Function and Position of Noun phrases in English and Kurdish

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ABSTRACT

Nouns are open class items. They have different positions and functions in both languages English and Kurdish. Learners of English have problems with regard to nouns, their classes, and their phrase patterns. It may seem very easy that a Kurdish learner of English know what a noun is. But when the time comes to build on that knowledge to construct noun forms such as noun phrases and their role in the sentence, it becomes clear that the foundation to build on may be shaky and learners may have problems. These problems have been ever since areas of challenge in teaching them. So these problems involve teachers as well. Amongst the factors of these difficulties is the mother tongue interference. The present study attempts to make clear the role of noun phrases in the two languages. This research aims to answer the questions: What are the functions and positions of noun phrases in the two languages? and; Are there similarities and differences as far as nouns and their functions and positions are concerned in both languages? This research has pedagogical significance since it helps linguists and teachers of both languages know the points of similarities and differences of noun phrases in different positions and functions in the two languages.

Key Words: Function, Position, Noun Phrase, Difference, Similarity

1. INTRODUCTION

Nouns, from the traditional perspective, are said to have the semantic property that they denote entities. Thus bottle is the type of object used to contain liquids. According to Murcia and Freeman (2002: 15) even in identifying standard parts of speech, one may face difficulty for example a noun is "the name of a person, place or thing". This definition works for the nouns Kevin, Cincinnati, and book, but it becomes problematic when we think about a word such as force. Nouns, semantically defined, are the names of a person, place or thing. Some linguists account for abstract nouns and define them as names of idea such as freedom, life and happiness, or names of activities like swimming, reading, smoking... etc. (Ibid)

A simple noun is a minimal unit that is unbreakable into smaller units for example, a simple noun like pen is unbreakable because it is one morpheme. On the other hand, the same noun may have
two morphemes like *pens*. So there are two morphemes to mark simple countable nouns; *pen* and *s*. Another inflectional morpheme is possessive ’s which can be added to a noun. Sometimes nouns can be formed by attaching the derivational morphemes to adjectives like *sadness* and they acquire all the properties of a noun. (Ibid)

Nouns are divided into classes. They can be divided into: common or proper, concrete or abstract, collective, individual and mass. Sometimes a noun like *Richard* is called a proper noun, while a noun like *hospital* is called a common noun. Another classification of nouns is count and non-count nouns. A noun like *book* is a count noun whereas *bread* is non-count. (Quirk, R. et. al.1987: 720)

A noun phrase is a group of words with a noun as its main part or head. Information about the noun can be before or after the noun. (Cullen & Hopkins, 2007:99)

**Linear Sequence of Main Sentence Elements in English and Kurdish Sentences:**

All languages have the three main elements: subject (S), verb (V) and object (O). So languages can have the following possible word orders:

I. SOV  
II. SVO  
III. OSV  
IV. VOS  
V. OVS  
VI. VSO

Modern English is an analytical language. It is an example of SVO word order. The grammatical principle, in English, enforces the linear sequence subject (S), verb (V), object (O), complement (C), and adverbial (A). Thus English sentences observe the grammatical principle without violating the linearity principle. (Chamonikolasova, Volume 35, No.2, 2009). The basic sentence elements contain a subject which is immediately followed by a verb and the other sentence elements occur after the verb. Elements like adverbials when they are not obligatory can precede the subject. (Quirk, et.al, 1987:720-21) The following patterns are the possible linear sequences of English simple sentences:

I. SV  
II. SVO  
III. SVC  
IV. SVA  
V. SVOO  
VI. SVOC  
VII. SVOA
On the other hand, Kurdish language is one of the languages that yield to SOV word order. From the syntactic perspective, if a sentence is regarded as the biggest unit, and analyze its components according to their functions, a Kurdish sentence can have the following five possible patterns: (Fattah, M.M, 1997: 246)

I. SV  
II. SOV  
III. SCV  
IV. SOVC  
V. SOCV

**Nouns and noun phrases:**

Sequences of words that can function as constituents in the structure of sentences are called PHRASES.” (Burton-Roberts, 1997, p. 14). On the other hand, to understand the structure of a sentence needs not only knowing its constituents, but also involves knowing the category and the function of the categories. A phrase consists of one or more words that do not contain the subject-verb pair needed to form a clause. Phrases can be too short or rather long. (Simmons: 2014) A noun phrase is the phrase that the entire word group is governed by a noun. In other words, a noun phrase is the phrase that its head is a noun. Obvious noun phrase modifiers are determiners, quantifiers, adjectives and adjective phrases and clauses, nouns and noun phrases, and adpositions. (Miller and Brown, 1999 :260)

*the baby*
*the lovely baby*
*the lovely smart baby*
*the lovely smart green-eyed baby*
*the lovely smart green-eyed baby who is crawling towards us*

The above examples show that a phrase can be expanded into a very long phrase, even longer than this, but the most important part of it is the noun baby which is called the *head*. A noun phrase can be substituted by a pronoun, for example, the above noun phrases can be substituted by *he/she* or *it* if they act as subjects, but if they have the function of an object, they can be substituted by *him/her* or *it*.

*The lovely smart green-eyed baby who is crawling towards us* is my nephew.  
This sentence is equal to:  
*He/ She / It* is my nephew.

*Do you know the lovely smart green-eyed baby who is crawling towards us?*  
*Do you know him/her/it?*

The possible pattern of any English and Kurdish noun phrase is:

`(pre modifier(s) (optional))  (Noun (obligatory)) (post modifier(s))`
In Kurdish, as in the above example, adjectives most commonly occur as post modifier of the noun head. The definite and indefinite articles in Kurdish are not free morphemes. They are bound morphemes and attached to the end of the noun.

In English, however, adjectives are not very common in post-head complementation as in pre-head modification. Post modification of indefinite pronouns, however, like (somebody, everybody...) is more usual. An example of post complementation is useful, for example, in something useful. It comes as post modifier of the indefinite pronoun something. Other exceptions are present, proper and some adjectives ending in –able and –ible have different connotations when used predicatively, as in “the present members” compared with “the members present”. Likewise, some (a-jectives) like (available, ablaze, afloat, absent, etc.) as well as concerned and involved do not usually occur attributively (pre-head modification). (Quirk, et.al, 1987:721)

To understand the structure of any sentence syntactically, one should know the structure of the phrases and the function of these phrases:

(This pill) (will take away) (the pain) (temporarily).

NP VP NP AdvP
S V Od A

The symbols NP indicate noun phrase, VP stands for verb phrase and AdvP represents adverb phrase. On the other hand, these phrases have syntactic names, for example S is subject, V is the verb, Od is direct object and A is adverb, here adverb of manner.

**Function and position of Noun Phrases within a Sentence:**

Noun phrases function as arguments of the predicates. Hence, noun phrase arguments are classified according to their semantic and syntactic functions. Semantically, noun phrases are named according to their semantic roles such as; agent, theme, goal, experience ...etc. These semantic terms are based due to the syntactic role of these noun phrases in addition to the type of the verb. Syntactic functions are often known as grammatical relations. (Tallerman, 1998: 39-40 )There are ten syntactic functions that an NP may have in all sentences:

1. Subject
2. Subject complement
3. Direct object
4. Indirect object
5. Object complement
6. Prepositional complement
7. Noun phrase modifier
8. Determinative
9. Appositive
10. Adverbial

1. Subject:

In English, subjects precede verbs and it is one of the ways to talk about subjects in this language. (Tallerman, 1998: 41). In some languages like English as well as Kurdish they are preverbal NP. In Kurdish, on the other hand, the subject of the intransitive verbs is the only NP that comes before verbs. The NP, in both languages, is the subject participant of the intransitive verb such as:

*The birds flew.* (*the birds* is an NP and it is subject)  (English)

*Bâlindakân frîn.* (*Bâlindakân* is an NP and it is subject)  (Kurdish)

The subject, in English as well as Kurdish, controls subject/verb agreement. This is one of the properties of subjects. They determine whether the verb must be singular or plural. This confirms that they are defined by their syntactic properties and not by their semantic properties. The subject of a passive sentence is a syntactic subject, but semantically it is an object. Still it determines the plurality and singularity of the verb.

*The girl sells flowers.* (*the girl* is a singular NP and its verb *sells* is singular) (active)

*Flowers are sold by the girl.* (*flowers* is syntactic subject and it is plural and still it controls the verb to be plural) (passive)

*Kichaka gulakân dafroshêt.* (*kichaka* is a singular NP and its verb *dafroshet* is singular) (active)

*Gûlakân dafroshrên.* (*Gûlakân* is a plural NP and its verb *dafroshrên* is plural) (passive)

In Kurdish, in a sentence there may be two NPs as subject:

*Êma, dastmân ška.* (*Êma, dustman are two NPs as subject*)

*Awân xoyân hâtin.* (*Awân, xoyân are two NPs as subject*)

*Čirâka xoy dâgirsâ.* (*Čirâka, xoy are two NPs as subject*)

2. Subject Complement:
The complement of an intensive verb functions as predicative. In English, the complement can take the form of an adjective phrase, noun phrase, and prepositional phrase. Verb to *be* is an intensive verb, which in syntactical category is called *copula*. (Burton- Roberts, N., 1997: 85-86)

*Your brother is rather extravagant.* (rather extravagant is an AP)

*Your brother is an actor.* (an actor is an NP)

*Your brother is in the studio.* (in the studio is a PP)

\[
\begin{align*}
S & \quad NP \quad VP \\
    & \quad D \quad N \quad V \quad NP \\
    & \quad D \quad N \\
\end{align*}
\]

In English, *be* is the most frequent verb that has more distinct forms with respect to person, number, and tense than any other verb. Verbs like; *become, seem, sound, appear, remain, look, taste, feel, smell,* and *turn* take the predicative as complement, just like *be*. These verbs are called linking verbs. Most of these copular verbs can be followed by an AP only except for those copulas which denote a change-of-state *become, turn*. When an NP is a predicative of these verbs, they are called *Subject Complement*: (Celce-Murcia, M. and Larsen-Freeman, D., 1999) (54-55)

*Your brother is an actor.* (an actor is an NP which is a Subject complement)

*Your brother became an actor.* (an actor is an NP which is a Subject complement)

*The crew turned traitor.* (traitor is an NP which is a subject complement)

In Kurdish, verb to *be* is *bû* (for past) or (with the aid of personal pronoun Ø+ -*a* for present which, when it is the main verb or copula, needs an NP or AP as predicative complements:

*Piawaka âzâya.* (âzâya is AP as subject complement)

*Piawaka pêşmargaya.* (pêşmargaya is NP as subject complement)

The morpheme –a is the present tense marker. (Abdullah, Rožân Noori, 2007:102). It is too weak to appear; only it is possible to appear with third person singular.

The noun in the NP as complement should be used as a general noun when it refers to job or profession: (Wilia, Hatim, 2013: 216)

*Nâzdar qutabia.* (qutabi. is NP as subject complement)
Kičakam mâmostaya. (mâmosta is NP as subject complement)

Aw hâwrêyânâm kûrdn. (kûrd is NP as subject complement)

In Kurdish the verb that corresponds the meaning of *became* or *turned* has the form of (*bû+ personal pronoun suffix+ -a*). However, the present form is *da+ b(stem of bûn)+personal pronoun suffix+-a*:

Kičakam bû ba mâmosta. (mâmosta is NP as subject complement for the verb *bû ba* -past.)

Kičakam dabêta mâmosta..(mâmosta is NP as subject complement for the verb *dabêta* for present and future).

When the main verb is verb to *be* in Kurdish (*habûn*), its stem disappears and becomes Ø morpheme for present tenses in imperative, interrogative, and exclamatory sentences. Personal pronoun suffixes appear to agree with the subject in person and number. (Rasoul, Abdullah, 2015:443)

Min mâmostam. (–m is a personal pronoun and agrees with *min*)

To mâmostait. (–it is a personal pronoun refers to *you* (singular))

Aw mâmostaya. (-ya is a personal pronoun refers to He/ She)

Êma mâmostayn. (-yn is a personal pronoun refers to *us*)

Êwa mâmostan. (-n is a personal pronoun refers to *you* (plural))

Awân mâmostan. (-n is a personal pronoun refers to *them*)

3. Direct object:

A direct object is that part of sentence which completes the action of the verb. (Dykes, Barbera, 2007:97) A noun phrase can have the function of a direct object of the transitive verbs, mono and ditransitive. Direct object semantically has three names: resultant, cognate and affected as well as locative, instrumental, and eventive. (Quirk, et.al, 1987:749). In English, which is an SVO language, direct object comes after the verb, if the verb is monotransitive:

*Julia cooked pancakes. (pancakes is an NP has the function of direct object)*

*The maid has fed the chicks. (the chicks is an NP has the function of direct object)*

*The government had reconstructed the old stadium.* (the old stadium is an NP has the function of direct object)
The difference between direct and indirect object is clearer in terms of order. Usually, in English, a direct object follows the indirect object whenever there is no preposition.

*I have sent you the e-mail.* (*the e-mail* is direct object which follows *you*)

When the indirect object, semantically recipient tells *to whom, for whom, and of whom*, the indirect object comes after these prepositions.

*I have sent the e-mail.* (*for you, to you, of you*)

Direct objects don’t necessarily agree with the subject in number, person and gender only when the direct object is reflexive pronoun. As Shwani (2008: 99) states that Kurdish language is an SOV language, so the verb comes at the end of the sentence and direct object precedes the verb. Direct objects come only with the transitive verbs, whereas indirect objects come with transitive and intransitive verbs also.

In English, when a sentence is made passive, the subject is obligatorily omitted and the verb changes its form to *be+ pp* and the direct object is moved to the subject position. In passive sentences, the direct object, in syntactic terminology, is called grammatical or syntactical subject. There is no specified passive form of the verb in English. It can only be detected by the passive construction *be+ p.p.* (Tallerman, Maggie, 1998: 180)

*Someone has stolen my contact-lenses.* (*my contact-lenses* is an NP as direct object- active)

*My contact –lenses have been stolen.* (*My contact –lenses* is an NP as grammatical or syntactic subject-passive.)
In Kurdish, direct objects come after subjects and sometimes sentences come without subjects at the beginning but it is understood by the personal pronoun suffix that comes with the direct object:

Min čĕštakam lĕnâ.
Čĕštakam lĕnâ. (agentless sentence)(Čĕštaka is an NP as direct object)

In Kurdish, there are verbs that are not simple and the noun that precedes them can be regarded as the subject and not direct object because they have an idiomatic meaning. (Fattah, M., 2010: 254-255)

Zimân drĕz maka. ( The noun Zimân is the subject )
Čăwyan pĕi kawt. ( The noun Čăwyan is the subject )
Gwĕi šor kird. ( The noun Gwĕi is the subject )
dĬi pîs bû. ( The noun dĬi is the subject )

Other verbs that are not simple are preceded by nouns, which are expected to be direct objects, but actually they are subjects.(Ibid)

Šûšaka drzî bird. (the noun Šûšaka comes before the verb and is subject and not direct object)
Čirăka dăgirzâ. (the noun Čirăka comes before the verb and is subject and not direct object)

As cited in (Faraj, MA thesis, 2009:60) passive construction is described in morphological terms. It is only obtained through transitive verbs. When a sentence is made passive, the passive element –r is added with the aid of tense markers –ă for past and –ĕ for present. So ră is for past passive and rĕ is for present passive:

Piawaka dărakanî sûtand. (active -dărakan is an NP as direct object)
Dărakân sû tenure. (passive- Dărakan is an NP and is a grammatical subject and logical object, ră is past passive marker )
Azăd širakay hĕnâ.
Šîraka hĕnri. ( passive- Šîraka is grammatical subject and logical object, ră is past passive marker)

Galâwĕž mâfur dačĕnêt.
Măfuraka dačĕnret. (Măfuraka is grammatical subject and logical object, rĕ is present passive marker)

When the subject is mentioned, in English, the subject occurs after the preposition by. In Kurdish, on the other hand, the subject is preceded by la;ayan , ba dasti:

In English as well as Kurdish, when the direct object is a reflexive pronoun, passive is not allowed:
The men defended themselves. (active)
*Themselves are defended. (passive)
Piawakan xoyan părăst.(active)
*Xoyân părăzrân. (passive)
4. Indirect object:

Indirect object was traditionally defined as the second noun object that tells us to whom, for whom or of whom the action is expressed. It occurs when there is a direct object. (Celce-Murcia, M. and Larsen-Freeman, D., 1999) In English, indirect object occurs with ditransitive verbs. The indirect object is possible with the recipient NP in immediate post verbal position as well as after prepositions (to, for, of):

Anna gave Kate a present. (Kate is indirect object)
Anna made Kate a present. (Kate is indirect object)
Anna asked Kate a question. (Kate is indirect object)
Anna gave a present to Kate. (Kate is indirect object)
Anna made a present for Kate. (Kate is indirect object)
Anna asked a question of Kate. (Kate is indirect object)

In Kurdish, however, the structure which contains prepositionless indirect object may cause difficulties since indirect object comes always after the prepositions ba, bo or (ya or -y). It comes with the transitive and intransitive verbs and it can occur in more than one position: (Faraj, MA.thesis: 2009: 3)

Mn dyârîak-m ba to dâ. (*I a present to you gave) (to is indirect objet)
Mn ba to dyârîak-m dâ. (*I to you a present gave.) (to is indirect objet)
Mn dyârîak-m dâ ba to. (*I a present gave to you.) (to is indirect objet)
Mn dyârîak-m dâ-ya- to. (*I a present gave you.) (to is indirect objet)
Ba to mn dyârîak-m dâ. (*to you I a present gave.) (to is indirect objet)
Mn dyârîak-m dâ-ytê. (*I a present gave you.) (-yt is indirect objet refers to you)

There are some sentences in Kurdish where an indirect object can occur with an intransitive verb and comes after the preposition. Such sentences have passive interpretation:

Kitêbaka bo to dêt. (* The book for you will arrive) (to is indirect object)
Namayakm bo hat. (* a letter to me came.) (-m is indirect object)
Zangi nêma bo Kârwân hât. (* a message ring to Karwan came)( Karwan is indirect object)
5. Object Complement:

A noun phrase is an object complement when the verb is complex transitive. These verbs take either two NPs or an NP and AP as direct object and object complement. It is characterized to attribute a property to the direct object, not the subject. (Burton-Roberts, 1997)

*He found his jokes extremely funny.* *(extremely funny AP as object complement)*

*He found his jokes funny ones.* *(funny ones NP as object complement)*

In English, verbs like *find, regard, consider, elect, name,* and *make* are those verbs that need a direct object and an object complement. Complements typically have the role of attribute. They attribute an identification or characterization to the direct object. (Greenbaum, and Nelson, 2002:36)

*They made my brother their assistant.* *(their assistant is NP as object complement)*

*I consider my book a good friend.* *(a good friend is NP as object complement)*

Object complements agree with the object in person and number and the noun in the NP is general and not specified.

In Kurdish, object complements usually occur with complex verbs like *lâ qalam dâ, ba ...dânâ, ba…. násı, ba…. hažmâr+ stem of kirdn.* Thus, these verbs always need prepositions *la, ba*

*Xalkı gûndaka kûrakayân ba šêt la qalam dâ.* *(šêt is AP as object complement)*

*Xalkı gûndaka kûrakayân ba mâmostâ la qalam dâ.* *(mâmostâ is NP as object comlement)*

Object complement can have different positions in a sentence:

*Xalkı gûndaka kûrakayân ba mâmostâ la qalam dâ.* (S+ O+ Prep.Co +V)

*Xalkı gûndaka ba mâmostâ kûrakayân la qalam dâ.* (S+Prep.Co O+V)

*Ba mâmostâ xalkı gûndaka kûrakayân la qalam dâ.* (Prep.Co S+O+V)

6. Prepositional complement:

A prepositional complement is the complement that consists of a noun phrase and a preposition in a prepositional phrase. Noun phrases that come after a preposition can be an object of preposition, adverbial of time and place.

In English, etymologically and practically the term *preposition* is restricted to a lexical item which comes before its object noun phrase. Prepositions are a closed class of items: (Trask,1993:215)

*in the garage*  

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PP
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- 275 -
with his friends

to their parents

on the sea shore

In Kurdish as well, prepositions precede their NPs. As it is clear from this tree diagram that definite
and even indefinite markers are bound morphemes (-aka -akan) for definite, (-ak or -

ek) for indefinite and they are attached to the end of the noun.

7. Noun phrase modifier:

In English as well as Kurdish nouns can occur as modifiers of the noun heads of noun phrases. They precede the noun heads and give them a description.

the kitchen curtain (kitchen is a noun that modifies the noun head curtain)

the computer screen (computer is a noun that modifies the noun head screen)

my school bag (school is a noun that modifies the noun head bag)

these supermarket trolleys (supermarket is a noun that modifies the noun head trolleys)

three goose eggs (goose is a noun that modifies the noun head eggs)

In Kurdish, a noun doesn’t modify a noun head without the help of the morpheme –y. When a noun occurs with another noun it would rather regarded as a compound noun and there is the morpheme –a between them (Xoşnâw, Nareemân Abdullah2010:120)

dâr sêw

dâr mêm

dâr hanâr
8. Determinatives

A determinative means a noun or a noun phrase with the possessive clitic ('-s' for singular and '-s' for plural) that indicates possession of or some other relationship to another noun or noun phrase. Determinatives don’t have determiners *the, a* because the genitive phrase is itself in determinative position. (Lyons, 1985:124)

*Mr. Garry's daughter*

*Emma's notebook*

*My teacher's cell phone*

In English, the preposition *of* is used for attribution. It corresponds the genitive 's. it comes with abstraction as well as quantity and fractions: (Quirk and Greenbaum, 1973: 161)

*a man of religion*

*a moment of confession*

*University of California*

*the statue of liberty*

*a kilo of rice*

*three bundles of pencil*

*a large amount of money*

So these kinds of noun phrases occur with the preposition *of*, but in Kurdish it is different. In Kurdish however, the preposition that corresponds *of* is a bound morpheme –*y* which is derived from the possessive pronoun *hi* for possession (Mahmud, 2002:15), or Ø morpheme with quantities:

*Zânkoy Salahadin*

*parky nâw šar*

*logoy kanâlaka*

*čwar kilo sâwâr*

*nîw pârča nân*

9. Appositive:
It is a noun phrase which describes another noun phrase with the same referent. It is similar to non-restrictive relative clause. Appositives are separated by two commas. (Trask, 1993:19)

Dr. Brown, the Dean, has just arrived. (the Dean is an NP as appositive)  
Johnny, the little baby, is very cute. (the little baby is an NP as appositive)  
Lily, Mr. Richard's nephew, loves cartoon films. (Mr. Richard's nephew is an NP as appositive)  
Face book, the social page, is widespread nowadays. (the social page is an NP as appositive)  

In Kurdish likewise noun phrases can act as appositive.  
Kak Azad, jirânakamán, dwênê tâzyay habû. (jirânakaân is an NP as appositive)  
Sâzgâr, kičî pûrim, qutabi kolêžî yasâya. (kičî pûrim is an NP as appositive)  
Halgurd, lutkay ċyay Hasarost, barztrin lutkaya la Iraq. (lutkay ċyay Hasarost is an NP as appositive)  

10. Adverbial:  
Noun phrases can have the function of an adverb of time and of place. In both languages there are some noun phrases that are adverbials.  
Our guests arrived yesterday. (yesterday is an NP as adverbial of time)  
She went home. (home is an NP as adverbial of place)  
This afternoon we are going to the shops. (This afternoon is an NP as adverbial of time)  
Qutabiakân garânawa mâlawa. (mâlawa is an NP as adverbial of place)  
Am ċwâraya hamumân kodabinawa. (Am ewaraya is an NP as adverbial of time)  
Haftay râburdû pišwi Nawroz bû. (Haftay raburdû is an NP as adverbial of time)  

Conclusion  
Noun phrases may consist of only a noun which is the head and the obligatory part that cannot be omitted. It has a very important role in a sentence. Few types of sentences can bear the absence of nouns and noun phrases. Each language has its own word order and this is true about English and Kurdish. Noun phrases have different syntactic roles which meanwhile determine their positions.

This research is an attempt which has been accomplished in search of finding out a great deal of issues concerning function and position of noun phrases. It has concluded with some worth mentioning points:
Nouns work as noun phrases with different patterns in sentences. The basic pattern of a noun phrase is:

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NP
  | pre modifiers           head          post modifiers
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Sarah would like to eat the two apples in the basket. 
Sara haz daka aw dû sêway nîw sabatakà bixwat.

Within the noun phrase, in English articles *a, an, the* which are regarded as determiners D come before noun heads as free morphemes. In Kurdish, a noun isss definite or indefinite when it is attached to the suffixes –*aka, -akan, -êk*.

Another difference is that attributive adjectives come before noun heads in English while they post modify noun head in Kurdish.

According to word order, English is SVO and Kurdish is SOV. Therefore, their sentence patterns differ and the linear sequence of their syntactic units differ and their distinctions have been detected in this research.

Noun phrases have the function of a subject. In English as well as Kurdish the subject is a noun phrase and it precedes the verb. The subject controls the verb. There should be agreement in person and number between the subject and the verb even in passive sentences when object s occupy subject position.

In Kurdish, with some complex verbs that are intransitive direct objects act as subjects like Qâpaka dirzî bird. and Âgiraka dagirsa

Some of these sentences have metaphorical interpretation: Zimânî drêz kird.

In some Kurdish sentences there are two subjects: Ėma dastmân šika.

The second function is subject complement. Noun phrases are subject complements if they are arguments of intensive verbs like *be, seem, look..* etc. Among English copular verbs *become* and *turn* accept an NP as their predicative while others would rather set AP as their complement.

Correspondence to *become* and *turn*, there are (*bû+ personal pronoun suffix+ -a*) and the present form is *da+ b(stem of bûn)+personal pronoun suffix+ -a*. In English, the subject complement follows the verb while in Kurdish when the verb corresponds *be* the subject complement precedes the verb, but when the verb means *become* the subject complement follows the verb.

A noun phrase is a direct object when the verb is transitive and it follows the verb in English, but Kurdish allows the direct object to precede the verb and in agentless sentences the direct object occurs at the beginning of the sentence. In both languages passive is not possible when the direct object is a reflexive or reciprocal pronoun.

Indirect object is another function of noun phrases. In English indirect objects come with ditransitive verbs either immediately after the direct objects or after prepositions; *to, for, and of*. So there are two passives of sentences that have two objects. In Kurdish indirect objects come with transitive and intransitive verbs and they come only after prepositions and they come in more than one position.
Another function of noun phrases is they are object complements. Complex transitive verbs take two noun phrases, one as direct object and the other as object complement.

English object complements come directly after direct object as their complements. Object complements agree with the direct object in number, person and gender. Complex transitive verbs in English are consider, regard, elect, name, call... etc.

In Kurdish, object complements come always after the preposition ba. It comes in different positions and the verbs are complex like; la qalam dân, nàw hênân, danân... etc.

Prepositional complement is another function of noun phrases in the two languages. Noun phrases are complements of prepositions in the prepositional phrase PP which comes as indirect objects, adverbial of place and adverbial of time. In the two languages the PP occur in different positions without affecting the meaning and structure of the sentence, especially when they are adverbials of time and place. The noun phrase is always post modifier of the head preposition.

In English, it is possible that a noun phrase modifies another noun. This is not possible in Kurdish. In Kurdish the noun that comes before the head noun comes with the genitive –y. Nouns as modifiers are possible only with fractions. Other forms are likely to be regarded as compound nouns.

Determinatives are noun phrases. There are two ways to express genitive in English, either by of + noun phrase or -s, -s', while in Kurdish, there is only –y which stands for both.

Noun phrases have the function of appositives. In both languages noun phrases act as appositives that are put between two commas. They come immediately after the nouns they modify similarly to non-restrictive relative clauses.

The tenth function is that noun phrases are adverbials of time and place. English and Kurdish have nouns that indicate time and place.

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