A Comparative / Contrastive Study of Prepositional Phrases and Noun Phrases In the English and Arabic Languages

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Abstract

Syntax is a branch of linguistics that deals with the arrangement of words in a sentence and the structure of a sentence in a language and how the various parts of sentence go together. A preposition in syntax is a word which cannot occur alone. It joins a noun or pronoun to another word to indicate some relation between the words in a phrase or in a sentence. A noun phrase on the other hand may be viewed as having potentially three parts: Pre-modification – noun – post modification.

The present study is a comparison between English and Arabic prepositional phrases and noun phrases. It attempts to find whether prepositional phrases and noun phrases in Arabic, is similar to that of English or not. The study aims at: 1. Conducting a theoretical study of prepositional phrases and noun phrases. 2. Analysing a representative samples of Arabic and English prepositional phrases and noun phrases.3. Conducting a comparative study based on the results of the analysis as carried out above. 4. Drawing relevant conclusions. The paper is hoped that the results of this study will throw valuable light on prepositional phrases and noun phrases in the two languages.

Keywords*: syntax, prepositional phrases, noun phrases, Huruf al Garr, comparative analysis, Pre-modifications, Adjunct.*

Introduction

Syntax is a branch of linguistics that deals with the arrangement of words in a sentence and the structure of a sentence in a language and how the various parts of sentence go together. "The word syntax itself derives from Greek words meaning 'together' or 'arrangement', but also the modern syntactic tradition and investigations have their roots in the findings of ancient Greeks. One of such 'traditional tasks of linguists dealing with syntax was to describe the organization of the parts of a sentence."[2]

English and Arabic are two languages spoken by Millions of people but each language has a different origin and each language has its own syntactic rules that dictate where a part of speech or structure of a sentence is allowed and where it is not. Despite their different origins, as English is Indo European and Arabic is Semitic, they have many syntactical similarities but at the same time many differences.

Syntax in linguistics means rules for the arrangement of words into phrases and phrases into sentences. This study will shed light on the formation of phrases in both languages mainly prepositional and noun phrases, how they are formed, and how they function, i.e. their roles in sentences.

Both languages have prepositions. A preposition is a word used with a noun or noun equivalent to show its relation to some other word (s) in the sentences. The word "preposition" is derived from Latin "prae positionem"; especially "prae pono" which is place before. The word preposition thus means "that which is placed before" (Low 59, P.76).

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One important fact about functions of prepositions in both languages is that they cannot occur on their own; they are accompanied. They are often followed by another item most often a noun; especially Arabic prepositions: for example in Arabic [في البيت fil baiti] translate (in the house).

English Prepositions

A preposition in the English syntax is a word which cannot occur alone. It joins a noun or pronoun to another word to indicate some relation between the words in a phrase or in a sentence.

Prepositions in English can be classified as simple and compound prepositions. Simple prepositions are words like at, in, on, off, etc. and compound prepositions are formed of more than one word, but they have single function as all words are considered as one preposition such as: in the middle of, in spite of, because of, in order to, etc. Such prepositions are sometimes called prepositional phrases.

However, preposition words such as: into, behind, within, outside etc. were originally two words, but they have become used as one word. Moreover, a certain number of present and past participles are used as prepositions such as: regarding, considering, pending, etc.

Prepositions also have other roles. They combine with other words to form compound words

After + noon = afternoon
Over + all = overall
At + home = at home
Under + ground = underground
Over + head = overhead …etc.

Prepositions also govern other parts of speech. They govern words or group of words other than nouns or pronouns. Such words or group of words can be regarded as noun equivalents:

-     Adjectives: off the red, for the good, for the better
-     Adverbs: till then, up to date, forever, from here
-     Verbs: infinitives: to die, to play
-             Gerund: by watching, on walking
-     Phrases: within five minutes from this moment
-     Quotations: He inquired about, "……….."
-     Clauses: She wept at the thought of how she had insulted him in front of people (noun clause)

A preposition in the English language can take more than one position. Pre positions range from absolute position in space to locative, temporal, contingency, process instrument and purpose such as:

*   Absolute position in space: such as: at, in on, and by
    e.g.: on the mountain, in the sky, at/in London
-     in the house (locative position
-     after breakfast (temporal position)
-     despite the weather (contingency procession)
-     with a tooth brush (process instrument)
-     for cleaning the floor (purpose)

Prepositions expressing locative position include: at, near, on, above, against, below, beside, among, behind, in front of, inside, outside, over, under.

Prepositions expressing locative direction include:

Source: from, off, out of
Path: down, past, round, across, along, between, through
Goal: into, to, toward, onto, over, under

Prepositions expressing locative distance such as: as far as

Temporal prepositions:

-     Prepositions expressing temporal position, include: at, on, in before, after. Such as on Monday ; at noon.
-     Prepositions expressing temporal duration include: orientation (from, since, until, up to) ; general (during, for, through out, between, until).
-     Prepositions expressing process and respect circumstances are quite limited:
    Manner: in …. manner (in a polite manner)
    Means: by means of
    Instrument: with ; without
    Agentive: by   by a team of priests
-     Prepositions expressing the respect circumstances are mostly phrasal and include: in respect of, with respect to, with regard to, with reference to, etc.
-     Prepositions expressing contingency include:
    Cause/reason: because of, out of, from, through, for, on account of
    Purpose: for: (This appliance is for cleaning carpets)
    Concession: despite, in spite of, not with standing.

(Jackson 1992, P.64 – 68)

Arabic Prepositions (Huruf al Garr):

Similar to the English language, there are prepositions in Arabic. In English prepositions are either simple or compound, but in Arabic prepositions are either separate or attached. In Arabic prepositions are called Huruf Al gar (genitive letters). In Arabic, prepositions come either before a noun such as (fil bait في البيت), or attached to a noun such as (billah بالله).

In Arabic, separate prepositions are single words, but attached prepositions are letters attached to the nouns. Prepositions whether they are separate or attached to a noun, they have the same function, always in the genitive.

Arabic Prepositions:

The total number of Arabic prepositions (Huruf al jarrr) is about 17. Some exist as separate prepositions and others as attached to the noun or pronoun.

The Arabic prepositions are:

English	English Translation	Arabic Preposition
From	Min	مِن
To	Ila	إلى
About, away from	a'n	عن
On	a'la	على
In, at	fe'e	في
Or – to	Rubba	رُبَّ
--	Alhaa	الهاء
As, like	Alkaaf	الكاف
For, to	Allam	اللام
By (of oath)	al waw	الواو
By (of oath)	al taa'	التاء
Till, until	Hatta	حتى
From (date)	muth, munthu	مذ – منذ
With	ma'a	مع
Except	Ada	عدا
	khala'	خلا
	Hasha'	حاشا

Classification of Arabic Prepositions

The Arabic prepositions can be classified into three categories

A. Exist as Separate or Attached: prepositions share with implicit and explicit (apparent) nouns or pronouns. These are:

من – إلى – عن – على – في – اللام – الياء – عدا – خلا ـ حاشا

B. Exist as Separate Preposition

رُبَّ – مذ – منذ – حتى – الكاف – واو القسم – تاء القسم ـ كي

C. Attached to Pronoun لولا

The Meaning of Arabic Prepositions (Huruf al jar)

Preposition	Meaning	Examples
From (min) من	الابتداء Direction	خرجت من المنزل إلى الحديقة Kharajatu min al manzili ila l Hadika
	التبعيض والتجزيء Partition	تبرعت بمبلغ من المال Tabara'tu bimablgin min al mali
	الجنس Generic	عندي سوار من الذهب Indi siwarun min althahabi
	التعليل Explanation	مات مِنَ الوجدِ Mata mina l wajdi
	التوكيد Assertion	وما من دابّة الا على الله رزقها Wa ma min dabattin illa ala allahi rizkuha
To (ila) إلى	انتهاء الغاية End of direction	وصلت إلى المدينة Wasaltu ila l madinati
	إتمام الرغبة Completion / satisfaction	استمعت الى المذيع Istama'tu ila l muthi'i
	الظرفية Adverb	أحب شيء إلى قلبه aHbbu shai'i ila qalbihi
About, away from (a'n) عن	المجاوزة والبعد Farness & remoteness	سرت عن المدينة Sirtu a'ni l madinati

Preposition	Function (Arabic)	Function (English)	Transliteration	Arabic Example
	البدليّة	Substitution	Anib a'nni	أنب عتي
	التعليل	explanation	La atakhalla a'n mabadiaka	لا أتخلى عن مبادئك
On (ala) على	الاستعلاء	Transcendence/superiority	Faddala l mujahidina ala l qa'idina	فضل المجاهدين على القاعدين
	الظرفية	Averbial	Dakhala l madinati ala hina gaflatin	دخل المدينة على حين غفلة
	مع	With	Sil akhaka ala khataihi	صل أخاك على خطئه
	الاستدراك	Obviation	A'la annahu gairu nadimi	على أنه غير نادم
	التعليل	Explanation	Muniha l wissamu a'la shaja'tihi	مُنح الوسامُ على شجاعته
In, at (fee) في	الظرفية	Place/adverbial	Almujrimu fee sijni	المجرم في السجن
	التعليل	Explanation	Mata rajulu fee talakku'hi	مات الرجل في تلكؤه (بسبب)
	مع	With	Udkhulu fee umamin	ادخلوا في امم
Or, to [rubba] رُبَّ	التقليل	Lessing	Rubba akhin laka lam talidhu ummaka	رُبَّ أخ لك لم تلده أمك
With (alba'u) الباء	الالصاق	Contact	Amsaktu bijadihi	أمسكت بيده
	الاستعانة	Means	Kassa sharitu bilmakassi	قصَّ الشريط بالمقص
	التعليل	Explanation	Mata bigaidhihi	مات بغيظه
	التعدّية	Aggression	Fashaltu bi sabibika	فشلت بسببك
	المقابلة أو العوض	Substitute	Bithamanin bakhsin	بدراهم معدودة / بثمن بخس
	الظرفية	Adverbial	Wakaftu bibabil manzili	وقفت بباب المنزل
	المصاحبة	Accompaniment	Ana'mu birifkatika	أنعم برفقتك
	التفدية	Sacrifice	Bi'abi anta wa ummi	بأبي أنت وأمي
	القسم	Oath	Bisharafi	بشَرفي
	التوكيد	Assertion	Ma ana bitarikin	ما أنا بتارك
For (allam) اللام	الملك	Possession	Liman l mulku jaumaithin	لمن الملك يومئذ
	الاختصاص	Special	Assijnu lil mujrimeen	السجن للمجرمين
	التعليل	Explanation	Safara ila lkharij littakhasusi	سافر الى الخارج للتخصص
	الظرفية	Adevrbial	Mada lisabilihi	مضى لسبيله
	الاستغاثة	Salvation	ja lirrigali	يا للرجال
	التعجب	Exclamatin	ja lirraua'ti	يا للروعة
	القسم	Oath	lillahi	لله
By (of oath) [elwaw] والواو	القسم	Oath	wallahi	والله
	القسم	Oath	tallahi	تالله
Until/till/to حتى (Hatta)	انتهاء الغاية من الزمان	End of direction	Qara'tu l baba Hatta kalla matni	قرعت الباب حتى كل متني

مذ/منذ (muth/munthu) Adverbial	ابتداء الغاية من الزمان	لم اراه منذ عام Lam arahu munthu a'amin لم أراه مذ تركته Lam arahu muth taraktuhu

Prepositional Phrases in Arabic

Prepositional phrases in Arabic are formed in two ways:
a)   A separate preposition (word) attached to a noun similar to a prepositional phrase in English
         Examples: in the road   في الطريق
                              On the shelf   على الرف
b)   A preposition letter attached to a noun. This form of prepositional phrases has no similar prepositional phrases in English.
         Examples: [lillahi]   لله
                              [bi'abi]   بأبي
Here the two prepositional letters [li] and [bi] are attached to two nouns to form [gar wa magrour].

Functions of Prepositional Phrases (Al jar wel magrour)
The prepositional phrase in Arabic has different functions:

Verb (الفعل):
Sara ala darbi   سار (على الدرب)   walked in the road
The prepositional phrase ala darbi is related to the verb sara (walked) and the doer or subject in the sentence is implicitly expressed which means he (huwa).

Active Participle/Present Participle (اسم الفاعل)
Saeedun naaimun fee sarriri   سعيد نائم في السرير
The prepositional phrase [في السرير] is attached to [نائم na'imun] as present participle [na'ib faa'il]

Participle (المصدر)
Assajaratu maudu'atun fee tarrik   السيارة موضوعة في الطريق
The prepositional phrase [fee tariki] is attached to the participle [موضوعة maudu'atun]

Infinitive (المصدر)
Addarsu fee saffi wa'lla'ibu fee mala'bi   الدرس في الصف واللعب في الملعب
The two prepositional phrases [fee saffi] and [fee l mala'bi] are related to the nouns [addarsu] and [alla'abu]

Verbal Noun (nomen verb) (اسم الفعل)
Uffin l'iashati l kilabi   أف لعيشة الكلاب
The prepositional phrase [l'ia'shati l kilabi] is related to the verbal noun [uffin] which means [I am upset].

        Moreover, a prepositional letter, in certain cases is added to sentences which transforms the attached noun in the sentence into a prepositional phrase, but the preposition in such cases remains additional because the original function of the noun implicitly remains as participle [marfu'an or mansuban] according to its position in the sentence.
Examples: ma ga'a min ahadin   ما جاء من أحد
                 The [min] preposition is additional in the sentence. The interpretation or real meaning of the sentence is: ma ga'a' ahadun   ما جاء أحدٌ
                 Ahadin is a subject explicitly magrour but marfu'a functionally.
(Abu Haqa': 1972 PP. 170-171)

Prepositional Phrases in English

        "A phrase may consist of a single word or a group of words. Phrases can be identified by substitution – that is, by replacing one expression with another, to see how it fits into the structure". (Biber 2002, P.38)
        In English there are different types of phrases: noun phrases, verb phrases, adjective phrases, adverb phrases, and prepositional phrases. Each phrase has a head word which is obligatory in the sentence.
        Prepositional phrases in English are group(s) of words which consist of a preposition followed by a noun phrase usually known as the prepositional complement and it acts as object of the pronoun. The preposition in a prepositional phrase acts a link between the preceding part of a sentence and its complement noun phrase. Moreover, prepositional phrases can be embedded in more than one phrase such as: On the morning of that beautiful day with a clear sky in a house with no person in it,….. .
"Prepositions also take complement clauses – clauses which have the same role as noun phrases as:
-        Component drawing carries instructions [on where they are used]
-        It was hard to live in Missouri [after spending so much time in California]
(ibid P.45)
Syntactic Roles of Prepositional Phrases
There are two major syntactic roles of prepositional phrases as an adverbial on the clause level and as a modifier or complement following a noun.

- The woman [in the street]
- The prepositional phrase [in the street] acts as a modifier for the woman (function as adjective phrase)
  He worked [in a factory]. The prepositional phrase is connected with the verb 'worked'. Its function is an adverbial on the clause level.
  Moreover, "a preposition is said to be stranded if it is not followed by its prepositional complement. The prepositional complement, in such cases, is generally identified as a previous noun phrase.
- [What more] could a child ask for?
- Without the money to pay for your promises, your manifesto is not worth [the paper] it is written on."

(Biber 2002, P.45)

Functions of Prepositional Phrases

A preposition + NP forms a prepositional phrase which can be
- An adverbial of place (position) answering the question where such as: The tent was erected [on a high hill.]
- An adverbial of place (movement) answering the question where to? The president walked slowly [to the door].
- An adverbial of time answering the question when? I first met George [in 1968]
- Some other adverbial phrase e.g. Handle this with care.
- A post modifier in a Noun phrase as in:
  The desk on the platform was covered with books.
- The complementation of an adjective as in
  Mary was good [in writing].

Restrictive and non-restrictive prepositional phrases

Prepositional phrases may thus be non-appositive or appositive, and in either function, they can be restrictive or non-restrictive.

This book [on grammar] (restricted), (non appositive – restrictive)

This book, on grammar (non appositive, non restrictive)

The issue of student grants (appositive – restrictive)

The issue, of student grants (appositive – non restrictive)

(Greenbaum 1993, P.376)

English Noun Phrases:

"A noun with its associated specification we will term a noun phrase. A noun phrase may be viewed as having potentially three parts.

Pre-modification – noun – post modification".

(Howard 1992 P.132)

A.   Pre-modifications

A multitude of elements may precede the head of a noun phrase [NP]

1.   Determiners: they can be:
- The articles: a, an, the
  A book, an apple, the world
- The demonstratives: This, that, these, those
  This course, those clouds
- The possessive words: my, your, Mary's the old lady's
- Closed-system modifiers
  In addition to determiners, there is a large number of other closed-system items that occur before the head of the noun phrase. These form three clauses: Pre-determiners – ordinals – and quantifiers

(Quirk 1986, P.62)
- Pre-determiners: e.g. all (of), some (of), both (of), one (of), any, half.
- Ordinals: first, second, third, last
- Cardinals: one, two, ten, etc.
  All ordinals co-occur with count nouns and usually come before cardinals.
  e.g. The first two items…... .
- Quantifiers: are of two groups; those that go with count nouns and those that go with non-count nouns.
  That co-occur with count nouns are: many, a few, several etc. For example: a few books, many chairs, several items.
  That co-occur with non-count nouns are: much, a little, less, etc. e.g. much milk, little sugar, etc.
- Adjectives: adjectives are used as premodifier: as special meal. If two or more adjectives occur, quantity adjectives come before quality adjectives.
  For example: The three blue colours
- Participle as modifier: e.g. hidden secrets
- Nouns as premodifiers: the bus stop. Police station
- Adverb [can be as premodifier and post modifier]
  The nearby station [nearby an adverb used as premodifier]

- **Noun phrases with multiple premodifieres:**
  Many noun phrases occur with multiple premodifiers. However, it is rare for all the words in a premodification sequence to modify the head noun. Rather, premodifying sequences usually have embedded relationships, with some words modifying other premodifiers instead of the head noun. For example consider the following two noun phrases:
  * Quite pale skin
  * Two mutually perpendicular directions
  Both of these noun phrases show an adverb (quite and mutually) modifying a following adjective [pale and perpendicular instead of the head noun (skin and directions)]

(Douglas 2002, P.276)

- **Coordinated Premodifiers**
  In one respect, coordinated premodifiers make the logical relationships among premodifiers explicit, since each part directly modifies the head noun.
  e.g.   black and white rabbit.
          Cold and soft mud

(ibid, P. 278)

The Noun Phrase: Nouns
Nouns in the English language indicate:
* Proper nouns: Ahmed, Ali, Cairo …etc.
* Plural of proper noun: The Browns
* Common nouns: (Nouns indicating persons: teacher, driver, conductor) etc.
* Other common nouns: tree, river, city, etc.
* Collective nouns: such as committee, family staff
* Abstract nouns derived from adjectives: happiness, kindness
* Abstract nouns derived from verbs: treatment, leakage
* Count nouns and mass nouns
  a. count nouns: animals, chairs, desks
  b. mass nouns: cover different kind
* Solid substances: bread, chalk
* Liquids and gases: water, oil
* Languages: Arabic, English
* Ing forms: cooking, clothing
* Others such as: accommodation, equipment, news
* Nouns ending in s: physics, electronics, measles
* Words used as singular but end in s: headquarters, barracks.
* Compound nouns: formed of two nouns which have become one word over the time, such as
  Head + ache = headache
  Book + case = bookcase
  Rail + way = railway
  Home + work = homework
* Compound nouns used as one noun but with a hyphen:
  tooth-brush - tooth-paste ..etc.
* Compound nouns whose first element is man or woman such as: man servant (sing), menservants (plural).
* Nouns as modifiers: school friend, roommate, etc.

(Close 1977 PP. 2-5)

Post determiners:
There are several types of post modifiers which modify the head noun. Post modifiers can be of two types: phrases and clauses. "Clausal post modifiers can be either finite or non-finite. When the clauses are finite, they are relative clauses." (Douglas 2002, P.265)

In this study, post modifiers will be only restricted to phrases and appositive noun phrase. Adjective phrases can also be post modifiers, but they are less common.

Prepositional phrases as post modifiers
These are phrases formed of a preposition plus a noun phrase attached to the noun head as modifier
e.g. The man [in the garden] is my father
[in the garden] is a prepositional phrase used as post modifiers to modify the head noun.
Another example: Interpretation of ambiguous questions.

Appositive Noun Phrase as Post modifiers
Appositive noun phrase as post modifier
The Indian captain, Mohammed Azharuddin (ibid P.265)
The present president of USA, Barak Obama.

Adjective Phrase as post modifier
Such type of phrases is less common.
e.g. President Bush will reiterate he wants a smooth transition and will coop in [any way possible].

Occasionally adverbs can also be pre modifier or post modifier in noun phrases:
e.g.   The nearby guard [adverb as modifier]
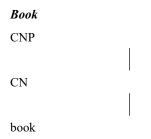   A block behind [adverb as post modifier]
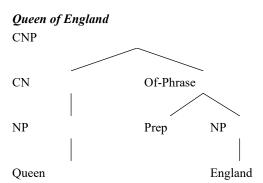Noun phrases can have multiple of post modifiers
e.g. The houses in this quarter of the city……(ibid, P265).

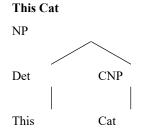**<u>Types of Noun Phrases</u>**
1.   **Elementary noun phrases**
a.   The pronouns of English have the property of being able to make entire noun phrases themselves such I, you
         I see you
         I is an entire subject noun phrase and you is an entire object noun phrase.
b.   A noun phrase can consist of a noun: book, chair, dog …etc.

Book

CNP

CN

book

Queen of England

CNP

CN   Of-Phrase

NP   Prep   NP

Queen   England

c.   Elementary noun phrases introduced by determiners and genitives:
         Determiners in addition to the articles, include the demonstratives

This Cat

NP

Det   CNP

This   Cat

The side of the coin

NP

Det   CNP

The   CN   Of-P

Side   Of   CNP

det   NP

Coin

d.   Elementary phrases preceded a genitive construction
         e.g. [Mary's] hat   [The farmer's] garden

Gen   NP

NP   Gen's marker   Gen   CNP

Mary   's   NP   Gen's marker   CN

                                           Det   CNP   's   CN

                                           The   CN

                                                    farmer   garden
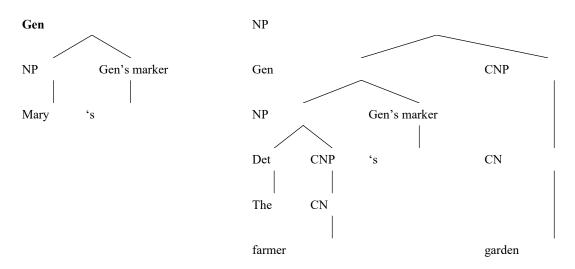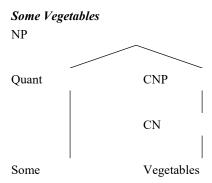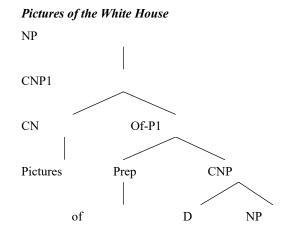
e.   Elementary noun phrases introduced by quantity words
         Quality words [some, few, a few, little, many, much, …etc.]

Some Vegetables
NP

Quant   CNP

                         CN

Some   Vegetables

2.   **Bare noun phrases**
         English allows noun phrases in which the common noun phrase occurs without any accompanying element.
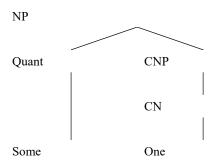   For example: Smith sells pictures of the White House

Pictures of the White House
NP

CNP1

CN   Of-P1

Pictures   Prep   CNP

                  of   D   NP

White House

(Baker 1996, P.162)

*   Some special combined forms
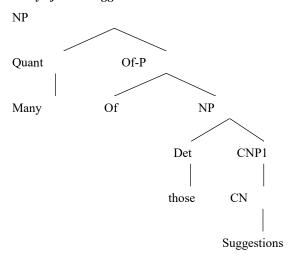   The existence of some special English words are interpreted as a combination of a quantity word and a noun.
        e.g. someone did something

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                    NP
                   /  \
                  /    \
              Quant    CNP
               |        |
               |        CN
               |        |
             Some      One
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*   Partitive noun phrases introduced by quantity words
        Partitive noun phrases are special noun phrase constructions in which phrases play a role analogous to that
        played by common-noun phrases.

Many of those suggestions

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    NP
   /  \
Quant  Of-P
  |    /  \
Many  Of   NP
          /  \
        Det  CNP1
         |    |
       those  CN
              |
          Suggestions
```
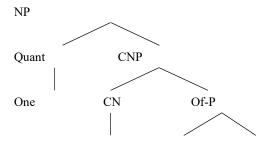
*   Partitive noun phrases built around measure nouns
        In addition to quantity words, there are a large number of quantity–indicating words that are much more
        noun-like in their behavior, in that they themselves can be preceded by quantity words and the indefinite
        article. These words include common terms of weight, length, and volume.
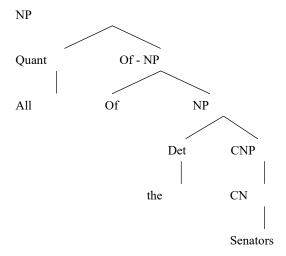   e.g. One pound of [those beans]

One pound of [those beans]

```
NP
 /  \
Quant  CNP
  |   /  \
One  CN  Of-P
      |   /  \
```

```
pound            Of          NP
                          /      \
                       det       CNP
                        |          |
                      Those        CN
                                   |
                                 beans
```

*   Some defective measure nouns
         Special noun phrases introduced by <u>All</u> and <u>Both</u>.
         All is like other quantity words in its capacity to occur in partitive noun phrases.
         e.g. Karem met all of the Senators

Karen met [all of the Senators]

```
NP
      /        \
  Quant      Of - NP
    |        /      \
   All      Of       NP
                   /     \
                 Det      CNP
                  |         |
                 the        CN
                            |
                         Senators
```

(ibid, PP.167 – 172)

Governing Word (Adjunct) and Governed Noun in Arabic
Al Mudaf and Al Mudaf Ilaih

        In English there are noun phrase. As previously explained that a noun phrase is formed of a head noun and modifiers. The root structure of a noun phrase in English is: premodifier + noun + post modifiers.
        In Arabic language there are two kinds of sentences: verbal sentences which start with a verb and nominal sentences which start with a noun. However in Arabic there are no noun phrases that are similar in structure and form to noun phrases in English, but there are structures in Arabic called <u>Adjunct and Governed Noun</u> (Al Idafa). The adjunct in Arabic is a structure which binds two nouns together. The first noun which is called Mudaf Ilaih cannot be in adjunct unless there is another noun attached to it and it becomes absolutely genitive. The first noun may have different functions. It may be a subject (mubtada') or predicate (rehme) (xabar), or subject of the passive (na'ib fa'el) or direct object (mafoul bihi), and it is called <u>Mudaf Ilaih</u> (<u>Governing word / Adjunct</u>), and the second noun which is attached to the first is called Governed noun (mudaf) and is always in genitive form.
Examples: Habbatu burrin   (حبة بُرّ) من حبٌّ
                 Harisul maliki   حارسُ الملك

Bayadu thalji   بياض الثلج

The forms of the Governed Noun [Almudafu ilaih]

Qala amirul qawmi   قال أمير القوم
Lafahat narul harbi   لفحت نار الحربِ
Intifadatu shaa'bi   انتفاضة الشعبِ
Amalu nnahari   عمل النهارِ
Wardul xududi   وردُ الخدودِ

       The last names in the above sentences are in genitive form (with a kasra in the last phoneme). The last nouns are in genitive form without being explicitly preceded by a preposition whether it is separate or attached letter. The deep structure of these words is as follow:

Lil qaumi   قال أمير القوم (للقوم)
Lil harbi   الحرب (للحرب)
Lisha'abi   الشعب (للشعب)
Fee nnahari   النهار (في النهار)
Min haririn   حرير (من حرير)
Khudud Kalwardi   الخدود (خدودٌ كالوردِ)
(Abu Haqa 1972 – PP. 175 - 188)

Genetive Marks (Alamat al gar)

The genetive marks in annexation (idafa) are the same genitive marks in prepositions.
1.   The kasra in Arabic in general
2.   The (ja) in dual nouns and perfect masculine plural (gender) instead of kasra.
         Examples: kitaba tilmithi, muallimu l madrasati
3.   The fatha in words that cannot be pluralized (mamnou' mina sarf)
     e.g.   binayatu beiruta   بناياتُ بيروتَ
            ahlu dimashka   أهلُ دمشقَ

Kinds of Annexation (idafa)

There are four kinds of annexation based on the preposition letter that implicitly deleted from the governed noun (al mudaf).
1.   <u>Lam annexation:</u>
        Examples: أمير الجن : أمير للجن
        The deep structure of the above example is amiru lilginni. The lam is deleted to become amiru lginni
2.   Al biannieh annexation: in which the implicit [min من]
        Preposition is deleted, for example:
        Kanzatu sufin   كنزةُ صوف
        Kanzatu min sufin   كنزة من صوف

3.   Adverbial annexation: In it the [fee في] preposition is deleted, for example
        Dawamu laili   دوام الليل
        Damwamu fee laili   دوام في الليل

4.   Similie annexation: It it the (kaf كاف التشبيه) is deleted from the surface structure
        Katru nadda   قطر الندى
        Meaning   ندى كالقطر
(Abu Haqa 1972 PP.179)

Before annexation:

1.   The deletion of [tanween تنوين] from the governing word
        Before annexation   amirun   أميرٌ
        After annexation   amiru ginni   أميرُ الجنّ

2.   The deletion of [nun نون] when the governing word (noun) is dual or perfect masculine gender (plural).
         The dual of book (كتاب) is kitaban كتابان.
        When the governing word is annexed to the governed noun, the [نون nun] in the dual or plural noun is deleted and hence we say ktaba tilmeethi and not kitaban tilmeethu [كتابا التلميذ]
3.   The deletion of the [al ال] (article) from the governing word when it is annexed to governed word with (al) article.

Examples words alone katib - alkatib   كاتب - الكاتب

          Makal - almakal   مقال - المقال

When the governed word is annexed to the governing word the (al ال) in the first noun is deleted. Examples
Katibul makali كاتب المقال

(Abu Haqa 1972 , P.180)

The Function of the Governing noun and the Governed

-   The governing noun as indefinite noun (nakira)
  In the example مثقال حبّة من خردل
  Mithkalu habbattin min khardali (the weight of a grain of mustard)
  The word (mithkalu مثقال) is the governing noun
  In Arabic a noun without (al ال) article is an indefinite noun.
  The word (habbatin) is a governed noun annexed to the preceding noun.
  The governed noun may be either definite or indefinite.
  For example مثقال حبّةٍ من خردل
  Kitabu l mua'llimi كتاب المعلم
  The governed noun in the second expression is a definite noun.
  Conclusion: <u>The governing noun is an indefinite noun while the governed may be indefinite or definite</u>
-   The governing noun does not end with a (nun نون)
  Separate noun (kitabun) كتابٌ
  When annexed by a governed noun the (nun) disappears.
  Kitabu talibi كتابُ الطالب

-   The governing noun as dual or perfect masculine gender plural such as:
  Muallimun معلمون   kitaban كتابان
  When the governing noun is annexed to a governed noun, the n-ending in the dual and perfect masculine plural disappear.
  Kitaba l mua'llimi كتابا المعلم
  Fanniyou l mukhtabari فنيّو المختبر

-   Annexation: genitive or verbal
    In the example: kitabu talibi, (translate student's book), the book is possessed by the student. This annexation defines the relation between the book and the student. This annexation is defined as <u>genitive annexation or genitive construction</u> (idafa ma'nawiyah).
  In the example كاتب المقالة (translate katibul makalati the writer of the essay or the essay writer), the governing word (noun) is not defined or particularized.
    In this case the annexations called verbal annexation (idafa lafthijah)
- Both kinds of annexation can be distinguished by using prepositions (separate or letters: fee, min, lam) when one of these prepositions can be inserted between both nouns, then the annexation is genitive.
  For example   [حبة خردل habbatu khardali] (a grain of mustard). When the preposition min is inserted between both nouns حبّةٌ من خردل habbatun min khardali, the meaning is clear and complete. Accordingly, the annexation is genitive; otherwise the annexation is verbal.

Conclusion:

  Both Arabic and English are languages which have syntactical functions. In certain syntactical functions there are similarities between both languages, especially in prepositional phrases where syntactical functions are very similar. In noun phrases the differences are obvious. Being aware of these similarities and differences in both languages will help the learner and teacher alike have a good command of both languages, especially when teaching and learning are based on logic and how syntax functions in each language.

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