CHAPTER TWO

MORPHOLOGY
Grammar was traditionally divided into morphology and syntax. Morphology is the science and study of the smallest grammatical units of language and of their formation into words including inflections, derivation, composition. According to Bloomfield morphology is the construction in which sound forms appear among the constituent. It is the study of the pattern of word forms. It studies how the words are formed, where they originate from, what their grammatical forms are, on what basis the parts of speech of a particular language are formed, how system of gender and number function, and how and why the word forms change. Broadly speaking the way morphemes form words is known as the morphology of a language. Morphology is not only the synchronic study of word forms but also the study of history and development of word forms. Morphology is divided into two sections, an inflexional morphology and a lexical morphology or word formation.

Any study on morphology includes discussion on inflexional morphology and lexical morphology. But as the present study concentrates on the work of a creative writer, R.K.Narayan we have to restrict ourselves on the discussion
of lexical morphology. Lexical morphology is synonymous with derivative morphology which includes the study of formation of both the complex and compound words. This chapter gives emphasis on the use of lexical morphology in R.K.Narayan's *Malgudi Days*. The morphological analysis of *Malgudi Days* has been done with examples taken from the text. The complex word formation as well as the formation of compound words has been shown with proper illustrative examples. The complex word formation in the text of *Malgudi Days* follows the patterns used in British standard English.

2.1 LEXICAL MORPHOLOGY

Lexical Morphology is otherwise known as derivative morphology. It includes both the formation of compound and complex words as stated above. A compound word is the combination of two or more words so as to function as one word or as one morphological unit. Bloomfield says, "we cannot gauge meaning accurately enough : moreover many a phrase is as specialized in meaning as in any compound". He therefore recommends stress as the best criterion for determining the compound word. He further says,
"Whenever we hear lesser or least stress upon a word which would always show stress in a phrase, we describe it as a compound member: ice-cream is a phrase although there is no denotative difference of meaning."

Orthographically compound words can be categorized into three groups. One of them is to write the words independently as head master, post master, swarga loka, senate house. A better way of writing a compound word is to hyphenate the two constituent words as second-class, sea-god, blue-shirts, red-fort, home-sickness, quarter-hour. The third way of writing a compound word is to merge the constituent words into single unit as bedroom, schoolboy etc.

So far as compound words are concerned the eminent linguist Otto Jesperson speaks of two tendencies. One of them is to strengthen the feeling that the compound word is composite in nature and each element in it is dependent on the other. The second tendency is to strengthen the feeling that a compound word has unity and
is therefore a fixed unit without a composite character. The way of making such compound in native language is passed into English. This is a new dimension to the compound word formation. By and large the same methods have been applied in making compound in Malgudi Days. Under each category how the compounds are made, examples are given from Malgudi Days for illustration.

2.1.1 SUBSTANTIVE COMPOUNDS

Substantive compounds are made of two Constituent Nouns and the resulting compound is also a Noun. There are several types of compound nouns in Malgudi Days. The compound nouns or the substantive nouns are found in a varied ways.

(a) In most of the compound the second element is determined by the first element. This kind of formation is extremely frequent in Malgudi Days and considered as the normal formation. If we change the places of the element in the compound the meaning will be changed. Some examples of this kind are given below.

Noun + Noun

Blind + man
Bullock + cart
Canna + flower
Chrysanthemum + flower
Cloud + land
Dhall + soup
Fire + minutes
Fish + soup
Friend + Joseph
Gas + lamp
God + Shiva
Gramophone + company
Head + office
Hibiscus + flower
Hundred + miles
Indian + troops
Jasmine + flower
Kabir + lane
Khaki + suit
Market + road
Night + show
Nuts + vendor
Palace + talkies
Papaya + fruit
Pension + day
Rose + flower
Saffron + colour
Station + master
Tamarind + pot
Tear + gas
Temple + street
Three + pie
Traffic + constable
Week + food
Wood + dust, and so on.

(b) In this kind of compound the first element is determined by the second element, for example –

**Noun + Noun**

Ellaran + street
English + picture
Flower + pluckers
Home + coming
Hotel + owner
Krishna + hall
Malgudi + agent
Married + life
Mid + day
Mid + night
Middle + age
Middle + class
Miscellaneous + article
Model + village
Money + boxes
Mud + lamp
Muddy + smell
Mystic + charts
Night + pass
Poster + sticker
Tamil + films
Three + pie
Troubles + spot
Well + fed
Well + paid etc.

(c) In this kind of compound the elements are in apposition to each other for example –

Boy + friend
Fellow + citizen
Fellow + creative
Girl + friend
Maid + servant
Ribbon + vendor

(d) This kind of compound denotes animate things or personified inanimate things. In this compound the second element is the name of a part of the body or dress. For example -

Absent + mind
Dark + whisker
Grey + hair
Hot + headed
Long + eyes
Long + face
Massive + head
Mirthful + faces
Moon + face
Mortal + eyes
Paley + face
Prying + eyes
Pug + nose
Red + eyes
Round + eyes
Serpent + eyes
Sharp + tongue
Sparkling + eyes
Spotty + eyes

(e) In this kind of compound the two elements are joined by means of a preposition which comes in between. In this compounds the first element is considered important.

Father - in - law
Mother - in - law
Son - in - law
Stock - in - trade

2.1.2 STRING COMPOUNDS

In string compounds the first element may itself be a compound to which the other element is added. For example -

Boot polish boys
A happy groups
Head man's house
Man-eater's dark career
Self imposed task
Thick skinned idiot
Third class compartment
Third class passengers
Well iron coat, etc.

2.1.3 CLIPPED COMPOUNDS

In this compound a word is clipped into a single word. For example –

Return (return ticket)
Kindergarten day (kindergarten school day)
Jubilee reading room (Reading room)

In the above compound as shown with the examples, the first and the second elements are nouns and the resulting compound is also a noun. But there are some compounds in which the grammatical functions of the constituent words are different from that of the resulting compound. For example –

Adjective + Noun

Auspicious + day
Brown + bag
Central + hall
Deep + voice
Empty + handed
Empty + jug
Full + moon
Good + fortune
Half + faint
Half + glad
Half + ration
Honest + man
Huge + crowds
Last + leg
Little + doll
Long + face
Nice + village
Red + eyes
Round + face
Short + stick
Sick + bed
Sick + man
Soft + voiced
Weak + fingers
Wooden + box
**Pronoun + Noun**

- Her + bed
- Her + father
- Her + mind
- His + card
- His + children
- His + custom
- His + daughter
- His + eyes
- His + friend
- His + letter
- His + name
- His + throat
- His + wife
- Its + wick
- Their + attack
- Their + furniture
- Their + homes
- Their + house
- Their + statement
- Their + thought
- Your + business
Your + father
Your + student

**Particle + Noun**

In this kind of compound the first element is an adverb particle and the second element is noun. For example –

In + gate
In + side
Out + caste
Over + head
Under + clothes
Under + day
Up + train and so on

**Noun + Adjective**

In this kind of compound the first element is a noun and the second element is an adjective. Sometimes the second element may be a particle form. For example –

Air + cooled
City + bred
Dog + tired
God + gift
God + given
Hand + made
Heart + burning
Life + long
Mind + dwelt
Over + baked
Rain + crowned
Sky + blue
Sun + bright
Tear + stained and so on

_Pronoun + Adjective_

In this compound the first element is a pronoun and the second element is an adjective. For example –

All + kinds
All + seeing
All + knowing
All + purpose
All + suffering
**Adjective + Adjective**

In this kind of compound the first element is an adjective and also the second element is an adjective. For example –

Bright + eyed
Indian + made
Long + faced
Reddish + brown
Regular + featured
Sharp + tongued
Well + behaved, and so on.

**Particle + Adjective**

In this kind of compound the first element is a particle and the second element is an adjective. For example –

Ever + falling
Ever + lit
Far + fetched
Over + confident
Over + delicate
Over + happy
Over + headed, and so on.
Noun + Verb

In this kind of compound the first element is a noun and the second element is a verb. For example -

Back + bite
Care + take
Fortune + hunt
Hand + made
House + keep
Human + sized
Mean + handle
Sooth + say and so on.

Particle + Verb

In this kind of compound the first element is a particle and the element is a verb. For example -

Off + set
Out + drink
Out + go
Over + come
Over + grow
Over + lap
Over + look
Over + see
2.2 CREATIVE MORPHOLOGICAL STRUCTURE

When the creative writers make experiment with language, the hidden potentialities in phonology, morphology and syntax are brought out. So also R.K.Narayan has brought out the hidden potentialities of morphology. R.K.Narayan's morphological constructions are given below as examples to show what a language conscious creative writer can do. Although some of the constructions can include some other morphological categories, they are given under a single category without separating them. For example –

- Under + develop
- Under + line
- Under + paid
- Under + sale
- Under + value
- Up + hold
- Up + lift
- Up + rise
- Up + root
- Up + set
Beedi + betel + sellers
Brahmin + quarters
Ceylon + tea + gardens
Gateman + Govind Singh
Gentleman + writers
Green + blazer
Half + wits + eyes
High + class dog
Jubilee + reading room
Jutka + drivers
Kala + primary school
Madras + Bangalore + express
Malgudi + medical centre
Man-eater’s + dark career
Passing + bus driver
Plotters + quarters
Postman + Thanapa
Punnaga + varali
Rama Rao’s Wife
Saffron + coloured + turban
Sick man’s life
Sun + scorched + roofs
Swarga + loka
2.3 TYPICAL INDIAN COMPOUNDS IN MALGUDI DAYS

This kind of compounds are typically Indian and formed in Indian languages as we mark in R.K.Narayan’s *Malgudi Days*. As Kachru observes, “Contextually determined indianisms may be ‘deviant’ in the sense that they are unintelligible to the user of the varieties of English because they are not acquainted with those typically Indian contexts in which such formations are used by Indians”.

These compounds involved transfer of allocation from Indian languages and transfer of meaning from the native culture of the English writer. As per the above discussion the following are the examples taken from *Malgudi Days*.

- Ash marks
- Betel sellers
- Black money
- Blessing ceremony
- Bride showing
- Cow worship
- Fruit sellers, and so on.
These are some compounds in which one element is taken from Indian language and the other element is taken from English. For example –

Half annas
Holy Brahmin
Margosa tree
Sacred ash

There are some compounds, which are composed of elements from at least two different languages. The following are some of the examples taken from Malgudi Days.

Gymkhana grounds
Jutka drivers
Kumbha mela
Palace talkies
Satyagraha movement
Swadeshi cloth

There are some compound in which the constituent elements are drawn from two different languages having identical meaning. We may take the following examples from Malgudi Days. For illustration –
God Shiva
Hanuman the Divine Monkey
Kitchen door
Lathi stick
Receipts bills
Vegetable bajjis

There are some compounds in which the first element is a modifier in English and the element is the head in Indian. The following examples from *Malgudi Days* illustrate this category.

Coconut payasam
Flower bazaar
Fried groundnuts
Golden jilebis
Obscure sandhi
Sweet rasagulla
Vegetable bajjis

There are some compounds in which the position of the modifier is changed to the initial components. For examples –

Beedi sellers
Brinjal soup
Choultry street
Choultry veranda
Dhall soup
Gurkha watchman
Khaki suit
Papaya fruit
Pukkah Brahmins

The thematic distribution of hybrids is also called contextual classification. According to the semantic area of the word, the following classification can be made, which are found in Malgudi Days.

**Administration**: Municipal Committee, Inspector General of police, Congress Working Committee, Magistrate, Police, East India Company, Prime Minister

**Culture**: Kala Primary School, Bhairavi Raga

**Buildings**: Jubilee Reading Room, Municipal Office, Restaurant – Kohinoor, Five Star Hotel
Edibles: Brinjal Soup, Dhall Soup, Coconut Payasam

Attitudes: Gurkha Watchman, Pukkah Brahmins

Occupations: Beedi Seller, Jutka Driver, Fruit Seller, Betel Seller, Medicine Seller

Politics: Municipal Chairman

Religion: Bhajan, Kumbha Mela, God Shiva, God Bishnu, Lord of Kobras, Upanishads, Swarga Loka, Temple

Social: Astrologer’s Day