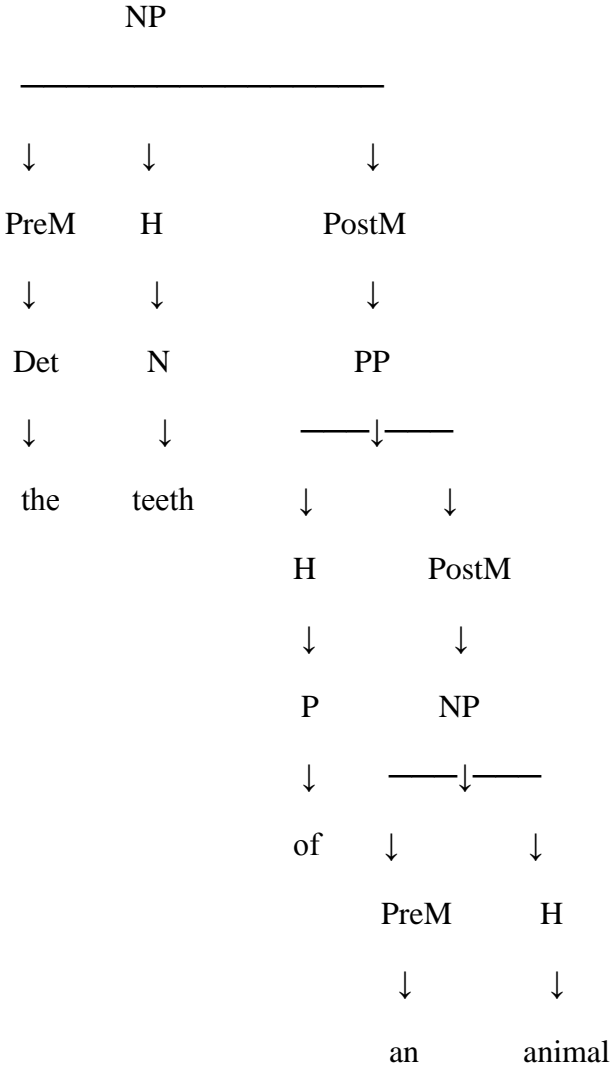


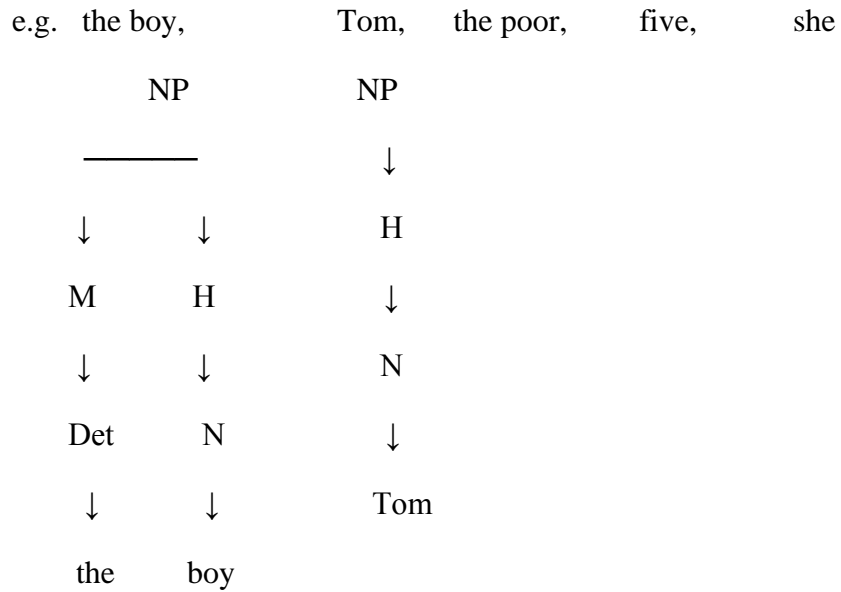
Noun Phrases (NP)

A noun phrase is a noun and other words or phrases or clauses that are structured around the noun. The noun is called headword whereas the words in front of the noun and after it are called noun modifiers.

e.g. the teeth of an animal



The headword in a noun phrase can be also a pronoun or any other part of speech used with nominal function.



Noun phrases can be:

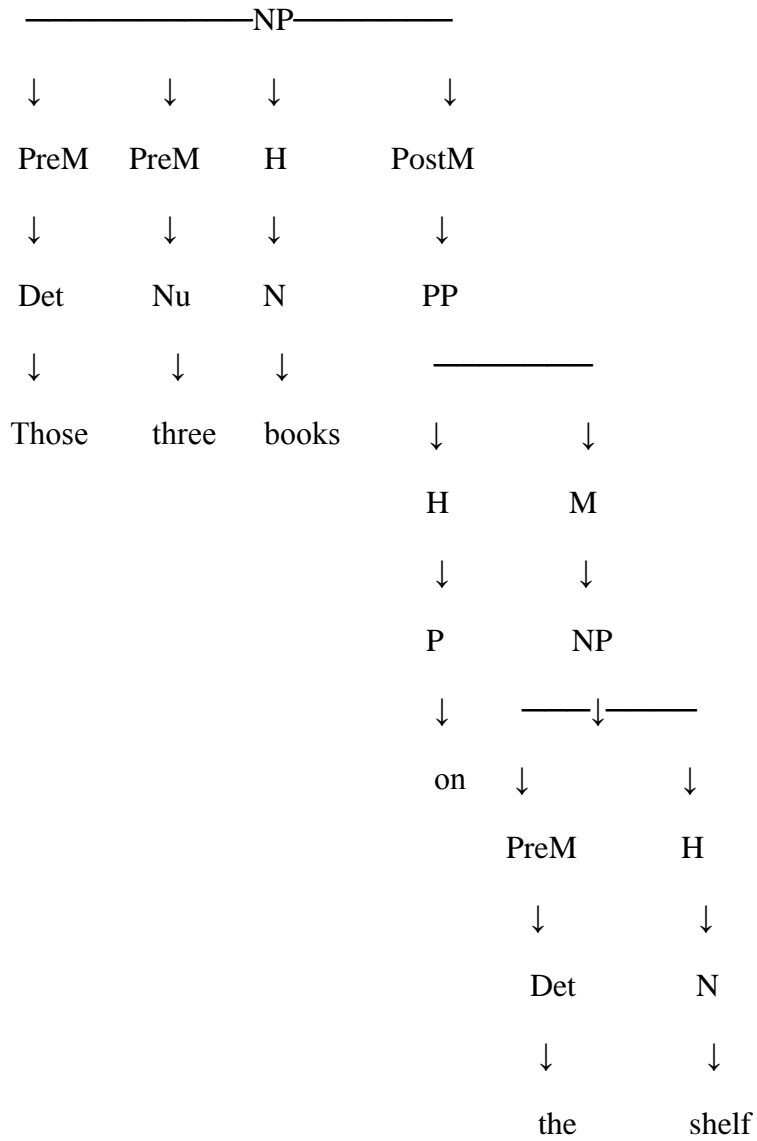
a. Simple – consisting of one word (the headword) only.

e.g. boys, people, you, everybody, nothing



b. Complex – consisting of the headword and one or more premodifiers and postmodifiers.

e.g. those three books on the shelf



The headword is obligatory in an NP, whereas modifiers are optional, i.e. we can do without them.

e.g. Those three books are old

Three books are old

Books are old

- are old

So we can say that modifiers affect the meaning of the headword. They describe, limit or add new information to the meaning of the headword.

An NP can have zero, one or more pronominal and postnominal modifiers.

Prenominal Modifiers (PreM)

Prenominal modifiers may be expressed by:

1. **Determiners** – can have the function of a pronominal modifier. They include:

Articles: the, a, an

Possessive adjectives: my, your, his, her, its, our, their

Demonstrative pronouns: this, these, that, those

Determiners are further subdivided into:

Predeterminer: all, both, half, double etc.

Middle determiners: articles (the), possessives (his), demonstratives(that), and Saxon Genitive (Zana's).

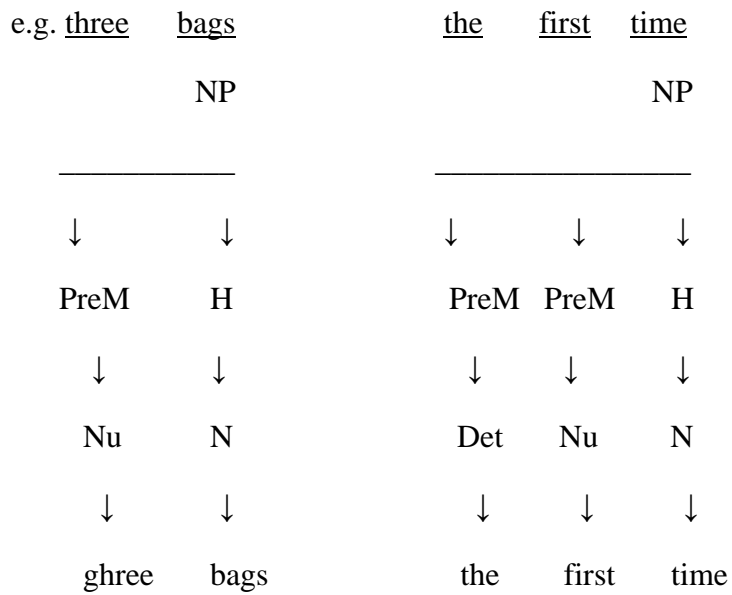
Postdeterminers: numerals both cardinal and ordinal numbers (five, fifth)

Determiners exclude one another, i.e. if one of them appears in an NP, it does not allow for the other one to get used as a pronominal modifier of the same headword.

*the his book

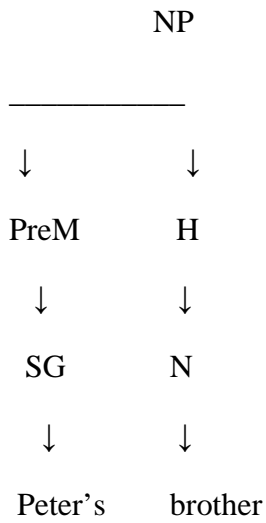
*that my book

2. **Numerals** are also used as pronominal modifiers.



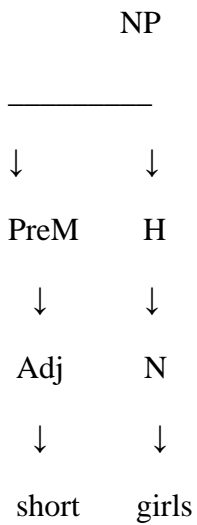
3. **The Saxon Genitive** has the function of pronominal modifier as well.

e.g. Peter's brothers

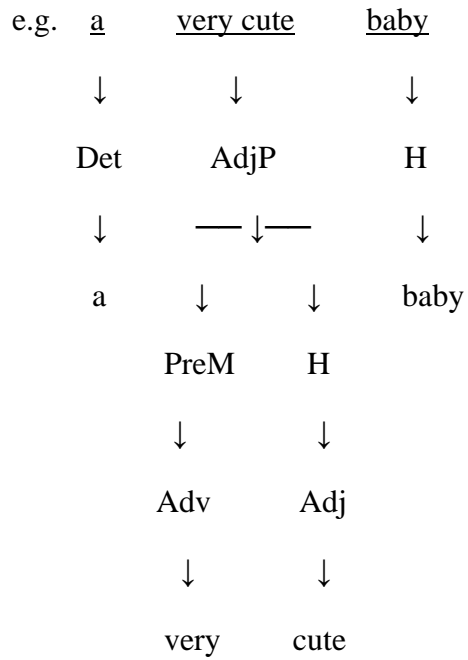


4. **Adjectives** are the most frequently used pronominal modifiers.

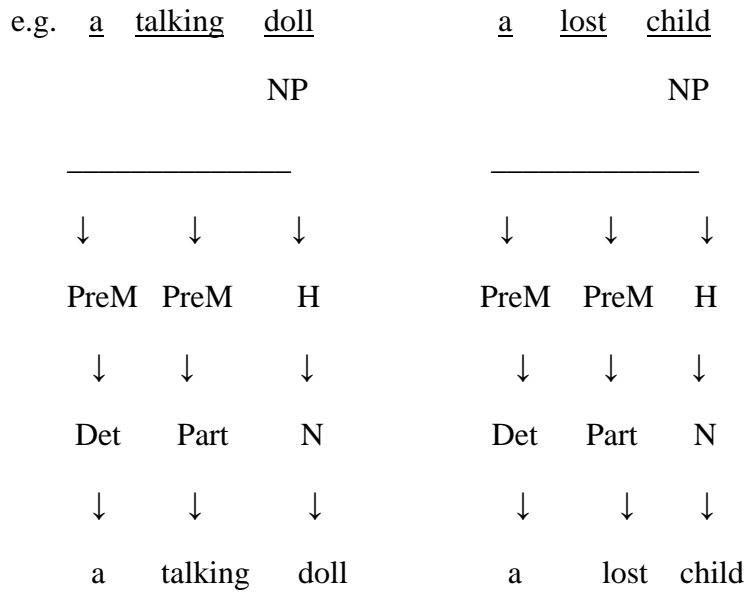
e.g. short girls



The adjective can be premodified itself by an adverbial such as:

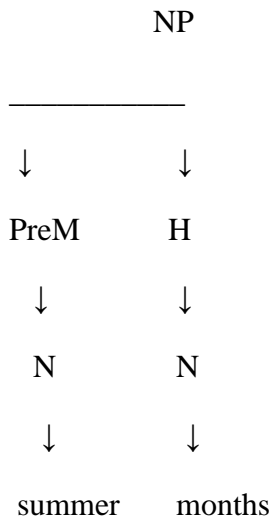


5. **Participles (-ing, -ed)** are pronominal modifiers.



6. **Nouns** are often used as pronominal modifiers.

e.g. summer months



7. **Adverbs** can be used in the function of pronominal modifiers.

e.g. the today papers

