Pre modification and Post modification of the Head in Arabic Nominal Groups

Pre modificación y Post modificación de la cabeza en grupos nominales árabes

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ABSTRACT/ The complex nominal group (CNG) in Arabic is that in which the head (H) can be pre modified by specific elements termed determiners (Ds) and/or pos modified by other elements termed qualifiers (Qs). The present study attempts to highlight these modifiers (Ds and Qs) in the Arabic CNG because the group as a separate unit in Arabic has not yet been investigated comprehensively. Actually, grammarians of Arabic do not acknowledge that the CNG exists in Arabic as an independent syntactic unit working in the sentence structure. The study is carried out on the hypothesis that CNGs indisputably exist in Arabic in a wide range. Besides , each CNG represents just one constituent and realizes just one function. The study aims at suggesting a list of Ds and Qs in Arabic to investigate their linear arrangement in the CNG. This can be achieved by following the structural approach which reveals the linear arrangement of elements in the sentence as well as the function performed by each element and each unit in the sentence.

Key Words: syntax , nominal group , structure , modification, determiner , qualifier

RESUMEN/ El grupo nominal complejo (CNG) en árabe es aquel en el que la cabeza (H) puede modificarse previamente mediante elementos específicos denominados determinantes (Ds) y / o modificarse pos por otros elementos denominados calificadores (Qs). El presente estudio intenta resaltar estos modificadores (Ds y Qs) en el CNG árabe porque el grupo como unidad separada en árabe aún no se ha investigado exhaustivamente. En realidad, los gramáticos del árabe no reconocen que el GNC existe en árabe como una unidad sintáctica independiente que trabaja en la estructura de la oración. El estudio se lleva a cabo sobre la hipótesis de que los GNC existen indiscutiblemente en árabe en una amplia gama. Además, cada GNC representa un solo componente y realiza una sola función. El estudio apunta a sugerir una lista de Ds y Qs en árabe para investigar su disposición lineal en el GNC. Esto se puede lograr siguiendo el enfoque estructural que revela la disposición lineal de los elementos en la oración, así como la función realizada por cada elemento y cada unidad en la oración.

Palabras clave: sintaxis, grupo nominal, estructura, modificación, determinante, calificador

Introduction

The complex nominal group (CNG) is a nominal unit in which the head (H) can be premodified by certain elements termed determiners (Ds) and/or postmodified by other elements termed qualifiers (Qs). The present study attempts to shed light on these modifiers (Ds and Qs) in the Arabic CNG. It comes against the traditionally adopted argument that denies the existence of the group as an independent unit in general and the CNG in particular in the Arabic scale of ranks. In fact, Arabic does include NPs that can either be simple or complex. The study tries to list the group of Ds and Qs and investigate their linear arrangement in the CNG structure. To reveal the functions that may be realized by CNGs in Arabic, the structural approach is chosen as a

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model in this study. According to this model , there are five basic sentential functions , namely, subject (S) , verb (V) , object (O) , complement (C) and adverbial (A) All these five functions except V can be realized by CNGs. Actually , neither old nor modern Arabic grammarians admit the existence of most modifiers in Arabic, and if some modifiers are accidently mentioned in some works , they are discussed under different headings and parsed wrongly because they are assigned false functions. For example, according to the syntacticians of Arabic , a demonstrative that precedes the H takes the main function (S , O ,etc.) while the H is parsed as an appositive element which might replace the demonstrative and thus regarded as an optional element despite the fact that it is the most important component in the CNG, and when the same demonstrative follows the same H , it is parsed as an adjective. Hence ,according to those grammarians, *haatha l waladu* and *alwaladu haatha* in 1A and 1B below respectively are not parsed the same although both groups are exactly the same both semantically and syntactically.

1.A: *shaahadtu   haatha l waladu   lailata ams.* (I saw this boy last night.)

        VS   O   A

B: *shaahadtu   l walada haatha   lailata ams.*. (I saw this boy last night.)

        VS   O   A

Unlike English in which determiners always precede the H , most determiners in Arabic are mobile in the CNP since they can both precede and follow the H. Grammarians of Arabic think that the determiner function when it precedes the H is different from its function after the H. Accordingly , they (See for example Al Farraa', d.207AH:1/11; Ibnu hisham ,d.761 AH:1/135; Al Samarraa'i 2000:1/88)see that a demonstrative before the H is the basic element and the H is just an appositive optional element. If the determiner is used after the H , on the other hand , those grammarians say that it is an adjective describing the H. As for numerals, they see that before the H , a numeral takes the main function and the H is *tamyeez* (specification) ,

but after the H , a numeral is again regarded as an adjective. The current study argues that all the components of the CNG constitute one entity and realize one function. The first part of the study accounts for Arabic determiners and their categories while the second part will be dedicated for qualifiers.

1. Determiners
Phrasal determiners (Ds) are modifiers which premodify the H of the CNG (Quirk etal 1973:61). They can be classified into five types: quantifiers , demonstratives , cardinal numerals , indefinite articles and prepositive dependent adjectives.

1. 1 Quantifiers
Quantifiers indicate the quantitive features of the H. In Arabic, quantifiers involve such elements as *jamee'* (all), *kul* (all), *ba'dh* (some), *nisf* (half), etc. (Jawad 2015:287 ; Hallman 2016:1).

Nevertheless, some quantifiers might also be used as Qs to postmodify the H with certain restrictions. In this case, they have to be suffixed by cataphoric pronouns referring to the H so as to maintain concord with the H. Compare :

2.A. *jaa'a   kullu l tullaabi   ila l musaabaqa*. (All the students came to the contest.)

      V   S

B. *jaa'a l tullaabu kulluhum   ila l musaabaqa*. (The students all came to the contest.)

      V   S

It important to mention that Arabic does not contain a specific term for the category of quantifiers and the only term used is *kalimaatu l tawkeed* (emphatic words) despite the fact that modification does not have any connection with emphasis. Besides , grammarians of Arabic say that a quantifier whether it is used before or after the H does not perform the same function. Before the H it is given the main sentential function(S , O ,…) and its H is just an additive optional element called in Arabic (specification) . After the H , on the other hand, the quantifier is parsed by these grammarians as an emphatic element(Ibnu Ya'eesh , d.643AH: 3/40). Actually, Arabic does not admit more than one word to realize the same function. Thus, in 2A above, the

quantifier *kulluhum* is parsed as S while *altullaab* is parsed as an additive element despite the fact *altullaab* is the H and ,therefore, it is more important than the modifier (*kulluhum*)which only describes the quantitive property of the H. This can be validated by the fact that the modifier can be omitted while the H cannot because it is an essential element in the group and ultimately in the whole sentence. Accordingly, both the two words that constitute the CNP words (*kullu l tullaab* or *altullaabu kulluhum*) represent one constituent and realize on function(S).

1. 2 Demonstratives

Demonstratives in Arabic (e.g., *haadha* (this) , *dhaalika* (that) , *haa'ulaa'* (these), etc.) can be used to indicate whether the referent (the H) is near or far, masculine or feminine and singular, dual or plural(Ibnu Hishaam d.761AH:1/136). Consequently, there should be concord in gender , person, and number between the demonstrative and the referent (H) it modifies. Thus, the demonstrative *haadha* (this), for example, indicates that the H it modifies is close, singular and masculine whereas the demonstrative *tilka* (that) means that the H is remote, singular and feminine. This contradicts with the traditional opinion that separates between the demonstrative and its referent in function since Arab grammarians claim that if the demonstrative precedes the H, it is assigned the main clausal function while the H is parsed as an appositive optional construction. Oppositely, if the H precedes the demonstrative, Arab grammarians assign the former the main clausal function(S , O ,etc.) and the latter is treated as an emphatic element(Al Zamakhshari , d.643AH:2/351). The current study argues that the demonstrative and the H form one unit (CNG) and realize one function in the clause structure whether that demonstrative precedes or follows the H. Compare:

3.A*. haadha l qitaaru saree'un jiddan*
(This train is very fast.)
          S   C

B. *alqitaaru haadha saree'un jiddan*.
(This train is very fast.)
          S   C

1. 3 Cardinal Numerals

In Arabic, all cardinal numerals (*waahid* (one), *ithnaan* (two) , *thalaatha* (three) etc.) premodify the H apart from the numeral *wahid* (one) which is always used as a postmodifier and the dual numeral *ithnan* , *ithnain*(two) which is often integrated within the H as an infix (Kremers 2003:62).

Nevertheless, other cardinal numerals might also be used as postmodifiers and again Arabic syntacticians argue that a numeral before the H has a function distinct from its function after the H because fore the noun, the numeral realizes a phrasal function (S, O, C, …) while after the H, it is regarded as an adjective (Al Zamakhshari d.643AH:4/4).Either for the H itself , it is also parsed differently according to that false view. Before the numeral , the H takes the basic clausal function (S,O,C) but after the numeral, it is considered an additive optional element which does not have any function (Ibnu Hishaam d.761AH:247) .

Moreover, Arab grammarians argue that numerals are not similar with regard to the functions they realize in the structure of the sentence. In compound numbers (e.g.,*ahada ashar* (eleven), *arba'atu ashar* (fourteen), *khamsun wa'ishrun* (twenty-five), etc.), for instance, only the first part of the number has a clausal function (S , O , C ,etc.) while the other part is regarded as a neglected form and this is completely wrong since no element in the sentence should be neglected (not given a phrasal or clausal function) . As for the subsequent H , in this case , those grammarians argue that it realizes a function called in Arabic *tamyeez* (distinction) (Ibnu Ya'eesh d.643AH:2/71).The current study argues that the numeral (single or compound) and the (H) it modifies represent one unit (CNG) and realize one clausal function whether that numeral precedes or follows its H. In 4 below , both CNGs (*thalaathatu tullaab* and *tullaabun thalaatha*) realize the same function (S) and in both phrases the noun (*tullaabun*) represents the central element(H) in the phrase that is modified by a numeral that is used just to tell us that the number of students is three , no more no less.

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4. A. *saafara khamsaatu tullaabin albaariha*. (Five students left yesterday.)

    V   S   A

B. *saafara tullaabun khamsa albaariha.* (Five students left yesterday).

    V   S   A

1. 4 Indefinite Articles

Indefinite articles in Arabic involve *mujarrad(*just*) , mahdh(*mere*)* and *min*(any) and they can always be used as premodifiers to denote that the following noun (H) is indefinite. Actually, Arab grammarians do not acknowledge the existence of these articles in Arabic at all and they assign various false semantic classes to them. For example , the indefinite article *min* (a/an) is regarded in Arabic as a disposable preposition that does not fulfil any grammatical function while the subsequent noun (H)is assigned the main clausal function (Al Darweesh 1992:137). Either for *mujarrad* (certain) and *mahdh* (mere), they are assigned the main clausal functions while the subsequent nouns are parsed as additive elements despite the fact that the latter (the H) is more important. Consider the following examples:

5. *laa amliku   min hallin   l tilka l mushkila.*. (I have no solution to that problem.)

      VS   O   A

According to the present study ,in 5 above , both the indefinite article (*min*) and the subsequent H (*hallin*) represent one constituent (CNG) and realize one function(O). It is important to mention that *mujarrad* and *mahdh* might also be used as Qs but they ought to have concord in number and gender with the preceding H .Compare *mujarradu kalaam* and *kalaamun mujarrad.*.

1. 5 Prepositive Dependent Adjectives

Generally speaking adjectives in Arabic , postmodify the H in CNGs. Nevertheless, there are certain adjectives that are often used before the H and they are ,therefore, called prepositive dependent adjectives since they can not be used alone without being followed by Hs. Such adjectives include *'aks* (opposite)*, nafs* (same) *, mithl* (like) *, shubh* (semi) ,etc. Most grammarians of Arabic agree that the preposed dependent adjectives ought to be regarded as the main element while the following H noun is parsed as an additive element despite the fact that the noun (H) is more important than the prepositive adjective (Ibnu Ya'eesh , d.643AH:3/40).Consider the following examples:

6..*kaana   kalaamuhu   'aks l haqeega*. (His saying was opposite to the truth.)

    V   S   C

7..*qaabalna   nafs l fataat   fi l hadeeqa.* (We met the same girl in the garden.)

      VS   O   A

In 6 above , both the adjective (*'aks*) and its H (*alhaqeeqa*) represent one constituent (CNG) and perform one function (O).

It is worth noting that a dependent adjective does need to have concord in gender ,number and case with the (H) noun it modifies as it sticks to one form whether the subsequent noun (H)is masculine or feminine; singular or plural. Hence , we can say *nafsu l rajul , nafsu l mar'a , nafsu l awlaad* ,etc. Furthermore , most prepositive adjectives might be used as postpositive adjectives (Qs) and in this case concord between these adjectives and their Hs ought to be maintained by adding cataphoric pronouns referring back to the H. Accordingly, we should say *alrajulu nafsuhu , almar'atu nafsuha , alawlaadu anfusuhum* , etc. Nevertheless, grammarians of Arabic think that ,after the H, such adjectives are used for emphasis only and not as Qs (Al Zamakhshari, d.643:2/223).

2. Qualifiers

2. 1 Simple Qualifiers

Qualifiers are elements that postmodify the H in CNGs. As compared to determiners, these elements, are always used as postmodifiers and they may not premodify the H. They might be classified into five types also: descriptive nouns , genitive nouns , postpositive adjectives , ordinal numerals and prepositional phrases.

2. 1. 1 Descriptive Nouns

A descriptive noun is defined as a nominal element that can be used to describe the H in a particular manner. Thus, the noun *nahw* (grammar) in the CNG *kitaabu nahw*(grammar

book) describes the book (*kitaab*) as being that of grammar (*nahw*) not history or politics. In Arabic , there are many examples of CNGs having descriptive nouns as postmodifiers (Qs) and these include for example: *sayaratu is'aaf* (ambulance) , *tabeebu atfaal* (pediatrician) , *hadeeqatu haiwanaat* (zoo) , *qaseedatu shi'ir* (poem) , etc. Both the descriptive noun and the H it modifies make one CNG and realize one clausal function. Grammarians of Arabic ; however, argue that the first noun bears the main function (S, O , C ,etc.) while the second is just an additive element(Al Samarra'i 2000:3/117) ,e.g.,

8*. shaahadna   sayyaarata is'aafin   fi l madrasa* (We saw an ambulance at school.)

    VS   O   A

2. 1. 2 Genitive Nouns

A genitive noun indicates to the possessor of the noun which represents the H of the CNG. Hence, the genitive noun *alawlaad* (the boys) in the CNG *ghurfatu l awlaad* (the boys' room) denotes the owner of the room while the noun *albait* in the CNG *hadeeqatu l bait* (the garden of the house) indicates that the garden belongs to the house. Arabic traditional grammarians agree that the first noun carries the main function while the subsequent one is only an additive element(Ibnu Aqeel , d.796AH:3/43 ; Ibnu Jinni , d.329AH:3/26) ,e.g.,

9. *hamaltu   haqeebata akhi   ila l bait..* (I carried my brother's bag home.)

  VS   O   A

2. 1. 3 Postpositive Adjectives

Generally speaking, adjectives in Arabic follow the nouns they describe ,therefore , they are postpositive since they are often used as Qs . Thus, the adjective *mujtahid* (diligent) in the CNG *taalibun mujtahid* (a diligent student) distinguishes the man as being diligent and the adjective *jameela* (beautiful) in *fatatun jameela* (a beautiful girl) describes the girl as being beautiful and so on. There should be concord in gender and number between the postpositive adjective and the H it modifies (Al Khazi2016:51). In traditional Arabic grammar ,there is no reference that both the H and the postpositive adjective that modifies it make one element and realize one function . The

current study adopts the opinion that the H and its postpositive adjective constitute one unit with one function, e.g.,

10*. sami taalibun mujtahidun   fee kulli l duroos.* (Sami is a talented student in all subjects.)

    S   C   A

2. 1. 4 Ordinal Numerals

In Arabic, ordinal numerals like *alawal* (first), *althaani* (second), *althaalith* (third),etc. and general ordinals *alakheer* (last) , *alsaabiq* (last) , *allaahiq* (next),etc. often follow the Hs in CNGs. Hence, we say *alfa'iz ul thaani* (the second winner) and not *althaani al faa'iz* . Consequently, such modifiers often function as Qs because they demonsterate the numerical arrangement of the H. Nevertheless , most grammarians of Arabic do not acknowledge that the H and the ordinal numeral that postmodifies it compose one part and realize one function. They agree that the ordinal numeral is only an adjective(Al Zamakhshari d.643AH:4/29) ,e.g.,

11*. talaqqa l faa'izu l awalu tarheeban .* (The first winner received a warm welcome.)

   V   S   O

2.1.5 Prepositional Groups

A prepositional group is made of a preposition followed by an NG to function as its complement . It often comes in a form of a reduced relative clause after the H to modify it (Quirk et al 1973:143)) .A prepositional group used as a Q in a CNG ought to be distinguished from the prepositional group that represents the clausal A function because the former is often used after the H while the latter is mobile. Nevertheless , neither traditional nor contemporary works of Arabic grammar point to this fact. In fact , they neither distinguish between the two distinct functions realized by this element nor do they suggest that the preposition with its complement realize one function(cf. Ibnu Aqeel , d.769AH:3/15) Compare this pair of examples:

12*. shaahadtu   'adadan min al alawlad.* (I saw a number of boys.)

   V   S

13. *akhathtu   l aqlaama   mina l awlaad.* (I took the pens from the boys.)

V   O   A

The prepositional group in 12 above (*min al awlaad*) works as a Q to the H (*adadan*) since it characterizes the group as being that of boys and not anything else. In Arabic books of grammar , there is no indication that the prepositional group is part of the preceding element (the H) and that it is used just to define it in a particular way. Rather , it is regarded as if it was an adverbial element .As for the prepositional phrase in 13 (*mina l awlaad*) , it denotes the source from which the books were taken (*alawlaad*); therefore , it realizes an adverbial clausal function.

2. 2 Compound Qualifiers

Compound qualifiers can be classified into two types: stative compounds and dynamic compounds.

2. 2. 1 Stative Compounds

There are two categories of stative compounds: stative compound nouns and stative compound adjective.

2. 2. 1. 1 Stative Compound Nouns

Compound nouns are those that can be composed of two nominal parts representing one construction and realizing one function. The first part of the compound can usually be one of the *five nouns* (*akho* (brother of) *, abo* (father of)*, hamo* (kin of) etc.) followed by a common noun as in: *bano aadam* (sons of Adam) , *dho l karam* (source of generosity) , *aal Omran* (the Omrans). In Arabic grammar books ,there is no indication to the argument that the compound noun might function as a postmodifier to the H in a CNG. Rather , that compound noun is regarded as an adjective (ibid:1/45).

Notice the following examples:

14.*ra'aitu l walada dha l sha'ri l ramadi.* (I saw the grey-haired boy.)

      VS   O

15.*waajahna fursaanan uli ba'sin shadeed.* (We fought forceful knights.)

      VS   O

2. 2. 1. 2 Stative Compound Adjectives

A stative compound adjective is made of a predicative adjective followed by a common noun, e.g., *shadeedu l iqaab* (severe in punishment) , *saree'u l badeeha* (witty) ,

ghareebu l atwaar (eccentric), *taweelu l qaama* (tall) . These compound are almost fixed expressions wherein the adjective and the subsequent noun have collocation together as in the following example:

16. *shaahadtutu waladan saree' ul badeeha*. (I saw a witty boy.)

      VS   O

2. 2. 2 Dynamic Compounds

Dynamic compounds are derived from dynamic verbs and they can be classified into two basic types: dynamic compound nouns and dynamic compound adjectives.

2. 2. 2. 1 Dynamic Compound Nouns

Dynamic compound nouns are made of two components; the first is the dynamic noun that is derived from a dynamic verb while the second functions as is its complement. There are three categories of dynamic compound nouns that can be classified according to the type of the derived form: present participles (e.g., *haaris* (guard) , *qaa'id* (leader) **;** place nouns (e.g., *mahbit* (place of landing) *, manzil* (place of living)] and time nouns (e.g., *maw'id* (time of meeting) *, marji'* (time of returning)](See Al Samarraa'i2000:3/117-126). Consider the following example where the dynamic compounds (the derived noun and its complementation) are clearly used as Qs.

17. *shaahadtu l fata haarisa l makaan*. (I saw the boy the guard of the place.)

      VS   O

2. 2. 2. 2 Dynamic Compound Adjectives

A dynamic compound adjective is made of an adjective derived from a dynamic verb and its complementation wherein the dynamic compound adjective works as a postmodifier (Q) to the preceding H. There are three categories of dynamic compound adjectives: past participles (e.g.,*maktoofu l yadain* (with tied hands) *, maftoolu l adhalaat* (with strong muscles); comparative adjectives (e.g., *'ala sha'nan* (with a higher status) *, ashaddu ba'san* (more forceful) and exaggerative adjectives (e.g., *mannaa'un lilkheir* (forbidder of good) *, akkaalun lilsuht* (taker of illegal money)(See Sibaweihe ,d.180AH :1/194-205). According to the present study , the H is more significant than the dynamic compound

adjective that only characterizes it in a particular way ,e.g.,

18. *jaa'a rajulun maftoolu l adhalaat*. (A man with strong muscles came.)

       V   S

19. *haatha l rajulu ashad ba'san min akheeh*. (This man is fiercer than his brother.)

        S   C

3. Arrangement of Modifiers in Complex Nominal Groups

Modifiers (Ds and Qs) of the CNG in Arabic follow a relatively fixed word order and although Arabic is described as being much flexible with regard to word order, the premodifiers and postmodifiers of the H in Arabic CNGs follow a recognized linear arrangement. As far as Ds are concerned, Arabic prefers to locate quantifiers before other types of premodifiers like demonstratives and cardinal numerals. Accordingly, we ought to say *kullu haa'ulaa'i l arba'ati awlaad* or *kullu haa'ulaa'i l awlaadi l arba'a* (all these four boys) but not *haa'ulaa' kullu l awlaadi l arba'a* *. If there is an attributive (preposed) indefinite article or a preposed dependent adjective, it ought to precede all determiners in the CNG. Accordingly, we ought to say *nafsu haa'ulaa' I l arba'ati awlaad* and not any other arrangement. Nevertheless, it must be borne in mind that not all elements of determiners might cooccur in the same CNG. Hence , we can say *siwa ba'dh* (except some) but we can not say **nafsu kul* (same all) since some modifiers do not collocate semantically.

To sum up, the unmarked order of Ds would be as follows:

indefinite articles (or prepositive adjectives) = quantifiers = demonstratives = cardinal numerals. e.g.,

20. *lam ushaahid ahadan siwa ba'dhi haa'ulaa'i l thamaaniyati awlaad.*

(I saw no one but some of these eight boys.)

Either for Qs, they enjoy more flexibility in the CNG structure than Ds although with some restrictions. First, genitive nouns and descriptive nouns tend to precede other postmodifiers in the CNG. Hence, we ought to say *sayyaaratu is'aafin jadeeda* (a new

ambulance) but not *sayyaaratu jadeedatin is'aaf.*

In addition, stative and dynamic compounds tend to occur last in the linear order of Qs and if both exist in the same CNG, stative compounds tend to precede dynamic ones. Furthermore, simple Qs tend to precede compound ones as in the following example:

21.*latusaahiba l rajula l bakheela tha l mizaaji l haad*.

    (Do not befriend the miser and moody person.)

If , however , there is an ordinal numeral and a postpositive adjective , the ordinal numeral ought to precede the postpositive adjective. Hence , we have to say *alnaajihu l awalu l thaki* (the first clever winner) and not *alnaajihu l thakiyu l awal** . Furthermore , genitive nouns and descriptive nouns ought to precede the postpositive adjective. Accordingly , we have to say *kitaabu sadeeqi l jadeed* (my friend's new book/ my new friend's book) and not *kitaabu l jadeedu sadeeqi**. Either for prepositional groups , they often tend to follow postpositive adjectives. Hence , we ought to say *adadun kabeerun mina l awlaad* (a great number of boys).Hence , the unmarked order of Qs in the CNG would be represented as follows:

Simple Qs (descriptive nouns (or genitive nouns) =ordinal numerals= prepositional Groups

=postpositive adjectives}====Compound Qs (stative compounds = dynamic compounds).

4. Conclusions

After discussing premodifiers and postmodifiers of the head in the Arabic complex nominal groups in detail , the following conclusions can be elicited from the study:

1.Arabic contains both simple and complex nominal groups.

2.A complex nominal group in Arabic represents one constituent and realizes one function in the structure of the sentence.

3.Some determiners might sometimes be used as Qs but with certain morphological and morphophonemic changes.

4.Some modifiers ,whether premodifiers or postmodifiers , require concord with the head of the complex nominal group.

5.If the head of the complex nominal group is modified by more than one determiner and/or more than one qualifier , these modifiers should follow a particular linear order in the complex nominal group structure.

6.Some modifiers ,whether determiners or qualifiers) are wrongly treated by traditional grammarians of Arabic under different parts of speech and assigned different functions.

7.Arabic depends on the element's position in the sentence for deciding the important element that takes the clausal main function. Hence , the element that comes first takes the basic grammatical function (S, O ,C..) while the one which follows is usually treated as an additive unimportant element.

8.Prepositional groups may either function as qualifiers or as clausal adverbials. The first function is phrasal where the group postmodifies the head in a complex nominal group while the second is clausal where the group is used as an adverbial describing the verb in a particular way.

9.Some works of traditional Arabic grammar do not make distinctions between parts of speech (classes) and functions in the process of parsing sentences. Accordingly, an adjective, for instance, is given the function "adjective" although *adjective* is a part of speech and not a function*.

10.Since Arabic grammar references do not acknowledge the existence of the group as a separate unit and an independent component in the sentence , there are shifts in units in parsing sentences so that a phrasal element (e.g., a demonstrative) is assigned a clausal function.

11.Some modifiers in the Arabic complex nominal group belong to more than one class of modifiers like the modifier *min* which is used both as an indefinite article (determiner) or as part of a prepositional phrase functioning as a qualifier.

12.A compound qualifier can both be used as a postmodifier of the head or it might itself represent an independent complex nominal

group if the head is missing and, in this case , the first element of the compound takes the head function while the other element functions as its qualifier.

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