DETERMINER PHRASE IN PASHTO, URDU AND ENGLISH: A SYNTACTIC EXPLORATION INTO DP HYPOTHESIS

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Candidate of **Master of Philosophy** at the National University of Modern Languages do hereby declare that the thesis **Determiner Phrase in Pashto, Urdu and English: A Syntactic exploration into DP Hypothesis** submitted by me in partial fulfillment of MPhil degree, is my original work, and has not been submitted or published earlier. I also solemnly declare that it shall not, in future, be submitted by me for obtaining any other degree from this or any other university or institution.

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ABSTRACT

Title: Determiner Phrase in Pashto, Urdu and English: A Syntactic exploration into DP Hypothesis

Although genitive determiner phrase (DP) holds immense significance in a language, the structure of such phrases in Pashto and Urdu remains unexplored. This study is an attempt to analyze and compare the structure of genitive DP in English with the structure of genitive DP in two Pakistani languages, namely: Urdu, and Pashto with the help of X-bar theory. The theoretical framework selected for the study is DP hypothesis by Abney (1989). Fifty-four genitive DPs have been collected from the grammar books of the three selected languages through purposive sampling. Side by side analysis of DPs of the three selected languages is performed and the structure of the phrases of the selected languages is compared with each other. The findings of the study show that English demonstrates significant flexibility by employing both the of-genitive and construct genitive forms to express possession in simple and complex contexts; whereas, Urdu exhibits a more regulated use of possessive constructions. By utilizing both the of-genitive and construct genitive, Urdu predominantly relies on the use of of-genitive, especially in longer or more complex phrases. Urdu's possessive markers align with number, gender, and case. Furthermore, Urdu employs postpositions, rather than prepositions, to denote possession, reflecting its unique syntactic structure. Pashto distinguishes itself by exclusively using the of-genitive structure for possessive constructions. It relies on prepositions and its minimalist syntax, marked by a null D' position in determiner phrases. Besides investigating an under-researched area, this study aims to foster cross-linguistic understanding by comparing the structure of DP in three selected languages. By exploring both the similarities and differences in DP structures across the three languages, the study seeks to promote a deeper understanding of linguistic diversity in general and syntactic diversity in particular.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

DP: Determiner Phrase

PP: Prepositional Phrase

AdjP: Adjective Phrase

NP: Noun Phrase

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my parents for their love, endless support and encouragement.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

The present study aims to focus on the similarities and differences found among the English, Urdu, and Pashto languages. Out of these three languages, English is international language or lingua franca of the world with SVO word order. Urdu is the national language as well as national lingua franca in Pakistan, which observes the SOV word order., Pashto is a regional language that is spoken in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan and also observes SOV order. Apart from that there are certain other structural similarities and differences between Pashto and Urdu. Pashto, belonging to the Eastern Iranian branch, has a more complex system of phonemes, including retroflex, aspirated, and uvular sounds that are rare in Urdu. Pashto relies on verb conjugation to convey grammatical relationships, including gender, number, and tense. In contrast, Urdu incorporates auxiliary verbs more prominently for tense and aspect. Urdu has a richer literary tradition of formal politeness levels and employs an elaborate honorific system, which Pashto lacks. Furthermore, Pashto nouns and adjectives inflect for gender and number differently than in Urdu, and its use of prepositions and postpositions varies. The scripts used also differ subtly; both languages use the Perso-Arabic script, but Pashto includes additional characters to accommodate its unique phonemes, making it structurally distinct in both grammar and phonology.

Syntax refers to the study of how sentences are structured and organized in a particular language. It focuses on the rules and principles that shapes the formation of sentences, including the arrangement of words, phrases, and clauses to convey meaning (Jones & Brown, 2015). Like nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs, determiners make a category of words. Determiner is a large class which includes sub-classes such as: articles, possessive pronouns demonstratives, quantifiers, and ordinal numbers. This study has analyzed the structure of determiner phrases in Pashto, Urdu and English, keeping in mind the sub-categories such as *construct genitive* and *of-genitive*.

X-bar theory was first propounded by Chomsky in 1970. Chomsky presented this theory in order to deal with the inadequacies of phrase structure rules: 1) phrase structure rules create flat structures, 2) there is no single rule that can be applied to all

the phrases. In order to deal with such inadequacies, X-bar theory came with generalizations (Carnie, 2013). Moreover, according to X-bar theory, all non-head materials must be phrasal. This is quite problematic in the case of determiners. Determiners are the part of noun phrases according to the old view. However, they do not seem to be phrasal. If we propose that the only thing that is not a phrase in an NP is the N itself. Then we have a problem. In other words, X-bar theory was unable to deal with the status of determiners in noun phrases. In order to deal with such problems, Abney in 1987 proposed that the determiner is not actually inside the NP. Instead, it heads its own phrasal categories. This is known as DP hypothesis. According to this hypothesis, determiners are not the part of the NP.

However, NP is the complement to the determiner head. This solves the problem of the non-phrasality of the determiners.

Old view   DP hypothesis

NP   DP

D   N'   D'

N°   ....   D°   NP

                                                    N`

                                                 N°
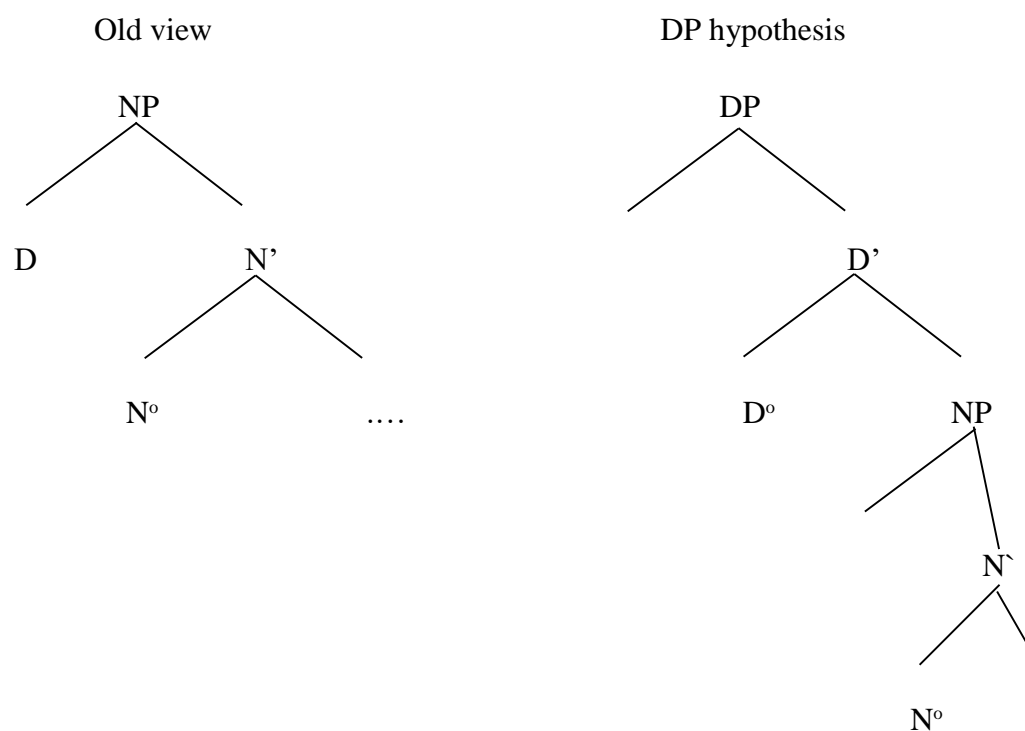
As far as the empirical evidence is concerned, it comes from the behavior of genitive phrases. There are two main types of genitives: 1) *free/of genitive* and 2) *construct genitive*. Free genitive uses the preposition/postposition 'of' to mark the possessive relation between the two Noun Phrases. For example, in t*he book of Ali and the roof of the building 'of'* shows the possession. On the other hand, in *construct genitive* is used to show possession.

Ali's book

The building's roof

In the above examples, *'s genitive* shows an important evidence for DP. Most importantly, 's markers appear after the entire possessor NP's in the above examples. This shows that *'s* is a small word that reflects the possession of something in a phrase. This research deals with the analysis of determiner phrases in Pashto, Urdu and English. DP hypothesis has been used as a theoretical framework, while X-bar theory has been used as an analytical framework to carry out this study.

1.1 Background of the Study

The analysis of determiner phrases (DPs) has been extensively explored in English within the framework of the X-bar theory and the DP hypothesis. However, regional languages of Pakistan such as Urdu and Pashto have received limited attention in this regard. This gap shows the significance of examining how these syntactic theories apply to Urdu and Pashto, given their distinct typological features and unique syntactic characteristics.

Urdu syntax has been a rich area of linguistic research, particularly in aspects like word order, case marking, and agreement. Butt and King (2004) made a significant contribution to this field by analyzing Urdu's case system, which is characterized by its split-ergative alignment. This means that the language alternates between nominative-accusative and ergative-absolutive patterns depending on tense, aspect, and verb transitivity. For instance, in perfective constructions, Urdu adopts an ergative-absolutive alignment where the subject of a transitive verb takes the ergative case marker (*ne*), and the object remains unmarked. In contrast, in imperfective constructions, the nominative-accusative pattern is observed, where the subject is in the nominative case, and the object takes the accusative marker (*ko*).

Butt and King (2009) also highlighted Urdu's agreement patterns, where verbs agree with the nominative argument in gender and number. In ergative constructions, however, the verb does not agree with the ergative-marked subject but instead with the unmarked object. This interplay between case marking and agreement illustrates the

intricate nature of Urdu's syntax. Additionally, their study emphasized Urdu's flexible SOV word order, where the subject typically precedes the object and verb. However, variations like OSV or SVO are permissible, especially in colloquial speech or for emphasizing certain elements within a sentence. These variations demonstrate the language's relatively free word order, which is further modulated by pragmatic and discourse-related factors. Through their research, Butt and King underscored the complexity and insights of Urdu's syntactic structures, paving the way for further exploration of its phrase-level configurations, including determiner phrases, which remain an underexplored area in comparison to its clause-level syntax.

Ahmed (2006) conducted an in-depth analysis of Urdu noun phrases, focusing on the use of possessive markers (ka, ki, ke) that align with gender, number, and case. This study provided valuable insights into the syntactic and morphological structures of noun phrases in Urdu, showing how possessive markers function within the grammatical framework of language. However, while the research was significant in addressing noun phrases, it was largely confined to this specific syntactic domain and did not endeavor into a broader exploration of determiner phrases (DPs). The DP hypothesis, which states that determiner phrases serve as a higher functional projection encompassing noun phrases, remains underexplored in Urdu. This gap leaves room for further research to investigate the syntactic behavior of DPs, including determiners, quantifiers, and other modifiers, within the language. A comprehensive analysis of DPs could provide a more holistic understanding of Urdu syntax, bridging gaps in the existing literature.

Bukhari et al. (2009) made another significant contribution by examining definiteness and specificity in Urdu noun phrases. Their study revealed that Urdu does not possess a distinct category of definite and indefinite articles, unlike many other languages. Instead, definiteness in Urdu is inferred contextually, relying on syntactic and pragmatic signs. This finding highlighted unique features of Urdu's grammatical system and enriched the understanding of its noun phrase structures. However, despite offering valuable insights into noun phrases, their work did not delve into determiner phrases (DPs) within the framework of the DP hypothesis. Specifically, the potential application of the X-bar theory to explore the hierarchical organization of DPs in Urdu remains largely unexplored. Analyzing the integration of determiners through X-bar

theory could provide better understanding of Urdu syntax, bridging existing gaps and aligning it with modern linguistic theories.

In the case of Pashto, much of the existing research has focused on its intricate morphology and robust case system. Tegey and Robson (1996) laid the groundwork for understanding Pashto syntax, highlighting its postpositional structure and canonical Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) word order. Additionally, Roberts (2000) explored the role of clitics and prepositions in Pashto, shedding light on its syntactic economy and providing important insights into its grammatical structures. While these studies have significantly advanced the understanding of Pashto syntax, they have largely concentrated on individual elements of the language rather than its overarching structural frameworks. Notably, these works did not extend their analysis to determiner phrases (DPs) within the DP hypothesis, leaving a gap in understanding Pashto's DP structures. Further research comparing Pashto's DP system with languages like English could provide valuable cross-linguistic insights and contribute to broader theoretical discussions on syntactic typology.

The comparative analysis of Urdu and Pashto with English using the DP hypothesis remains largely unexplored. While existing research highlights the syntactic intricacies of Urdu and Pashto individually, no significant study has applied the X-bar theory and DP hypothesis to compare and contrast the structural similarities and differences in DPs across these languages. This study aims to fill this research gap, contributing to the broader understanding of syntactic theory and its application to lesser-studied languages, while offering valuable insights for linguistic typology, language teaching, and computational linguistics.

The present study addresses these gaps by applying X-bar theory as an analytical framework and the DP hypothesis as a theoretical model to analyze and compare DPs in Urdu, Pashto, and English. By examining structural similarities and differences, this research contributes to the broader field of syntactic theory, offering insights into the phrase structure of underexplored languages while providing a foundation for further cross-linguistic and typological studies. Furthermore, the present study may contribute significantly to the understanding of DP structure for broader linguistic theory and models of language processing. By examining the syntactic mechanisms underlying the determiner phrase (DP) structure in the regional Pakistani

languages such as Urdu and Pashto, this research sheds light on how languages with diverse typological features implement universal principles of grammar. Specifically, the analysis of DPs in these languages provides insights into the hierarchical organization of syntactic structures and the role of functional categories in shaping phrase-level syntax.

This study also holds the potential to significantly contribute to theoretical discussions surrounding the DP hypothesis by examining how it manifests in languages that differ structurally from widely studied ones like English. By exploring determiner phrase configurations in languages such as Urdu and Pashto, the research can highlight cross-linguistic variations in DP structures, including the interaction of determiners, possessive markers, quantifiers, and modifiers. Such an analysis can reveal whether the DP hypothesis applies uniformly across typologically distinct languages or requires modifications to accommodate language-specific features. The findings could provide valuable insights into universal and language-specific syntactic properties, thereby enriching our understanding of how languages encode nominal structures and advancing the broader field of syntactic theory.

Additionally, the research may inform language processing models by examining how speakers of the selected languages cognitively organize and interpret DPs. Understanding the structural and functional properties of DPs in such languages could provide insights about the overall processing strategies and how these strategies adapt to specific syntactic systems. Ultimately, the study bridges the gap between theoretical linguistics and psycholinguistics, offering a more comprehensive view of how syntactic structures are represented and processed in the human mind.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The structure of Determiner Phrase (DP) in Pashto and Urdu has not been established as yet although with the emergence of DP hypothesis in 1987, the issue of determiner being a non-phrasal element in English Noun Phrase (NP) has been resolved. This study is an attempt at ascertaining the validity of DP hypothesis for two of the Pakistani languages, Pashto and Urdu. Therefore, the primary objective of this study is to scrutinize genitive determiner phrases in the above-mentioned languages through the application of X-bar theory as the principal analytical approach for data analysis.

1.3 Research Objectives

1. To look for structural similarities/differences in the determiner phrase of Pashto, Urdu and English

2. To analyze how the DP hypothesis, address the similarities/differences in the determiner phrases of Pashto, Urdu and English.

1.4 Research Questions

1. What are the structural similarities/differences in the determiner phrases of Pashto, Urdu and English?

2. How does the DP hypothesis address the similarities/differences in the determiner phrases of Pashto, Urdu and English?

1.5 Significance of the Study

The analysis of determiner phrases in Pashto, Urdu, and English has great significance for researchers as it provides vital perceptions into the syntactic structure and functional properties of these linguistic elements across distinct languages. By investigating determiner phrases in these three distinct languages, researchers can examine the similarities and variations in their phrase structures, which contributes to a clear understanding of cross-linguistic variation and universality. This cross-linguistic analysis provides insights about the deep grammatical rules and constraints that determine phrasal structures in each language, clarifying our knowledge of the functions of determiner phrases within distinct linguistic contexts. Moreover, this study has wider implications for applied linguistics, predominantly in disciplines such as typology, syntactic theory, and the study of different language families. The present study also provides insights into practical implications in the areas of language teaching, translation, and computational linguistics. The study also provides a systematic comparison of structural patterns and functions across languages with different typological features.

Secondly, the analysis of determiner phrases provides significant inferences for language teachers, as it gives a comprehensive knowledge of the structural functions and syntactic insights of the selected languages under consideration. this study equips

teachers with valued understanding that can develop their teaching performance. Additionally, the study assists teachers in identifying basic features of similarity and difference among these languages, that may be utilized to design teaching strategies and materials that address the requirements of students. For instance, understanding how determiner phrase varies across these languages may help teachers accommodate common challenges faced by students when learning a second or third language and develop strategies to resolve them effectively. Furthermore, this study provides the basis for precise and relevant teaching tools, refining the quality of language practices and rendering better learning results.

Thirdly, the study of determiner phrases in Pashto, Urdu, and English is of great significance to language learners, as it gives them a wider knowledge of the structural similarities and differences of the selected languages. Learners may have a deeper understanding of the grammatical rules and syntactic variations of these distinguishing linguistic systems. This research can help learners know the similarities and variations in phrase structures, making them enable to establish relationship among selected languages and helping the learning of new linguistic functions. Additionally, the knowledge of the structural subtleties will add to the knowledge of learners. This study will enhance learners' proficiency by improving their accuracy and fluency in using these phrases in context. The study will also nurture critical thinking and analytical skills, as learners become more expert at recognizing and applying language-specific grammatical rules.

Finally, this study provides deeper knowledge of determiner phrase in the selected languages for general audience, which adds to more effective communication and a richer assignation with the selected languages by enabling them to use determiner phrases accurately and according to the context. It enables them to navigate the structural intricacies of each language with utmost buoyancy, refining their ability to express themselves clearly and properly in distinct linguistic contexts. Additionally, such insights establish a greater relationship with the cultural and structural insights of selected languages, promoting not only linguistic ability but also a deeper obligation of distinct cultural contexts in which these languages are used.

1.6 Rationale for the Selection of Three Languages

The researcher has selected Pashto, Urdu, and English for this study because they represent three different language families (Pashto being of the Indo-Iranian family, Urdu is an Indo-Aryan language, and English is Germanic). Such diversity allows a comparative analysis across different languages and provides valuable insights into how the DP structure is instantiated in diverse linguistic systems. In addition, English constitutes a point of reference in linguistic research based on its extensive literature, well studied grammar, while and Pashto and Urdu provide contrasts and perspectives from different language families. Moreover, the aforementioned Pakistani languages have not been explored from the dimension of determiner phrases. Finally, the researcher is well versed in the above-mentioned languages. Therefore, the researcher has taken these languages for the intended study.

1.7 Delimitation

The research is delimited on the following grounds:

1) This study specifically focuses on examining genitive determiner phrases in the three languages: Pashto, Urdu, and English.
2) It limits its scope to the analysis of genitive determiner phrases and their sub-categories in the selected languages.

1.8 Chapter Breakdown

Chapter 1: Introduction

The present study about Determiner Phrases in Pashto, Urdu and English has been divided into five chapters. The first chapter introduces background of the study, statement of the problem, research objectives, research questions, significance and rationale of the study, and delimitation.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

In this chapter of the study, the researcher has reviewed all the previous studies related to the present study.

Chapter 3: Research Methodology

This chapter includes "Research Methodology," which comprises some areas like the design of the study, research method, and data for the study, theoretical framework, and method of analysis.

Chapter 4: Data Analysis

This Chapter is about the "Data Analysis," where data collected from the selected books of English and their equivalents in Pashto and Urdu has been analyzed. The researcher has used X-bar theory as an analytical framework by drawing tree diagrams of the selected data for a comprehensive analysis. DP Hypothesis by Abney has been used as theoretical framework to carry out the research

Chapter 5: Conclusion

The final chapter of the study is "Conclusion," which consists of two important areas: i.e., findings and conclusion. Research questions that have already been formulated has been answered in the "Findings" of the study. Furthermore, recommendations, limitations, and potential for further studies has been presented at the end of the study.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter highlights the importance of investigating of the structure of determiner phrases in the selected languages. It offers a number of arguments regarding the determiner phrase analysis. It discusses some of the theoretical frameworks concerning phrase analysis, pointing out the drawbacks in traditional phrase structure rules, which were then superseded by X-bar theory. Additionally, the literature review also identifies the existing research gaps in the studies concerning determiner phrase. These gaps, found in the prior studies, are addressed in this chapter especially in terms of the DP Hypothesis as applied in two languages of Pakistan: Pashto and Urdu. It also addresses some of the questions arising with the application of DP hypothesis to determiner phrase in the selected languages.

This chapter has been divided into three sections. The first section begins with distinct theoretical frameworks and theories such as Generative Grammar to DP hypothesis. The second discusses different studies related to the present research. Additionally, third section highlights existing research gap that has been discussed in the following chapters. Furthermore, this chapter is organized into three comprehensive sections, each contributing to the foundation and scope of this research. The first section delves into key theoretical frameworks and linguistic theories, ranging from Generative Grammar to the DP (Determiner Phrase) Hypothesis. This section provides a detailed exploration of these theories, offering insights into their principles, relevance, and applications to the current study. The second section critically examines existing studies and scholarly works that align with the focus of this research. By analyzing methodologies, findings, and conclusions from previous studies, this section identifies patterns, strengths, and areas for further exploration. The third section addresses the research gap by highlighting unresolved questions, underexplored areas, and limitations in existing literature. This section sets the stage for subsequent chapters by positioning the current study within the broader academic discourse and underscoring its significance in advancing knowledge within the field. Together, these sections create a structured foundation that links theoretical insights with empirical evidence while identifying opportunities for new contributions to the discipline.

2.1 What is Syntax?

Syntax refers to the systematic study of the rules and principles that administers the structure of sentences in natural languages. It shows the organization of words to make clear sentences, taking into account the connection between sentence constituents like subjects, objects and verbs. Syntax is instrumental in understanding the structure of language, highlighting the difference between grammatically meaningful and meaningless sentences. For instance, in English, the sentence "The dog chased the cat" is syntactically correct, whereas "Chased the dog the cat" disrupts standard word order. Noam Chomsky's theories, specially his *Transformational-Generative Grammar* introduced in *Syntactic Structures* (1957), transformed the field by suggesting that syntax is ruled by a set of inborn universal principles and rules, identified as Universal Grammar. This concept proposes that all human languages have a common fundamental structure, even though surface-level word orders and syntactic functions may be different. For example, English employs a Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) word order, while Urdu and Pashto use Subject-Object-Verb (SOV).

Syntax also investigates hierarchy in sentence structures, in which phrases and clauses are nested within one another. Tools like phrase structure trees, derived from Chomsky's work, illustrate how sentences are broken down into constituents, like noun phrase (NP) and verb phrase (VP) and determiner phrase (DP). These concepts are vital for knowing how languages scramble complex notions and ideas.

2.2 Research in Syntax

The three main aims to consider while analyzing a structure are as follows:

1. To unveil the hierarchical arrangement of elements

2. To describe the vagueness apparent at the surface level

3. To demonstrate how certain sentences are related (Chomsky, 1957; Jackendoff, 2002).

These aims align closely with the goals of syntactic analysis in linguistics, as emphasized by Noam Chomsky, who developed Transformational-Generative

Grammar (TGG), and his follower, Ray Jackendoff. Chomsky's work, particularly in "Syntactic Structures" (1957), laid the foundation for understanding the hierarchical structure of language. Jackendoff contributions, such as his work on the hierarchical organization of language and its relation to meaning (Jackendoff, 2002), have furthered our understanding in this area.

For this, the syntacticians have come up with the set of tools, which provide the visible structure that is assumed to appear behind sentences. The procedure for analyzing the structure of sentences varies from one model of syntax to the next, and it might face many shifts at the time of its development. This is especially correct about generative grammar, that has been stressed as the detailed topic, ever since the seminal study 'Syntactic Structures' have been published by Noam Chomsky in 1957.

In linguistic studies, no matter how sentences are represented, the main aim of the method is to uncover the structure inside them. This helps explain why words are placed in certain orders in sentences of a language. Consequently, syntacticians normally differentiate between the invisible structure, that is broadly termed as 'deep structure' and the other level which actually forms the spoken or written aspect of sentence, which is broadly called the surface level of the sentence. The major relations of the syntax such as: subject, object and predicate are chosen specifically at the deep level of structure, and the smaller issues, like as: the active and the passive statements are presumed to generate the surface level structure. When deep and surface level structures are talked about, it becomes mandatory, not to think that such expressions are only considered in semantics. The 'deep structure' refers to the stage, where the meaning of the sentence structure is clear, where one can find basic sentence structures not undergone through alterations, i.e. undergone through various transformations (movement rules), and deletions. The deep structure is found to be valid due to its ability that it disambiguates sentences and shows relatedness between such types of sentences, that are not obvious on surface level (Lakoff,1971).

2.2.1 Generative Grammar

The transformational-generative grammar framework introduced by Noam Chomsky in his Syntactic Structures (1957) dealt mostly with syntax, and consequently stimulated plenty of interest among linguists in syntactic analysis. The sentence generation framework assumed what it is, a procedural activity, directed by prior

syntactic structures and lexical elements. A major component of this theory is the idea of transformation, that is, how different types of sentences work together. For example, active sentence can be converted into the passive sentence. Nevertheless, this hypothesis has been questioned: some argue that active sentences have a more basic status than passive sentences. This model proposes that the transformation engine also operates on an underlying, basic sentence structure to which various transformations can be applied during sentence formation. This transformational process has been supported by limited direct evidence (including, for example, slips of the tongue, semantic equivalence, native speaker intuitions) but is suggested by a great deal of indirect evidence (Smith, 1995).

Chomsky initially outlined what he called the "Standard Theory" in a work published in 1965 titled *Aspects of the Theory of Syntax*, which was later developed to form the "Extended Standard Theory". In the late 1970s Chomsky made some modifications to these ideas in later editions of the book. Assuming equal importance in both the cases of the theory, that, human beings are naturally endowed with a specific cognitive structure that helps the child to acquire the grammar of his/her first language. This potential allows children to build grammatical knowledge according to the stimulus they interact within their environment. As for Chomsky, this innate language acquisition device enables children to produce an infinite amount of new sentences due to the syntactic components which are inherent in the child's mind. However, when applying the internalized grammar to other languages children may face different structures which make them unable to produce grammatically accurate sentences in other syntactically dissimilar languages (Chomsky, 1965, 1976).

This theory has had a great impact on the development of linguistic research especially when studying the process in which the language acquisition device interfaces with linguistic data to generate grammatical knowledge. More empirical research has been conducted in the field of transformational-generative grammar especially in the aspects of language acquisition and on the comprehension of some mental processes underpinning syntactic knowledge.

2.2.2 The Standard Theory

Since its introduction in the late 1950s, Generative Grammar has undergone several changes. The "Standard Theory" that Noam Chomsky introduced in his 1965 book *Aspects of the Theory of Syntax* is one of the pivotal models in its evolution. The model provided a framework for sentence construction which is diagrammed as follows

Syntax

Phrase-structure rules

Lexicon

Filters

Deep Structure   Semantics

Transformations

Surface Structure   Phonology
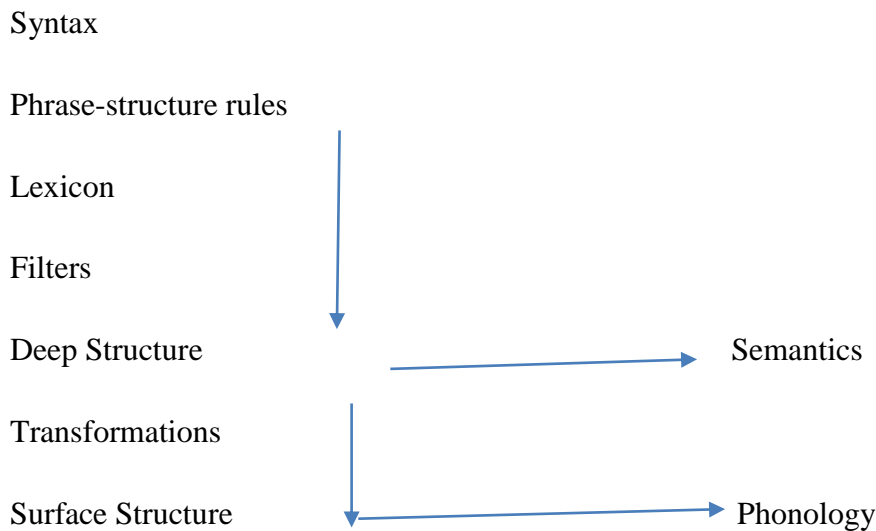
In this framework, the sentence we speak or hear, which I refer to as terminal strings, constitute the surface structure of a sentence. On the other hand; the deep structure consists of a more abstract syntactic organization which underlies these sentences. Initially, it was assumed that grammar, namely the syntactic rules, take a large share in sentence formation. But an examination of other important transformations, for example, dative movement, revealed that much of this syntactic information is actually the lexicon. In dative movement indirect objects move in front of direct objects eliminating its previous position.

For example:

 "Aslam gave his book to Ali." → Dative movement: "Ahmad gave Ali his book."

However, not all verbs allow this transformation, even if they are ditransitive. For example:

"The ministers solved the problem for us."

Incorrect: "The ministers solved us the problem."

These examples show that verbs have prescriptive syntactic roles that are argued to mean that the lexicon performs more than just holding words. It also contains grammatical information that define the way those words are used in the formation of sentences. This gave rise to the notion of subcategorization restrictions within the lexical specifications of verbs and other lexical functionalities.

Hence, instead of a simple language database for word storage, the lexicon was also acknowledged for its function in grammar, where it contains the syntactic rules and restrictions of phrasing. This change of grammatical work from syntax to the lexicon especially regarding verbs and sentence constructions was a major milestone in the Generative Grammar.

2.2.3 Phrase Structure Rules

Phrase structure grammar is the basic foundation of many other linguistic approaches since it disintegrates sentences into their basic parts, exposing the depth of the structure. Such processes can be accomplished by deconstructing larger units starting at the level of the sentence and proceeding downwards into progressively smaller units until the smallest level of units called, 'terminal strings' are reached (Harris, 1951)

A sentence normally consists of a verb phrase (VP) and a noun phrase (NP). The VP consist of a verb, and an NP and auxiliary verbs. The NP may consist of a determiner (such as an article, possessive pronoun, numeral or demonstrative pronoun) and a noun. These components described here represent the hierarchical structure of phrase structure grammar as earlier linguists had described the organization of sentences. Nevertheless, phrase structure rules are an excellent description of sentence structure, but not of the cognitive process by which sentences are generated.

In the late 1950s, *Generative Grammar* was introduced by Noam Chomsky to overcome the descriptive limitations of phrase structure grammar. Chomsky's model attempted to explain sentence construction by means of a cognitive mechanism. Generative grammar argues that an infinite number of sentences is conceivable through a basic structural framework filled with lexical items. Its goal is to give an explicit, systematic model for the procedural steps involved in sentence generation, a 'generative' aspect of the theory (Chomsky, 1957). Deep structure and surface structure

are two key concepts in generative grammar. Surface structure is just the sentence that we speak or hear, though deep structure is the way we really think (syntactically structured), about how the sentence can be ordered. The theory says that surface structure is a product of transformations effected on the structure incoming; that deep structure is the incoming. The transformation, however, is taking place without necessarily claiming a direct representation of the mental reality. However, there is debate as to whether deep structure represents some underlying cognitive processes, for which there is yet no empirical evidence.

Generative grammar deals not only with well-formed sentences but also with sentences that are ungrammatical. It attempts to make sense of why some sentences deviate from the norms of a language, and why they are considered unacceptable by linguistic norms of native speakers. For instance, the theory has to explain how natural language sentence formation works; that is, under what rules and what constraints it occurs; that the theory provides a complete model, explaining both grammatical and non-grammatical structures (Chomsky, 1965). The contribution of generative grammar lies in its focus on the process of sentence production and comprehension. It moves beyond the static descriptions provided by phrase structure grammar to engage with the dynamic nature of language production and interpretation, offering insights into the cognitive mechanisms that underlie linguistic competence.

2.2.4 Extended Standard Theory

Extended Standard Theory is a syntactic model that emerged in the early 1970s as a part of generative grammar. The model is a further development of the Basic Idea of the Standard Theory put forward by Noam Chomsky in his *'Aspects of the Theory of Syntax'* (1965). The novelty of the revised version was to increase the contribution of semantics in the analysis of syntax. The extension was based on the observation that some semantic rules are applicable to the surface structure of the sentences.

To an extent based on linguistic interpretation of their terms, stress pattern, intonation, and quantification are considered within the surface structure level in the Extended Standard Theory. Furthermore, it also includes such semantic aspects like sentence focus and presuppositions which are also relevant for interpretation at this level. An important change regarding previous models is that meaning is not mostly

derived from deep structure for core content. Rather, surface structure is acknowledged to be an important determinant of a sentence's semantic representation (Smith, 1972).

It also reflected a break from the 'deep structure' point of view in the Standard Theory. The Extended Standard Theory extended Onufrieva's polemic since it strongly argued that surface structure shaped meaning, and that semantics and syntax triangulated, one sub/discursive complex, constructive for interpreting the linguistic form in a more holistic performative way. Concerning its historical aspect, this development in the evolution of generative grammar smears, the increase of the layers of interrelated relationship between surface structure and a meaning of semantically bound Units.

2.2.5 Revised Extended Standard Theory

The less predictable nature of semantic representation resulted in further revision of the *Extended Standard Theory*. It gave rise to Revised *Extended Standard Theory*. The introduction of shallow/flat structure was one of the major innovations in this revised model. Furthermore, there is a principal modification in which the number of transformation rules is drastically slashed and movement rules and specifically wh-movement rules are treated more prominently. For instance, "Sara is dancing" and "What is Sara doing?" This focus on movement comes out in the movement of "what" to the front of the sentence. Another important development in the *Revised Extended Standard Theory* was the adoption of the trace convention. According to this principle, when an element undergoes movement, it leaves behind a trace in its original position. This trace functions as a placeholder, marking the element's former location before it was displaced (Johnson, 1980). By incorporating this convention*,* the *Revised Extended Standard Theory* offered a more precise account of syntactic transformations, particularly with respect to how different sentence structures are related through movement and how such movements affect meaning. This refinement allowed for a deeper understanding of the interaction between syntax and semantics, especially in the context of movement rules.

2.2.6 Constituents and their Roles

In this structural framework, there are also other constituents which are more or less important than the rest of the constituents. They are specifiers, heads, complements

and adjuncts. Usually, specifiers assuming the role of determiners are found at the apex of phrase projection level above all other constituents. Adjuncts which are used to add extra expression are however, mainly derived from the intermediate projection, which is the second layer. Heads and complements, both of which are semantically necessary, are situated on the lowest projection level which is accompanied with heads and has a uniformly locational attribute. Adjuncts however, being the most movable, heads and complements are fixed in most cases (Brown & Miller, 2015).

The distinction between adjuncts and complements plays a critical role in understanding phrase structure. Adjuncts, which can appear as prepositional phrases, adverbs, or adjectives, provide additional meaning to a phrase but are not essential to its structure. Conversely, complements are necessary for completing the meaning of a phrase and are required for grammatical completeness. While a head can have multiple complements, often linked by conjunctions, typically only one complement directly relates to the head. The number of adjuncts in a structure can vary, whereas complements usually follow a more fixed pattern (Taylor, 2018).

Carnie (2008) is of the view that X-bar rules can be applied to any phrase keeping in view different projection levels across various phrase structures. These phrases include NP, DP, VP, AdjP, TP, CP and AP. Rules for different phrases are as under:

NP → (D) N'

N' → (AdjP) N' or N' (PP)

N' → N (PP)

VP → V

V' → V' (PP) or V' (AdvP)

V' → V (NP)

AdvP → Adv'

Adv' → (AdvP) Adv'

Adv' → Adv' (PP)

AdjP → Adj'

Adj' → (AdvP) Adj'

Adj' → Adj (PP)

PP → P'

P' → P' (PP)

P' → P (NP)

Additional rules include:

CP → (C) TP

TP → NP VP

XP → XP conj XP

X' → X' conj X'

X → X conj X

S' → (C) S

S → DP (T) VP

Advanced Rules

The advanced forms of the rules are as follows:

CP → C' (where CP stands for Complementiser Phrase)

C' → C TP

TP → DP T' (where TP stands for Tense Phrase)

T' → T VP (with T denoting tense inflection or auxiliary verbs)

DP → D' (where DP stands for Determiner Phrase)

D' → D (NP)

General X-bar Theoretic Rules for Specifiers, Adjuncts, and Complements

The general rules for the roles of specifiers, adjuncts, and complements are given as follows:

Specifier Rule: XP → (YP) X' or XP → X' (YP)

Adjunct Rule: X' → X' (ZP) or X' → (ZP) X'

Complement Rule: X' → X (WP) or X → (WP) X

With these modifications, the rules are now applicable to a broader range of languages worldwide.

2.2.7 Determiner Phrase

Determiner Phrase (DP) is a key concept in generative grammar, representing a syntactic structure where the determiner serves as the head of the phrase, while the noun and its modifiers function as the complement. This theoretical framework is particularly useful for analyzing noun phrases, including possessive constructions, which are broadly categorized into two types: the *of-genitive* and the *construct genitive*. These categories highlight cross-linguistic variation in how possession and relational meaning are expressed within the DP structure**.** *Of-genitive* is a construction commonly found in languages like English, where possession is expressed through the use of the preposition "of." For example, in "the book of the student," the determiner ("the") introduces the possessed noun ("book"), while the possessor ("the student") is linked to it via the preposition "of." This type of genitive explicitly marks the relationship between the possessor and the possessed, creating a clear syntactic separation between the two elements. The of-genitive is particularly characteristic of languages with overt markers for possessive relationships and is often used for clarity or emphasis, especially in formal contexts.

In contrast, the *construct genitive* is prevalent in languages like Arabic and Hebrew, where possession is encoded through a direct syntactic relationship between the possessed noun and the possessor. For instance, in Arabic *kitāb al-walad* ("the boy's book"), the possessed noun (*kitāb*, "book") appears in a special construct form, and the possessor (*al-walad*, "the boy") is directly attached without the need for an intervening preposition or additional determiner. This structure is morphologically marked, with the construct form signaling the possessive relationship. Unlike the of-genitive,

construct genitives typically omit determiners on the possessed noun, relying instead on the syntactic configuration and morphological marking to convey possession.

In generative grammar Determiner Phrase (DP) represents a syntactic structure where determiners function as the head but complement occurs through the noun as its modifiers. This theoretical framework is particularly useful for analyzing noun phrases, including possessive constructions, which are broadly categorized into two types: the *of-genitive* and the *construct genitive*. The categories show how languages differ regarding their approaches to expressing possession and relational content within the syntactic structure of DP. English shares with other languages the construction of *Of-genitive* through which possession is denoted by using the word "of." The possessive phrase "the book of the student" in "the book of the student" begins with the definite article ("the") to modify the noun ("book") before the prepositional phrase ("of the student") completes the relationship between its components. This clear possessive expression directly marks how the possessor stands in relation to the item it possesses through a distinct syntactic division between both elements. Regular expressions in languages which use explicit markers for possession can frequently employ the *of-genitive* to make relationships clear especially when writing formally.

For instance, Arabic together with Hebrew both use *construct genitive* which establishes direct syntactic relationships between nouns representing possession and ownership. Arabic subjects compound kitāb al-walad (the boy's book) using special construct morphology which allows direct attachment of al-walad (the boy) to the nominative form kitāb (book). The usage of prepositions and determiners is unnecessary in such constructions. The possessive relationship within this structure becomes clear through structural marking at the morphological level. Both *of-genitive* and construct genitive differ in their possession marking through determiners because construct genitives depend solely on syntactic relationships plus morphological markings. While *of-genitive* depend on overt markers like prepositions, *construct genitive* adopts syntactic adjacency and morphological variations, showing profound typological changes. The *of-genitive* requires explicit prepositions while construct genitive relies on both syntactic proximities together with morphological alterations between objects. This demonstrates basic dichotomies of language typology.

2.2.8 DP Hypothesis

In 1987, Abney suggested the DP hypothesis, when he encountered problems with the X-bar theory. The X-bar theory was incapable of visually depicting possessive noun phrases which are also referred to as genitive phrases in its structural diagrams. He put forward the DP hypothesis which contradicts this as it posits that the determiner (D) is the head of the DP. The Determiner Phrase (DP) hypothesis makes it possible to understand the structure of languages with respect to the structure of determiner phrases. The DP hypothesis makes it possible for syntacticians to account for the various types of determiners in the determiner phrases. Abney (1987) developed the Noun Phrase hypothesis into the determiner phrase hypothesis by putting noun under the determiner phrase as its complement (functional category D). This hypothesis might sound problematic since a number of languages do not have lexical articles making the D node null. This might fuel the debate as to why do we need more functional layer DP, when NP may suffice for such languages. It is indeed the case that languages may not have articles but still there are nominal case morphemes and determiners which could be used for the D node. Migdalski (2001) maintains that even in an article-less language such as Polish, DP functions similarly to how it does in article-laden languages like English. Morphological nominal case forms which is suitable for the occasion can bring the same effect (Migdalski, 2001). In this research, the researcher has adopted DP hypothesis as a paradigm to carry out investigation of Determiner Phrases in Pashto, Urdu and English.

2.3 Relevant Studies

Bošković (2005) critically examinesst the DP (Determiner Phrase) hypothesis by taking into account article-less languages of Slavic family such as Russian, which represent a certain type of cross-linguistic universals. His study is mainly geared towards Left Branch Extraction (LBE) to understand the workings of syntactic movement in languages with no articles. In the case of English for instance, PP stranding of adjectives out of noun phrases is impossible because of the Phase Impenetrability Condition, which is in turn linked to the presence of a DP layer. On the other hand, in article-less Slavic languages, for example Russian, adjectives may be extracted which means that in these languages the assumptions about the presence of a DP layer might be inaccurate. These findings taken together suggest conditions under

which Bošković's article-less languages: Language also does not have the syntactic structure of DP as was proposed by the DP hypothesis allowing many syntactic operations that would have been blocked in articles marking languages. These arguments strengthen the previous conclusion on the no universality of the DP hypothesis. Moreover, it is about the syntactic parameters that much explanatory power still needs to be accounted for by the models of language. This research has implications for the understanding of syntactic diversity in language and Shows ASL to be restrictive in terms of usage the same syntactic model for all languages. (Bošković, 2008).

Goodness (2014) offers his views about DP hypothesis through an examination of Shinyiha, a Bantu language, with its augment system working parallel to determiners. In Shinyiha languages, adjectives and other complex phrases as modifiers come after the noun, which is against the application of DP hypothesis that states that phrases do not come after the noun. Goodness is of the view that the augment system of Shinyiha cannot be accounted for using the DP format, since the augment behaves more as a morph than a determiner. The analysis therefore argues that in NPs in Shinyiha, there have been no trace of locating the of the DP structure. So the claim of universality of DP structure is not established. Hence this makes them to advance the course of explaining Dalmy's theory of the intersecting functions of augment and noun phrase syntactic in Shinyiha and why there is need for flexibility in syntactic theory. There is yet another contribution of the present research that prompts the assumption that DP structure is not a universal of nominal expressions, which is likely to be interesting for the linguists looking for typological variation. First, these issues have been thoroughly examined elsewhere most notably by Lyons 1999 or with regard to languages by Shimamura (2005).

He criticizes the DP hypothesis by pointing out that it fails to explain how different languages treat the issue of marking definiteness, a feature more commonly associated with determiners in English. According to Lyons, definiteness is not a concept limited to determiners; any language can realize it morphologically or contextually. He argues that in order to implement the DP hypothesis, it is necessary to change the perception of definiteness and include in it the broader cognitive concept of identifiability as an integral aspect for the analysis of noun phrases in different languages. Interestingly, the `s work of Lyons does not neglect modal constructions: syntax has to do with cognitive linguistics as well, and noun phrases constructions can

be looked at from a different, more free and broader angle. This is especially important for theoreticians interested in testing the applicability of the DP hypothesis to non-European languages as it proves the importance of varying syntactic means in the expression of definiteness.

Another research On the Suitability of Longobardi's Model for Pashto DP shows how applicable Longobardi's (1994) NP-to-DP model is in the analysis of the complex determiner system of Pashto. Determinatives are viewed by Longobardi as the APHEAD or core of noun phrases and his view is invoked in the assessment of Pashto demonstratives, possessives, and articles which are systematically positioned in the language. This research investigates whether determiners, modifiers and other noun constituents in the noun phrases exhibit the same type of syntactic variability within the limit of the Longobardi system. The results show that Longobardi's system is able to help within some limits without answering the questions of what factors underpin the syntactic structure and why determiners and other constituents move from their basic position. The study adds to the scope of literature in this field by exploring the Pashto DP. The research provides an insight into many Indo-Iranian language scholars and the relevance of the research is that it investigates the questions of the nature of complex structure of cross-linguistic determiners.

According to the study by Bruhn (2006) entitled (Possessive Nominal Expressions in GB (Government and Binding Theory)) the conflict between NP and DP analyses in English and other related languages and attempts to make a synthesis of both approaches, has come to an end. The subject of this study is the lexical-syntactic realization of noun phrase possessors and the necessity of DPs. The study makes an attempt to answer whether the DP theory gives a better account of such structures than the NP theory. It comes to the conclusion that a coherent understanding of many constructions is achieved by a DP analysis, but there are cases that warrant an NP analysis. The present research is a contribution to the debate regarding the applicability of the DP hypothesis in various syntactic contexts especially in respect to those languages that have distinct constructions where the possessor has a unique syntax in relation to the noun phrase. For those researchers who are focusing on the syntax of possessive constructions this work offers a theoretical perspective on a particular aspect: how possessors interact with the noun phrase in the broader context.

The study under the title *"DP or NP? The Ongoing Debate"* conducted by Salzmann (2020) systematically sets out the findings of various scholars who have been arguing for or against the DP hypothesis placing their focus on the determiners languages among which there are languages with optional or absent determiners. It presents evidence from a number of structural languages attempting to ascertain whether the DP model is feasible in describing the syntactic relations in 'meronyms' i.e. their noun phrases. It is shown in the study that the DP hypothesis has successfully accounted for the syntax of the DPs of the determiners languages, but serious di|culties appear while analyzing languages of the no-determiner type. It is also advocated in detail which consequences these challenges created in the debate about the universality of the DP hypothesis. This is however welcomed since DP theory accounts for the majority of constructions.

The research by Mathewson (1996) titled *Determiner systems and the DP hypothesis in Salish Languages* examines the determiner phrases in the Salish language Státimcets that includes overt articles, encodes functions such as specificity and definiteness. The contribution of this research lies in its empirical support for the idea that overt determiners are not necessary to form a DP. She suggested that in the referred languages determiners are optional and can be called empty, this means that while they are not pronounced or visible but they function syntactically like the articles in the English language.

Hawkins's (2015) research *Cross-Linguistic Variation in Determiner Phrase Structures* focuses on how languages that lack overt articles, such as Chinese, express determiner-related functions. While Chinese does not have articles like "the" or "a," it still marks definiteness, specificity, and countability through other grammatical mechanisms like classifiers, word order, and context. Hawkins suggests that languages like Chinese challenge the traditional DP hypothesis but still perform determiner-like functions through alternative syntactic strategies. The study by Hawkins is of great importance as it adds on how the languages with no articles can be placed in the DP framework. He concludes that the DP hypothesis is rather conventionally rigid that imposes insufficient room for syntactic variation such as in the case of Mandarin Chinese. it proves that even if the determiners are not expressed at all, their syntactic functions can be expressed in other ways. This increases the extent of applicability of

the DP hypothesis and assists linguists in modifying their models for easier incorporation of languages that belong outside the Indo-European family.

Huang (2002) placed more emphasis on the fact that the DP hypothesis extends across languages and their syntactic structures, which use determiners or classifiers in their language frameworks. The specificity of these languages corresponds to the presence of a syntactic structure instead of the determiner that plays similar functions. He argued that the DP hypothesis needed expansion to account for languages which perform these ranges of functions through nominal modifiers alongside other parts of grammar. The experimental findings support an expansion of the DP hypothesis by showing that noun phrase structure outside determiners can perform determiner like syntactic functions in article-less languages.

Mass-count distinctions together with their determiners in Chinese and Japanese appear in Chierchia's (1998) analysis of article-less languages. The DP hypothesis applies to noun phrases in article-less languages according to the researcher's assertion even when these languages do not explicitly display determiners. The research by Chierchia (1998) investigates how count and mass nouns interact with the structural grammatical characteristics of articles in non-article using languages. Research shows that the mass-count distinction produces syntactic outcomes which match the DP framework of languages like English where noun countability depends on article presence.

Zribi-Hertz and Mbolatianavalona (1999) in their research Determiner Phrases in Malagasy: The research by Zribi-Hertz and Mbolatianavalona (1999) shows how Malagasy without its extant article system organizes noun phrases through marking that maintains DP integrated structure. The Malagasy language replaces determiners through analogues of demonstratives and possessives and various noun phrase markers which carry parallel syntactical functions. Research shows that Malagasy noun phrases conform to DP language structure patterns through alternative determiner elements which substitute for missing overt articles. The researchers showed that demonstratives and possessive markers found in Malagasy language align with the DP hypothesis that DP structure exists while some languages lack overt determiners. According to researchers the DP hypothesis covers enough linguistic scope to include languages like Malagasy which use noun structure elements to fulfill determiner functions. This

investigation challenges the necessary condition which stipulates determiners must always be visible in grammar because it demonstrates that DP structures function differently across language systems.

This study is important for extending the applicability of the DP hypothesis to languages which follow non-traditional determiner systems in their syntactic structures. Zribi-Hertz and Mbolatianavalona's findings show that languages without overt articles can still have a DP structure, where other elements take on the role of determiners. This research is particularly relevant for linguists studying Austronesian languages and other languages with rich noun phrase marking systems. It highlights the flexibility of the DP hypothesis in accounting for syntactic diversity across language families, suggesting that determiners can be replaced by other markers without losing the essential structure of the noun phrase.

According to Adger (2003), a minimalistic framework for syntax is placed, explaining how determiners create syntactic agreement. In his analysis the DP has features of definiteness, number, and case encoded semantically in order to guide syntactic operations. By showing how DPs would help, he manages (by referring to studies unifying the DP description with feature-driven syntax models) to convince that they are indeed in minimalist syntactic theory. In his work, Adger establishes a theoretical framework based on current-model which serve as the basis allowing the DP Hypothesis to make its way into syntactic frameworks by demonstrating its powerful workings on complex inflection structures.

Ritter (1991) investigates the Hebrew possessive constructions, which strengthens the DP hypothesis because it looks at possessors as part of noun phrases. Her studies indicate that the Hebrew possessive structures fit into the DP model in which relations between the possessor and the noun are provided by determiners. Ritter's results are important for the comprehension of how determiners define possessive relationships in other languages too which are not Indo-European anfor understanding the DP's universality.

Delsing (1993) studies Scandinavian languages notably Swedish, and Norwegian to provide evidence for the DP hypothesis by explaining the hierarchical relationships between the determiners, adjectives, and possessives within a noun phrase.

His research underlines the significance of the determiners as heads of the noun phrases in Scandinavian languages which reinforces the case for the universality of the DP hypothesis. Delsing's study is crucial to the understanding of the morpho-syntactic structure of noun phrases by Germanic language researchers showing that DPs are needed to provide an adequate explanation of syntactic dependencies in these languages.

Boberg (2007) studied genitive inflection and the of-construction from a text collection perspective that comes from East Africa, India, United States and Britain Englishes. The data considers the frequency of occurrence of two syntactic structures which express ownership: the possessive case with the *s marker* (the dog's tail) versus the *of construction* (the tail of the dog). The thesis also addressed what kinds of meanings or categories of nouns could be possessed by the two constructions stated above. The first important finding is that all these varieties and types of English duplicated these two ways of possession marking according to the dominant possessed semantic classification. Moreover, concerning the possessed nouns, it seems application of the '*s*' more frequently relates to animals or humans. In another instance, application of 'of construction' relates to cars and buildings which are non-living objects. It pattern appears to be the case in all these varieties and types of English.

Moreover, Furuya (2008) argues that the languages that lack articles still have other determiners. The absence of articles is because of morphological reasons rather than syntactical. By comparing the DP structures of English language and Japanese language, which is presumably an articleless language, Furuya (2008) suggests that even languages like Japanese inclines toward DP. Another contemplating factor about Japanese language is that it allows demonstratives to precede both common nouns and personal pronouns (Fukui, 1986). Valois (1996) compares the DPs structure in English and French to explore the argument projection and how it differs in two languages. Valois (1996) focuses on N-movements in DPs to highlight the difference between French and English nominal. In addition to this, Modarresi and Zoqi (2016) analyze the Persian nominal structures. The study also compares the Persian sources with English sources concluding that DPs demonstrates the nominals in a better way as compared to NPs. The head and its dependents are expressed through DP in both languages more convincingly and to avoid ambiguity (Modarresi & Zoqi, 2016).

Sulger (2016) has conducted a study on genitive phrases within Hindi/Urdu, with a specific emphasis on genitive scrambling. Genitive scrambling is a linguistic process that involves altering the typical order of sentence components. In the context of Hindi/Urdu, genitive phrases can not only occupy various structural positions within the noun phrase (NP) they modify but, under specific conditions, can also be situated outside of the NP, resulting in disjointed structures. The primary theoretical challenge lies in identifying and formalizing the linguistic constraints governing genitive scrambling. In addition, generating the correct computational treatment requires the successful identification of the head NP of the genitive phrase. To overcome these and more, the researcher used a Lexical-Functional Grammar framework and has shown that these constraints can be accurately represented with a functional uncertainty path. Theoretical implications of the contribution help to show how NP discontinuity might be realized in such a linguistically rich language like Hindi/Urdu.

The study, *"On the structure of DPs"* by Ticio (2003) has been conducted to study the movement in Spanish, especially from DP, in great detail, although much of the work has focused on the DP hypothesis (the use of determiners in a wide range of forms). The study at hand provides a syntactic analysis of a range of phenomena regarding Spanish Determiner Phrases within a Minimalist model, which is able to shed light also on extraction, cliticization, ellipsis, modification of DPs that can be fully accounted for on the basis of its internal structure. It matches with Abney's DP-hypothesis and aligns Grohmann's division of clause structure with the structure and properties of Spanish DPs. Spanish is an excellent language for DP hypothesis analysis as it has a rich use and structure of determiner phrases, i.e., articles, possessives and demonstratives. (Note: in Spanish, determiners inflect for gender (masculine/feminine, with a few vestigial neuters), and number.) Shortly after, the definite article— 'el' in the masculine singular, 'los' in the masculine plural, 'la' in the feminine singular, and 'las' in the feminine plural—followed them boisterously. There's a neuter form so-called 'lo' from particular context. The indefinite article, which translates to the English "a/an", is 'un' for masculine singular, 'unos' masculine plural, 'una' feminine singular, 'unas' feminine plural. Spanish possessive determiners (to inflect for number (and in some cases also gender) include 'mi','tu', 'su', or 'nuestro', 'vuestra', etc.) and are placed before the noun they modify. The variety of linguistic features present in Spanish make the DP hypothesis an ideal language for the present analysis because it leaves open

several possibilities for article [determinants] and noun agreement (e.g. they must agree in gender and number).

Borer (2009) argues that Languages like Russian and Polish lack articles, posing interesting challenges for the DP hypothesis. For example, in these languages, the absence of articles like 'the' and 'a' in phrases means that null determiners are often posited in DP analysis. This aspect has been a point of extensive study and debate in the context of the DP hypothesis. This study on the Determiner Phrase (DP) hypothesis in Pashto, Urdu, and English introduces several distinctive elements that contribute new insights to existing research. One challenge for the DP hypothesis is presented by languages like Russian and Polish which lack articles altogether and have thus far led to differing theories (Borer 2009). For instance, in these languages, the missing articles 'the' and 'a' in phrases leads to the need for null determiners in DP analysis. This has been examined and debated extensively in the context of the DP hypothesis. This study on the DP hypothesis and its applicability to the context of Pashto finds new ways to discuss the hypothesis in reference to Pashto, Urdu, and English—the three languages forming the basis for this study—which bring new contributions to the field in regarding the existing work surrounding the hypothesis. Unlike many previous studies that focus on one or two closely related languages, this study adopts a multilingual approach by analyzing languages from different language families, each with unique syntactic characteristics. The inclusion of Pashto and Urdu, two South Asian languages with complex agreement systems, alongside English, allows for a comprehensive comparison of how the DP hypothesis can accommodate both article-based and article-less languages.

Parrott (2020) explores the morphosyntactic properties of English possessive determiner phrases and their behavior in coordination structures. Using the framework of Distributed Morphology, the study examines how possessive pronouns interact with coordination, challenging traditional assumptions about their syntactic positioning. The findings suggest that possessive determiners exhibit unique syntactic and morphological behaviors that influence their coordination patterns, contributing to a broader understanding of English determiner phrase structures. The study provides theoretical and empirical insights into possessive constructions, offering implications for syntactic theory and morphosyntactic analysis.

The study conducted by Masood (2022) explores the assignment of genitive case in Pashto simple possessor determiner phrases (DPs), addressing gaps in existing theoretical mechanisms. While various cross-linguistic approaches have been proposed, none sufficiently account for the assignment of genitive case in Pashto DPs. To address this, the study adopts Chomsky's Minimalist Program, employing key concepts such as Merge, Move, Agree, Features, Goal, Probe, and Value.

The research critically evaluates previous mechanisms, particularly those proposed by Adger and Watanabe, which fail to explain Pashto's genitive case assignment. The proposed mechanism, developed within the Minimalist framework, successfully accounts for genitive case assignment in different types of Pashto simple possessor DPs. The study concludes that agreement between the functional head D and the possessor, based on an [N] feature, results in genitive case assignment. This finding aligns with the broader theory that agreement in terms of features between a functional head and a nominal lead to structural case assignment.

The study by Gill and Ishtiaq (2024) examines the applicability of Chomsky's X-Bar theory to the syntactic structures of Urdu and Pashto, two major Pakistani languages. X-Bar theory, a core principle of Universal Grammar, assumes a universal phrase structure applicable to all languages. However, the linguistic diversity of non-European languages like Urdu and Pashto raises questions about its universality.

Using comparative syntactic analysis, the study identifies both conformities and deviations from the X-Bar framework. While some syntactic structures in Urdu and Pashto align with X-Bar predictions, several unique features challenge its assumptions. These include Urdu's post-nominal modifiers and Pashto's circumpositional phrase (CircumpP) with two heads. Additionally, the SOV word order of these languages contrasts with X-Bar's assumed SVO structure. Right-branching tendencies in Urdu and Pashto, where complements often follow the head, further challenge the left-branching assumptions of X-Bar theory. Moreover, Pashto's complex verbal morphology suggests modifications to X-Bar projections. The study concludes that X-Bar theory requires adaptation to accommodate the syntactic variability of non-European languages. These findings have broader implications for linguistic theory, multilingual education, and natural language processing, highlighting the need for a more inclusive syntactic framework.

Habib (2024), in his study *Urdu Dependency Parsing and Treebank Development: A Syntactic and Morphological Perspective*, provides an in-depth exploration of the development of a manually annotated Urdu treebank and a dependency parser that captures the language's intricate syntactic and morphological structures. The research addresses the complex agreement features of Urdu, including gender, number, and case, and achieves 84% Unlabeled Attachment Score (UAS) and 70% Labeled Attachment Score (LAS) accuracy in parsing performance. By creating a structured and annotated corpus, this work offers a valuable resource for understanding the layered architecture of Urdu nominal phrases, which is central to syntactic theory. The findings are particularly relevant for studies examining hierarchical relationships within noun phrases, such as possessive and genitive constructions. This aligns closely with the present research by demonstrating that Urdu syntax requires theoretical models like the DP hypothesis to capture its structural complexity, further reinforcing the need for detailed syntactic representation in both computational and theoretical contexts.

Saleem and Khan (2024), in their study *The Structure of Inflected Urdu Nominals: Insights from Distributed Morphology*, investigate the internal structure of inflected Urdu nominals using the framework of Distributed Morphology. Their research examines how syntax generates the structural skeleton of nominal phrases and how agreement, case marking, and inflectional morphology are realized at the morphological component of the grammar. Through the analysis of nominal inflection patterns, the study illustrates the interaction of functional heads within the nominal domain, such as Determiner (D) and Number (Num), to produce the observed morphological forms. This approach bridges the gap between morphological descriptions of Urdu and syntactic theories that predict such structures, offering a formal explanation for the distribution and form of nominal inflections. The findings strongly align with the DP hypothesis framework adopted in the present research, supporting the view that Urdu nominals—despite lacking overt determiners—still exhibit a layered syntactic structure. This makes the research particularly relevant for understanding determiner-like positions and features in morphologically rich yet determiner-less languages, directly contributing to the theoretical foundation of the current cross-linguistic analysis of Pashto, Urdu, and English.

2.4 Research Gap

In sum, this research distinguishes itself by providing a comprehensive, multilingual, and cross-linguistic perspective on the DP hypothesis. By incorporating languages with varying determiner systems and complex grammatical features, the study not only endeavors to expand the theoretical boundaries of DP hypothesis but also tries to fill important gaps in the study of Pakistani languages and within syntactic theory. Furthermore, the above literature not only provides a background for this study but also highlights the research gap. Determiners Phrases have not been comprehensively explored in Pashto and Urdu languages. Therefore, the researcher considers this gap of great importance to be explored in the aforementioned languages.

The research gap in the study of Determiner Phrases (DPs) in Pashto and Urdu lies in the limited attention these languages have received within the broader scope of syntactic theory, particularly the DP hypothesis. While much of the existing literature on the DP hypothesis has focused on widely studied languages such as English, French, and Arabic, less work has been dedicated to understanding its applicability to South Asian languages, including Pashto and Urdu. This lack of focus is surprising given the rich morphological, syntactic, and typological features of these languages, which provide fertile ground for testing and refining theoretical models. Pashto, with its complex system of gender and case marking, and Urdu, with its intricate honorific and definiteness system, offer unique perspectives that remain underexplored within the DP framework.

The role and function of determiners in these languages, however, have yet to be fully explored. Pashto has a relatively simple determiner system but apparent constructions for possession and definiteness that pose problems for traditional DPs. Conversely, Urdu is a postpositional language with covert definiteness marking, which raises the matter of the cross-linguistic universality of the DP structure. Each language also exhibits little-documented genitive constructions not seen in better known languages, including constructions determined by constructs like *of-genitive* and morphologically expressed possessors. These features allow us to explore how the DP hypothesis may be accommodated or modified to accommodate linguistic variation.

Moreover, the research gap evolves into an even bigger issue when one considers the multilingual landscape of Pakistan, with Pashto and Urdu co-existing alongside many other Pakistani languages. This will provide further avenues to investigate the scope of the DP hypothesis through interactive contexts of these languages, including code-switching and code-mixing situations. For example, studies of the noun phrase structure of Pashto and Urdu speakers in bilingual contexts would inform our understanding of the permissibility of the DP in cross-lingual configurational adaptation. This raises the question whether the DP hypothesis would apply similarly to the languages not widely studied in the research literature, thus leaving substantial gaps in our knowledge of the cross-linguistic validity of the hypothesis.

Therefore, the current study is an attempt to make linguistic contribution to theoretical and applied linguistics. However, from a theoretical perspective it aims to refine the DP hypothesis by taking data from Pakistani languages: Pashto and Urdu, thus revealing various regularities that might contradict or challenge existing studies. From an applied viewpoint, it offers a perspective regarding the grammatical systems of these languages that is relevant for both educational materials, language processing tools, and linguistic preservation. Consequently, this work does not only make a significant contribution to the study of Pashto, and of course Urdu, but also adds to the larger body of knowledge related to determiner phrases in different language systems.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter gives an elaborated and comprehensive overview of research design, theoretical framework, research methodology, data sources and analytical approach used in this study. This chapter establishes a qualitative exploratory research design that showcases the linguistic structures and complexities invariably found in the determiner phrase across these three languages. It further develops the theoretical framework in the study, namely the Determiner Phrase (DP) hypothesis that has established a strong model for examining phrase structure and helping to deal with constraints in classical syntactic theories like the X-bar theory. Furthermore, the chapter outlines the research methods employed, in particular, the use of qualitative content analysis to systematically draw inferences from the linguistic data. The sources of data consist of established grammar and syntax books for English, Pashto, and Urdu, which have been chosen for their validity and relevance for the purpose of this study. Similarly, this chapter introduces an analytical approach based on X-bar theory, which has explanatory powers in the sense that it allows the researchers to more carefully catalogue the units that structure phrases hierarchically, as well as to account for their functional properties. Each of these components constructs a unified methodological framework for the study to compare the structural and functional constructs of determiner phrases across the selected languages.

3.1 Research Design

The researcher has used qualitative research method in this study. As Gay, et al. (2012) note, quantitative research collects descriptive data that can be analyzed numerically to study a phenomenon, but qualitative research manages narrative or visual data in relation to a specific phenomenon, while qualitative research is usually used to collect non-numerical and context-rich data (Gay, et al. (2012). In this study, the researcher has collected linguistic data, which includes text samples in Pashto, Urdu, and English. These data sources are text-based and qualitative in nature.

This study delves into the nuances of determiner phrases in three languages. This requires qualitative exploration to uncover the complexities and subtleties of languages to identify similarities and differences through qualitative analysis. In other words, this study qualifies as qualitative because it employs methods and approaches typical of qualitative research, such as in-depth exploration of non-numerical data to understand the linguistic phenomena related to determiner phrases in Pashto, Urdu, and English. Moreover, this study employs an exploratory research approach to explore the structural similarities/differences in Pashto, Urdu and English languages in terms of determiners phrases. Exploratory research is used to gain an insight into the phenomenon of interest, understanding the patterns and understanding hypotheses in a relatively unexplored area (Zikmund et al,2013).

3.2 Research Paradigm

This research adopts positivism as a research paradigm that emphasizes objectivity, systematic observation, and the identification of patterns based on empirical evidence. In linguistic studies, it supports the use of formal theories to analyze structural aspects of language, focusing on rule-governed patterns rather than subjective interpretation or context.

This study follows the positivist paradigm as it applies established syntactic theories such as the DP Hypothesis and X-bar Theory to analyze the structure of genitive determiner phrases in Pashto, Urdu, and English. The aim of the study is to discover consistent syntactic patterns across languages using objective, theory-driven analysis of the selected phrases.

3.3 Theoretical Framework

In 1987, Steven Abney proposed the DP hypothesis, because he identified two issues with the X-bar theory. X-bar theory could not properly show possessive noun phrases which are known as genitive phrases in its tree diagrams. The second issue involved the treatment of determiners such as "the," "a," or "this." In traditional NP analysis under X-bar theory, determiners were considered specifiers within noun phrases. He suggested the DP hypothesis, which reverses the previous idea by saying that determiner (D) is the head of DP. The Determiner Phrase (DP) hypothesis provides a framework for understanding the structure of determiner phrases in the languages.

The DP hypothesis allows syntacticians to explain the different types of determiners in the determiner phrases. Abney (1987) revised the Noun Phrase hypothesis in determiner phrase hypothesis by subjecting noun as a complement to the determiner phrase (functional category D). This hypothesis may seem problematic given that several languages lack lexical articles leaving the D node null. This may give rise to arguments why do we need another functional layer in the form of DP when NP may work for such languages. Although it is true that languages may lack articles, there still exists nominal case morphemes and determiners that can be used to hold the place of D node. Migdalski (2001) argues that DP holds same importance in article-less language like Polish as it does in articled languages like English. Morphological nominal case forms which is suitable for the occasion can bring the same effect (Migdalski, 2001). In this study, the researcher has used the DP hypothesis as a theoretical framework in order to carry out the study on Determiner Phrases in Pashto, Urdu and English.

The researcher has used Abney's (1989) DP Hypothesis due to its foundational role in modern syntactic theory, especially regarding the reclassification of determiners as the heads of nominal phrases rather than being mere adjuncts. The decision is based on its explanatory power for genitive constructions and hierarchical phrase structure. Since then, there is no updated version of DP hypothesis. That is why there is no other model or updated hypothesis that can be used for this study.

3.4 Research Method

This study adopts a theoretical syntactic analysis, which is recognized as a formal research method in generative linguistics for examining the structure of sentences and phrases through theoretical models. According to Radford (2009), theoretical syntactic analysis systematically investigates linguistic data within a chosen theoretical framework to explain grammatical phenomena and uncover cross-linguistic similarities and differences. In this research, selected examples of determiner phrases from Pashto, Urdu, and English are analyzed using the DP Hypothesis and X-bar theory to identify structural patterns and language-specific variations. This method is particularly appropriate for exploring syntactic relationships across different languages.

3.5 Data for the Study

The data has been taken from the following English Grammar/syntax Books:

1) High School English Grammar and Composition written by Wren and Martin (2009)
2) Syntax: A Generative Introduction. 3rd edition by Andrew Carnie (2013)
3) Advanced Grammar in Use by Martin Hewings (2014)

For Pashto, data have been taken from the following books:

1. Introduction to Pashto by Qazi Rahim Ullah Khan (2002)
2. A Reference Grammar of Pashto by Tagey, Habibullah, Robson, Barbara (1996)
3. Pashto: An Elementary Textbook" by Rahmon Inomkhojayev (2011)

For Urdu, data has been taken from the following books:

1. Urdu: An Essential Grammar by Ruth Laila Schmidt (2009)
2. Traditions of Civilization by Ali Abbas Jalalpuri (2013)
3. Teach Yourself Urdu by Thomas Grahame Bailey (2003)

The books have been purposively selected for the data for this research on the basis of their widespread readership and for the suitability of their content for the purpose of this study. These texts are frequently recommended in numerous academic and educational circles, notably within the Central Superior Service (CSS) exams. Additionally, the richness of the phrases provided in them significantly aligns with the aims of this study, rendering them particularly suitable for the intended analysis. Moreover, these books have been taken into consideration for data collection under the supervision of professors of NUML from the respective departments (Urdu and Pashto). The grammar books used in this study were selected for their comprehensive and authoritative descriptions of Pashto and Urdu syntax. Contemporary syntactic analyses of these languages are limited, and many recent publications lack the depth found in these seminal works. For example, Tegey and Robson (1996) remain a standard reference for Pashto syntax.

A minimum of six determiner phrases (DPs) have been selected from each language using the grammar books mentioned above, along with their equivalents in the other two languages. The choice of six DPs per language is based on considerations

of linguistic diversity, practical feasibility, and the need for meaningful cross-linguistic comparison. This number allows for a balanced representation of different types of determiners, including genitive constructions and construct genitives, enabling a thorough syntactic analysis. Since English, Urdu, and Pashto share some structural similarities but also display significant differences, the selected DPs offer enough variation to explore both universal patterns and language-specific features within the DP framework. In total, this results in 54 determiner phrases (6 DPs × 3 languages = 18; 18 phrases with equivalents in two other languages = 54). To ensure accuracy, the translated equivalents for each DP were reviewed and verified by university-level language experts, maintaining inter-rater reliability.

3.6 Analytical Framework

In this study, the researcher has used X- bar theory as an analytical framework. X-bar theory has been propounded by Noam Chomsky in 1970. It was further developed by Ray Jackendoff in 1977.With the help of this theory, the researcher has analyzed the structure of determiner phrases in Pashto, Urdu, and English by applying the principles and rules of X-bar theory to understand how these phrases are organized in each of these languages. This can involve breaking down determiner phrases into their constituent parts, analyzing their hierarchical structure, and identifying any language-specific variations or commonalities in their construction. The researcher has drawn the tree diagrams of each and every Determiner Phrase which would help the researcher to have an insight into the nature of Determiner Phrases in Pashto and Urdu Languages.

X-bar theory is the extended standard theory which has been the developed form of the standard theory. As Standard theory operates through phrase structure rules which fail on the basis of two main grounds. Phrase structure rules do not take into consideration all the functions that the words play in a phrase. The second reason is that, phrase structure rules provide a flat structure of the phrase in linear form which does not tell us which element is obligatory and which is optional in the phrase. According to Carnie (2008), head is the obligatory element in every phrase; it is the head which projects the phrase and all the other words are built around the head. Besides the head and complement of the head, all the other elements in a phrase are optional. Phrase structure rules do not help us in identifying that which word of the

phrase is obligatory and which is optional. For example, in a noun phrase. The big bottle of water with a blue cap, the phrase structure rule, which we make for it is:

NP→(D) (AdjP+) N (PP+)

As from the structure it can be seen that it is the flat structure in which all the elements of the phrase are placed in a flat hierarchy. All the elements in the phrase are at same level hierarchically. There is no relation and difference between them in terms of dominance and commanding. Additionally, all the elements go flat with the head word bottle. So, such arrangement of elements makes this structure a complicated structure in terms of constituency and one cannot differentiate between the obligatory and the optional elements. Therefore, it becomes very difficult to deal such structure with standard theory. It needs to be dealt with another theory that can tell us, which element in the phrase is obligatory and which one is optional. The hierarchy in the structure is also mandatory, through which, it can be easily identified which element in the phrase is obligatory and which is optional.

Phrase structure rules represent a flat structure that lacks hierarchical organization, thereby failing to illustrate shared properties among phrases. This deficiency complicates the identification of necessary and optional elements within phrases and hinders the recognition of consistent structural patterns among phrases. Consequently, syntacticians sought improved theoretical frameworks. Chomsky responded by revising his theory, introducing the X-bar theory, also known as extended standard theory, to address these shortcomings (Smith, 2000). According to Chomsky (1970), X-bar theory captures the insight that all the phrases share some essential structural properties. These properties can be represented as: XP – Specifier X'- adjunct X'- X complement. It can be shown through the diagram as:

XP
  Specifier   X'
            X'   Adjunct
        Head   Complement
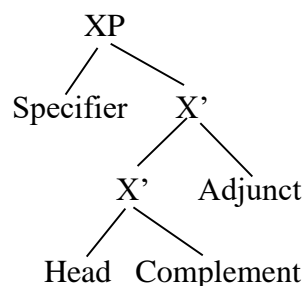
Here XP stands for a type of phrase such as Noun phrase, Verb phrase, Preposition phrase and the X shows the category, the word belongs to, it can be noun, verb, preposition, adjective and adverb.

X-Bar theory not only describes the structure of phrases and sentences but raises the issue of constituency—how their parts are related. Between constituents and even between projections, there is a dominance relationship between their constituents.

X-bar theory defines three general levels of projections: These are maximal projection or phrase level projection, and minimal projection and intermediate projection. By reinforcing the binary projection, this framework follows the principle that there are always two branches splitting off at a single point with the exception of the case of conjunction that joins the constituents three points at a single point (Johnson, 2012

CHAPTER NO 4

DATA ANALYSIS

This chapter deals with the analysis of determiner phrase in English, Pashto and Urdu from the perspective of *of-genitive* and *construct genitive.* This chapter has been divided into three main sections namely English DPs, Urdu DPs, Pashto DPs, findings and discussion. The first section investigates both of genitive and construct genitive in English DPs and their equivalents in Pashto and Urdu. Since both the genitives are analyzed and explored at the same time, so there is no separate sub-section for them. The second section consists of Urdu DPs and their equivalents in English and Pashto. Similarly, the third section consists of Pashto DPs and their translations in English and Urdu. The fourth section exhibits the findings of the study and the final section outlines discussion in the light of the major findings of the study. For analysis of the study, data has been collected in the form of phrases from authentic books of the three selected languages. A total of 54 have been taken from the selected languages. Gloss has been incorporated for Urdu and Pashto DPs. However, translated phrase from Urdu and Pashto have not been glossed. Tree diagram of all DPs in the selected languages have been drawn using X-bar theory as analytical framework.

4.1 Determiner Phrase in English

This section outlines DPs in English, Pashto and Urdu. Both of-genitive and construct genitive have been analyzed English. Then, both genitives in Pashto and Urdu have been explored and analyzed to compare and contrast the findings with each other. For this section different phrases from selected English books have been taken and their equivalents in Pashto and Urdu are analyzed respectively.

1 (a) Some streets of our city

```
                        DP
                        |
                        D`
                  _____|_____
                 D°            NP
                                |
               Some            N`
                          _____|_____
                         N°           PP
                                       |
                       streets        P`
                                  _____|_____
                                 P°         DP
                                             |
                               of           D`
                                        _____|_____
                                       D°         NP
                                                 /  \
                                      our       city
```
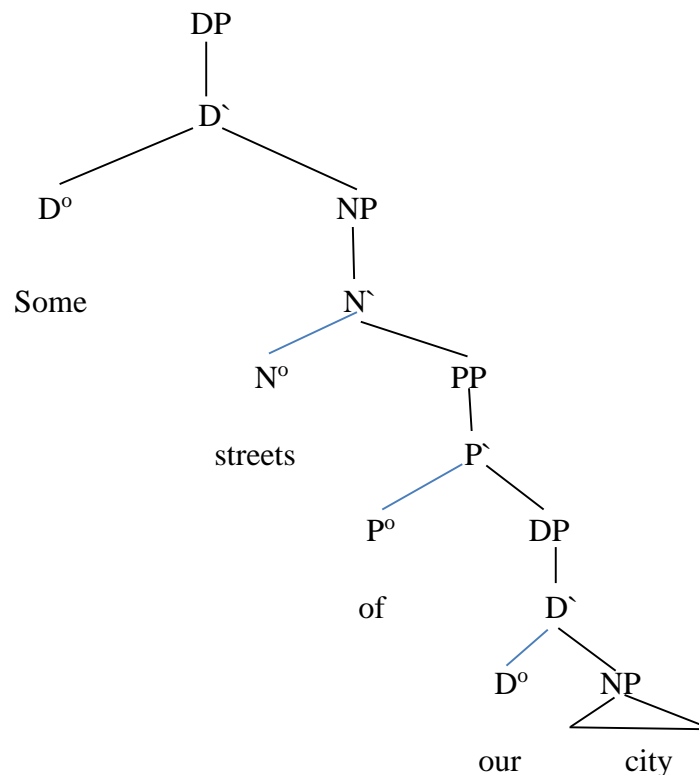
The above figure 1(a) shows a DP (determiner phrase) with possessive construction better known as *of genitive.*   According to the DP Hypothesis, the entire phrase is treated as a Determiner Phrase (DP). The determiner "Some" initiates the DP, and its complement is the Noun Phrase (NP) "streets of our city." This NP consists of the noun "streets" as the head, and its complement is the Prepositional Phrase (PP) "of our city."

In X-bar terms, the NP "streets" is the head (N), and the PP "of our city" functions as its complement, modifying the noun. The PP is headed by the preposition "of," which takes another DP, "our city," as its complement. The DP "our city" consists of the determiner "our" as the head, followed by the NP "city," which is its complement. Therefore, the entire phrase fits into the DP framework, with the determiner "Some" initiating the structure, and each layer of X-bar theory showing how the components of the sentence relate hierarchically to one another. Different NPs are stacked together with the help of preposition thus showing that the phrase is known as *of-genitive*.

(b) 1 ہمارے شہر کی کچھ گلیاں (Urdu Translation)

Urdu: Hamary shehr ki kuch galiyan

```
                          DP
                          |
                          D'
                        /    \
                      D°      NP
                               |
                   Hamary      N`
                             /    \
                           N°      PP
                                    |
                         shehr      P`
                                  /    \
                                P°      DP
                                         |
                              ki         D'
                                       /    \
                                     D°      NP
                                            /  \
                                  kuch      galiyan
```
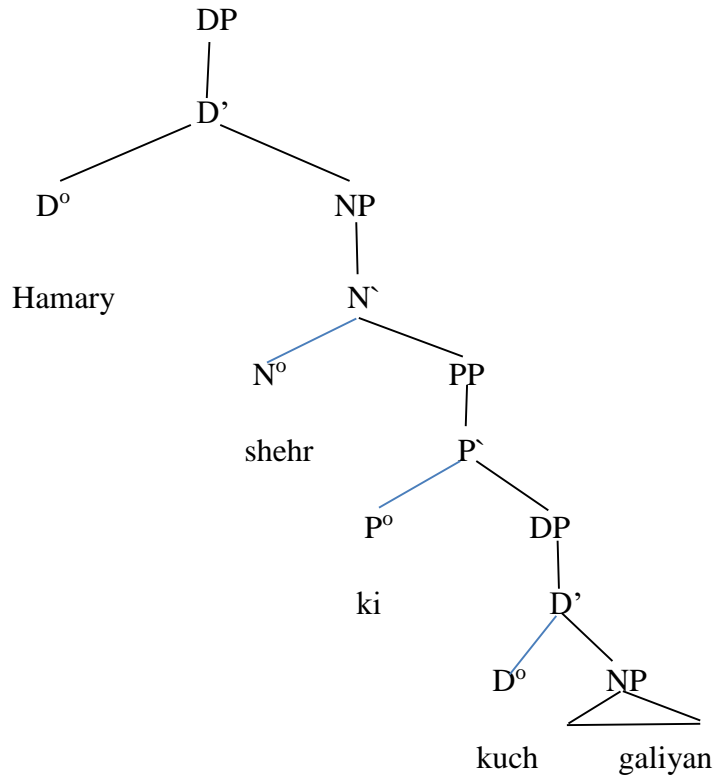
In this figure 1(b), the entire phrase is taken as a Determiner Phrase (DP), with "kuch" (کچھ), meaning "some," as a determiner and "galiyan" (گلیاں), as the complement noun. The postpositional phrase "Hamary shehr ki (ہمارے شہر کی) modifies the noun "galiyan" and introduces a possessive relationship. In this postpositional phrase, "ki" (کی) is a genitive marker functioning as the postposition, and "Hamary shehr" (ہمارے شہر), is a DP where "Hamary" (ہمارے) serves as the determiner and "shehr" (شہر) as the noun. This hierarchical structure, built around the DP, follows the X-bar theory, with the determiner heading the phrase and each component fitting into a structured syntactic relationship. In this phrase stacking is done with the help of postposition showing that DP hypothesis works properly in Urdu as far as *of-genitive* is concerned.

1 (c) زموږ د ښار يو څو کوڅي (Pashto Translation)

Pashto: Zamung da khar yaw so kusy
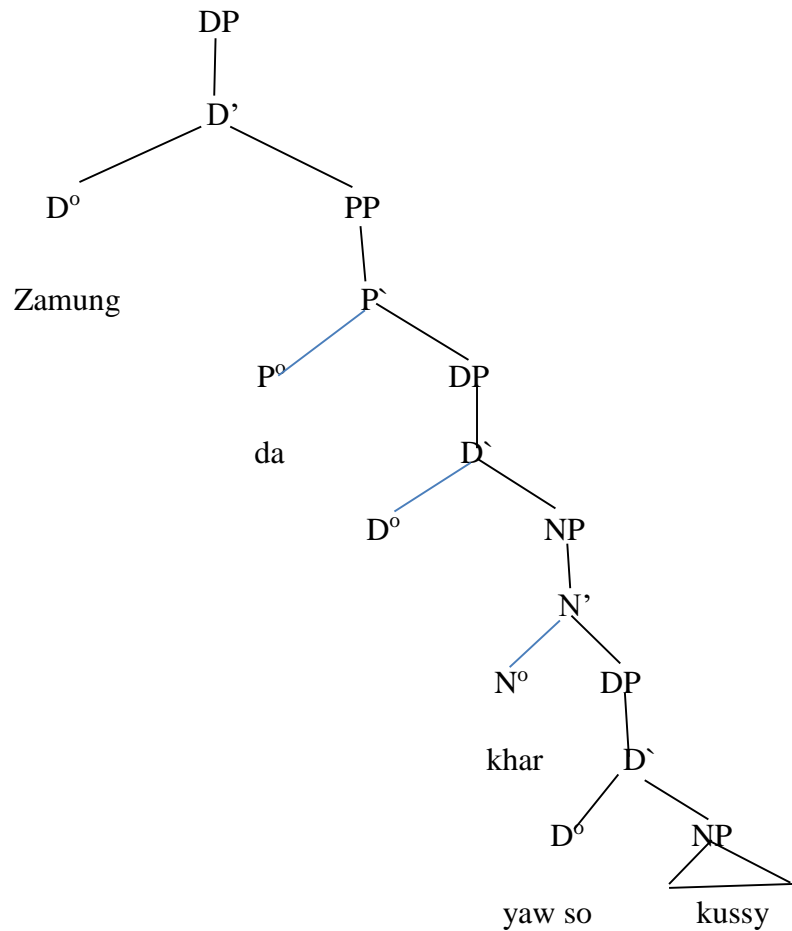
The above figure 1(b) begins the determiner phrase (DP) "Zamung" followed by a prepositional phrase (PP) "da khar" which modifies this DP, with "da" being the preposition/possessive marker and "khar" (city) as its complement. The DP "yaw so kusy" (some streets) consists of the quantifier "yaw so" (some) as the determiner and "kussy" (streets) as the head noun within determiner phrase (DP). The overall structure shows how determiners and possessive phrases govern noun phrases (NPs) with the noun phrase being the complement of the determiner phrase. This figure shows that different constituents are stacked together with the help of preposition/possessive marker showing that DP hypothesis is applicable to Pashto language in terms of *of-genitive.*

2(a) William and Mary's reign.
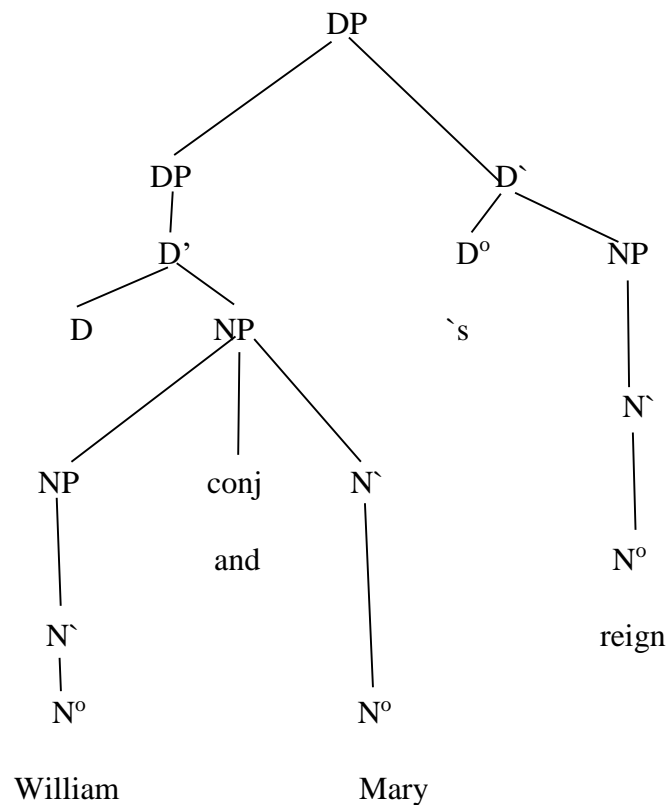
In the above figure 2(a), the possessive ('s) acts as the determiner (D) and governs the entire phrase. The structure begins with the DP, where *'s* is the possessive marker that determines ownership of the noun phrase. The names "William" and "Mary" form a coordinated noun phrase (NP) linked by the conjunction "and." Together, they serve as the possessors of the noun "reign". The noun "reign" is governed by the possessive determiner ('s), making it part of the larger DP. The overall syntactic structure follows the DP → D' → NP hierarchy, with the determiner ('s) heading the phrase, consistent with the DP Hypothesis framework. The phrase "William and Mary" is treated as a single unit that possesses the noun "reign," demonstrating how possession works within the syntactic tree of English sentences, where the possessive marker directly governs the noun.

In the above figure, the possessive ('s) serves as a DP and heads the whole phrase. The construction commences with the DP in which 's is the possessive marker that shows the possession of the noun phrase. The constituents William and Mary form one coordinated noun phrase NP joined by the conjunction "and". These two together are the possessors of the noun "reign". The noun "reign" is underspecified due to the possession marker ('s), meaning it forms part of the wider DP. From this position,

Wiliam and Mary is perceived to be in one constituency which is the possessor of the noun reign, thus explaining how the possession is done in syntactic trees of English sentences.

2(b) (Urdu Translation) ولیم اور میری کا زمانہ

Urdu: William aur Mary ka   za-mana
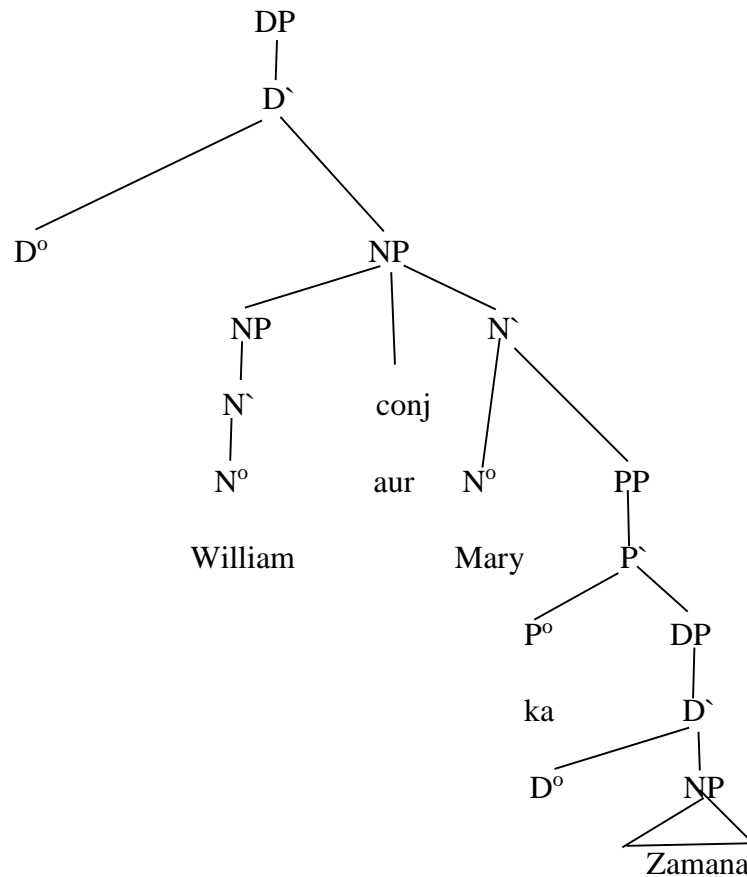
In the above figure 2(b) William aur Mary makes a DP in which 'aur' links two proper nouns, 'William' and 'Mary.' This NP is linked to the head noun 'zamana' (era) through the possessive marker 'ka' (of) which acts as a postposition (P°). Given this analysis, `*ka zamana'* indicates a relation of possession, the whole DP being constructed around the head noun *zamana*. Urdu unlike English in the above figure shows possessive construction with the help of postposition. The possessors, "William aur Mary" are connected to the possessed, "zamana" by using postposition "ka". Urdu uses the following hierarchical pattern for possessive constructions

DP → D' → NP hierarchy.

2(c) د ولیم او میری رمانه (Pashto Translation)

Pashto: Da William Aw Mary zamana
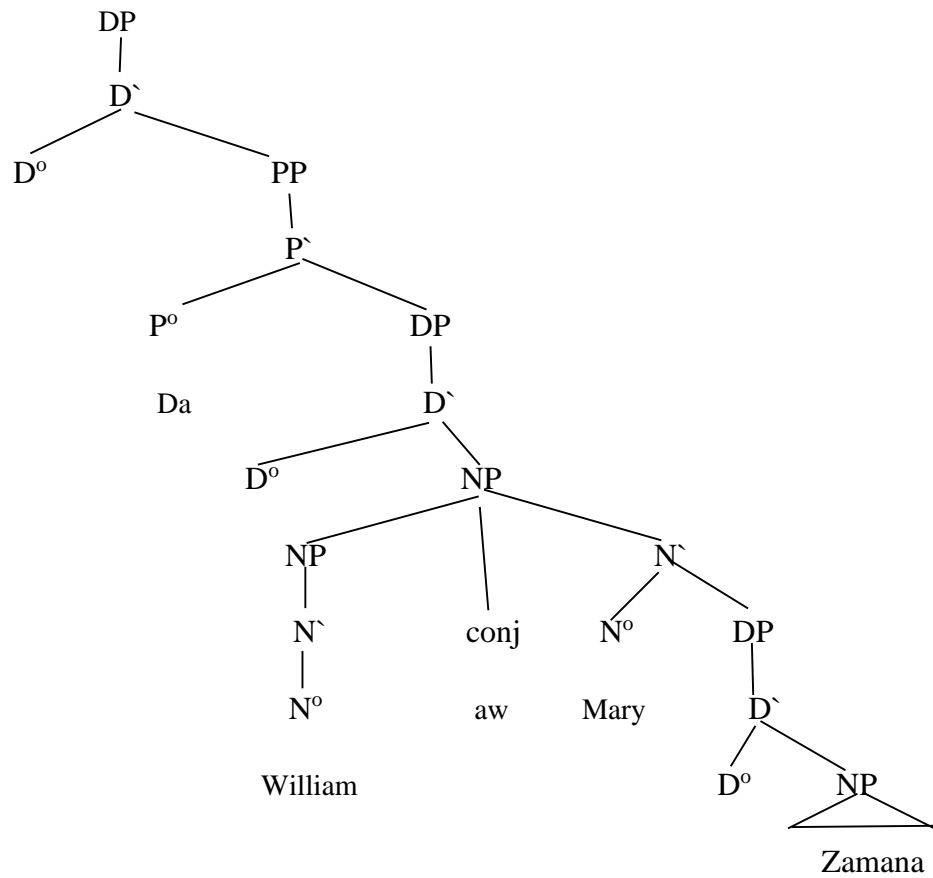
This figure 2(c) commences with the preposition/possessive marker "da" which acts like (of) in English or "da" in Urdu. The PP (Prepositional Phrase) describes the possessive relation by 'da', which connects "William aw Mary" as possessor to the possessed noun "zamana" which means 'reign' or 'era'. The coordinated noun phrase "William aw Mary" comprises proper nouns which are joined by the conjunction "aw" meaning "and". This coordinated noun phrase acts as the possessor in the structure. The noun "zamana" is the possessed entity representing the historical period of their reign. This syntactic structure demonstrates the hierarchical relationship of the DP → D` → PP. The above figure shows that Pashto and Urdu use preposition to deal with possessive constructions in determiner phrase. However, the key difference lies in their structures as given in respected phrases of both languages.

3(a) Children's books
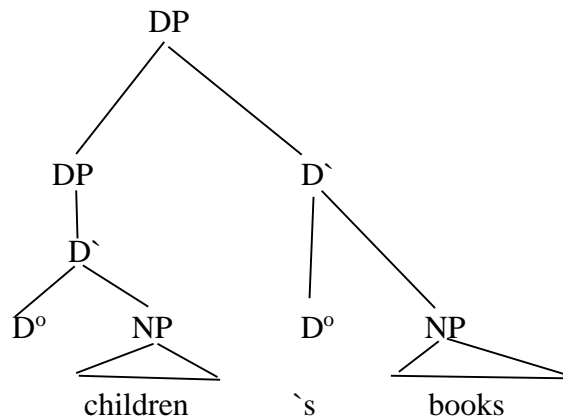
In the above figure 3(a) "children's books," the possessive "'s" is treated as a determiner that occupies the head D position and the possessor (children) appears in its specifier. The possessive marker/determiner `'s` acts as the head of the determiner phrase (DP), signaling ownership or association between the children and the books. Within this structure, "children" functions as the possessor, forming the first noun phrase (NP) within the DP. The second noun phrase (NP) is "books," which serves as the main noun being referred to. This DP structure clarifies how English possessive markers function as determiners, linking a possessor noun ("children") to the possessed object ("books"). Thus, the phrase "children's books" represents a syntactically cohesive unit where the possessor (children) is connected to the main object (books) through the possessive marker/determiner `'s`.

3(b) (Urdu Translation) بچوں کی کتابیں

Urdu: Bachon ki ki-tabain

```
                              DP
                              |
                              D`
                         ┌────┴────┐
                        D°         NP
                                    |
                                    N`
                               ┌────┴────┐
                              N°         PP
                                          |
                            Bachon        P`
                                     ┌────┴────┐
                                    P°         DP
                                                |
                                    ki          D`
                                           ┌────┴────┐
                                          D°         NP
                                                    /___\
                                                 Kitabain
```
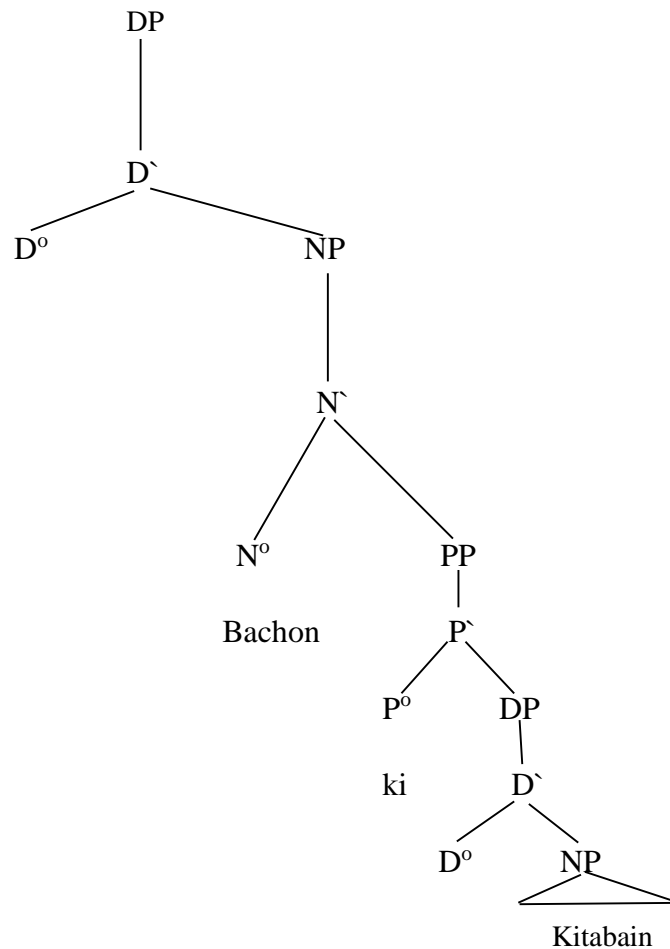
The above figure 3(b) consists of two main components: 'بچوں' (bachon) meaning 'children' and 'کتابیں' (kitaabain) meaning 'books' with the possessive marker 'کی' (ki) serving as a postposition. The noun phrase (NP) 'بچوں' indicates the possessor, while the postposition 'کی' describes the relationship between the possessor and the possessed noun which is 'کتابیں' (books). In this phrase, 'کی' is used to connect these two noun phrases. the last NP 'کتابیں' (books) functions as the head noun modified by the postposition indicating the possession of the books by the children. From this structural perspective, the postposition 'کی' is explained in terms of a dependency on nouns and indicates the books are for children This shows that Urdu in most of the cases uses *of genitive* instead of Saxon genitive for possessive constructions in determiner phrases.

3(c) (Pashto Translation) د ماشومانو کتابونه

Pasht: Da mashumanau kitabuna
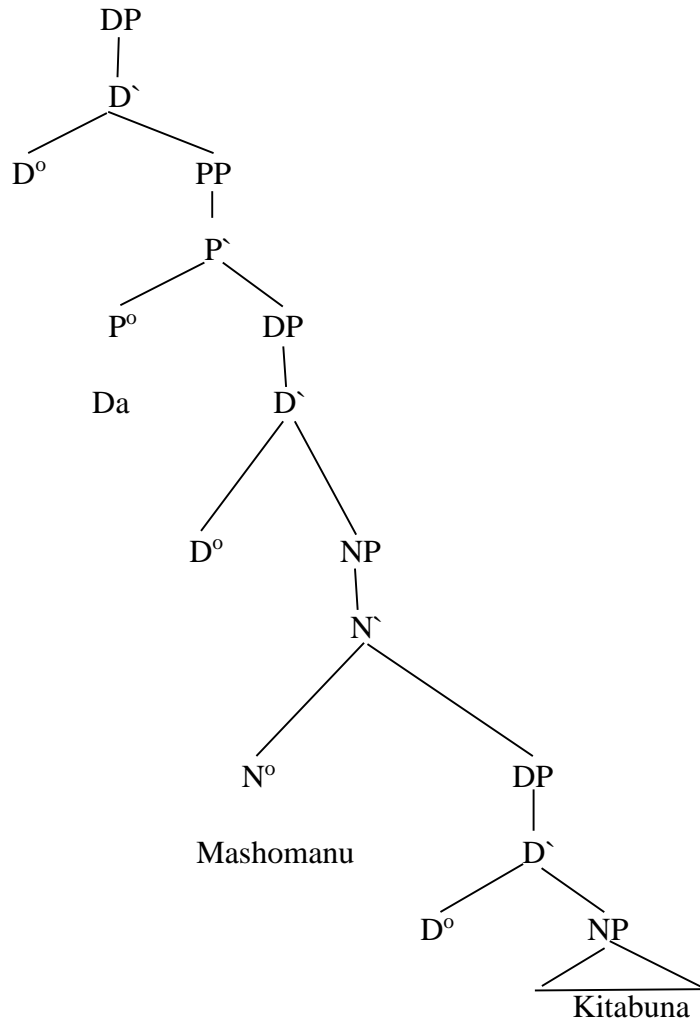
In the above structure 3(c), "د" acting as preposition/possessive marker connects "ماشومانو" (mashumanau - children) to the NP "کتابونه" (kitabuna - books). In this figure, the first NP "ماشومانو" (mashumanau - children) is the possessor of the second NP "کتابونه" (kitabuna - books) being possessed. The preposition "د" shows possession which means that books belong to children. This framework provides a clear syntactic explanation of how possession is structured in Pashto, emphasizing the role of the Possessive marker/preposition "د" in linking the possessor and the possessed. It should be noticed that unlike in English and Urdu, DP in Pashto consists of DP → D' → PP hierarchy. It means that PP is sister to the head D not NP. Moreover, possessive construction is done through *of-genitive*, which means stacking of different NPs is carried out with the help of preposition/possessive markers.

4(a) My brother's friend's sister's car
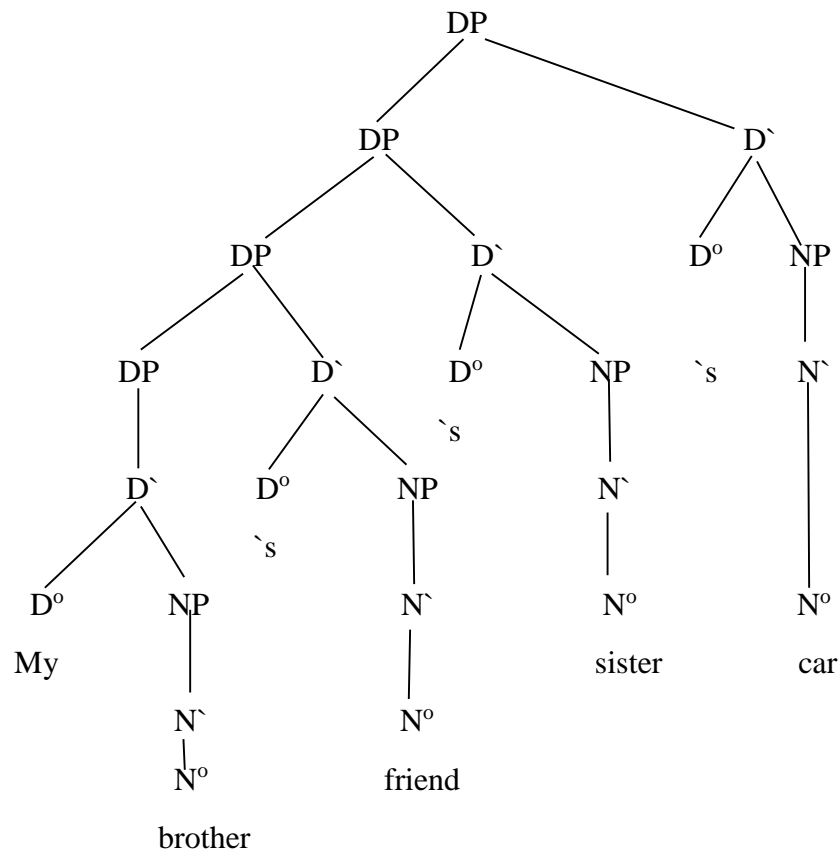
The above figure 4(a) shows a DP expressing possession indicated through a series of nested possessive constructions. Starting from, "My" as the determiner (Dᵒ) that modifies the first noun, "brother" (the possessor). The first genitive construction, "'s," forms a DP with NP (brother) and becomes the possessor of the next noun, "friend". This pattern repeats as "'s" forms a DP with NP(friend) modifying "sister". Lastly, "sister" makes a DP with construct genitive, "'s," as well, indicating that she possesses the "car."

The structure is built as a series of DPs nested within one another, each representing a new layer of possession. Each possessive *'s* marks the determiner of a new noun phrase (NP), creating a chain of ownership or association. At the final level, the noun "car" is the possessed object, and all previous nouns "brother," "friend," and "sister" modify it through this series of genitive DPs. This structure highlights how English uses possessive markers to indicate multiple layers of possession, linking each noun phrase to the next in a hierarchical order.

4(b) (Urdu Translation) میرے بھائی کے دوست کی بہن کی گاڑی

Urdu: Mery bhai ke dost ki bahn ki gadi
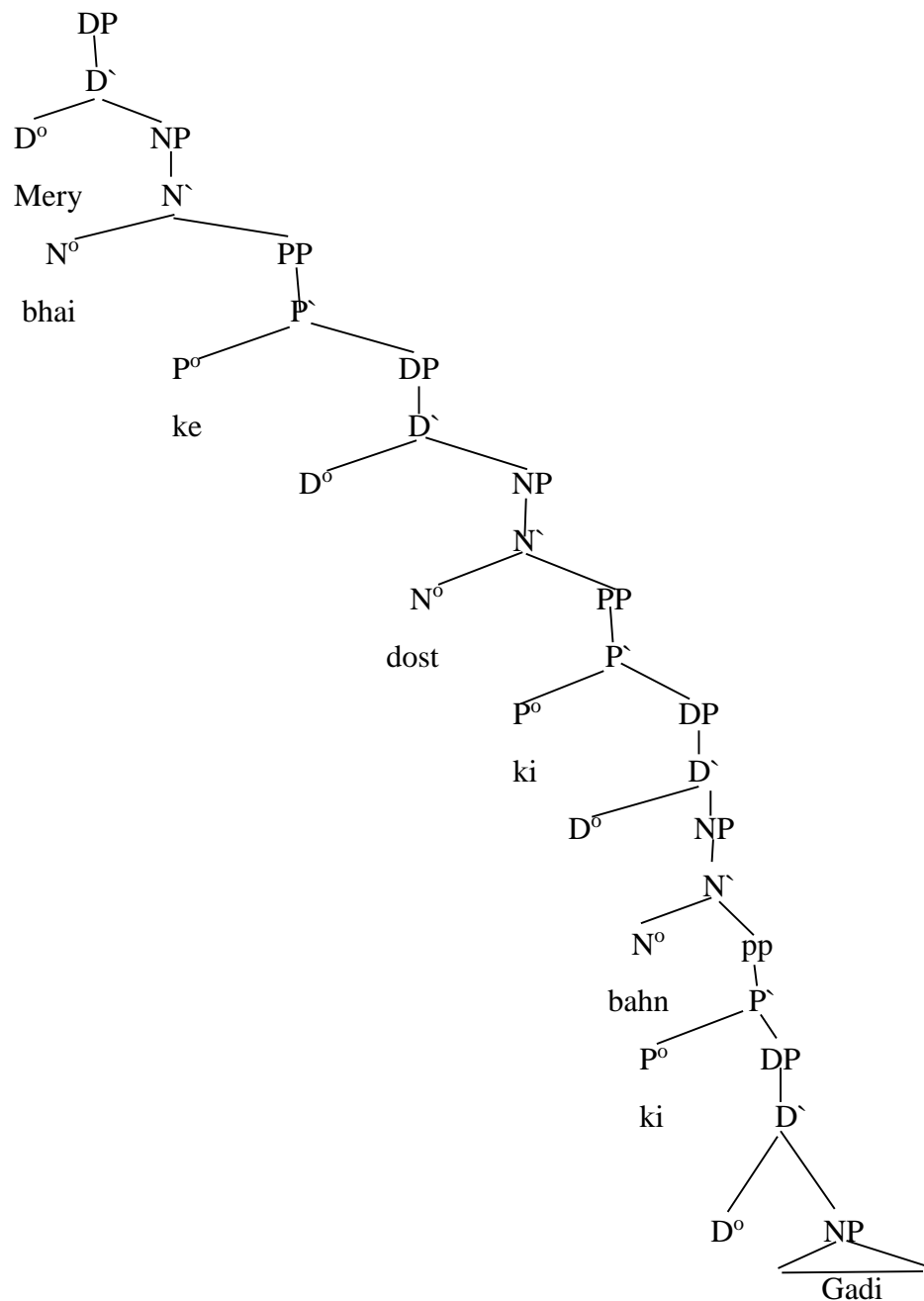
The above figure 4(b) shows the hierarchical relationship of possession. The phrase begins with "میرے" (Mery), which acts as the determiner (Dᵒ) modifying the noun "بھائی" (bhai), creating the first NP (Noun Phrase). The possessive marker "کے" (ke) connects "بھای" (brother) to "دوست" (dost - friend), indicating that the friend belongs to the brother, forming the second DP. This is followed by "کی" (ki), another possessive marker, linking "دوست" to "بہن" (bahn - sister), showing that the sister is possessed by the friend. The final possessive marker "کی" (ki) links the sister to "گاڑی" (gadi - car),

indicating that the car belongs to the sister. Each level of this nested DP structure demonstrates how possession is built step by step, moving from one noun to the next in a hierarchical fashion, where the possessive markers "کے" (ke) and "کی" (ki) play the role of connecting the possessor with the possessed item at each stage. This structure allows Urdu to clearly express complex layers of ownership or possession through *of-genitive.*

Unlike English, Urdu exhibits complex possessive constructions, particularly through the use of possessive stacking via the 'of'-genitive construction. This structure involves a sequence of postpositional phrases, as illustrated in the syntactic tree above, demonstrating a distinct mechanism of possession marking in Urdu that contrasts with English possessive forms.

4(c) خُما د ورور د ملګری د خور موټر (Pashto Translation)

Pashto: Zama da wror da malgary da khor motor


```
                    DP
                    |
                    D`
                 /      \
               D°        PP
               |          |
             Zama         P`
                       /      \
                     P°        DP
                     |          |
                     da         D`
                             /      \
                           D°        NP
                                      |
                                      N`
                                   /      \
                                 N°        PP
                                 |          |
                                wror        P`
                                         /      \
                                       P°        DP
                                       |          |
                                       da         D`
                                               /      \
                                             D°        NP
                                                        |
                                                        N`
                                                     /      \
                                                   N°        pp
                                                   |          |
                                                malgary       P`
                                                           /      \
                                                         P°        DP
                                                         |          |
                                                         da         D`
                                                                 /      \
                                                               D°        NP
                                                                      /      \
                                                                    NP        N`
                                                                   /▲\        |
                                                                              N°
                                                              Khor        gadi
```
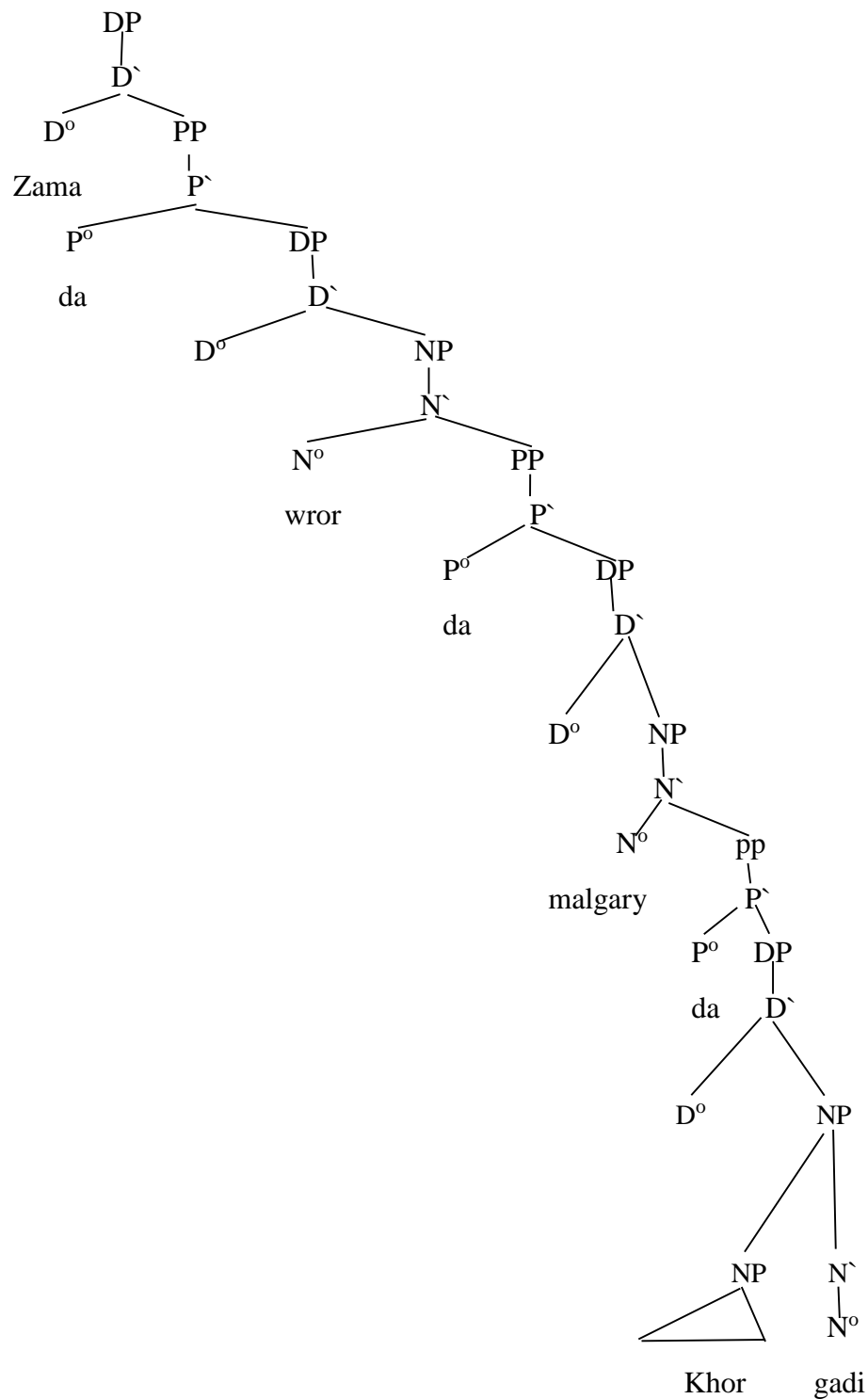
This structure 4(c) reflects multiple layers of possession with the help of DP. It starts with "خُما" (Zama - my), functioning as the determiner (Dᵒ) for the noun"ورور" (ror - brother), establishing the first possessive relationship. The possessive marker "د" (da) connects "ورور" (brother) to "ملګری" (malgary - friend), showing that the friend

belongs to the brother. Another "د" (da) links "ملګری" (friend) to "خور" (khor - sister), indicating the sister is associated with the friend. Lastly, the possessive marker "د" (da) connects "خور" (sister) to "موټر" (motor - car), signifying that the car belongs to the sister. Each possessive marker or PP "د" (da) creates a new determiner phrase, progressively building a chain of possession from brother, to his friend, to his friend's sister, and finally to her car. This layered structure functions similarly to the Urdu possessive construction or stacking, showing a clear sequence of ownership or association. In Pashto determiner phrases (DPs), final noun phrases (NPs) do not incorporate possessive markers or stacking, creating a marked contrast with the possessive structures observed in Urdu and English DPs.

5(a)The king of Bhutan's visit
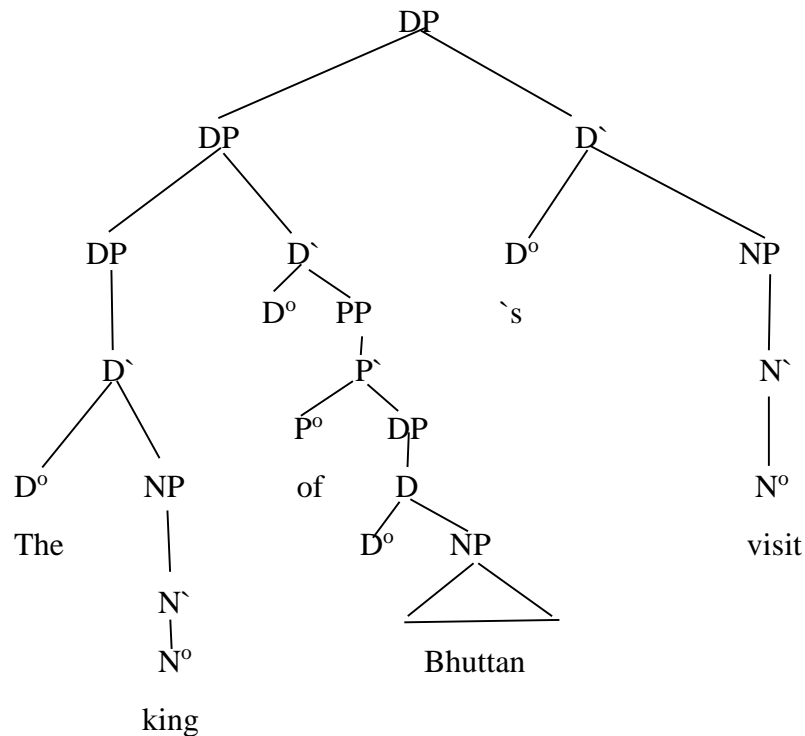
In the above figure 5(a) DP (Determiner Phrase) structure represents possession and relationships between the elements. The outermost DP starts with "The king", where "The" is the determiner (D^o) that modifies "king" as the noun (N^o). Next, the preposition "of" introduces "Bhutan", creating a DP that shows the king's association with Bhutan. The possessive marker/construct genitive *'s* then connects this entire DP (The king of Bhutan) to the noun "visit", indicating possession of the event (visit) by the king of Bhutan. The possessive *'s* functions as a determiner, linking the relationship of the visit to the king of Bhutan. Each part builds upon the previous, forming a clear

hierarchical possessive structure that ends with the noun "visit" as the main object being modified.

5(b) (Urdu Translation) بھوٹان کے بادشاہ کا دورہ

Urdu: Bhutan ke badshah kaa doura
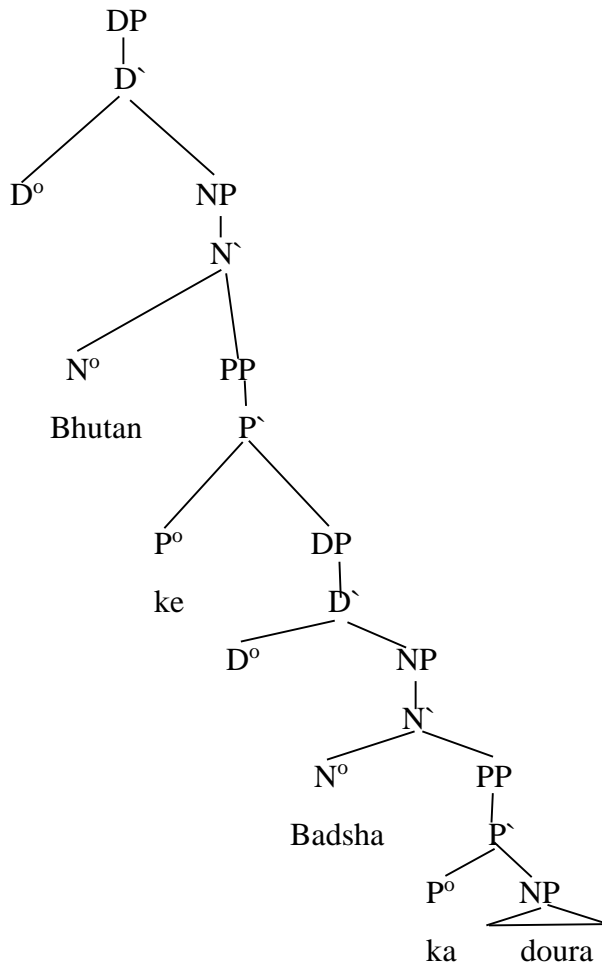
This structure 5(b) shows the way possession is indicated in DPs. According to possessive marker "کے" (ke) the phrase begins with "بھوٹان" (Bhutan) which is linked to "بادشاہ" (badshah) meaning king via possessive marker "کے" (ke). The structure here implies that the possessive relationship is formed by associating the "king" with Bhutan. "The second possessive marker 'کا' (ka), connects 'بادشاہ' (badshah - king)" with 'دورہ' (doura - visit) to show that it is the king doing the visiting." Both the possessive markers are postpositions to link nouns together. This structure indicates a clear representation of hierarchy in the phrase showing that each component is joined together to make a cohesive bound between the *king*, *Bhutan* and *visit*

5(c)(Pashto Translation) د بهوټان د باچا لیدنه

Pashto: Da Bhutan   da bacha   lidana

DP
D`
D° PP
P`
P° DP
Da D`
D° NP
N`
N° pp
Bhutan P`
P° DP
da D`
D° NP
N`
NP
N°
Bacha   lidana
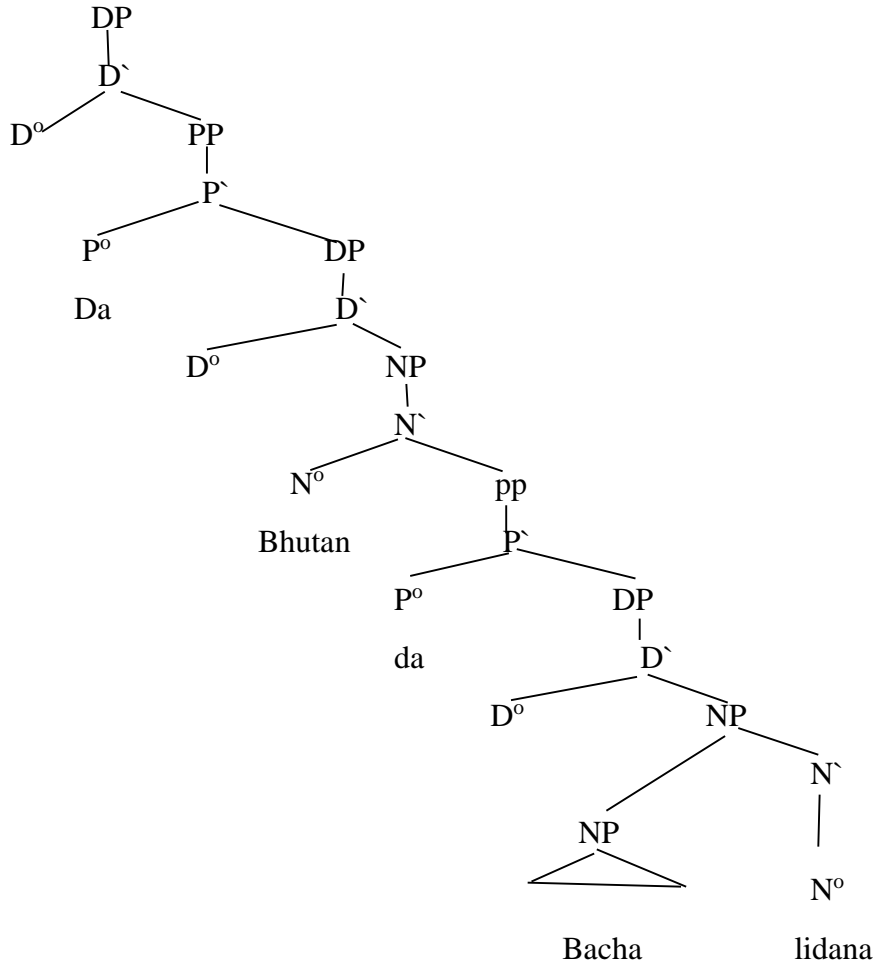
The above figure 5(c) starts with preposition "د" (da), that introduces the first DP Bhutan which collectively makes a prepositional phrase thereby initiating the first layer of possession. The second possessive marker "د" (da) introduces "باچا " (bacha - king), creating a new determiner phrase (DP), where "د" serves to link "باچا " to "لیدنه " (lidana - visit), signifying that the visit is paid by the king of Bhutan. This produces a nested syntactic structure in which each DP is hierarchically connected to the preceding one. This shows that different DPs in Pashto are linked with each other via *of-genitive.*

The entire structure follows a recursive, layered pattern where each DP is nested within the next, forming a clear chain of possession. This hierarchical relationship, where each noun phrase modifies the next through the possessive marker "ده" (da), is consistent with Pashto's syntactic rules for constructing genitive phrases. This framework, using DP hypothesis, helps illustrate the relationship of ownership or association between the possessor ("Bhutan" and "king") and the possessed noun (visit).

This detailed analysis is essential for understanding the syntactic relationships in Pashto and provides insight into how genitive constructions are expressed in the language.

6(a) A herd of cattle
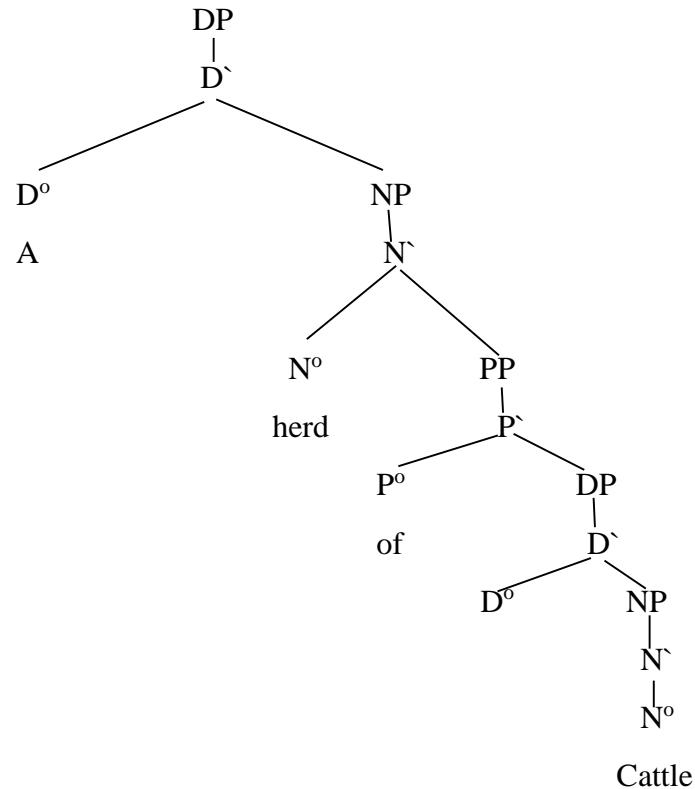
The structure 6(a) begins with the determiner "A" and the noun "herd" as its complement. The indefinite article A is the primary component in the first DP which gives specificity or indefiniteness to the noun "Herd". The noun "Herd" is modified by the prepositional phrase "of cattle", where "of" introduces the possessive relationships between the DPs. The possessive relationship is reflected in the DP, in which the possessive marker functions as the preposition linking the possessor and the possessed.

6(b)مویشیوں کا ایک ریوڑ (Urdu translation)

Urdu: Maweshiyon   ka   ak   rewar

DP
|
D`
/\
D°   NP
|
N`
/\
N°   pp
|
Maweshiyon   P`
/\
P°   DP
|
Ka   D`
/\
D°   NP
| /\
aik   rewar

This figure 6(b) begins with "مویشیوں" (Maweshiyon - cattle), which serves as the head noun (N°) in the first noun phrase (NP). The possessive marker "کا" (ka) functions as a preposition (P°) that links "مویشیوں" to the following determiner phrase (DP). This possessive marker introduces the next DP, showing that the "ریوڑ" (rewar - herd) is associated with the "مویشیوں" (cattle). Within the second DP, the determiner "ایک" (aik - a) modifies the noun "ریوڑ" (rewar - herd), indicating that it is an indefinite noun phrase. The noun "ریوڑ" (herd) forms the core noun (N°) in this second noun phrase (NP), and the determiner "ایک" (aik) gives the phrase its indefiniteness, specifying "a herd."

The postpositional phrase "کا" (ka) acts as a possessive marker, linking the two noun phrases, similar to the English preposition "of" in the phrase "A herd of cattle." This hierarchical structure exemplifies the DP Hypothesis by demonstrating how determiners (like "aik") and possessive markers (like "ka") govern and organize noun phrases, ensuring the expression of possession and indefiniteness in a clear and structured manner. The DP framework here emphasizes that "ریوڑ" (herd) belongs to or is associated with "مویشیوں" (cattle) through a possessive relationship.

6(c) د څارويو يوه رمه (Pashto Translation)

Pashto: Da sarwayu   ywa   rama

```
        DP
         |
         D`
        /  \
      D°    PP
             |
             P`
            /  \
          P°    DP
          Da     |
                 D`
                /  \
              D°    NP
                     |
                     N`
                    /  \
                  N°    DP
               sarwayu   |
                         D`
                        /  \
                      D°    NP
                    yewa    rama
```
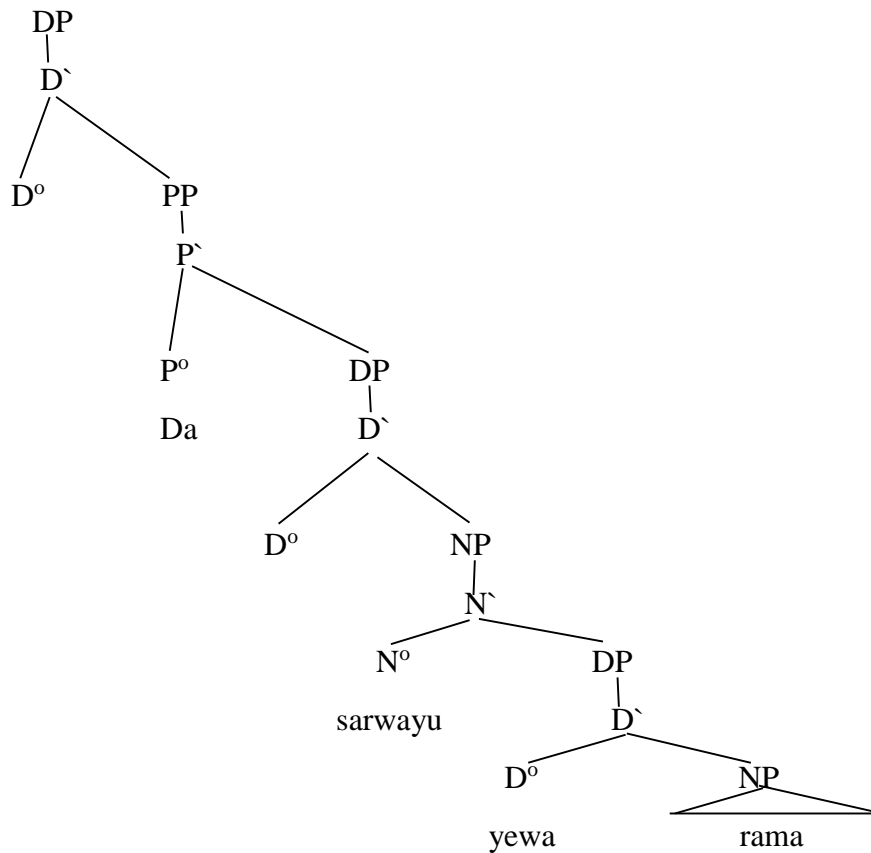
This figure 6(c) starts with the preposition "د" (da), which acts as the possessive marker (P°) in the prepositional phrase (PP), connecting "څارويو" (sarwayu - cattle) to the following determiner phrase (DP). The noun "څارويو" serves as the head noun (N°) within the first noun phrase (NP), indicating the group (cattle) that the following DP will describe. The determiner "يوه" (yewa - a), which forms the second DP, modifies the noun "رمه" (rama - herd), indicating an indefinite quantity or unit. The determiner "يوه" acts as the head determiner (D°) for this DP, providing specificity to the noun "رمه" (herd). The noun "رمه" (rama) is the core of the second noun phrase (NP), representing the main object in the structure.

The possessive marker "د" (da) functions similarly to the possessive "of" in English, linking the two DPs and showing the possessive relationship between "څارويو" (sarwayu - cattle) and "رمه" (rama - herd). This layered structure is a clear example of the DP Hypothesis. The final noun phrase, "يوه رمه" (ywa rama - a herd), is possessed by "څارويو" (sarwayu - cattle), forming a cohesive expression of possession and

indefiniteness in the phrase. This tree diagram effectively demonstrates how possession and modification are expressed in Pashto within the DP framework.

4.2 Determiner Phrase in Urdu

In this section, different genitive phrases are taken from selected books of Urdu grammar. the selected phrases are then glossed and translated in English and Pashto to get constricting or similar results. The selected determiner phrases are analyzed for *of-genitive* and *construct genitives*. Urdu phrases for analysis are given below:

7(a) محمد کی بہن کی دوست کی کتاب

Urdu: Muhammad ki bahn ki dost   ki   kitab

 Gloss: Muhammad of sister of   friend of   book
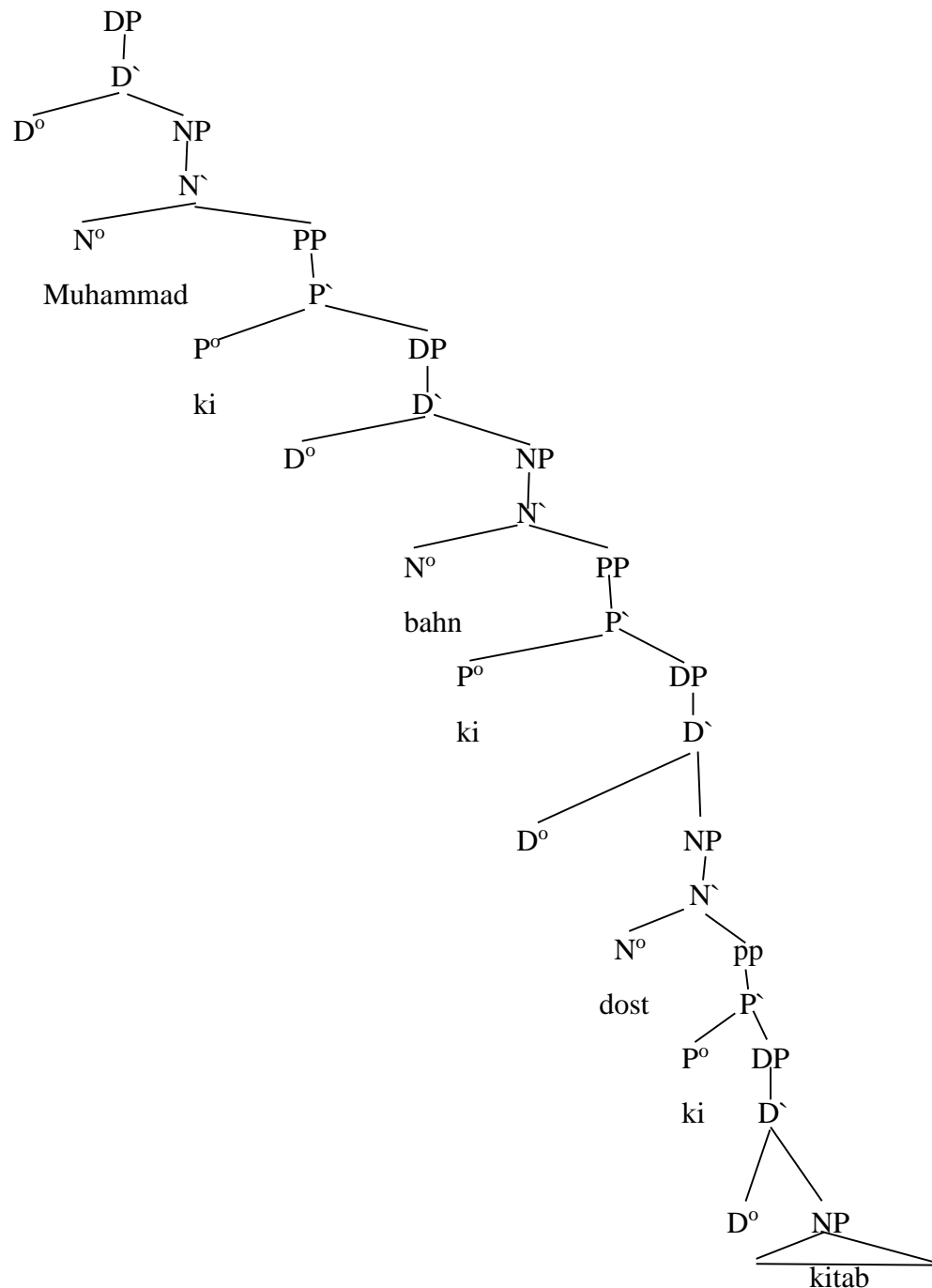
This figure 7(a) effectively illustrates the hierarchical and recursive nature of possession, aligning with the DP Hypothesis. The structure begins with "محمد" (Muhammad) as the head noun (N°) of the first noun phrase (NP), and the possessive marker "کی" (ki) acts as a postposition, linking "محمد" to "بہن" (bahn - sister), forming the first level of possession. The second "کی" further introduces another DP, where "بہن"

(sister) is connected to "دوست" (dost - friend), indicating that the friend belongs to the sister. Finally, the third "کی" connects "دوست" to "کتاب" (kitab - book), showing that the book belongs to the friend. This layered possessive relationship builds a tree structure where each determiner governs the subsequent noun phrase, recursively embedding relationships of possession. The DP framework allows us to understand this syntactic structure by showing how each possessive marker forms a determiner phrase, and how each noun phrase is successively embedded in a higher-order phrase. This comprehensive analysis reflects the ability of Urdu to express complex multi-layered ownership in a manner similar to English, providing a clear syntactic path through the use of determiners and possessive markers, central to the DP Hypothesis.

7(b) The book of Muhammad's sister's friend (English Translation)
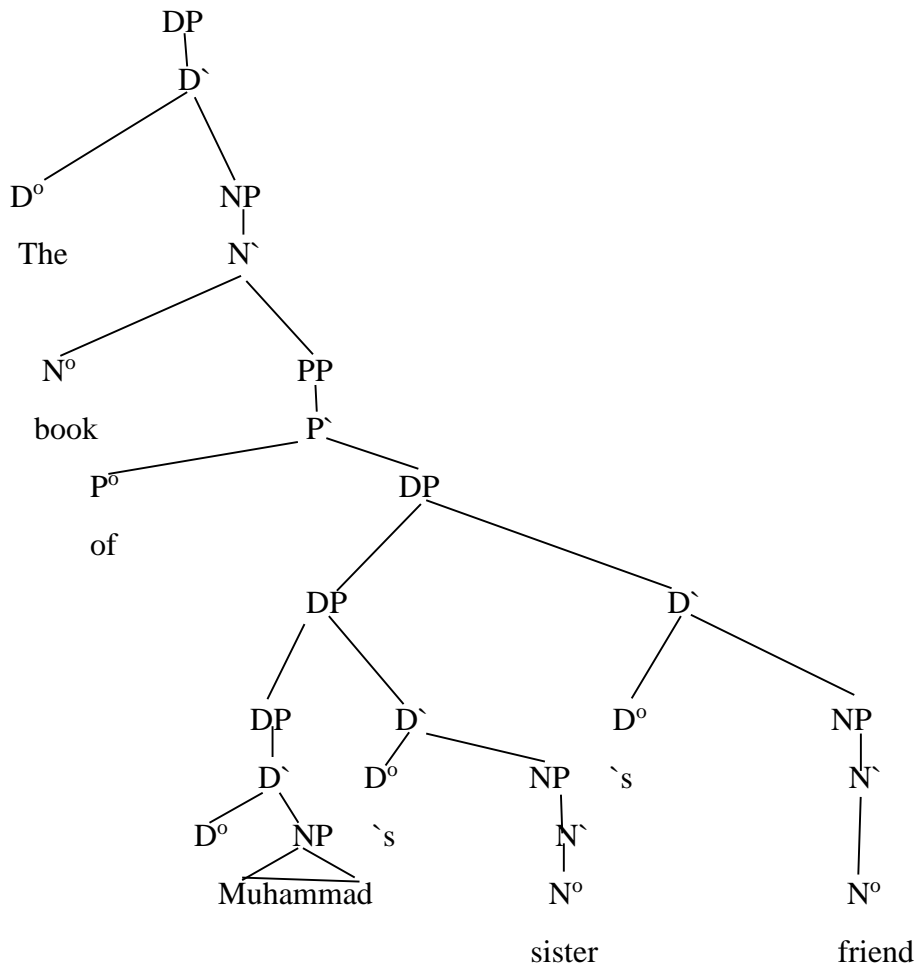
The structure 7(b) begins with the determiner "The," the noun "book" as its complement. "Book" is modified by the prepositional phrase "of Muhammad's sister's friend," where "of" introduces the possessive relationships. Within this prepositional phrase, the DP "Muhammad's sister's friend" contains two layers of possessive

structures, each represented by the possessive marker 's. The first *'s* connects "Muhammad" to "sister," while the second *'s* links "sister" to "friend," the head noun of the embedded DP. Each possessive relationship is treated as a nested DP, in which the possessive marker functions as the determiner linking the possessor and the possessed. This hierarchical structure reflects the DP hypothesis by showing how possessives and nouns interact within embedded determiner phrases.

7(c) (Pashto Translation) د محمد د خور د ملګری کتاب

Pashto: Da   Muhammad da khor da malgary kitab
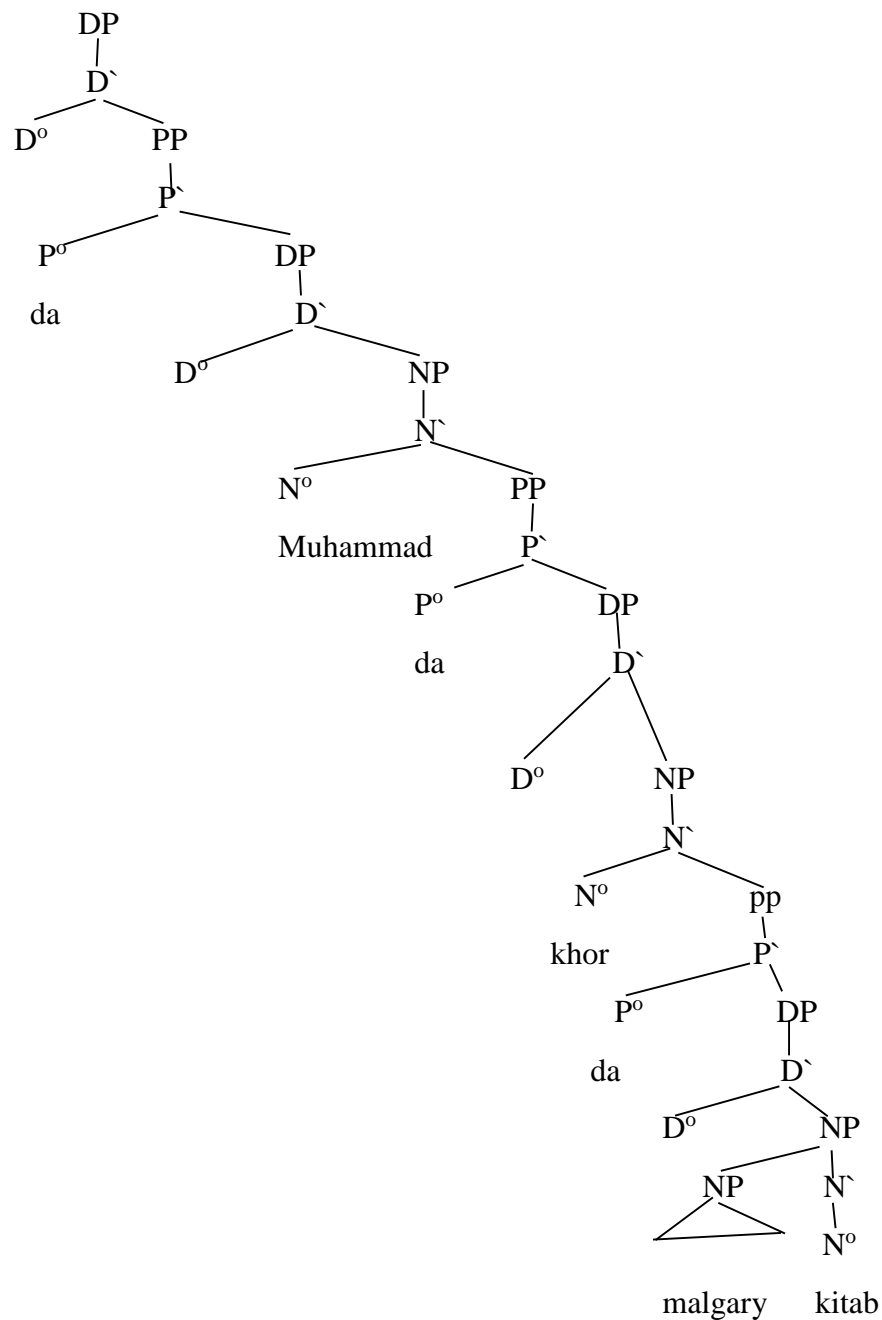
This figure 7(c) begins with "د" (da), a possessive marker (P°), establishing "محمد" (Muhammad) as the head noun (N°) of the initial noun phrase (NP), thereby initiating the first layer of possession. This prepositional phrase (PP) "د محمد" denotes that Muhammad is engaged in a possessive construction. The second possessive marker "د" (da) introduces "خور " (khor - sister), creating a new determiner phrase (DP), where "د" serves to link "خور " to "ملګری" (malgary - friend), signifying that the friend belongs to Muhammad's sister. This produces a nested syntactic structure in which each DP is hierarchically connected to the preceding one. Ultimately, the possessive marker "د" (da) associates "ملګری" (malgary) with "کتاب" (kitab - book) signifying that the book is possessed by the friend. The final NP contains "کتاب" (kitab) as the possessed noun, and the syntactic structure traces the chain of possession back to Muhammad through his sister and her friend.

Within this syntactic framework, the possessive marker "د" (da) operates recursively to encode possession at each level, sequentially linking each noun phrase in a hierarchical chain of ownership. Each determiner phrase (DP) is constructed upon the previous one, demonstrating a clear progression of possession from "Muhammad" to his "sister", to her "friend", and finally to the "book." This recursive application of possessive markers illustrates the principles of the DP Hypothesis in Pashto, highlighting how possession is syntactically layered and structured, thereby creating an organized hierarchy of relationships.

سکول کے بچوں کے والدین کی میٹنگ (a)8

Urdu: School ke bachon ke walidain ki meeting

Gloss: School of children of parents of meeting

English Translation: The meeting of the parents of the school children

```
                    DP
                    |
                    D`
                   /  \
                 Dᵒ    NP
                       |
                       N`
                      /  \
                    Nᵒ    PP
                          |
                 School   P`
                         /  \
                       Pᵒ    DP
                             |
                       ke    D`
                            /  \
                          Dᵒ    NP
                                |
                                N`
                               /  \
                             Nᵒ    PP
                                   |
                          bachon   P`
                                  /  \
                                Pᵒ    DP
                                      |
                                ke    D`
                                     /  \
                                   Dᵒ    NP
                                         |
                                         N`
                                        /  \
                                      Nᵒ    pp
                                            |
                                walidain    P`
                                           /  \
                                         Pᵒ    DP
                                               |
                                         ki    D`
                                              /  \
                                            Dᵒ    NP

                                                  Meeting
```
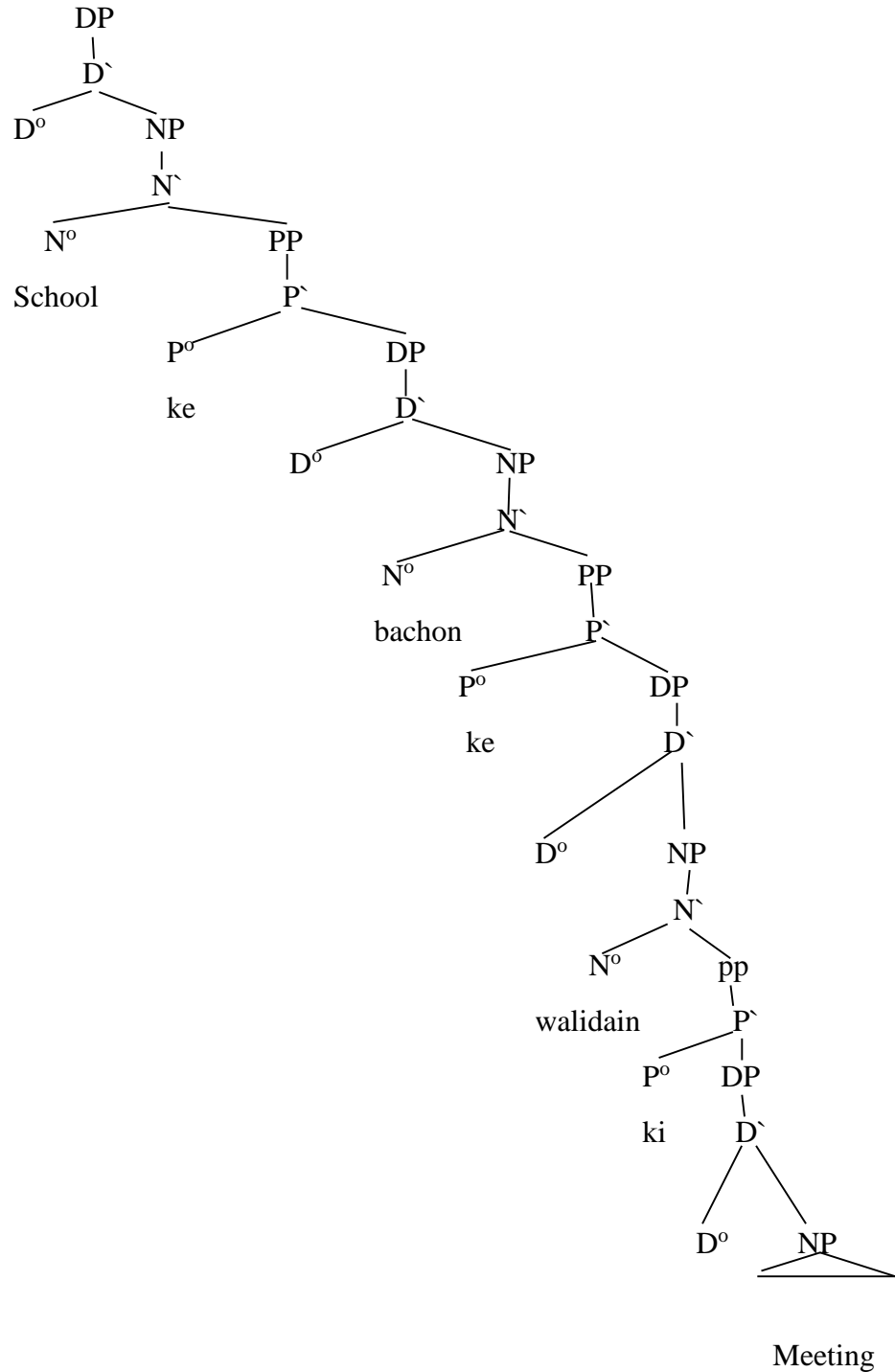
The above figure 8(a) reflects a complex NP under DP hypothesis where every determiner projects its own phrase. The tree begins with NP "School" which is followed

by preposition "ke" (meaning "of"). This is linked to another DP "bachon" (children), by another preposition "ke" which in turn connects it to a DP "walidain" (parents). Finally, the head noun "Meeting" is joined to the preceding phrase with postposition "ki" (also meaning "of"). The overall figure shows a nested possessive construction with the help of PP. It represents a hierarchical syntactic structure in Urdu language.

8(b) The meeting of the parents of the school children (English Translation)
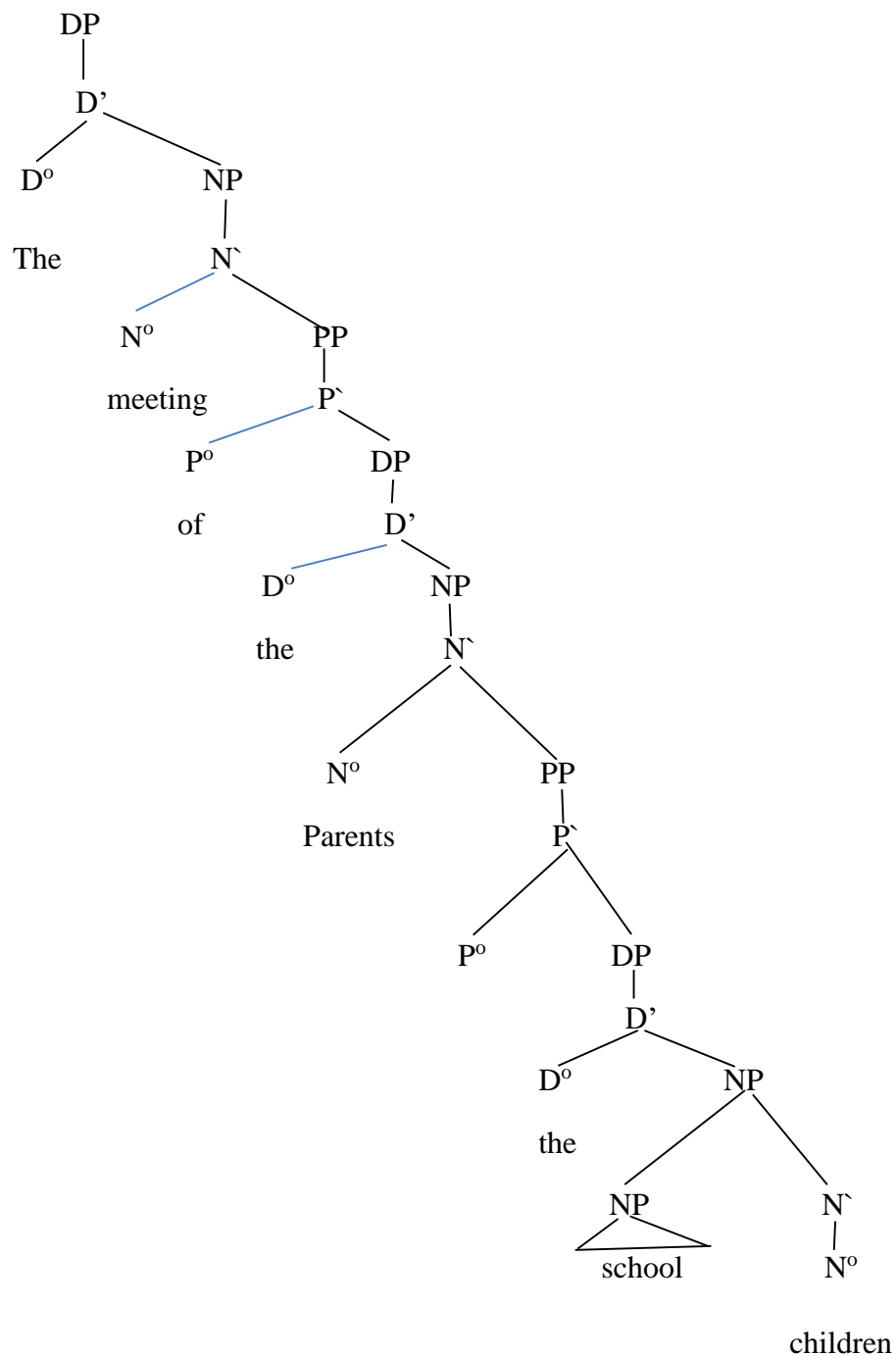
The above figure 8(b) underscores that under the framework of the Determiner Phrase (DP) hypothesis, every noun phrase (NP) is embedded within a larger determiner phrase (DP), with determiners playing a central role in structuring the phrase. At the top level, we consider the DP "The meeting." Here, "The" functions as the determiner (D), while "meeting" serves as the head noun (N) of the embedded noun phrase (NP). This DP is modified by a prepositional phrase (PP) introduced by the preposition "of", which connects to another DP, "the parents of the school children." Within this DP, "the parents" forms a separate determiner phrase. In this structure, "the" acts as the determiner (D), and "parents" is the head noun (N). This DP ("the parents") is further modified by another PP introduced by "of", leading to the DP "the school children." In this phrase, "the" again functions as the determiner (D), governing the noun phrase. The noun "school" operates as a modifier of the head noun "children," together forming a complete NP. Thus, the structure of the phrase is hierarchical, with each DP nested within another. The preposition "of" serves a key role in linking these nested DPs. This analysis aligns with the DP hypothesis, illustrating how determiners and prepositional phrases work together to construct complex noun phrases in English.

8(c) د سکول د ماشومانو د مور او پلار غونډه (Pashto Translation)

Pashto: Da   school da mashumanu da   walidenu   ghwanda

```
                    DP
                    |
                    D`
              D⁰         PP
              da         P`
                    P⁰         DP
                    da         D`
                          D⁰        NP
                                    N`
                              N⁰         PP
                            School       P`
                                    P⁰        DP
                                    da        D`
                                        D⁰        NP
                                                  N`
                                            N⁰         pp
                                         mashumano     P`
                                                  P⁰        DP
                                                  da        D`
                                                      D⁰        NP
                                                          NP         N`
                                                                     N⁰
```

walidenu   ghwanda

This figure 8(c) structure illustrates a complex noun phrase under the DP (Determiner Phrase) hypothesis, highlighting how possessive relationships are recursively embedded within the phrase. At the top, the main DP is headed by a determiner (D⁰), with a prepositional phrase (PP) as its complement. This PP is introduced by P⁰ (preposition "da," meaning "of"), linking it to a nested DP with "School" as the head noun of an NP (Noun Phrase). This DP, in turn, connects through another P⁰ ("da") to a DP headed by "mashumano" (children), indicating the possessive

relationship "School of children." Another PP links this DP to an additional DP with "mor o plar" (parents) as its head noun, creating a "children of parents" possessive link. Finally, the phrase culminates with a DP headed by "ghwanda" (meeting), representing the full phrase as "Meeting of parents of children of the school. "This structure exemplifies the DP hypothesis by showing how determiners head noun phrases and recursively form nested, hierarchical syntactic relationships, enabling complex possessive structures.

9(a) پاکستان کے وزیراعظم کی سیکیورٹی ٹیم کا سربراہ

Urdu: Pakistan ke wazir-e- Azam ki security team ka sarbarah

Gloss: Pakistan of wazir-e- Azam of security team of   head

English Translation: The head of the security team of the Prime Minister of Pakistan

9(a) پاکستان کے وزیراعظم کی سیکیورٹی ٹیم کا سربراہ
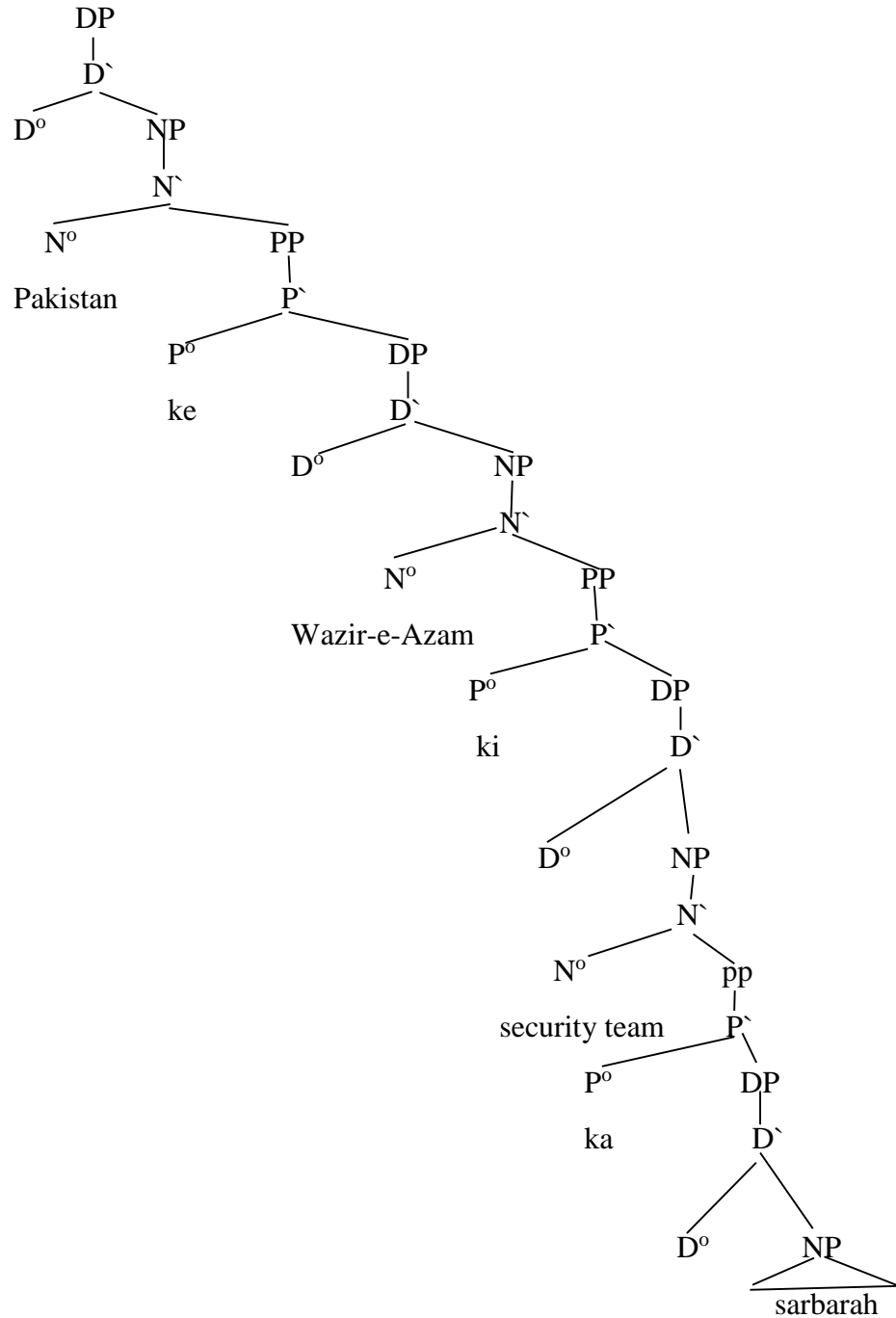
The given structure 9(a) consists of multiple determiner phrases (DPs), each built around determiners (D) and noun phrases (NP) connected by postpositional phrases (PP). The analysis begins with the DP "Pakistan ke."Here, "Pakistan" functions as the noun (N), while "ke" acts as the relational postposition (P), introducing a postpositional phrase (PP). The next DP, "Wazir-e-Azam ki," features "Wazir-e-Azam" (Prime Minister) as the head noun (N), modified by the possessive postposition "ki," which links it to the subsequent DP. This is followed by the noun phrase (NP) "security team," where "security" functions as a noun modifier, describing the head noun *"team,"* resulting in a complete NP. The structure continues with another postpositional phrase (PP) introduced by "ka," which connects the previous DP to "sarbarah" (head/leader), the final noun (N) and the head of the entire phrase. This hierarchical arrangement, as explained through the DP hypothesis, highlights how each noun phrase is structured with a determiner phase. Possessive or relational postpositions such as "ke," "ki," and "ka" establish connections between the DPs, forming a nested structure. The head noun, "sarbarah," governs the entire phrase and serves as the central NP.

9(b) The head of the security team of the Prime Minister of Pakistan (English Translation)

```
                    DP
                    |
                    D'
                 /      \
               D°        NP
              The        |
                         N`
                       /    \
                     N°      PP
                    head     |
                             P`
                           /    \
                         P°      DP
                         of      |
                                 D'
                               /    \
                             D°      NP
                            the      |
                                     N`
                                   /    \
                                 N°      PP
                            Security     |
                              team       P`
                                       /    \
                                     P°      DP
                                     of      |
                                             D`
                                           /    \
                                         D°      NP
                                        the      |
                                                 N`
                                               /    \
                                             N°      PP
                                          Prime      |
                                        Minister     P`
                                                   /    \
                                                 P°      DP
                                                 of      |
                                                         D`
                                                       /    \
                                                     D°      NP
                                                            /  \
                                                          Pakistan
```
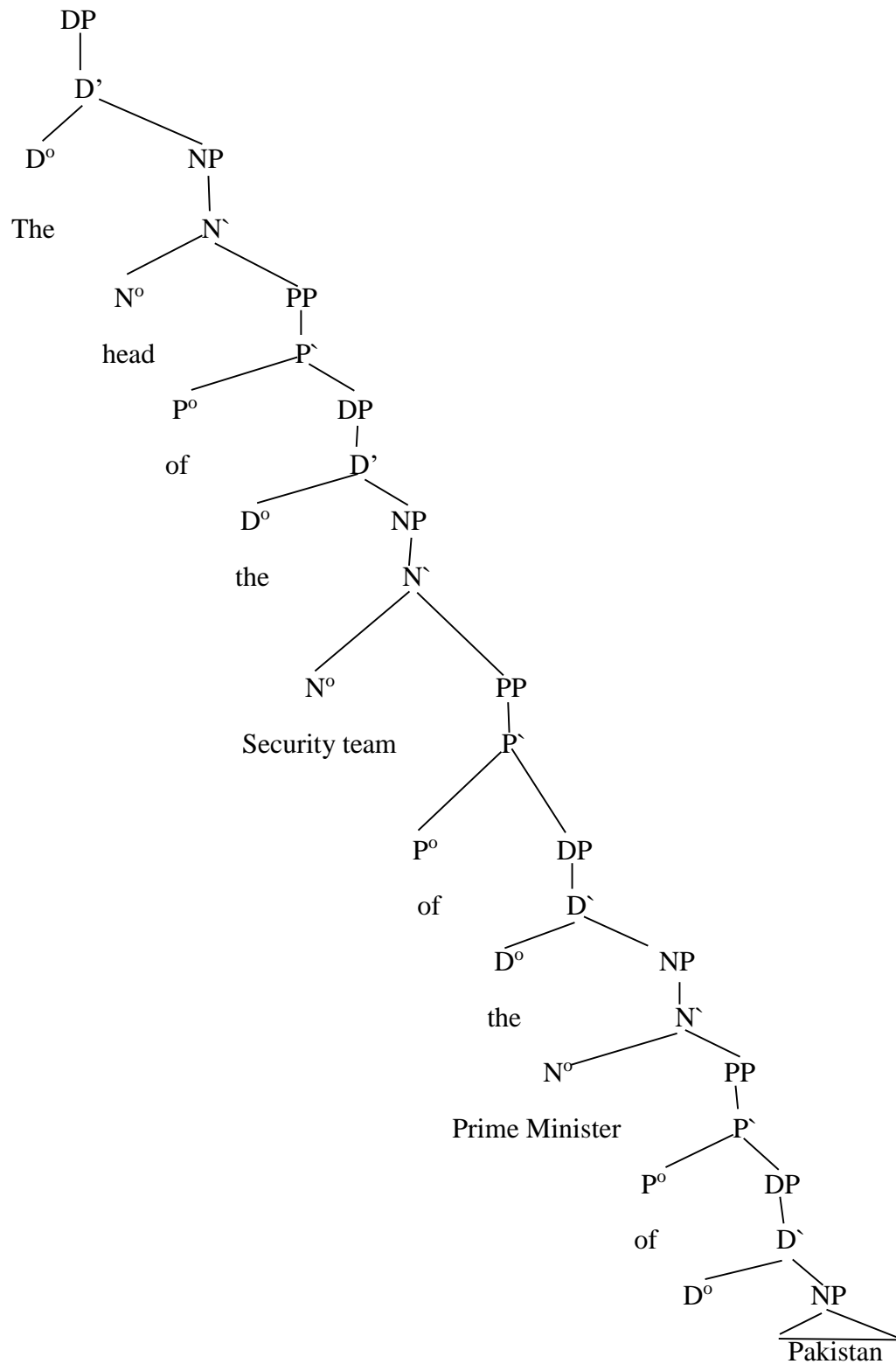
This figure 9(b) begins with the first DP "The head", in which "The" is the determiner (D°) and "head" is the head "N°" of the noun phrase (NP). After this phrase,

there is a prepositional phrase (PP) "of the security team". Here, "of" acts as the preposition (P⁰) which attaches the noun "head" with other DP as "the security team". In this DP, as in each of these the pole "The" again is the determiner, covering 'security' as an adjective to the head of 'team'. This noun phrase is then qualified by another prepositional phrase (PP) "of the Prime Minister". In this DP "the Prime Minister' 'The' acts as a determiner and 'Prime Minister'is the head noun. This DP is connected through the preposition 'of 'to another DP 'Pakistan' which stands alone without determiner. Thus, with the use of DP hypothesis, the phrase is a combination of what has been described as nested determiner phrase.

9(c) (Pashto Translation) د پاکستان د لومړی وزیر د امنیتی ټیم مشر

Pashto: Da Pakistan da   lomri wazir   da amniyati team masher

amniyati team   mashar
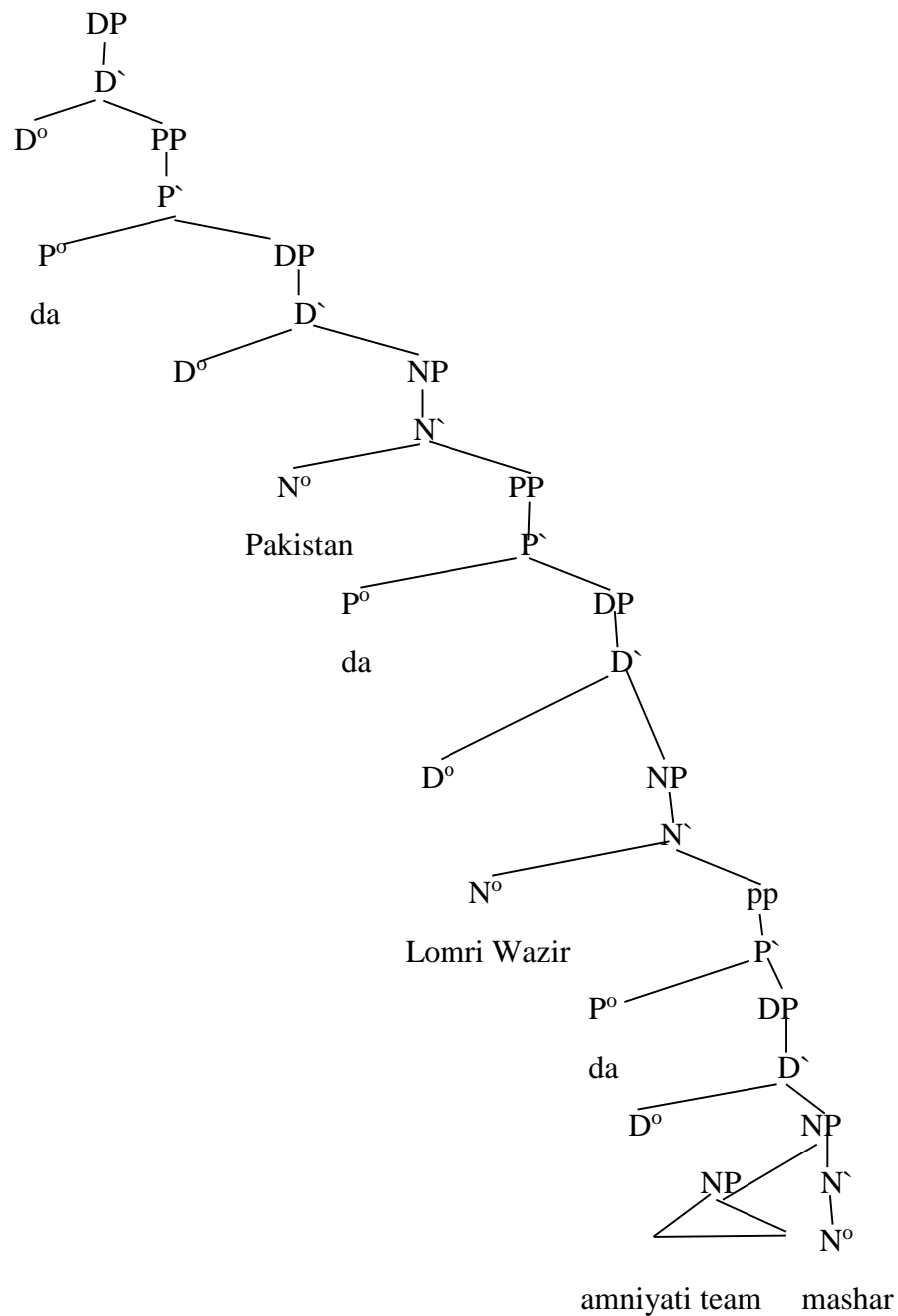
The figure 9(c) begins with the DP "Da Pakistan," using 'da' as a preposition (Pᵒ) introducing the NP 'Pakistan' as the head noun (Nᵒ). This phase is followed PP 'da lomri wazir' which contains 'da' as a preposition modifying 'lomri wazir'(Prime Minister).   The next DP "da amniyati team" has 'amniyati' (security) which is a modifier of 'team'(team) and is a noun phrase NP. This DP is linked by another preposition 'da' to the last NP 'masher' which is the core noun (Nᵒ) of the phrase under

study. Each of the prepositional phrases 'da' in the phrase works as a structural element to join, different DPs in order to form a possessive or relational chain from "Pakistan to Masher". The DP hypothesis shows all other phrases are embedded within one another to form a hierarchical structure with the help of prepositions.

10(a) گردش دوراں

 Urdu: Gardash-e-doran

Gloss: Passage 's   time

English Translation: Time's passage

```
                        DP
                       /   \
                    DP       D`
                    |       /  \
                    D`     D°    NP
                   /  \    e    /  \
                 D°    NP      /    \
                      /  \    doran
                   Gardash
```
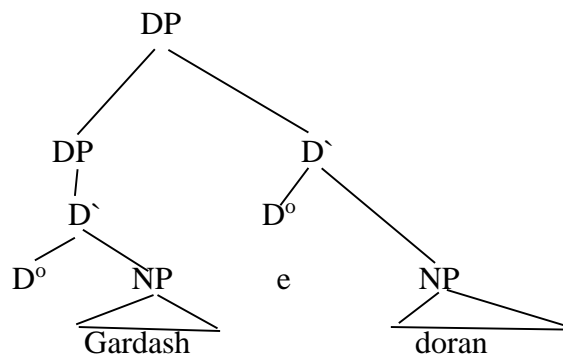
This figure 10(a) contains two main NPs connected by the genitive marker 'e'. The first NP is the head noun, 'Gardash', which means passage or a time, and is the primary noun describing the action of turning or movement. The genitive 'e' serves as linker/determiner that connects the first NP with the second NP, 'Doran', which in this case denotes time or period. The second NP 'doran' gives the contextual meaning by relating the cycle to the concept of time. The genitive 'e' expresses the possession or some kind of association between two nouns where 'Garash' is the action or the subject and 'doran', the noun being in focus explains the period of time. The structure shows that Urdu employs construct genitive in specifying possession between the NPs.

10(b) Time's passage (English Translation)
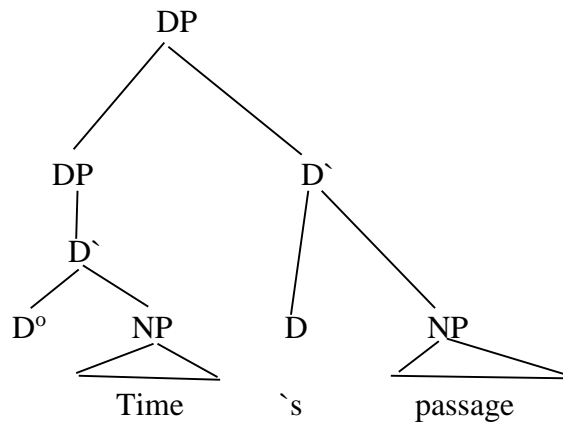
In the above figure 10(b) possessive marker "'s" is analyzed as a determiner which heads the DP and its NP complement, i.e "passage." In this phrase, "Time" is the possessor while "passage" is the noun being possessed. The intermediate projection D` creates a relationship between the determiner and the NP to qualify or modify the NP. As a result, based on the DP hypothesis, "'s" is at the highest level in the the DP that identifies the entire phrase, thus making DP the maximal projection and "passage" the lexical noun which is modified the possessive determiner.

10(c) د وخت گزران (Pashto Translation)

Pashto: Da wakht guzran
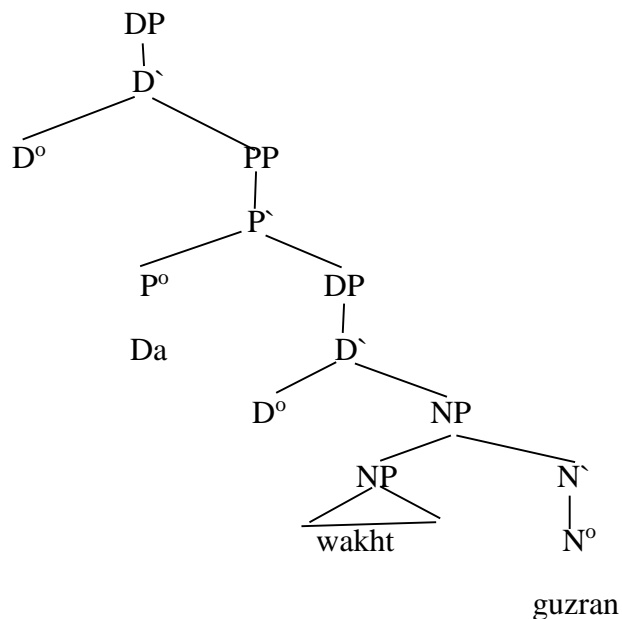
In the above figure 10(c) "د وخت گزران" ("Da wakht guzran," meaning "the passage of time"), the Determiner Phrase (DP) Hypothesis offers a syntactic framework

where the entire phrase is categorized as a DP, with "Da" functioning as the possessive element or PP. In this analysis, "Da" acts as the preposition, introducing a possessive relationship between the noun "wakht" (time) and the head noun "guzran" (passage), with "Da wakht" forming a prepositional phrase (PP) within the overall structure. The noun "guzran" serves as the complement to the determiner phrase, representing the head noun. Thus, "Da wakht guzran" is understood as a determiner phrase where "Da" determines the noun phrase "wakht" and "guzran" completes the syntactic relationship. the original phrase in Urdu contains construct genitive, where "e" functions independently as determiner to join two NPs, but in pashto there is no construct genitive. The phrase starts with preposition showing that Pashto does not have structure like urdu to demonstrate possession or ownership.

اسکا حلقہ ء احباب (a)11

Urdu: Us ka   halqa-e-ahbab

Gloss: His of   circle   s' companions

English Translation: His companions' circle
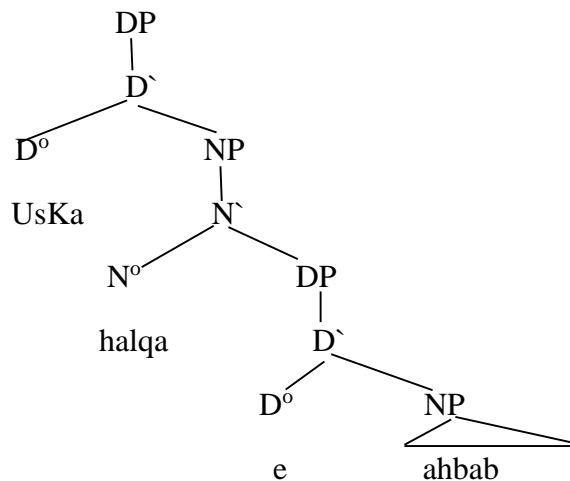
In the above figure 11(a), "Uska" (his) functions as the determiner (D^o), which introduces the possessive relationship, governing the noun phrase (NP) "halqa-e-ahbab." Within the noun phrase, "halqa" (circle) is the head noun, while "e" is a genitive particle or determiner linking "halqa" to "ahbab" (friends), creating a genitive relationship that completes the meaning of the phrase. The DP Hypothesis, which views possessive determiners as central to the syntactic structure, demonstrates its

applicability in analyzing complex phrases in languages like Urdu, reinforcing its cross-linguistic relevance.

11(b) د هغه د ملګریو تولنو (Pashto Translation)

Pashto: Da   hagha   da   malgaryu   tolana
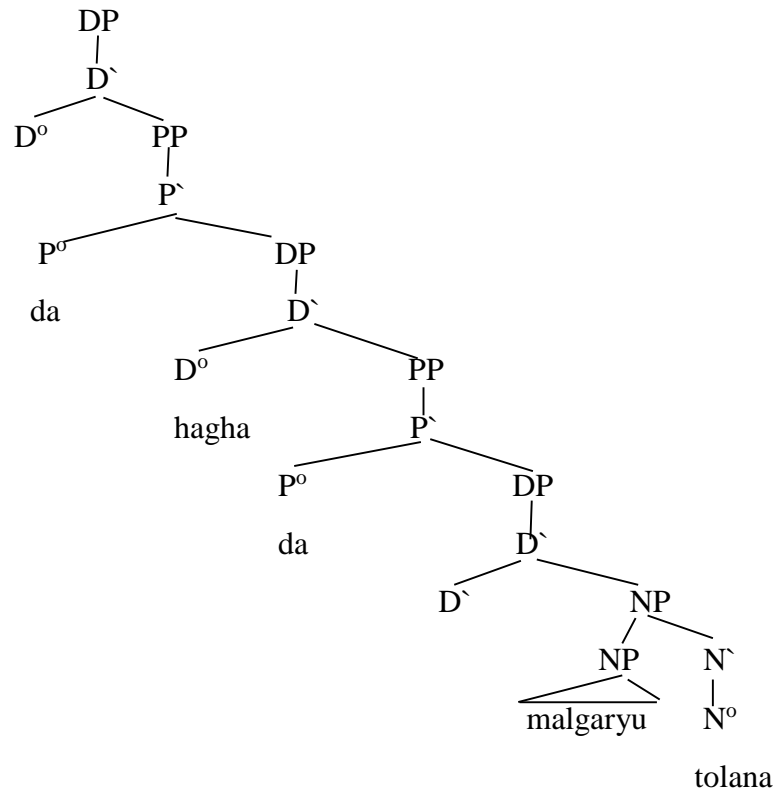
This figure 11(b) begins with, "Da" which functions as the prepositional phrase, introducing a possessive relationship, while "hagha" (his) serves as DP. The preposition "da" connects the determiner to the rest of the phrase, introducing the following DP. The second DP consists of "malgaryu" (friends) as the head noun within a possessive construction, linked by the genitive marker "da." This DP is governed by the noun phrase (NP) "tolana" (assembly), which forms the head of the entire noun phrase. The DP Hypothesis posits that the phrase is structured around determiners, with each element nested to form a complex possessive relationship, demonstrating the hierarchical syntactic structure in Pashto. Through this framework, the phrase "Da hagha da malgaryu tolana" exemplifies how the DP Hypothesis can be applied to analyze intricate possessive constructions, with determiners and prepositions playing crucial roles in establishing relationships between noun phrases.

11(c) His companions' circle (English Translation)

```
                          DP
                        /    \
                     DP       D`
                      |      /   \
                      D`    D°     NP
                    /   \         /  \
                  D°    NP       circle
                       /  \
              His  companion  s`
```

His   companion   s`   circle
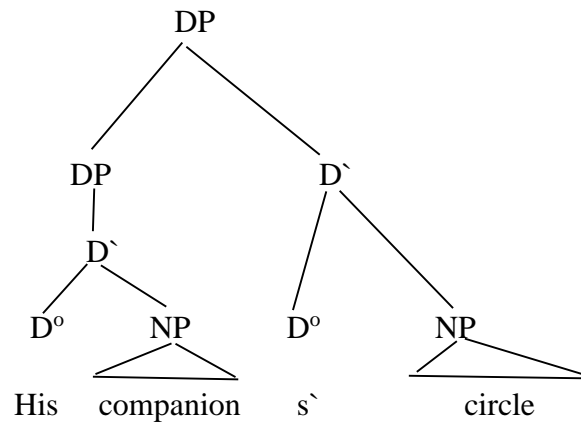
This figure 11(c) "His companions' circle" is regarded a Determiner Phrase (DP), which uses construct genitive in order to show a possessive relation between the components. As the top, we have the whole DP which further splits into the D' structure where D° stands for the genitive, 's. This marker is attached to the noun phrase "companions" as the possessor of another DP, which is "His" (a determiner) and "companions" (a plural noun). This marker relates this DP with the NP "circle", the possessed entity forming the entire DP. Therefore, the phrase has a hierarchical composition because the genitive construction defines the position of the possessor and the possessed relative to each other in the DP structure.

12(a) اسکا مجموعه ء یاران

Urdu: Uska   majmoaa-e-yaran

Gloss: Her   of   assembly s' friends

English Translation: Her friends' assembly

```
          DP
           |
          D`
        /    \
      D°      NP
      |        |
    UsKa      N`
            /    \
          N°      DP
           |      /  \
        majmoa   D`
               /    \
             D°      NP
              |      /  \
              e     yaran
```
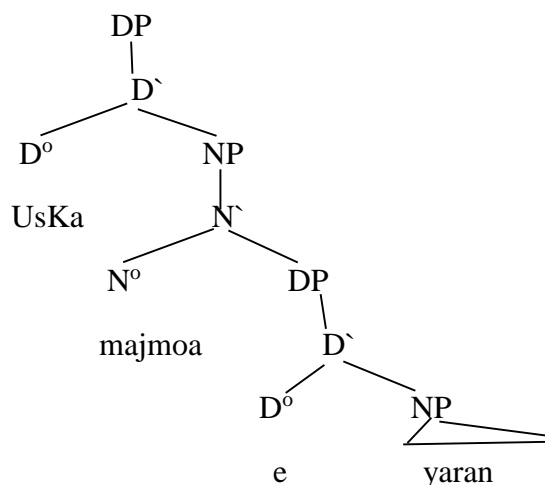
In this figure 12(a), "Uska" (his) functions as the determiner (D°), which introduces the possessive relationship, governing the noun phrase (NP) " majmoaa-e-yaran." Within the noun phrase, "majmoa" (circle) is the head noun, while "e" is a genitive particle or determiner linking "majmoa" to "yaran" (friends), creating a genitive relationship that completes the meaning of the phrase. The DP Hypothesis, which views possessive determiners as central to the syntactic structure, demonstrates its applicability in analyzing complex phrases in languages like Urdu, reinforcing its cross-linguistic relevance.

12(b) (Pashto Translation) د هغي د يارانو مجموعه

Pashto: Da   haghy   da   yarano   majmoa
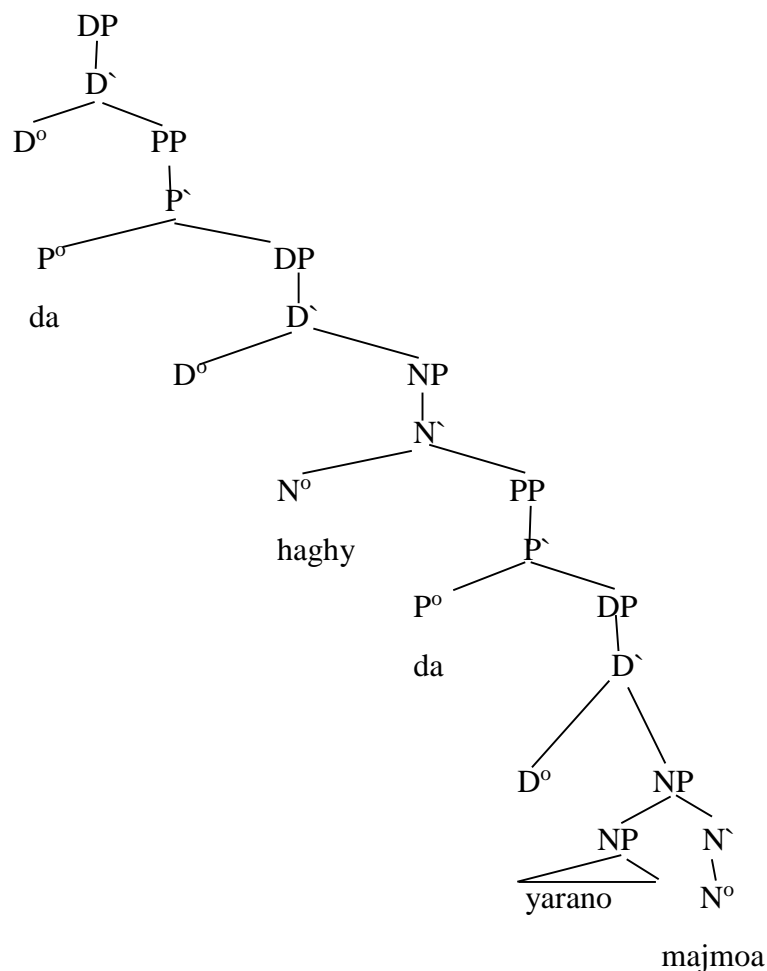
In the above figure 12(b) the entire phrase is a DP, with "هغي" (haghy, "her") functioning as a demonstrative determiner modifying "مجموعه (majmoa, "assembly"), the head noun. This noun is further modified by a prepositional phrase (PP) introduced by "د" (da, "of"), which links "يارانو" (yarano, "friends") as the possessor. The first PP

"د هغي" (da haghy, "of that") serves as a genitive marker linking the demonstrative to the noun phrase, while the second PP "د يارانو" (da yarano, "of friends") embeds the possessor "يارانو" within the structure, marking it as the owner of "مجموعه." The overall structure follows a hierarchical DP, where the genitive construction links the possessor and possessed nouns through the prepositional phrase, with recursive embedding of determiner and noun phrases at each level.

12(c)Her friends' assembly (English Translation)
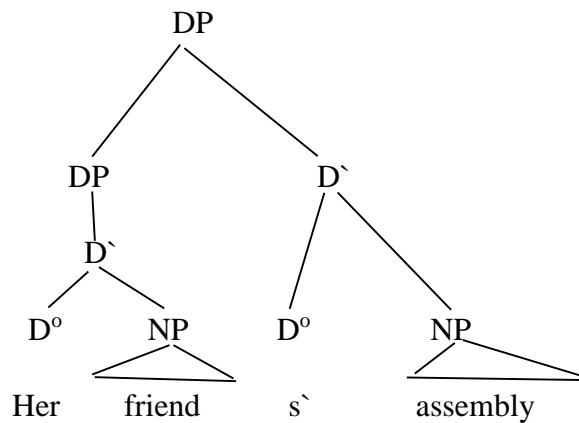
This figure 12(c) constitutes a Determiner Phrase (DP), with Her "friend" functioning as a possessive constituent modifying the noun "assembly". The determiner "Her" serves as a modifier of the noun "friend", forming a DP at intermediate level. The possessive marker "'s" operates as the head of the possessive construction, mediating the relationship between the possessor (friend) and the possessed entity (assembly). At the highest structural level, the noun "assembly" serves as the head of the embedded Noun Phrase (NP) within the DP. This structure aligns with the hierarchical structure proposed by the DP Hypothesis, which makes it clear that possessive constructions are layered, with determiners and possessive markers governing the internal structure of the phrase.

4.3 Determiner Phrase in Pashto

In this section, different genitive phrases are taken from selected books of Pashto grammar. The selected phrases are then glossed and translated into English and Urdu to get contrasting or similar results. The selected determiner phrases are analyzed for *of-genitive* and *construct genitives*. Pashto phrases for analysis are given below:

د کابل د پوهنتون د کمپیوتر ساینس فیکلټه (a)13

Pashto: Da Kabul da pohantun da computer science faculty

Gloss: Of Kabul of university of   computer science faculty

English Translation: The faculty of computer science of the university of Kabul

```
                    DP
                     |
                    D`
                   /    \
                 Dᵒ      PP
                          |
                         P`
                        /    \
                      Pᵒ      DP
                      da       |
                              D`
                            /     \
                          Dᵒ       NP
                                    |
                                   N`
                                  /    \
                                Nᵒ      PP
                              Kabul      |
                                        P`
                                       /    \
                                     Pᵒ      DP
                                     da       |
                                             D`
                                           /     \
                                         Dᵒ       NP
                                                   |
                                                  N`
                                                 /    \
                                               Nᵒ      pp
                                           Pohantun     |
                                                       P`
                                                      /    \
                                                    Pᵒ      DP
                                                    da       |
                                                            D`
                                                          /     \
                                                        Dᵒ       NP
                                                               /    \
                                                             NP      N`
                                                            /\        |
                                                           /__\      Nᵒ
```

Computer science   pohanzi

This figure 13(a) begins with preposition "da", which governs the entire phrase and signals possession. This DP is followed by another determiner phrase (DP), in which "Kabul" acts as the noun modified by the preposition "da", creating the

possessive structure "of Kabul". Another DP in the tree is "da pohantun" (of the university), where "da" once again functions as a PP, projecting the possessive relationship between Kabul and the university. Next, "da computer science" forms another DP, where "computer science" is nested as a noun phrase (NP), further modifying the noun "faculty" (faculty). The entire phrase is a hierarchical structure of possessive DPs, each layered to express relationships between *Kabul, the university, computer science, and the faculty*. The DP hypothesis enables the analysis of these possessive structures by placing prepositions/of-genitives at the core of each relationship, showing how possessive elements are structured around the nouns. The phrase concludes with the head noun "faculty" (faculty), which is the main noun being modified by the preceding DPs. Thus, the DP hypothesis provides a comprehensive framework for analyzing how possessive and descriptive relationships in complex noun phrases are organized, with governing the syntax and meaning of the phrase. This analysis is crucial for understanding how Pashto, like many other languages, utilizes the DP structure to convey possession and hierarchical relationships within noun phrases.

13(b) (Urdu Translation) جامع کابل کے کمپیوٹر سائنس کی فیکلٹی

Urdu: Jama-e-Kabul ke computer science ki faculty
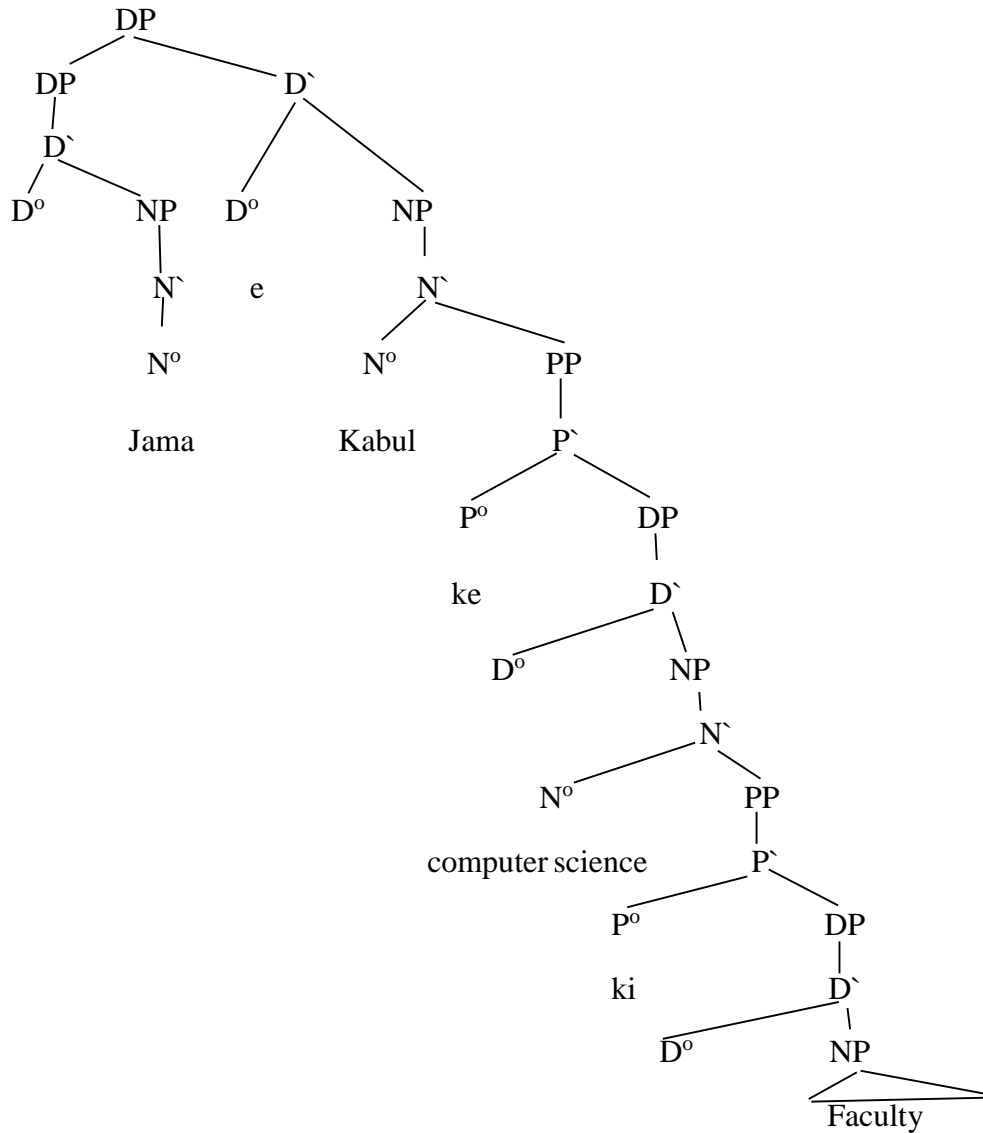
This figure 13(b) is governed by a DP, with "Jama-e-Kabul" representing a complex noun phrase where "Jama" (university) is modified by "Kabul" connected through the possessive determiner/construct genitive "e". This DP is further followed by another DP, "ke computer science", where "ke" (of) serves as a postposition connecting "computer science" to the next phrase. The postpositional phrase (PP) "ki faculty" represents the final possessive relationship where "ki" acts as the postposition, linking "faculty" (the head noun) to "computer science". The DP hypothesis provides a clear framework for analyzing such phrases, showing how each determiner governs its respective noun and builds hierarchical relationships, with "faculty" as the final noun that is modified by all preceding DPs. This analysis highlights how determiners

structure possessive relationships and form the backbone of syntactic organization in noun phrases in Urdu, just as in other languages.

13(c) The faculty of computer science of the university of Kabul (English Translation)

The above figure 13(c) begins with determiner "The", projecting a DP that dominates the phrase. This DP is followed by an NP ("faculty"), which is modified by the prepositional phrase (PP) "of computer science". Here, "of" serves as the preposition (P°) linking the faculty to "computer science". Further, "computer science" forms an NP that is nested within the broader DP, showing that the faculty is specifically related to the field of computer science. Another PP follows, "of the University", where "of" connects "university" to the larger phrase. The DP here, headed by "the", modifies the NP "university". Finally, this phrase is further specified by the last PP "of Kabul", where "of" links the university to Kabul, forming the complete possessive chain. The DP structure shows how determiners and prepositions layer to form complex noun phrases, with "The Faculty" as the head noun, and the other phrases successively modifying it through possessive and descriptive relationships.

14(a) د ننگرهار د ولایت د شینوارو د سیمي مشهور جومات

Pashto: Da Nangarhar da wilayat da shinwaro da simi mashoor jumat

Gloss: Of Nangarhar of province of shinwari of area famous mosque

English Translation: The famous mosque of the Shinwari area of province of Nangarhar

DP
D`
D°   PP
        P`
P°   DP
da   D`
        D°   NP
                N`
            N°   PP
        Nangarhar   P`
                P°   DP
                da   D`
                    D°   NP
                            N`
                        N°   pp
                    Wilayat   P`
                            P°   DP
                            da   D`
                                D°   NP
                                        N`
                                    N°   PP
                                Shinwaro   P`
                                        P°   DP
                                        da   D`
                                            D°   NP
                                                NP   N`
                                                N`   N°
                                            N°   AdjP   jumat
                                        Simi   mashoor
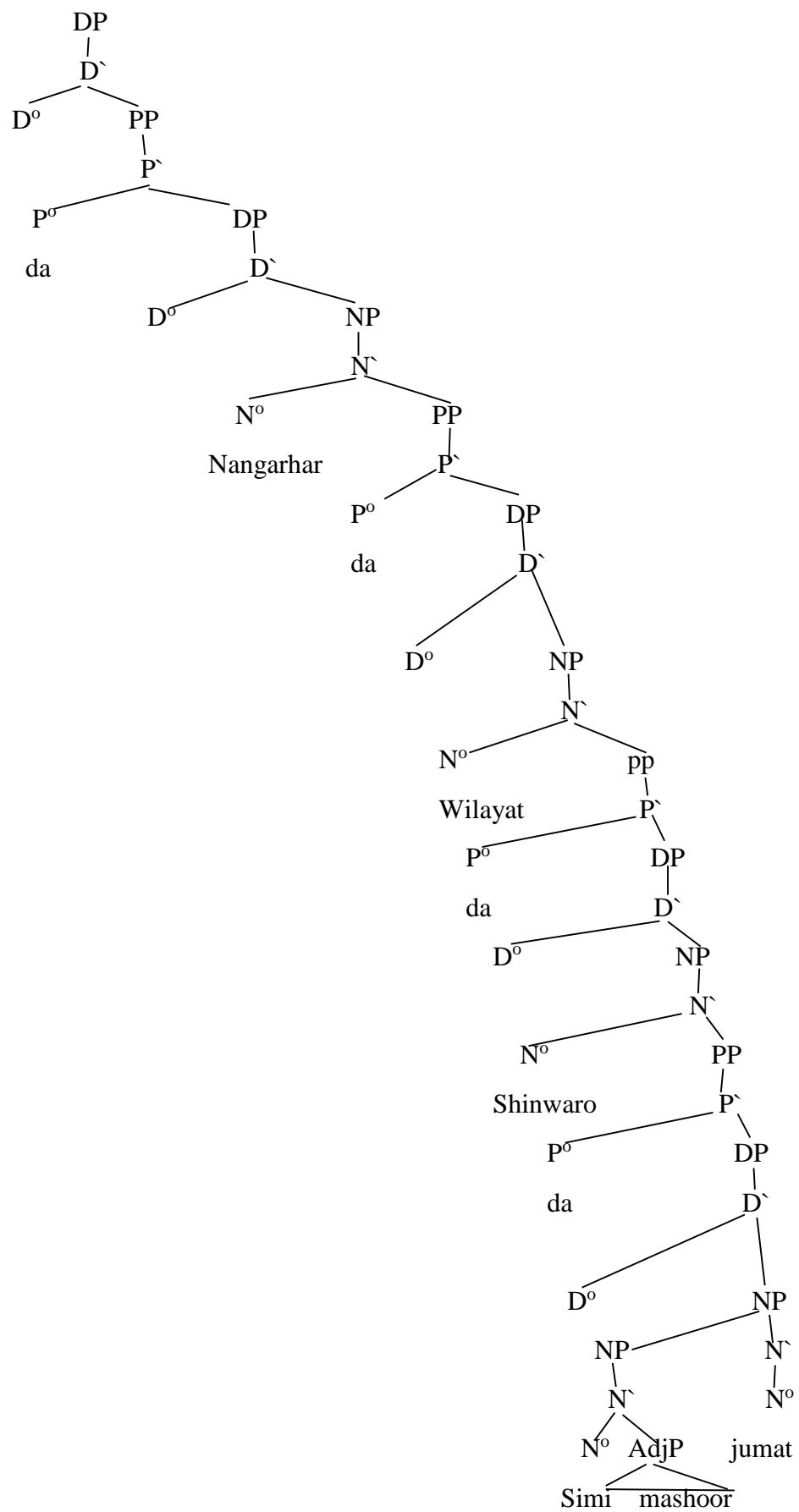
This figure 14(a) begins with "da" which projects "Nangarhar", that is modified by a postpositional phrase (PP), "da wilayat" (of the province), where "da" governs the NP "wilayat" (province). This DP establishes the possessive connection between "Nangarhar" and "wilayat". Next PP, "da shinwaro", further specifies the noun "wilayat". The determiner "da" here shows possession, linking the Shinwari to the province. Following this, the DP "da simi" adds another possessive layer, connecting the Shinwari to a specific area. The final layer of possession consists of an adjective phrase (AdjP) "mashoor" (famous) modifying the head noun "jumat" (mosque), which serves as the main focus of the entire phrase. In this structure, each determiner phrase introduces a possessive relationship, creating a nested hierarchy where *Nangarhar* possesses the *province,* which contains the Shinwari area. The DP hypothesis thus helps in analyzing how these possessive relationships are built, showing that each noun is linked through its respective determiner and modified by postpositions and adjectives, resulting in the full meaning of the phrase.

14(b) صوبہ ننگرھار کے شنواری علاقے کی مشہور مسجد (Urdu Translation)

Urdu: Subah-e-Nangarhar ke shinwari ilaqy ki mashoor masjid

DP
DP
D`
D°
NP
N`
N°

e

NP
N`
N°
PP
P`
P°
DP
D`
D°
NP
N`
N°
PP
P`
P°
DP
D`
D°
NP
N`
AdjP
N°

Subah

Nangarhar

ke

Shinwari elaqy

ki

Mashoor   masjid
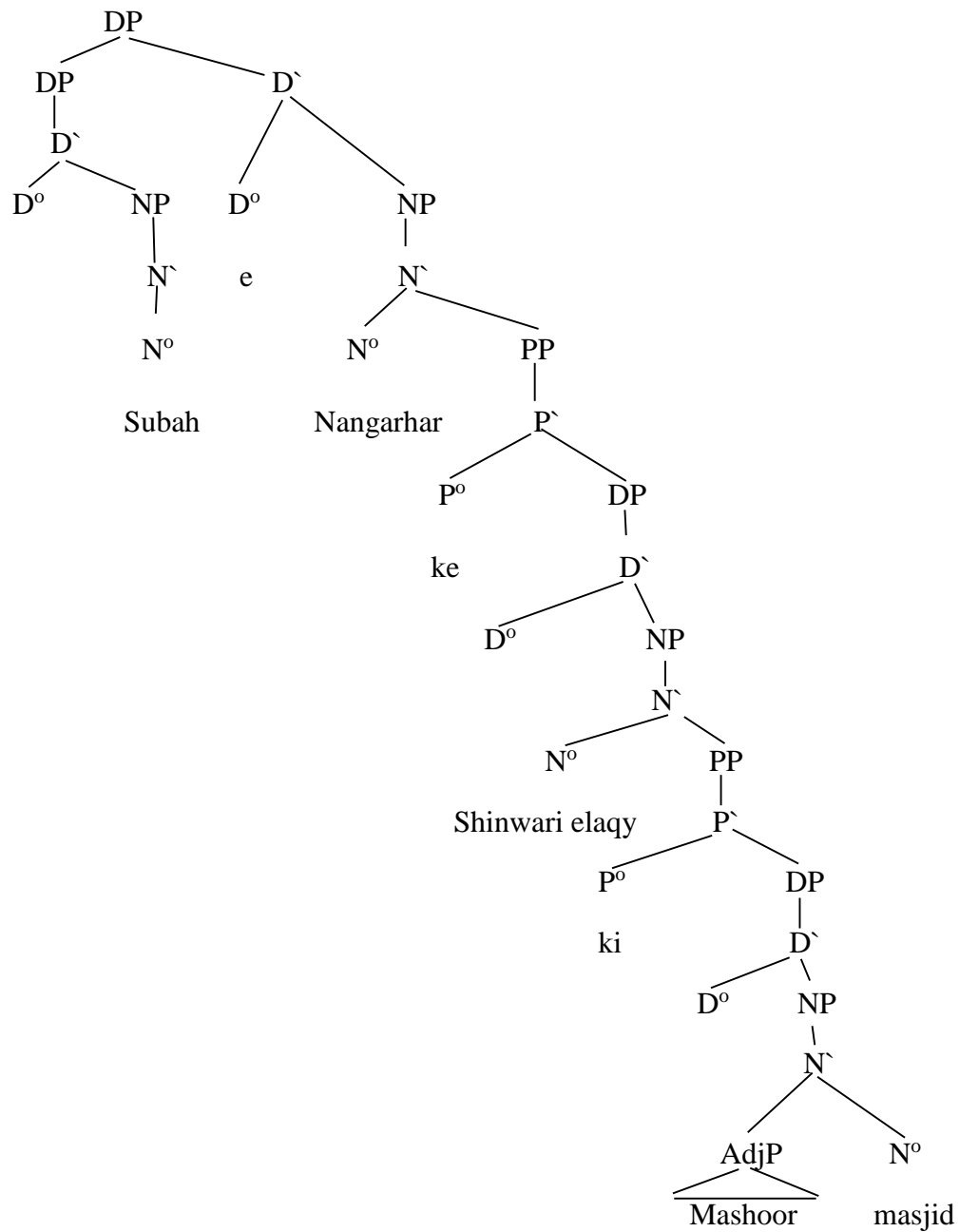
The above figure 14(b) is governed by a Determiner Phrase (DP), with "subah-e-Nangarhar" (province of Nangarhar) functioning as a complex noun phrase. Here, "subah" (province) is modified by "Nangarhar" through the genitive possessive marker "e", which establishes a possessive relationship between the two elements. This DP is followed by another DP, "Shinwari elaqy" (Shinwari area), where "elaqy" (area) is linked to "Shinwari" through the possessive preposition "ke", indicating that the area belongs to the Shinwari. Subsequently, the DP "ki mashoor masjid" introduces another

possessive relationship. The genitive marker "ki" (of) connects "mashoor masjid" (famous mosque) to the Shinwari area, creating a nested possessive structure. Within this DP, the head noun "masjid" (mosque) is further modified by the adjective "mashoor" (famous), which contributes a descriptive aspect to the phrase. The DP Hypothesis provides a syntactic framework to analyze these possessive relationships, illustrating how determiners and possessive markers systematically govern and organize noun phrases. This hierarchical construction the structural coherence of possessive phrases in Urdu, with each DP layering information to build the broader meaning.

14(c) The famous mosque of the Shinwari area of province of Nangarhar. (English Translation)
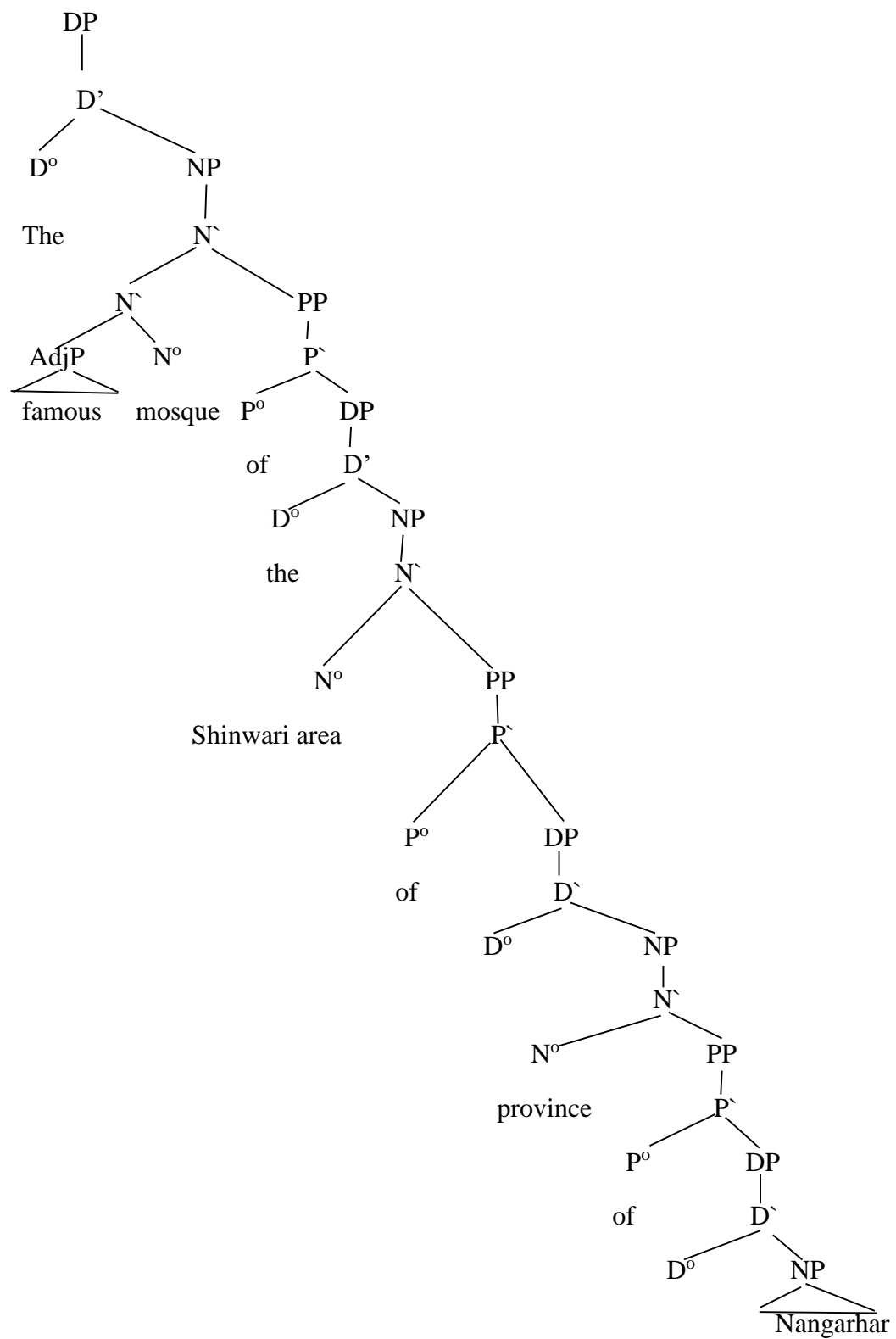
The above figure 14(c) commences the determiner "The" introduces the DP, projecting "famous mosque" as the head Noun Phrase (NP). Within this NP, the

Adjective Phrase (AdjP) "famous" modifies the noun "mosque", resulting in the DP "The famous mosque".   Following this, the structure incorporates a Prepositional Phrase (PP) "of the Shinwari area", where the preposition "of" connects "mosque" to "Shinwari area". Within this PP, the determiner "The" introduces the DP "the Shinwari area", with "Shinwari" modifying the noun "area". This DP clarifies the geographical location of the mosque. Next, another PP, "of the province", establishes a possessive relationship between "the Shinwari area" and "province". In this PP, the determiner "The" introduces the DP "the province", signifying a specific province associated with the Shinwari area. The final PP in the structure is "of Nangarhar", where the preposition "of" links "province" to "Nangarhar". This connection specifies that the province is part of Nangarhar. Here, "of" marks the possessive relationship, and "Nangarhar" functions as the head noun. The hierarchical layering of DPs and PPs demonstrates the possessive and descriptive relationships at each level. These relationships trace the linkage from the mosque to the Shinwari area, to the province, and finally to Nangarhar, providing a syntactically and semantically coherent structure.

The DP Hypothesis explains how determiners and prepositions interact to construct such hierarchical structures. This analysis demonstrates the universality of *of-genitive* constructions across languages like English, Urdu, and Persian. Each language employs similar mechanisms to establish possessive and locative relationships, conveying equivalent meanings despite variations in syntactic realization.

د هجران شپه (a)15

Pashto: Da hijran shpa

gloss: Of grief night

English Translation: A night of grief

```
                    DP
                    |
                    D`
                   /  \
              D°       PP
                       |
                       P`
                      /  \
                   P°     DP
                           |
                  Da       D`
                          /  \
                      D°      NP
                             /  \
                          NP     N`
                         /\      |
                     hijran      N°

                                    shpa
```
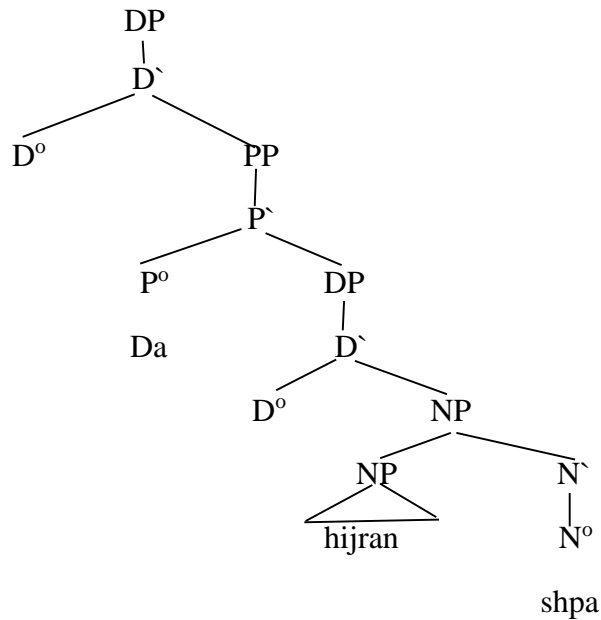
        In this figure 15(a), the preposition "Da" (of) introduces a possessive structure, linking the nouns "hijran" (grief) and "shpa" (night). The preposition "Da" functions to establish a possessive relationship, where "hijran" serves as a modifier describing the nature of "shpa". The noun "hijran" forms a Noun Phrase (NP) that modifies the head noun "shpa" within the phrase. The head noun "shpa" (night) is the central element, and its connection to "hijran" is mediated through the possessive preposition "Da". This results in the phrase "Da hijran shpa" (The night of grief), where the possessive marker "Da" organizes the possessive relationship. This syntactic structure highlights the hierarchy and coherence of possessive phrases, where modifiers add specificity to the head noun.

15(b) غم کی رات (Urdu Translation)

Gham ki rat

```
              DP
              |
              D`
             /    \
           D°      NP
                    |
                    N`
                   /    \
                 N°      pp
               Gham       |
                          P`
                         /    \
                       P°      DP
                       Ki       |
                                D`
                               /    \
                             D°      NP
                                    /___\
                                     Rat
```
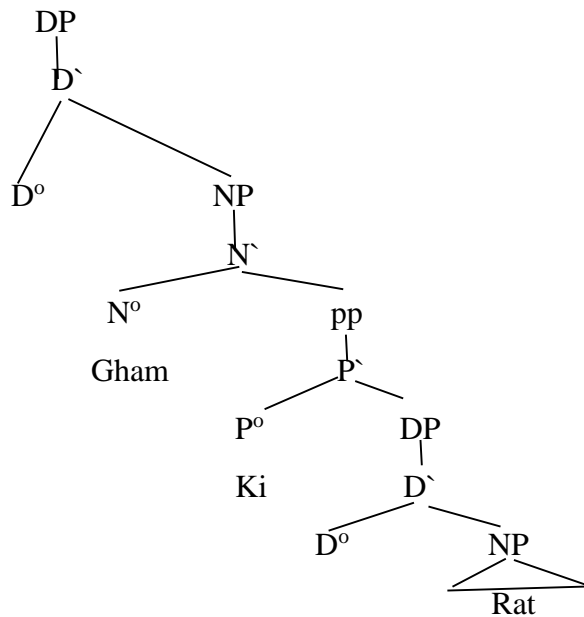
In this structure 15(b), "ki" functions as a genitive marker, similar to the English "of", linking "Gham" (grief) to "raat" (night). The entire phrase forms a Determiner Phrase (DP), where the Noun Phrase (NP) "Gham" is modified by a Postpositional Phrase (PP) introduced by "ki". This PP contains another DP with the noun "raat" as its head. The genitive marker "ki" establishes a possessive or associative relationship between "Gham" and "raat", indicating that the night is characterized by grief. The syntactic structure illustrates the hierarchical relationship within the DP, where the genitive marker establishes the connection between the two nouns, layering meaning into a cohesive possessive construction.

15(c) A night of grief (English Translation)

```
            DP
            D`
      D°           NP
      A            N`
            N°           pp
           night         P`
                  P°           DP
                  of           D`
                        D°           NP
                                    Grief
```
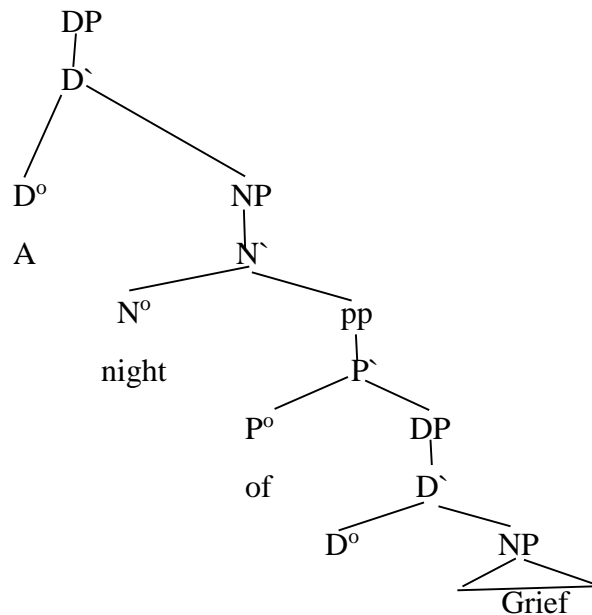
In this construction 15(c), the determiner "A" projects the Determiner Phrase (DP), governing the relationship between the head noun "night" and the prepositional phrase (PP) "of grief". The noun "night" serves as the central element of the DP, while the preposition "of" introduces a possessive relationship with the noun "grief", designating "grief" as the defining characteristic of the "night". The DP Hypothesis explains how determiners like "A" function to anchor the phrase, providing specificity or indefiniteness, and how prepositional phrases serve to elaborate or specify relationships within the structure. Here, the PP "of grief" adds a descriptive layer, linking the abstract concept "grief" to the concrete entity "night".

This syntactic analysis highlights how determiners, prepositions, and nouns collaborate to form meaningful and hierarchically organized phrases. By demonstrating the role of each component, the DP Hypothesis highlights the systematic nature of possessive and descriptive constructions in English, emphasizing the importance of determiners in structuring such relationships.

زما د کتابتون د ادبیاتو د برخي مهم کتابونه (a)16

Pashto: Zama da kitabono da adibatu da barkhi muhema kitabona

gloss: My of library of literature of section important books

English Translation: The important books of the literature section of my library

This figure 16(a) exhibits a complex possessive structure consistent with the DP (Determiner Phrase) hypothesis. At the top level, the DP is initiated by the determiner "Zama" (my), establishing a possessive relationship that identifies the owner. This DP

is followed by the prepositional phrase (PP) "da kitabono" (of books), where the preposition "da" (of) connects the noun "kitabono" (books) to the possessor "Zama". The subsequent PP, "da adibatu" (of literature), modifies "kitabono" by specifying the category to which these books belong. The preposition "da" again functions as a possessive marker, linking "adibatu" (literature) to "kitabono". Another PP, "da barkhi" (of section), further narrows the scope, indicating that the literature books belong to a specific section. Here too, "da" establishes a possessive relationship between "barkhi" (section) and "adibatu" (literature). Finally, the phrase incorporates an Adjective Phrase (AdjP), "muhema kitabona" (important books), where the adjective "muhema" (important) modifies the noun "kitabona" to emphasize their significance. This layered structure demonstrates how Pashto employs determiners, prepositions, and modifiers to build intricate possessive and descriptive relationships. The DP hypothesis effectively captures the hierarchical organization of such constructions, showing how each element contributes to a detailed and cohesive expression.

16(b) (Urdu Translation) میری لائبریری کے ادبی حصے کی اہم کتابیں

Urdu: Meri library ke   adabi   hissy   ki ahm kibaain

```
                        DP
                        |
                        D`
               ┌────────────┐
              D°            NP
             Meri           N`
                      ┌──────────────┐
                     N°              PP
                   library           P`
                            ┌────────────┐
                           P°            DP
                           ke            D`
                                 ┌────────────┐
                                D°            NP
                                              N`
                                       ┌────────────┐
                                      N°            PP
                                  adabi hissy       P`
                                            ┌────────────┐
                                           P°            DP
                                           ki            D`
                                                   ┌────────────┐
                                                  D°            NP
                                                                N`
                                                         ┌────────────┐
                                                       AdjP          N°
                                                       ahm        kitabain
```
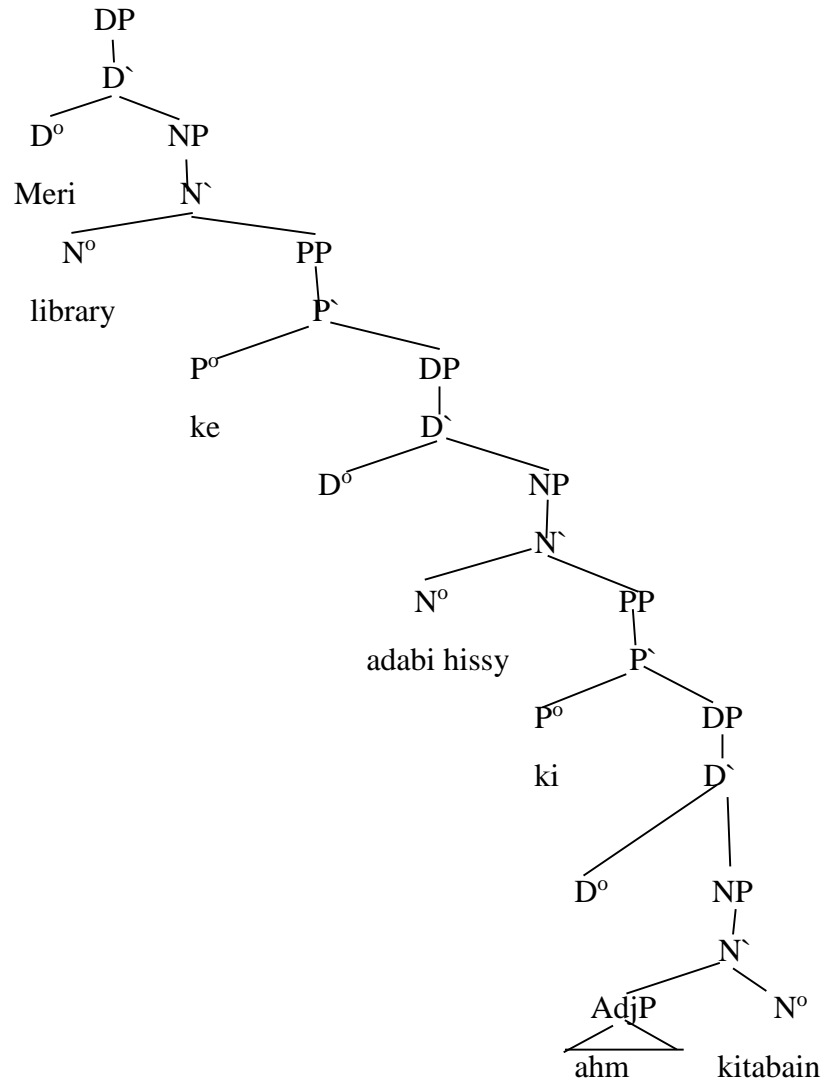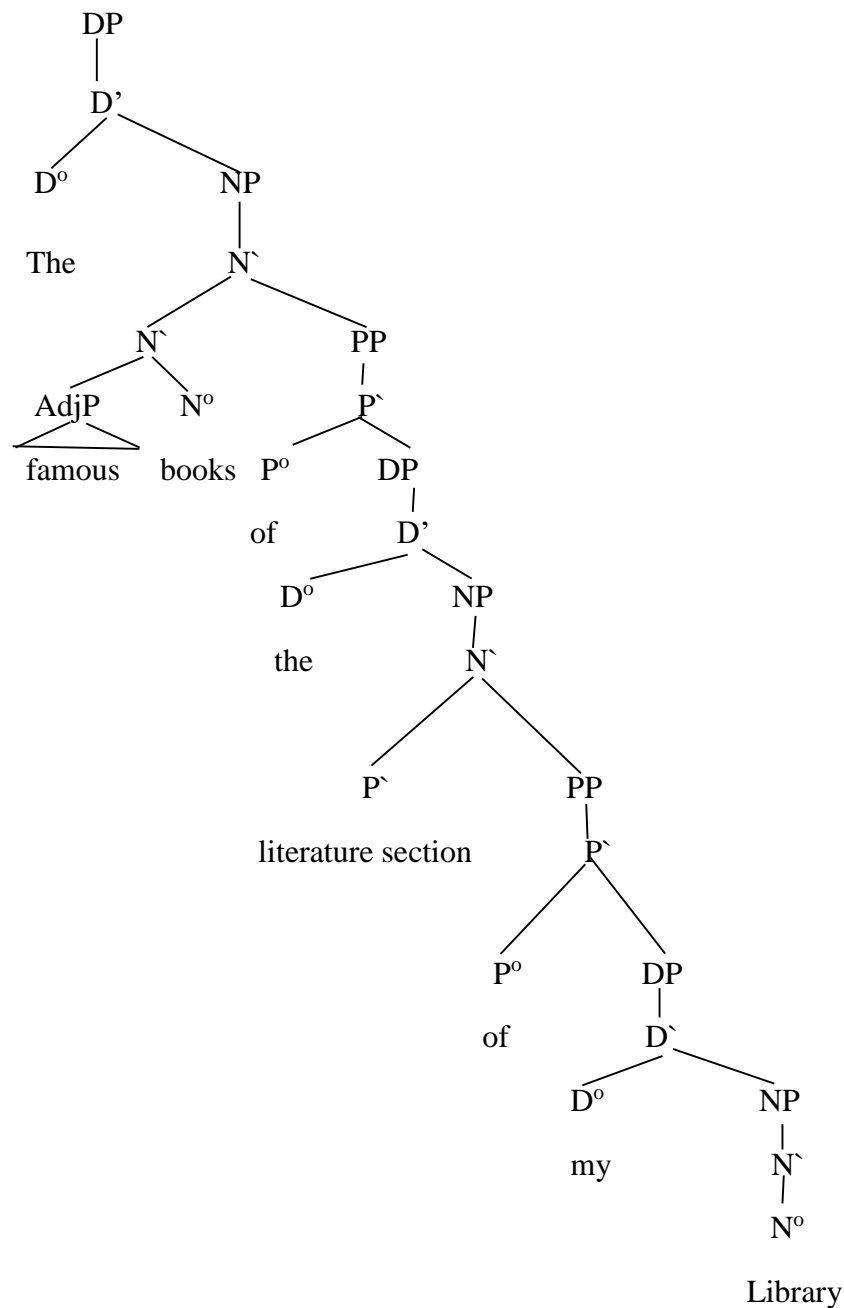
In this figure 16(b) at the top level, the determiner "Meri" (my) introduces the DP, linking "library" (the head noun) to the possessor "Meri". This creates the possessive structure "Meri library" (my library), which forms the first part of the DP. Next, the postpositional phrase (PP) "ke adabi hissy" (of the literature section) follows, where "ke" (of) connects the noun "adabi hissy" (literature section) to "library", indicating that the section belongs to the library. The noun "adabi hissy" is a possessive noun phrase further linked by "ke." Then, we have the postpositional phrase "ki ahm kitabain" (important books), where "ki" (of) connects the head noun "kitabain" (books) to the adjective phrase "ahm" (important), describing the books as significant. In this structure, the determiners and postpositions play central roles in establishing

possession, linking "library" to "adabi hissy" and then further modifying the head noun "kitabain" (books). The DP hypothesis effectively breaks down this possessive construction, showing how determiners and postpositions form relationships between the various elements, resulting in the phrase

16(c) The important books of the literature section of my library. (English Translation)

```
                    DP
                    |
                    D'
                   /  \
                 D°    NP
                        |
                The     N`
                       /   \
                     N`     PP
                    /  \     |
                 AdjP   N°   P`
                  /\         /  \
              famous books  P°   DP
                            |     |
                            of    D'
                                 /  \
                               D°    NP
                                     |
                               the   N`
                                    /   \
                                  P`     PP
                                  |       |
                        literature section P`
                                          /  \
                                        P°    DP
                                        |      |
                                       of      D`
                                              /  \
                                            D°    NP
                                            |      |
                                           my      N`
                                                   |
                                                   N°
                                                   |
                                                Library
```

In the above figure 16(c) at the topmost level, the determiner "The" introduces the Determiner Phrase (DP), establishing specificity and definiteness for the head noun "books". The Adjective Phrase (AdjP) "important" modifies "books", highlighting their

significance, forming the main Noun Phrase (NP) "The important books". The phrase is further elaborated by the Prepositional Phrase (PP) "of the literature section", which links the books to a specific section of literature. Here, the preposition "of" establishes a possessive relationship between "books" and "literature section", while the determiner "The" introduces specificity, making "literature section" a definite Noun Phrase within the structure. This is followed by another PP, "of my library", which connects the literature section to the speaker's library. The determiner "my" introduces possession, indicating that the library belongs to the speaker. The preposition "of" once again expresses a possessive relationship, linking "literature section" and "library".

Each determiner (The, the, my) and prepositions (of) plays a crucial role in constructing a hierarchical and cohesive phrase. Together, these components form the complete structure: "The important books of the literature section of my library". This analysis shows the DP hypothesis, demonstrating how determiners anchor phrases and prepositions link possessive and descriptive relationships, creating a layered syntactic structure that conveys detailed meaning.

17(a) د زده کوونکي کتاب

Pashto: Da zda kwunki kitab

Gloss: Of student book

English Translation: The book of a student
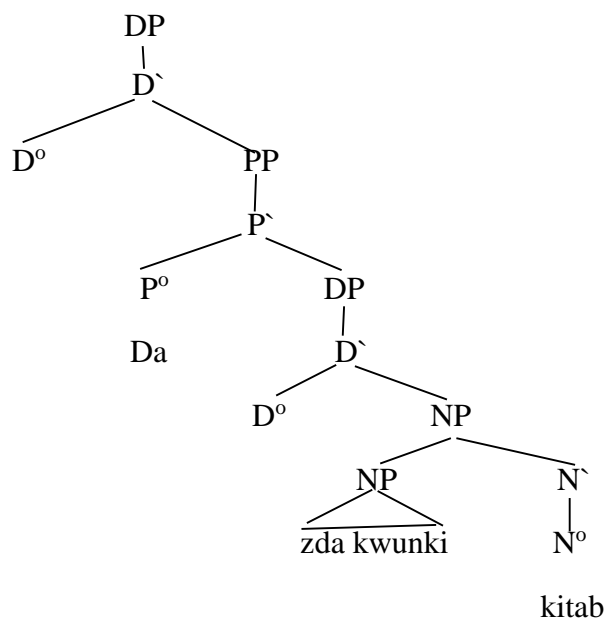
In the above figure 17(a), the preposition "da" functions as a genitive marker, establishing a possessive relationship between the noun "zda kwunki" (student) and

"kitab" (book). In this structure, "Da" links the noun phrase "zda kwunki" to the head noun "kitab", indicating that the book belongs to the student. The noun "kitab" serves as the head of the phrase, while the possessive NP "zda kwunki" modifies it, creating a syntactically coherent structure where ownership is explicitly marked by the genitive marker "Da". This construction effectively conveys the relationship between the student and the book, demonstrating how possession is expressed through hierarchical organization in the phrase.

17(b) طالب علم کی کتاب (Urdu Translation)

Urdu: Talib-e-ilam ki kitab
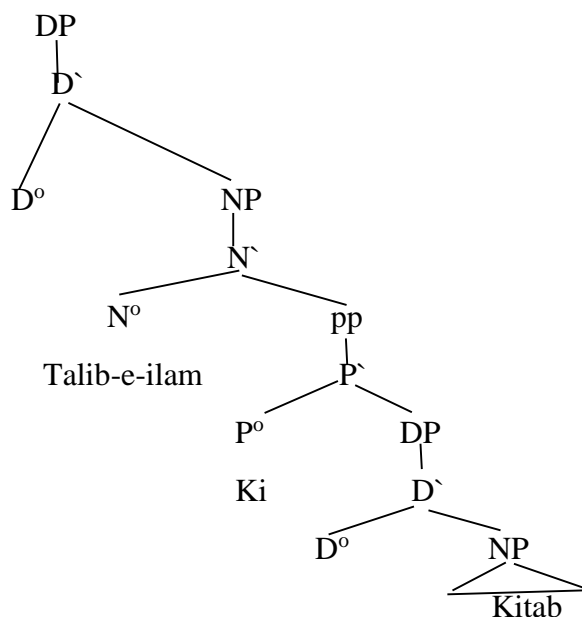
In this structure 17(b), the postpositional phrase (PP) "ki" (of) functions as a genitive marker, establishing a possessive relationship between the noun "Talib-e-ilm" (student) and "kitab" (book). The postposition "ki" connects the noun phrase (NP) "Talib-e-ilm" to the head noun "kitab", signifying that the book belongs to or is associated with the student. The noun "kitab" serves as the head of the phrase, representing the possessed entity, while "talib-e-ilm" acts as the possessor. This syntactic structure highlights the role of PP "ki" in conveying possessive meaning in Urdu, where the genitive marker serves as a crucial linking element between the possessor and the possessed object. The breakdown highlights the hierarchical organization of possessive constructions in the language, emphasizing the clear and structured relationship between the two nouns.
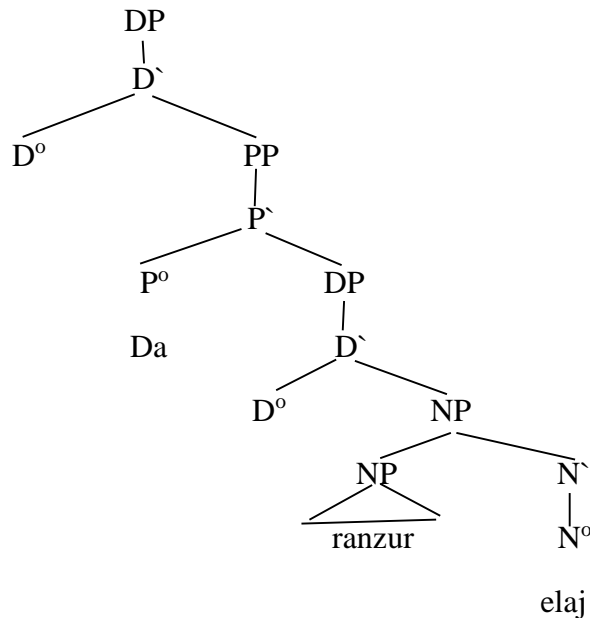
17(c) The book of a student. (English Translation)

```
              DP
              |
              D`
             /  \
            /    \
          D°      NP
                   |
          The      N`
                  /  \
                 /    \
               N°      pp
                        |
              book      P`
                       /  \
                      /    \
                    P°      DP
                             |
                    of       D`
                            /  \
                           /    \
                         D°      NP
                                /  \
                              a    student
```
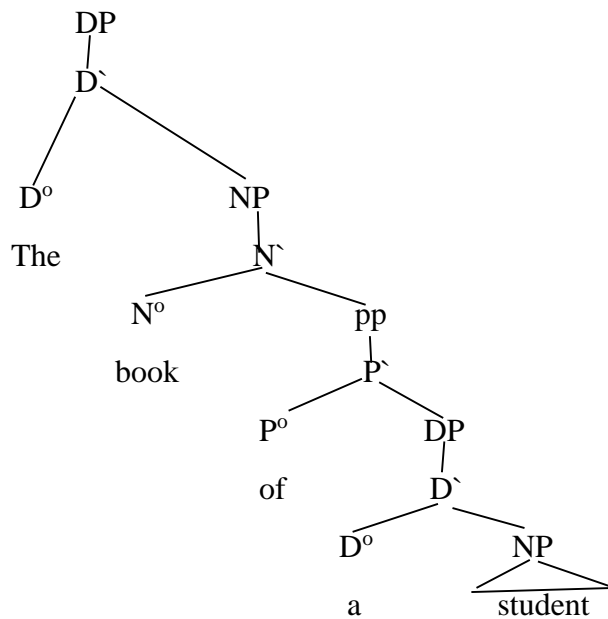
In this figure 17(c) the determiner "The" introduces the DP, giving the head noun "book" specificity, making it a particular book being referenced. The noun "book" serves as the central element, while the prepositional phrase "of a student" establishes a possessive relationship. The preposition "of" links the book to another NP "a student." In this possessive construction, "a" functions as an indefinite determiner, indicating that the student is non-specific or one among many. The DP hypothesis clearly shows how the determiner "The" defines the noun "book", and how the prepositional phrase "of a student" adds further detail, specifying who the book belongs to. This layered structure demonstrates the flexibility of the DP hypothesis in organizing noun phrases and prepositional phrases to form clear possessive meanings.

د رنځور علاج (a)18

Pashto: Da ranzur elaj

Gloss: Of patient treatment

English Translation: The treatment of the patient

```
                    DP
                    |
                    D`
                   /  \
                 D°    PP
                       |
                       P`
                      /  \
                    P°    DP
                          |
                    Da    D`
                         /  \
                       D°    NP
                            /  \
                          NP    N`
                         /\     |
                    ranzur      N°

                                elaj
```

In this figure 18(a) preposition "Da" (of) serves to establish possession and connect the noun "ranzur" (patient) to to another NP "elaj" (treatment). In this structure, "ranzur" functions as the possessor, representing the individual receiving or associated with the treatment, while "elaj" (treatment) is the head noun, denoting the object of the phrase. This possessive relationship between "patient" and "treatment" is clearly conveyed by the DP hypothesis, where the preposition helps organize the overall meaning, reflecting how Pashto forms possessive constructions with a clear syntactic relationship between the elements. All the DPs in Pashto begins with preposition to establish possessive construction between different NPs with a determiner phrase. There is no concept of construct genitive in Pashto either in large DPs or short ones. It shows a clear violation of DP hypothesis in terms of construct genitives.
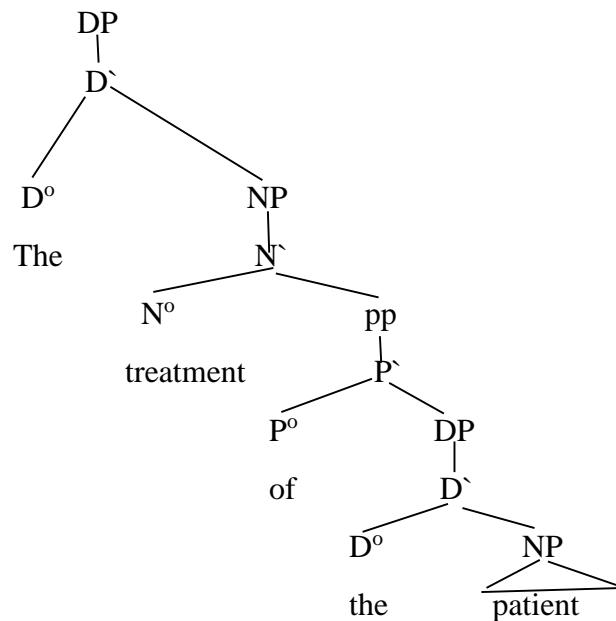
18(b) بیمار کا علاج (Urdu Translation)

Urdu: Bimar   ka   elaj
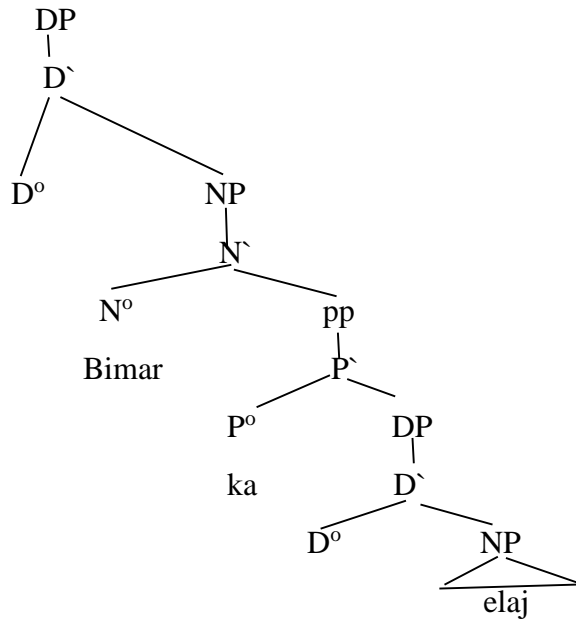
In this structure 18(b), the postposition "ka" (of) functions as a genitive marker, establishing a possessive relationship between the nouns "bimar" (patient) and "elaj" (treatment). Here, "bimar" serves as the possessor, indicating that the treatment is associated with the patient, while "elaj" is the head noun, representing the possessed entity or the treatment itself. This construction demonstrates how the postposition "ka" governs the syntactic structure, linking the possessor (bimar) to the possessed (elaj). By doing so, it conveys the relationship between the two nouns clearly and effectively. The hierarchical arrangement highlights how PP "ka" plays a central role in Urdu possessive constructions, marking "elaj" as the treatment specifically belonging to or intended for the "bimar".

18(c) The treatment of the patient (English Translation)

```
                    DP
                    |
                    D`
                  /    \
                 /      \
               D°        NP
              The         N`
                        /    \
                      N°      pp
                   treatment   P`
                             /    \
                           P°      DP
                           of       |
                                    D`
                                  /    \
                                D°      NP
                               the     /  \
                                     patient
```

In this construction 18(c), the determiner "The" introduces the noun phrase (NP) "treatment", specifying that it refers to a particular instance of treatment. Following this, the prepositional phrase (PP) "of the patient" establishes a possessive link between "treatment" and "patient". The preposition "of" functions as a relational marker, connecting "treatment" to "the patient", thus indicating that the patient is the one receiving or associated with the treatment. The determiner "the" in "the patient" further specifies that the patient is a definite, particular entity. This syntactic structure illustrates how determiners and prepositions jointly organize the relationship between the nouns, with "the" providing definiteness and "of" marking the possessive relationship. The resulting phrase "The treatment of the patient" clearly conveys the intended meaning, where the treatment is associated with or owned by the patient.

4.4 Findings

4.4.1 English Language

4.4.1.1 Of-Genitive

English uses the *of-genitive* structure to show possessive relationships, defining the relationship between the possessor and the possessed entity through a prepositional phrase as given in figures 1(a) and 6(a). This structure is flexible and commonly used in formal context/setups. The incorporation of the preposition *"of"* establishes a candid

and explicit connection between different objects, creating it operative in divergent contexts.

4.4.1.2 Construct Genitive

English also makes use of the *construct genitive* to express possession or possessive construction, generally shown by the possessive marker *'s* given in figures 3(a) and 4(a). This construction is not dependent on the length or complexity of the possessive construction. Construct genitives play a clear and effective role to show possession/possessive construction, especially in vocal and informal situations. The flexible nature of English Language makes genitives work properly in nested possessive constructions.

4.4.2 Urdu Language

4.4.2.1 Of-Genitive

Urdu uses *of-genitive* to show possession or possessive construction parallel to English, using a postpositional phrase (PP) to construct the connection between possessor and the possessed (entities) represented in figures 7(a) to 9(a). This construction shows flexibility and functions precisely in both simple and complex phrases. The employment of the genitive/possessive marker *"ka/ki/ke"* expresses agreement in, number, gender and case with the head noun, highlighting grammatical consistency.

4.4.2.2 Construct Genitive

The use *construct genitive* in Urdu is partial compared to English. It means that Urdu employs construct genitive in limited cases as given in figures 10(a) and11(a). It applies this construction to show possession mainly in cases containing a limited or small number of possessors. However, as the of the genitive construction gets more complex, Urdu diverts to the *of-genitive* structure for precision and grammatical coherence. Apart from that, the possessive marker in Urdu is sensitive to syntactic agreement, administered by f-structure through feature unification. This concept may lead to more intricacy in phrases which have many genitive/possessive constructions, making longer possessive elements less favored in natural language use.

In Urdu grammar, the genitive case denotes the relationship between two nouns, adjective-noun pairs, or pronoun-noun pairs, indicating possession or ownership. It establishes a connection between words through the use of postpositions, essential elements of Urdu grammar that hold the power of transforming the entire meaning of a sentence.

Postpositions are the keys to unlocking the potential of the genitive case in Urdu grammar. They function similarly to prepositions in English grammar, but they come after the noun instead of before.

In addition to postpositions, the genitive case in Urdu grammar can also be expressed using construct genitives. These constructs are phrases where two nouns are combined to show possession or association and are often called ezafe constructions. The first noun or adjective in the construct is followed by -e- and then the second noun or adjective. This method is immensely helpful in constructing complex sentences with added layers of meaning. Urdu DP structure for genitive phrases can be represented as:

DP → D' → NP

4.4.3 Pashto Language
4.4.3.1 Of-Genitive

Pashto solely depends on the *of-genitive* phrases to show possessive construction in determiner phrases as highlighted in figures 18(a) and 16(a). This approach is in line with its syntactic simplicity and does not follow construct *genitive* completely in its possessive structure. Pashto uses prepositions/postposition consistently for possessive constructions across all possessive contexts, ranging from simple to complex. This consistency shows a distinct syntactic feature within Pashto language.

The hierarchical structure of Pashto DP is represented as:

DP → D' → PP

In Pashto language D' remains empty, demonstrating the absence of overt determiners in genitive constructions. The functional category D in Pashto is empty." (Masood 2014; pp. 189-190) The null DP shows a distinct property of its syntax, which

distinguishes it from Urdu and English. By relying solely on prepositional phrases, Pashto maintains a rationalized and consistent style to possessive/genitive expressions.

4.5 Comparative Analysis

1. **Flexible nature of Possessive Constructions**

   o English shows the maximum flexibility, using both *of-genitive* and *construct genitive* across both simple and complex constructions.

   o Urdu demonstrates a more controlled employment of *construct genitive,* preferring *of-genitive* in longer genitive structures/constructions.

   o Pashto's sole dependency on *of-genitive* exhibits its syntactic inclination for minimalism/simplicity.

2. **Syntactic Agreement**

   o In Urdu, the genitive/possessive markers are in agreement with, number, and case, gender which increases a level of intricacy or complexity not existing or Pashto or English.

   o English does not follow such agreement processes, streamlining its genitive construction system.

   o Pashto, by using a null DP and lacking agreement system, gains structural coherence.

3. **Complexity in Nested Constructions**

   o English uses nested genitive phrases with ease through both *construct genitive* and *of-genitive*.

   o Urdu using of-*genitive* in longer possessive structures addresses challenges/problems created by agreement in nested phrases.

   o Pashto's use *of-genitive* avoids the creation of extremely nested constructions, thus simplifying its syntax.

4. **Null Determiners**

   o Pashto uses empty D' position demonstrating its minimalistic approach to possessive constructions, divergent from the overt markers in Urdu and English.

5. **Postposition or Preposition**

    o   Both Pashto and English utilize preposition to show possessive construction.

    o   Urdu uses postposition only to show possessive or genitive construction.

Feature	English	Urdu	Pashto
Use of Genitive Type	Uses both of-genitive and construct genitive flexibly in all contexts.	Uses both types; prefers of-genitive in complex structures; construct genitive is limited.	Solely depends on of-genitive; does not use construct genitive.
Syntactic Agreement	No agreement system in possessive markers.	Possessive markers (ka/ki/ke) agree with gender, number, and case.	No agreement system; uses null determiners.
Complexity in Nested Constructions	Can handle nested genitives easily with both genitive types.	Switches to of-genitive in nested or longer possessive constructions due to agreement complexity.	Avoids nesting; consistent use of of-genitive simplifies structure.
Null Determiners	Uses explicit determiners in both genitive types.	Uses explicit postpositions as determiners.	Null D'; empty functional category D.
Prepositions vs Postpositions	Uses prepositions (e.g., 'of').	Uses postpositions (e.g., 'ka/ki/ke').	Uses prepositions consistently across possessive structures.

4.5 Discussion

This section discusses the findings derived from the cross-linguistic exploration of determiner phrase (DP) structures and possessive constructions in Pashto, English, and Urdu. The study aims to explore the linguistic details of each language by using DP-hypothesis as theoretical framework and X-bar theory as analytical framework, and

locate them within the wider context of syntactic system. By analyzing the similarities and differences among these languages, the researcher has found out the above findings to contribute to a profound knowledge of cross-linguistic variations and similarities in genitive constructions and other structural principles.

The main purpose of the study is to analyze possessive constructions/possession in the selected languages which is an important linguistic phenomenon, demonstrated via divergent structural mechanisms in distinct languages. The interchange of morphological and syntactic landscapes in the illustration of possessive constructions suggests a comprehensive method for investigation. The analysis outlines the exclusive strategies implemented by Pashto, English, and Urdu to study and analyze possessive phrases, investigating their particular reliability on *of-genitive* and *construct genitive*.

Moreover, this section discusses the findings regarding the similarities and differences among Pashto, English, and Urdu in terms of determiner phrase (DP) and possessive constructions. The study mainly focuses on the use of *"of-genitives"* and *"construct genitives"* across these languages, highlighting their unique syntactic and morphological features. Following are the details of some of the relevant studies conducted on different languages with reference to possessive constructions to highlight different structural intricacies of selected languages. In addition, this section aims at highlighting the differences and similarities between the findings of this study and those of the studies conducted earlier. It also affirms the validity and reliability of the study and highlights its contribution to the existing knowledge.

This study shows that the DP hypothesis can be applied across different languages, even to those languages that do not use articles explicitly. Many researchers agree with this view. For example, Ritter (1991) explained that determiners are important in possessive structures in Hebrew, which supports this study's focus on genitive constructions. Chierchia (1998) found that even article-less languages like Chinese and Japanese still follow a DP structure, much like Pashto in this study. Bruhn (2006) showed that while NP analysis is sometimes useful, the DP model works well for explaining possessives in English, and this study extends that idea to other languages, that is, Urdu and Pashto. Bukhari (2003) found Longobardi's theory helpful in showing how determiners behave in Pashto, which is also confirmed and expanded by the present study. Raza (2015) noted that genitive modifiers in Urdu act like

adjectives and can be stacked—an idea this research takes further by comparing similar patterns across Urdu, Pashto, and English. Additionally, Hawkins (2015) argued that Mandarin expresses determiner-like meaning without using articles, which supports the idea that Pashto and Urdu can do the same. Salzmann (2020) emphasized that languages vary in how determiners appear, and he suggested using flexible models—exactly what this study has tried to accomplish by applying the DP hypothesis in a cross-linguistic fashion. Finally, Ali (2023) showed that Pashto still maintains DP-like structure under Minimalist analysis, even without clear articles, and the assertion supports this study's comparative approach to syntax.

Furthermore, this study supports using the DP hypothesis across languages; however, some researchers have raised concerns about its universal use. For example, Bošković (2005, 2008) argued that in article-less Slavic languages like Russian, certain sentence structures—like Left Branch Extraction—are only possible because there is no DP layer. This challenges the idea that all languages have DPs. Contrary to this study, Goodness (2014) found that the Bantu language Shinyiha uses an augment system that does not fit the typical DP model, suggesting that the DP structure may not apply everywhere. These conflicting findings suggest that DP hypothesis is not always suitable, especially in languages with very different structures. However, the current study responds by showing that while some languages may not have overt determiners, they can still follow similar underlying structures. By applying the DP hypothesis in a careful and flexible way, the current research provides a broader and more adaptable framework that brings to light the unique features of Pashto, Urdu, and English.

This cross-linguistic study of determiner phrases (DPs) across Pashto, Urdu, and English exhibits significant linguistic differences and similarities, offering valuable insights into syntactic theory and universal grammar. This study presents English, Pashto and Urdu within a cross-linguistic context while focusing on the gaps in the understanding of genitive structures and determiner positioning. Moreover, it emphasizes the need for further exploration of syntactic movement and the factors influencing DP structures across languages. This research contributes to the field by providing language-specific analyses from Universal Grammar perspective, while paving the way for deeper linguistic investigations into cross-linguistic syntactic patterns.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

The study aimed to apply the rules of X-bar theory as analytical framework and DP hypothesis to the DPs of English two regional languages of Pakistan: Urdu and Pashto. It was observed that a number of studies had been carried out on the English phrases and sentences with regard to the X-bar theory and DP hypothesis but its function had not been observed in the regional languages of Pakistan in order to know, whether the structure of their DPs conforms/does not conform to the structure of the phrase proposed by DP hypothesis. In addition to that, this work pondered over the structural similarities and differences in the DPs of the three selected languages and compared and contrasted them with the each other and also tried to explain the similarities and differences in the light of DP hypothesis proposed by Abney in 1989. In the regional languages, specifically: Urdu, and Pashto, a number of studies were carried out separately regarding various parts of speech including determiners but a comparative study of the DP regarding the application of X-bar theory and DP hypothesis in order to find various similarities and differences was not observed so far. The present study analyzed the structure of DP in all of the three selected languages in order to look for various similarities and differences among them. DP hypothesis was used as theoretical framework for the study while X-bar theory was used as analytical framework.

The study was delimited to the three languages, which are: English, Urdu, and Pashto, and it only dealt with the structure of DPs of the three selected languages. The data was collected from the standard version grammar books of the three languages and the rationale behind it was that the grammar books of the three respective languages were composed by renowned grammarians in the respective languages, thus assuring the credibility and authenticity of the collected data. The proposed design for the study was qualitative in nature.

The collected data was analyzed with the help of X-bar theory to answer the research questions of the study. In order to make the selected determiner phrases from the three languages (English, Urdu, and Pushto) comprehensible to those unfamiliar with these languages, syntactic gloss was incorporated. The study tried to find answers to the following research questions:

1) What are the structural similarities/differences in the determiner phrase of Pashto, Urdu and English?

2) How does the DP hypothesis address the similarities/differences in the determiner phrases of Pashto, Urdu and English?

As far as the answer to the first question is concerned, the following structural similarities and differences have been observed in the structure of the NPs of the three selected languages:

All the three selected languages use *of-genitive* to show possessive construction or possession. In other words, the relationship between possessor and the possessed entity is defined or established through preposition/prepositional phrase as given in the examples in analysis section.

The second similarity is between Urdu and English in which both the languages use construct genitive for possessive constructions as provided in the examples:

Example 1(a). English: Children's books

Urdu: Gardash-e-doran (time's passage)

The third similarity is between English and Pashto. in both the languages genitive/possessive markers are not required to be in agreement with, number, and case, gender.

Example 2(a) English: Some streets of our city

Pashto: Da zda kwunki kitab (The book of a student)

In the above example it is clear that no syntactic agreement is needed for possessive markers to convey meaning.

The third similarity is related to the definite and indefinite determiners in Urdu and Pashto. There is no distinct category of definite and indefinite determiners/articles in the two languages. The concept of definiteness and indefiniteness is expressed in an indirect way by pronouns and numerals respectively. It is evident from the analysis of the DPs of the two target languages back in the analysis section of Urdu and Pashto.

Apart from similarities there are certain differences which are given below:

Pashto uses null determiner or empty D' position, which demonstrates its minimalistic approach to possessive constructions, divergent from the overt markers in Urdu and English. This is evident from the analysis of Pashto phrases under heading.

The second difference is that Pashto does not use construct genitive to deal with possessive constructions. Pashto's sole dependency on *of-genitive* exhibits its syntactic inclination for minimalism/simplicity.

The third difference is between Urdu and English. Urdu demonstrates a more controlled employment of *construct genitive,* preferring *of-genitive* in longer genitive structures/constructions. It means that for longer constructions or nested determiner phrases, Urdu uses of-genitive instead of construct genitive. It has been provided in the analysis section of Urdu phrases.

The fourth difference is that English uses articles (a, an, the) as determiners to show definiteness and indefiniteness. However, Pashto and Urdu lack such articles. This is evident from the analysis of English DPs.

Both Pashto and English utilize preposition to show possessive construction.

Urdu uses postposition only to show possessive or genitive construction.

As far as the answer to the second question is concerned, the DP (Determiner Phrase) Hypothesis provides a single framework to analyze the similarities and differences in possessive constructions across English, Urdu and Pashto by representing their syntactic structures hierarchically and accommodating language specific features. English has an overt DP with determiners and both *of-genitive* and *construct genitive* with no agreement requirements, so maximum flexibility in simple and nested constructions. Urdu has overt possessive markers (ka/ki/ke) in the D which agree with the head noun in gender, number and case, making it complex especially in nested structures. To mitigate this Urdu prefers *of-genitive* structure in longer phrases for grammatical coherence. Pashto diverges with a minimalist approach, has a null determiner (empty D') and relies only on prepositions/postpositions for possessive

constructions, so structural consistency and no nesting complexities. The DP hypothesis explains these variations by explaining that all three languages share the core DP framework, English emphasizes flexibility, Urdu incorporates agreement features for grammatical precision and Pashto exhibits syntactic economy by minimizing structural elements.

The study is significant in a way that it adds significantly to the domain of Syntax. It is seen that syntactic theories have been widely applied on English language as compared to Pakistani regional languages such as Urdu and Pashto. All the previous studies carried out so far on regional languages have considered a single language at a time, including Urdu, Punjabi, Balti, Pashto and Sindhi. This study is unique in a way that it carries out a comparative analysis of three selected languages with the help of X-bar theory and DP hypothesis. The study brings to light several similarities and variations in the DPs of the selected h languages and analyzes their respective equivalent structures with the help of X-bar theory.

5.1 Practical Implications of this Study

5.1.1 Language Teaching and Learning

This research can directly assist language teachers and students acquire insight into the syntactic patterns of English Urdu and Pashto. This study could be helpful for teachers in curving more appropriate syllabi by using techniques that can facilitate better learning such as grammar and syntax of these languages. For example, lessons on sentence construction, including phrase structure, word order, and grammatical relations, can be much better studied.

5.1.2 Translation and Interpretation

Translators and interpreters must possess a solid grasp of grammar and syntax to deliver high-quality translations and interpretations. This study can enhance their understanding of how determiner phrases are structured and organized in the selected languages, ultimately improving the accuracy and fluency of translations between these languages and others. This is particularly important in legal, medical, and diplomatic contexts, where precision in language is essential.

5.1.3 Linguistic Typology

By applying DP hypothesis and X-bar theory to Urdu, Pashto, and English, this study adds to the field of linguistic typology, which focuses on the structures of languages and their classification. This comparative analysis will assist linguists in identifying universal grammatical principles while also highlighting the unique syntactic features of regional languages. These strategies are valuable for understanding the variations in syntactic functions across languages and how these differences are influenced by diverse cultural and historical contexts.

5.1.4 Cognitive and Neurolinguistic Research

Knowing the syntactic structure of the selected languages can provide the basis for cognitive and neurolinguistic research. Now, linguists can do research on sentence processing and sentence comprehension by speakers of these languages, and find out the abstract syntactic structures represented in the brain, and whether or not there are cognitive advantages or challenges of syntax. This research could help refine broader theories of how we perceive language and how we develop cognitively.

5.1.5 Policy and Planning

This research will assist governments and lawmakers within cultures where Urdu, Pashto and English expertise to implement informed decisions about language planning and policies. Knowing, for example, the specific syntactic difficulties associated with these languages could inform literacy efforts, educational policy, and programs for preserving linguistic diversity. It can also help find better ways to promote bilingual education and fluency in these languages and other regional spoken languages.

5.1.6 Computational Linguistics

This study may assist in the advancement of natural language processing(NLP) systems for Urdu, Pashto, and English in the realm of computational linguistics. Other applications of NLP systems are machine translation, text summarization, sentiment analysis, etc. which depend on precise syntactic structures and models. Improved knowledge about the nature of substantive phrases in these languages could yield more

advanced algorithms and tools that will be able to deal more closely with the specificity of these languages.

5.1.7 Intercultural Communication

Knowledge of syntactic structures in Urdu, Pashto, and Punjabi can facilitates inter-cultural communication and understanding. In other words, it opens the process up between the speaker of these languages and another speaker; it encourages better code between people and culture. In a multicultural society in which these languages are spoken alongside those of others, this is particularly useful. By enacting the consideration of such practical applications, this research is not only a contribution for academic knowledge but also, has the real implications of practical applications which can be applied in a variety of real-world scenarios such as education, translation, policy formation, technological interrupters, or even inter-cultural communication; By doing so, it bridges the gap between linguistic theory and the application of that theory across many different spheres, making the overall study considerably significant and impactful.

5.2 Limitations of the Study

While the study offers valuable insights into the syntactic structures of determiner phrases (DPs) in English, Urdu, and Pashto, it is essential to recognize certain limitations that may affect the scope and generalizability of its findings. Firstly, the analysis is limited to DPs in these three languages and does not include other phrase categories, such as prepositional phrases (PPs), verb phrases (VPs), or adjective phrases (AdjPs). This focused approach, although necessary for a thorough examination of DPs, restricts the broader applicability of its findings to other syntactic structures. A more extensive analysis that includes various phrase types could provide a more complete understanding of syntactic variations across these languages.

The study is based solely on data taken from grammar books written by well-known grammarians of the respective languages. Although this method guarantees the reliability and authenticity of the information, it also restricts the study's interaction with naturally occurring language use, like spoken or informal language. In reality, language use frequently differs from prescriptive grammar rules, and including corpus-

based or fieldwork data could provide further insights into how determiner phrases are used in everyday communication.

Thirdly, the qualitative design of the study, while useful for a detailed syntactic analysis, lacks a quantitative aspect. Utilizing statistical methods or computational modeling could have helped confirm the patterns and trends identified in the data, offering a more robust empirical basis for the findings. Additionally, the omission of other regional languages of Pakistan, like Punjabi, Sindhi, or Balti, limits the comparative analysis. Incorporating more languages could enhance the typological and theoretical insights of the research.

Lastly, the study's exclusive focus on X-bar theory and the DP hypothesis as its only theoretical and analytical frameworks may restrict its ability to encompass alternative syntactic explanations. Investigating other frameworks, like dependency grammar or minimalist approaches, could provide additional or differing insights into DP structures in the chosen languages. Despite these constraints, the study is still a significant contribution to the field of syntax, establishing a foundation for further comparative and linguistic research.

5.3 Recommendations for Future Research

In the light of the findings of this study, the following suggestions are put forward for further research:

1. Further research can be conducted on determiner phrases in other regional languages of Pakistan.
2. Further research can be conducted on the comparative analysis of PPs in the regional languages spoken in Pakistan.
3. Future Scholars can also work on the AdjP in regional languages spoken in Pakistan which may help scholars in coming up with significant findings.
4. Focusing on VPs, a study can also compare the argument structures of verbs in the regional languages of Pakistan.

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APPENDIX A

English Phrases

Sr.no	English DPs	Urdu translation	Pushto translation
1	Some streets of our city	ہمارے شہر کی کچھ گلیاں	زمورږ د ښار يو څو کوڅي
2	William and Mary's reign	ولیم اور میری کا زمانہ	د ولیم او میری زمانہ
3	Children's books	بچوں کی کتابیں	د ماشومانو کتابونه
4	My brother's friend's sister's car	میرے بھای کے دوست کی بہن کی گاڑی	ځما د ورور د ملګری د خور موټر
5	The king of Bhutan's visit	بھوٹان کے بادشاہ کا دورہ	د بھوټان د باچا لیدنه
6	A herd of cattle	مویشیوں کا ایک ریوڑ	د څارویو یوه رمه

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3. Advanced Grammar in Use by Martin Hewings

APPENDIX B

Urdu phrases

Sr.no	Urdu DPs	Pushto translation	English translation
1	محمد کی بہن کی دوست کی کتاب	د محمد د خور د ملګری کتاب	The book of Muhammad's sister's friend
2	سکول کے بچوں کے والدین کی میٹنگ	د سکول د ماشومانو د مور و پلار غونډه	The meeting of the parents of the school children
3	پاکستان کے وزیر اعظم کی سیکیورٹی ٹیم کا سربراہ	د پاکستان د لومړی وزیر د امنیتی ټیم مشر	The head of the security team of the Prime Minister of Pakistan
4	گردش دوراں	ده وخت ګزران	Time's passage
5	اسکا حلقہ ء احباب	د هغه د ملګریو ټولنه	His companions' circle
6	اسکا مجموعہ ء یاران	ده هغي ده یارانو مجموعه	Her friends' assembly

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2. Urdu: An Essential Grammar by Ruth Laila Schmidt

3. Advanced Urdu Grammar by Thomas Grahame Bailey

APPENDIX C

Pashto Phrases

Sr.no	Pashto DPs	Urdu translation	English translation
1	د کابل د پوهنتون د کمپیوټر ساینس فیکلټه	جامع کابل کے کمپیوٹر سائنس کی فیکلٹی	The Faculty of Computer Science of the University of Kabul.
2	د ننگرهار ولایت د شینوارو د سیمي مشهور جومات	صوبہ ننگرھار کے شنواری علاقے کی مشہور مسجد	The famous mosque of the Shinwari area of province of Nangarhar .
3	د هجران شپه	غم کی رات	A night of grief
4	زما د کتابتون د ادبیاتو د برخي مهم کتابونه	میری لائبریری کے ادبی حصے کی اہم کتابیں	The important books of the literature section of my library.
5	د زده کوونکي کتاب	طالب علم کی کتاب	The book of a student.
6	د رنځور علاج	بیمار کا علاج	The treatment of the patient

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ANNEXURE

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF MODERN LANGUAGES
FACULTY OF ARTS & HUMANITIES

Validation Certificate

The undersigned certify that they have reviewed the data submitted for the following thesis, examined the accuracy of its translation, and are satisfied with the overall quality and integrity of the translated material. Based on this evaluation, it is recommended that the attached translation be accepted by the Faculty of Arts & Humanities. Additionally, the researcher has been appropriately guided in the selection of various grammar books relevant to the thesis.

Thesis Title: Determiner Phrase in Pashto, Urdu and English: A Syntactic Exploration into DP Hypothesis.

Submitted by: Atta Ullah   **Registration #:** 222-MPhil/Eng/Lng/S22

Master of Philosophy in Linguistics
Degree name in full

Hafeez-ur-Rehman
Name of Validator (Pashto)   Signature

Dr. UMAR FAROOB Sial
Name of Validator (Urdu)   Signature