

# Metaphor Compounding in the Dengka Dialect of the Rote Language Found in the Name of Animals and Plants

(A generative morphology approach)

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**Abstract**—The purpose of this study is to analyse the metaphor compounding process rule in the Dengka dialect of the Rote language found in the name of animals and plants. There are two problems to be analysed: 1) how the structure of metaphor compounding process in the Dengka dialect of the Rote language found in the name of animals and plants, 2) what is the type of metaphor compound in the Dengka dialect of the Rote language found in the name of animals and plants. The research problem will be analysed using the ‘Word-Based Morphology’ or ‘Lexeme-Based’ generative morphology theory by Aronoff (1979). The research method used is a descriptive qualitative method. The data are obtained by using observation methods and it is techniques, and the interlocution method and it is techniques. The data collected is voice recordings, which were obtained from informants by interviewing and recording. The result of compounding process show that the endocentric kind of compound words were found, and it is composition consist of two and three lexemes. The compound words structure that build by two lexemes consist of two types  $[N+N] \rightarrow [N]$ , and  $[N]+[V] \rightarrow [N]$ . Meanwhile, the compound words structure that build by three lexemes found in  $[N]+[N]+[N] \rightarrow [N]$ .

**Keywords**—*morphological process; compounding; compound; metaphor; rote language; dengka dialect*

## I. INTRODUCTION

The Rote language is a unifier language that is used by societies in Rote Island, Rote Ndao Regency, East Nusa Tenggara Province. It is comprises of eighteen sub dialect variations that have developed and grown into the present day. The eighteen variations of sub dialects are: Termanu, Korbafo, Landu, Ringgou, Oepao, Bilba, Diu, Lelenuk, Bokai, Talae, Keka, Ba’a, Lelain, Dengka, Oenale, Dela, Tii and Lole. Manafe [1], a Malay language teacher, in his article entitled “Akan Bahasa Rotti”, wrote that Rote Island consists of two fields namely Eastern and Western divisions. The Eastern division comprises of twelve domains i.e. Termanu, Korbafo, Landu, Ringgou, Upao, Bilba, Diu, Lelenuk, Bokai, Talač and Keka. The Western division comprises of seven domains namely Baä, Lelain, Dëngka, Unalë, Déla, Ti and Lälët (Lälë).

Grimes [2], described the morphological typology of the Rote language that include Dengka Dialect as an agglutinating language and as a part of the Austronesia, especially the Central Malayo-Polynesian, language family. Comrie [3], stated that in an agglutinating language, a word may consist of multiple morphemes, but the boundaries between morphemes in the word are always clear; moreover, a given morpheme has at least a reasonably invariant shape such that the identification of morphemes in terms of their phonetic shape is also straightforward. This study analyses one of the eighteen varieties of sub dialect the Dengka dialect which is always described by its speakers as the Rote Language Dengka dialect. Kridalaksana [4], metaphor is the uses of words utterance or another utterance to an object or another concept base on analogy. Metaphor compound is a compounding process that produces the forms of idiomatic compound words. There are some examples of metaphor compound in Indonesia, Rote and English. In Indonesia *kaki gunung* and *kaki meja*, these analogies as if like the human foot, in Rote language *ngaut meo* is a kind of thorn that look like the talon of cat, in English *snail mail* a kind of mail that moves look like a snail and *windmill* is a kind of mill that is activated by wind.

The focus study of this research is the morphological process particularly, compounding process. The method is used in this research to describe the data is descriptive qualitative method. The theoretical approach used in this research is the word-based morphology or lexeme-based generative morphology approach by Aronoff [5]. This theory is the most suitable one to analyze the data found in the Dengka dialect because all components used to construct the compound words are already categorized as words.

The reason for conducting this research is to introduce the structure and the types of metaphor compounding in the Dengka dialect found in the name of animals and plants. The contribution of this research, namely: 1) to introduce the Dengka dialect to the readers and the researchers, 2) to enrich the knowledge of the writer in morphological study, 3) to introduce the use generative morphology theory to analyse the compounding process in the Dengka dialect, 4) to preserve one

of Indonesia's vernacular languages, namely Rote language, particularly Dengka dialect.

## II. METHOD

The research method used is descriptive qualitative method in which the data are described by written statements rather than statistic, Meoloeng [6]. The data are obtained by using observation and interview methods. The data collected including writing and voice-recordings obtained from informants through interviews and observation.

## III. CONCEPTS AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

### A. Concepts

There are some concepts by expert that have related to morphological process, particularly compounding. Katamba [7], stated that a compound word contains at least two bases, which are both words or at least root morphemes. Booij [8], stated that compounding, also called composition, is the most frequent means of making new lexemes. Furthermore, he stated that compounding consists of the combination of words in which one word modifies the meaning of the other word, known as the head. Thus such compounds have a binary structure.

Metaphor is an inter-domain relation in human conceptual system, Lakoff, [9]. The essence of metaphor is how readers can comprehend and experience (based on first-hand encounters) a thing or a concept through another concept, Sukarsih [10].

Muslich [11], divided the characteristics of compounds into two types: constructional characteristics and elemental characteristics. Based on constructional characteristics, compound words have a strong construction within which the elements of phrases, including attributive, coordinative, and possessive phrases cannot be inserted. For example the metaphor compounding in the Dengka dialect [ŋgaut meo] can not be insert elements of phrases, namely attributive 'yang' ['mana' in Dengka dialect]→\*[ŋgaut mana meo], coordinative 'dan' ['no' in Dengka dialect]→\*[ŋgaut no meo], and possessive 'nya' ['na' in Dengka dialect]→\*[ŋgaut na meo]. The other constructional characteristic of compound words is a permanent construction that the words order cannot be changed, for example, the metaphor compounding in the Dengka dialect [mbu?u manu telo?] which means 'a mushroom look like an egg'. It is does not be vice versa become [\*manu telo? mbu?u]. The data analysis of metaphor compounding in the Dengka dialect applied several tests those are developed from Muslich's statement. There are some elements of phrase used for the testing such as attributive (English: *that*; Indonesian: *yang*; Dengka: *mana*), coordinative (English: *and*; Indonesian: *dan*; Dengka: *no*), possessive (English: *my, your, their, his/her, its*; Indonesian: *-nya, milik* ; Dengka: *ngga, ma, na*).

### B. Theoretical Framework

The theory inspiring the compounding process analysis of the Dengka dialect is the generative word-based morphology of Aronoff [5].

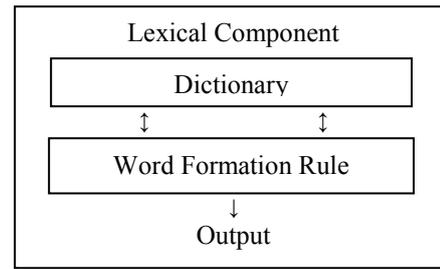


Fig. 1. The theory.

Based on Aronoff's theory 'word-based morphology or lexeme-based', word formation rules (WFRs) have been applied to the word formation process as in the following model.

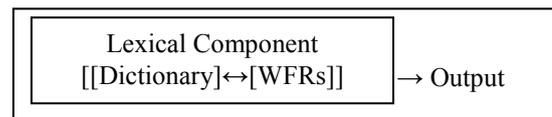


Fig. 2. Model.

The lexical component functions to shape new words consisting of two main components, namely, **dictionary** and the WFRs. The dictionary is a place to list all words the syntactic categories that are used to produce new words. Meanwhile, the WFR has a function to process all words from the dictionary to produce new word (compound words) through the compounding process. According to Aronoff, a new word only derives from another word, the smallest unit that already has a syntactic category such as verb, noun, and adverb, adjective or numeral. For example, [mbu?u manu telo?] are categorized as nouns. Each component [mbu?u, manu and telo?] are also categorized as nouns.

## IV. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### A. Result

Based on the data findings of metaphor compounding process of the Dengka dialect found in the name of plants and animals were found it is structure consist of two and three lexeme, namely: two lexemes based [N+N]→[N], and [N]+[V]→[N]. Meanwhile, it is structure was build of three lexemes found in [N]+[N]+[N]→[N].

### B. Discussion

1) *Two lexeme construction*: The description of the metaphor compounding process in the Dengka dialect found in the name of animals and plants, based on the theory is as follows: [[Dictionary]→[WFRs]→[Output]]. The dictionary is a place to list all words the syntactic categories (verb, noun, adjective, and adverb). Meanwhile, the WFR has a function to process all words from the dictionary to produce new word (compound words).

The application of the theory in the data will be seen based on the rule below:  $[[LB]N+[LB]N \rightarrow [MCN]]$  and  $[[LB]N+[CW]V \rightarrow [MCN]]$  (see Table I).

TABLE I.  $[[LB]N+[LB]N \rightarrow [MCN]]$

Lexical Component		
Dictionary	WFRs	
[ngaut]N duri	ngaut + manu	→ [ngaut manu]N
[manu]N	-	
ayam	-	

The structure of the metaphor compounding [ngaut manu] in the Dengka dialect is composed of  $[[N+N] \rightarrow [MCN]]$ . It can be analysis as follows:  $[[ngaut]N+[manu]N \rightarrow [ngaut manu]MCN]$ . The phrase element ('no' in Dengka dialect, 'dan' in Indonesia, and 'and' in English) as the coordinative element of the phrase cannot be inserted; (for example: *ngaut no manu*, meaning \**thorn and chicken*). The meaning of the metaphor compound noun [ngaut manu] is different from the meaning of the phrase '*ngaut no manu*' meaning '*thorn and chicken*'. The metaphor compound [ngaut manu] was classified as an endocentric compound because all component namely [ngaut] and [manu] is support its meaning. The metaphor compound noun [ngaut manu] has a specific meaning i.e. *a kind of thorn that looks like the cock's spur*. The head of compound noun [ngaut manu] is '*ngaut*' duri ('*thorn*' in English), meanwhile '*manu*' ayam ('*chicken*' in English) as the modifier. Another test applied is by inserting the phrase element ('na' in Dengka dialect), ('mine' in English) and ['nya' in Indonesia] as the possessive element of phrase cannot be inserted. It is structure becomes \*[ngaut-na manu] the meaning is obviously changed, which becomes \*[the chicken's thorn]. The composition of metaphor compound noun above is consisting of two lexemes base as seen in Table II.

TABLE II.  $[[LB]N+[LB]N \rightarrow [MCN]]$

Lexical Component		
Dictionary	WFRs	
[ngaut]N duri	ngaut+ meo	→ [ngaut meo]N
[meo]N	-	
kucing	-	

The structure of the metaphor compounding [ngaut meo] in the Dengka dialect is composed of  $[[N+N] \rightarrow [MCN]]$ . It is can be analysis as follows:  $[[ngaut]N+[meo]N \rightarrow [ngaut meo]MCN]$ . The phrase element ('no' in Dengka dialect, 'dan' in Indonesia, and 'and' in English) as the coordinative element of the phrase cannot be inserted; (for example: *ngaut no meo*, meaning \**thorn and cat*). The meaning of the metaphor compound noun [ngaut meo] is different from the

meaning of the phrase '*ngaut no meo*' meaning '*thorn and cat*'. The metaphor compound [ngaut meo] was classified as an endocentric compound because all component namely [ngaut] and [meo] is support its meaning. The metaphor compound noun [ngaut meo] has a specific meaning i.e. *a kind of thorn that look like the cat's talon and so sharp*. The head of compound noun [ngaut meo] is '*ngaut*' duri ('*thorn*' in English), meanwhile '*meo*' kucing ('*cat*' in English) as the modifier. Another test applied is by inserting the phrase element ('na' in Dengka dialect), ('mine' in English) and ['nya' in Indonesia] as the possessive element of phrase cannot be inserted. It is structure becomes \*[ngaut-na meo] the meaning is obviously changed, which becomes \*[the chicken's cat]. The composition of metaphor compound noun above is consisting of two lexemes base as seen in Table III.

TABLE III.  $[[LB]N+[CW]V \rightarrow [MCN]]$

Lexical Component		
Dictionary	WFRs	
[Ula]N ulat	Ula+dadangat	→ [Ula+dadangat]N
[dadangat]V melangkah	-	
	-	

The structure of the metaphor compounding [Ula dadangat] i as seen in Table III n the Dengka dialect is composed of  $[[N+V] \rightarrow [MCN]]$ . It is can be analysis:  $[[Ula]N+[dadangat]V \rightarrow [Ula dadangat]MCN]$ . Complex word [dadanga-t] is consist of three morphemes, namely one free morpheme (danga) as a root and two bound morphemes are [da] as the reduplication partial (RDPS) and [-t] as a suffix (-SUF). The phrase element ('no' in Dengka dialect, 'dan' in Indonesia, and 'and' in English) as the coordinative element of phrase cannot be inserted. For example, *Ula no dadangat*, which literally mean *caterpillar and walking*, so that the meaning becomes not equal to the concept that is 'a kind of caterpillar' not describe about caterpillar and walking. The meaning of the metaphor compound noun [Ula dadangat] is different from the meaning of the phrase '*Ula no dadangat*' meaning '*caterpillar and walking*'. The metaphor compound [Ula dadangat] was classified as an endocentric compound because all component namely [Ula] and [dadangat] is support its meaning. The metaphor compound noun [Ula dadangat] has a specific meaning i.e. *a kind of caterpillar, when it crawl look like it is walking*. The head of compound noun [Ula dadangat] is '*Ula*' ulat ('*caterpillar*' in English), meanwhile '*dadangat*' melangkah-langkah ('*walking*' in English) as the modifier. Another test applied is by inserting the phrase element ('na' in Dengka dialect), ('mine' in English) and ['nya' in Indonesia] as the possessive element of phrase cannot be inserted. It is structure becomes \*[Ula-na dadangat] the meaning is obviously changed, which becomes \*[the caterpillar is walking]. The composition of metaphor compound noun above is consisting of one lexeme base [Ula] and one complex word [dadangat].

TABLE IV. [[LB]N+[LB]N→[MCN]]

Lexical Component		→ [mbui? koloali]N
Dictionary	WFRs	
[mbui?]N burung	mbui? koloali - - -	→ [mbui? koloali]N
[koloali]N		
kupu-kupu		

The structure of the metaphor compounding [mbui? koloali] as seen in Table IV in the Dengka dialect is composed of [[N+N]→[MCN]]. It is can be analysis as follows: [[mbui?]N+[koloali]N]→[mbui? koloali]MCN]. The phrase element ('no' in Dengka dialect, 'dan' in Indonesia, and 'and' in English) as the coordinative element of the phrase cannot be inserted; (for example: *mbui? no koloali*, meaning *\*bird and butterfly*). The meaning of the metaphor compound noun [mbui? koloali] is different from the meaning of the phrase 'mbui? no koloali' meaning 'bird and butterfly'. The metaphor compound [mbui? koloali] was classified as an endocentric compound because all component namely [mbui?] and [koloali] is support its meaning. The metaphor compound noun [mbui? koloali] has a specific meaning i.e. a kind of bird' it has beautiful colour. The head of compound noun [mbui? koloali] is 'mbui?' burung ('bird' in English), meanwhile 'koloali' kupu-kupu ('butterfly' in English) as the modifier. Another test applied is by inserting the phrase element ('na' in Dengka dialect), ('mine' in English) and ['nya' in Indonesia] as the possessive element of phrase cannot be inserted. It is structure becomes *\*[mbui?-na koloali]* the meaning is obviously changed, which becomes *\*[the bird's butterfly]*. The composition of metaphor compound noun above is consisting of two lexemes base.

TABLE V. [[LB]N+[LB]N→[MCN]]

Lexical Component		→ [mbui? layang-layang]N
Dictionary	WFRs	
[mbui?]N burung	mbui?+layang-layang - - -	→ [mbui? layang-layang]N
[layang-layang]N		
layang-layang		

The structure of the metaphor compounding [mbui? layang-layang] as seen in Table V in the Dengka dialect is composed of [[N+N]→[MCN]]. It is can be analysis as follows: [[mbui?]N+[layang-layang]N]→[mbui? layang-layang]MCN]. The phrase element ('no' in Dengka dialect, 'dan' in Indonesia, and 'and' in English) as the coordinative element of the phrase cannot be inserted; (for example: *mbui? no layang-layang*, meaning *\*bird and kite*). The meaning of the metaphor compound noun [mbui? layang-layang] is different from the meaning of the phrase 'mbui? no layang-layang' meaning 'bird and kitey'. The metaphor compound [mbui? layang-layang]

was classified as an endocentric compound because all component namely [mbui?] and [layang-layang] is support its meaning. The metaphor compound noun [mbui? layang-layang] has a specific meaning i.e. a kind of bird because when it flying it is look like a kite. The head of compound noun [mbui? layang-layang] is 'mbui?' burung ('bird' in English), meanwhile 'layang-layang' ('kite' in English) as the modifier. Another test applied is by inserting the phrase element ('na' in Dengka dialect), ('mine' in English) and ['nya' in Indonesia] as the possessive element of phrase cannot be inserted. It is structure becomes *\*[mbui?-na layang-layang]* the meaning is obviously changed, which becomes *\*[the bird's kite]*. The composition of metaphor compound noun above is consisting of two lexemes base.

TABLE VI. [[LB]N+[LB]N→[MCN]]

Lexical Component		→ [etefua? amba]N
Dictionary	WFRs	
[etefua?]N Tawon	etefua?+amba - - -	→ [etefua? amba]N
[amba]N		
Kerbau		

The structure of the metaphor compounding [etefua? amba] as seen in Table VI in the Dengka dialect is composed of [[N+N]→[MCN]]. It is can be analysis: [[etefua?]N+[amba]N]→[etefua? amba]MCN]. The phrase element ('no' in Dengka dialect, 'dan' in Indonesia, and 'and' in English) as the coordinative element of the phrase cannot be inserted; (for example: *etefua? no amba*, which literally mean *\*bumblebee and buffalo*). The meaning of the metaphor compound noun [etefua? amba] is different from the meaning of the phrase 'etefua? no amba' meaning 'bumblebee and buffalo'. The metaphor compound [etefua? amba] was classified as an endocentric compound because all component namely [etefua?] and [amba] is support its meaning. The metaphor compound noun [etefua? amba] has a specific meaning i.e. a kind of bumblebee has a big body. The head of compound noun [etefua? amba] is 'etefua?' tawon ('bumblebee' in English), meanwhile 'amba' kerbau ('buffalo' in English) as the modifier. Another test applied is by inserting the phrase element ('na' in Dengka dialect), ('mine' in English) and ['nya' in Indonesia] as the possessive element of phrase cannot be inserted. It is structure becomes *\*[etefua?-na amba]* the meaning is obviously changed, which becomes *\*[the bumblebee's buffalo]*. The composition of metaphor compound noun above is consisting of two lexemes base.

C. Three Lexeme Construction.

After discussed of metaphor compounding that builds by two lexeme base, the next the discussions of metephor compounding build by three lexeme base. The description of the metaphor compounding process based on the theory is as follows: [[Dictionary]→[WFRs]→[Output]]. The dictionary is a place to list all words the syntactic categories (verb, noun, adjective, and adverb). Meanwhile, the WFR has a function to

process new word (compound words). The application of the theory in the data will be seen based on the rule below:  $[[LB]N+[LB]N+[LB]N \rightarrow [MCN]]$ .

TABLE VII.  $[[LB]N+[LB]N+[LB]N \rightarrow [MCN]]$

Lexical Component		
Dictionary	WFRs	
[mbu?u]N cendawan	mbu?u+manu+elo?	→[mbu?u manu telo?]N
[manu]N ayam	-	
[telo?]N telur	-	
	-	

Based on the composition of the metaphor compound [mbu?u manu telo?] as seen in Table VII in the Dengka dialect above is composed of  $[N+N+N] \rightarrow [N]$ . It is can be analysis based on the theory as follows:  $[[mbu?u]N+[manu]N+[telo?]N \rightarrow [mbu?u manu telo?]MCN]$ . It is classified as a compound because it has one meaning, 'a kind of mushroom that look like an egg when it is sprout'. The phrase element ('no' in Dengka dialect, 'dan' in Indonesia and 'and' in English) as the coordinative element of the phrase cannot be inserted (for example, *mbu?u no manu no telo?* or *mbu?u manu no telo?*, meaning *mushroom and chicken and egg or mushroom chicken and egg*). The meaning of the metaphor compound noun [mbu?u manu telo?] is different from the meaning of the phrase \**mbu?u no manu no telo?* or *mbu?u manu no telo?*. The metaphor compound [mbu?u manu telo?] was classified as an endocentric compound because all component, namely [mbu?u], [manu] and [telo?] is support its meaning. The head of metaphor compound noun [mbu?u manu telo?] is 'mbu?u' cendawan ('mushroom' in English), and 'manu and telo?' ayam and telur ('chicken and egg in English) as the modifier. The composition of metaphor compound noun above is consisting of three lexemes base.

TABLE VIII.  $[[LB]N+[LB]N+[LB]N \rightarrow [MCN]]$

Lexical Component		
Dictionary	WFRs	
[uta?]N Sayur	uta?+manu+fulu?	→[uta? manu fulu?]N
[manu]N Ayam	-	
[fulu?]N Bulu	-	
	-	

The structure of the metaphor compound [uta? manu fulu?] as seen in Table VIII in the Dengka dialect is composed of  $[N+N+N] \rightarrow [N]$ . It is can be analysis based on the theory as follows:  $[[uta?]N+[manu]N+[fulu?]N \rightarrow [uta? manu$

fulu?]MCN]]. It is classified as a compound word because it has one meaning, 'a kind of vegetable that look like the fur of chicken'. The metaphor compound noun [uta? manu fulu?] has a strong structure because the phrase element ('no' in Dengka dialect, 'and' in English and 'dan' in Indonesia) as the coordinative element of a phrase cannot be inserted for example, *uta? no manu no fulu?* or *uta? manu no fulu?*. The meaning of the metaphor compound noun [uta? manu fulu?] is different from the meaning of the phrase 'uta? no manu no fulu? or uta? manu no fulu?'. The metaphor compound noun [uta? manu fulu?] is classified as an endocentric compound because all components, namely [uta?], [manu] and [fulu?] supported its meaning. The head of metaphor compound noun [uta? manu fulu?] is 'uta?' sayur ('vegetable' in English) meanwhile 'manu ayam and fulu?' bulu ('chicken and fur in English) as the modifier. The composition of metaphor compound noun above is consisting of three lexemes base.

TABLE IX.  $[[LB]N+[LB]N+[LB]N \rightarrow [MCN]]$

Lexical Component		
Dictionary	WFRs	
[mbui?]N burung	mbui?+iko?+ia?	→[mbui? iko? ia?]N
[iko?]N ekor	-	
[ia?]N ikan	-	
	-	

The structure of metaphor compound word [mbui? iko? ia?] as seen in Table IX in the Dengka dialect is formed by  $[N]+[N]+[N] \rightarrow [N]$ . It is can be analysis based on the theory as follows:  $[[mbui?]N+[iko?]N+[ia?]N \rightarrow [mbui? iko? ia?]MCN]$ . The meaning is 'a kind of bird that has a tail look like the fish's tail'. The metaphor compound word [mbui? iko? ia?] has a strong structure because the phrase element ('no' in Dengka dialect, 'and' in English, and 'dan' in Indonesia) as the coordinative element of a phrase cannot be inserted for example, \**mbui? no iko? no ia?* or *mbui? iko? no ia?*. The meaning of the metaphor compound noun [mbui? iko? ia?] is different from the meaning of the phrase 'mbui? no iko? no ia? or mbui? iko? no fulu?'. The metaphor compound noun [mbui? iko? ia?] is classified as an endocentric compound because all components, namely [mbui?], [iko?] and [ia?] supported its meaning. It is can be identified the head is [mbui?] means 'bird' meanwhile the modifier are [iko?] means 'tail' and [ia?] means 'fish'.

TABLE X.  $[[LB]N+[LB]N+[LB]N \rightarrow [MCN]]$

Lexical Component		WFRs	
Dictionary			
[mbu?u]N cendawan	↔	mbu?u+ode+ndiki?	→[mbu?u ode ndiki?]N
[ode]N monyet		-	
[ndiki?]N telinga		-	
		-	

N = Nou  
RDPS = Reduplication Partial  
SUF = Suffix  
V = Verb  
WFR= Word Formation Rule

B. Symbols

\* = Ungrammatical  
→ = Become  
? = Glottal

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V. CONCLUSION

Based on the data findings and discussion result in this research was found some forms of structure of compound word in the Dengka dialect. It is structure consist of two and three lexemes. Two lexemes was built by  $[N+N] \rightarrow [N]$ , and  $[N]+[V] \rightarrow [N]$ , meanwhile, the structure was built of three lexemes found in  $[N]+[N]+[N] \rightarrow [N]$ . In other side the type of compound word in the Dengka dialect dominated by endocentric compound.

A. Abbreviations and Acronyms

CW = Complex Word  
LB = Lexeme Base  
MCN = Metaphor Compound Noun