

Compound Verbs in Japanese and Bengali with a focus on the Compound Maker Verb¹

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Abstract– A compound verb is a common linguistic feature prevailing in two Asian languages, Bengali and Japanese, in an enormous amount and frequently used. Its usage is more frequent in Indo Aryan languages than in the south Indian languages. A compound verb is a linguistic phenomenon in which more than one verb combines to serve a combined lexical meaning. Primarily, the combined meaning derives from the lexical meaning of the first component (first verb). Certain verbs (the second verb or the compound maker) combine with the first verb to form a compound verb in both languages. This second verb is restricted in number in Bengali, whereas Japanese compound maker verbs seem enormous. This article attempts to discover the essential characteristics, such as compound makers, compound verbs, and combining mechanisms in Bengali and Japanese. Compound verbs are more closely related to vocabulary than grammar, and therefore, memorising them instead of following grammatical rules would be more helpful. This article has made an effort to find out about the basic structures, types of the compound verbs of Bengali and Japanese compound verbs, and their 'compound maker' components in both languages.

Keywords Compound verbs · Bengali · Japanese · First verb · Second verb · Compound maker verb ·

¹ This study is solely inspired by the article “Khanna, Anita et.al, Paper No.: 日本語の文法 (Japanese Grammar: An Overview) Module: 16 複合動詞 (Compound Verbs)”. Compound verbs with the composition of Verb1+Verb2 have been taken into account to make this paper. Nominal like জমাকরা/joma kora/ to submit, গবেষণাকরা/gobesona kora/ to research etc. in Bengali and サ変動詞 like 提出する, 研究する etc. in Japanese which are also considered as compound verbs in both languages are excluded in the study.

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1. Introduction

Compound verbs are a commonly existing linguistic feature in the Bengali and Japanese languages. Both languages are enriched with compound verbs. Compound verbs are linguistic phenomena where more than one verb is united to produce one combined meaning. The first verb can be considered first, or Verb 1 (from now on referred to as the first verb), and the following verb can be considered second or Verb 2 (from now on referred to as the second verb). The second verb is also called the 'compound maker' verb. In both languages, the first verb contributes most to form the overall meaning of the combination, whereas the second verb plays the role of a modifier to complete the meaning. 40% of Japanese verbs are considered compound verbs (National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics/NINJAL). A compound verb consists of 'V+V' (Verb+Verb) or a verb and a noun 'N+V' (Noun+Verb). One of the components is a 'light verb' or 'vector', which *'bears inflections, affects the actions art of the joint predication and adds, instead of its inherent lexical meaning, subtler semantic information such as benefaction, suddenness, volitionally, forcefulness, etc.'* (Chatterjee 2016 p.55). Another component plays a significant role in providing the complete lexical meaning of the combination. That specific component is the 'primary' component. Pal (1966) terms this particular component as the 'compound maker' due to their potential to indicate certain meanings according to the light verbs. A compound verb is also called a 'complex verb' for its' complex structural feature. However, in both languages, making compound verbs may be considered a productive process in expressing different meanings of one verb with the help of a compound maker.

2. Formation of compound verbs in Japanese and Bengali

2.1 Japanese

- a. 食べ込む/tabekomu/ (食べる/taberu/+込む/komu/)
- b. 見合わせる/miawaseru/ (見る/miru/+合わせる/awaseru/)

The examples show that the first verb changes into the conjunctive form (連用形) in most Japanese compound verbs and the second verb remains unchanged. NINJAL categorises Japanese compound verbs in five groups depending on the component verbs forming the compound verb.

- a. Combination of two normal verbs
- b. Combination of a conjugated verb and a normal verb
- c. Combination of two verbs where the connection between the verbs are difficult to find out

- d. Combination of a normal verb and an auxiliary verb
- e. Combination of verbs which can be considered as a derived from the noun.

However, very few exceptional instances can be seen such as 見いだす/miidasu/ (見る/miru/+出す/dasu/), 見て取る/mitetoru/ (見る/miru/+取る/toru) where the first verb can be seen in a different form other than the conjunctive form.

2.2 Bengali

As Chatterjee (1988 pp. 354-355) indicates, Bengali Compound verbs can be formed by inflecting Verb1 with two different components, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1

	With the conjunctive ৷(ঐ)/e/	With the verbal noun/infinitive/participle -তে/te/
Examples	দিয়ে দেওয়া/diye dewa/ to give away	দিতে চাওয়া/dite chawa/ to wish to give
	খেয়ে নেওয়া /kheye newa/ to eat completely	খেতে দেওয়া/khete dewa/ to allow to eat

Chatterjee (1988 pp. 355-356) also classifies the compound maker verbs into six groups, each based on the meanings they denote while combining with the first verb inflected with the above components.

- i) With the verbal noun/infinitive/participle -তে /te/:
 - a. Inchoatives/Inceptives, b. Desiderative, c. Permissive, d. Potentials, e. Acquisitive, f. Continuatives
- ii) With the conjunctive- ৷(ঐ)/e/:
 - a. Inceptives, b. Staticals, c. Continuatives, d. Intensives/Indicatives, e. Habitual, f. Examinative/ Appreciative.

As the above classifications indicate, it is also a possible phenomenon among Bengali compound verbs that one first verb may form different compound verbs with different compound maker verbs denoting an identical meaning. Bengali linguists such as Pal (1966), Datt (1935), Bykova (1966) categorised Bengali compound maker verbs more or less aligned into two groups – *duratives* and *intensifiers*. Previous studies on Bengali Compound verbs indicate that Bengali compound maker verbs are limited in number. Although there are variations in the

total number of Bengali Compound maker verbs depending on the linguists, the number is more or less than 14.

This paper makes an effort to determine the frequency of occurrence of the second verb in forming the compound verbs in Japanese and Bengali by surveying ten selected basic verbs, which are as follows in Table 2.

Table 2

Japanese	English	Bengali
する/suru/やる/yaru/	to do	করা/kora/
行く/iku/	to go	যাওয়া/jawa/
来る/kuru/	to come	আসা/asa/
食べる/taberu/	to eat	খাওয়া/khawa/
話す/hanasu/言う/iu/語る/kataru/しゃべる/shaberu/	to speak/say	বলা/bola/
見る/miru/	to see	দেখা/dekha/
聞く/kiku/	to listen	শোনা/shona/
読む/yomu/	to read	পড়া/pora/
書く/kaku/	to write	লেখা/lekha/
走る/hashiru/	to run	দৌড়ানো/dourano/

3. Survey

3.1 Japanese

The following chart presents the list of compound verbs formed with those mentioned above ten selected verbs in Japanese by combining with different compound makers. The database is based on the compound verb lexicon provided by the NINJAL.

Table 3

Verbs	Compound verbs
する やる	やり上げる、やり落とす、やり掛ける、やり込める、やり過 す、やり付ける、やり遂げる、し合う、し当たる、し合わせる 、し交う、し通う、し暮らす、し着く、～詰まる、～届く、～ 止まる、～なやむ、し渡るやりっ放す
行く	行きあたる、行き通う、行き着く、行き止まる、行き違う、行 き詰る、行き悩む、行き渡る
来る	
食べる	くいあらず、食い入る、食い切る、食い込む・食らい込む・食 べ込む、食い下がる、食いさす、食いしばる、食い倒す、食い 違う、食いつぶす、食べ荒らす、食べ散らかす・食べ散らす、 食い付く・食らい付く、食いつなぐ、食い詰める、食い止める 、食い残す・食べ残す、食べ分ける、食いしめる、食いはぐれ る、
話す・言う ・語る・し ゃべる	話し合う、言い当てる、言い誤る、言い争う、言い表す、言い 及ぶ、話しかける、言い聞かせる、語り聞かせる、言い切る、 言いくるめる、いい消す、しゃべり込む、話し込む、言い込め る、いい止す、言い渋る、言い捨てる、言い足す、言い立て る、しゃべりたてる、言い出す、言い散らす、言いつかる、言 いつくろう、語り継ぐ、言いつける、言いつたえる、語り伝える 、いいつのる、言い習わす、言い残す、言いつばなす、言い放 つ、言い張る、言い含める、いい触らす、言い古す、言い負か す、いい曲げる、言い漏らす、言い渡す 言い交す、言い落す、言い逃れる、言い繕う、いい伏せる、言 い寄る、言い退ける しゃべりっ放す、しゃべりまわる、しゃべりかける 話し疲れる、話し明かす、語り明かす、語り掛ける、語り合う
見る	見上げる、見当たる、見合わせる、見い出す、見送る、見落と す、見返す、見限る、見掛ける、見せかける、見交わす、見る 切る、見極める、見くびる、見比べる、見越す、見込む、見下 げる、見据える、見透く、見過ごす、見捨てる、見初める、見 いたてる、見違える、見繕う、見つける、見積もる、見通す、 見とがめる、見届ける、見とる・見て取る、見とれる、見直す 、見なす、見習う、見慣れる、見抜く、見逃す、見残す、見計 う、見果てる、見放す、見晴らす、見せびらかす、見開く、見 惚れる、見舞う、見守る、見回す、見回る、見破る、見入る、

	見え透く、見追う、見分ける、見渡す 見下ろす、見知る、見切る、見立てる、見遣る、見下す、見抜く、見せかける、見せびらかす
読む	読み上げる、読み落とす、読み誤る、読み返す、読み聞かせる、読みこなす、読み込む、読み止す、読み過す、読み進む、読み進める、読み違う、読み違える、読み飛ばす、読み取る、読み流す、読み慣れる、読み古す
書く	書きあぐむ、書き上げる、書き著す、書き表す、書き入れる、書き写す、書き置く、書き起こす、書き落とす、書き下ろす・かきくだす、書き替える、書き加える、書き込む、書きさす、書き進む、書き進める、書き捨てる、書き添える、書き足す、書きたてる、書きためる、書き違う、書き散らす、書きつける、書きつぶす、書き飛ばす、書き留める、書き取る、書き投げる、書き習わす、書き抜く、書き残す 書き起こす、書き連ねる、書き飛ばす、書き殴る
聞く	聞き入る、聞き入れる、聞き落とす、聞き及ぶ、聞きかじる、聞き比べる、聞き込む、聞き知る、聞きだす、聞き違える、聞きつける、聞き伝える、聞き咎める、聞き届ける、聞き取る、聞き流す、聞き慣れる、聞き逃す、聞き残す、聞きっぱなす、聞き古す、聞き分ける 聞きただす、聞き惚れる、聞きっぱなす
走る	走り込む、走り去る、走り着く、走り出る、走り抜く、走り回る、走り寄る、走り抜ける

Apart from the above compound verbs, numerous compound verbs are formed with the compound makers such as 始める, 終わる, 続ける, 掛ける etc. These compound maker verbs are flexible enough to combine with almost each of the given basic verbs in Japanese. When combined, both the first verb components and the compound maker remain intact with their original meaning. Table 4 presents the compound verbs that can be formed with these standard compound makers.

Table 4

Verb	Compound maker verbs							
	始め る	過ぎ る	直す	掛け る	続け る	出す	終わ る	切 る
する・やる	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
行く	○	○	△	○	○	○	△	△
来る	○	○	△	△	○	○	○	○
食べる	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
話す・言う・ 語る・しゃべ る	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
見る	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
聞く	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
読む	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
書く	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
走る	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

○ Indicates the possibility of forming compound verbs with the given compound maker.

△ Indicates the compound verbs with a limited possibility in the usage.

As Table 4 indicates, these common compound makers can combine with almost each of the ten selected verbs.

3.2 Bengali

In Bengali, compound verbs can be constructed in two ways as described earlier with the conjunctive $-(এ)/e/$ and infinitive/participle $-তে/te/$. Compared to the number of Japanese compound maker verbs, Bengali compound makers seem to have the trend of somehow limited in number. Let us look at the examples of Bengali compound verbs in Table 5.

Table 5

Verbs	Compound verbs	
	conjunctive - (এ) /e/	infinitive/participle – তে/te/
করা	করে নেওয়া করে ফেলা করে থাকা করে দেখা করে যাওয়া	করতে লাগা করতে পারা করতে থাকা করতে যাওয়া
যাওয়া	গিয়ে থাকা গিয়ে দেখা গিয়ে ফেলা	যেতে চাওয়া যেতে দেওয়া যেতে পারা যেতে লাগা
আসা	এসে পড়া এসে থাকা এসে দেখা	আসতে চাওয়া আসতে লাগা আসতে থাকা আসতে পারা
খাওয়া	খেয়ে নেওয়া খেয়ে ফেলা খেয়ে দেখা খেয়ে যাওয়া খেয়ে থাকা	খেতে লাগা খেতে থাকা খেতে চাওয়া খেতে পারা খেতে পাওয়া খেতে দেওয়া
বলা	বলে নেওয়া বলে ফেলা বলে থাকা বলে দেখা বলে যাওয়া বলে দেওয়া	বলতে থাকা বলতে দেওয়া বলতে পারা বলতে চাওয়া বলতে পাওয়া
দেখা	দেখে নেওয়া দেখে ফেলা দেখে থাকা দেখে যাওয়া দেখে দেওয়া	দেখতে চাওয়া দেখতে দেওয়া দেখতে পারা দেখতে পাওয়া দেখতে লাগা

শোনা	শনে নেওয়া শনে ফেলা শনে যাওয়া শনে থাকা শনে দেখা	শনতে চাওয়া শনতে থাকা শনতে দেওয়া শনতে পাওয়া শনতে পারা শনতে লাগা
পড়া	পড়ে নেওয়া পড়ে ফেলা পড়ে যাওয়া পড়ে থাকা পড়ে দেখা	পড়তে চাওয়া পড়তে দেওয়া পড়তে থাকা পড়তে পাওয়া পড়তে পারা পড়তে লাগা
লেখা	লিখে নেওয়া লিখে ফেলা লিখে দেওয়া লিখে যাওয়া লিখে থাকা	লিখতে থাকা লিখতে চাওয়া লিখতে পারা লিখতে পাওয়া লিখতে লাগা
দৌড়ানো	দৌড়ে নেওয়া দৌড়ে থাকে দৌড়ে ফেলা (?) দৌড়ে যাওয়া	দৌড়াতে চাওয়া দৌড়াতে দেওয়া দৌড়াতে পারা দৌড়াতে লাগা

4. Observation

If we carefully see the examples of Japanese compound verbs above, we can find only one type of compound verb. One significant characteristic is the 'compound makers' position in the compound combination. Unlike Bengali compound verbs, Japanese compound makers do not always follow the fixed sequential order and, depending on the compound maker, they can be placed as the first verb or as the second. Japanese *light verbs* or *vectors* are conjugated in the same form while combining with the primary verb's compound maker.

The examples show that compound verbs are frequent in Japanese and Bengali languages. Except for the verb 来る, all other verbs can be seen forming compound verbs with the help of different compound maker verbs. On the other hand, in Bengali, these two verbs do not show the same frequency, while constructing compound verbs inflected by both the infinitive/participle - তে/te/ and conjunctive -(এ)/e/.

Another trend shows that Japanese compound maker verbs are not as fixed or limited as the Bengali compound maker verbs. Japanese compound verbs can be seen formed by different compound maker verbs, while Bengali compound verbs shown in the chart are much more flexible in forming with the help of the same compound maker verb. The same trend can be seen about the inflecting components, i.e. infinitive/participle -তে and conjunctive -এ.

Notably, both languages show the same trend in making the combined meaning of the compound verb. In both languages, the first verb (in Bengali, the inflected verb) remains intact with their meaning or otherwise. The compound maker verb strengthens or completes the meaning of the preceding verb by providing the meanings of acquisition, permission, potential, static, depicted in Table 6.

Table 6

Conjunctive -এ/e/	infinitive/participle -তে/te/	Conjunctive -এ/e/	infinitive/participle -তে/te/
করে নেওয়া করা + নেওয়া to do + to take to do	করতে লাগা করা + লাগা to do + to set to/to start to start doing	দেখে দেওয়া দেখা + দেওয়া to see + to give to check/correct	দেখতে দেওয়া দেখা + দেওয়া to see + to give to allow to see
খেয়ে নেওয়া খাওয়া + নেওয়া to eat + to take to eat completely	খেতে লাগা খাওয়া + লাগা to eat + to set to/start to start eating	পড়ে দেওয়া পড়া + দেওয়া to read + to give to read out (for someone)	পড়তে দেওয়া পড়া + দেওয়া to read + to give to allow to read

On the other hand, the Japanese compound shows the same trend as shown in Table 7.

Table 7

食べ込む 食べる + 込む to eat + to take to eat	見合わせる 見る + 合わせる to see + to match/adjust to stop functioning
খেয়ে নেওয়া খাওয়া + নেওয়া to eat + to take to eat completely	পড়তে দেওয়া পড়া + দেওয়া to read + to give to allow to read

Japanese compound verbs show the same frequency in forming with the same compound maker verb in another similar feature. Let us look at Table 6, showing the possibility of the formation of compound verbs in which ten selected verbs form compound verbs combining with the same compound maker verb.

This study shows the fundamental trends of compound verbs in Japanese and Bengali. The above study shows the enormous and frequent existence of compound verbs in Japanese and Bengali. However, a closer look from a broader perspective is required to get the overall picture, such as the semantic connections between the two verbs.

This article attempts to find the essential characteristics, such as compound makers, compound verbs, and combining mechanisms in Bengali and Japanese languages. Further profound observation is needed to know the comprehensive linguistic features like their structure and how their lexical meanings establish an acceptable complete meaning in the compound verbs. Compound verbs are more closely related to vocabulary than grammar, and therefore, memorising them instead of following grammatical rules would be more helpful.

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