

# The Nominal Clause and the Noun Phrases: A Comparative Study of Albanian and English

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## Abstract

The nominal clause and noun phrases in Albanian and English are in an oppositional relationship. This study makes descriptions of syntactic structure using constituent analysis between the two languages. The question that now emerges is what kind of language is implied by this type of description. Tufte (1971, p.41) rightly noted that “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”. Furthermore, the fact that phraseological categories coexist or are “projections” of specific word-level categories demonstrates that categories are complex entities. This was originally emphasized in Harris (1951) and was expanded upon by Muysken (1985) and Chomsky (1970).

**Keywords:** linguistic, noun phrase, nominal, comparative, compound, function, Albanian, English, generative

## 1. Introduction

A noun phrase is so named because the word that serves as it. The particular emphasis on those parts that frequently cause confusion (for Albanian and English languages and their interface). Noun phrase is “a word or group of words functioning in a sentence exactly like a 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-modification (Kennedy, 2003, p.138)”. There are multiple noun phrases in the following sentences (highlighted as underlined or italics).

*In Albanian:*

Këta student ëshihen t ëlumtur.

Student ë shihen t ëlumtur.

Librat jan ët ështrënjta.

Ato jan ët ështrënjta.

Librat e reja jan ët ështrënjta.

Disa nga librat e reja jan ët ështrënjta.

*In English:*

Those students look happy.

The students look happy.

Books are expensive.

They are expensive.

New books are expensive.

Some new books are expensive.

## 2. Previous Studies

During a comparison analysis of the English and Albanian infinitive tenses, Dralo (2011) discussed the significance of the correct usage of the English verb as being of value to the language learner, teacher, and the linguist, mainly because this is seen as a challenge in the language classroom. The author also noted that what confounds the language learner between Albanian and English are the problems of placing the gerunds and infinitives before or after the verbs. Kurani and Muho (2014) noted that linguistic studies between Albanian and English are rare, but much needed given the morphological differences between the two. One example cited by the authors is that of the adjectives which are differentiated for gender and number in Albanian, though this is not the case in English. Yet, some studies have focused on the similarities in the word formation processes in Albanian and English. Alimemaj (2013). Despite the fact that Albanian is a synthetic-analytic language and English is an analytic-synthetic language, the author notes that both languages exhibit the usage of prefixes and suffixes in the production of new words.

## 3. Discussion

2.1 Two noun phrases, for example, may be combined for the generation of an additional noun phrase, a phenomenon that occurs in both English and Albanian.

Considering the following statements, some of which are identical to those in English but differ in Albanian: The girl is Antigona Lares. Vajza është e Antigona Lares.

In this possessive adjective and the form a distinct contrast with noun phrases. Though it is more common in Albanian to position the possessive before the noun, this is not the case in English. The syntactic description is best equipped to do this task if it is believed to be composed of rules. NP and VP are both listed as a subcategory of S in the phrase (People understand voters prefer outcomes) in both occurrences where S appears in the sentence. Similarly, whenever the category N or S occurs. This indicates that English grammar has the following rules: The sentence may begin with a noun phrase and end with a verb phrase.

#### 4. Nominal Clause

English and Albanian grammar rules can be thought of as a description of the diagram or structure. It's more efficient to use a noun phrase in Albanian or English when seen against the backdrop of generative grammar principles (as done here in the following sections).

##### 4.1 Functions of Nominal Clause

Nominal clauses, which serve as nouns or noun phrases, are quite common (both in English and Albanian) and can occur anywhere where nouns may exist as complements, objects, or subjects, etc.

*The subject:*

A e kam kaluar provimin apo jo nuk ka shumë ërëndësi.

Nuk ka shumë ërëndësi, a e kam kaluar provimin, apo jo.

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

*The 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 building* (Tuft, 1971, p.50)”

In Albanian and English languages, we have one contrast in these phenomena. The function of the noun phrase has a different structure between the 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.,

Libri – The book, studenti – the student, shkolla – the school.

The first tree has a single compound noun. This is constructed with affixes and the noun. The generative of compound nouns such as *zvend*, *kryengritje*, etc., is formed by the combination of *z-* verb (noun) + *-vend* is noun+ suffix –s, which results in the formation of a different word with a different meaning. English compound words are more complicated than those in Albanian.

We have one compound noun in the picture above that has been constructed using noun +noun (house + keeper), or in the instance of keeper, the verb keep and the suffix –er.

#### 5. The Following Sections Show the Possibilities of Forming Words

##### 5.1 The Development of Nouns from Verbs

Example: For both Albanian and English languages, nouns can be formed from verbs e.g.

“E habitshme ishte *këmbëngulja* për të mos e treguar dredhinë...” or, as in another Shakespearean example, e.g. “Which his hell-governed arm hath...”

Grass from graze, Knot from knit, Sooth from soothe, Thief from thieve.

##### 5.2 The formation of verbs from nouns

Examples:

Bathe from bath, Believe from belief, Breed from brood.

The most significant class of words generated through internal modifications are the Primary Words' past tenses. These verbs in the past tense are not considered derivatives.

Examples of Noun Formation from Verbs: “In most uneven and distracted manner. His actions show much like to madness-pray haven his wisdom be not tainted...”

Bliss from bless, Chip from chop, Dole from deal, Breach from break, Fleet from float.

### 5.3 Verb + Noun

Examples: “They pushed on through the yellow foothills (v + n = n) for the rest of the day and camped that night in a well-concealed little canyon where the light from their fire would not betray their location to the brigands who infested the region”.

Push-button, popcorn, rattlesnake, knitwear, hovercraft, grindstone, Tell-tale, Cut-throat, Hangman.

### 5.4 -ing Participle / Noun

Fishing boat, cooking stove, handwriting, chewing gum.

### 5.5 Noun / -ing Participle

Piano-playing, air-conditioner, brainwashing, baby-sitting.

### 5.6 Pass. Noun/Noun

Child's play, lady's maid, summer's day.

Word constructions follow some simple laws that dictate the character of the words generated.

### 5.7 Gerund + Noun

Examples:

Writing-desk, Walking-stick, Stepping-stone.

### 5.8 Adverb (or Preposition) + Noun

Examples:

Afternoon, Outlaw, Foresight, Forethought, Downfall.

### 5.9 Verb / Adverb / Prep

Fallout, makeup, get-away, breakdown.

### 5.10 Noun/ per. Phrase

Editor-in-chief, son-in-law, forget-me-not, man-of-war, happy-go-lucky

## 6. The Compound Noun

Compound nouns are composed of an adjective and a noun or two nouns : “Come sir, come sir, come sir, foh sir, why you bald-patted lying rascal...you must be hooded, must you”?

Noun compounds function similar to condensed formal definitions. They are often interpretable by reversing the order of the noun compound's words and introducing articles and prepositions. For instance, a system of water purification is the device used to purify water. Other examples are: Traffic light, Alarm clock, Credit card, Parking meter, Movie star, Dining room, Math teacher, Brother-in-law, Mother tongue.

### 6.1 The Plural Compounds

Three distinct forms exist for plural compound nouns:

(a) Last elements:

milkmen, boyfriends, grow-ups, schoolmasters.

(b) First elements:

lookers-one, fathers-in-law, men-of-war,

(c) Both elements

women students, men friends, women doctors, men friends

Compounds of Albanian language have structures similar to compounds of English, e.g.bregdetas, mir ëdash ësit, keqkuptime.

Compounds can create plural in a variety of methods, although the situations outlined below are the most common.

*a. First element*

men-of-war, mothers-in-law, spoonfuls, coats of mail

*b. Both first and last element*

women doctors, gentlemen farmers

*c. Last element*

Assistant directors

### 6.2 The Development of Nouns from Adjectives:

Examples: Heat from hot, Dolt from dull, Pride from proud

The development of adjectives from nouns:

Examples: Wise from wit, Milch from milk

Adjective + Noun

Compounding adjectives and nouns is another significant sort of word formation:

Adjective + Noun = Noun

Example: brown + bear = brownbear

Here, the adjective is used to describe the noun's personality (a brownbear is a bear that is brown). However, the two categories can be combined to form a new one, such as the phrase "yellow press," which refers to media that primarily cover sensational news topics. Non-native speakers should reference a dictionary if the compound's meaning isn't readily clear through segment analysis, as is the case with the latter.

Adjective + Noun:

Examples: "surely we can agree that the more somber and constrained pleasures of the present are both deeper and wiser than the noisy, silly hustling that passed for entertainment so frequently in the distant past..."

Compounds like Nobleman, Sweetheart, Blackboard, Shorthand, Stronghold, Quicksilver, and Halfpenny are frequently used as a single word. There are many other words for this type of writing, such as the blackboard, the redneck, lazybones, browbeat, braveheart, wiseguy, hardcopy, software, and coldblood.

The construction in English wherein the verb and noun are used in their uninflected forms, such as in killjoy or spoilsport, is common. Other examples are breakfast, dreadnought, pickpocket, and know-nothing. Verb-noun compounds are also common in English, in which the argument of a verb is integrated into the verb itself and then often converted to a gerund, as in "to point the finger," "to nurse," and so on. The noun is frequently used as a complement to a verb. It is possible to generate new verbs and compounds by combining these gerunds, such as (a mother) breastfeeds (a kid). An object or a subject "does" something with the help of a verb, which creates a new noun and defines the action connected with it: a verb and a noun a verb and a noun are the same thing A drawbridge is a combination of a draw and a bridge.

A drawbridge is a type of bridge that may be slanted or "drawn" for the ships to be allowed to pass. The direct object is the noun in this case.

Hitman = a guy who does "dirty tasks" or "hits." The topic is the word as a part of speech in this instance.

Apart from that, both segments may be connected in various ways, for example, the noun can stand for a geographical adverb:

**Walkway** = people walk on the walkway.

Spelling follows the standard guidelines. Here are few such instances:

divecenter (a location for scuba diving), walkway (a path for walking), paycheck (a check used for the payment of wages or salaries), and payday (the day one receives one's income).

*Noun + Verb*

Examples: Sunrise, waylay, garbage, hand shake, earthquake, dump, handslide, life-gourd, sunset, toothache, bus-stop, waterfall, backbite, birth control, browbeat, typewrite, earmark.

## 7. Conclusion

To summarize, this study demonstrated the distinction between compound nouns in Albanian and English. For

Albanian the compound words are often formed by combining two or more mining terms. This is comparable to English language, but the phrase serves as the compound in this language, e.g. traffic light, credit card, movie star, and dining room. Such compounds are not feasible in Albanian. The next contrast is in the use of prepositions or conjunctives to form compounds e.g., edition-in-chief, man-of-war, son-in-law. This is possible in English but not in Albanian which usually employs simple words for such meaning and cannot create compound with preposition or conjunctive. In this sense, the two languages are a contrast. In this study, we have shown that the noun phrases, pronouns and other words have the function of the nouns with many contrasts, differences, similarities, or direct object generation between English and Albanian language.

## 8. Recommendations

The purpose of the work is to promote sentence analysis, whether basic or complicated. The synthetic structure of Albanian language, in comparison to English, may be formed and transferred between the two languages. These two languages are diametrically opposed in all morphological areas (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs). Contrast is, however, possible in all components of speech that serve the sentence's function, including the predicate, subject, direct, and indirect object.

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Shkelqim Millaku obtained his M.A. degree in Philology, in 2007 and Ph.D. degree in Philology, in 2009 from the University of Prishtina and in University of Shkup. He is an Associate Professor of Morphology, Syntax. His research interests include comparative syntax and morphological types of languages.

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