TYPES OF PHRASES (WITH EXERCISES)

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Introduction

Syntax as a branch of linguistics deals with the grammatical arrangement of words in a sentence. A phrase is a grammatical unit that lies between the clause and the word. (Diana Blaganje & Ivan Konte, 1979:13). **Phrases** are a small group of words standing together as a conceptual unit. (Ljupo Stefanovski, 2007:127).

In Albanian language a phrase is known as 'togfjalësh'. Phrases in Albanian are called structural units formed by the union of two or more meaningful words in certain semantic and grammatical relations between them. Phrase is the smallest syntactic unit in which words and word combinations are joined by certain ratios based on grammatical features and lexical meanings. (ÇELIKU, DOMI, FLOQI, MANSAKU, PËRNASKA, PRIFTI, TOTONI, 2002: 61).

Classification of the phrases in Albanian

Phrases are classified into:

Nominal phrases where as a main element they have a noun: këngë trimash, rrugë me kalldrëm, student i sjellshëm, njeri fisnik, dëshira për të lexuar, ky libër, valle burrash, përralla për fëmijë.

Verb Phrases – The main element is a verb – laj duart, shkruaj një poezi, nuk tembem nga vështirësitë, luftojmë për demokraci, u nis për të takuar.

Adjectival Phrases: The main element is an adjective – i ri nga mosha, i talentuar në muzikë, e sjellshme me shoqet, pak i kripur, shumë i madh, i pafuqishëm për të ecur.

Pronoun Phrases: secili prej nesh, dikush nga ju.

Adverbial phrases: mjaft mirë, shumë lart, mjaft vonë.

Phrases in albanian

In the sentence*: Kënga e bukur popullore do të trashëgohet në përjetësi nga brezat e shqiptarëve*, are defined these phrases: *Kënga e bukur, kënga popullore, do të trashëgohet në përjetësi, do të trashëgohet nga brezat, brezat e shqiptarëve.*

So phrases are made of at least two meaningful words. (As it is known meaningful words are: nouns, adjective, numeral, pronoun, verb and adverb, while words that fulfill the meaning are propositions, conjunctions and articles. (R. Memushaj, 2002:42).

A phrase in Albanian is made the same way as in English from a main element (Headword) and others depended on it as its modifiers.

Phrases in Albanian can be **simple** – libër i bukur, klasa e jonë.
And **extended** – leximi i këtij libri, librin e këtij shkrimtari.

Both in English and Albanian language could be easily classified the phrases such are **Nominal phrases, Verbal phrases, Adjectival phrases, Adverbial phrases, Prepositional phrases** that belong in both languages and have almost the same grammatical functions. Also, the sentence elements such are subject, predicator as the main sentence elements and direct and indirect object, adjuncts etc. as the secondary sentence elements.

I. NOUN PHRASE (NP)

a)   Personal nouns and pronouns as NP

-Noun Phrase consists of one word only in cases of Personal Nouns and Pronouns, since they are used do identify the subject or the name of the doer of action, conveying the information about a fact or an information, and so comprising the semantic criteria for one of the protagonists in the action or the event among the other relevant information about the action itself (P) or the object of action (Direct and Indirection object) or the circumstances of the action or in which the situation is.

    e.g.   -<u>Paul</u> is very intelligent
            -<u>He</u> plays football on Sundays.

This is in fact the only case one word can make a separate NP, and only if it stays in the beginning of the sentence, because this makes a subject in the same time, and it cannot be added to the following verb, because eventually it becomes a sentence, and loses the features of the phrase, as a separate grammar and syntactic unit.

But, the situation changes with Nouns and Pronouns coming after the predicator or the VP, because of the necessary normal speed of pronunciation and communication. In this case prevails the phonetic criteria of the rhythmical group or the group of words pronounces in one breath, or without making a pause during the conversation. In this situation the personal name or pronouns as a separate NP can be added as a postmodifier to the VP, especially when there is a verb in a simple tense, consisting of only one word.

    e.g. -**I** *like <u>it</u>*.
     -**They** *called <u>him</u>* to join them
     NP+VP
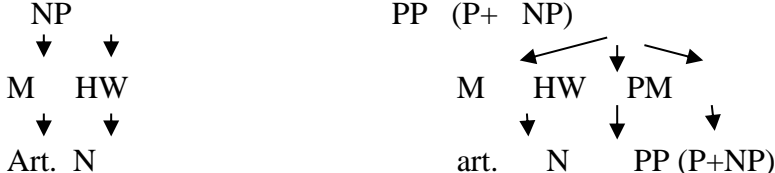   ▾   ▾ ↘
    H   H   M
     ▾   ▾   ▾
   ProN   V   ProN

b)   Nouns as parts of speech making a HW

-The Noun is a headword in a group of words related to each other with articles, adjectives, other nouns, possessive and demonstrative pronouns in the function adjectives describing a noun, if this word or nouns falls the first as the most relevant and important information much more than the other words surrounding it.

There are only two ways to check it out: Firstly, You do the first step to identify the beginning and the end of the phrase, i.e you notice the group of word read altogether in one breath, supposing to have used rightly the intuitive ability to notice even the smallest rest or pause during the conversation. Secondly, you only ask yourself: What is it here about…is here the topic of conversation? And you get automatically the most relevant information of all.

e.g. The idea is to pay attention *on the pause between words*.

```
NP                              PP  (P+  NP)

M    HW                         M      HW   PM

Art.  N                         art.    N        PP (P+NP)
```
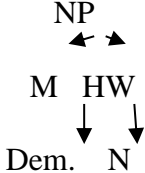
As you can see the word pause is more relevant as a nouns than the word words, which is in this case of second hand relevance, compared to the word pause. Therefore the first is making a HW, whereas the other is a PM within the phrase, but making a HW within the other NP, as a part of the PP in the second row.

e.g. My friend is very pleased *with* your lectures

```
     NP                              PP  (P+NP)

    M  HW                           M  HW
  poss.   N                       poss.   N
```

e.g. This subject is very difficult to learn.

```
     NP

    M  HW

  Dem.   N
```
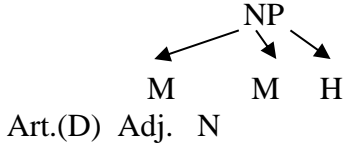
c)   Prevalence of Nouns over Adjectives

The Nouns is always a HW in the company of the adjective, which is then a Modifier describing the Noun as a qualifier or quantifier. In fact, the adjective is always used referring to a Noun, no matter if it is closely related or is used by the intermediation of a Linking verb.
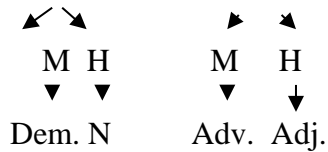
Therefore, when they are closely related the adjective is always in the position of Pre-Modifier. But when they are distant from each other and are indirectly related, then the adjective makes a separate i.e. an Adjective Phrase, because only then the adjective is used and pronounced separately after a Linking Verbs and becomes a HW within the Adj.Ph.

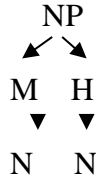e.g. This is an interesting story.

```
              NP

        M      M   H
  Art.(D)  Adj.   N
```

-This story is very interesting.

```
     NP              AdjP
```

```
        M  H       M   H
        Dem. N     Adv.  Adj.
```
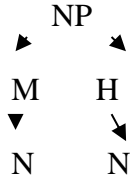
d) **In case of two nouns only one of them is a HW**

e.g. Noun phrase   Adjective Phrase

```
        NP                    NP
       M   H                M     H
       N   N                N     N
```

```
-The leg's table        Saxon's genitive
        NP                    NP
     M  M  H               M      H
     Art.(D)  N  N              N      N
```
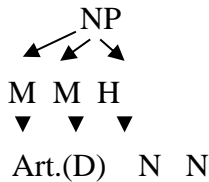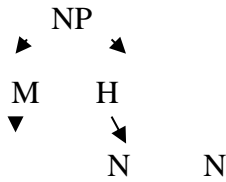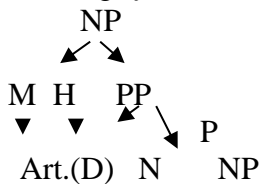
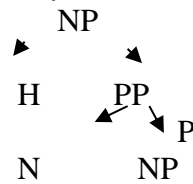**e)** **The NP prevails over a following PP**

e.g. The leg *of the table*   Students *of the Faculty of philology*

```
        NP                        NP
     M  H  PP                  H      PP
              P                          P
     Art.(D) N   NP            N      NP
```

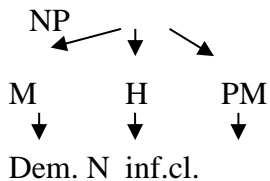**f)** **Infinitive clauses, Ing.-clauses, Wh-clauses and That (relative clauses) following the N or (a HW) are always Postmodifier-s within a NP, if pronounced within one rhythmic group.**
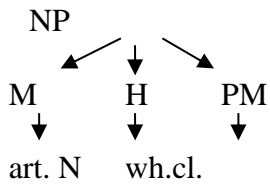
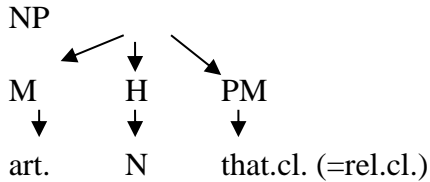e.g. -The people coming to our country are searching for a better life.

```
  NP
 M      H      PM
 Art.   N      Ing.cl.
```
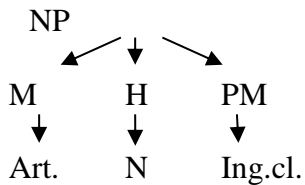
-Their dream to find a better life is making them immigrate in the UK

```
  NP
 M      H      PM
 Dem. N  inf.cl.
```

-The reason why they immigrate is their loss of hope for a better life.

```
            NP
         ↙   ↓   ↘
      M      H      PM
      ↓      ↓      ↓
    art. N      wh.cl.
```

-The people (that) I like the most are the humble ones.
```
      NP
   ↙   ↓   ↘
  M     H      PM
  ↓     ↓      ↓
 art.   N    that.cl. (=rel.cl.)
```
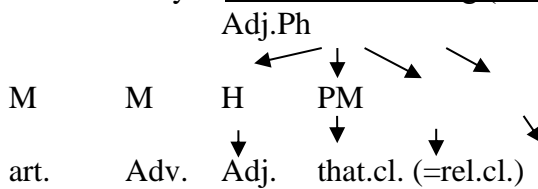
II. ADJECTIVE PHRASE (AdjP)

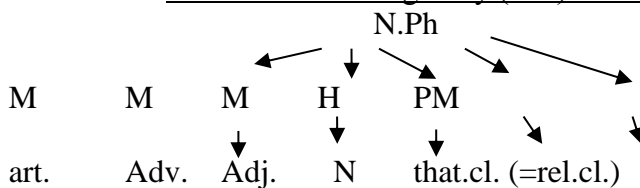a) The adjective is used and pronounced separately after a Linking Verbs and becomes a HW within the Adj.Ph.

e.g. -This story is very interesting.
```
     NP              AdjP
    ↙  ↘            ↗   ↖
   M   H           M     H
   ▼   ▼           ▼     ↓
  Dem. N         Adv.  Adj.
```
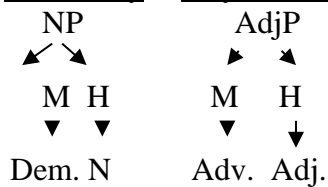
Or: This story is the most interesting (that) I've ever heard.
```
                Adj.Ph
            ↙      ↓    ↘      ↘
  M      M      H      PM
         ↓      ↓      ↓        ↘
 art.   Adv.  Adj.   that.cl. (=rel.cl.)
```

But: This is the most interesting story (that) I've ever heard.
```
                   N.Ph
            ↙      ↓    ↘    ↘       ↘
  M      M      M      H      PM
                ↓      ↓      ↓    ↘      ↘
 art.   Adv.  Adj.    N    that.cl. (=rel.cl.)
```
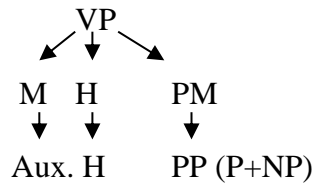
b) The converted past participle in adjective used in the beginning of a clause is also a Headword of an Adj.PH, and what comes next is an PM.

e.g. -Inspired by his success, Paul….
```
        Adj.Ph
      ↙        ↘
   HW          PM
   ↓           ↓
  Adj.       PP (P+NP)
```
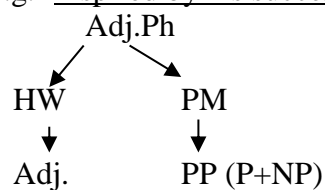
But: The past participle preceded by an auxiliary verb is not an adjective but is a Lexical Verb as a HW within a VP:
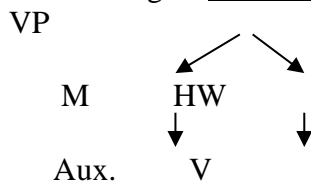
e.g. He <u>was inspired by his success</u>…

```
              VP
          ↙   ↓   ↘
        M    H      PM
        ↓    ↓      ↓
       Aux.  H    PP (P+NP)
```

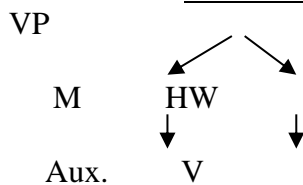## III.   VERB PHRASE (VP)

A.   The VP in the narrow sense

It consists of an auxiliary verb and/or modal verb and a Lexical Verb, depending on the tense and the aspect of the action or of the situation.
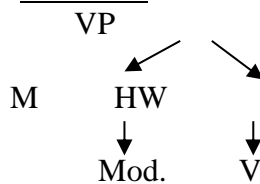
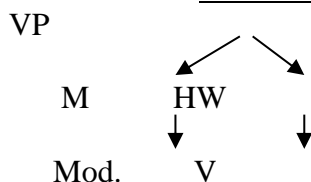e.g. -I <u>have done</u> what I was asked for.

```
VP
           ↙    ↘
    M        HW
             ↓       ↓
   Aux.       V
```
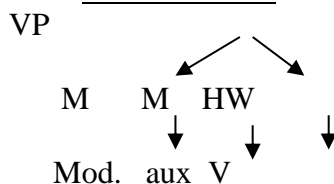
-She <u>was exhausted</u> from her hard work.

```
 VP
           ↙    ↘
    M        HW
             ↓       ↓
   Aux.       V
```

-We <u>had to do </u>the hard work, and..

```
        VP
           ↙    ↘
   M        HW
            ↓       ↓
          Mod.     V
```

-You <u>must read</u> the book I gave you for tomorrow.

```
VP
           ↙    ↘
    M        HW
            ↓       ↓
   Mod.      V
```

-You <u>must have read</u> the book I gave you yesterday.

```
VP
           ↙    ↘
   M    M  HW
         ↓     ↓      ↓
       Mod.  aux  V
```

-You <u>must have bean reading </u>a lot when you were young.
VP

```
           M   M   M   HW
                ↓   ↓        ↓
           Mod.  aux aux.
```
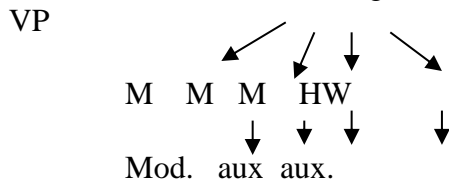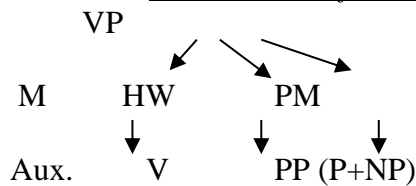
B.　　The VP in the broad sense

It consists of the both types of verbs together with a specific relative clause or another type of Phrase, such as NP, PP, Adv.Ph placed in the position of a PM, as a fact of second hand relevance and depending on the way of pronunciation within one rhythmical group.
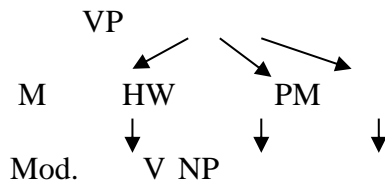
e.g. -I <u>have done</u> *what I was asked for.*
```
        VP

     M      HW      PM
             ↓       ↓      ↓
   Aux.       V       wh-cl.
```

　　-She <u>was exhausted</u> *from her hard work*.
```
     VP

   M      HW      PM
           ↓       ↓      ↓
 Aux.       V       PP (P+NP)
```
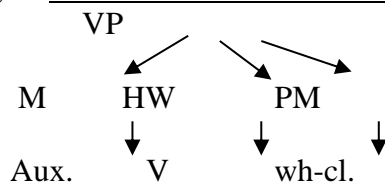
　We <u>had to do the hard work</u>, and..
```
       VP

   M      HW      PM
           ↓       ↓      ↓
 Mod.      V NP
```
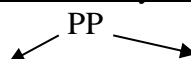
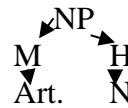## IV.　　Prepositional Phrase (PP)

The prepositional phrase is a specific type of phrase, and differs from the other phrases because it has no real Headword as the most important word within the phrase surrounded by modifiers, but the preposition makes formally the difference and distinguishes the preposition from the other words only for phonetic reasons because it is read together with the rest of the words not necessarily being modifiers within the phrase, except for the traditional or PostModifiers in common for all types of phrases, which are the relative clauses consisting of the relative pronouns that, and wh=pronouns making a relative wh-cl, and the relative ing-clause.

The most frequent pattern for the PP consists of P=NP, due to the common use of Prepositions, usually positioned before the NP, and never close to the VP, which in this case converts the genuine preposition into an adverb by meaning and function.
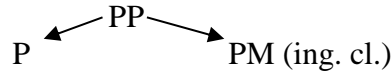
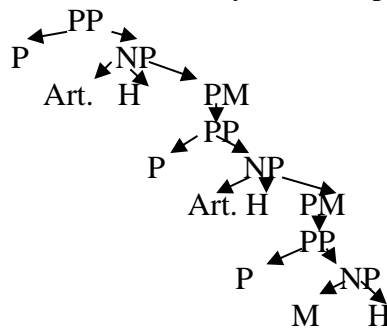e.g. =The children are playing joyfully <u>in the schoolyard</u>.
```
                     PP
```

```
                                         P                      NP
                                                           M        H
                                                           Art.     N
```

-She is very good <u>at playing the guitar</u>.
-He is very fond <u>of watching TV.</u>
  -I am very interested <u>in attending this course</u>.

```
                              PP
                  P                      PM (ing. cl.)
```
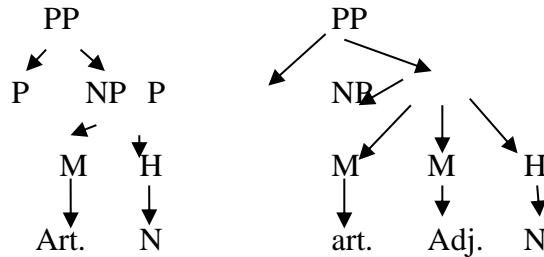
The number of prepositions is not necessarily an indicator for the number of PP, but it always depends on the phonetic and semantic criteria mentioned before. So we must have in mind the group-s of words read altogether and the number of the conveyed messages, facts or information.

e.g. The President <u>of the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia</u>. (=1PP)

```
                      PP
          P              NP
          Art.     H          PM
                              PP
                    P              NP
                    Art. H      PM
                              PP
                    P              NP
                              M        H
```

e.g. -These students are playing <u>in a schoolyard</u> <u>for the first time.</u>

```
              PP                              PP
          P        NP   P                NP
                  M    H             M      M      H
                  Art.  N            art.   Adj.   N
```

V. ADVERB PHRASE

When an adverb is in the position of Headword, it makes a special phrase due to this position and is called Adverb-ial Phrase. Conclusively, one cannot have an AP, when the adverb is not a HW, but is a Modifier.

1)   The Adverb is usually placed after an **Intransitive Verb**, conveying the circumstances in which the action occurs or the situation is.

-You **work** <u>very hard.</u>

```
              AP
        M            HW
        Adv.     Adv.
```
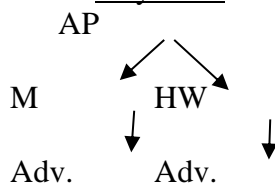
-**Pull over** here.

AP
↓
HW
↓
Adv.

2)   You use the question how, when, where, how much, how long, what way, etc. in order to get an intransitive aspect. Otherwise, you may have the same verb but in a *transitive* aspect if you use the questions Who-m. what, in order to get an object of the action and not the circumstances and the condition of the action occurred or the situation of the subject.

-He **reads** too much! (=Adjunct of quantity)
AP
↓
HW
↓
Adv.
*But not: -He reads too many books.

-You just **wait** over there. (Adjunct of place)
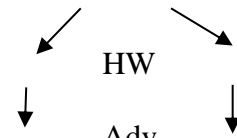AP

M   HW

Adv.   Adv.
*But not: -You just **wait for me**. (Object)

Conclusions:

The above mentioned explanations are strong evidence in support of the generative theory of universal grammar. They cast light on the fact that the grammatical system of different languages like English and Albanian is based on a set of absolute principles (UG) that apply to all languages; but they are realized in specific parameters that vary from one language to another, thus revealing their individual character.

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