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THE LOCATION OF NOUN PHRASES IN SENTENCES IN GENERATIVE LINGUISTICS

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ABSTRACT
The aim of the article is to discuss whether a Noun Phrase (NP) branches out from an Agreement Phrase (Agr. P), or from a Determiner Phrase (DP) or from another functional category and shed light on the location of Noun Phrases in sentences. In the traditional analysis of phrases, Noun (N) is considered to be the head of a nominal phrase. In the mid-80s, Determiner (D) begins to be accepted as the headof nominal phrases. However, in this study, it is claimed that the nominal phrases are headed by the case category. In other words NP branches out from Case Phrase (Case P).
Keywords: Noun Phrases, determiner Phrase, Agreement Phrase, Case Phrase

In Generative Grammar, it is generally agreed that Verb Phrase (VP) originates as the complement of I' (I-Bar), which is the daughter of Inflection Phrase (IP), which is a functional phrase or it is hosted in the complement position by T'(Tense bar), which is the daughter of Tense Phrase (TP) (Radford 1997; Uzun 2000; Lasnik 1999; Haegeman&Guéron 1999; Adger 2003). In the same way, there has been a tendency for the adoption of the view that Noun Phrase (NP) branches out from a functional category rather than directly from IP, VP or PP (Prepositional Phrase). What is this functional category? It is a widely held belief that NP originates as the complement of Determiner Phrase (DP). There is another claim that NP is a category deriving from Agreement Phrase (Agr. P). Careful scrutiny of NPs will enable us to realize that a noun phrase is a category that branches out from another functional category other than Agr.P or DP.

In this study, we will put forth that the functional category which hosts a noun phrase is Case Phrase (Case P). To this end, we aim at studying the examples related to the functional category in question and revealing the location of NPs in sentences. We will first begin by exemplifying the representations of NPs in the study of sentence structure.

The Structure of Noun Phrases

When Transformational-Generative Grammar was introduced, nominal phrases were represented as Noun Phrases (NP); either as a constituent in the subject position of a sentence as in (1), or as a constituent of VP as in (2), or as a constituent of PP as in (3) (Chomsky, 1957):

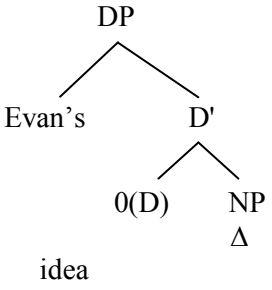
(1) S→ NP VP

(2) VP→ V NP

(3) PP → P NP

In the course of time, the idea that the nominal phrases should be headed by a determiner began to gain ground among linguists. For example, Abney (1987) carried out research on the structure of NPs and used DP for the representations of nominal phrases. Chomsky kept on using NP as a category standing for nominal phrases in most of his works (Chomsky, 1964; 1965; 1966; 1981; 1993; Zeljko&Lasnik, 2007). Later he also began to use DP for nominal Phrases (Chomsky 1995). Nowadays the use of DP is more common than that of NP. The following is an example about the structure of nominal phrases (Adger, 2003:257):

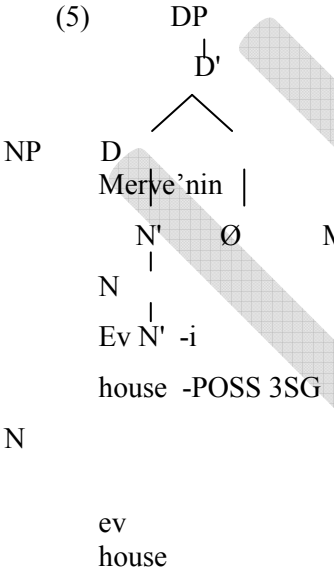
(4)



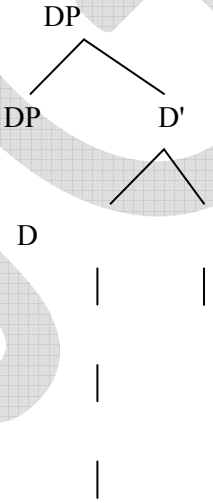
The lexical item '*Evan's*' originates in the specifier position of DP as a sister to D',which consists of D and NP. In this example, D has no phonetic realization. However, it can have a phonetic realization if it is occupied by a lexical item such as 'every', e.g. Evan's every idea.

As for the structure of Noun phrases in Turkish, Uzun (2000) discusses two hypotheses as to the use of a functional category instead of NP for the representations of nominal phrases; DP hypothesis and AGR P hypothesis; the latter deriving from the use of Agr P for the representation of the nominal phrases as well as for the sentence structure in Turkish (Kornfilt 1984; Özsoy 1994). In the case of DP hypothesis, NP originates as a complement of D dominated by D'.

(5)

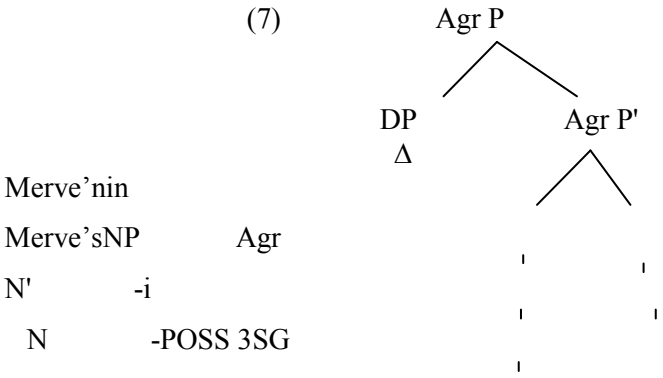


(6)



In (5), D has no phonetic realization. Whereas in (6), where DP has another DP as a specifier, D is realized as a suffix attached to the noun head. Is this suffix a determiner or an agreement category? In (6), it is the head of DP, for this reason it is D. However, in (7), it is Agr since it is the head of Agr P with respect to Agr hypothesis.

(7)



DP and Agr P hypotheses try to reveal the fact that noun phrases branch out from a functional category in the same way verb phrases do as they originate as a complement of the head of Inflection Phrase /Tense Phrase. These two hypotheses gained ground among the generative linguists in line with the development of the Government and Binding approach (GB). They are now in common use in the study of sentence structure.

In spite of the fact that determiners and agreement features are contained in nominal phrases, we believe that nominal phrases are represented by another functional category considering *sentence derivation* according to the minimalist analysis. In MP, Lexical items with their phonological, syntactic and semantic features provide inputs to a sentence derivation (Chomsky, 1993; Radford, 1997; Lasnik 1999; Adger, 2003). That is to say, a derivation starts off with a numeration (a set of lexical items). Unlike in GB, in minimalism the Lexical items are taken from lexicon in their fully inflected forms. For example, in GB an accusative case ending is added to a noun stem during a syntactic process whereas in MP, lexical items are taken from lexicon with their inflected forms.

Now let's see how the system works:

Numeration
{see, v, they, him }

If we select *see* and *they* and merge them, the following syntactic object will be formed:

(8) * V

see they

The construction is ungrammatical because the pronominal *they*is in the nominative case. If we select *him* from the numeration and merge it with the verb *see*, the syntactic object will be well-formed since the selected pronominal is in the accusative case (9). This implies that the verb *see* has an uninterpretable case feature and this case feature is accusative.

(9) V *(*Case-ACC)

see him

It is claimed that Case features simply regulate the position of certain nouns in certain structures (ADGER, 2003:85). This means that cases are c-selected by the heads of phrases. If we take a case as

a head of phrase, then this head will c-select a noun phrase. From this, it seems plausible to say that noun phrases branch out from a functional category, which can be called Case Phrase (10). Unless the case requirement of the case feature of the verb is met,

(10) V (Case-ACC)

see Case P

Case (Acc) him

this feature will remain uninterpreted. After an uninterpretable feature is checked against a complement or a specifier, this uninterpretable feature will self-destruct. The uninterpretable feature of the verb *see* is checked and it is marked with a strikethrough in (11).

(11) V (~~Case~~-ACC)

see Case P

Case (Acc) him

We can briefly state that for the derivation of well-formed sentences, the features of lexical items must be checked. To this end, the categories containing uninterpretable features must merge with appropriate categories for feature checking.

It sounds reasonable to say that a noun phrase originates in Case phrase[1] in the same way as a verb phrase does in Inflection Phrase (or in Tense Phrase). It can be still argued that a nominal phrase is headed by a determiner. When we study the following examples of the definite article in Old English, we can say that Case Phrase occupies a higher position than a determiner does in a tree diagram. The old English definite article has different forms as to the number, gender and case of a noun it co-occurs with.

To illustrate the syntactic relation between a noun and a determiner, let's study examples taken from Old English (Baugh and Cable, 1978: 58):

	SINGULAR		PLURALS
Case	***Gender***		***All Genders***
	Masculine	FeminineNeuter	
Nominative:	sēsēoðætðā		
Genitive	: ðæsðæreðæsðāra		
Dative	: ðæmðæreðæmðæm		
Accusative	:ðoneðāðætðā		
Instrumental:	ðȳ, ðonðȳ, ðon		

[1]In Fillmore's *case grammar* (Fillmore, 1968, 21), *case* is claimed to be a category that dominates a noun phrase and it is stated that the case category is realized as a kasus, which can be a preposition or a case affix. However, in *Case Grammar*, a noun with the accusative (objective) case can be shifted to the subject position and can be made the subject of the sentence. *Case* is treated as a semantic category whereas it is a syntactic category in Generative Grammar. In our study we consider it as a syntactic category.

It can be seen how the form of the old English definite article varies in parallel with the number and case of the masculine word, stone (stān):

SINGULAR (Masculine)	PLURALS (Masculine)
Case	
Nominative :	sēstānðāstānas
Genitive :	ðæsstānesðārastāna
Dative :	ðæmstāneðæmstānum
Accusative :	ðonestānðāstānas

In the Old English examples the definite article is fully inflected according to the number, gender and case of the following noun. If a noun occupies a nominative case position, the definite article must contain a nominative case morpheme. If a noun is accusative, so is the determiner. Both the definite article and the noun must be in agreement in terms of case according to the position they occupy within a sentence. From this, we can say that the selection of cases depends on specific sentence positions. Then there are lexical and functional categories that c-select cases. In other words, such lexical items c-select Case Phrases that dominate Noun Phrases[2]. DP can be considered to be the specifier of Case Phrase and NP the complement of Case' (Case-Bar).

Nominal Phrases in Turkish

Turkish is rich in terms of case-marking affixes. Only the nominative case is not phonetically realized in Turkish. From the perspective of syntactic relations and interpretations of sentences, the selection of appropriate cases is important. Let us consider some verbs that contain uninterpretable case features and as a result, subcategorize for nominal phrases:

(12) a. **herkes** **-i** sev **-**mek
everybody ACC. like to (Infinitive marker)
'to like everybody'

b . * **herkes** **-ten**sev -mek
everybodyABB. like to (Infinitive marker)
'to like everybody'

(13) a. **herkes** **-ten** hoşlan -mak
everybodyABB. like to (Infinitive marker)
'to like everybody'

b .* **herkes** **-İ** hoşlan -mak
everybody ACC.. like to (Infinitive marker)
'to like everybody'

In (12a) and (13a) the theta roles assigned to the word *herkes* are identical although it carries different cases; accusative in (12 a) but ablative in (13 a). Using ablative case with *herkes* as in (12b), and accusative with the same word as in (13 b) will cause the derivation to crash. This is because each verb c- selects a case phrase containing a noun with an appropriate case inflection. The selection of a particular case phrase depends on the categorical and case features of the verb to start off a derivation.

[2]Yükseker (2003) uses the term KP dominating either DP or AP, from which a noun phrase branches out.

(14) **not -lar -a** bak-mak
note-s DATlookto (Infinitive marker)
'tolook at thenotes'

(15) kitab -ı raf -a koy -mak
book ACC. shelfDAT. Put to(Infinitive marker)
'to put the book on the shelf'

In (14), the verb *bakmak with* the meaning to *look* allows for the use of a case phrase headed by a dative case and reject the other cases. In (15), the verb merges with two case phrases; one accusative, the other one in the dative case.

(16) Yasmin**Ankara -da çalış -tıØ.**
Yasmin**Ankara LOC work Past 3Sg**
'Yasminworked in Ankara.'

In (16), the phrase *Ankara'da*is not a complement of the verb*çalış* (work). It is an adjunct. It adjoins the verb *çalış* as a noun phrase in the locative case. We can also consider clausal complements that merge with some specific verbs:

(17) Gel -eceğ -im - i bili -yor -sun. (Geleceğimi biliyorsun.)
Gel will 1 Sg ACC know prog2 Sg
'You know that I will come.'

In (17), the complement of the verb *bil* is a clause headed by a case, which is accusative. From this we can say that a phrase headed by a case can have a clausal complement. This clausal complement carries the same case property as a nominal phrase does. This substantiates the idea that a nominal phrase is headed by a case category.

Conclusion

The examples we have discussed so far can lead us to think that nominal phrases are headed by cases. It can also be stated that the relation between a noun and a case is similar to that between a verb and a tense. The adoption of case phrases will result in uniformity in the study of sentence structure.

The study can be expanded by considering nominal phrases in other positions such as in postpositions and by studying examples in other languages.

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