

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF ATTRIBUTIVES IN THE SENTENCES

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Abstract. This article explores the different characteristics of phrases that include nouns with attributive parts. These attributive elements are related to how they connect with nouns or separately in the statements. By examining these phrases in different contexts, we can more clearly understand their structure and meaning. Through specific examples, the study highlights how adjectives function within noun phrases and coming alone. These examples are used to explain and analyse the features of such expressions. The research presents different types of attributive constructions and explains them based on certain grammatical rules. The analysis demonstrates the main principles of how these phrases are used in sentences.

Key words: postpositive attributes, prepositive attributes, adjective-noun phrase, fixed order, flexible order

Introduction. In the English language, various noun phrases with adjectives can often be found in sentences. These phrases play an important role in helping to understand how such structures are commonly used. They express different syntactic and semantic meanings depending on the adjectives used in each context. Such phrases appear in almost every sentence, especially in everyday conversation. Researchers have started to study noun phrases with attributive structures, both common and specific. They have identified similarities and differences in their structure, as well as their syntactic and semantic roles. They are represented two types of attributes: prepositive attributes and postpositive attributes. Dividing attributes in such groups they cannot change the pragmatic meaning of attributive phrases, they can add more emotions or emphasis. In common everyday speeches, prepositive forms is used in more sentences, however we can make use of inverted version of adjectives with noun phrases. If postpositive forms are used in the statements, they can be considered more complex structure and denoted more difficult concepts. However, these expressions cannot be completely separated from the nouns, as they are still connected to the main words in the sentence. Linguistic units that include nouns often come with adjectives. These adjectives usually appear before the noun but can also follow the noun in some cases. When the order of these elements is studied in detail as part of lexical phrase structures, linguists are able to identify different types of attributive patterns, each with its own specific syntactic and semantic features. Linguists suggest that such phrases can be distinguished from individual words and have analysed two main types of noun phrases in sentence structures. By examining various kinds of phrases, we can recognize noun phrases with adjectives and understand how they differ from other phraseological units.

Literature review. Attributes usually comes with noun phrases. They add more meaning for nouns coming with the variety of adjectives. Noun phrases are a word group associated with grammatical combination, which are commonly interrelated with adjectives. If attributive expressions with noun phrases stay with natural word order, adjectives come with the nouns in typical order. They are widely used in daily life expressions.

In the prepositive form of attributes, adjectives—like other sentence elements—follow a typical order when used with nouns. In this structure, adjectives are placed before the nouns



they describe. Because of this word order, these types of adjective-noun phrases are easy to identify. Let's look at some examples:

I am a respectable girl. (Pygmalion p7)

You are a cruel tyrant. (Pygmalion p73)

Weak people want to marry strong people. (Pygmalion p77)

Her father had become extremely popular in the smartest society. (Pygmalion p79)

In these four examples we can see adjectives like “respectable”, “cruel”, “weak”, “strong” and “smartest” coming in prepositive order. They are noticeable, since they stay before nouns. If we can find noun phrases in sentences, attributive units can also be identified easily. In the first two sentence adjective came with the noun being the predicative of the sentence. In the third sentence, attribute stands with the noun phrases being the subject and object of the statement. In the last sentence, adjective comes with a noun and this noun is the adverbial modifier of sentence. Nouns can play different roles in sentences, and adjectives usually come before nouns to describe their qualities, features, or to show how they are different from other nouns.

When using these phrases in sentences, it is important to pay attention to the adjectives because they help us understand the meaning of the noun more clearly. Adjectives often follow a fixed order, which makes the meaning clear and avoids confusion. When noun phrases follow this typical adjective order, it becomes easier to analyse their structure and understand how the sentence is built. This word order is common in many languages, so it is a useful and practical method for studying sentence grammar and separating sentence parts.

However, when adjectives or attributive parts are sometimes postpositive in the sentences coming after the noun, they often behave like adverbial modifiers with prepositions. This placement can be confusing for language learners. Attributive words or phrases that appear alone after the noun can be difficult to understand because it's not always clear whether they are describing the noun (attributives) or acting like adverbial modifiers. Let's look at some examples that show this difference and help explain the rule:

He has a brown skirt with a coarse apron. (Pygmalion p5)

The corner beyond is occupied by a grand piano with the keyboard. (Pygmalion p14)

When we examine these three sentences, they are different from the examples given earlier. At first glance, learners may not easily recognize the attributives because they appear after the nouns in an inverted word order. In the examples, phrases like “with a coarse apron” and “with the keyboard” act as attributives describing the noun phrases “skirt” and “piano.” In the first sentence, it is easy to identify “apron” as the attributive because if we change the word order and remove the preposition “with,” it clearly modifies the noun.

He has a brown apron skirt.

We can see how the word “apron” changes from the inverted form to the regular (natural) form to show its attributive role in the sentence. Words like these can often be changed from an inverted structure to a standard one in order to express their function as attributives more clearly.

However, for the other sample it can be different. In the second sentence, it is not easy to show that the phrase “with the keyboard” functions as an attributive just by changing the word order or removing the preposition “with.” We cannot simply say “keyboard piano” in this case, because that structure may sound unnatural or incorrect in English. Therefore, the phrase needs to be slightly changed or restructured to act as an attributive.

First, we must clearly identify the role of the phrase within the sentence. According to grammatical rules, when a noun is followed by a prepositional phrase beginning with “with,”

that phrase can often act as an attributive — in this case, modifying the object. For example, when one noun is followed by another noun introduced by “with,” it may describe or add more detail to the first noun.

However, proving this grammatically can be challenging, especially when we cannot easily rearrange the words — unlike in the earlier example with “apron skirt.” In such cases, understanding the function of the phrase depends more on context and sentence structure than on word order alone.

... a grand piano with keyboard (emphasized) = a grand piano (common)

In this example we can see emphasis of piano expressing with the special word keyboard instead of just using piano. Since it is typical for all pianos to have keyboards. By using this lexical item it adds more emphasis in the sentences.

Other example of postpositive form is that in English there are some verbs required adjectives coming after nouns which add the noun phrases in describing them: make, keep, leave, find and consider.

Will you take these to your room and keep them (jewelry) safe? (Pygmalion p56)

The play makes the public aware. (Pygmalion p3)

Through these sentences we can identify all adjectives standing after the nouns describing substantive phrases “jewelry”, “public”. Postpositive attributes express their peculiarities of its own features in accordance with the part of speech, in spite of being after the noun phrase. In these sentences we can change the placement of noun and adjective, like natural word order. Since these verbs require the first noun and then adjective, and some adjectives coming with these verbs cannot be used before the nouns. They come alone or after the nouns in every statement.

Research methodology. This study aims to investigate the different types of attributive units used in sentences. By analyzing various examples, it presents a clear understanding of this grammatical phenomenon. The analysis of these phrases within context provides a better syntactical perspective on how attributives function.

Based on a review of the literature, the study explores attributive elements that appear with noun phrases — focusing on when they are used and how they differ syntactically. Although the order of words may vary, it generally does not change the meaning of the sentence.

Through detailed examination, two main types of attributive phrases were identified. By exploring their structures and usage rules, the study highlights the syntactic variations in expressions that serve to name or describe nouns. All gathered data was studied and classified into categories.

In analyzing the phrases, we observed many that appear before nouns, as well as those that follow nouns — often introduced by prepositions or other grammatical structures. Attributives in sentences may differ in word order, depending on whether they involve adjectives or attributive nouns. In this article, such phrases were found, grouped, and analyzed to distinguish them clearly from one another.

Results and analysis. Based on the research, noun phrases with attributives can appear in various syntactic forms. Selecting and identifying specific types of attributive noun phrases within sentences can lead to a deeper understanding of how attributives function.

The natural word order for attributives typically involves adjectives placed before nouns, expressing the qualities or characteristics of those nouns. In this structure, the adjective must precede the noun, and this order generally cannot be changed. However, in postpositive forms, attributives may appear after the noun. These post-noun attributives can describe more than



just quality — they may refer to ideas, actions, or objects. Depending on the sentence, such words may act as attributives in some contexts and as nouns in others. Because of this dual function, they are referred to as attributive nouns.

Conclusion. By presenting expressions that contain attributives within noun phrases in selected sentences, we can identify various syntactic forms of attributive noun phrases. These forms make use of different word orders, depending on whether the attributives are adjectives or attributive nouns. Through examining several types of such phrases taken from different novels, the research reveals distinctive features in how these structures are used, often showing similarities in their function and form. By investigating the two main orders of attributives — prepositive and postpositive — the study highlights a clearer understanding of their syntactic behavior in sentence structure. Analyzing these expressions within noun phrases helps to define the key features of attributive constructions. The findings show that while many attributives share similar meanings, their syntactic forms may differ. This distinction helps to better understand both the common and unique characteristics of attributive phrases in actual usage.

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