

Symbols Used in Transliteration of Arabic Words

Consonants

c	—	ع
d	—	ض
dh	—	ذ
h	—	ح
gh	—	غ
kh	—	خ
s	—	ص
sh	—	ش
t	—	ط
th	—	ث
q	—	ق
z	—	ظ

Short Vowels

i	=	—
a	=	—
u	=	—

Long Vowels

ii	—	ي
aa	—	أ
uu	—	و

References

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- Hussain, T. *AL-Ayyam*. Dar Al-Ma'arif: Cairo, 1979.
- Ibn Ya'ish. *Al-Muffassal*. Beirut, n.d.
- Wright, W. *A Grammar Of the Arabic Language* (3rd Ed. Repr. 1991) . Cambridge University Press, 1971.

3.6 The Relative Order of the Elements . The relative order of the elements to each other does not seem to be fixed in any way. The only exceptions are the two affixes (a prefixed and the Possessive suffixed to the Head) and the Classifier, which is placed next to the Head. The position of the other elements vis- à-vis one another is relatively free and subject only to stylistic variation . In these examples, the Classifier is placed immediately after the Head, followed by the Epithet : al- jai snual- 'iraaiyu al - baasilu (the army the Iraqi the brave : the brave Iraqi army), saa ʕatun yadawiyatun thaminatun (watch wrist expensive : an expensive wrist watch), caa'iratun muqaatilatun sari ʕatun (plane fighter fast : a fast fighter plane). However, we also find a Classifier not immediately following the Head, In the following example (from N. Mahfuz A - Sumaan, 11) a colour term intervenes between the Classifier and the Head : badlatuhu al-ramaadiyate a'-ingliiziya (suit:-his the grey the English : his grey English suit).

The following examples show that elements larger than word normally follow elements realized by one word : al karaasi al-thalaathatu al-mawduu'ʕatu fi wasati al guurfati (the chairs the three placed in the middle of the room : the three chairs placed in the middle of the room), al-suuratu al jamiilatu al-lati 'ʕala al-haa'iti (the picture the beautiful picture which on the wall : the beautiful picture which is on the wall). The same writer uses two different arrangements of the same Epithet in one book (Taha Hasain, al-Ayyam, 1, 6, 48) kuzun dakhamun tawiilun (mug wide tall : a tall wide mug), shaaban tawiilannahiifan (youth tall thin : tall thin youth). However, these changes in the relative position of the elements in postmodification are not functional, but a matter of personal taste.

4. The Thing and the Head .

The Thing usually functions as Head. In elliptical structures, the Head may be omitted and any of the elements, the Deictic, the Numerative, the Epithet of the Classifier may function as Head, e.g. qaala haadha (Deictic, Head) (He said this) ; jaa'a thalaathatun (Numerative, Head) (Three came); ishtaraytu la- ahmar (Epithet, Head) (I bought the red (one)) ; taarat al - muqaatilatu (Classifier, Head) (The fighter plane took off). The exceptions are the elements which are realized as prefixes (the article al-) and as suffixes (the Possessives).

the reference of the number: e.g. *khamసు banaatin*: five what? girls .The second process, postmodification (which may be termed qualification) delimits the number of the thing concerned: e.g. *banaatun khamsun* (girls five: five girls); girls, how many? five. In the postposition, the Numerative is governed by the Head in terms of number, gender, definiteness and grammatical case.

When an ordinal Numerative precedes , it is annexed to the Head : *thaalith u rajulin* (the third man). It is to be noted that this construction is specific; the Numerative shows social or political status (e.g. the third important post, or person in the government). In non-specific constructions, e.g. a third man, the Numerative normally follows the Head: *rajulun thaalithun*. The corresponding specific construction is *a-rajulu a-thaalithu*, where the Numerative follows the Head. As stated in Section, 3, this change in the position of the ordinal Numerative may result in a change in its function.

3.3 An Epithet enters into three patterns (See 2.3), two of which are realized by annexation, e.g. *rajulu su'in* (a man of badness: a bad man) : *sabuuhu al-wajhi* (smiling of face: a smiling face) and the third qualification: *wajhun sabuuhun* (face smiling: a smiling face) . In the first and the third constructions, the Epithet follows the Head, in the second it precedes . These positions are fixed.

3.4 Classifiers . A Classifier is syntactically used either in annexation *thawbu hariirin* (dress silk: a silk dress)or in qualification : *daa'iratun kuhrubaa'iya* (circuit electric: an electric circuit). In both cases, the Classifier follows the Head.

3.5 Elements Larger than a Word. Units larger than a word may function in the structure of a nominal group. These units (Which are embedded) are clauses and phrases,(1) and qualify the Head in one way or another. They follow the Head: e.g. *al-baytu al-ladhi cala al - talli* (the house which is on the hill) *al-taalibu al-jaalisu fi al-zaawiyati* (the student sitting in the corner) .

(1) A distinction is often drawn between a Phrase and a Group in terms of reduction and expansion; a Phrase is a reduction of a clause, whereas a Group is an expansion of a word. This distinction is observed here .

In the following two examples, first the Demonstrative is a premodifier and functions at the experiential level, in the second it is a postmodifier and functions at textual level. (1) *thumma arsala haadhihi a-risaalata ma^{ca} ahadi rijaalihi* (Then(he) sent this letter with one of his men.). (2) *fa lamma qara'a al amiiru al - risaalata haadhihi 'alima bi a - thawrati* (When the prince had read this latter (lit. the letter this) he knew about the uprising).

An ordinal Numerative may precede or follow the Head. In the latter position it sometimes functions as a Classifier: e.g. *kaanat awwalu jaa'izatin fi^{ca}aami 1930* (The prize was first in 1930); *al - jaa'izatu al - uwla rabihaha Zaydun* (The fist prize (lit.the prize the first) was won by Zayd, (Classifier)).

In the next section the position of the elements Deictics, Numeratives, Epithets and Classifiers will be discussed briefly. A brief mention will also be made of units larger than a word.

3.1 Of the three types of Deictics, the definite article *al -*, which is realized as a prefix, always precedes the Head, the Possessives, which are realized as a suffix, always follow the Head, the Demonstratives may either precede or follow the Head, sometimes with a change in their function (See 3). When premodifiers, The Demonstratives always precede the definite article.

3.2 Both Numeratives describing quantity (cardinal) and order (ordinal) may be used as premodifiers or as postmodifiers(1). Quantity Numeratives are annexed to the Head, which is placed in the genitive, e.g. *khamsu banaatin* (five girls). In the definite nominal group, the article is usually added to the Head: *khamsu al-banaati* (five the girls : the five girls). Occasionally *al-* is added to both elements: *al -khamsu al -banaati* (the five the girls: the five girls). Quantity Numeratives may follow the Head with no change in their function. However, the semantic interpretation of the two positions is different: premodification of the two positions is different: premodification (realized by annexation) denotes

(1) The numerative elements indicating 'one' and 'two' are merged with the Head: (f.waahidatun), *ithnaani* (f. *ithnataani* or *thintaani*).

When these are used separately from the head, they are in apposition and always follow the head, with which they agree in number, gender and case.

Person	Singular	Dual	Plural
1st	ana (masc. & fem.) : I	—	nahnu (masc & fem.): We
2nd	anta (masc.) : You	antumaa (masc. & fem.) : You	antum (masc.): You
	anti (fem.) You		antunna (fem.): You
3rd	huwa (masc.): he	humaa (masc. & fem.): they	hum (masc.): they
	hiya (fem.): she		hunna (fem.) they

Table:3 Independent pronouns

Person	Singular	Dual	Plural
1st	-i (masc. & fem).	—	-na (masc. & fem).
2nd	-ka(masc.)	-kuma (masc. & fem.)	-um(masc.)
	-ki (fem.)		-kunna (fem.)
3rd	-hu (masc.)	- huma (masc. & fem.) You	-hum (masc.)
	-ha (fem.)		-hunna (fem.)

Table: 4 Suffix Pronouns

The suffix pronouns realize the Thing only when they are attached to verbs, e.g. ra'aa-ha (saw-her: He saw her). When attached to nouns they function as Possessives, e.g. jawaabu-ha (reply-her: her reply).

3. Position of the Elements. The logical structure of the nominal group in Arabic is modification, where there is a Head preceded and/or followed by certain elements. These two types of elements may be termed premodifiers and postmodifiers. The order of the elements in relation to the Head is relatively flexible; and these elements may be classified according to their position into (i) those that always precede the Head, (ii) those that may precede or follow the Head and (iii) the elements that always follow the Head. In type (ii) the change in ordering, unlike English (cf. Halliday 1985, 171) may involve a change in the function of the element. For example, a Demonstrative is usually a premodifier, which functions as a Deictic in the experiential structure of the nominal group. It may, however, postmodify the Head, in which case it refers to something given in the context and functions in the textual structure of the nominal group.

of muscles: a man of strong muscles), *tiflun asmaru al-lawni* (child brown of colour: a child of brown colour).

All these Epithets may be non-defining, e.g. *waladun latiifu al-maḥshari* (a boy, who is a good company (non-defining), or defining, e.g. *imra'atun tawiilatu a-qaamati* (a tall woman (defining)).

2.4 Classifiers. A Classifier a subclass denotes of the Thing and is realized by a noun used in the first or third construction stated above. e.g. *thawbu hariirin* (a silk dress), *qitaaru a-musaafirina* (a passenger train), *sanatun daw'iyatun* (a light year), *daa'iratun kuhrubaa'iyatun* (an electric circuit).

2.5 Thing . The element Thing functions as the semantic nucleus of the nominal group and is realized in Arabic by a noun or a pronoun .

Arab grammarians classify nouns into proper (ḥalam) and common (gens). Three types of proper nouns are recognized: a name (ism) e.g. *Zayd*, a kunya (calling a person by the name of his / her first born), e.g. ' *Abu 'Ali'n* (Ali,s father), and a laqab (nickname), e.g. *Quffa*.

Common nouns are said to be either concrete (ḥayn) or abstract (maḥna) Cutting across this is another classification which divides common nouns into adjective nouns and non-adjective noun . Adjectives in Arabic often behave like nouns; they have nearly all the syntactic characteristics of nouns with regard to gender , number, case and definiteness and they can function as a Head. Traditional Arab grammarians considered adjectives a subclass of nouns; This is the dominant trend in modern Arabic grammar.

Pronouns have three persons, the first, the second and the third, with separate forms indicating gender (number and case. They are realized as two subsets: independent forms and suffixes, as shown in Tables 3 and 4.

The independent pronouns occur in nominal clauses (clauses without a verb), e.g. *anta ḥala haqqin* (You (are) right) and as emphasized forms in verbal clauses, e.g. *anta qulta haadha* (You said this; in contrast with the non-emphasized form, *qulta haadha*: (You) said so, where the pronoun is implied).

It is to be noted that when these Deictics are used with the definite *al-*, the Head is rendered non-specific, eg. *ba' du-kutubi mufiidatun* (Some books are useful). In fact, 'ba' du al-kutubi' is ambiguous; besides the meaning 'some books' given above, it may denote 'some of the books'. These two interpretations are due to the fact that a plural form preceded by *al-* may have (a) specific or (b) generic reference : e.g. *al awlaadu* : the boys or boys. Thus when *ba' du* (*kullu* and *ayyu*) specifies a specific subset, it denotes part of it, when it specifies the whole, it denotes part of the whole. *La*, which precedes an indefinite noun, negates the whole class, e.g. *la rajula khaalidun* (No man is immortal.). *ayyu* may precede an indefinite noun in the singular in negative clauses, e.g. *lam ara ayya rajulin* (I did not see any man.) . It is also used in asking questions and denotes 'which', e.g. *ayyu kitaabin ishtarayta?* (Which book did you buy?). *kilaa* denotes two (both), e.g. *kilaa al-jisrayni* (both bridges). *kullu* denotes the whole subset. It may be used with a definite subset, singular (e.g. *kullu al-kitaabi*: the whole book) or plural (e.g. *kullu al-kutubi*: all (the) books), or with an indefinite subset plural (e.g. *kullu kitaabin*: every (each) book) .

2.2 Numeratives refer either to the quantity or the order of the subset. e.g. *thalaathu doorin* (three houses), *thaalithu daarin* (the third house). These elements may precede or follow the head; this will be discussed in some detail in a later section (3.2).

2.3 Epithets. An Epithet denotes a quality of the Thing. This is achieved in one of the three ways. First, a quality is ascribed to a thing. This process, which is similar to English modification by an adjective, is realized by an adjective placed after the Thing, e.g. *rajulun tawiilun* (man tall: a tall man), Syntactically, these adjectives agree with the Head in number, gender, case and definiteness. Secondly, a general class is restricted by a specific subclass. This is realized by a noun in annexation, placed in the genitive following another noun (head) e.g. *rajulu khayrin* (man goodness: a man of goodness). Thirdly, a quality is confined to a thing. This is realized by an adjective in annexation preceding a noun, e.g. *qawiyu al-cadalaati* (strong of the muscles: having strong muscles), *asmaru al-alawni* (brown of the colour : having a brown colour). This last construction normally occurs embedded in the nominal group following the Head, e.g. *rajulun qawiiyu al-cadalaati* (man strong

In older Arabic (which still survives in some styles) the forms of remoteness had sometimes the suffix-k, which referred to the person addressed (hearer). This suffix varied according to the number, and gender of the addressee, e.g. *dhaalika rabbuka* (That (masc. sing). is your God), *dhaalikā rabbuki* (That(fem . sing) . is your God), *dhaalik uma al-lahu* (That masc.& fem). is God), *dhaalikum al-lahu* (That(masc . pl.) is God), *dhaalikunna al-lahu* (That (fem.pl.). is God). This marker probably indicates that these Demonstratives took the addressee, not the speaker, as their point of reference.

Sometimes a distinction is drawn between remote and middle distance realized by *dhaaka* and *dhaalika* respectively; but this distinction does not seem to have been common at any period and is confined to the two forms used for singular masculine (*dhaaka* : middle: *dhaalikau* : remote) .

The Possessive element identifies a subset of the Thing from the point of view of the speaker , and is realized either (a) by a pronoun attached in the form of a suffix to the noun, e.g. *waalid-ii* (father-my : my father), *maalu-hu* (money-his : his money), *najaahu -hum* (success-- their : their success); or (b) by a genitive construction (*id aafa*: annexation, i.e. juxtaposition of two nouns the second of which is placed in the genitive), e.g. *baytu a-waziiri* (house the minister : the minister's house), *suuratu ab-ii* (picture father-my: my father's picture).

(ii) The indefinite Deictics denote a whole subset, part of it or none. They are the suffix-n attached to the singular and the so called broken (irregular) plural forms; *kullu* (all, every, each); *ayyu* (any); *laa* (no), *kilta* (both); and *ba^cdu* (some). Two factors govern the use of these Deictics: number and definiteness of the following noun.

	Singular	Dual	Plural
	<i>kullu</i>	<i>ayyu, kilaa</i>	<i>ayyu, kullu</i>
Indefinite	<i>laa,-n, yyu</i>		<i>laa, -n, ayyu,</i> <i>ba'du</i>

Table: 2 The Indefinite Deictics

functional elements: Deictic, Numerative, Epithet and Classifier . Each of these will be discussed with regard to its function, the word class realizing it and its position in relation to the Thing .

2.1 The Deictic element determines the Thing: (i) in a definite way or (ii) in an indefinite way.

(i) There are three definite Deictics: the article *al-* (the definite article), the Demonstratives and the Possessives .

The definite article *al-* is realized as a prefix attached to the noun functioning as Thing, and identifies it in a general way, as given in the context of situation or in the linguistic context; e.g. *al-kitaabu* (the book) *al-baytu* (the house), *al-rijaalu* (the men).

The Demonstrative in Arabic, in contrast with the Demonstrative in English, is not mutually exclusive with the definite article *al-*; it is always used with the definite article. Thus there is a kind of hierarchy in definiteness, where the Demonstrative precedes the word *al-* and renders the Thing more definite or specific than *al-* does; e.g. *haadha al-kitabu* (this the book: this book), *haadhihi al-shajaratu* (this the tree: this tree). The Demonstratives make the Thing more specific by showing its distance in place or time from 'the speaker now'. They may also express psychological distance .

The Demonstratives may be classified according to three dimensions: distance, number and gender. There are more than twenty forms of Demonstratives in Arabic, only the common forms will be listed below.

	Singular		Dual		Plural
	Masc.	Fem.	Masc.	Fem	
Near	<i>haadha</i>	<i>haadhihi</i>	<i>haadhaani</i>	<i>haataani</i>	<i>ha'ulaa'i</i>
			(Nom.)	(Nom.)	
Distance			<i>hadh ayni</i>	<i>haatayni</i>	
			(Acc&Gen.)	(Acc.Gen.)	
Remote	<i>dhaaka</i>	<i>tilka</i>	<i>dhaanika</i>	<i>taanika</i>	<i>olaa'ika</i>
	<i>dhaa'ika</i>		(Nom.)	(Nom.)	
			<i>dhainika</i>	<i>tainika</i>	
			(Acc.& Gen.)	(Acc.& Gen.)	

Table :1 Demonstratives in Standard Arabic

A Functional Approach to the Nominal Group in Standard Arabic

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1- Traditional Arab grammarians discussed nouns rather than nominal groups. Their grammatical theory was based on two linguistic units: the word and the sentence. A noun, considered in isolation, was one of three parts of speech, the other two being the verb and the particle. A noun was defined semantically as that part of speech which has meaning in itself, unaccompanied by, or devoid of time. (The verb has the same definition but is accompanied by time; and the particle has neither by itself.) It was syntactically characterized as being capable of functioning as predication, and may be used with the definite article, the preposition, the suffix /n/ (nunnation) and in a possessive construction (idaafa : status constructus) (Ibn Ya'ish, 1, 22, 24).

This same approach is basically followed by modern Arab grammarians.

The present paper will discuss the nominal group in modern Standard Arabic following a functional approach. It will deal mainly with the representational function; and only mention the other two functions, the interpersonal and the textual, when they are relevant to the main topic. The functional approach adopted here is mainly Halliday (1985).

2- On the representational level, the functional structure of a nominal group specifies a class of things (cf. Halliday, 1985: 160). For example, the nominal group, haadha al-baytu al-jamiilu 'ala al-talli (this the house the beautiful on the hill: this beautiful house on the hill) specifies a house. This is called a Thing, and may be further subcategorized by the following