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Noun as Modifier in Nominal Group: a Functional Grammar Approach

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Abstract

To get comprehensive understanding about the meaning of a nominal group, we need to study the components forming the nominal group structure. The structure of nominal group consists of Head and Modifier. Head is the matter being talked, and it is realized by noun. Modifiers are words which modify the Head, and they are realized by word classes of determiner, numeral, adjective, and noun. Noun as a Head in nominal group is a rule as the theory says nominal group is a group of words with a noun as the headword, but noun as a modifier word deserves researching. The objective of this paper is to know the function and the meanings of noun as modifying component in nominal group structure. To obtain the function and the meanings of it, the theories of Functional Grammar are used, since the theories discuss the structure of nominal group comprehensively. The method used in this research is the qualitative method. The results of this research are noun as modifier has function to classify the Thing into its subclass, then it is labeled as Classifier, and the meanings expressed by classifier are expressing purpose and function, status, scope, mode of operation, and origin.

Keywords: *noun, nominal group, modifier.*

1. Introduction

This subchapter describes the reasons choosing noun as modifier in nominal group: a functional grammar approach and explains the argumentation taking a functional grammar approach for the research. The first reason is the existence of noun functioning as modifier in nominal group. Noun is the main word in nominal group, since it is as the topic being talked or discussed. A noun can stand alone as a nominal group without any modifying words, but it rarely occurs. In nominal group, a noun is commonly preceded or followed by other words functioning as modifiers. For example, *high interest rates on savings accounts*, the nominal group has *rates* as the main word and *high*, *interest*, *on savings accounts* as modifiers. Noun as the main word in nominal group is usually modified by determiner, numeral, adjective, and noun. However, we can find noun is modified by noun, as in the example of *internet banking*, the nominal group consists of two nouns, the first noun is *banking* as the main word and the second noun is *internet* as modifier of *banking*. Based on Functional Grammar, those nouns *internet* and *banking* have different functions. The writer here intends to find out the functions of the nouns.

The second reason is to know the meaning of noun as modifier in nominal group. According to Functional Grammar, each component forming a nominal group has function. When nouns function as modifier, what meanings they express. For example, *internet banking* means *banking which is operated by internet*.

The third reason is why the writer chooses functional grammar to analyze her research. Noun as modifier can be analyzed by either traditional grammar approach or functional grammar approach. However, the writer decides to use functional grammar. It is due to the reasons that functional grammar sees the grammar comprehensively. It does not only concern with the rules of the structures and the forms of the words, but it also concerns with the meaning.

Nominal group is a group of words which has a noun as the headword. Group is used here as there are groups of words. Nominal itself is labeled because it denotes a wider class of phenomena more than the term noun. A nominal group is built up by several classes of word, such as noun, adjective, verb, numeral, determiner, and preposition. Those words have function to modify the headword noun, and they have position which can precede and follow the headword. When the position comes before the headword, it is called premodifier, but when the position comes after the headword, it is called postmodifier.

A nominal group structure may have one word only or more than one word. The simplest structure consists of one word, that is a noun itself without any modification, usually it realized by common noun, proper noun, or pronoun, for example: *steps*, the nominal group has only a headword. Then, we often find a slightly complicated structure, for example: *the steps*, the nominal group has a headword and a premodifier. And the last there is a long and complicated structure, for example: *the three important working steps on the path*, the nominal group has a headword, four words as premodifiers [8-10], and a postmodifier.

To get thorough understanding about the structure of nominal group, we need to analyze the structures of nominal group. According to [5] tells that in interpreting group structure we have to split the ideational metafunction into two modes of construing experience: experiential and logical.

Experiential structure gives explanation about specifying a headword or labeled as Thing and described the functions of the elements which accompany the Thing in a nominal group. As written by [5] that an experiential structure has the function of specifying of a class of Thing and some category of membership within this class. Based on experiential structure, nominal group consist of five elements which have function to specify the Thing. After knowing the functions of each element in the structure of nominal group, the meaning of nominal group as a whole will be easy to be

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understood.
In experiential structure, nominal group has six elements. The elements are Deictic, Numerative, Epithet, Classifier, Thing and Qualifier. The functional elements express a potential specifying in the nominal group. The progression starts from the elements that have successively less identifying increasing to items that have permanent identifying as attributes. The modification occurs from the left to the right. First element is Deictic, then followed by Numerative, the next is Epithet, and the closest to the main word called the thing is Classifier. The most permanent element is the Thing itself. After the Thing, there is another modification named Qualifier. The figure below shows the ordering of modification of nominal group taken from [5].

Table 1: The experiential structure of nominal group

those	deictic	determiner
two	numerative	numeral
splendid	epithet	adjective
old	epithet	adjective
electric	classifier	adjective
trains	thing	noun
with pantographs	qualifier	prepositional phrase

The element which follows the Thing is Qualifier. Qualifier is performed by a prepositional phrase or relative clause. Prepositional phrase has form preposition followed by nominal group. A clause functioning as Qualifier is referred to as a relative clause, especially, as a defining relative clause, for example, *the children wearing blue hat*, the relative clause *wearing blue hat* is a non-finite clause, we can say *the children who are wearing blue hat*, the relative clause *who are wearing blue hat* is finite clause. In [5] say that the Qualifier has function of characterizing the Thing.
According to [1], the sixth function in the nominal group is Qualifier. This is the experiential label for the postmodifier, for example, *the electrical resistance of the insulation* where *resistance* is Thing, and *of the insulation* is Qualifier. In [7] state that modification after the Thing (post-modification). This is called Qualifier. Qualifiers provide additional defining or circumstantial information about the Thing. A Qualifier is almost always a prepositional phrase or a relative clause, and is an example of embedding.

2. Methodology

The method applied in this research is the qualitative method, in which the research based on descriptive data. Due to that, there are several steps taken to conduct this research concerning the method and technique of data collecting and the method and study technique. Data are taken from a book entitled *"Check Your English Vocabulary for Banking and Finance"* written by Jon Marks, published by A and C Black Publishers Ltd in Great Britain 2007. There are two reasons motivating the writer chooses the book to gain the data. The first reason, the writer teaches students of Banking and Finance. She must be familiar and know the vocabulary or terms used in the field of Banking and Finance; then she will be shared to her students in the class. And the second reason, there are a lot of terms used in Banking and Finance in the form of nominal group consisting of noun as
The primary objectives of this research are to analyze and describe:
1. The function of noun as modifier nominal group.
2. The meanings of nouns as modifiers in nominal group.

There are several theories used in this research. The grand theory is from [5]. And the supporting theories are from [1-3, 6-7]. Functional Grammar (FG) is proposed by [4]. It emphasizes on the way of looking at grammar in terms of how grammar is used. FG considers language as an element of two larger levels of contexts. First, context of culture, which is a more general and abstract kind of context, is manifested in the *genre*. Second, the context of situation, which is more specific and localized context, is manifested in the *register*. Register has three elements, *field* is language used to represent experience, *tenor* is language is used to interact with others, and *mode* is language used to create organized and cohesive text.
The three elements are manifested in the discourse semantic level of language analysis with three kinds of meaning or 'metafunctions'. Field is realized by *ideational* metafunction. Tenor is realized by *interpersonal* metafunction. Mode is realized by *textual* metafunction. In lexicogrammatical level, each of the three metafunction is realized into three particular lexicogrammar structures. The ideational metafunction is realized into the *transitivity* structure of grammar. The interpersonal metafunction is realized into the *mood* structure of grammar. The textual metafunction is realized into *thematic* structure of grammar. Transitivity structure focuses on the process types. Mood structure looks at the role of modality. Thematic structure examines the two elements of a message organization: Theme and Rheme.
The principle of transitivity is process types. The processes of transitivity are explaining the 'goings-on'. There are three components contained in a process, those are the process itself is typically realized by verbal group, participants in the process typically realized by nominal group, circumstances associated with the process typically realized by adverbial group or prepositional phrase. The processes and participants are the major system in transitivity structure while circumstances are the minor system in the sense that this system does not necessarily exist. Transitivity analysis includes analysis of groups and phrases. The three main classes of group: nominal group, verbal group and adverbial group. In terms of clause structure, nominal group serves as Subject or Complement, verbal group as Finite + Predicator, and adverbial groups as Adjunct. In terms of experiential structure, nominal groups serve in participant roles, verbal groups as Process, and adverbial groups in circumstance roles.

3. Results and discussion

Nouns functioning as classifier express purpose and function. The classifiers have meanings of the special purpose or activity for which a thing exists or is used.
… and of course you'll receive a cheque book and a debit card within a few days of opening your account.
Analysis:
The nominal groups having classifier and analyzed in the clause above is *a debit card within a few days*.
The analysis of the nominal group structure:

Table 2: Nominal Group Structure

	A	*Debit*	*Card*	*Within a Few Day*
Logical Structure	Premodifiers		Head	Postmodifier
Experiential Structure	Deictic	Classifier	Thing	Qualifier
Realization	Determiner	Noun	Noun	Prepositional Phrase

In terms of logical structure, the nominal group has *a* and *debit* as Premodifiers as they precede the Head, *within a few day* as Postmodifier as it comes after the Head, and *card* as Head as it is the word modified in the group. In terms of experiential structure, the nominal group has functional elements: *a* functions as Deictic as it identifies the Thing, *debit* functions as Classifier as it classifies *card*, we can ask with the question, 'what kind of card?' the answer is *debit card*, *card* functions as Thing as it is a matter being talked, and *within a few day* functions as Qualifier as it gives additional information about the Thing. The realization of the functions: *a* is realized by Determiner, *debit* is realized by Noun, *card* is realized by Noun, and *within a few day* is realized by Prepositional Phrase.
Debit functions as Classifier since *debit* puts *card* into a subclass of card; it distinguishes *card* from other kinds of cards such as *credit card*, *identity card*, *student card*, etc. *Debit* becomes a set

with *card* expressing purpose and function. *Debit card* can be interpreted card which is used to make automatic withdrawals from a bank account.

3.1. Status

James Edwards, chief executive of the market leaders City and Provincial Building Society …
Analysis:
The nominal groups having classifier and analyzed in the clause above is *chief executive of the market leader*.
The analysis of the nominal group structure:

Table 3: Nominal Group Structure

	Chief	*Executive*	*Of the Market Leader*
Logical Structure	Premodifier	Head	Postmodifier
Experiential Structure	Classifier	Thing	Qualifier
Realization	Noun	Noun	Prepositional Phrase

In terms of logical structure, the nominal group has *chief* as Premodifier as it precedes *executive* as the Head, *of the market leader* as Postmodifier as it comes after the Head, and *executive* as Head as it is the word modified in the group.
In terms of experiential structure, the nominal group has functional elements: *chief* functions as Classifier as it classifies *executive*; we can ask with the question, 'what kind of executive?' The answer is *chief executive*, *executive* functions as Thing as it is a matter being talked, and *of the market leader* functions as Qualifier as it gives additional information about the Thing.
The realization of the functions: *chief* is realized by Noun, *executive* is realized by Noun, and *of the market leader* is realized by Prepositional Phrase. *Chief* functions as Classifier since *chief* puts *executive* into a subclass of executive, it distinguishes executive from other kinds of executives, such as, *sales executive, director executive, manager executive,* etc. *Chief* becomes a set with *executive* expressing status. *Chief executive* can be interpreted executive which position is the highest.
The offer price depends on the bidder being able to buy enough shares to gain a controlling interest in *the target company.*
Analysis:
The nominal groups having classifier and analyzed in the clause above is *the target company.*
The analysis of the nominal group structure:

Table 4: Nominal Group Structure

	The	*Target*	*Company*
Logical Structure	Premodifier		Head
Experiential Structure	Deictic	Classifier	Thing
Realization	Determiner	Noun	Noun

In terms of logical structure, the nominal group has *the* and *target* as Premodifier as they precede *company* as the Head, and *company* as Head as it is the word modified in the group.
In terms of experiential structure, the nominal group has functional elements: *the* functions as Deictic as it identifies the Thing, *target* functions as Classifier as it classifies *company*; we can ask with the question, 'what kind of company?' the answer is *target company*, and *target* functions as Thing as it is a matter being talked.
The realization of the functions: *the* is realized by Determiner, *target* is realized by Noun, and *company* is realized by Noun. *Target* functions as Classifier since *t*arget puts *company* into a subclass of company, it distinguishes *company* from other kinds of companies. *Target* becomes a set with *company* expressing status. *Target company c*an be interpreted company which is selected than others.

3.2. Scope

Nouns functioning as Classifier express scope. The classifiers have meaning of the things that deal with. There are … data. The writer took 3 data randomly from the collected data to be analyzed and described below:
Statistically, in fact, conventional banking activities carry a higher risk of fraud than Internet banking – simple credit card fraud and various forms of identity theft are far more widespread.
Analysis:
The nominal groups having classifier and analyzed in the clause above is *conventional banking activities*.
The analysis of the nominal group structure:

Table 5: Nominal Group Structure

	Conventional	*Banking*	*Activities*
Logical Structure	Premodifiers		Head
Experiential Structure	Classifier	Classifier	Thing
Realization	Adjective	Noun	Noun

In terms of logical structure, the nominal group has *conventional* and *banking* as Premodifiers as they precede *activities* as the Head, and *activities* as Head as it is the word modified in the group. In terms of experiential structure, the nominal group has functional elements: *conventional* functions as Classifier as it classifies *banking*, we can ask with the question, 'what kind of banking?' The answer is *conventional banking*; *banking* functions as Classifier as it classifies *activities*; we can ask with the question, 'what kind of activities?' the answer is *banking activities*, and *activities* functions as Thing as it is a matter being talked.
The realization of the functions: *conventional* is realized by adjective, *banking* is realized by Noun, and *activities* is realized by Noun. *Banking* functions as Classifier since *banking* puts *activity* into a subclass of activity; it distinguishes activity from other kinds of activities, such as *school activities, class activities, house activities*, etc.
This can be risky, as the exporter trusts the buyer to respect the original sales contract.
Analysis:
The nominal groups having classifier and analyzed in the clause above is *the original sales contract*.
The analysis of the nominal group structure:

Table 6: Nominal Group Structure

	The	*Original*	*Sales*	*Contract*
Logical Structure	Premodifiers			Head
Experiential Structure	Deictic	Classifier	Classifier	Thing
Realization	Determiner	Adjective	Noun	Noun

In terms of logical structure, the nominal group has *the, original* and *sales* as Premodifiers as they precede *contract* as the Head, and *contract* as Head as it is the word modified in the group.
In terms of experiential structure, the nominal group has functional elements: *the* functions as Deictic as it identifies the Thing *contract*; *original* and *sales* function as Classifiers as they classify the Thing *contract*, we can ask with the question, 'what kind of contract?' the answer is *sales contract*, 'what kind of sales contract?' the answer is *original sales contract*; and *contract* functions as Thing as it is a matter being talked.
The realization of the functions: *the* is realized by Determiner, *original* is realized by Adjective, *sales* is realized by Noun, and *contract* is realized by Noun. *Sales* functions as Classifier since *sales* puts *contact* into a subclass of contract; it distinguishes contract from other kinds of contracts. *Sales* becomes a set with *contract* expressing scope. *Sales contract* can be interpreted contract which deals with sales.

3.3. Mode of operation

Nouns functioning as Classifier express mode of operation. The classifiers have meaning of how the things work.
Data about each sale is entered via barcode scanners, keyboards or touch screens.
Analysis:
The nominal groups having classifier and analyzed in the clause above is *touch screen*.
The analysis of the nominal group structure:

Table 7: Nominal Group Structure

	Touch	*Screen*
Logical Structure	Premodifier	Head
Experiential Structure	Classifier	Thing
Realization	Noun	Noun

In terms of logical structure, the nominal group has *touch* as Premodifier as it precedes *screen* as the Head, *screen* as Head as it is the word modified in the group. In terms of experiential structure, the nominal group has functional elements: *touch* functions as Classifier as it classifies *screen*, we can ask with the question, 'what kind of screen?' the answer is *touch screen*; and *screen* functions as Thing as it is a matter being talked. The realization of the functions: *touch* is realized by Noun, and *screen* is realized by Noun. *Touch* functions as Classifier since *touch* puts *screen* into a subclass of screen; it distinguishes *screen* from other kinds of screens. *Touch* becomes a set with *screen* expressing mode of operation. *Touch screen* can be interpreted screen which can be operated by touching it.
Customers with facilities for internet banking (also known as online banking) can use their bank's or building society's website to carry out payments and …
Analysis:
The nominal groups having classifier and analyzed in the clause above is *internet banking*.
The analysis of the nominal group structure:

Table 8: Nominal Group Structure

	Internet	*Banking*
Logical Structure	Premodifier	Head
Experiential Structure	Classifier	Thing
Realization	Noun	Noun

In terms of logical structure, the nominal group has *internet* as Premodifier as it precedes *banking* as the Head, *banking* as Head as it is the word modified in the group. In terms of experiential structure, the nominal group has functional elements: *internet* functions as Classifier as it classifies *banking*, we can ask with the question, 'what kind of banking?' the answer is *internet banking*; and *banking* functions as Thing as it is a matter being talked.
The realization of the functions: *internet* is realized by Noun, and *banking* is realized by Noun. *Internet* functions as Classifier since *internet* puts *banking* into a subclass of banking; it distinguishes *banking* from other kinds of banking. *Internet* becomes a set with *banking* expressing mode of operation. *Internet banking* means banking service which can be operated by using internet connection. Shootemup is a developer of *computer games.*
Analysis:
The nominal groups having classifier and analyzed in the clause above is *computer games*.
The analysis of the nominal group structure:

Table 9: Nominal Group Structure

	Computer	*Games*
Logical Structure	Premodifier	Head
Experiential Structure	Classifier	Thing
Realization	Noun	Noun

In terms of logical structure, the nominal group has *computer* as Premodifier as it precedes *games* as the Head, *banking* as Head as it is the word modified in the group.
In terms of experiential structure, the nominal group has functional elements: *computer* functions as Classifier as it classifies *games*, we can ask with the question, 'what kind of games?' the answer is *computer games*; and *games* functions as Thing as it is a matter being talked.
The realization of the functions: *computer* is realized by Noun, and *games* is realized by Noun. *Computer* functions as Classifier since *computer* puts *games* into a subclass of games; it distinguishes *games* from other kinds of games. *Computer* becomes a set with *games* expressing mode of operation. *Computer games* can be interpreted games which can be played by using computer.

3.4. Origin

Nouns functioning as Classifier express status. The classifiers have meaning of where the things come from. There are … data. The writer took 3 data randomly from the collected data to be analyzed and described below:
A response from the London Board of Businesses and Exporters described the move as premature, …
Analysis:
The nominal groups having classifier and analyzed in the clause above is *the London Board of Businesses and Exporters*.
The analysis of the nominal group structure:

Table 10: Nominal Group Structure

	the	*London*	*Board*	*of Businesses and Exporters*
Logical Structure	Premodifier		Head	Postmodifier
Experiential Structure	Deictic	Classifier	Thing	Qualifier
Realization	Determiner	Noun	Noun	Prepositional Phrase

In terms of logical structure, the nominal group has *the, London* as Premodifiers as it precedes *Board* as the Head, and *of Businesses and Exporters* as Postmodifier as it follows *Board*, and *Board* as Head as it is the word modified in the group.
In terms of experiential structure, the nominal group has functional elements; *the* functions as Deictic as it identifies *Board*, London functions as Classifier as it classifies *Board*, we can ask with the question, 'which Board?' the answer is *London Board*, *Board* functions as Thing as it is a matter being talked, and *of Businesses and Exporters* functions as Qualifier as it gives additional information about the Thing.
The realization of the functions: *the* is realized by Determiner, *London* is realized by Noun, *Board* is realized by Noun, and *of the Businesses and Exporters* is realized by Prepositional Phrase. *London* functions as Classifier since *London* puts *Board* into a subclass of Board; it distinguishes *Board* from other kinds of Boards, such as, *Tokyo Board, Paris Board, Jakarta Board,* etc. *London* becomes a set with *Board* expressing origin. *London Board* can be interpreted Board which derives from London.
When Ian Barlow paid for a restaurant meal, the waiter took his credit card away for several minutes.
Analysis:
The nominal groups having classifier and analyzed in the clause above is *a restaurant meal*.
The analysis of the nominal group structure:

Table 11: Nominal Group Structure

	A	*Restaurant*	*Meal*
Logical Structure	Premodifier		Head
Experiential Structure	Deictic	Classifier	Thing
Realization	Determiner	Noun	Noun

In terms of logical structure, the nominal group has *a* and restaurant as Premodifiers as they precede *meal* as the Head, *meal* as Head as it is the word modified in the group.
In terms of experiential structure, the nominal group has functional elements: *a* functions as Deictic as it identifies the Thin, *restau-*

rant functions as Classifier as it classifies *meal*; we can ask with the question, 'which meal?' the answer is *restaurant meal*; and *meal* functions as Thing as it is a matter being talked. *Restaurant* functions as Classifier since *restaurant* puts *meal* into a subclass of meal; it distinguishes meal from other kinds of meals. *Restaurant* becomes a set with *meal* expressing origin. *Restaurant meal* can be interpreted meal which derives from restaurant.

4. Conclusion

Having finished doing the research, it can be drawn conclusion that noun as modifier in nominal group has function to classify or to put the Thing into its subclass, so that it is labelled as Classifier. Classifier has several meanings, they are as follows: the first is Classifier expresses purpose and function; the second is Classifier expresses status; the third is Classifier expresses scope; the fourth is Classifier expresses mode of operation; and the fifth is Classifier expresses origin.

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