Postnominal Modifiers (PostM)
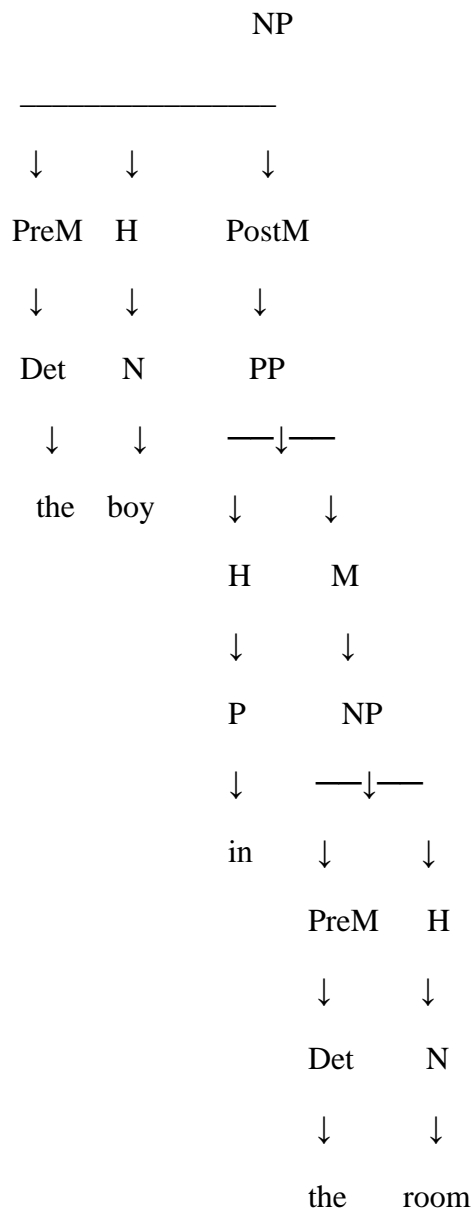
Postnominal modifiers may be expressed by:
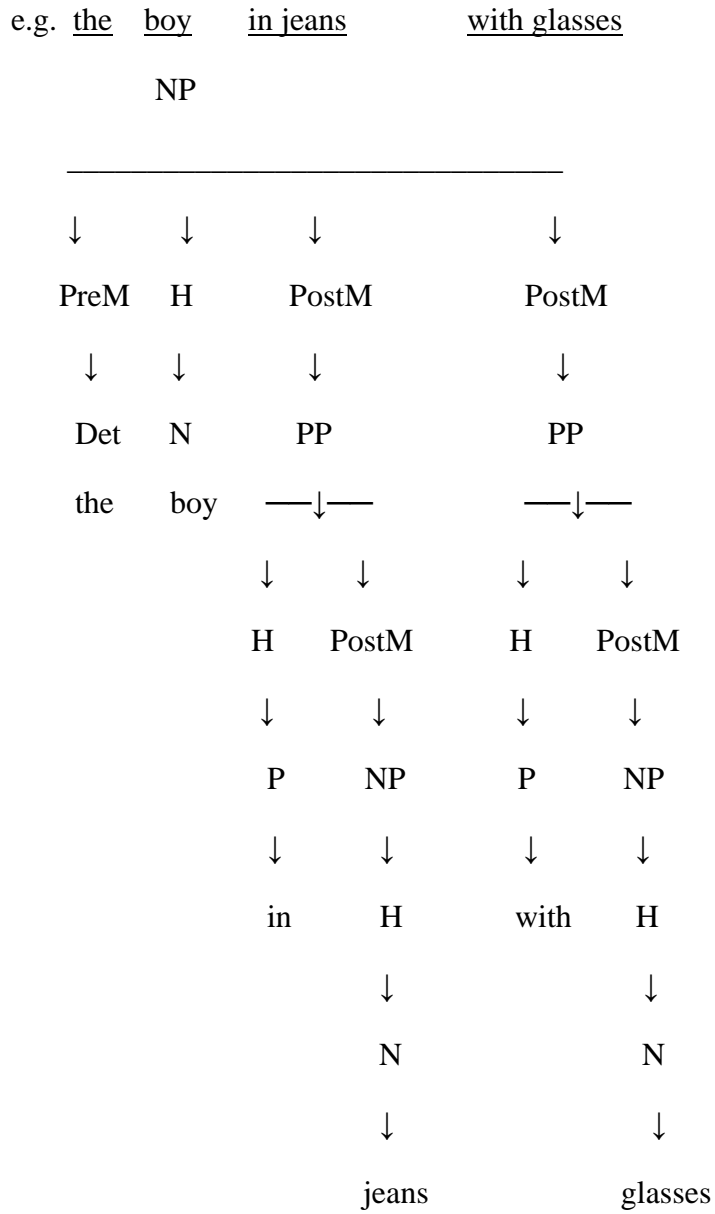
1.**Prepositional phrases** are the most common postnominal modifiers.

e.g. <u>the</u>   <u>boy</u>   <u>in the room</u>

NP

```
         ↓       ↓         ↓

       PreM     H       PostM

         ↓       ↓         ↓

       Det      N        PP

         ↓       ↓      ──↓──

        the     boy    ↓       ↓

                       H       M

                       ↓       ↓

                       P       NP

                       ↓    ──↓──

                       in   ↓       ↓

                          PreM     H

                            ↓       ↓

                          Det       N

                            ↓       ↓

                           the     room
```
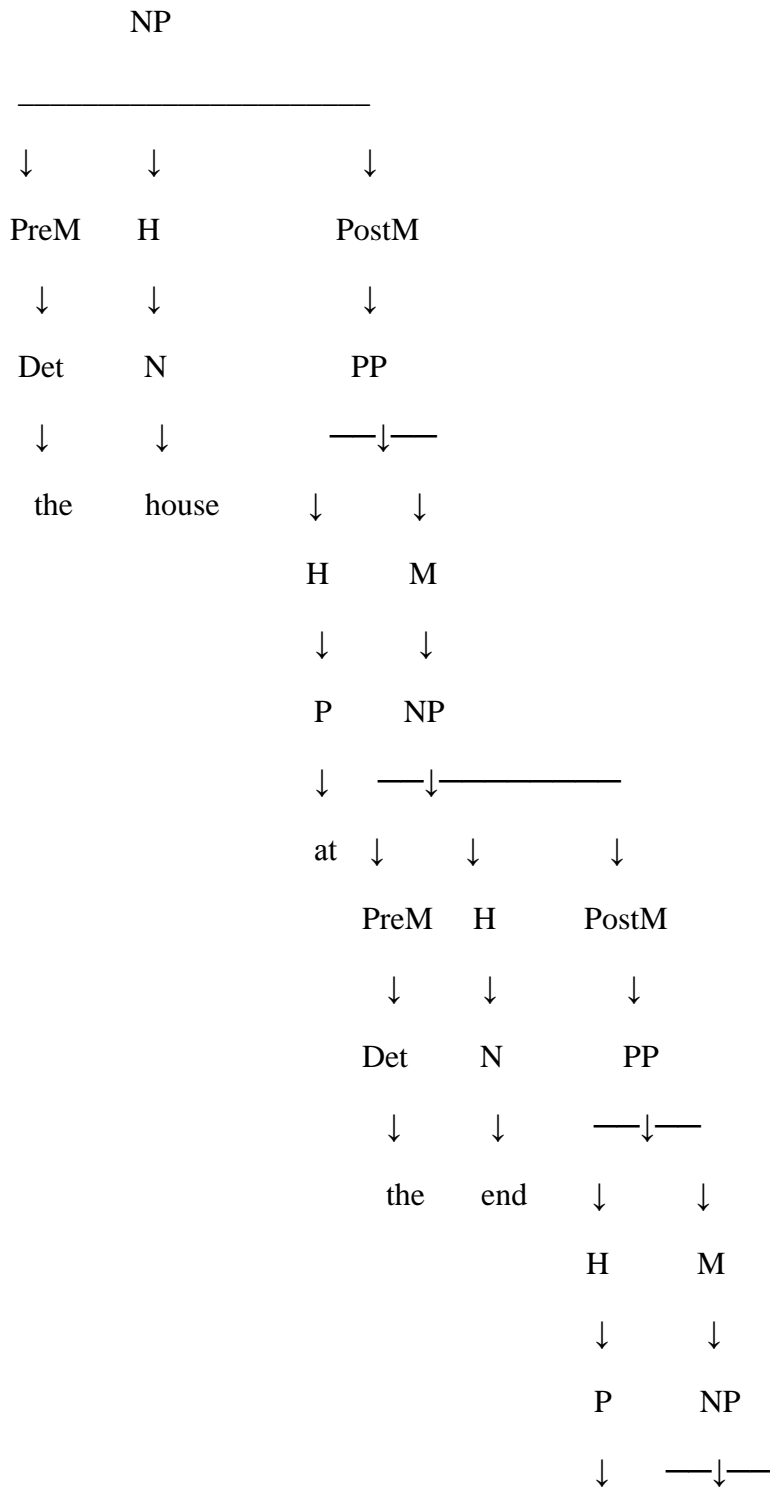
There may be more than one PP following the headword.

a.They may postmodifiy the same headword:

  e.g. <u>the</u>   <u>boy</u>   <u>in jeans</u>   <u>with glasses</u>

                 NP

```
              _____
               ↓        ↓        ↓               ↓
             PreM      H       PostM          PostM
               ↓        ↓        ↓               ↓
             Det       N        PP             PP
             the      boy     —↓—            —↓—
                              ↓    ↓          ↓    ↓
                             H   PostM      H   PostM
                              ↓    ↓          ↓    ↓
                             P    NP         P    NP
                              ↓    ↓          ↓    ↓
                             in    H        with   H
                                   ↓               ↓
                                   N               N
                                   ↓               ↓
                                 jeans          glasses
```
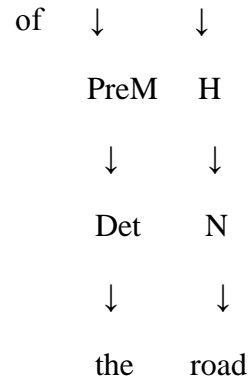
Prepositional phrases 'in jeans' and 'with glasses' posmodify the headword 'boy'.

b.They may postmody different headwords.

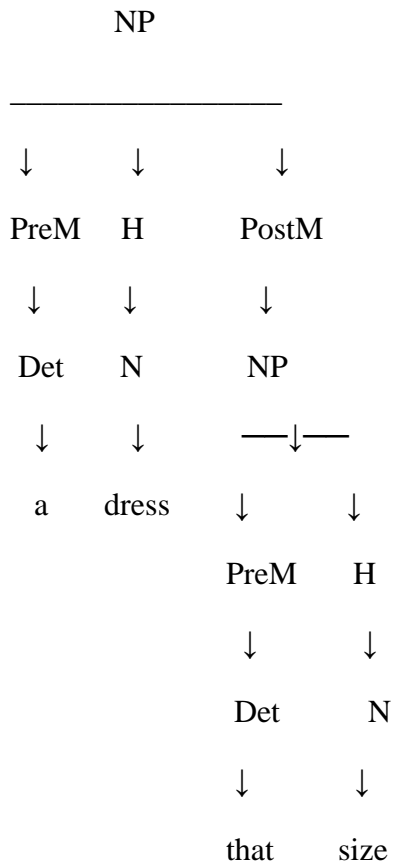e.g. <u>the</u>   <u>house</u>   <u>at the end of the road</u>

NP

↓   ↓   ↓

PreM   H   PostM

↓   ↓   ↓

Det   N   PP

↓   ↓   —↓—

the   house   ↓   ↓

H   M

↓   ↓

P   NP

↓   —↓————

at ↓   ↓   ↓

PreM   H   PostM

↓   ↓   ↓

Det   N   PP

↓   ↓   —↓—

the   end   ↓   ↓

H   M

↓   ↓

P   NP

↓   —↓—

```
                                        of     ↓         ↓

                                              PreM      H

                                               ↓         ↓

                                              Det        N

                                               ↓         ↓

                                              the       road
```

The first prepositional phrase 'at the end' postmodifies the headword 'house' whereas the second one 'of the road' postmodifies the headword 'end'.

2.**Noun phrases** can also be postnominal modifiers.

```
  e.g.   a      dress      that size

                      NP

         _____

         ↓       ↓          ↓

       PreM     H         PostM

         ↓       ↓          ↓

       Det      N          NP

         ↓       ↓        —↓—

         a      dress     ↓         ↓

                        PreM       H

                          ↓         ↓

                        Det         N

                          ↓         ↓

                        that       size
```

3.**Adjective phrases** sometimes may have the function of postnominal modifiers.
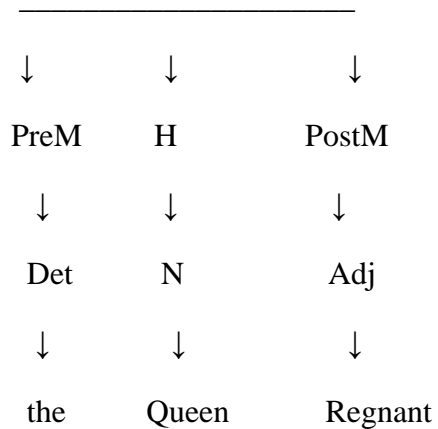
e.g.   <u>the</u>   <u>sum</u>   <u>total</u>

NP

|----------------------|

↓   ↓   ↓

PreM   H   PostM

↓   ↓   ↓

Det   N   Adj

↓   ↓   ↓

the   sum   total
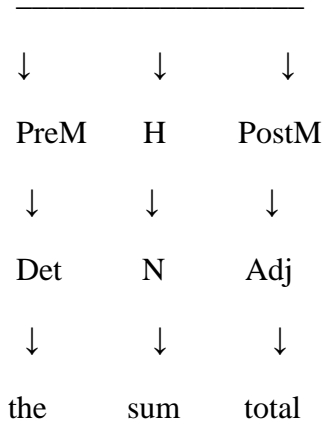
AdjP-s in the function of postnominal modifiers can be grouped into the following:
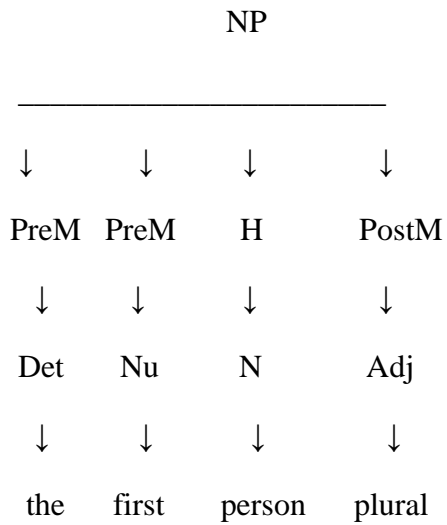
a.Adjectives of foreign origin

e.g.   <u>the</u>   <u>Queen</u>   <u>Regnant</u>

NP

|-----------------------------|

↓   ↓   ↓

PreM   H   PostM

↓   ↓   ↓

Det   N   Adj

↓   ↓   ↓

the   Queen   Regnant

b.Some grammatical expressions use adjectives in the function of postnominal modifiers
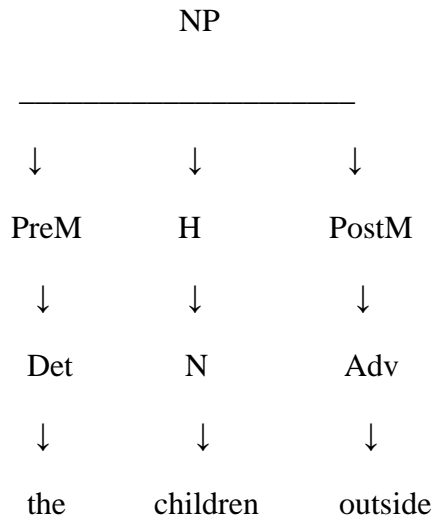
e.g.   the   first   person   plural

NP

_____

↓   ↓   ↓   ↓

PreM   PreM   H   PostM

↓   ↓   ↓   ↓

Det   Nu   N   Adj

↓   ↓   ↓   ↓

the   first   person   plural

c.Two or more adjectives joined together can be used in the function of postmodifiers in an NP
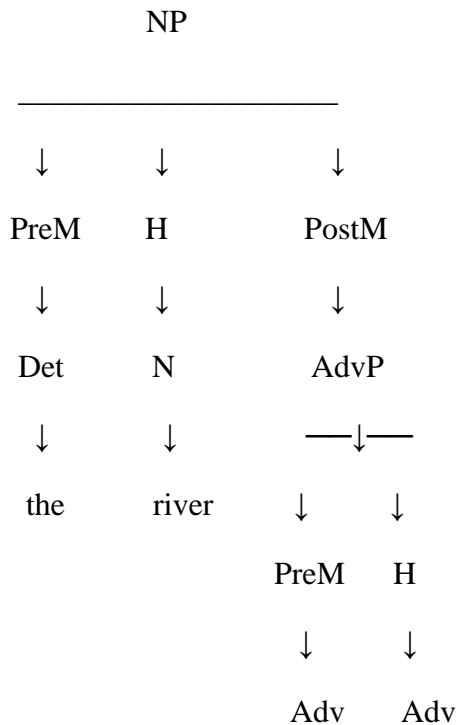
e.g.   a   story   interesting and comfortable

NP

_____

↓   ↓   ↓

PreM   H   PostM

↓   ↓   ↓

Det   N   Adj

↓   ↓   ↓

a   story   interesting and comfortable
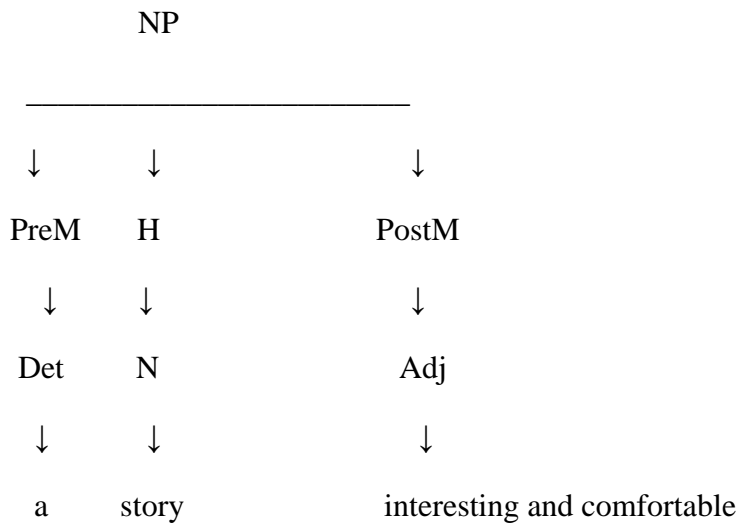
4.**Adverbial phrases** are also used in the function of postnominal modifiers. They are usually adverbs of place or time.

   e.g.   <u>the</u>   <u>children</u>   <u>outside</u>

                     NP

           ——————————————

       ↓   ↓   ↓

     PreM   H   PostM

       ↓   ↓   ↓

      Det   N   Adv

       ↓   ↓   ↓

      the   children   outside

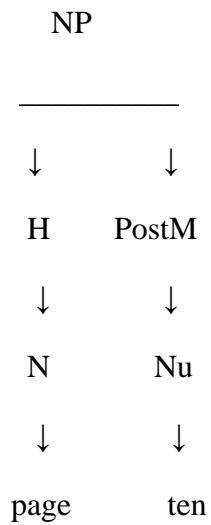Sometimes an adverb used as postnominal modifier may be premodified itself.

   e.g.   <u>the</u>   <u>river</u>   <u>over there</u>

                    NP

          ——————————————

       ↓   ↓   ↓

     PreM   H   PostM

       ↓   ↓   ↓

      Det   N   AdvP

       ↓   ↓   ——↓——

      the   river   ↓   ↓

                  PreM   H

                   ↓   ↓

                 Adv   Adv

$$\downarrow \qquad \downarrow$$

over   there

5.**Cardinal Numbers** may be used in the function of postnominal modifiers

e.g. <u>page</u>   <u>ten</u>

NP

_____

$$\downarrow \qquad \downarrow$$

H   PostM

$$\downarrow \qquad \downarrow$$

N   Nu
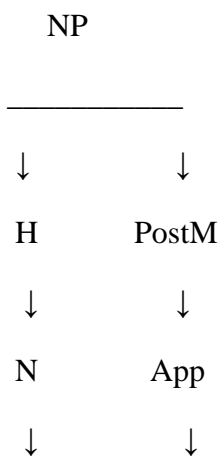
$$\downarrow \qquad \downarrow$$

page   ten

6.**Apposition** can be a postmodifier in an NP. It gives the headword another name or identity.

Apposition is divided into:

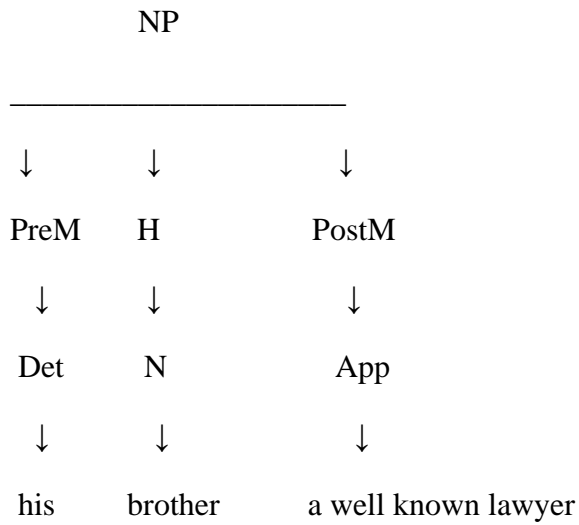a.Close apposition which is closely connected to the headword and modifies it

e.g. <u>Architect</u>   <u>John</u>

NP

_____

$$\downarrow \qquad \downarrow$$

H   PostM

$$\downarrow \qquad \downarrow$$

N   App

$$\downarrow \qquad \downarrow$$

Architect   John

b.Loose apposition is separated by commas in writing

e.g. his   brother,   a well known lawyer,

NP

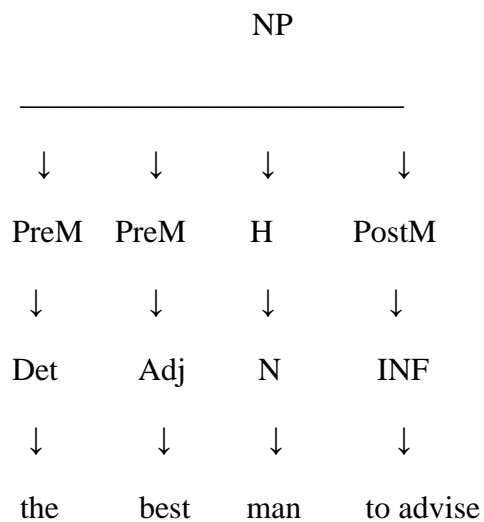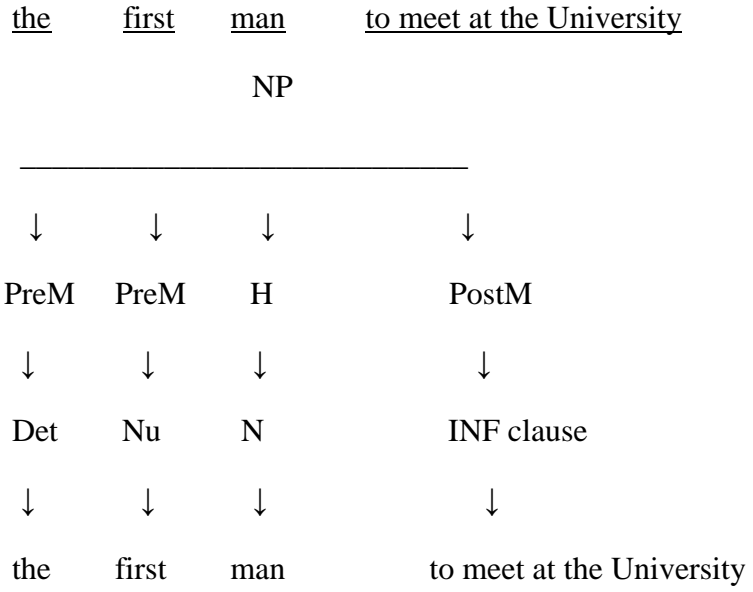|		
↓	↓	↓
PreM	H	PostM
↓	↓	↓
Det	N	App
↓	↓	↓
his	brother	a well known lawyer

7.**Non-finite clauses** may have the function of postmodifiers in NP-s.

Non-finite clauses are divided into:
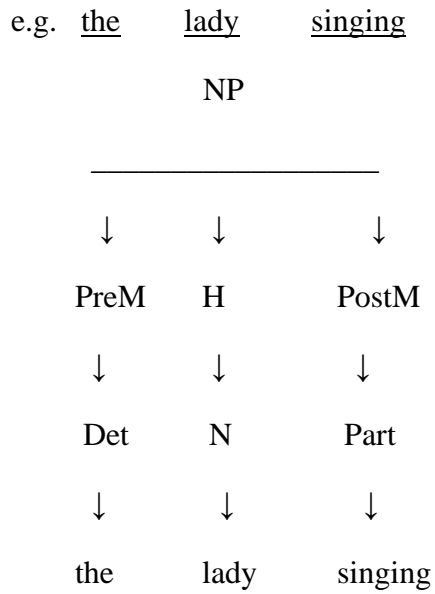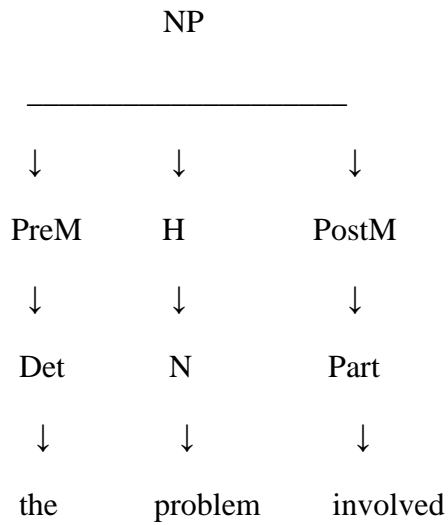
a.Infinitives

e.g. the   best   man   to advise

NP

↓	↓	↓	↓
PreM	PreM	H	PostM
↓	↓	↓	↓
Det	Adj	N	INF
↓	↓	↓	↓
the	best	man	to advise

the	first	man	to meet at the University
		NP	

↓	↓	↓	↓
PreM	PreM	H	PostM
↓	↓	↓	↓
Det	Nu	N	INF clause
↓	↓	↓	↓
the	first	man	to meet at the University

b.Present Participle

e.g. the   lady   singing

NP

↓	↓	↓
PreM	H	PostM
↓	↓	↓
Det	N	Part
↓	↓	↓
the	lady	singing

c.Past Participle

e.g.   the   problem   involved

                      NP

        _____

        ↓   ↓   ↓

       PreM   H   PostM

        ↓   ↓   ↓

       Det   N   Part

        ↓   ↓   ↓
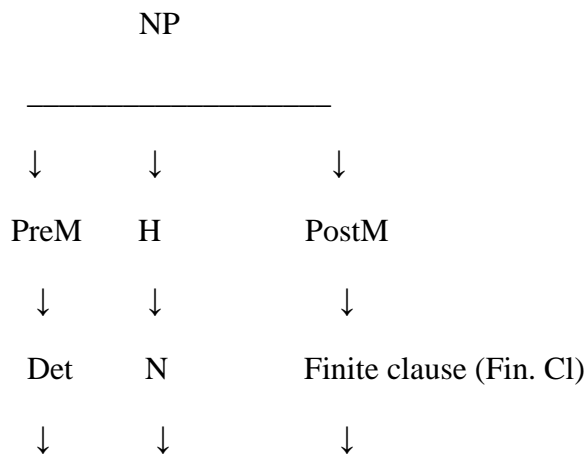
       the   problem   involved

8.**Finite Clauses** can have the function of postnominal modifiers.

They begin with wh = who, which, where, when, what, why, how, that ('that' doesn't consist wh letters but it is still in the group of Finite clauses)

They are divided into:

a.Restrictive clauses – postmodify the noun headword by identifying it through that clause

  e.g.   the   wall   which is on the left side

                      NP

        _____

        ↓   ↓   ↓

       PreM   H   PostM

        ↓   ↓   ↓

       Det   N   Finite clause (Fin. Cl)

        ↓   ↓   ↓

the   wall   which is on the left side

b.Non-restrictive clauses – do not modify the noun headword, they only add new information to it.

   e.g. my   mother,   who is a teacher,

                       NP

                 _____

         ↓   ↓   ↓

        PreM   H   PostM

         ↓   ↓   ↓

        Det   N   Fin. Cl

         ↓   ↓   ↓

        my   mother   who is a teacher