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## **EDITORIAL**

Every academic environment is sustained by learning through rigorous methods. Research is one and the focal point for assessment. A serious member of the academic community is measured by the quality and number of academic articles.

In spite of the desire to acquire many research reports, this edition has insisted on standards and quality. It is important to note that many articles have been rejected for not meeting our requirements.

The first and most obvious task of our journal is to provide a level playing field for researchers all over the globe in language-related disciplines, which is the vehicle for conveying knowledge. In this edition, seventeen (17) articles have undergone academic scrutiny from our blind reviewers.

To our esteemed contributors and readers, thought-provoking articles are expected and we are ready to publish them in the next volume.

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### **Manuscripts Submission**

Three hard copies of the article with text, charts, tables, figures, plates or any other original illustration should be sent to the editor-in-chief JAJOLLS, Taraba State University, Jalingo, Taraba State Nigeria. Submission should either be in English, French, Hausa, or Arabic languages. Articles should be typed in double line spacing with a wide margin on each side only on A4 sized paper not exceeding 15 pages including abstract with not more than 6-7 keywords. Articles are to be submitted with Five Thousand Naira (N5,000) assessment and handling charges. By submitting an article to JAJOLLS, the author(s) agree that the exclusive rights to produce and distribute the articles to the publisher.

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## Habibu Abdulkadir



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### Issues of Hausa Syntax: A Case Study of Noun Phrase (NP) Constituents.

#### Abstract

*The paper is a case study of Hausa Noun Phrase (NP), which focuses on the NP constituents, which study the words that can come within the NP. The constituents of NP consist of three segments: pre-NP, NP, and post-NP. Pre-NP is a word that comes before the noun to qualify it; the noun is the head of the noun; and post-NP is a word that comes after the noun to qualify it. The aim of the paper is to critically study the words that can serve as a noun in NP, such as the noun itself, pronoun, adjective, adverb, specifier, and dative. The paper was based on Chomsky's (1965) "Aspects of the Theory of Syntax."*

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## 1.1 Introduction

The paper discussed the issues in Hausa syntax in which it studied Hausa noun phrase (NP) that focused on the NP constituents. The constituents of NP consist of three segments: pre-NP, N + post-NP. Pre-NP are words that come before a noun and qualify it, such as adjective, specifier, referential, demonstrative, etc. Noun is the head of NP, which is mostly nouns, while post-NP are words that can come after the noun and qualify it, such as adjective, adverb, referential, demonstrative, etc.

The paper is critically studying the words that can serve as a noun in NP beside nouns. In certain cases, there are some words in Hausa sentences that serve as nouns and grammatically perform the functions of nouns in the NP, such as pronoun, adjective, adverb, specifier, and dative.

## 1.2 Sentence

A sentence is a group of words that have a complete meaning and comprise a subject and predicate. i.e., sentence = subject + verb + object (SVO)

- (i) Musa ya tafi makaranta.
- (ii) Wani Yaro fari ya zo makaranta.
- (iii) Wannan motar tana da kyau.



### 1.2.1 Classification of Sentence

A sentence has been classified into three categories: simple, compound, and complex sentences.

(i) A Simple Sentence is a sentence which consists of a Subject and a verb in it.

Example; 1. Musa ya zo makaranta jiya 2. Safiya ce ta zo makaranta yau.

(ii) A compound sentence is a sentence with a combination of two verbs and a single subject.

Example; 1) Musa da ya zo makaranta jiya, ya koma gida yau.  
2) Safiya ta zo makaranta yau amma ta koma gida.

(ii) A Complex Sentence is consisting of more than two verbs in it with a single subject.

Example; 1) Musa da ya zo jiya ya koma gida yau amma zai dawo gobe da safe  
2) Safiya ta zo makaranta yau, ta koma gida amma za ta dawo gobe

### 1.3 Sentence Constituents

A Sentence has been divided into two in grammatical functions, a verbal and non-verbal sentence.

A verbal sentence is a sentence which carries verb in it, and it consist of two sections Noun phrase (NP) and verbal phrase (VP).  $S \longrightarrow NP + VP$

Example; 1) Musa yana karanta littafi. 2) Amina ta karya ludayin miya

Noun Phrase (NP)	Verbal Phrase
Amina	Ta karya ludayin miya
Musa	Yana karanta littafi

Nonverbal sentence is a sentence which has no verb in it and it consist of Noun phrase (NP) and Adverbial Phrase (ADVP)  $S \longrightarrow NP + ADVP$

Example. 1) Musa wani gajeren mutum ne fari.

2) Wannan Bahadejen baƙi ne wuluk kakkaura.

Noun Phrase	Adverbial Phrase
Musa	Wani gajeren mutum ne fari
Wannan Bahadejen	Baƙi ne wuluk kakkaura

### 1.4 Constituents of Noun Phrase (NP)

According to Chomsky, (1965), a Noun Phrase consist of three segments, i.e., Pre-NP + N + Post NP.

Pre-NP consists of words that come before nouns that qualify them and are titled Q1. Noun is a word that is the head of NP and is titled Hd2, while post-NP consists of words that come after nouns and qualify them, titled Q3.

**1.4.1 Q1 (Pre-NP):** Words that can serve as pre-NP include specifies, adjectives, demonstratives, diminutives, referential, emphatics, e.t.c.

Example; 1) Wani ɗan farin Yaro/ ya zo makaranta

2) Wannan fa ɗan farin Yaron / ya zo makaranta

Q1 = Spec. + diminutive + Adj. + referential + Noun = wani +ɗan +fari + n + yaro

Wannan fa ɗan farin Yaron ya zo makaranta

Q1 = Demons. + emphatic + diminutive +Adj. + refer. + noun = wannan +fa +ɗan + fari + n + yaro

**1.4.2 Hd2 (head of the Np):** Words that can serve as a noun that mostly are noun words

Example; Musa (proper), Yaro (common) sanyi (abstract), wuta (concrete), makaranta (object) etc **Musa** ya zo **makaranta**. **Yaron** nan ya hura **wuta** a kan **dutse**.

**1.4.3 Q3 (Post – NP).** word which can serve as Q3 includes; Adjectives, referential, demonstrative, diminutive, emphatics, etc

Example; Yaron nan fa dan fari / ya zo makaranta

Sentence = N + referential +demons. + emphatic + adjective / ya zo makaranta

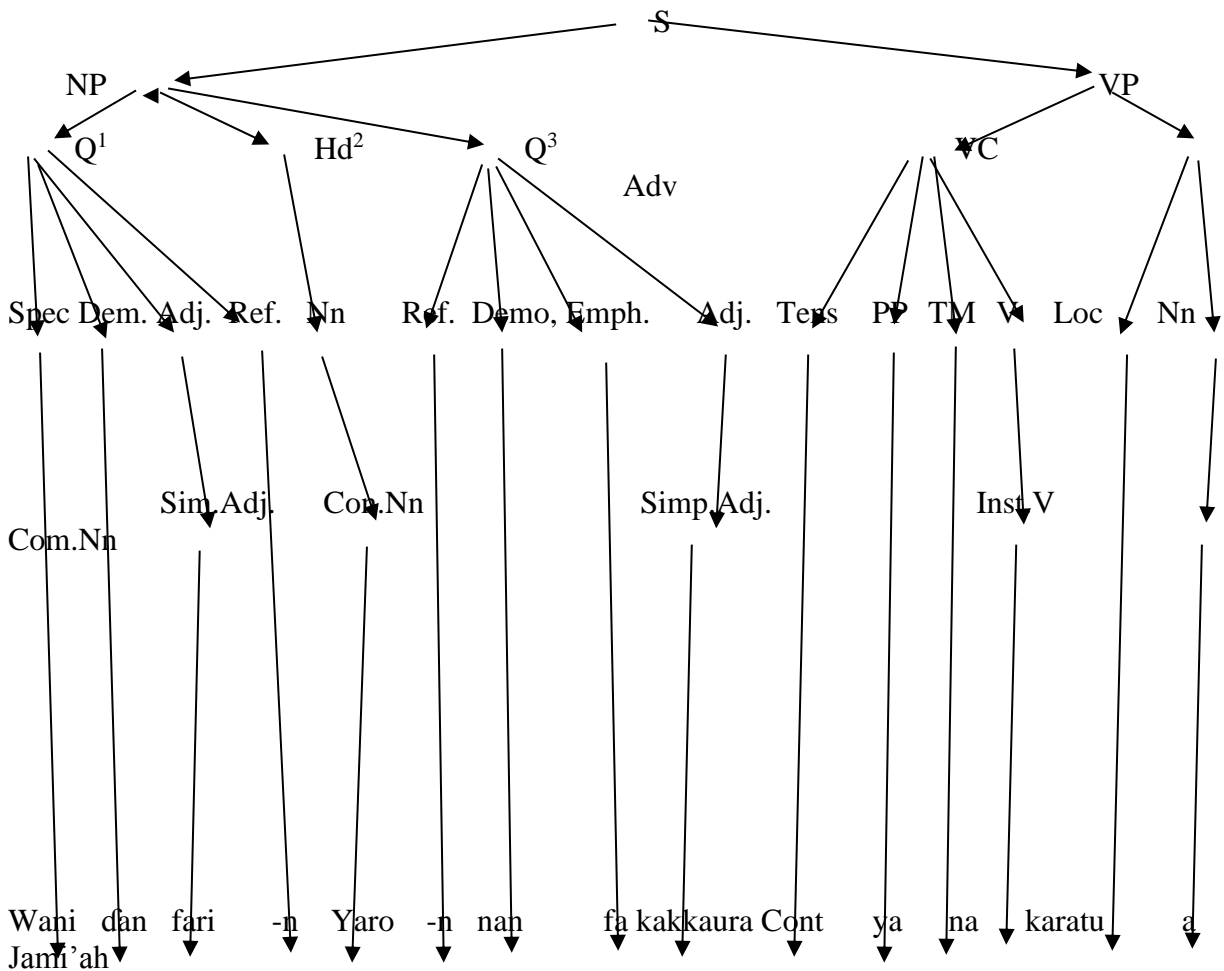
**Example in Syntactic Structure**

Wani dan farin yaron nan fa kakkaura yana karatu a jami'a.

S	→	NP	+	VP	Simp. Adj.	→	kakkaura
NP	→	Q1 + Hd2 + Q3		VP	→	VC + Adv.	
Q1	→	Spec. + Dem. + Adj + Refer.		VC	→	T + PP + TM + V	
Spec.	→	wani		Tense	→	Cont	
Dem.	→	Jan		PP	→	3 <sup>rd</sup> pers	
Adj.	→	Simp. Adj		3 <sup>rd</sup> pers.	→	ya	
Simp. Adj.	→	fari		TM	→	na	
Refer.	→	-n		V	→	Intrans. V	
Hd2	→	Nn		Intrans. V	→	karatu	
Com. Nn	→	yaro		Adv.	→	Loc. + Nn	
Q3	→	Refer. + Demons. + Emph. + Adj. Locative		Nn	→	Com. Nn	
Refer.	→	-n		Com. Nn	→	makaranta	
Demons.	→	nan					
Dem.	→	Jan					
Emph.	→	Fa					
Adj.	→	Simp. Adj.					

Wani dan farin yaron nan fa kakkaura yana karatu a jami'a

Tree Diagram



## 2.1 Critical Study of Hausa NP

The aim of the paper is to make critical study on the issues of Hausa syntactic structure in words that can serve a Noun in NP constituent according to their grammatical functions. Some of the words that can serve as a Hd2 in NP includes; noun itself, Pronoun, dative demonstrative etc.

Example;

### 2.1.1 Noun as a Hd2

Musa ya tafi makaranta

S → NP + VP

NP → Hd2

Hd2 → Nn

Nn → Prop, Nn

Prop.Nn → Musa

VP → VC + NP2

VC → Tense + PP + Tm + V

Tense → General past

PP → 3<sup>rd</sup> Person

3<sup>rd</sup> Person → ya

Tm → a

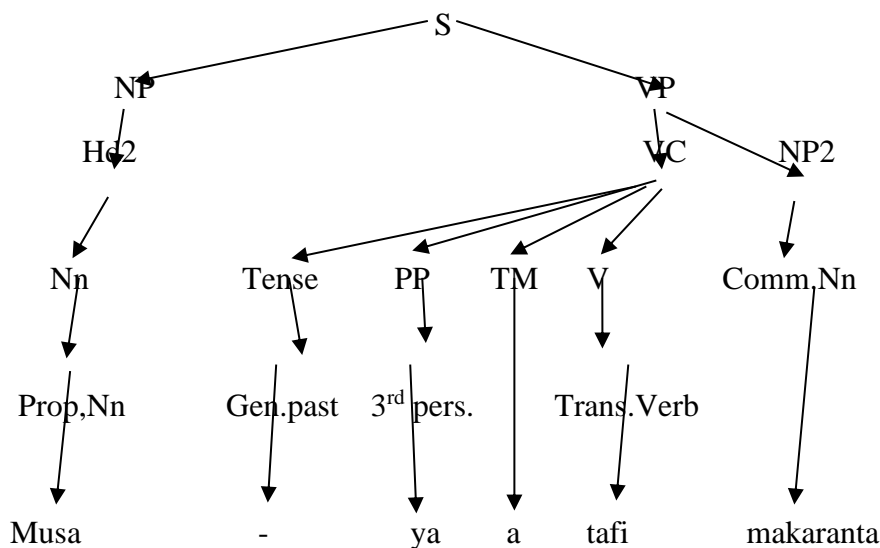
V → Transitive Verb

Transitive Verb → tafi

NP2 → Common Nn

Common Nn → Makaranta

Tree Diagram



### 2.1.2 Specifies as a Hd2 (NP) such as wani, wata, wasu, wadansu

Example;

Wani ya zo makaranta

S → NP + VP

NP → Hd2

VP → PP → 3<sup>rd</sup> pers. M

3<sup>rd</sup> pers. M → ya

TM → a

V → Trans. V

Trans. V → zo

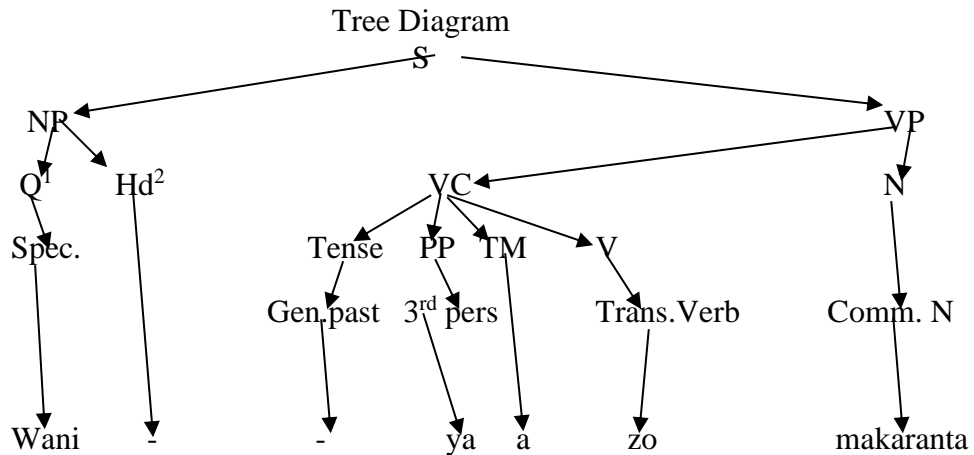
Hd2 → Indefinite Nn

Indf.Nn → wani

VP → VC + NP2    NP2 → Comm. Nn

VC → Tense + PP + TM + V    Comm. Nn → makaranta

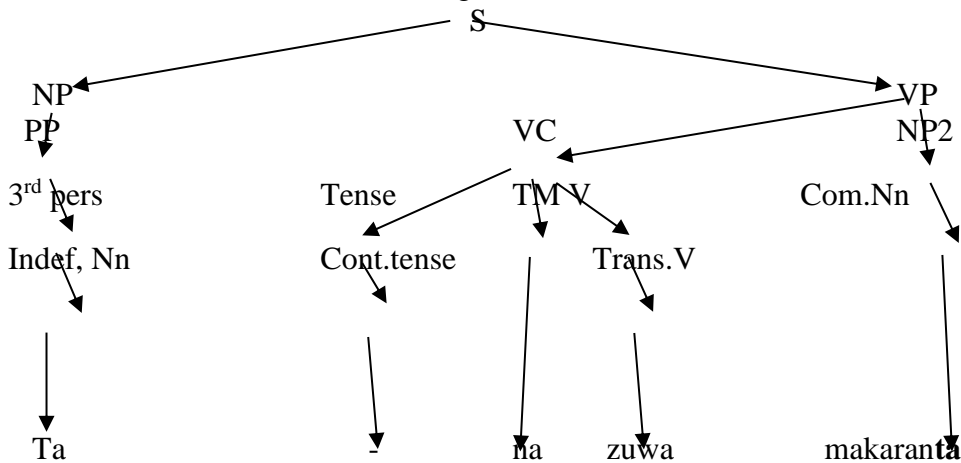
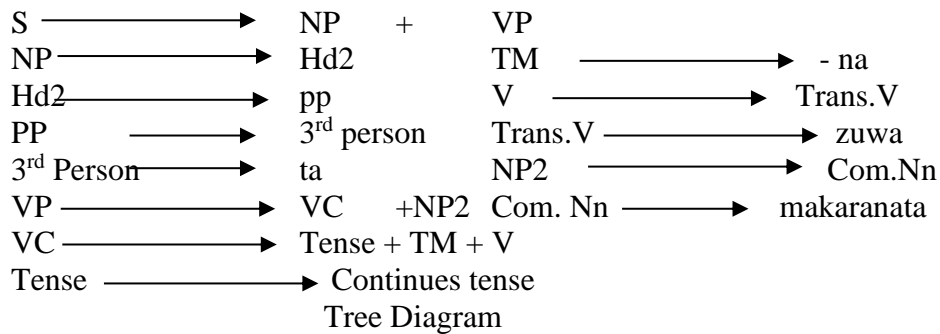
Tense → Gen. past



This syntactic analysis indicate that specifies wani, wata, wasu and wadansu can serve as Hd2 in certain sentences where noun or pronoun is not presence.

**2.1.3 Pronoun as a Hd2 (NP)** Such as shi, ita, kai, ke, su,

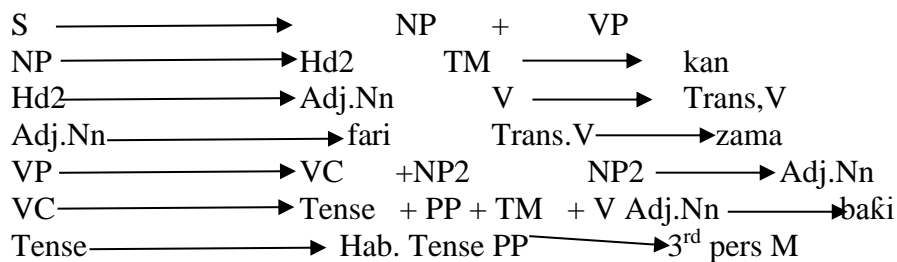
Example; tana zuwa makaranta

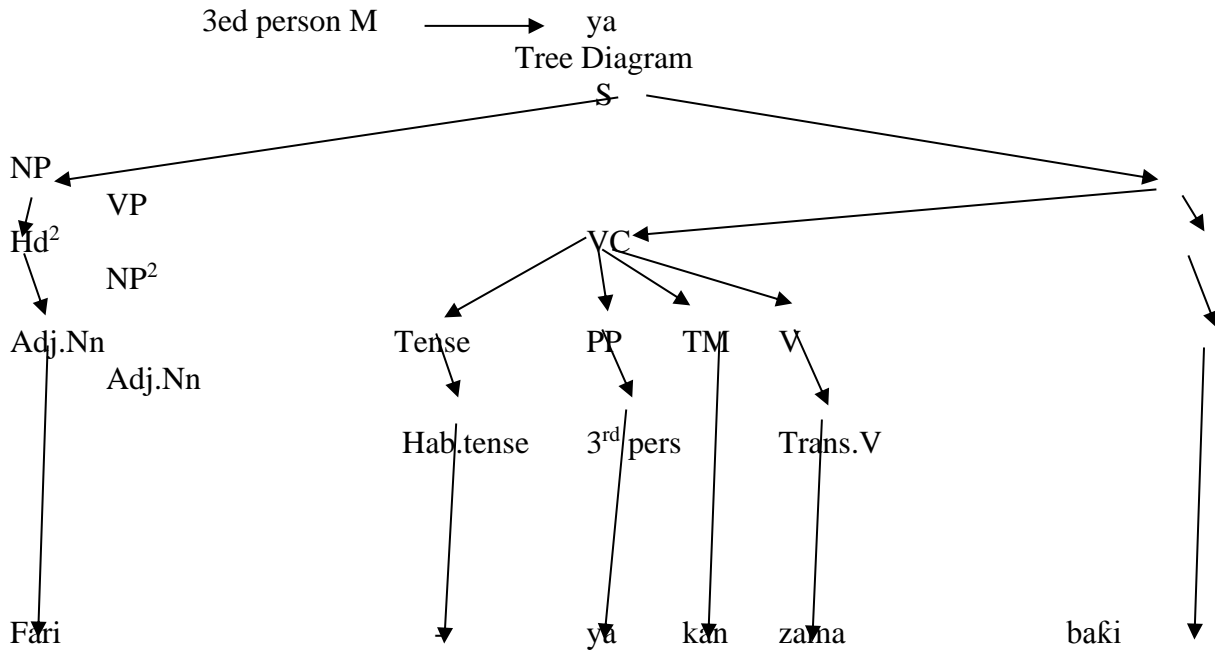


The syntactic analysis indicate that pronouns can also serve as Hd2 like nouns in the absence of nouns.

**2.1.4 Adjective as a Hd2 (NP)** such as fari, baki, kato, babba, karami, kakkaura etc

Example; Fari ya kan zama baki





The syntactic analysis indicate how adjectives can serve as Hd2 in the absence of nouns or pronouns in a sentence.

**2.1.5 Dative “wa/ma” as a Hd2 (NP),**

Example;      wa za a ba kuɗi?

S → NP + VP

NP → Hd2

Hd2 → Dative

Dative → wa

VP → VC + NP

VC → Tense + PP + TM + V

PP → Indf.pp

Indf.pp → a

V → Trans.V

Trans.V → ba

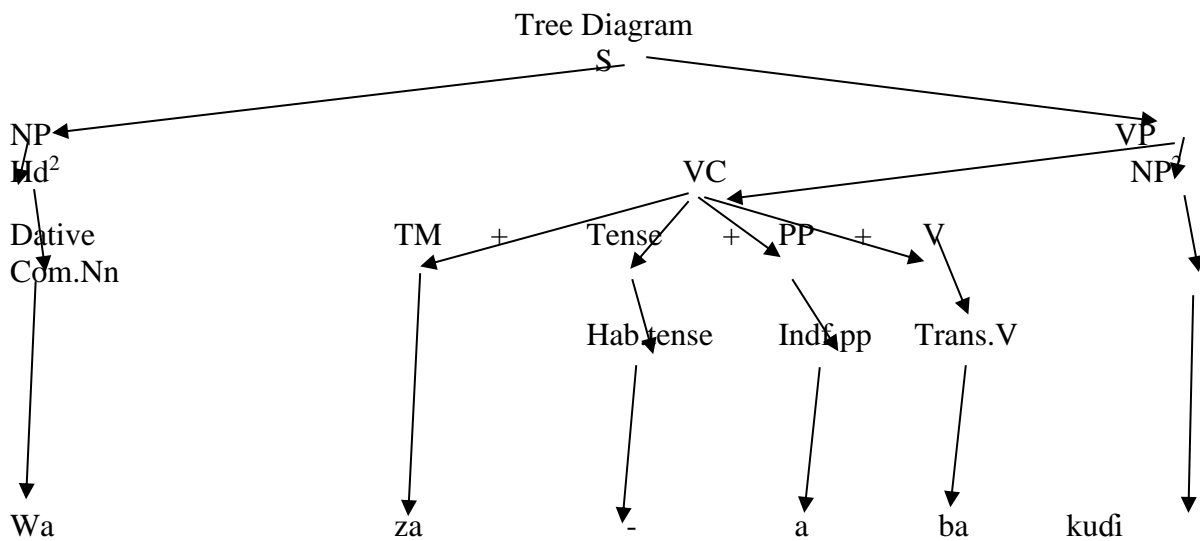
NP → Hd2

Hd2 → com.Nn

Com.Nn → kuɗi

Tense → Future

TM → za

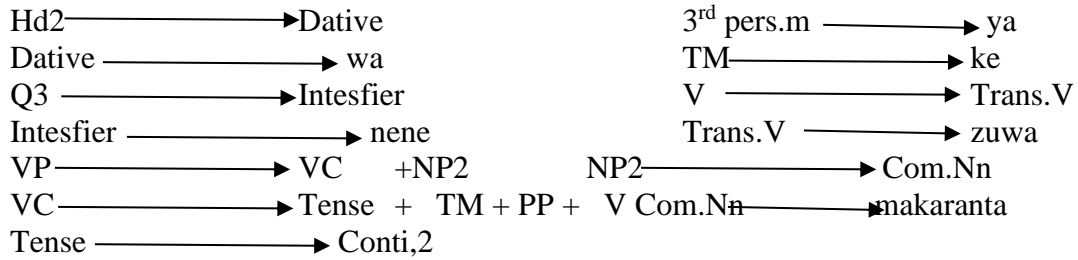


Example 2      Wa yake zuwa makaranta?

S → NP + VP

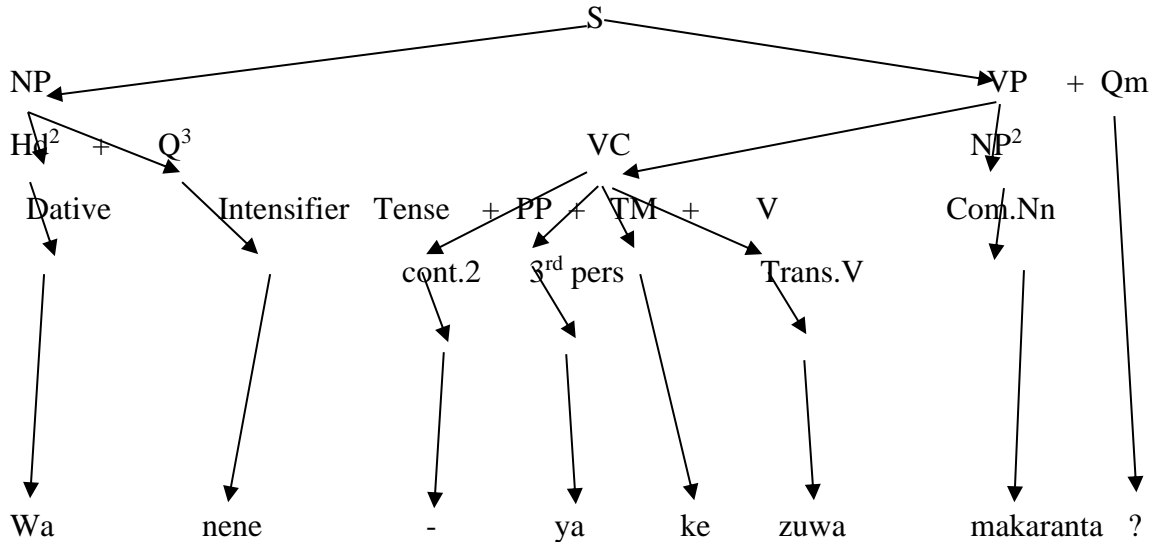
NP → Hd2 + Q3

PP → 3rd pers



The analysis in this sentence indicate a Dative wa/ma can served as NP – Hd2 in a sentence in the absence of noun or pronoun in the sentence.

Tree Diagram



The analysis in this sentence indicate a Dative wa/ma can served as NP – Hd2 in a sentence in the absence of noun or pronoun in the sentence.

### 3.1 Discussions

The paper presents a detailed case study of the Hausa noun phrase (NP), focusing on its constituents: pre-NP, NP, and post-NP. The study aims to critically examine the words that can function as nouns within the NP, extending beyond traditional nouns to include pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, specifiers, and datives. The theoretical framework is grounded in Chomsky's "Aspects of the Theory of Syntax (1965)," providing a robust foundation for the linguistic analysis.

The introduction contextualized the study within the broader field of Hausa syntax, emphasizing the importance of understanding NP constituents. The classification of sentences into simple, compound, and complex categories sets the stage for a comprehensive exploration of sentence constituents in both verbal and non-verbal sentences.

The breakdown of the noun phrase into pre-NP, N, and post-NP segments aligns with Chomsky's theoretical segmentation. The critical study of Hausa NP delves into the grammatical functions of words that can serve as nouns, presenting examples of nouns, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, specifiers, and datives in syntactic structures. The syntactic analysis is visually represented through tree diagrams, providing a clear illustration of the diverse roles these words play within the NP. The paper concludes by emphasizing the contribution to the understanding of Hausa syntactic structures and highlighting the versatility of words that can function as nouns within noun phrases. The insights derived from this study are deemed valuable for students interested in the intricacies of Hausa syntax.

Overall, the paper successfully combines theoretical underpinnings with practical linguistic analysis, providing a comprehensive examination of the Hausa NP and contributing to the broader field of syntactic studies.

#### **4.1 Conclusion**

This study uses Chomsky's "Aspect of the Theory of Syntax" framework to investigate Hausa noun phrases (NPs). It breaks down sentences into pre-NP, N, and post-NP segments and divides them into simple, compound, and complicated categories. Students interested in Hausa syntax, can benefit from the knowledge acquired.

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