Nominal Group as Qualifier to 'Someone'

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Abstract

The paper titled *Nominal Group as Qualifier to 'Someone'* investigated types of qualifiers which are embedded to the head 'someone' in a nominal group. This research was conducted in the light of Systemic Functional Linguistics analysis. The data was analyzed, classified then described using descriptive qualitative method. This research produced four classifications of nominal group as qualifier, which were clauses, prepositional phrases, nominal groups, and linked independent element. The clause as qualifier is sub-classified into finite and non-finite clauses. Further sub-classification is conducted over finite clause into Full Relative Clause (FRC), Relative Clause with Preposition (RCP), and Contact Clause (CC). Further sub-classification over non-finite clause resulted in Operative Imperfective Non Finite Clause (OINFC), Receptive Imperfective Non Finite Clause (RINFC), and Operative Perfective Non Finite Clause (OPNFC). This research also found qualifiers which consisted of two or more linked non-embedding elements.

Keywords: nominal group, 'someone' as head, qualifier

1. Introduction

Nominal Group or NG in general is an interesting phenomenon in systemic functional linguistics analysis. On the one hand, systemic functional linguistics as a general linguistics can be applied in studying and describing human language in general (Halliday, 2006; Huang, 2007a in Li, 2015). As Jaelani and Sujatna (2014) argue Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) is defined as the theory of choice. Despite its existence in the second lowest rank in the Metafunction, a great deal of information can be compressed through its 'modifier constituency' system, 'structure' in formal grammar terminology. This research focuses specifically on 'someone' as the head in nominal group, while 'someone' as a pronoun is said to be not normally susceptible to further specification (Halliday, 2004). However, pronouns as one type of the head in a nominal group defined interpersonally by the speech unit (Halliday, 2004). The attempt to define which person 'someone' in concern is may be done through the modifying words placed just before or after the head. The words placed after and embedded to the Head are combined to form a qualifier, containing all information to define and specify 'someone'. This research aimed at finding out the classifications of qualifier to 'someone' in the data and formulating the constituency structures of each classification.

2. Theoretical Background

This part describes the theoretical background applied in this research. There are three main keywords discussed as mentioned in the title: nominal group or NG, qualifier, and the word someone as the head.

2.1 Nominal Group

NG is a group which can function as subject and complement in a clause and complement of a preposition in a prepositional phrase (Bloor and Bloor, 2004: 285). It has a head word, typically a thing, and includes all additional information related to that noun. The additional information modifies or specifies the head by answering the questions 'which thing', 'how many things', 'what qualities the thing has', 'what type of Thing', or else, realized in modifiers preceding the head (pre-modifiers) or following it (post-modifier/ qualifier). Pre-modifiers may be a deictic, numerative, epithet, or classifier. A nominal group can consist of a thing only (Gerot, 1995 in Sujatna, 2013). The NG below shows the relationship between its head and its modifiers:

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those	two	splendid	old	electric	trains	with pantographs
Premodifier					Head	Post-modifier
deictic	numerative	Epithet		classifier	Thing	Qualifier
delette	Hamorative	Attitude	quality	Classifici	Timing	Quantito

(Halliday, 2004: 329).

Head is typically expressed by a common noun, proper noun, or a pronoun. Common nouns name classes of persons, other living things, objects, collectives, and institutions. There are two kinds of pronoun: personal and indefinite (Halliday, 2004). Indefinite pronouns (something, someone, etc.) already embody a non-specific deictic component in their meaning and cannot be specified further. Proper names designate individuals, and are therefore fully specified in their own right. Another class of pronouns is Wh-pronouns and 'that' when it means 'who/ whom' or 'which' -- The book that you gave me (Bloor & Bloor, 2004).

The category of nominal group includes those having adjective (epithet) as head, for example the head *hot* as described in the following.

His face grew very flushed and his little body was	SO	hot	that it burned the rabbit when he held him close	
	Intensifier	Head	Qualifier	
	Epithet		Qualifier	
	Nominal Group			

Heads may as well be realized in grammatical metaphors, phenomena that would typically appear as adjectives (qualities) or as verbs (Halliday, 1994, 2004). The structure is pre-modified by a <u>deictic</u> and sometimes with further prepositional phrase qualifier ([]), such as the Head in imperfective verbs in <u>The smoking [of tobacco]</u> and <u>Nobody's peeling [of potatoes]</u>.

Some heads are realized in clauses (Halliday, 2004: 156-157). These clauses are said to constitute the nominal group itself, either as subject, complement, or any other nominal group positions. One instance is observable in the underlined embedded full relative clause in subject position in <u>That all this wealth might someday be hers</u> had simply never occurred to her. Heads may also be perfective and imperfective non-finite clauses, such as in

To argue with the captain	was	asking for trouble	
Subject	Finite	Complement	
NG: Clause as Head	Verbal Group	NG: Clause as Head	

(Halliday, 2004: 156).

There is a case of discontinued subject (NG), anticipatory *it* in the instance below is continued by the clause *that he had broken*. That final clause functions as post-modifier to the subject *it*.

It	was not	the machine	(that) he had broken
	Finite	Complement	
Subject			
Nominal			Group

(Halliday, 2004: 157).

An NG or head may be in a form of nominal group complex by joining two nominal groups into a single item in apposition, such as *Otto Loewi, an Australian psychologist* or by linking some groups using a binding

conjunction (and, or) such as underlined in For <u>lunch and dinner</u>, ... delicious <u>chicken curry</u>, 'rendang', and a <u>variety of others</u> (Bloor & Bloor, 2004: 147-148).

2.2 'Someone' as Head

Indefinite pronouns lack the element of definiteness which is found in the personal, reflexive, possessive, and demonstrative pronouns, and to some extent also in the *wh*- pronouns. Indefinite pronouns are, in the logical sense, quantitative; as they have universal or partitive meaning, and correspond closely to determiners of the similar form. Indefinite pronouns may be compound or of-pronouns. The compound pronouns are composed of two morphemes, a determiner and a nominal morpheme. Determiner morphemes are *every-*, *some-*, *any-*, and *no-*. Nominal morphemes are *-one*, *-body*, and *-thing* (Quirk et al., 1985). The combination of those morphemes forms this paradigm:

	Personal Reference		Non-personal Reference
Universal	Everybody	Everyone	Everything
Assertive	Somebody	Someone	Something
Nonassertive	Anybody	Anyone	Anything
Negative	Nobody	No one	Nothing

Each pair of personal reference above has equivalent function and meaning. The version with *-one* has higher degree in elegance. *Someone* belongs to the assertive personal reference pronoun. The term assertive applies to pronouns and determiners which are associated with 'assertive territory' rather than 'nonassertive territory' (Quirk et al., 1985: 383). With the assumption that *someone* has the same meaning as *somebody*, the next examples of embedded elements in the Head *somebody* are also applicable to *someone* (Quirk, 1985).

1	somebody	I know
	Head	Qualifier:
		Contact Clause

somebody	very tall
Head	Qualifier:
	Adjectival Modification ('Nominal Group' in Functional Grammar terminology)

2.3 Qualifier

Qualifier is an experiential function in the nominal group (the others being deictic, numerative, epithet, classifier, thing). It conflates with post-modifier, following thing. It is typically realized by embedded clause, prepositional phrase or participle. Qualifiers are rank-shifted, in a way that they are actually reserved for the rank higher than or at least equivalent to a nominal group; however then they are downgraded into part/ constituent of a nominal group, embedded to it. A qualifier is defining to the thing (T. Bloor & M. Bloor, 2004; Halliday, 2004). Qualifiers in nominal groups may be in the form of clauses (finite and non-finite), prepositional phrases, or nominal groups.

An embedded clause functions as part of a nominal group inside another clause. In SFL it is also known as *rank-shift* because, in terms of a rank scale, an item of one rank (clause) is being used as the whole or part of an item of a lower rank (group). An embedded clause retains its intrinsic qualities as a clause (with its own SFPCA functions) (T. Bloor & M. Bloor, 2004). The acronym SFPCA shows the constituents of clause as exchange, which are subject, finite, predicator, complement and adjuncts.

3. Method

The data was gathered from British National Corpus. This research utilized descriptive qualitative approach. This approach was conducted based on empirical data, facts, or phenomena from the primary sources. The collected data are the clauses consisting of the word 'someone'. Therefore the results are factual, free from non-scientific or personal interpretation.

The initial analysis was restricted upon the clauses containing the word 'someone' which was followed by one or more words. On this stage, content analysis was employed to develop replicable and legitimate inferences by

considering the context surrounding the data (Bungin, 2007). Distributional analysis allows researchers to rely upon determinant components in the language itself (Djajasudarma, 1993). With distributional analysis, the units of words following 'someone' was then analyzed and only the ones semantically identified as embedded element to the Head 'someone' were further classified. These classifications were then described in terms of their constituency structures.

4. Result and Discussion

This research produces three classifications of NG as qualifier to the head 'someone', which are clause, PP, and NG. Through this research, the clause as NG as qualifier to the head 'someone' is sub-classified into finite and non-finite clauses. Further sub-classification over finite clause as NG as qualifier to the head 'someone' results in Full Relative Clause (FRC), Relative Pronoun (RP) with preposition and Contact Clause (CC). Further sub-classification over non-finite clause resulted in Operative Imperfective Non Finite Clause (OINFC), Receptive Imperfective Non Finite Clause (RINFC), and Operative Perfective Non Finite Clause (OPNFC). This research also found qualifiers which consisted of two or more linked non-embedding elements.

4.1 Clauses as Qualifier

4.1.1 Finite Clauses

The first relative pronoun introducing FRC as qualifier to 'someone' is 'who'. In terms of their constituency (SFPCA element) features, this research describes there are thirty-five significantly different analysis. They start from the lowest number of elements in the feature to the most complete one.

In the first NG below, the head 'someone' is qualified by a FRC. The clause as a whole is interpreted into *someone was*. So, 'someone' is the subject referred to by the relative pronoun *who*. The next qualifier constituent is finite *was*.

Someone	who	was		
Head	RP (Subject)	Finite		
Tread	Qualifier: Full Relative Clause			

In the second NG below, the head 'someone' is qualified by a RP (whom) with preposition to. The clause as a whole is interpreted into *he or she is accountable for doing the job properly to someone*. So, the head 'someone' functions as the NG in circumstantial adjunct *to whom*. The qualifier is introduced by RP *to whom* functioning as circumstantial adjunct, followed by finite *is*, and complement realized by NG with epithet *accountable* as head. The adjunct answers question 'to whom, in whose angle, he or she is accountable for doing the job properly'.

someone	to whom	he or she	is	accountable for doing the job properly		
Head (NG in CA)	RP with prep. (Circ. Adj.) Subject Fin.		Complement (NG: Epithet as Head)			
Tioud (110 III CA)	Qualifier: Full Relative Clause					

In the third NG below, the Head 'someone' is qualified by a FRC. The clause as a whole is interpreted into *life* was so sweet, so flawless for someone. So, the head 'someone' functions as the NG in circumstantial adjunct for whom. The qualifier is introduced by RP for whom functioning as circumstantial adjunct, followed by subject *life*, finite was, and complement realized in NG complex with epithets sweet and flawless as heads. The adjunct answers question 'for whom or in whose point of view life was so sweet and so flawless'.

someone	for whom	life	was	so sweet, // so flawless
Head (NG in	RP with prep. (CA)	Subject	Fin.	Complement (NGC: Epithet as Heads)
CA)	Qualifier: Full Re	lative Clause		

Another sub-classification of qualifier to the head 'someone' is CC. In the fourth NG below, the head 'someone'

is qualified by a CC. The clause as a whole is interpreted into *they trust someone*. So, the head 'someone' functions as complement. The qualifier is introduced by subject *they* and a fusion of finite *do* and predicator *trust*.

someone	they	trust	
Head (Compl.)	Subject	Finite 'do'	Predicator 'trust'
ricad (Compi.)	Qualifier: Contact Clause		

4.1.2 Non-finite Clause

Further sub-classifications are Non-finite Clause (NFC) as qualifier. The results are Operative Imperfective Non Finite Clause (OINFC), Operative Perfective Non Finite Clause (OPNFC), and Receptive Imperfective Non Finite Clause (RINFC) while Receptive Perfective Clause does not occur in the data.

In the fifth NG below, the head 'someone' is qualified by an OINFC. The clause as a whole is interpreted into *someone getting murdered*. So, the head 'someone' functions as subject. The qualifier consists of non-finite Verbal Group Complex (VGC) *getting murdered* as predicator.

someone	getting murdered		
Head (Subject)	Predicator		
Tiedd (Subject)	Qualifier: Operative Imperfective Non-finite Clause		

In the sixth NG below, the head 'someone' is qualified by an OINFC. The clause as a whole is interpreted into someone seeking to set up a small business in Sunderland. So, the head 'someone' functions as subject. The qualifier consists of non-finite VGC seeking to set up as predicator and NG with common noun business as complement.

someone	seeking to set up	a small business in Sunderland		
Head (Subject)	Predicator Complement (NG: common noun as Head)			
Tieda (Subject)	Qualifier: Operative Imperfective Non-finite Clause			

In the seventh NG below, the head 'someone' is qualified by an OPNFC. The clause as a whole is interpreted into *someone to homesit*. So, the head 'someone' functions as complement. The qualifier only consists of non-finite Verbal Group (VG) *to homesit* as predicator.

someone	to homesit
Head (Compl.)	Predicator
ricaa (Compi.)	Qualifier: Operative Perfective Non-finite Clause

In the eighth NG below, the head 'someone' is qualified by an OPNFC. The clause as a whole is interpreted into someone to keep an expert eye on the activities of the gardener. So, the head 'someone' functions as subject. The qualifier consists of non-finite VG to keep an expert eye on as predicator and NG with common noun activities as complement. The whole perfective phrase is a predicator as it has a single meaning 'to supervise'.

someone	to keep an expert eye on	the activities of the gardener		
Head (Subject)	Predicator Complement (NG: Common Noun as Head)			
Tread (Subject)	Qualifier: Operative Perfective Non-finite Clause			

In the ninth NG below, the head 'someone' is qualified by a RINFC. The clause as a whole is interpreted into *someone is called Clarissa*. So, the head 'someone' functions as subject. The qualifier consists of RINFC *called* as predicator, NG with proper name *Clarissa* as complement. From the finite-predicator interpretation, *is called*, the imperfective non-finite *called* is passive in meaning.

someone	called	Clarissa	
Head (Subject)	Predicator Complement (NG)		
Tieda (Subject)	Qualifier: Receptive Imperfective Non-finite Clause		

4.2 Prepositional Phrase as Qualifier

The next classification of NG as qualifier to the head 'someone' is PP. There are two prepositional groups introducing the PP analyzed in this paper.

The tenth data shows that a Prepositional Group (PG) is *like*. In the first NG below, the Qualifier to the head 'someone' is introduced by PG *like*, followed by pronoun *him* as head. In the second NG, the PG *like* is Pre-modifier *that Cooke Report* and head *thing*. The element in {} indicates that they belong to the super-ordinate clause.

Head Qualifier						
Ticad	Prep. Group	Pre-modifier	Head	Post-modifier		
Someone	like		him			
Someone	like	{you know, you know} that Cooke Report	thing {yeah}			

The twelfth data describes a PG is *in*. In the first NG below, qualifier to the head 'someone' is introduced by PG *in*, followed by proper noun *Folkestone* as head. In the second NG, qualifier to the head 'someone' is introduced by PG *in*, followed by pre-modifier *this Lucyless silent* and common noun *world* as head. In the third NG, qualifier to the head 'someone' is introduced by PG *in*, followed by pre-modifier *the age*, common noun *range* as head, and NG *25-45* as post-modifier as described in the following.

Head	Qualifier						
Ticad	Prep. Group Pre-modifier Head Post-mod						
Someone	in		Folkestone				
Someone	in	this Lucyless silent	world				
Someone	in	the age	range	25 – 45			

4.3 Nominal Group as Qualifier

The last classification of NG as qualifier to the head 'someone' is NG. There are four distinct constituency features analyzed in this paper.

The first variant of NG (as the thirteenth data) as qualifier to 'someone' below consists of Nominal Group Complex (NGC) consisting of three NGs with epithets as their head. The head is *fair and small and limping*.

Head	Qualifier
Ticad	Head
Someone	fair and small and limping

The second variant of NG (as the fourteenth data) as qualifier to 'someone' below consists of pre-modifier *my* own and common noun age as head.

Head	Qualifier						
Ticad	Pre-mod.	Head					
Someone	my own	age					

The third variant of NG (as the fifteenth data) as qualifier to 'someone' below consists of epithet *good* as head and Non Finite Imperfective Clause (NFIC) with conjunctive preposition at running and swimming as post-modifier.

Head	Qualifier			
Ticad	Head	Post-modifier		
Someone	good	at running and swimming		

The fourth variant of NG (as the sixteenth data) as qualifier to 'someone' below is introduced by pre-modifier *more*. The pre-modifier is followed by epithet *anxious* as head and the linked Non-finite Perfective Clauses (NFPC) to save the wrapping than enjoy the gift as post-modifier.

Head	Qualifier				
Ticad	Pre-mod. Head Post-modifier				
Someone	more	anxious	to save the wrapping than enjoy the gift		

4.4 Linked Independent Elements as Qualifier

This research also finds NG as qualifier to the head 'someone' which consists of two or more non-embedding or linking elements. There are nine variants of linking elements.

In the first NG, the qualifier to 'someone' consists of linked FRC, with the RP present in both clauses. The first clause consists of RP *who* functioning as subject, finite's, and complement *a bit unsteady on her feet*. The second clause consists of RP *who* functioning as subject, finite *has*, and complement *a passion for old time*.

someone	who	's	a bit unsteady on her feet	who	has	a passion for old time
	RP(S)	F	С	RP(S)	F	С
Head	Full Relative Clause		Full Relative Clause			
	Qualifier					

In the eighteenth data, NG as the qualifier to 'someone' consists of linked RFC, with only one RP present. The first clause consists of RP *who* functioning as subject, a fusion of finite *did* with predicator *mind*, and complement *her own business*. The second clause consists of finite *had*, Circumstantial Adjunct (CA) *long since*, predicator *discovered*, and RC with RP *it was seldom worthwhile* as complement.

someone	who	minded	her own business	and	had	long since	discovered	it was seldom worth while
111	RP (S)	F+P	С		F	CA	P	С
Head	Full Relative Clause				Relat	ive Claus	se	
	Qualifier							

In the nineteenth data, NG as the qualifier to 'someone' consists of linked PNFC. The first clause consists of discontinued predicator *to draw out* and *pr*onoun *her* as complement that discontinues the predicator. The second clause consists of predicator *tell*, *p*ronoun *her* as complement, and FRC *what time of day it was* as complement.

someone	to draw	her	out	and	tell	her	what time of day it was
	P-	С	-P		P	С	С
Head	Perfect. Non-finite Clause				Perfective Non-finite Clause		
	Qualifier						

In the twentieth data, NG as the qualifier to 'someone' consists of linked INFC. The first clause consists of predicator *standing* and PP *behind him* as CA. The second clause consists of predicator *glaring at*, Adverbial Group (AG) *evilly* as CA, and pronoun *her* as complement.

someone	standing	behind him	glaring at	evilly	her
	P	CA	P	CA	С
Head	Imperfective Non-finite Clause		Imperfective	Non-finite Cl	ause
	Qualifier				

In the twenty first data NG as the qualifier to 'someone' consists of linked PP with only one PP present. The first PP consists of PG with and NG a screwdriver. The second PP consists of NG wire cutters with PG.

someone	with	a screwdriver	or	wire cutters
	PG	NG		NG
Head	Prepositional Phrase			Prepositional Phrase
	Qualifier			

In the twenty second data NG as the qualifier to 'someone' consists of linked NGs. The first NG consists of degree *so* that functions as pre-modifier to the head *young* as *young* as an epithet. The second NG consists of degree *so* that functions as pre-modifier to the head *unused* as *unused* as an epithet.

someone	so	young	and	so	unused
	Pre-modifier	Head		Pre-modifier	Head
Head	Nominal Group			Nominal Group	
	Qualifier				

In the twenty third, NG as the qualifier to 'someone' consists of linked NG and FRC. The NG consists of common noun *superior* as head. The FRC consists of RP as subject *who*, finite *might*, predicator *fit*, and NG *the*

requirements of the position as complement.

someone	superior	who	might	fit	the requirements of the position	
	Head in NG	RP(S)	F	P	С	
Head	Nominal Group	Full Relative Clause				
	Qualifier					

In the twenty fourth, NG as the qualifier to 'someone' consists of linked PP and FRC. The PP consists of PG of and NG no family, fortune, or intelligence. The FRC consists of RP as subject who, a fusion of finite does and predicator pretend to be, and PP as important as complement.

someone	of	no family, fortune, or intelligence	who	pretends to be	as important		
	PG	NG	RP(S)	F+P	С		
Head	Prepositional Phrase		Full Relative Clause				
	Qualifier						

In the twenty fifth, NG as the qualifier to 'someone' consists of linked PP and INFC. The PP consists of PG *from* and NG *café*. The INFC consists of predicator *phoning up*.

someone	from cafe		phoning up			
	PG	NG	P			
Head	Prepositional Phras	se	Imperfective Non-finite Clause			
	Qualifier					

In the twenty sixth, NG as the qualifier to 'someone' consists of linked INFC, FRC, and PP. The INFC consists of non-finite VG *coming*, and PP *from Sussex* as CA. The FRC consists of RP *who*, finite *had*, predicator *been*, complement *left-wing*, and PP *all his life* as CA. The PP consists of PG *like* and proper name *Philip* as NG.

someone	coming	from Sussex	who	had	been	left-wing	all of his life	like	Philip
	P	CA	RP(S)	F	P	С	CA	PG	NG
Head	Imperf. Clause	Non-fin	Full Relative Clause Pro						nrase
	Qualifier								

In the twenty seventh, NG as the qualifier to 'someone' consists of linked PP and two INFC. The PP consists of PG *in* and NG *a room*. The INFC consists of predicator *looking at* and NG *a beautiful painting* as complement. The INFC consists of predicator *drinking*.

someone	in	a room	looking at	a beautiful painting	drinking	
	PG	NG	P	С	P	
Head	Prep.	Phrase	Imperfective	Non-finite Clause	Imperf. Non-fin. Cl.	
	Qualifier					

5. Conclusion

From the data analyzed, it can be concluded that there are four classifications of nominal group as qualifier, which were clauses, prepositional phrases, nominal groups, and linked independent elements. The clauses as qualifier is sub-classified into finite and non-finite clauses. Further sub-classification was conducted over finite clause into Full Relative Clause (FRC), Relative Clause with Preposition (RCP), and Contact Clause (CC). Further sub-classification over non-finite clause resulted in Operative Imperfective Non Finite Clause (OINFC), Receptive Imperfective Non Finite Clause (RINFC), and Operative Perfective Non Finite Clause (OPNFC). This research also found qualifiers which consisted of two or more linked non-embedding elements.

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