



Head-Position Parameter in English and Central Kurdish Noun Phrases: A Comparative Study

Karwan Othman Noori¹, Jalal Sa'dullah Hassan²

1- English Department, College of Education and Language, Charmo University, Kurdistan Region - Iraq

2- Department of English Language, College of Education, Garmian University, Kurdistan Region – Iraq

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Corresponding Author

Karwan.Othman@charmouniversity.org

jalal.sadullah@garmian.edu.krd

Abstract

The issue of head-position has been a controversial and disputed subject within the generative syntax. The purpose of the current study is to determine the right position of head in English and Central Kurdish (CK) noun phrases with regard to optional and mandatory elements and specify the type of the elements that can modify or determine the head nouns and demonstrate the different and similar points between the two languages concerning the position of the head through a comparative study. The study hypothesizes that in both languages, the heads occur before their complements which is head-initial. The most obvious finding to emerge from this study is that CK at the level to its noun phrases seems to stick firmly to head-initial parameter as the complements consistently occur on the right of their heads, whereas in English noun phrases although in most cases the complements occur on the right of their heads, but the modifiers mostly precede the head nouns.

I. Introduction

In this study, the position of head in English and CK Noun phrases (NP) has been examined so as to indicate the right position of head and find out the right head-parameter that fits NPs in the two languages. McWhorter (2019) classifies English as a Germanic language, which is part of a bigger branch of Indo-European language family and Windfuhr (2009) labels CK (also known as Sorani) as one of the main dialects of Kurdish language, which is a member of Iranian languages that refers to a greater branch of Indo-European language family. It is worth noting that the original writing of CK is

right to left. A comparative approach is used between the two languages so as to examine the position of head with regard to the other elements, including obligatory complements, determiners and optional modifiers. The study consists of seven sections. Section one is devoted to the introduction of the study. Section two involves the theoretical background of head and head-position parameter. In section three the notions of phrase, head and their significance are explained. In the fourth section the position of head in English NPs is discussed and its significance is clarified. The fifth section is devoted to the place of head in

CK NPs. In the last section, the similarities and differences between the two languages are demonstrated, and the final section is devoted to the conclusion of the study.

II. Theoretical background

Chomsky's theory of Universal Grammar is comprised of some principles that are identical to all the human languages and a number of parameters that differentiates the languages because of which a language may vary from another. An important innovation to the idea of phrase structure that came out in the early 1970s was the assertion that all phrases have a central section which is called a head, around which other components of the phrase revolve and it can stand for the entire phrase at the minimum. The position of head with regard to its complements is considered as one of the significant aspects that seems to be different between the languages of the world and the parameter that is specified to concern with such variations is called head-position parameter. The head of a phrase can come initially of a complement or it may appear after its complements. Chomsky recommended that the relative position of heads, with regard to their complements, needs to be identified only once for all phrase types in a certain language. Only one generalization would be sufficed so as to indicate whether a certain language is head-initial or it is head-final; it is also worth mentioning that the expressions 'head-first' and 'head-last' are used as an alternative in the literature to define this parameter, for example Japanese is captured by only one head-last generalization as all the complements follow their heads. Crucial information about language structures can also be provided by knowing the direction of their heads (Chomsky, 2015; Cook & Newson, 2007)

Phrases and Heads

Burton-Roberts (2022) defines 'phrase' as a series of words that can function as a constituent in the formation of sentences. He also acknowledges that a phrase may consist of a word or more than one word for instance in the following sentence *we like the people in the city*. The subject *we* is a phrase which is composed of only one word and the object is also another phrase *the people in the city* which contains two smaller phrases which are *the people* and *in the city*. Tallerman (2015) acknowledges that so as to have a phrase of any kind the presence of a head is required at least; and a phrase may include some optional or mandatory dependents. Each of the above-mentioned phrases is headed by a single lexical word which indicates the syntactic category of that phrase.

Carnie (2013) defines the notion heads as the most pivotal elements in phrasal categories which give their name to the entire phrases. Poole (2011) also defines heads as the most crucial components- the pivots around which the whole of phrase revolves.

Based on the following reasons that are shown by Huddleston & Pullum (2008); Tallerman (2015); Quirk, Greenbaum, Leech, & Svartvik (1985), heads can be considered as the most significant elements in their phrasal categories.

- a. The heads carry the most pivotal semantic information, in which the meaning of the whole of the phrase is determined by the head. For instance, the phrase *a brass statue* is a sort of *statue*, not a sort of *brass*, so *statue* is considered as the head of the phrase and the type of the whole phrase is determined by the word class of the head; the phrase *a brass statue* is considered as an NP since it is headed by the word *statue* which is a noun.

- a. The second feature of heads is that they are the only elements which have the same distribution as the whole phrase since it is feasible to substitute just the head for the entire phrase. For example, it is possible to say either *John liked very bright sunflowers* or just *John liked sunflowers*.
- b. The third characteristic of heads is that they are the only mandatory components in the phrases since they cannot normally be excluded apart from the contexts in which the head has just been mentioned, and is then deleted as in *Are you hungry?* Replied by *very!*
- c. The fourth attribute of heads is that they may choose a mandatory dependent, a phrase belonging to a specified class (such as NP) and with certain semantic properties. For example, the verb phrase *released the hostage* the verb *release* which is a transitive verb, requires an NP as its object.
- d. It is the head which governs its complements.
- e. It is the head element that dictates the agreement with other sections of the sentence.

III. Head-position in English Noun Phrases

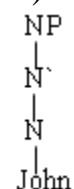
After the notion 'head' was recognized, the next step is to explore the right position of head in NPs. Brinton (2000) states that NPs are considered as one of the most common types of phrases, due to the various functions that they can play in the sentence in which they are able to function as subject and complement. The main functions of a sentence are performed by NPs and verb phrases.

An NP may consist of only one word. An NP dominates an N' at least, and every N' instantly dominates an N at the minimum projection, therefore the simplest NP in English includes just one word, which is a noun and it is also the

head of the phrase. This type of phrase may include elements such as proper nouns, pronouns, plural nouns or mass nouns[-count]. Each of the bracketed constituents in 1a, 1b, 1c, and 1d are NPs which consist of only one word whereas in 1e the nouns *boy* and *girl* cannot occur by themselves as well-formed noun phrases and they must be plural nouns. (Carnie, 2013)

- 1) a. [_{NP} Jason] slept.
- b. [_{NP} He] went out.
- c. [_{NP} Oceans] are deeper than rivers.
- d. [_{NP} water] boils at 100°C.
- e. **Boy* is stronger than *girl*

2) The tree diagram for 1a

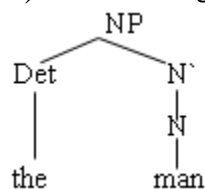


NPs are allowed to be expanded and incorporated in a variety of subordinate materials. All the elements that precede the head noun are called premodifiers apart from determinatives. Brinton (2000) maintains that the head noun is always the mandatory element in each NP expansion, and in addition to the obligatory head noun, there are other elements such as modifiers (which are optional) and complements. Carnie (2013) acknowledges that the determiners which contain some subcategories including, quantifiers, Definite articles (DEF), Indefinite articles (INDEF), numerals (including cardinal and ordinals), demonstratives, and possessive pronouns, occur at the very start of NPs in English. Quirk, Greenbaum, Leech, & Svartvik (1985) aver that central determiners, which include the articles, demonstratives and some other determiners such as *some*, *each*, *no*, are mutually exclusive in which no two central determiners are

allowed to pile up before a noun for instance it is not possible to say **a this man*. It is demonstrated in the syntactic tree diagram 4 that the determiners *the* take the left side and the head noun occur on the right and this is the same for the other determiners.

- 3) a. [_{NP} the man]
- b. [_{NP} this horse]
- c. [_{NP} three teenagers]
- d. [_{NP} some students]
- e. [_{NP} his car]
- f. [_{NP} first prize]

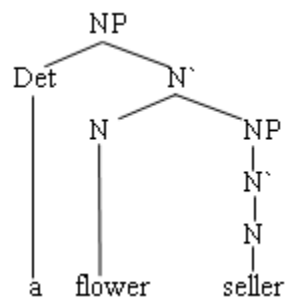
4) The tree diagram for 3a



Nouns are one of the elements that can serve as pre-head modifiers in another NP. The following examples show that the head nouns *seller* and *adviser* in 5a and 5b are preceded by the nouns *flower* and *income tax* which serve as the pre-modifier of their head nouns (Huddleston & Pullum, 2008, p. 439).

- 5) a. a flower seller
- b. a income tax adviser

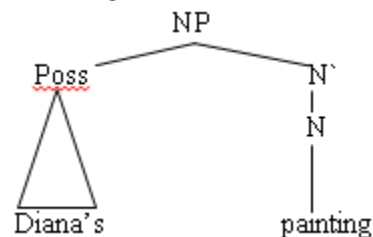
6) The tree diagram for 5a



Haegeman (1998) also maintains that NPs modifiers appear before the head nouns. This can clearly be observed in genitive cases. The example below shows that the *Diana's* functions as the pre-modifier of the head noun painting.

7) Diana's painting

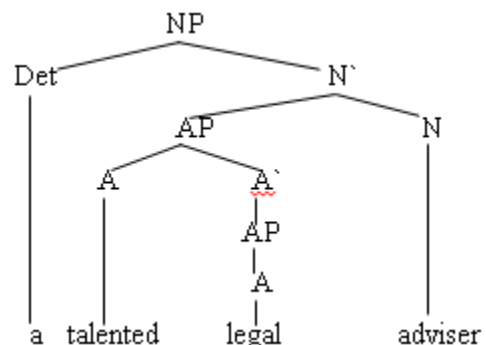
8) The tree diagram for 7



Another element that can appear before the head noun in English NPs is certain adjective phrases (AP), although in most cases the APs are considered as optional modifiers as *very heavy* in 9a but there are also some cases that they are considered as the complement of the head nouns as in 9b in which the head noun *adviser* comes after its modifier *legal* and the head noun takes the right side in the syntactic tree diagram as it is shown in 10. Adjacency is one of the properties of pre-head complements since the element that serves as the complement of the head noun must be placed adjacent to its head noun (Huddleston & Pullum, 2008).

- 9) a. [_{NP} the very heavy computers]
- b. [_{NP} a talented legal adviser]
- c. [_{NP} the bravest man]

10) The tree diagram for 9b

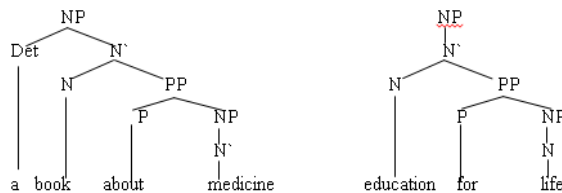


In addition to pre-head elements, NPs can also be expanded with some constituents that follow the head noun. One of the most common constituents to be mentioned is prepositional phrases (PP) that may appear after the head

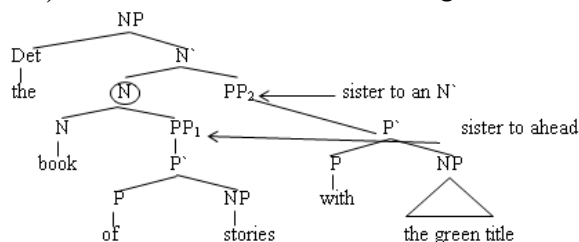
noun. Cook & Newson (2007) assert that the head nouns can also be followed by obligatory PPs that can serve as complements and adjuncts, in which complements are mandatory whereas adjuncts are optional. Carnie (2013) acknowledges that PP complements can be distinguished from adjuncts on the basis that PP complements in an NP are sisters to the head nouns dominated by a noun bar (N') but they are not sister to an N' , whereas the adjuncts are sister to an N' and daughter of another N' as it is shown in the tree diagram in 12 that the PPs *about medicine* and *for life* are considered as the complement of their head nouns *book* and *education*; they are sisters to their head nouns since the first branching node which dominates the head nouns *book* and *education* also dominates the PPs *about medicine* and *for life* whereas in 13 the PP₂ *with the green title* is an adjunct since it is not the sister to the head noun *book* but it is sister to an N' and daughter of an N' . Keizer (2007) also states that PP complements are closer to the noun that acts as the head in comparison with modifiers.

- 11) a. [_{NP} a book about medicine]
b. [_{NP} education for life]

12) The tree diagram for 11a and 11b



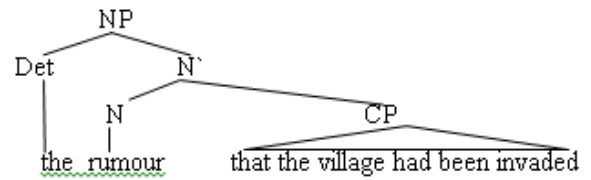
13) the book of stories with the green title



Another constituent that can function as post-head complements in English NPs is complementizer phrases (CP) that follow the head nouns. It can be seen in the following example that the head noun *rumour* is completed by the underlined CP (Huddleston & Pullum, 2008).

- 14) [_{NP} the rumour that the village had been invaded]

15)



IV. Head-position in CK NPs

NPs are regarded as one of the most significant basic structures that participate in forming sentences since each simple sentence consist of two main parts; an NP and a verb phrase and the other phrase categories may occur in these two phrase types. The simplest structure of NPs in CK is made up of a noun which acts as the head of the phrase. This occurs with common nouns, proper nouns, mass nouns and pronouns (Birzo, 2018).

Each of the bracketed elements in 16a, 16b, 16c, and 16d are NPs, which are only one word which acts as the head of the phrase.

- 16) a. [_{NP} Hiwa] xewit.

Hiwa slept.

Hiwa slept.

- b. [_{NP} Zewî be dewr-î Xorda desurêtewe.

Earth around-IZ Sun rotates.

The earth rotates around the sun.

- c. [_{NP} Mirov] kar-î wa nakat.

Human work-IZ such do not do. PRS

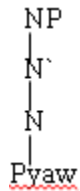
Humans do not do such a thing.

- d. [_{NP} Ew] henar-eke-y xwarid.

He pomegranate-DEF-3SG eat-PST

He ate the pomegranate.

17) This is the tree diagram for 16 c

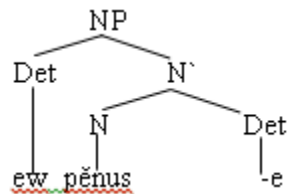


CK syntactic rules allow NPs to be expanded in a variety of ways in which the head noun is consistently obligatory and the other elements including optional and mandatory elements may follow or precede the head noun.

Ferhadi (2013) maintains that in CK, demonstratives, numerals, quantifiers, wh-words, which are part of determiners, conventionally occur before the head noun which they determine. It is can be noticed that sometimes when the head nouns are determined by a discontinuous determiner, the determiner is cut off by the insertion of the head noun. This mostly happens with demonstratives *eme* and *ewe* in which *em* and *ew* precede the head noun and the other part of the determiner *-e* is inflected the head noun.

18) a. [_{NP} **ew** pēnus-e]
 that pen-DEF
 that pen

19)



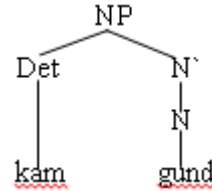
Wh-words, which are a type of determiners, go before the head nouns in CK noun phrases. Such kind of determiners include words such as: *či*, *kam*, *čend*, and *čon*. The following instance shows that the head nouns *gund* is determined by *kam* (Birzo, 2018).

20) [_{NP} Kam gund] zor cwan-e?

Which village very beautiful-be.PRS?

Which village is very beautiful?

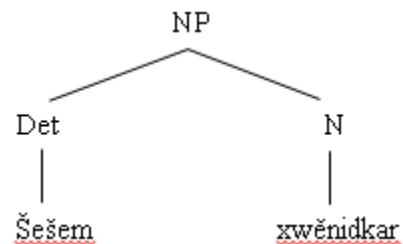
21)



Birzo (2018) shows that both cardinal and ordinal numbers can occur before the head nouns in CK as in 22a and 22b and he also acknowledges that the fractions go before the head nouns but *lzafe - î* is required to relate the fraction with the head noun as in 22c. It can be noticed that in most cases the concord between cardinal numbers and the head noun is violated since the head nouns do not take the plural marker when the numbers are greater than one.

22) a. Kawe [_{NP} sě ktěb]-î kirî.
 Kawa three book-2SGP buy-PST
 Kawa bought three books.
 b. [_{NP} Šešem xwēndkar] zor zîrek-e.
 Sixth student very clever-is
 The sixth student is very clever.
 c. [_{NP} čwar yek-î xanw-eke] hî mine.
 A quarter-IZ house-DEF mine-be. PRS
 A quarter of the house is mine.

23) The tree diagram for the NP in 22 b



The head nouns can also be determined with quantifiers which include elements such as: *keměk*, *zor*, *henděk*, *tozěk*, *čend*, etc. These

elements conventionally occur before the head noun (Tofiq, 2003).

24) [_{NP} Čend xwēnidkar] le pol-an?

How many students in class-be. PRS?

How many students are in the class?

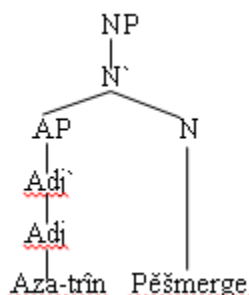
The head noun can also be preceded by APs. Rasheed (2015) states that superlative adjectives occur before the head nouns which they modify, for instance: The head noun *Pēšmerge* in the following NP in 25 is modified with the AP *aza-trîn*.

25) [_{NP} Aza-trîn Pēšmerge] xelat dakir-ēt.

Bravest peshmarga reward-3SG. PRS

The bravest peshmarga is rewarded.

26)



Kurdish syntactic rules allow some items, including mandatory and optional, to follow the head nouns. Post-head components modify or determine the head nouns and they are mostly connected to them with the help of Kurdish Izafe(IZ) *-e* and *-i* which are both inflectional elements (Karimi, 2007).

Xoshnaw (2015) acknowledges that the Izafe construction is one of the features of CK language which plays a pivotal role in the structure of NPs as it serves as a linking element that connects the head noun to its post-components including modifiers and complements, although it is devoid of semantic meaning.

In CK, both definite and indefinite articles occur after the head nouns. Such kinds of articles are considered as the most occurring ones that appear with nouns. In CK, the articles

are bound morphemes as they cannot occur alone without a preceding element. Maeruf (2010) acknowledges that these articles are mandatory since excluding them results in ill-formed components; 27a and 28a show that the NPs *kuř-eke* and *kič-ěk* act as well-formed phrase categories whereas in 27b and 28b the head nouns *kuř* and *kič* cannot act as well-formed NPs while excluding the articles.

27) a. [_{NP} Kuř-eke] rošit bo bazař.

Boy-DEF go.PST to market.

The boy went to the market.

b. *kuř rošit bo bazar

28) a. [_{NP} kič-ěk] esp-eke-y firošt.

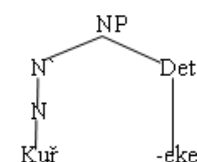
Girl-INDEF horse-DEF-3SG sell. PST

A girl sold the horse.

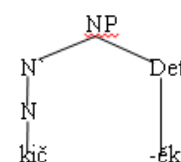
b. *kič esp-eke-î firošit.

29)

a.



b.



The definite articles in CK include *-eke* and *-ek-an* in which *-eke* is used with singular definite nouns and *-ek-an* is used with definite plural nouns (Wahby, 1929).

30) a. [_{NP} kuř-eke] hat bo aheng-eke.

Boy-DEF come.PST to party-DEF

The boy came to the party.

b. [_{NP} Serbaz-ek-an] řošt-in bo naw senger-eke.

Soldier.DEF-PL go.PST-3PL to stockade-DEF

The soldiers went to the stockade.

-ěk and *-an* are required by indefinite nouns in which *-ěk* is required by singular indefinite nouns whereas *-an* is added to indefinite nouns [+plural]. These articles do not precede the head nouns and they take the right-position in syntactic tree diagrams. In CK *-ě* is also an

allomorph of *-êk* as in 18b (Rasheed, 2015, p. 26).

31) a. [_{NP} Mindat-êk] kewt-e naw aw-eke-we.

Child-INDEF fall-IZ .PST into water-DEF-CASE

A child fell into the water.

b. pyaw-ê hat.

Man-INDEF come.PST

A man came.

Tahir (2018) asserts that demonstratives, which are *eme*, *ewe*, *emane*, and *ewane*, can also occur after the head nouns using *Izafe*, for instance:

32) a. [_{NP} Kuř-î em-e] pencer-eke-y şikand.

Son-IZ this-DEF window-DEF-3SG break.PST

The son of this man/woman broke the window

b. [_{NP} Pertu:k-î eman-e] kon-e.

Book-IZ these-SDEF old-be. PST

Their book is old.

Wahby (1929) argues that nouns are also one of the elements that can follow the head nouns in CK. The head nouns and the complement NPs are connected together with the help of Kurdish *Izafe*. Awl (2008) argues that the elements that can function as NPs are nouns and pronouns both can occur after the head noun as in 33d. Each of the following underlined elements in 33a and 33b are NPs that modify the head nouns *wezîr* and *beřeweber*. In 33a the noun *Wezîr* is the head of the NP since it can stand for the whole phrase and it also carries the most striking semantic meaning and it is a kind of *wezîr* (minister) not a type of *şarewanî* (municipality) and in 33b *beřeweber*(manager) is considered as the head of the phrase based on the head definitions as it bears the most important semantic meaning and cannot be removed and it is also *beřeweber*(manager) that dictates the syntactic concord with the rest of the sentence not *karge-k-an* which is a plural noun. Baban (1997) affirms that in present

simple *-êt* is inflected to the verb stems whenever the subject is third-person singular. In the 33c the head noun *derga* takes the noun *bax* as its post-modifier with the help of *Izafe -y* whereas in 33d the head noun *kuř* is followed the pronoun *ew* as its modifier.

33)

a. [_{NP} Wezîr-î şarewanî] kurd-e.

Minister-IZ Municipal Kurd-be.PRS

Municipal minister is a Kurd.

b. [_{NP} beřeweber-î karge-k-an] deç-êt bo Emerîka.

Manager-IZ factory-DEF-PL go. PRS to America.

The manager of the factories goes to America.

c. [_{NP} derga-y bax]

door-IZ garden

garden door

d. [_{NP} kuř-eke-y ew] name-ke-y xwêndewe.

son-DEF-IZ he/she letter-DEF-IZ read.PST

His/her son read the letter.

Mahwi (2011) maintains that Kurdish *Izafe -i* can show a possessive relation between the two nouns, in which it gives a genitive case to the NP from right to left as in 34a and 34b. He also asserts that *Izafe* does not appear when the pronouns are attached to the end of the head noun as in 34c.

34)

a. [_{NP} Mindat-î žin-eke] kawt-e xwarewe.

child-IZ woman-DEF fall down. PST

The woman's child fell down.

b. [_{NP} Kuř-eke-î min] debêt-e dîktor

son-DEF-IZ my become.PRS-PREP doctor

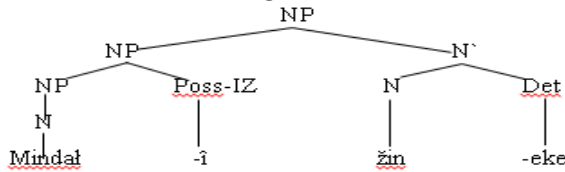
My son will become a doctor.

c. [_{NP} kiç-eke-m] zîrek-e.

daughter-DEF-1SG clever be.PRS

My daughter is clever.

35) The tree diagram for 34 a



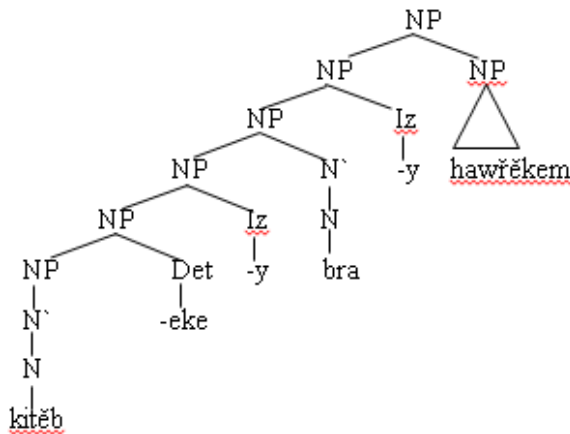
Mahwi (2001) acknowledges that CK rules allow unlimited expansion of NPs as the head noun can be modified by many more NPs with the help of Kurdish Izafe as it is shown with the following example in which the head noun *kitêb* takes more than one NP as its post head modifiers.

36) [NP Kitêb-eke-y bra-y hawrê-ke-m] zor kon-e.

Book-IZ brother-IZ friend-DEF-1SG very old-be.PRS

The book of my friend's brother is very old.

37) The tree diagram for the NP in 36



It can also be noticed that there are also some other cases in CK that Izafe is not required when the head noun takes another NP as its post-head complement for example:

38) [NP Hêlane kotir-eke] kewte xwarewe.

Nest dove-DEF fall down. PST

The dove nest fell down.

Tahir (2018) acknowledges that the quantifiers *zor* and *kem* can appear after the head nouns. As shown in these examples, the quantifiers *zor* and *kem* occur after the head

nouns *mîwan* and *pare* and Kurdish Izafe is used to the relate the elements together.

39) a. [NP Mîwan-êk-î zor] hat bo aheng-eke.

guest-INDEF-IZ much come.PST to party-DEF

Lots of guests came to the party.

b. [NP pare-y kem] dedrêt be krêkar-ek-an.

money-IZ little give. PRS to labour-DEF-PL

Little money is given to the labours.

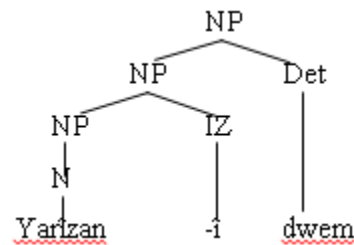
Awl (2008) asserts that the head nouns can take ordinal numbers as their post-head determiners and Izafe should be affixed to the head noun, for example:

40) [NP Yarîzan-î dwem] kewt-e naw aw-eke-we.

Player-IZ second fall-IZ.PST into water-DEF-CASE

The second player fell into the water.

41)



Wh-words such as *kê*, and *çon*, are also able to appear after the head nouns with the use of Izafe(Birzo, 2018)

42) a. [NP Bawik-î kê] nexoš-e ?

Father-IZ who sick-be. PRS ?

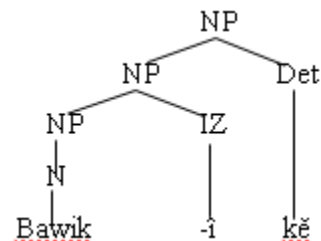
Whose father is sick?

b. Qetem-î çonit dewêt?

Pen-IZ how-2SP want. PRS?

What kind of pens do you want?

43) The tree diagram for 42a



In CK, Adjectives phrases are one of the most common used elements that appear after the head nouns in NPs. Such kinds of elements modify the head nouns and they are related to the head with Izafe. Whenever the head is a mass noun [+singular, +indefinite], the Kurdish Izafe *-î* is used so as to link the noun with the AP, for instance *zêr-î pak* (pur gold) whereas with plural and singular nouns [+definite], the Izafe *-e* is inflected to the modified head noun and the definite articles are annexed to the end of the adjective such as *Pyaw-e baš-eke* (the good man). In each of the following bracketed NPs in 44a and 44b, the APs *baš* and *zor ciwan* modify head nouns *pyaw* and *guî* which precede them (Xoshnaw, 2013; Rasheed, 2015).

44) a. [_{NP} Pyaw-e baš-eke] xanw-eke-i Krî.

man-IZ good-DEF house-DEF-3SG buy-PST

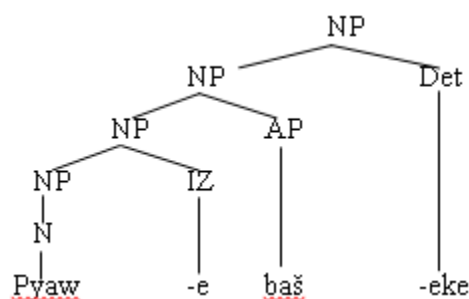
The good man bought the house.

b. Min [_{NP} guî-î zor ciwan] debin-im.

I flower-IZ very beautiful see.1SG

I can see very beautiful flowers.

45) The tree diagram for the NP in 44a



Sometimes the head nouns take obligatory APs since the adjective cannot simply be excluded without violating the meaning of the sentence as in 46. The head noun *kič* takes the AP *zor baštir* as its modifier and if it is removed the meaning of the sentence will be demolished.

46) Min [_{NP} kič-î zor baštir le Nesrin] denas-im.

I girl-IZ much better than Nasrin know-1SG

I know girls who are much better than Nasrin.

Many adjectives are allowed to pile up after the head nouns in which they modify the head noun and they are connected together with the help of Kurdish Izafe *-e*, although there are cases in which the adjectives are related together with using *w* (and). The definite article and the plural markers are added to the final item in the series of adjectives as in 47a and 47c, whereas the indefinite articles are inflected to the head nouns as in 47b and 47d (Rasheed, 2015).

47) a. Hiwa [dar-e -sewz-e beriz-e ciwan-ek-an] awded-at.

Hiwa tree-IZ green-IZ tall-IZ beautiful-DEF-PL water-3SG. PRS

Hiwa waters the beautiful tall green trees.

b. [_{NP} Kuř-êk-î qoz w bałaberiz w řasitgo] hat-e řurewe.

Boy-INDEF-IZ handsome and tall and honest come.PST inside

A handsome tall honest boy came in.

c. [_{NP} derga sur-eke]

door red-DEF

the red door

d. [_{NP} řax-êk-î beriz]

mountain-INDEF-IZ high

a high mountain

Another constituent that can function as post-head complements in CK NPs is PPs. Sometimes CK Izafe *-î* is affixed to the end of the head while taking PPs, although there are some cases that Izafe is not necessary as it is explained with the following examples in the head nouns *Silēmanî* and *perwerde* which take the PPs *le zistanda* and *bo řiyan* without Izafe, whereas in 48c Izafe is used, when the head noun *maî* takes the PP *bē řin* as its complement (Awl, 2008)

48) a. [_{NP} Silēmanî le zistanda] zor sard-e.

Silemani in winter very cold-be.PRS

Silemani is very cold in winter.

b. [_{NP} perwerde bo žyan]

education for life

education for life

c. [_{NP} maî-î bē žin] naxoš-e.

Home-Iz without wife distressful-be. PRS

Home without a wife is distressful.

Fattah (2011) affirms that the head noun can be completed a CP that follows the head and Izafe is also used for the purpose of relating the head with its complement, For example:

49) [_{NP} Pyaw-eke-y ke dwěně bînî-t] bu be serbaz.

man-DEF-IZ that yesterday see-2SG. PST become soldier

The man that you saw yesterday became a soldier.

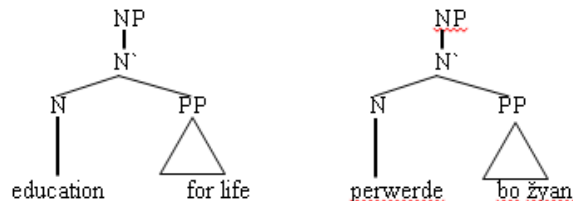
V. Points of similarities and differences

In this section, points of similarities and differences between the two languages are going to be scrutinised concerning the position of the head in NPs.

1. PPs in both languages can serve as the complement of the head noun and always occur after the head nouns, and the head appears initially. For instance in *education for life*, the head noun *education* takes the PP *for life* as its complement and in Kurdish is also the same in *perwerde bo žyan* (*education for life*) the PP *bo žyan* serves as the complement of the head noun *perwerde*.

50) a. English NP: education for life b.

Kurdish NP: *perwerde bo žyan*



2. The head nouns in both languages can take a CP as their post-head complements, in which the head follows head-initiality, as the NP The *rumour that the village had*

been invaded in which the head noun *rumour* takes the underlined CP as its post head complement. This is also the same for Kurdish NPs for example in the NP *Pyaw-eke-y ke dwěně bînî-t* (the man that you saw yesterday) the head noun *pyaw* is completed by the underlined CP.

- Both languages are similar in that a phrase may be formed from only one word, which acts as the head of the phrase, such as *oceans* in English and *pyaw* (man) in Kurdish, which are NPs that are formed from only one word.
- In NPs of both languages, the articles are the most common occurring determiners.
- Another similar point between the two languages is that in both languages the head nouns can be pre-modified with superlative form of adjectives, as in *the bravest man* in English or *Aza-trîn Pêşmerge* (the bravest Peshmarga) in Kurdish. In CK it is only so when the adjective is in the superlative form.
- In both languages, numerals, including cardinal and ordinal numbers occur before the head nouns for instance *three teenagers*, *first prize* in English and *sê kitêb* (three books) *şeşem xwendkar* (the sixth student) in Kurdish.
- In Kurdish, common nouns including singular countable nouns can normally appear as a well-formed phrase by themselves such as *Mirov kar- wa nakat*. In which *mirov* is a singular common noun that stands by itself, whereas in English common singular nouns cannot appear as a phrase by themselves such as **boy is stronger than girl*. The nouns *boy* and *girl* cannot appear as well-formed noun phrases.
- In English the articles, which include *a*, *an* and *the*, always occur before the head

nouns such as *the man*, in which *the* appears before the head noun *man*, whereas in CK the articles which include *-eke* and *-êk* never precede their head nouns for instance; *Kuř-eke* (the boy) the definite article *-eke* is inflected to the head noun *Kuř*.

9. In CK, sometimes a determiner is separated into two parts by the insertion of the head noun, this is mostly happening with demonstratives as *em* and *ew* precede the head nouns and the other part of the determiner *-e* is inflected to the head noun as in as *ew pênus-e* whereas in English such kind of cases cannot be found with determiners.
10. In CK ordinal numbers can occur after the head nouns with the help of Kurdish Izafe such as the NP *Yarîzan-î dwem* (the second player) in which the head noun *Yarîzan* is followed by the determiner *dwem* with the help of Izafe *-î*, whereas in English such occurrence is not allowed.
11. Quantifiers in both English and CK normally appear before the head noun such as *some students*, but in CK they also appear after the head nouns and Izafe is used to relate the two elements as in *Mîwan-êk-î zor*.
12. In English the head noun can be preceded by all forms of APs as the head can take an AP as its pre-modifier such as a *talented legal adviser*, in which the AP *legal* serves as the pre-modifier of the head noun *adviser*, whereas in CK it is only the superlative form of adjectives that occur before the head nouns, which are optional modifiers and the other forms of APs, including obligatory and optional ones, appear after the head.
13. In CK the pronouns can normally appear after the head nouns with the help of Izafe such as *kuř-eke-y ew* in which the pronoun

ew occurs after the head NP *kuř-eke* with the help of Izafe *-y*, whereas in English such occurrence cannot normally be noticed.

VI. Conclusion

The present study was designed to determine the accurate head-parameter that fits with English and CK noun phrases and also indicate the exact position of heads with regarding to obligatory and optional elements that can precede or follow the heads. This study has raised a hypothesis that in both languages the heads in NPs occur on the before their complements, which means NPs in both languages are head-initial. The results of this study seem to support the idea that in both languages the complement of the head nouns mostly appear after the head nouns. Noun phrases in CK seem to adhere to head-initial parameter more rigidly than English NPs as the complements of the head nouns in CK consistently occur after the head nouns and even the optional modifiers and determiners mostly appear after the head noun, whereas in English NPs, the determiners and optional modifiers mostly occur before the head noun whereas complements occur after the head nouns although there are some cases that the head noun takes another noun or an AP as its pre-modifiers.

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