

CHAPTER-4
STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF NOUN PHRASE
AND NOUN CLAUSE

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4.1 Phrase

The term ‘phrase’ is called *bat^hra k^hunduu* in Bodo. Generally, phrase is a group of words that function as a coherent unit within the sentence. In other words, phrase is a small group of words that work together as a conceptual unit, typically forming a component of a clause or sentence. For example, *gusuum mawzija na zaduŋ* ‘the black cat is eating fish’ this sentence has two phrases the first one is noun phrase *gusuum mawzija* ‘the black cat’ and another one is verb phrase *na zaduŋ* ‘eating fish’. It is observed that a phrase sometimes involves just a single word. In the sentence *aŋ uŋk^ham zajuu* ‘I eat rice’ the word *aŋ* ‘I’ is a pronoun and a noun phrase. A phrase does not necessarily contain both a subject and a verb, as well as does not necessarily need to have any special meaning on its own. Phrases contribute to the overall meaning of a sentence. According to David Crystal, phrase is “*a term used in grammatical analysis to refer to a single element of structure containing more than one word, and lacking the subject-predicate structure typical of clauses.*”¹ Defining the term phrase P.H. Matthews states phrase is “*basically a syntactic unit which is not a clause but can form part of the construction either of clauses or of larger phrases within them. E.g. I and in the garden are elements in the structure of I was sitting in the garden; in I know the man in the garden, a phrase in the garden is in turn included in a phrase the man in the garden.*”² According to Jim Miller, “*A phrase is a group of interrelated words.*”³ A phrase contains a head word and the remaining words within a phrase are known as dependents or modifiers. Phrase is classified according to the class of participating head word such as noun phrase headed by noun, verb phrase headed by verb, adjective phrase headed by adjective and so on. The head word leads to the chief role of a phrase, though the role of other words (modifiers) is also unavoidable. About the head word and the

¹ Crystal, David. *A First Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics*. London: Andre Deutsch Limited, 1980. p. 270.

² Matthews, P.H. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Linguistics*. United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 2014. p. 302.

³ Miller, Jim. *An Introduction to English Syntax*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2002. p. 1.

modifiers of phrase Jim Miller says “*If we think of language as a way of conveying information – which is what every speaker does with language some of the time – we can consider the head as conveying a central piece of information and the modifiers as conveying extra information. Thus in the phrase expensive books the head word books indicates the very large set of things that counts as books, while expensive indicates that the speaker is drawing attention not to the whole set but to the subset of books that are expensive.*”⁴

A phrase contains only one head word but may have contain more than one modifier words. Phrases can be analyzed using tree diagram as given below:

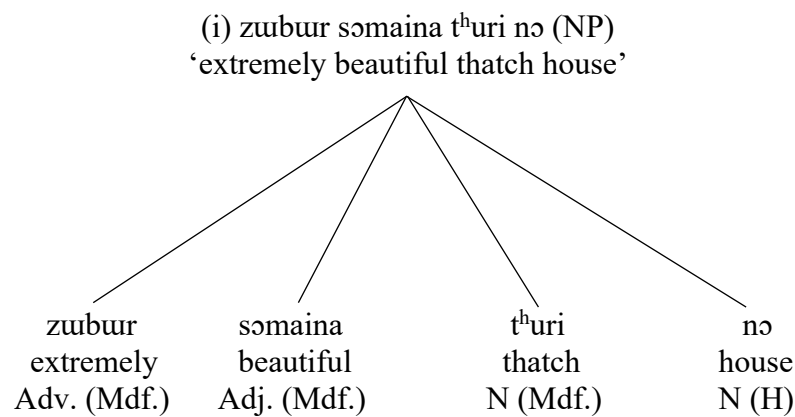


Figure: 4.1

The given example, *zubur sɔmaina t^huri nɔ* ‘extremely beautiful thatch house’ is a noun phrase. Here, the head word is *nɔ* ‘house’ a noun, remaining three words are modifiers. *zubur* ‘extremely’ is an adverb, *sɔmaina* ‘beautiful’ is an adjective and *t^huri* ‘thatch’ is a noun; together these indicate extra information about head word that the house is extremely beautiful and made of thatch.

⁴ *ibid.*, p. 3.

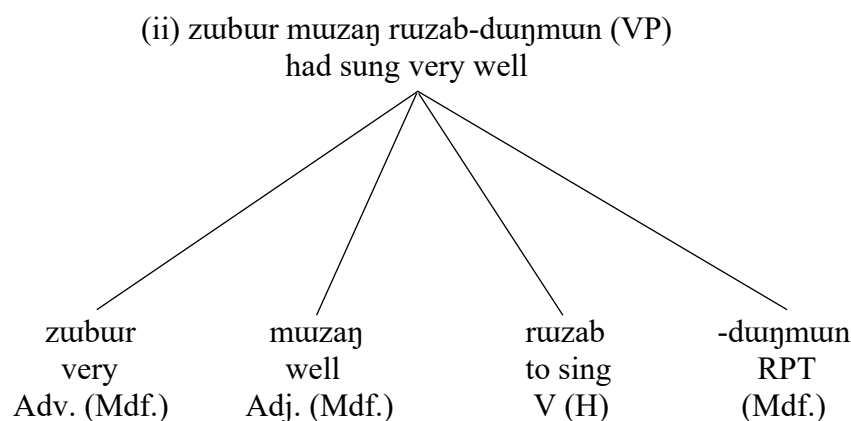


Figure: 4.2

This example, *zuubur muzaŋ ruzaḃ-duŋmun* ‘had sung very well’ is a verb phrase. Here, *ruzaḃ* ‘to sing’ is the head word and the remaining words are modifiers.

Although, there are different types of phrases in Bodo the study will be done only about noun phrase, other types of phrases will not be part of this study.

4.1.1 Noun Phrase

The term noun phrase is called *muŋma k^hundui* in Bodo. Noun phrase is a word or a group of word which functions as a noun within a sentence. Noun phrase is known as NP in short. Noun phrase consists of a head word and modifiers. The head word of a noun phrase can be a noun or a pronoun. It is observed that sometimes, just a noun or a pronoun function as a noun phrase. In *raju-a undubaj* ‘Raju has slept’, *raju* is a noun, a head word and an NP. So, a single noun or pronoun can be the head word as well as the NP within the sentence. In most languages of the world, the noun phrase may involve various kinds of dependents or modifiers. The modifiers of a noun phrase may include adjective, classifier, numeral, case suffixes, gender suffixes or gender distinction words, plural suffixes, etc. in case of Bodo. The modifiers in a noun phrase provide additional information about the head word. According to P. H. Matthews noun phrase is “*a phrase described as having a noun as its head: e.g. the older people, as a phrase whose head is people, or Jane as a phrase formed by a head alone.*”⁵ Defining the term noun phrase Matthew T. Zakaria states “*In grammatical theory, a noun phrase (NP) is a phrase whose head is a noun or a pronoun, optionally accompanied by a set*

⁵ Matthews, P.H. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Linguistics*. United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 2014. p. 270.

of modifiers. Noun phrases normally consist of a head noun, which is optionally modified (“premodified” if the modifier is placed before the noun; “postmodified” if the modifier is placed after the noun).”⁶ According Pushpinder Syal and D. V. Jindal, “a noun phrase may be a single word, a single noun or pronoun, or a group of words that belong with the noun and cluster around it. A noun phrase has in it a noun (a head word) and certain modifiers.”⁷

Noun phrase can be better illustrated with help of tree diagram as given below:

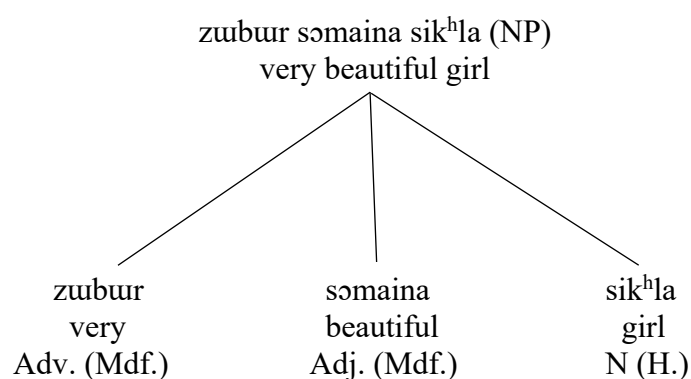


Figure: 4.3

In the given noun phrase, *zubuur sɔmaina sikʰla* ‘very beautiful girl’ the words *zubuur* ‘very’ and *sɔmaina* ‘beautiful’ are functioned as modifiers and they are adverb and adjectives from grammatical category perspective respectively. The word *sikʰla* ‘girl’ is the head word and it holds core meaning. *zubuur* and *sɔmaina* have provided additional information of the head word *sikʰla*, that the girl is very beautiful.

It is observed that sometimes a noun phrase may have consisted two or more nouns with or without immediate modifier. In such context, a noun acts as head word and remaining others stand in some sort of relationship to the head noun. For example:

⁶ Zakaria, Matthew T. *Nouns*. New Delhi: Commonwealth Publishers Pvt. Ltd., 2009. p.176.

⁷ Syal, Pushpinder and Jindal, D. V. *An Introduction to Linguistics Language Grammar and Semantics*. 2nd ed., Delhi: PHI Learning Private Limited, 2021. p. 109.

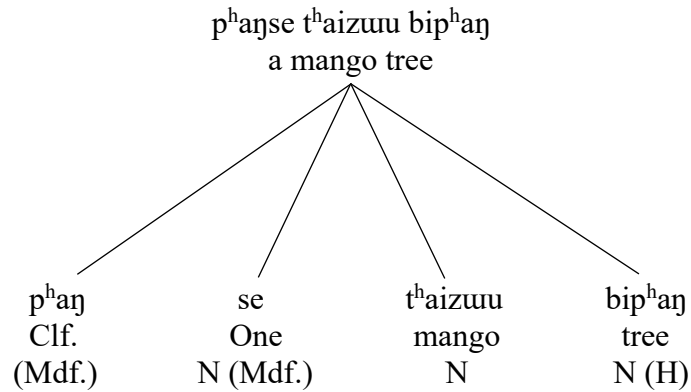


Figure: 4.4

The above example, *p^haŋse t^haizuu bip^haŋ* ‘a mango tree’ has two nouns one is *t^haizuu* ‘mango’ and another one is *bip^haŋ* ‘tree’. Here the head word is *bip^haŋ*, and the remaining one noun *t^haizuu* is also interrelated to the head that indicates tree is of mango. *p^haŋ* is a classifier, *se* is a numeral and these function as modifier.

It is also observed that sometimes a single noun or pronoun can occur as a noun phrase. For example:

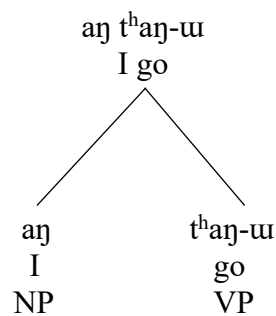


Figure: 4.5

The given example *aŋ t^haŋ-u* ‘I go’ has two phrases the first one *aŋ* ‘I’ is noun phrase and the second one *t^haŋ-u* ‘go’ is verb phrase. Here *aŋ* is a personal pronoun that occurred as a noun phrase alone.

Sometimes, in a noun phrase, two or more modifiers of different word classes can be occurred before head noun. For example:

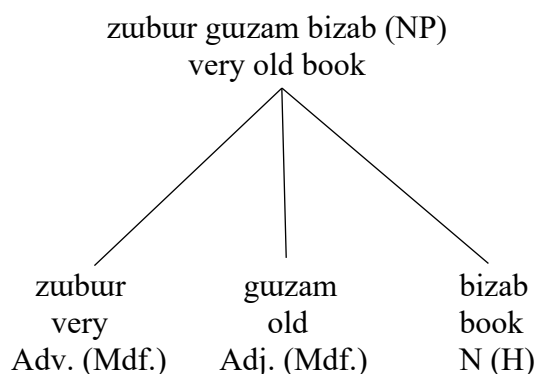


Figure: 4.6

Here, in the example, *zubuur guizam bizab* ‘very old book’ has two modifiers of different word classes i.e., *zubuur* ‘very’ and *guizam* ‘old’. The first one *zubuur* is an adverb and *guizam* is an adjective, these function as modifiers of the head word *bizab* ‘book’.

4.1.1.1 Heads of Noun Phrase

In noun phrase, head is the central word. The head word of a noun phrase is that which can be isolated by gradually peeling off the other words without breaking the structure of sentence. Such word is called head word. Head word expresses the core meaning of a noun phrase and also the core element that is responsible for various relations with all other remaining elements in the noun phrase within the sentence. In case of Bodo, the head word of a noun phrase may be a noun, a pronoun, an adjective and a numeral.

4.1.1.1.1 Noun as head in Noun Phrase

Noun is the most usual type of head of a noun phrase. Different types of nouns like- proper noun, common noun, material noun, collective noun, abstract noun, concrete noun, kinship term, verbal noun, etc. function as head of noun phrase.

(a) Proper noun: The proper nouns such as name of a specific place, person, thing, river, mountain, etc. function as head word in a noun phrase. For example:

- (i) *raimona-jaw* *t^haŋ-gun*
 Raimona-LOC go-RFT
 ‘Will go to Raimona.’

In the given example, the part *raimɔnajaw* is noun phrase. Here, the head word is *raimɔna* the name of a national park and it constituted noun phrase by taking nominative case suffix *-jaw*.

(b) Common noun: The common noun words like the name of a class of person, place, thing, etc. act as head word in a noun phrase. For example:

- (i) hindi p^hurungirij-a p^hurung-gasinuu
 Hindi teacher-NOM teach-PCT
 ‘The Hindi teacher is teaching.’

Here the part *hindi p^hurungirija* ‘Hindi teacher’ is noun phrase, head word is *p^hurungiri* ‘teacher’, a common noun.

(c) Material noun: The material nouns like soil, gold, silver, water, cotton, etc. can also function as head word in a noun phrase. For example:

- (i) sɔna-ja besenguusa
 gold-NOM precious
 ‘Gold is precious.’

In this example, *sɔna* ‘gold’ is the head word of noun phrase. It is a material noun.

(d) Collective noun: The collective nouns such as group of animals, people, objects, concepts, etc. can also function as head of noun phrase. For example:

- (i) mel-a zagaj-baj
 meeting-NOM start-IPT
 ‘The meeting has started.’

Here, the word *mel* ‘meeting’ is the head word of noun phrase, which is a collective noun.

(e) Abstract noun: Any kinds of abstract nouns such as feelings, ideas, qualities, states, etc. can function as head word of a noun phrase. For example:

- (i) ram-ni nurumthi-ja bɔik^huubuu muhihu-baj
 Ram-GEN simplicity-NOM all attract-IPT
 ‘Ram’s simplicity has attracted to all.’

In the above example, *ram-ni nurumt^{hi}-ja* part is the noun phrase and the head word is *nurumt^{hi}* ‘simplicity’ it is an abstract noun that indicates a quality of Ram. It is constituted noun phrase by taking premodification *ram-ni* a proper noun and genitive case suffix; and post modification *-ja* a nominative case suffix.

(f) Concrete noun: The concrete nouns such as different kinds of names of substances, objects, etc. function as head word in noun phrase. For example:

- (i) zuŋ k^huulum -zuŋ lir-u
 we pen-INS write-HAB
 ‘We write with pen.’

In the given example the word *k^huulum* ‘pen’ occupies head of noun phrase, a kind of object that a concrete noun.

(g) Kinship term: The kinship terms which are used in daily life can occur as head of a noun phrase. For example:

- (i) ada-ja mawk^hɔ-waw t^haŋ-baj
 My elder brother-NOM office-LOC go-IPT
 ‘My elder brother has gone at office.’

Here, in the example, the word *ada* ‘my elder brother’ is the head of noun phrase that is a kinship term. It is formed noun phrase by taking nominative case suffix *-ja*.

(h) Verbal noun: The nouns those are derived from verb through the affixation process are also capable to function as head in noun phrase. For example:

- (i) radabbilai p^hɔrajnaja-a aŋ-ni huda
 newspaper reading-NOM i-GEN habit
 ‘Reading newspaper is my habit.’

In this example, the part *radabbilai p^hɔrajnaja-a* is noun phrase. Here, the word *p^hɔrajnaja* ‘reading’ is the head that is derived from the verb *p^hɔraj* ‘to read’ by the addition of nominalizer suffix *-naja*.

4.1.1.1.2 Pronoun as head in Noun Phrase

Different types of pronouns such as personal pronoun, demonstrative pronoun, interrogative pronoun, indefinite pronoun, reflexive pronoun and reciprocal pronoun can function as the head of a noun phrase. One fact is that when a pronoun functions as head of a noun phrase, then the noun phrase has normally consist of only head word. Because pronoun do not take adjective. So, there is no premodification, however post modification may occasionally be found with some pronouns.

(a) Personal pronoun: Bodo has three types of personal pronoun according to person i.e., first person (*ay* 'I', *zuŋ* 'we'), second person (*nun* 'you' *nunɿsur* 'you') and third person (*bi* 'he/she', *bisur* 'they'). All of these can function as head in noun phrase. For example:

- (i) *bisur* *zuŋur* *gele-juu*
 they football play-HAB
 'They play football.'

In this example, the word *bisur* 'they' functions as head as well as noun phrase alone without taking any modifier.

(b) Demonstrative pronoun: There are two types of demonstrative pronoun in Bodo such as proximal (*be* 'this') and distal (*bui* 'that') these can be found in plural forms also like *be-sur* 'these' (for human) or *be-p^hur* 'these' (for non-human) and *bui-sur* 'those' (for human) or *bui-p^hur* 'those' (for non-human). All of these pronouns can act the role of head in noun phrase. For example:

- (i) *bui-u* *ma-se* *daw*
 that-NOM CLF-one bird
 'That is a bird.'

Here, in the given example the head word of noun phrase is *bui* 'that' singular form of distal demonstrative pronoun. Here, post modification is taken place, *bui* is constituted noun phrase by taking nominative case suffix *-u*.

(c) Interrogative pronoun: Bodo has three types of interrogative pronouns, these are *sur* 'who', *ma* 'what' and *bɔbe~mabe~ɔbe* 'which'. These pronouns can be found in plural form also. These are used in plural form by uttering twice like- *sur sur* 'who',

ma ma ‘what’ and *bɔbe bɔbe~mabe mabe~ɔbe ɔbe* ‘which’. These all pronouns are capable to function as head word in noun phrase. For example:

- (i) *sur* *maw-guɔn*
 who do-RFT
 ‘Who will do’

In the above example, *sur* ‘who’ is the head as well as noun phrase. It is formed noun phrase alone without any modifiers.

(d) Indefinite pronoun: P. Basumatary has enumerated three types of indefinite pronoun in Bodo in his book *An Introduction to the Boro Language*. These are- *k^haise* ‘some’, *surba* ‘somebody’ and *rawbu* ‘nobody’. Among these, *k^haise* and *surba* are used in plural by uttering twice; another one *rawbu* has no plural form. All of these pronouns are capable of being head word in noun phrase. For example:

- (i) *surba* *za-guɔn* *nama?*
 somebody to eat-RFT QP
 ‘Will somebody eat?’

In this example, *surba* ‘somebody’ is head of noun phrase and also noun phrase alone.

(e) Reflexive pronoun: There are only one reflexive pronoun found in Bodo i.e., *gaw* ‘self’. It is used in plural form by uttering twice like- *gaw gaw* ‘selves’. Another plural form of *gaw* is also found i.e., *gaw-sur* ‘selves’ formed by plural suffix. It can occur as head word of noun phrase. For example:

- (i) *bi-ju* *gaw-nu* *thaj-baj*
 he-NOM self-DAT to go-IPT
 ‘He has gone himself.’

In the given example, the pronoun *gaw* ‘self’ is the head of noun phrase.

(f) Reciprocal pronoun: Reciprocal pronoun can act as head word in a noun phrase to indicate mutual relationship among the members of a group. There is only one reciprocal pronoun in Bodo i.e., *gawzuɔn gaw* ‘each other’. It can function as head of noun phrase. For example:

- (i) hanza-ni sudruma-p^hur-a gubrab sɔm-p^hur-aw
 team-GNT member-PL-NOM tough time-PL-LOC
 gawzuŋ gaw mɔdɔd huɭaj-ɯ
 each other support give-HAB
 ‘The team members support each other during tough times.’

In the given example, the reciprocal pronoun *gawzuŋ gaw* ‘each other’ functions as object and also head of noun phrase describing the mutual action of support among the team members.

4.1.1.1.3 Adjective as head in Noun Phrase

Normally adjective gives additional information or describes about the noun. It usually defines as a modifier word that modifies the head of a noun phrase. But it is found that in certain cases adjective plays the role of head word or functions as head of a noun phrase and also capable of taking gender, number and case inflections. For example:

- (i) sahɔsgura-p^hur-a bui-jaw t^haŋ-nu ha-ju
 brave-PL-NOM there-LOC to go-NF can-HAB
 ‘Only the brave can go over there.’
- (ii) gurib-p^hur-a suɾk^har-nip^hrai hep^hazab muŋ-naŋguu
 poor-PL-NOM government-ABL support to get-need
 ‘The poor should get support from the government.’

In the given examples, *sahɔsgura* ‘brave’ and *gurib* ‘poor’ stand for the people who are brave and poor respectively. Both *sahɔsgura* and *gurib* are adjectives and function as head of the respective noun phrases implying brave people and poor people. Both adjectives are constituted noun phrase followed by plural and case suffixes.

4.1.1.1.4 Numeral as head in Noun Phrase

Numerals can also function as head word in a noun phrase. Bodo has two kinds of numeral i.e., cardinal numeral and ordinal numeral, both kinds of numerals function as head in noun phrase.

(a) Cardinal number: The cardinal numbers like *se* ‘one’ *nui* ‘two’, *t^ham* ‘three’, *bruui* ‘four’, etc. are capable of taking the role of head in noun phrase. For example:

- (i) *sa-nui-a* *t^haŋ-baj*
 Clf.-Two-NOM to go-IPT
 ‘The two have gone.’

In the given example, *nui* ‘two’ is the head of noun phrase and it is formed noun phrase preceded by classifier *sa-* and followed by the nominative case suffix *-a*.

(b) Ordinal number: The ordinal numbers like *set^hi* ‘first’, *nuit^hi* ‘second’, *t^hamt^hi* ‘third’, *bruuit^hi* ‘fourth’ etc. can act as head in noun phrase. For example:

- (i) *bruuit^hi-a* *k^hamani-k^huu p^huɥzɥb-baj*
 fourth-NOM work-ACC finish-IPT
 ‘The fourth one has finished the work.’

In the above example, the ordinal number *bruuit^hi* ‘fourth’ functions as the head in noun phrase. Here, it is constituted noun phrase followed by the nominative case suffix *-a*.

4.1.1.2 Modifiers in Noun Phrase

Modifiers are also unavoidable in a noun phrase. A noun phrase may consist of one or more modifiers of its head. Modifiers add or provide additional information about the head word and help to specify and describe the word more precisely. In case of Bodo, modifiers may involve adjectives, adverbs, classifiers, numerals, nouns, case suffixes, plural suffixes, gender suffixes, etc. In a noun phrase, modifiers can occur before or after head word. So, modifiers can be classified into two types like-

- (a) Premodifiers
- (b) Post modifiers

4.1.1.2.1 Premodifiers

In a noun phrase, premodifiers are words that stand before head word to add extra meaning or clarify the head. Premodifiers can include adjective, noun, classifier, numeral, adverb, etc.

(a) Adjective as premodifier: Adjective is used as premodifier to add or provide extra information of head word of a noun phrase. For example:

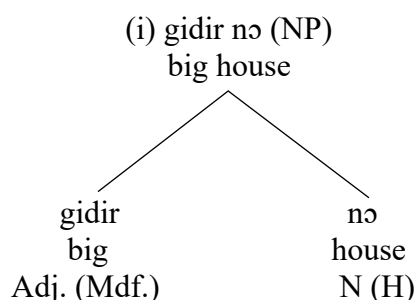


Figure: 4.7

In the given example, the word *gidir* ‘big’ is adjective, here it functions as a premodifier of the head noun *nɔ* ‘house’ implying the house is big.

It is also found that within a single noun phrase two or more adjectives can function as premodifiers of head word. If such kind of multiple adjectives are occurred together then, these follow the hierarchy of descriptive properties such as opinion, size, age, shape, colour, origin, material and purpose. For example:

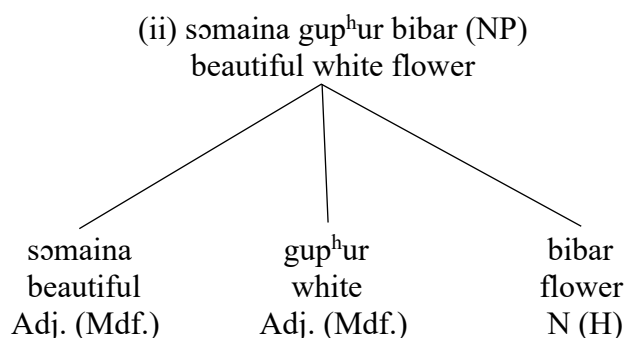


Figure: 4.8

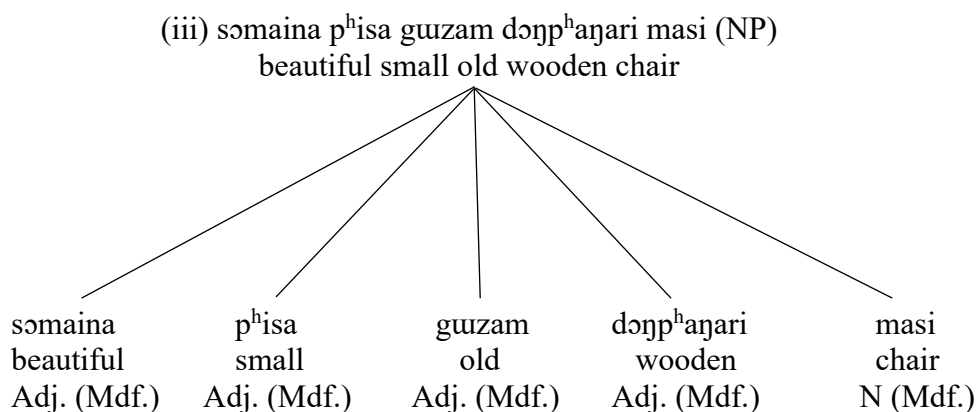


Figure: 4.9

In the example (ii) two adjectives *səmaina* ‘beautiful’ and *gup^hur* ‘white’ are occurred as premodifier of head clarifying the flower is beautiful and white. In example (iii), there are four adjectives i.e., *səmaina* ‘beautiful’ *p^hisa* ‘small’ *guzam* ‘old’ and *dənp^haŋari* ‘wooden’ functioned as premodifier stating the opinion, size, age and material of head word *masi* ‘chair’ that the chair is beautiful, small, old and wooden.

(b) Noun as premodifier: Nouns may also function as premodifier of head noun. If a noun functions as modifier, then it is typically placed just before the head noun and indicates what kind of thing the head noun is. It is worthy to mention that two nouns can act as modifiers of head in a single noun phrase. When two nouns act as premodifiers, then these often tend to describe different aspects related to the head noun. For example:

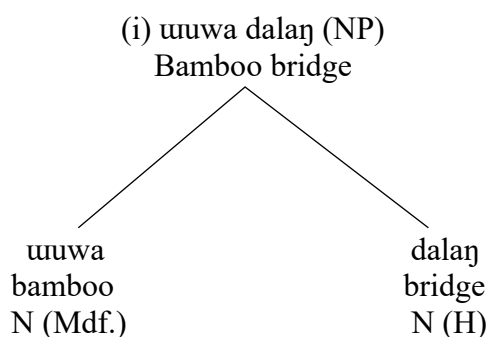
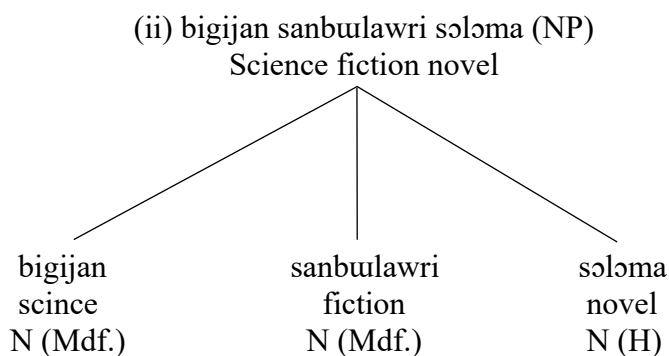
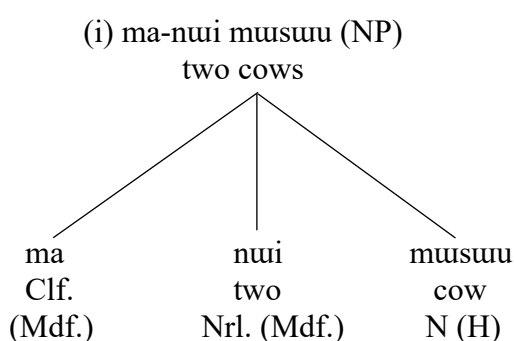


Figure: 4.10

**Figure: 4.11**

In the example (i), both words are noun, the second noun *dalanj* ‘bridge’ occupies head of the phrase and the first noun *uuwa* ‘bamboo’ functions as premodifier indicating that the bridge is of bamboo. In the example (ii), all three words are noun, here the third noun *soloma* ‘novel’ is head of noun phrase and the remaining two nouns *bigijan* ‘science’ and *sanbuulawri* ‘fiction’ function as premodifier implying the genre of novel that the novel is science fiction.

(c) Classifier as Premodifier: The use of classifier is one feature of Bodo language. Classifiers always used followed by numeral. There are different kinds of classifiers according to shape or size. These classifiers can function as modifiers of head noun in a noun phrase. For example:

**Figure: 4.12**

In the given example, *ma* is the classifier, it acts as premodifier of head word *musuu* ‘cow’ followed by numeral *nui* ‘two’ specifying the quantity of cow.

(d) Adverb as Premodifier: Typically, adverb modifies the meaning of verbs, adjectives and other adverbs. However, adverb functions as premodifier of head of a noun phrase to provide emphasis, specify time or place about head word. For example:

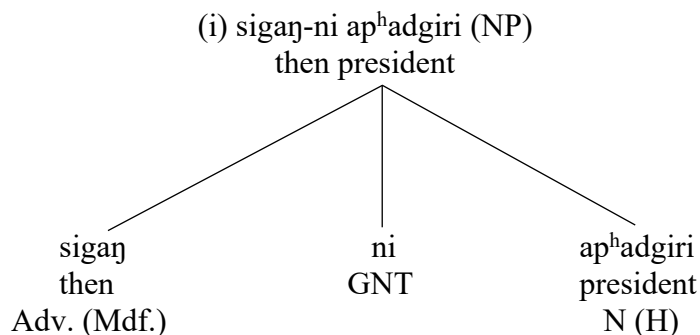


Figure: 4.13

In the above example, the adverb *siḡaŋ* ‘then’ acts as premodifier of head word *ap^hadgiri* ‘president’ followed by genitive case suffix *ni*.

It is worth mentioning that adverb in most cases functions as modifier of head word in a noun phrase followed by adjective. For example:

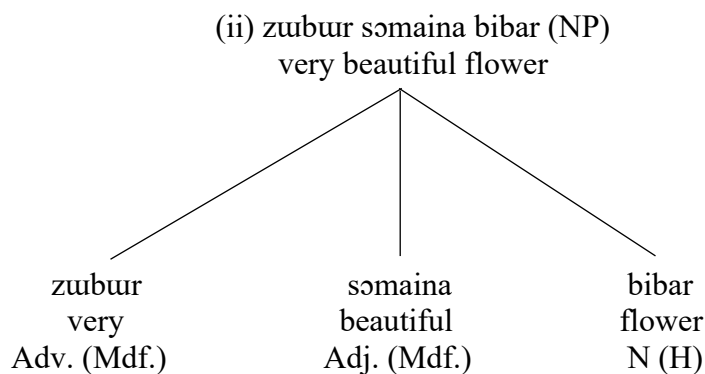


Figure: 4.14

Here, in the example, *bibar* ‘flower’ is the head noun. The adverb *zūbuur* ‘very’ functions as premodifier followed by adjective *sōmaina* ‘beautiful’ and emphasis the beauty of flower.

4.1.1.2.2 Postmodifiers

In a noun phrase, postmodifiers are the words that stand after head word to provide additional information and description about the head word. Postmodifiers can be adjectives, adverbs, classifiers and relative clauses in case of Bodo.

(a) Adjective as post modifier: Earlier it has been studied that adjectives function as premodifier of head word in a noun phrase in §4.1.1.2.1 (a). Adjectives can also act as post modifier of head word in a noun phrase, but it is less in comparison to premodifier. For example:

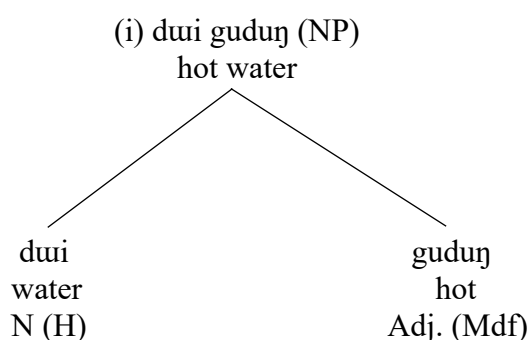


Figure: 4.15

In the given example, the adjective *guduj* 'hot' functions as postmodifier of head noun *dui* 'water' describing the water is hot.

(b) Classifier as post modifier: Classifiers can function as premodifier or post modifier of head word in a noun phrase. The role classifier as premodifier has been discussed in §4.1.1.2.1 (c). If classifier acts as modifier either premodifier or post modifier, it always tends to indicate quantity or number of head word. For example:

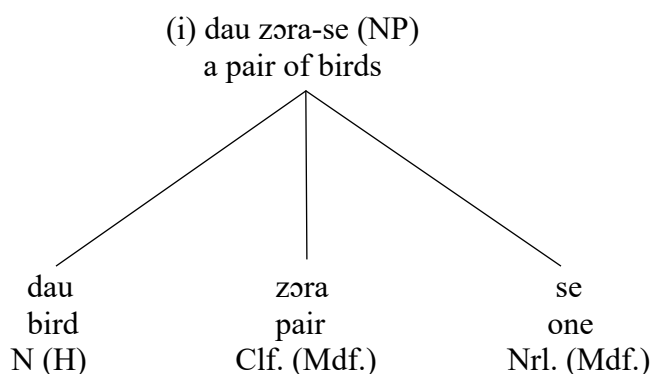


Figure: 4.16

Here, in the example, *dau* ‘bird’ is the head word. The classifier word *zɔra* ‘pair’ acts as post modifier followed by numeral *se* ‘one’ indicating the quantity or number of birds.

(c) Adverb as post modifier: It has been studied the role of adverb as premodifier of head in a noun phrase in §4.1.1.2.1 (d). Adverb can also function as post modifier of head word in noun phrase and indicate additional information about head word. For example:

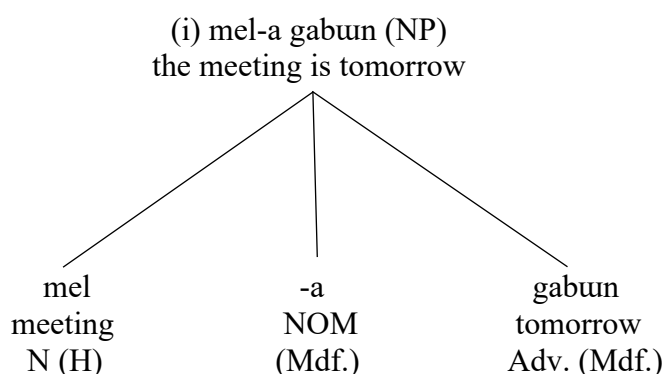
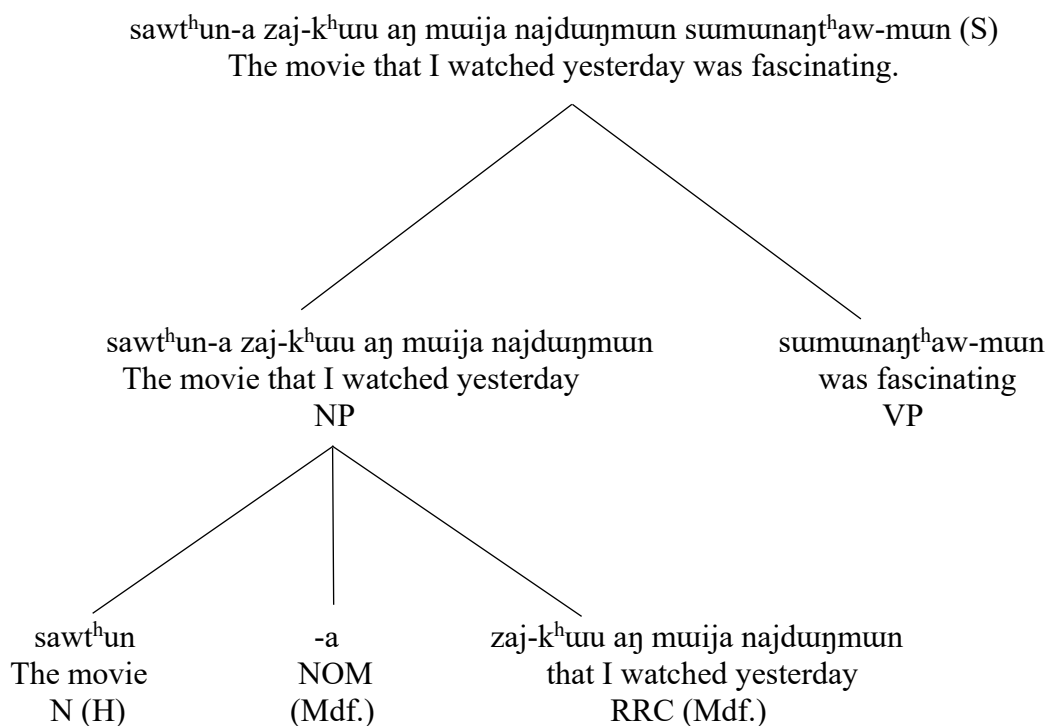


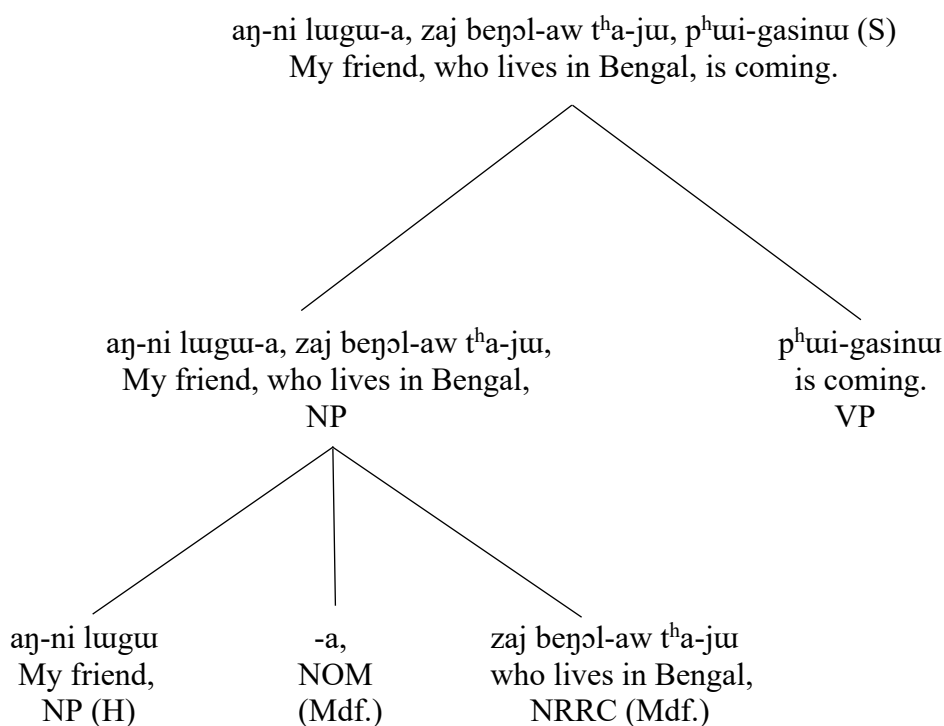
Figure: 4.17

In the above example, the adverb *gabun* ‘tomorrow’ acts as postmodifier of the head noun *mel* ‘the meeting’; indicating the meeting will take place tomorrow.

(d) Relative clause as post modifier: Relative clause can function as a post modifier of head word in a noun phrase. It provides additional information about the head word. There are two kinds of relative clauses in Bodo such as, restrictive relative clause (or defining) and non-restrictive relative clause (or non-defining). Restrictive relative clause is essential to the meaning of the sentence, because it specifies which person or thing are being talked. On the other hand, non-restrictive relative clause provides additional information about head noun but it is not essential to the basic meaning of the sentence, it could be omitted without changing the meaning of the sentence. Non-restrictive clause typically set off by commas. Both types of relative clauses function as post modifier of head word in a noun phrase. For example:

Restrictive relative clause:**Figure: 4.18**

In the above example, the restrictive relative clause *zaj-k^huu aŋ muija najduŋmuun* ‘that I watched yesterday’ acts as postmodifiers of the noun *sawt^hun* ‘movie’ specifying which movie is being referred to. Without this clause the sentence would not clarify which movie is fascinating.

Non-restrictive relative clause:**Figure: 4.19**

In this example, the non-restrictive relative clause *zaj beŋol-aw t^ha-ju* ‘who lives in Bengal’ provides extra information about the head noun *aŋ-ni luɡu* ‘my friend’, but it is not essential. The sentence would express a complete sense without this clause as given below-

aŋ-ni luɡu-a p^hui-gasinu
i-GNT friend-NOM come-PCT
‘My friend is coming.’

This sentence still expresses a complete sense.

4.1.1.3 Functions of noun phrase

Noun phrase can serve various grammatical functions like a noun or pronoun, such as subject, object, complement, etc. The various functions of noun phrase are discussed below-

- a) Noun phrase can function as a subject or actor of verb within a sentence. For example:

- (i) aŋ-ni dilli-ni luguu-a p^hɔrajsali-aw taŋ-gasinuu
 i-GNT Delhi-GNT friend-NOM school-LOC to go-PCT
 ‘My friend from Delhi is going to school.’

In the given example, noun phrase *aŋ-ni dilli-ni luguu-a* ‘my friend from Delhi’ functions as the subject of the sentence expressing who is performing the action of going to school.

- b) Noun phrase can function as direct object of the verb within a sentence receiving the action of the verb. For example:

- (i) bisuur gɔŋ-se guɗan nɔ lu-baj
 they Clf.-one new building build-IPT
 ‘They have built a new building.’

Here, in the example, the noun phrase *gɔŋ-se guɗan nɔ* ‘a new building’ serves as direct object of the verb *lu* ‘build’ specifying what they built.

- c) Noun phrase can act as indirect object, if it acts as indirect object, it indicates to whom the action of the verb is performed. For example:

- (i) bi-juu bi-ni binanaw-nuu gɔŋ-se k^huulum huu-duŋmuun
 he-NOM he-GNT sister-DTC Clf.-one pen give-RPT
 ‘He gave a pen to his sister.’

In this example, the noun phrase *bi-ni binanaw* ‘his sister’ functions as indirect object of the verb *huu* ‘give’ implying to whom the pen was given.

- d) Noun phrase can function as subject complement providing more or additional information about the subject in the sentence. For example:

- (i) bi-ni muzaŋmuunnaj huda-ja gitar dam-naj
 he-GNT favorite hobby-NOM guitar play-NOMZR

‘His favorite hobby is playing guitar.’

In the given example, the noun phrase *gitar dam-naj* ‘playing guitar’ functions as the subject complement describing more information about *bi-ni muzaḡmun-naj huda* ‘his favorite hobby’.

- e) Noun phrase can act as object complement providing more information about the direct object. For example:

(i) bisur razu-k^huu ap^hadgiri saik^hɔ-bai
 they Raju-ACC president elect-IPT
 ‘They have elected Raju as a president.’

In the above example, the noun phrase *ap^hadgiri* ‘president’ acts as the complement of object *razu* ‘Raju’ indicating the role to which he has been elected.

- f) Noun phrase can function as an appositive of a noun, providing additional information about a noun. For example:

(i) aṡ-ni abɔ, sa-se p^hurungiri, bagsa-jaw ta-juu
 i-NOMelder sister, Clf-one teacher, Baksa-LOC live-HAB
 ‘My elder sister, a teacher, lives in Baksa.’

In the given example, the noun phrase *sase p^hurungiri* ‘a teacher’ acts as an appositive of the noun *aṡ-ni abɔ* ‘my elder sister’ describing more details that my elder sister is a teacher.

4.1.1.4 Noun phrase movement

Noun phrase movement is a syntactic phenomenon where a noun phrase is moved from its original position to a new position within a sentence. This movement can be occurred due to various grammatical constraints or rules, such as need to form passive sentence, need to form question, etc.

4.1.1.4.1 Noun phrase movement in passive construction

Noun phrase movement in passive construction is a syntactic process. It involves shifting the subject of an active sentence to the object's position and the object of an active sentence to the subject's position in the corresponding passive sentence. This movement highlights the recipient of action. For example:

Active sentence:

bibari-ja	uŋk ^h am	səŋ-baj
Bibari-NOM	rice	cook-IPT

‘Bibari has cooked the rice.’

Passive sentence:

uŋk ^h am-a	bibari-zuŋ	səŋ-za-baj
rice-NOM	Bibari-INS	cook-PSLR-IPT

‘The rice has been cooked by Bibari.’

In the given example, *bibari* ‘Bibari’ (subject or NP of active sentence) moves to the object's position and *uŋk^ham* ‘the rice’ (object or NP of active sentence) moves to the position of subject in passive sentence in passive sentence.

4.1.1.4.2 Noun phrase movement in Question formation

Noun phrase movement in question formation involves moving a noun phrase from its base position to another position. In such movement the noun phrase often replaces by the interrogative pronoun in Bodo. For example:

Declarative sentence:

əron-a	gari-k ^h uu	p ^h aham-baj
Aron-NOM	car-ACC	repair-IPT

‘Aron has repaired the car.’

Question formation:

gari-k^huuu sur p^haham-k^hu?
 car-ACC who repair-QP
 ‘Who has repaired the car?’

In this example, the noun phrase of declarative sentence *arɔn* ‘Aron’ is replaced by *sur* ‘who’ interrogative pronoun and also moved from its base position in question formation.

4.2 Clause

Clause is a group of words that consist of at least a subject and a predicate, it is a part of sentence. According to David Crystal, “*Clause is term in some models of grammar to refer to a unit of grammatical organization smaller than the sentence, but larger than phrases, words or morphemes.*”⁸ Generally, clause is classified into two types these are-

- a) Independent clause or main clause and
- b) Dependent clause or Sub-ordinate clause.

The clause that can stand by itself and can express a complete thought is the independent clause or main clause. Independent clause can occur alone as a sentence. It contains a finite verb. On the other hand, dependent clause or sub-ordinate clause neither can stand alone as a sentence nor can express a complete meaning. It contains a non-finite verb, so to express a sense, this clause need to combine to an independent clause. For example:

⁸ Crystal, David. *A First Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics*. London: Andre Deutsch Limited, 1980. p. 61.

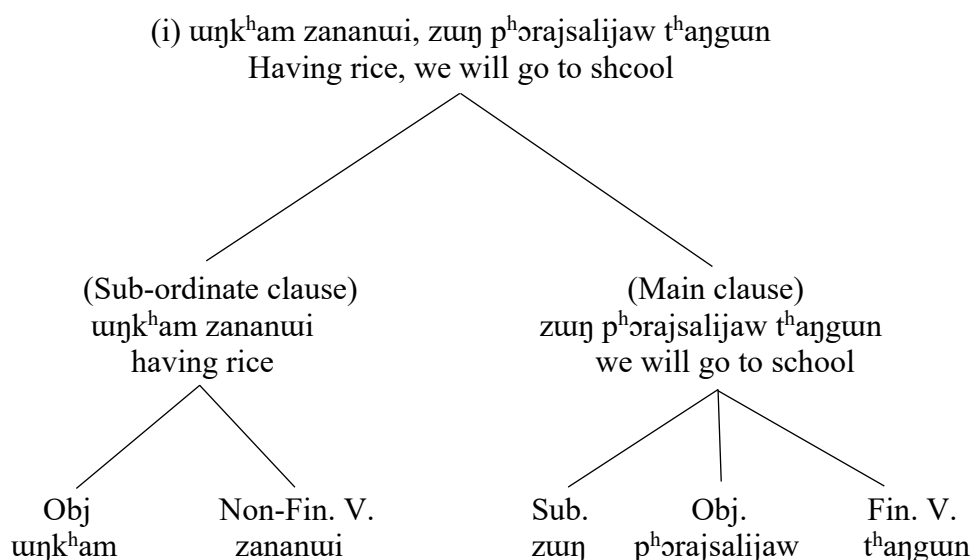


Figure: 4.20

The example has a main clause and a sub-ordinate clause, $u\eta k^h am\ zananui$ ‘having rice’ is the sub-ordinate clause and $zu\eta\ p^h\alpha rajsali jaw\ t^h\alpha ngu\eta n$ ‘we will go to school’ is main clause. The sub-ordinate clause made up of an object and a non-finite verb; it could not express the meaning alone. On the other hand, main clause made up of a subject, an object and a finite verb, it can express the meaning alone. Here, the sub-ordinate clause expressed its meaning depending on the main clause.

4.2.1 Noun Clause

Noun clause is a group of words that functions like as a noun or pronoun. It is a type of dependent clause. It must contain a subject and a verb. Since the noun clause is a type of dependent clause it cannot be a sentence by itself, so it is always a part of sentence that contains an independent clause. Within a sentence, noun clause can serve various roles like a regular noun or noun phrase such as subject, object, subject complement, appositive, etc. A noun clause often begins with a subordinating conjunction or a relative pronoun. According to P.H. Matthews, noun clause is “*a complement clause whose syntactic role is seen as like that of a noun or noun phrase.*”⁹

⁹ Matthews, P.H. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Linguistics*. United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 2014. p. 270.

4.2.1.1 Functions of Noun Clause

Noun clause can act different functions or roles as similar to noun phrase. Examples are given below for each function:

(a) Noun clause functions as subject within a sentence. For example:

- (i) ram-a gaw-ni bibuŋ^{hi}-k^huu p^hurmajnaj-a boik^huu-buu
 ram-NOM self-GNT opinion-ACC expressed-NOM everyone-ALDS
 gumu-hu-duŋmuun
 surprise-CAUS-RPT
 ‘That Ram expressed his opinion surprised everyone.’

In the given example, *ram-a gaw-ni bibuŋ^{hi}-k^huu p^hurmajnaj-a* ‘that Ram expressed his opinion’ part is the noun clause that functions as the subject of the verb surprised, indicating what surprised everyone.

(b) Noun clause functions as direct object receiving the action of the verb. For example:

- (i) ze-k^huu aŋ baj-nu lubui-u, aŋ baj-nu ha-ju
 whatever-ACC I to buy-EMP want-HAB, I to buy-EMP can-HAB
 ‘Whatever I want to buy, I can buy.’

In this example, *ze-k^huu aŋ baj-nu lubui-u* ‘whatever I want to buy’ part is the noun clause, it functions as direct object of the verb ‘buy’ of the main clause, indicating what the subject I able to buy.

(c) Noun clause functions as indirect object, to whom something is done within a sentence. For example:

- (i) zaj-nu k^hunasoŋ-nu lubui-duŋmuun bi-ju soło
 Whoever-DTC listen-DEF want-RPT she-NOM story
 k^hunt^{ha}-duŋ-muun
 tell-RPT
 ‘She told a story whoever wanted to listen.’

In the given example the noun clause *zaj-nu k^hunasoŋ-nu lubui-duŋmuun* ‘whoever wanted to listen’ functions as indirect object of the verb *k^hunt^{ha}* ‘tell’, implying to whom the story was told.

(d) Noun clause functions as subject complement providing additional information about the subject within a sentence. For example:

- (i) bit^haŋ-ni p^hu^hthaj^hi-ja bedi sui^hu-a-nu sabsin k^hanthⁱ
 he-GNT belief-NOM that honesty-NOM-EMP best policy
 ‘His belief is that honesty is the best policy.’

In this example the noun clause *bedi sui^hu-a-nu sabsin k^hanthⁱ* ‘that honesty is the best policy’ functions as subject complement describing what the subject believes.

(e) Noun clause functions as object complement describing additional information about the object. For example:

- (i) bisur-u bi-k^huu bi-juu za zanu lubui-duŋmuun
 they-NOM he-ACC he-NOM what to be want-RPT
 saj^hɔ-duŋmuun
 elect-RPT
 ‘They elected him what he wanted to be.’

Here, in the example, the noun clause *bi-juu za zanu lubui-duŋmuun* ‘what he wanted to be’ functions as object complement. Here, the noun clause provides extra information about the object ‘him’ implying what he was elected as.

(f) Noun clause functions as an appositive providing additional information about the noun in a sentence. For example:

- (i) bi-juu anzad-aw ut^hrinaj-ni sui^hu-a bəik^huu-bu gumu-
 he-NOM exam-LOC pass-GNT fact-NOM everyone-ALDS surprise-
 hu-duŋmuun
 CAUS-RPT
 ‘The fact that she passed the exam surprised everyone.’

In the above example, the noun clause *bi-juu anzad-aw ut^hrinaj-ni* ‘that she passed the exam’ serves as an appositive to the noun *sui^hu* ‘the fact’ and provides additional information about the noun implying what fact is being referred to.

4.3 Summing up

The analysis of structure and function of Noun phrase and Noun clause of Bodo includes the study about how noun phrases and noun clauses are formed and how these function within a sentence. The discussion on structure and function of Noun phrase and Noun clause can be summarized with following points:

- i. Phrase is a group of related words and sometimes may be only a single word. It contains a head word and modifiers. The core word that leads the main role of phrase is the head and remaining are modifiers.
- ii. Noun phrase is a word or a group of word that functions as a noun in sentences. It consists of a head word and may have modifiers. Sometimes it may be a single noun or pronoun.
- iii. The head of a noun phrase leads the main role of a noun phrase. Head of a noun phrase is typically a noun or a pronoun, but it is observed that adjective and numerals are also can act as head of a noun phrase.
- iv. A noun phrase may have one or more modifiers of its head word. The possible modifiers of a noun phrase may be adjectives, adverbs, classifiers, numerals, plural suffixes, etc. These may be occurred before or after head word. So, modifiers can be premodifiers if occurs before head and can be post modifiers if occurs after head. It is observed that the role of modifiers is to provide additional information about the head.
- v. Noun phrase functions various roles within a sentence. It can act as a subject, an object, as a complement, an appositive, etc.
- vi. It is observed that noun phrase is moved from its base position to another position during passive construction and question formation. In case of passive construction, noun phrase if it is subject then it moves to the place of object. In case of question formation, noun phrase got replaced by the interrogative pronoun and moves from its base position.
- vii. Clause is a group of words that contains subject and predicate. Clause is of two types; these are independent clause and dependent clause. An independent clause can stand alone but a dependent clause needs support of an independent clause.

- viii. Noun clause is a group of words that functions as a noun or pronoun in a sentence, it is a dependent clause. It contains at least a subject and a verb. Noun clause needs support of an independent clause to express a complete sense.
- ix. Noun clause can also function like as noun phrase within a sentence. Such as a subject, an object, a complement, an appositive, etc.