compressed into uniqueness in the blend.

Fauconnier and Turner (2002) suggest some optimality principles that blends are likely to satisfy. Some of these principles include the integration principle which is satisfied when representation in the blend can be manipulated as a single unit, the topology principle which is satisfied when relations in the blend match the relation of their counterpart in other spaces, the web principle which is satisfied when representations in the blended space maintain mapping to the input spaces and the relevance principle which is satisfied when elements in the blend have the ability to establish links to other spaces and for running the blend. The relevance principle according to Schmid (2011) is considered not only useful in constraining the blend but also in triggering the blend.

The process of generating a blend according to Fauconnier and Turner (1998) can be summarized according to three general steps. The first step is composition, a stage in which relations that did not exist in the separate inputs become available in the blend. This step is followed by completion, a stage in which generic knowledge is projected into the blend to complete the emergent structure. The third step is elaboration, a stage in which cognitive work is performed in the blend.

As noted by Fauconnier and Turner (1998), conceptual blending is usually described in terms of integration networks which are the simplex, mirror, single scope and double scope networks. Whereas in the simplex network, one input consists of a frame and the other consists of specific elements, the mirror network involves a common organizing frame which is shared by all spaces in the network. For the single scope network, the organizing frames of the inputs are different and the blend inherits only one of the frames while for the double scope network, identity properties are brought in from both inputs. In an integration network, vital relations exist and these relations are seen as connectors that serve to link counterparts within and across mental spaces. The basic diagram for conceptual integration adapted from Turner (2007) is shown in Figure A.

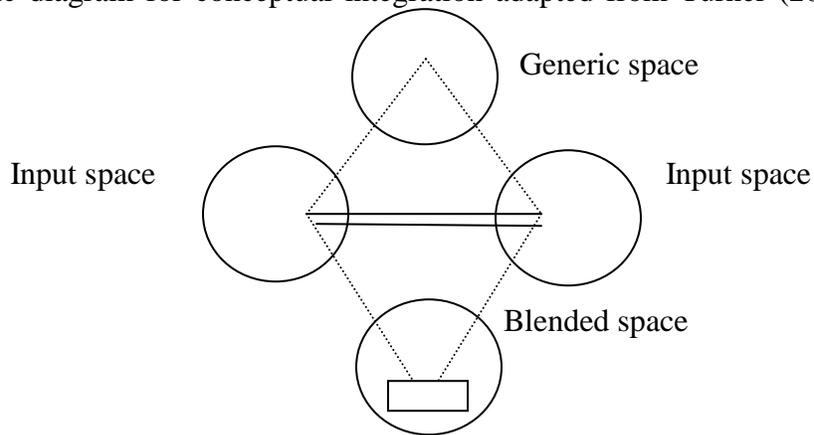


Figure A

In the diagram in Figure a, we have the mental spaces (two input spaces, a blended space and an optional generic space) represented by circles, the solid lines show the cross-space mapping between the inputs, the dotted lines indicate connections between inputs and either generic or blended spaces and the solid square in the blended space stands for the emergent structure.

Theoretical review

According to Handl and Schmid (2011), conceptual blending is a theory which emphasizes online processes that lead to our understanding of linguistic expressions. Assessing

the explanatory capacity of blending theory with reference to its application to novel noun-noun English compounds, they claim that blending is a viable approach to compounding and possibly to word formation in general. Benczes (2011) opines that blending is successful in the explanation of the semantics of compounds whose meaning is based upon the creative manipulation of metaphor and as such have been neglected in traditional analysis on the ground that they are non transparent linguistic phenomena that cannot be semantically analyzed. Dzanic (2007) sees conceptual blending theory as a theory that provides insight to our way of thinking, creating and understanding the world. For Coulson and Oakley (2000), conceptual blending is a theory of online meaning construction that combines dynamic cognitive models in a network of mental spaces thereby allowing for the creative construct of meaning in a variety of domains.

Kovecses (2006) opines that conceptual blending is a basic mental operation that plays a fundamental role in the construction of meaning in everyday life. The author further posits that the theory borders on establishing connections between our understanding of language and the way we comprehend human thought and activity in general. From the ideas of these authors, we can infer that conceptual blending involves one's ability to closely connect and also combine concepts that emanate from separate domains. For instance, the concept *ùgègbèányā* (eyeglass) results from our ability to closely connect two concepts from different domains. (one concept is a part of the body while the other is not)

Empirical review

A considerable amount of research has focused on compounding as a word formation process. Taiwo (2009) in his study on compounding in Yoruba posits that some Yoruba compound words are derived from the clause. His examples are shown below:

1 a. *sòrò* > *sò* + *òrò*
to speak throw word

b. *kíyèsára* > *kó* *iyè* *sí* *ara*
to be observant put mind to body

c. *Babaláwo* > *Baba* *ní* *awo*
herbalist Old man/father has cult

d. *Adéwálé* > *Adé* *wá* *sí* *ilé*
personal name Ade come prep. house

He further observes that in the derivation of these compound words, some phonological processes such as vowel elision, deletion, contraction, tonal displacement/replacement, etc., are employed. For example, in the derivation of *sòrò* 'to speak', the vowel of *sò* 'to throw' alongside its tone is elided and in *kíyèsára*, 'to be observant', the vowels of *kó* 'to put' and that of *sí* 'prep' are elided, but their high tone remains, and this high tone displaces the adjacent mid tone of *iyè* 'mind' and *ara* 'body'. Apart from the elision of the vowel of *ní* in (1c), the alveolar nasal is replaced by the lateral approximant [l].

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Omachonu and Abraham (2012) investigated compounding in Igala and identified five types of combination in Igala namely; Noun +Noun, Noun +Verb, Noun +Adjective, Verb +Verb and Verb +Noun. They further posit that endocentric nominal compounds in Igala are generally left headed while the synthetic compounds exhibit the possibility of either being left-headed or right-headed. Their additional observation reveals that apart from performing the general function of lexical expansion through the creation of new lexical categories or lexemes, compounding has been used copiously in naming concepts, particularly foreign institutions, ideas, items or objects that were hitherto non-existent in the language. Some of the concepts named through compounding in Igala include:

2a.únyì ukoche ‘school’
house lesson

b.únyì ógwù ‘hospital’
house medicine

c. únyì dúdú ‘prison’
house black

d.únyì àjọ ‘court’
house judgement

The above function of compounding in naming concepts is also confirmed for the Koring language based on Anagbogu’s (2006) study in the language. His examples of foreign concepts named by compound words include the following;

3a emārā kēkāl ‘court’
house court

b.emārā lògùà ‘hospital’
house medicine

c.emārā lūkoph ‘school’
house study

d. emārā lòzòm
house prayer ‘church’

e. ketālā lōkpātā ‘aeroplane’
grasshopper sky

Oluikpe and Nwaozuzu (1995) adopt the polysemy theory in establishing Igbo nominal compounds. The thrust of their study is to show that the constructions that are seen as genitival in Igbo are also nominal compounds. Their claim is that where a single lexical item is contextualized, the output will have more than one semantic realization which will differ in grammatical feature. Two of their lexical inputs and their semantic and grammatical realizations are shown below:

4Lexical input	Semantic realization	Grammatical realization
Nwá n'nē	mother's child	genitival
	Brother	compound
	Sister	compound

Àhú íkē	hard body	genitival
	Strong body	genitival
	Health	compound

Culled from Oluikpe and Nwaozuzu (1995)

Anagbogu (1995) tests the strong boundary condition for compounds proposed by Allen (1978) on Igbo compounds. This proposal by Allen assigns weak internal boundaries to compound words that show evidence of phonological alterations while strong internal boundary is assigned to those that do not show evidence of phonological alterations. Based on this proposal, Anagbogu (1995) distinguishes among lexicalized compounds, apparent compounds and genuine compounds. The lexicalized compounds according to him essentially exist as personal names and alongside the apparent compounds which exhibit phonological alterations possess weak internal boundaries. The genuine compounds are insensitive to phonological changes and possess strong internal boundaries. His examples are shown in

- 5a. Nwooyè, Nwaàfò, Nwoòkōyè
- b. Nwammā, Nwuùgò, Nwọ̀dū
- c. ntụegbè 'gunpowder'

The examples in 5a and b are male and female personal names respectively and possess weak internal boundaries while the example in 5c is an instance of a genuine compound with a strong internal boundary that is not prone to phonological alternation. FernánDez-DoMínguez (2010) studies meaning relationship between the constituents of noun-noun English compounds based on 3,093 item corpus and demonstrates that the overall meaning of noun- noun compounds is influenced not only by their heads, but also to a greater extent, by their modifiers.

Benczes (2011) examines the applicability of the blending theory with regard to metaphorical noun noun combinations focusing on two combinations, *sandwich generation* and *flame sandwich*. These combinations according to her, have been largely neglected in the linguistic literature on the grounds that they are unanalyzable. She argues that the meaning of these compounds can be relatively accounted for with the help of blending theory and posits that both *sandwich generation* and *flame sandwich* are based upon productive word-formation patterns which have emerged as successive results of blending operations, starting with the original concept of sandwich. Fan (2014) analyzes exocentric Verb-Noun compounds from the perspective of cognitive grammar by applying an additional mechanism of metonymy. This mechanism according to the author transfers the action denoted by the verbal component into an agent or instrument related to the action. He also claims that in the cognitive frame, exocentric compounds with the help of cognitive tools such as trajector, landmark and metonymy are analyzed in the same way as endocentric compounds. Exemplifying with the exocentric compounds *pickpocket* and *scarecrow*, the author opines that the semantic meaning of the composite structure *pickpocket* neither mean a specific kind of pocket which is denoted by the

noun component *pocket* nor does it designate a process of picking which is profiled by the verb component *pick*. Rather, he opines that although the composite-structure profile of *pickpocket* is not inherited from its component elements, the choice of this profile which consistently corresponds to the verb's trajector follows a regular pattern. In the case of *scarecrow*, the concept of frightening is denoted by the verb (the trajector) 'scare' while *crow* is the landmark that experiences the fright. Fan (2014) represents the analysis of *pickpocket* diagrammatically as shown in figure B.

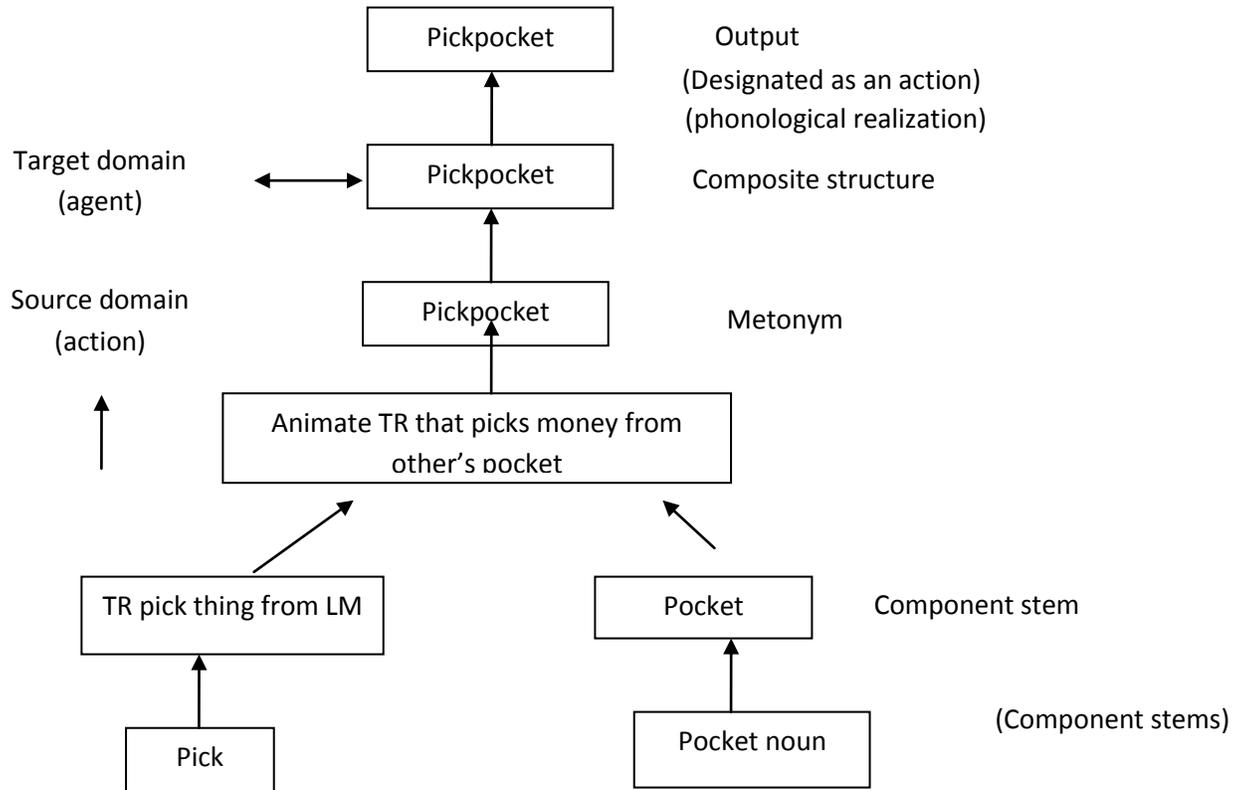


Figure B

In figure B, the verb *pick* is the landmark that is the reference entity in a relation to which the location of motion of the trajectory is specified while the noun *pocket* is the trajector.

Ryder (1994) cited in Schmid (2011) applies conceptual blending theory to the analysis of the noun-noun English compound, *bean garden*. The study reveals that in the blend analysis of *bean-garden*, the blended space recruits the major part of the conceptual structure from one constituent of the compound; usually the head (*garden*). This suggests that the integration network triggered by the blend is the single scope integration network.

Sweetser (1999) uses the theory of mental space blending to describe the mechanism of linguistic compositionality involved in the English adjective-noun modification construction. She claims that the complexity in the interpretation of adjective-noun and the noun-noun construction suggests that a variety of mechanisms such as metaphor and metonymy, blending theory as well as cognitive tools like frames, active zone and profiling may be involved in the semantic interpretation of the compounds. Warren (1992) cited in Benczes (2004) analyzes compounds based on metonymies within metaphors and metaphors within metonymies. The author analyzes

hammerhead (a stubborn person) as an example of metaphor within metonymy where hammer metaphorically refers to something hard and head represents a whole person thereby making the compound a part for whole metonymy. In Fauconnier and Turner (2000) analysis of the compound word 'land yacht', selective elements of two named input spaces, land and yacht are projected into the blended space which gives rise to the emergent meaning 'an expensive luxury car'.

Benczes (2004) examines English exocentric compounds from a cognitive point of view exemplifying with the compound words jailbird, bellybutton and meadow mayonnaise. Her claim is that the three words are modeled with the help of single scope blend. In the case of jailbird, she opines that the two input spaces are the imprisoned person and the caged bird with the latter corresponding to the source domain and the former the target domain. The concept (prisoner) is therefore accessed through the image of a caged bird and conceptual metaphor operates and links the elements in the two spaces. Further analysis of her other examples show that the component nouns activate different semantic domains which serve as input spaces to the blending process which result to the unraveling of the composite meaning. From the reviews, it is observed that compounding has been accounted for from different perspectives including the cognitive perspective under which blending theory falls. Furthermore, compound words have been accounted for in a foreign language like English using the blending theory and so we attempt an application of this theory to the analysis of noun- noun compounds in an indigenous language with the aim of ascertaining its ability to account for compounding in an African language.

Data presentation

For the data presentation, each member of the N1 +N2 compound has a gloss beneath it, followed by the resultant compound word. The tone marking convention adopted here is as follows: Low tone is indicated with a grave accent [ˋ], step tone is marked with a macron [ˉ] while the falling tone is indicated with a circumflex [ˆ]. High tone is left unmarked.

The noun -noun compounds are as follows:

6a. ɔ̄mmyà + èni < ɔ̄mmyàèni
horse water hippopotamus

b. ɔ̄mbwe + èni < ɔ̄mbweni
meat water fish

c. òzû + ìkwô < òzikwô
house 'corpse' mortuary

d. ìshè + àbí < ìshèàbí
pit 'feaces' latrine

e. òzû + otse < òzotsē
house drug hospital

f. èngyê + àyàtù < èngyàyàtù

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oil car petrol

g.èni , +àde < èniàdê
Water palm palmwine

h.èni ‘’ + àbê <èniàbê
water breast milk

i.òkpâ + àfò < òkpafò
skin leg shoe

j.ìfu + èwô <ìfuèwô
stomach body’ ‘pregnancy’

k.ànwutò +ìkye <ànwikye’
cloth head cap

l.ònwè + ukâ <ònwèukâ
child friend bastard

m.ùnì + èsè <ùnìèsê
elephant earth buffalo

n.àbù + àbê <àbàbê
regalia breast brassiere

o.ìkpo + òndù < ìkpòndù
cover mouth lips

p. òba + `ondzulo <òbaondzulo^
husband man warrior

q. `ngis□ε +otse. <`ngisotsē
person drug patient

r.òpò +ìkwô < òpìkwô
tent judgement court

In the compound words, we observe the preponderance of elision of vowels alongside their tones. For instance in examples 6c,e, f , i, n ,o ,q ,and r, the last vowel of the constituent N₁ in the compound words is elided while in 6b, the first vowel of the constituent N₂ is elided.

In examples 6 c, e, f and i, the rising-falling tones are elided and this is likely due to the fact that the rising-falling tone in Etulo occur only at the word final position.(see Ezenwafor 2009).Also in 6k, the last three segment of N1 ànwutò ‘cloth’ is elided in the derivation of ànwikye ‘cap’.

In addition, some of the compound words may be said to be endocentric because their meaning appear to have been evolved from both (N1+ N2) constituents (see examples 6c, e, f, q, r). For instance, òzikwǎḡ ‘mortuary’ (6c) can be said to be a type of house. This also implies that these endocentric compounds are headed by their N₁ constituents. Some compound words may also be seen as exocentric in which case their meaning does not arise from both (N1 +N2) constituents (see examples 6d ,i, j, l, p).

Blend analysis of the noun-noun compound words

For our analysis, we adopt the stages proposed by Coulson and Oakley (2000). They suggest that blending analysis should commence with introducing the example that involves blending, followed by describing the conceptual structure in each of the spaces that form the conceptual integration network and then describing the structure in the blended space. We provide the blend analysis of a number of the noun-noun combinations presented in 3.0 beginning with example 6(a) □mmyàèni ‘hippopotamus’. In input space 1 we have □mmyà ‘horse’ while input space 2 contains èni ‘water’. In the case of horse, the concept is associated with its properties such as size, strength and swift movement. Water as a concept also engages in movement (flows) and also allows for the movement of objects. Within the two input spaces, a vital relation of property exist while the mapping between the two spaces is by similarity, that is, the movement of the horse maps into the float of water. In this instance, input 1 projects the object while input 2 projects the environment of movement into the blended space. There is also an outer relation of space in the blend because inputs separated in different spaces are compressed into one space within the blend. The blended space therefore inherits its structure from the two input spaces in line with composition which, according to Fauconnier and Turner (2000), is the partial selection of elements from input spaces and their projection to the blended space to create new relations and concepts. The emergent structure ‘□mmyàèni’ satisfies the relevance principle which states that an element which appears in the blend must have a link to other spaces. The integration principle is also satisfied as the element in the blend is no longer seen as different concepts but rather as a single concept. The figure below is the integration network of □mmyàèni.

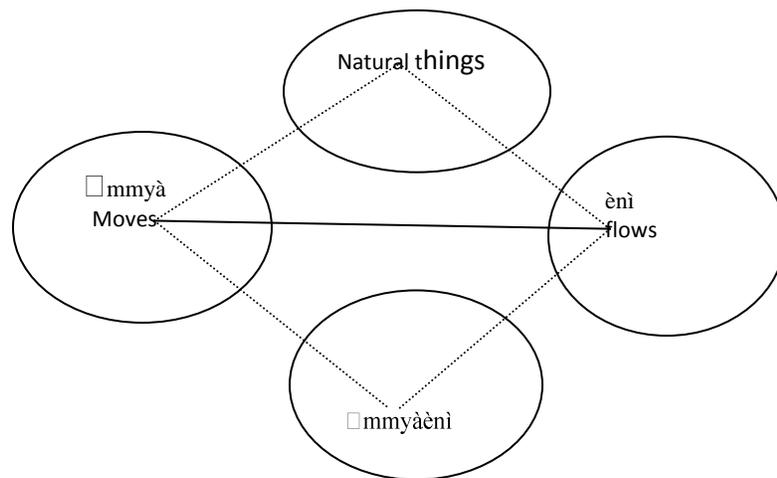


Figure C

Blended space

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We can also account for the word  mbweni ‘fish’ with reference to Figure C but in this case  mbwe ‘meat’ and  ni ‘water’ are the elements in the input spaces.  mbwe ‘meat’ is a solid substance and also considered edible while the concept  ni ‘water’ is liquid, drinkable and can also contain a solid substance(s). Therefore, within the input spaces, a relation of property exist and partial structures from the two input spaces are projected into the blended space. Whereas  mbwe ‘meat’ projects the edible substance,  ni ‘water’ projects the environment where this substance can be found to yield a new concept. In the blend analysis for  zikw    ‘mortuary’,  sh  b  ‘latrine’ and  zots  ‘hospital’(6c, d and e). The constituents to the left (N1) are contained in input space 1 while the constituents to the right (N2) occupy input space 2. The concepts  z  ‘house’ and  sh  ‘pit’ are associated with such shared properties as having space, can contain objects, provide protection/safety etc while the concepts  kw  ‘corpse’,  b  ‘faeces’ and  tse ‘drug’ are objects/materials that occupy space and also need protection. The mapping between the elements is by property and similarity. The two input spaces merge into a new blended space exhibiting a vital relation of property in the blend. The integration network is that of double scope blending where the blended space derives its features from the two input spaces. The integration network in Figure D accounts for our analysis of  zikw    ‘mortuary’,  sh  b  ‘latrine’ and  zots  ‘hospital’

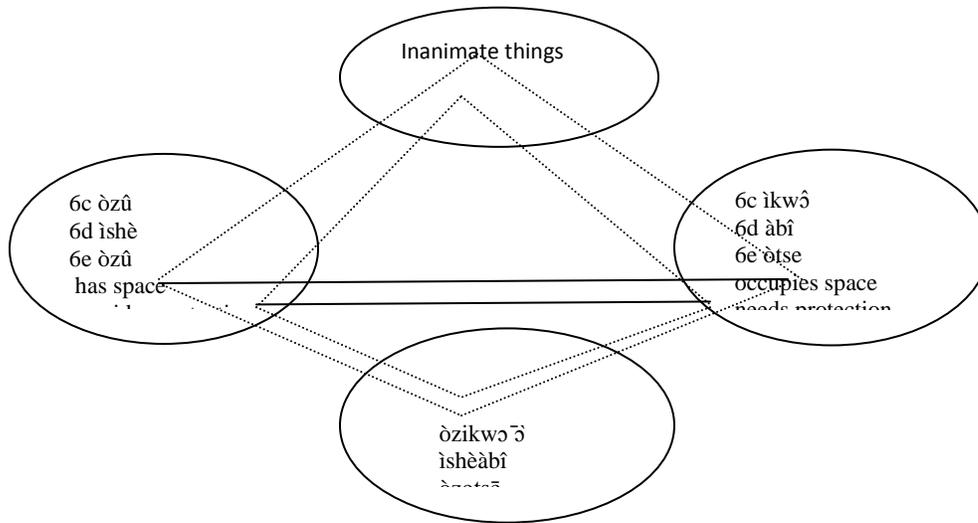
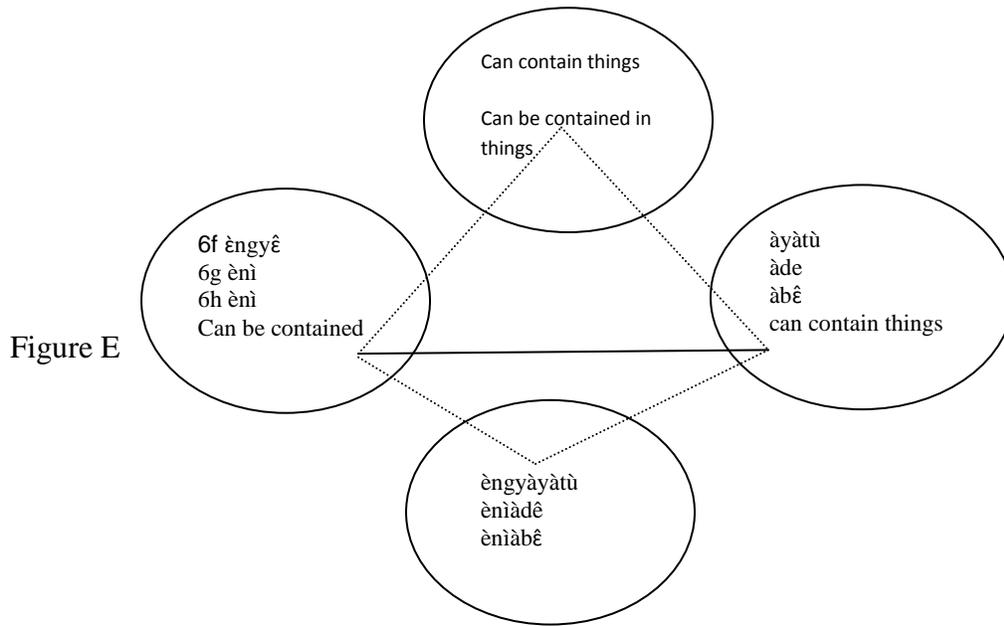


Figure D

In the compound words  ngy y t  ‘fuel’,  ni d  ‘palmwine’ and  ni b  ‘milk’.

The concepts  ngy  and  ni are liquids and it also means that they can be stored or contained in ‘something’. These concepts occupy input space 1. On the other hand, the concepts  y t  ‘car’,  d  ‘palm’ and  b  ‘breast’ in input space 2 are by analogy seen as containers due to their volume. The mapping between the elements in the input spaces is by property and analogy. The two inputs are mapped into the blended space represented in figure E. The blend is that double scope because properties are brought in from both input spaces.



The word òkpafò ‘shoe’ in 6i is made up of òkpâ ‘skin’ and àfò ‘leg’ which correspond to two input spaces. While both elements in the spaces may be seen as bodyparts, òkpâ ‘skin’ is associated with properties like thickness, protective etc while àfò ‘leg’ is associated with support for humans/ objects and movement. Partial structures from the two input spaces of òkpâ ‘skin’ and àfò ‘leg’ are projected to the blended space to create a new concept òkpafò ‘shoe’ with a new emergent meaning which is an outer covering for the human foot. The mapping between elements in the two spaces is by property.

For the compound word ìkpòndù ‘lip’, the mouth is likened to a hole or an aperture that has the capacity to contain something and in addition, can be covered. Ìkpo ‘cover’ on the other hand is associated with such properties as providing protection and shield. The two input spaces project a new concept into the blended space. In the blended space, we have a new concept that recruits its features from the two spaces.

In analyzing the compound word ìfuèwò ‘pregnancy’ in 6j, ìfu ‘stomach’ and èwò ‘body’ occupy the two input spaces. The generic space is occupied by body-parts and an outer space relation of part- whole exist between the input spaces while a relation of uniqueness exist in the blended space.

In our analysis of ànwikye ‘cap’, we have two concepts from different domains. The word ànwutò ‘cloth’ from the dressing domain is associated with the ability to provide cover while ìkye ‘head’ from the body-part domain can be covered. By selecting information from these two input spaces through the operation of composition, the blend ànwikye ‘cap’ emerges with a new meaning. The mapping between the spaces is by analogy because the two input spaces from the different domains obtain the same structure through blending.

Findings and Conclusion.

This study is an attempt in the analysis of noun- noun compound words in Etulo using the conceptual blending theory. From our examples, two concepts which are conceptually different are brought together in conceptual blending. Usually information about the conceptual structures is projected partially to the blended structure through composition and compression. The emergent structure however remains distinct with relics from the input spaces. It is also observed that the mental spaces can be mapped based on relations such as property, similarity, analogy, part-whole, space e.tc . These vital relations are also projected to the blended space. Furthermore, the noun-noun compound words accounted for include some instances of endocentric and exocentric compound words. We also note that the compound words analyzed show evidence of double scope integration. We can therefore claim that conceptual blending can account for compounding in Etulo.

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