

A Contrastive Analysis Between
English and Kurdish Languages In
Regard to Grammatical Gender

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INTRODUCTION

The major focus of this research is the investigation of the contrast between the English language and the Kurdish language in regard to Grammatical Gender. In my research, I will include the following, such as the aim, the purpose of the research, research questions, the definition of some terms, background of the literature that I have read, and discuss the differences. The methodology that I have used in my research, analyse the data and use quantitative research method. Finally, the results and the findings, and the conclusion of the research.

AIMS:

The major focus of this research is the investigation of the use of grammatical gender between the English and the Kurdish languages. Which one of the two languages does use more grammatical gender than the other one?

THE PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH

The purpose of my research is to find out the use of grammatical genders in both languages. I believe different cultural backgrounds and different value systems underlie the speakers' linguistic performance (Beal, 1994, p.56).

Here the variation between English and Kurdish grammatical gender is very significant in this research.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The variation between English and Kurdish grammatical gender is very significant in this research. In addition, I asked the following questions to be answered.

What is grammar?

Grammar is a rule of a language which describes how its words are made up to form sentences (Macquarie University, 1997, p. 387).

What is grammatical gender?

Grammatical genders, are also called (noun classes), they are classes of nouns which are reflected in the behaviour of related words, every noun belongs to one of the classes. For example, Indo-European languages have 1-3 noun classes that are called grammatical genders instead of noun classes. Indo-European and other language families are believed by its proponents to have human, animal and object as grammatical genders. For example, in Spanish, the word (hijo) (son) is masculine and (hija) daughter is feminine. It is called (natural gender) or logical gender (Encyclopaedia, 2005, p.7).

What is gender?

Gender is “the grammar of some languages, certain words and forms belonging to a specific gender. For example, masculine and feminine in French; masculine, feminine and neuter in German; common and neuter in Dutch” (Macquarie University, 1997, p. 372).

“Gender is a grammatical term, and has no real connection with sex. It was only just later that it became used as a synonym for sex (Arnie, 2003-4, p.4)

What is biological gender?

Biological gender refers to sex, such as male or female (Harry, 2000, p.1).

What does masculine mean?

Masculine, is related with maleness (Harry, 2000, p.3).

What are feminine genders?

Feminine is linked with femaleness. According to Gershaw men are seen as having competence feature while women are more expressive than men (Gershaw, 1995, p.1).

What is the effect of culture on masculine and feminine?

I believe that culture is the main factor that has an effect on masculine and feminine genders in any language. For example, in German, nouns end in **-ug** which corresponds to **ing** in English, are feminine, and car brand names are masculine.

Words end in **-lein** and **-chen**, their meanings are (smaller, younger) neuter.

Another example, the ancient Romans believed the Sun is masculine and the Moon is feminine. French, Spanish and Italian have the same idea in regard to the Sun and the Moon. For example, the Spanish word (**luna**) (moon). (Harry, 2000, p.4). But Germans believe is vice versa about the Sun and the Moon (Encyclopaedia, 2005, p-8).

I will talk about these variations in detail in the background of literature.

The differences between the Kurdish and English languages in terms of using grammatical gender and which one of the two languages uses more grammatical gender nouns than the other.

BACKGROUND OF LITERATURE

This literature under the name of Evolution of Gender in Indo-European Languages is related to the topic, that I will analyse on the light of my other literature. Boroditsky and Schmidt tested 84 common nouns in 14 Indo-European languages, plus English. The nouns were chosen as the following, 20 words artefacts, 22 words natural objects, 20 words abstract ideas, and 22 words animals. (See appendix 1).

During the investigation of the research, I looked at the data that the researcher had used, to make sure was accurate and valid, but unfortunately, the researcher of the literature, did not speak the Kurdish language, so he used the following data and identified them as an opposite grammatical gender nouns and changed masculine to feminine and vice versa by mistake. (See appendix 1).

1. Knife is a masculine noun in Kurdish, it is not a feminine.
2. Pistol is masculine.
3. Hammer is a masculine noun in Kurdish but the researcher, even did not mention it at all.
4. Key is a masculine.
5. Hat is a masculine noun and usually men wear them.
6. Gold is a feminine in Kurdish and it is not masculine.
7. Lion is a masculine noun in Kurdish but the researcher did not mention it
8. Fox is a feminine.

The researchers (Boroditsky and Schmidt) investigated whether “the grammatical genders do in part reflect the properties of their referents” (Boroditsky and

Schmidt, 2000, p.2) cited in Harry, 2000, p.1). Their comparison of genders between Spanish and German produced a correlation coefficient of $r = 0.21$, $p < 0.05$. They termed this an “appreciable agreement”. But Harry the researcher and author of this literature criticised this correlation and says this figure, a value of $r = 0.21$ indicates disagreement rather than appreciable agreement. The two languages are agreed more on the genders of animals ($r = 0.39$, $p < 0.1$), than on the genders of artefacts which is ($r = 0.10$, $p < .035$)” (Harry, 2000, p.2).

The results of their study suggested the closer languages are in the family tree, the more they agree on gender nouns the more grammatical gender nouns are used. For example, Portuguese and Spanish languages show a coefficient of determination $r^2 = .075$ (Harry, 2000, p.2).

(R²): (“a measure of how well the independent variable in a simple linear regression can explain changes in the dependent variable, its value is between zero (0) meaning poor fit and (1) meaning perfect fit”) Clark, 1985, p.452).

English and Kurdish for example have a very low correlation because it is not from the same sub family and in addition the English language is monolingual language.

Monolingual means “able to speak only one language and written in one language only”. Whereas the Persian language and the Afghani (Dari/Pshtu) languages come from the same sub family, which means the correlation is much higher, than the correlation between the English and the Kurdish language. The more similar the

languages, the higher the correlation. The more distant the languages the lower the correlation.

English native speakers thought the gender of nouns shows a correspondence with the task of gender in other Indo-European languages. In order to test the prediction the researches asked 20 native Americans of English speakers, (10 males and 10 females), to assign a gender either masculine or feminine. The result suggests consistency among them. Especially for words that have a natural relation with maleness and power, for example, hammer, boulder, attack and war, or with femaleness and beauty, for example, flower, happiness, love and butterfly. The average assignments of genders by English speakers form a 15th population. It was compared to the 14 studied languages to determine the degree of correlation. Look at appendix (2). The table shows the values of r^2 for each case (Harry, 2000, p.3-4).

The investigation suggested that the opinion of the native English speakers on gender was very weak correlation with each of the 14 languages, except Kurdish, which can attribute to statistical error. (Harry, 2000, p.3)

Error: “a random term included in regression and analysis of variance that represents the effects of all factors other than those that have been specifically included in the analysis”. (Clark, 1985, pg 446).

According to the research that suggested the Kurdish language uses more grammatical nouns than the English language. I would like to compare the use of masculine and feminine between the Kurdish and the English languages by finding the average use

for both languages in the light of the data appendix 1. in regard to the animal nouns.

First, I will define the meaning of average or mean.

Mean: “mean is the value that is equal to the sum of a list of numbers divided by the number of numbers (same as average” (Clark, 1985, p.9, 449). The formula is used to calculate the mean is $M = \frac{E}{N}$

where M = Mean
n

E = sum of

n = number of items or scores

For example, in the sample.

$$1+4+5+6+7+8+9+10 = 50$$

The mean is 50 divided by 8; which is equal to 6.25 (Clark, 1985, p.9, 449).

In order to find out the average of the masculine is used in Kurdish and English, I will use the previous formula. First I will find the average of the masculine nouns is used in Kurdish.

Animal = 22 noun words.

$$M = \frac{E}{N} =$$

n

= Sum of the masculine words/animals is used in Kurdish/ lang.

no of the total words (22)

-1= standards for masculine

$$\text{Mean} = \frac{1+1+1+1+1+1+1+1+1}{22} = \frac{10}{22} = 0.45$$

22

22

The average masculine noun words are used in Kurdish.

Second, I will find the average of the masculine nouns is used in English.

$$\text{Mean is } M = \frac{E}{N}$$

-1= standards for masculine the

$$\text{Mean} = \frac{0.80 + 0.10 + 0.90 + 0.60 + 0.90 + 0.50 + 0.90 + 0.20 + 0.30 + 0.80 + 0.60}{22}$$

= $\frac{6.6}{22} = 0.30$ the average masculine noun words is used in English.

22

According to the above findings, the result suggested that the average masculine grammatical noun words are used for animals in Kurdish language are higher than English. The difference = Kurdish average words are used – English average words are used; $0.45 - 0.30 = 0.15$

I will provide another example in order to prove the hypothesis. Here I will find the average use of feminine noun words in both languages and I will compare the differences in whole feminine noun words about all 84 noun words.

$$\text{Mean is } M = \frac{E}{N}$$

$$\text{Average feminine Kurdish nouns} = \frac{38}{84} = 0.45$$

$$\text{Average feminine English nouns} = \frac{15.95}{84} = 0.19$$

The difference = $0.45 - 0.19 = 0.26$

According to the above findings, the result suggested that the average feminine grammatical noun words are used in artefacts, natural objects , abstract, ideas and animals by the Kurdish language are higher than English.

Jheem suggests and supports my argument in this regard by saying that English has no grammatical genders. A handful of the nouns have genders such as, buck, doe.etc.....

The gender relates to the noun's meaning, not to its usage in a sentence. For example, in French, every noun is either masculine or feminine for grammatical purpose. Old English had three genders such as, masculine, feminine and neuter like most Indo-European languages. By Chaucer's time, grammatical gender had disappear, except for personal pronoun in third person singular pronouns, for example, he, she and it, with masculine and feminine genders used for persons or higher animals in colloquial speech as in "Is n't she a beauty? There are two reasons for departure of grammatical gender nouns first, due to **phonological change** and second, other **ways of marking grammatical categories developed** (Shufit, Jheem, 2003, p.1-2) ; (Encyclopaedia, 2005, p.6).

In the Northern group of Kurdish dialects and Mukri (e, i), the **Izafe** (suffix or prefix) appears in a number of forms, for example a, a, e, i and the nominal oblique case endings as e and i. An analysis of these forms into a clear system, with two declensions according to grammatical gender. It is also Sorani dialect. Nouns and adjectives usually follow singular nouns and they are connected to them by components (e) or a, e that are usually used when a noun is masculine and (a) when that noun is feminine, I will show some examples below:

- (i) Nouns ending in consonants.
- (ii) Nouns ending in vowels for example, a,a,i,e, usually insert an euphonic (y) before these endings.

In the north of the east of the Kurdish area, the Izafe (suffix or prefix) after plural nouns appears as/-ed. Indo-European languages, genders include, feminine, masculine and neuter. But English shows gender in third person singular only, but this is not the case in Kurdish language. For example, pronoun of he, she, and it with the masculine and feminine genders is used for people or higher animals (Encyclopaedia, 2005, p.6). Nouns have the same gender in all the Kurdish dialects. There are some examples to show masculine and feminine in Kurdish language.

Masculine: Note: the sound of ş in Kurdish which corresponds to sh in English.

1. umar-life (age) emre wi
2. ar(d)-flour ard m
3. as-mill ji es te
4. is-work ise ta
5. axor-stable axorehespa
6. bira-brother birete
7. bab-father bavexwe
8. cav-eye cavexwe
9. ciya (mountain) sereciye
- 10 dil-heart dilewi 3rd person

Feminine:

- baz ar-town bajae Stambulee
- sav-night niveseve

The following **feminine nouns** are appear occasionally **with masculine forms**:

Ben, bihn-smell	bena isane	
	Bihna junnete	bihne qabra
	The smell of your body	smell's of grave
De-mother	diya wi	diye-vi

(MacKenzie, 1954, p.14).

The research has done by Harry did not mention any thing about compound words in any other 14 languages and English, except the use of grammatical genders. Here I would like to conduct a research about the compound noun words in the Kurdish and English languages, because the previous research question has not been dealt within the previous studies, I have reviewed. I will compare the use of compound nouns in the similar written texts. In the light of the above findings, I would like to ask the following questions to conduct this research.

What is noun?

What are different types of nouns?

What is compound noun?

Are Kurdish and English compound noun words are used equally in the written texts, such as, stories?

METHODOLOGY –DATA

I will define noun and compound nouns

What is noun?Nouns are names that are given to things such as, people, animals and things. Nouns can be individual for example, a specific thing like my toy, Adelaide.

What are the different types of nouns?

There are many different types of nouns as the following:

Class, it refers to different groups of things like, snails, snakes. Abstract, it refers to feelings, views, beliefs, ideas such as, beauty, ugly, loyalty. Feminine or masculine for example (daughter, man, boy). Nouns, can be singular or plural (man-men, woman-women, apple-apples, mouse-mice). Compound, can consist more than one noun such as, (sisters-in-law, grandfather, dinning-room). Mass nouns are always represented as singular such as, bread, sheep, fish, ice, water. Nominalisations, it refers to noun forms of verbs such as teacher, discussion. Noun groups are groups of words which build on a noun. They are significant language resources for forming up descriptions. For example, Lisa's toy is a bear. Lisa's toy is a black fluffy bear. Here, both sentences are classification statements but the second sentence uses a noun group to describe the bear (Knapp, 1992, p.72-73).

What is compound noun?

Compound nouns, can consist more than one noun such as, sisters-in-law, grandfather, grandmother, step-father, step-mother, dinning-room, (The Internet Grammar of English, 1996-1998, p.1).

What is the gender of nouns?

The gender of nouns have a significant role in the grammar of some languages, for example in French a masculine noun can just take the masculine form of an adjective, but if the noun is feminine, it will take a distinct form of the same adjective, which is feminine form. But the English language does not have grammatical gender, the

nouns are actually not masculine or feminine but they refer to male, or female or animals. For example; the waiter is very prompt. The waitress is very prompt. The differences in spelling reflect differences in sex (The Internet Grammar of English, 1996-1998, p.1).

Are Kurdish and English compound words are used equally in written texts, such as, stories?

In order to find out the use of compound words between Kurdish and English languages, I have read two stories one of them is Kurdish and the other one is English. The Kurdish story consists of 66 pages. The name of the book is *Gelawej* was written by Teiyfoor and the book was published in 1992. Gelawej is the name of the main character in the story. I have summarised and translated the story into English. (See appendix-3).

But I have not used the whole text; I have used 38 pages that consist of nearly 128 paragraphs. I have used 30 pages from the English story which is equivalent to the Kurdish story in terms of the data. There are approximately about 4800 words. This story is equivalent to the English story that I have read, in regard to the length of the text and the level of the language is involved. Both the texts are designed for advanced language ability of the readers of the Kurdish and English languages.

The English story is consists of 85 pages. The name of the book is *a journey to the centre of the earth*. The author of the novel is Jules Verne; the story was published in 1969. I have summarised the whole story (see appendix 4). I have also translated the Kurdish compound noun words into English, (see appendix 5). But I have not used the whole text; I have used 30 pages that consist of nearly 125 paragraphs.

The story is equivalent to the Kurdish story in terms of data. There are approximately 4800 words which are equivalent to the Kurdish story that I have read in regard to the length of the text and the level of the language is involved. Both the texts are designed for advanced language ability readers.

I have found 57 compound nouns from the Kurdish story and the same amount in the English written text. I have found about 22 compound noun words in the English text, which are less than the Kurdish compound nouns, (see appendix 6). I would like to use the previous formula in order to find out the average words that have been used for the same amount of the written text.

formula is used to calculate the mean is $M = \frac{E}{n}$

where M = Mean

E = sum of

n = number of items or scores (Clark, 1985, p.9, 449).

In order to find out the average of the compound nouns used in Kurdish and English.

I will use the previous formula first, to find the average of the Kurdish nouns.

Words in the 38 pages are used = 4800 words.

Mean = $\frac{\text{Sum of the nouns are used in the Kurdish written text (57)}}{\text{no of the total words (4800)}}$

Mean = $\frac{57}{4800} = 0.011875$ the average compound noun words used in Kurdish.

To find out the average compound noun words are used in English, I use the following formula.

$$\text{mean is } M = \frac{E \ N}{n}$$

Words on the 33 pages used are = 4800 words.

$$M = \frac{E \ N}{n} =$$

$$\text{Mean} = \frac{\text{Sum of the nouns used in the English written text (22)}}{\text{no of the total words (4800)}}$$

$$\text{Mean} = \frac{22}{4800} = 0.004583 \text{ the average compound noun words used in English.}$$

I will also find the compound noun words are used per page in the Kurdish language.

$$\text{Per page} = \frac{57 \text{ compound nouns}}{38 \text{ pages}} = 1.5 \text{ compound noun words used per}$$

page for the written Kurdish text.

I will also find the compound noun words are used per page in English.

$$\text{Per page} = \frac{22 \text{ compound nouns}}{30 \text{ pages}} = 0.73 \text{ compound noun words used}$$

per page for the written English text.

According to the above findings, the result suggested that the average compound noun words are used in Kurdish are higher than in English.

The difference = Kurdish average words are used – English average words are used;

$$0.011875 - 0.004583 = 0.007292$$

Results and Findings

According to the above findings, the result suggested that the average

Compound noun words are used in Kurdish are higher than in English.

Because the Kurdish language is not a sub family of the English language and, the compound noun words are used in the both languages are not equivalent and there is a poor relationship between them.

The difference between the two languages = Kurdish average words used – English average words used; $0.011875 - 0.004583 = 0.007292$

I will also found the compound noun words are used per page in the Kurdish language are higher than the English language as well.

Per page $\equiv \frac{57 \text{ compound nouns}}{38 \text{ pages}} = 1.5$ compound noun words used per

38 pages

page for the written Kurdish text.

I have also found the compound noun words are used per page in English are less than in the Kurdish language.

Per page $\equiv \frac{22 \text{ compound nouns}}{30 \text{ pages}} = 0.73$ the compound noun words are

30 pages

used per page in the written English text.

Conclusion

Are Kurdish and English compound noun words are used equally in written texts, such as, stories? No, the compound words are used in the similar texts and the length of the stories in Kurdish and English languages are different. Because the average of compound noun words are used per page in the Kurdish language is 1.5 but the average of compound noun words are used per page in English is 0.73, which is less than the compound noun words are used per page in Kurdish language, so the hypothesis is true.

English and Kurdish for example have a very low correlation because they are not from the same sub family; in addition the English language is monolingual language. Where the Persian language and the Afghan (Dari/Pshtu) languages come from the same sub family, which means the correlation is much higher, than the correlation between the English and the Kurdish languages. The more similar the languages towards one another, the higher the correlation. The more distant the languages the lower the correlation. (Harry, 2000, p.5).

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A journey to the Centre of the Earth, By Jules Verne.

Professor Lidenbrock was a rock, stone and metal collector. He had many rock, stone and metal collections from all over the world, some where as old 200 years old. He had a passion for adventures and discovering new things. His nephew Axel was in his early stages of manhood. He had great respect for his uncle who had taught him a great deal. Professor Lidenbrock had set out one day to go on a journey to the centre of the earth. He had set out to go on an adventure to a mountain called Snaefells, which also was a volcano. They carried their journey to Snaefells very soon. The Professors idea to take on this journey was from a man named Arne Saknussemm, but was unsuccessful. So, professor Lidenbrock wanted to be the next person to try.

Professor Lidenbrock, Axel and their guider named Hans, set of on their journey to the centre of the earth. It took them about three months to return back to Hamburg their hometown (besides Hans who was from Iceland). On their way they climbed up and down dangerous obstacles. When they made it in the volcano called Snaefells, after several weeks on foot, they came across many situations of life and death mattes. They had witnessed giant sea monsters, faced their some of their journey without any food or water for a week, the rough path towards the centre of the earth was life taking, yet the professor, Hans and Axel kept on going bravely. They came across a sea which no man has ever seen before and they named the sea Lidenbrock Sea. They also came across an island that they were the first to discover which they named after Axel and named it Axel Island.

After this long journey they were on a path that would lead them out of the mountain and back onto land. Without their knowledge they ended up climbing out of a mountain in Italy! They were pushed up by the lava of the volcano. They were lucky

to be alive! They were tired, weak and hungry. They soon made it back to Hamburg and farewelled Hans who looked after them a great deal. They soon were known for their heroic events, and for their accomplishment of coming out alive after being to the centre of the earth.

By Verne. J, 1969.

Gelawej

Gelwej is the name of the story was written by Teiyfoor. I would like to summarise the story that I have read and looked at the Kurdish compound noun words. The story was set in Sweden in 1992; the story is talking about the tragedy that Kurdish people face in everyday in our homeland (Kurdistan). This story is an example of Kurdish struggle and resistance against oppression that the Kurdish nation faces.

Gelawej is a woman, was married to Shemal and they were living in East of Kurdistan (Iran). Gelawej was living with her mother in law and she had only one child, her name was Triyfe, it means (Sun shine) in English. One day Gelawej's (Shemal) husband disappeared and nobody knew where he was? After a couple of years, she did find out that her husband was a freedom fighter (Peshmerge) and he had joined the Kurdish revolution. But the Iranian government knew where her husband was. At the same time her brother in law (Heme) was a freedom fighter too.

Suddenly one day at about 2: am, some Iranian intelligent service and some solders were raided their house and took the complete family, including, Gelawej, her daughter (Tiriyfe) and her mother in law to jail. In the prison, they were separated from each other and they were tortured very badly by secret police. While they were in prison her brother in law Heme was killed in a fight with the government. The Iranian secret police asked her for cooperation with the police; it was a condition for their release. They were agreed to participate in order to be freed from prison.

After that, Gelawej sent a letter to her husband and asked him to come to the city with his group of freedom fighters to rescue and them to the mountains or liberated areas. But her husband Shemal could not come and asked his political organisation to

organise this operation. After some time they carried out the operation and took the family out of the city.

While they were crossing the mountains at night in order to reach the liberated area which was belong to the Kurdish freedom fighters. They were raided by Iranian solders and her daughter Triyfe was shot dead.

When she arrived at the village. Her husband was still at about 5 hours far from the village and it was a big war between the Kurdish freedom fighters and the government, so again her husband could not come to see them. In the village at the same house a girl was there and her father was a freedom fighter and he was killed some time ago.

After a month of a fight between Kurdish freedom fighters and the government, she was told by someone that her husband was wounded and got captured a life by Army. But in reality he was injured but he was not became a prisoner of war. He was injured so badly, they sent him to Germany for treatment.

Later on, she was told by the freedom fighters, that she had to leave the area due to spread the war everywhere in Kurdish areas. So, while Gelawej was ready to leave the house and the village towards crossing a border to another country, she was approached by the six year old girl (Awat), and asked her to take her too. She was agreed to take Awat and they went to Sweden as a refugee to the city of Stockholm. Awat grew up and went to school and one day she brought back a letter from her Kurdish friend at school about a Kurdish celebration for (Newroz). Newroz is the beginning of the Kurdish New Year on 21st March in the year. She saw her husband's picture in the letter and she was so excited, she could not believe it. Her husband

(Shemal) was invited as a singer to participate in the celebration of Newroz (New day).

Next, her husband was arrived in Stockholm, and Gelawej did not go to the party and she said if he was a life, how come he did let me know what happened to him. But she sent (Awat) with some Kurdish friends. At that night after the celebration, her husband came to her place with some friends and found her and they met for the last time.

Finally, after 2 months passed, someone was checking on their house, because her husband was active politically. One day Gelawej was opening her letter box and something got exploded and immediately killed her and Awat left alone again for the second time without the love of her mum (Teifoor, 1992, 1-66).

A list of compound noun words in the Kurdish language

Kurdish Compound Nouns Meaning in English

Noun+ Noun

roj be roj	day by day	day by day
ser u shwen	place	head and place
dil niygeran	sad	heart sad
agir dar	spark	fire tree
chaw chaw	eye eye	eye eye
dle u dwaîy	hope	heart and end
aram aram	patience	calm calm
ser ban	roof	head roof
twoe twoe	layer	layer layer
qoorim sax	bastard	son of bastard
resh balek	mixed	black mix
ser chopiy	lead	head or lead dance
sha bash	pay money	king good
shal laq	torture	limp leg
ser u chaw	face	head and eye
dele dew	female devil	female devil
dem u chaw	face	mouth and eye
mela jin	Imam's wife	Imam woman
mekteb dar	master of religion	school tree
xrap kar	bad person	bad work
sere ta	beginning	head fever
bere bere	bit by bit	slowly slowly

derman draw	patient	medicine given
jer bal	under arm (arm pit)	under arm
jer xan	down stairs	under-ground floor
kla u dar	hat	hat-have or tree
zamiy dil	broken heart	injured heart
hawar u esh	pain	shout and pain
jne u shalaq	torture	insult and limp leg
jan u zamek	pain	pain and a wound
kish u mat	quiet	quiet and calm
ser u klaw	hat	head and hat
char shew	veil	four food/shape
chaw der	patrol man	eye look
ser kar	work	head work
ser garden	homeless/hopeless	head neck
ser mazar	cemetery	on grave/head grave
dola u dol	hill by hill	hill and hill

Kurdish Compound Nouns Meaning in English

Noun+ Noun

shaxe u shax	mountain	mountain and mountain
chiya u chol	mountain	mountain and empty
seg bab	your father is a dog	dog father
demy le demy	kissing	mouth in mouth
kew u dolekan	mountain and hills	mountain and hills
shne baiyek	wind	breeze wind

gool u giya	grass and flower	flower and grass
ser u chaw	head	head and eye
ga golke	crawl	cow crawl
shere koore	lion boy	lion boy
ser baskane	over the hill	over hills/on hills
bedem bawe	in the wind	mouth wind
dar tewin	knitting equipment	tree knit
shorb aw	soup	liquid water
pa we (u) pa	walk	foot by foot
ser chaw	welcome	on eye
sery Leser	head on	head on
gergiy agir	sorrowful	liver fire
nan u shir	milk and bread	bread and milk

A list of English Compound Words:

Noun + Noun

sunday	iceland	anything	everyone
mantelpiece	dinning room	afternoon	railway
bookshop	downstairs	nonsense	fishermen
Something	everything	anyone	island
horseback	afternoon	goodness	islanders
goodbye	luggage		

REFERENCES

APPENDIX

1. Words Examined

2. Table: Coefficients of determination (r^2) for the 14 languages, plus English monolinguals ('Eng.' Last row).

3. Summarised of the Kurdish Story
(Gelawej by Teifoor, 1992, 1-66).

4. Summarised of the English Story
A journey to the Centre of the Earth, By Jules Verne.

5. Data: A List of Kurdish Noun Compound Words.

6. Data: A List of English Noun Compound Words.