

The Noun Phrases



Linguistics

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Shkëlqim Millaku

University of Prizren “Ukshin Hoti”, Faculty of Education, Kosova.

Abstract

Customarily, linguistic description on the syntactic level is formulated in terms of constituent analysis. We now ask what form of grammar is presupposed by description of this sort. We find that the new form of grammatical is essentially more powerful than the finite state model rejected above, and that the associated concept of “linguistic level” is different in fundamental respects.

Introduction

“Noun phrases are any and all structures headed by a noun, or by a pronoun, or any other word or structure that stands in for a noun. Thus even an entire clause may function as a noun phrase”⁵¹. Some further evidence that categories are complex entities comes from the fact that phrase categories go together with, or are “projection” of, specific word level categories. This was first highlighted in Harris* (1951) and was taken up in Chomsky* (1970)⁵², Jackendoff (1977) or Muysken 1985 etc. As a simple example of the new form for grammar associated with constituent analysis, consider the following.

- (i) Sentence NP + VP
- (ii) NP – T+N
- (iii) VP- Verb + NP
- (iv) T – the
- (v) N – man, ball, etc.
- (vi) Verb – hit, took, etc⁵³.

A noun phrase is called a **noun phrase** because the word which is its head (i.e. main part) is typically a noun. This chapter gives an overview of the constituents and structure of noun phrases, and especially of those aspects that are often the source of problems⁵⁴ (for Albanian and English languages).

Noun phrase is “a word or group of words functioning in a sentence exactly like noun, with a noun or pronoun as head. A noun phrase can be noun or pronoun alone, but is frequently a noun or pronoun with pre- and/or post-modification⁵⁵”. In the following two or more sentences there are several noun phrases (printed in italics or underline).

In Albanian language:

Këta sportist shihen të lumtur.

Sportistet shihen të lumtur.

Veturat janë të shtrenjta.

⁵¹ Virginia Tuft. (1971). **Grammar as Style**, p.41.

* Shkëlqim Millaku. (2009). **Kontributi i Zëllik Harris për gjuhësinë**, IASH, Tetovë, 2009 or **Model për gjuhësinë gjenerative**, Zëri, 24 tetor 2009.

* Shkëlqim Millaku. **Parimet deskriptive të analizave gjuhësore**, Zëri, 7 nëntor (2009). Or **Gjurmët dhe rëndësia e gjuhësisë gjenerative**, Zëri, 26 shtator 2009.

⁵² Robert Borsley. (1999). **Syntactic theory**. London, p.54

⁵³ Noam Chomsky. (2002). **Syntactic Structure** (përkthyer në gjuhën shqipe, nga Shkëlqim Millaku, 2011), New York, p. 26.

⁵⁴ Graeme Kennedy. (2003). **Structure and meaning in English**, Great Britain, p. 138.

⁵⁵ Sylvia Chalker, Edmond Weiner. (1994). **The Oxford dictionary of English grammar**. New York, p.267

Ato janë të shtrenjta.

Veturat e reja janë të shtrenjta.

Disa nga veturat e reja janë të shtrenjta etc.

In English language:

Those sportsmen look happy.

The sportsmen look happy.

Cars are expensive.

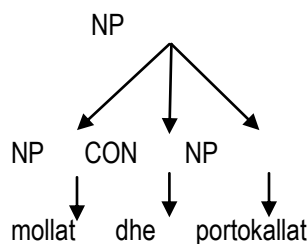
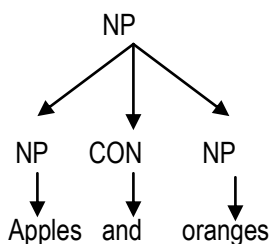
They are expensive.

New cars are expensive.

Some new cars are expensive.

The car in my uncle's garage is expensive.

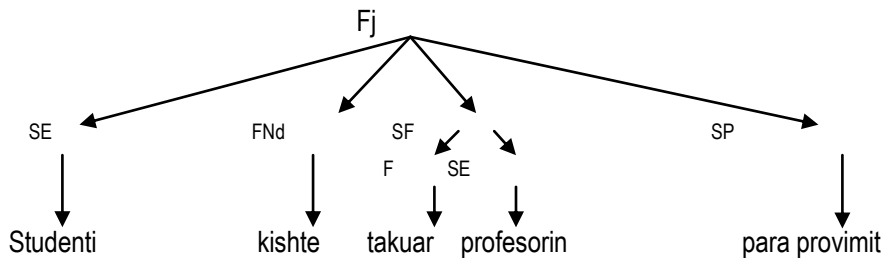
The car that they bought last month was expensive. Two noun phrases can be coordinated to form another noun phrase for example it is same in Albanian and English language:



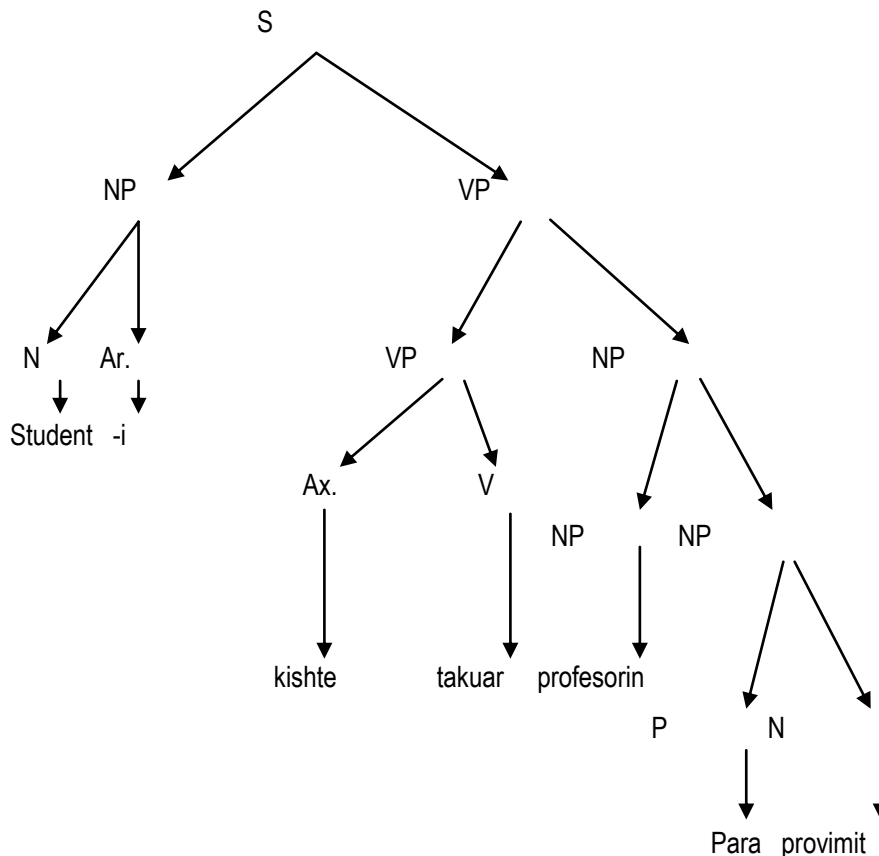
The noun phrase typically functions as subject, direct or indirect object, complement of sentences, and complement in prepositional phrases. We can consider some sentence in the following which are same and different between Albania and English:

- The boy is Arata Begut.
- Djali është i Arta Begut
- The handsome boy is Arta Begut
- Djali i pashëm është i Arta Begut
- The handsome boy in the class is Arta Begut
- Djali i pashëm në klasë është Arta Begut
- The handsome boy who became fast is Arta Begut
- Djali i pashëm që po vjen shpejt është i Arta Begut
- He is Arta Begut
- Ai është i Arta Begut

In Albanian language the sentence “**Studenti kishte takuar profesorin para provimit**”. The tree of diagram is studied by **Josif Mita** e.g.



This study is impossible to live of meaning because this is simple sentence and it needs to generation with the form NP +VP---NP or the correct tree for this sentence is this diagram:



The noun is the head of sentence, because it is subject, direct and indirect object.

Studenti kishte takuar **profesorin** para provimit.

S P IO DO

Beni sold a friend his car.

S P IO DO

I bought the kids a computer.

S P IO DO

I read the kids a story.

S P IO DO

The possessive adjective is another contrast between Albanian and English e.g.

Kjo është çanta **ime**.

This is **my** bag.

Kjo është klasa **e jonë**

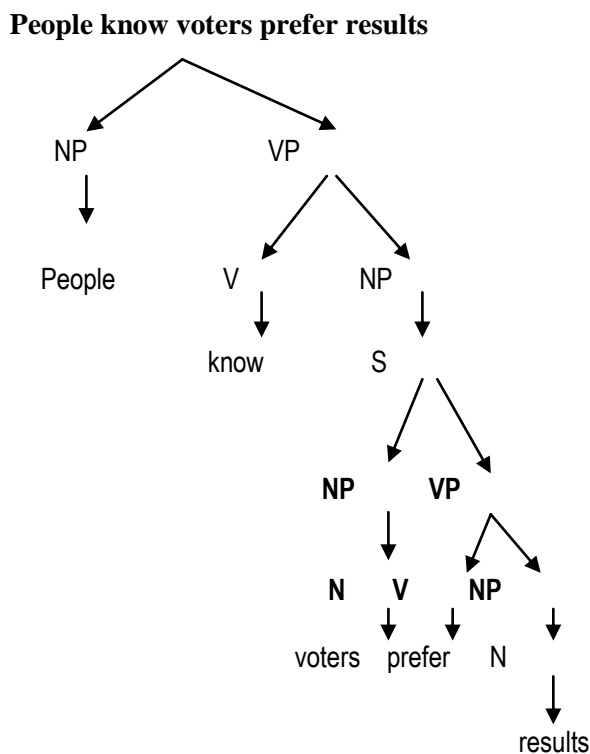
This is **our** classes.

By the example we can consider the contrast with noun phrases which is made by noun and possessive adjective. In Albanian language usually the possessive is before the noun and in English following the noun. The syntactic description can most simple fulfil this tacks if it is assumed that it is made up of rules.

Notice, for example, that in both places where the category **S** appears in the sentence (**People know voters prefer results**) that can has the categories **NP** and **VP** occur, in that order, as constituents of **S**. Similarly, each occurrence of the category **N** or **S**. This means that there are rules of English grammars to the following effect, which the sentence may be made up of the noun phrase followed by a verb phrase. It is same and with Albanian language. After, a verb phrase may be made up of a verb followed by a noun phrase, and that a noun phrase may be composed of a noun or of the sentence.

The sentence **“People know voters prefer results”** has this notation; the rules isolated in the preceding paragraph can be stated as follows:

- $S \rightarrow NP VP$
- $NP \rightarrow N$
- $NP \rightarrow S$
- $N \rightarrow \text{people, voters, results}$
- $V \rightarrow \text{know, prefer}$. The diagram of the notation of the sentence is:



The rules of Albanian and English grammar can be considered to description which assigns the structure or diagram. The noun phrase in English and Albanian is more productive if we study with the rule of generative and diagram, too (and we would like to following this way).

Nominal clauses

Nominal clauses function like noun phrases. This means that nominal clauses may be **subject, object, complement or prepositional complement etc.**

We can usually test **nominal clause** by seeing whether we can replace the clause with it or something, e.g.

He thinks you will be surprised. (He thinks something.)

That she got better was a miracle⁵⁶. (Finite nominal clause – subject)
 I heard that you were there. (Finite nominal clause – subject)
 I wanted you to know. (Non-finite nominal clause – object)
 He likes playing rugby. (Non-finite nominal clause – object)

The nominal clause sentence in Albanian language has different structure but has meaning e.g.

He thinks you will be surprised. (He thinks something.)

Ai mendoi të ju sjellë juve befasi. (Ai mendoi diçka.)

Among the various types of nominal expressions in English there are two of particular importance, each roughly of propositional form. Thus corresponding to the sentence (a) we have the gerundive nominal of (b) and the derived nominal's of (c):

- a. John is eager to please.
John has refused the offer.

John criticized the book.
- b. John's being eager to please.
John's refusing the offer.

John's criticizing the book.
- c. John's eagerness to please
John's refusal of the book.

John's criticism of the book. Many differences have been noted between these two types of nominalization. The most striking differences have to do with the productivity of the process in question, the generality of the relation between the nominal and the associated proposition, and the internal structure of the nominal phrase⁵⁷.

Nominal clause (function as a noun phrase)

Nominal clauses, functioning like noun or noun phrases, are very frequent (in Albanian language and English language) and can occur wherever nouns can occur as **subjects, objects or complements**, etc. e.g.

- **Nominal clause as subject:**

A e kam kaluar testin apo jo nuk ka shumë rëndësi.

Nuk ka shumë rëndësi **a e kam kaluar testing, apo jo**.

Whether I pass the test or not does not matter very much.

It does not matter very much **whether I pass the test or not**.

- **Nominal clause as object:**

Unë nuk e di **se a duhet vërtetë neve makina**.

I don't know **whether we really need a new car**.

- **Nominal clause as complement:**

⁵⁶ Graeme Kennedy. (2003). **Structure and Meaning in English a Guide for Teacher**. Great Britain, p. 270.

⁵⁷ Noam Chomsky. (1972). **Studies on semantics in generative grammar**. Paris, p. 16.

Për çka po brengosen shokët në **qoftë se do të qëndrojnë këtu ose do shkojnë diku**

What our friends worry about is **whether to stay here or move elsewhere.**

• **Nominal clause as prepositional complement:**

This raises the question **as to whether we should abandon the plan.**

Nominal clause with /that/ e.g.

That she is still alive is a consolation.

“The nominative absolute is almost a clause. It consists of a noun phrase with a partial predicate:

He smoked briefly, his eyes following a pattern of concrete blocks in the school building⁵⁸”.

In Albanian and English language we have one contrast in these phenomena. The function of the noun phrase has different structure between two languages. The most central type of determiner is that to which traditionally the name is used with article (definite article in Albanian **-u, -a, -i** or in English **/the/** and indefinite article **/një/** in English **a, an**) e.g..

Mbretëresh(ë)-a. The Queen.

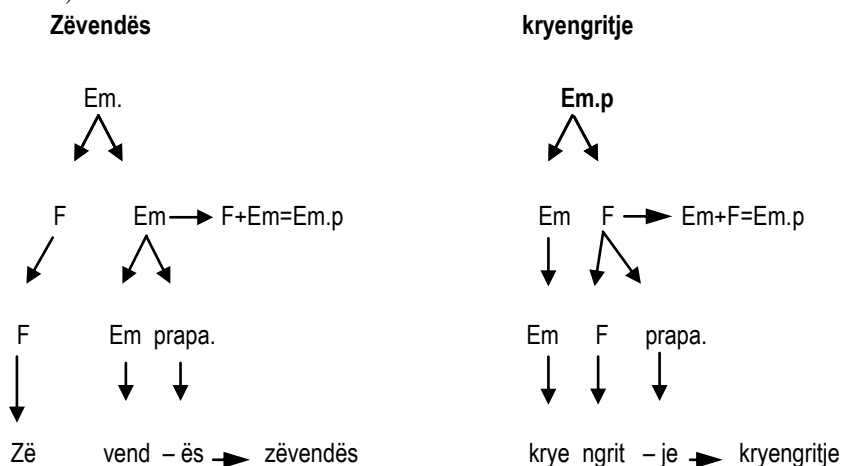
Poet-i. The poet.

Mik-u. The friend (s).

Një libër- a book.

Një kompjuter. A computer.

Noun phrases are any and all structures headed by a **noun**, or by a **pronoun**, or any other word or structure that stands in a **noun**. Thus even an entire clause may function as a **noun phrase**. Some further evidence that categories are complex entities comes from the fact that phrase categories go together with, or are “projection” of, specific word level categories. This was first highlighted in **Harris** (1951) and was taken up in **Chomsky** (1957-70), Fillmore (1968), Marchand (1969), Rohrer (1974), Jackendoff (1977), Muysken (1985), Leonad Newmark (1982), etc, **Rami Memushaj, Dalina Kallulli, Josif Mita** etc.



In the first tree we have one compound noun. It is build by the noun and affixes. The generative of compound noun of zëvendës, kryengritje etc., are generative by zë- verb (noun) + **-vend is noun+ suffix -ës,** that have done the new word with the new meaning. The compound in English language can consider are more imported for to compared with Albanian. The generative of compound nouns of **housekeeper** and **schoolbook** is e.g.

⁵⁸ Virginia Tufte. (1971). **Grammar as Style**, London, p.50.

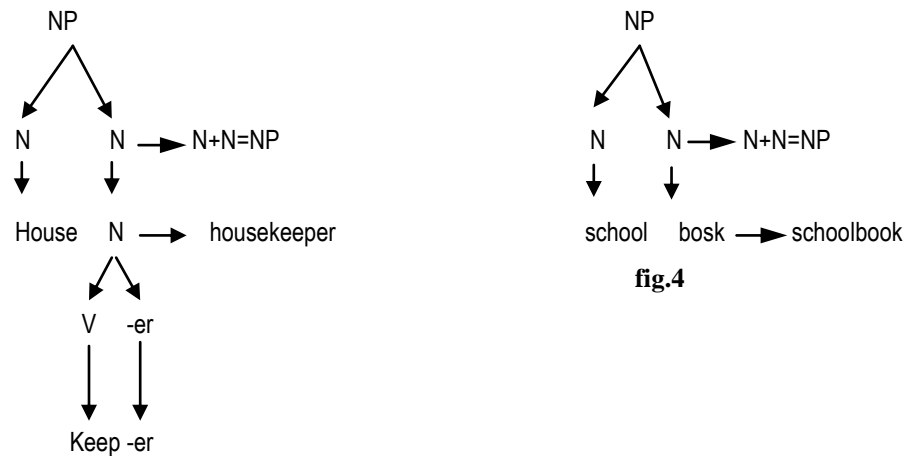


Fig. 3

In the diagram of number three we have one compound noun that has build with noun +noun (house + keeper), or from keeper we have verb keep and suffix *-er*.

The study has continue with one chapter for synonyms between Albanian and English e.g. *kokë* and *krye*. The word *kokë* and *krye* in Albanian language can make more than ten words with meaning e.g. *kokëderr*, *kokëkungull*, *kokëmollë*, *krye- kryepriift*, *kryenalt*, *kryeqendrën*, *kryeviti*, *kryeqytet*, *kryepeshkop*, *kryeqytetas*, *krye-administratat*, *kryeartikuj*, *kryeartikullit* etc. In English language we have same phenomena of language e.g. *home* and *house*: *homework*, *home-brew*, *home-coming*, *homeland*, *home-maker*, *homeopathy*, *homesickness* *home*, *homestead* or *house*, *house arrest*, *house owner*, *houseboat*, *housebreaker*, *housecoat*, *household*, *housekeeper*, *housemaid*, *houserom*, *housetop*, *housewife* etc. The noun phrases is typically with function as *subject*, *direct* or *indirect object*, *complement of sentences*, and *complement in prepositional phrases*.

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