

“Verb1+Verb2” Types of Compound Nouns
Lacking Corresponding Verbs in Modern Japanese:
A Pilot Study to the Wordlisting Based on Dictionaries

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The purpose of this paper is to introduce a listing of “Verb1+Verb2” type Compound Nouns for which no verb correspondences exist in the modern Japanese language. Such Compound Nouns include “yomi-kaki”, “nori-ori”, “tachi-yomi”, “oshi-uri”, “tobashi-yomi”, and “omoidashi-warai”. These Compound Nouns do not have corresponding verb forms, i.e. “*yomi-kaku”, “*tachi-yomu”, or “*omoidashi-warau”, for example.

Previous studies have pointed out that this type of Compound Nouns is observed. One recent study focusing on semantic relationships in regard to this type of Compound Nouns stated it found 461 words of this type. However, the study doesn’t show the list of those 461 Compound Nouns. Thus, it is impossible to ascertain whether or not some of the Compound Nouns possibly targeted in that study might in fact have verb correspondents.

In this paper I examined the “A” line of a modern encyclopedic Japanese dictionary, i.e. the header entries from “A” to “O”. I found 93 Compound Nouns of this type, including the following:

- (a) 28 Compound Nouns that are used in modern Japanese generally
- (b) 15 non-modern Japanese words
- (c) 50 words that might be used in specific fields

Furthermore, aside from this 93, it was observed that

- (d) 8 of the Compound Nouns actually had corresponding verbs originally, but those verbs are no longer considered in use in Modern Japanese.

From the point of view of Japanese language education, the desirable list must include both (a) and (d) above.