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COMPOSITE COMPLEX UNITS OF RUSSIAN WORD FORMATION : GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF COMPOSITIONAL WORD-FORMATION NESTS

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Abstract: General Background: Compound words are an integral part of A.N. Tikhonov's *Word Formation Dictionary of the Russian Language*, reflecting the dynamic nature of the Russian lexicon. **Specific Background:** Tikhonov's systematic approach categorizes compound words within a word-formation paradigm, showcasing their role at various stages of derivation. **Knowledge Gap:** Despite their significance, there is limited analysis on how compound words, especially from the *быстрый* (fast) family, influence the broader Russian word-formation system. **Aims:** This study aims to analyze the compound word family of *быстрый* and explore its role within Tikhonov's framework, demonstrating how compound words contribute to the linguistic flexibility and precision of the Russian language. **Results:** The analysis reveals that compound words derived from *быстрый* display a diverse array of meanings and grammatical forms, showcasing the productive nature of compound word formation across different parts of speech. **Novelty:** This study highlights the interconnectedness of word-formation families, with compound words serving as a bridge between different grammatical categories, thus contributing to the adaptability of the language. **Implications:** The findings underscore the importance of compound words in understanding the morphological evolution of Russian, offering insights into how lexemes evolve and adapt to meet communicative needs.

Keywords: Composites, Derivation, System in Word-Building, Word-Building Nest, Word-Building Chain

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Introduction

Compound words constitute a significant portion of A.N. Tikhonov's "Word Formation Dictionary of the Russian Language." Their presentation is thoroughly thought out. A.N. Tikhonov considered compound words to be "the final type of derivative words at all stages of word formation" [Tikhonov, 1985, p. 12]. This can be illustrated by the word-formation family of "быстрый" (fast).

The importance of compound words in the Russian language goes beyond their structural complexity. They offer insight into the dynamic nature of the language, showing how new words evolve through the fusion of existing roots and affixes. This process reflects not only linguistic creativity but also the need for precise terms to describe the world around us. In the case of the word family of "быстрый," compounds like "быстроглазый" (quick-eyed) and "быстроногий" (swift-footed) demonstrate the language's capacity to create descriptive and nuanced expressions. These compounds reflect varying degrees of speed and agility, showcasing the richness of meaning that can be generated from a single root [1].

Tikhonov's systematic approach to organizing these compound words in his dictionary emphasizes the importance of each word in the broader context of word formation. He arranges compound words at the final stage of their word-formation paradigm, which allows for a clearer understanding of how words evolve. By focusing on compound words in this way, the dictionary highlights their role in connecting different parts of speech, such as nouns, adjectives, and verbs, while also demonstrating their ability to capture and convey complex ideas efficiently.

In addition, Tikhonov's work sheds light on the productivity of compound word formation in Russian, showing how it fosters the growth and adaptability of the language. The process of combining roots in compound words illustrates the flexibility of the Russian lexicon, where a single stem can give rise to multiple derivatives across different word categories. This interconnectedness of word families reflects the dynamic nature of the language, where words are not static but continually evolving through various stages of derivation [2].

Methods

In the methodology outlined in A.N. Tikhonov's "Word Formation Dictionary of the Russian Language," the analysis of compound words is systematically structured according to stages of word formation [3]. At the first stage, derivative adjectives, nouns, and verbs are listed before compound words, which are positioned at the end of the respective word-formation paradigm. The dictionary reflects the productivity of word formation, with each compound word placed in multiple word families, depending on the generating stem it belongs to. Compound words are organized in a specific order: first, those with a stem matching the generating word, followed by compound words with the second stem matching the generating word [4]. This method ensures a logical and comprehensive arrangement that facilitates easy reference.

Additionally, the dictionary employs a graphic system to represent compounds with and without interfixes. At each word-formation stage, Tikhonov catalogues compound words, considering their structural and semantic relationships. For example, compound adjectives such as "быстроглазый" (quick-eyed) and "быстроногий" (swift-footed) are listed at the first stage, while fusion compounds like "быстродействующий" (fast-acting) are placed at later stages. The method accounts for both the morphological structure and semantic shifts in the compound words, emphasizing their role in linking different word-formation families. This comprehensive approach allows for a detailed mapping of compound words in relation to the Russian word-formation system [5].

Results and Discussion

The analysis of the word-formation family of быстр(ый) (fast) reveals the complex and systematic nature of compound word formation in the Russian language. This section discusses how various compound words, derived from the root быстр- across different stages of word formation, are categorized and presented in A.N. Tikhonov's Word Formation Dictionary of the Russian Language. By exploring the diverse derivatives, including adjectives, nouns, and verbs, we gain insight into the productive processes that govern the creation of new words and their place within the broader morphological system of the language.

Table 1. Word-formation family of быстр(ый) (fast).

СГ быстр(ый)	English Translation
быстр-ейш-ий	Fastest / quick person

наи-быстрейший	The very fastest / to become fast
быстр-еньк(ий)	Rather fast (diminutive) / to make fast
быстрёхоньк-о 1	Very quickly (folksy) / to become fast (reflexive)
быстр-ёхоньк(ий)	Very quick (folksy) / to accelerate
быстрехоньк-о 1	Very quickly (folksy) / to accelerate (reflexive)
быстр-ёшеньк(ий)	Very quick (folksy variant) / to be accelerating
быстрёшеньк-о 1	Very quickly (folksy) / to accelerate
быстр-о	Quickly / to be accelerating (reflexive)
быстр-еньк-о 2	Quickly (diminutive) / acceleration
быстр-ёхоньк-о 2	Very quickly (folksy) / accelerated
архи-быстро	Ultra-quickly / quick-eyed
быстро\действующий	Fast-acting / swift-winged
сверх-быстродействующий	Super-fast-acting / swift-footed
быстро\растворимый	Quick-dissolving / quick-change
быстро\растущий	Fast-growing / quick-detachable
быстро\режущий	High-speed cutting / transient
быстро\сохнущий	Quick-drying / transience
быстро\текущий	Fast-flowing / rapid current
быстр-от-а	Speed, quickness / fast-moving
быстр-ин-а	Rapid (in a river) / speed capacity
СГ быстр(ый)	Word-formation family of fast

At the first stage of word formation, suffixal adjectives, nouns, and verbs are listed first (the general order of derivatives is described in the introductory part of the dictionary). "Compound words are placed at one of the stages at the end of the word-formation paradigm to which they belong. The same compound word appears in several word families in the dictionary - for each stem..." [Tikhonov, 1985, p. 12]. Thus, the dictionary reflects the word-formation productivity of each generating stem that is part of a compound word.

At all stages, compound words are arranged in the following order: first come words with the first stem equal to the stem of the generating word, arranged alphabetically by second stems, for example: "лак-о-вар (varnish-boiler), лак-о-красочный (varnish-paint), лак-о-носный (varnish-bearing), лак/фиоль (varnish-phial)"; these are followed by words with the second stem equal to the stem of the generating word, arranged alphabetically by first stems, for example: "аэр-о-лак (aerolacquer), грунт/лак (primer varnish), гумми/лак (gum lacquer), нитр-о-лак (nitrovarnish), цапон/лак (zapon lacquer)" [Tikhonov 1985, p.12]. As seen from these examples, the "Word Formation Dictionary" uses different methods of graphic representation for compound words with and without interfixes.

In the word-formation family of быстрый (fast) at the first stage of word formation, there

are 7 compound adjectives (быстроглазый (quick-eyed), быстроногий (swift-footed), быстrokрылый (swift-winged), быстросменный (quick-change), быстросъемный (quick-detachable), быстротечный (transient), быстrhoходный (fast-moving)) and two compound nouns (быстродействие (high-speed operation) and быстrhoток (rapid current)).

At the third stage, from the adverb быстро (quickly), compound-fusion words are formed (быстродействующий (fast-acting), быстрорастворимый (quick-dissolving), быстрорастущий (fast-growing), быстрорежущий (high-speed cutting), быстrhoсохнувший (quick-drying), быстrhoтекущий (fast-flowing)).

From the compound adjectives быстrhoтечный and быстrhoходный, suffixal derivatives быстrhoтечность (transience) and быстrhoходность (speed capacity) are formed at the 2nd stage, and from the fusion быстродействующий at the 3rd stage – the prefixal derivative сверхбыстродействующий (super-fast-acting). According to our classification, these also belong to secondary affixal composites. Thus, in the word-formation family of быстрый, out of 44 derivatives arranged on four stages, 18 are composites arranged on three stages. They are formed by compound-suffixal method (including zero suffixation), fusion method, suffixal and prefixal methods. Through the second stem, they are connected with the families of действовать (act), растворить (dissolve), расти (grow), резать (cut), сухой (dry), глаз (eye), крыло (wing), нога (leg), менять (change), снять (remove), течь (flow), ходить (walk), i.e., verbal and substantival. Composites can be considered an important factor in connecting autonomous word-formation families into a unified system.

In A.N. Tikhonov's "Word Formation Dictionary of the Russian Language," more than 3,500 word-formation families are presented, containing over 17 thousand composites of various types. Their tops belong to the main meaningful parts of speech: noun word-formation families 2,270, adjective word-formation families 472, verb word-formation families 824, adverb word-formation families 6.

When selecting word-formation families, factors such as family capacity, its multi-stage structure, simultaneous inclusion of composites in the considered word-formation families, partially - semantics and stylistic affiliation of the family's top word were taken into account, as well as pragmatic factors, since lexemes associated with active human activity have a richer set of composites.

From a theoretical perspective, we consider particularly important the thesis proposed in this article about the possible interconnection of relatively autonomous complex units in the Russian word-formation system: pairs, chains, paradigms in the structure of word-formation families, as well as the word-formation families themselves through a single "common link" represented by a composite.

The word-formation families selected for analyzing composite formation specifics, i.e., "hierarchically ordered sets of words with the same root related by word-formation derivation" [Tikhonov, 1985, p.36], can be characterized by different parameters.

1. From the perspective of part of speech affiliation of the top words, composite-containing word-formation families include those of nouns, adjectives, pronouns (i.e., nominal word-formation families), verbs and adverbs. Composite-containing adverbial word-formation families are generally few in number, unlike nominal and verbal ones, containing composites at the first and second stages of word formation (word-formation families of вне (outside), столько (so many)), while in nominal and verbal word-formation families, composite formation can occur at the fourth and fifth stages (word-formation families of ум (mind), работать (work)).

2. An important criterion is the capacity of word-formation families, i.e., the total number of generating words in its composition. A.N. Tikhonov subdivided word-formation families into micro-families, containing only one derivative besides the initial word, and voluminous macro-families, counting hundreds of derivative words [Tikhonov, 1985, Vol.1, p.40].

Quantitative characteristics of composite-containing word-formation families are directly related to pragmatic factors. Analyzing the word-formation potential of various parts of speech, E.A. Zemskaya noted that it is influenced by the following factors: "frequency of use, stylistic coloring, breadth of compatibility, connection of word semantics with human life (pragmatics). It can be noted that word-formation potential is broader:

- a) In highly frequent words than in less frequently used words;
- b) In neutral words than in stylistically marked words;
- c) In words with broad compatibility than in words with limited compatibility;
- d) In words related to purposeful human activity, to spheres important for human life, than in words naming phenomena of other kinds" [Zemskaya, 2005, p.48].

Thus, the appearance of a large number of composites in word-formation families of вода (water), газ (gas), варить (cook), писать (write), работать (work) and similar words is quite predictable.

3. The quantitative parameters of a family are also connected with the concept of its depth, i.e., the number of word-formation stages. Composite-containing nominal word-formation families involve active composite formation at the first stage, while verbal word-formation families do so at the second and third stages of word formation. Secondary composite formation in nominal families is associated with the second and third stages, in verbal families - with the fourth and fifth stages, and is usually determined by the change in part-of-speech characteristics of derivatives at preceding stages (for more details, see 3.2.2).
4. The general parameters of word-formation families should also include their diffuseness/compactness. As I.V. Altman points out, "families can differ depending on the nature of semantic connections within the family: one can distinguish between compact and diffuse families depending on how close the semantic connections between derivatives and their bases are. We call compact those families in which derivatives and their bases differ only in word-formation meanings, and diffuse - those in which lexical meaning also undergoes changes during word-formation derivation" [Altman, 1972, p.254]. Furthermore, "Diffuse families include those where metaphorical meaning extension occurs in derivatives (дул – надул: 'deceived') or where there is incomplete overlap in the range of meanings between derivatives and their bases.

Families corresponding to typical graphs of shallow depth and complexity usually turn out to be unfilled and compact; families corresponding to individual graphs of great depth and complexity turn out to be filled and diffuse" [Altman, 1972, p.255].

The specificity of the word-formation meaning of composites, whose most important element is the "idea of combination" of existing derivative meanings, suggests more active composite formation in compact word-formation families, although the possibility of metaphorization in composites like небоскреб (skyscraper), блюдолиз (plate-licker), сердцеед (heartbreaker) and similar words also includes some diffuse families among composite-containing ones (word-formation families of лизать (lick), скрести (scrape), есть (eat) and similar). Among the word-formation families analyzed in our work, there are families of the compact type (word-

formation families of бетон (concrete), газ (gas), вода (water), малый (small), варить (cook), комиссия (commission), вне (outside)). The word-formation families of белый (white) and красный (red) possess characteristics of diffuseness, generating composites белогвардеец (White Guard member), белогвардейский (White Guard adj.), красногвардеец (Red Guard member), красногвардейка (female Red Guard member), since the original color meaning of the adjectives is reinterpreted in the derivatives. It's important to emphasize that we have used the material from A.N. Tikhonov's "Word Formation Dictionary of the Russian Language" as given, despite the possibility of other scientific interpretations of the phenomena under study.

Conclusion

Fundamental Finding : This study provides an in-depth analysis of compound words within A.N. Tikhonov's *Word Formation Dictionary of the Russian Language*, particularly focusing on the word-formation family of *быстрый* (fast). The research reveals that compound words form a significant part of the Russian lexicon, showcasing the language's dynamic and productive nature. The study highlights the systematic organization of compound words by Tikhonov, which allows for an understanding of their formation and how they connect different parts of speech within a unified word-formation system. **Implication :** The findings suggest that compound words are vital for understanding the flexibility and adaptability of the Russian language. Tikhonov's method of categorizing compound words according to their stage in the word-formation process provides valuable insights into the way new words are created and evolve over time. This method underscores the importance of compound word formation in bridging various linguistic categories and reflecting the rich expressive potential of the Russian language. Furthermore, the study emphasizes the role of compounds in the continuous development of the Russian lexicon, highlighting their utility in describing complex ideas with precision. **Limitation :** One limitation of this study is the reliance on a single reference source-A.N. Tikhonov's dictionary. While Tikhonov's work is comprehensive, the study might benefit from exploring other contemporary dictionaries or word-formation resources to broaden the understanding of Russian compound words and their evolution. Additionally, the analysis does not delve into the sociolinguistic factors influencing the use and formation of compound words, which could provide further context for their development and application in modern Russian. **Future Research :** Future research could expand on this study by examining the influence of cultural, social, and technological changes on the formation of compound words in Russian. Investigating how compounds evolve in different registers of speech—such as formal, colloquial, or technical language—would add another layer of understanding to the dynamic nature of word formation. Further exploration could also involve comparing the word-formation systems of Russian with those of other languages to identify universal trends in compound word creation, providing a cross-linguistic perspective on language evolution.

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