

COMPOUND WORDS OF MALAY AND CHINESE LANGUAGES IN NYONYA RECIPES

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ABSTRACT

This research reports on the formation of compound words of Malay and Chinese languages, food culture and tradition in Nyonya delicacies found in Malaysian cookbooks. This qualitative case study targets the word formation produced through the acculturation of two distinctive languages and culture. The types of compound words found in cookbooks are identified and analysed using "Feature Percolation Conventions" and "Argument-linking Principle" frameworks. The data are gathered from recipes published in two cookbooks of a local chef and YouTube channel videos of the same chef. The choice of using local texts, articles and YouTube videos is to enable data triangulation to achieve the reliability and validity of the data gathered. Majority of the compound words identified are Malay compound words with borrowed Hokkien words. The compound structure is also an adaptation of both Malay and Chinese linguistic structure.

Keywords: Malay compound words, Chinese compound words, Chinese Peranakan, Nyonya cuisine

INTRODUCTION

The diversity of Malaysian ethnicity brings impact to not only the food but also the languages spoken throughout the nation. The migration of the Chinese population to Malacca during the 16th century brought Malaysia to discover a unique culture of Baba Nyonya or Peranakan Chinese (Zahari et al., 2019). The intermarriages among the natives, Malays, and the immigrants, Chinese, resulted in the hybridity of the Peranakans. The process of acculturation of the Malay and Chinese cultures brought to attributed examples such as the language and the food. The exclusiveness regards the indigenized language of the Peranakans, Baba Malay (Pue & Shamsul, 2011) which are prominently used in the Nyonya food. Traditionally, the Baba Malay language spoken in Malaysia is dominated by the Malay language (Kawangit, 2015).

Malay compound words or "*kata majmuk*" (Karim et al., 2008) are formed when the compounding occurs between two base words consisting of the head and the modifier (Zakaria et al., 2017). Drieghe et al. (2017) discussed on the Chinese words and

their characteristics. A single syllable or morpheme in Chinese can carry distinctive meanings when compounded with a different set of morphemes or words. Compounding word structures of two or more-word classes which includes noun, verb, adjectives or even prepositions (Selkirk, 1982) depend on the purpose that arises. Chinese compound words are either "left-headed, right-headed, or even two-headed" in several occurrences. Thus, the head position in Chinese compound words are defined by factors such as "input and output categories" and the "interactions between the Chinese characters". The complexity of headedness is also common in English, where the compounds are often claimed to have heads on the right side of the structure. A similar case occurs in Malay whereby the headedness is generally focussed on the left of the compound structures. A simple example would be, "*ikan bakar*" which refers to grilled fish but the head in the compound is *ikan* which is 'fish' while *bakar* is 'burnt or grilled'.

A huge number of words found in Baba Malay are of Malay origin, while it is uncertain whether the grammar stemmed from Hokkien (Lee, 2014). Irrespective, it can be generally consented that Baba Malay was formed by

means of Chinese-Malay intermarriage. With reference to the Baba Malay language, the compound words found in Nyonya cuisine will be identified to note upon the dominance of the Malay language. This will also show the distinctive morphological structures in the compound words used by the Peranakans.

Research Problem

Owing so much to migration, the idiosyncrasy of the Peranakans is generic, particularly in Malaysia. The migrants from mainland China adapted their traditional Chinese food to local ingredients, cooking techniques and taste (Ng & Karim, 2016 in Lam et al., 2017). The amalgamation of culture and language disseminates throughout the community of Peranakans has been studied widely in the past. The continuous interaction of the major ethnic group like Malays and Chinese introduced the exchange of food cultural features in the Peranakans (Tumin, et al., 2017). In Nyonya cuisines, there are many words in Baba Malay which combines the Malay and the Chinese dialect, Hokkien, (Lee, 2014) forming new compound words. However, there is no study that investigates the extent to which the phenomenon of compound words occurring specifically in Nyonya cuisine. This study, thus, will target the compound words found in Nyonya recipes to create awareness of the dominant language used by the Chinese Peranakans.

Research Objectives

Malaysia is rich in its cultural heritage, which unfortunately, is in the line of deterioration due to the absence of appreciation and awareness of its culture (Zainuddin et al., 2014). The acquaintance of the Peranakans, particularly in this study, is aimed to disseminate knowledge on compound words formed in Baba Malay which comprises two languages. Therefore, the objectives of this research are:

- a. to determine the structure of compound words of Malay and Chinese languages found in Nyonya cooking; and
- b. to understand the function of Malay and Chinese languages' compound words in Nyonya cooking.

Research Questions

To attain the study's objective, this research will embed two research questions as shown below:

- a. What are the types of compound words of Malay and Chinese languages used in Nyonya recipes?

- b. How do Malay and Chinese compound words contribute to the culture of Peranakan Chinese in Nyonya cuisine?

The research questions focused on will be influencing the trajectory of the study towards the compound words used widely in Nyonya cuisine. Doing so will draw attention to the compounding formed of two majorly used languages in Malaysia.

Significance of The Research

This study will highlight a prominent part of the Malay and Chinese languages in the Peranakan culture, particularly its recipes. The structure of the compound words formed combining Malay and Chinese languages will provide insight into the Peranakan culture which magnifies the culture's uniqueness. The main contribution of this study is to amplify the diversity of the Peranakan's language which shapes the culture despite resembling similar word patterns as two major languages. The study will also accentuate the prominence of the language structure in upholding the culture of the minority.

Limitation of The Research

Despite the focus of the study being on two Malaysian cookbooks, not all recipes are disclosed as the study focuses mainly on Chef Florence Tan's Nyonya recipes. The purpose of selecting only one chef is to minimize the variance of the names used in time. Furthermore, celebrity chef Florence Tan is known for her Nyonya recipes since the 1980s for her award-winning cooking show *Kuali* (Chelvi, 2020). Therefore, this study is not intended to generalize its purpose to the types of discourses used by the Peranakans globally. Future studies can also be made using the Baba Nyonya recipes used in Indonesia and Singapore. The research is also limited to the Malay and Chinese compound words which are common languages in Southeast Asia region.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Baba Malay is a language looked upon by the Peranakans as the language of the refined and wealthy class of Malay-speaking Chinese (Shellabear, 1913). Shellabear defends further that Baba Malay is the language of the man of the street. He believed that Baba Malay was a strong and easily acquired

language than pure Malay due to its use during the time of British colonization. Furthermore, he understood the language's remarkable capacity for "borrowing and assimilating" such words as it needs from other languages (Shellabear, 1913). He claimed that Baba Malay will be an adequate medium for conveying thought and for imparting instruction once the ideologies of its grammatical construction are better understood. This study focuses on the Malay compound words used in Nyonya recipes. The relevance of this topic is exposed by reflecting upon previous studies.

Compound Words

Compounding occurs when two objectively meaningful roots are merged to form a new complex word. Compounds generally are divided into endocentric and exocentric compounds which are differed through the presence of the head in the compounds (Fabb, 2017). The role of the head or the modifier of the compounded words are not always the determiner of the new meaning formed. The formation of the compound words produces both syntactical and semantical meanings according to the circumstances. In relation to this study, however, there is no specific rule on the compound words formed in Baba Malay. Despite sharing multiple words from both Malay and Chinese languages, the word formation rules are vaguely discussed as both languages display distinctive types of word patterns.

Malay Compound Words

The national language of Malaysia, despite its linguistic diversity is the Malay language (López, 2014). The rich derivational morphological system of the Malay language generates more regular or transparent orthography (Winskel & Salehuddin, 2014). Like English, Malay compound words are formed through the process of merging word classes such as noun, verb, preposition, and adjectives (Karim et al., 2008). In Malay compounding, there are some noun and noun modifier categories which are known as "generation categories", "instrument categories", "position categories", "body part categories", and so on (Rahman & Omar, 2013). The noun acting as the head of the compound will have the privilege to be modified by either a noun or a verb. According to Tatabahasa Dewan Third Edition (2008), Malay compound words can be clustered into three main categories as shown below,

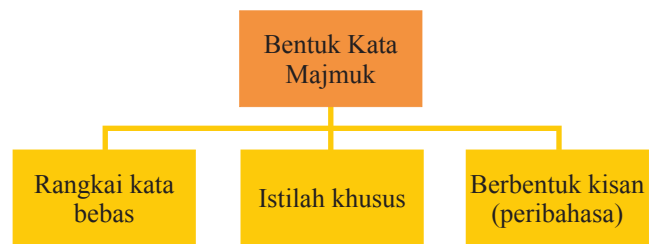


Figure 1 Categories of Malay Compound Words

The diagram shows that word formation of the Malay compound words is grouped into free compound words ("rangkai kata bebas"), specific terms, ("istilah khusus") and metaphorical forms ("berbentuk kiasan").

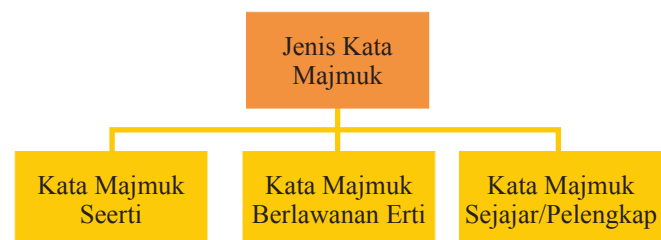


Figure 2 Types of Malay Compound Words

The types of Malay compound words, on the other hand, are classified into three categories; "endocentric compounds" ("kata majmuk seerti"), "exocentric compounds" ("kata majmuk berlawanan erti"), and "copulative compounds" ("kata majmuk sejajar/pelengkap") (Liaw & Hassan, 1994), which are very much similar to the types of compounds found in English (Fabb, 2017).

Chinese Compound Words

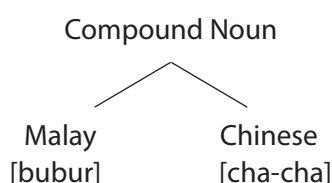
Compounding has been the major contributing component in Chinese word structures as there are more than 75% of morphologically convoluted Chinese words (Xu & Zhang, 2020). As opposed to English, the characters in Chinese are more complex. The Chinese characters are commonly "two-dimensional square" visuals that can be broken down into root words of their particular meaning. Xu and Zhang (2020) explained that these elements in the characters can be recognised as "radicals" which are dependent subordinate characters bound to their semantic and phonetic functions. An example discussed by Xu and Zhang (2020) was on the Chinese character, "抱" which is pronounced as *bao* that

refers to the verb, to hug or to hold. The importance of radicals was determined on the attachment of a “semantic radical of 扌, which means hand and a phonetic radical of 包, 包.”The character also contains radicals of “勹 and 巳” which do not contribute any semantic nor phonetic purposes. This distinctiveness of Chinese characters from English and even Malay morphological system creates another aspect to be pondered upon in Baba Malay’s morphological structures. This knowledge will also create awareness of the compounding edifices structure found in Nyonya recipes.

Nyonya Cuisine

One of the biggest colonization of the Peranakan Chinese is found in Malacca. The cultural indulgence resulting from the Malay and Chinese intermarriage of over 600 years ago is also heavily infused with the captivating aspects of “Java, Batak, Thai and British” cultures (Kuaque & Kuaque, 2017). The traditional food of the Peranakan Chinese is mostly integrated with the Malay and Chinese culture. The grammar aspects found in their language, Baba Malay, is influenced by the Malay language (Subramaniam & Muhammad, 2010).

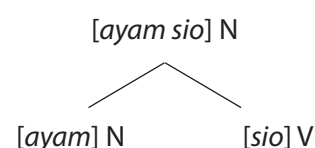
According to Tan (1988), the culture assimilation has brought towards the creation of language of which compounds Malay and Chinese, mainly Hokkien dialect. The cultural entanglement is noticed in the Nyonya cuisine which contain terms such as “*embuk embuk*”, “*bubur cha-cha*”, “*nasi kerabu*” and so on (Kawangit, 2015). Such as,



The compound words amplify the richness of the Baba Malay language in not only one but two cultures. The Nyonya cuisines are remarkably similar to Malay food, in which the traditional ingredients used are almost always with lots of chili and shrimp paste that is quite unusual to the Chinese (Albattat et al., 2017). In relation to the Malay-Chinese fusion cuisine, the study will now be able to focus on the compound words comprising of word classes from both languages.

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework used in this study are “Feature Percolation Conventions” (Lieber, 1980) and “Argument-linking Principle” (Lieber, 1983). The comprehensive analysis can be perceived once the word formations are broken down. One of the famous Nyonya cuisines is *ayam sio* which simply means roasted chicken. The Malay word *ayam* refers to chicken and the Hokkien word *sio* means roasted (Ng et al., 2016). Using the “Feature Percolation Conventions” the compound word is constituted as shown:



Lieber believed that any compounds formed with verb and preposition is necessary to obey the “Argument-linking Principle” (Lieber, 1983) wherein the argument structure is linked, unlike noun or adjective compounds which are “non-argument-taking” (Mukai, 2006). The argument structure of the “right-hand head rule” (Williams, 1981) is seen in *ayam sio* where the verb *sio* satisfied its argument structure of *ayam* (chicken). The position of the verb comes after the noun which is contrary to English word formation. However, both the principles correlate with denoting the lexical category of the compound words (Lieber, 1980; 1983, in Mukai, 2006). Thus, the compound words found from the Nyonya recipes will be structured out using these principles of Lieber.

METHODOLOGY

The methods adopted in this study are explained in the following subsections. The research design best suited for this topic which views upon the compound words found in Nyonya recipes of Malay cookbooks, is a qualitative case study.

Qualitative Case Study

According to Creswell (2009), a qualitative case study allows the researcher to extensively explore the emerging questions to decipher the meaning of the data collected. A case study is bounded by certain variables and conducted in a dictated manner to succeed in its purpose. Along these lines, this study restricts its focus on the compound words found in local

cookbooks on Nyonya cuisines. This intrinsic approach is imperative for the research to identify the types of Malay compound words used by the Peranakans in Nyonya cuisine.

Data Collection Types

The data types observed in this study would be observation, qualitative audio-visual materials, and documents (Creswell, 2009). The researcher will be able to carefully obtain discreet information in relation to the study. The contribution of more than one data types would provide determine the study's reliability and validity in today's period. The researcher is at the liberty of accessing these data types at any time throughout this study. Some of the documents may have cost more than the rest as the materials were made unavailable to the public (Creswell, 2009).

Data Collection Methods

The Nyonya recipes found in two Malaysian cookbooks and YouTube channel videos facilitate the researcher to obtain as much information as possible to attain the study's rationale. The compound words are highlighted in the cookbooks and noted in the researcher's journal. The compound words found in the YouTube videos are also gathered to compare the spoken and written compound words found.

The Malay compound words identified are then tabulated and analysed based on the types of which the compound words belonged to as proposed by Liaw and Hassan (1994). In comparison, the Chinese compound words were analysed according to the types of compounding structured by Dronjic (2011). As a whole, the compound words found are classed according to, a) "endocentric compounds", b) "exocentric compounds", and c) "copulative compounds". Then, the data were easily analysed using the theoretical frameworks implemented in this study. The consciousness of compound words of Malay and Chinese languages in Baba Malay can be comprehended with these measures too.

A pilot study is conducted prior to this research to magnify the applicability of the frameworks applied in this study. The study considered the first twelve compound words identified from the overall data gathered. The data were randomly selected. Based on the samples used, it was gathered that the "Argument-

linking Principle" (Lieber, 1983) was particularly constructive in supporting the compound formed through verbs found. Likewise, "Feature Percolation Conventions" (Lieber, 1980) adopted in the pilot study targeted all the compound nouns and compound adjectives detected in the Nyonya recipes.

Data Analysis Methods

The data collected from the sources which are tabulated can be analysed using the "Feature Percolation Conventions" (Lieber, 1980) and "Argument-linking Principle" (Lieber, 1983) which are both fundamental principles in identifying the compound words used in Nyonya recipes. Moreover, these principles overlap to rule out the structure of the compound words to be uncovered. It will enable the researcher to achieve the purpose of the study.

Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework used in this study shown in Figure 3. The first stage highlights the importance of planning and creating research objectives to guide the study towards achieving its purpose. The second stage requires the researcher to identify the data types and theoretical framework to be used in the study. Next, the data are collected and analysed using the framework decided to suit best the planned topic. The analysis will also discuss relevant citations and scholarly sources. Finally, the research will adhere to the research objectives and hence, the conclusions and implications found in the research will be explicitly written.

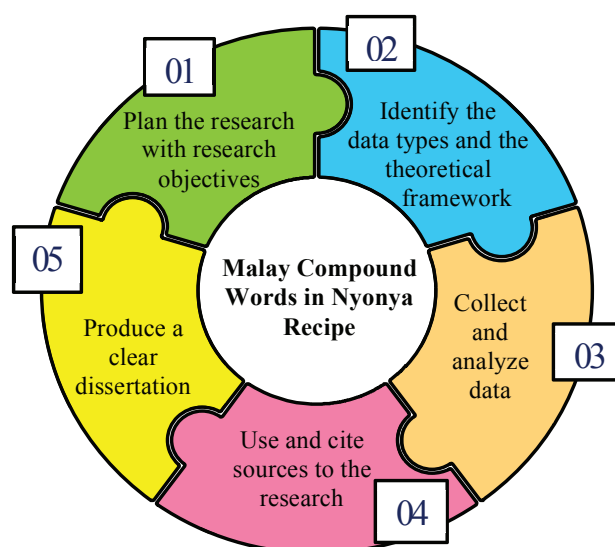


Figure 3 Conceptual Framework of the Research

Ethical Considerations

The ethics of acquiring original books and videos about the study was adhered in this study. No pirated copies were used with respect to the author. Though there were no participants involved in this descriptive qualitative case study performed solely upon the Nyonya recipes, the research does not violate the sensitivity of the culture's essence in contributing to a harmonious nation. The morality of the researcher is kept within the limit of respecting all languages used including Baba Malay, Malay, and Chinese languages.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The study particularly targets the assimilation of Malay and Chinese compound words in the Baba Malay. The linguistic level explored to adhere to the study's purpose would be the morphological formation through compound words. The data used in this study are based on the compound words used in Nyonya recipes particularly prepared by Chef Florence Tan. The data are analysed by applying the frameworks proposed by Lieber (1980 & 1983).

Compound Words Found in Nyonya Recipes

The data are gathered from three different sources; researcher's observation, two local cookbooks, and YouTube videos of the Nyonya recipes made by celebrity chef Florence Tan. The study attempts to avoid the differences in terms of the names used for the Nyonya food and thus, one local chef familiar with Nyonya cooking is preferred. There are about seventy-four (74) Nyonya recipes containing compound words found from the sources. The data identified are tabulated and grouped into their respective types of compound words. The organization of the data is acknowledged in this study to prevent repetitions of the findings which facilitates the analysis of the data. Classifying the compound words is according to the types they belong to preceding the analysis and discussion using the frameworks mentioned earlier to uphold a systematic approach in this study.

The Types of Compound Words

There are many Nyonya recipes which are very communal, especially to the Malaysian community. With reference to this study, the compound words

found are further reviewed in terms of the types identified by Liaw and Hassan (1994) and Dronjic (2011), i.e. endocentric compounds, exocentric compounds, and copulative compounds and looked into the categories of compounding.

Table 1 Types and Categories of Malay Compounds

Compounding types	Categories of Compounding		
	Compound Nouns	Compound Verbs	Compound Adjectives
Endocentric	56	-	6
Exocentric	9	-	1
Copulative	1	-	1

Table 1 displays the types of compounds identified in the data assembled according to their categories, respectively. The data distributed demonstrates the presence of fifty-six (56) endocentric compound nouns, six (6) endocentric compound adjectives, nine (9) exocentric compound nouns, one (1) exocentric compound adjective and two (2) copulative compound adjectives. The absence of copulative nouns and compound verbs from the recipes are displayed.

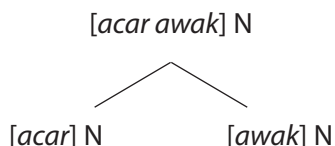
Endocentric Compound Words

There are about fifty-six endocentric Malay and Chinese compound words identified from the set of data. The Malay and Chinese acculturation is evidently shown through the mixtures of languages used in naming the food created by the Peranakan Chinese. Table 2 shows some of the endocentric compound words found to be analysed.

Table 2 Endocentric Compounds

Compound words	Pattern	Category
Acar awak	N + N	Compound noun
Ayam buah keluak	N + N + N	Compound noun
Gulai balitong	N + N	Compound noun
Itek tim	N + V	Compound noun
Pai tee	N + N	Compound noun
Asam laksa	A + N	Compound adjective
Huat kueh	A + N	Compound adjective
Kari asam pedas	N + A + A	Compound adjective
Kaya bao	N + A	Compound adjective
Loh bak	A + N	Compound adjective

The compound word of *acar awak* refers to the dish of pickled vegetables. However, when the root words are separated, *acar* refers to pickle and *awak* is referring to the second person, singular in Malay, but when combined, will form a compound noun as shown below.



The compound noun formed is a combination of a noun and a pronoun. On the other hand, the meaning refers to the pickled vegetables that carry no Malay words in either of the root words. Besides, there was also a complex compound noun found in the recipe. A complex compound to form a longer sequence of morphological elements (Kuperman & Bertram, 2013). Like the compound word, *ayam buak keluak*. The word *ayam* refers to chicken and *buah keluak* is "pangium edule" tree found in the Southeast Asia region. In Malaysia, the *buah keluak* fruit seeds are widely used in cooking by the Malays and the Peranakan Chinese.

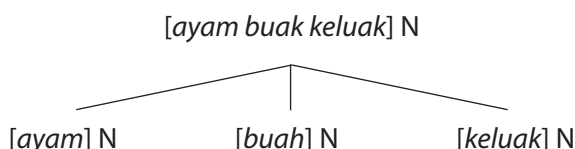
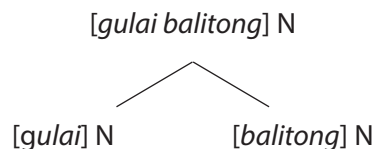
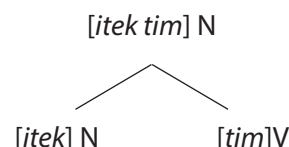


Figure 4 Gulai Balitong. <https://rasamalaysia.com/balitong-and-sweet-potato-curry-gulai/>

Gulai balitong is a decadent dish that is created by cooking obtuse horns nail in a creamy curry. The particular sea snails are regularly found in Malaysia. *Gulai* is the gravy used to cook the *balitong* (obtuse horns nail) with some potatoes and chilies.



The following compound word found is rather intriguing as the compound word carries a borrowed word from Hokkien. *Itek tim* is the dish in which duck, *itek*, is slow-cooked. The noun present here is the word *itek* which is spelled *itik* in Malay. The orthography difference is represented as the Peranakan Chinese adopted the word into their language. The verb in this compound noun is the borrowed Hokkien word, *tim* that carries the meaning of braising the meat or slow-cooking the dish, so the flavour is absorbed. Nevertheless, the acculturation of Malay and Chinese cannot be stressed enough by the presentation of word choices for their cultural dish.



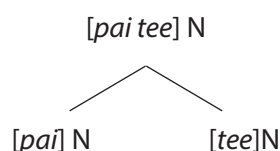
The verb, *tim*, is further analysed using the "Argument-linking Principle" (Lieber, 1983) in which it complements the noun, *itek*. Thus, this argument is possible under the condition that the duck is being braised or slow-cooked. The verb is necessary for the internal noun argument of the compound structure. Consequently, the compound *itek tim* is interpreted in a Manner argument obeys the "Argument-linking Principle".



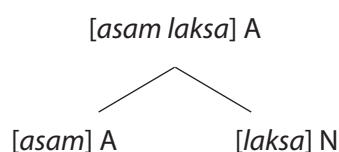
Figure 5 Itek Tim. (Wong, A, 2019), <https://babanyonyaperanakans.org/2019/03/23/itek-tim/>

Another signature, traditional Nyonya cooking would be *pai tee*. This Nyonya dish reflects the mix of vegetables served in tart shells. In this Chinese

compound noun, both words are nouns. *Pai* refers to the mixed vegetables and *tee* is the tart shells shaped as mini cups. This Chinese compound structure has been adopted in Nyonya cooking to reflect a snack of mixed vegetables served in bite-size.



The analysis sums up the endocentric compound nouns which are analysed based on the theoretical framework of Lieber (1980) determined prior to this study. The frameworks clarify the word-formation of two or more root words into a cohesive compound. The following will discuss the endocentric compound adjectives. The first compound is *asam laksa*. The word *asam* is referring to the sour taste and the word *laksa* is the white rice noodles made to eat with the sour and spicy broth. Lieber believes that the "right-hand stem" penetrates the branching connection of the dominating stems (Mukai, 2006).



The Nyonya dish *huat kueh* resembles the assimilation of Malay and Chinese cultures once more with the borrowing of the Hokkien adjective word, *huat*, which means steamed. Meanwhile, *kueh*, is adopted term of *kuih* in Malay that refers to bite size evening snack.

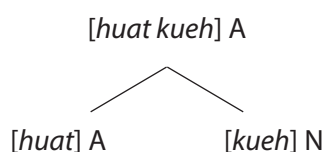
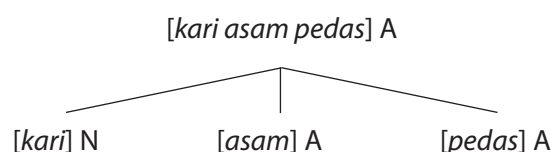
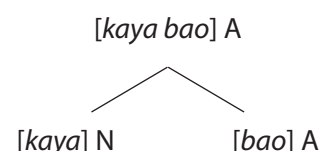


Figure 6 Huat Kueh, <https://www.kuehtd.com/#>

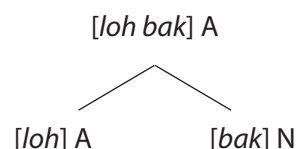
The following is the complex compound adjective that is quite similar to the complex compound noun presented earlier. *Kari asam pedas* can be branched out as shown below:



The word *kari* refers to curry, *asam*, as mentioned earlier is the sour taste sensed in the broth or gravy and *pedas* is the spiciness present in the dish. The Nyonya dish of *kaya bao* shows the influence of Malay and Chinese culture. The pandan infused paste, *kaya*, is inserted into soft steamed buns, *bao*, to produce a delicious Peranakan desert.



The final dish of the Nyonya cooking will be *loh bak*. This is a dish of a braised pork meat with spice and herbs. The term *loh* refers to braising or slow cooking a dish. Meanwhile, the term, *bak*, is referring to pork meat. The adjective here can be described to have the Manner argument (Lieber, 1983) because the compound formed is predictive and possible with the word formation of adjective and noun [A + N]. Despite the irregularity in Chinese compound headedness (Chen et al., 2020), the compound structure reflects the righthand head rule of the pork meat.



In short, the endocentric compounds are evidently more popular among the Nyonya recipes explored. The Baba Malay language has been deliberately derived from major languages of Malay and Chinese. The assimilation of the cultures is seen in language and even the food.

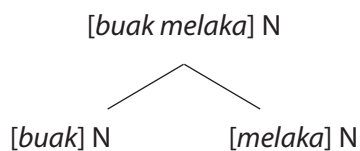
Exocentric Compound Words

This subsection will further analyse the exocentric compound words gathered from the data collected. Table 3 displays the exocentric compounds categorised into compound nouns and compound adjective.

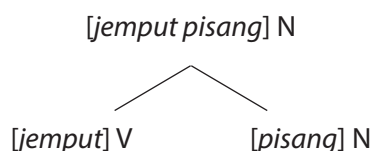
Table 3 Exocentric Compounds

Compound words	Pattern	Category
Buak Melaka	N + N	Compound noun
Jemput Pisang	V + N	Compound noun
Kari Kapitan	N + N	Compound noun
Inchi kabin	N + V	Compound noun
Pulut tai tai	N + N	Compound noun
Angku kueh	A + N	Compound adjective

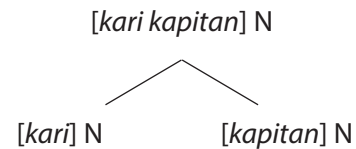
The Nyonya dish *buak melaka* is referring to the dish of pandan-flavored glutinous rice balls with palm sugar. The meaning of the term *buak* is referring to *buah* in Malay that means fruit and *Melaka* is naturally the state in Malaysia, Malacca. Nevertheless, the dish's name can be clearly seen to show zero relevance to the meaning or the presentation of the dish.



The following is the dish, *jemput pisang*. *Jemput* in Malay is a verb that means to fetch someone and *pisang* is banana. Together, the compound word is not referring to fetching bananas, instead, it is a Nyonya dish of fried banana balls. The term *jemput* is probably used to replicate the hand gesture of rolling the banana mash into ball shapes before deep-frying them.

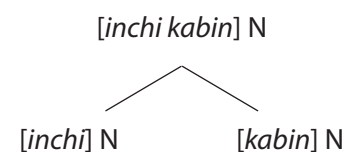


Kari kapitan, on the other hand, is another traditional Nyonya dish that refers to chicken curry. The meaning of the individual terms is rather far from representing the dish. *Kari* is curry and *kapitan* is referring to the captain.



The traditional dish was initially prepared for the ship captains during the 16th century. Over the years, the name of the dish remained as *kari kapitan* despite the dish mainly referring to a rich chicken curry.

Another similar compound word is *inchi kabin*. Interestingly the word *inchi kabin* is a compound noun that took the phonological aspect of the Chinese language with Malay word structure.



Inchi is a title used to address or refer to a man, *encik*, is the right term in Malay. The acculturation is noted phonetically in which the spelling of the dish adopted Chinese pronunciation. Meanwhile, *kabin* is the private space for the captain in a ship, also known as a cabin in English. Besides that, *pulut tai tai* is an exocentric compound noun that combines the Malay and Hokkien words in a Peranakan dish. *Pulut* is glutinous rice and *tai tai* refers to a wealthy lady's fortune of marrying a rich man. The above dessert resembles nothing of the name given to the dish. It combines the texture of the dish with a person to form an extravagant dessert.

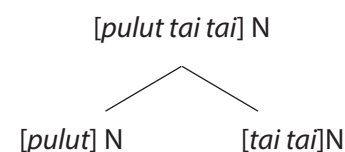


Figure 7 Bake with Paws, 2017. Pulut tai tai <https://www.bakewithpaws.com/2017/07/pulut-tai-tai-blue-glutinous-rice-cake.html>

The only exocentric compound adjective found in the sources would be *angku kueh*, red tortoise cake. The borrowed Hokkien word, *angku*, symbolises a red tortoise and the word *kueh* as discussed earlier, refers to Malay evening snack.

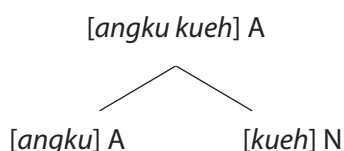


Figure 8 Rasa Malaysia. Angku Kueh, <https://rasamalaysia.com/angku-kuih-red-tortoise-cake/>

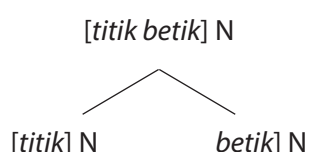
Copulative Malay Compound Words

There are only two copulative compound words noted throughout the data. The findings are grouped below in Table 4.

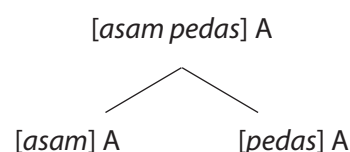
Table 4 Copulative Compounds

Compound words	Pattern	Category
Titik betik	N + N	Compound noun
Asam pedas	A + A	Compound adjective

Based on Table 4, very minimal copulative compounds were discovered. Nonetheless, the compounds are categorised into compound noun and compound adjective, respectively. The copulative compound *titik betik* is referring to the Nyonya dish of peppery papaya soup. *Titik* is point or drops and *betik* is papaya. Therefore, the compound here resembles the papaya soup.



Lastly, the copulative compound of *asam pedas* or interpreted in English as sour (*asam*) and spicy (*pedas*). This Nyonya dish is referring to a rich gravy of sour and spicy.



This concludes the analysis of the compound words gathered from the sources used in this study. Based on the analysis conducted upon the language used in Nyonya recipes, having a non-English language, Baba Malay, in certain occurrences of Malay and Chinese language mixtures, the use of Lieber's theoretical frameworks (1980 & 1983) has proven its viability of understanding the compound words' formations.

CONCLUSION

The research disclosed the word-formation of Malay and Chinese languages of compound words found in Nyonya recipe prepared by Chef Florence Tan. The structure noticed in the analysis shows that all the compound words found exist in either two or more root words. Having words from Hokkien indirectly places the words apart with a lesser chance of inflectional morphology. The position of headedness in the compound words found are rather subjective to the compound structures. The Malay and Chinese compound word compositions consist of semantical aspects that plays a key role in compounding (Gagné & Spalding, 2014). In short, the Malay language heed many similarities of headedness components as English, whereas there is no specific direction of the head found in the Chinese compound words identified. The Baba Malay compound words adopt the complexity of Chinese compound headedness. This research has provided a new insight on compound words used by Peranakan Chinese in Nyonya cuisine. The purpose of this study was to ensure the culture is part of Malaysia and it shall remain to be. Hence, it is safe to say that the study plays an important role in emphasising the culture in Malaysia. This makes the language, Baba Malay, unique from other languages spoken in Malaysia.

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APPENDIX

	Baba Malay	Malay	Hokkien	English	Types of compound	Categories of compound
1.	Acar Awak	acar, awak		Pickled vegetables	Endo	N
2.	Acar Ikan	acar, ikan		Pickled fish	Endo	N
3.	Angku Kueh	kueh (<i>kuih</i>)	angku	Red tortoise cake	Exo	A
4.	Apam Berkuah	apam, berkuah		Banana coconut pancakes	Endo	N
5.	Asam Laksa	asam, laksa		Sour fish and tamarind-based soup	Endo	A
6.	Asam Pedas	asam, pedas		Sour and spicy	Cop	A
7.	Asam Udang	asam, udang		Tamarind prawn	Endo	N
8.	Ayam Berempah	ayam, berempah		Crispy spiced fried chicken	Endo	N
9.	Ayam Buah Keluak	ayam, buah, keluak		Chicken braised in spicy tamarind gravy with <i>buah keluak</i> nuts	Endo	N
10.	Ayam Pongteh	ayam	pongteh	Nyonya chicken and potato stew	Endo	N
11.	Ayam Sio	ayam	sio	Roasted chicken	Endo	N
12.	Ayam Tempura	ayam, tempura		Chicken glazed in a soy sauce, lime juice, spicy fried brinjal	Endo	N
13.	Bee Koh Moi		bee koh moi	Black glutinous rice with coconut milk	Endo	N
14.	Belacan Daun Keledak	belacan, keledak		Sweet potato with shrimp paste	Endo	N
15.	Bihun Siam	bihun, siam		Fried vermicelli noodles	Endo	N
16.	Buak Melaka	buak, melaka		Pandan-flavored glutinous rice balls with palm sugar	Exo	N
17.	Bubur Cha Cha	bubur, cha cha		Sweet potatoes, coconut milk base	Endo	N
18.	Bubur Udang Bertauhu	bubur, udang, bertauhu		Shrimp porridge with tofu	Endo	N
19.	Chai Kueh	kueh (<i>kuih</i>),	chai	Steamed vegetable dumplings	Endo	N
20.	Epuk Sayur	Epuk, sayur		A turnip and bean sprout pastry puff	Endo	N
21.	Gulai Balitong	gulai, balitong		Obtuse hornsnaill curry	Endo	N
22.	Gulai Tumis	gulai, tumis		Stingray curry	Exo	N
23.	Huat Kueh	kueh	huat	Steamed muffins	Endo	A
24.	Ikan Gerang Asam	ikan, gerang, asam		Nyonya tamarind fish	Endo	N
25.	Ikan Kukus Berempah	ikan, kukus, berempah		Steamed spicy fish	Endo	N
26.	Ikan Masak Kuah Lada	ikan, masak, kuah, lada		Stingray in pepper and tamarind sauce	Endo	N
27.	Inchi Kabin	inchi (<i>encik</i>), kabin		Deep fried chicken	Exo	N
28.	Itek Tim	itek (<i>itik</i>),	tim	Slow-cooked / braised duck	Endo	N

	Baba Malay	Malay	Hokkien	English	Types of compound	Categories of compound
29.	Jemput Pisang	jemput, pisang		Fried banana balls	Exo	N
30.	Jiu Hoo Char		jiu hoo char	Stir fry jicama with cuttlefish	Endo	N
31.	Kari Asam Pedas	kari, asam, pedas		Sour and spicy curry	Endo	A
32.	Kari Ayam	kari, ayam		Chicken curry	Endo	N
33.	Kari Kapitan	kari, kapitan		Nyonya chicken curry kapitan	Exo	N
34.	Karipap Pusing	karipap, pusing		Spiral curry puff	Endo	N
35.	Kaya Bao	kaya	bao	Steamed bun	Endo	A
36.	Kerabu Bihun	kerabu, bihun		Spicy, sweet & sour, vermicelli noodles	Endo	N
37.	Kerabu Jantung Pisang	kerabu, jantung, pisang		Banana blossom, prawn and coconut salad	Endo	N
38.	Kerabu Kobis	kerabu, kobis		Vermicelli and cabbage salad	Endo	N
39.	Kueh Bahlu	kueh (<i>kuih</i>), bahlu		Madeleine cake	Endo	N
40.	Kueh Bengka	kueh (<i>kuih</i>), bengka		Baked tapioca cake	Endo	N
41.	Kueh Bongkong	kueh (<i>kuih</i>), bonkong		Wallet cake	Endo	N
42.	Kueh Dadar	kueh (<i>kuih</i>), dadar		Rolled pandan crepe with grated coconut	Endo	N
43.	Kueh Lapis	kueh (<i>kuih</i>), lapis		Layered pudding	Endo	N
44.	Kueh Koci	kueh (<i>kuih</i>), koci		Glutinous rice dough stuffed with grated coconut	Endo	N
45.	Kueh Kosui	kueh (<i>kuih</i>), kosui (<i>kaswi</i>)		Pandan flavoured rice cake	Endo	N
46.	Kuih Bangkit	kuih, bangkit		Coconut cream cookies	Exo	N
47.	Kuih Cara	kuih, cara		Pandan sponge cake	Exo	N
48.	Kuih Talam Keladi	kuih, talam, keladi		Yam layered cake	Endo	N
49.	Laksa Lemak	laksa, lemak		Noodles with coconut milk curry	Endo	A
50.	Lek Tau Suan		lek tau suan	Split mung bean dessert	Endo	N
51.	Loh Bak		loh bak	Five spice pork rolls	Endo	A
52.	Mee Siam	mee, siam		Siamese noodle	Exo	N
53.	Nasi Kunyit	nasi, kunyit		Turmeric rice	Endo	N
54.	Nasi Ulam	nasi, ulam		Herb rice	Endo	N
55.	Nyonya Bak Chang	nyonya	bak chang	Traditional Chinese rice dumpling	Endo	N
56.	Nyonya Lam Mee	nyonya	lam mee	Yellow rice noodles cooked in gravy	Endo	N
57.	Pai Tee		pai tee	Sweet and spicy tart shells	Endo	N
58.	Pais Ikan	país, ikan		Baked wrapped fish	Endo	N
59.	Perut Ikan	perut, ikan		Nyonya pickled fish stomach curry	Endo	N
60.	Pulut Inti	pulut, inti		Steamed glutinous rice topped with sweet coconut	Endo	N

	Baba Malay	Malay	Hokkien	English	Types of compound	Categories of compound
61.	Pulut Panggang	pulut, panggang		Glutinous rice wraps with spicy sambal	Endo	N
62.	Pulut Tai Tai	pulut	tai tai	Blue glutinous rice cakes	Exo	N
63.	Rempah Ikan	rempah ikan		Fried fish stuffed with sambal	Endo	N
64.	Sambal Belacan	sambal, belacan		Malaysian Chinese chili paste	Endo	N
65.	Sambal Bendi	sambal, bendi		Spicy steamed okra	Endo	N
66.	Sambal Kangkong	sambal, kangkong		Sambal water spinach	Endo	N
67.	Sambal Timun	sambal, timun		Spicy cucumber	Endo	N
68.	Seh Bak		seh bak	Nyonya braised pork belly	Endo	N
69.	Talam Gula Melaka	talam, gula, melaka		Steamed palm sugar cake	Endo	N
70.	Talam Pandan	talam, pandan		Pandan steamed cake	Endo	N
71.	Tang Yuan		tang yuan	Sweet dumplings	Endo	N
72.	Telur Dadar Cincaluk	telur, dadar, cincalok (<i>cencaluk</i>)		Cincalok omelette	Endo	N
73.	Titik Betik	titik, betik		Peppery papaya soup	Cop	A
74.	Udang Lemak Masak Nenas	udang, lemak, masak, nenas		Pineapple prawn curry	Endo	N