CHAPTER VII
COMPOUNDING OF VERBS

7. FORMATION OF VERBAL COMPOUNDS

There is still no clear opinion in the scholars circle, regarding the nature of the verbal compounds in Mongolian language. Their views differ about the kinds and ways of composing compound verbs, each scholar has different criterion of identification of verbal compounds. Then there are those who claim there is no verbal compounds in Mongolian, while others confirm that verbal compounds are there, but it is in the initial phase of development.

In identification and classification of compound verbs we will follow the same criterion, which was used in the case of compound nouns and adjectives. That means if any composed verb of two and more verbs will denote a new concept or depicts a wider meaning than that of the constituents, will be considered as compound verb. If composing of verbs leads simply to change of external form, or to change of grammatical function only, it would not be considered as a compound verb.

By this criterion, some analytic verbal forms with auxiliary verbs can not be considered as compound verbs. This is because the auxiliary verb jointly with main verb can not give
the new lexical unit, it is used only to indicate tense, aspect and modality of the main verb. For example:

\[
\text{yavj} + \text{bayn} = \text{yavj bayn}
\]

'yavj' + 'bayn' = 'yavj bayn'

'to go' + 'is' = 'is going'

All analytical forms of participles and converbs also cannot be considered compound verbs. Compound verb is a single whole, so that all kinds of grammatical affixes are attached only after the verbs are compounded. But in the case of analytic forms of participles and converbs verbal affixes of voice and aspect are attachable to each of the constituents of the verbal form.

There are two kinds of compound verbs in Contemporary Mongolian.

1. Coordinate compound verb
2. Subordinate compound verb

7.1 COORDINATE COMPOUND VERB

As we know there are two main types of Coordinate Compound words in Mongolian. The one is coordinate compound word consisting of incompatibilities, and other consists of hyponyms. However, coordinating of verbal constituents is different from coordinating of two nouns or of two adjectives.

As Mongolian verbs do not have an infinitive form,
the form of Coordinate Converbs becomes the stem form of verbs coordinating into one compound verb.

The affix of Coordinate Converbs is added to the stem of a $\text{VERB}_1$ to copulate it to $\text{VERB}_2$. But other functional/inflectional affixes of imperative, subjunctive and indicative moods as well as suffixes of voice and aspect can be attached only at the end of the compound verb.

For example:

\[
\text{VERB}_1 + \text{VERB}_2 = \text{CCV} + \text{inlectional affixes}
\]

\[
\text{tanij} + \text{med} = \text{tanij med} + \ddot{\text{u}}:1 + \text{Cix}
\]

'identify' to 'to know' to 'realise' 'factitive' 'perfective' 'voice' 'aspect'

1. Opposite verbs can be coordinated with each other to produce a new Coordinate Compound Verbs with more abstract lexicalized meaning than the meanings of the constituents $\text{VERB}_1$ and $\text{VERB}_2$. For example:

\[
\text{nisc} + \text{bu:} = \text{nisc bu:}
\]

'to fly off' 'to land' 'to get somewhere quickly'

\[
\text{orj} + \text{Gar} = \text{orj Gar}
\]

'get in' 'get out' 'to visit'

2. Hyponymous verbs can coordinate together and produce Coordinate Compound Verbs, containing the
meaning of each of the constituent verbs, to some extent, but the meaning of the generated verb is more general than the meaning of the constituents.

For example:

\[
\text{VERB}_1 + \text{VERB}_2 = \text{CCV}
\]

\[
\text{nargij} + \text{tseNg} = \text{nargij tseNg}
\]

'nargij' means 'enjoy' and 'tseNg' means 'to happy', so 'nargij tseNg' means 'make merry'.

\[
\text{xö:j} + \text{tu:} = \text{xö:j tu:}
\]

'xö:j' means 'drive away' and 'tu:' means 'chase', so 'xö:j tu:' means 'banish'.

### 7.2 Subordinate Compound Verbs

There are two ways of composing Subordinate Compound Verbs. Subordinate Compound Verbs are generated by coordinating either bound roots or stems of cooperative* converbs to any verbal stems. For example:

\[
\text{tso: tsoxi} - \text{pierce through'
}\]

\[
\text{suG tat} - \text{pull out with a jerk'
}\]

\[
\text{surGan xümü:jü:1} - \text{educate, bring up'
}\]

\[
\text{to:tso:loN bod} - \text{calculate'
}\]

* This term was determined by N.Poppe like modal Converb, which expresses an action indicating the manner in which the main action is performed. (Grammar of written Mongolian) 1954.96.
Let us consider both of the types

1. Bound root always stands in the first position of the compound structure, and linked to the modified verb directly, without any cohesive affixes. Let us analyse how the verbs of this type, in the example given above are constituted.

\[
\text{BR} + V = \text{SCV}
\]

\[
\text{tso:} + \text{tsoxi} = \text{tso:tsoxi}
\]

'through' 'hit' = 'pierce through'

\[
\text{suG} + \text{tat} = \text{suG tat}
\]

'completely' 'pull' = 'pull out'

All kind of functional/inflectional verbal affixes denoting tense, voice and aspect can be attached after the last constituent i.e. VERB, if they are needed.

For example:

\[
\text{BR} + \text{VERB} = \text{SCV}
\]

\[
\text{tso:} + \text{tsoxi} + V = \text{tso:tsoxiv}
\]

meaning 'pierced through' where \(V\) is an affix of Past tense.

Hungarian Professor Bese.L rightly pointed out in his study* 'verbal prefixes and prefix+verb stem compounds are used by Mongolian dialects with a defined frequency'.

* Bese, L.1967 Verbal prefixes in Mongolian.
Unfortunately, the term verbal prefix, which he has chosen for denoting the bound root constituent of the Subordinate Compound Verb is wrong. **Firstly**, Mongolian does not have any kind of prefixes. All kinds of derivational and inflectional affixes are added only after the root/stem. (For more details see chapter *Mongolian word structure*). **Secondly**, if they were real verbal prefixes, how do we explain plenty of derivatives that are generated from bound roots, because prefixes never become base form for further derivation.

It should be noted, that function of the second constituent i.e. VERB in the Subordinate Compound Verb becomes functionally equal to verbal suffix -1 considered earlier (see page 103 for details); which derives transitive verbs from bound roots. So that all Subordinate Compound Verbs with BOUND ROOT + VERB structure are transitive in nature.

For example:

\[
\text{suG} + \text{tat} = \text{suG tat} = \text{suGal} \quad \text{'to draw out'} \quad \text{'to draw out'}
\]

\[
\text{nyats} + \text{tsoxi} = \text{nyats tsoxi} = \text{nyatsal} \quad \text{'to break out'} \quad \text{'to break up'}
\]
BOUND ROOTS USED FOR COMPOSING
SUBORDINATE COMPOUND VERBS

1. The meaning of English *apart* can be expressed by Mongolian bound roots like: deleb, xaG

   For example:
   
   \[
   \text{BR} \quad + \quad \text{VERB} \\
   \text{deleb} \quad + \quad \text{tat} = \text{deleb tat} \\
   \quad \text{‘pull’} \quad \text{‘to pull out’} \\
   \quad \text{‘to pull apart’}
   \]

2. The meaning of English *asunder* can be expressed by Mongolian counterpart BOUND ROOTS like:

   *byats*, *nyats*, *tas*, *tes*, *xamax*, *xemex*, *but*, *xalts*, *dzad* e.t.c

   For example:
   
   \[
   \text{BOUND ROOT} \quad + \quad \text{VERB} = \text{SCV} \\
   \text{nyats} \quad + \quad \text{dar} \quad \text{‘to trample down’} \\
   \quad \text{‘press down’} \\
   \text{tas} \quad + \quad \text{xadz} \quad \text{‘to bite through’} \\
   \quad \text{‘to bite’} \\
   \text{xemex} \quad + \quad \text{tsoxi} \quad \text{‘to smash to pieces’} \\
   \quad \text{‘to hit’} \\
   \text{but} \quad + \quad \text{nereg} \quad \text{‘to crash down’} \\
   \quad \text{‘to crash’}
   \]
dzad  +  ma:ju:l 'to scratch'
     'get scratched'

3. The meaning of English away can be expressed by Mongolian bound roots like:

    elt, emt, xolbi, öm e.t.c

4. The meaning of English into pieces can be expressed by bound roots like:

    balab, tsu:, dzur, xuG, nuG, etc.

    For example:

    BOUND ROOT    VERB
    xuG  +  muSig 'to wrist out'
            'squeeze'
    tsu:  +  tatax 'tear into pieces'
            'to pull'
    nuG  +  dar 'to bend'
            'to press down'

5. The meaning of English out can be expressed by bound roots like:

    bulaG, bült, mult, xegdz, xu:,
    ogol, suG, ugadz, dzulaG, xolt, etc

    For example:

    BOUND ROOT    VERB
    mult  +  tat  'to take out'
            'to pull'
    xegdz  +  tsoxil 'to rip'
            'to hit'
ogol + üser 'to dart up' 'to jump'
ugadz + tat 'to pull out' 'pull'
6. The meaning of English through can be expressed by bound roots like:
tso:, tsöm, nevt, set, Suvt, etc.
For example:
BOUND ROOT VERB
tso: nüxel 'to break through'
nevt nor 'to drench through'
Suvt tat 'to drow out'
Subordinate Compound Verbs are also generated by coordinating two verbs inclusive of their affixes
For example:
VERB₁ + affix + VERB₂ = SCV
suraG + N + xümü:jü:l = surGan xümü:jü:l 'teach' 'educate' 'bring up'
örög + N + devSu:l = örgön devSu:l 'raise' 'promote' 'present, extend'
Constituents of the Subordinate Compound Verbs have fixed position in the structure. Cooperative Converb occurs in the VERB₁ position and modyfied verb occupies the VERB₂ position. Functional/inflectional morphemes are never added to the stem of converbal form, but to the stem of verb in VERB₂.
Please refer to Fig. No.4 for classification of compound verbs.

CLASSIFICATION OF COMPOUND VERBS

Figure No. 4