

SHINA (ASTORIJA) NOUN PHRASES AND THEIR STRUCTURES: A SYNTACTIC ANALYSIS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF X-BAR THEORY

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ABSTRACT

This study is a syntactic analysis of the Shina (Astoriya) noun phrases. It analyzes the internal structure of Shina noun phrases within the framework of X-Bar Theory so as to identify the distribution and hierarchical arrangement of elements such as determiners, adjectives, and quantifiers. It also examines whether Shina noun phrases conform to or diverge from the general template suggested by X-Bar theory. The study has used a qualitative descriptive research design to make it align with its objectives. The analysis focused on identifying the internal structure of noun phrases and presenting them through tree diagram under X-Bar. The sources from where the secondary data has been taken include works by: Bailey (1924), Schmidt & Kohistani (2008), and Radloff (1992). Whereas, primary data has been collected directly from native speakers of the Astoriya dialect of Shina. Participants were native speakers of Shina (Astoriya dialect). They were adults both male and female aged 20- 40 years who have lived most of their lives in Astore. For data elicitation, the participants were provided with English phrases with Urdu translation, to make it easy for understanding, and they were asked to translate phrases into Shina. The phrases were selected considering all the possible structures. The analysis reveals that in most of the Shina noun phrases, the optional elements such as PPs and APs usually precede the head noun in the phrase. Occurrence of the head noun at the end of the phrase includes the Shina language in the list of head-final languages like Turkish and Japanese. The study found that the Shina noun phrases, selected in this study, conform to the general template suggested by X-Bar Theory.

Keywords X-Bar theory, phrases, structure, syntactic, head-final, Shina (Astoriya)

INTRODUCTION

Language is a system of structures where words, phrases, and clauses are organized following particular grammatical rules. Modern linguists focus on understanding how words and phrases are combined in a structure. Syntax is one of the fields of linguistics in which structures of phrases and sentences are studied. In syntactic studies,

Noun phrase (NP) is one of the important units of a sentence as it can function as subject of a sentence, object of a verb, object of a preposition, and complement in a sentence. Numerous studies on NPs across languages have focused on the structure of NPs so as to identify general patterns which can be applied to all the languages of the world, and they have also studied

variations based on the context of a particular language.

X-Bar theory is one of the famous syntactic theories developed by the well-known modern linguist, Noam Chomsky, within Generative Grammar. The theory has explained the NPs deeply. Within the framework of X-Bar theory, Chomsky has attempted to develop a universal template which can be applied to all the phrases across languages. The theory suggests that all phrases consist of a specifier, head, and complement, and they are considered to share common hierarchical organization (Radford, 2004).

X-Bar theory claims that the heads or lexical items (i.e., nouns, verbs, adjectives, and prepositions) develops phrase structures, that is, the head of a phrase projects its phrase structure through maximal projection (XP), and intermediate level (X'), and the structure is considered to be consistent across languages (Carnie, 2013).

Research on noun phrases plays a vital role in understanding cross-linguistic variations and the universal syntactic patterns. Research on languages like English, Urdu, and some Indo-Aryan languages explained that noun phrases contain determiners, adjectives, quantifiers, and modifiers that modify or specify the noun (Radford, 2004). However, these patterns in endangered or lesser-described languages have not been represented in theoretical syntactic research as the patterns of well documented languages have been studied. Shina is also one of such unrepresented languages which is one of the important Dardic languages. It is mostly spoken in Gilgit Baltistan, northern region of Pakistan. It has the main dialects i.e., Gilgiti, Kohistani, and Astori (henceforth Astorija). Astorija is the name given by its locals. It is the dialect spoken in district Astore. Although the language has attracted some attention from linguists, most existing studies focus on phonology, morphology, and basic grammatical description rather than detailed syntactic analysis (Schmidt & Kohistani, 2008). As a result, the internal structure of phrases—particularly noun phrases—remains insufficiently explored. So an investigation of the

Shina (Astorija) noun phrase structure becomes inevitable for theoretical and descriptive reasons. From the descriptive point of view, analysis of Shina noun phrases will be a significant contribution to its preservation and documentation of its grammatical features. Whereas, from a theoretical point of view, Shina noun phrase analysis within the framework of X-Bar Theory will make it obvious whether the universal principles suggested by the theory adequately account for the syntactic structures of noun phrases of this language.

Research Objectives

This study aims:

- to analyze the internal structure of noun phrases in the Astorija dialect of Shina within the framework of X-Bar Theory
- to identify the distribution and hierarchical arrangement of elements such as determiners, adjectives, and quantifiers within Shina noun phrases
- to examine how Shina noun phrases conform to or diverge from the general template suggested by X-Bar theory

Research Questions

- How are noun phrases structured in Astorija dialect of Shina within the framework of X-Bar Theory?
- How are the distributional and hierarchical arrangements made in Shina noun phrases?
- Do the Shina noun phrases conform to the general template suggested by X-Bar Theory or they diverge from?

Literature Review

Phrase structure has been a crucial aspect of modern syntactic theory since the generative grammar has emerged. In a sentence structure, a noun phrase is one of the important elements i.e. subject, verb, and object/complement because a noun phrase can function as a subject, as object or as complement in a sentence. A great deal of research has analyzed noun phrase structures in order to make it clear how nouns are connected with determiners, complements, and other

modifiers in a framework of hierarchical syntax. In this regard, X-Bar Theory is one of the most influential hierarchical syntactic frameworks which is used for such structural analyses because it provides general structural template for phrase formation.

A substantial research work can be found on the structures of noun phrases in well represented languages of the world such as Chinese, English, and German. Whereas, very limited research is found on less represented languages including Shina, mostly spoken in Gilgit Baltistan, Pakistan, which is considered to be from one of branches, Dardic branch of Indo-Aryan family of languages (Rajapurohit, 2012). As Hussain, (2024) claims that Shina (Astori dialect) is highly inflected therefore it may be called Polysynthetic, a language that has an extraordinary amount of morphology is called polysynthetic. In the same way, syntactically Shina has distinctive structural features which make it obligatory to investigate its structures systematically. Among the dialects of Shina, particularly the dialect spoken in Astore region, known as Astorija, is linguistically a rich dialect, but unfortunately, it is still an under-researched or limited researched dialect.

In the literature review section of this study, I mainly focus on the literature of previous work on noun phrase structures, conceptual foundations of X-Bar Theory, and linguistic research on Shina language. The literature review of this very study aims at establishing the need for a syntactic analysis of Shina (Astorija) noun phrases within the X-Bar theoretical framework.

Theoretical Background: X-Bar Theory

X-Bar Theory is one of the important theories developed by Noam Chomsky in generative grammar framework in the late nineteenth century. Chomsky (1970) proposed the X-Bar Theory so as to develop general principles for all the phrases across languages. The theory suggests that all the phrases have same internal structure, and constituents/elements of the phrases can be represented in three hierarchical levels such as the head (X), the intermediate level/projection (X'), and the maximal projection (XP). This template is considered to be applicable for all the

phrases across languages. This framework shows that syntactic category is determined by the head, whereas the specifier and the complement are connected to different structural levels. The complement is always connected with the head and it forms intermediate projections, and the specifier is also attached to a maximal projection. This is how the model analyzes the organization of constituents in the internal structure of phrase systematically.

In further explanation of X-Bar Theory, Radford (2004) elaborates syntactic properties of lexical items and how they are connected to larger phrase units. The theory is supposed to be applicable for cross-linguistic comparisons because it suggests that phrase structures of all the languages have similar principles regardless their surface differences. In noun phrases specifically, the noun is always the head, and the other elements like determiners, adjectives and other modifiers happen to occur in specific positions in the structure.

Carnie (2013) is also of the view that X-Bar theory proposes a universal template which can be applied to analyze the phrase structure in several languages. Carnie opines that the theory can be applied to analyze the phrases even of the languages which are less represented or which have limited written documentation. X-Bar theory, therefore, can widely be used as a framework to analyze phrase structures in all the languages whether less documented or well represented languages.

Structure of Noun Phrases

Research on noun phrases exists making noun phrases one of the fundamental units of sentence structure. Traditional grammar defines noun phrase as a group of words consisting a noun, and its modifiers, but modern syntactic theories emphasize on relationship of its elements in a hierarchy. Noun phrases are also defined as the phrases which contain the pre-modifier, the head noun, and the post modifier. Mostly adjectives and determiners function as pre-modifiers, whereas prepositional phrases and relative clauses may occur as the post modifiers in the structure (Quirk et al, 1985).

Unlike traditional grammar, generative grammar does not analyze the noun phrases according to linear sequences, but it analyzes the noun phrases through its hierarchical structure. Abney (1987) suggests Determiner Phrase (DP) hypothesis as he opines that the determiner is head of the noun phrase. However, in several analyses, specifically in descriptive analyses of less documented languages, the noun is still considered as the head of the noun phrase. Various arguments in the literature can be found that the noun phrases are actually determiner phrases. That is, in the structure of the noun phrase "the book" determiner "the" is actually the head which takes the noun "book" as its complement (Poole, 2011). Radford (2009) identifies many elements i.e., determiners, quantifiers, adjectives, possessives, and relative clauses, in a noun phrase. Order of these elements in a noun phrase is supposed to vary in languages of the world, but generally noun phrases across languages are said to share same structural principles. X-Bar Theory helps in applying these general principles in arranging the elements within hierarchical structure of a noun phrase. The approach plays a vital role in analysis of the language with flexible word order or rich morphological system.

Linguistic Studies on Shina Language

Hussain (2024) cites (Grierson 1927, p. 109, Masica, 1991, Bailey (1924, p. xiii-xiv, and Ziaul Haq et al) that these researchers include Shina in the Dardic branch of Indo-Aryan languages. The language is supposed to be the most important language of the Dardic branch. Its different dialects are spoken in different regions of Gilgit, Baltistan, Astore, Chilas, and Punyal. The language is reported to be spoken in some valleys of India as well. Even though, in the linguistic landscape of Gilgit Baltistan, the language is said to be a significant language, Shina has not been paid enough attention by the scholars.

Baily's work (1924) is considered to be one of the earliest comprehensive studies on Shina language which still serves as documentation of different grammatical features of the language. Their research basically takes phonology and basic grammatical structures as a stand point, but it

also has not paid that much attention to its syntactic analysis. Schmidt and Kohistani's (2008) contribution towards Shina literature can never be denied. Their work provides detailed explanation of the linguistic diversity within Shina speaking community. It highlights the main dialects like Gilgiti, Kohistani, and Astori (Astoriya) as distinct varieties of Shina language. Radloff (1992) has also played a significant role in contributing to the documentation of variations of Shina language and its sociolinguistic aspects. He identifies significant differences in the phonology, lexicon, and syntax of the dialects of Shina language. The contribution of all these studies to Shina language and its community can never be denied. These studies have opened up ways to descriptive linguistics, however theoretical syntactic analysis may also be a great contribution to the literature and documentation of the language therefore, a detailed analysis of phrase structure, specifically noun phrase structure, may provide insights of the language, and it may open up new ideas to the people interested in work on Shina syntax.

Studies on Noun Phrase Structures in Indo-Aryan Languages

The extensive research on Urdu, Hindi, and Kashmiri is an appropriate guide for Shina noun phrase analysis because these languages are also said to be from the Indo-Aryan languages (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2024). In Urdu, determiners, adjectives, and possessives precede the head noun. This analysis provides a useful clue that Indo-Aryan languages follow a head final structure (Butt & King, 2004). In another study, Bhatt (2005) finds out that modifiers occur before the head noun in the noun phrases of Hindi, and the author also identifies relative clauses and genitive constructions as post-nominal elements.

The studies make us generalize Indo-Aryan languages mostly have consistent hierarchical patterns in noun phrase formation. However, one may find some different and unique features in different dialects of a language. Shina is also one of the Indo-Aryan languages. Considering its language family, it is possible for it to have

similarities with other language of the group, whatever, an empirical investigation of Shina noun phrases is inevitable so as to identify internal structure of noun phrases. It is a good sign to find application of generative syntactic theories to lesser documented languages by linguists. Such studies enable us to test and prove the universality of theoretical frameworks like X-Bar theory. Carnie (2013) encourages the analysis of less documented languages by arguing that analysis of under-represented languages within theoretical frameworks is a great contribution to language preservation, linguistic theory, and language documentation. Analysis of syntactic patterns of languages can be a good way to refine existing theories and understanding of human languages.

Application of X-Bar theory on many South Asian languages depicts that there are differences on surface level, but several languages conform to the general principles of phrase structure, but there may, certainly, be variations in word order. The X-Bar theory is an appropriate approach for the analysis of Shina noun phrases as it provides syntactic structures systematically.

Research Methods and Data Collection Procedure

Research Design

The study has used a qualitative descriptive research design to make it align with its objectives. The main objective of the study is to analyze the syntactic structure of noun phrases in the Astorija dialect of Shina. The analysis focused on identifying the internal structure of noun phrases and presenting them through X-Bar theoretical framework.

Sources of Data

The secondary data has been taken from grammar books on Shina and linguistic research articles. Useful sources from where the secondary data has been taken include works by: Bailey (1924), Schmidt & Kohistani (2008), and Radloff (1992). Whereas, primary data has been collected directly from native speakers of the Astorija dialect of Shina. Participants were native speakers

of Shina (Astorija dialect). They were adults both male and female aged 20- 40 years who have lived most of their lives in Astore region. For data elicitation, the participants were provided with English phrases with Urdu translation, to make it easy for understanding, and they were asked to translate phrases into Shina. The phrases were selected considering all the possible structures like,

- Determiner + Noun
- Adjective + Noun
- Possessive+ Noun
- Quantifier + Noun
- Noun + Postpositional phrase

Data Analysis

A native speaker of a language knows that sentences are not only a linear sequence of words like 'beads on a string', instead, he/she knows that sentences contain constituents which are formed by organizing the elements hierarchically into larger groups. X-Bar theory is a particular way of expressing this knowledge (Poole, 2011). In the introduction of X' level, redundancy was found as problem. Changes in the NP phrase structure rules and VP phrase structure rules were common.

- 1) a. NP → (Det) N'
- b. N' → (AP) N' (PP)
- c. N' → (AP) N (PP)
- 2) a. VP → V' (XP)
- b. V' → V' (XP)
- c. V' → V (XP)

Chomsky (1970) suggested to eliminate the redundancy by generalizing the phrase structure rules. Chomsky claims that what a speaker possesses as part of his/her cognitive system is a general format for phrase structure rules and these rules are independent of any syntactic category (N, V, A etc.). So, Chomsky proposed a general schema, presented in (3), which is known as X-Bar theory (Poole, 2011).

- (3) a. XP → (Spec) X'
- b. X' → X' (YP)
- c. X' → X (ZP)

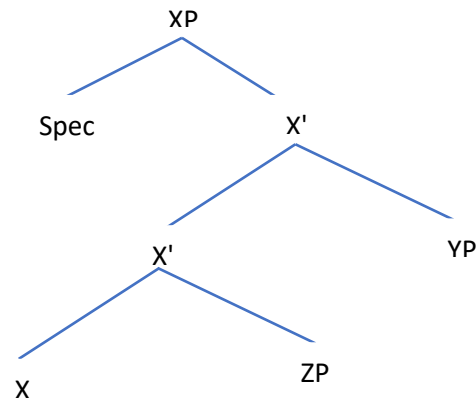


Figure 1 Tree diagram of X-Bar Schema

In figure 1, the diagram represents the X-system where X represents the head of the phrase which may be any lexical category i.e N, A, and P, etc., ZP which is sister to X in the diagram is complement which may which is traditionally called the object of the head. YP in the diagram is adjunct which are distinguished from the complements in that, complements are obligatory, when they occur, whereas adjuncts are optional (Poole, 2011).

In this study Shina Noun phrases have been analyzed within the framework of X-bar Theory. Only the noun phrase(s) containing a possessive noun are dealt as Determiner phrases (DPs) introduced by Poole, (2011) under Functional categories i.e., Inflectional Phrases (IPs), Complementizer Phrases (CPs), and Determiner phrases (DPs). The DP hypothesis claims that Determiners have associated D's and determiner phrases, and the theory also suggests that what have been so far called noun phrases are in fact determiner phrases. Which means, for example,

the phrase "the man" in fact contains the determiner "the" as its head, and it takes the noun "man" as its complement (Poole, 2011). As the study mainly focusses on Shina noun phrases, inflectional Phrases (IPs) and complementizer Phrases (CPs) have not been considered in this study. X-Bar theory is considered to be valid for all the languages even the unrepresented languages as well. It is pertinent to mention here that IPs and CPs are not included in this study, but only the DPs (taken as NP here) are the stand point of the study. It is also imperative to mention that this study accounts for the Shina noun phrase by assuming that their structure represents the mirror image of English introduced by (Poole, 2011). So, the Shina noun phrase structures and tree diagrams may be read from right to left as Shina uses the Perso Arabic script which is written from right to left. The Shina noun phrases have been Romanized in the study so as to make it easy to read for maximum readers.

English	Urdu	Shina	Phonetic transcriptional Phrase
1. the roof of the house	گھر کی چھت	Gozo sharoon	gouʒou ʃərʊn
2. the women in the field	کھیت میں خواتین	Cha chini mulaaye	tʃʰe ʧeni mʊla:ei

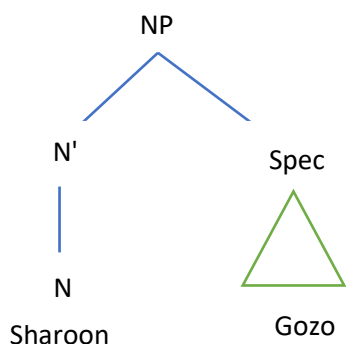


Figure 1 Tree Diagram of Shina NP (Gozo sharoon)

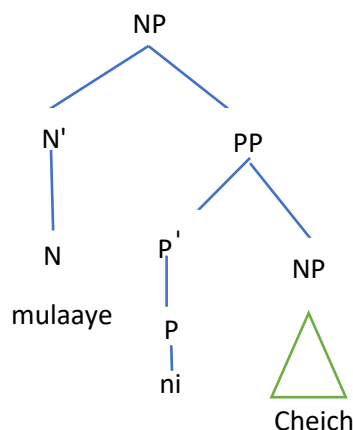


Figure 2 Tree Diagram of the Shina NP (Chhaichini haaniek mulaaye)

Noun + Preposition

Analysis

In the phrase 1 "Gozosharoon", there are two elements, 'gozo' and 'sharoon'. The word "gozo" may be translated in English as "of the house". Unlike English, Shina does not have a separate word such as "of" which is preposition (in this case), to form a prepositional phrase, but in Shina, the inflection "-zo" is added to the root word "gosh" to show the possession in the way English preposition "of" does in the phrase "the roof of the house". "-zo" is an inflection because it does not have any meaning in isolation. The figure 1 above shows that the NP "gozo" is specifier of the noun "sharoon" which functions as head in the NP "gozo sharoon". In English, usually a modifier follows the word it modifies, whereas, in Shina the modifier precedes the word it modifies as in the phrase "Gozo sharoon", the word "gozo" modifies the noun "sharoon".

The phrase 2 "tʃachini mulaaye" (tʃe Çeni mûlɑ:ei) shown in figure 2, contains two elements, the head noun "mulaaye" preceded by a prepositional phrase (chhachni) which functions as modifier of the noun (mulaaye), and the head noun (mulaaye) comes at the end of the phrase. The hierarchical relationship shows that NP immediately dominates the PP and N', That is, PP and N' are sisters. Unlike English prepositional phrase "in the field" which contains a preposition and a noun phrase where noun phrase follows the preposition, whereas in Shina, the preposition "ni" in the prepositional phrase "tʃeichni" follows the noun which is equal to "in the field" in English. In English noun phrases, a modifier most of the time follows the noun it modifies, whereas in Shina noun phrases, a modifier most of the time precedes the noun it modifies this is why Shina may be considered as head final language. So, the phrase structure of the Shina phrases will be as:

Prepositional Phrase + Adjective + Noun

English	Urdu	Shina	Phonetic transcription
3. the old house in the village	گاؤں میں پرانا گھر	Koi niprono gosh	ku:ni prɑ:nɒgoʊʃ

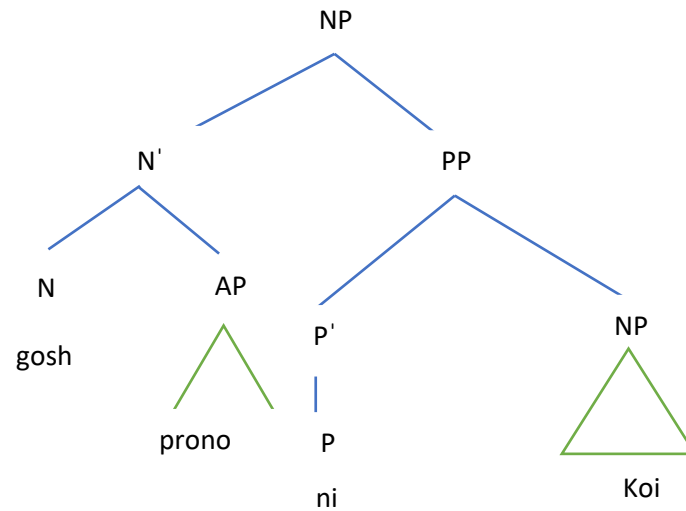


Figure 3 Tree Diagram of the Shina NP (Chhaichini haaniek mulaaye)

Analysis

The noun phrase “koi niprono gosh” contains three constituents, a PP “koi ni”, an adjective phrase “prono”, and a noun “gosh”. The prepositional phrase and the Adjective phrase function as modifiers to the noun “gosh”. N' and PP are sisters in the hierarchical structure as both are immediately dominated by NP. The

English NP “the old house in the village” the noun phrase “the old house” precedes the prepositional phrase “in the village”, on the contrary, in Shina the NP “prono gosh” follows the PP “koi ni”. If we consider the entire noun phrase “koiniprono gosh”, the head noun “gosh” occurs at the end of the phrase.

Possessive + Noun

English	Urdu	Shina	Phonetic transcription
4. Altaf's eye	الطاف کی آنکھ	Altafeyi a tʃʰee	əltɑːfɛɪ ə tʃʰɪː
5. my brother	میرا بھائی	Mo zaa	Mɒː zɑː

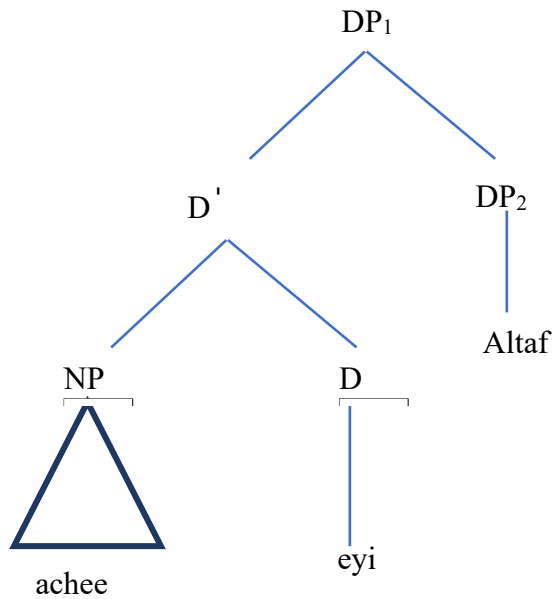


Figure 4 Tree Diagram of the NP (Altafeyi achee)

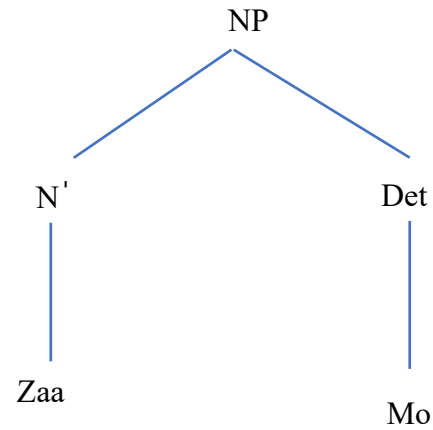


Figure 5 Tree diagram of the NP (Mo zaa)

Determiner + Quantifier + Noun

	English	Urdu	Shina	Phonetic transcription
6.	these many lights	یہ ساری روشنیاں	Ani butaysangi/tʂaly	ənibotesəɲi/ tʂəle
7.	the many difficulties	بہت سی مشکلات	Laayisagaat	la:ɪ: səgəɾa:t

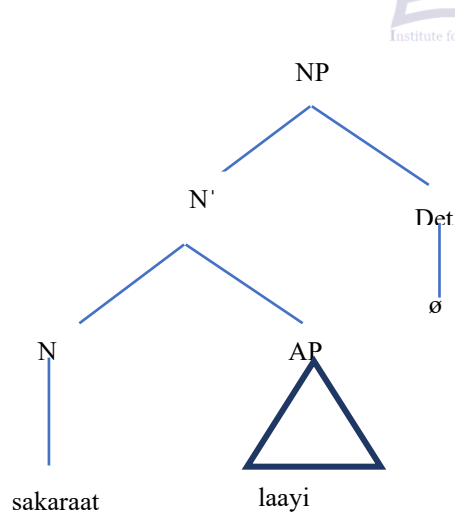


Figure 7 Tree diagram of the NP (Laayi skaraat)

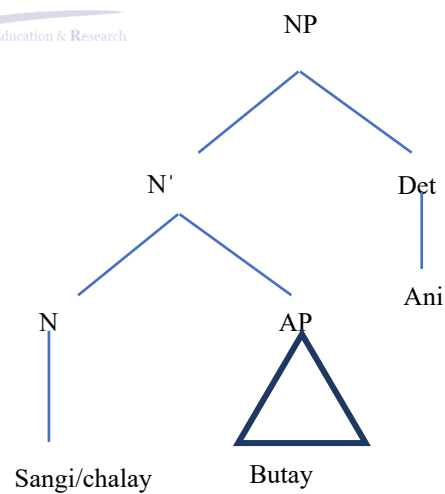


Figure 6 Tree diagram of the NP (Ani butay sangi/chalay)

Analysis

The tree diagram in the figure 4 represents the noun phrase “Ani Butaysangi/ tʃalay”. The phrase contains three elements, “Ani” functioning as determiner, “Butay” functioning as adjective, and “sangi/ tʃalay” functioning as noun. The noun “Sangi/tʃalay” is the head of the phrase. Hierarchy of the phrase depicts that NP immediately dominates N' and Det. That is, N' and Det are sisters. The constituents N and AP are immediately dominated by N. In structure of the phrase, the word “ani” functions as determiner which can be translated as “these” in English, and the word “butay” functions as modifier to head noun “sangi/ tʃalay”.

The tree diagram in figure 5 shows that both the phrases, NP in figure 4 and NP in figure, are identical regarding the relationship of elements in hierarchy, the only difference is that the noun phrase “Laayiskaraat” does not have a determiner. The adjective “laayi” and the noun “skaraat” are sisters in the hierarchical relation dominated by N'. Both the phrases show that in Shina, heads usually follow the modifiers as seen in the diagrams above the modifier “laayi” precedes the head “Sakaraat”, and the word “butay” precedes the head “sangi/tʃalay” in the structure that's why Shina may be considered as head final language. It is pertinent to mention here that the tree diagrams must be considered the mirror image of English phrases.

Quantifier + Noun

English	Urdu	Shina	Phonetic transcription
8. many children	بہت سارے بچے	Laa baal chaal	la: ba:ltʃa:l
9. few pebbles	چند کنگر	1. Khaaye x ^[c] aik	

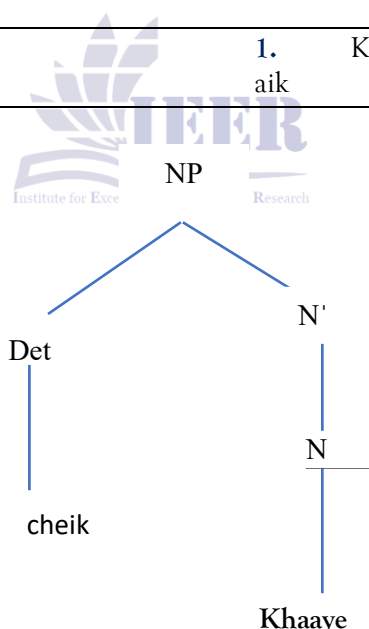


Figure 7 Tree diagram of the NP (Khaaye chaik)

Analysis

The noun phrase “Laabaaltʃaal” presented in figures 6 contains two constituents, the word “Laa” functions as determiner which can be translated as “many” in English. The phrase has a

similar structure as English noun phrase “many children” where the determiner “many” precedes the head noun “children”. In the same way in Shina, the determiner “Laa” precedes the head noun “baaltʃaal”. The Det (determiner) and N'

are sisters in the hierarchical relationship dominated by NP.

The noun phrase represented in the figure 7, has a contrary structure to that of the phrase in figure 6. The noun phrase in the figure 7 also has two elements, noun and determiner, but the order of

words in the structure is different. Unlike the phrase “Laa-baal^{tʃ}aal”, in the noun phrase “Khaayechaik”, the head noun “Khaaye” precedes the determiner “Çaik”.

Determiner + Multiple Adjectives + Noun

English	Urdu	Shina	Phonetic transcription
10. the big red cow	سرخ بڑی گائے	Loli bari gaaw	lɔ:lɪ bəri ɡɑ:əʊ
11. a small wooden spoon	ایک چھوٹا لکڑی کا چمچ	tʃuni kateli khapeinek	tʃʊni kəteli kəpɛnek

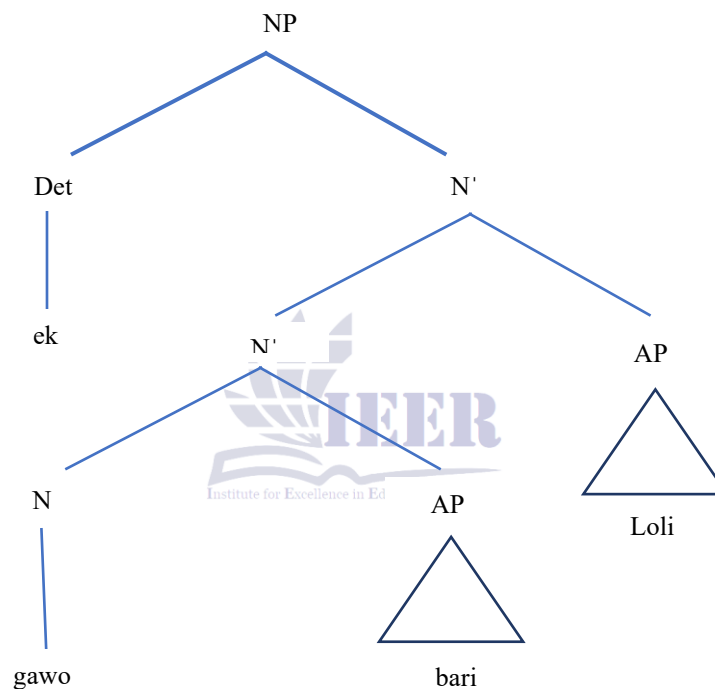


Figure 10 Tree diagram of the NP (Loli bari gawoek)

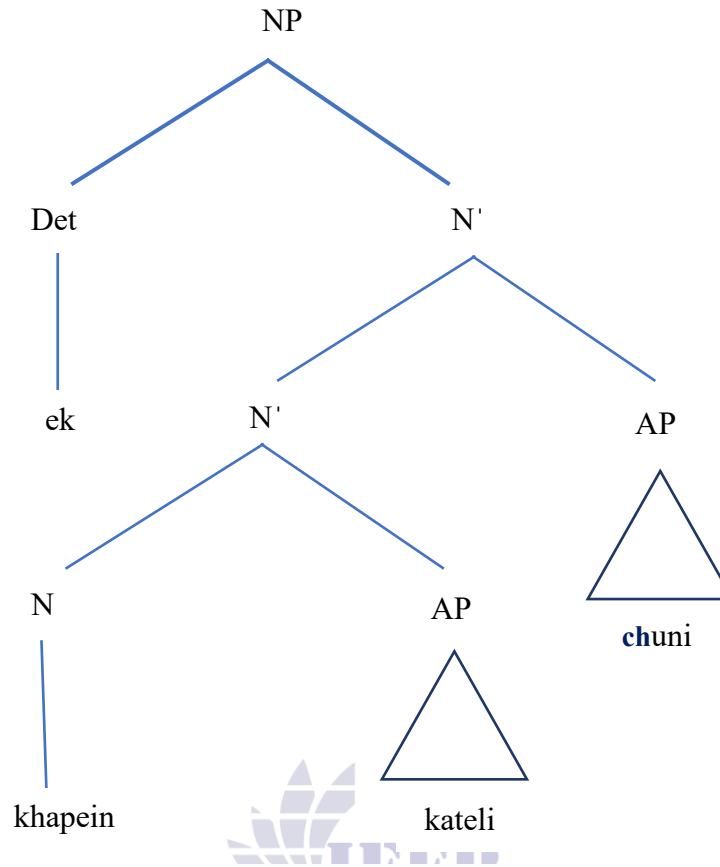


Figure 11 Tree diagram of the NP (Chuni khapeinek)

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Analysis

The noun phrases presented in the tree diagrams above in figure 10 and 11 are identical as both of the phrases consist of three elements, AP, AP, N, and Det. Notice that in both the noun phrases the determiner “ek” and the APs (Loli and bari in figure 10), and the Aps (tjuni and kateli in figure 11) are sisters to an N'. However, only one of them is the sister to an N' which is immediately dominated by NP, and that is the determiner “ek”. The determiner “ek” in both the phrases, therefore, is the specifier of the NP. Both the APs in both of the phrases (Loli and bari in figure 10), and the Aps (tjuni and kateli in figure 11) are conjuncts. It is noteworthy that the word “ek” which is equivalent to the English determiner “a”, in Shina is used in a way that it seems to be the inflection of the noun. Unlike English in Shina, both the APs in both the phrases precede the head nouns “gawo” and “khapein” respectively. The phrases also show that

in Shina determiner may also occur at the end of the phrase like “ek” in these noun phrases.,

Findings

It is pertinent to mention here that IPs and CPs are not included in this study, but only the DPs (taken as NP here) are the stand point of the study. It is also imperative to mention that this study accounts for the Shina noun phrase by assuming that their structure represents the mirror image of English introduced by (Poole, 2011). So, the Shina noun phrase structures and tree diagrams may be read from right to left as Shina uses the Perso Arabic script which is written from right to left. The Shina noun phrases have been Romanized in the study so as to make it easy to read for maximum readers.

The analysis of Shina noun phrases, within the framework of X-bar theory, carried out in this study reveals that in most of the Shina noun phrases, the optional elements such as PPs and

APs usually precede the head noun in the phrase. Occurrence of the head noun at the end of the phrase includes the Shina language in the list of head-final languages like Turkish and Japanese which are referred to as head-final languages by Poole (2011) because the head follows its complements. For a clearer understanding, let's consider the following Shina noun phrases:

1. N' PP ← NP
N ← N'

a. Shina phrase: **tʃaitʃ** ni mulaaye

Shina: **tʃaich** English: field

Shina: ni English: in

2. N' PP ← NP
N' AP ← N'

b. Shina phrase: Koi niprono gosh

Shina: koi English: village

Shina: ni English: in

Shina: prono English: old

Shina: gosh English: house

3. D'DP₂ ← DP₁
N D ← D'

c. Shina phrase: Altafey iachee

Shina: Altaf English: Altaf

Shina: eyi English: 's

Shina: atʃee English: eye

4. N' Det ← NP
N AP ← N'

Shina phrase: Ani butaysangi/chalay.

Shina: Ani English: these

Shina: butay English: all

Shina: sangi/ **tʃ**alay English: lights

The analysis also reveals that in some of the Shina noun phrases, postpositions are used in a way that it seems an inflection of the head noun. For instance, in the phrases “gozo” “chaichni” the postpositions “zo”, and “ni” are equivalent to the English preposition “of” and “in” respectively. The study found that when a Shina noun phrase has a possessive noun/pronoun (dealt as DP in this study), contains two NPs. These are the possessive noun, which functions as specifier of the phrase, and the head noun. Consider the

below given example noun phrase and its structure for further clarity:

Altafeyiachee

N' PP ← DP₂ D'

NP D ← D'

N' N ← NP

The analysis of the phrases shows that some Shina noun phrases are structured in the same way as English noun phrases are done, i.e., they contain a determiner and a noun in both the languages where the determiner precedes the head noun such as:

Shina: Laa-baal **tʃ**aal:

N' Det ← NP

N N'

English: Many Children:

NP → Det N'

N' → N

The study also reveals that in Shina noun phrases, determiners may occur at the end of the phrase specifically the determiner “ek” which is equivalent to English determiner “a”. consider the below given example:

Loli bari gaawek:

Shina: Loli English: red

Shina: bari English: big

Shina: gaawo English: cow

Shina: ek English: a

Det N' ← NP

N' AP ← N'

N' AP ← N'

Conclusion

The study concludes that in most of the Shina noun phrases, the optional elements such as PPs and APs usually precede the head noun in the phrase. Occurrence of the head noun at the end of the phrase includes the Shina language in the list of head-final languages like Turkish and Japanese which are referred to as head-final languages by Poole (2011) because the head follows its complement. In some of the Shina noun phrases, postpositions are used in a way that it seems an inflection of the head noun. For instance, in the phrases “gozo” “chaichni” the postpositions “zo”, and “ni” are equivalent to the English preposition “of” and “in” respectively.

Some Shina noun phrases are structured in the same way as English noun phrases are done, i.e., they contain a determiner and a noun. In both the languages, the determiner precedes the head noun. When a Shina noun phrase has a possessive noun/pronoun (dealt as DP in this study), contains two NPs. These are the possessive nouns, which functions as specifier of the phrase, and the head noun. Even though the researcher has tried to consider all the noun phrases whose structures may represent all the possible phrase of the same nature, still a lot may possibly remain to be done by collecting as many phrases as possible so as to represent general template for all the phrases.

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