
ENGLISH EDUCATION STUDENTS' ABILITY IN ANALYSIS NOUN PHRASES IN REPORT TEXTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF POTENSI UTAMA

Yenita Uswar

English Education Language Study Program
University of Potensi Utama-Medan
nietha.pasca@gmail.com

Abstract

This research aim was to know the ability of the English Students to recognize the Noun Phrase when learning Syntax lesson. The object of this research is the fifth Semester of the Students of the English Education Department at the University of Potensi Utama. This research study used a descriptive qualitative Method. The total number of students is 21 for the test. The data of this study were collected through the test. There were three texts from the Report Text with the title "Human Skin, Seal and Types of Music Genre" that the researcher tested on the students. After giving the tests, the score from each test that students got was 78.2 for the first test, 80.1 for the second test and 77.6 for the third test. The reason the researcher chose the noun phrase was the most commonly used phrase in the sentence is the noun phrase and the researcher wanted to make the reader familiar with the noun phrase.

Keywords: *syntax, noun phrase, report text*

INTRODUCTION

Linguistics is the scientific study of human language. Linguistics has some branches. One of the other linguistics branches is syntax. Syntax is the study of principles and processes sentences are constructed in a particular language (Wang: 2010). Syntax is the one important thing in linguistics, by learning Syntax Students can understand how to construct words into bigger linguistic units effectively.

English syntax is one of the important subjects that the students need to understand in language studies. Syntax is a part of structural linguistics. According to Chaer (2009), syntax is a language subsystem that studies word arrangement and setting into bigger units. Syntax units are, words, phrases, clauses, sentences, and passages. The function of a syntax unit occurs if the unit appears in a formation, for example, word formation in a phrase, phrase formation in a clause, or clause formation in a sentence.

A mastery of syntax makes the students capable to speak and to write English accurately. Its areas cover English phrases and clauses. Tallerman (2005:1), states that syntax means sentence construction: how words group

together to make phrases and sentences. It can be explained that syntax is the arrangement and relationship among words, phrases, and clauses forming sentences based on grammatical rules. In this case, studying syntax is important since it studies how sentences are formed and arranged based on grammatical rules. It is part of grammar which deals with the order of words and phrases to create a proper sentence in a particular language. One of the grammatical rules in syntax can be found in noun phrases.

Chaer said that (2000), phrase is a combination of two words or more that serves as a unit, and is included as one element of sentence function. The study of sentences, clauses, and phrases is part of the discussion on syntax. Noun phrase is a linguistic unit consisting of a noun with explanatory words that describe or complement the noun. Noun phrase construction plays an important role in shaping sentence structure and provides rich information about things, like identity, quality, quantity, and relationships between objects in a sentence. Various linguistic studies have highlighted the diversity of noun phrase construction, including differences in different languages and diverse uses in social and

cultural contexts. The study of noun phrases involves syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic analysis to understand how noun phrases are formed, uncover the meaning behind those constructs, and how noun phrases are used in everyday communication.

Noun phrase is a part of a sentence that consists of a noun or a nominal along with other words surrounding it to provide further information or describe the noun. A noun phrase can be a single noun or a phrase comprising the noun as its core and, in other words, functioning as determiners, premodifiers, or postmodifiers. A simple example of a noun phrase is 'the big red apple' where 'apple' is the core or nucleus of this noun phrase. In contrast 'the', 'big', and 'red' serve as determiners and premodifiers providing additional information about the apple.

Noun phrases are significant as they assist in explaining and detailing information about the noun in a sentence. Proper use of noun phrases can enhance clarity and depth of meaning in communication. Noam Chomsky, a linguistics expert, stated, 'The noun phrase is the simplest and most basic phrase type.' Hence, in linguistic studies and grammar analysis, understanding noun phrases is crucial due to their fundamental role in forming sentences and conveying clear meanings."

English noun phrases have a structural pattern that is formed from one noun head (H) with or no qualifier(s) called modifier (M). The head of the noun phrase lies in the core noun while the qualifier is only optional, which can be present or not. In order to make it easier to understand this common structural pattern, here are some examples of English noun phrases:

- (1) red car (modifier + head)
- (2) car in the garage (head + modifier)
- (3) new car in the garage (modifier + head + modifier)

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A. Syntax

The term 'syntax' is from the Ancient Greek *syntaxis*, a verbal noun which means 'arrangement' or 'setting out together'. Traditionally, it refers to the branch of grammar dealing with how words, with or without appropriate inflections, are arranged to show connections of the meaning within the sentence

(Carnie, 2013: 4). according to Chomsky (2002), syntax is the study of the principles and processes by which sentences are constructed in particular languages. The contribution of syntax in the development of language structures has been very significant. Fromkin et al (2011) state that syntax is part of grammar that represents a speaker's knowledge of sentences and their structures. The structures provided by the speaker must follow the rules of syntax in order to be understood and have meaning. The rules of syntax regulate the combination of words into phrases and phrases into sentences. Rules of syntax can also be used to determine the grammatical relation of the sentences.

Syntax studies the level of Language that lies between words and the meaning of utterances: sentences. It is the level that mediates between sounds that someone produces (organized into words) and what they intend to say. Syntax helps us to make clear sentences that "sound right," where words, phrases, and clauses each serve their function and are correctly ordered to form and communicate a complete sentence with meaning. First and foremost, syntax deals with how sentences are formed, and users of human languages employ a striking variety of possible arrangements of the elements in sentences. One of the most obvious yet important ways in which languages differ is the order of the main elements in a sentence.

Phrases are formally classified according to the word class which functions as a head. As Morley (2000:53) said that, 'phrases are formally classified according to the class of words which functions as a headword.' In other word, a phrase is a sequence of words that can function as a constituent in the structure of sentences.

B. Noun Phrase

A phrase is a string of (one or more) words that function as syntactic unit or constituent (Crowgey, 2012). Constituent here means a group of words that can stand alone. Phrase is a group of words that forms a syntactic unit. A syntactic unit is known as a verb phrase, a noun phrase, an adjective phrase and so on. A phrase is built around a headword (Noun, Verb, Adjective, Adverb and Preposition), and it can be modified with a Phrase (Noun Phrase, Verb

Phrase, Adjective Phrase, Adverb Phrase and Prepositional Phrase). The purpose of a phrase is to signal to our reader or listener which concepts we wish to combine. Verb is the most important word in sentence construction, forming the predicate of a sentence. The verb can also have a dominant partner known as an object.

A noun phrase is a language construction consisting of a noun and other words such as adjectives, determiners, or prepositions that form a single unit that has a complete meaning. Noun phrases play an important role in the formation of meaning in language and are often used as elements that form sentences. Noun phrases play an important role in any language. They are a combination of words that function as a single unit in a sentence and refer to people, places, things, or ideas. Noun phrases are made up of a noun as the head, and other elements that modify the noun, such as determiners, adjectives, and prepositional phrases. The structure of noun phrases is a topic of interest in linguistic research, as it provides insight into the grammatical organization of a language and the relationships between its elements.

Noun phrases, whether in language in general or English in particular, are one of the pivotal topics in formal linguistics. Discussions related to their definitions, internal structural patterns, syntactic functions, and semantic roles have been discussed through various types of approaches—e.g. the generative transformative grammar approach which emphasizes form (Chomsky 1957; Thomas 2005) and function (Millaku, Millaku, and Kafexholli 2022; Thomas 2005). In general, noun phrase has a common structural pattern composed of one noun as the core ‘head’ (in simple noun phrase) and several modifiers—both premodification and post-modification (Biber et al. 2021; Halliday and Matthiessen 2014). The term modifier, moreover, has several nomenclatures, e.g. dependent (Huddleston et al. 2012) or modifier (Biber et al. 2021; Halliday and Matthiessen 2014).

Noun phrase has several syntactic functions in the clause structure. According to Thomas (2005), there are four functions of noun phrases in the clause structure, namely subject, object of verb (direct object and

indirect object), complement (complementary subject and complementary object), pre-modifier and post modifier.

1. Subject
They visit their teacher
The secretary types the letter.
2. Object of verb
Direct object: She writes *the note*.
Indirect object: He bought *his father* a car.
3. Complement
Complementary subject: My mother is *a lecturer*.
Complementary object: Harry makes his wife *a cake*
4. Pre-modifier and post modifier
He was ordered to undergo *mental health* assessments.

Brinton (2010), in his book says that the formula of Noun Phrases is divided into nine different types of Noun Phrases. He explains the different types of noun phrase in the way below:

NP →	N	dogs
	Det N	the dogs
	Det A N	the large dogs
	Det AP N	the loudly barking dogs
	Det N PP	the dog in the yard
	Det A N PP	the ferocious dog behind the fence
	Det AP N PP	the wildly yapping dog on the sofa
	Pro	he
	PN	Goldy

These nine types of noun phrases follow the rules that he had already stated in his book to define noun phrases “must indicate the optionality of Det, AP, and PP and the mutual exclusiveness of Pro and PN with the other elements (Brinton, 2010).

C. Report Text

Essentially, report text is a text that presents information in a clear and factual manner. It means that the content of a report text offers information about a particular subject, such as animals, places, events, or anything else, in a general way and according to the actual condition of the subject. For instance, if the topic is about endangered

species, the text will inform readers about the species' vulnerable status and the factors contributing to it.

It's worth mentioning that report texts have some commonalities with descriptive texts. Both of these English writing styles offer information about a subject, such as people, animals, places, events, or other items. Furthermore, the primary function of both text types is to deliver factual information for the readers.

So, what sets them apart? Descriptive texts concentrate on depicting a specific subject in detail, while report texts provide a broader perspective on a general topic. For example, a descriptive text might discuss "My Favorite Park," exploring the park's unique features, such as its size, the variety of plants and trees, available amenities, and so on. In contrast, a report text on "Parks" would offer a more general understanding of parks, discussing elements like their purpose, common facilities, benefits for the community, and types of parks that exist. To summarize, report text maintains objectivity whereas descriptive text can be more subjective!

Generic Structures

1. General Classification

This section introduces the subject and provides an overall classification or categorization. It sets the context for the readers, allowing them to understand the broader topic that will be discussed. In the General Classification, you'll find a brief introduction to the subject, its purpose, and its relevance.

2. Description

The Description section offers more detailed information about the subject, covering its features, characteristics, functions, or any other relevant aspects. This part aims to give readers a comprehensive understanding of the topic by presenting various aspects or subtopics related to the general subject. In the Description section, you may find information about the subject's history, types, uses, advantages, disadvantages, and any other pertinent details.

Features

1. General nouns

Report texts often contain general nouns because they aim to provide objective and factual information about a broad subject rather than focusing on specific details or personal experiences.

2. Linking verbs

Linking verbs are important in report texts because they help connect the main idea of a sentence with more information about it. They make the text easy to understand for readers.

Linking verbs are words that join the main subject of a sentence with extra information that gives more details about it. Some common linking verbs include "be" (*am, is, are, was, were*), "seem," "appear," "become," "feel," "look," "sound," and "taste."

3. Present Tense

Report texts typically use the present tense because they aim to provide general, factual information about a subject that is considered to be true or relevant now and in the future.

Example of the Report Text

Rainforest

[General classification]

Rainforests are extensive forests located in tropical areas with high levels of rainfall throughout the year. Characterized by their rich biodiversity, rainforests play a crucial role in maintaining Earth's ecological balance.

[Description]

Rainforests can be found in various parts of the world, including South America, Africa, and Asia. The most extensive rainforest is the Amazon rainforest, located in South America. These ecosystems are vital due to their ability to support a diverse range of plant and animal species. It is estimated that more than half of Earth's species reside within rainforest habitats.

A key feature of rainforests is their abundant plant life, which contributes to numerous benefits. Many plants found in rainforests are utilized for medicinal purposes, providing essential resources for human health. Additionally, rainforests contribute to air purification by absorbing carbon dioxide and

releasing oxygen, thus playing a role in mitigating climate change.

Nevertheless, rainforests face significant challenges, primarily due to deforestation. Driven by logging and land clearance for agricultural purposes, deforestation results in the loss of natural habitats for plant and animal species, and it contributes to global climate change.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study was designed based on descriptive qualitative. According to Cresswell (2007) qualitative research examines the meaning that emerges from the data and is often presented in words. The purpose of qualitative research varies according to the research paradigm, methods, and assumptions. The participants in this research were twenty one students in the fifth semester of the English Language Education Department of the Faculty of Social and Education of the University of Potensi Utama Medan.

The data processed and analyzed are several noun phrases that the researcher gave. The total of report texts were three texts which the titles "*Human Skin, Seal and Types of Music Genre*". Data is collected and then analyzed for patterns based on the word class that is Noun Phrase categories that make it up. The subjects were the 21 students in the fifth semester of the English Department University of Potensi Utama. The data were obtained by: giving the tests. The test was given to know how far the students of the English Department found Noun Phrases in the three of Report Texts.

DATA ANALYSIS

The activity of collecting data information in this research was doing the tests that students done. The Students had to find Noun Phrases in the tree of Report Texts. The researcher gave the three texts of Report Text for the test to the students to analyze. To find out the number of student scores can be seen through the following formula:

$$X = \frac{\sum x}{N}$$

From the first Report Text with the title "*Human Skin*", there are 62 Noun Phrases which is in the text. Here is the text

Human Skin

Skin is the outer layer of the body. In human beings, it is the most important and largest organ of the system that covers our body. Our skin has a function to protect the human body from infection, also maintain fluid balance, extreme temperatures, and synthesize vitamin D for personal needs. It also has a function to shield physical structure.

Skin has three main layers, which are Epidermis or Stratum, Dermis, and Hypodermis or skin layers that have their individual tasks and need each other. The stratum layer is the outer layer of the skin. This layer doesn't contain blood vessels, and is made from Merkel cells, keratinocytes, with melanocytes and Langerhans cells. Beneath the stratum layer, there is Dermis or corium layer. This layer contains hair follicles, sweat glands, fat glands, apocrine glands, body fluid vessels and blood vessels. This layer is connected to the cuticle layer with the basement membrane. Structurally, this layer is split into 2 regions, that the region next to the cuticle referred to as the process region, and also the thick inner region that's called the crisscrossed region. What is more, there's layer that situated below the derma layer. This layer is thought as hypodermic tissue. Layer serves to connect the skin to the underlying bone and muscle and provide them with blood vessels and nerves. the mixture of those 3 main layers has a mean thickness of 1 mm.

In the second Report Text with the title "*Seal*", there are 50 Noun Phrases. Here is the text

Seal

A seal is a mammal that can live both in and out of the water. Seals are gray in color and have thin layers of flat flippers and hairy coats for protection from sand and rocks. Seals are six meters long and weigh about 150 pounds. Most seals eat a variety of fish and shellfish. Seals live in the northern hemisphere and they do not migrate.

Pregnant female seals go up on land every spring to have their pups. It takes almost a full year for a pregnant female seal to have a pup. They have one pup each year. Seals travel in small groups or large herds and often rest together on land.

Seals defend themselves by making loud noises or swimming away fast. Their enemies are sharks, men, and killer whales. For years men hunted seals for their coats, blubber, and meat, and almost made them extinct. The United States passed a law in 1972 to stop the hunting of seals. Now you can see a lot more seals along the beaches.

And the last Report Text with the title “Types of Music Genre”, there are 51 Noun Phrases in the text. Here is the text:

Types of Music Genre

Music is a universal language that can be enjoyed by people from different cultures and backgrounds. Throughout history, music has evolved into various genres that cater to different preferences and styles. In this report text, we will discuss some of the most popular types of music genres.

Pop music is a genre that is characterized by its catchy melodies, upbeat rhythms, and relatable lyrics. It originated in the 1950s and has since become one of the most popular music genres worldwide. Pop music is often associated with mainstream artists such as Taylor Swift, Ariana Grande, and Justin Bieber. Pop music continues to evolve with the times, incorporating different elements of electronic, R&B, and hip-hop music.

Rock music is a genre that is characterized by its heavy beats, distorted guitar riffs, and loud vocals. It originated in the 1950s and was influenced by blues and country music. Rock music became popular in the 1960s with the emergence of bands such as The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, and Led Zeppelin. Today, rock music continues to be a popular genre, with different sub-genres such as alternative rock, punk rock, and heavy metal.

In conclusion, music genres have evolved over time, catering to different tastes and preferences. Pop and rock music are just two examples of the many genres that exist today. As music continues to evolve, it will be interesting to see what new genres emerge in the future.

From the total of Noun Phrase which is found in each text, it was obvious from the table above that for the students’ test, they got a rate scale from the score between 60 until 95.

Table 1. The Average Score of Students

NO	Nama Mahasiswa	Score		
		Text 1	Text 2	Text 3
1.	APS	82	80	79
2.	A	80	84	80
3.	CDS	84	78	85
4.	FRH	84	85	83
5.	FAH	85	80	80
6.	N	83	82	81
7.	SKR	88	89	69
8.	SSL	80	78	75
9.	SK	82	75	79
10.	SAR	70	77	64
11.	VEAP	75	72	60
12.	TFFA	73	90	95
13.	AG	70	79	88
14.	YHS	80	80	80
15.	DS	89	85	77
16.	HRS	68	75	62
17.	IML	77	92	93
18.	MOH	71	70	80
19.	NAF	75	74	74
20.	SNH	70	80	70
21.	AM	76	78	76
Total		$\Sigma x = 1642$	$\Sigma x = 1683$	$\Sigma x = 1630$
		$X = 78.2$	$X = 80.1$	$X = 77.6$

In the first text test, the number of students who scored test was 1642 with a total of 21 students. So, the average student score is calculated:

$$X = \frac{1642}{21} = 78.2$$

In the second text test, the number of who scored the test was 1683 with a total of 21 students. So, the average student score is calculated:

$$X = \frac{1683}{21} = 80.1$$

In the third text test, the number of who scored the test was 1630 with a total of 21 students. So, the average student score is calculated:

$$X = \frac{1630}{21} = 77.6$$

From the third test, there was a decrease in the score, because the text that was being tested was increasingly complicated. and the results obtained caused the percentage of the score to be lower than the first and the second tests.

The results of the study of the tests given to students showed that the first test to the second test got an increasing score, so the students could get analysis about Noun phrases from the two texts. but in the third test, there was a decrease score because the students could get difficulty to recognize the Noun phrase from the third text.

CONCLUSION

From the research and discussion which is conducted, it can be concluded that the ability of students to analysis the Noun phrase from the Report Text were various. From the three texts that researcher gave to the students, there was not a balance score from every test especially in the third test. From the first test and the second test, the students' score got the significant increasing. But in the third meeting, students got the decrease score than the two previous tests. This condition was happened because in the third text, the vocabulary that as used in the text was difficult to recognize by the students.

In conclusion that the researcher got based on this research was in teaching Noun Phrase for the Students, as the Lecturer had to give in depth explanation about kinds of Noun before discuss Noun Phrase in Syntax. She gave the tips and tricks to memorize and remember the kinds of Noun for Students, thus the students can make the difference and recognize it. And when make it in Syntax, the students can answer based on what they learn about Noun Phrase.

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