A SYNTACTIC ANALYSIS OF NOUN PHRASES FOUND IN
GEORGE BERNARD SHAW’S “ARMS AND THE MAN”
(USING X-BAR APPROACH)

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Proposed by

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A SYNTACTIC ANALYSIS OF NOUN PHRASES FOUND IN GEORGE BERNARD SHAW’S “ARMS AND THE MAN” (USING X-BAR APPROACH)

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ABSTRACT

This study deals with analyzing drama script using X-bar approach in representative of tree-diagram of Andrew Radford’s book (1988). This study aims at identifying and describing the constituent of Noun Phrase and the dominant construction of Noun Phrase written in George Bernard Shaw’s ‘Arms and the Man’.

This research applies descriptive qualitative method. The object are Noun Phrases constituent, and the analyzed data are sentences and/or phrases containing Noun Phrase construction used in ‘Arms and the Man’ drama script. The whole data are 178 data found by the writer. Based on the analysis, the writer found that there are thirty-five constructions of Noun Phrase and the dominant construction lies within pre-modifier + Noun (Head) construction. For specific result, the writer provides the percentage in detail, such as Noun, in 3 data (1, 7%), Pre-modifier + Noun (Head), in 94 data (52, 8%), Noun (Head) + Post-modifier, in 5 data (2, 8%), Pre-modifier + Noun (Head) + Post-modifier, in 76 data (42, 7%).

From research finding, the writer concludes that there are many constituent and construction of Noun Phrase in English language. Sometimes Noun Phrase has Prepositional Phrase as a post-modifier. Every PP has status in Noun Phrase either complement (obligatory) or adjunct (optional). It can be known by paraphrasing the head noun into transitive verb (Vt).

Key words: Noun Phrase, constituent, X-bar approach
1. **Introduction**

As one aspect of linguistics analysis, the study of syntax is fundamental to linguistics and language study. It is because syntax studies the rules that govern the ways in which words combined to form phrases, clauses, and sentences. Syntax is one major component of grammar. According to Crystal (1992: 379) in Srijono (2010: 61) syntax is the study of the rules governing the way words are combined to form sentences. In other word, syntax studies the sentence structures.

There are many grammatical forms in a sentence. One of them is phrases. In grammar, phrase is a group of words that does not contain a verb and its subject and is used as a single part of speech. According to Radford (1988: 167) phrase is classified into five, they are noun phrase, verb phrase, adjective phrase, prepositional phrase, and adverb phrase. Every phrase has head and modifier. The head is the central of element of its phrase. Miller (2002: 3) stated that the head controls or manages the other words in a phrase, it is the modifier. If the head is a noun, the phrase is called a noun phrase; if the head is a verb, the phrase is a verb phrase, and so on. Modifier is a constituent that imparts information relating to the head of the construction. The function of phrase in a sentence can be as a subject, object, subject complement, object complement, etc. One example of the phrases is noun phrase.

“A noun phrase is a group of words that is composed of a noun and number of optional modifiers and that lacks subject or predicate” (Strumpf,
1999: 32). It means that noun phrase does not have subjects and predicates and it cannot be function as predicate. Most complete sentences have noun phrase, because it is one of the biggest phrases existed. Like in Arms and the man drama script, the most dominant level category is noun phrase. Drama script is more difficult to be understood than the others like movie, song, short story, etc. Based on the experience from observation, most people said that to understand drama script is difficult, spent much time to understand it, even the vocabularies in drama script vary and complicated. The phrases vary from simple to complicated one; like noun phrases, they have simple form to complicated forms.

2. Research Method

This study uses descriptive qualitative and employs Transformational Grammar at first course (1988) book using X-bar approach from Andrew Radford. The object of the study is the Noun Phrases constituents written in ‘Arms and the Man’ drama script by George Bernard Shaw. The data of the study are sentences or phrases containing Noun Phrases constructions found in George Bernard Shaw’s ‘Arms and the Man’. Technique of analysis data, the writer identify the constituent of Noun Phrase, the writer uses the function and its category in sentences, and then the writer describe the constituents of Noun Phrases, the writer uses X-bar Approach by Andrew Radford’s book (1988) in representative of tree-diagram then discusses the data based on tree-diagram forms.
3. Finding and Discussion

The findings of the study are to identify and to describe the constituents of Noun Phrases by using X-bar Approach in representative of tree-diagram. The writer finds 5 (five) kind of constructions of Noun Phrases. While on the status, every PP has post-modifier in the Noun Phrase, and every PP will have status of either complement or adjunct in the Noun Phrase construction. The phenomena are in the following:

3.1. Noun + PP (Complement) = small Noun Phrase

```
Division of labor! Major./Bluntschli passes him a paper.
```

PS-rules;

\[ N' \rightarrow N + PP \]

\[
\begin{array}{c}
N' \\
N \\
PP \\
division \\
of labor
\end{array}
\]

Phrase ‘division of labor’ is a noun phrase because it has a noun head ‘division’ and its modifier ‘of labor’. The form of modifier is PP, stands for post-modifier because it appears after the noun head. This noun phrase can be categorized into small NP (N’) since it does not have a determiner to expand N’ into N’’.

Based on the schema \[ N' \rightarrow N + PP \], PP expands N into N’ so that the function of PP ‘of labor’ is obligatory (complement). Complement is the sister of N and the daughter of N’. It can be observed the head noun ‘division’ that can be paraphrased into transitive verb. From NP, ‘division of labor’ becomes
‘to divide labor’. Constituent ‘divide’ is transitive verb, so that it must be followed by the object. The object is ‘labor’. Because PP ‘of labor’ has close relation with the head noun ‘division’, so that it is called obligatory post-modifier (complement). From the explanation above, it can be inferred that the construction of noun phrase is $N' \rightarrow N + PP$ (complement).

3.2. **Determiner + Noun + PP = Complement**

- there is a pile of paper backed novels, a box of chocolate creams.

PS-rules:

\[
\begin{align*}
N'' & \rightarrow D + N' \\
N' & \rightarrow N + PP
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{aligned}
D & \quad N' \\
\quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad a \quad box \quad of \quad chocolate \quad creams
\end{aligned}
\]

‘A box of chocolate creams’ belongs to full NP ($N''$) because it has specifier (A as determiner). Full NP cannot be expanded by the other determiner, if it is added, the construction will be ill-formed. Constituent ‘box’ stands as head of NP, ‘a’ stands as determiner (often called pre-modifier due to it occurs before the noun head), and PP of NP stands as post-modifier because it occurs after the noun head.

The function of PP ‘of chocolate creams’ in the NP is complement. The schema above shows that complement is the sister of N and the daughter of $N'$. Hence, it expands $N box$ into $N' box of chocolate$ ($N' \rightarrow N + PP$). Complement can be expressed by using verb transitive ($v_t$) in
one clause and the head noun ‘box’ can be paraphrased into transitive verb. See the illustration below:

- to box chocolate creams.

It is well-formed and the head noun ‘box’ can be moved into transitive verb. The evidence to check that the function is complement is made full sentence. From to box chocolate creams become they box chocolate creams. It shows that complement is obligatory because obligatory constituent must be complements. So, it is true that complement can be proven by paraphrasing Vt where the phrase above. From the explanation above, the construction of NP is N’’ → D + N’ + PP (complement).

3.3. Determiner + Noun + Noun + PP (Adjunct)

Night. **A lady’s bedchamber in Bulgaria**, in a small town near the Dragoman Pass, late in November in the year 1885.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N’’</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>N’</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N’</td>
<td>N’</td>
<td>PP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N’</td>
<td>N</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘A lady’s bedchamber in Bulgaria’ is noun phrase which has pre-modifier and post-modifier. Constituent ‘a lady’s’ stands as pre-modifier and constituent ‘in Bulgaria’ stands as post-modifier. The form of ‘in
Bulgaria’ is PP. This NP belongs to full NP, because it has ‘a’ as determiner, so it can be expanded by the other determiner.

The status of PP ‘in Bulgaria’ in the NP is optional. It can be seen from the schema \( N' \rightarrow N' + PP \). Adjunct is the daughter and sister of \( N' \). To prove that the function is adjunct is by looking the PP. The PP in the NP shows PP place or location, where PP indicates place called PP adjunct or optional. The other reason to show that the PP (adjunct) is by paraphrasing the head noun ‘bedchamber’ into transitive verb. It is clear that the head noun in the NP cannot be changed into Vt. So, the relation between the head noun ‘bedchamber’ and PP ‘in Bulgaria’ is loosely or longer relation. The head noun in this NP has two statuses as small NP (\( N' \)) and noun (N). Based on description above, it can be inferred that the construction of NP is \( N'' \rightarrow D + N' + PP \) (adjunct).

3.4. **Determiner + Adjective + Noun + PP (complement) + PP (adjunct)**

- [He makes boldly for the window; and his hand is on the shutter when there is **a terrible burst of firing in the street beneath**.]

PS-rules:

\[
\begin{align*}
N'' & \rightarrow D + N' \\
N' & \rightarrow AP + N' \\
N' & \rightarrow N' + PP \\
N' & \rightarrow N + PP \\
\end{align*}
\]
A terrible burst of firing in the street beneath is a noun phrase which has specifier (‘a’ as determiner). It belongs to full NP (N’’), because it is not possible to put the other determiner (D). Constituent ‘terrible’ is the adjective stands as pre-modifier due to the existence of it (‘terrible’) before the head noun. Constituent ‘burst’ stands as the head of this noun phrase. The prepositional phrase ‘of firing in the street beneath’ stands as post-modifier because it occurs after the head noun. There are two PPs in this NP, such as ‘of firing’ and ‘in the street beneath’.

The status of PP ‘of firing’ in the noun phrase is complement. It can be seen that it expands N into N’ (N’ → N + PP). Hence it can be said that complement is the sister of N and the daughter of N’. To prove that PP ‘of firing’ is obligatory by paraphrasing the head noun ‘burst’. For clear explanation, see below:

- Burst of firing → to burst fire

In illustration above can be seen that the head noun ‘burst’ is able to be changed into transitive verb (Vt). The result is well-formed and constituent ‘fire’ must adhere with the head noun. So it has close relation with the head noun and can be called as obligatory post-modifier (complement).

Meanwhile, the status of the second PP ‘in the street beneath’ in the noun phase is adjunct. This PP modifies the noun ‘firing’. The adjunct is the sister and daughter of N’. It can be seen from the schema that it expands N’ into N’ (N’ → N’ + PP). To check that the PP ‘in the street
beneath’ is adjunct, it can be observed from the PP itself. This PP (‘in the street beneath’) shows that PP location. It can be said that PP location must be adjunct. It can be prove from paraphrasing the noun ‘firing’. It is clear that the noun ‘firing’ cannot be changed into transitive verb (Vt). So, the conclusion is that PP ‘in the street beneath’ has no close relation with the noun ‘firing’, hence it is optional post-modifier (adjunct). From the explanation above, the construction of NP is N’ → D + AP + N’ + PP (complement) + PP (adjunct).

3.5. Determiner + Noun + conjunction + Noun + PP (adjunct)

LOUKA [as she collects the coffeepot and cups on the tray, and carries it into the house]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PS-rules;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N’’ → D + N’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N’ → N’ + PP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N’ → N’ + and + N’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N’ → N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N’ → N</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘The coffeepot and cups on the tray’ belongs to a noun phrase because the existence of the head noun ‘coffeepot and cups’. It is called full NP (N’’) due to constituent ‘the’ is determiner stands as pre-modifier. Pre-modifier appears before the head noun of the noun phrase.
Constituent ‘on the tray’ is PP stands as post-modifier because it occurs after the head noun.

The status of PP ‘on the tray’ in the noun phrase is optional. It can be seen from the schema that it expands N’ into N’ (N’ → N’ + PP). The evidence that the PP ‘on the tray’ stands as adjunct, it can be proven by paraphrasing the head noun ‘coffeepot and cups’ into transitive verb. From noun phrase ‘coffeepot and cups on the tray’ becomes ‘to coffeepot and cup on the tray’. Based on the paraphrase above, it is clear that the head noun ‘coffeepot and cups’ is not able to be changed into transitive verb. The other reason is by changing the PP into the other PPs, such as on the box. From the example, there is no close relation with the head noun. To prove more, it can be seen from the PP itself. This PP shows PP location that ‘coffeepot and cups is on the tray’. When a PP indicates PP location or place, it belongs to optional or adjunct. The adjunct is the sister and daughter of N”. Therefore, it has no close relation between the head noun ‘coffeepot and cups’ with the PP ‘on the tray’. It can be said that this PP is optional post-modifier (adjunct). Based on the description, it can be inferred that the construction of the NP is N” → D + N’ (N and N) + PP (adjunct).
4. Conclusion

The present study deals with the constituents of Noun Phrases in the ‘Arms and the Man’ drama script. The finding shows that the construction of Noun Phrases can be plural noun, pre-modifier + Noun (Head), Noun (head) + Post-modifier, Pre-modifier + Noun (Head) + Post-modifier. The Noun Phrase which has Prepositional Phrase stands as post-modifier, has status either complement or adjunct. It can be seen from the schema and it can be observed by paraphrasing the head noun into transitive verb (Vt).

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