

Structure Analysis of Journal Article Titles: Systemic Functional Grammar Perspectives

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Abstract

This article studies about analyzing the nominal group structure of journal article titles based on systemic functional linguistics. Title is important for an article. It tells about the content of the article, so it must effective and accurate. Each writer created titles using different word classes as the components constructing the title, and with different length: short and long structure. The purpose of this study is to identify the components constructing titles in journal articles and to find the dominant component forming them. The method used in this study is qualitative method. In analyzing the data, writer used Systemic Functional Grammar perspectives as SFG provides comprehensive explanation about nominal group. The data were taken from journals published by English Journal Literacy UTama. The study revealed that journal article titles used basic components of nominal group structure and the dominant component constructing the structures was post-modifier functioning as qualifier represented by prepositional phrase.

Keywords

nominal group; logical structure;
experiential structure; title



I. Introduction

Writing a good title for an article is not easy. It is like an art, we need skill and knowledge to make it. A title is like an identity for an article. It must be interesting and effective to attract readers to read the article, not only read the title but also read the content of the article. As mentioned by several writers in their studies that titles are not a complete sentence. It may be just a few words, but it could be longer.

Nominal group structure was used by a lot of writers to create a title, as by using nominal group structure, the length of title can be determined by the writers. Nominal group consists of one word or a few words, so the title could be short or long. Each word forming a nominal group has function. The functions of the words would be discussed in this study.

1.1 Title

Every article has title. Title is a part of writing which has important role to give identity about a writing. It is a label of a writing or paper. It also helps the readers to comprehend the content of the writing or research paper. A good title must be able to attract the readers to read full writing. Shah (2004, p. 1) said that "title should be 'simple, brief, clear and attractive' to precisely 'tell readers' about the research paper. It may not be a grammatically complete sentence. Redundant words like verbs and articles are best omitted". As mentioned by Shah that a title is better not in clause structure, and we must avoid verbs in writing a title. It means that title should be written in group structure, particularly in nominal group structure, since other groups like verbal group or adverbial group is closed related to verb or uses verb.

About the length of a title, there is not fixed rule, but some studies showed that ideal title has 10 to 15 words or between 31 to 40 characters. Nominal group has representation of this recommendation numbers. The length of nominal group structure can be made short or long. The core word in a title can be extended based on the idea that writers want to convey to the readers.

1.2 Nominal Group

Nominal group is one of groups which form a clause. It can serve as subject, object, or complement. Nominal group consists of main word and its modifiers. Nominal ground can stand alone represented by noun. Bloor and Bloor (2004, p. 285) defined that “nominal group is a group which can function as Subject and Complement in a clause and complement of a preposition in a prepositional phrase. Its Head is typically a noun or pronoun, but also sometimes adjective, numeral, or determiner”. Egging (2004, p. 96) also describes that “the nominal group is the part of the clause that contains nouns and the words that can accompany nouns”.

Nominal group can be comprehended using two structures, they are logical structure and experiential structure. As mentioned by Halliday and Matthiessen (2004, p. 309) say that in interpreting group structure, we have to split the ideational component into two: experiential and logical.

Errors are the flawed side of learner speech or writing. Those are part of conversation or compositions that deviate from some selected norm of nature language (Daulay in Bahar et al, 2019).

a. Logical Structure of Nominal Group

Logical structure is concerned with the relationship among the elements forming the nominal group. The elements are between head and modifiers or between dominant element and dependent element. The modifiers or dependent elements subcategorized into pre-modifier and post-modifier. Pre-modifier is placed before the head, while post-modifier is placed after the head. As stated by Downing and Locke (2002, p. 477) that between the head of a nominal Group and the other elements, there is one basic logical relationship. The interdependency among the elements starts from the main word called head in the right to the left. As described by Downing and Locke (2002, p. 478) that the unmarked order from right to left, from most permanent to least permanent features.

b. Experiential Structure of Nominal Group

Experiential structure is concerned with how meaning is expressed in the group as the organization of experiences. Nominal group consists of several component forming it. The components are deictic, epithet, classifier, thing, and qualifier. The functional components express potential identifying in nominal group. The progression of identification starts from the components that have successively less identifying increasing to the components that have permanent identifying as attributes. The modification occurs from the left to the right. First element is Deictic, then followed by Numerative, the next is Epithet, and the closest to the main word called the thing is Classifier. The most permanent element is the Thing itself. After the Thing, there is another modification named Qualifier. Halliday and Matthiessen (2004, p. 312-325) mentioned that experiential structure of the nominal group: Deictic, Numerative, Epithet, Classifier, Thing, and Qualifier.

II. Research Methods

2.1 Research Questions

1. What are the components constructing journal article titles based on logical structure of nominal group?
2. What are the dominant component constructing journal article titles based on logical structure of nominal group?

2.2 Technique of Collecting Data

The data were collected from English Journal Literacy UTama in four issues. The journal was published by Universitas Widyatama. The steps were taken as follow:

1. Collecting the titles which have nominal group structure.
2. Identifying the titles with the modifiers.
3. Classifying the titles with the functional components.
4. Analyzing the titles.

2.3 The Study Technique

The study technique was done to get accurate answers. This study was conducted to analyze the structure of journal article titles based systemic functional linguistics perspectives. The techniques are as follows:

1. From the data source, the titles were selected based on the structure. They have nominal group structure.
2. Based on the logical structure of nominal group in systemic functional linguistics, the titles have head and modifiers which are classified into pre-modifier and post-modifier.
3. Based on the experiential structure of nominal group in systemic functional grammar, the titles have functional components labelled as deictic, epithet, classifier, thing, and qualifier.
4. Based on the theories of nominal group in systemic functional linguistics, the titles of journal articles have head as modified word, and Modifiers as modifying words. The modifiers are components which have functions to describe the Head.

III. Results and Discussion

Table 1. Structure Pattern 1

Diglossia	on Novel
Head	Post-Modifier
Thing	Qualifier
Noun	Prepositional Phrase

The title Diglossia on Novel form a nominal group structure. Based on logical structure of nominal group, it has Diglossia as the modified word labelled Head; on Novel as modifying words called Modifier on Novel is Pre-Modifier since it is placed after Diglossia. Based on experiential structure of nominal group structure, Diglossia functions as Thing since it is the matter being discussed; on Novel functions as Qualifier since it gives additional information about Diglossia. The nominal group consists of one pre-modifier functioning as qualifier realized by prepositional phrase.

Table 2. Structure Pattern 2

Major	Problems	in Analyzing Transitivity
Pre-Modifier	Head	Post-Modifier
Classifier	Thing	Qualifier
Adjective	Noun	Prepositional Phrase

The title Major Problems in Analyzing Transitivity forms a nominal group structure. Based on logical structure of nominal group, it has Problems as the modified word labelled Head; Major and in Analyzing Transitivity as modifying words labelled Modifiers. Major is Pre-Modifier since it is placed before Problems; in Analyzing Transitivity is Post-Modifier since it is placed after Problems. Based on experiential structure of nominal group structure, Problems functions as Thing since it is the matter being discussed; Major functions as Classifier since it subcategorizes problems; in Analyzing Transitivity functions as Qualifier since it gives additional information about problems. The nominal group consists of one pre-modifier functioning as classifier realized by adjective, one post-modifier functioning as qualifier realized prepositional phrase.

Table 3. Structure Pattern 3

Sexual	Euphemism	Expressed	in Pop and Hip Hop Lyric Songs
Pre-Modifier	Head	Post-Modifier	
Classifier	Thing	Qualifier	
Adjective	Noun	Clause – Non Finite	Prepositional Phrase

The title Sexual Euphemism Expresses in Pop and Hip Hop Lyric Songs forms a nominal group structure. Based on logical structure of nominal group, it has Euphemism as the modified word labelled Head; Sexual, Expresses, in Pop and Hip Hop Lyric Songs as modifying words labelled Modifiers. Sexual is Pre-Modifier since it is placed before Euphemism; Expresses and in Pop and Hip Hop Lyric Songs are Post-Modifiers since they are placed after Euphemism. Based on experiential structure of nominal group structure, Euphemism functions as Thing since it is the matter being discussed; Sexual functions as Classifier since it subcategorizes Euphemism; Expresses and in Analyzing Transitivity function as Qualifiers since they give additional information about Euphemism. The nominal group structure consists of one pre-modifier functioning as classifier realized by adjective, two post-modifiers functioning as qualifiers realized by one clause non-finite and prepositional phrase.

Table 4. Structure Pattern 4

The	Conceptualization	of Happiness	Using Force Image Schema	in Hunger Games Trilogy Book
Pre-Modifier	Head	Post-Modifier		
Deictic	Thing	Qualifier		
Determiner	Noun	Prepositional Phrase	Clause – Non Finite	Prepositional Phrase

The title *The Conceptualization of Happiness Using Force Image Schema in Hunger Games Trilogy Book* forms a nominal group structure. Based on logical structure of nominal group, it has *Conceptualization* as modified word labelled *Head*; *the*, *of happiness*, *Using Force Image Schema*, and *in Hunger Games Trilogy Book* as modifying words labelled *Modifiers*. *The* is *Pre-Modifier* since it is placed before *Conceptualization*; *of happiness*, *Using Image Schema*, and *in Hunger Games Trilogy Book* are *Post-Modifiers* since they are placed after *Conceptualization*. Based on experiential structure of nominal group structure, *The* functions as *Deictic* since it tells specific *Conceptualization*; *Conceptualization* functions as *Thing* since it is the matter being discussed; *of Happiness*, *Using Force Image Schema*, and *in Hunger Games trilogy Book* function as *Qualifiers* since they give additional information about *Conceptualization*. The nominal group structure consists of one pre-modifier functioning as deictic realized by determiner, three post-modifiers functioning as qualifiers realized by two prepositional phrases and one clause non-finite.

Table 5. Structure Pattern 5

Analysis	of Translation	Used	in Translating Usage Instruction	of Beauty Products
Head	Post-Modifier			
Thing	Qualifier			
Noun	Prepositional Phrase	Clause – Non Finite	Prepositional Phrase	Prepositional Phrase

The title *Analysis of Translation Used in Translation usage Instruction of Beauty Products* forms a nominal group structure. Based on logical structure of nominal group, it has *Analysis* as modified word labelled *Head*; *of Translation*, *Used*, *in Translation usage Instruction*, *of Beauty Products* as modifying words labelled *Modifiers*. *of Translation*, *Used*, *in Translation usage Instruction*, *of Beauty Products* are *Post-Modifiers* since they are placed after *Analysis*. Based on experiential structure of nominal group structure, *Analysis* functions as *Thing* since it is the matter being discussed; *of Translation*, *Used*, *in Translation usage Instruction*, *of Beauty Products* function as *Qualifiers* since they give additional information about *Analysis*. The nominal group structure consists of four post-modifiers functioning as qualifiers realized by three prepositional phrases and one clause non-finite, but it has no pre-modifier.

Table 6. Structure Pattern 6

An	Analysis	of Translation Method	Used	by College Students	in Translating an Article
Pre-Modifier	Head	Post-Modifier			
Deictic	Thing	Qualifier			
Determiner	Noun	Prepositional Phrase	Clause non-finite	Prepositional Phrase	Prepositional Phrase

The title *An Analysis of Translation Method Used by College Students in Translating an Article* forms a nominal group structure. Based on logical structure of nominal group, it has *Analysis* as modified word labelled *Head*; *An*, *of Translation Method*, *Used*, *by College Students*, *in Translating an Article* as modifying words labelled *Modifiers*. *An* is *Pre-Modifier* since it is placed before *Analysis*; *of Translation Method*, *Used*, *by College Students*, *in Translating an Article* are *Post-Modifiers* since they are placed after *Analysis*. Based on

experiential structure of nominal group structure, An functions as Deictic since it tells unspecific Analysis; Analysis functions as Thing since it is the matter being discussed; of Translation Method, Used, by College Students, in Translating an Article function as Qualifiers since they give additional information about Analysis. The nominal group structure consists of one pre-modifier functioning as deictic realized by determiner, four post-modifiers functioning as qualifiers realized by three prepositional phrases and one clause non-finite.

Table 7. Structure Pattern 7

Phonological	Analysis	on Blending and Segmenting	for Early Literacy	of K-1 and K-2 Children	in I can read English Course	in Bandung City
Pre-Modifier	Head	Post-Modifier				
Classifier	Thing	Qualifier				
Adjective	Noun	Prepositional Phrase	Prepositional Phrase	Prepositional Phrase	Prepositional Phrase	Prepositional Phrase

The title Phonological Analysis on Blending and Segmenting for Early Literacy of K-1 and K-2 Children in I Can Read English Course in Bandung City forms a nominal group structure. Based on logical structure of nominal group, it has Analysis as modified word labelled Head; Phonological, on Blending and Segmenting, for Early Literacy, of K-1 and K-2 Children, in I Can Read English Course, in Bandung City as modifying words labelled Modifiers. Phonological is Pre-Modifier since it is placed before Analysis; on Blending and Segmenting, for Early Literacy, of K-1 and K-2 Children, in I Can Read English Course, in Bandung City are Post-Modifiers since they are placed after Analysis. Based on experiential structure of nominal group structure, Phonological functions as Classifier since it subcategorizes Analysis; Analysis functions as Thing since it is the matter being discussed; on Blending and Segmenting, for Early Literacy, of K-1 and K-2 Children, in I Can Read English Course, in Bandung City function as Qualifiers since they give additional information about Analysis. The nominal group structure consists of one pre-modifier functioning as classifier realized by adjective, five post-modifiers functioning as qualifiers realized by five prepositional phrases.

Research Question 1

1. What are the components constructing journal article titles based on systemic functional linguistics?

The structure forming journal article titles is nominal group structure. Based on logical structure of nominal group, the components constructing the title are Head and Modifiers. The modifiers are pre-modifier and post-modifier. Pre-modifier does not always exist in the titles, but post-modifier always exists. Based on experiential structure of nominal group, the components constructing the title are almost all components used, they are deictic, epithet, classifier, and qualifier. There is one component which is not used, it is numerative.

Research Question 2

2. What are the dominant component constructing journal article titles based on logical structure of nominal group?

According to the data analyzed, the dominant component used in the titles is post-modifier functioning as qualifier. In one title, it has at least one qualifier and the most five qualifiers. The qualifiers can be represented by one or more prepositional phrases, and one or more clause non-finite.

IV. Conclusion

Title has important role in writing article. It summarizes the content of the article. Creating a title needs a lot of knowledge and skills. A title written is based on specific structure. The most titles written used nominal group structures. There are two kinds of nominal group structures based on systemic functional grammar. According to logical structure of nominal group, a title consists of Head and Modifier. The existence of Head and Modifier is a must. According to experiential structure of nominal group, a title consists of several functional components, they are Deictic, Epithet, Classifier, Thing, and Qualifier. A title must have a Thing as main word and at least one functional component as modifier.

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