

English Noun Phrases of Narrative Text and News Article: A Contrastive Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Noun phrases, in either language in general or English in particular, are one of the pivotal topics in formal linguistics. This paper aimed to contrast the similarities and differences of the patterns of ideational structure and syntactic functions of noun phrases in two different text genres. It employed systemic functional linguistic approach using both Ideational structure analysis and syntactic analysis of noun phrases in narrative texts and news articles. The findings of this study show that noun phrases in narrative texts tend to be shorter and simpler, especially as they occupy the subject and object functions. The forms of pre-modifiers used also tend to be simpler (ranging from the use of one or two pre-modifiers only). The same case occurs in post-modifier forms as well. In contrast, news articles tend to use complex phrase structures (two or even three pre-modifiers at once) which are coupled with other complex information in the post-modifiers. Appositives appear several times as post-modifiers to complete the information in the noun phrases. In conclusion, these differences prove that the determinism of writing style in each genre has a significant share in determining the pattern complexity of the noun phrase structures therein.

Key words: contrastive analysis, narrative text, news article, noun phrase

INTRODUCTION

Noun phrases, whether in language in general or English in particular, are one of the pivotal topics in formal linguistics. Discussions related to their definitions, internal structural patterns, syntactic functions, and semantic roles have been discussed through various types of approaches—e.g. the generative-transformative grammar approach which emphasizes form (Chomsky 1957; Thomas 2005) and function (Millaku, Millaku, and Kafexholli 2022; Thomas 2005), or the case grammar approach which emphasizes form and its semantic role (Fillmore 1968), and the systemic functional linguistics approach which focuses on the ideational meta-function, specifically on experiential and logical structures (Halliday and Matthiessen 2014). However, what is still inadequately studied so far is the contrastive analysis of noun phrases in various text genres, whether it is related to internal structural patterns (Mufwene 2021), syntactic functions (Akinlotan and Housen 2017; Schilk and Schaub 2016), or semantic roles. In this regard, the researcher assumes that noun phrases in one text genre will be different from those in another text genre—taking into account that each genre has unique and different situational characteristics and purposes (Biber and Conrad 2019; Fang and Cao 2015). This difference can be seen from the three elements mentioned earlier.

Generally, English noun phrases have a structural pattern that is formed from one noun head (H) with or no qualifier(s) called modifier (M). The head of the noun phrase lies in the core noun while the qualifier is only optional, which can be present or not. In order to make it easier to understand this common structural pattern, here are some examples of English noun phrases:

- (1) big *house* (modifier + head)
- (2) *house* in the town (head + modifier)
- (3) big *house* in the town (modifier + head + modifier)

The formation patterns in the three examples above share one core noun (head), that is *house*. Although all the three phrases have the same core noun, it can be seen that in phrase (1), the core noun *house* is delimited by a pre-modifier in the form of an adjective *big*; meanwhile, in phrase (2), the core noun is delimited by a post-determiner in the form of the prepositional phrase *in the town*, which interestingly comprises the noun phrase *the town* (det + head) functioning as a prepositional object or prepositional complement (Adebileje 2016). Finally, in phrase (3), the core noun is delimited by a combination of a pre-modifier in the form of an adjective *big* and a post-determiner in the form of the prepositional phrase *in the town*. Although the formation pattern of noun phrases, generally, often resolves around the nucleus and the delimiter, its embodiment in each genre of writing can vary greatly (Ruan 2018; Noguera-Díaz and Pérez-Paredes 2019).

Even within the same text genre, *viz* narrative, the structural pattern of noun phrases can be different (Adebileje 2016). In her study, Adebileje (2016) found that juvenile genre short stories tend to use simpler noun phrase structures than those of adult genre. This is possible for the tendency of juvenile genre short stories seems more towards simple and moderate sentence structures while those of adult genre tend to have relatively complex logical patterns along with the use of complex sentence structures as well. Another study (Latorre and Pons 1989) showed the difference in the pattern of pre- and post-modifiers in two different text genres, i.e. technical and journalist texts. In their research, they showed that in technical texts, pre-qualifiers tend to be dominated by nouns, adjective, and infinitive verbs (*-ing*, *-ed*, and *imperative*) and post-qualifiers are dominated by prepositional phrases, verb phrases and relative clauses; meanwhile, in journalist texts, pre-qualifiers tend to be dominated by lexical adjectives, nouns (in both *adject* and *genitive* forms), and infinitive verbs (*-ing* and *-ed*) and post-qualifiers are dominated by relative clauses, prepositional phrases, adverbial phrases, infinitive verbs (*-ed*, *to + infinitive*, and *-ing*), nouns, adjectives, and adverbs.

One of the two studies presented above, it can be seen that noun phrases have the potential to vary in structural patterns depending on the text genre. So far, the researcher sees that there are still limited studies on the contrastive review of English noun phrases in two different text genres, namely narrative texts and news articles. Ergo, this paper is expected to contribute to and complement the study of noun phrases in these two text genres. The contrastive analysis of noun phrases merely focuses on two domains, i.e. (1) the structural pattern of the phrase by means of Halliday's ideational metafunction comprising two sub-categories, namely experiential structure and logical structure and (2) the syntactic function of each constituent in its clause structure.

NOUN PHRASE

In general, noun phrase has a common structural pattern composed of one noun as the core 'head' (in simple noun phrase) and several modifiers—both *pre-modification* and *post-modification* (Quirk et al. 1985; Biber et al. 2021; Halliday and Matthiessen 2014). In this paper, the term nominal group proposed by Halliday is not used; instead, the term noun phrase is used (despite the fundamental difference he pointed out in his book). The researcher follows the advice of Morley (2004) not to use (and replace) the term nominal group. The term modifier, moreover, has several nomenclatures, e.g. *dependent* (Huddleston et al. 2012) or *modifier* (Biber et al. 2021; Halliday and Matthiessen 2014).

However, the different names in this context do not have a significant effect on the essence of the modifier (i.e. the modifiers remain an element providing additional information to the core noun 'head').

Noun Phrase Structures

This paper uses systematic functional linguistics as an approach to examine the noun phrase structures in both text genres, especially as regards their ideational meta-function. In his book, Halliday (Halliday and Matthiessen 2014) divides the structure of noun phrases into two categories, i.e. experiential structure and logical structure. The experiential structure includes two main elements, namely (1) the element of the explanatory function of the material core *thing* and (2) the element of the category of the word class forming it. The first element is further divided into two, i.e. *pre-modifier*—consisting of *deictic*, *numerative*, *epithet*, and *classifier*—and *post-modifier* consisting of *qualifiers*.

Deictic is an explanatory element of *Thing* formed by the determination system. Hence, it includes: (1) *indefinite determiners* such as *a*, *an*, *each*, and so on; and (2) *definite determiners* including *demonstratives* such as *this*, *that*, *these*, and *those*, and *genitive-possessive* such as *my*, *your*, *our*, *their*, *his*, *her*, *Mary's*, and so on. Meanwhile, *numerative* is an explanatory element of *Thing* indicating the numerative aspect, which is divided into two, i.e. *quantifying numerative (quantitative)* such as *one*, *two*, *three*, etcetera and *ordering numerative (ordinative)* such as *first*, *second*, *third*, et cetera. *Epithet* is an attributive element or quality embedded in *Thing*, which is divided into two categories, namely *experiential epithet* such as *long*, *old*, *blue*, *fast*, etc. and *interpersonal/attitudinal epithet* such as *mighty*, *splendid*, *silly*, *fantastic*, etc. Finally, *classifier* is the clarifying aspect of the type of *thing*. The following example of analysis summarizes the two noun phrase structures elaborated above.

(4) Those two-splendid old electric trains with pantographs

PRE-MODIFIER					HEAD	POST-MODIFIER	
Those	two	splendid	old	electric	<i>trains</i>	with	pantographs
DEICTIC	NUMERATIVE	EPITHET		CLASSIFIER	THING	QUALIFIER	
		ATTITUDE	QUALITY				
DETERMINER	NUMERAL	ADJECTIVE	ADJECTIVE	ADJECTIVE	NOUN	PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE	
						PREPOSITION	NOUN
						HEAD	THING

Figure 1: Experiential and Logical Structures of Noun Phrase (4)
(Modified from Halliday and Matthiessen 2014)

Syntactic Functions of Noun Phrase

Noun phrase has several syntactic functions in the clause structure. According to Thomas (2005), there are four functions of noun phrase in the clause structure, namely subject, object of verb (direct object and indirect object), complement (complementary subject and complementary object), and pre-modifier.

1. Subject
He eats the apples.
The man walks into the room.
2. Object of verb
Direct object: He eats *the apples*.
Indirect object: She writes *her father* a letter.
3. Complement
Complementary subject: My father was *a teacher*.

Complementary object: Jim makes Mary *his wife*.

4. Pre-modifier

He was ordered to undergo *mental health* assessments.

Table 1: The Functions and Internal Structures of Noun Phrases

Syntactic Function	Example	Noun Phrase Structure
Subject	<i>The man</i> walks into the room	<i>The man</i> deictic+thing definite determiner+noun pre-modifier+head
Object of verb		
direct	he eats <i>the apples</i>	<i>the apples</i> deictic+thing definite determiner+noun pre-modifier+head
indirect	she writes <i>her father</i> a letter	<i>her father</i> deictic+thing possessive determiner+noun pre-modifier+head
Complement		
subject	my father was <i>a teacher</i>	<i>a teacher</i> deictic+thing indefinite determiner+noun pre-modifier+head
object	Jim makes Mary <i>his wife</i>	<i>his wife</i> deictic+thing possessive determiner+noun pre-modifier+head
prepositional	Andi sees the train with <i>pantographs</i>	with <i>pantographs</i> (prepositional phrase) qualifier preposition+noun post-modifier
Pre-modifier	He was ordered to undergo <i>mental health</i> assessments	<i>mental health</i> assessment classifier+thing noun phrase*+noun Pre-modifier+head
Appositive	New Zealand Prime Minister, <i>Jacinda Ardern</i> , called it one of the country's darkest days.	<i>Jacinda Ardern</i> qualifier proper name post-modifier
Adverbial	<i>Last week</i> , he bought a new car	<i>Last week</i> ordering numerative+thing adjective+noun pre-modifier+head

*The noun phrase *mental health* as pre-modifier of the head noun *assessment* still has the following experiential+logical structure:

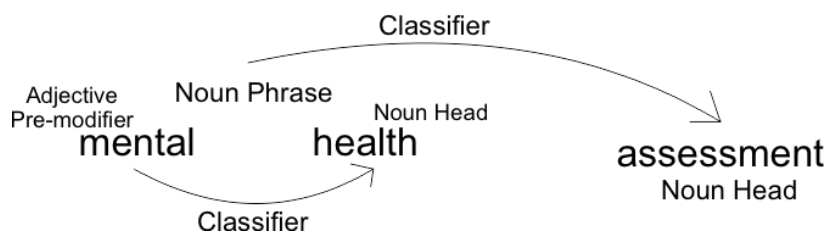


Figure 2: An Overview of Syntactic Function and Internal Structure of Noun Phrase

Meanwhile, according to Adebileje (2016), there are three other functions of noun phrase, including:

1. Prepositional complement
Andi sees the train *with pantographs*.
2. Appositive
New Zealand Prime Minister, *Jacinda Ardern*, called it one of the country's darkest days.
3. Adverbial
Last week, he bought a new car.

The functions and internal structures of noun phrases can be seen in Table 1.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study used a contrastive analysis focusing on the relationship between two main axes, i.e. the similarities and differences in ideational structures (experiential and logical ones) and the functions of noun phrases in two different text genres as the material objects. The first text is a narrative text taken from one of the short stories entitled *A Very Short Story* (Text 1) by Ernest Hemingway, while the second one is a news article taken from one of the BBC World headlines entitled *Christchurch Attack: Brenton Tarrant Pleads not Guilty to All Charge* (Text 2) published on June 14, 2019. The data used in this study were in the form of noun phrase-forming constituents, including words, phrases, or clauses (which are mostly relative clauses). The data in the form of noun phrases were further analyzed by means of two analytical methods, namely (1) Halliday's ideational metafunction (2014)—both its experiential structure and logical structure—to identify the identity of the internal structure of noun phrases, and (2) figure of constituent diagrams to map the role of each constituent in noun phrases. Finally, the data were presented based on its contrastive analysis, i.e. the similarities and differences of the two text genres.

NOUN PHRASES IN NARRATIVE TEXT AND NEWS ARTICLE

Prior to elaborating the similarities in the syntactic functions and structures of noun phrases in the two different text genres, it should necessarily be emphasized that the data presented in this section revolves around those that are considered to be able to represent the outline of the similarities and differences between the two text genres.

The Similarities in Syntactic Functions and Ideational Structures

In both text genres, i.e. narrative text and news article, the structures of noun phrases as sentence subjects tend to have two similarities: first, it is formed from a simple structure, e.g. *Proper Name* (*Luz* and *Brenton Tarrant*); second, it is formed from a complex structure (one pre-modifier + head) as follows:

**Noun
Phrase as
Subject**

- (5) The mayor did not marry her. (Text 1)
S [The *mayor*] P [did not marry] O [her]
- (6) The suspect was arrested on 15 March. (Text 2)
S [The *suspect*] P [was arrested] A [on 15 March]

From the two examples above, it can be seen that the internal structure of each noun phrase consists of one pre-modifier acting as a deictic in the form of a definite determiner *the* to provide a boundary to the noun heads *mayor* and *suspect* respectively. The definite determiner in the noun phrase, in this case, illustrates that the material condition of the noun is clear and detailed—referring to things that are already identified (Yoo and Shin 2020; Allen 2016). Therefore, it can be said that this definite determiner carries the deictic role of the materiality (thing) of the core noun.

Figure 3 shows the function as well as the internal elements of examples (5) and (6).

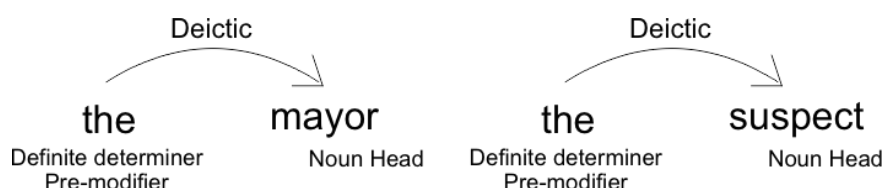


Figure 3: Complex Structure (One Pre-modifier + Head)

There is also a more complex structure with the following combination: pre-modifier + head + post-modifier):

- (7) The mayor of the battalion made love to Luz. (Text 1)
S [The *mayor of the battalion*] P [made love to] O [Luz]
- (8) The main suspect in the Christchurch attacks in March has pleaded not guilty to all charges. (Text 2)
S [The main *suspect in the Christchurch attacks in March*] P [has pleaded] SC [not guilty to all charges]

The examples above show that noun phrases can be constructed from a combined structure between pre-modifiers and post-modifiers. In example (7), the noun phrase *the mayor of the battalion* is formed from several constituents, namely definite determiner *the* as deictic + noun head *mayor* + prepositional phrase as qualifier (preposition *of* + noun phrase *the battalion*).

PRE-MODIFIER	HEAD	POST-MODIFIER	
the	mayor	of	the battalion
DEICTIC	THING	QUALIFIER	
DEFINITE DETERMINER	NOUN	PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE	
		PREPOSITION	NOUN PHRASE
		HEAD	THING

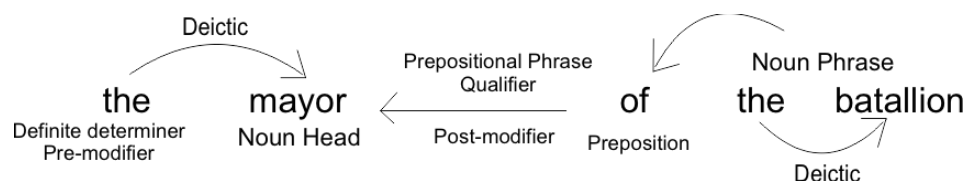


Figure 4: Experiential and Logical Structures of Noun Phrase (7)

Meanwhile, in example (8), the noun phrase structure begins with two pre-modifiers, namely definite determiner *the* as deictic + adjective *main* as an epithet of the noun Head *suspect* which is then attached with a post-modifier in the form of prepositional phrase I as a qualifier (preposition *in* + noun phrase *the Christchurch attack*) + prepositional phrase II (preposition *in* + noun *March*).

PRE-MODIFIER		HEAD	POST-MODIFIER			
the	main	<i>suspect</i>	in	the Christ ... attack	in	March
DEICTIC	EPITHET	THING	QUALIFIER			
DETERMINER	ADJECTIVE	NOUN	PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE			
			PREPOSITION	NOUN PHRASE	PREPOSITION	NOUN
			HEAD	THING	HEAD	THING

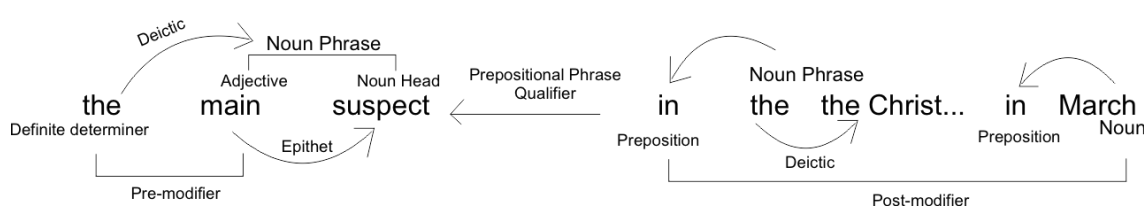


Figure 5: Experiential and Logical Structures of Noun Phrase (8)

Noun Phrase as Direct Object

Similar to noun phrase as subject, noun phrases as direct object in both genres of texts are also constructed from complex structures—both pre-modifier structures and a combination of pre-modifiers and post modifiers. It can be seen in these following three examples:

- (9) Neither of them had birth certificate. (Text 1)
S [Neither of them] P [had] O [birth *certificate*]
- (10) They had a joke about friend. (Text 2)
S [They] P [had] O [a *joke* about friend]
- (11) He was ordered to undergo mental health assessments. (Text 3)
S [He] P [was ordered to undergo] O [mental health *assessments*]

PRE-MODIFIER	HEAD
birth	certificate
CLASSIFIER	THING
NOUN ADJUNCT	NOUN

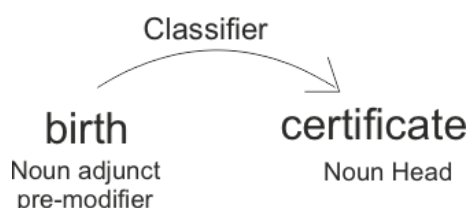


Figure 6: Experiential and Logical Structures of Noun Phrase (9)

In sentence (9), the noun phrase *birth certificate* function as a direct object of the verb *had*—with the internal construction of noun adjunct *birth* as classifier of the noun Head *certificate*; in other words, this phrase is constructed with a

single pre-modifier. The function of classifier in this phrase clarifies the type of *Thing* of the noun Head, which can be confirmed by using the question such as *What kind of certificate is being discussed?*. The answer lies in the classifier functioning to confirm the type of *certificate* being discussed, i.e. a *birth* certificate.

Meanwhile, in sentence (10), the noun phrase *a joke about friend* has a combined internal structure of pre-modifier and post-modifier. The pre-modifier in this construction is embodied in the form of an indefinite determiner *a* as a deictic of the noun Head *joke* which is subsequently followed by a post-modifier in the form of a prepositional phrase (preposition *about* + noun *friend*) as a qualifier. Since the deictic nature of the determiner does not refer specifically to anything, it can be said that this noun phrase still has a relatively general attributive nature—despite its nature being limited by the qualifier *about friend* at the end of the phrase.

PRE-MODIFIER	HEAD	POST-MODIFIER	
a	joke	about	friend
DEICTIC	THING	QUALIFIER	
INDEFINITE DETERMINER	NOUN	PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE	
		PREPOSITION	NOUN
		HEAD	THING

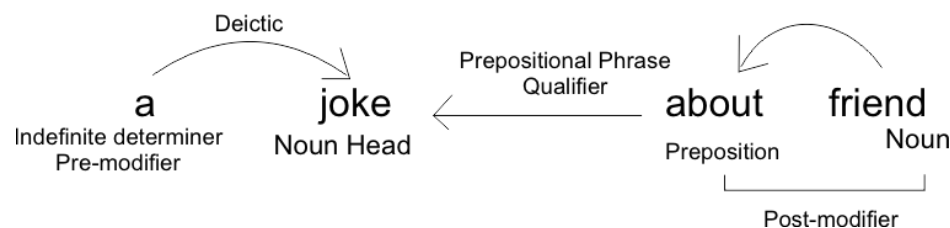


Figure 7: Experiential and Logical Structures of Noun Phrase (10)

Finally, in sentence (11), the construction of the phrase is built on two layers of noun phrases, viz. a pre-modifier in the form of a noun phrase (adjective *mental* + noun sub-Head *health*) as a classifier + noun head *assessment*).

Noun Phrase as Subject Complement

In both genres of texts, noun phrases functioning as subject complement in sentences are in the form of complex construction as follows:

- (12) There were other people praying. (Text 1)
S [There] P [were] SC [other *people* praying]
- (13) Here are some of their stories. (Text 2)
S [Here] P [are] SC [*some* of their stories]

The two phrases above function as subject complements due to the non-verbal nature of the clause. It is evident in the use of the copula *were* indicating past tense and the copula *are* indicating present tense. Because of its function as subject complement, these noun phrases are predicative since they are embedded after the predicate. This predicative property is different from attributive although both provide explanatory or complementary information on the subject (e.g. as in the example of the phrase *old dog*, where the adjective *old* is attributive; however, the adjective *old* in the sentence *the dog is old* is predicative). The noun phrase structure in this section is merely formed from a complex structure with a combination of pre-modifier and post-modifier.

PRE-MODIFIER	HEAD	POST-MODIFIER
other	people	praying
POST-DEICTIC	THING	QUALIFIER
ADJECTIVE	NOUN	V-ING INFINITIVE*

*There are two probabilities of this structure (see Figure 9).

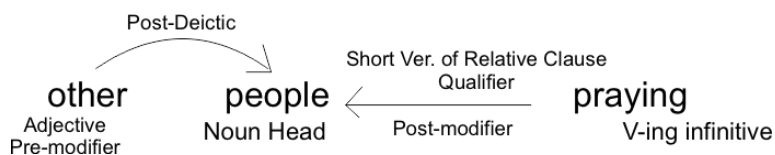


Figure 8: Experiential and Logical Structures of Noun Phrase (12)

In sentence (12), it can be seen that the core of the noun lies in the noun head *people* elaborated with a pre-modifier in the form of adjective *other* as a post-deictic (Halliday and Matthiessen 2014) which is an extension of the material identity of Thing *people*, and a post-modifier in the form of V-ing infinitive *praying* as a qualifier. The embedment of the post-deictic in the noun Head indicates that the identity of the person who is the subject of the talk is beyond the speaker and the interlocutor. Meanwhile, the qualifier attribute which follows the noun Head provides an explanation of the action of the person being talked about—bearing in mind that the verb used is a V-ing infinitive, the activity *praying* attributed to the person is characterized by [-static] [+dynamic] [-telic] and [-punctual]—for further reading on the aspectual classification, i.e., activity, accomplishment, achievement, and state (see Vendler 1967; Valin and LaPolla 1997; Olsen 1994, 2016; Dowty 1979).

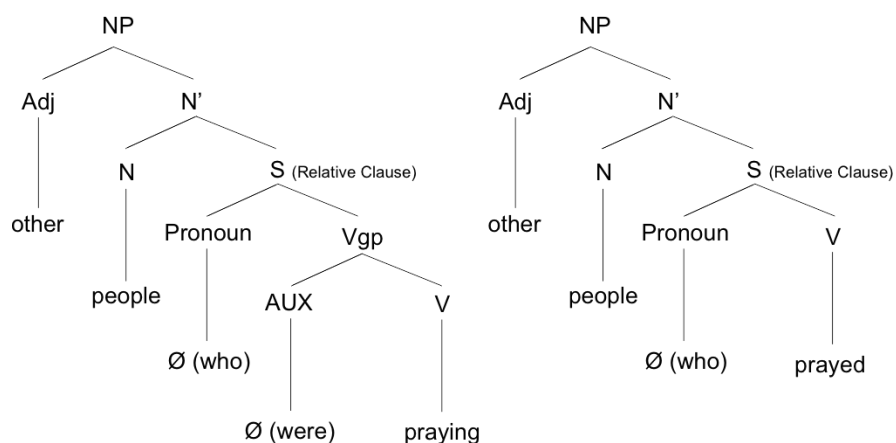


Figure 9: The Probability of Two Versions of the Structure. Left: Imperfective, Right: Perfective. (Regardless, both are active verbs).

Meanwhile, in sentence (13), the phrase structure is formed of pronoun head *some* followed by a post-modifier in the form of a prepositional phrase (preposition *of* + noun phrase [possessive determiner *their* + noun *stories*]) as a qualifier. The detailed analysis can be seen in Figure 10.

<i>HEAD</i>	POST-MODIFIER		
some	of	their	stories
THING	QUALIFIER		
PRONOUN	PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE		
	PREPOSITION	NOUN PHRASE	
		POSSESSIVE DETERMINER	SUB-HEAD

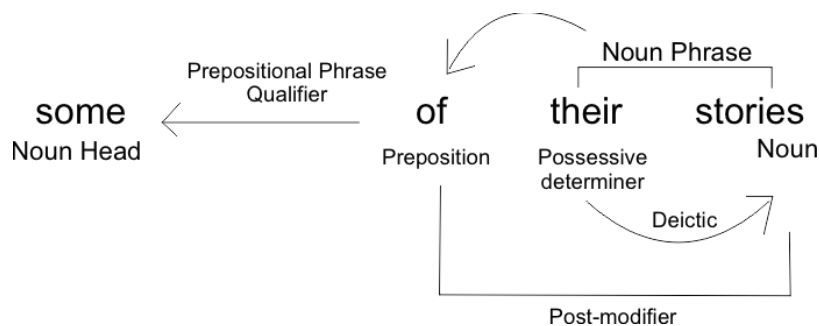


Figure 10: Experiential and Logical Structure of Noun Phrase (13)

Noun Phrase as Prepositional Complement

In this section, noun phrase functions as the prepositional complement of the noun Head. One example of this noun phrase structure has been explained in Figures 4, 7, and 10 (in the post-modifier chart)—bearing in mind that prepositional phrases in both text genres are inevitably followed by noun phrases. Nevertheless, in order to clarify the findings, here are two sentence examples:

- (14) The mayor of the battalion made love to Luz. (Text 1)
 S [The *mayor of the battalion*] P [made love to] O [Luz]
- (15) Relatives of the victims were in court for hearing. (Text 2)
 S [*Relatives of the victims*] P [were] SC [in court for the hearing]

As seen in the two examples above, the function of prepositional complement in the noun phrase structure always occupies the post-modifier position, which is placed syntagmatically after the prepositional Head. In this case, referring to both examples presented, it is the underlined noun phrase that function as the prepositional complement. Since its internal structure is relatively similar to that of a typical post-modifier, it will not be discussed further (see Figures 4, 7, and 10 in the previous section).

Noun Phrase as Adverbial

If generally the adverbial function is always identically associated with the adverbs, in this section, it will be shown that despite in terms categorical structure being classified into noun phrases, these following phrases—in terms of syntactic function in the sentence—have an adverbial function. Here are two examples of noun phrases categorized as adverbials:

- (16) One hot evening in Padua, they carried him. (Text 1)
 A [One hot *evening in Padua*], S [they] P [carried] O [him]
- (17) Last week, a restriction on publishing was lifted. (Text 2)
 A [Last *week*], S [a restriction on publishing...] P [was lifted]

In sentence (16), it can be seen that the noun phrase *one hot evening in Padua* has a time adverbial function. The construction of this phrase begins with a pre-modifier composed of numerative in the form of quantifying numerative *one* + epithet in the form of adjective *hot* in order to provide some additional information on the noun Head *evening* which is the core of its adverbial nature. Meanwhile, the function of the post-modifier in the form of a prepositional phrase

(preposition *in* + proper name *Padua*) is rather emphasized on its ability to provide boundaries and specifications for the Thing of the noun Head *evening*—in other words, this qualifier specifies the spatial location of the noun Head takes place, i.e. in Padua.

PRE-MODIFIER		HEAD	POST-MODIFIER	
one	hot	<i>evening</i>	in	Padua
NUMERATIVE	EPITHET	THING	QUALIFIER	
NUMERAL	ADJECTIVE	NOUN	PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE	
			PREPOSITION	PROPER NAME
			HEAD	THING

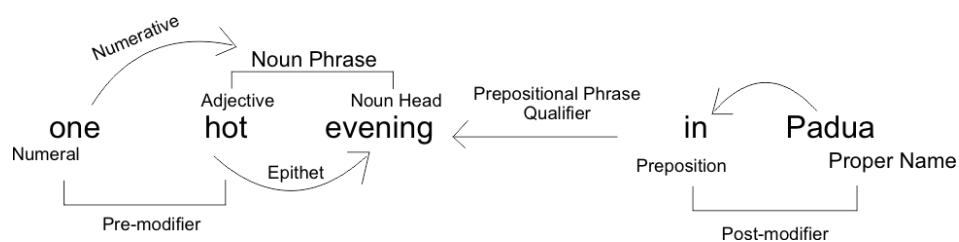


Figure 11: Experiential and Logical Structures of Noun Phrase (16)

On the other hand, in sentence (17), the construction of the phrase is relatively simple—a combination of one pre-modifier (adjective *last* as an epithet) and the noun head *week*.

The Differences in Syntactic Functions

Based on the function categories of each text genre, it is found that noun phrases in Text 1 (narrative text) have six syntactic functions, namely: (1) subject, (2) direct object, (3) indirect object, (4) subject complement, (5) prepositional complement, and (6) adverbial. There is only one function, i.e. indirect object, that cannot be found in Text 2 (news article). The function of indirect object is embodied in the form of pronoun *him*.

Meanwhile, the noun phrases in Text 2 have eight syntactic functions, namely: (1) subject, (2) direct object, (3) subject complement, (4) object complement (5) prepositional complement, (6) pre-modifier, (7) appositive, and (8) adverbial. There are three functions which are not found in Text 1, i.e. object complement, pre-modifier, and appositive. The functions of object complement and pre-modifier are manifested in the form of complex noun phrases, viz. *one of the country's darkest days* and *mental health assessment*. In addition, the appositive function is manifested in the form of proper names, viz. *Hywel Griffith* and *Jacinda Ardern*.

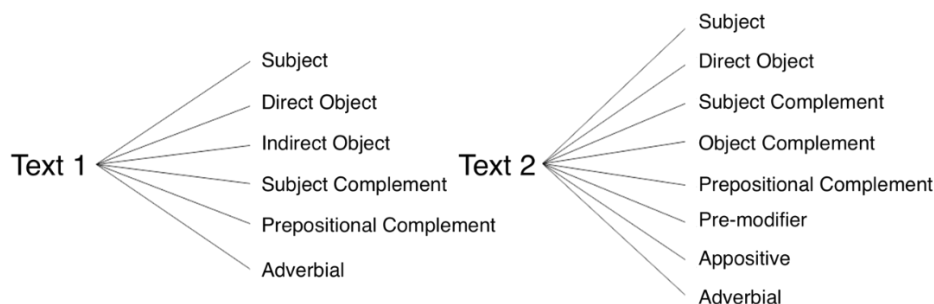


Figure 12: An Overview of Syntactic Functions in Text 1 and Text 2

The Differences in Ideational Structures

Based on the patterns of ideational structure (both experiential structure and logical structure) in each text genre, there are differences in the pre-modifier and post-modifier patterns in Text 1 and Text 2. The Figure 13 and 14 summarize the overall differences in the structural patterns.

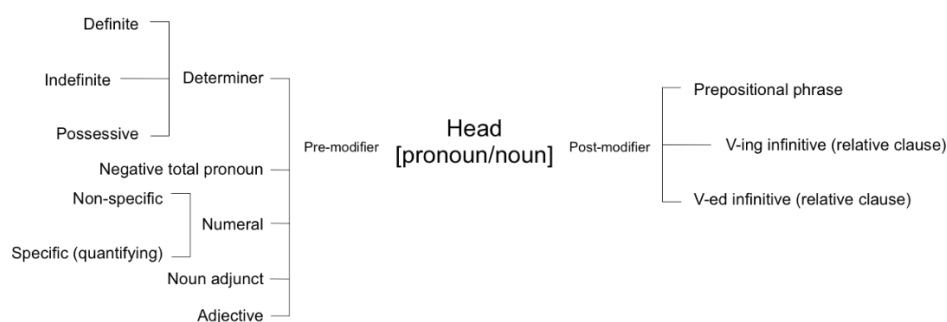


Figure 13: An Overview of the Structural Patterns in Text 1

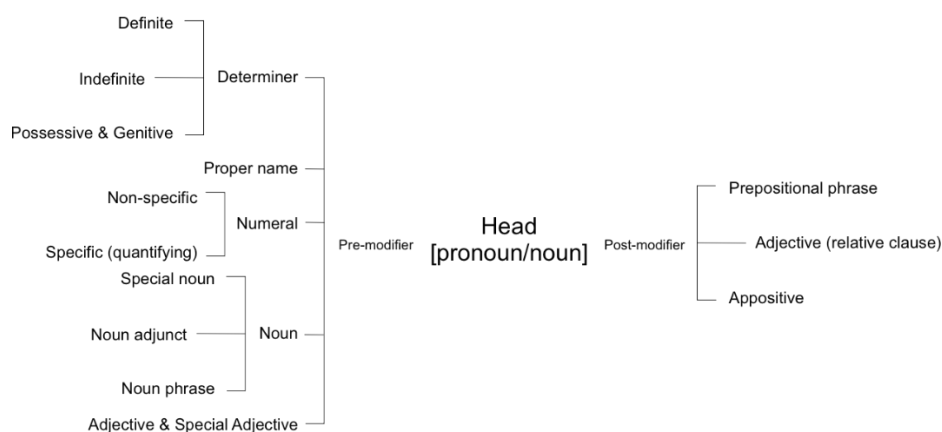


Figure 14: An Overview of the Structural Patterns in Text 2

CONCLUSION

Noun phrases, either in terms of ideational structure (experiential and logical structures) or in terms of syntactic function, have different manifestation potentials depending on the text genre used. The use of noun phrases in the narrative text is certainly different from the news article. Based on the findings of this study, it concluded that noun phrases in the narrative text tend to be short and simple, especially as they occupy the subject and object functions. I assume that this happens due to the narrative’s tendency to provide a relatively brief explanation on the story’s actors—this is evidenced by the frequent use of proper name referring to the actors.

Aside from that, the forms of pre-modifiers used also tend to be simple (roughly one or two pre-modifiers); this is also the case with post-modifiers. In contrast to the noun phrase structure in the narrative text, the news article tends to use complex phrase structures (two or even three pre-modifiers simultaneously) coupled with other complex information in the post-modifiers. The use of appositives also occurs several times as a post-modifier to complete the information in the noun phrase.

The researcher assumes that it happens because of the tendency of news article to anchor important information around the subject. It is also assumed that the determinism of journalistic writing style, which tends to be short, clear, concise yet rich in information, also has a significant contribution in determining the complexity of the structural patterns of noun phrase.

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