CHAPTER V

COMPOUNDS
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In the AV. names, attributives, verbs and indeclinables generally have the power of entering into combination with each other. Also compound words have the power to express various relationships subsisting between them and the last word takes the case termination. In this text we do not find long compounds consisting of more than three words, most compounds contain only two members.

Classification of the Atharvagic Compounds

The following six categories of compounds are met within the AV.

1. Co-ordinative or copulative compound.
2. Determinative compound.
3. Possessive compound.
4. Adverbial compound.
5. Iterative compound.
6. Anomalous compound.

Co-ordinative (Dvandva) Compounds

The use of co-ordinative compounds in the language
of the AV. is quite common. Generally a co-ordinative compound means a 'pair', a 'couple'. When two or more words are combined together in this compound, then the final member usually takes the sign of the dual member where there are two objects and that of the plural if there are more than two. The AV. contains two kinds of co-ordinative compounds called as Itaretara and Samāhāra in Paninian terminology.

**Itaretara Co-ordinative**

In the AV. several members of this compound are viewed separately, each member having equal importance and containing its own independent meaning. In most instances a compound takes dual number; only a few of them are in the plural number. It is significant to note that the gender of the entire compound word is determined by its final member.

Under this category of compounds are included Devatā-dvandva compounds. The language of the AV. has got twelve examples of this kind, which take dual number and both the members retain their original accent, e.g.,

mitrā-vaṛuṇā (AV. III. 4.4),

agnā-vaṣṇū (AV. VII. 29.1),
indra-pusana (AV. VI. 3.1).

In some instances of the AV. the first member of Devata-dvandva compound gets the acute accent, e.g.,

agni-soma (AV. I. 8.2),
indrā-soma (AV. VIII. 4.1).

In some examples of the AV. the last member of Devata-dvandva compound gets the acute accent, e.g.,

indrāgini (AV. I. 35.4),
indrāvāyu (AV. III. 20.6),
bhavārudra (AV. XI. 2.14).

In the AV. we come across the compound vata-prajanyā (AV. X. 4.16) in which the independent circumflex of the final member is retained as the accent of the entire compound.

Some compound words find in the AV. are used in the plural number and the last syllable of them gets the acute accent, e.g.,

deva-munuyah (AV. VIII. 10.9),
uktī-madāni (AV. V. 26.3),
bhadra-papah (AV. XII. 1.47), etc.
Samāhāra Co-ordinative

The language of the AV. contains about twenty examples of samāhāra co-ordinative which denote the idea of aggregation. It is always used in the sing. number and neu. gender. This compound expresses the aggregation of different limbs, divisions of an army and things of opposite nature, e.g.,

kesa-smāṣṭrī (AV. VIII. 2.17),

ratha-vāhanam (AV. III. 17.3),

bhūta-bhavyām (AV. XI. 7.20),

bhadra-papam (AV. XII. 1.48), etc.

Samāsānta in Co-ordinative

It should be noted here that in a few instances of this compound, the final member ending in a consonant or a becomes a thematic, e.g.,

ṛk-sāmaḥbhyām (AV. X. 1.11),

aho-rātre (AV. XII. 1.9), etc.

Determinative (Tat-puruṣa) Compounds

The largest class of determinative compounds which is the commonest in the AV. has got many varieties.
Determinative means a compound containing two members. And in this the first determines the sense of the other. It can be divided into two main groups, namely a Dependent Determinative and a Descriptive Determinative as available in the AV.

**Dependent Determinative**

In this the first member indicates the sense of any one of the oblique cases. And the Accusative dependent is hardly found in the AV.

(a) **Instrumental Dependent**

The use of this compound is very common in the AV. The first member of the compound word determines the sense of instrumental case, e.g.,

- \text{tila-miśra} (AV. XVIII. 3.69),
- \text{regmā-čittma} (AV. VI. 102.2),
- \text{deva-krta} (AV. V. 14.7).

(b) **Dative Dependent**

This compound is rarely found in the AV. The first member of the compound word determines the sense of the dative case, e.g.,

- \text{mṛtyu-śätāḥ} (AV. VIII. 8.10),
(c) **Ablative Dependent**

The use of this compound is rare in the AV. The first member of the compound word determines the sense of ablative, e.g.,

\[ \text{jala-dandam (AV. VIII. 8.12)}, \]
\[ \text{puta-daksah (AV. V. 22.1)}. \]

(d) **Genitive Dependent**

The instances of this compound are very numerous in the AV. The first member of the compound word determines the sense of genitive, e.g.,

\[ \text{bhojas-bhayam (AV. VIII. 1.10)}. \]

(e) **Locative Dependent**

The use of this compound is comparatively less frequent in the AV. In comparison with the other
branches of this compound. The first member of the compound word determines the sense of locative case\(^{10}\), e.g.,

\[ \text{āhar-śāta (AV. III. 14.1)} \]
\[ \text{uda-plutām (AV. X. 4.3)}. \]

(f) Dependent (aluk) Compounds

The Atharvanic language contains some dependent (aluk) compounds, in which the first member of the compound retains the case-ending, most commonly the acc. often the loc. and gen. but the rest rarely.

The Accusative

In the AV. the acc. compound (aluk) commonly denotes the object of a transitive verb, e.g.,

\[ \text{ugram-pasyaḥ (AV. VII. 114.6), 'looking fiercely'}. \]

The Instrumental

The AV. has some instances of ins. compound (aluk), e.g.,

\[ \text{ksudhā-māra (AV. IV. 17.6) 'death by hunger'} \]
\[ \text{vācāstena (AV. VIII. 3.14) 'thief by speech, secretly injuring by words'}. \]

The Genitive

The language of the AV. contains some instances of
genitive compound (aluk), very commonly before pāti, e.g.,

jāgatas-pāti (AV. VII. 18.1) 'Lord of the Universe',
vāsto-pāti (AV. VI. 73.3).

The Locative

The Atharvānic language contains some examples of loc. compound (aluk) rarely, e.g.,

svapne-duṣvyapnyā (AV. XVI. 6.9), 'evil dream in sleeping',
gāvi-ṣṭhira (AV. IV. 29.5).

Word Signifying a Thing that has Parts (Ekadesi) Compounds

This compound has its own significance in the AV. and it is not so common. The final member of this compound, signifies a thing that has several parts (ardha, aparā, purva) etc., e.g.,

ardharca (AV. IX. 15.19) 'half portion of the rčā',
ārdha-māsā (AV. X. 7.5) 'half portion of the month',
aparāhpa (AV. IX. 10.5) 'last portion of the day',
pūrva-hūti (AV. VII. 26.1),
pūrvāgni (AV. V. 31.5), etc.
Dependent Upapada Compounds

The occurrence of this compound are comparatively more than the Ekadesi compounds in the AV. It is significant to note that the final member of this compound always ending in primary (kṛt) suffix in the AV.\textsuperscript{12}, e.g.,

- havirād (AV. XVIII. 3.48) 'who eats the havi',
- pāti-kāma (AV. II. 30.5),
- pathi-rāksi (AV. VIII. 1.9),
- go-sanī (AV. III. 20.10),
- brahma-cārin (AV. XI. 7.20),
- rāja-sūva (AV. IV. 8.1),
- bala-dāvan (AV. IV. 32.5), etc.

Descriptive Determinative (Karmadhārava) Compounds

This category of determinatives is comparatively less frequent in the AV., and it is exceeded in frequency more than five times by the possessive compound.

(a) Generally in descriptive compounds of the AV. the adjective is combined with the object\textsuperscript{13}, e.g.,

- mahā-devāh (AV. V. 21.11),
- mahā-urgāh (AV. V. 22.5),
- sapta-grdhrah (AV. VIII. 9.18), etc.
In some examples of the AV., some words denoting the person or thing may be compounded with words indicative of excellence\textsuperscript{14}, e.g.,

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textbf{pūrūsa-tejāḥ} (AV. X. 5.35),
  \item \textbf{pūrūsa-gandhīḥ} (AV. XII. 2.49).
\end{itemize}

But there is difference of opinion among the scholars about the classification of \textbf{ālūka-yātum} (AV. VIII. 4.22), \textbf{gṛḍhra-yātum} (AV. VIII. 4.22) of the AV. According to them these can be defined in various ways.\textsuperscript{15}

(b) In some instances of the AV. a numeral is compounded with a substantive to form a collective noun, called as Dvigu\textsuperscript{16}. And the last member of the compound generally remains in the neu. sing.\textsuperscript{17}, e.g.,

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textbf{tri-rādām} (AV. XIII. 2.27),
  \item \textbf{tri-bhūjan} (AV. VIII. 9.2),
  \item \textbf{tri-yojānam} (AV. VI. 131.3),
  \item \textbf{pāṇca-yojanām} (AV. VI. 131.3),
  \item \textbf{saḍahām} (AV. VIII. 9.16).
\end{itemize}

(c) The negative particle \textit{na} is combined with nouns and adjectives, and it is changed into \textit{a} before consonants and...
an before vowels, e.g.,

\[ \text{'a}-\text{martya (AV. XI. 2.3)}, \]
\[ \text{'a}-\text{rathāh (AV. XI. 12.24)}, \]
\[ \text{'a}-\text{rasa (AV. VI. 138.3)}, \]
\[ \text{ātithih (AV. VII. 22.1)}, \]
\[ \text{na+āke = nākah (AV. X. 10.11)}, \]
\[ \text{nārakam (AV. XII. 4.36), etc.} \]

(d) We find in the AV. some indeclinable words (ku 'bad' etc.), some particles called as (gati) and some prepositions (prādi) are compounded with other words, e.g.,

\[ \text{ku-nakhin (AV. VII. 67.3)}, \]
\[ \text{kūtsam (AV. IV. 29.5)}, \]
\[ \text{kucarah (AV. VII. 27.2)}, \]
\[ \text{ati-jīvah (AV. VIII. 2.26)}, \]
\[ \text{ati-pasyām (AV. XI. 2.17)}, \]
\[ \text{ati-bhati (AV. X. 3.17)}, \]
\[ \text{ati-mātrām (AV. VIII. 6.13)}, \]
\[ \text{ati-rātrām (AV. X. 9.9)}, \]
\[ \text{dur-armanyāh (AV. XVI. 2.1)}, \]

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Samāsānta in Determinative Compounds

(a) In the AV, the affix a comes after the word rātri, when compounded with a numeral or an indeclinable20, e.g.,

sat-rātra (AV. XI. 9.11),
dvi-rātra (AV. XI. 9.10),
ati-rātra (AV. X. 9.9).

(b) In the AV, the substitution of aha for abhan takes place after a numeral, when it forms a collective noun meaning a number of days taken as a unity21, e.g.,

ṣaḍahā (AV. VIII. 9.16),
bhadrahām (AV. VI. 128.1).

(c) In the AV, gava is substituted for go at the end of a determinative compound22, e.g.,

brahma-gaiva (AV. V. 19.4).
(d) In some instances a determinative compound of the AV. words ending in a consonant changed ending into a, e.g.,

\[ \text{brahma-varcas} = \text{brahma-varcasa} (\text{AV. VIII. 13.16}), \text{etc.} \]

**Possessive(bahuvrihi) Compounds**

In the AV. the possessive compounds are more common than the Descriptives.

In the AV. two or more compound words may be put together, denoting a new thing. The difference between a Determinative and Possessive cannot be traced out very easily. Most examples of both compounds depend on similar grounds. We can distinguish them generally by a difference of accent or reference. The possessive compound has the accent on its first member, whereas the Determinative has on the final member.

Possessives are of two kinds available in the AV. Here we shall discuss them accordingly.

I(a) **Samānādhikaraṇa Possessive**

In this both the members are in opposition to each other. An adjective word, or a word ends with te is to be placed as the first member of the Possessive compound, e.g.,
ugrā-bānuḥ (AV. IV. 24.2),

lāti-svasr (AV. V. 23.11), etc.

(b) Sometimes in the AV. a word ends with ta is to be placed as the final member of the compound, e.g., gara-girṇaḥ (AV. V. 18.13). But there is difference of opinion among the scholars about its name. Macdonell declares it as a Determinative compound: 'An example of the rare use of a past pass. part. in a transitive sense.' But Nārāyana's commentary on Āśva. Śrāv. Sūt. shows it as a Possessive compound: "Garo viṣam garo gīrṇaḥ (? girṇo) yena sa garagirṇaḥ." According to Pāṇini it is a Possessive compound.

(c) In some instances of the AV. a name of anything is to be placed as the first member of the Possessive compound, e.g.,

śurodaka (AV. IV. 34.6),

soma-sreṣṭha (AV. XI. 8.15),

yama-sreṣṭha (AV. XI. 8.11).

(d) In some examples of the AV. a word, which indicates the comparison is to be placed as the first member of the
Possessive compound\textsuperscript{31}, e.g.,

\textit{agni-tejas} (AV. X. 5.25),
\textit{rksa-griva} (AV. VIII. 6.2), etc.

(e) In some instances of the AV. the optional compounding of what arises from a verbal root coming after prepositions should be stated and the elision of the subsequent term\textsuperscript{32}, e.g.,

\textit{vi-karpah} (AV. V. 17.13),
\textit{ni-manyuh} (AV. III. 25.4),
\textit{sr̥-satru} (AV. VII. 9.1),
\textit{ihā-citta} (AV. XVIII. 4.38).

(f) In some examples of the AV. the word \textit{saha} or \textit{sa} is compounded with the final member of the compound in the sense of together\textsuperscript{33}, e.g.,

\textit{sahā-devatā} (AV. XII. 4.23),
\textit{sahā-bhakṣa} (AV. VI. 47.1),
\textit{sāngā} (AV. XVIII. 4.64).

(g) In some instances of the AV. the compounding of words signifies what exists\textsuperscript{34} coming after the negative
(naḥ) should be stated, and the optional elision of the second of the terms34, e.g.,

a-phāla (AV. VIII. 7.27),
a-bandhu (AV. VI. 122.2), etc.

II(a) Vyadhikarana Possessive

In this type of compound both the members are not in opposition to each other. The instances of this compound are comparatively less frequent in the AV. And it is very much interesting to note that the language of the AV. contains some usages, where in the first member of this compound the case-affix remains unchanged, e.g.,

pātra-hasta (AV. IX. 11.3),
ghṛṭa-prsthā (AV. II. 13.1),
āśru-mukhā (AV. XI. 11.7).

(b) In some instances of the AV. a locative-case retains its case-affix in the first member of this compound35, e.g.,

dūrā-gavṛṭi (AV. IV. 28.3), etc.

Samāśānta in Possessive Compounds

(a) In the Possessive compound of the AV. the o of
word  go, is changed to u, when it is final member, e.g., su-gū (AV. XIV. 2.43) and shortening of the vowel is due to the vowel gradation according to Wackernagel and Macdonell.

(b) In the Possessive compound of the AV. i is converted into a, when it is the final member, e.g.,

anasthā (AV. IV. 34.2), etc.

Adverbial (Avyayībhāva) Compounds

In the AV. the instances of this compound are comparatively less than the previous compounds. This is formed by combining an indeclinable prative with another word and always taking the sign of neut. acc., e.g.,

adhi-rājām (AV. V. 3.10),

anu-kūlam (AV. V. 14.13),

anu-gigrām (AV. VIII. 6.6),

ānu-matām (AV. VI. 71.2),

ā-vyugām (AV. IV. 5.7),
yathā-nāmanam (AV. IV. 38.7),
yathā-bālam (AV. III. 20.9),
yathā-bhāgam (AV. VII. 114.2),
yathā-lokām (AV. XI. 11.26), etc.
But it is significant to note that Western Scholars give it a new name called Governing Compound and divide it into two parts, viz. prepositional compounds and participial compounds, which have already been discussed under the Descriptive Determinative compounds.

It is worth noting that this compound ending in at(sat) do not occur in the AV., while the RV. contains some instances.

**Iterative (Dvirukta) Compounds**

The language of the AV. contains the use of Iterative compound numbering over fifty.

In this compound a word is often repeated. In the AV. nouns, adjectives, numerals are generally repeated, while in the RV., pronouns, adverbs and prepositions are also repeated. So the AV. differs from the RV. in not having all those classes which are available in the RV.

Instances of the various types of Iteratives in the AV. are the following:

**Nouns**:
- ḍhanamaṇṇam (AV. X. 6.5),
- ḍhodīṣā (AV. XVIII. 4.1),
- ḍhīṣaṃ-ḍhīṣaṃ (AV. III. 31.4).
Adjectives: uttramuttram (AV. III. 100.1),  
pracimpracim (AV. XII. 3.7).

Numerals: ekaikam (AV. III. 28.1),  
saptasapta (AV. IV. 16.6), etc.

**Anomalous Compounds**

The language of the AV. contains certain usages of anomalous character as exhibiting combinations of elements not usually put together. They cannot be classified under any preceding compounds. But according to Pānini these irregular forms are treated under the Determinative compounds.

Some of these, especially of those occurring in the Atharvanic language may be noticed here, e.g.,

ahamuttara (AV. XII. 4.50),  
māmpaśya (AV. VII. 39.1), etc.
REFERENCES

1. Cf. AV. Pr. IV. 49; V. Pr. II. 48,55; III.128; V. 28.
2. Cf. P. Gr. II. 2.29.
4. Cf. P. Gr. II. 4.2; 6, 7, 8.
7. Cf. P. Gr. II. 1.36.
12. Cf. P. Gr. III. 1.92; II. 2.19; VI. 2.139.
18. Cf. P. Gr. II. 2.6; VI. 3.73.
19. Cf. P. Gr. II. 2.18; I. 4.58-60; I. 4.61-79.
25. Cf. P. Gr. II. 1,49 See Kāśikā.
31. Cf. P. Gr. II. 2,24. See M.B.
33. Cf. P. Gr. II. 2,28.
35. Cf. P. Gr. II. 2,35.
39. Cf. P. Gr. I. 1,41; II. 1,6-16; 4, 18.
   Skt. Gr., p. 511; Ved. Gr., p. 175; Ved. Gr. Stu.,
   pp. 279-280.
41. Cf. V. Pr. I. 146.
42. Cf. P. Gr. II. 1,72. See Kāśikā.