

*Table of Contents*

An Etymological Study of the Typology of Lexical Borrowing of Pali words into Myanmar Language <b>Khin Pa Pa Aung</b> .....	2
An Analytical Study of the Pali-Myanmar Compound Words commonly used in Myanmar Society <b>Moh Moh Thein</b> .....	11
A Study of the Comparison between the types of Thai Legends and Myanmar Legends <b>Su Su Khin</b> .....	19
A Morphological Analysis of Myanmar Modifiers <b>Moe Yin Nyein</b> .....	36
The Role of Multilingualism in the Formation of Language and Society <b>Matthias Jenny</b> .....	45
A Comparative Study of Word Structures in Modern Chinese and Myanmar Language <b>Kay Khine Myint</b> .....	57
The Errors found in the Third Volume of the Royal Administration of Burma <b>Nyein Chan Soe</b> .....	73
A Comparative Study of the Usages of Adverb in Myanmar Language by means of Affixation and Reduplication <b>Yin Myo Tint</b> .....	82
The influence of Shan and Burmese on Rumai (Palaung) Loanwords and script <b>Rachel Weymuth</b> .....	93
The Study of Loan Words in Myanmar Language <b>Win Min Aung</b> .....	104
A Comparison of the Internal Structure of the Verb Complex in the Kachin Languages <b>André Müller</b> .....	119
Lexical Semantic Map of 'Open' in English and 'Phwin.Di' in Myanmar <b>Moe Kyaw (LIM YOUK SOWN)</b> .....	130

## A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF WORD STRUCTURE IN MODERN CHINESE AND MYANMAR LANGUAGE

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### Abstract

Memorizing thousands of Chinese words is one of the most frustrating endeavors for Chinese language learners. Learning Chinese word structure helps the Chinese language learners to learn Chinese words better. As Chinese and Myanmar language are monosyllabic tonal languages belonging to the Sino-Tibetan Language family, there are similar characteristics in their word structures. On the other hand, as the word order in sentences are different in Chinese and Myanmar language, there are also different word structures. Through the comparative analysis of word structures in Modern Chinese and Myanmar language, this study attempts to point out the similar and different word structures and highlight the word structures that need to be paid special attention in teaching and learning Chinese words, thereby helping Myanmar learners to tackle unfamiliar Chinese words without trouble in reading comprehension and enhancing vocabulary building. This paper describes the morphological structures of the words in Modern Chinese and Myanmar language, and also explores whether there is any relationship between the meaning, word class and word structure. The findings reveal the similarities in word structures of Modern Chinese and Myanmar language such as monosyllabic morphemes serving as basic components in forming single morpheme words and compound words. Among the similar structures, there are still differences in the sequential order or nature of the constituent morphemes such as opposite order of verb and its object in the compound word formed by a verb and an object in Chinese and Myanmar language, Head-Post modifier structure and ABAB, ABB, ABCC, ABAC pattern lexical reduplicated words in Myanmar language, Noun-Classifier structure and consonant-vowel alliterated word in Chinese, etc. Regarding to the relationship between the word class and word structure, the word classes of the morphemes do not determine the word class of the whole word with the exception of affixed words. There is a certain extent of relationship between the meanings of the morphemes and the whole word except the simple word and the compound word with altered or idiomatic meanings which should be the focal points in teaching Chinese words as their lexical meanings could not be worked out from their constituent morphemes causing difficulty in understanding their meanings.

**Key Words:** Comparative Study    Word Structure    Modern Chinese    Myanmar language

### Introduction

Belonging to the same language family, Chinese and Myanmar language have many significant similarities. Both of them are monosyllabic tonal languages in which the root words are monosyllabic. Nevertheless, as their word order is different, the sequential order of morpheme in some of the compound words in Chinese and Myanmar language are also different.

There are a huge number of Chinese characters which serve as the root words in word formation. In addition, because of neologism phenomenon, there are increasing numbers of new words in the Chinese lexical system. These factors make learning Chinese a serious challenge for Myanmar learners. Introducing the knowledge of analysis of word structure to the language learners

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helps them to learn words better. The comparative analysis of Chinese and Myanmar word structures helps to find out the similarities and differences between them, which are the causes of positive transfer and negative transfer of learning respectively.

Previous studies on Chinese and Myanmar word formation done by Huang Jing Jing (2012) and Wei Yi Lan (2015) only focused on the word formation process of compound and complex words. The present study not only investigates the word structures including single morpheme words, complex and compound words in Chinese and Myanmar language but also explores the relationship between the meaning, word class of the whole word and those of the constituent morphemes of the word. Moreover, this study contributes to language teaching to a certain extent as it attempts to specify the structures of the Chinese words which are the challenging puzzles for Myanmar learners.

### **Literature Review**

According to the previous studies related to Chinese morphology, the smallest meaningful morphological unit of the word is the morpheme which may be single syllabic or multi-syllabic. Pictographic Chinese character referred to as a “字 zi” is a multifunctional basic unit in word formation. Referring to the functions of “zi” discussed in Chinese traditional grammar, with the combination of the morphological concept, it could be postulated that Chinese pictographic character “zi” corresponds to a phonetic symbol, a monosyllabic morpheme and a monosyllabic simple word in different situations, whereas the combination of two characters “zi+zi” is equivalent to Chinese disyllabic word “词 ci” which may be single morpheme simple word or bi-morphemic compound word. Chinese linguists referred immediate constituent analysis, derivational morphological analysis and prosodic morphological analysis in the study of formation of the Chinese words.

Myanmar morphological studies emphasize on the derivational morphology and the analysis of the word structure is part of the traditional grammar referring the syntactic terms in the description of the word structure. The studies related to the analysis of Myanmar word structure using constituent analysis haven't been detected yet.

### **Aim of the study**

The aim of the study is through the comparative analysis of word structures in Modern Chinese and Myanmar language to point out the similar and different word structures and highlight the word structures that need to be paid special attention in teaching and learning Chinese words, thereby helping Myanmar learners to tackle unfamiliar Chinese words without trouble in reading comprehension and enhancing vocabulary building.

### **Research Question**

1. What are the similar and different word structures in Chinese and Myanmar language?
2. Is there any relationship between meaning, word class of the whole word and those of the constituent morphemes?

**Data and Method**

This study is a secondary research based on the information and reference data from previous related morphological studies done by Western and Eastern experts such as Giorgio Francesco Arcodia (2012), Jerome L. Packard (2015), Lu Zhiwei (1957), Ren Xuelian (1981), Liu Shuxin (1990), Wang Aiguo (2003), Ge benyi (2006), Dr. Ko Lay (2002), etc.

This study mainly focuses on the description of the structure of the content word of Modern Chinese and Myanmar Language collected from 《Modern Chinese Dictionary》 (2016) and 《Myanmar Dictionary》 (1991) and also probes into the relationship between the structure of the word, meaning and word class. The function word, the abbreviations and the idiomatic set phrases are excluded from the study.

**Findings**

The findings reveal that the morphological structures of some of the Chinese and Myanmar words are similar, but some are different. Even among the similar structures, there are different patterns of the constituents. Therefore on the basis of the similarity and difference, the morphological structure of the Chinese and Myanmar word could be mainly categorized into the similar structure, the similar structure with different sequential order or pattern of the constituents and different structures.

**I. Morphological structures of Chinese and Myanmar words**

Single-syllable morpheme which corresponds to a single character is the basic morphological unit of the Chinese and Myanmar words. Single syllable morphemes in Chinese and Myanmar which correspond to the characters not only serve as the simple word, but also serve as the root words in the formation of the compound words.

**1.1. The Similar structures**

In general, simple word and compound word are the similar word structures in Chinese and Myanmar language.

**1.1.1 .Simple Word****Table (1) Morphological Structure of Chinese and Myanmar Simple Word**

Name		Chinese	Myanmar
Monosyllabic Single Morpheme Word		雨 /yǔ/ Rain	မိုး /mo:/ rain
		大 /dà/ Big	ကြီး /tei:/ big
		去 /qù/ Go	သွား /θwa:/ go
Multi-syllabic	Loan Word	巧克力 /qiǎokèlì/chocolate	ချောကလက် / tɕʰ kə lɛʔ/ chocolate
	Onomatopoeic Word	轰隆/hōnglōng/ bang	ဝုန်:ဝိုင်း / wóuN dán / bang

Multisyllabic Single Morpheme Word without phonetic characteristic		蝌蚪 /kēdǒu/ tadpole	သရော် /θə jə/ mock,riducule
		咳嗽 /késou/ cough	ပလုတ်တုတ် /pələu?tu?/rattle
Multisyllabic Single Morpheme Word with phonetic characteristic (联绵词 Lianmian Ci)	Same Consonant sound alliteration (双声 Shuangsheng)	蜘蛛 /zhīzhū/ spider	ကြောင့်ကြ /təuN. təu/worry
		吩咐 /fēnfù/ command	မိန်းမ /méiN: mə/ woman
	Same Vowel sound alliteration(叠韵 Dieyun)	玲珑 /línglóng/ exquisite	ကျန /təu nə/ exact
		啰嗦 /luōsuō/ wordy	မိုးကြိုး / mo: dzo:/ thunder
	Syllable alliteration (叠音 Dieyin)	烂漫 /lànmàn/ brilliant	မြင့်မြင့် /p <sup>h</sup> jaɪN p <sup>h</sup> jaɪN / profusely
		蝈蝈 /qū qur/ cricket	နှင်နှင် / ɲìN ɲìN / ordinary
	眼睛 /juàn juàn/ to gaze at		

In Chinese and Myanmar language, the simple word is a single-morpheme word formed by single free morpheme which may be monosyllabic or multi-syllabic. The sub-constituents of the single-morpheme words denote the pronunciation of the word and there is no any syntactic or semantic relationship between them and the whole word.

Multi-syllabic single-morpheme words include the loan word, the onomatopoeic word and the binding word of two characters called “联绵词 Lianmian ci” in Chinese language some of which are formed by biding of the characters that have the same consonant sounds or the same vowel sound or alliteration of the same syllable referred as “双声 shuang sheng”, “叠韵 dieyun” and “叠音 dieyin” respectively in Chinese language and there is no specific terms for the similar structures in Myanmar.

### 1.1.2. Compound Word

In Chinese and Myanmar language, there are compound words which are composed of two or more morphemes. According to the nature of the constituent morphemes, the compound words are divided into derivative word, lexical reduplicated word and syntactic compound word.

#### 1.1.2.1. Derivative Word

The derivative words are composed of roots and affixes. The affixes have no proper meaning and serve as morphological markers or mood markers. Some are syllable supplementary i.e. phonetically help balance words in pronunciation.

##### 1.1.2.1.1. “Prefix+ Root” Structure

Chinese phonetic prefix “阿/ā/” and Myanmar prefix “အ/ə/” are placed before the name

of the family members and relatives. For example:

阿爹 /ā diē/ daddy    阿姨 /ā yí / aunty    အဖေ / əphè/ father    အဒေါ် /ədò/ mother

Chinese phonetic prefix “阿/ā/” could also be placed before the nick name of a person and equivalent to Myanmar modal prefix “င/ဂ/” which expresses lack of respect on the addressee. For example:

阿狗 /ā goǔ/ puppy                      ငခွေး/ဂခွေး k<sup>h</sup>wé/ a boy called puppy

Myanmar morphological prefix “အ /ə/” placed before the verbs and the adjectives change the word class of the root word and serve as a marker of the noun. For example:

အ + ပြော	=	အ ပြော	/ə	pjó/	အ + ကောင်း	=	အကောင်း	/ə	káuN/
Prefix		Prefix		verb		Prefix		adjective	noun
				speaking				good	good thing

**1.1.2.1.2. “Root+ Suffix” Structure**

Most of the suffixes in Chinese and Myanmar language serve as the marker of noun and verb.

“员/yuán/” , “者/zhě/” , “子/zǐ/” , “头/tou/” and “性/xìng/” are the noun markers in Chinese language. For example:

运动员 /yùndòngyuán/	演员 /yǎnyuán/	读者/dúzhě/	小孩子/xiǎo hái zǐ/	瘦子/shòuzi/
noun +suffix	verb+ suffix	verb+ suffix	noun +suffix	adjective+ suffix
sportsman	actor/actress	reader	child/kid	thin person

石头/shítou/	毒性/dúxìng/	可能性/kěnéngxìng/	慢性 /mànxìng/
noun+suffix	noun+suffix	verb+ suffix	adjective+ suffix
stone	toxicity	possibility	chronic

Myanmar suffixes that indicate noun are “သူ/ထဲ/”, “သမား /θ ə m á /”, “စရာ/z jà /”, “ခြင်း/ dz iN /” , “ချက် /tɕ<sup>h</sup> ɛʔ /” , “မှု/ṃy /” and “ ရေး /jé /” . “သူ /ထဲ/and “သမား /θ ə m á /”are the suffixes that indicate a person . “စရာ/z jà /” after a verb indicate a thing related to the action expressed by the verb . “ခြင်း/ dz iN /” , “ ချက် /tɕ<sup>h</sup> ɛʔ /” , “မှု/ṃy /” and “ ရေး/jé / ” after the verb and adjective change them to noun that express the related abstract phenomenon. For example:

စားသုံးသူ/sáθóuN	ထဲ/ အားကစားသမား/á gəzà θ ə m á/	စားစရာ/gəzàz jà/	သင်ကြားခြင်း/θ iNtɕá dz iN
verb+ suffix	noun + suffix	verb+ suffix	verb+ suffix
consumer	sportsman	food/snack	teaching

ရှင်းလင်းချက်/ j iN liN tɕ <sup>h</sup> ɛʔ/	နားလည်မှု /ná lè ṃy /	အောင်မြင်ရေး / áuNmjiNjé /
verb+ suffix	verb+ suffix	verb+ suffix

explanation                      understanding                      for victory

Verb forming suffixes and suffixes of the verbs in Chinese language are “儿” “化” .For example:

玩儿/wán ér/	绿化/lǜhuà/	规范化 /guīfānhuà/
verb+ suffix	adjective+ suffix	noun + suffix
play	greening	standardize

The combination the particle “သည် /θ ÷/ ” and the root word form a verb phrase. For example:

ကစားသည် /gəzà θì/	လှပသည် /lápá θì/
verb+ suffix	adjective+ suffix
play	beautiful

### 1.1.2.2. Lexical reduplicated word

There are various patterns of reduplication in Chinese and Myanmar language. The same constituent morpheme which has a complete meaning and stands alone as a word is reduplicated to form the lexical reduplicated word. The word class changes to adverb after reduplication in some of the AA pattern and AABB pattern reduplicated words.

**Table (2) The Patterns of Lexical Reduplicated Words in Chinese and Myanmar language**

Type of Reduplication	Pattern	Chinese	Myanmar
Reduplication of single syllable morpheme	AA	爸爸 /bàba/ father	ဖေဖေ /phèphè/ father
		默默 /mòmò/ silently	တိတ်တိတ် /teɪʔteɪʔ / silently
Reduplication of the second constituent morpheme of AB pattern disyllabic word	ABB	甜 蜜 蜜/ tiánmìmi /sweet	ချိုမြမြ / tɕʰò mjə mjə/ sweet
Reduplication of the first constituent morpheme of AB pattern disyllabic word	AAB	淡 淡 然/dàndànrán/ dim	လျှမ်းလျှမ်းတောက်/ʃǎN ʃǎNtauʔ/ brilliant, outstanding
Separate reduplication of constituent morphemes of disyllabic word	AABB	大 大 方 方 /dàdàfāngfang/ Gracefully	ရက်ရက်ရောရော/ jɛʔ jɛʔ jójó/ unremittingly

The other reduplicated patterns in Chinese such as AAB, AABC, ABAC, ABCC are multifunctional set phrases with a complete meaning, thus the specific discussion of these structures are excluded.

**1.1.2.3. Syntactic compound word**

Through immediate constituent analysis, the parallel structure, the Subject-Predicate structure, the Modifier-Head structure and the Verb-Result or complement structures of the syntactic compound words could be analyzed.

**1.1.2.3.1. Parallel Binding Structure**

In the parallel structure, the constituent morphemes have the similar or related meaning or some of them are antonyms.

**Table (3) Parallel Binding Structure in Chinese and Myanmar Language**

Structure	Chinese	Myanmar
Synonym+ Synonym	寒冷 /hánlěng/ cold	အေးချမ်း /édzàN/cold
	阻碍 /zǔ'ài/ obstruct	ပိတ်ဆို့ /peɪʔ sɔ̃ / obstruct
Antonym+ Antonym	好歹 /hǎodǎi/ anyhow	အကောင်းအဆိုး /əkáúN əsɔ̃/good and bad
Morphemes in the related lexical categories	夫妻/fūqī/ couple	လင်မယား /liN mə já /couple
	三更半夜 /sāngēng bányè/ midnight	ညဉ့်နက်သန်းခေါင် /ɲɪNneʔ θəgáúN/ midnight

**1.1.2.3.2. Subject-Predicate Structure**

In the Subject-Predicate structure, there is subject and predicate relationship between the constituent morphemes. The constituent morpheme placed at the beginning of the word serves as the subject and the constituent morpheme after it is the predicate.

**Table (4) Subject-Predicate Structure in Chinese and Myanmar language**

Structure	Chinese	Myanmar
Subject+ Predicate	头疼/tóuténg/ headache	ခေါင်းကိုက်/gáúN kaiʔ/headache

**1.1.2.3.3. Premodifier-Head Structure**

The Premodifier-Head structure is composed of the attributive morpheme placed before the modified constituent morpheme.

**Table (5) Premodifier-Head Structure in Chinese and Myanmar language**

Structure	Chinese	Myanmar
Modifier+Stem (noun)	牛奶/niúnnǎi/milk	နွားနို့ /nwá nɔ̃/ milk
	路费/lùfèi/ toll	လမ်းစရိတ် /láN zə jerʔ / toll
Modifier+Stem (Verb)	笔直/bízhí/ perfectly straight (adverb) directness(noun)	အစမ်းခန့် /əsán k <sup>h</sup> əN/ appointment on probation(noun) appoint on probation (verb)

**1.1.2.3.4. Predicate- Adverbial Complement Structure**

The constituent morpheme that denote the action or statement is placed before the complementary morpheme used to indicate the result, situation or degree of the action or statement in the Predicate- Adverbial Complement structure.

**Table (6) Predicate- Adverbial Complement Structure in Chinese and Myanmar language**

Structure	Chinese	Myanmar
Predicate +Adverbial Complement	提高 /tígāo/ (result) improve(verb), elevation (noun)	စွပ်ကျယ် /su? tɛɛ/ (result) vest
	怪不得/guàibude/ (possibility) no wonder	ချိုရဲ /təò jé/(degree) extremely sweet

**1.2. The Similar structures with different sequence or nature of constituent morphemes****1.2.1. Different Pattern of Lexical Reduplicate Word**

There is reduplication of the morphological root AB as a whole word forming ABAB pattern Lexical Reduplicated words in Myanmar language. For example:

ဝေဝုနင်း: /tʰɔ̃ nɪN / limp → ဝေဝုနင်း:ဝေဝုနင်း: /tʰɔ̃ nɪN tʰɔ̃ nɪN / with a limp

A B AB AB

In Chinese language, ABAB pattern reduplication of the verb is mainly used to express the informal or temporary character of the action and is not regarded as a word. For example:

休息 /xiūxi/ → 兄弟们，你们都休息休息！ /xiūxi/ /xiūxi/

AB AB AB

rest Brothers, all of you take a rest.

ABB pattern of the Chinese lexical reduplicated word is formed by reduplication of the second morpheme of AB pattern disyllabic bi-morphemic word, whereas in Myanmar ABB pattern the first constituent “A” is an affix and “B” is the root morpheme. Therefore Myanmar ABB pattern reduplicated word unlike Chinese “ABB” lexical reduplicated pattern is the combination form of derivation and reduplication. For example:

**Table (7) ABB Pattern Reduplicated Word in Chinese and Myanmar Language**

	Chinese		Myanmar
Reduplic- -ation of second morpheme	光秃 /guāngtū/ → 光秃秃 /guāngtūtū/ A B AB B bare bare	Combination form of derivation and reduplication	တ + နို့နို့ /tə nɔ̃N nɔ̃N/ A (affix) BB (root) suffer or grieve interminably
	热乎 /rè hū/ → 热乎乎 /rè hū hū/ A B AB B warm warm		တ + တွတ်တွတ် /tə tʰʉ? tʰʉ?/ A (affix) BB (root) speak repeatedly

Similarly, Myanmar ABCC pattern lexical reduplicated word is the combination form of the derivation and reduplication of “BC” pattern bi-morphemic word attached by prefix “A”. For example:

တ + ဝဲလည် → တဝဲလည်လည် /tə wé lè lè/ lingeringly  
A(affix) BC(root) ABCC

In Myanmar language, there is also “ABAC” pattern formed by reduplication of particles which function as prefix and infix and insertion of two morphemes between the reduplicated particles. The inserted morphemes are separate morphemes or the constituent morphemes of the bi-morphemic word. For example:

မရေ မရာ /mə jè mə jà/ တစိတ်တပိုင်း /tə zər? tə báiN / အကြံအစည် /ə tsàN ə sì /  
A(prefix)+B+A(infix)+C A(prefix)+B+A(infix)+C A(prefix)+B+A(infix)+C  
uncertain part intention

**1.2.2. Head-Postmodifier Structure of syntactic compound word**

In Chinese language, modifiers usually come before the root morpheme forming Premodifier-Head structure, whereas in Myanmar language, some of the modifier comes after the root morpheme. For example:

ဆားခါး /sə k<sup>h</sup>ə / ဆင်ဖြူ / siN bjù / ဆန်ကြမ်း / sàNdzáN/  
Head + Postmodifier Head + Postmodifier Head + Postmodifier  
Magnesium Sulphate white elephant ordinary rice

**1.2.3. Verb-Object Structure of syntactic compound word**

There is an action and affected object relationship between the two root morphemes of the word. Generally, verbs serve as the morphemes that indicate the action in both languages.

Chinese language being a SVO language, verb is placed before the morpheme that indicates the affected object in Verb-Object structure Chinese compound word, whilst Myanmar language being SOV language, the order of the constituent morphemes of the action-object syntactic compound word is Object-Verb. For example:

**Table (8) Verb-Object Structure of Syntactic Compound Word in Chinese and Myanmar**

Chinese	Myanmar
Verb+ Object	Object+ Verb
签 + 名 → 签名 /qiān míng/ sign name signature/ sign	လက်မှတ် + ထိုး → လက်မှတ်ထိုး /lɛʔmaʔ t <sup>h</sup> ɔ/ sign inscribe/mark sign
钓 + 鱼 → 钓鱼 /diàoyú/ fish(verb) fish (noun) fishing/fish	ငါး + မျှား → ငါးမျှား / ၵာ် ၵျာ်/ fish(noun) fish (verb) fish (verb)

### 1.3. The Different structures

#### 1.3.1. Noun-Classifier structure in Chinese language

Noun-Classifier structure in which the former constituent is the root word formed by a noun followed by its collocated classifier is the structure that is only existed in Chinese word formation. For example:

船只 /chuánzhī/ vessel      人员/rényuán/ personnel      花朵 /huāduǒ/ bloom

#### 1.3.2. Word structure formed by Consonant-Vowel alliteration with different tone

In Chinese there are words formed by the characters which have the same consonant and vowel sound with different tones. For examples:

屈曲 /qū qǔ/crook      苛刻/kēkè/harsh      夫妇/fūfù/ couple      漆器/qīqi/ lacquerware

In Myanmar language, there are homonyms written by different phonographic characters, but the words formed by two homonyms are not existed.

## II. Syntactic relationship between the constituent morphemes and the whole word

### 2.1. Direct relationship between the word class of the constituent morphemes and the whole word

The direct relationship between the word class of the constituent morphemes and the whole word is seen in the Chinese and Myanmar words belonging to Noun-Classifier structure, some words of Predicate- Adverbial Complement Structure, Parallel binding structures and Premodifier-Head structure.

**Table (9) Direct relationship between the word class of the constituent morphemes and the whole word**

Structure	Chinese	Myanmar
Noun-Classifier Structure	纸 + 张 → 纸张/zhǐzhāng/ n            c            n paper sheet paper	
Predicate-Adverbial Complement Structure	推 + 动 → 推动/tuīdòng/ v            v            v push move push forward	တူ + တောင် → တူတောင်/ t <sup>h</sup> ù t <sup>h</sup> àuN / v            v            v raise/ help erect set up/establish
Parallel binding Structure	骨 + 肉 → 骨肉/gǔròu/ n            n            n bone meat kindred	ဘိုးဘွား + မိဘ → ဘိုးဘွားမိဘ / bó bwá mjà / n            n            n grandparents parents grandparents and parents
	忘 + 记 → 忘记 /wàngjì/ v            v            v forget record forget	ရောင်း + ဝယ် → ရောင်းဝယ်/ jáuN wè / v            v            v sell buy trade
Premodifier-Head Structure	火 + 车 → 火车/huǒchē/ n            n            n fire vehicle train	ရေ + ယာဉ် → ရေယာဉ် / jè jìN / n            n            n water craft water-craft

n = noun, v = verb, c= classifier

## 2.2. Partial relationship between the word class of the constituent morphemes and the whole word

In Chinese and Myanmar, noun forming affixes and verb forming suffixes serve as the word class markers, so the affixes in the derivative words indicate the word class of the whole word.

The reduplication of the adjective forms of the constituent morphemes result in the formation of adverbs in Chinese and Myanmar.

**Table (10) Partial relationship between the word class of the constituent morphemes and the whole word**

Structure	Chinese	Myanmar
Derivativ -e word	老 + 乡 → 老乡 /lǎoxiāng/ prff n n old village hometown/ fellow villager	ခံစား + မှု → ခံစားမှု / k <sup>h</sup> àNzá ṁṁ / v suff n feel noun marker feeling
	现代 + 化 → 现代化 /xiàndàihuà/ n s v,n modern verb maker modernize,modernization	ကျန်းမာ + ရေး → ကျန်းမာရေး /teáNmà jé / adj s noun healthy noun marker health
Lexical reduplicat ed word	轻 → 轻轻/qīng qīng/ adj adv light gently	လွယ်ကူ → လွယ်လွယ်ကူကူ /lwèlwè kùkù/ adj adv easy easily
	简单 → 简简单单/jiǎnjiǎndāndān/ adj adv simple simply	

n = noun , v = verb, adj=adjective adv=adverb, prff=prefix, suff=suffix

## 2.3. Lack of relationship between the word class of the constituent morphemes and the whole word

In most of the word structures in Chinese and Myanmar language, there is no relationship between the word class of the constituent morphemes and the whole word.

**Table (11) Partial relationship between the word class of the constituent morphemes and the whole word**

Structure	Chinese	Myanmar
Simple word	陆 + 续 → 陆续/lùxù/ n v adv land continue successively	ဒေါင် + ချာ + စိုင်း → ဒေါင်ချာစိုင်း/dàoN te <sup>h</sup> à sáN/ n v v v height spin drive at speed be all in a whirl
Parallel binding word	长 + 短 → 长短 /chángduǎn/ adj adj n long short length	ချို + ချဉ် → ချိုချဉ် / te <sup>h</sup> ò te <sup>h</sup> iN/ adj adj n sweet sour candy

Subject-Predicate structure	性 + 急 → 性急/xìngjí/ n adj adj nature anxious impatience	စိတ် + ဖူ → စိတ်ဖူ /sei? pù/ n adj v mind hot worry
	口 + 红 → 口红/kǒuhóng/ n adj n mouth red lipstick	
Premodifier-Head structure	微 + 笑 → 微笑/wēixiào/ adj v v,n tiny smile grin	မဲ့ + ပြုံး → မဲ့ပြုံး /mɛ bjóuN/ v v n smile wry smile grimace
	难 + 看 → 难看/nánkàn/ adj v adj difficult look ugly	
Structure	Chinese	Myanmar
Verb-Object structure	放/ + 心 → 放心/fàngxīn/ v n v put heart,mind rest assured	စိတ် + ချ → စိတ်ချ /sei? tɕʰa/ n v v mind put down rest assured
	化 + 身 → 化身/huàshēn/ v n n turn body exemplification	ဘုရား + ဖူး → ဘုရားဖူး / p <sup>h</sup> əjá p <sup>h</sup> ú/ n v v,n pagoda pay obeisance worship, pilgrim
	开 + 心 → 开心/kāixīn/ v n adj open heart, mind happy	

**III. Semantic relationship between the constituent morphemes and the whole word**

**3.1. Direct relationship between the meaning of the the constituent morphemes and the whole word**

There is direct relationship between the meaning of the the constituent morphemes and the whole word in some structures of the compound words such as Lexical Duplicated word, Parallel Bidding Structure, Premodifier-Head Structure, Subject-Predicate Structure, Verb-Object structure and Predicate- Adverbial Complement Structure .

**Table (12) Direct relationship between the meaning of the the constituent morphemes and the whole word**

Structure	Chinese	Myanmar
Derivative word	第 + 五 → 第五/dìwǔ/ -th five fifth	အ + မှန် → အမှန် /əpàN/ prefix correct truth
	硬 + 性 → 硬性/yìngxìng/ rigid -ity rigidity	ကစား + စရာ → ကစားစရာ/gəzázjə/ play suffix toy
Lexical reduplication	天 + 天 → 天天/tiāntiān/ day day daily	တိုးတိုး + တိတ်တိတ် → တိုးတိုးတိတ်တိတ် /tó tó tei? tei?/ quietly silently silently
Parallel Biding Structure	关 + 闭 → 关闭/guānbì/ close close close	ပူ + လောင် → ပူလောင် /pùl àuN/ hot burn hot

Premodifier-Head Structure	冰 + 凉 → 冰凉/bīngliáng/ Ice cold ice cold	ခါးစောင်း + တင် → ခါးစောင်းတင် /k <sup>h</sup> z áuNt iN/ (side of put ( have under one's the waist ) thumb)
Subject-Predicate Structure	目 + 睹 → 目睹 /mùdǔ/ eye see see with one's eyes	ကြောက်ခူး + တုန် → ကြောက်ခူးတုန် /təu? dú tòuN/ fearing knee tremble (tremble with fear)
Verb-Object structure	讨 + 价 → 讨价/tǎojià / ask for price bargain	နားရင်း+ အုပ် → နားရင်းအုပ်/nəjǐN ou?/ temoral beat box (sb's ears) region
Predicate-Adverbial Complement Structure	改善 + 善 → 改善/gǎishàn/ change good improve	ခံ + သာ → ခံသာ /k <sup>h</sup> àN θá/ suffer pleasant bearable

### 3.2. Partial relationship between the meaning of the the constituent morphemes and the whole word

In some word structures , the meaning of the whole word is partially related to the meaning of part of the constituent morphemes and vice versa, the meaning of part of the constituent morphemes are not related to that of the whole word.

**Table (13) Partial relationship between the meaning of the the constituent morphemes and the whole word**

Structure	Chinese	Myanmar
Parallel word	国 + 家 → 国家/guójiā/ country home country	တွက် + ချက် → တွက်ချက် /twe?tə <sup>h</sup> ε?/ calculate cook calculate
Derivative word	老鼠 + 鼠 → 老鼠/lǎoshǔ/ presuffix mouse mouse	သင်ကြား + ရေး → သင်ကြားရေး /θiNtəájé/ teach suffix teaching
Lexical reduplicated word		တ ---- တ + မေ့မြော → တမေ့တမြော /təm ɕtmjǒ/ prefix---infix unconscious for a long time (reduplication)
Noun-Classifier Structure	牛 + 只 → 牛只/niú zhī/ cow classifier cow	

### 3.3.Lack of semantic relationship between the meaning of the constituent morphemes and the that of the whole word

In Simple Word and some of the Compound Words, the meaning of the whole word is a new meaning without any relationship between the meanings of the constituent morphemes.

**Table (14) Lack of semantic relationship between the meaning of the constituent morphemes and the that of the whole word**

Structure	Chinese	Myanmar
Simple word	喇 + 叭 → 喇叭/lǎba/ phonetic horn sharp constituent noise	ရုတ် + ခြည်း → ရုတ်ခြည်း /jɔʊʔtɕʰí/ phonetic phonetic at once constituent constituent
Derivative word	老 + 板 → 老板/lǎobǎn/ prefix board boss	အ + ကင်း → အကင်း/əkiN/ prefix begin shrewdness; fruit in its to fruit earliest stages of development
Lexical Reduplicated	形色 → 形形色色/xíngxíng-sèsè/ shape all kinds and colour	က...က + လန် + ဆန် prefix....infix + phonetic constituent + opposed → ကလန်ကဆန် /gəláN gəsaN/ opposed in a rebellious manner
Parallel Bidning Word	矛 + 盾 → 矛盾/máodùn/ spear shield contradiction	ဆင်ခြေ + ဆင်လက် → ဆင်ခြေဆင်လက် /sɪNtɕè sɪNlɛʔ/ elephant foot (excuse) + elephant hand →excuse
Premodifier-Head Structure	小说 + 说 → 小说/xiǎoshuō/ small speak novel	ည + လူ → ညလူ /nə lù/ night man thief
Subject-Predicate Structure	心 + 酸 → 心酸/xīnsuān/ Mind,heart sour sad	အရေ + ထူ → အရေထူ /əjè tʰù / skin thick tolerable
Verb-Object structure	吃 + 醋 → 吃醋/chīcù/ eat vinegar jealousy	ဈေး + ကစား → ဈေးကစား /zégəzà/ market,price play make prices unstable
Predicate-Adverbial Complement Structure	看 + 上 → 看上/kàn shàng/ look upon like	စွပ် + ကျယ် → စွပ်ကျယ်/suʔtɕè/ put on widen vest

## **Discussion**

In overall view, the morphological structure of the words in Modern Chinese and Myanmar language are basically similar. The simple word formed by a single morpheme and the compound word formed by different combination of multiple morphemes are the common word structures in Chinese and Myanmar language. The consonant sound alliteration, vowel sound alliteration, syllable alliteration also called phonetic reduplication are the characteristic structural features of the simple words in Chinese and Myanmar. The derivative words, the lexical reduplicated words and the syntactic compound words are the common patterns of compound words in Chinese and Myanmar language.

Among the similar structures, there are still differences in the sequential order or nature of the constituent morphemes. This phenomenon is reflected in the structures of the words formed by the same word formation process such as the reduplication, the modifier and head combination, the verb and object combination, etc. ABAB, ABB, ABCC, ABAC patterns of reduplication are seen in Myanmar language adverbial words, while the similar patterns in Chinese language are the idiomatic set phrases. As Chinese language belongs to SVO language, the object follows the verb and in the Verb-Object combination structure the root word that serves as the object is placed behind the verb. The premodification is the common phenomenon in Chinese and Myanmar forming Premodifier-Head structures. The postmodification phenomenon is also seen in Myanmar. The simple word formed by the characters that have the same consonant and vowel sounds with different tones, the Noun-Classifier structure compound words are only existed in Chinese.

Regarding the word class, as Chinese and Myanmar language are isolating languages, there are multifunctional words in Chinese and Myanmar language. Apart from some limited structures of the derivative words, the reduplicated words and the compound word, the word classes of the morphemes do not determine the word class of the whole word.

Concerning the semantic relationship, there is a certain extent of relationship between the meanings of the morphemes and the whole word except the simple word and the compound word with altered or idiomatic meanings. The meaning of such words could not be worked out from the constituent morphemes, there will be difficulties in guessing their meanings and they can even lead to misunderstanding of the meaning of the word and the related texts.

This sort of semantically unrelated words should be the teaching focus in teaching Chinese words and in addition to teaching word structures, it is also necessary to point out the semantic relationship, the metaphorical usage the constituent morphemes and its sociocultural background.

## **Conclusion**

Through this study, we could see that there is a certain extent of genealogical and typological influences upon the word structure. As Chinese and Myanmar language are related members of the same language family the morphological structures of the words are generally similar and different typological structure also causes some different features in the similar structures.

As for learners of the Chinese words, although there is little difficulty in understanding the morphological structure which is static in nature, lack of syntactic and semantic relationship between the word and its constituent morphemes is the frustrating challenge for them.

In teaching Chinese words, although introducing the morphological structure of the word conduces to understand the words which have direct or partial syntactic and semantic relationship between the constituent morphemes to a certain extent, teaching morphological structure alone is not enough for proper understanding of all types of words. It should be aware that the knowledge related to the typological features of languages, syntactic orders, metaphorical usage, cognitive and sociocultural factors on semantic change are also important to introduce to the learners for effective teaching of the words.

This study only describes the morphological similarities and differences of Chinese and Myanmar words. The comparative study of other related components such as prosodic features, morphology and semantic relationship, morphological structures of set phrase, different patterns of reduplication, different types of affixes, and error analysis are still needed to be probed in depth in further studies.

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