

NOUN PHRASE STRUCTURE IN ENGLISH AND NEPALI: A COMPARATIVE STUDY (N. 176319) BY PURNA BAHADUR KHADKA

NOUN PHRASE STRUCTURE IN ENGLISH AND NEPALI: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

**A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English Language Education
University Campus, Kirtipur
in Partial fulfillment of Master's Degree in Education
(Specialization in English Education)**

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2006**

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Noun Phrase Structures in Nepali and English at a glance

A. In Nepali

Structures		Examples
1. N	→	keto, (boy)
2. Pron. N	→	U, (he)
3. Pre. M + H		
(i) N + N	→	Mahila Prahari (Woman police)
(ii) Det + N	→	Yo dhungo (This stone)
(iii) Adj + N	→	Thulo dhungo (Big stone)
(iv) Adj + Adj + N	→	Kalo thulo carra. (black big bird)
(v) Det + Adj + N	→	Yo thulo dhungo (The big stone)
(vi) Adv + Adj + N	→	Dharai Kali keti (Very black girl)
(vii) Det + Adv +	→	Yo dharai thulo dhungo (This very big stone)
(viii) Det + Adj + Adj + N	→	Yo dharai laamo moto dori (This very long thick rope)
(ix) Ph + N	→	Akas ko phal (The fruit in the sky)
(x) Rel. C + N	→	Keti jo kali cha (The girl who is black)

A. In English

Structures

Examples

1. N → Penny,
2. Pron. N → You, I
3. Pre. M + H
 - (i) N + N → English language
 - (ii) N + N + N → English language teacher
 - (iii) Det + N → His book
 - (iv) Adj + N → Big stone
 - (v) Adj + Adj + N → Woolen white shawl
 - (vi) Det + Adj + Adj + N → A woolen white shawl
 - (vii) Det + Adj + Adj + Adj + N → A Kashmiri woolen white shawl
 - (viii) Det + Adj + Adj + Adj + Adj + N → A Kashmiri woolen small sawl
 - (ix) Det + Adj + Adj + Adj + Adj + Adj + N → A Kashmiri woolen white small expensive shawl
 - (x) Adv + Adj + N → Very big stone
 - (xi) Det + Adv + Adj + N → A very beautiful lady
4. Head + Post. m
 - (a) N + Ph
 - (i) N + ph → Court martial
 - (ii) N + Adj. Ph → The man outside
 - (iii) N + Prepos. Ph → A kilo of meat
 - (iv) N + Prepos. Ph + Prepos. → The girl in the corner of the street.
 - (b) N + Cl
 - (i) N + Rel. Cl → John, Whose wife left him last weak.
 - (ii) N + Appos. Cl → The message that she is ill.
 - (iii) N + Cl Introduction by temp. conj → The time since he has been principal.

- (iv) N+ infin. Cl → The first leader made here
 - (v) N + - ing participle Cl → The point being made here
 - (vi) N + -ed participle Cl → The evidence proved for his hypothesis
4. Noun with discontinuous modifiers
- (i) Adj + N + prepos. ph → a house different from yours
 - (ii) Adj + N + infin.cl. → a difficult theory to explain.
 - (iii) Comp. Adj + N + than + Np → a longer distance than 3 miles.
 - (iv) As + Adj+ N + As (reduced) comp cl. → a man s poor as me.
 - (v) too + Adj + N infin. Cl. → to beauty a girl to marry.
 - (vi) Adj. H + enough→ clever enough.

CHAPTER-ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Background

Nepal is a country of linguistic diversity. More than 90 languages are identified and spoken in this small country. Most of these living languages do not have their own written scripts, they have only spoken form (CBS, 2001). In a multilingual country, one language functions as lingua franca. In Nepal, Nepali is a national language and used as lingua franca. English language has got its status as an international language. It serves as a lingua franca among educated people.

In Nepal, the Nepali language is the mother tongue of more than 50 percent of the total population of Nepal (CBS, 2001) and also recognized as the national language. It has been established as the medium of administration, education mass media and public affairs. We Nepalese people have to depend upon English language to learn more things happening in the world or most of the books are written in English and almost all news agencies use the English language to communicate their messages. People get information about worldly current affairs by means of English language. Thus English in one way or the other functions as a contact language or lingua franca among the people of the world.

When we try to know the history of teaching and learning of English in Nepal the Nepalese people living in India, especially eastern part of India were the first of the Nepalese to learn and use English. These people living and studying in Darjeeling, Sikkim, Gauhati, Manipur and other places became familiar with English earlier. The Gorkha solidiers in British India. Hong Kong, Singapore, Brunei, Japan and many parts of Europe deserve on special mention in this respect.

Formally English language was introduced in our country along with the English model of Education with the start of Durbar High School in 1845 A.D. following the Visit of Junga Bahadur Rana to the UK. The opening of Tri-chandra College in 1918 A.D. another milestone for the development of English Education in Nepal. (Space Times Today, Sept, 29, 2002)

When we teach or learn the foreign language we knowingly or unknowingly teach or learn about the language. Language is a set of signals by which we communicate' (Loreto 1991). Human language is not only vocal system of communication. It can be expressed in writing, with the result that, it is not limited in time or space. Each language is both arbitrary and systematic. By this we mean that no two languages behave in exactly the same way yet each language has its own set of rules. Wardhaugh (1986) has given the definition of language from sociological point of view, 'a language is what the members of particular society speak.' We can compare two or more languages from sociological or structural point of view.

We know that English is an S-V-O language. S-V-O is only one of three major orders for sentence constituents in the language of the world. S-O-V and V-S-O being the two alternatives to S-V-O. Nepali language follows the S-O-V word order for sentence formation. Unlike English language structure, in Nepali language, object precedes verb eg. *U bhaat khanchha*, helping verb normally follows main verb eg *Haami pani Shahar Jaane Thiyau*; post position follows its object, e.g. *Kitaab tebulamaa chha*.

Such phrase level ordering differences can also cause problems for learners.

1.1.1 Origin of English and Nepali Language

English is the language of '*Indo-European*' family. It belongs to the *west Germanic sub-branch of the Germanic branch*. It is spoken by about 350 million people in the world as a native language and a second or foreign language (Yule, 1996).

Like English Nepali belongs to *Indo European* family. But English belongs to *Germanic Sub-family* whereas Nepali belongs to *Indo-Aryan Sub-family*. (American Heritage Dictionary)

The following tree diagram illustrates the position of Nepali in the Indo-Aryan Sub-family.

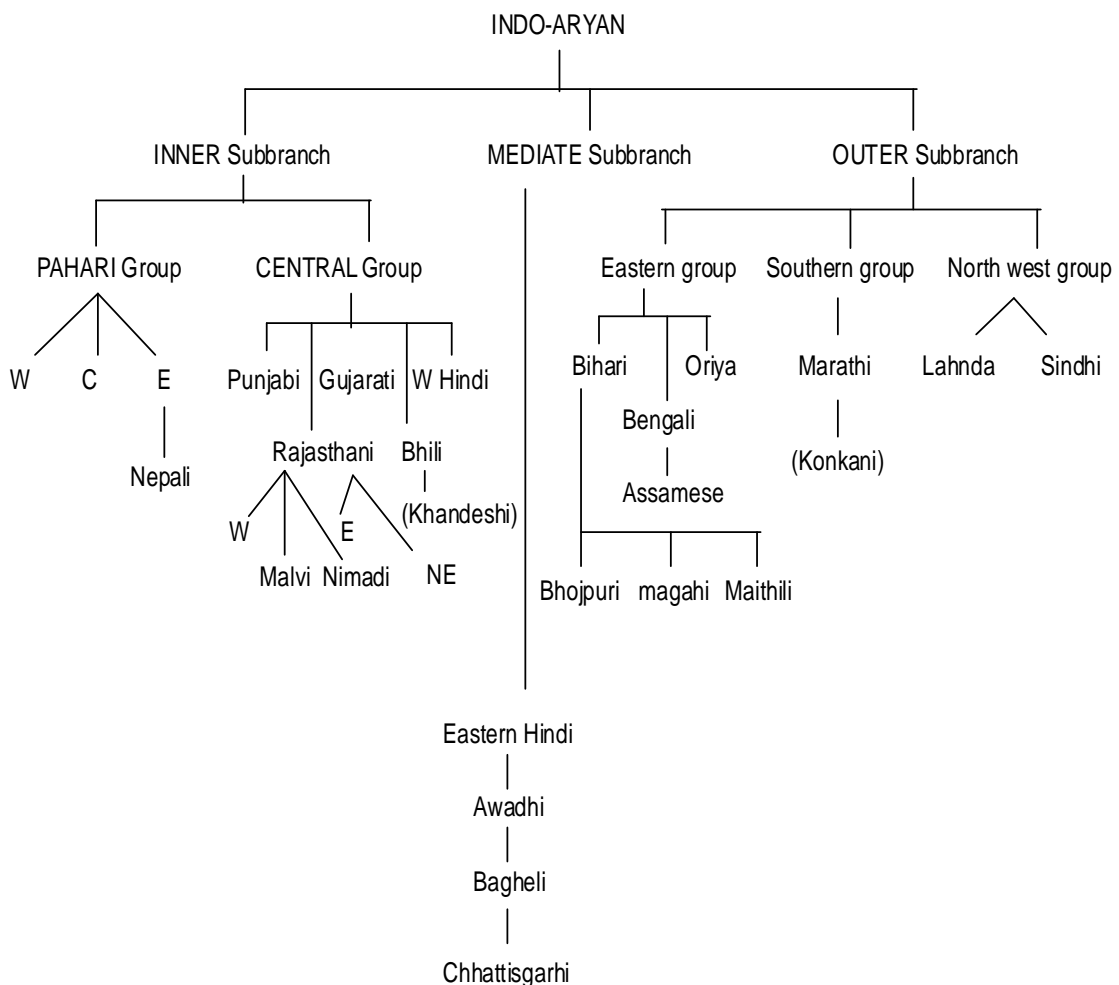


Figure: 1 (Grierson, 1967)

1.1.2 Noun Phrase Structure in English and Nepali

Language can be studied from different points of view. The study of language basically consists of three aspects-substantive aspect, formal aspect and meaning aspect. Roughly speaking phonetics and phonology study the substantive aspect of language, Grammar studies its formal aspect and semantic studies its meaning aspect. The study of these three aspects of language constitutes the core linguistics.

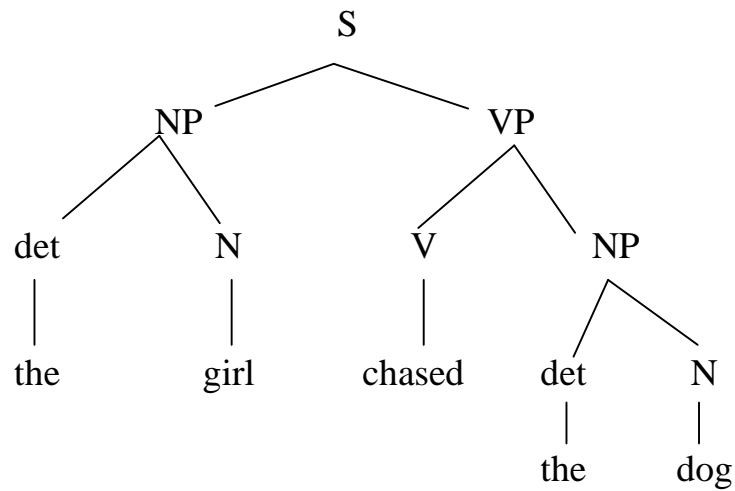
Crystal, (1985) defines the noun phrase 'the construction into which nouns most commonly enter and of which they are the HEAD. In the noun phrases 'the good book' and 'my fine friend', 'book' and 'friend' are the head words. In transformational grammar, a pronoun is regarded as a noun phrase because of its ability to replace other noun phrase, different grammarians have tried to illustrate each bit of language structure. Quirk et al (1985) have published 'A Comprehensive grammar of the English language'. In their book, they have shown the relationship of NP with sentence. They have also discussed how noun phrases can be modified and placed in a sentence. Zellig S. Harris has written 'Structural linguistics' and Leech Geoffrey has written 'A communicative grammar of English' which are the great contribution in the field of English grammar. We can follow some Nepali grammar books to produce well formed sentences. Pokhral, (2054) has written 'A Descriptive grammar of Nepali and an analysed corpus', Adhikari, (1993) has written 'Sama Samuyik Nepali Vyaakaran'. Gautam, (2058) has written 'Manak Tatha Bistarit Manak Sidanta Ra Nepali Vakya Vayabastha', Kathmandu: Chiranjibi Ghimire. In his book, he has discussed the head, specifier and complement of the noun phrase. He has also shown the position of noun phrase in a sentence. These grammar books are the great contribution in the field of Nepali language.

For any kind of comparison, we presuppose some common point of reference. Without such a point of reference, we shall have neither a justification or bringing two languages together nor a starting point. In order to characterize the notion 'linguistic description' of a natural language, we need to distinguish two aspects of such description: that part which concerns features common to all natural languages have noun phrase as the element of sentence analysis and that part which concerns features of the language which make it different from each other languages such as: preposition in English and post position in Nepali language. The approach to structural comparison for the purpose of foreign language teaching have been primarily pragmatic and the theoretical questions involved in this have never been seriously considered. However if the theory of today is to provide the methodology of tomorrow. It is only right that we consider some of the theoretical aspects of such a comparison in order to have a more dependable methodology.

1.1.2.1 The English Noun phrase

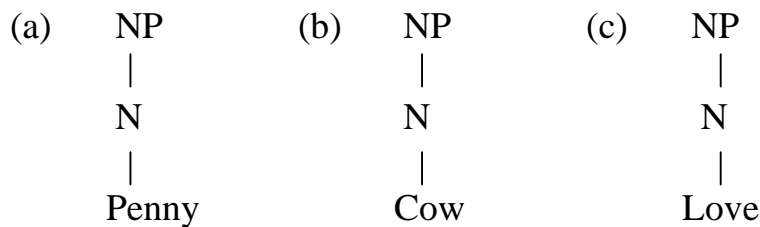
The words are grouped into successively larger grammatical units. Grouping words in this way constitutes the structure of a sentence. Larger grammatical units forming a sentence are built around the lexical categories like noun, verb, adjective and preposition. These units are referred to as phrases. Thus we can have noun phrases, verb phrases, adjective phrases and prepositional phrases. In the sentence 'the girl chased the dog', the first division produces a noun phrase 'the girl' and a verb phrase 'chased the dog'. The second division recognizes a verb 'chased' and another noun phrase 'the dog'. The next division would produce combination of determiner (DET) and noun (N) (the + girl), (the

+ dog). This is the phrase structure of the sentence and it can be displayed as a tree diagram.

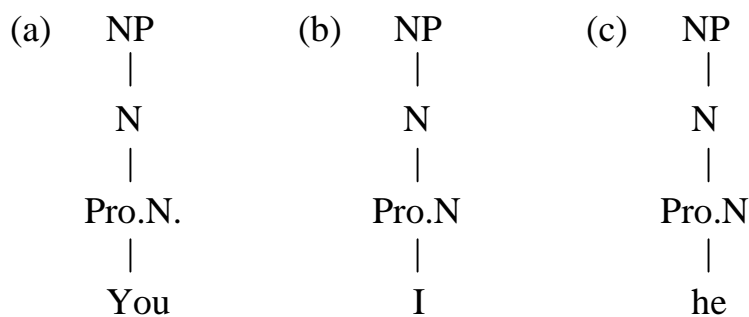


We can define the term noun phrase as a word or group of words functioning in a sentence exactly like a noun, with a noun or pronoun as a head. The following examples illustrate the NP structures in English.

(i) Penny, cow, love

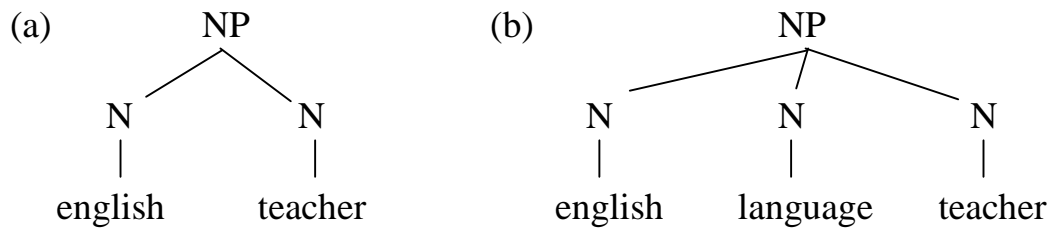


(ii) you, I, he



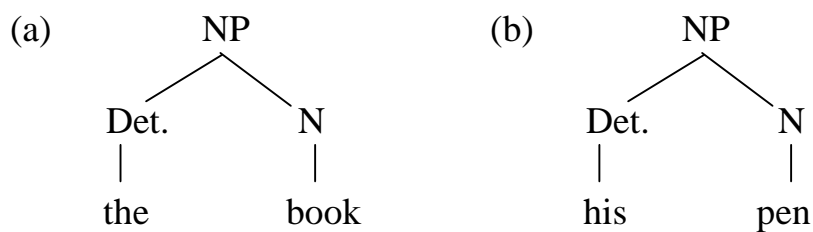
Here, single noun or pronoun is the NP

(iii) english teacher, english language teacher



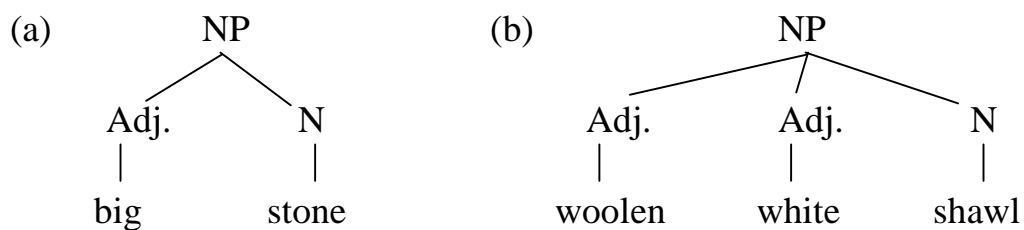
Here, the combination of two or three nouns is the NP.

(iv) the book, his pen



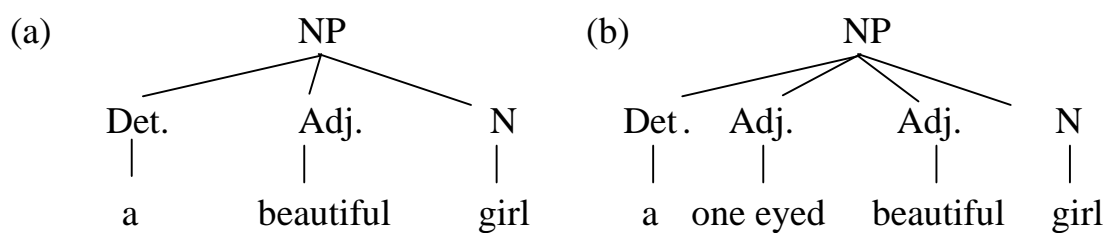
Here, the combination of determiner and noun is the NP.

(v) big stone, woolen white shawl



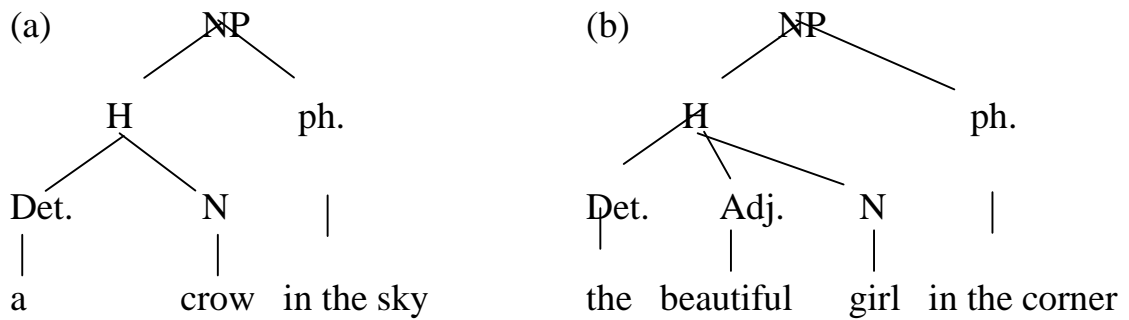
Here, the combination of adjective and noun is the NP.

(vi) beautiful girl, a one-eyed beautiful girl



Here, the combination of determiner, adjective and noun is the NP.

(vii) a crow in the sky, the beautiful girl in the corner



Here, the combination of head and phrase is the NP. Head includes determiner, noun and adjective and phrase includes preposition and NP.

1.1.2.2 The Nepali Noun phrase

The phrase is termed as 'Padaawali' in Nepali language. Yadav, (2058) has discussed the following phrases in the Nepali language.

- a. N am Padaawalii (Noun phrase)
- b. Kriyaa Padaawalii (Verb phrase)
- c. Kriya Vishasanā Padaawalii (Adverb phrase)
- d. Parasthanik Padaawalii (Postpositional phrase)
- e. Vishasanā Padaawalii (Adjective phrase)

In sentence, noun phrases and verb phrases are obligatory and adverbial phrases, prepositional phrases and adjective phrases are optional.

A Nepali noun phrase consists of an obligatory head like an English one. The head of the noun phrase shouldn't necessarily be a noun, it can be a pronoun or adjective.

eg. *Hari Caraa maarcha*

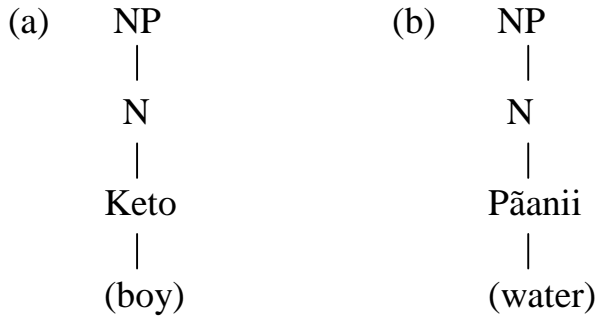
U Caraa maarcha

Papile Caraa maarcha

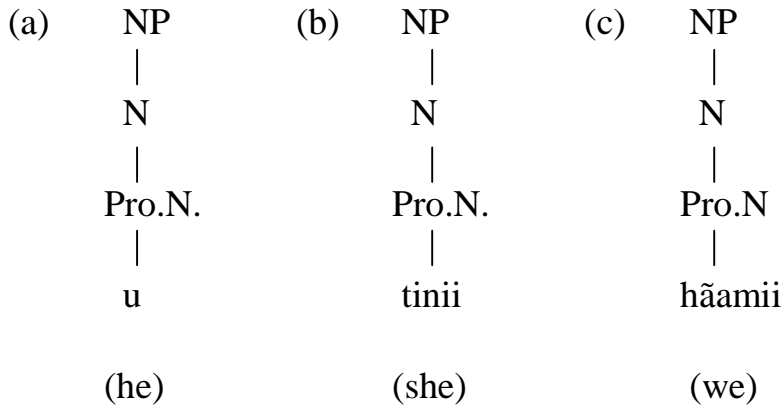
In Nepali language noun, pronoun and adjective can play the role of head in a noun phrase.

The following examples illustrate the 'N am Padaawalii' (NP) structures in Nepali.

(i) keto, pãanii

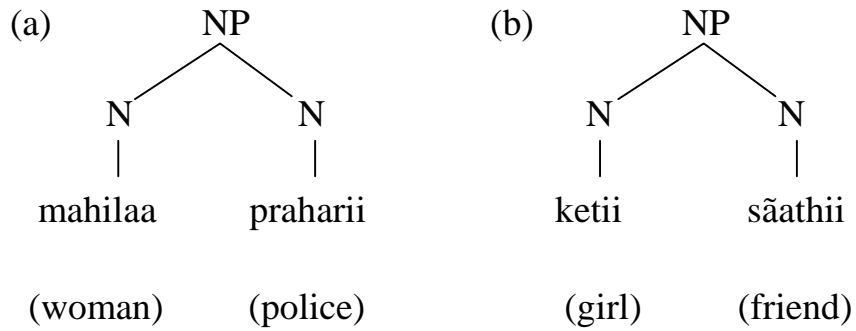


(ii) u, tini, hãamii



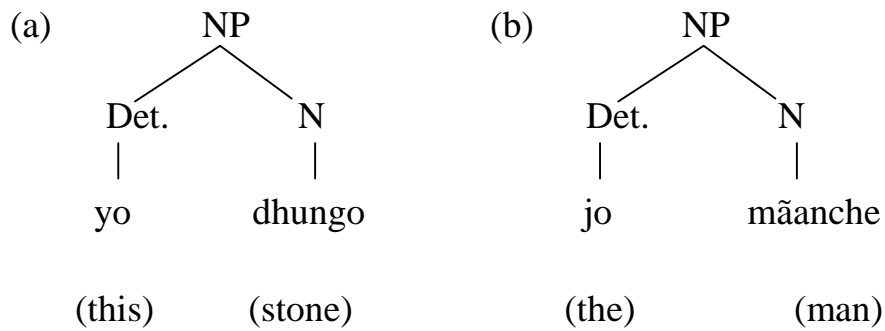
Here, Single noun or pronoun is the NP.

(iii) Mahilaa Praharii, ketii sãathii



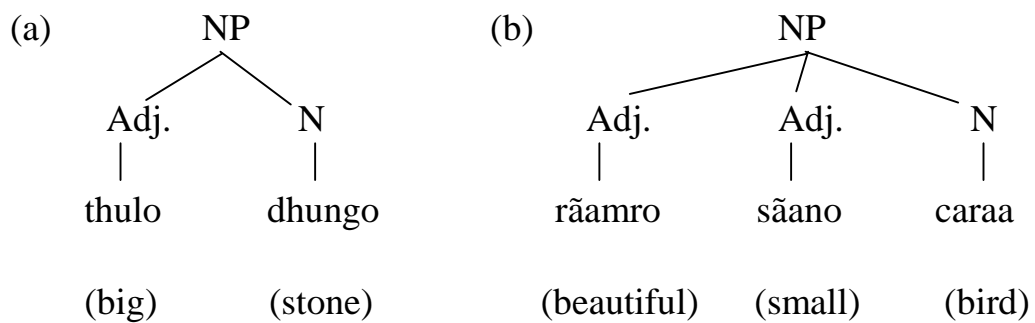
Here, the combination of two nouns is the NP.

(iv) yo dhungo, jo mãanche



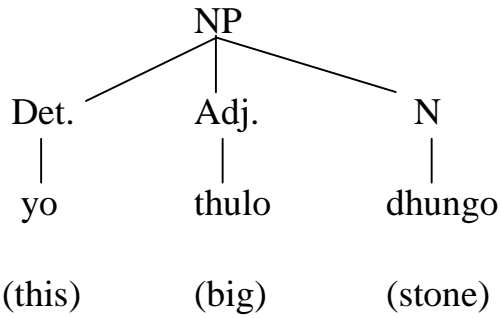
Here, the combination of determiner and noun is the NP.

(v) thulo dhungo, rãamro sãano caraa



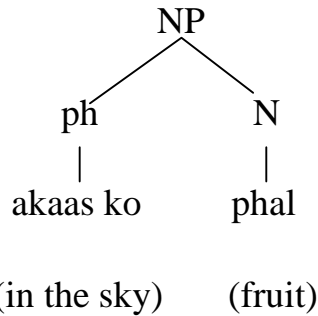
Here, the combination of adjective and noun is the NP.

(vi) yo thulo dhungo



Here, the combination of determiner, adjective and noun is the NP.

(vii) akaas ko phal



Here, the combination of phrase and noun is the NP.

Gautam, (2058) has mentioned the specifier of nepali noun phrase. He has classified the specifier into three categories. They are:

- (i) qualitative specifier
 - (a) size: tall, short, big, small
 - (b) place: Palpali, Jhapali
 - (c) situation: old, deaf, light
 - (d) colour: yellow, pale, bright
 - (e) time: seasonal, past, next

- (f) nature: good, bad, peace
- (g) test: sweet, salty
- (h) material: golden, sandy
- (ii) comparative specifier: woman like Sita, king like Ram
- (iii) nominative specifier: Thapa Rame, Majhi Makhan

In Nepalese context, the chief languages for instruction are English and Nepali, as a result of which we find some similarities between these two languages. On the other hand Nepali speaking people are showing interest to learn English as a second language for which a good knowledge of the structural aspects of these language is a must. It has increased in importance both from pedagogical and linguistic perspectives.

1.2 Literature Review

Here are some research works on linguistic comparative study among different languages spoken in Nepal; eg, Rai, Tharu, Gurung etc. and English in the Department of English Language Education. The related literature to the present study are as follows:

Dr. Hemangaraj Adhikari has in his grammar '*Samasaamuyik Nepaali Vyaakaran*', gone to the extent of pointing out how nouns can be post-modified as well. But he has placed much emphasis on the traditional categorization of nouns into different groups. A relatively comprehensive study has been made by Jayaraj Acharya in '*A Descriptive Grammar of Nepali and an Analyzed Corpus*' 1991. He has not, however gone to the extent of describing the noun phrase elements in detail; he is rather limited to listing them.

Kattel, (2001) has carried out a research entitled "A Comparative Study on Terms of Address used by English and Nepali speakers'. This study has compared and contrasted the terms of address in English and Nepali.

Bhattarai (2001) has, in his M.Ed. thesis studied case in English and Nepali comparatively. He has mentioned the similarities and differences between the English and Nepali case system and to identify the major morphological and syntactic features of cases in both the languages.

Adhikari (2001) has carried out a research entitled case realization in English and Nepali 'A Comparative study'. The comparison of case realization in English and Nepali has been done mainly from three angles". Semantic role, syntactic function and morphosyntactic form.

Bhandari (2002) has in her M.Ed. thesis studied 'Affixation in English and Nepali' A comparative study. She has compared and contrasted affixation in English and Nepali languages. She has listed some points of similarities and differences between two languages.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

This study has the following objectives:

- (i) to compare the noun phrase structures of English and Nepali.
- (ii) to find out the similarities and differences between them.
- (iii) to point out the pedagogical implications of the study.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This research particularly deals with the comparison of English and Nepali noun phrase structures. The comparative study deals with the similarities and the differences between the two languages. Our assumption is that similarities between two languages make the target languages learning easy and vice-versa. Therefore this study will be beneficial to the students and teachers of English and Nepali language. Similarly linguists, grammarians, researchers, textbook writers, especially for those who are involved in teaching and learning English and Nepali language.

CHAPTER-TWO

METHODOLOGY

2.1 Source of Data

2.1.1 Primary Sources

The source for primary data is the researcher's own intuition as a native speaker of Nepali language. To confirm this primary data, informal interviews were organized with other native speakers of Nepali language.

2.1.2 Secondary Sources

This research is primarily based on secondary sources. The researcher consulted the grammar books of both English and Nepali language. The books mainly consulted are Adhikari, H.R. 1993 '*Samasaamuyik Nepali Vyaakaran*' Kathmandu: Kunjal Prakashan, Bhandari, B.M. 2005 '*Writing Skills in English*' Kathmandu: Vidhyarthi Pustak Bhandar, Celce-Murcia, Marianne Larsen-Freeman, Diane 1993 '*The Grammar Book*' Heinlel & Heinle publishers, Pokhrel, M.P. 2054 '*Nepali wakyā Vyaakarana*'. Kathmandu: Nepal Rajakiya Pragya Pratisthan, Quirk, et.al. 1985 '*A Comprehensive Grammar of the English language*' London: Longman '*Nepali Brihat Sabdakos*' and '*The Oxford Dictionary of English Grammar*'. Verma, M.K. 1971 '*The Structure of the Noun Phrase in English and Hindi*'. Delhi: Motilal Banarasidass, Gautam, D.P. 2058 '*Manak Tatha Bistarit Manak Sidanta Ra Nepali Vakya Vayabastha*', Kathmandu: Chiranjibi Ghimire.

2.2 Tools for Data Collection

The researcher uses his own intuition as a native speaker of Nepali language. To confirm his intuition, informal interviews were organized with other native speakers of Nepali language.

2.3 Limitation of the Study

This study has the following limitations:

- (i) This study is limited to the structures of the noun phrase of standard variety of both English and Nepali language which are taken from the English and Nepali grammar books.
- (ii) The English noun phrases are not discussed separately but it is discussed comparatively.
- (iii) This study is mainly concentrated to pinpoint similarities and differences between English and Nepali NP structure.
- (iv) This study compares the NP structure of both language in terms of their head, nominalization and modification.

CHAPTER-THREE

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

3.1 Noun Phrase

This chapter deals with the concept of noun phrase and the types of the head of a Nepali noun phrase, properties of the head in relation with gender, number and case are discussed in brief with examples.

3.2 Definition of Noun Phrase

A noun phrase is a word or group of words functioning in a sentence exactly like a noun, with a noun or pronoun as HEAD (Quirk et al. 1973). A noun phrase is also defined as a group of words which acts as the subject, complement or object of a clause or as the object of a preposition. The definition which is given by Quirk et al. is too narrow to include some adjectives in English and Nepali which act as noun heads. We, therefore, would include certain adjectives which act as head nouns in English and Nepali into noun phrase.

3.3 The Types of the Head of Noun Phrase

A Nepali noun phrase consists of an obligatory head, like an English one:

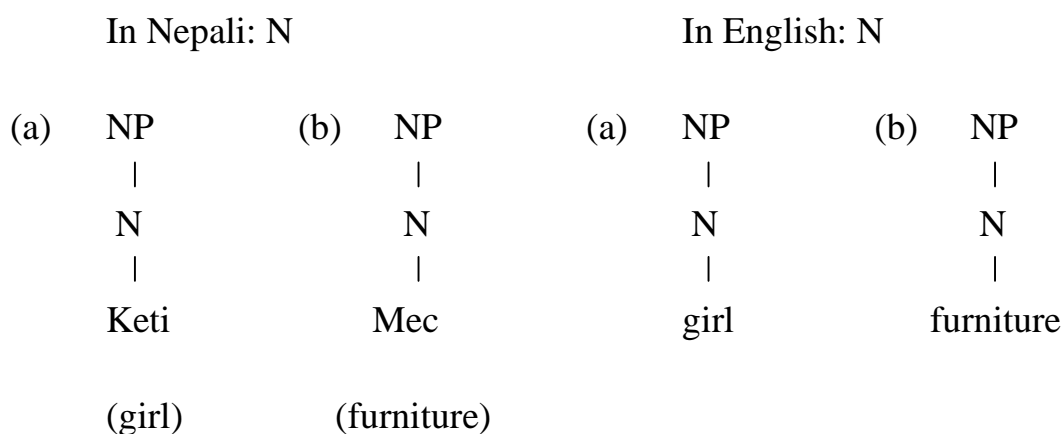
Nepali

English

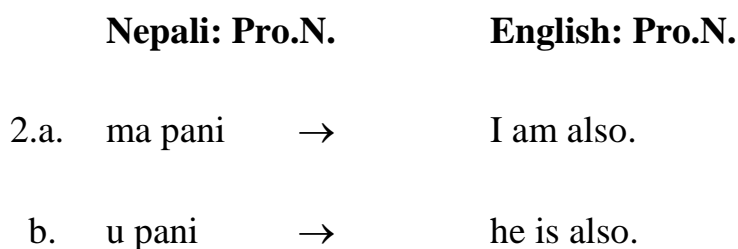
- | | | |
|--------------------|---|------------------------|
| 1. a. Ku aaki keti | → | The girl in the corner |
| b. Sabai Mecharuu | → | All the furniture |

In the above examples Ketu 'girl' and meca 'furniture' are noun heads.

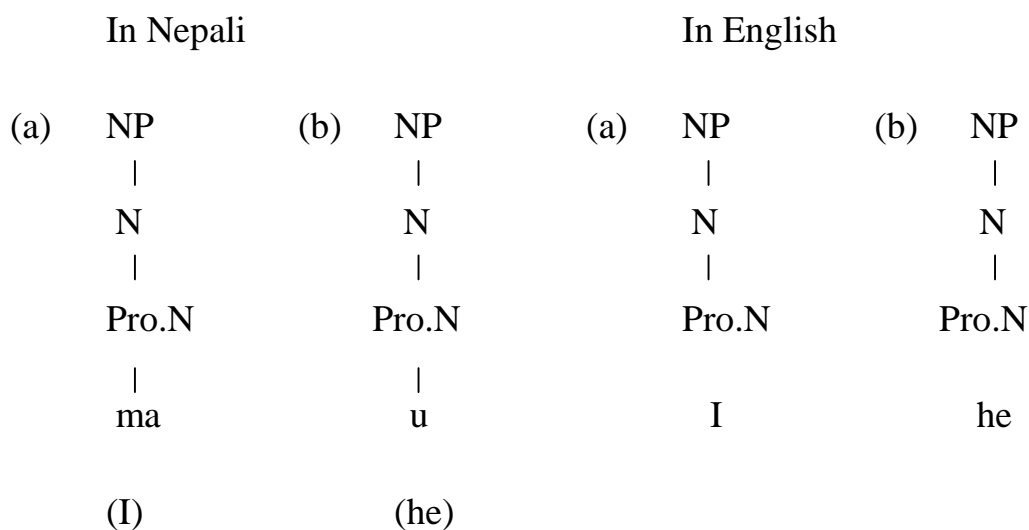
The structure of the above examples of noun head can be shown in the following tree diagrams.



The head of the noun phrase should not necessarily be a noun proper, it can be a pronoun, too:



In the above examples, 'ma' I and 'u' he are the heads of the noun phrase. They can be shown in this way.



The last category of the head of a Nepali noun phrase has to do with adjectives. Though one of the functions of an adjective is to modify the head it may play the role of the latter itself.

Nepali : Adj.

English : Adj

3.a. Chucaale aaphailaai khaancha → greedy-by himself eats.

→ A greedy person destroys himself.

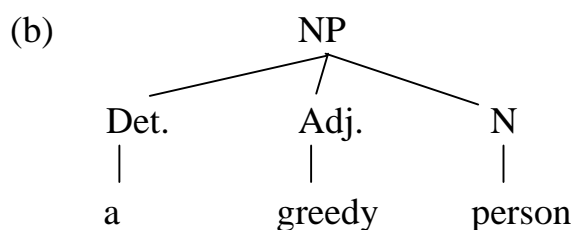
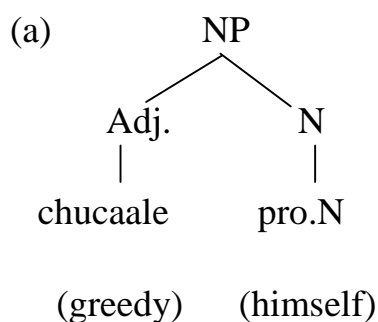
An alternative way to express (3a) would be.

b. Chucaa vyaktile aaphailai khaancha → Greedy person by himself eats.

'A greedy person destroys himself.'.

In Nepal : Adj+N

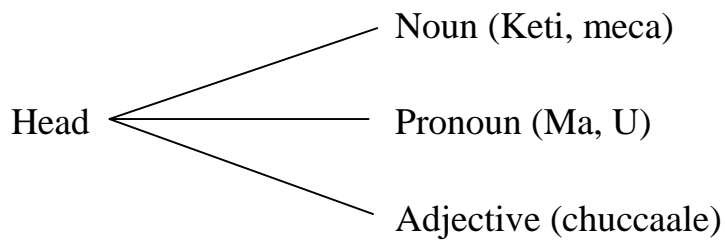
In English : Det+Adj+N



Here, the adjective modifies the head of the NP.

A singular Nepali adjective functioning as noun phrase head cannot generally be translated into English by using adjectival nominal head without bringing about change in number. Therefore, a noun such as 'Person' is added as in (3a). But in Nepali such nominalization is not a common phenomenon. Only a limited number of words such as 'Chuco' 'greedy' act as nominal heads. Unlike English, Nepali doesnot require the precedence of adjectives by a definite determiners.

The types of a Nepali noun can be summarized by the following table.



3.4 Inflections

A Nepali noun has the following grammatical categories: gender, number, and case.

3.4.1 Gender

Common nouns

In Nepali animate nouns are referred to as masculine or feminine on the basis of natural gender. In English system, gender is dependent upon the biological category sex.

4. a. Keto aayo (Nepali)

boy came (English)

'A boy came'

b. Ketu aai (Nepali)

girl came (English)

'A girl came'.

The above examples show that there are different names of the same age group of males and females. Moreover, the choice of the verb has differed with the change in the gender of the noun.

If a noun does not belong to any of the two sexes it follows masculine concord.

5. a. achaar piro cha (Nepali)

Pickle peppery is (English)

'The pickle is peppery'

b. dhungo thulo thiyo (Nepali)

stone big was (English)

'The stone was big'

In (5a and 5b) the above example, the choice of the verb form 'Cha' and 'thiyo' is same as the one for masculine nouns.

Personal nouns can be divided into three types in respect of masculine-feminine structural relationship.

- (i) Morphologically related nouns
- (ii) Morphologically unrelated nouns
- (iii) Partly related nouns

(i) Morphological related nouns

(a) Keto - keti

'boy' - 'girl'

(b) choro – chori

‘son’ – ‘daughter’

(c) dulaaha – dulaahi

‘bridegroom’ – ‘bride’

In the above examples of Nepali noun, the feminine nouns characterized by the presence of –I ending as opposed to masculine nouns which have –o/aa ending.

(ii) Morphologically unrelated nouns

(a) logne – swaasni

husband – wife

(b) baa – aamaa

father – mother

(c) choro – buhaari

son – daughter in law

The above examples show that there is no relationship between certain masculine and feminine nouns as there are fundamental different words for masculine and feminine reference.

(iii) partly related nouns

a) lognemanche – swasnimanche

‘man’ – ‘woman’

b) saanaabaaje – saanibajyai

‘small father in law’ - ‘small mother in law’

c) prahari – mahila prahari

‘policeman’ – ‘police woman’

In the above examples, we see that either the first or the second part of the noun is responsible for gender distinction.

No distinction is made in terms of gender if the noun is non human, at least in the selection of verb form.

(6) a. kukhuro aayo

cock/hen came

‘A cock/ hen came’

b. goru charchha

ox grazes

‘An ox grazes’

c. gaai charcha, gai charchin

cow grazes

‘A cow grazes’

‘gaai charchin’ is not acceptable in standard Nepali.

Some nouns are common to both the genders. Unlike English, Nepali nouns take either masculine or feminine form of the verb depending on whether they are masculine nouns or not. But in neutral gender (sky, for example) the concord is always masculine. Eg.

kalaakaar daaktar bhaanse

‘artist’ ‘doctor’ ‘cook’

sangitkaar chimeki saathi

‘musician’	‘neighbour’	‘friend’
aparaadhi	vyakti	praadhyaapak
‘criminal’	‘person’	‘professor’
widyarthi	abhibhaawak	paahunaa
‘student’	‘guardian’	‘guest’
shatru	adhikrit	upanyaaskaar
‘enemy’	‘officer’	novelist

There is no one – to – one correspondence between personal dual genders in English and Nepali. If ‘teacher’, for example, has a personal dual gender shiksak ‘teacher’ is mostly used to refer to male teachers only. Some nouns like kawi ‘poet’, lekhak ‘writer’ etc. are used to refer either to both the genders or to males only. Sometimes we use gender markers for clarification.

prawaktaa	mahila-prawaktaa
spokesman	spokeswoman
purus-adhikrit	mahila-adhikrit
‘male officer’	‘female officer’ etc.

English nouns like ‘baby’ can be treated as falling midway between personal and non-personal noun for allowing for the choice of pronouns ‘s/he or ‘it’ according to whether we are interested in gender distinction or not. Since, in Nepali, choice of the pronoun does not indicate any gender distinction nor is there any system for pronouns demanding separate pronouns for personal and non-personal reference excepting the honorific pronoun forms which are purely personal, there is no possibility for a noun to lie intermediate between personal and non-personal

categories of nouns. However, there are nouns which can be used of both the genders, eg. 'nanni', 'bachchaa', 'shishu' etc. In this case we can have naani aayo, bachcha aayo, shishu aayo. From these examples it becomes clear that though the reference is masculine or feminine, the subject verb agreement is in line with masculine concord.

As regards collective nouns, there is no gender distinction and the verb is always in accordance with masculine concord.

(7) sabhaa raamrari calyo

meeting smoothly ran

'The meeting ran smoothly'.

In English, when one has a special concern with some higher animals s/he may observe them with gender distinction.

<u>Masculine</u>	<u>Faminine</u>
lion	lioness
stallion	mare etc.

In Nepali also there is no such distinction in general, but one's special concern with such animals may lead to gender distinction:

<u>Masculine</u>	<u>Faminine</u>
baagh	baghini
tiger	tigress
mattaa	dhoi
male elephant	female elephant
ghodaa	ghodi
stallion	mare etc.

Names of countries have different genders depending on their use. These types of distinction depend on whether we are treating a country as an inanimate geographical unit or a political unit.

(8) a. Looking at the map, Gopi showed me a small country called Nepal. I found it strange.

b. Nepal has good relation with her neighbours.

In Nepali culture, we treat country like 'Nepal' as feminine only when we think of it as our motherland.

Eg. Nepal aamaale shraap dina sakchin.

Nepal mother-by curse to give can.

'Nepal, the motherland may curse us'.

Proper Nouns

In Nepali proper names of person are sensitive to gender. Generally there are different groups of names for males and females. The gender of a person name may be predicted by noting the masculine markers like bahadur, raj, nidhi, nath, prasaad etc. as opposed to feminine markers like dewi, kumari etc. In absence of such markers, the ultimate resource for gender distinction is the verb. Eg.

(9) a. durgaa maryo (masc.)

Durgaa died.

b. durgaa mari (fem.)

Durga died.

Pronouns

Pronouns in Nepali belong indirectly to the gender of the nouns they replace, but are not inflected for gender. Below is a chart showing the level of respect marked by the Nepali pronouns.

	Level of Respect	Singular	Plural
Second person	Low grade honorific	Tā	Timiharu
	Mid grade honorific	Timi	Timiharu
	High grade honorific	Tapain	Tapaainharu
		Hajur	Hajurharu
		Yahaan	Yahaaharu
	Royal honorific	Mausuph	Mausuphharu
		Sarkaar	Sarkaarharu
Third person	Low grade honorific	Yo	Yi, yini (haru)
		U	Uniharu
		Tyo	Ti, tiniharu
	Mid grade honorific	Yi, yini	Yiniharu
		Ti, tini	Tiniharu
	High grade honorific	Wahaan	Wohaanharu
	Royal honorific	Mausuph	Mausuphharu
		sarkaar	sarkaarharu

Figure 2: Level of respect in Nepali pronouns

The above table shows that irregularity in pluralization occurs if the pronouns are low grade honorific except ma ‘I’ which does not have any level of respect. And the plural suffix –haru is obligatory except for haami, with which it is optional and for the inflected forms yin, tin, of ‘yo’, ‘tyo’ and ‘uni’ respectively. The plural suffix –haru is also dropped in genitive inflections of haami, i.e. haamro.

Regular pronouns, on the other hand, are termed so simply because the addition of the plural suffix –haru is sufficient enough for pluralization.

For the first person no level of respect is recognized. The first person pronoun ma ‘I’ becomes haami (haru) ‘we’ in plural. Though ma refers to the addresser only, the first person plural pronoun haami and its variant possessive forms haamro, hamiharuko etc. can also be used to refer to the addressee by excluding the speaker (i.e. haami may sometimes be non-inclusive in reference). In such a reference either the level of respect is recognized to be equal to that of tapaaain ‘you’ or the use is a polite one.

(10) yahaan haamro jaggaa kati chha?

Here our land how much is?

‘How much land do you have here?’

This example illustrates how the first person plural pronoun haami may become or act like a second person pronoun too, in Nepali, as opposed to English.

The gender of a Nepali pronoun, unlike that of an English pronoun, is expressed by the verb form it takes:

(11) a. u aayo

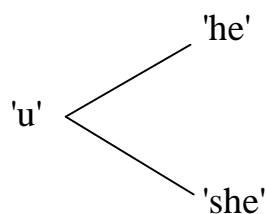
he came

‘He came’

b. u aaii

she came

‘She came’



But this rule is not always observed. For example, the first person pronoun takes the same verb form irrespective of its masculine or feminine reference.

(12) ma aaen

I came

‘I came’

In this example (12) ma ‘I’ may be male or female.

Blurring of Gender Distinction

The effect of pluralization on the gender of the pronoun as it leads to the blurring of gender distinction. This holds true of the verb forms they choose.

(13) uniharu aae (masc.and fem.)

they came

‘They came’

In the above examples uniharu ‘they’ may refer to either males or females or both. Even at the level of verb, gender distinction is blurred, when the pronoun belongs to the categories High Grade Honorific and Royal Honorific.

(14) a. baa/aamaa abelaa aaunubhayo (masc./fem.)

father/mother late came

‘father/mother came late’

b. wahaan risaaunu bhaeko thiyo

he/she angry be had been

‘He/she was angry’

Indefinite Reference

For indefinite reference, masculine gender is preferred in Nepali except when the reference is meant to be relatively more definite.

(15) ke janmyo? (masc. and fem.)

what born?

What's the gender of baby?

What is evident from the above Nepali example is that the gender unmarked at the pronoun level and is identified by reference to the verb form. Unlike it, English does have no gender distinction at any level. In a relatively more definite reference even the indefinite pronoun may go with the feminine verb form.

(16) kaam garna ko aai?

Work to do who came

'Which woman came to work?'

Adjectives

Not all the adjectives in Nepali can play the role of nominal head. Adjectives like chhucho 'greedy', baat□ho 'clever', luccho 'cunning', chat□tu 'quick-witted', dust□a 'wicked' can sometimes substitute the nouns they can modify but those like asal 'good' kharaab 'bad' etc. can not. Out of the noun substituting category of adjectives, some are inflected for gender whereas others show gender distinction only in the choice of the verb provided they have subjective position. There is no rule to describe why certain adjectives can be inflected number and others not.

(17) a. chucaale ke bhanchha

greedy-by what says

‘What does the greedy man say?’

b. chucile ke bhanche?

Greedy-by what says

What does the greedy woman say?

c. chattule dukha diyo

quick witted-by trouble gave

‘The quick witted person gave trouble’

Like in Nepali, we find adjectives acting as noun phrase in English too, which is evident from the following example:

(18) The wise look to the wiser for advice,

Infinitival and gerundial heads are not marked by gender distinction, but they are to follow masculine gender from syntactic point of view, i.e. in the choice of the verb form.

(19) a. padhnu aawashyak chha

To read necessary is

‘Reading is necessary’.

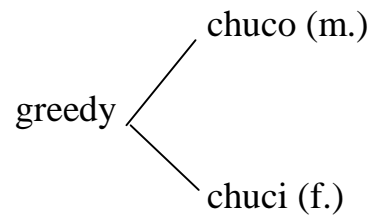
Or

It is necessary to read.

b. padhaaile phaaidaa dincha

reading-by advance gives

Reading gives profit.



In the above examples, 'padhnu' (To read) is infinitival head and 'padhaaile' (Reading) is gerundive head of the NP.

In Nepali: Infinitival/Gerundive		In English: Infinitival/Gerundive	
(a)	NP	(a)	NP
	N		N
	Padhnu		To read
	(to read)		
(b)	NP	(b)	NP
	N		N
	Padhaaile		Reading
	(reading)		

3.4.2. Number

Nepali common nouns can be divided into two categories: countable and uncountable. Countable nouns can be made into plural by attaching -haru at the end and can be preceded by ek wataa/janaa. One in singular and by plural cardinal numerals like dui watta/janaa (two), tin wataa/janaa (three) etc. in plural. Whereas uncountable nouns do not take -haru at the end nor are they preceded by cardinal numerals. The inflectional suffix is required if it is necessitated by the semantic purport (Achary:1993)

(20) a. maanis marcha (sing.)

man dies

‘Man dies’

b. manisharu marchan (plu.)

men die

‘Men die’

c. paani jamcha

water freezes

‘Water freezes’

* d. paani jamchan

water freeze

* ‘Waters freeze’

The plural marker –haru is optional in many cases. (20 b), for instance, could be equally acceptable even if the plural suffix –haru at the end of maanis is dropped. In absence of the plural suffix –haru mid grade honorific of singular common nouns may confuse with plural nouns.

(21) saathi aae

friend (s) came

‘A friend (s) came.’

This ambiguity is removed by contextual reference alone.

Singular nouns ending with the sound ‘o’ have their allomorphs with the sound ‘aa’ at the end: (Acharya, 1993)

<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
Doko	dokaa
‘basket’	‘baskets’
choro	choraa
‘son’	‘sons’ etc.

Words of foreign origin may not undergo such change:

rediyō	rediyoharu
‘radio’	‘radioes’

kampeutar kampeutarharu

‘computer’ ‘computers’

Hypernyms like ‘animal’, ‘flower’ are not inflected for number in Nepali they occur in such definitional statements:

(22) gaai janaawar hun

cows animal are

‘Cows are animals’.

In (22) janaawar can not be made into janaawarharu though the word janaawar itself does not deny pluralization as it accepts the plural suffix –haru in other contexts. Countable nouns with the feature (+ human) are preceded by jaana whereas those with the feature (- human) are preceded by the classifier wataa.

eg.

In Nepali

In English

tin janaa ketaa

three boys

tin wataa keraa

three bananas

Though this rule is observed in many cases, there are instances when it is violated.

(23) paanca wati khetaali aae

five classifier (fem) workers came

‘Five female workers came’.

In examples like caar (wati) chori (not caar janaa chori) also by the occurrence of the feminine classifier wati the possibility for wataa to occur with human beings is justified.

There is no one to one correspondence between countable nouns in English and those in Nepali, many uncountable nouns in English are easily susceptible to countability in Nepali, eg. kek ‘cake’, roti ‘bread’ etc. On the otherhand, like in English, in Nepali also uncountable nouns can be treated as countable, but this is very much limited to the sense of kinds.

(24) bicaarharuko sangaalo janamanca padhnuhos

opinion of collection janamanch read

‘Read the collection of opinions Janamanch’.

Like in English, singular nouns may sometimes be used to refer to their corresponding mass nouns.

(25) maile kukhuro khaaeo (eutaa kukhoro)

I-by cock ate

‘I ate cock’

If a noun does not have the subjective position in the sentence, the number may not be clear.

(26) bhaaile latthi kinyo

small brother stick bought

‘My younger brother brought (a) stick (s)’.

Collective nouns may take singular or plural concord according as the reference is to one collection or collections.

(27) a. uddhaar samitile raamro kaam garyo (sing.)

rescue committee-by good work did.

‘The rescue committee did well.

b. uddhar samiti (haru)le raamro kaam gare (pl)

rescue committees-by good work did

‘The rescue committees did well’.

Other collective nouns like jhuppo ‘bunch’, bito ‘bundle’ etc. become jhuppa and bitta with –haru at the end of each.

Proper Nouns

There is no system of pluralizing a proper noun in Nepal. But when such pluralization takes place the meaning is slightly altered.

(28) raamharu aae

Rams came

‘Ram and others came’.

Note the aamaa ‘mother’, aamaaharu ‘mothers’ etc. also have similar connotations as raamharu.

The choice of the verb form is similar to that in the case of plural common nouns. Plural names of places are either taken as plural or made into singular when they are used in Nepali.

English

Nepali

Netherlands

Nedarlyand

Maldives

Maaldip

3.4.3 Case

Case is defined as “the functional role of noun or phrase in relation to other words in the clause or sentence”. (Chalker Sylvia& Edmund Weiner 1994)

Nepali language recognizes eight kinds of case: nominative, ergative, accusative, instrumental, dative, ablative, genitive and locative.

There are case markers which help identify the case of a noun or a noun substitute. But sometimes the same case endings like –le and –laai instrumental, accusative and dative respectively. Here is a list of the eight cases in Nepali with their respective case endings:

<u>Cases</u>	<u>Case markers</u>
1. Nominative	Ø
2. Ergative	-le
3. Accusative	-laai
4. Instrumental/source	-le/dwaaraa
5. Dative	-laai
6. Ablative	-baata/dekhi
7. Genitive	-ko/ro/no (with noun/pronoun)
8. Locative	-maa, maathi

The following examples illustrate the use of cases:

(29) a. keto daudyo (Nominative)

boy (Nom.) ran

‘A boy ran’.

b. ketaale bhaat khaancha (ergative)

boy (erg) rice eats

The boy eats rice’.

c. raamle keto-laai kutyo (Accusative)

Ram boy (Acc) beat

‘Ram beat the boy’.

d. hari-le pensil-le lekh-yo (Instrumental)

hari- (ERG) pensil-INS-ERG write

Hari wrote with a pencil’.

e. Umesh-laai bhok lag-yo (Dative)

umesh- (DAT) hunger feel

‘Umesh felt hungry’.

f. U gharbaata aayo (Oblative)

he house (ABL) came

‘He came from home’

g. Usko ghar taadha chha. (Genitive)

his (GEN) house far is

‘His house is far.’

h. raam kothaa-maa cha.(Genitive)

Ram room –(Loc) is

In example (29 b) keto has become ketaa due to the introduction of the case marker –le as its end.

Adjectival heads like *chuchho* ‘greedy’, *bahiro* ‘deaf’, *andhoo* ‘blind’ etc. follow the rule which is followed by ‘o’ ending nouns:

(30) a. *bahiro bhaat khaancha*

deaf rice eats

‘The deaf (man) eats rice’.

b. bahiraale bhaat khancha

deaf-by rice eats

‘The deaf (man) eats rice’.

Nominalization

This chapter deals with the concept of the process of nominalization in English and Nepali. This chapter, on the whole, will describe how gerundial and infinitival structures work as noun phrases in the two languages under comparison.

3.5 Nominalization

The term nominalization here refers to ‘the process of deriving a noun phrase from a clause’ (Chalker, S. and Weiner, E. 1994). Both English and Nepali possess nominalized phrases and they act syntactically as abstract nouns.

3.5.1 Nominalization in English and Nepali

In English, nominalization yields basically two verbal forms: ‘v-ing’ (gerund) and ‘to v’ (infinitive). In Nepali too, we find similar forms of verbs. Generally, gerunds in English correspond to –aa nouns in Nepali and infinitives to nominalized verbs ending with –nu/na.

(31) a. U kaam garna chaahancha

he work to do wants

‘He wants to work’.

b. Unle padhaai sake

he teaching finished

‘He finished teaching’.

Generally English prescribes either the gerundial or infinitival form of the verb. Sometimes it permits both verb forms too. But in Nepali we find the infinitival forms of the verb working as noun phrase if there is no individual abstract noun (eg. aai nouns)

(32) a. raam khelna man paraauncha

Ram to play like

‘Ram likes to play’.

b. raam basna aananda mancha

Ram to stay joy assumes

‘Ram enjoys staying here’.

What is evident from the above examples is that there exists one to one correspondence neither between English gerundive NPs and Nepali infinitival NPs nor between English infinitival NPs and Nepali gerundive nouns (ie. –aai nouns, for example)

English shows a number of restrictions in the choice of gerundive vs infinitival nominals that are entirely absent in Nepali. The following three situations are common in English.

I. Selection of infinitival form.

II. Selection of gerundial form.

III. Selection of either the infinitival or the gerundive form indifferently or with slight difference. For example:

(33) He wants to go.

* He wants going.

(34) He enjoys working.

* He enjoys to work.

(35) He likes to swim.

* He likes swimming.

The above cases can be accounted for not only by reference to any rule as such but by considering the type of the main verb of the sentence which has the nominalized element for its object. Because of this, Nepali speaking learners of English suffer from many problems.

It is to be noted that the above mentioned selectional restrictions apply to the object function of these nominals. In the subject function either the infinitival or gerundial form can occur, whereas the infinitival form is generally found to occur in sentences containing copula-type verbs. Eg. (appear, be, seem etc.)

(36) a. To save money now seems impossible.

b. To leanout of the window is dangerous.

The nominal phrase 'to save money' in (36a) comes from an embedded sentence 'someone saves'. If we introduce a definite subject then this example (36a) would change into:

c. For Ram to save money now seems impossible

or

It seems impossible for Ram to save money now.

Note that Nepali usually translates the 'for' in (36c) as *nimti/laagi* (for) preceded either by the genitive marker (*kaa*) of or by the use of the post positions such as *laai* (to), *le* (by) at the end of the subject. From this

it follows that the occurrence of postpositions is optional and variant. Sometimes there is the absence of postpositions such as:

(37) a. raam naachnu anautho ho

Ram to dance amazing is

‘For Ram to dance is amazing’.

b. raam (le) naacane man garcha

Ram (by) to dance mind does

‘Ram likes to dance’.

It is to be noted here that the implicit subject in all the above sentences is the subject of the embedding sentence itself. The sentence, for example ‘He wants to work’ can be accounted for by referring to the deletion involved during transformation. Thus we may say ‘He wants to work’ is derivative from ‘He wants (for) him to work’, resulted from the deletion of the repeated subject in the embedded sentence. In case of non-identity between the subject of the embedded sentence and that of the embedding one, there is no deletion of the subject of the embedded sentence:

(38) a. He wants me to work.

b. U malaai kaam garos bhanne caahancha.

Or

c. U caahancha ki ma kaam garun.

There are some transitive verbs in both English and Nepali which take an obligatory object of the embedding one:

(39) a. He compels me to work.

U (sle) malaai kaam garna baadhya garaaucha.

b. He asks to work.

Usle kaam garna aunurodh garcha.

In fact, the above examples drive home the point that both in English and Nepali we find the use of ‘infinitival nominals’ where the object of the embedding sentence is identical with the subject of the nominalized embedded sentence.

The following five types of constructions in which English infinitival nominals can occur:

- (40) He wants to work.
- (41) He wants me to work.
- (42) He compels me to work.
- (43) He is managing for me to work.
- (44) He signaled for me to work.

The Nepali translation equivalents of the above English examples (40-44) are given below:

- (45) U kaam garna caahancha.
- (46) a. U maile kaam garna caahancha.
b. U maile kaam garun bhanne caahancha.

or

U malaai kaam garos bhanne caahancha.

Note that (46a) is different from others in that there is the introduction of bhanne (connective-saying) which is not found in the rest.

Examples (42-44) have the following translation equivalent in Nepali.

(47) a. U malaai kaam garna badhya garauncha

(48) a. U ma kaam garne wyawasthaa milaundai cha.

(49) a. Usle malaai kaam garna sanket garyo.

(49a) is ambiguous in that it is not clear whether it is subject U 'he' or the addressee ma 'I' is to work and can only be classified as per the context.

The following examples (45b-49b) represent the alternative ways expressing (45a- 49b) respectively.

(45) b. U caahancha ki U kaam garos.

(46) c. U caahancha ki ma kaam garun

(47) b. U malaai baadya garauncha ki ma kaam garun

(48) b. U wyawastha milauncha ki ma kaam garun

(49) b. Usle sanket garyo ki ma kaam garun

The distinction of (44) as compared to other constructions in the above set of examples can be accounted for by referring to a sub-class of transitive verbs similarly distinguished in Nepali examples (40-42) can be described on the ground of the choice of the verbs. For Nepali (45a) and (46a) are alike excepting the nominal phrases (41-44) look almost alike except that the types of verbs determine the compulsion or non-compulsion of the preposition. But this distinction gets magnified in Nepali, as a result Nepali resorts to altogether different constructions to translate their corresponding English sentences (46 b and 49 a, b)

Some nominalized phrases can be ambiguous in that those may have double meanings.

Example:

(50) a. I dislike Ram's eating rice: he eats fast.

b. I dislike Ram's eating rice: because he has sugar.

In Nepali nominalized verbs too, this ambiguity is retained:

(51) a. ma raamle bhaat khaaeko man paraaunna: U chito chito khanchha.

b. ma raamle bhaat khaaeko man paraaunna: U madhumehako birami cha.

3.6 Modification

This chapter is divided into two sections. The first section deals with the pre-modification of a noun phrase and whereas the second section deals with the post modification of the same.

3.6.1 Premodification

A Nepali noun head can be premodified by the following items:

- determiners
- quantifiers
- nouns
- adjectives
- clauses
- participles

3.6.1.1 Determiners

A simple noun phrase is a noun or a noun with a determiner. Below are given a pair of sentences with a simple noun phrase in each case. If

the noun phrase (in 52 a) has a single noun, there is a noun with a determiner in the next i.e. in (52 b).

(52) a. bacaa runa thaalyo

child to weep began

‘The child began to weep’.

b. kunai bacaa roiraheko thiyo

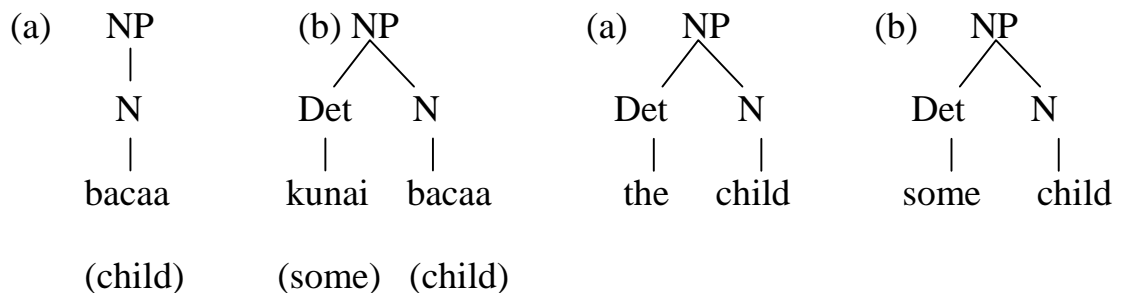
some child weeping was

‘Some child was weeping’.

The structure of the above examples can illustrate in the following tree diagrams.

In Nepali: Det+N

In English : Det+N



In (51b) kunai ‘some’ acts as an indefinite determiner. Determiners, in Nepali can be looked upon from different angles. Let us consider the degree of definiteness and its occurrence first.

(53) a. ek/eutaa vidyaarthile tapaailaai khojdai thiyo.

One/a student-by you-to seeking was.

‘A student was seeking you’.

b. nib binaako kalamle lekhdaina

nib without kalam doesn't write.

'A pen without a nib doesn't write.'

c. tiniharule malaai (ek) calcitra dekhaaunechan

they-by me to (a) movie will show

'They will show me a movie'.

An analysis of the above examples readily reveals the sense difference in each case. (53 a) shows an 'ek' 'a' correspondence for indefinite reference. (53 b) evince a 'a' correspondence between Nepali and English for definite reference, whereas (53 c) points to the fact that the occurrence of the determiners like ek and 'a' is not always beyond ambiguity. In (53 c) like English the reference could be indefinite or non-definite in its sense. But the ambiguity can be overcome by resorting to the negative transformation of the same.

(54) tiniharule malaai calcaitra dekhaaune chainan

They-by me to movie show will not

They will not show something.

The transformation clarifies how 'a movie' is concerned with generic reference and yet its equivalent in Nepali drops the indefinite marker ek.

Sometimes ek 'a' correspondence becomes obligatory. This is so when 'a' functions as a quantifier.

(55) Usle hiyo ek kitaab kinyo

he-by yesterday a book bought

'He bought a book yesterday'.

For both the Non definite ‘a’ and the definite ‘the’ there is a phonologically zero determiner in Nepali.

(56) a. naatak naraamro niskyo/lagyo

the play bad turned out

‘The play turned out to be bad’.

b. timi yo git rediyomaa sunna sakcha

you this song radio-on listen can

‘You can listen this song on the radio’.

3.6.1.2 Quantifiers

In Nepali, quantifier like lagbhag, karib pugnapug, jati, jhandai, pahilo, ek, kehi, etc can precede a noun. We can have the following examples:

(57) pugnapug tis janale kaam gare

almost thirty people-by work did

‘Almost thirty people worked’.

(58) pahilo khelaadile dosro khelaadilaai jitechha

First player-by second player-to will win

‘The first player will win the second player’.

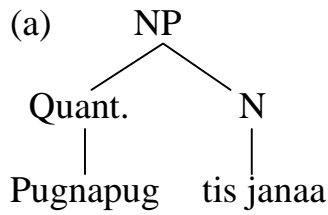
(59) kehi aalu kina

some potato buy

‘Buy some potatoes’.

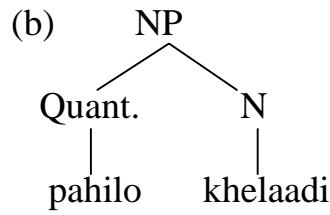
The NP structure of the above examples can be shown in the following diagrams.

In Nepali: Quant.+N



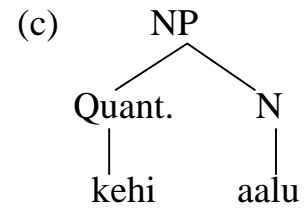
(almost)

(thirty people)



(first)

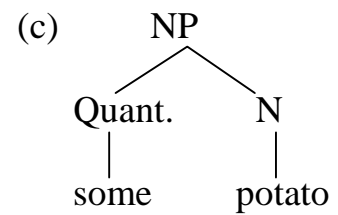
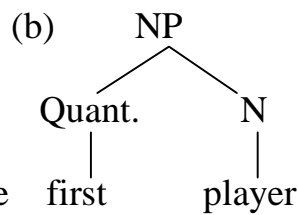
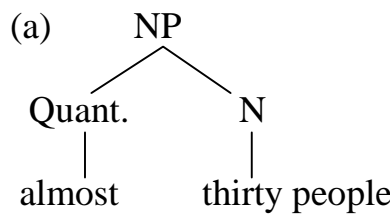
(player)



(some)

(potato)

In English: Quant+N



3.6.1.3 Nouns

Like English, Nepali allows pre-modification of nouns by nouns:

(60) a. hari kamyutar kothamaa cha

Hari computer room in is

‘Hari is in the computer room’.

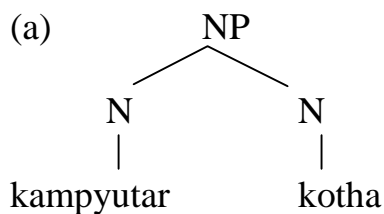
b. ram (ek) phutbal kheladi ho.

Ram (a) football player is

‘Ram is a football player’.

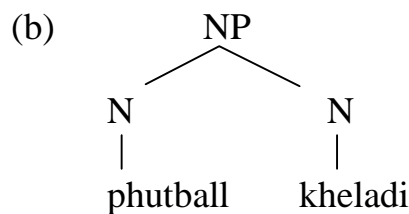
Look at the structure of the above examples.

In Nepali: N+N



(computer)

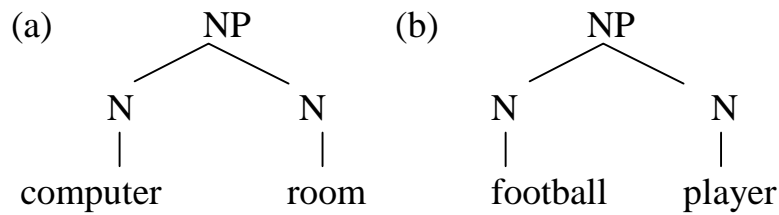
(room)



(football)

(player)

In English: N+N



In the above examples (60 a) and (60 b) kampyuter and phutbal are the modifiers of kothaa and khelaadi respectively.

3.6.1.4 Adjectives

In a Nepali phrase adjectives may occur as modifying items. As modifiers they normally precede the head of a noun phrase.

(61) a. maile kaalo biraalo man paraaunchu

me-by black cat like

‘I like a black cat’.

When there are more adjectives than one the usual order of occurrence is:

Qualitative adjectives + color adjectives + classifying adjectives.

(62) a. saano seto uni switar

small white woolen sweater

‘A small white woolen sweater’.

b. ek raamro raato syaau

a nice red apple

‘A nice red apple’.

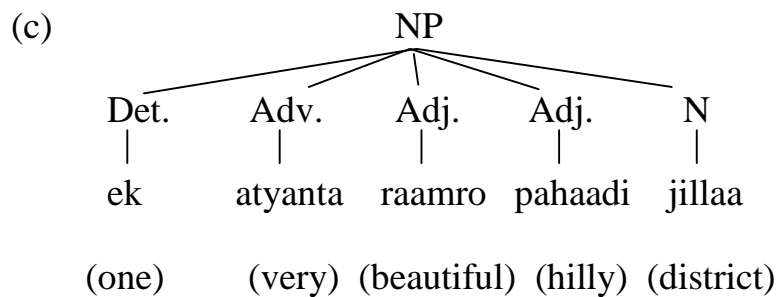
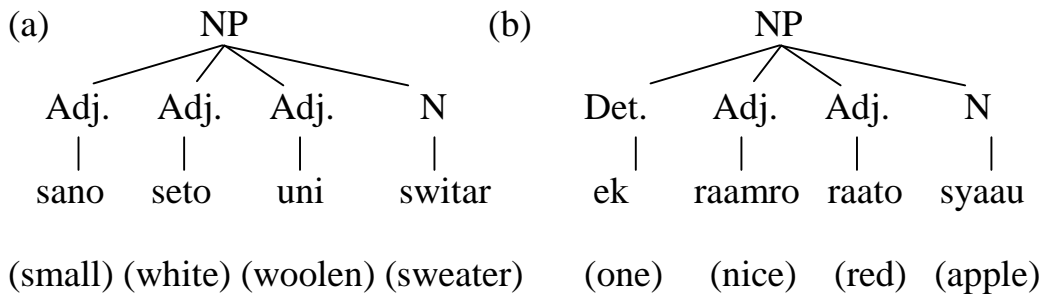
c. ek atyanta raamro pahaadi jillaa.

A very beautiful hilly district

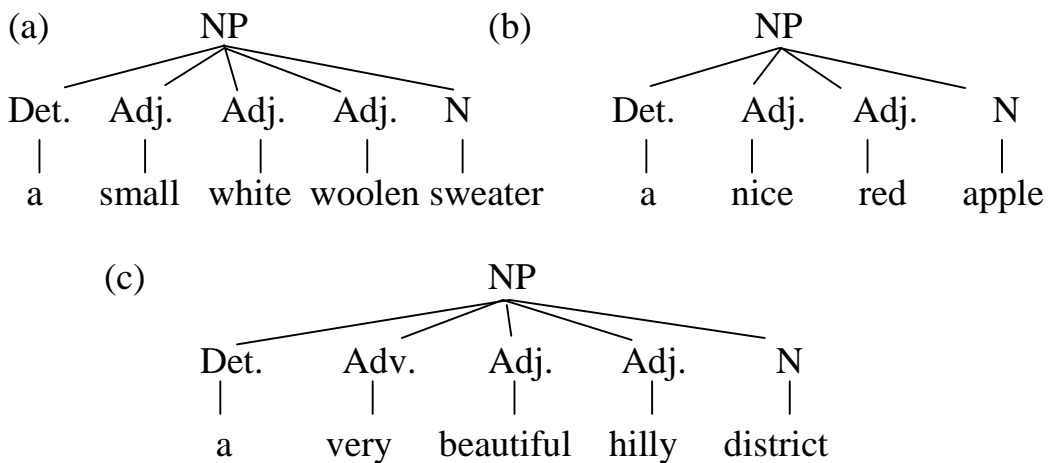
‘A very beautiful hilly district’.

The above examples can be shown in the following tree diagrams with their structure.

In Nepali: Adj+Adj+Adj+N/Det+Adj+Adj+N/Det+Adv+Adj+Adj.+N



In Nepali: Det+Adj+Adj+Adj+N/Det+Adj+Adj+N/Det+Adv+Adj+Adj.+N



The above examples (60 a,b,c) show that there is much in common between Nepali and English adjectives in terms of order in a noun group and the above mentioned rule is mostly followed by both the language in question. Alternative forms occur only for emphasis.

(63) eutaa wargaakaar seto kothaa

a square white room

‘A square white room’.

Sometimes adjectives may follow a noun in both the languages. Unlike English, Nepali allows post-modification of nouns only in informal contexts. For example, raame chhucho, ‘Ram the greedy’ syaame alchhi, ‘Shyam the lazy’ etc.

3.6.1.5 Clauses

There is much parallel between Nepali and English in respect of the adjectival modification of a noun head. But when a clause modifies a noun, we find opposite tendencies in the two languages. In Nepali a noun head is liable to be pre-modified in most cases, where as in English clausal pre-modification is not acceptable.

(64) a. Sadakko kinaarmaa hidiraheko maanchhe

road-of side walking man

‘A man walking on the road side’.

b. basekaa paaunaa maile chindina

sitting guest I-by do not know

‘I do not know the sitting guest’.

3.6.1.6 Participles

A Nepali noun head can be modified by several types of participle constructions. They can be categorized into three groups: present participles, past participles, and agentive participles.

(i) Present participle

(65) a. ma tyo kabita paadiraheki ketilaa man paraunchu

I that poem reading girl-to liking have

‘I like the girl who is reading poem’.

b. ma tyo kabita padhiraheko ketilaa man paraunchu

I that poem reading boy-to liking have

‘I like the boy who is reading poem’.

	Masculine	Feminine
Reading	padhirahe <u>ko</u>	padhirahe <u>ki</u>

(ii) Past participle

(66) a. raamle iskul gairahesha ketilaa bolaayo

Ram-by school going girls-to call

‘Ram called the girls going to school’.

	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
Going	gairahesha <u>ko</u>	gairahesha <u>kaa</u>

(67) Agentive participle

kabita paadiraheki ketile malaai heri

Poem reading girl-by me looked

‘Reading a poem, girl looked me’.

In the above example, the agentive participle is used to signify continuous action.

3.6.2 Post-modification

A Nepali noun phrase may include limiter expressions such as khaali, maatra ‘only’, pani ‘also’ etc. as post-modifiers of a noun phrase.

(68) a. ma maatra asaphal bhaya
I only unsuccessful became
'Only I became unsuccessful'.

b. u pani asaphal bhayo
he also unsuccessful became
'He also became unsuccessful'.

The above examples show that both English and Nepali may take limiters as part of the noun phrase.

Like in English, clausal post modification of a noun is found in Nepali too. In clausal post modification of a Nepali noun the ki-clause comes between the abstract noun and the predicate.

(69) mero bhanaai ki u raamro manche ho
my saying that he good man is
'My statement that he is a good man'.

The above example shows that both English and Nepali prescribe the same slot for the clausal modification of a noun.

Relative pronouns jo, jun, jas, etc. are attached with the noun phrase in the modifying clause.

(70) harile jun kinyo tyo kalam nikai raamro thiyo
Hari-by which that pen very beautiful was
'Hari bought a pen which was very beautiful'.

3.7 Summary

On the basis of analysis and interpretation, we can sum up by stating that there are two kinds of noun phrase structures both in Nepali and English. They are simple noun phrase consisting of only head and complex noun phrase consisting of pre-modifiers preceding the head and post modifiers following the head.

Noun, pronoun and adjective play the role of head of the noun phrase in both languages. The head of the noun phrase is inflected by gender, number and case. In English, nominalization yields basically two verbal forms: gerund and infinitive. In Nepali too, we find similar forms of verbs.

The complex noun phrase consists of pre-modifiers and post modifiers. In both languages, noun head can be pre-modified by determiners, quantifiers, nouns, adjectives, clauses and participles and post-modified by limiters, clauses and participles.

CHAPTER-FOUR

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION

4.1 Findings

On the basis of analysis and interpretation, this research came up with following similarities and differences between the compared languages as the findings.

4.1.1 Similarities

a. Regarding the essential constituent of a noun phrase head, the two languages in question are found to have similar heads, as both of them accept the three types: nouns, pronouns and adjectives.

<u>Nepali</u>	<u>English</u>
(i) Kunaaki Ketī	The girl in the corner.
(ii) U Pani	He is also
(iii) chuccaale aaphailaai khaancha	A greedy person destroys himself.

b. Both in English and Nepali, there are different proper nouns for different sexes.

<u>Nepali</u>		<u>English</u>	
Male	Female	Male	Female
Hari	Sita	John	Alice
Shyam	Rita	Alexander	Daisy

c. Many Nepali nouns take –haru as the plural suffix which is often redundant when the number is understood through the verb form. In the English system of pluralization also use of the plural suffix (i.e.-s, -es) after nouns is a common phenomenon in most cases.

d. Both in English and Nepali pre-modification and post-modification of nouns is acceptable.

Nepali

English

Kehi aalu pre-modification some potatoes

U pani post- modification He also

e. There is much parallel between Nepali and English in respect of the adjectival modification of a noun head.

eg. ek raamro raato syaau

 a nice red apple

 (a nice red apple)

4.1.2 Differences

a. In English the roles and relations of the constituents in a sentence are expressed through word order and prepositions whereas in Nepali, they are expressed by post positions. Prepositions occur before the noun and post positions occur after the noun.

Nepali

English

Kitaab tebulma cha.

The book is on the table.

b. In Nepali the verbs get inflected according to sex and honorific grade but English does not have such system.

Nepali

English

Keto aayo

A boy came.

Keti aai

A girl came.

c. English is an SVO patterned language whereas Nepali is an SOV patterned language. In English the verb appears just after the 'actor' in the initial position whereas it appears sentence finally in Nepali.

Nepali

English

U bhaat khaanchha

He eats rice.

d. English has article system which Nepali lacks the articles in English function as determiner. In Nepali demonstrative pronouns which agree with noun in number function as determiner.

Nepali

English

Yoo kalam rato cha

The pen is red.

e. Nepali has ergative marker –le in the subject of transitive verb whereas English doesn't have such ergative marker.

Nepali

English

Harile kalam kinyo

Hari bought a pen.

f. The Nepali pronoun 'u' can be used for both male and female but in English 'he' is used for male and 'she' is used for female.

eg. (a)

Raam aayo

(b)

Sitaa aaii

U aayo

or

U aaii

'he' 'came'

'she' 'came'

(he came)

(she came)

g. In Nepali, 'janaa' is used for human and 'wataa' is used for non human but in English such system is not existed.

eg. (a)

tin janaa ketaa

(b)

tin wataa keraa

(three boys)

(three bananas)

4.2 Recommendation and Pedagogical Implications

The goal of language teaching is to develop the learners' knowledge and skills which enable them to play certain roles in another language community, to turn them into performers in the target language, to give them a communicative competence. Language teachers do not teach language, they teach a particular realization or manifestation of human languages. It can be achieved through its use the formation and speaking rules of the target language (Corder, 1973).

On the basis of the findings of the present study, some recommendations are suggested below.

- I. The main aim of this comparative study is to find out similarities and differences in noun phrase structure between English and Nepali language. There would be no problems in the areas where the two languages are similar but differences between the first and the target language create difficulty in learning the target language. Therefore, teaching should be focused on the areas of difficulty.
- II. In Nepali the verbs get inflected according to sex and honorific grade but English does not have such system. The English and Nepali teachers teaching English and Nepali respectively as a second language should focus on these language items and give the learners this concept. So that they can understand the system of these two languages easily.
- III. English is an SVO patterned language whereas Nepali is an SOV patterned language. The teachers of both the languages should concentrate well on this concept while teaching so that

the L₂ learners can easily understand sentence pattern of both the languages.

- IV. English has article system which Nepali lacks. The teacher who teaches English as a foreign language to the Nepali learners should give the concept of article system clearly associating with the function of demonstrative pronoun as determiners in Nepali.
- V. The Nepali pronoun 'U' can be used for both male and female but in English, 'he' is used for male and 'she' is used for female. Thus the teachers of both the languages should provide clear concept of Nepali and English pronouns to the learners.
- VI. The Nepali noun phrase follows the structure of pre.m + N. (aakaas ko phal) and the English noun phrase follows the structure of N. + post.m (the fruit in the sky). Thus, the teachers of both languages should concentrate well on such structures of NP.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATION

ABL	- Ablative
ACC	- Accusative
AD	- Anno Domini
Adj.	- Adjective
Adv.	- Adverb
C	- Central
CBS	- Central Bureau of Statistics
DAT	- Dative
Det.	- Determiner
E	- Eastern
eg.	- For example
erg	- ergative
etc	- etcetera
f.	- female
fig.	- Figure
GEN	- Genitive
H.	- Head
i.e.	- that is to say
INS	- Instrumental
LOC	- Locative
m.	- male
N	- Noun
Nom	- Nominative
NP	- Noun phrase

Ph.	- Phrase
Pro.N	- Pronoun
Quant.	- Quantifier
SOV	- Subject Object Verb
SVO	- Subject Verb Object
UK	- United Kingdom
V	- Verb
VSO	- Verb Subject Object
W	- Western

Dedication
To
My Parents

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Purna Bahadur Khadka

ABSTRACT

This study primarily deals with the Noun phrase (NP) structure in English and Nepali. The present researcher takes Noun phrase structure in English and Nepali. The present researcher takes 'Noun Phrase' with the relationships of the Sentence Noun phrases are language universals and this study is basically concerned with how this universal property of language is realized in English and Nepali.

The term 'Noun phrase' can be defined a word or group of words functioning in a sentence exactly like a noun, with a noun or pronoun as a head. A Nepali noun phrase consists of an obligatory head like an English one. In both languages, noun, pronoun and adjective can play the role of head in a noun phrase. The main objective of this study is to compare NP structures of English and Nepali. Thus this study basically follows the structures of the noun phrase of standard variety of both English and Nepali language. He has discussed the NP of both language comparatively. He is mainly concentrated to pinpoint similarities and differences between English and Nepali NP structure in terms of their head, nominalization and modification finally, some findings, recommendations and pedagogical implications of the study are discussed.

English is an S-V-O patterned language whereas Nepali is an SOV patterned language. The verb in Nepali gets inflected according to sex and honorific grade but English doesn't have this system. Unlike in Nepali, constituent order is very significant in English. There are special restrictions in the constituent order in English whereas Nepali doesn't have such restrictions. In English the roles and relations of the constituents in a sentence are expressed through word order and prepositions whereas in Nepali they are expressed by postposition. Prepositions occur before the noun and postpositions occur after the

noun. English language has article system which Nepali lacks, the articles in English function as determiner. In Nepali demonstrative pronouns which agree with noun in number function as determiner. Regarding the essential constituent of a nounphrase head, both languages accept three type head: nouns, pronouns and adjectives. In both languages there are different proper nouns for different sexes. In many cases Nepali nouns take-haru as the plural suffix, which is often redundant when the number is understood through the verb form. In the English system of pluralization also use of the plural suffix (i.e. -s, -es) after nouns is a common phenomenon in most cases. Premodification and postmodification of nouns are acceptable in both languages.

This thesis is divided into four chapters. The first chapter basically deals with the theoretical background of Noun phrase in English and Nepali. It briefly sketches the origin of English and Nepali languages and their general introduction. Literature review, objectives of the study and significance of the study are also included within this chapter.

The Second chapter deals with the methodology of the research. It also consists of the limitations of the study.

The third chapter is concerned with the comparison of the noun phrases in English and Nepali in terms of their head, nominalization and modification. This chapter includes the summary of this research also.

In the fourth chapter some findings and recommendations are discussed. In this chapter, some pedagogical implications of the study are also discussed.

The present researcher does not claim that this study is perfectly satisfactory and complete. Because of limited resources there may be some limitations and short comings in the study. Although he has tried his best with the help of his supervisor. All types of mistakes, errors and weaknesses that are prevalent in this study are entirely the researcher's.

TRANSLITERATION

Vowels

अ	आ	इ	ई	उ	ऊ	ऋ
a	aa	i	ii	u	uu	r̥
ए	ऐ	ओ	औ	अं	अः	अँ
e	ai	o	au	m	a:	ã

Consonants

क	ख	ग	घ	ङ	च	छ	ज
ka	kha	ga	gha	na	ca	cha	ja
भ	ञ	ट	ठ	ड	ढ	ण	त
jha	n~a	t̥a	tha	Da	Dha	n̥a	ta
थ	द	ध	न	प	फ	ब	भ
tha	da	dha	na	Pa	Pha	Ba	bha
म	य	र	ल	व	श	ष	स
ma	ya	ra	la	va	sha	s̥a	sa
ह	क्ष	त्र	ज्ञ				
ha	ks̥a	tra	jñ~a				

Consonants

क्	ख्	ग्	घ्	ङ्	च्	छ्	ज्
k	kh	g	gh	n	c	ch	j
भ्	ञ्	ट्	ठ्	ड्	ढ्	ण्	त्
jha	n	t̥a	t̥ha	d̥a	d̥ha	n̥	ta
थ्	द्	ध्	न्	प्	फ्	ब्	भ्
th	d	dh	n	P	Ph	B	bh
म्	य्	र्	ल्	व्	श्	ष्	स्
m	y	r	l	v	sh	s̥	s
ह्	क्ष्	त्र्	ज्ञ्				
h	ks̥	tr	n				