THE STRUCTURE OF NOUN PHRASE IN DIZIN

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Abstract

This paper examines the structure of noun phrases in Dizin, one of the least linguistically studied languages in the Southwest part of Ethiopia. It focuses mainly on the Maji dialect. It describes different types of elements that appear in noun phrase and their orders in light of Dryer's(2007)cross-linguistic observation.

The study follows a qualitative research approach. The data were collected using elicitation from key informants and from natural texts like fables in Maji district. The findings showed that Dizin employs variable order of elements with respect to the head noun or with respect to each other, which is almost similar to Hellental's (2010) work on closely related language Sheko. Specifically, numerals and demonstratives occur before or after the head noun. While adjectives, quantifiers, and adpositions occur post-nominal, relative clauses occur left-adjacent to the head noun. As a result, Dizin is neither left-headed nor right-headed in the typology of noun phrase structure.

KEY WORDS: Head; Modifier; Nominal; Phrase; Structure

Introduction

1. The people and the language

This paper investigates the noun phrase structure in Dizin[1], one of the least linguistically studied languages in Southwest part of Ethiopia. The Dizin language belongs to the Dizoid[2] group of the Omotic language family. It has about 35,988 native speakers (CSA 2007:99). The language has three dialects, namely Jaba, Adikas, and Maji, and it is closely related to languages like Sheko and Na'o (Aklilu 2003).

Formerly, the people were within the Bench-Maji zone; but now they are within the West Omo Zone of Southern Nations, Nationalities, and the Peoples Regional State (SNNPR) of Ethiopia. The Dizi are Bordered by Me'en to the north, by North Omo in the East, by Suri in the South and west and by Sheko in the Northwest (Abeje 2000:10).

Because of their genetic affiliation, the Dizi people have similarities with Sheko to the north, and Na'o[3] to the north-east. As a result, three of them were referred to as Dizoid, previously Majoid or Maji-Na'o (Haberland 1984). The Dizi people settled predominantly to elevations that lie from 1,200 to 2.200 meters above sea level, which is comfortable for a variety of crop production. As a result, the people are mainly agrarian and produce crops such as maize, sorghum, and barley. They also grow false bananas. Regarding religion, most of the Dizi people are followers of the Orthodox Christian.

For this, the work is divided into six sections. The first of which is a brief introduction of the people and the language. The second section offers a brief presentation of previous studies on variations as a starting point. The third section presents some properties of the language that are fundamental for the transcription of the data. The

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1   The people call the language they speak Dizin (Beahy, 2005)
2   Languages like Dizin, Sheko and Na'o are called Dizoid or Majoid since their original place is Maji where the Dizi people live (Fleming, 1976; Akililu 2000)
3   In the literature of linguistics Na'o is also named as Nayi

fourth section, which has eight subsections, describes the various modifiers that are observed in the structure of noun phrases. The fifth section presents the order of modifiers with respect to the head noun and with each other, and finally the last section, that is, Section six provides a brief summary.

2. Previous works on the language

Although there are linguistic studies on Dizin, they are sketchy and limited in number, except Beachy's work (2005), which thoroughly examined the phonology and morphology of Maji dialect. Major linguistic studies on the language include Toselli (1939), Keefer (1969a and 1969b), Habtemarim (1982), Claudi and Serzisko (1985), Breez (1988), Beachy (2005,2008, 2018), Allan (1976, 1978), and Aklilu (1994, 2000, 2003).

Aklilu (1994, 2003), Breez (1988) and Allan (1976, 1978) focus only on a comparative study of the phonological systems of the languages. Only linguistic descriptions such as Beachy (2005) and Aklilu (2000) focus on the description of the phonology and morphology of the language. Beachy's (2008) work emphasized on analysis of possessive prefixes and verbal agreement proclitic. Beachy (2018) presented a brief grammar of Dizin. He sketches the order of adjective, numeral, and demonstrative, which does not show a complete description of noun phrases. He did not consider the other classes of modifiers that exist in the language like possessives, quantifiers, genitives, relative clauses, adpositional phrases, and definiteness.The focus of the present study is therefore the structure of noun phrases in Dizin, which has not been intensively examined in any of the works listed above.

The data for this study are from the Maji district. This district was chosen because it is a place where the Maji dialect is dominantly spoken, and is prestigious, standard and currently used in writing. The study follows an eclectic and practical research methodology. The data used in this paper are collected in different ways. Linguistic elicitation and natural texts on fables are used to collect adequate data. The Maji dialect was chosen out of other dialects because the

dialect is the prestige, standard and currently used in the script. Four informants were asked to reproduce some words and phrases: two men and two women between 25 and 65 years old. The participants were interviewed on the topic and their responses were recorded. The responses were transcribed as text. Then the Leipzig Glossing Convention (LGC) is used, in which the boundaries of morphemes are clearly shown (breaks of morphemes are indicated with a hyphen). Examples provided generally consist of three lines. The first line is the data from the targeted language in phonemic form, with morpheme breaks. The second line gives the morpheme-by-morpheme English gloss, and the third line is a free translation into English. During the analysis, each feature and manifestation of Dizin NPs has been explained in depth. Since the language is tonal, high, mid, and low levels of tone are marked in the data.

3. Some Grammatical Properties of Dizin

The basic word order of Dizin is SOV in an unmarked declarative sentence; the subject precedes the object while the verb follows the object. Although the dominant word order in Dizin is SOV, the use of OSV cannot lead to ungrammatical sentences. Since cases with the exception of the nominative are marked overtly, their position in a sentence cannot be determined by the basic order of the words. The examples in (1) demonstrate the word order pattern of the language.

(1) a. ***áku   kómtu-n[4]   dɔ̄búʃ-ó***
         Aku   komtu-ACC   kill-3SM
         'Aku killed Komtu'
     b. ***kómtu-n   áku   dɔ̄buʃ-ó***
         Komtu-ACC   Aku   kill-3SM
         'Aku killed Komtu'
    *c. ***áku   kómtu   dɔ̄buʃ-ó***
    *d. ***dɔ̄būʃ   áku   Kómtu***

   Sentences(1a&b) are grammatical because the order of sentence (a) keeps its basic word order (SOV), while in sentence (b) the

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4   When objects are proper nouns and pronouns, the accusative marker is the suffix –n ,while they are common nouns, it is –s.

marked object comes first as emphasis is given on the object. But sentences (1c &d) are ungrammatical since the accusative marker is left out on the proper noun *komtu* in sentence (c) and Dizin does not allow VSO pattern in (d).

The second property of Dizin which is fundamental to data transcription is the syllable structure of the language. Therefore, the syllable template of Dizin is the following: (C) V (V) (C) (C) and CN(C). The examples in (2) illustrate the syllable types of Dizin.

(2)	Syllable type	*example*	gloss
	V.CV	*ú.gu*	'milk'
	VV	*íí*	'house'
	VVC	*āāj*	'water'
	VCC	*oʃk-*	'call'
	CN̩-	*ʔm̩-*	'eat'
	CVV.CV	*náá.rā*	'wind'
	CVVC	*jááb*	'person'
	CVC	*k'ój*	'one'
	CV	*só*	'above'
	CVCC	*ʃɔ̄ʃk*	'song'
	CN̩.CVC	*ʔŋ̩.dād*	'my child'
	CV.VC.CN̩ C	*dʒú.ák.ʔn̩t*	'in the afternoon'

The third property of the language is tone. Dizin has three tones: high, mid and low (Aklilu, 2003). Regarding its function, Beachy (2005) suggests that tone plays both lexical and grammatical functions. Some tone minimal pairs at word and grammatical levels are given in (3).

(3)	a.	[*āāj*]N	[*ááj*]N
		'ear'	'water'
	b.	[*ʔŋ̄ -zok-ake*]NP	[*ʔŋ́-zok-ake*]NP
		'1S.POSS-ox-PL	'1PL.POSS-ox-PL
		'my oxen'	'our oxen'

4. The Structure of the noun phrase in Dizin
4.1 Nouns and Pronouns

A noun phrase is specified as a nominal structure that occupies a central or peripheral argument slot in a clause. The phrase is called a noun phrase because its head is a noun or pronoun. Elements of noun phrase include: determiners, demonstratives, genitives, quantifiers, numerals, relative clauses and the head noun (Payne 1997:86 and Dixon, 2010:50). A noun phrase may consist of a single word, which is a noun or a pronoun. Similarly, in Dizin, noun phrases can be headed by personal pronouns, nouns, and proper names. The following examples illustrate the minimal projection of NPs as subject and object of sentences.

(4)   a.   **[áku]NP**   **[kómtú-n]NP**   **dɔ̄búʃ-ó**
                Aku   Komtu-ACC   Kill-3SM
                'Aku killed komtu'

        b.   **[jááb-a] NP**   **[kíán-a-s] NP**   **dɔ̄búʃ-ó**
                person-DEF.M   dog-DEF-ACC   Kill-3SM
                'The man killed the dog'

        c.   **[jīnū]NP**   **[úgu] NP**   **bɔ̄j-nó**
                1S   milk   drink-1S
                'I drank milk'

        d.   **[ìʒ]NP**   **[jīn-n] NP**   **jáf-ó**
                he   1SM-ACC   call-3SM
                'He called me.'

    The examples above indicate that the NP in Dizin consists of proper names (4a), nouns (4b), and personal pronouns (4c&d).It is also indicated that a noun phrase consisted of a head noun only or a noun inflected for accusative case. Moreover, a noun phrase can be consisted of together with other modifiers such as determiners, adjectives, postpositional phrases and relative clauses. The following subsections demonstrate each modifiers of NP.

4.2 Determiners

The category of determiners includes a number of subcategories like articles, quantifiers, numeralss, demonstratives, and possessive pronouns.

4.2.1 Definiteness

According to Crystal (2008: 133), the concept of definiteness refers to "references that focus on specific and identifiable entities or classes of entities". In this regard, Givon (2001: 459) also states that speakers encode a person who refers to a noun as definitive if it is assumed that it is identifiable or accessible to the listener. Dryer (2007:152) claims that the majority of languages have either a definite article or an indefinite article, but not both. In Dizin, only the definite article that is sensitive for gender occurs overtly. It is found suffixed to the head noun or adjectives which attributively modifies the head noun. The definite noun marker for male is *–a* and for female *-en*, while for definite adjective marker is *–da* for male and *–den* for female. The order of definite marker in NPs is illustrated in (5).

(5)   a.   **[*jááb-a*]** NP   **[*úgú*]**NP   ***bǝ̄j-ó***
            Person-DEF.M   milk   drink-3SM
            'The person drank milk.'

      b.   **[*dǟd*   *dúénz-dǟ*]** NP
            child   fat-DEF.M
            'the fat child'

      c.   **[*jááb-én*]**NP
            Perso-DEF.F
            'the woman'

     *d   **[*dǟd-a*   *dúénz-dǟ*]** NP
            child-DEF.M   fat-DEF.M
            'the fat child'

     *e   **[*dǟd-a*   *dúénz*]**NP
            child-DEF.M   fat
            'the fat child'

The examples in (5a&b) are grammatical because they follow the word order of NP, while examples in (5d&e) are ungrammatical

because they do not follow the word order of NP in Dizin .i.e. the noun definite marker in (5d &e) are wrongly suffixed to the head noun. This shows that when the attributive adjective used to modify the head in an NP, the definite marker is suffixed only to the adjective. However, when the adjective is used predicatively, the definite marker is attached to the noun. This can be illustrated by example (6).

(6)   a.   **[*zók-a-akè*]**NP   *dúénz*   *tì-nìʃi*
              ox-DEF-PL   fat   COP-3PL
              'The oxen are fat.'
     *b.   **[*zók-a-akè*]**NP   *dúénz-dā*   *tì-nìʃi*
              ox-DEF-PL   fat-DEF   COP-3PL
              'The oxen are fat.'

                                    The

adjective in (6a) is used attributively. As a result, the definite marker is attached on the noun and the sentence becomes grammatically correct. Example (6b) is ungrammatical though the adjective is used predicatively because the definite marker is not placed in its right position.

4.2.2 Numerals in Dizin NPs

The other elements of Dizin noun phrase are the numerals. Both cardinal and ordinal numerals occur as modifiers of nouns in the language. Cardinal numerals indicate the number of entities indicated by the NP, while ordinal numbers identify an entity based on its order from other entities. These numerals can occur before or after the head noun in the noun phrase of Dizin. This is illustrated in (7).

(7)   a.   **[*úʃúm t'áágŋ*] NP**
             ear two
             'two ears'
     b.   **[*kādú jááb*]**NP
            three person
            'three persons'
     c.   **[*kādú jááb-akè*]**NP
            three person-PL

'thee persons
d.   **[*jááb-akè kādu*]**NP
 person-PL three
'three persons'

The examples in (7a-d) are all grammatical. This proves that cardinal numbers can occur either pre-nominal or post-nominal in Dizin NP structure. They also prove that when numerals used to modify nouns, the plural marker is optional.

The second numeral system in Dizin is ordinal numerals. Ordinal numerals are usually formed from cardinal numerals by adding *–z* for indefinite masculine nouns,*-in* for indefinite feminine nouns and *–da* for definite masculine noun and *–en* is for definite feminine markers. Unlike cardinal numbers, which appear before or after the head noun, ordinal numbers occur after the head noun suffixed to cardinal numbers, with the exception of the ordinal number *tsantki* "first", which appears before the modified noun. This is illustrated in (8).

(8)   a.   **[*ōti t'áágŋ-in*]**NP
            cow two-ORD.IND.F
            'a second cow'
      b.   **[*ésk táágŋ-z*]**NP
            goat two-ORD.IND.M
            'a second goat'
      c.   **[*ōit t'áágŋ-én*]**NP
            Cow two-ORD.DEF.F
            ' the second cow'
      d.   **[*zók t'áágŋ-dā*]**NP
            Ox two-ORD.DEF.M
            'the second ox'

The form and position of the ordinal number one are unusual. Syntactically, it occurs before the head noun in NPs. This is shown in example (9).

(9)　a.　**[*tsántkì jááb-én*]**NP
　　　　ORD person-DEF.F
　　　　'the first woman'
　*b.　**[*jááb-én*] *tsántkì*]**NP
　　　　Person-DEF.F ORD
　　　　'the first woman'

The example in (9b) is ungrammatical because Dizin does not allow the ordinal number one *stantki* 'first' to occur after the head noun. Moreover, it is important to note that mass nouns cannot be modified by numerals in Dizin. This is shown in (10).

(10)　*a.　**[*úgū* 　 *t'áágŋ*]**NP
　　　　milk　　two
　　　　'two milk'
　*b.　**[*ááj* 　 *t'áágŋ*]**NP
　　　　water　　two
　　　　'two water'

4.2.3 Demonstratives in NP

Dixon (2003:61) suggests that all languages can have at least one demonstrative. Dryer (2007) also indicates that demonstratives are common grammatical category for most languages. Dizin has two: far and near demonstratives. The choice of the demonstratives is determined by the nearness of the referred item with respect to the speaker or hearer and its visibility. The demonstratives are:

(11)　a.　***jə̄nì*** 　　'this(F)'
　　　ħáá 　　'this(M)'
　　　jə̄nì-ákē̄[5] 　'these(F)'

5 In Dizin ,plural marker for three and more than is-ake (cf.Beacy,2005 and 2018).

ḫáá-ákē   'these(M)'
   b.   **ék**   'that'

Near demonstratives occur following the head noun. The examples in (12) illustrate this point.

(12)   a.   **[*jááb*   *jɔ̄ni*]**NP
         person   PROX.F
      'this woman'
      b.   **[*jááb*   *ḫáá-akē*]**NP
          person   PROX.M-PL
        'these men'

Examples in (12a &b) prove that near demonstrative in Dizin NP structure occur after the noun it modifies. Far demonstratives can occur either before or after the noun it modifies. The following examples illustrate this idea.

(13)   a.   **[*ék jááb-én*]** NP
         DIST person-DEF.F
         'that woman'
      b.   **[*jááb ék-én*]**NP
          person DIST-DEF.F
         'that woman'
      c.   **[*ék jááb-a-akē*]**NP
          DIST person-DEF.M-PL
         'those men'
      d.   **[*jááb ék-á*]**NP
          person DIST-DEF.M
         'that man'
      e.   **[*jááb ék-én*]**NP
          Person DIST-DEF.F
         'that woman'

It should be noted that section 4.2.2 and section 4.2.3 show that numerals and demonstratives are not found in fixed linear representation of NPs in Dizin.

4.2.4 Quantifiers

According to Beachy (2005), with some modification, Dizin has four quantifiers. The choice of the quantifiers depends on the amount designated by the noun phrase. The following is a list of Dizin quantifiers:

14. a. ***hétʃik***   'much/many'
     b. ***hél***   'all'
     c. ***jál***   'a few/a little'
     d. ***jáʃ***   little/few

Like numerals, quantifiers modify the head noun in the noun phrase. They limit the amount indicated by the noun phrase. In English, the quantifiers are selective on the type of nouns they co-occur. In Dizin, however, they can occur with mass noun, uncountable and countable nouns. They are all post-nominal. The examples in (15) illustrate the modification of the quantifiers in NPs of Dizin.

(15) a. **[*zók-a*   *hél*]**NP
          Ox-DEF   all
        'all the oxen'
      b. **[*ááj-a*   *hél*]**NP
          water-DEF   all
        'all the water'
      d. **[*ōìt-akē*   *hétʃik*]**NP
          cow-PL   many
        'many cows'

Examples in (15a-d) illustrate the use and position of quantifiers with the nouns in Dizin. All the examples indicate that the quantifiers are placed after the noun they modify, i.e. post-nominal. If we reverse the order of the noun and the quantifier, the result will be ungrammatical. Consider the example in (16).

(16)   ***[*hél*   *zók-a-akē*]**NP
            all   ox-DEF-PL
          'all the oxen'

4.2.5 Genitives

Dizin has both pronominal and nominal possessors. Nominal possessors involve the genitive case *-kŋ* and *-kŋki* suffixed on the possessor, while pronominal possessors involve proclitic possessive prefixes attached with the possessed noun. In both constructions, the possessor occurs preceding the possessed noun. The examples in (17) and (18) illustrate the syntactic behavior of genitive construction in Dizin.

(17)   a.   **[[*kómtu-kŋ*]NP**   *áábū*] NP
           Komtu-GEN   eye
           ' Komtu's eye '

       b.   **[[*kómtu-kŋki*]NP**   *ōit*] **NP**
           Kómtu-GEN   cow
           'Komtu's cow'

       c.   **[*ʔŋ́-zók-a*] NP**
           1S.POSS-ox-DEF
           'our ox'

In Dizin, it seems that inalienable and alienable possessions are expressed differently. The construction for inalienable possession is marked by *-kŋ*, while the construction for alienable possession is marked by *-kŋki* though it needs further research. The examples in (18) illustrate the case.

(18)   a.   **[*kián-a-kŋ***   *sìnú*] NP
           dog-DEF-GEN   nose
           ' the dog's nose''

       b.   **[*kómtu-kŋki***   *bátʃi*] NP
           Komtu-GEN   cloth
           'Komtu's cloth

Example (18a) shows that inalienable possession is marked by the genitive suffix *-kŋ*, while example (18b) shows that alienable possession is employed by the case markers *-ḵŋki*.

As Beachy (2005) shows, the genitive relationship in Dizin is not limited to possession. Rather, it can contain other types of genitive relationships such as time, source, purpose, etc. In Dizin, it is also

attested that tone is employed to mark both source and purpose genitives, which occur preceding the modified noun. In examples (19a& b), the last vowel / *ú* / of the first words bear a high tone, which expresses source and purpose genitives respectively.

(19)　a.　**[*dūdʒú*　　*mūg*]NP**
　　　　　maiz-GEN　　local beer
　　　　　Local beer made of maiz
　　　b.　**[*átʃìkú*　　*zóku*]NP**
　　　　　meat-GEN　　ox
　　　　　'An ox for meat'

4.2.6 Adjectives within NP

Adjectives are other word classes which modify the noun in the noun phrase. In languages like Kafinoonoo, an Omotic language spoken in Southwest part of Ethiopia, adjectives come before the head (Girma, 2012). In contrast, in Dizin, adjectives occur after the noun they modify. Consider the following examples in (20).

(20)　a.　**[*jááb*　　*ʃigìn-én*]NP**
　　　　　person　　Short-DEF.F
　　　　　'the short woman
　　　b.　**[*ōti*　　*dújn-én*]NP**
　　　　　cow　　fat-DEF.F
　　　　　'the fat cow'
　*c.　**[*ʃigìn-dā*　　　*jááb*] NP**
　　　　　Short-DEF.M　　person
　　　　　'the short man'

The examples in (20a &b) are grammatical because the adjectives are placed after the nouns they modify. However, if the adjective is placed before the noun it modifies, the result will not be grammatical as seen in (20c).It is also possible to place a series of adjectives that modify the same noun or head in the NPs of Dizin. Consider the examples in (21).

(21)　a.　**[*tʃákìl*　　*ìágin*　　*jáásìn*　　*kìb*　　*ts'úbn-en*]NP**
　　　　　chair　　old　　small　　round　　red-DEF.F
　　　　　'the small round old red chair'

b. [*tʃákìl*   *jáásin*   *ts'úbn*   *íágìn*   *kìb-en*]NP
    chair   small   red   old   round-DEF.F
    'the small round old red chair'

The examples in (21) show that when adjectives co-occur, they do have a considerable freedom to occur one after the other. In other words, they do not occur in a fixed order. They can be reversed in NP without any grammatical change.

4.2.7 Postpositional phrase

The other type of modifier that modifies the head noun in Dizin NPs structure is postpositional phrase. The postpositional phrase occurs post nominal in NPs. Examples of post modifying type of postpositional phrases are given in (22).

(22) a. [*kámìl-én*   *íí-a*   *gāt*]NP
        car-DEF.F   house-DEF in
        'the car in the house'
    b. [*jááb-a*   *tʃákìl-a*   *hāt*]NP
        Person-DEF   table-DEF   on
        'the man on the table'
    c. *kúlíl-a*   *kúd-a*   *hā*t
        donkey-DEF   road-DEF   on
        'The donkey on the road'

4.2.8 Relative clause

In Dizin, the position of the relative clause in a noun phrase comes before the heading element. The verb in relative clauses takes a suffix *–da* as being a relative clause marker, as in (23).

(23) a. [[*zók-a-s*   *á-hūr-kì-dā*] RC   *jááb-a*]NP   *ʃúb-ó*
        ox-DEF-ACC   3SM-buy-PF-REL   man-DEF   die-3SM
        'The man who bought the ox died.'
    b. [[*áku*   *á-hūr-kì-dā*]RC   [*zók-a-s*]NP   *ʃúb-ó*
        Aku   3SM-buy-PF-REL   ox-DEF-ACC   die-3SM
        'The ox that Aku bought died.'

In examples (23a) and (23b), the relative clauses *zokas ahurkida* 'who bought the ox'and *aku ahurkida* 'Aku bought' and *-da* 'who or

that' refer back to the heads *jaaba* 'the man' and *zokas* 'the ox'. The examples also show that the antecedents or the heads are preceded by the modifying clauses.

When it comes to the types of relativization, Dizin uses subject relativization, object relativization, oblique relativization, and possessor relativization. Each is discussed below.

I. Subject Relativization

In such relativization,the clause functions as subject of a sentence.The example in (24) illustrates the case.

(24) a **[[*zók-a-s*   *á-hūr-kí̄-dā*] RC   *jááb-a*] NP   *ʃúb-ó***
          Ox-DEF-ACC   3SM-buy-PF-REL   person-DEF   die-3SM

'The man who bought the ox died.'

  b **[[*áku-k'áŋk*   *í-tə̄-kì-dā*]RC   *jááb-én*]NP   *ʃúb-ē***

      Aku-INST   3SF-Sgo-PF-REL   Person-DEF(F)   die-3SF

'The woman who had gone with Aku died.'

In(24) subject of the relative clause is relativized, and placed preceding the head noun *jááb* 'person'. Both the subordinate verb and the main verb have subject agreement markers.

II. Object Relativization

In (25) we have a relativized object of a proposition. With such a construction of a relative clause, both the direct (25a) and the indirect object (25b) are relativized by the same relitivizing element-*da*. However, there is no object agreement marker between the relative verb and the relativized object since object marking on verbs is not the feature of Dizin. See the following examples:

(25) a ***áku***   **[[*dād-a- s*   *á- wút'-kì-dā*]RC**
          Aku   child-DEF-ACC   3SM -bit-PF-REL
          kíán-a-s*]NP   *də̄buʃ-ó
          dog-DEF-ACC   Kill-3SM
          ' Aku killed the dog that bite the boy.'
      b ***áku***   **[[*íí-a-s*   *á-hūr-kì-dā*] O.RC**
          Aku   house-DEF-ACC   3SM-buy-PF-REL

    ***ʝááb-ēn*]NP**   **ʃú-bē**
    person-DEF.F   die-3SM
    'The woman to whom Aku bought the house died'

III. Oblique Relativization

When a noun phrase occurs with cases like instrumental, locative and others, it can be relitivized with the same relitivizer, i.e. *-da.*

(26)   ***ʝinu***   **[[*kián-a-s*   *ʔŋ̄-hur-kì-dā-k'áŋk*]RC**
        I   dog-DEF-ACC   1S-buy-PF-REL-INST
        gárìz*]NP**   ***dɜbúʃ-no
        spear   kill-1S
        ' I killed the dog with a spear that I bought'

IV. Possessor Relitivization

(27)   **[[*àày*   *K'úts'i-n-kì-dā*] RC   *kúlìl-én*] NP**
        ear   Cut-PASS-PF-REL   donkey-DEF.F
        ʃú-bē
        die-3SM
        'The donkey whose ear cut died.'

Unlike section 4.2, which analyses the order of modifiers with respect to the noun, the following section shows the order of various modifiers with respect to each other.

5. Order of Modifiers

Two alternative orders of modifiers are attested when they co-occur in noun phrase, as illustrated, in (28 &29).

(28) a.   ***ék***   ***addelo-kŋki***   ***iʃi-gib-ki-dā***   ***Kíánu***
          DIST   3SM-buy-GEN   3pl-chase-PF-REL   dog
          ts'anz-ake   ***kadu***
          black-PL   three
          'Those three black dogs of Addelo that they chased.'
    b.   ***ék***   ***ts'oni-kŋki***   ***á-hūr-kì-dā***   ***zóku***
          DIST   Tsoni-GEN   3SM-buy-PF-REL   ox
          ts'ubz-ake   ***táágŋ***
          red-DEF.M   two
          'Those two red oxen of Ts'oni that he bought.'
    *c   ***addello-ḵŋki***   ***ék***   ***iʃi-gib-kì-dā***   ***Kíánu***

Addelo-GEN   DIST   3PL-chase-PF-REL   dog
ts'anz-ake   *kadu*
black-PL   three
'Those three black dogs of Addelo that they chased.'

In example (28), (a) and (b) are grammatically correct because modifiers are placed in their right position, while example (c) is ungrammatical because the demonstrative is removed from its exact position. The examples in (29) present the other alternative order of modifiers in noun phrase of Dizin.

(29) a. *aster-kŋki*   *kadu*   *í-hūr-kì-dā*   *ésk*
          Aster-GEN   three   3SF-buy-PF-REL   goat
          dúenz-ake   *ék-a*
          fat-PL   DIST-DEF.M
          'Those three fat goats of Aster that she bought.'

      b. *almaz-kŋki*   *táágŋ*   *á-dɔbuʃ-ki-daʃ̄*   *kíánu*
          Almaz-GEN   two   3SM-kill-PF-DEF   dog
          ts'anz-k'aŋkaz   *ék-a*
          black-PL   DIST-DEF.M
          'Those two black dogs of Almaz that he killed.'

Based on the observation in (28&29), the author suggests the order of modifiers as in (30).

(30) (Demonstrativ)-(Possessive)-(Relative   clause)-Noun-(Number/ quantifier)-(Adjective) or (Possessive)-(Number)-(Relative clause)-Noun-(Adjective)-(Demonstrative)

The order indicated in (30) shows that some modifiers do not occur in fixed position and others do in the linear representation of noun phrase. For example, demonstratives and numbers can occur either pre-nominal or post-nominal. It is also indicated that demonstratives precede possessives and possessives precede relative clause. Moreover, numbers/quantifiers precede adjectives and adjectives precede demonstratives. This proves that Dizin has variable order of constituents in noun phrase structure.

6. Conclusion

This paper examined the structure of the Dizin noun phrase (NP), which comprises a head noun with different types of modifiers, such

as adjective, quantifier, demonstrative, numeral, genitive, adpositions, relative clause and articles.

It was found that the definite article occurs suffixed to the head noun or the adjective that modifies the head. While some modifiers occur both pre-nominal and post-nominal, others appear only in post-nominal or pre-nominal position. More specifically, numerals and far demonstratives occur either pre-nominal or post-nominal. Others, such as adjectives, quantifiers, and adpositions occur post-nominal. The paper also identified that a relative clause occurs before the noun it modifies. Hence, the language is neither left-headed nor right-headed if noun phrase structure is considered in the typology of languages. Adjectives do have considerable freedom to occur one after the other without a change in meaning.Overall, the study showed that Dizin employed a variable order of constituents in NPs, similar to Hellental's (2010) work on the closely related Omotic language-Sheko.

ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

ACC	Accusative	1S	First person singular
COP	Copular verb	2S	Second person singular
DAT	Dative case	3MS	Third person masculine singular
DEF	Definite	3FS	Third person feminine singular
DIST	Distal	1PL	First person plural
DS	Different subject	2PL	Second person plural
F	Feminine	3PL	Third person plural
GEN	Genitive	[ ]	Syntactic constituent
IMP	Imperative	/ /	Phonemic transcription
M	Masculine	´	High tone
NOM	Nominative case	`	Low tone
NP	Noun phrase	⁻	Mid tone
ORD	Ordinal	_	Morpheme boundary
PF	Perfective	*	Ungrammatical structure
PL	Plural		

POSS	Possessive
PROX	Proximal
REL	Relativizer

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