

**NOUN PHRASE STRUCTURE IN MAGAR AND
ENGLISH**

**A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English Education
in Partial Fulfilment for the Master of Education in English**

**Submitted By
Amar Bahadur Thapa**

**Faculty of Education
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur
Kathmandu, Nepal**

2010

**NOUN PHRASE STRUCTURE IN MAGAR AND
ENGLISH**

**A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English Education
in Partial Fulfilment for the Master of Education in English**

**Submitted By
Amar Bahadur Thapa**

**Faculty of Education
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur
Kathmandu, Nepal**

2010

T.U. Regd. No: 9-3-28-14-2003

Second Year Exam

Roll No.:280133/063

Date of Approval of the Thesis

Proposal: 2nd Poush, 2066

Date of Submission: 2066-12-25

RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCEPTANCE

This is to certify that **Mr. Amar Bahadur Thapa** has prepared this thesis entitled “**Noun Phrase Structure in Magar and English**” under my guidance and supervision.

I recommend the thesis for approval and acceptance.

Date: 2066-12-30

Dr. Govinda Raj Bhattarai (Guide)

Professor

Department of English Education

Faculty of Education

T.U., Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal

RECOMMENDATION FOR EVALUATION

This thesis has been recommended for the evaluation by the following
Research Guidance Committee.

Signature

Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra

Professor and Head

Department of English Education

T.U., Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Chairperson

Dr. Govinda Raj Bhattarai (Guide)

Professor

Department of English Education

T.U., Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Member

Dr. Laxmi Bahadur Maharjan

Reader

Department of English Education

T.U., Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Member

Date: 2066-12-31

EVALUATION AND APPROVAL

This thesis has been evaluated and approved by the following thesis

Evaluation and Approval Committee.

Signature

Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra

Professor and Head

Department of English Education

T.U., Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Chairperson

Dr. Jai Raj Awasthi

Professor

Department of English Education

Chairperson

English and Other Foreign Language Education

Subject Committee

T.U., Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Member

Dr. Govinda Raj Bhattarai (Guide)

Professor

Department of English Education

T.U., Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Member

Date: 2067-01-02

DECLARATION

I hereby declare to the best of my knowledge that this thesis is original; no part of it was earlier submitted for the candidature of research degree to any university.

Date: 2066-12-30

Amar Bahadur Thapa

DEDICATION

Dedicated To

My parents and

all well wishers

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to **Dr. Govinda Raj Bhattarai**, professor, Department of English Education, T.U., Kirtipur, who as my research guide equipped me with all sorts of basic concepts and techniques to carry out this research work. Actually, I have no words to extend my sincere gratitude for his guidance, supervision and valuable suggestions that gave inspiration to develop my thesis.

I am deeply indebted to **Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra**, Professor and Head, Department of English Education, T.U., Kirtipur, for his remarkable administrative co-operation and valuable suggestions to carry out this research.

I am also grateful to **Dr. Laxmi Bahadur Maharjan** whose encouraging suggestions were milestones to this research.

I am very grateful to **Dr. Jai Raj Awasthi**, Professor Department of English Education and Chairperson, English and Other Foreign Languages Education Subject Committee, T.U., Kirtipur for his direct and indirect suggestion and for his OHP assisted motivate class teaching.

I am deeply indebted to my respected Gurus **Dr. Tirth Raj Khaniya, Dr. Anjana Bhattarai, Dr. Bal Mukunda Bhandari, Mr. Prem Bahadur Phyak, Mrs. Madhu Neupane, Mrs. Saraswati Dawadi, Mrs. Hima Rawal** and other members of the department.

My special words of gratitude go to **Ms. Madhavi Khanal** for her kind co-operation to prepare this thesis. **Mr. Ram Krishna Maharjan** and **Vivak Maharjan** (Cheap and Best Computer Centre, Kirtipur) deserve sincere thanks for this excellent computer work.

I am immensely thankful to those language informants for their kind help and co-operation in the data collection to all my friends and especially to **Mr. Raj Kumar Thapa, Mr. Hom Raj Pokhrel, Mr. Nam Raj Pokhrel, Lok Rana, Man Kumari Rana** and **Shiva Rana** for their help during my study.

ABSTRACT

The thesis entitled "**Noun Phrase Structure in Magar and English**" is an attempt to identify noun phrase structure in the Magar language and to compare and contrast them with that of English. The researcher has found out that the Magar is an SOV patterned language whereas English is an SVO one. Both the Magar and English languages consist of an obligatory head in the noun phrase. The head of the noun phrase can be realized by noun, pronoun and adjective. The noun phrase has the premodification and postmodification system in both languages. The researcher collected the data from forty-eight native speakers of the Barah Magri language also known as the Dhut Magar language. Two VDCs namely Kawasoti and Shivamandir of Nawalparasi district were the researcher's fields to elicit data from the informants. He used both the primary and secondary sources to carry out this research work.

The thesis consists of four chapters. The first chapter deals with introduction; it consists of general background, importance of the English language, the sociolinguistic situation of Nepal, an introduction to the Magar language, an introduction to the noun phrase structure, CA and its importance on language teaching, review of related literature, objectives of the study and significance of the study. Chapter two deals with methodology; it encompasses sources of data, population of study, sampling procedure, research tools, processes of data collection and limitations. Chapter three deals with analysis, interpretation and presentation of data; it comprises identification and analysis of the noun phrase structure in the Magar language and similarities and differences between the Magar and English noun phrase structures. Chapter four encompasses findings and recommendations for pedagogical implications.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Declaration	i
Recommendation for Acceptance	ii
Recommendation for Evaluation	iii
Evaluation and Approval	iv
Dedication	v
Acknowledgements	vi
Abstract	vii
Table of Contents	viii-ix
List of Abbreviations and Symbols	x-xi
CHAPTER ONE : INTRODUCTION	1-18
1.1 General Background	1
1.1.1 Importance of the English Language	2
1.1.2 The Sociolinguistic Situation of Nepal	3
1.1.2.1 The Indo-Aryan Family	4
1.1.2.2 The Tibeto-Burman Family	4
1.1.2.3 The Austro-Asiatic/ Munda Family	4
1.1.2.4 The Dravidian Family	4
1.1.3 An Introduction to the Magar Language	5
1.1.3.1 The Magar Language and its Dialects	6
1.1.3.2 Script of the Magar Language	6
1.1.4 An Introduction to the English Noun Phrase Structures	7
1.1.4.1 The English Noun Phrase	8
1.1.5 Contrastive Analysis and its Importance on Language Teaching	13
1.2 Review of Related Literature	15
1.3 Objectives of the Study	17
1.4 Significance of the Study	17
CHAPTER TWO: METHODOLOGY	18-19
2.1 Sources of Data	18
2.1.1 Primary Sources	18
2.1.2 Secondary Sources	18
2.2 Population of the Study	18
2.3 Sampling Procedure	18
2.4 Research Tools	19
2.5 Process of Data Collection	19
2.6 Limitations of the Study	19

CHAPTER THREE: ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION	20-43
3.1 Identification and Analysis of the Noun Phrase Structures in the Magar Language	20
3.1.1 Noun Phrase Structure in Magar	20
3.1.2 Types of the Head of Magar Noun Phrase	26
3.2 Comparison Between the Head of Noun Phrase in Magar and English	28
3.3 Similarities and Differences Between the Magar and English Noun Phrase Structure System	31
3.3.1 Similar Noun Phrase Structure in Magar and English	31
3.3.2 Different Noun Phrase Structure in Magar and English	32
3.4 Modification	34
3.4.1 Premodification	35
3.3.2 Post-Modification	42
CHAPTER FOUR : FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	44-51
4.1 Findings	44
4.1.1 Similarities	45
4.1.2 Differences	47
4.2 Recommendations	49
4.2.1 Recommendations for Magar Speakers Learning English	49
4.2.2 Recommendations for English Speakers Learning Magar	50
REFERENCES	52-53
APPENDICES	

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

∅	–	Zero morph
B.S.	–	Bikram Sambat
CA	–	Contractive Analysis
CBS	–	Central Bureau of Statistics
DFE	–	Definite
Dr.	–	Doctor
e.g.	–	For example
EFL	–	English as a Foreign Language
ERG	–	Ergative
ESL	–	English as a Second Language
et al	–	and other people (Latin et alli/alia)
Fem.	–	Feminine
GEN	–	Genitive
H	–	Head
i.e.	–	That is to say (Latin id est)
INDEF	–	Indefinite
L1	–	First language
L2	–	Second language
LGH	–	Low Grade Honorific
LOC	–	Locative
Mas.	–	Masculine
MFL	–	Magar as a Foreign Language
MSL	–	Magar as a Second Language
NOM	–	Nominative
NPs	–	Noun Phrases
Obj	–	Objective

OP	–	Operator
P	–	Patient
Ph	–	Phrase
PL	–	Plural
Pm.	–	Post modification
Prem.	–	Premodification
Pro. N	–	Pronoun
Quant.	–	Quantifier
Sg	–	Singular
UNO	–	United Nations Organization
VDC	–	Village Development Committee
Viz	–	that is to say
VSO	–	Verb Subject Object
1	–	1 st Person
2	–	2 nd Person
3	–	3 rd person