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PART I: INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale of the research

Nowadays, English become an international language that is used widely in all fields of our life: trade, economy, science and technology...English is a mean to bridge culture in the world. Thank to this connection, Vietnamese people are more friendly, sympathetic, motivated in the relationship with other culture.

Study English have become more and more popular to the youth especially to student. It is considered as a necessary language for each student during the process of studying and working. For students of Foreign Language Department, this gets more important.

However, it is not easy to study a foreign language well like English. Almost students have difficulties in studying and researching special subject such as phonetics, lexicology and grammar.

To carry out the purpose of using English fluently, the learners need to have thorough grasp of English lexicology and grammar. Many learners approach the study of English with the eyes of the user. In the process of learning English, I realize that complex noun phrases play a very important role in English using and the more I study, the more interesting I find. That is the reason why I decide to choose the research entitled: “A study on nominal and denominal elements as pre-modifiers in complex noun phrases”. The study shows learners of English not only basic knowledge of the characteristics of English complex noun phrases but also categories of noun and denominal adjectives used as pre-modifier in complex noun phrases. This will help learners to understand complex noun phrases deeply.

2. Aim of the research

Because of important role of complex noun phrases as well as difficulty in understanding and using for learners. The study aimed at :

Study on definitions, structures, functions, and categories of pre-modifiers.

Indicate some problems that learners of English make a grammar mistake in using complex noun phrases.

Suggest some solutions for those problems...

3. Scope of the research

Although learners of English find so many things interesting during their learning process, I myself do the same. However, the most fantastic that I keep growing my passion on is complex noun phrases. Because of the time allowance and limited knowledge, my graduation paper cannot cover all adjectives, nouns and verbs. The study focuses on complex noun phrases, nominal and denominal elements as pre-modifiers in complex noun phrases. Therefore, I would try to find answers for the foreign question of the study.

(1). What are complex noun phrases, nominals and denominals?

(2). What is structure of complex noun phrases?

(3). What are semantic features of nominals and denominals?

(4). What are syntactic function of nominals and denominals?

(5). What are types of noun used as pre-modifiers in complex noun phrases?

(6). What are types of derivational noun (denominal adjectives) used as pre-modifiers in complex noun phrases?

(7). What are common mistakes in using nominals and denominals as pre-modifiers in complex noun phrases?

4. Method of the research

In order to achieve the mentioned aims, I try my best to collect essential related document in reference books with great help of my supervisors, from internet and dictionaries. Then, this theme is studied on the basic of analyzing, contrasting and researching of linguistics. Apart from this, there is apart of my knowledge accumulated during the process of my study.

5. Design of the research

The study is divided into three main parts:

The first part is the INTRODUCTION, which gives out the reason for choosing the topic of this study, pointing out the aims on conducting the study and making out the methods applied as well.

The second part is the DEVELOPMENT, consisting of three chapters:

Chapter I: Introduce the theoretical background of complex noun phrases.

Chapter II: Refer to analysis for nominal and denominal elements as pre-modifiers in complex noun phrases.

Chapter III: Give some common mistakes and solutions.

The last in the CONCLUSION, which summaries all the things mentioned in the second part of the study.

PART II: DEVELOPMENT

CHAPTER I: THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

I. Noun phrases

I.1. Definition of noun phrases:

In grammar, a noun phrase (abbreviate NP) is a phrase whose head is a noun or a pronoun, optionally accompanied by a set of modifiers.

Examples:

- *The pretty girl*
- *She in the corner*
- *Hoa*

I.2. Complex Noun Phrases:

There are two kinds of noun phrases: basic noun phrases and complex noun phrases. In the study, nominals and denominals as pre-modifiers are only in complex noun phrase, therefore, this article is to deal with the structure of complex noun phrases.

Complex noun phrases contain three components: pre-modification, head noun and post-modification.

I.2.1. Head Noun

Like in the basic noun phrase, the head noun, first of all, is the central element and core component of the complex noun phrase. It may be count or mass noun which dictates concord and (for the most part) other kinds of congruence with the rest of the sentence outside the noun phrase. This is exemplified in:

- *The only **girl** in this class **is** hardworking.*
- *All of the beautiful **girls** in my class **are** kind.*

Also, when the genitive is as pre-modification, the head noun can be omitted:

- *We met at the dentist's last week.*

I.2.2. Pre-modification

The second component of a complex noun phrase is pre-modification, also called pre-modifiers, including modifiers that stand before the head noun. Pre-modifiers can be closed system and/or open-class items. Closed-system pre-modifiers are in the structure of the basic noun phrases. These items are optional in the complex noun phrases. Meanwhile, open-class pre-modifiers come after the close-system ones and precede the head noun as in:

• <u>All these</u>	<u>young beautiful</u>	<u>girls</u>
determiner	adjective as pre-modifier	head noun

a. Pre-modification by adjectives

Pre-modifying adjectives can be those denoting general description ('beautiful', 'intelligent', 'good', etc); age ('young', 'old', etc); size ('big', 'small', etc); shape ('square', 'round', etc); color ('red', 'blue', etc); material ('silk', 'metal', etc); resemblance to a material ('silken' in *silken hair*, 'cat-like', etc); and provenance or style ('British', 'Parisian', etc). These adjectives can be both attribute and complement.

In addition, pre-modifying adjectives can be intensifying ones which have a heightening effect on the noun they modify or the reverse, a lowering effect, e.g: 'real' (*a real hero*), 'definite' (*a definite loss*), 'complete' (*a complete fool*) and 'close' (*a close friend*). These adjectives are generally attributive only.

Restrictive adjectives, another class of pre-modifying adjectives, restrict the reference of the noun exclusively, particularly or chiefly, e.g: 'certain' (*a certain person*), 'exact' (*the exact answer*), 'only' (*the only occasion*) and

‘very’ (*the very man*). Like intensifying adjectives, the restrictive ones are attributive only.

However, there are a number of adjectives which cannot pre-modify the head, but can be predicative such as: ‘faint’, ‘ill’, ‘well’, ‘able’, ‘afraid’, etc. Not only are the head nouns pre-modified but pre-modifying adjectives can also be, especially when they are the first items after the determiner. In this case, it can be pre-modified in the same way as it can be in the predicative position, This is illustrated by:

His really quite unbelievably happy family

Head

With indefinite determiners, some intensifiers such as ‘so’ are differently used. ‘So’ is replaced by ‘such’, which precedes the determiner or else ‘so’ plus adjective would be placed before the determiner, e.g.:

- *Such a beautiful girl*
- *So beautiful a girl*

b. Pre-modification by particles

Apart from pre-modifying adjectives, the head nouns of the complex noun phrases can be pre-modified by particles, either present or past, e.g.: *an approaching man* (present participle), *the badly injured dog* (past participle), etc.

c. Pre-modification by genitives

There is one further kind of pre-modifier that is called the genitive appearing in the pre-modification of the complex noun phrases.

The genitives are marked by an “s” added to their final word and often thought not always, indicate possession, for this reason they are more commonly found with animate nouns as head than inanimate nouns.

E.g.:

- *These qualified doctor's salaries*
- *These doctors' high salaries*

Group genitives as in:

- *The teacher of English's salary*
- *An hour and a half's discussion*

In some cases, the same genitive phrase can be used with two different senses depending on the context. Compare the following two sentences. In speaking, they would be pronounced differently. For a specifying genitive, the phrase “*the children's books*” would be pronounced with more stress on “*books*”; for the classifying genitive, there would be equal stress for “*children's*” and “*books*”.

- *The **children's** books were torn.*

→ Their books: specifying genitive

- *The **children's** books were fun to read.*

→ Those kinds of books: classifying genitive

d. Pre-modification by nouns

Nouns can be used as pre-modifiers the head noun when we want to give more specific information about someone or something. Sometimes, when nouns are used like this they become fixed expression which is called compound nouns.

E.g.:

- *The city council*
- *A love story*

e. Pre-modification by denominal adjectives

Another class of pre-modifiers is the type of denominal often meaning “consisting of”, “involving”, or “relating to”. These items must come next

before the head and can be preceded by a wide range of pre-modifying items, e.g.:

- *The pleasant **social** life*
- *A city **political** problem*

Order of pre-modifiers

There are various classes of pre-modification, both closed-system and open-class. Therefore, when the complex noun phrases consist of different classes of pre-modifiers, they may be placed in a relevant order. The acceptable order of pre-modifiers in a complex noun phrase is as follows:

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		3'	3''										
all	the	last	ten	good	young	tall					Maths		students
	the								Lon- don			social	life
all	their			nice	new		black		Spa- nish	Leather			shoes
	Some				old			Interl- ocking	Chi- nese				designs
	the		six					Interl- ocking					rings
half	the	other	ten	Fam- ous				best- sold					novels

Legend:

1. Pre-determiner, 2. determiner, 3. post-determiner, 3'. ordinal, 3''. cardinal/quantifier, 4. general, 5. age, 6. size/shape, 7. color, 8. participle, 9. provenance, 10. material, 11. purpose, 12. denominal, 13. head noun.

I.2.3. Post-modification

The third important component of a complex noun phrase is post-modification, called post-modifiers, comprising all the items placed after the head. These post-modifiers are mainly realized by prepositional phrases, finite clauses (or relative clauses), nonfinite clauses, adjective phrases, noun phrases or adverbial phrases.

a. Post-modification by prepositional phrases

- *The road **to London***
- *The house **beyond the church***

Including the complex prepositions

- *A house **on the top of the hill***
- *Action **in case of emergency***

And those having participle forms as in *problems concerning the environment*.

The commonest preposition in the noun phrase post-modification ‘of’ has a close correspondence to ‘have’ sentences:

- *The ship has a funnel. ---- the funnel **of the ship***
- *The table has four legs. ---- the four legs **of the table***

However, some are relatable to ‘be’ sentences:

- *London is a city. ---- the city **of London***
- *The news was the team’s victory. ---- the news **of the team’s victory***

Also, the ‘of’ phrase can be used to express the subject or object relation:

- *The bus arrived. ---- the arrival **of the bus***
- *Someone imprisoned the murderer. ---- the imprisonment **of the murderer***

b. Post-modification by relative or finite clauses

The post-modifier is a relative or finite clause which can be restrictive or non-restrictive. There are a number of relative clauses beginning with relative pronouns: ‘who’, ‘whom’, ‘whose’, ‘that’ (personal); ‘which’, ‘that’, ‘what’ (non-personal); ‘when’, a preposition plus ‘which’ (time); ‘where’, a preposition plus ‘which’ (place); and ‘why’ (reason). While restrictive relative clauses help to definite the head noun, the non-restrictive ones give additional information to it, as exemplified in:

- *The woman who is standing outside is my neighbor.*

restrictive

- *That is my who is standing outside neighbor,*

non-restrictive

Distinction between restrictive clause and non-restrictive one

(1) Intonation

In speaking these two types of modifiers are easily distinguished because they are pronounced differently: **restrictive** ones have **rising intonation** (which gives more emphasis to that part of the sentence) and **non-restrictive** ones have **falling intonation** (which gives less emphasis to that part of the sentence).

(2) Commas

In writing, the distinction is marked with commas. A non-restrictive modifier, which has the falling intonation, is set off with commas. The restrictive one is not.

As the following two sentences show, commas or not can make a big difference in meaning.

- *The students who attended class regularly will do well on their exams.*

- *The students, who attended class regularly, will do well on their exams.*

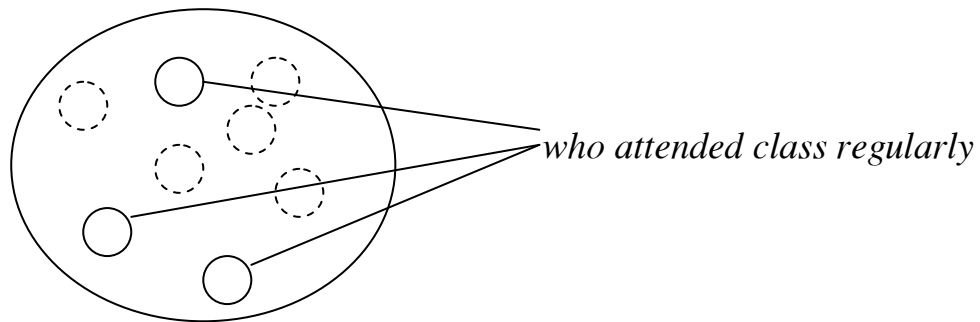
(English sentence analysis_ Marjolyn Verspoor, Kim Sauter)

In the first one, the students who will do well are only those who attended regularly and in the second one, all the students attended class regularly and all will do well.

The meaning of each of these sentences is illustrated below:

- *The students who attended class regularly will do well on their exams.*

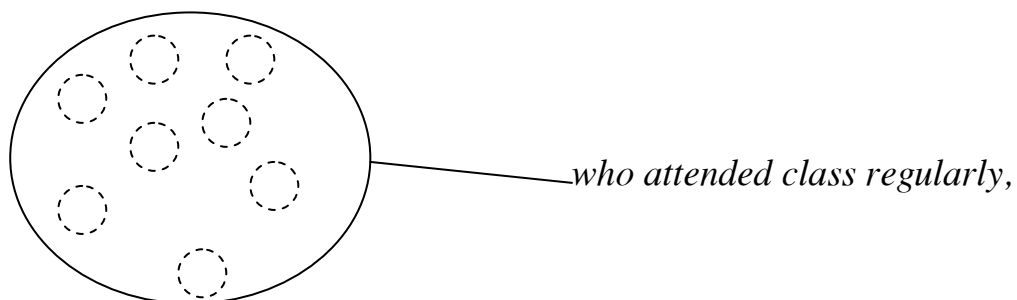
The students



will do well on the exam.

- *The students, who attended class regularly, will do well on their exams.*

The students,



will do well on the exam.

(3) Meaning

Restrictive is supplied to **identify** the head noun.

E.g.: *The woman who is standing outside is my neighbor.*

compulsory

Non-restrictive gives **additional information** (which is not essential for identifying the head noun) to the head noun.

- *That is my neighbor, who is standing outside.*

additional

c. Post-modification by non-finite clauses, present participle clauses and past participle clauses

- *The only car serviced in the garage is mine.*

In addition, post-modifiers can be *to*-infinitive clauses

- *The next flight to arrive was from London.*
- *The place to stay for summer holidays should be pleasant.*

d. Post-modification by adjective phrases

Adjective phrases can be post-modifiers of the head noun in the complex noun phrases. The adjective phrases can usually be regarded as a reduced relative clause. Complex indefinite pronouns ending in –body, –one, –thing, and –where can be modified only post-positively.

- *Anyone (who is) **intelligent** can do it.*
- *The men (who were) **present** were his supporters.*

e. Post-modification by apposition

- *The novel “**God Father**” is well-known in the world.*

The phrase explicitly encodes the information that “God Father is an novel”. For this reason, ‘*God Father*’ is traditionally said to be in apposition to ‘the novel’.

In the appositive restrictive clause, the head noun phrase must be a fictive abstract noun such as fact itself, proposition, reply, remark, answer. For example:

- *The belief that no one is infallible is well-founded.*

Appositive post-modification is fairly common by means of infinitive clauses. A restrictive example:

- *The appeal to join the movement was well received.*

Which would correspond to the finite that people should join the movement. A corresponding non-restrictive example:

- *This last appeal, to come and visit him, was never delivered.*

f. Post-modification by adverbial phrases

- *The way ahead*
- *The direction back*

II. Nominal elements

II.1. Definition of nominal elements

A nominal is a word which differs grammatically from a noun but functions as one (Crystal 1980).

- *The **poor** are many*

The word “poor” is a nominal. It functions as a noun; however, it does not pluralize.

II.2. Semantic features of nominal elements

Nominal elements as pre-modifiers in complex noun phrases have not only lexical meanings but also different semantic features.

II.2.1. Reduced-explicitness relation

Nominal elements as pre-modifiers (called noun pre-modifiers) in complex noun phrases are often so closely associated with the head as to be regarded as

compounded with it. In many cases, they appear to be in a reduced-explicitness relation with prepositional post-modifiers.

- *The question of partition ~ The partition question*
- *The door of the cupboard ~ The cupboard door*
- *A village in Sussex ~ a Sussex village*

But not all noun pre-modifiers have prepositional phrase analogues:

- *Bernard Miles was both actor and producer ~ The actor-producer*

II.2.2. Relative impermanence

- *The table in the corner ~ The corner table*
- *The girl with a red skirt ~ The red-skirt girl*

“Corner”, “red-skirt” denote impermanence in relation with “table”, “girl”. However, a notable constrain against making post-modifying phrases into pre-modifying nouns is the relative impermanence of the modification. Thus, we cannot do the same with :

- *The girl in the corner ~ the corner girl (incorrect)*

We must insist again that this is not a property of the lexical item (in this instance, *corner*) but of the semantic relation.

II.2.3. Relative permanence

- *Education curriculum*
- *The state budget allocation mechanism*

II.3. Syntactic functions of nominal elements – nominals as pre-modifier in complex noun phrase

- *The London social life*
- *A city political problem*

Next closet to the head is the noun premodifier, already exemplified with

“London” and “city” in the foregoing examples.

A noun modifier is when a noun functions like an adjective and modifies the meaning of the noun that follows it.

The major syntactic functions of adjectives are attributive and predicative. However, this article is to deal with adjectives’ syntactic function in complex noun phrases so adjectives (or nominals) are **attributive** only.

Nominals are attributive when they pre-modify nouns, appear between the determiner and the head of the noun phrase:

• The library books
 └──────────┬──────────┘
 ↑
 (attributive only)

• The Soviet time
 └──────────┬──────────┘
 ↑
 (attributive only)

III. Denominal elements

III.1. Definition of denominal elements

Adjectives derived from nouns are called denominal elements (or denominal adjectives); therefore, **denominals have functions like adjectives**.

The item that must come next before the head is the type of denominal adjective often meaning ‘consisting of’, ‘involving’, or ‘relating to’, and this can be preceded by a wide range of pre-modifying items:

• The { *extravagant*
 pleasant
 only
 London } social life

• A { *Thailand*
 serious
 mere
 city } political problem

(A university grammar of English_ Randolph Quirk)

III.2. Semantic features of denominal elements

Semantic features of denominal elements are similar to ones of adjectives. Adjectives are characteristically stative/dynamic, gradable/non-gradable and inherent/non-inherent. And semantic features of denominals are stative, non-gradable and non-inherent.

III.2.1. Stative

A stative adjective such as “political” cannot be used with the progressive aspect or with the imperative: not **the problem which seems being political* or **“be political”*

III.2.2. Non-gradable

Non-gradable adjectives are those which cannot be pre-modified by intensifier and be comparative construction.

- *An atomic scientist*

Not **an very atomic scientist or a more atomic scientist*

III.2.3. Non-inherent

Non-inherent adjectives are those which don't describe directly characteristics, properties of things.

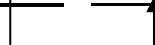
- *A Parisian dress*

~ *A dress is designed to Paris style.* (Not **a dress is Parisian*)

III.3. Syntactic functions of denominal elements – as pre-modifiers in complex noun phrases

The major syntactic functions of adjectives are attributive and predicative. However, this article is to deal with adjectives' syntactic function in complex noun phrases so adjectives (or denominals) are **attributive** only.


Adjectives are attributive when they pre-modify nouns, appear between the determiner and the head of the noun phrase:

- A medical student
- 

~ A student learning in medicine department.

- An informatic expert
- 

~ An expert specifying in informatics

- A woolen scarf
- 

~ A scarf made of wool

Note:

The same item may also be a central adjective. For example, “*a criminal law*” can be a law which seems criminal, in which case criminal is a central adjective (both attributive and predicative). With particular noun phrase heads, an attributive noun may be an alternative to the denominal adjective, e.g.: “*criminal detection/crime detection*”, or may be used exclusively, e.g.: “*law school, not *legal school*” cf the converse in “ *medical school, not * medicine school*”.

CHAPTER II: ANALYSIS FOR NOMINAL AND DENOMINAL ELEMENTS AS PRE-MODIFIERS IN COMPLEX NOUN PHRASES

I. Nominal elements as pre-modifiers in complex noun phrases

I.1. Types of noun used as pre-modifiers in complex noun phrases

There are many different types of nouns. As you know, you capitalize some nouns, such as "Canada" or "Louise," and do not capitalize others, such as "badger" or "tree" (unless they appear at the beginning of a sentence). In fact, grammarians have developed a whole series of noun types, including the proper noun, the common noun, the concrete noun, the abstract noun, the compound noun, and the collective noun. You should note that a noun will belong to more than one type: it will be proper or common, abstract or concrete, and collective, or compound.

Nouns can be also countable or uncountable. Countable nouns have a singular and plural form. They can be "counted". Abstract nouns are uncountable. Names of substances considered generally: bread, cream, tea, marmalade, jam, etc... Uncountable nouns are used only in the singular and are not with the indefinite article A/AN.

A noun pre-modifier is when a noun functions like an adjective & modifies the meaning of the noun that follows it.

E.g1: *Air disaster* -> N1 expresses the location of N2

E.g2: *Glass bottle* -> N2 is composed of N1

E.g3: *Airline office* -> N2 is employed by N1

Types of pre-modification structures:

a. Pre-modifier + head: noun + noun.

	Noun	+	Noun	Meanings
A	<i>steel</i>		<i>cylinder</i>	A cylinder made of steel
A	<i>test</i>		<i>tube</i>	A tube for making tests
A	<i>steam</i>		<i>engine</i>	An engine which works by steam

b. pre-modifier + pre-modifier + head / pre-modifier forming unit + head.

B.1. NOUN + NOUN + NOUN

	Noun	+	Noun	+	Noun	Meanings
A	glass		test		tube	A test tube made of glass
A	honey		bee		colony	A colony composed of honey bees

B.2. ADJ + NOUN + NOUN

	Adj	+	Noun	+	Noun	Meanings
a	complex		ion		Mechanism	An ion mechanism which is complex
	low		density		proteins	Proteins with low density

B.3. NOUN + ADJ + NOUN

	Noun	+	Adj	+	Noun	Meanings
a	London		political		problem	A political problem in London
	Nitrogen		hungry		algae	Algae which are nitrogen hungry

I.1.1. Proper nouns:

What are proper nouns?

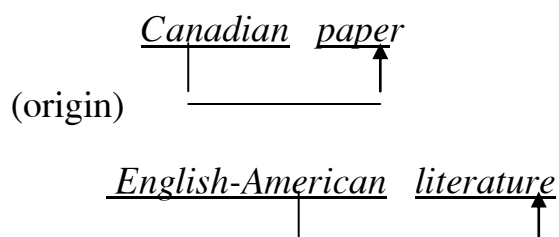
A proper noun is a specific name of a person, a place, or a thing. The names of days of the week, months, historical documents, institutions, organizations, religions, their holy texts and their adherents are also proper nouns. A proper noun is the opposite of a common noun. The first letter of a proper noun is always represented by a capital letter (Writcent@uOttawa.ca Heather MacFadyen).

In each of the following sentences, the proper nouns are **highlighted**:

- The **Marroons** were transported from **Jamaica** and forced to build the fortifications in **Halifax**.
- Many people dread **Monday** mornings.
- **Beltane** is celebrated on the first of **May**.
- **Abraham** appears in the **Talmud** and in the **Koran**.
- Last year, I had a **Baptist**, a **Buddhist**, and a **Gardnerian Witch** as roommates.

Proper nouns can be used as pre-modifiers the head noun when we want to give more specific information about someone or something.

Nominal element – head noun



Names have ‘unique’ reference, and do not share such characteristics of common nouns as article contrast. But when the names have restrictive

modification to give a partitive meaning to the name, proper nouns take the definite article.

Unique meaning	Partitive meaning
<i>during Easter</i>	<i>during <u>the</u> Easter of that year</i>
<i>in England</i>	<i>in <u>the</u> England of Queen Elizabeth</i>
<i>in Denmark</i>	<i>in <u>the</u> Denmark of today</i>
<i>Chicago</i>	<i><u>the</u> Chicago I like</i>
<i>Shakespeare</i>	<i><u>the</u> young Shakespeare</i>

I.1.1.1. Personal proper nouns

Personal proper nouns as pre-modifiers in complex noun phrases are usually in the form of “-s” genitive. The meanings of the “-s” genitive are various. For example:

genitives	Analogues
(a) possessive genitive <i>Mrs White's passport</i>	Mrs White has a passport.
(b) subjective genitive <i>John's decision</i>	John decides
(c) objective genitive <i>Mr Nam's release</i>	... release Mr Nam
(d) descriptive genitive <i>The Bush's day in Washington hotel</i>	A day for the Bush in Washington hotel

(e) original genitive <i>Mary's letter</i>	Mary wrote a letter
---	---------------------

I.1.1.2. Geographical nouns

(a) Names of continents:

(North)America
(Central)Australia
(Medieval)Europe
(East)Africa

} *economic situation*

$\langle \Rightarrow \rangle$ *economic situation in*

{
(North)America
(Central)Australia
(Medieval)Europe
(East)Africa

(b) Names of countries, counties, states, etc

Thailand
Texas
(West)Scotland

} *political problem*

$\langle \Rightarrow \rangle$ *political problem in*

{
Thailand
Texas
(West)Scotland

(c) Cities and towns

- *Hochiminh city* ~ Hochiminh is a city
- *Hanoi ancient capital* ~ Hanoi is an ancient capital
- *Phudong village* ~ a village names Phudong

(d) Lakes, rivers, mountains...

- *The Thames (river)*
- *The Panama (canal)*
- *The Pacific (ocean)*

I.1.1.3. Institutional nouns

An institutional noun denotes a formal organization of persons generally joined together for a common purpose. For examples: *corporation, BBC, school, the United Nations, CIA, FBI...*

Institutional nouns function as pre-modifiers in complex noun phrase:

- *IBM new chairman*
- *The nearly FPT turnover*
- *The Le Quy Don high school area*

I.1.1.4. Calendar nouns

What are calendar nouns?

Calendar nouns refer to a point or period of time. For example: days, months, weeks, summers, next decade...

Calendar proper nouns are:

(a) Names of festivals:

- *Christmas day*
- *Independence day*
- *Tet holiday*

(b) Names of historical period:

- *The Soviet Time*
- *The Iron Age*
- *The Norman Age*

(c) Names of the months, of the seasons and the days of week:

- *Spring entertainment activities*
- *The Monday afternoon meeting*

I.1.2. Common nouns

What are common nouns?

A common noun is a noun that refers to a general object (an unspecific person, place, thing). A common noun is the opposite of a proper noun.

Examples:

Dog, house, picture, computer ...

Sometimes we will make proper nouns out of common nouns, as in the following examples:

- *The tenants in the **Garnet Apartments** are appealing the large and sudden increase in their rent.*
- *The meals in the Bouncing **Bean Restaurant** are less expensive than meals in ordinary restaurants.*
- *Many witches refer to the Renaissance as the Burning **Times**.*
- *The **Diary of Anne Frank** is often a child's first introduction to the history of the **Holocaust**.*
- Common nouns are represented in the singular and plural form.
- Common nouns are represented by lower case letters.

Examples of the usage of common nouns:

- *The red **book** is on the **table**.*
- *The black **dog** is in my **yard**.*
- *The **computers** are new.*

Common nouns require capitalization if they start the sentence or are part of a title; often divided into concrete or abstract.

I.1.2.1. Concrete nouns

What are concrete nouns?

A concrete noun is a noun which names anything (or anyone) that you can perceive through your physical senses : touch, sight, taste, hearing, or smell. A concrete noun is the opposite of a abstract noun.

Example:

Pizza is Godzilla's favorite food.

Pizza = concrete because you can see, hear, smell, feel [though you get your fingers greasy], and thankfully taste it.

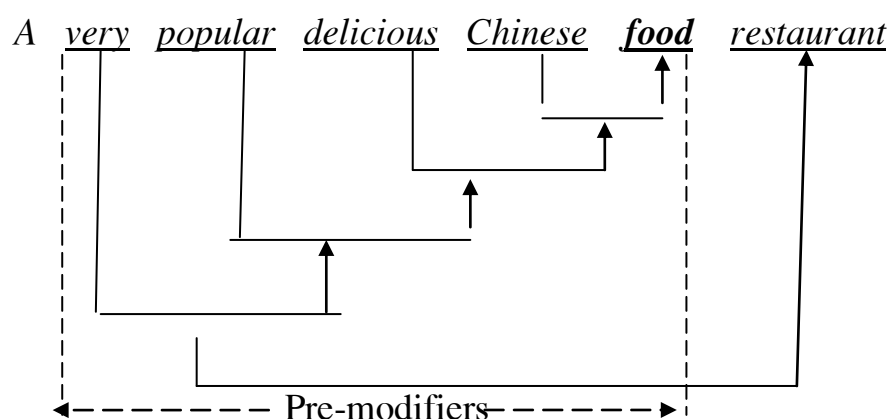
I.1.2.1.1. In-animate concrete nouns

In-animate concrete nouns are concrete nouns that refer to lifeless things like material nouns, temporal nouns, geographical or institutional nouns and nouns of special interest to human activities.

E.g: *stone, book, house, school, London, today, game, strike, brain...*

An in-animate noun is one of many pre-modification means in complex noun phrases. The pre-modifier in compressed form can convey complex meanings.

For examples:



~ A restaurant only serves Chinese foods that are very delicious and popular.

- *A Hanoi- Hochiminh flight*

~ A flight from Hanoi to Hochiminh (denotes destination)

However, sometimes, the pre-modifiers in compressed form confuses the meaning:

- *We visited their **country** house.*

(Scientific English as a Foreign Language_ Nancy Burnham and Fred Hutson)

To write “ We visited their country house.” Is fairly easy and **intuitive**, but slightly **ambiguous**, in that we do not know if the author intends to say “ We visited their house that is in the country.” or “We visited their house, which is in the country”. In other words, we don’t know from “ We visited their country house.” if the house is the only house owned by them, or if they own a city house as well, and the pre-modifier “ country” distinguishes the houses. If this **distinction** is important, it is best to avoid the pre-modifier.

I.1.2.1.2. Non-personal concrete nouns

Non-personal concrete nouns can be collective, masculine higher animal, feminine higher animal, higher organism, and lower animal. For examples: *family, company, bull, cock, cow, hen, France, ant, frog...*

Non-personal concrete nouns as pre-modifiers:

- *A large **cow** cage*
~ A cage for cow (not for others) is large.
- *The **company** turnover increase*
~ The turnover increase of the company
- *A hungry young **bull** elephant*
~ A young bull elephant is hungry.

I.1.2.1.3. Personal concrete nouns

Personal concrete nouns can be collective, masculine, feminine, dual and common.

For examples:

Masculine nouns	Feminine nouns	Dual gender nouns	Common gender nouns	Collective nouns
<i>father</i>	<i>mother</i>	<i>doctor</i>	<i>baby</i>	<i>army</i>
<i>uncle</i>	<i>aunt</i>	<i>chairman</i>	<i>oldster</i>	<i>club</i>
<i>gentleman</i>	<i>lady</i>	<i>professor</i>	<i>adult</i>	<i>government</i>
<i>host</i>	<i>hottess</i>	<i>teacher</i>	<i>orphan</i>	<i>parliament</i>
<i>emperor</i>	<i>empress</i>	<i>person</i>	<i>friend</i>	<i>the United States</i>
...	

Personal concrete nouns as pre-modifiers in complex noun phrases like in:

- *The poor **children** assistance fund*

~ The assistance fund for the poor children.

- *The low **teacher** salary*

~ The salary of teacher is low.

- *The **oldster** health care club*

~ The club cares for health of the oldster.

I.1.2.2. Abstract nouns

What are abstract nouns?

An abstract noun is a noun which names anything that can't perceive through our five physical senses (smell, touch, hear, see or taste), and is the opposite of a concrete noun.

- Abstract nouns usually represent feeling, ideas, concepts and qualities.

- Abstract nouns can be singular nouns and plural nouns.
- Abstract nouns can be countable or uncountable.

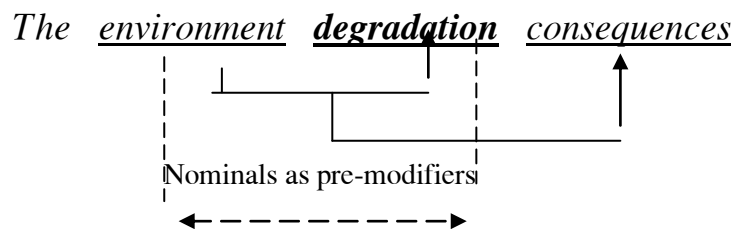
For examples: love, friendship, romance, happiness, sleep...

- ❖ Abstract nouns function like pre-modifiers in complex noun phrases:

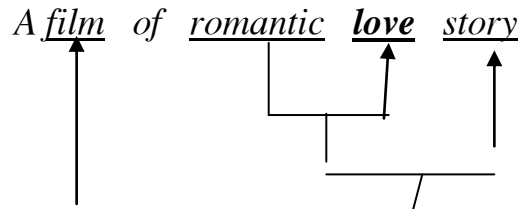


~ Memories in her childhood

(abstract N) (head N)



~ Consequences of the environment degradation



~ A film relates a story of romantic love.

I.1.3. Collective nouns

What are collective nouns?

Collective nouns are nouns that refer to things or people as a unit.

Examples: *family, police, class, team, crew etc.*

Collective nouns can be used in both the singular form and the plural form.

Rules for Using Collective Nouns:

Singular Collective Nouns	Plural Collective Nouns
1. Singular collective nouns refer to one unit of people or things.	1. Plural collective nouns refer to two or more units of people or things.
2. Singular collective nouns are used like singular nouns.	2. Plural collective nouns are used like plural nouns.
E.g: <i>The audience was restless.</i> -> the audience is acting as a whole - i.e. a single entity – so the singular form of the verb should be used.	E.g: <i>The audience were talking among themselves.</i> -> the audience are as acting individuals, so the plural form of the verb should be used.

I.1.3.1. Personal collective nouns

There are three subclasses of personal collective nouns:

- (b) Specific: *army, class, club, committee, crew, crowd, family, flock, gang, government, group, herd, jury, majority, minority*
- (c) Generic: *the aristocracy, the bourgeoisie, the clergy, the elite, the gentry, the intelligentsia, the laity, the proletariat, the public*
- (d) Unique: *the Arab League, (the) Congress, the Kremlin, the Papacy, Parliament, the United Nations, the United States, the Vatican*

Personal collective nouns function as pre-modifiers in complex noun phrases:

- *The two children's poor **family** situation*

~ The family situation of two children is poor.

- *The sporting **public** club*

~ The club for the sporting public

- *The ninth Vietnam **National Assembly** session*

~ The ninth session of Vietnam National Assembly

I.1.3.2. Non-personal collective nouns

Non-personal collective nouns function as pre-modifiers in complex noun phrases. Examples:

- *The geese **flock** food in the farm*

~ The food for the geese flock in the farm

- *The same creature **community** living environment*

~ The living environment of the creature community which are same.

I.1.3.3. In-animate collective nouns

In-animate collective nouns function as pre-modifiers in complex noun phrases. Examples:

- *The office **equipment** supermarket*

~ The supermarket only sell the office equipment.

- *The summer **fashion** shop*

~The shop only sell the summer fashion.

- *The family **furniture** providing service*

~ The service only provide the family furniture.

I.1.4. Compound nouns

What are compound nouns?

A compound noun is a noun that is made up of two or more words. Most compound nouns in English are formed by nouns modified by other nouns or adjectives (<http://www.learnenglish.de>).

For example:

Toothpaste, blackboard

The words **tooth** and **paste** are each nouns in their own right, but if you join them together they form a new word – **toothpaste**.

The word **black** is an adjective and **board** is a noun, but if you join them together they form a new word – **blackboard**.

Compound nouns normally have two parts. The second part identifies the object or person in question (*man, friend, tank, table, room*). The first part tells us what kind of object or person it is, or what its purpose is (*police, boy, water, dining, bed*):

What type / what purpose	What or who
<i>police</i>	<i>man</i>
<i>boy</i>	<i>friend</i>
<i>water</i>	<i>tank</i>
<i>dining</i>	<i>table</i>
<i>bed</i>	<i>room</i>

The two parts may be written in a number of ways:

1. as one word.

E.g: *policeman, boyfriend*

2. as two words joined with a hyphen.

E.g: *dining-table, check-in*

3. as two separate words.

E.g: *fish tank, full moon*

There are no clear rules about this – so write the common compounds that you know well as one word, and the others as two words.

Compound nouns can be formed using the following combination of words:

The two parts may be:	Examples:
Noun + noun	<i>bedroom</i> <i>water tank</i> <i>motorcycle</i> <i>printer cartridge</i>
Noun + verb	<i>rainfall</i> <i>haircut</i> <i>train-spotting</i>
Noun + adverb	<i>hanger-on</i> <i>passer-by</i>
Verb + noun	<i>washing machine</i> <i>driving license</i> <i>swimming pool</i>
Verb + adverb	<i>lookout</i> <i>take-off</i> <i>drawback</i>
Adjective + noun	<i>greenhouse</i> <i>software</i>
Adjective + verb	<i>dry-cleaning</i> <i>public speaking</i>

Adverb + noun	<i>onlooker</i> <i>bystander</i>
Adverb + verb	<i>output</i> <i>overthrow</i> <i>upturn</i> <i>input</i>

Compound nouns often have a meaning that is different from the two separate words.

Stress is important in pronunciation, as it distinguishes between a compound noun (e.g. *greenhouse*) and an adjective with a noun (e.g. *green house*). In compound nouns, the stress usually fall on the first syllable:

- A *`greenhouse* = place where we grow plants (compound noun)
- A *green `house* = house painted green (adjective and noun)
- A *`bluebird* = type of bird (compound noun)
- A *blue `bird* = any bird with blue feathers (adjective and noun)

Many common compound nouns are formed from phrasal verbs (verb + adverb or adverb + verb). Examples: *breakdown, outbreak, outcome, cutback, drive-in, drop-out, feedback, flyover, output, stand-in, set-back, walkover...*

Compounds form the plural in different ways, but (c) below is the most usual.

(a) Plural in first element

<i>Attorney general</i>	<i>Attorneys general, but more usually as (c)</i>
<i>Notary public</i>	<i>Notaries public</i>
<i>Passer-by</i>	<i>Passers-by</i>

<i>Mother-in-law</i>	<i>Mothers-in-law, but also as (c) informally</i>
<i>Coat of mail</i>	<i>Coats of mail</i>
<i>Man-of-war</i>	<i>Men-of-war</i>

(b) Plural in both first and last element

<i>Gentleman farmer</i>	<i>Gentlemen farmers</i>
<i>Manservant</i>	<i>Menservants</i>
<i>Woman doctor</i>	<i>Women doctors</i>

(c) Plural in last element (normal)

<i>Assistant director</i>	<i>Assistant directors</i>
<i>Woman-hater</i>	<i>Woman-haters</i>
<i>Forget-me-not</i>	<i>Forget-me-nots</i>
<i>Take-off</i>	<i>Take-offs</i>
<i>Grown-up</i>	<i>Grown-ups</i>
...	...

Compound nouns function like pre-modifiers in complex noun phrases:

- *A prominent **left-wing** politician*
- *A danger **willful murder** death sentence*
- *The America modern and heavy **man-of war** corporation*
- *The nearly **man-density** development*

I.2. Meaning differences between pre-modification and post-modification of complex noun phrases

Pre-modifiers and post-modifiers have a function of modifying the head in complex noun phrases, but they are different in semantic relation.

I.2.1. Partitive meaning of post-modifiers

Post-modifiers may be added to a noun phrase to give extra information.

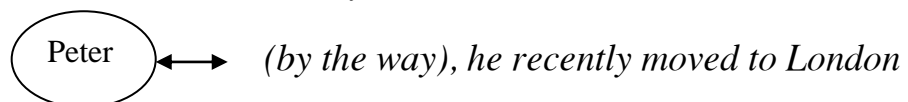
Consider the following sentence:

- *Peter, who has recently moved to London, called last night.*

(English sentence analysis - Marjolyn Verspoor, Kim Sauter)

Assuming that the speaker and hearer both know the same *Peter*, the function of the post-modifier is not help to help identify which Peter is meant, but to give extra information. This information may be very relevant for the context, because people usually do not give information unless it is relevant, but it is not needed to understand who or what the head of the noun phrase refers to because this person or thing does not need to be identified. This type of modifier is called a non-restrictive modifier. If the head noun is a proper name (like *Fred*, *Germany*, *Budapest*) or a unique/general thing (*the earth*, *tennis*, *soccer*) the clause is usually non-restrictive. The following illustrates how a non-restrictive clause does not identify which one, but give extra information.

Peter, who has recently moved, ...



I.2.2. Restrictive meaning of post-modifier

Post-modifiers may be added to a noun phrase to help identify the head noun.

Consider the following sentence:

- *My friend **who has recently moved to London** called last night.*

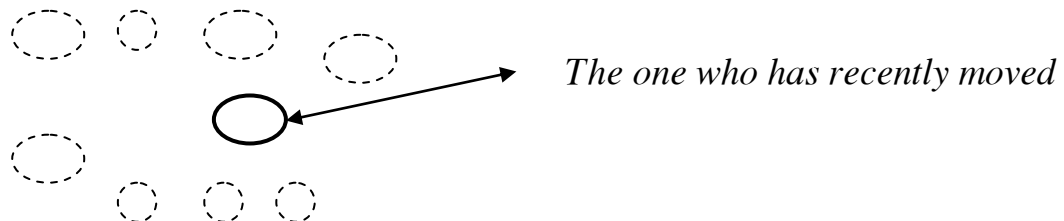
(English sentence analysis - Marjolyn Verspoor, Kim Sauter)

Assuming that the speaker has more than one friend, the noun phrase "*my friend*" has rather vague reference, and the post-modifier "*who has recently moved to London*" in this sentence helps to identify which friend is meant. In other words, this clause specifies or restricts the reference of the noun phrase.

Therefore, it is called a restrictive or specifying modifier. The following figure illustrates how the clause ‘restricts’ or ‘specifies’.

My friend who has recently moved

Possible friends



I.2.3. Unique meaning of pre-modifiers

Most of noun pre-modifiers have unique reference which refer to the only of its kind, have no like, equal.

Examples:

- *Hochiminh city*

-> Hochiminh is a name of the only city in Vietnam

- *Vietnam economic situation*

-> Vietnam is a name of the country which the other countries in the world have no names like that.

II. Denominal elements as pre-modifier in complex noun phrases

II.1. Types of derivational noun as pre-modifiers in complex noun phrase

II.1.1. Noun derivation?

In linguistics, derivation is “Used to form new words, as with happi-ness and un-happy from happy, or determination from determine. A contrast is intended with the process of inflection, which uses another kind of affix in order to form variants of the same word, as with *determine* / *determine-s* / *determin-ing* / *determin-ed*. (**From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia**)

A derivational suffix usually applies to words of one syntactic category and changes them into words of another syntactic category. For example, the English derivational suffix “-ly” changes adjectives into adverbs (*slow* -> *slowly*).

And noun-adjective derivation is case of the derivational suffixes “-al”, “-an” and “-ic” that changes nouns into adjectives, such as:

Noun – to – adjective: “-al”

Recreation -> *recreational*

Politic -> *political*

Society -> *social*

Morality -> *moral*

Profession -> *professional*

Adjectives derived from nouns are called denominal elements (or denominal adjectives); therefore, **denominals have functions like adjectives**.

Denominals pre-modify nouns, appear between the determiner and the head of the noun phrase :

Determiner	Denominal element	Head noun
A	<i>political</i>	<i>leader</i>
A	<i>medical</i>	<i>student</i>
A	<i>professional</i>	<i>dressmaker</i>

II.1.2. Abstract nouns

Nouns deriving into denominal adjectives are majorly abstract nouns (denote concepts, technical terms).

Abstract nouns	--->	Denominal adjectives
<i>politic</i>	--->	<i>political</i>
<i>medicine</i>	--->	<i>medical</i>
<i>profession</i>	--->	<i>professional</i>
<i>lexicon</i>	--->	<i>lexical</i>
<i>spirit</i>	--->	<i>spiritual</i>
<i>institution</i>	--->	<i>institutional</i>
<i>industry</i>	--->	<i>industrial</i>
<i>mathematics</i>	--->	<i>mathematical</i>
<i>biology</i>	--->	<i>biological</i>
<i>economy</i>	--->	<i>economic</i>
<i>atom</i>	--->	<i>atomic</i>
<i>diorite</i>	--->	<i>dioritic</i>
...		...

Denominal adjectives derived from abstract nouns function as pre-modifiers in complex noun phrases. Examples:

- *Criminal law*

~ Law concerning crime

- *An atomic scientist*

~ A scientist specializing in atomic science

- *A medical school*

~ A school for students of medicine

II.1.3. In-animate concrete nouns

Some in-animate concrete nouns derive into denominal adjectives.

In-animate concrete nouns	--->	Denominal adjectives
<i>region</i>	--->	<i>regional</i>
<i>continent</i>	--->	<i>continental</i>
<i>globe</i>	--->	<i>global</i>

In-animate concrete nouns have functions of pre-modifiers in complex noun phrases:

- *A **global** economy strategy*

~ An economy strategy is popular all over the world.

- ***Regional** climate*

~ The climate is limited in a given region.

II.1.4. Personal concrete nouns

Some personal concrete nouns derive into denominal adjectives.

Personal concrete nouns	--->	Denominal adjectives
<i>president</i>	--->	<i>presidential</i>
<i>pater</i>	--->	<i>paternal</i>
<i>person</i>	--->	<i>personal</i>

Personal concrete nouns have functions of pre-modifiers in complex noun phrases:

- ***Presidential** decision*

~ The president gives a decision

- ***Paternal** authority*

~ Pater has an authority ...

II.1.5. Geographical proper nouns

Many geographical proper nouns derive into denominal adjectives.

Geographical proper nouns	--->	Denominal adjectives
Russia	--->	Russian
Hanoi	--->	Hanoian
...	--->	...

And geographical proper nouns have functions of pre-modifiers in complex noun phrases:

- *A **Russian** lady*
~ *A lady who comes from Russia*
- *The big **German** wood*
~ *The big wood from Germany*
- *A **Parisian** dress*
~ *A dress is designed to Paris style.*

These denominal adjectives often denote provenance or style.

II.2. Analysis for denominal elements as pre-modifiers in complex noun phrase

Denominal adjectives relate to participants of an event which are recategorised as characterizing properties. Participants play a specific “role” in our interpretation of recategorised properties.

E.g 1: ***Presidential** decision*

->The president makes a decision and thus plays the role of an “agent” in the event.

E.g 2: ***Presidential** adviser*

-> The president plays the role of the “recipient” of information.

E.g 3: **Presidential** election

-> The president plays the role of the “theme” of an election.

E.g 4: **Presidential** candidate

-> The president plays the role of the “goal” of his candidature.

(Scientific English as a Foreign Language_ Nancy Burnham and Fred Hutson)

Denominal adjectives have a distinctly categorizing-function. For example, denominal adjectives are used to distinguish different kinds of “advice”, such as **legal** advice, **medical** advice, and **financial** advice.

These adjective-noun phrases have the same function as noun-noun compounds such as *health advice*, *careers advice*, and *consumer advice*. Which of these structural construals is chosen is partly a matter of convention and partly determined by the existence of an appropriate denominal adjective. Thus we have **regional** climate, **continental** climate, and **global** climate; however, we say not **worldly climate* but *world climate*, since *worldly* contrasts with *spiritual*

Denominal adjectives play an essential function: they subcategorize a thing and are therefore placed closest to the noun. For example:

- *The only reliable **economic** expert*
- *The first intelligent **diplomatic** solution*

(Cognitive English grammar_ Günter Radden, René Dirven)

CHAPTER III: COMMON MISTAKES IN USING NOMINALS AND DENOMINALS AS PRE-MODIFIERS IN COMPLEX NOUN PHRASES

I. Common mistakes made by Vietnamese learners in using nominals and denominals as pre-modifiers in complex noun phrases

I.1. Word order

The pre-modification in complex noun phrases is very long and complex, which easily confuses position of pre-modifiers. Chapter II mentions to the order of pre-modifiers in complex noun phrases. And this article will review and analyze pre-modification sequence; concurrently, give the relative order of adjective types.

We would prefer “*a small round table*” to “*a round small table*”; “*the lovely little black Japanese box*” to “*the Japanese lack little lovely box*”? Evaluative or subjective adjectives frequently precede those that are relatively objective or measurable; size often precedes shape; within size, height often precedes girth. ‘**General**’ adjective are themselves preceded by semantically weak items like nice, by non-predicable items like mere, by quantifier, numerals, determiners and associated closed-system items. The acceptable order of pre-modifiers in a complex noun phrase is as follows:

1. Pre-determiner, 2. determiner, 3. post-determiner, 3'. ordinal, 3''. cardinal/quantifier, 4. general, 5. age, 6. size/shape, 7. color, 8. participle, 9. provenance, 10. material, 11. purpose, 12. denominal, 13. head noun.

Examples:

<u>The</u>	<u>first</u>	<u>intelligent</u>	<u>diplomatic</u>	<u>solution</u>
determiner	ordinal	general	denominal	head noun

<u>All</u>	<u>the</u>	<u>last</u>	<u>ten</u>	<u>good</u>	<u>tall</u>	<u>maths</u>	<u>student</u>
Pre-determiner	determiner	ordinal	cardinal	general	shape	purpose	head noun

<u>Half</u>	<u>the</u>	<u>other</u>	<u>ten</u>	<u>famous</u>	<u>best-sold</u>	<u>novels</u>
Pre-determiner	determiner	ordinal	cardinal	general	participle	head noun

<u>The</u>	<u>extravagant</u>	<u>London</u>	<u>social</u>	<u>life</u>
determiner	general	nominal	denominal	head noun

Denominal adjectives like “*social*”, “*diplomatic*” play an essential function: they subcategorize a thing and are therefore placed closest to the noun. Adjectives like “*intelligent*”, “*famous*”, “*extravagant*” have a less essential role: their function is purely characterizing the referent and hence they are placed further away from the head noun. Post determiner like “*first, last, other, ten*”, have, in conjunction with the determiner, the function of grounding the referent and hence go with the article “the”.

The order among purely characterizing adjectives is also determined by the iconic principle of proximity. The more relevant and stable a property, the nearer the adjective is placed to its head noun, and vice versa. For example, the color of a person’s skin is permanent but one’s intelligence much less so: *stupid white man* is therefore the natural order. Evaluative attributes are variable: evaluative adjectives are therefore placed further away from the head noun as in *a pretty young girl* or *superb white beaches*.

Notes: when two nouns pre-modify, one which corresponds to the head as object to verb will follow one relating to material or agency:

A $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{detergent} \\ \text{cardboard} \end{array} \right\} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{container} \\ \text{carton} \end{array} \right\} \sim \text{a cardboard detergent} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{container} \\ \text{carton} \end{array} \right\}$

My $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{cigarette} \\ \text{gas} \end{array} \right\} \text{ lighter} \sim \text{my gas cigarette lighter}$

Not * my cigarette gas lighter.

(A university grammar of English_ Randolph Quirk)

Mis-order the elements

In case of mis-order the elements, phrases will be wrong of word structure and their meanings will change.

I.1.1. Wrong of word structure

E.g:

<u>The</u>	<u>extravagant</u>	<u>social</u>	<u>London</u>	<u>life</u>
determiner	general	denominal	provenance	head noun

According to the order of pre-modifiers in complex noun phrases, ‘provenance’ have to be placed just before ‘denominal’. This phrase can’t be turned into complex noun phrase with post-modifier. Therefore, the reasonable order will be “*the extravagant London social life*”, equivalently “*the social life in London is extravagant*”.

I.1.2. Meaning changes

The word placed closest to the head noun plays the most important and essential function. Because it subcategorizes a thing and have permanence.

If writing “*white stupid man*” will lead to changes of the meaning: A man is always stupid and his skin is variable (his skin is changeable to dark...) and it is unreasonable.

I.2. Plural form

When using plural nouns as pre-modifiers, they are often changed to the singular. Therefore, “*the leg of the trousers*” become “*the **trouser** leg*”. “*The lens of the binoculars*” turn into “*the **binocular** lens*”. Although this change is normal, it is not universal, e.g. “*the race of arms*” becomes “*the **arms** race*”, where “**arm**” stays plural. Especially, with noun pre-modification that is not hardening into a fixed phrase or compound: *The committee on promotions* ~ *the promotions committee*.

And using wrongly plural form leads to wrong of grammar because nominals as adjectives modifying the head noun in complex noun phrases can't stay plural. We can't write “*The **labs** technician*”, ‘*lab*’ function as an adjective that adds information to the head “*technician*”- at that time a technician can not stay at many labs, adjectives never have plural form.

However, in some cases plural form is compulsory:

Example 1: *Arms race*

Example 2: *Sports program on TV*

In example 1, “arm” with meaning of ‘instruments or weapons of offense or defense’ is always in plural form “*arms*”. In this phrase, nominal element “*arms*” modify the head noun “*race*”.

In example 2, nominal element is in plural form “*sports*” when its meaning is a synthesis of many games like football, badminton, skiing, swimming... and “*sports program on TV*” is ‘a program on TV analyses, comments, synthesizes... many games happening in competitions’.

I.3. Misinterpretation of meaning

Long sequences of nouns combining pre-modifiers with head nouns are shorter and denser in terms of information conveying complex meanings of compressed form; however, it can confuse the meaning. Technical writers need to be careful

of using too many pre-modifiers with a noun, because it could introduce confusion as to exactly what is being pre-modified. Consider the following phrase: “... *a chrome-plated nut wrench*...”

Is this referring to a wrench for use with chrome-plated nuts, or a chrome-plated wrench for using with indeterminate types of nuts?

In general, pre-modifiers can be replaced with post-modifying clauses introduced by ‘of’ or ‘for’. Rewording this last example above, we get:

- “...*a wrench for chrome-plated nuts*...”

Or

- “...*a chrome-plated wrench for nuts*...”

Another example, to write “*We visited their country house.*” is fairly easy and intuitive, but slightly ambiguous, in that we do not know if the author intends to say “*We visited their house that is in the country.*” Or “*We visited their house, which is in the country*”. In other words, we don’t know from “*We visited their country house.*” if the house is the only house owned by them, or if they own a city house as well, and the pre-modifier “*country*” distinguishes the houses. If this distinction is important, it is best to avoid the pre-modifier.

Using nominal elements with the meaning of “permanence”

Another trouble arises when considering the permanence of the noun in question. “*The book is on the table in the corner.*” Easily become “*The book is on the corner table.*” because the table is relatively immobile. However, “*The girl in the corner has the book.*” Does not readily become “*The corner girl has the book.*” Because the girl may easily move from the corner. She is not in the corner often enough to have “cornerness” as part of her character, whereas the table does. So don’t use nouns as pre-modifiers unless the modification has some permanence.

Examples:

- *The instrument in the lab doesn't work.*

~ ***The lab instrument doesn't work.***

- *The technician in the lab doesn't work.*

~ ***The lab technician doesn't work.*** (A technician is supposed to be in the lab and thus has some permanence.)

- *The professor in the lab doesn't work.*

Not ~ * *the lab professor doesn't work.* Because professors don't usually spend much time in the lab, so they lack permanence. In this case, "in the lab" indicates where the professor happens to be right now.

- *The windows in the corner are cracked.*

~ ***The corner windows are cracked.***

- *The windows in the corners are cracked.*

~ ***The corner windows are cracked.*** But if for some reasons, it is vital to know that the windows in the different corners throughout the building are cracked, then leave this sentence unchanged.

- *Interaction between dislocation and defects are very interesting.*

~ ***Dislocation-defect interaction are very interesting.***

(Scientific English as a Foreign Language_ Nancy Burnham and Fred Hutson)

II. Some suggestions to overcome the difficulties

II.1. Word order:

To avoid mistakes of word order, it is very important and necessary to be master of:

Firstly, **the pre-modification sequence** in complex noun phrases (which is mentioned above).

<u>The</u>	<u>complicated</u>	<u>recent</u>	<u>Thailand</u>	<u>political</u>	<u>situation</u>
determiner	general	age	provenance	denominal	head noun

Secondly, **permanent and impermanent meanings**. The permanent words are placed to their head nouns nearer than the impermanent ones.

<u>the</u>	<i>lab</i>	<u>electronic</u>	<u>equipment</u>
determiner	impermanent	permanent	head noun

Thirdly, with more than one nominal element, if **one which corresponds to the head as object to verb will follow one relating to material or agency**.

- *The tax office furniture*

~ furnish to the tax office

II.2. Plural form

Nominal elements as pre-modifiers in complex noun phrases are in plural form in cases of:

(1) With noun pre-modification that is not hardening into a fixed phrase or compound:

- *The appointments and promotions committee*

~ The committee dealing with appointments and promotions

(2) Nominals only have lexical meanings when they are in plural form:

- *Sales tax*
- *Sales department*

The other cases are in singular form:

- *Finance committee*
- *Foreign language department*

(A university grammar of English_ Randolph Quirk)

II.3. Misinterpretation of meaning

A complicated and long pre-modification sequence will lead to misunderstanding of meaning. In such cases, it is best to use **the post-modifier** instead of the pre-modifier.

- *We visited their house **that is in the country**.*

Instead of:

- *We visited their **country** house.*

And don't use nouns as pre-modifiers if the modification hasn't some permanence.

- *The professor **in the lab** doesn't work.*

Not: ~ *The **lab** professor doesn't work.*

PART III: CONCLUSION

Complex noun phrase is one of the most plentiful and interesting study theme in English grammar. In this paper, the researcher studies on nominal and denominal elements as pre-modifiers in complex noun phrases. The study mentions part II which is divided into three chapters: theoretical background, analysis for nominal and denominal elements as pre-modifiers in complex noun phrases. The theoretical background of complex noun phrases, nominal and denominal pre-modifiers is presented in chapter one with the definition, the classification, the structure, the semantic features and the functions. From the theoretical background in chapter one, the researcher wants to mention types of noun and denominal adjectives used as pre-modifiers in complex noun phrases, and show meaning differences between pre-modification and post-modification in order to use them reasonably in each case. And then, some common mistakes in using nominals and denominals as pre-modifiers are given and some effective solutions are concluded from in the process of analyzing nominals and denominals as pre-modifiers in chapter two.

Complex noun phrases , as their names imply, are the most difficult of all. They consist of pre-modification, head noun, and post-modification. Pre-modification includes closed-system and open-class items which are in the given order. Nominals and denominals are subclasses in open-class items, which are analyzed specifically in chapter two. Post-modification can be finite or non-finites clauses, apposition, adjective phrases, adverbial and prepositional phrases. The research use many practical examples to help learner to be master of complex noun phrases, specially nominals and denominals.

This research paper is performed with the hope that it will provide learners of English detailed information of pre-modifiers, especially nominals and denominals and help learners find it easy in learning complex noun phrases in English.

With the limitation of time, knowledge as well as experience, this paper cannot covers all matters and mistakes in this paper might be possible to be made. Therefore, what are left untouched in this paper hopefully will be dealt with further studies and I would like to receive more and more suggestions and contributive opinions from my teachers and friends.

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