

การศึกษาส่วนขยายความของคำนามในภาษาอังกฤษ

และ

ทฤษฎีในการศึกษาวากยสัมพันธ์



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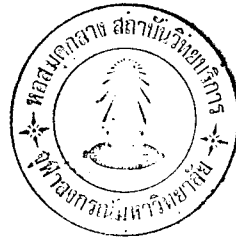
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ENGLISH NOMINAL MODIFICATION

and

THEORIES OF SYNTAX



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หัวข้อวิทยานิพนธ์      การศึกษาส่วนขยายความของคำนามในภาษาอังกฤษ และทฤษฎีในการศึกษา  
วากยสัมพันธ์

ผู้                                      นางสาวสุวิไล    เปรมศรีรัตน์    แผนกวิชา    ภาษาอังกฤษ

ปีการศึกษา                      ๒๕๑๓

บทคัดย่อ

การขยายความของคำนามในภาษาอังกฤษ มักเป็นปัญหายุ่งยากสำหรับผู้เรียนภาษาอังกฤษ และเจ้าของภาษาเสมอ เพื่อที่จะให้สามารถเข้าใจเรื่องนี้ได้ชัดเจนยิ่งขึ้น จะได้ศึกษาถึงระบบ ไวยากรณ์สำคัญ ๆ สามประเภท คือ ไวยากรณ์แบบเก่า (ทราดิชัน) ไวยากรณ์แบบโครงสร้าง (สตรัคเจอร์) และไวยากรณ์แบบเปลี่ยนแปลง และกระจายรูป (ทรานโฟเมชันและเจนเนอเรทิฟ) ซึ่งให้คำอธิบายเรื่องการขยายคำนามในแง่ต่าง ๆ กัน ไวยากรณ์แบบเก่าไม่มีคำอธิบายที่น่าพอใจ ทฤษฎีของไวยากรณ์แบบโครงสร้างซึ่งอธิบายโครงสร้างของภาษาเท่าที่เห็นโดยไม่เพิ่มเติมนั้น แม้ว่า ทฤษฎีของไวยากรณ์ชนิดนี้ จะไม่สามารถอธิบายภาษาได้ลึกซึ้งมาก ขนาดที่จะทำให้ข้อความกำกวม ชัดเจนขึ้นได้ก็ตาม ก็ได้อธิบายและแยกแยะให้เห็นคำขยายคำนามประเภทต่าง ๆ ในภาษาอังกฤษ สำหรับไวยากรณ์แบบเปลี่ยนแปลง และกระจายรูป ซึ่งสามารถเสนอวิธีแก้ปัญหาดังกล่าว ๆ นั้น ได้พยายาม จะอธิบายที่มาของคำขยายนามแต่ละชนิดที่ปรากฏ ซึ่งทำให้สามารถให้คำตอบแก่ปัญหาที่เกี่ยวกับข้อความ กำกวมได้บ้าง และจะมีการยกตัวอย่างคำขยายความทั้งชนิดที่เป็นคำ และกลุ่มคำเพื่อประกอบคำอธิบาย ให้ชัดเจนยิ่งขึ้น

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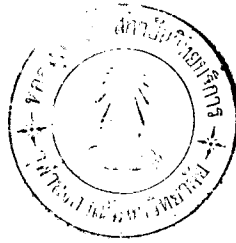
#### ABSTRACT

Nominal modification in English is often troublesome for English language learners and native speakers alike. In order to get a clear view of nominal modification in English, different aspects of nominal modification as treated in three main grammatical systems -- traditional, structural, and transformational generative grammar -- are investigated. The traditional view is not wholly satisfactory. The structural view, looking at modification objectively, gives a various inventory of types of noun modifiers in English, although the explanatory power of the theory is not deep enough to be able to cover many structural ambiguities. Transformational generative grammar seems to offer the solution to many problems. It tries to explain the derivational sources of each modifier and thus find some answers to questions about ambiguity. Various word and word group modifiers are examined and used as illustrations of syntactic theories.



#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## INTRODUCTION

In English the most complicated sentences can be generated from a very small number of proposition or kernel sentences. The basic patterns of English sentences are generally known as follows:

1. Subject + Verb

Fish swim.

Blue fades.

2. Subject + Verb + Object Complement

Tom sang a song.

Jack threw Evelyn the orchid.

The voters made him an ex-president.

3. Subject + Linking Verb + Subject Complement or Modifier.

The moon was a ship.

The pumpkin became a coach.

Life is real.

The coat felt warm.

Nobody was there.

Sentences in English may assume these patterns. However, sometimes they appear not in forms as simple as these, but in long and complicated structures according to the speaker or writer's purpose. As a result we find a lot of sentences such as:

Most fish of which we have any record either contemporary or geologic, swim with the digestive organs downward.



The kernel pattern of this sentence is subject (fish) + Verb (swim). The other words around these two words that make the sentence seem complicated are the modifying elements which help give more definite meaning to the basic words.

Such a complicated sentence of involved pattern is not easy for students who are not native speakers of English to understand. As a result, most of them can not use such sentences, although it is sometimes necessary to do so. Ordinarily they can use only rather simple, uncomplicated sentences. However, modifying elements derived from simple sentences are nearly always present in real English sentences, and thus they are just as important to the study of English for non-native speakers as any other part of the language.

The purpose of this study is to describe certain complicated English constructions. The author chooses to make a study of part of the nominal construction, especially of nominal modification, because the nominal construction or noun phrase (N) which appears by definition in all English sentences is often a noun and its accompanying modifying words. To illustrate this the author will give examples from the ten formulas for the basic patterns of English sentences pointed out by Paul Roberts (1962).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Paul Roberts, English Sentences. (Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc., 1962) pp. 24 - 44.

	<u>Subject</u>		<u>Predicate</u>			
Pattern 1	(D)	N	V	(Adv)		
	The	bird	sang.			
		John	went	away.		
Pattern 2	(D)	N	V	Adj		
	The	pie	tastes	good.		
Pattern 3	(D)	N	V	(D)	N	
	The	boy	became	a	man	
Pattern 4	(D)	N	V	(D)	N	
	The	man	shot	the	wolf.	
Pattern 5	(D)	N	V	(D)	N	(D) N
	The	man	gave	his	son	a car.
Pattern 6	(D)	N	V	(D)	N	(D) N
	My	uncle	considered	me	a	fool.
Pattern 7	(D)	N	V	(D)	N	(D) N
		They	made	him	the	scapegoat.
Pattern 8	(D)	N	be	Adv		
	The	boy	was	here.		
Pattern 9	(D)	N	be	Adj		
	The	lion	was	hungry.		

	<u>Subject</u>		<u>Predicate</u>		
Pattern 10	(D)	N	be	(D)	N
		You	are	a	liar.
		You	are	my	friend.

The nominal construction is an essential part of every English sentence. It appears most often in the English language in the form of a word (or words), a nominalized construction, or a phrase. Sometimes it appears alone but very often it appears with modifying elements which usually do not change the relationship of the noun phrase to the rest of the sentence but do change or restrict its meaning in a variety of ways. The structure of nominal modification is often a considerable problem to foreign students of English because it takes the form of various complicated constructions. As for Thai students whose structure of nominal modification in their mother tongue is very much different from those in English, they should have a good understanding of the characteristics of noun modifiers in English in order to be able to use this type of construction in English themselves.

The scope of this study is to describe and classify the words or groups of words that act as modifiers to the nouns in nominal constructions (or noun phrases). The modifiers themselves together with the headnoun act as one unit and function in a sentence as subject, object or complement. The head noun presented in each collected example here will be mostly the noun in the

traditional sense. That is, in order to illustrate the theory, the author will try not to bring in other constructions that can function as noun phrases so as not to confuse them with the various kinds of words that act as modifiers to the noun itself. There are several excluded nominal constructions which are interesting but have nothing to do with the topic of this study because they are of different types of noun phrases. Such constructions are clauses, which are verbal constructions that may serve as noun phrases and can occur in noun positions but which have no parts that are explained in this paper as structures of nominal modification.

What you decide to do is our own business.

Watching Television was his only recreation.

To solve that problem will take more than a slide rule.

That he died surprised me.

Whether he died is a mystery.

How he got there cannot be explained.

I recall my having seen her.

His not seeing the red light caused the crash.


The author hopes that this study of nominal modification will be of some value to students of English because it may enable them to understand more clearly the complicated nominal structures which usually appear in English usage. In working through this subject the author gives accounts of the ways the three major grammatical systems -- traditional, structural, and

transformational-generative grammar -- differently treat the structure of nominal modification, in order to get a clear view of nominal modification in English.

The study covers the classification of various types of noun modifiers, including the relationship of each word to each part of the construction, their meaning, and the sources they might be derived from. Various word and word group modifiers are explained and illustrated as examples, especially the complex types. Most of the example and analysis appeared in this thesis are taken from linguistic books whose authors are given as footnoted references. Thai nominal modification structures are also mentioned in the appendix in comparison with those in English.

#### The Abbreviated Forms Used in This Thesis

\* (placed in front of the construction) shows that construction is ungrammatical.

	stands for	transform to be
A	"	1. adjective or other single word modifiers that appear in adjective position
		2. appositive relative clause
Adj	"	adjective
Adv	"	adverb
Art	"	article

Card	stands for	cardinal
Cl	"	clause
Clfr	"	classifier
Comp	"	comparative
D <sub>a</sub>	"	adverb derived from an adjective
Det	"	determiner
Dem	"	demonstrative
DP	"	determiner phrase
E	"	English
Gen	"	genitive
Int	"	intensifier
Loc. Adv	"	locative adverb
Mod	"	modifier
MV	"	verb with modifying elements
N	"	noun
N <sub>0</sub>	"	either (1) ∅ (zero) or (2) Z plural form of a noun
N <sub>1</sub>	"	the first nominal in the construction
N <sub>2</sub>	"	the second nominal in the construction
N <sub>v</sub>	"	noun derived from adjective
Nom	"	nominal construction
Nom + Z <sub>3</sub>	"	<u>the genitive form</u> (singular or plural) of any noun, such as, <u>the boys's poem</u>
NP	"	noun phrase
Num	"	numeral

O	stands for	zero form of a verb
Ord	"	ordinal
Pas	"	past tense
Preart	"	prearticle
Predet	"	predeterminer
Poss	"	possessive
Poss. N	"	possessive noun
Postdet	"	postdeterminer
Prep	"	preposition
Prep.ph	"	prepositional phrase
Pres	"	present tense
Pro	"	proper noun
Pron	"	pronoun
R	"	restrictive relative clause
S	"	sentence
Th	"	Thai
Tm	"	adverb of time
T-relative	"	<u>relative transformation rule</u> (a sentence is changed by the rule to be a relative clause)

T-relative, deletion

stands for

relative and deletion transformation  
rules (after a sentence is changed to  
be a relative clause the relative  
pronoun and verb to be are deleted)

V	stands for	verb
VB	"	verb
Vi	"	intransitive verb
V-t	"	transitive verb
VP, Verb Ph	"	Verb phrase
{-ed} Verb	"	verb in past participle
{-ing} Verb	"	verb in present participle
Wh	"	relative clause
Z	"	"s" form of a noun