

Manifestation of Simple Noun Phrases in Azeri Turkish Based on Role and Reference Grammar

Afshin Dehghani¹, Mohammadali Torabi^{2*}, Hanieh Davatgari Asl³

¹Department of Linguistics, Ahar Branch, Islamic Azad University, Ahar, Iran

^{2*}Department of Linguistics, Ahar Branch, Islamic Azad University, Ahar, Iran

³Department of English Language Teaching, Ahar Branch, Islamic Azad University, Ahar, Iran

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Abstract

In the present study, the construction of Azeri Turkish noun phrases is investigated in the framework of Role and Reference Grammar and Van Valin's (2005) theoretical pattern. In this descriptive-analytical research, the data have been selected from written sources and by listening to the Azeri speakers' conversations in eastern Azerbaijan province. Only sentences containing simple noun phrases have been chosen using a purposive sampling method. Data analyses indicated that the simple noun phrase in Azeri Turkish consists of one or several dependents. In Azeri Turkish, the dependents either fall before or after the noun phrase nucleus, and there are constraints for their collocating together. A simple noun phrase includes layers, namely nucleus, core and a noun phrase, preceding and following peripheries with operators, and preceding additions. Various adjectives, including descriptive, objective, object of preposition (genitive), honor titles, reduplicative adjective, possessive adjective, reflexive pronouns, noun as adjective, quantifiers and appositives are at the peripheries of the noun nucleus. Noun complement mark, prepositional phrases, comparative and superlative adjectives, ambiguous (indefinite) adjectives, negation mark, numeral adjective, plural marks and all the words referring to the quantity of a noun are noun core operators. Demonstrative adjectives, definite and indefinite articles are noun phrase operators. Data analyses have shown that there are some characteristics that are specific to this grammar and are not seen in other formal and traditional grammars, and the relationship of various elements according to different layers of the noun phrase and its relationship with the core, nucleus and noun phrase can be explained.

Keywords: Azeri Turkish language, Noun phrase, Core, Nucleus, Role and Reference Grammar

INTRODUCTION

Mankind uses language to communicate and express his/her thoughts and feelings. In today's world, globalization requires learning various languages along with the mother tongue (Nabifar & Shayegh, 2011). The language structure searchers have always tried to classify their analyses, and traces of these efforts can be found in recent centuries. The common grammatical rules have always been drawing the attention of the general public due to their

role in producing correct sentences, and the authors specifically favor them. Syntax and grammar are two scientific fields that ease the use of language, with each trying to discover the grammatical regulations. Words and rules of their formation are investigated in grammar. Syntax also approaches the sentences' formation from another viewpoint on a larger level (Bejankhan & Roshan Ghanbari, 2020).

Taylor (2002) points out that the noun groups of a language can feature various internal structure complexities. However, they are

*Corresponding Author's Email:
mohammadali.torabi987@gmail.com

functions of a simple principle based on which noun groups are comprised of a noun and several depending elements. However, these elements and dependent indicators can create various and diverse constructs.

Despite the abovementioned cases, there is no belief in the existence of an omnipresent and pervasive system of lexical topics for the languages regarding role and reference. However, it is believed that only nouns and verbs are universal. considers adverbs as added non-group parts. He realizes an adjective group as a noun operator. Van Valin Jr (2014) does not recognize all the syntactic topics of the human languages as being associated with a central nucleus or a projection of a lexical and functional nucleus. A noun group is constructed within two groups, namely simple and complex. The complex noun groups are consisted of added noun groups, noun groups containing conjunctive parts and complementary structures; the rest should be envisioned as simple noun groups.

Since Turkish is amongst the most frequently applied languages spoken by many individuals around the globe, numerous dialects and accents of this language are emerged, making it necessary to investigate and illuminate many aspects of this language's grammatical structure. In general and in practice, the investigations have mostly sufficed to the most well-known sub-branch of Turkish, i.e., Turkish spoken in Istanbul, while many of our countrymen and women speak Turkish in our country, Iran; Turkish is even in Iran divided into species amongst the most common of which Azeri Turkish can be pointed out; the role or functional groups of this Azeri Turkish, including the noun group that is most frequently repeated in a sentence, can take many forms like subject, object, indirect object and object of the preposition in a sentence (Sezer, 1991).

Efforts have been made in this research paper to consider the grammatical structures like role and reference for adopting a new approach to Azeri Turkish, thereby discovering the novel cognitive realms of this dialect. Traditional grammar is a system of rules known as syntax and sentence structure and governing the structure of words and sentences; however, in

the contemporary form of the grammar, the approach mostly considers parts of language pertinent to areas beyond the phonemic and semantic constructs of language and dealing with the quality of their formation. Role-oriented, sociological, philosophical, psychological and biological viewpoints are among the approaches that have caused metamorphoses in the structure of the languages during recent decades. Thus, a simple noun group in Azeri Turkish will be studied herein based on Van Valin's role and reference grammar so that its layer compositions and each layer's operators can be determined and various kinds of words added before and after the nucleus can be elucidated.

Turkish Language's Background

Wickman (1988) is an Estonian linguist who summarized the properties that distinguish the Ural-Altai languages from Indo-European languages in fourteen articles. The followings are some of the cases pointed out by him:

1. "No grammatical gender is observed in these languages.
2. There is no such a thing as definite articles.
3. Conjugation is carried out using suffixes.
4. Possessive suffixes are applied for conjugating nouns.
5. The prepositions and affixes come after a word in these languages.
6. Adjectives precede nouns.
7. No plural-maker is used after the numbers.
8. Superlative adjectives are constructed by objectives of prepositions (ablative complement) (Aram, 2009).

Turkish is one of the most distinct and most prominent languages of the world in terms of verbs' conjugation. The first distinct attribute that catches the eye in the building combination of Turkish words and lexicons is the appending (bonding) aspect of such languages. According to Aram (2009), in binding languages, there are binding parts in addition to the roots of words that may consist of one or several syllables, and Turkish is a language that readily omits pronouns.

.Kolahdouzipour (2020) investigated the construction of noun groups and their preceding dependents in Azeri Turkish based on X-bar

theory, and Lotfi, Gowhary, karimi- dustan, and Azizifar (2020) investigated the strata of noun groups in Makrani Kurdish based on role and reference grammar. Furthermore, Ghaffari (2017) studied conjugations in Azerbaijani Turkish within the framework of phonemics and lexicology.

In addition, Corbett (2000) believes that Turkish is amongst the languages showing distinctions between singular, common and plural nouns in such a way that the singular nouns of this language do not need to be adjusted to a number meaning that numbers cannot be represented for singular nouns in this language. Ketrez (2003) believes that Turkish is a class-based language and, considering the various kinds of plural nouns in Turkish, he claims that the class-representing group of nouns should be deemed as syntactic topics. Uygun (2007) points to several differences: predicative adjectives and several complex adjectives do not imply phenomena, and nouns do not refer to any feature. Adjectives always imply a certain property when used as predicates. Moreover, from the semantics point of view, nouns imply phenomena, not attributes. Although adjectives can receive conjugational affixes, they are not conjugated concerning their nouns. The adjectives' interpretations are limited to their becoming a lexical type based on their meanings. Finally, Görgülü (2018) studied Istanbul Turkish nouns based on semantics and signs of nominal number. As it is cleared from the reviewed literature, there have been no studies in which the construction of Azeri Turkish noun phrase in the framework of Role and Reference Grammar and Van Valin Jr (2005) theoretical pattern is investigated. Therefore, this study aims to focus how noun phrases in Turkish is constructed within the Role and Reference Grammar and Van Valin Jr (2005) theoretical framework. So, the following research questions are being investigated:

1. Is the noun phrase classifiable into simple and complex within the format intended by Van Valin?
2. What are the properties of preceding and following operators of the noun phrase in

Azeri Turkish based on role and reference grammar?

3. Can the properties of simple noun phrase be elaborated based on Van Valin's theoretical framework?

The present study has been conducted based on the role and reference grammar proposed by Van Valin Jr (2005). The syntactic construction only has one layer in the theory of role and reference grammar; therefore, it is not similar to the derivative constructions in transformational grammar composed of two syntactic levels. On the other hand, the syntactic constructions in this grammar, as in Chomsky's grammar, are not abstract and complex (Rezai, 2003). Van Valin, van Valin Jr, and LaPolla (1997) believe there is no sure empirical axiom for any of the world's languages, indicating that a language needs to assume a two-level syntax. Therefore, there is just a single syntactic representation level considered in such grammar, and it is directly associated with the semantic representation (Ibid, p.21).

"This grammar's theoreticians claim that the lowest number of possible representations have been considered for the investigation of the relationship between form and meaning, and this theory is minimalist in the real sense of the word" (Roberts, J. R., Barjasteh Delforooz, B., & Jahani, C., 2009, p.3).

To explain the "sentence construction" in this theory, it has to be stated that the construction of a sentence includes all the general rules applicable to all the various languages but with the exception that no rule or exception can be imposed on the languages that have been left so far unknown.

Argument and predicate are elements deployed in opposition to one another in this theory, and argument and non-argument, as well, are placed in opposition to each other. The predicate or the nucleus is the part mixed with other arguments and is indeed the sentence's core. However, the adverbs and the prepositions fall in the category of non-arguments, forming the periphery and the layered structure of a clause. It has to be noted that there is no such thing as a verbal group in this grammar.

In 1986, Van Valin and Foley published a book named “functional linguistics and universal grammar” to present a well-codified form of their seminal efforts. They completed their theory in the later years; in the article “the role, the structure and the meaning,” revisions were made for another time in the universal and non-universal aspects of the layered structure of language. It has to be pointed out that they embedded theories from other linguists in the role and reference grammar, including the theory of noun group’s structure from functional grammar proposed by Michaelis and Lambrecht (1996), the concept of constructional templates from the

constructional grammar, information construct from Lambrecht’s theory, Kuno’s pragmatic analysis, Bolinger and Bakerton’s pronominalization and Jekendov’s opinions about reflexive pronouns. Van Valin et al. (1997) suggested the relationship between the syntactic and semantic representations in this book and stated that they are neither transformational nor derivative. The thing that reminded as “case assignment,” “agreement,” “wh-movement,” and so forth in most of the grammatical theories falls under the title of “linking algorithm” in this grammar. The final map of this grammar takes the following shape:

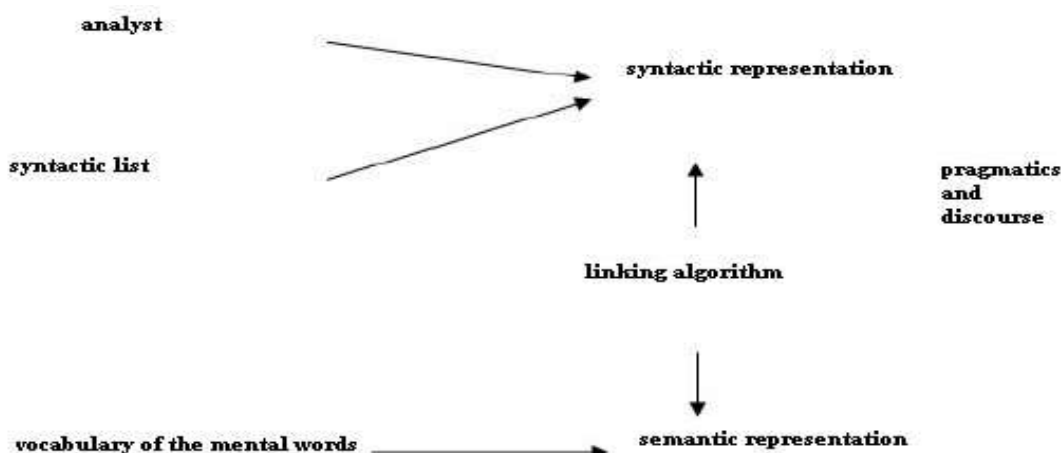


Figure 1

The general framework of the role and reference grammar (Rasoulpour Hasanlou'ei, 2009)

In this grammar, some elements are viewed as the primary components of a sentence and describe the clauses and pillars thereof. A list of these topics with a lot of importance in role and reference grammar has been briefly presented below:

Nucleus

It is the primary semantic component of a clause incorporating the argument and its subjects. An argument describes an action or a situation often by means of a verb. Sometimes, the argument is a noun, an adjective or a preposition (Pavey, 2010).

Core

It encompasses the nucleus and the subjects of an argument. In role and reference grammar, three arguments can at most fall in the core, and these usually are subject, direct object and indirect object.

Periphery:

It includes non-argument predicates that pertain to place and time; the peripheries embrace the core as a whole (Pavey, 2010).

Pre-Core:

“Amongst the approaches applied by languages for showcasing a limited core are the non-central positions, one of which is the pre-core position located inside the clause and outside the nucleus. In this position, interrogative words with subjectified, emphasizing and other elements that can be themselves limited core fall. The notable point is that every phrase can take one extra-central position” (Pavey, 2010, p.280).

Post-Core:

In some of the languages, emphasizing or tagging elements follow the core. In fact, a peripheral element cannot simultaneously take

two positions, so it falls either in the pre-core or post-core position.

Left- and Right-Detached Phrases (LDPs & RDPs)

Other elements can be applied before the interrogative parts in a sentence. In traditional grammar, these elements are used in adverb groups. In role and reference grammar, they are termed left- and right-detached phrases. In Persian, as well, right-detached phrases are very common.

Clause Construction in Role and Reference Grammar

According to Van Valin (1993), the clause is comprised of two constructs, namely relational and non-relational structures. Relational constructs describe the relationship between the predicate and its subjects. Non-relational constructs point to the hierarchical building of the constructs. These two types of constructs are universal because all of the hosting predicates and arguments, as well as the units' hierarchical constructs, are distinct inside the sentences. Since these two kinds of relationships are essential and universal, the recognition of them should be exactly explicated by every syntactic theory.

In this theory, a clause features a layered structure that is created based on oppositions in a language:

- a. The opposition between the argument and the predicate; and,
- b. The opposition between the argument and non-argument.

The layers of a clause include:

1. The innermost layer, namely nucleus;
2. Core layer which is composed of argument and predicate;
3. Clause is comprised of core+(nucleus + periphery) (Pavey, 2010, pp.93-94).

Construction of a Noun Phrase

Like clauses, the noun phrases feature an internal layered structure; hence there are operators describing their various parts. The things stated about the extent of the operators also hold true for the noun phrases. The operators inside a noun phrase should be presented in a specific order.

When constructing a layered noun phrase, there is a need for a nucleus, noun elements and a noun core which is per se composed of a nucleus and its dependent elements at every level, as well as possessing its own specific peripheral elements (Van Valin et al., 1997). Noun phrases with nuclei comprised of pronouns and/or proper nouns do not feature layered structure. These constructs are usually made of referring phrases like proper nouns and pronouns that take the position of the noun phrase.

Table 1
Noun phrase operators

Operators in the noun nucleus
Noun representations (countable, uncountable and noun quantifiers)
Operators in the noun core
Numbers
Quantity
Negation marks
Operators on the noun phrase level
Definite articles
Demonstrative adjectives

Table (1) presents the noun phrase operators. The method with which operators are positioned in a noun phrase is a function of the very constraints for the placement of the operators in a clause. In a noun phrase, as in a clause, the peripheral elements are responsible for describing all the three levels, and because the main duty of the noun phrase nucleus operators is giving a limited description, it is accordingly logical for the periphery of a noun phrase nucleus to also include limiting peripheral descriptors, including adjectives, noun descriptors and limiting conjunctive clauses. On the other hand, the non-limiting descriptors fall in the periphery of the noun group. The added prepositional groups and the adverbs expressing complex events appear in the periphery of a noun core (Lotfi et al., 2020).

METHOD

The present study is applied-basic research conducted based on a descriptive-analytical method. The study population included 500 sentences in Azeri Turkish. These sentences have been selected from written sources and

by listening to the the Azeri speakers` conversations in eastern Azerbaijan province. Using a purposive sampling method, only sentences containing simple noun phrases have been chosen and analyzed based on role and reference grammar.

Procedure

In this section, the study data will be analyzed. After being collected, the simple noun phrases were transcribed based on international phonetic association standards. In the construction of a core for a simple noun phrase, the noun phrase nucleus and peripheral elements take part, and they are usually made of various kinds of adjectives and nouns (Van Valin Jr, 2005). The peripheries of a nucleus are elements that can fall on both sides thereof. In this research paper, first, the pre-nucleus peripheries and then the post-nucleus peripheries will be investigated. Furthermore, various operators of core and noun phrases and the pre-added parts will also be explored.

Simple Noun phrase Construction:The core of a noun group can be constructed using a combination of the noun phrase nucleus and peripheral elements that usually include noun phrase, adjectives and nouns (Van Valin Jr, 2005).

Noun phrase Made of Proper Nouns or Pronouns:

A noun phrase can only incorporate a noun phrase nucleus, such as a proper noun or a pronoun; please note the followings:

1. æli Ali
2. mæn Me

Based on the theory proposed by Van Valin Jr (2005), proper nouns and pronouns lack the layered structure; so the following examples demonstrate the proper nouns and pronouns in a tree diagram:

NP æli

Diagram (1): tree diagram of a noun phrase made of a proper noun.

Construction of a Noun phrase by Common Nouns

In comparison to proper nouns and pronouns, common nouns feature a more complex inter-

nal structure meaning that they have various kinds of affixes. Makedonski believes that Turkish is an agglutinative language and a Turkish word, including a root and a number of affixes agglutinate to a root and change it semantically and grammatically (Makedonski, 2005, cited in Lucy, 1996, p.3).

3. qapı æli

NP
Core-N
Nucleus-N
Qapı
Core-N
NP

Figure 2

Tree diagram of a noun group made of a common noun

In Azeri Turkish, pre- and post-nucleus elements can fall on various layers of the noun phrase as presented below in order:

Pre-Nucleus Elements of a Noun Phrase: Nouns with Honor Titles

Honor titles are amongst the peripheral elements that can fall only before the noun phrase nucleus in languages like English, Persian and Kurdish, whereas they can fall both before and after the nucleus in Azeri Turkish. This section gives some of the honor titles that fall before a noun like: a master (ustad), gentleman (jinab), mister (aqayı) and lady (xanım); and, according to Kavusinejad (1997), they are used to specify and limit a noun and/or add respect thereto. So, honor titles are amongst the operators of a nucleus in a noun phrase. Please, note the following examples:

Haji (a man Mater Madam Mr. Khan
who has Abbasi Doctor Doctor boy
come back
from the hajj
pilgrimage)

hađı ustad xanım Ayaye xan
æbbası döhtür döhtür oylan

Adjectives

Adjectives are amongst the peripheral elements falling before the nucleus in Azeri Turkish, and they include numeral adjectives, quantitative adjectives, descriptive adjectives, comparative

adjectives, superlative adjectives, interrogative adjectives, reduplicative adjectives, ambiguous adjective quantifiers and attributive nouns that play as an adjective for another noun. So, adjectives are amongst the operators of the noun phrase nucleus.

Noun-Adjective Sequence

Adjectives are viewed as constructs in the periphery of a noun phrase nucleus, with their positions being limited based on the principle of depiction and modification, meaning that

the adjectives should be closer to the noun phrase nucleus in contrast to the operators and the dependents of the noun phrase level and noun phrase core. Based on the above explanations, adjectives are analyzed as the peripheries of a noun phrase nucleus with a descriptive function based on the new approach of role and reference grammar. In Azeri Turkish, adjectives precede the noun. Please, note the following descriptive adjective examples:

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 4 böyöh qız | Adult girl |
| 5. qısta midad | short pencil e |

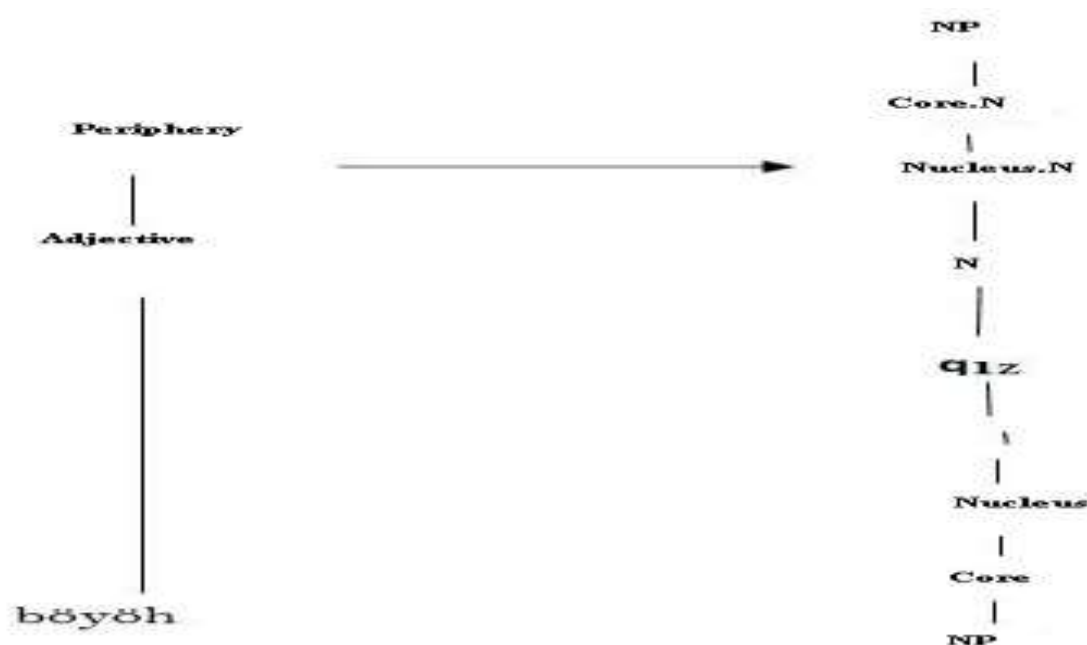


Figure 3

Tree diagram of the noun-adjective sequence

A. Reduplicative Adjectives in Azeri Turkish

In Azeri Turkish, a word or a free morpheme is sometimes repeated imperfectly or perfectly to corroborate the meaning. As in any other language, in this dialect, such combinations that represent perfect or imperfect reduplication are frequently applied. In Azeri Turkish, reduplicative adjectives are amongst the peripheries of the noun phrase nucleus. Please note the following example:

6. dadlı dadlı Sweet, sweet melon
qovunlar (sweet melon)

B. Noun as Adjective

Nouns can play the role of adjectives for a noun. The position of a noun playing the role of an adjective in the noun phrase is before the

nucleus meaning that the noun is enumerated amongst the peripheries of the noun phrase nucleus. Please note the following examples:

da st an	quş	værziş	farsı	næqaşı
kitabı	qanatı	libası	kitabı	midadı
Story	Bird	Sport	Persian	Painting
book	feather	clothes	book	pencil

A. First noun(in-in-un-ün)+second noun(-i / -ı / -u / -ü)= evin qapısı
(The door of the house)

B. First noun+(Ø)+second noun+(-i / -ı / -u / -ü)
If suffixes (in-in-un-ün) are eliminated, one of the following states are usually created:

1. Type is expressed such as the walnut tree (jævız ayağı)
2. Non-dependency is specified:

Sitting room (*oturma salonu*) and kid's shoes (*uşay başmayı*).

If the attributive noun phrase includes more than two nouns, suffixes (*nin-nın-nun-nün*) are used after the second noun and suffixes (*i- ı- u -ü -si-sı- su-sü*) are used after the third noun; if a fourth or a fifth noun is added, the same rule is repeated such as:

The cover of my bicycle's pedal tore apart.

My bicycle	Its pedal	Its cover	Tore apart
düçærxamın	pedalının	rukeşi	şırıldı

Prepositional combinations or attributive noun phrases in Azeri Turkish are like descriptive combinations but unlike prepositional combinations and attributive noun phrases in Persian and Arabic. It means that a noun is followed by a prepositional phrase in Persian, but a prepositional phrase/genitive precedes a noun in Azeri Turkish to make an attributive noun phrase. In propositional combinations of Azeri Turkish, both the attributive noun (if being specific) and the noun following the preposition (object of the preposition/genitive) can receive syntactic signs. The signs of the attributive noun and the object of preposition(genitive) are the very dependency (possessive) signs, and, in general, Prepositional combinations are made of noun dependents. Put differently, a noun dependency state is the very prepositional combination. In the discussions about the attributive noun phrases (made of a noun + preposition +another noun), attention should be paid to expressions wherein two elements join without accepting conjugative suffixes. The object of the preposition(genitive) is amongst the operators of the noun phrase nucleus.

Quantifiers

Quantifiers are amongst the operators of the noun phrase nucleus, meaning that they fall in the periphery of a noun phrase nucleus. Quantifiers can be classified into two categories: 1) numeral quantifiers like: "one, two" and "one or two person/persons" that are used for countable nouns, and 2) quantitative quantifiers like: "a sack of," "a bit of," "a set of" and

"a spoonful of" that are used for uncountable nouns. Please note the following example:

7. *iki dana portayal* two oranges

Ambiguous (Indefinite) Adjectives

Ambiguous adjectives are amongst the operators falling before a noun phrase core in Azeri Turkish. In other words, they fall in the periphery of a noun phrase core. Please note the following example:

8. *bütün kitab* The entire book

Numeral Adjectives

Numbers can come before a noun as an adjective and act like the operators of a noun phrase core; they are not envisioned as peripheries of a noun phrase core.

Position of Numbers in a Noun Phrase

Numbers can fall before a noun and act as an adjective in the form of both cardinal and ordinal numbers.

9. *iki kitab* Two books

10. *sækizminji mæqalæ* The eighth article

Preceding Negation Maker:

Preceding negation maker is amongst the operators of noun phrase core in Azeri Turkish. Please note the following example:

11. *heç dimi kitab* No religious book

Comparative Adjectives:

Amongst the other operators of a noun phrase core is the comparative adjective in Azeri Turkish. The comparative adjectives are designated in Azeri Turkish by "daha." It is worth mentioning that Azeri Turkish has borrowed the suffix /tær/ from the Persian language for making comparative adjectives. Please note the following examples:

12. *daha yavaş* Quieter

13. *ziræhtær* Smarter

Superlative Adjective:

The superlative adjective of Azeri Turkish is denoted by "æn" or "lap," which are considered pre-core operators. Azeri Turkish has borrowed the suffix /tærin/ from Persian for making superlative adjectives. Please note the following examples:

14. *ziræhtærin* The smartest
 15. *lapqista kitab* The shortest book

Demonstrative Adjectives:

Demonstrative adjectives are considered peripheral elements, and they fall before the noun phrase nucleus. Demonstrative adjectives play the role of definite articles role in Azeri Turkish to indicate that a thing is known. The most common and most well-known demonstrative adjectives in Azeri Turkish are “bu” (this) and “o” (that).

16. *o kitab* That book

Demonstrative adjectives are linearly correlated with the noun phrase nucleus, but, despite this linear association, demonstrative adjectives are amongst the operators of a noun phrase, and this affirms the principles pointed out in role and reference grammar. So, linear order is not a scale determining the syntactic and semantic constructs.

Indefinite Article Position:

The indefinite article comes before a noun; the indefinite article of Azeri Turkish is “bir” (one). The indefinite article is amongst the operators meaning that it falls in the periphery of a noun phrase.

17. *bir næfær* One person

Preceding Additions:

Exclamatory Dependents:

Exclamatory dependents are amongst the initial elements or preceding additions of a noun phrase, but they are not deemed as peripheries. Please note the following example:

18. *æjæb məşımıdı* What a car!

Interrogative Addition:

One of the elements added to the part before a noun phrase in Azeri Turkish is an interrogative element. Examples of interrogative elements are “kimin” (whose) and “kim” (who). Interrogative elements are amongst the initially added components, and they aren't envisioned as noun phrase peripheries and operators. Please note the following example:

19. *kimin kitabı* Whose book?

Post-Core Elements in Azeri

Turkish Honor Titles

The honor titles fall after the noun phrase nucleus when referring to kinship relationships, such as in the following example:

20. *Zæhra xala* Aunt Zahra

Honor titles are amongst the noun phrase post-nucleus elements and are closely syntactically and semantically associated with the noun phrase nucleus meaning that they are deemed as peripheries of the nucleus and operators of the noun phrase nucleus.

Possessive Sign

Another of the post-nucleus elements in Azeri Turkish is the possessive sign. Since the possessive sign falls in the periphery of a noun phrase nucleus, it is closely semantically, syntactically and demonstratively correlated with the noun phrase.

In Azeri Turkish, the possessive adjectives are identified with suffixes like “ım” and so on that fall after the main noun (nucleus), such as in the following examples:

- evim evımız kitabım balınjım*
 My house Our house My book My pillow

Position of Reflexive Pronouns

Reflexive pronouns generally appear in subjective, objective and possessive states. Please note the following examples:

- “*özüm*” (myself) “*özümüz*” (ourselves)

Reflexive pronouns are amongst the elements falling in the peripheries of a noun phrase nucleus, and they are closely syntactically and semantically interlaced with the nucleus; they are also demonstratively associated with the nucleus. So, their semantic and syntactic closeness to a noun phrase nucleus can be elaborated according to the operators of a noun phrase nucleus.

Appositive Construction

Appositives are amongst the other elements that can linearly fall after the nucleus in Azeri Turkish. Please note the following example:

21. *fatma, ræhmanın qızı* Fatemeh, Rahman's daughter

Appositives are amongst the operators of a noun phrase nucleus, so they are very closely linearly associated with the noun phrase nucleus, and this justifies that it can be deleted because the noun, the nucleus and the appositive all point to a single referent; hence they are strongly linearly and semantically correlated.

Plural Sign

Amongst the other elements that linearly fall after the nucleus in Azeri Turkish is the plural sign. In Azeri Turkish, suffixes “lar” and “lər” are plural makers, and they are considered operators of the noun phrase, so, in spite of a close linear relationship, there is no close

semantic and syntactic relationship between them and the nucleus.

Human (*adam*) → humans (*adam-lar*)

Prepositional Phrases:

Prepositional groups that point to place or time are considered operators of a noun core. Please note the following example:

22. <i>neçädænæ</i>	Several
<i>ahæng</i>	songs
<i>xanændælær</i>	the singers
<i>tæræfinæn</i>	From Several songs from the singers

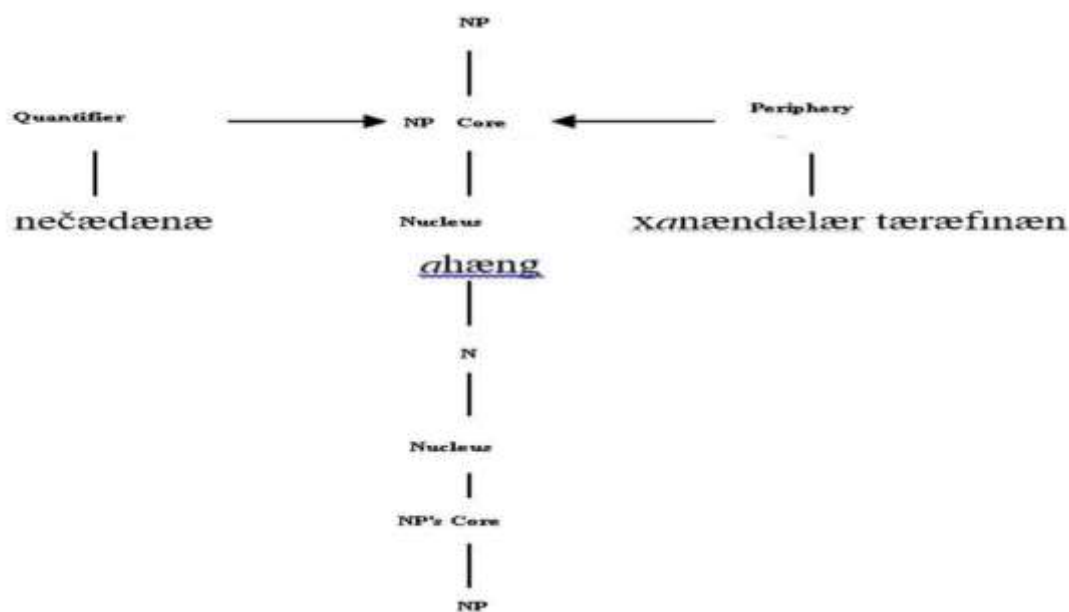


Figure 4

Tree diagram of prepositional groups

As it is seen in the tree diagram, the prepositional phrases are considered amongst the peripheries of a noun phrase core, and they are operators of a noun phrase core; hence they are not very closely syntactically, semantically and symbolically interlaced with the noun phrase nucleus and the construction of a layer of noun phrase serves the elaboration of the same relationship.

Complement Sign in Noun Phrases of Azeri Turkish:

In Azeri Turkish, the complement sign falls after the nucleus of a noun phrase: After football

futbal	dan	sora
Football	of	after
Noun	Periphery (com-	Periphery
phrase	plement preposi-	(adverb of
nucleus	tion)	time)

Complements are amongst the peripheries of a noun phrase core, and they are closely semantically and syntactically interrelated with the nucleus.

Position of Object Identifiers in the Noun Phrase

In Azeri Turkish, there are identifiers like /**ı** - **u-ü** / for designating the object which falls before the verb in this language.

mæn dünæn qonşu n -u gördüm
 I yesterday neighbor saw

Object identifiers are amongst the operators of the noun phrase.

Discussion and Conclusion

Corresponding to the theoretical framework of the role and reference grammar, noun phrases are simple and complex, and this is the answer to the first question that whether the Azeri Turkish language noun phrases can be categorized based on role and reference grammar or not? In this article, the simple noun phrase was examined. As indicated in data analyses, the simple noun phrase is composed of a nucleus, core and a noun phrase, peripheries, operators and preceding additions. Various kinds of adjectives, namely descriptive adjectives, reduplicative adjective, objective adjective, objects of the preposition (genitive), honor titles, quantifiers, noun as adjective and appositive, are considered as the peripheries of a noun phrase nucleus. Comparative adjective, superlative adjective, ambiguous (indefinite) adjective, complement sign, plural signs and negation mark are amongst the operators of the noun phrase core. Demonstrative adjective and definite and indefinite articles are amongst the operators of the noun phrase. A noun as an adjective is amongst the preceding peripheries of a noun phrase nucleus, and exclamatory and interrogative elements are amongst the initially added components but not peripheries or operators of a noun.

In response to the second question that “what are the elements that can fall before and after the nucleus?” the theoretical framework proposed by Van Valin Jr (2005) can easily classify these elements based on peripheries, operators and additions of the following three levels: nucleus, core and noun phrase.

Non-argument elements that are called peripheries in the noun phrase can be of various kinds serving different roles. The peripheries of a noun phrase nucleus and core are: noun phrases, adjectives, honor titles, quantifiers, complement sign, noun as adjective, genitives (the object of the preposition), prepositional phrases and appositives. This set of the noun phrase elements can either fall before or after

the nucleus depending on their relationship with the nucleus and core of a noun phrase. If they are located before a noun phrase nucleus and core, they are named pre-nucleus elements; otherwise, they are termed post-nucleus peripheries, as also discussed in the data analysis section. According to the theoretical framework of role and order grammar, a noun phrase can only include proper nouns or pro-nouns that, according to Van Valin Jr (2005), lack a layered structure.

As compared to the proper nouns and pro-nouns, the common nouns feature a more complicated internal structure meaning that they can take various kinds of affixes and occur in the peripheries in three levels of nucleus, core or noun phrase.

Descriptive adjective, objective adjective, a noun as adjective, genitive (the object of preposition) and reduplicative adjectives are amongst the pre-nucleus elements and fall in the peripheries of the noun phrase nucleus and are closely associated with the noun phrase nucleus. Due to the same reason, they are pre-nucleus elements and fall in the periphery thereof and are demonstratively associated with the noun and their semantic and syntactic closeness with the noun phrase nucleus can be very well justified with respect to their relationships with the noun phrase nucleus.

Comparative and superlative adjectives are among the operators of the noun phrase core because they refer to the quality, not the quantity of the noun. In other words, they increase the degree of the adjective or the quality thereof, and this is unlike the previous findings that realized comparative and superlative adjectives as peripheries of the nucleus. Considering the lingual acumen of the Turkish speakers and the author, size is increased, for this reason they should be enumerated amongst the peripheries of a noun phrase core; so, they are not very closely intertwined with the noun phrase nucleus, and this is amongst the distinct features of the theoretical framework proposed by Van Valin Jr (2005) and is in the match with the lingual intuition of the Turkish speakers.

Honor title is amongst the peripheries of a noun phrase nucleus, and they can come either

before or after the nucleus. Honor title is closely semantically, syntactically and demonstratively associated with the noun phrase nucleus, and the noun phrase layered construction based on role and reference grammar can justify this semantic and syntactic closeness; because honor titles are the peripheries of the noun phrase nucleus, and their close interrelationship with the nucleus can be elucidated.

One of the significant distinctions in the construction of noun phrase can be made between the structural constructs and projections in this manner that the noun phrase operators are responsible for expressing the position and place of the referent according to the reference point and/or the speaker's default for the determination of a referent for the listener. In fact, operators are grammatical categories determining the various layers of a noun phrase. The noun representation showcases that a noun is a reference to a person, a group of persons and/or a given type. The operators of a noun phrase core point to quantity, meaning that they are responsible for determining the amount or making a negation; they mark a noun, whereas the operators of a noun phrase level explore the noun phrase within a discourse of a sort. This set of operators marks the amount and quantity of a noun in two cases, to wit, defining a noun by means of a definite article and referring to a noun. They can also determine the amount and quantity of a noun, whereas the operators of a noun phrase nucleus layer define the quality of a noun referent.

In response to the third question, the following cases can be pointed out, but it has to be noted that this grammar cannot justify these limitations; hence there is a need to investigate them based on role and reference grammar: interrogative and exclamatory words are amongst the additions. The collocation of some elements in Azeri Turkish is accompanied by certain limitations, as explained beneath.

Cardinal numbers do not collocate with the ordinal numbers meaning that they cannot fall together to create a well-established construct. The demonstrative adjectives and cardinal and ordinal numbers cannot also come together, for the result would not be a good-looking

combination, but they can come alone or two by two. Please note the following examples:

23. *bu ikiminji kitab* This second book
 24. *bu iki kitab* These two books
 25. **o ikiminji dört kitab* *That second four books

Cardinal numbers cannot collocate with the superlative adjectives unless the unit of measurement, saying "one,two," is mentioned; please note the followings:

26. *bu bir dana lap qısta midad dı* This one the shortest is pencil
 This is the shortest pencil
 27. **bu iki lap qısta midad dı* This two the shortest are pencil
 *These are two the shortest pencils.

In Azeri Turkish, superlative and ambiguous indefinite adjectives cannot come together, for the combination would not look well:

28. **bu bir lap qalın hær kitab* This one the thickest every book
 *This the thickest book

In Azeri Turkish, demonstrative and indefinite adjectives cannot come together, as in the following example:

29. **bu neçæ kitab* This several book
 *This several book

Superlative adjectives, indefinite adjectives, cardinal numbers and demonstrative adjectives cannot come together in Azeri Turkish, for the result would be not looking and sounding good:

30. **bu bir lap uja hær qız* *This one the tallest every girl

Indefinite adjectives make bad- structures in combination with cardinal and ordinal numbers in Azeri Turkish:
**biriminji hær kitab*

*Every first book
 Book every first

Demonstrative and interrogative adjectives cannot create a good-looking construct when combined:

32. *o neçæ dört lap bahalı libas

*That several four the most expensive clothes

Of course, it is noteworthy that combining such an interrogative adjective as “hansı” with the cardinal and ordinal numbers cannot give a well-constructed clause:

33. *hansı beş lap bahalı maşın

Which five the most expensive cars?

34. *hansı ikiminji lap bahalı maşındı

*Which second the most expensive car?

Furthermore, in Azeri Turkish, the exclamatory adjectives cannot create much of a good-looking combination when combined with superlative adjectives:

35. *hansı əjəb lap uşa qızdı

*Which one wonderful the tallest is girl?

The collocation of honor titles and cardinal and ordinal numbers is impossible in Azeri Turkish, for the result would be mal-looking combinations:

36. *biriminji əvvəl döhtör rızaye

*The first first, Dr. Rezai

However, the cardinal or ordinal numbers can come with honor titles:

37. biriminji döhtör rızaye

The first Dr. Rezai

38. əvvəl döhtör rızaye

First Dr. Rezai

Elements that can come after the nucleus are a number of honor titles, possessive adjectives, prepositional phrases, appositives, complement signs, objective signs and definite articles and plural signs.

The honor titles that end in family titles are post-nucleus elements of a noun phrase and they are closely semantically, syntactically and semiotically interlaced with noun phrase nucleus, and their demonstrative association with the noun phrase nucleus can be readily justified considering their being positioned in the peripheries of the noun phrase nucleus.

Amongst the other post-nucleus elements in Azeri Turkish are the suffixes “tər” and “tərin” borrowed from Persian for making comparative and superlative adjectives and

they fall after the noun phrases core and, because of being amongst the operators of a noun phrase core, they are not closely linearly and syntactically interrelated with the non-phrase nucleus. Their farness from the nucleus and closeness to the core are justifiable.

In the Azeri Turkish language, complement suffixes are also used after the nucleus. The indirect object identifier is amongst the peripheries of a noun phrase core, and, despite its being closely linearly and syntactically related to the nucleus, it is not demonstratively correlated with the nucleus of a noun phrase.

Amongst the other post-nucleus elements are the definite articles that act as operators of the noun phrase; despite a close linear and syntactic relationship with the noun phrases nucleus, they are amongst the operators of the noun phrase and not demonstratively associated with the nucleus of the noun phrase. Thus, their close linear and syntactic relationship with the noun phrase nucleus in this framework is not in the form of those in the other grammars. So, there is no very close semantic and syntactic relationship between these two elements, i.e., the definite articles and the nucleus of a noun group.

In terms of the order of placement, appositives are amongst the post-nucleus elements and operators. For this reason, there is a very close relationship between the nucleus and the appositive because both of them refer to a single referent. Therefore, their close syntactic and semantic relationship with the nucleus can be justified by their position in the periphery of a noun phrase nucleus. Possessive adjectives fall after the noun phrase nucleus in Azeri Turkish in the form of suffixes. In Azeri Turkish, plural, complement and possessive signs can come together to create a good-looking and good-sounding combination, such as the following:

39. kitablarım dan Of my books

Definite articles cannot collocate with complements, but the possessive sign and plural sign can easily come together, such as the following:

40. *kitablarımı dan
Of definite article sign possessive sign plural
sign book
Of my books

Prepositional phrases and adverbs cannot collocate with the complement signs and definite articles for the result would be not a well-constructed combination such as the following:

41. *nahardan soradanı
Definite article sign complement sign in the
afternoon
*In the afternoon

The appositive noun phrase and the direct and indirect objects' signs can readily go

together to form a well-constructed combination such as the following:

42. Zəhra, kəndin mamasınə
Zahra village possessive sign midwife com-
plement sign to
Zahra, to the midwife of the village

43. Zəhra, kəndin mamasını
Zahra village possessive sign midwife posses-
sive sign object identifier
Zahra, the midwife of the village

Considering the data analyses and discussions, and conclusions, the following diagram is proposed for the noun phrase in the Azeri Turkish language:

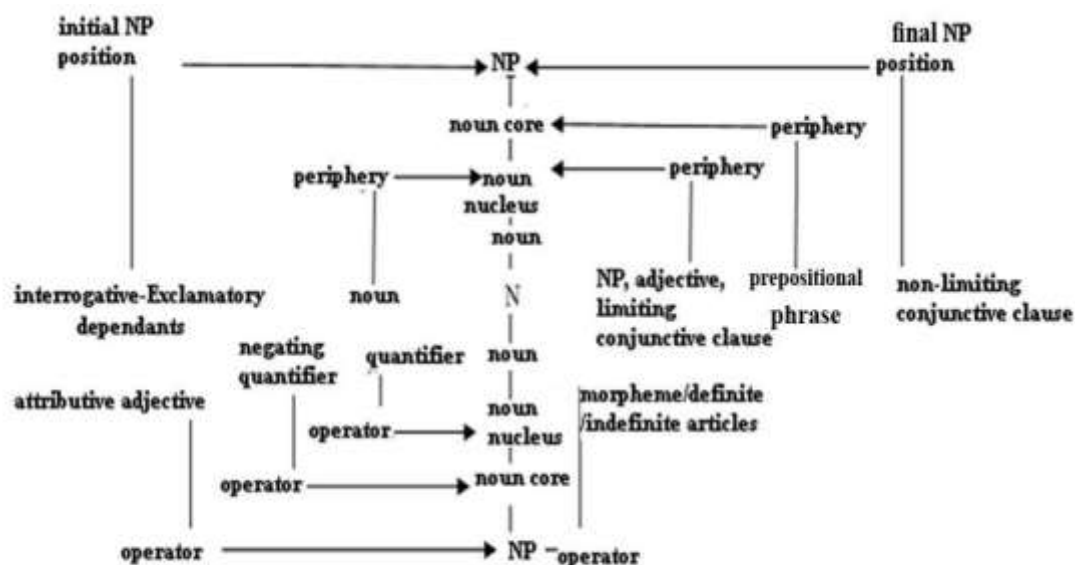


Figure 5

The proposed layered structure of noun phrase in Azeri Turkish

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Biodata

Afshin Dehghani is a Ph.D. candidate in the field of linguistics at the Islamic Azad University- Ahar Branch in Iran. He has been engaged in teaching English as a foreign language at Islamic Azad, Payame-Noor universities and schools in Shahindej of western Azerbaijan for twenty two years. He has done syudies on different topics related to his field of study such as Morphology and syntax.
Email: afshindehghan23@gmail.com

Mohammadali Torabi is an associate professor of TEFL in the Dept. of ELT at the Islamic Azad University-Ahar Branch in Iran with many teaching experiences. He has taught courses on contrastive analysis, linguistics and English as a foreign language in ELT. He has done studies on different topics related to his field of study such as corpus linguistics.
Email: mohammadali.torabi987@gmail.com

Hanieh Davatgari Asl is an assistant professor of TEFL in the Dept. of ELT at the Islamic Azad University-Ahar Branch in Iran with many teaching experiences. She has taught courses on English language research,teaching methods, linguistics, and English as a foreign language in ELT. She has done studies on different topics related to her field of study such as teaching English language methodologies.
Email: hdavatgar@ymail.com

