Chapter 4
Noun Phrase

This chapter focuses on different types of noun phrases. It will describe how nouns and other constituents are structured within noun phrases.

4.1 Noun Phrase

A noun phrase only requires a noun in Kayan Lahta. Demonstratives, possessive pronouns, quantifiers, classifiers, numbers and adjective are optional. It is most natural for a noun to be followed by classifier in Kayan Lahta. There can be more than one adjective in a noun phrase.

The noun phrase schema in Kayan Lahta is:

[(NPposs) N (REL CL) (ADJ Phrase)* (DEM) (QNT) (NUM) (CLF)] $_N$

[ADJ (INTS)] $_{AP}$

In this noun phrase structure rule, the noun is the head of the noun phrase and all other elements are optional. The head noun can be preceded by a possessive noun phrase and followed by an adjective, demonstrative, quantifier or classifier. Example (81) shows a complex noun phrase in Kayan Lahta.

(80)ɲaɟ	ʃaʔ˥	pi˥	doɟ	sʰɯɟ	baɟ
1s	chicken	small	that	six	clf
POSS	N	ADJ	DEM	QNT	CLF

'those six small chickens of mine'

In this structure, *ʃaʔ˥* 'chicken' is the head of the noun phrase. It is preceded by the possessive pronoun *ɲaɟ* 'my' and modified by the adjective *pi˥* 'small', demonstrative pronoun *doɟ* 'that', quantifier *sʰɯɟ* 'six' and classifier.

Seven noun phrase structures are shown below. Each sentence represents a different noun phrase structure.

Noun phrase structure 1

[N]_{NP}

    (81)jɛŋ˥
      rice-cooked
      N
      'rice-cooked'

In this structure, a single noun functions as a noun phrase. The noun is a head of the noun phrase.

Noun phrase structure 2

[N CLF]_{NP}

(82) *ʃwiʃ*	*də?˥*
dog	*clf*
N	CLF
'a/the dog'	

In this structure, the noun precedes the classifier. The noun is the head of the noun phrase. In informal speech, it is more natural for a noun to be followed by classifier than to have a bare noun.

Noun phrase structure 3

[N NUM CLF]_{NP}

(83) *jəŋʃ*	*lwiʃ*	*ma˥*
house	*four*	*clf*
N	NUM	CLF
'four houses'		

Another structure of the noun phase is shown in example (83). In this structure, a noun is followed by number and classifier.

Noun phrase structure 4

[N ADJ NUM CLF]_{NP}

(84) *jəŋʃ*	*duʃ*	*lwiʃ*	*ma˥*
house	*big*	*four*	*clf*
N	ADJ	NUM	CLF
'four big houses'			

In this noun phrase structure, the noun head is follow by the adjective, number and classifier.

Noun phrase structure 5

[Nposs   ADJ   NUM   CLF] _{NP}

    (85) ɲa˧   jəŋ˥   du˩   lwi˩   ma˥
          1s   house   big   four   clf
          POSS   N   ADJ   NUM   CLF
          'my four big houses'

In this noun phrase, *jəŋ˥* 'house' is a head and it is modified by an adjective *du˩* 'big'. So it is called modified noun phrase.

Noun phrase structure 6

[N tə˩-NUM] _{NP}

The morpheme, *tə˩* is used as a classifier for people and it attaches to the number. Different from other noun phrase structures, this classifier precedes the number in a noun phrase. This structure is used in informal speech.

    (86) pla˩   tə˩-lwi˩
          people   clf-peopl
          N   CLF-NUM
          'four people'

Noun phrase structure 7

[N ADJ   DEM   NUM   CLF] _{NP}

    (87) jəŋ˩   du˩   jə˩do˩   lwi˩   ma˥
          house   big   that   four   clf
          N   ADJ   DEM   NUM   CLF
          'that four big houses'

Adjective, demonstrative, number and classifier are included in this structure and they all follow the head noun.

4.1.1 Head Noun

A noun is typically the head of the noun phrase. A single noun can be function as a noun phrase in the sentence.

(88) pʰaɬ   peɬ   neˀŋɭ
       father   *cut*   *leaf*
       N   V   N
       'The father cuts the leave.'

(89) plaɬbəɭtaɭ   sʰaŋɬsʰaɬ   tʰuɭ   baɭ
       child   *sell*   *bird*   *clf*
       N   V   N   CLF
       'The child sells a bird.'

In examples (88) and (89), *pʰaɬ* 'father' and *plaɬbəɭtaɭ* 'child' are single nouns that are noun phrases in the sentences and they are the heads of noun phrases. They also function as the subject in both examples.

(90) muɭ   dəɭ   laʔˀ   kʰaɬ
       sun   *and*   *moon*   *shine*
       N   CONJ   N   V
       'The sun and the moon shine.'

In example (90), the two nouns *muɭ* 'sun' and *laʔˀ* 'moon' are connected by the coordinate conjunction *dəɭ* 'and'. In this noun phrase structure, both nouns are the heads of the subject noun phrase.

(91) pluɬ   plaɭ   aŋɭ   jɛŋˀ
       child   *clf*   *eat*   *rice-cooked*
       N   CLF   V   N
       'The child eats rice.'

In example (91), single noun, *jɛŋˀ* 'rice' is the head of the noun and it functions as the object in this sentence.

4.1.1.1 Proper noun

A proper noun can be a head noun in a noun phrase. In (92) and (93), the two proper nouns *ai?ˈ and kʰɯ˩* occur as a single noun in each sentence in noun phrase positions. They are the head nouns of each noun phrases. They function as the subjects of the sentences.

(92) aⁱ?˥   sʰaŋ˩sʰa˩ tʰɯ˩   ba˩
     Ai   sell   bird   clf
     N.PROP   V   N   CLF
     'Ai sells a bird.'

(93) kʰɯ˩   pe˩   ne˥ŋ˩
     Khu   cut   leaf
     N.PROP   V   N
     'Khu cuts the leaf.'

In example (94), the proper noun, *ba˩.ɯ˩* 'Pa O' functions as the object.

(94) jə˥   pʰɯ˩   aŋ˩   ba˩ɯ˩
     not   give   eat   PaO
     NEG   V   V   N.PROP
     '(Kayan) do not give Pa O to eat.'

4.1.1.2 Pronoun

In a sentence, the head noun can be a pronoun. It can be modified by an adjective or classifier or number. The follow examples show the pronouns that function as heads.

(95) ɲa˩   pjan˩ tə˩maŋ˩ ma˩
     1s   weave basket   clf
     PRO   V   N   CLF
     'I weave a basket.'

(96) ɲa˩   ɲə˥maŋ˩ ve˩
     1s   dream   2s
     PRO   V   PRO
     'I dream of you.'

In the above examples, there is a single pronoun in a noun phrase in each example and they are the heads of the noun phrases in each sentence. They function as subjects and an object.

(97) ŋplaˀɗo˩   ɲəŋ˧   pla˩   o˩   lə˩kwaˀɬo˩ jəŋ˩   kuʔ˩
      3pl   two   clf   exist together   house   in
      PRO   NUM   CLF   V   ADJ   N   LOCZR
      'The two of them live together in a house.'

In example (97) a pronoun ŋplaˀɗo˩ 'they' is modifed by a number ɲəŋ˧ 'two' and a classifier pla˩ 'person'.

4.1.2 Possessive Noun Phrase

In Kayan Lahta, a possessive appears at the beginning of the noun phrase preceding the head noun.

The following examples use possessive pronouns in a noun phrases.

(98) ŋplaˀ   jəŋ˩   mɛ˩   ɗu˩
      3s   house   top   big
      POSS   N   TOP   ADJ
      'His house is big.'

(99) ɲa˧   pʰa˧   sʰaŋˀsʰa˧   tə˩maŋ˩
      1s   father sell   basket
      POSS   N   V   N
      'My father sells basket.'

In example (98) and (99), the possessive pronouns ŋplaˀ '3s' and ɲa˧ '1s' precede the head nouns jəŋ˩ 'house' and pʰa˧ 'father'. In these two examples, the head nouns are jəŋ˩ 'house' and pʰa˧ 'father'.

(100) ʃwi˩   kə˩mi˩   mɛ˩   lə˧
      dog   tail   top   long
      N   N   TOP   ADJ
      'The dog's tail is long.'

In the example (101), two nouns, ʃwi˩ 'dog' and kə˩mi˩ 'tail' can be seen in a noun phrase position. In this noun phrase, the first noun ʃwi˩ 'dog' functions as the possessive noun. The second noun, kə˩mi˩ 'tail' is the head of the noun phrase. In

this example, the adjective long modifies the noun kəɟmiɟ 'tail' instead of ʃwiɟ 'dog'. The possessive is a full noun phrase in example (101).

(101) pla˧ ja˧ ve˧ liɟ əɟ-beiŋ˧ plaɟ ə-ʃwiɟ kəɟmiɟ mɛɟ lə˧

person give 2s book one-clf clf dog tail top long

N V PRO N NUM-CLF CLF N N TOP ADJ

'The dog's tail of person who gives me a book is long.'

(Lit. The person who gives me a book's dog's tail is long.)

4.1.3 Adjective

An adjective modifies the head noun and it directly follows the head noun. There can be more than one adjective in a noun phrase and they all modify the head noun in a sentence.

(102) jəŋɟ duɟ

house big

N ADJ

'a/the big house'

(103) təɟmaŋɟ piʔ

basket small

N ADJ

'a/the small basket'

In example (102) and example (103) jəŋɟ and təɟmaŋɟ are the heads of the noun phrases jəŋɟ duɟ and təɟmaŋɟ piʔ. The two adjectives duɟ and piʔ modify the head nouns in the two noun phrases

(104) jəŋɟ loⁿŋʔ duɟ

house black big

N ADJ ADJ

'a/the big black house'

(105) ʃwiɟ kəɟmiɟ əɟlə˧

dog tail long

N N ADJ

'a/the dog's long tail'

In example (104) both the adjectives *loʰŋ˥* and *duˌ* modify the head noun *jəŋˌ* in the noun phrase. In example (105), there are two nouns in the noun phrase. The first noun *ʃwiˌ 'dog'* functions as the possessive noun and the second noun *kəˌmiˌ 'tail'* is the head of the noun phrase. In this example, the adjective *əˌla˥ 'long'* modifies the head noun *kəˌmiˌ 'tail'*, not the possessive noun *ʃwiˌ 'dog'*.

(106) jəŋˌ   loʰŋ˥   duˌ   meⁱˌtʰə˥
      house   black   big   very
      N   ADJ   ADJ   ADJ
      'a very big black house'

Example (106) shows that two adjectives, *loʰŋ˥ 'black'* and *duˌ 'big'* are modified by an intensifier *meⁱˌtʰə˥ 'very'*.

4.1.4 Demonstratives

Demonstratives indicate where the noun is located. In a noun phrase, demonstratives are always used with classifiers. They follow the adjectives as in example (107), In this noun phrase it follows the adjective and it is used with the classifier phrase.

(107) sʰaŋ˥   duˌ   jəˌdoˌ lwiˌ   də?˥
      elephant big   that   four   clf
      N   ADJ   DEM   NUM   CLF
      'Those four big elephant'

The demonstrative directly follows the head noun if there is no adjective that modifiers the noun as in example (108).

(108) sʰaŋ˥   jəˌdˌo lwiˌ   də?˥
      elephant that   four   clf
      N   DEM   NUM   CLF
      'Those four elephants'

4.1.5 Quantifiers

In grammar, quantifiers indicate a quantity. In Kayan Lahta, quantifiers are used to indicate the number or amount of the noun in a noun phrase. They can occur with adjectives or demonstratives but they never occur with a classifier. In a noun phrase where the demonstrative or adjective are absent, the quantifiers directly follow the head noun.

(109) jəŋ˩   mɲa˥
      house   some
      N   QNT
      'some houses'

(110) jəŋ˩   jəˌdoˌ lu˥
      house   these   all
      N   DEM   QNT
      'these all houses'

In example (109) the quantifier directly occurs after the head noun and it occurs after the demonstrative in example (110).

4.1.6 Number

In Kayan Lahta, numbers are used to indicate amount of the noun in a noun phrase. They must co-occur with a classifier. In a noun phrase, they can optionally occur with adjectives. The numbers directly follow the head noun where the adjective is absent.

(111) ɱplaˀ   ʃoˌ   ʃəʔˀ   sʰuˌ   baɲ˥
      3s   bring   water   eight   clf
      PRO   V   N   NUM   CLF
      'She brings eight glasses of water.'

4.1.7 Classifier

In Kayan Lahta, classifiers mostly occur with a numeral. They can occur with demonstrative adjectives. Sometimes the classifiers directly follow the head noun.

Frame for classifiers in Kayan Lahta:

N (NUM) CLF

The examples below show some classifiers that are associated with different word categories.

(112) pəˌmo˥   lwiˌ   plaˌ
      woman   four   clf
      N   NUM   CLF
      'four women'

Kayan Lahta has different types of numeral classifiers and each has unique semantic and distributional properties see section (3.2.2).

Sometimes, classifiers directly follow the head noun in informal speech when the number is omitted. It is natural in Kayan Lahta to mention a single noun with only a classifier and it denotes the number one. Not every noun is directly followed by a classifier. The nouns that present human beings and animals are most often directly follow by a classifier.

(113) ʃwiˡ   dəʔ˥
     dog   clf
     N   CLF
     'a/the dog ' or 'one dog'

(114) pluˀ   plaˡ
     child   clf
     N   CLF
     'a/the child' or 'one child'

In examples (113) and (114) no number or demonstrative is found between the head noun and the classifier. But it denotes number one. Therefore, it means 'one dog' in example (113) and 'one child' in (114).

4.2 Adpositional phrases and relative clauses

Adpositional phrases do not modify nouns inside a noun phrase in Kayan Lahta. Instead relative clauses are used. Adpositional clauses are discussed more in section 5.3.3.

Relative clauses often contain an adpositional phrase. They are introduced with dəˀ which is also used as a generic preposition. But dəˀ is optional and it can be omitted.

(115) kəˡlaŋˡ   (dəˀ)   oˡ   dəˀ   koŋˡ   kʰuˡ   baˡ   pʰaʔ˥
     plate   rel   exist   prep   chair   on   clf   break
     N   REL   V   PREP   N   LOCZR   CLF   V
     'The plate on the chair is broken.' (Lit. The plate that is on the chair.)

(116) ʃwiˡ   (dəˀ)   oˡ   meˀ˥   tʰaŋ˥   baˡ   eˀŋˀ   ɲaˀ
     dog   rel   exist   tooth   sharp   clf   bite   3s
     N   REL   V   N   ADJ   CLF   V   PRO
     'The dog with sharp teeth bites me.'(Lit. The dog that has sharp teeth.)

The preposition *də⊣* can alternate with *ba⊣* but the relative clause use of *də⊣* cannot be substituted with *ba⊣*.

(117)

kə˥laŋ˩	*(ba⊣)	o˩	ba⊣	koŋ˩	kʰɯ˩	ba˩	pʰaʔ˥
plate	perp	exist	prep	chair	on	clf	break
N	PREP	V	PREP	N	LOCZR	CLF	V

'The plate on the chair is broken.'

(118)

ʃwi˩	o˩	*(ba⊣)	meⁱ˥	tʰaŋ˥	ba˩	eⁱŋ⊣	ɲa⊣
dog	exist	prep	teech	sharp	clf	bite	3s
N	V	PREP	N	ADJ	CLF	V	PRO

'The dog with sharp teeth bites me.'

4.3 Conclusion

In this chapter, the noun phrase, appositional and relative were mainly discussed. Noun phrase head, possessives, adjectives, demonstratives, quantifiers, numbers and classifiers were also presented. Noun phrase head included proper nouns and pronouns.