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**Compounds in Tolkappiyam and Balavyakaranam –  
A Comparison**

**A. Parimalagantham, M.A., Ph.D.**

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**Introduction**

It is generally recognized that grammar is a closed system whereas lexicon is an open system. Grammar is rigid but lexicon is flexible. In a language, the words may occur as individual forms like vaa 'come' poo 'go', vanDi 'cart', pasu 'cow' in Tamil. Raa 'come' poo 'go', banDi 'cart', aawu 'cow' in Telugu. Combined forms like poRkuTam 'golden pot', tanga mayil 'golden peacock' maNjal taNNi 'yellow water' in Tamil, paalapoDi 'milkpowder', ceTTu komma 'branch of a tree', paata pustakam 'old book' in Telugu. When a lexical item occurs individually or in combination, it gets the labels such as noun, verb, adjective, etc., depending upon the function it performs when it is used in a sentence.

**Aim of the study**

The aim of the present paper is to compare and contrast the compounds, their formation, and types according to two Tamil and Telugu grammars, namely, Tolkappiyam and Balavyakaranam.

**Definition of Compound**

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In general, when two or more things or words are in combination the resultant is called compound. *Common salt* is the compound of sodium and chloride. In grammar, noun or verb or adjective, when combined together, are considered as compounds. ex. karuppu manitan 'Black man', cuDu cooru 'Warm rice or cooked rice', in Tamil, tella chokka 'White shirt', nalla mabbu 'Black cloud' in Telugu.

Rangan (2002) describes, 'Compound Construction is the one where two or more words joined together without any interruption.' Sanghamitra (1996) describes compound 'as a paired construction of two independent meaningful lexical elements. When combined, though they may retain their original meaning to some extent, they may indicate new references. Mahadeva Sastri (1972) the commentator of Balavyakaranam defines 'compound is the one which has two or more words and is considered as a single form.'

### **Types of compound in Tolkappiyam and Balavyakaranam**

Tolkappiyam describes mainly six types of compounds, namely, Compound of Case, Compound of Simile, Compound of Verb, Compound of Adjective, Copulative Compound, and *Anmozhi* Compound.

#### **Compound of case**

In this compound, the meaning of the compound is same irrespective of the case marker that is present or absent Ex. nilam kaTantaan > nilattaik kaTantaan 'one who crossed the land'. All the case markers from second onwards will occur in this compound.

#### **Compound of Simile**

Two things are compared with each other but the comparative marker *poola* may not be explicit. But the meaning is same if the comparative marker is present or absent Ex. pon meeni >pon poonRa meeni 'the body which is like gold'.

#### **Compound of verb**

This compound shows three tenses indirectly. Ex. aaTa rangam >aadiya rangam aaDukira rangam, aaDum rangam,

#### **Compound of Adjective**

This compound describes the quality of the nouns in the compound. It may be color, measure, figure etc. Ex. karungutirai > karumaiyaana kutirai 'The horse which has black color'.

## **Copulative Compound**

When two words are in combination, or more than two words are in combination, the connector –um- may be there in hiding. In these types of compounds whether the connective marker -um- is present or absent, the meaning of the compounds are same. Ex aaDal paaDal, muppatinmar, etc.

## **Anmozhittokai**

Tolkappiyar describes that the anmozhi compound is formed on the basis of the quality compound, causal compound, and the copulative compound. The meaning of previous word, post word, the words of pre and post are implied in this compound and also the words may indicate the meaning beyond the compound. Ex. veLLai aaDai ‘white dress’. This indicates the person who wore also. Because of this quality, it is called Anmozhi compound.

## **The Scheme in Balavyakaranam**

Balavyakaranam divides compounds basically into two types, namely, compound based on sound and compound based on meaning. Compound based on sound is again divided into three types, namely, Sanskrit based, Telugu based, and Mixed compound. The compound based on meaning is also divided into three types, namely, Tatpurasā, Dvandva, and Bahuvrihi

## **Compound based on sound**

### **Compound based on Sanskrit sound**

Only the Sanskrit words form this compound. This is divided into two types: one is siddhamu and the other one is saadhyamu

### **The siddha compound**

The siddha compound is defined in the following way: The compound is formed on the basis of Sanskrit tradition with Sanskrit words. Ex. raajaa + anjja> raajaanjja ‘The order of the king’

### **The Saadhya Compound**

The Sanskrit words came into Telugu as tatsamas and formed as a compound on the basis of Telugu grammatical tradition. Ex. raajanaanjja means raaju yokka aanjja “The order of the king”

## **Aaccika Compound/Telugu compound**

The compounds which are formed on the basis of Telugu grammatical tradition with only Telugu words are called Telugu aaccika compound. Ex. ceeruvu niiru “The lake water”.

## **Mixed compound**

Among the two words in the compound, any one of the word is Sanskrit and the other word is Telugu. Ex. siri vallbuNDu “Sri Vallaban” In this compound, vallaban is Sanskrit word and siri is Telugu word.

## **Compound based on Meaning**

On the basis of meaning, there are three types of compounds, namely, tatpursa, dhvandva, bahuvrihi.

## **Tatpurasa compound**

The meaning of the compound is decided on the basis of the post word of the compound. In this compound there are two types. One is vyadhikaranamu and the other is samaanaadhikaranamu.

## **Vyadhikarana compound**

The words, which have the case markers from second onwards, occur with the post word and is called vyadhikarana compound. Ex. tongavalana bhayamu>tonga bhayamu “fear of thief”; raamuniyokka bhanamu>raama bhanamu “Ram’s bow” The case marker does not occur explicitly.

## **Samanadhikarana compound**

The post word noun occurs with the adjective preword and is called Samandhikarana compound. Ex. tella + gurram >tella gurram, “white horse” manic + raaju >manciraaju “good king”. In this tatpurusa compound, the importance is for the post word. The pre word has a relation only with the post word. It does not have agreement with verb.

## **Bahuvrihi compound**

In this compound, both the words, pre and post words, refer to something or some one not indicated by any of the constituents. That is why it is called Bahuvrihi compound. Ex. muuDdu + kanDlu > mukkanTi “three-eyed person.” This word refers to Lord Shiva.

## **Dhvandva compound**

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In this compound, both the words have agreement with the verb. Ex. tallitanRulu, “mother and father”, annatammuLLu. “Elder and Younger brother.”

### **Commonness between Tolkappiyam and Balavyakaranam**

1. Though Balavyakaranam divides the compound in a different way, we could equate some of the compounds with Tolkappiyar’ divisions. Ex. VeeRRutmait tokkai with tatpursa samasam, compound of simile with karmadhayagam, ummait tokkai with dhvandvam, Anmozhi tokai with bahuvruhi compound in Telugu.
2. Both Tolkappiyam and Balavyakaranam consider the compound as one word, though it is the combination of two words. ex. arasa kaTTaLai . raajanaajja “ the order of the king”
3. Both in Tamil and Telugu the casual compound and the tatpursa compound have the same meaning whether it has case marker or not.

Ex. from Tamil and Telugu

maram veTTinan and marattai veTTinan has same meaning  
tonga valana bhayam and tonga bhayam has the same meaning

4. Both anmozhit tokai and bahuvrihi compounds of Tamil and Telugu refer to the third person, and not the meaning of the constituent words.

Ex. From Tamil and Telugu

veLLai+aaDai>veLLaaDai It refers to the person who wear this dress  
muuDdu+kanDlu>mukkanTi This refer to Lord shiva

5. The conjugated/copulative compound in Tamil and the dvandva compound in Telugu have shown same structure, i.e. both the words in the compound have agreement with verb.

Ex. From Tamil and Telugu

aNNan tambigal     annatammuLLu     “brothers”  
taayantaiyar     tallitandrulu     “Parents”

### **Variations between Tolkappiyam and Balavyakaranam**

1. Tolkappiyar treats the compound in eccaviyal, one of the sub divisions, in the chapter on word. But Balavyakaranam treats compound as a separate chapter.
2. Tolkappiyar did not define what is a compound in Tolkappiyam. He directly enters in to the divisions of compound. But the commentator of Balavyakaranam defines what is compound

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3. Tolkappiyar divides compound into six types. But Balavyakaranam divides compound mainly into two types as sound based compound and meaning based compound. Then he divides these compounds also into various subtypes.

4. Balavyakaranam is talking about one type of compound as vairi samasam. This compound is formed against the rule of Telugu grammatical tradition. Ex. khagaraaju, mrugaraaju. This type is not found in Tamil

5. Since Telugu has lots of Sanskrit words, the formation of compound is also framed on the basis of Sanskrit tradition. It also has the compound framed on the basis of Telugu tradition and also the compound of mixed one also. This type of variation is not available in Tamil.

6. There are two types of compounds described by Balavyakaranam aluka samasam and lugaluk samasam. The first type of compound named aluka samasam have a phoneme in seventh case in some places ex. kuvaliyam+nan+vaaru >kuvalayambuvanavaaru. The other type, lugaluk samasam. In this type when the compound has the sound –i, the case marker is present in some places and in some places there is no case markers. raamuNNi yokka vale and raamuNNi vale are also possible This is called lugaluk samasam.

In this Ex. raamuni vale is luk samasam but if vale occurs with the base form raamuDu +vale then there is no dropping of –Du. Then it is called aluk samasam. This type is not available in Tamil.

7. Though tatpurtsa compound in Telugu and casal compound in Tamil are same, there is a minor difference. In tatpuruSa compound there are two types: one is vyadhikaranam and samanaadhikaram. This type of division is not available in Tamil.

## Conclusion

Though Tamil and Telugu are genetically related languages, compounds reveal several differences between them. Grammarians have adopted different methods to describe the formation of compounds and the divisions of compounds are different, based on existing conditions. Telugu has more influence of Sanskrit, so the formation of compound is based on Sanskrit also. Whereas in Tamil this type of Sanskrit influence is not available

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