

Noun Phrase Analysis in the Short Story "The Ant and the Grasshopper"

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Abstract

One of the objectives of English study is comprehending the text. The basic skill that the students need is comprehending the phrase of each sentence before understanding the complex sentence. Noun phrases are often used either in written or in verbal communication. Phrases relate to words or a group of words which have no subject – verb pairing necessary to make a clause. A noun phrase is a group or words which act as a noun within a sentence. It can be either pronoun or any other group of words that can be replaced by a pronoun. The head word will be a noun or pronoun. This research analysis is focused on the analysis of noun phrase in short story "The ant and the grasshopper". The aims of this study are to find out the types of noun phrase in children short story. The method employed in this research is a descriptive study, meaning that it describes the most dominant types of noun clause in sentences which found in the short story. This study adopted from the theory of Greenbaum & Nelson (2002) who discussed about the structure types of noun phrase. The research will take place for the first semester and the writer as their lecturer in Basic grammar class. The writer will determine the modifier every noun phrase in it. Therefore, comprehending phrases is a key to be a fluent speaker of English. The result of this research focuses on how the students comprehend more about noun phrase and the types of noun phrase.

Keywords: *noun phrase, types of noun phrase, short story*

A. Introduction

Linguistics is the scientific study of language, aimed at understanding the rules and principles that govern its use. One crucial aspect of linguistics is syntax, which focuses on the organization and construction of words and phrases within a language to ensure that sentences and clauses are contextually appropriate and meaningful (Rini, 2019). In essence, syntax encompasses the study of words or lexical categories, phrases, clauses, and sentences.

Phrases play a significant role in both written and verbal communication, often consisting of words or groups of words that do not include both a subject and a verb. A noun phrase, for example, is defined as a group of words with a noun as its head (Ba'dulu, 2008). Noun phrases can range from simple to complex and are constructed according to specific syntactic rules. For instance, in the sentence "My mother is clever," "my mother" is a noun phrase with "mother" as the head. Similarly, in "My mother is cooking fried rice" and "My mother sang the song very perfectly,"

"my mother" is identified as a noun phrase, while "cooking" and "sang" are verb phrases, and "very perfectly" is an adverb phrase.

The following examples further illustrate different types of phrases:

- 1) "My mother lives in Singapore" (prepositional phrase: "in Singapore")
- 2) "My mother has a plan to call me" (infinitive verb phrase: "to call")
- 3) "Looking beggar, I feel like the luckiest woman" (gerund phrase: "Looking beggar")
- 4) "Visiting a European country is my biggest ambition" (gerund phrase: "Visiting a European country")

These examples demonstrate that phrases can consist of various elements, including nouns, verbs, adverbs, prepositions, infinitives, participles, and gerunds.

Tandiana (2015) states that the structure of noun phrases depends on their function within a sentence. Each noun phrase has a head that serves as its central element, modified by other words. Noun phrases can be simple (e.g., "jewel," "corn," "trouble") or complex (e.g., "the colorful balloon"). They can function as subjects, direct objects, indirect objects, subject complements, object complements, adverbials, complements, and modifiers of adjectives or adverbs. Understanding noun phrases is crucial for readers and authors when interpreting and producing texts in newspapers, magazines, short stories, and other contexts.

However, readers often face difficulties in identifying and comprehending noun phrases, especially EFL (English as a Foreign Language) students who struggle with reading activities that require word recognition, comprehension, fluency, and motivation (Pratiwi, Putri, & Suhadi, 2000). Non-native speakers, such as first-semester students at Universitas Pamulang, often encounter challenges in creating grammatically correct compositions and distinguishing between nouns, phrases, and noun phrases due to limited grammar mastery.

Given these challenges, it is essential to conduct research focused on phrase-level grammar to address foundational problems in grammar instruction. Using short stories as a medium can enhance students' reading skills and grammar knowledge, particularly concerning noun phrases. Pratiwi et al. (2020) assert that grammar is closely related to reading activities, which involve a combination of abilities, including word recognition, comprehension, fluency, and motivation. Through the analysis of short stories, students can more easily recognize and understand noun phrases.

B. Method

This section outlines the systematic research methodology employed to synthesize data from the short story "The Ant and the Grasshopper." The analysis is supported by selected expert theories and follows these detailed steps:

This study employs a qualitative descriptive method to analyze the problems presented. According to Nurmalasari & Apsari (2019), the qualitative descriptive method is the least "theoretical" of all qualitative approaches. Best & Kahn (2013) support this by stating that the descriptive method

aims to explain phenomena related to the current situation. Qualitative research, as designed by Creswell (2014), analyzes human phenomena within their natural communication settings. Burns and Grove (2003) note that descriptive research naturally occurs and produces descriptive data in written or spoken words. Sugiono (2012) describes qualitative research as examining natural objects with the researcher as the key instrument. Based on these statements, qualitative research is suitable for evaluating human attitudes, behaviors, and societal experiences.

The data sources are words and sentences containing noun phrases from the short story "The Ant and the Grasshopper," which depicts a hungry grasshopper begging an ant for food during winter and being refused. This short story is selected to improve students' reading skills and comprehension of noun phrases. Additionally, it aims to enhance their English proficiency and vocabulary. Through this story, students will learn about noun phrases and their types.

Given that the study is a content analysis, data collection involves noting words or sentences from "The Ant and the Grasshopper." This process includes reading, understanding the data, and identifying noun phrases. Documentation through intensive reading and note-taking will help find relevant data. The data will be classified into types of noun phrases, counted, and the most common types identified. Finally, the data will be analyzed using the relevant theory.

The data on noun phrases from the short story will be analyzed using qualitative methods based on the theories of Greenbaum & Nelson (2002), which discuss noun phrase structure types. All data will be counted to determine the frequency of noun phrases used in "The Ant and the Grasshopper." The structure types of noun phrases—head, pre-modifier, and post-modifier—will be further analyzed. According to Wisnu (2010), the most common head of a noun phrase is a noun, while a pre-modifier is an element that precedes the head. Post-modifiers can include clauses, prepositional phrases, adverb phrases, and adjective phrases.

C. Findings and Discussion

1. Finding

The writer gave the paper to the students and asked them to read it carefully. Furthermore, they identified, classified, and analyzed the noun phrase found on the paper. The structure types of noun phrase found in *The Ant and the Grasshopper* short story are found in 8 distinctive types of structures based on the parts of the noun phrases, such as determiners, pre-modifiers, and post-modifiers. Each of the structure has its own occurrences in some parts of phrases throughout the short story. Based on the finding of analysis, the structure types of noun phrases in the short story are shown in table 1 below:

Table 1. The Structure Types of Noun Phrase in "The Ant and The Grasshopper" Short Story

No	Structure	Number	Percentage
1	Determiner + Noun	4	18,8%
2	Verb + Noun	-	-
3	Adj + Noun	-	-
4	Adverb + Noun	1	4,5%

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5	Pre-modifier + Noun	5	22,7%
6	Determiner + pre-modifier + Noun	10	45,4%
7	Pre-modifier + Noun + Post – modifier	-	-
8	Det + Pre-modifier + Noun + Post modifier	-	-
Total		22	100%

Table 1 shows that there are several different structures of noun phrases found in *Ant and Grasshopper* short story. From the data collected in the analysis, there is a total number of 22 noun phrases found in the short story. Each of the structure has different percentages of occurrences in the words or phrases throughout the short story. The table also shows that there are three dominant structures with the most significant percentage such as determiner + noun, Num (pre-modifier) + noun, and determiner + pre-modifier + noun.

2. Discussion

This research deals with the analysis of the types of English noun phrase which is found in the short story entitled “Ant and grasshopper”. After analyzing the data, the writer found 22 sentences that contain noun phrases. The data is in the form of table 2:

Table 2. Noun Phrase

No	Noun Phrase
1.	A beautiful spring day
2.	A green grassy field
3.	A line of ants
4.	Some grains of wheat
5.	With that big load
6.	These grains
7.	A beautiful day
8.	A long winter
9.	With lots of snow
10.	Only spring
11.	Lots of food
12.	The winter
13.	The grasshopper
14.	The diligent ant
15.	The lazy grasshopper
16.	A pile of grains
17.	A few weeks
18.	The snow
19.	cold all winter
20.	a valuable lesson
21.	The summer
22.	storing your food

1. A beautiful spring day

“A beautiful spring day” contains of determiner as in “a” while “beautiful” and “spring” functioned as pre-modifier (adjective) and “day” itself is indicated as a noun (head).

2. A green grassy field

“A green grassy field” indicated as noun phrase, which consists of “a” as determiner (article), “green grassy” constructed as pre-modifier (adj) and “field” as noun (head)

3. A line of ants

“A line of ants” indicated as noun phrase, which consists of “a” as determiner (article), “line of” constructed as pre-modifier and “ants” as noun (head)

4. Some grains of wheat

“Some grains of wheat” indicated as noun phrase, which consist of “some” as pre-modifier (quantifier) and “grains of wheat” functioned as noun (head)

5. With that big load

“With that big load” indicated as noun phrase, which consists of “with” as prepositional phrase, “that big” functioned as post modifier and “load” as noun (head).

6. These grains

“These grains” indicated as noun phrase, which consists of “these” as pre-modifier demonstrative and “grains” as noun (head)

7. A beautiful day

“A beautiful day” indicated as noun phrase, which consists of “a” as determiner (article), “beautiful” as pre-modifier (adj) and “day” symbolized as noun (head)

8. A long winter

“A long winter” indicated as noun phrase, which consists of “a” as determiner (article), “long” as pre-modifier (adj) and “winter” as noun (head)

9. With lots of snow

“With lots of snow” indicated as noun phrase, which consists of “with” as prepositional phrase, “lots of” as pre-modifier (quantifier) and “snow” as noun (head)

10. Only spring

“only spring” indicated as noun phrase, which constructed by “only” as adverb and “spring” as noun (head)

11. Lots of food

“Lots of food” indicated as noun phrase, which has construction of “lots of” as pre-modifier (quantifier) and “food” as noun (head)

12. The winter

“The winter” indicated as noun phrase, which constructed by “the” as determiner (article) and “winter” as noun (head)

13. The grasshopper

“The grasshopper” indicated as “noun phrase, which constructed by “the” as determiner (article) and “grasshopper” as noun

14. The diligent ant

“The diligent ant” indicated as noun phrase, which constructed by “the” as determiner (article), “diligent” as pre-modifier (adj) and “ant” as noun (head)

15. The lazy grasshopper

“The lazy grasshopper” indicated as noun phrase, which constructed by “the” as determiner (article), “lazy” as pre-modifier (adj), and “grasshopper” as noun (head)

16. A pile of grains

“A pile of grains” indicated as noun phrase, which constructed by “a” as determiner (article), “pile of” as pre-modifier (quantifier), and “grains” as noun (head)

17. A few weeks

“A few weeks” indicated as noun phrase, which constructed by “a” as determiner (article), “few” as pre-modifier (quantifier), and weeks as noun (head)

18. The snow

“The snow” indicated as noun phrase, which constructed by “the” as determiner (article) and “snow” as noun (head)

19. Cold all winter

“Cold all winter” indicated as noun phrase, which constructed by “cold” as pre-modifier (adj) and “all” as pre-modifier (quantifier), and “winter” as noun (head)

20. a valuable lesson

“a valuable lesson” indicated as noun phrase, which constructed by “a” as determiner (article), “valuable” as pre-modifier (adj), and “lesson” as noun (head)

21. The summer

“The summer” indicated as noun phrase, which constructed by “the” as determiner (article) and “summer” as noun (head)

22. Storing your food

“storing your food” indicated as noun phrase, which consists of “storing” as pre-modifier (adj), “your” as pre-modifier (possessive) and “food” as noun (head)

D. Conclusion

Based on the findings above it can be concluded that noun phrase is not always found and used not only on spoken but also in written text, especially in short story. The noun phrase is not always constructed by a head. It also occurs with determiner, pre-modifier, and post-modifier. There are 22 noun phrases found in the short story “The ant and the grasshopper”, which is mostly occurred in the forms of determiner + noun, adverb + noun, pre-modifier + noun, and determiner + pre-modifier + noun. The highest percentage of structure type of noun phrase is determiner + pre-modifier + noun (45,4%) and the lowest percentage of noun phrase is 4,5% in the noun phrase construction of adverb + noun. While the others have 22,7% which made from pre-modifier + noun and 18,8% made from determiner + noun.

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