

JOURNALISTIC WRITING: A FUNCTIONAL VIEW OF NOUN PHRASE IN PAKISTANI ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS

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ABSTRACT

Language is a common tool for communication among human beings worldwide. That is why it is defined as choice in context which means that whenever one wants to convey to other, one makes choice of linguistic codes or forms in view of the situation of the communication (context), purpose or goal of communication, and the target receiver(s). These linguistic forms utilised in communication perform different functions; these linguistic forms may lead us to three types of functions which are Grammatical/Syntactic function, Semantic function, and Pragmatic function. Semantic, and Pragmatic functions may be summed up into Semiotic function; these functions operate in connection to meaning of the clause, or the utterance while grammatical functions operate in connection to syntactic structure in which those linguistic forms are used. Semiotic functions are expressed by linguistic forms in the shape of language codes while these linguistic forms are connected to their semiotic functions through grammatical functions. The choice of linguistic forms generate variation in the real life instance of language use; the very variation of language depends on goal, topic, context, register, genre, syntactic function, receiver, and the substrate languages of the users. Syntactic bits like phrases or groups express these variations in their linguistic forms which may be analysed by language studies for interpretation. In this regard, nominal group or noun phrase is considered as structural parallel of clause in certain features. In addition, noun phrase is considered more important communicatively from other phrases by linguists as it is visible in the child language, motherese. Similarly, nominal group is a vital form in the language of newspaper which is generally termed as journalese. Daily papers express variation in their use of nominal groups due to the facts that these papers cater for different purposes, and receivers. Likewise, the register of newspaper show variations at three levels: at the level of different newspapers circulated by different news agencies, at the level of different sections of the newspaper because different sections of newspapers belong to different genres of communication, and at the level of geography or society because a register at local, national, and international level may display linguistic variation. The present study describes these variations in the linguistic forms of the nominal group in the English language newspaper utilised daily in the major cities like capital, and provincial capitals of Pakistan. The linguistic forms of the nominal group are analysed in reference to their grammatical or syntactic functions in the five sections of the five well established English newspaper of Pakistan quantitatively.

Key Words: nominal group, Premodifier, Postmodifier, Semogenesis, Functions

INTRODUCTION

Every sensible mind wishes to keep pace with the trends of the world in order to orient oneself to the trends, one wishes to remain updated in reference to information regarding different aspects of life. In search of what is new, one switches to the information providing sources like tele news

channels, or newspapers, or both. These news providing sources differ not only in information, but also in the language utilised to convey information. This is the reason that people do not share a single choice of news source; they look for the reliability of the news providing source as well

as the language utilised by the source. So, the selection of a news source depends on both of them. In the like manner, the newspapers which provide daily news periodically differ in language. These papers provide us handy opportunity of studying linguistic diversity. Linguistic diversity occurs at the level of different papers which are published by different publishing groups. Likewise, language variation occurs at the level of the different sections of a newspaper. These linguistic variations may appear in different systems of language like lexicon, Phonetics, Semantics, Syntax, Discourse, etc. Furthermore, these newspapers variate in syntactic form and function; these syntactical variations of forms may surface at different levels like clause, group, or phrase. Furthermore, in case of group, one may classify further into verb group, or nominal group, etc., in order to conduct detailed linguistic analysis. In this regard, nominal group offers itself as an important group in journalistic writing because it offers greater opportunity of condensation of much communication in less space. In other words, it squeezes much meaning at the consumption of less space. Likewise, it displays greater communication capability in comparison to other groups as one may observe in case of motherese, and one word utterances. The news reports of newspapers variate in their choice of nominal groups in reference to form and function. As far linguistic forms of a noun phrase or nominal group is concerned, noun phrase can either be simple or complex. A simple noun phrase consists of only a head noun with or without determiner, or pronoun without any modification while a complex noun phrase comprises a noun head accompanied by either Premodification, or Postmodification, or both. Furthermore, complexity of a noun phrase may be measured either by word count per phrase, phrasal node count or by patterns of modification. A noun phrase with only Premodification is considered more complex than a noun phrase without any modification at all. In the like manner, a noun phrase with Postmodification is considered more complex than a noun phrase with only Premodification. Similarly, a noun phrase with both Premodification and Postmodification is deemed the most complex. Variations of noun phrase linguistic forms may occur at different grammatical functions like subject, object, subject complement, object complement, complement/object of a preposition

in a prepositional phrase, etc. Moreover, variations of noun phrase linguistic forms in reference to grammatical functions may occur at the level of different papers, and different sections of a paper. In a situation like Pakistan where English is utilised as a second language, the linguistic variations, and patterns of variations in different linguistic registers may find better validation by authentic material as data for investigation. From this perspective, newspapers offer a reliable opportunity of authentic linguistic data in second language ecology. Newspapers orient their language, and information in view of their readers; these newspapers opt for those linguistic forms in different syntactic functions which may connect these pages easily and clearly to their readers in accordance to their expectations. In other words, every newspaper orients to a style of Writing which a newspaper keeps in view of its sponsorship, and expected readers. Variation in view of language occurs in nominal group in reference to form and function in different newspapers locally, and internationally. This study is different in its objective, method, and data from previously conducted studies on Pakistani newspaper English in the sense that those previous studies aimed at addressing Pakistani English like letter to the editors from readers, but not specifically newspaper English-news reports or news stories; the collected data of those studies is based on letters to editors which are written by general population, but this study collects newspaper stories. Furthermore, none of those studies opt for the comparison of nominal group patterns in view of forms and functions per papers, and per different sections of each paper; so, this studies provides the first insight into reader oriented writing in Pakistani society.

Problem Statement

Newspapers in either print or soft form are a common utility of daily life in the current world because everyone orients one's life in view of the current trends. The choice of papers on the part of the readers depends not only on the reliability of information, but also on the type of language utilised in communicating information; the choice of language becomes very important in case of second language readers. The news story or report writers orient their language in reference to their targeted readers; variation in the use of language

may be discerned at different levels like words, phrases, or clauses. News writers mostly utilise noun phrase at the expense of any other type of phrase, or clause due to the capability of noun phrase to convey much information at the consumption of less space. Linguistic forms of noun phrase variate in reference to modification patterns which are caused by variation in variety, register, genre, function, and reader. Pakistani English newspapers is the site for analysis of this study to discern the influential factors causing variation of noun phrase forms in Pakistani English newspaper writing in particular, and in Pakistani English in general.

Research Objectives

The objectives of this research are the following:

- 1) To evaluate the causes of variation in noun phrase forms in Pakistani English Papers
- 2) To discern the level of application of End Weight Principle
- 3) To diagnose the utilisation of noun phrase forms in view of readers

Research Questions

- 1) How does Noun Phrase variate in linguistic forms in Pakistani English Papers?
- 2) What are the influential factors causing noun phrase variation in Pakistani Papers?
- 3) Why do newspapers variate in noun phrase forms?

Literature Review

Biber et al,(1999: 232) attributes more importance to noun phrases in comparison to the rest of the types of word classes, or phrases because language users refer to entities with noun phrases, and removal of them mar more the understanding of a text on the part of the decoders than other classes, or phrases.

Halliday (2013: 15-36) elaborates that meanings are created by language user through a process of making selection or choice from the available linguistic option in reference to the situation, receiver, and purpose. Tuckwell, Moore, and Butt (2013: 37-55) suggest that linguistic variation is the outcome of making choice by a language user from the available linguistic forms in the form of options. They add that these linguistic choices on the part of language users are not all of sudden job, but language users evaluate the available linguistic

forms, and try to select in view of communicative purpose, situation, message, and receiver (2013, 68). They continue that the basis of communicative activities of real life which surface in the name of registers and genres is teleological; that is the purpose of communication guides a communicator to choose from the available linguistic forms in view of receivers.

Language is utilised as a vehicle for the expression of multi purposes like sharing experiences, feelings, information, procedures, etc.; all such utilisations of language are purposeful. These purposes or functions of language are named as metafunctions which include ideational-communication of experience, interpersonal-development of human relation in interaction, and textual-the development of a discourse as text (Halliday, 2013: 31-33). In this regard, Tuckwell, Moore, and Butt (2013: 37-55) took the concept of 'Motivated Selection' which was previously introduced by Russian Formalist. They reinterpret the concept that choice of linguistic forms made in the creation of text is in accordance to the goal for which the text is generated. They add that the linguistic choices are available in the linguistic system of a language, but the arrangement, order of these linguistic forms is the innovation or creation on the part of a text generator. In this regard, text creators may take guidance from the already available specimens based on previously conducted speech acts. A language user selects linguistic forms in view of the purpose of the text generation at the same time one manages semantic concordance of these linguistic form in order to stitch the socio-semantic fabric of the textual world. In case of linguistic investigation, or analysis, a text present itself as a figure of speech, or a metaphor; the job of the linguistic investigator is to decipher the metaphor. In this investigative process, one has to move in the backward direction from the end to the beginning. That is to say that the

Purpose of the text generation is the first step in the process of the linguistic investigation of a text which may be followed by decoding the socio-semantic textual world by locating patterns of linguistic forms, and their relative frequency.

Halliday (2013, 32) elaborates the semogenic capacity of language that language has the capacity to generate meaning in view of situation, and

purpose. He adds that in the generation of meaning, language facilitates human brain while the brain in its turn innovates language in view of situation, and metafunctions. He continues that linguistic choices are made in the process of meaning generation in view of the three metafunctions which are collectively held by lexicogrammar in the shape of linguistic forms in a discourse. These linguistic forms surface in different frequencies in reference to situation, purpose, and receiver. Furthermore, Linguistic description of such situational use of linguistic forms is to be based on extensive data from real life language usage; frequency count based on meager instances may not provide reliable description of a register.

Halliday (as cited in Fries & Gregory, 1995: xii) elaborates in reference to the creation of language that it is created through the accumulation of language used in different situations of real life. Freddi (2013: 56-57) considers language as a collection of linguistic forms offering meaning options per context. She adds that many language related issues, dichotomies, and concepts may easily be resolved when language is considered as a collection of meaning options in view of context. Furthermore, language may be described in a better way by a model which is based on the three strata of Meaning Generating Capacity of Language-Lexicogrammar, and Linguistic Form (Expression) taken together in view of environment, situation, or context.

Holistic view of language looks for the resolution of the divide of *Langue*, and *Parole* which may be abolished by defining language as context based choices; these context based choices are paradigmatic (Matthiessen et al, 2010: 69). A language user utilises linguistic choices in view of situation (Freddi, 2013: 57). Linguistic system comes into real life practice on the plane of linguistic structure which is a composition of syntagmatic, and paradigmatic choices per context (Halliday, 1969:87). It is a matter of probability that a language user may use a certain linguistic choice in a certain context; in other words, these linguistic choices per context are not fixed (Halliday, 2002: 407).

In reference to register, and genre generation, a language user keeps his/her goal-intention, situation/context, message, topic, and receiver in mind while generating a discourse; a language user opts for linguistic choices in view of the of the

aforementioned factors. He adds that both linguistic and non-linguistic factors influence the choice of linguistic forms in a context; co-text, and context provide choices to a language user to choose according to his/her own purpose (Freddi, 2013, 58). Grammatical probabilities which are the basis of linguistic characteristics of registers, and genres; these probabilities surface in the form of linguistic structures which are the outcome of the linguistic choices made by language users in view of contexts. It is possible that a language user may come up with a sort of innovation in the utilisation of linguistic choices per context which through wide use become part of the linguistic repertoire of a register, or genre Halliday (2005, 84 & 90).

Halliday declares choice as the major factor in the development of genre, and register. He is of the view that the relative frequency of linguistic form is as vital as the frequency of lexicon in surfacing the linguistic characteristics of registers, and genres; he suggests that interpretative analysis of a text may be based validly on relative frequency of paradigmatic linguistic forms (1990s as cited in Freddi, 2013: 59). Halliday (2005: 68, 131 & 138) writes in reference to register, and genre analysis that the probability about paradigmatic linguistic features of a collection of text, or corpora may be calculated either as marked features, or unmarked features. It means that the differential characteristics of a register in the form of linguistic features may be discerned either at a small or low frequency level, or high frequency level. Marked features of a text may be calculated at a low frequency level; the frequency may be utilised for a probability count at a narrow scale. On the other hand, the frequency of the unmarked features may be utilised for a probability at a higher or wider level. Halliday (2002, 400) shares regarding paradigmatic patterns of linguistic variation that such types of textual analysis may discern the fact that a register at local, national, and international level may display different linguistic patterns, or different frequency patterns in even similar, or same register; so, every such register may be evaluated separately in order to conduct fine grain analysis. Halliday (as cited in Freddi, 2013: 63) is of the view that paradigmatic linguistic forms (linguistic features) provide better linguistic evaluation of a register in comparison to syntagmatic ones. Likewise, Halliday favours quantitative analysis of paradigmatic data from a

single to multiple specimens or instances of texts of a register for describing variations in linguistic features, or characteristics of registers, and genres. Matthiessen (2006: 105) also utilises in his seminal lexicogrammatical study, average of relative frequency from the frequency count of paradigmatic linguistic features of a single to multiple texts of a register. Teich (2013: 417-431) writes in view of linguistic analysis of a text that it is a process of decoding linguistic choices opted by writers in a register. He adds that a linguistic researcher chooses a register for linguistic analysis, samples textual specimens of the register, and collects frequencies of either unmarked, or marked, or both of linguistic forms or features.

Form and Function

Word classes or categories perform different functions as constituents of sentences; complexity of the matter is the fact that it is not necessary that a word or a group of words may perform the same functions in all instances of its usage (Kim & Sells, 2008: 42). Classification of words into different word classes depends on its usage in a sentence which may be discerned on the basis of parsing. That is to say that in order to find out the class of a word, one has to parse to discern what work does it perform in a sentence; on the basis of the work or function a word does, the class or part of speech of that word is categorized (Abbott, 2006: 45 & 46). It is suggested that the part of speech category of a word may be categorized in reference to its collocations in a phrase; the part speech class of a word may be decided in view of the function which it performs in a phrase, or in a clause in different usages. The part of speech of words may be classified on any of the four bases like semantic, morphological, syntactic, and morphosyntactic. Syntactic criterion is generally applied in most languages of the world to determine parts of speech of words in clauses Miller (2002: 36-38).

Andrew (2007: 140) suggests three types of functions for noun phrases; they are semantic, pragmatic, and grammatical. Semantic and Pragmatic functions of noun phrases are based on the meaning of the sentence of which they are parts/constituents while grammatical functions are based on the syntax of the sentence. Generally, a sentence displays a situation; in the every displayed situation, semantic functions designate the participants who/which perform different roles.

That is why semantic functions are referred to generally as semantic roles. The semantic roles which name the participants in the situation displayed by a sentence are called Participatory roles while those which designate the circumstances or settings for a situation are named circumstantial ones.

Language provides humans multi ways of communication; a language user alters one's use of language in reference to situation/context. Pragmatic functions of noun phrase designate the use of a specific set of noun phrases in reference to different situations. Semantic, and Pragmatic functions may be summed up under Semiotic functions which are realised in linguistic forms in different linguistic features like word sequencing, subject-verb agreement, etc., in a linguistic structure like clause, phrase, etc. There exists a type of binding function which binds semiotic functions to linguistic codes; the function is named as grammatical function. So, the journey of linguistic interpretation begins by linguistic codes from where grammatical functions lead a linguistic analyst to semiotic functions which are further classified into semantic and pragmatic functions. The position of a linguistic code in a linguistic structure determines its linguistic form, and grammatical function (Andrew, 2007: 152-161).

There are mainly two categories of Grammatical functions: internal, and external. Internal grammatical categories are those which function as basic constituents of clause structure while external grammatical functions are not the part of basic clause structure, but they are attached to clause on the basis of semantic, or pragmatic functions, or both. Andrew includes subject, direct object, and indirect object in core grammatical functions in English language (Andrew, 2007: 154 & 155). Aarts (1971) selects six(06) functions of noun phrase in his paper, 'On the Distribution of Noun-Phrase Types in English Clause-Structure,' in order to relate the structural complexity of noun phrase to syntactic functions. Schilk and Schaub (2016) classify functions of noun phrase only in two categories of subject, and non-subject. Based on Aarts, Akinlotan (2018) takes eight functions of noun phrase like subject, subject complement, indirect object, apposition, direct object, object complement, object/complement of a preposition, and adverbial in his descriptive study of noun phrase in Nigerian English.

Noun Phrase Complexity

Berlage (2014:01) prescribes two dimensions of measuring the complexity of nominal group; they are linear and hierarchical. Linear measure is calculated on the count of number of words per phrase or nominal group, or on the count of phrasal nodes while hierarchical measure is calculated on the basis of accompanying Premodifiers, and Postmodifiers. Furthermore, she adds the measure of nouniness by distinguishing phrasal, and sentential noun phrase. She elaborates that non-Postmodifying noun phrases, and noun phrases which are Postmodified by Prepositional phrases are less complex than noun phrases which are Postmodified by gerundial phrases, non-finite clauses, and finite clauses. Likewise, she declares structural complexity as better count of noun phrase complexity in comparison to phrasal node count.

Aarts (1971) classifies noun phrase into types: light, and heavy noun phrase. Simple noun phrases comprise names (proper noun), pronouns, nouns accompanied by determiners, and nouns without any modification. On the other hand, heavy noun phrases include (a) noun phrases with Premodifiers like nouns, adjectives, genitives, nouns, and adjectives, and genitives and nouns, (b) noun phrases followed by Postmodifiers like prepositional phrases, Prepositional phrases and clauses, Prepositional phrases and non-finite clauses, Non-finite clauses, and Relative clauses.

Noun Phrase Variation

Schilk and Schaub (2016: 60) consider three factors responsible for the variation of linguistic forms of noun phrase; they are syntactic function, register or genre (text type), and the variety of English. Innovations or alterations take in a foreign language when it comes in contact with a local language either in local setting as a second or foreign language, or in the use of non-natives (Platt, Weber and Ho 1984). Comparison of different structural features of noun phrase like the use of articles, type of modification, and the sequencing of noun head and modifiers across languages reveal the influence of native language on noun phrase structure (Dryer, 2007). Brunner (2014: 27) reports that Singaporean English shares a strong tendency for Premodification in noun phrase due to the fact that the substrate language is

head-final. On the other hand, Kenyan English shares a strong tendency for Postmodification due to its substrate being head-initial.

Akinlotan, & Housen (2017) study noun phrase in Nigerian English; they write on the basis of the results of their study that the most influential factor determining the structure of the phrase is syntactic function. They continue that subject, and adverbial functions utilise noun phrases which are simple in structure while those phrases which function as indirect objects display structural complexity. They add that the role of text type is comparatively meager in determining the structural complexity of noun phrase; they found noun phrases in literary texts like drama, novel, etc., student texts like examination papers, assignments, etc., and interactional texts like free time activities, skills, etc., display a high percentage of simple noun phrases.

Varantola (1984) compares noun phrase forms in general journalistic writing, and field specific journalistic writing; from the general category she collects noun phrases from Newsweek, The Observer, The Economist, and New Society, and for specific she utilises Engineering Journals. Her study reports that specific journalistic writing utilises more complex noun phrases than general journalistic writing, and the forms of noun phrase variate in relation to register, or genre.

Quirk et al. (1985) collects noun phrases from fiction, scientific writing, informal speech, and serious talk for decoding the relationship of noun phrase form and syntactic function. The study reports that complex noun phrases occur at a higher frequency at non-subject function while simple phrases display higher frequency at subject function.

Mardh (1980) analyses noun phrase in the headlines of two British newspapers The Daily Times, and The Daily Mirror. She observes the variation of noun phrase forms in relation to subject, and non-subject function; her conclusion of the study declares syntactic function to be the most influential factor in the determination of noun phrase form.

Aarts (1971) collects noun phrases from Informal Speech, Formal Written Communication, Formal Speech, Scientific Writing, and Light Fiction. His analysis is concerned with the variation of noun phrase form in view of syntactic function, and register (text type). The study reports that heavy

noun phrases display a strong tendency at non-subject function while light noun phrases keep a high trend at subject function. In addition, heavy noun phrases display high frequency count in scientific writing, and formal writing.

In reference to text type, De Haan considers the text type, or register as a vital factor in determining noun phrase complexity; he reports the noun phrase of non-literary writing like media writing, academic writing, etc., is more complex than literary writing (De Haan, 1993: 103). Biber et al. confirm the existence of structural differences in noun phrase in register (text type), and their study surfaces structural differences inside register, too (Biber et al. 1999: 578). Structural differences in noun phrase are reported quantitatively in the texts of the same register served for different receivers (readers) in the form of three different categories of newspapers like Up-Market, Mid-Market, and Down-Market; thus structural analysis of noun phrase surfaces differential features of different types of text in the form of three different categories of newspapers (Jucker, 1992).

Noun Phrase Structure

Jucker (1992: 60) denies free variation in the structure of noun phrase, and locates variation in noun phrase at Paradigmatic relations. In his study of stylistic significance of noun phrase, Aarts (1971) classifies noun phrases into light, and complex categories; light noun phrases consist of only head noun as noun, name, or Pronoun with or without a determiner, and the rest of the noun phrases with either Premodifier(s), or Postmodifier(s), or both as Complex noun phrases. Quirk et al. (1972: 933-934) utilises the terminology of simple, and complex noun phrases for the classification of Aarts.

Crystal (2004, 113) characterizes complex noun phrases on the basis of a single modifier whether Premodifier, or Postmodifier. Hillier (2004) like Crystal (2004) classifies noun phrase on the number of structural elements like DH (The car), DMH (The new car), DMHQ (The new car with a tracker), etc. Sanglof (2014, 09) also appreciates the application of the very classification of Crystal in her comparative study of Pre-Postmodification of noun phrase in English in the three types of population of monolingual, bilingual, and multilingual in Sweden. Schaub (2016) classifies noun phrases into four categories on the basis of no

modification-only head with or without determiner, type of modification like only either Premodifier, or Postmodifier, and multiple modifications like both Pre and Post modifier(s). Akinlotan, and Housen (2017) keeps the noun phrase classification of Crystal (2004), and Hillier (2004) who consider only head noun with or without determiner as simple noun phrase.

Methodology

This descriptive study investigates quantitatively the different forms of noun phrases, or nominal groups utilised in the news stories, or news reports in Pakistani English newspapers. Authentic data is collected like Jucker (1992), and Berlage (2014) from the English Paper circulated in the major cities of Pakistan. The variation of noun phrase forms are studied in reference to their grammatical functions in the five sections like Home News, City News, Business News, Sports News, and Entertainment News of English papers like The Balochistan Times, The Frontier Post, The News, The Dawn, and The Nation. These papers are selected for the study on the basis of their orientation to the five capital cities of the country; four provincial capitals, and one country capital city. A thousand noun phrases per section are collected from the aforementioned five sections of the five papers. Borrowed or readymade news stories which were developed by other sources, were excluded from the study because such readymade news reports do not represent locally produced variety of English which is the main concern of the study. On the pattern of Jucker (1992), and Akinlotan, and Housein (2017) eight syntactic /grammatical functions like subject, subject complement, direct object, indirect object, object complement, appositive, object/complement of preposition, and adverbial are considered for the study. The classification of noun phrases into light/simple, and heavy/complex provided by Aarts (1971), and endorsed by later researchers like Quirk et al. (1985), Jucker (1992), Berlage (2014), and Akinlotan and Housein (2017) is utilised in the study in view of End Weight Principle, and Ease of Processing by Hawkins (2014). Variation in forms of noun phrase appears in the form of zero modification, only Premodification, only Postmodification and both types of modification; the strength of modification surfaces variation at different functions which in turn surfaces different

styles, and difference of targeted readers. As per Varantola (1984), the strength of Premodification shows that the targeted readers are well aware of the newspaper reports while the strength of the Postmodification expresses new targeted readers. Complex noun phrase structures are usually utilised at non-subject functions while simple noun phrase forms are utilised at subject position which facilitates the journey of readers from old/known to unknown/new, and eases the information processing on the part of readers in view of End Weight Principle. According to Berlage (2014), both the count of phrasal nodes, and complexity of structure provide the measure of noun phrase complexity, but the count of structural complexity of the phrase is a better measure in this regard; she considers sentential Postmodifying noun phrases more complex than phrasal ones. This study records the frequency count of premodifiers, postmodifying phrases, and clauses at different function in the mentioned sections of the paper in order to provide a detailed view of noun phrase variation in Pakistani English from the three perspectives of syntactic function, register and genre, and variety as suggested by Schilk and Schaub (2016).

Data Analysis

The collected datum is presented, classified, and analysed into main linguistic forms of noun phrase as simple noun phrases, and complex ones; simple noun phrase category comprises common nouns (CN) with, and without determiners, proper nouns (PN), and pronouns (PRO) while the complex category comprises noun phrases with only Premodifier(s), only Postmodifier(s), and noun phrases keeping both Premodifier(s), and Postmodifier(s). The datum is analysed at different levels like noun phrase in Pakistani English, Pakistani Journalese, Five Newspaper of capital cities, Five Sections of five papers, Complexity per section, and syntactic function per paper, and per section.

PAKISTANI ENGLISH

SIMPLE	COMPLEX
8149 (35.43%)	14851 (64.57%)

The authentic data provided by newspapers may also be utilised to diagnose a variety of language whether it is regional or sociological (Luger, 1983

As cited in Jucker, 1992: 43). The data collected from the five sections of the five major newspapers surface the strength of complex noun phrases amounting (64.57%) in comparison to (35.43%) of simple noun phrases. This explores the fact that L2 situation requires elaborations and specifications on the part of writers due to L2 readers’ lower level of language processing efficiency in second language in comparison to native language users. The second reason might be the fact that mostly second language is usually learned in school systems as a subject where it is taught in academic register in a formal style.

PAKISTANI JOURNALESE

SIMPLE	COMPLEX
8149 (35.43%)	14851 (64.57%)

At the level Pakistani English newspaper register, the higher utilisation percentage of complex noun phrase suggests that the news story writers are aware of their readers that their readers are second language readers who may not share the level of expertise of the language of the native readers; the compensation for such readers may be made in the linguistic form of complex noun phrase which provide specific and elaborate information in the forms of postmodifying phrases, and clauses.

VARIATION IN NOUN PHRASE FORMS IN VIEW OF FIVE PAPERS IN FIVE SECTIONS THE NATION (ALL THE FIVE SECTIONS)

SIMPLE NP	COMPLEX NP
1627 (32.54%)	3373 (67.46%)

THE NEWS (ALL THE FIVE SECTIONS)

SIMPLE NP	COMPLEX NP
1876 (37.52%)	3124 (62.48%)

THE DAWN (ALL THE FIVE SECTIONS)

SIMPLE NP	COMPLEX NP
1823 (36.46%)	3177 (63.54%)

THE FRONTIER POST (ALL THE FIVE SECTIONS)

SIMPLE NP	COMPLEX NP
1762(35.24%)	3238 (64.76%)

THE BALOCHISTAN TIMES (ALL THE THREE SECTIONS)

SIMPLE NP	COMPLEX NP
1061(35.37%)	1939 (64.63%)

All the five papers circulating in the five major cities of Pakistan express (60%) plus count of complex noun phrases; the highest percentage of the utilisation of complex noun phrase is displayed by The Nation (67.46%), followed by The Frontier Post (64.76%), The Balochistan Times (64.63%), The Dawn (63.54%), and The News (62.48%).

VARIATION IN NOUN PHRASE FORMS IN VIEW FIVE DIFFERENT SECTIONS SPORTS SECTION OF THE FOUR PAPERS

THE NATION

SIMPLE NP	COMPLEX NP
352 (35.2%)	648 (64.8%)

THE NEWS

SIMPLE NP	COMPLEX NP
424 (42.4%)	576 (57.6%)

THE DAWN

SIMPLE NP	COMPLEX NP
394 (39.4%)	606 (60.6%)

THE FRONTIER POST

SIMPLE NP	COMPLEX NP	
352 (35.2%)	648 (64.8%)	
ALL PAPERS	1522 (38.05%)	2478 (61.95%)

In sports section, four out of the five newspaper display almost (60%) of complex noun phrases because The Balochistan Times takes readymade sports reports so excluded from the count; three papers utilise above (60%) while a paper present (58%). None of the papers in sports section displays the frequency count of simple noun phrase more than complex one; in all the papers the frequency count of simple noun phrases is less than 45%. The highest frequency of complex noun phrase is shared by The Nation and The Frontier Post as (64.8%) while the least by The News as (57.6%).

ENTERTAINMENT SECTION OF THE FOUR PAPERS

THE NATION

SIMPLE NP	COMPLEX NP
394 (39.4%)	606 (60.6%)

THE NEWS

SIMPLE NP	COMPLEX NP
484 (48.8%)	516 (51.6%)

THE DAWN

SIMPLE NP	COMPLEX NP
448 (44.8%)	552 (55.2%)

THE FRONTIER POST

SIMPLE NP	COMPLEX NP
393 (39.3%)	607 (60.7%)

PAPER	SIMPLE NP	COMPLEX NP
ALL PAPERS	1719 (42.98%)	2281 (57.03%)

The frequency count of complex noun phrase in Entertainment section is above (50%) in The News, and The Dawn while in the two paper The Nation (60.6%), and The Frontier Post (60.7%), the frequency count is above (60%). The highest frequency count of complex noun phrases is in The Frontier Post while the lowest count is in The News. The two papers based on the showbiz hubs of Lahore (The News), and Karachi (The Dawn) keep almost the balance of 50/50 in the utilisation of complex, and simple noun phrase in their reporting in Entertainment.

BUSINESS SECTION OF THE FIVE PAPERS

THE NATION

SIMPLE NP	COMPLEX NP
262 (26.2%)	738 (73.8%)

THE NEWS

SIMPLE NP	COMPLEX NP
295 (29.5%)	705 (70.5%)

THE DAWN

SIMPLE NP	COMPLEX NP
272 (27.2%)	728 (72.8%)

THE FRONTIER POST

SIMPLE NP	COMPLEX NP
325 (32.5%)	675 (67.5%)

THE BALOCHISTAN TIMES

SIMPLE NP	COMPLEX NP
312 (31.2%)	688 (68.8%)

PAPER	SIMPLE NP	COMPLEX NP
ALL PAPERS	1466 (29.32%)	3534 (70.68%)

The frequency count of complex noun phrase is almost (70%) in the business section of all the five newspapers. The highest frequency of complex noun phrase is displayed by The Nation (73.8%) while the least frequency count of complex noun phrase is displayed by The Frontier Post Business Section as (67.5%).

CITY SECTION OF THE FIVE PAPERS

THE NATION

SIMPLE NP	COMPLEX NP
286 (28.6%)	714 (71.4%)

THE NEWS

SIMPLE NP	COMPLEX NP
328 (32.8%)	672 (67.2%)

THE DAWN

SIMPLE NP	COMPLEX NP
331 (33.1%)	669 (66.9%)

THE FRONTIER POST

SIMPLE NP	COMPLEX NP
316 (31.6%)	684 (68.4%)

THE BALOCHISTAN TIMES

SIMPLE NP	COMPLEX NP
375 (37.5%)	625 (62.5%)

PAPER	SIMPLE NP	COMPLEX NP
ALL PAPERS	1636 (32.72%)	3364 (67.28%)

The frequency count of complex noun phrase is more than (60%) in all the five papers; The Nation shows the highest frequency of complex noun phrases as (71.4%) while The Balochistan Times expresses the lowest among the five papers as (62.5%).

NATIONAL SECTION OF FIVE PAPERS

THE NATION

SIMPLE NP	COMPLEX NP
333 (33.3%)	667 (66.7%)

THE NEWS

SIMPLE NP	COMPLEX NP
345 (34.5%)	655 (65.5%)

THE DAWN

SIMPLE NP	COMPLEX NP
378 (37.8%)	622 (62.2%)

THE FRONTIER POST

SIMPLE NP	COMPLEX NP
376 (37.6%)	624 (62.4%)

THE BALOCHISTAN TIMES

SIMPLE NP	COMPLEX NP
374 (37.4%)	626 (62.6%)

PAPER	SIMPLE NP	COMPLEX NP
ALL PAPERS	1806 (36.12%)	3194 (63.88%)

The National News Sections of the selected papers express above (60%) of complex noun phrases; the highest frequency count of complex noun phrases is displayed by The Nation as (66.7%) while the least is displayed by The Dawn as (62.2%).

ALL PAPERS ALL SECTIONS

SECTION	SIMPLE NP	COMPLEX NP
SPORTS	1522 (38.05%)	2478 (61.95%)
ENTERTAINMENT	1719 (42.98%)	2281 (57.03%)
BUSINESS	1466 (29.32%)	3534 (70.68%)
CITY	1636 (32.72%)	3364 (67.28%)
NATIONAL	1806 (36.12%)	3194 (63.88%)

The frequency count of complex noun phrase is the highest in Business Section as (70.68%) while the lowest count of complex noun phrase is in Entertainment Section as (57.03%). The second last in lowest is Sports while third last in lowest frequency count of complex noun phrase is National section as (63.88%). The sections show

the trend in reporting that the complexity increases as one moves from writing which is addressed to general public to specific professionals. Entertainment is reported for general public so the count of complex noun phrase is the lowest there while Business reporting is for the specific professionals so the count is the highest there.

VARIATION IN NOUN PHRASE FORMS IN VIEW OF GRAMMATICAL FUNCTIONS IN FIVE SECTIONS

SPORTS

NEWSPAPERS: THE NATION, THE NEWS, THE DAWN & THE FRONTIER POST

SPORTS SIMPLE NP (COMMON NOUN/PROPER NOUN/PRONOUN)

SUB	SUB COMP	APP	D OBJ	I OBJ	OBJ COM	PREP	ADV	Total
710	08	10	112	02	138	533	09	1522

SPORTS COMPLEX NP (PREMODIFIER/POSTMODIFIER/BOTH)

SUB	SUB COMP	APP	D OBJ	I OBJ	OBJ COM	PREP	ADV	Total
390	29	78	698	02	77	1184	20	2478

The sports sections of the four newspapers express the use of different forms of noun phrase utilised at different grammatical functions. The two classifications of simple and complex noun phrase variate in relation to syntactic functions. In case of simple noun phrase, subject position displays the highest frequency which is not paralleled by any syntactic functions. Keeping aside Prepositional phrase function which may either be part of subject

as Postmodifier, or part of non-subject function, the rest of all the syntactic categories display frequency five (05) times lower than the subject function. On the other hand, the frequency count of complex noun phrase is two times higher at the object function than that of the subject function. This validates the utilisation of End Weight Principle at the level of syntactic functions.

ENTERTAINMENT

NEWSPAPERS: THE NATION, THE NEWS, THE DAWN & THE FRONTIER POST

ENTERTAINMENT SIMPLE NP (COMMON NOUN/PROPER NOUN/PRONOUN)

SUB	SUB COMP	APP	D OBJ	I OBJ	OBJ COM	PREP	ADV	Total
834	12	07	211	10	59	579	07	1719

ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX NP (PREMODIFIER/POSTMODIFIER/BOTH)

SUB	SUB COMP	APP	D OBJ	I OBJ	OBJ COM	PREP	ADV	Total
383	27	66	719	01	70	1004	11	2281

Similar to sports section, Entertainment sections of the four papers reveal the highest frequency count of simple noun phrase at subject function which is almost four times of the direct object function. On the contrary, the direct object function, or non-

subject function displays the highest frequency of complex noun phrase; the direct object function reveals a frequency count of complex noun phrase double of that at the subject function.

BUSINESS

NEWSPAPERS: THE NATION, THE NEWS, THE DAWN, THE FP & THE BT
 BUSINESS SIMPLE NP (COMMON NOUN/PROPER NOUN/PRONOUN)

SUB	SUB COMP	APP	D OBJ	I OBJ	OBJ COM	PREP	ADV	Total
612	17	03	92	01	94	634	13	1466

BUSINESS COMPLEX NP (PREMODIFIER/POSTMODIFIER/BOTH)

SUB	SUB COMP	APP	D OBJ	I OBJ	OBJ COM	PREP	ADV	Total
619	47	69	894	02	156	1731	16	3534

Business sections repeat a trend similar to that of sports, and entertainment sections; the highest frequency count of simple noun phrase is displayed at subject position which is six times more than that of the direct object function. On the opposite, the count of complex noun phrase at direct object function is almost 200 points more than that of the

subject function, but the gap in frequency is not that much wide which one observes in case of simple noun phrase at subject, and object functions. Likewise, at the frequency count of complex noun phrase, the gap is narrow in frequency between subject and non-subject function as compared to other sections.

CITY NEWS

NEWSPAPERS: THE NATION, THE NEWS, THE DAWN, THE FP & THE BT
 SIMPLE NP (COMMON NOUN/PROPER NOUN/PRONOUN)

SUB	SUB COMP	APP	D OBJ	I OBJ	OBJ COM	PREP	ADV	Total
602	40	08	115	06	108	753	04	1636

CITY NEWS COMPLEX NP (PREMODIFIER/POSTMODIFIER/BOTH)

SUB	SUB COMP	APP	D OBJ	I OBJ	OBJ COM	PREP	ADV	Total
649	46	143	797	02	137	1582	08	3364

Similar to Business sections, the city news section of the five papers displays the highest frequency count of simple noun phrase at subject function which is not paralleled by any non-subject functions; in comparison to direct object function, the count of simple noun phrase at subject is almost

six times that at the direct object function. The frequency count of complex noun phrase at direct object function is more than that at the subject function, but the gap is not that much wide as one comes across in case of simple noun phrase.

NATIONAL

NEWSPAPERS: THE NATION, THE NEWS, THE DAWN, THE FP & THE BT

SIMPLE NP (COMMON NOUN/PROPER NOUN/PRONOUN)

SUB	SUB COMP	APP	D OBJ	I OBJ	OBJ COM	PREP	ADV	Total
765	09	08	152	03	89	772	08	1806

COMPLEX NP (PREMODIFIER/POSTMODIFIER/BOTH)

SUB	SUB COMP	APP	D OBJ	I OBJ	OBJ COM	PREP	ADV	Total
548	34	128	889	03	99	1482	11	3194

The nation news sections of the five papers repeat the trend of keeping the highest frequency count of simple noun phrase at subject position which is not matched by any non-subject functions. Similar to sports, and entertainment sections, the complex noun phrase count is higher at the object position which is 300 points more than that at the subject function.

The analysis of noun phrase form and function at the level of grammatical functions reveals a stronger trend of the application of the End Weight

Principle; simple noun phrase forms display higher frequency at subject position while complex noun phrase forms display higher frequency at non-subject function. Here, it is important to remind that frequency count at the grammatical function of object/complement of preposition is ignored because prepositional phrase is widely utilised as Postmodifier in noun phrases which might appear at any other grammatical function. So, the study reveals syntactic function as a valuable factor causing variations in the form of noun phrase.

VARIATION IN NOUN PHRASE FORMS IN VIEW OF SYNTACTIC FUNCTIONS IN FIVE PAPERS

THE NATION

SIMPLE NP

SUB	SUB COMP	APP	D OBJ	I OBJ	OBJ COM	PREP	ADV	Total
611	08	04	182	07	145	659	11	1627

COMPLEX NP

SUB	SUB COMP	APP	D OBJ	I OBJ	OBJ COM	PREP	ADV	Total
527	37	86	935	01	105	1662	10	3373

The Nation displays 67.46% of complex noun phrase in the five sections collectively while simple noun phrase remains 32.54%. Simple noun phrase expresses the highest frequency at subject function which is more than three times that at the direct

object function. On the contrary, complex noun phrase displays the highest frequency at direct object function which is double of the frequency at subject function.

THE NEWS

SIMPLE NP

SUB	SUB COMP	APP	D OBJ	I OBJ	OBJ COM	PREP	ADV	Total
899	29	09	127	07	99	699	07	1876

COMPLEX NP

SUB	SUB COMP	APP	D OBJ	I OBJ	OBJ COM	PREP	ADV	Total
613	38	92	834	02	86	1441	18	3124

The News displays a trend similar to The Nation in reference to variation of noun phrase forms; the

subject function displays the highest frequency count of simple noun phrase which is almost six

times that at the direct object function. In case of complex noun phrase, direct object function

displays higher frequency than that at the subject function by 200 points.

THE DAWN
SIMPLE NP

SUB	SUB COMP	APP	D OBJ	I OBJ	OBJ COM	PREP	ADV	Total
834	16	11	174	03	105	672	08	1823

COMPLEX NP

SUB	SUB COMP	APP	D OBJ	I OBJ	OBJ COM	PREP	ADV	Total
571	39	90	821	03	142	1494	17	3177

The Dawn displays a trend similar to that of The Nation, and The News, the simple noun phrase displays the highest frequency at subject function which is almost four times of that at the direct object function. On the other hand, keeping aside the undecided object/complement of preposition as

noun phrase, the direct object function displays the highest frequency of complex noun phrase. The frequency of complex noun phrase at direct object is almost 250 points more than that at subject function.

THE FRONTIER POST
SIMPLE NP

SUB	SUB COMP	APP	D OBJ	I OBJ	OBJ COM	PREP	ADV	Total
745	18	07	131	05	85	764	07	1762

COMPLEX NP

SUB	SUB COMP	APP	D OBJ	I OBJ	OBJ COM	PREP	ADV	Total
498	49	129	915	04	134	1497	12	3238

The repetition of the trend of The Nation, The News, and The Dawn is discerned in The Frontier Post. Keeping aside prepositional phrase, the subject function displays the highest frequency count of simple noun phrase which is almost six times more than that at direct object function. On the contrary, keeping aside prepositional phrase, complex noun phrase shows the highest frequency at the direct object function which is almost double of that at the subject function.

THE BALOCHISTAN TIMES
SIMPLE NP

SUB	SUB COMP	APP	D OBJ	I OBJ	OBJ COM	PREP	ADV	Total
434	15	05	68	00	54	477	08	1061

COMPLEX NP

SUB	SUB COMP	APP	D OBJ	I OBJ	OBJ COM	PREP	ADV	Total
380	20	77	492	00	72	889	9	1939

The Balochistan Times displays similar trend to that of the rest of the four papers. Keeping aside Prepositional phrase, simple noun phrase displays the highest frequency at subject function which is more than six times of that at the direct object function. On the contrary, the direct object utilises 100 points higher frequency of complex noun phrase than that at the subject function.

All the five sections of the five newspapers keep the trend of utilising higher frequency of simple noun phrase at subject position while the non-subject positions utilise higher frequency of complex noun phrase. In this regard, the study analyses the data at the level of newspaper as register and regional variety, and at the level of the sections of the papers as genres. Both of the

analysis validates grammatical functions as an effective factor causing variation of noun phrase forms.

Conclusion

This study takes variety/register, grammatical functions, and register/genre/topic as declared by Schilk and Schaub (2016) as the main factors causing variation of noun phrase linguistic forms. The five papers represent the language variety utilised by mass print media as Pakistani English Journalese as well as the language of the papers represents Pakistani English. The journalistic register, or written form of Pakistani English as a variety of English turns out by the end of analysis as an influential factor causing variation of noun phrase forms because all the papers published in the five major cities of Pakistan keep more than (60%) complex noun phrase which confirms the formal and academic origin of Pakistani English. The high frequency count of complex noun phrase at non-subject functions also displays the keeping up of End Weight Principle because the language processing efficiency of non-native users of English may not match the linguistic proficiency of native language users that is why news report writers prefer elaboration and specificity. Likewise, the investigation reveals that an equally influential factor causing variation of noun phrase linguistic forms is grammatical or syntactic functions; all the five sections of the five papers and the five papers keep the trend of utilising higher frequency of simple noun phrase at subject function, and utilising higher frequency of complex noun phrase at non-subject functions; similarly reported by Aarts, 1971, De Haan, 1993, Jucker, 1992, and Akinlotan & Housein, 2017. In addition, genre or topic also turns out to be a factor causing variation of noun phrase as sports, and entertainment keep a higher percentage of simple noun phrase as compared to the other three genres of Business, City News, and National News keeping in view the fact that all the five section displayed a higher utilisation of Complex noun phrases.

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