

Possessor in Urdu Nominal Phrases

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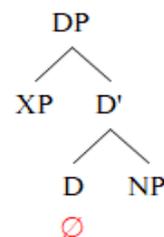
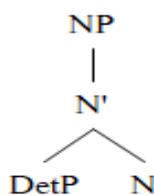
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ABSTRACT : Nominalization is a ubiquitous and vibrant domain in language description and theorization on empirical evidence. All the trends on nominalization catered that nominal and clausal layers are constituted as paralleled layers (Abney, 1987) under generativist paradigm. Taking empirical evidence from Urdu naturalistic corpus, this study is an attempt to externalize the internal syntactic layer of Urdu nominal phrase (NP) employing Minimalist Program (1995) as a theoretical framework. It shows that the syntactic structure of Urdu nominal phrases (NPs) is internally encoded with complex structure. It has multiple internal layers. Further, it predicts like Abney (1987) that an outer functional layer exists in Urdu too that is considered to be superimposed on the nominal layer (NP) but the outer layer is purely functional layer. It performs crucial role for assigning the overt cases within the nominal layers and possessors are the heads in Urdu that map, linearize and converge the nominal phrase (NP).

KEYWORDS – Possessor, Nominalization, Syntax, Head, Projection

I. INTRODUCTION

Nominalization is considered to be the very significant area of linguistic research Bernstein (2001), Longobardi (2001), Adger (2003), Coene & d’Hulst (2003), Alexiadou et al. (2007), and Punske (2014). This study periphrastically represents a hierarchically internal syntactic structure within Urdu nominal phrases. However, languages may constitute as dissimilar and similar on the basis of their formal properties. Urdu nominal phrase (NP) is very crucial domain of inquiry due to its universal and unique syntactic layer. Urdu is a language spoken by countless speakers in not only Pakistan but also in the whole of Asia. Its nominal phrases must follow some specific patterns that can parametrically be differed from other languages as well. Abney (1987) exhibited the internal layer of English nominalization. He demarcated the linguistic material (Grammatical Categories) into functional and lexical categories. Abney’s thesis may not be considered conclusive argumentation in languages. Languages have been evolved through time and now the trends have been altered. New assumptions have been established. The debate on nominal heads and complements has been revisited recently by Preminger (2020) so for this study is an endeavor to re-template the nominal phrases taking empirical evidence from Urdu language. Abney (1987) predicted that clausal and nominal structure of English to a great extent is similar. The structure of English nominalization is hierarchically explored and described syntactically and semantically but our core concern is to explore the internal layer of Urdu nominal phrases (NP). Languages may be attributed diverse in nature on the basis of Head-Parameter setting. Roughly speaking, it can vehemently be predicted that the structure of languages can only be *Head-First* or *Head-Last* and the linear order of the languages is binary. It can be VO vs OV. As Urdu is the head-last language contrary to English. English takes head at its initial position and Urdu places head at its final position. But the thematic structure of all languages is mapped as similar and equal.



These are the universal structure of the DP hypothesis in general and they may vary from language to language. In this study, we are adopting the basic descriptive tool that Abney (1987) has formulated to account

for the English DPs and our main aim is to explore the internal layer of Urdu nominal phrase and to externalize descriptively how Urdu nominal phrases seems syntactically. For doing this, the study will definitely be significant for the new scholars of Urdu and especially Asian scholars who can get more ideas from this study. Secondly, this study will externalize the I-language's operative mechanism of the Urdu speakers. It will also be very helpful for the linguistic practitioners who want to develop the learners' second language effectively.

Objective of the Study:

The followings of the specific objectives of the study:

1. To envision the complex layer of Urdu nominal phrases (NP).
2. To formulate the syntactic hierarchy among the Urdu nominal phrases (NP).

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The DP Hypothesis (1987) is very significant work in syntactic representation of any language. Chomsky (1995) focuses on I-Language of the learners as Nominal phrases are also the part of language and many a studies dedicated to English language on various aspects Bernstein (2001), Longobardi (2001), Adger (2003), Coene & d'Hulst (2003), Alexiadou et al. (2007), Dimitrova-Vulchanova 2003, Shlonsky 2004, Cinque 2005, 2010, Hankamer & Mikkelsen 2005, Willis 2006, Georgi & Müller 2010, Punske (2014) and Bruening et al. (2018). All these models presented their own assumption and stipulation regarding the DP hypothesis in various languages but the most dominant in recent work is Bruening et al (2018). A couple of arguments have been put forward by Bruening et al (2020) is that "the outermost external layer in a nominal phrase is projected by the noun itself, not by any functional structure surrounding the noun." In the movement base approaches, a few recent researches predicted that movement from N-to-D does not notice and exist in languages as well. (Alexiadou 2001, Dimitrova-Vulchanova 2003, Shlonsky 2004, Cinque 2005, 2010, Hankamer & Mikkelsen 2005, Georgi & Müller 2010,) see among others. But a few studies Carstens (2017), Salzmann (2018) and Bruening (2009 and 2018) have contrarily posited that the movement is due to agreement and asymmetrically hinges on selectional properties. This study did not deal with specifically the movement from N-to-D but it only takes Urdu natural data and explores the internal operative mechanism that maps nominal phrase in Urdu language. Movement however is noticed but in Urdu no N-to-D movement hence; in Urdu only argument movement (XP).

Theoretical Framework: In the Minimalist Program (1995), Universal components of grammar are: C_{HL} , a computational system for human language, conceived to be an invariant across languages; and second apartment is a lexicon, to which the idiosyncratic differences noted across languages are attributed. For the computing a derivation, the system requires some operations and the very initial operation called *Select* picks lexical items (LIs) from the lexicon and places them into a *Numeration* or *Lexical Array* (LA), a finite subset of the lexicon used to construct a derivation. Operation *Merge* takes items from the LA and forms new, hierarchically arranged syntactic objects. *Movement* operations thirdly (Internal Merge) apply to syntactic objects formed by Merge to re-arrange elements within a tree (Chomsky 1995, 2000). Phrase structure trees are thus constructed derivationally by the application of the operations *Select*, *Merge* and *Move/Agree* constrained by the condition that lexically encoded features match/valued in the course of a derivation for convergent derivation. Movements are driven by feature valuation, and may be of two types. A head (X_0) may undergo head movement and adjoins to another head (X_0), or a maximal projection (XP) may move to the specifier position of a head. In either case, the category moves for the purpose of getting value/delete the morphological features of case (NUMBER, PERSON, and GENDER). In addition, movement may be overt or covert. Overt movements are because of strong features and are visible at PF (Phonetic Form, where they are pronounced) and LF (Logical Form, where they are interpreted). Covert movements, driven by weak features, are presented on only at LF. Crashed Derivation bears computational cost and cognitive load. Crashed is due to mismatches of features in the narrow syntax while cancelled derivation is the initial process at the *Numeration* and if at this stage categories do not merge, numeration will not precede further operational mechanism.

III. RESEARCH DESIGN

This is a qualitative designed study so for this we employ a qualitative research methodology. For qualitative research's prerequisites are that they crucially necessitate naturalistic data and for this we adopt naturalistic inquiry (Chomsky, 1995). Language production and communication is an involuntarily ability of every

individual and language regulation implies uncontrolled effort of every individual (Asad et al, 2020). This study particularly deals with humanly possible natural language—Urdu. Chomsky classically ascertained, “The fundamental aim in the linguistic analysis of a language (L) is to separate the grammatical sequences which are the sentences of (L) from the ungrammatical sequences which are not sentences of (L) and to study the structure of the grammatical sequences. The grammar of (L) will thus be a device which generates all of the grammatical sequences of L and none of the ungrammatical ones”. (1957, p. 2). For the empirical evidence, the study requires to get corpus for the study. Data must be in naturalistic form as parameter set in the above discussion. For the collection of data, we adopt audio-recording techniques and non-participant observation because two step verification of data guarantees a handsome credible sample. A large amount of data used in this study, was collected during a three-month field trip to Village 8-Chaak of Sargodha between April and June 2020. During this time, over 5 hours of recordings were made of the informal natural speech of nearly 30 different fluent native Urdu speakers. The speech of both males and females was recorded across. The youngest recorded speaker was a 7-year-old male. The oldest recorded speaker was a female in his sixties or seventies.

Corpus for the Study: The material collected in Sargodha is transcribed into textual form for empirical analysis. A variety of methods were employed during the data collection process. Audio-recording form and non-participant observation are the techniques used in this study.

Sr. No	Audio Recording	Total Data
1	Total Number of Sentences	7623
2	Total Numbers of Phrases	16320
3	Total Number of Words	33210

Our study is only focusing on Phrasal level so we have to take only nominal phrases for analytical purposes. We take phrases for analysis and our analysis level is phrasal level.

Sr. No	Urdu Nominal Phrases
1	Un-ki khoobsoorat koothi ka poorana naqshaa. (Old map of their beautiful house)
2	Mera khoobsoorat gaar (My beautiful house)
3	Abu ka joota (Father’s Shoes)
4	Abu ka khoobsoorat joota (Beautiful shoes of father)
5	Meri gandhi kameez (My dirty Shirt)
6	Meri gandhi kameez ka rang (the colour of my dirty shirt)
7	Mere bhai ki japaane gaari (My brother’s japnese car)
8	Uss-k bhai ka dost (Friend of his brother)

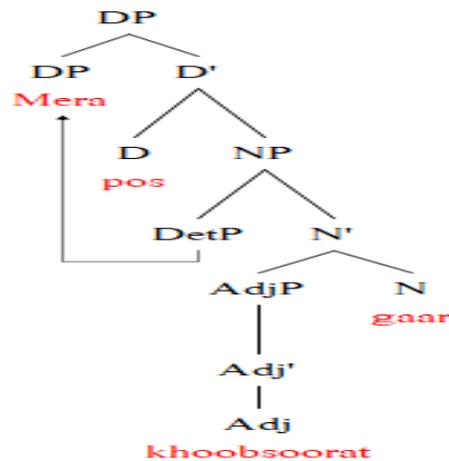
1. Mera khoobsoorat gaar
My Beautiful House
“My beautiful house”
2. Abu-ka joota
Father-Erg Shoes
“Father’s Shoes”
3. Meri gandhi kameez-ka rang
My dirty shirt-Erg olour
“Colour of my dirty shirt”
4. Mere bhai-ki japaane gaari
My brother-Erg Japanese car
“My brother’s japnese car”

5. Un-ki khoobsoorat koothi-ka poorana naqshaa.
 They-Pos beautiful house-Erg old map
 “Old map of their beautiful house”

IV. DISCUSSION

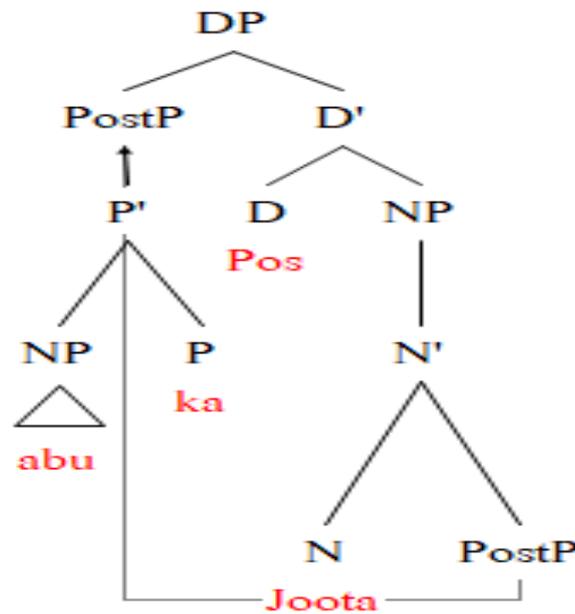
In this section, we will elaborate the data in detail and apply Minimalist Program (1995; 2014) on the data to explore descriptively the syntactic layer of Urdu nominal phrases (NPs). For this see the tree diagram, details and discussion given below (6-10).

6. Mera khoobsoorat gaar
 My Beautiful House
 “My beautiful house”



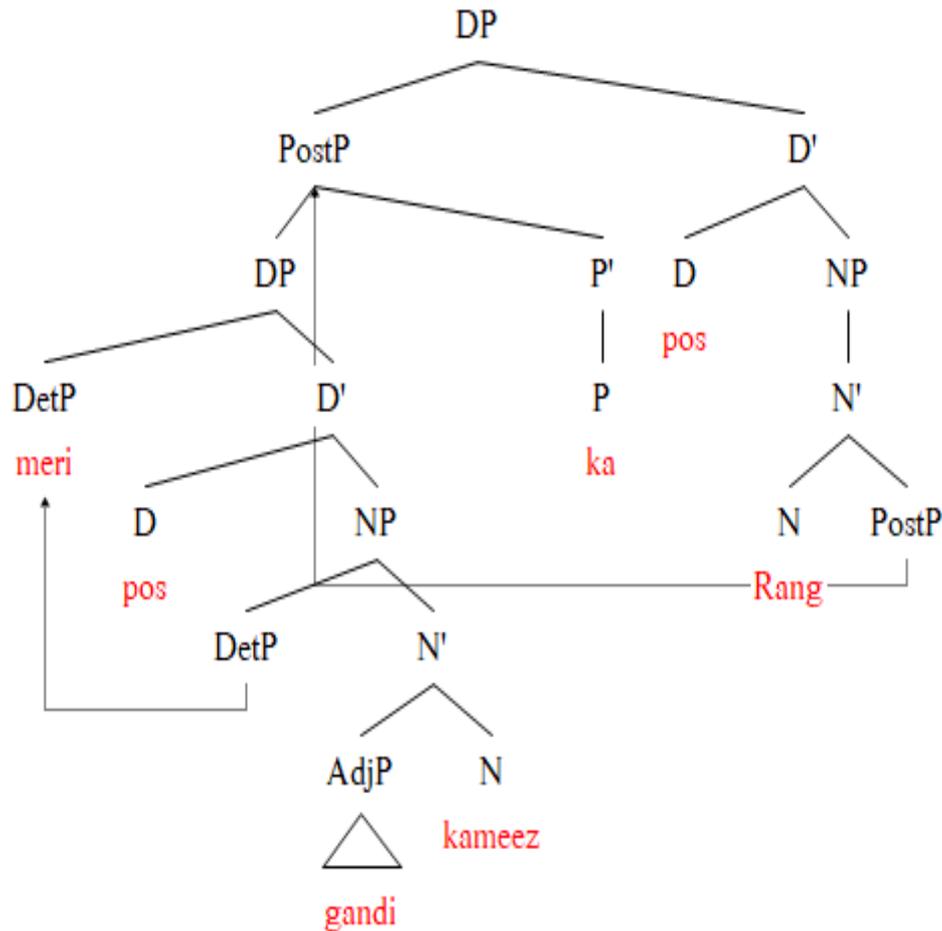
In the above cited example (6), it can be visualized that nominal phrase of Urdu has diverse internal layer it may project the Adjectival phrase. For accommodating the adjectival phrase, within the NP it can be inserted onto the bar level as bars/adjunts are not functional items. They can be inserted within lexical layer and according to Abney (1987), Lexical layer can further be projected accordingly. Mera (My) is generated into lexical domain and it will be moved upto upper level due to possessor that is encoded in D head. It triggers lower lexical item—Mera (My) on to the specifier position of the DP. In this way, Mera (My) gets the possessive case from the nearest head D because it bears possessive case in Urdu and the movement is XP movement from Lexical domain to functional domain. In this way, the layer of Urdu DPs is grammatically computed.

7. Abu-ka joota
 Father-Erg Shoes
 “Father’s Shoes”



In the example (7) cited above, It can be seen that the syntactic structure of Urdu language differs from English. As the example shows that the placement of head and complement is universal at thematic level but for the valuation of case features and some strong features must be eliminated from the derivation. The placement of Abu-ka (of father) is on the right side but in this way the derivation is ungrammatical and according to the Abney (1987) functional layers is superimposed on lexical layer and within the functional upper layer, we especially have D-poss that checks the uninterpretable features of abu-ka (father's). In this way, the derivation will be convergent. Furthermore, we cannot generate Abu-ka on the specifier position of NP because in this way, the universal hypothesis of language description will be violated as Chomsky (1995) stated that heads select the complements. In this example, joota (shoes) is head and abu-ka (father's) is complement.

8. Meri gandi kameez-ka rang
 My dirty shirt-Erg colour
 "colour of my dirty shirt"



In the above documented example (8), we have an interesting data from Urdu nominal phrases. In this example, we have multiple layers of functional and lexical items within Urdu nominal phrase. Firstly N—rang (colour) being head selects the whole phrase (XP) (meri gandhi kameez-ka) as a complement and the whole phrase's syntactic layer shows the internal multiple layer of functional items. Within the phrase, meri gandhi kameez-ka (my dirty shirt-ERG/CASE) we have a multiple poss that cyclically triggers the lower strong items to move them overtly at the Specifier position of DP to satisfy their CASE feature as the nominal and clausal structure is paralleled. One crucial point is to be noted in the above example (8), is that every Urdu nominal phrase must have possoser that licenses the strong feature of items for the mapping of derivation into the interface levels.

9. Mere bhai-ki japaane gaari
 My brother-Erg Japanese car
 “My brother’s japnese car”

On the whole, the study predicts that Urdu is very rich language in Asian language families as it has diverse and intricated layer of nominal phrases. But one thing is most common in all Urdu phrase is that all Urdu nominal phrases must have intentially encoded possossor phrase that is very crucial syntactic category which maps the word-order of Urdu language as a whole. Urdu possossor can be highlighted overt and covert as shown in the data presented in the previous section. The difference is that a few studies debated on the movements from N-to-D position but in Urdu no such head movement can be observed as a whole and only the maximal projections (XPs) are triggered and moved on the specifier position of the outer layer of DP in Urdu. You can see the examples (6-10). Malik (2017) predicted non-hybridity on whatever the categories are merged together to construct a convergent derivation in mixed language data and Asad et al (2020) claimed “no fusion linearization on the expression.” So, it has been observed that each and every expresion of language at any level must be convergent in spite of some paramertic variation that are due to languages specificity and unique property of languages. A few studies predicted on the nominal research is that a hybid agreement in nominal phrases and few claimed that N-to-D movment as it is also universal one. If the minimalist model is employed on Urdu langauge, it can forcefully be delineated that no hybrid agreement is noticed hence; possossor performs very crucial role in Urdu morphological agreement.

V. CONCLUSION

On the empirical evidence from Urdu naturalistic corpus, this study explicates the internal syntactic structure of Urdu nominal phrases and the data predicts that Urdu nominal phrase must contain possessor. Possessors can be existed overtly or covertly in Urdu data and the movement that has been noticed is only maximal projection (XP) displacement to specifier position. No head-to-head movement can be observed in Urdu naturalistic data. The layer of Urdu nominal phrases is hierarchically projected into two layers; one is lexical layer that is encoded in the formal noun phrase (NP) and the upper functional layer (DPs) that triggers the lower strong linguistic items for valuation/deletion of the case feature in the minimalist program (2002).

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