Lhaovo (Maru) Post-Nominal Modifiers as True Nouns

Hideo Sawada

ILCAA, Tokyo University of Foreign studies

sawadah@aa.tufs.ac.jp

In Lhaovo(Maru), a Burmish language spoken in northern Burma(Myanmar), elements modifying a lexical noun are divided into two groups in terms of order relative to the lexical noun.

Demonstratives (1) and attributes (2) can be both pre-nominal and post-nominal.

(1) a. **cheL**-*chinFmanH*
　　 this-bun
　　 this bun

　　b. *chinFmanH* **cheꞫ**
　　 bun 　　 **this.one**
　　 ibid.

(2) a. **ɣiL-TA-TA-raH** 　*chinFmanH*
　　 be.large-RLS-ATTR-LINKER bun
　　 (a) large bun

　　b. *chinFmanH* **Ɂă-ɣiL**
　　 bun 　　 **NPRF-be.large**
　　 ibid.

*TA = abstract element triggering tonal alternation: *F→L, L→H, H→H* which functions as ReaLiS sentence marker and ATTRibutive marker; NPRF = Nominalizing Prefix

Quantifiers, either numeral (3) or non-numeral (4), can only be post-nominal.

(3) *chinFmanH* **tă-lamL**
　　 bun 　　 **one-CLF:default**
　　 a bun

(4) *chinFmanH* **Ɂălap̱H**
　　 bun 　　 **all**
　　 all buns

Noun modifiers in Lhaovo

Pre-nominal modifiers		Post-nominal modifiers	
Personal Determiner		—	
ex. yoŋL-TA '(s)he-ATTR'			
DEMonstrative DETerminer	Lexical Noun	Demonstrative Noun	*ex. cheꞫ* "this (one)"
ex. cheL "this"		DEM.DET. - NoMinaLiZer	*ex. chě-ruꞫ* 'this-NMLZ'
		DEM.DET. - CLassiFier	*ex. chě-lamL* 'this-CLF'
Attributive Clause		Nominalized Clause	*ex. ɣiL-TA-TA-ruꞫ*
ex. ɣiL-TA-TA-raH			'be.large-RLS-ATTR-NMLZ'
'be.large-RLS-ATTR-LINKER'		Deverbal Attribute Noun	*ex. Ɂă-ɣiL* 'NPRF-be.large'
		— accompanied by CLF	*ex. ɁăɣiL-lamL* 'NPRF-be.large-CLF'
—		Numeral - CLF	*ex. tă-lamL* 'one-CLF'
		Non-Numeral Quantifier	*ex. Ɂălap̱H* "all (ones)"

The major difference between pre-nominal modifiers and post-nominal ones is that only the latter can be an argument of verb without lexical noun (under the condition that the possible range of referent is obvious to both the speaker and the addressee). In other words, the function of post-nominal modifier is not encoded by its form, unlike pre-nominal modifier.

(5) **cheꞫ**-*reꞫ/chě-ruꞫ(-reꞫ)* 　*pyitL-ɸ-ꞙaɁꞫ* . 　　 *cf.* **cheL-reꞫ ....*
　　 this.one-ACC/this-NMLZ-ACC 　give-IMP-COMMAND 　　　　 this-ACC
　　 Give this (to me).

(6) *yoŋL-ɦaF* **ʔă-ɣiL-reF** *vayF-TA-raH* .   *cf.* **ɣiL-TA-TA-reF*   ....
    he-TOP   **NPRF-large**-ACC buy-RLS-LINKER   be.large-RLS-ATTR-ACC

    He bought a large one.

(7) *chinFmanH* *khǒno̠H-lamL(-reF)* *tsoL-neŋH-ʔiH* . — **šitH-lamL** *tsoL-neŋH* .
    bun   how.many-CLF(-ACC)   eat-IRL-Q   **2-CLF**   eat-IRL

    How many buns will you eat? — I will eat two.

An attribute noun can take a pre-nominal demonstrative determiner as in (8). Similarly, a quantifier containing a numeral can take it as in (9). A numeral quantifier is also modified by pre-nominal attribute clause(s) as in (10).

(8) *cheL-ʔă-ɣiL*
    this-NPRF-large
    this large one

(9) *cheL-tă-yaukF*
    this-one-CLF:human
    this person

(10) *ɣiL-TA-TA-raH*   *tă-lamL*
    be.large-RLS-ATTR-LINKER one-CLF
    a large one

These facts show that a quantifier also is a non-lexical "noun", which serves as post-nominal modifier, and may be the head of NP when a lexical noun is absent.

A sequence of two non-lexical nouns can occur after the lexical noun. Though the combinations [Attribute - Quantifier] and [Attribute - Demonstrative] are more common, other combinations are also accepted if a slight pause (indicated by "/" in the examples below) is put after the lexical noun or between two non-lexical nouns.

(11) *chinFmanH* *ʔă-ɣiL*   *tă-lamL(-reF)*
    bun   NPRF-be.large one-CLF(-ACC)
    a large bun

(13) *chinFmanH* *ʔă-ɣiL*   *cheF(-reF)*
    bun   NPRF-be.large this.one(-ACC)
    this large bun

(12) *chinFmanH* *tă-lamL /* *ʔă-ɣiL(-reF)*
    bun   one-CLF   NPRF-be.large(-ACC)
    a bun, which is large

(14) *chinFmanH* *cheF /* *ʔă-ɣiL(-reF)*
    bun   this.one NPRF-be.large(-ACC)
    this bun, which is large

Also, Sequences [Attribute - Quantifier] and [Demonstrative - Quantifier] can be an argument of verb.

(15) *ʔă-ɣiL*   *tă-lamL(-reF)* *pyitL-ϕ-ɦaʔF* .
    NPRF-be.large one-CLF(-ACC)   give-IMP-COMMAND

    Give a large one (to me).

(16) *ʔă-ɣiL*   *cheF(-reF)* *pyitL-ϕ-ɦaʔF* .
    NPRF-be.large this.one(-ACC)   give-IMP-COMMAND

    Give this large one (to me).

As mentioned above, the form of non-lexical noun in itself does not encode its function. The function of non-lexical noun as post-nominal modifier is determined by the its meaning and configuration it occurs. In this regard, such sequence of nouns might have in common with apposition of nouns (17).

(17) *tamFsaL-moH* *ʔauŋFphauŋLtaŋL*
    shaman-great   PERSONAL.NAME
    the great shaman Aung Phaung Tang

How can the function of non-lexical nouns be described?