

**A Comparative study of modifiers in noun phrase in modern standard Arabic and English****Hana Abdalbast Amar Belkur**

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hanaahano96@gmail.com***Received: 30/8/2026 Revised: 5/9/2026 Accepted: 20/9/2026 Publication: 29/9/2026*****Abstract**

Modifiers are words, phrases or clauses that provide description in sentences. A modifier is an optional element in phrase structure or clause structure. This study is aimed to identify modifiers in Arabic and to present a descriptive account of modifiers in the language. An attempt is made to present a comparison of modifiers in the noun phrase in Arabic and in English, in terms of their positions, in order to find the major similarities and differences between Arabic and English. The study shows that there are similarities and differences between these two subsystems of the modifiers in Arabic and English. The similarities between them facilitate the developmental process of learning a foreign language whereas differences make the learning process of English as a foreign language difficult and Arabic learners make many mistakes.

Key words: noun, noun phrase, modifiers, pre-modifiers, post-modifiers.**Introduction**

Language is one of the most essential aspects of human life, as it serves as the primary means of communication and interaction among people. Through language, individuals are able to express their thoughts, feelings, and ideas, as well as exchange knowledge and information. Because of its importance, language has become a major field of study in linguistics, which examines its structure, meaning, and use in different contexts.

Linguistics is divided into several branches, including phonology, morphology, semantics, and syntax. Among these branches, syntax is concerned with the rules that govern how words are arranged to form meaningful and grammatically correct sentences. Understanding sentence structure is essential for analyzing language and explaining how different linguistic elements function together.

One of the most significant components of syntax is the noun phrase (NP), which is a group of words centered around a noun. A noun phrase can perform different grammatical functions in a sentence, such as acting as the subject, object, or complement. It may also include determiners, adjectives, and other modifiers that provide additional information about the noun.

Therefore, this research focuses on the study of noun phrases, their structure, and their grammatical functions. It aims to provide a clear understanding of how noun phrases are formed and how they contribute to the overall meaning and organization of sentences.

According to Delahunty and Garvery, noun phrase is phrase headed by a noun (2010, p. 320). In a noun phrase, there can be determiners, quantifiers, and modifiers, a noun as well (Eastwood, 1994, p. 177). Moreover, noun phrase has a function as subject, object, or prepositional object in a sentence. For example, the tall man.

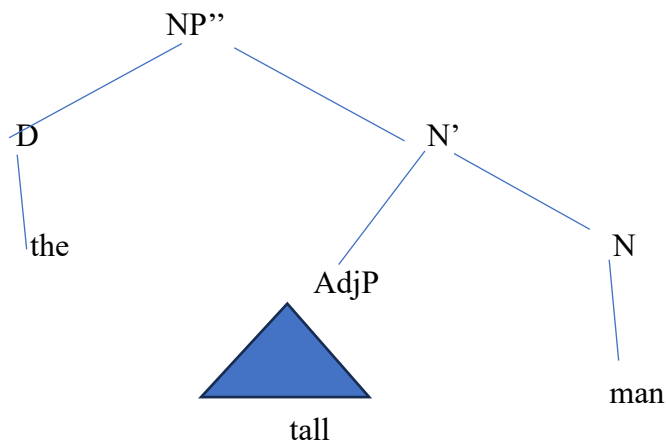


Figure 1: The example of noun Phrase.

From the example of noun Phrase above, man has a function as the head of noun, and tall is adjective and has the function of modifier of noun Phrase.

According to the explanation above, the researcher interests to identify the construction of noun phrases in the sentences. By understanding the noun phrase, it is expected that the readers are easy to understand a discourse.

The purpose of this study is to identify the modifiers of noun phrase used in the text of Arabic and English.

Objectives of the study:

This study is a syntactic analysis of modifiers.

The researcher wants

- 1) To identify modifiers in Arabic and to present a descriptive account of modifiers in Arabic.
- 2) To explain, clarify and compare the differences and similarities of modifiers in Modern Standard Arabic with English.

Limitation of the Study:

The researcher limits her study, in order to give clear description of discussion in this study.

This study concerned on analyzing the modifiers in noun Phrases that occur in the text of “Arabic and English languages”.

Significance of the Study:

The writer expects that the result of Noun Phrase modifiers analysis in the Arabic and English texts give benefits for others (students, lecturers, etc) and gives contribution for academic field and practical field, as follows:

1. Theoretical significance

- a. The result of this study is expected to give clear comparison about modifiers of noun Phrase that found in the Arabic and English texts.
- b. This study is to develop the lecturers’ insight by dealing with Noun phrase modifiers in different perspectives.

2. Practical significance

- a. This study helps the next writer who will conduct with this research or the next writers who want to discuss with related study.

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- b. This study gives more information to the readers about noun Phrase modifiers and will enrich the knowledge around the noun Phrase.

Literature Review:

Jitpraneechai (2019) claimed that there were considerable similarities in the usage of prenominal modifiers (pre-modifiers) between English-native and ESL writers in academic research. Additionally, they were found to extensively rely on premodifiers such as adjective phrases or nouns, and post-modifiers prepositional phrases or relative clauses, that clauses. These elements are easily encountered in written registers to increase writing complexity.

There have been numerous investigations of the Arabic DP structure by many linguists. Some authors have focused mainly on the fundamental and functional structures of the Arabic DP and modifiers (in particular Mohammad 1988; Mead 1993; Fehri 1999; Kremers 2003; Beina 2013; Al Qahtani 2016). Fassi Fehri.A (1999) has shown that most of modifiers such as adjectives, numeral and quantifiers (with exception of relative clause) can occur both before and after the head noun in Arabic. Chomsky (1995) asserted that Arabic pre-nominal modifiers are often in disagreement with the modified nouns in gender, number, definiteness, and case. In contrast, post- nominal modifiers agree with the nouns being modified in gender, number, definiteness, and case (Al Mahmoud 2014).

Finally, this study focuses on noun phrase modifiers in Arabic, as previous studies have not provided a comprehensive analysis of this topic. Most research has examined only selected modifiers, leaving important aspects insufficiently explored. Therefore, this study aims to provide a detailed analysis of Arabic noun phrase modifiers and compare them with those in English to identify their similarities and differences.

In addition, this study addresses the limited use of morpheme-by-morpheme glossing in previous research. While some studies segmented Arabic sentences into morphemes, they did not provide complete glosses, making the analysis less accessible to non-Arabic readers. Therefore, this study adopts a systematic glossing approach to improve clarity and understanding

Methodology

Data Collection

This study adopts a descriptive, analytical, and comparative research design to examine noun phrase (NP) modifiers in Modern Standard Arabic and English. The comparative approach is employed to identify the similarities and differences between the two languages, while the descriptive approach provides a systematic description of the linguistic features without testing specific hypotheses.

The research follows the main stages of descriptive research: defining the research objectives, designing the research approach, collecting data, analyzing the data, and reporting the findings. Data are collected from authoritative Arabic and English grammar books, including works by Alrajihi (1998), Fassi Fehri (1999), Burton-Roberts (2016), Kreyer, and other relevant linguistic references. In addition, previous theses and dissertations related to Arabic and English linguistics are consulted to support the analysis.

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Data Analysis

The collected data are analyzed using a comparative method, focusing on the identification and comparison of pre-modifiers and post-modifiers in noun phrases in both languages. Arabic examples are presented using IPA transcription, segmented into morphemes, glossed, and translated into English. Modern Arabic linguistic dictionaries are also consulted to ensure the accuracy of translation and linguistic analysis.

Descriptive Data Analysis

Definitions and Classification of Nouns

A noun is a major grammatical category that refers to people, places, objects, qualities, ideas, or concepts. Syntactically, nouns can function as subjects or objects within a clause.

In English, nouns are classified according to their semantic and grammatical properties. The major types include concrete, abstract, common, proper, collective, material, count, and mass nouns (Biber et al., 1999).

In Arabic, the parts of speech are traditionally divided into nouns, verbs, and particles (Alrajihi, 1998). An Arabic noun expresses a meaning independently and is not associated with a specific tense. Arabic nouns encompass categories such as nouns, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, and interjections.

Types of Nouns in English and Arabic

In English, countable nouns can occur in singular and plural forms and can be modified by numbers and quantifiers, such as many and several. Examples include pen/pens and cat/cats. In contrast, mass nouns generally cannot be counted individually and do not normally have plural forms, such as water, oil, and flour.

In Arabic, nouns can be classified according to number, gender, and definiteness. With respect to number, Arabic distinguishes three categories: singular, dual, and plural, whereas English generally distinguishes only singular and plural. The Arabic plural is further divided into sound plurals (masculine and feminine) and broken plurals, which differ in their morphological formation.

Thus, although Arabic and English share the distinction between singular and plural, Arabic additionally marks the dual number, reflecting a significant grammatical difference between the two languages.

Gender and Definiteness in Arabic

Arabic nouns are classified according to gender and definiteness. Gender is divided into masculine and feminine. Feminine nouns may be marked by suffixes such as taa marbuta (ة), alif maqṣūra (أ), and alif mamdūda (إ). Gender is reflected grammatically through agreement between nouns, adjectives, and verbs.

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With respect to definiteness, Arabic nouns are either definite or indefinite. Definite nouns may be marked by the definite article al- (ال), proper names, pronouns, relative pronouns, or possessive constructions. This system differs from English, which distinguishes between definite and indefinite articles.

Phrase and Noun Phrase

A phrase is a group of words functioning as a grammatical unit. Among the major phrase types are noun phrases, verb phrases, prepositional phrases, adverbial phrases, and adjectival phrases (Radford, 1998).

A noun phrase (NP) is a phrase whose head is a noun or pronoun (Morley, 2000). It may function as a subject or object and can contain determiners and modifiers. A basic structure of the noun phrase can be represented as:

Determiner + Pre-modifier + Head + Post-modifier

Noun Phrase Modifiers

A modifier is an optional element that provides additional information about the head and can generally be omitted without affecting the grammaticality of the phrase (Jacobs, 1995). Modifiers may occur before or after the head. Accordingly, they are classified as pre-modifiers and post-modifiers. For example, in a young man in a suit, young is a pre-modifier, while in a suit is a post-modifier.

Determiners also play an important role in noun phrases by specifying the reference or quantity of the noun. They include articles, demonstratives, possessives, quantifiers, and numerals (Leech & Svartvik, 1975).

Noun Phrase Modifiers in English

2.0 Introduction

A noun phrase (NP) is a grammatical unit headed by a noun or pronoun and may contain determiners and modifiers. Noun phrase modifiers provide additional information about the head noun by describing, classifying, identifying, or restricting its meaning. English allows modifiers to occur either before or after the head noun. Accordingly, they are classified into pre-modifiers and post-modifiers.

2.1 Structure of the English Noun Phrase

The basic structure of an English noun phrase can be represented as:

Determiner + Pre-modifier + Head + Post-modifier

For example:

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The beautiful girl in the classroom

A large wooden table near the window

The students who passed the exam

In the beautiful girl in the classroom, the is the determiner, beautiful is a pre-modifier, girl is the head, and in the classroom is a post-modifier. The head noun is the obligatory element, while modifiers are generally optional (Aarts & Aarts, 1988; Huddleston & Pullum, 2005).

2.2 Pre-modification

Pre-modifiers occur before the head noun. They commonly include adjectives, participles, nouns, compound modifiers, demonstratives, numerals, quantifiers, and genitives. Their main functions are to describe, classify, specify, or restrict the meaning of the head noun.

2.2.1 Adjective Phrases

Adjectives are among the most frequent types of pre-modifiers in English noun phrases (Biber et al., 1999). Attributive adjectives normally occur before the noun they modify.

Examples:

a difficult question

a young teacher

a beautiful white dress

a large black wooden table

In these examples, difficult, and young function as pre-modifiers because they occur before the head nouns.

Adjectives may also be classified according to their meaning and function. Qualitative adjectives describe qualities, as in a beautiful girl and a serious problem, while color adjectives indicate color, as in a black car and a white shirt. Quantifying adjectives indicate amount or quantity, as in many students, few books, and little water.

When several adjectives occur together, they generally follow an established ordering pattern:

a beautiful red dress

a large black car

a beautiful old wooden house

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Thus, adjective position and ordering contribute to the internal structure of English noun phrases.

2.2.2 Participles

Present and past participles can function as pre-modifiers. Present participles ending in -ing commonly describe an ongoing activity or characteristic, while past participles often express a completed or resulting state.

Examples of present participles:

a sleeping baby

a barking dog

Examples of past participles:

a broken window

a trained dog

In these noun phrases, the participles occur before the head nouns and therefore function as pre-modifiers.

2.2.3 Nouns as Pre-modifiers

A noun can modify another noun in English. This type of modification is common in compounds and noun–noun constructions.

Examples:

a school bus

a computer game

a Sunday newspaper

In school bus and computer game, the first nouns (school and computer) function as pre-modifiers of the following head nouns.

2.2.4 Compound Modifiers

Compound modifiers consist of two or more words that collectively modify a noun. They are often hyphenated when they occur before the noun.

Examples:

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a hard-working student

a well-known writer

a two-way street

a full-time job

The compounds hard-working, well-known, two-way, and full-time function as pre-modifiers because they occur before the head nouns.

2.2.5 Demonstratives

English has four main demonstratives: this, that, these, and those. When they occur before a noun, they function as determiners or demonstrative modifiers.

Examples:

this book

that house

these students

those cars

The demonstratives specify the referent according to distance and number. They occur before the head nouns in these examples.

2.2.6 Numbers and Quantifiers

Numerals and quantifiers can function as pre-modifiers by indicating number or quantity.

Examples of cardinal numerals:

two students

twenty people

Examples of ordinal numerals:

the first chapter

the last lesson

Examples of quantifiers:

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many students

few books

several questions

These elements occur before the head nouns and specify quantity, number, or distribution.

2.2.7 Genitives

Genitive constructions commonly express possession and occur before the head noun.

Examples:

John's car

Sara's book

the teacher's office

In these examples, John's, Sara's and the teacher's function as possessive modifiers of the following head nouns.

2.3 Post-modification

Post-modifiers occur after the head noun. They are commonly realized by prepositional phrases, relative clauses, non-finite clauses, participle clauses, and appositive phrases. Compared with pre-modifiers, post-modifiers are often structurally longer and provide more detailed information about the head noun (Downing & Locke, 2006).

2.3.1 Relative Clauses

Relative clauses modify nouns by providing additional information about their referents. They commonly begin with who, whom, whose, which, or that.

Examples:

The man who lives next door is a doctor.

The girl who won the prize is my sister.

The book that I bought yesterday is interesting.

In each example, the relative clause follows the head noun and functions as a post-modifier.

Relative clauses may be restrictive or non-restrictive:

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The students who studied hard passed the exam.

Ali, who studied abroad, speaks English fluently.

The first relative clause identifies which students are meant, whereas the second provides additional information about Ali.

2.3.2 Prepositional Phrases

Prepositional phrases are one of the most common forms of post-modification in English noun phrases.

Examples:

the book on the table

the girl in the classroom

the woman with the blue bag

For example, in the book on the table, book is the head noun and on the table is a post-modifying prepositional phrase.

2.3.3 Non-finite Clauses

Non-finite clauses, particularly to-infinitive clauses, can occur after nouns and provide additional information about them.

Examples:

the first person to arrive

the best way to learn English

In the best way to learn English, way is the head noun and to learn English is a post-modifying non-finite clause.

2.3.4 Participle Clauses

Participle clauses can function as post-modifiers and provide descriptive information about the head noun.

Examples with present participles:

The man standing at the door is my teacher.

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The girl wearing a red dress is my sister.

Examples with past participles:

The letter written by the teacher was important.

The car damaged in the accident was repaired.

The participle clauses follow the head nouns and therefore function as post-modifiers.

2.3.5 Appositives

An appositive is a noun or noun phrase placed next to another noun phrase to provide additional information or identify it.

Examples:

Mr. Ahmed, our teacher, explained the lesson.

Tripoli, the capital of Libya, is a large city.

In these examples, a university student, my best friend, the famous are appositive post-modifiers.

2.3.6 All and Both as Post-noun Modifiers

Some quantifying expressions, particularly all and both, can occur after a noun phrase.

Examples:

The students all passed the exam.

The teachers both attended the meeting.

In these constructions, all and both occur after the noun phrase and provide information about the members of the group.

2.4 Summary

English noun phrases consist of a head noun that may be accompanied by various modifiers. The analysis shows that modifiers can occur before or after the head noun. Pre-modifiers include adjectives, participles, nouns, compounds, demonstratives, numerals, quantifiers, and genitives. Post-modifiers include relative clauses, prepositional phrases, non-finite clauses, participle clauses, appositives, and certain post-noun quantifiers.

The principal structural characteristic of English noun phrases is therefore the possibility of modification on both sides of the head. This feature provides an important basis for comparison

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with Arabic, where adjectival modification generally follows the noun and involves grammatical agreement in gender, number, definiteness, and case

Noun Phrase Modifiers in Arabic

3.0 Introduction

Arabic is a Semitic language characterized by a root-and-pattern morphological system. Most lexical items are derived from consonantal roots through different morphological patterns (Holes, 1995). In this study, the focus is on the structure of Arabic noun phrases and the types, functions, and positions of their modifiers.

3.1 Structure of the Arabic Noun Phrase

An Arabic noun phrase (NP) consists of a head noun or pronoun that may be accompanied by one or more modifiers. Arabic noun phrases can be definite or indefinite. Definiteness is commonly marked by the definite article *al-*, whereas indefiniteness may be marked by *tanwīn*. Arabic nouns also show three main cases: nominative, accusative, and genitive.

A basic structure can be represented as:

Head + Modifier

For example:

al-kitāb-u al-jadīd-u

the-book-NOM the-new-NOM

‘the new book’

kitāb-u-n jadīd-u-n

book-NOM-INDF new-NOM-INDF

‘a new book’

These examples show that the modifier follows the head noun and agrees with it in the relevant grammatical features.

3.2 Noun Phrase Modification in Arabic

Arabic noun phrases can be modified by adjectives, numerals, demonstratives, quantifiers, participles, relative clauses, and prepositional phrases. These modifiers differ in their position and agreement patterns.

3.2.1 Adjectives

Arabic adjectives, traditionally called *naʿt* or *ṣifah*, generally follow the noun they modify. Attributive adjectives agree with the head noun in gender, number, definiteness, and case (Al-Jurjaani, 2003; Ryding, 2005).

Examples:

al-bayt-u al-kabīr-u

‘the big house’

ṭālib-a-t-u-n mujtīd-a-t-u-n

‘a diligent female student’

al-bint-u al-jamīl-a-t-u

‘the beautiful girl’

qaraʾ-tu kitāb-a-n mufīd-a-n

‘I read a useful book.’

In these examples, the adjectives *al-kabīr-u*, *mujtīd-a-t-u-n*, *al-jamīl-a-t-u*, and *mufīd-a-n* occur after their head nouns. Thus, they function as postmodifiers.

Arabic also distinguishes between attributive and predicative adjectives:

al-kitāb-u al-mufīd-u

‘the useful book’

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al-kitāb-u mufīd-u-n

‘the book is useful.’

In (5), al-mufīd-u is an attributive adjective because it modifies the noun directly. In (6), mufīd-u-n is predicative and describes the subject.

3.2.2 Numerals

Numerals represent another type of noun phrase modifier. Arabic cardinal and ordinal numerals exhibit complex patterns of gender, number, case, and position. They may occur before or after the noun.

Examples:

ra’ay-tu θalāθat-a ṭullāb-in

‘I saw three students.’

ka:fa’-tu ṭullāb-a-n xamsat-a-n

‘I rewarded five students.’

al-sayyārat-u al-rābi’at-u

‘the fourth car’

The examples demonstrate that Arabic numeral constructions differ from English in their agreement and case patterns. Prenominal numerals may form a construct-state structure, while postnominal numerals can show agreement with the noun.

3.2.3 Demonstratives

Demonstratives can occur before or after the head noun. They express features such as proximity, gender, and number.

Examples:

hāḍā al-bayt-u

‘this house’

al-bayt-u hāḍā

‘this house’

hāḍihi al-bint-u

‘this girl’

al-bint-u hāḍihi

‘this girl’

Unlike most other modifiers, demonstratives maintain their form when occurring in both pre- and postnominal positions. Therefore, they may function as either premodifiers or postmodifiers.

3.2.4 Quantifiers

Quantifiers such as kull ‘all’, ba‘ḍ ‘some’, and mu‘ẓam ‘most’ commonly occur before the noun and form a construct-state structure. The quantifier carries the case of the whole construction, while the following noun is genitive.

Examples:

kull-u al-kutub-i

‘all the books’

ba‘ḍ-u al-ṭullāb-i

‘some of the students’

mu‘ẓam-u al-ṭullāb-i

‘most of the students’

Quantifiers may also occur after the noun:

al-kutub-u kullu-hā

‘all the books’

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al-ṭullāb-u kullu-hum

‘all the students’

Thus, quantifiers can occur in both pre- and postnominal positions, with differences in their syntactic structure and agreement.

3.2.5 Participles

Arabic has active and passive participles. They can function as noun phrase modifiers and generally occur after the head noun. Participles combine nominal and adjectival properties and may show agreement in gender, number, case, and definiteness.

Examples:

ra’ay-tu ṭālib-a-n jālis-a-n fī al-faṣl-i

‘I saw a student sitting in the classroom.’

hādā xabar-u-n maḍkūr-u-n fī al-jarīdat-i

‘This is news mentioned in the newspaper.’

al-ṭālib-u al-mujtahid-u

‘the hardworking student’

In these examples, jālis, maḍkūr, and mujtahid modify the preceding nouns and therefore function as postmodifiers.

3.2.6 Relative Clauses

Relative clauses provide additional information about a noun and generally follow the noun they modify. With definite antecedents, Arabic commonly uses relative markers such as allaḍī ‘who/that’ and allatī ‘who/that’.

Examples:

al-farīq-u allaḍī la‘iba al-mubārāt-a

‘the team that played the match’

ra’ay-tu al-fatāt-a allatī qaṭafat al-azhār-a

‘I saw the girl who picked the flowers.’

al-walad-u allaḍī ta‘rifu-hu Hind-u-n

‘the boy whom Hind knows’

The relative clauses in these examples occur after their antecedents and provide additional information about them. They therefore function as postmodifiers.

With an indefinite antecedent, the relative marker may be omitted:

ra’ay-tu walad-a-n ya‘malu fī al-maṣna‘-i

‘I saw a boy who works in the factory.’

This demonstrates another structural difference between Arabic and English relative clauses.

3.2.7 Prepositional Phrases

Prepositional phrases are also used to modify nouns. Arabic prepositions govern the genitive case and generally occur before their complements. When functioning as noun phrase modifiers, prepositional phrases usually follow the head noun.

Examples:

ṭifl-u-n fī al-yurfat-i

‘a child in the room’

manzil-u-n fī al-‘āṣimat-i

‘a house in the capital’

qiṭ‘at-u-n ‘alā al-kursī

‘a piece on the chair’

abya:t-u-n min al-ši‘r-i

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‘verses from the poetry’

In each example, the prepositional phrase occurs after the head noun and provides additional information about it. Therefore, it functions as a postmodifier.

3.3 Summary

The analysis demonstrates that Arabic noun phrases permit several types of modification, including adjectives, numerals, demonstratives, quantifiers, participles, relative clauses, and prepositional phrases. Adjectives, participles, relative clauses, and prepositional phrases generally occur after the head noun, whereas demonstratives, numerals, and quantifiers may occur before or after it.

A major characteristic of Arabic noun phrase modification is grammatical agreement, particularly in gender, number, definiteness, and case. The position of modifiers also reveals an important contrast with English, where adjectives and several other modifiers commonly occur before the head noun. These similarities and differences are significant for the comparative analysis of Arabic and English noun phrases.

Findings and Results:

The findings reveal that both English and Modern Standard Arabic make extensive use of noun phrase (NP) modifiers to describe, qualify, and specify the head noun. Although modifiers in both languages perform similar semantic functions, their grammatical structures differ considerably.

The study found that English employs both pre-modifiers and post-modifiers. Pre-modifiers, such as attributive adjectives, nouns, participles, demonstratives, numerals, and quantifiers, appear before the head noun. In contrast, post-modifiers, including prepositional phrases, relative clauses, non-finite clauses, participial clauses, and appositives, follow the head noun.

In Modern Standard Arabic, however, most noun phrase modifiers—including adjectives, numerals, quantifiers, participles, relative clauses, and prepositional phrases—occur after the head noun. Demonstratives represent the main exception, as they may appear either before or after the noun depending on the grammatical context.

The study also concludes that adjectives function differently in the two languages. In English, adjectives form an independent word class and typically precede the noun. In Arabic, adjectives are dependent modifiers that agree with the noun in gender, number, definiteness, and case, and therefore always follow the noun. These findings highlight important structural differences between English and Arabic noun phrase modification and provide a clear basis for comparative linguistic analysis.

Conclusion:

This study examined and compared noun phrase (NP) modification in Modern Standard Arabic and English, focusing on the position, function, and types of modifiers in both languages. The findings indicate that noun phrase modifiers are optional elements that provide additional information about the head noun, making its meaning more precise and specific without affecting the grammatical structure of the sentence.

The comparative analysis revealed that the two languages share several similarities. Both Arabic and English employ noun phrase modifiers, allow noun phrases to function as subjects and objects, and use modifiers in the form of words, phrases, and clauses. In addition, both languages use prepositional phrases and relative clauses as post-modifiers, while demonstratives function as noun phrase modifiers in both systems.

Despite these similarities, significant structural differences were identified. English allows both pre-modification and post-modification, with adjectives, participles, compounds, noun phrases, numerals, quantifiers, and genitives typically occurring before the head noun, whereas relative

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clauses, prepositional phrases, appositives, and participial clauses occur after it. In contrast, most modifiers in Modern Standard Arabic follow the head noun and must agree with it in gender, number, definiteness, and case. Moreover, English employs appositives, compounds, and genitives as noun phrase modifiers, while these structures are not used in the same way in Arabic.

Overall, the study demonstrates that understanding the similarities and differences between Arabic and English noun phrase modification is valuable for comparative linguistics and second language learning. It can help learners anticipate areas of difficulty, reduce grammatical errors caused by language transfer, and improve the teaching and learning of English by Arabic-speaking students.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, several recommendations are proposed for future research. First, researchers are encouraged to conduct further comparative studies on syntactic structures involving Arabic, English, and other languages in order to broaden the understanding of cross-linguistic similarities and differences. Second, future studies should apply additional syntactic theories, analytical frameworks, and syntactic tree diagrams to various types of texts, as this may provide deeper insights into the structure and function of noun phrases and other grammatical constructions.

Furthermore, scholars are encouraged to investigate the internal structure of noun phrases in both Modern Standard Arabic and English in greater detail, with particular attention to modifier position, agreement, and syntactic function. Such research may contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of noun phrase structures, reduce ambiguity in linguistic analysis, and support the development of more effective approaches to language teaching, translation, and comparative linguistic studies

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