

Some Differences Between the Details of the Constituent
Structures of Amharic and English Sentences

A Thesis

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ABSTRACT

This study is an attempt to identify the areas of differences between the details of the constituent structures of the two major parts (noun phrases and verb phrases) of Amharic and English sentences.

The whole study has been covered in six chapters. At the initial stage, a review of all available studies on Amharic and English sentences in general and on the contrast of the details of the constituent structures of the sentences of the two languages in particular has been made. In chapter two and three the constituent structures of Amharic and English sentences have been described and then contrasted in chapter four. In the last chapter conclusions, findings and recommendations have been provided.

The study on the whole indicates that the constituent structure of Amharic and English have syntactic characteristics in common but it also shows that there are differences when these features are analysed in details.

The study recommends that a wide and exhaustive study on Amharic be carried out in order to contrast it adequately with that of English.

CHAPTER I

I N T R O D U C T I O N

1.0. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM AND REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

1.0.0 Statement of the problem: The purpose of this study is to explore if there are differences between the details of the constituent structures of Amharic and English sentences.

1.0.1. Importance of the study: The languages which are widely used in Ethiopia are Amharic and English. Amharic as the national language of the country is spoken in all the Administrative Regions of the country.¹ In the sphere of education, Amharic is the medium of instruction in the elementary schools and it is also taught as a subject in the secondary schools of Ethiopia.

English, which is the second official language of Ethiopia, serves as a means of communication with the rest of the world. Developments in science and technology in the outside world reach the country through English. Most official correspondences with the rest of the world are carried out in English. It is also the medium of instruction in Ethiopia's secondary schools, colleges and universities.

Even though Amharic and English are important vehicles in the educational system of Ethiopia, their differences in structure may arouse the problem of interference. The structure of Amharic may interfere with the structure of English and can be a problem area for Amharic speaker learning English as a second language.

It is true that all languages share many substantive syntactic characteristics (syntactic universals), but the details of constituent structure-which words cluster together in what order-are certainly not among them.² This indicates that there could be some differences between the details of the constituent structures of Amharic and English sentences. This study attempts to:

a) bring out some of the areas of differences between the details of the constituent structures of Amharic and English sentences.

b) induce other researchers to make further studies on the differences between the details of the constituent structures of Amharic and English sentences since little has been done.

The identification of the differences between the details of the constituent structures of Amharic and English sentences in this study would be important for teaching, learning, testing and understanding the target language, English.

1.0.2 Scope of the Study: This study specifically examines the internal structure and distribution of the noun phrases and verb phrases of Amharic and English sentences and explore their differences. It does not analyse sentences with secondary operators like negation, modality, commanding and questioning. Like wise this study does not attempt to

cover or . examine sentences that have words linked by 'and', 'or', 'but' or other constructions which provide parallel constructions.

1.0.3. Review of Related Literature: Even though the study on the literature of Amharic sentences is limited, Amharic grammar books, dictionaries, and research papers on some aspects of Amharic grammar and/or lexicon have been written in German, English, French, Italian, Russian and Amharic since the beginning of the 17th century.

The first two works on Amharic grammar by Ethiopians are Herse Hazen's Baddis Sārat Yātāsānada Yamarāñña Sāwasāw (1950) and Tekle Maryam's Hohta Tābāb Zāsānā Sāhuf (1952) from the point of view of traditional grammar. Hailu Fulas's Seratawa Yamarāñña Sāwasāw (1966) is the first Amharic grammar book in the transformational generative model. The writer of this paper has followed the general guidelines of Hailu's book. M.L. Bender and Hailu's Amharic Verb Morphology: A Generative Approach (1978) describes and analyses the structure of Amharic verbs in detail. Furthermore Language in Ethiopia (1976) edited by Bender deals with some of the languages in Ethiopia. It gives brief grammatical descriptions of some of the Ethiopian Languages including Amharic. Leslau's Amharic Textbook (1967), written for a pedagogical purpose, describes the structure of Amharic in general.

As to English grammar, a great deal of study has been carried out on it. Stockwell's Foundation on Syntactic Theory (1977), and Akmajian and Heny's An Introduction to the Principles of Transformational Syntax (1977) are some of the latest books which deal with the structure of English sentences from the point of transformational generative model. These books have been used for the description of the constituent structures of English sentences in this study.

According to the present knowledge of the researcher of this paper little has been done on the constrastive study of Amharic and English languages. Taddese Beyene's Amharic and English Segmental Phonemes: A Constrastive Study(1966) and Hailu Araaya's An Applied-Contrastive Analysis of Common Features of Amharic and English (1968), are the only studies that are available at present.

Loren F. Bliese in his article "Amharic Language Interference in Learning Greek" deals with the problem Amharic speaking students encounter in learning Greek. Besides these, every year 'senior essays' are written on contrastive study of Amharic and other Ethiopian languages (mostly phonology) by senior students as partial fullfillment for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts at the Addis Ababa University. Most of these researchers have used either Contrastive Analysis

or Error Analysis in their studies.

Very few books have been written on the kinds of errors Ethiopian students commit in learning English. P.G. Wingard's Use better English (1956), Grover Hudson's Classification and Tabulation of Ethiopian Students Errors in English Essay Writing (1970) and Sydney W. Head's A handbook of English Usage for Ethiopian Writers (1970) are the only books one may find on the errors Ethiopian students make. These books enumerate and discuss the errors committed by Ethiopian students. More recently Mammo Kefel's Classification and Explanatory Analysis of Students Errors in Advanced English Composition II, 1980/81 /1973/ a thesis written in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Masters of Arts in the Teaching of English as a Foreign Language provides lists of Errors Addis Ababa University students make in learning English. Some of the errors found by Mammo are similar to the errors found by the researchers mentioned above. The major categories of errors in these studies include grammar, style, spelling, punctuation, unclassifiable errors and handwriting.

None of the studies mentioned here has in particular attempted to study the differences between the internal structure and distribution of the constituent structures of the noun phrases and verb phrases of Amharic and English sentences.

1.4.0. The Organization of the Study, There are five chapters in this study. Chapter two deals with the detailed description of the constituent structures of Amharic sentences. In this chapter the details of the constituent structures of the noun and verb phrases of Amharic sentences are treated. In chapter three the details of the constituent structures of the noun and verb phrase of English sentences are described. In chapter four, facts indicated in the previous chapters, are systematically analysed in order to identify the areas of differences between the details of the constituent structures of Amharic and English sentences. The last chapter i.e. chapter five contains conclusions, findings and recommendations for further studies.

CHAPTER II

2. Constituent Structures of Amharic Sentences

The purpose of this chapter is to examine the internal structures and distributions of the parts of Amharic sentences. A basic Amharic sentence consists of a noun phrase followed by a verb phrase.

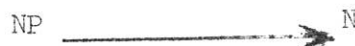
2.0. The Noun Phrase

The noun phrase consists of a noun.

2.0.0 Noun

1. Almaz qom-áčč
Almaz stood up-she
'Almaz stood up.'
2. anbássa agááss -a
lion roared-he
'A lion roared.'

The constituents of the noun phrases in each of the sentences above are the underlined nouns. In Amharic, a noun is the simplest form of the category noun phrase. The phrase structure for noun phrases which contain only nouns is:



In Amharic certain syntactic categories may occur to the left of the head noun (N) within the noun phrase:

3. láj-u tánn-a
boy-the(m) slept-he
'The boy slept.'
4. rájjám-u láj tánn -a
tall -the boy slept-he
'The tall boy slept.'
5. addis-ócc-u rájjám-ócc láj-ócc tánn -u
new - s -the tall - s boy- s slept-they
'The new tall boys slept.'

The underlined noun phrases in each of the sentences above have the definite article {-u³} in common. Although the article in sentence(3) is suffixed to the noun it shifts its position in adjective noun constructions⁴ as in sentences (4 and 5). When the noun phrase contains any number of adjectives as in sentence (5) the article still shifts to the left-most adjective. The movement of the article from a noun to a modifier within a noun phrase indicates that the category definite article in the deep structure occurs before a noun.

In the sentences (4 and 5) above two rules describe the Amharic noun phrases. The one in sentence (4) indicates:

NP \longrightarrow Art N

The other sentence (5) shows:

NP \longrightarrow Art Adj N

The two rules may be combined into one indicating both possibilities:

NP \longrightarrow (Art) Adj) N

Amharic Noun phrases may include numerals before adjectives as shown below:

6. hulátt-u láj-očč mátt-u
two-the boy-s came-they
'The two boys came.'

7. hulátt-u rájjim-očč láj-očč mátt-u
two -the tall -s boy-s came-they
'The two tall boys came.'

8. huláttánna -očč-u sost támari -očč mátt-u
second - s -the three student-s came-they
'The second three students came.'

The sentences above contain numerals⁵ suffixed with the definite article. It is clear from sentence (7) that article shifts to numeral even if the noun phrase contains an adjective. It still moves to the left-most numeral when there is an ordinal number as in sentence (8).

The phrase structure rule of the noun phrase above must now be amended to show the possibility of an optional

numeral before an adjective.

$$\text{NP} \longrightarrow (\text{Art}) (\text{Num}) (\text{Adj})_0^{\text{in}} \text{N}$$

This rule gives the summary of the phrase structure rule of the Amharic noun phrase discussed in this section.

2.0.1. Noun Phrase Complement

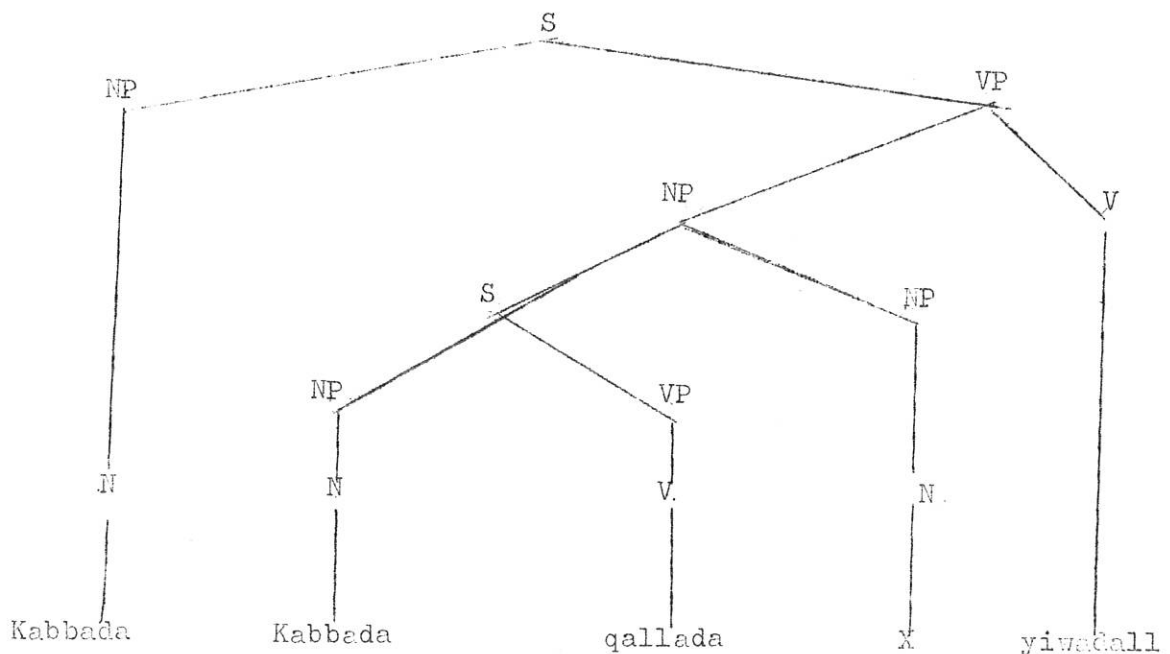
An Amharic noun phrase may contain not only nouns but sentences as well. The underlined infinitive clause⁶ in sentence (9) is an embedded sentence.

9. Kabbáda máqállád y-ī-wádd-all

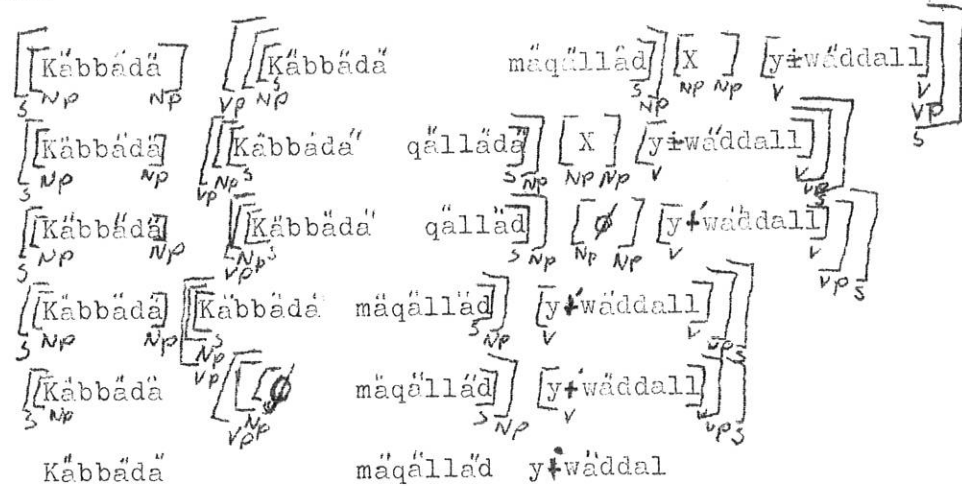
Kabbada to joke he-impf-like-non past

'Kabbada likes to joke.'

The tree diagram below gives the deep structure of the above sentence.



In the intermediate structure the following changes are noted.



As shown in the above derivation, sentence (9) is constructed from the matrix sentence /kabbāda' X y+wāddall/ 'Kabbada likes it' and the embedded sentence /Kabbāda' qāllāda'/ 'Kabbada jokes.' The 'X' in the matrix sentence refers to the embedded sentence which is to be the object noun phrase of the transitive verb /y+wāddall/'likes.' The embedded sentence has a subject identical to the subject of the matrix sentence. In the intermediate structure it is noted that the subject of the embedded sentence is deleted and the verb of the embedded sentence is made an infinitive clause. Moreover the person, gender and number marker of the verb of the embedded sentence is deleted since it is identical to the one in the verb of the matrix sentence.

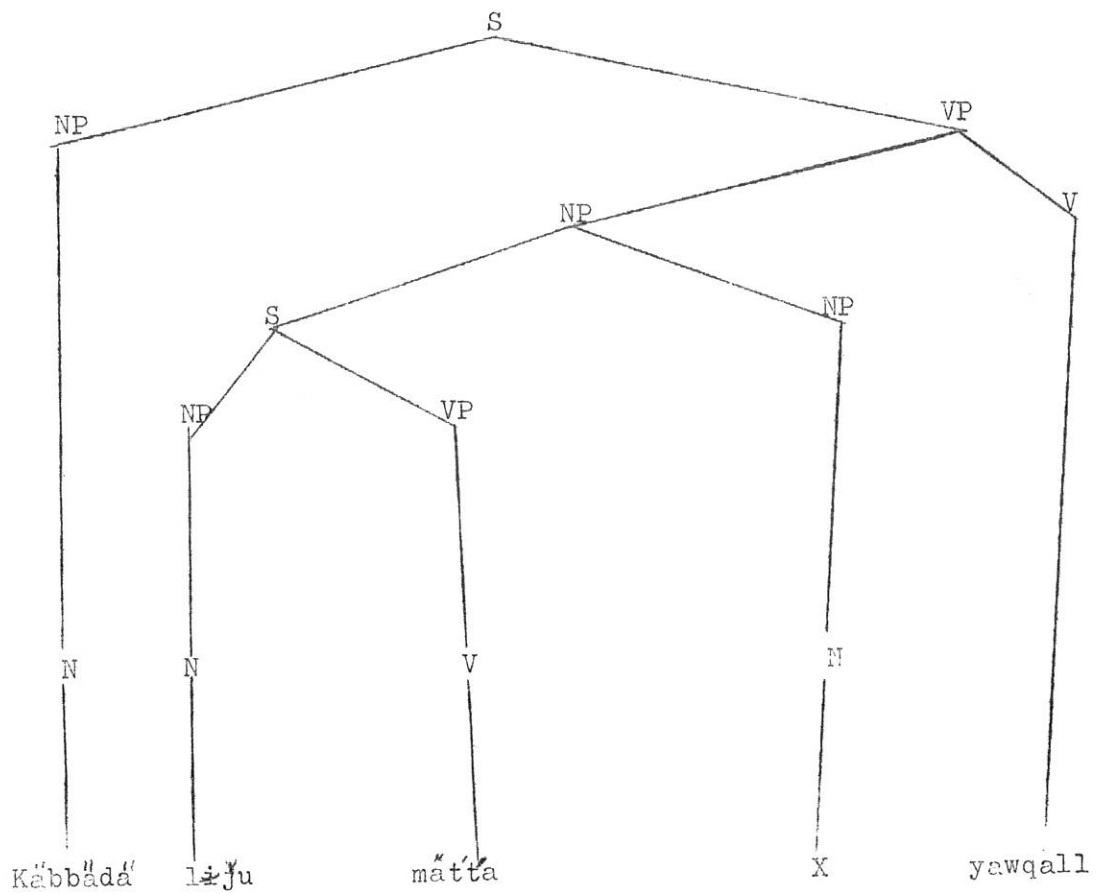
On the other hand when the person, gender and number marker of the verb of the embedded sentence is not identical with the verb of the matrix sentence it is changed to a pronominal suffix as shown below:

10. Kābbādā' ləj-u mā'tat'-u-n y'awq-all

Kabbada boy-the to come-he-acc he-(imp) know-nonpast

Kabbada knows that the boy has come.'

The underlining structure of this sentence is:



As seen in the derivation the subjects of the two combined sentences are different. The verb of the embedded sentence

becomes an infinitive clause suffixed with a pronominal
{-u}.

It is clear from the discussion above that verbs such as /awgä/ /'knows'/wäddädä/'likes' etc., have object noun phrases that contain sentences. The phrase structure rule for noun phrase indicated above must now be amended to show the possibility of an optional sentence preceding a noun. This would help to generate noun phrases such as in sentences (9 and 10) above.

NP \longrightarrow (S) (Art) (Num) (Adj)₀ⁿ N'

2.0.2 Sentence Plus Noun Phrase-Relatives

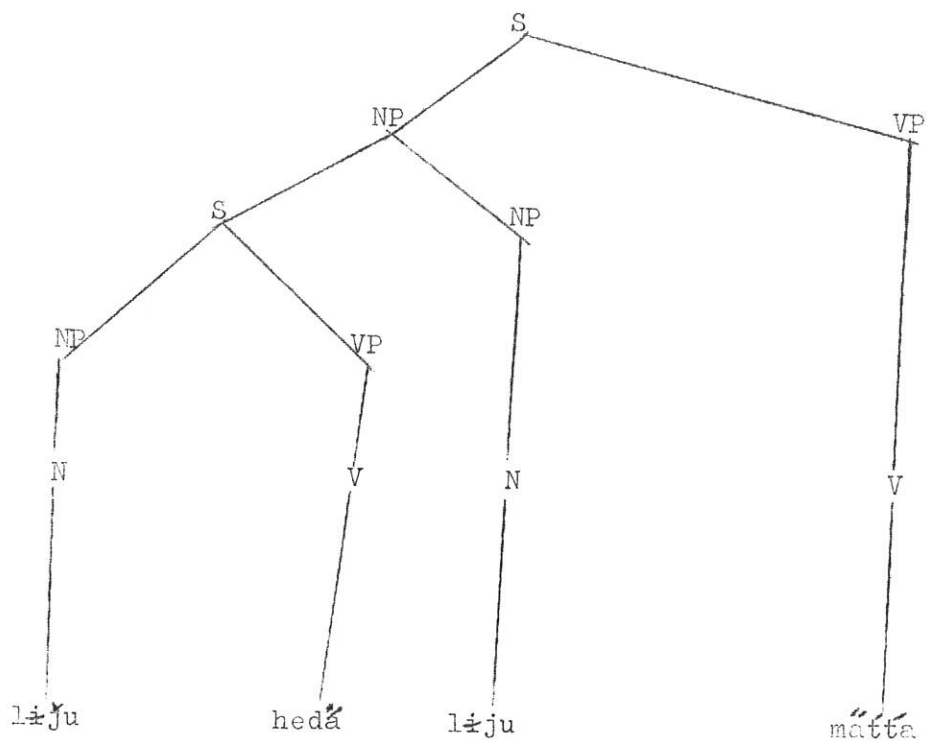
In addition to the constituents discussed above, the noun phrases of Amharic may also contain sentences and noun phrases. This construction is known as the relative clause construction. The structural descriptions of Amharic relativization rules specify⁷ certain noun phrase structure that include a noun (the head noun) and a sentence (the embedded sentence). The rules also specify that the embedded sentence must include a noun that is identical with the head noun (identical noun).

The structural changes in the relative clause transformations of Amharic involve linking and alteration of the identical noun.

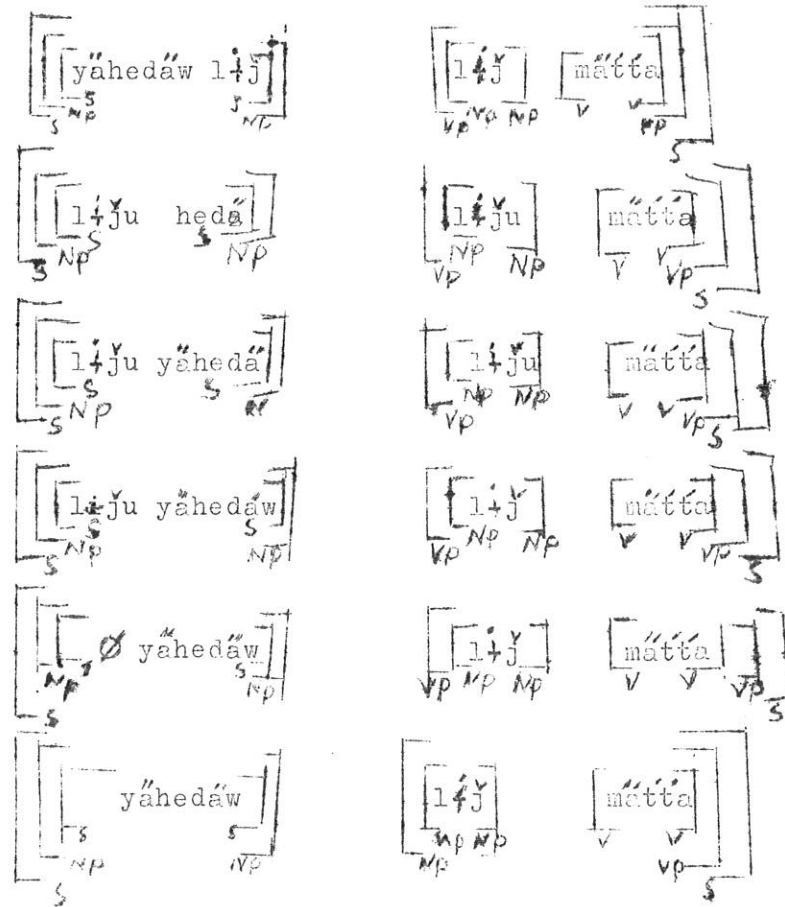
In the following sentence / yáhed^w lɨj / 'the boy who went' is an embedded sentence. {yá-} serves as a relative marker.

11. yá-hed -á -w lɨj máttá-a
 rm-went-he-it boy came-he
 'The boy who went came.'

This sentence would appear in the following tree form:



The derivation is as follows:



Yahedaw lɨju mätta

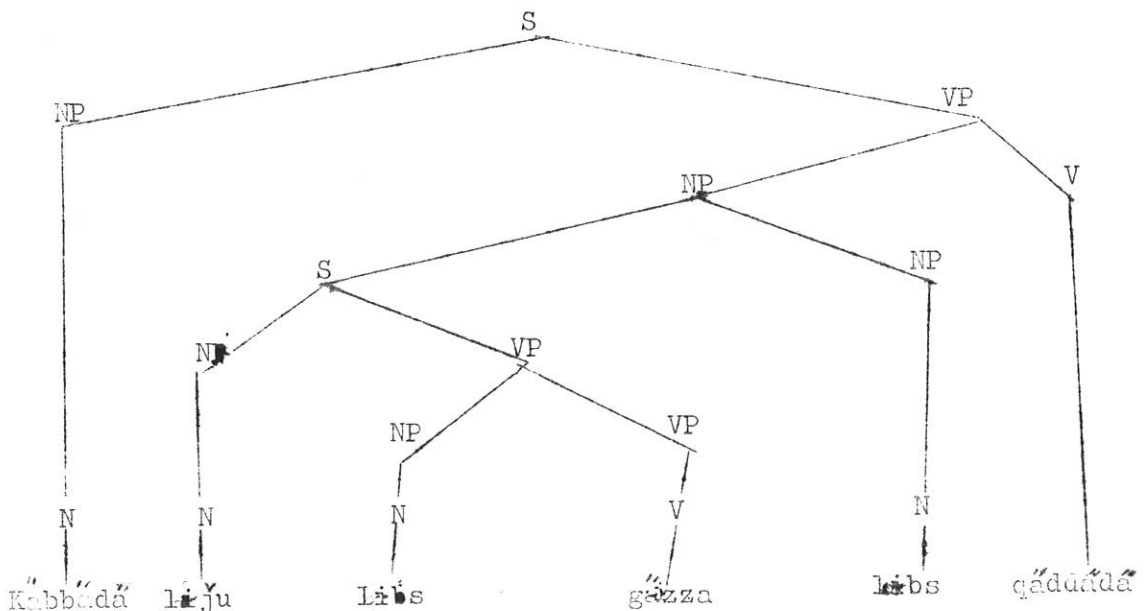
The sentence in the derivation contains the matrix sentence /lɨju mätta/ 'the boy came' and the embedded sentence /lɨju hedāw/ 'the boy went' which modifies

/lɨju / 'the boy' the subject of the matrix sentence.

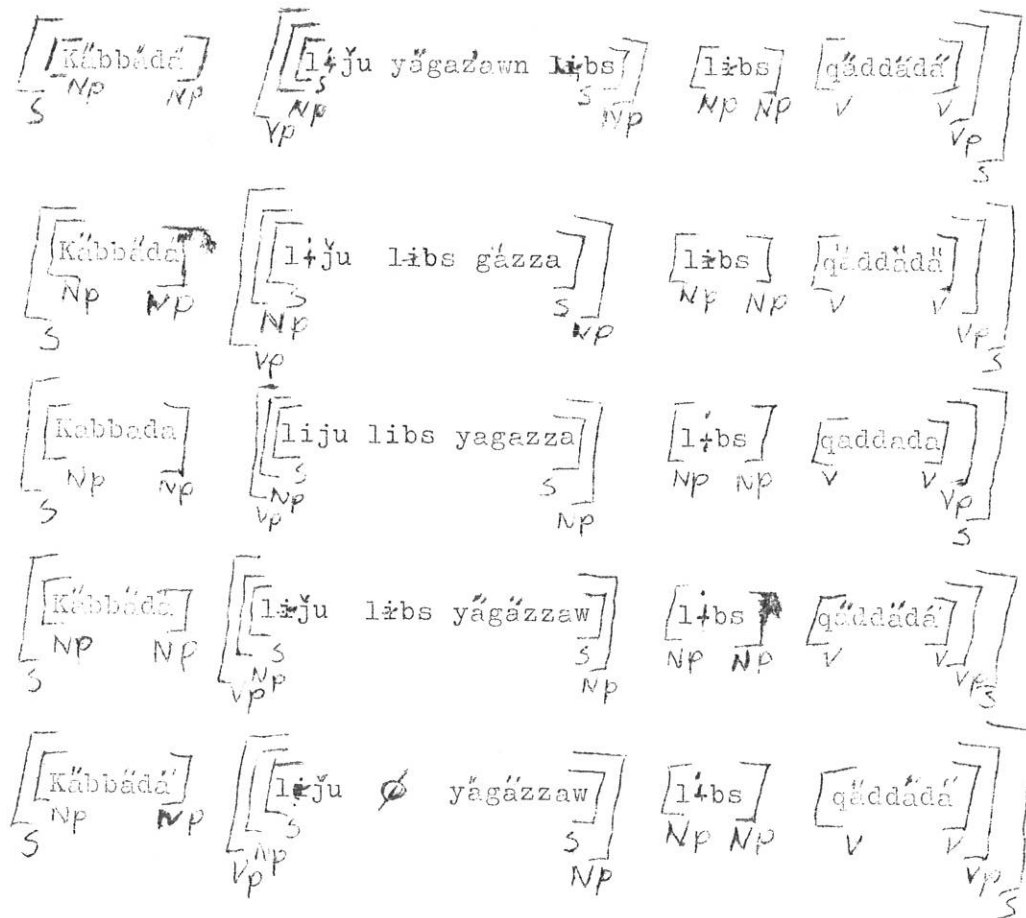
The two sentences in the construction above contain two identical subject noun phrases. In order to produce sentence (11) the identical subject noun phrase of the embedded sentence is deleted. The verb of the embedded sentence carries {ya-} and a pronominal {-w} which refers to the identical noun of the embedded sentence. The relative marker is not a relative pronoun⁹ since the pronominal which replaced the lost identical noun phrase is not combined with it.

The form of relative construction with a direct object noun phrase may be illustrated as follows:

12. Kábbáda' líj-u yá-gázz -a -w-n líbs qáddád-á
 kabbada boy-the rm-bought-he-it-acc clothes tore -he
 'Kabbada tore the clothes which the boy bought.'



The intermediate structure is:



Kabbada li-ju yaggazzawn libbs qaddada

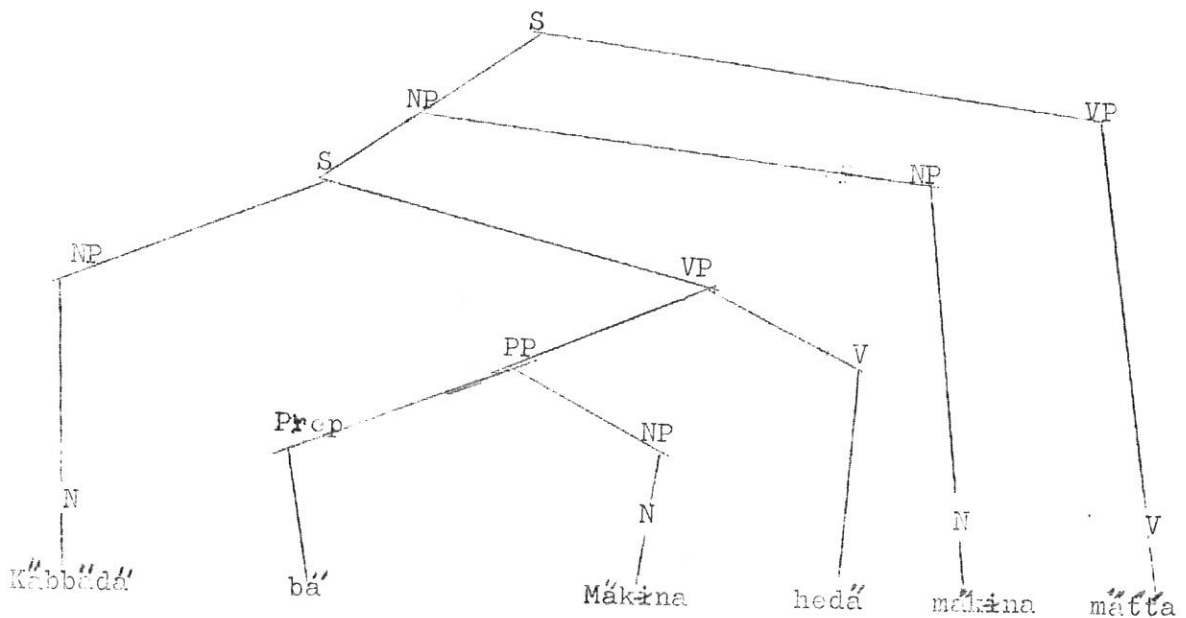
The sentence above is constructed from the matrix sentence /kabbada libbs qaddada/ 'Kabbada tore clothes' and the embedded sentence /li-ju libbs gazza/ 'the boy bought clothes' which modifies /libbs/ 'clothes' of the

matrix sentence

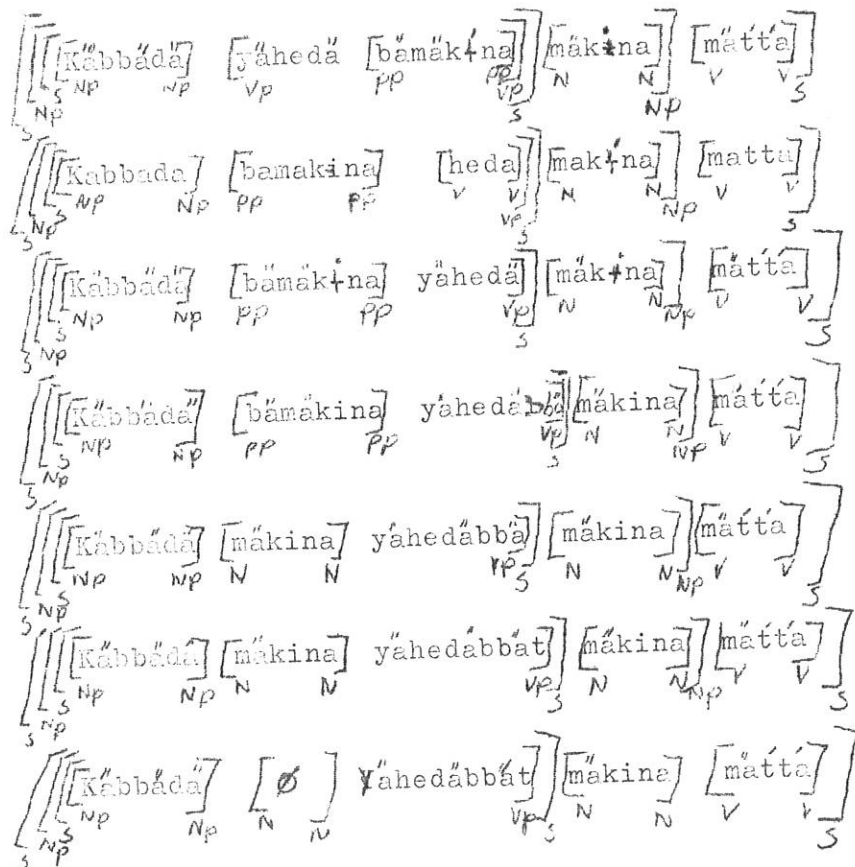
The object noun phrase of the embedded sentence above is identical with the object noun phrase of the matrix sentence and when it is deleted it is referred to by the object suffix pronoun $\{-w\}$ used with the relative qualifier and agrees in number and gender with the qualified noun.

When the relative is the noun phrase of a prepositional phrase, the preposition will be changed to either $\{-ll-\}$ or $\{-bb-\}$.¹⁰ In Amharic these are the only prepositional suffixes that can be used to govern object suffixes.¹¹ This can be shown as follows:

13. Kabbādā yā-hed-ā-bbā-t mākina mātā-a
 Kabbada rm-went -he-in-it car came-he
 'The car in which Kabbada went came.'



The derivation for sentence (13) is:



Kabbada' yähedäbbät makina matta

As indicated above the prepositional object suffix { -bb- } is infixed in the verb of the embedded sentence in place of the preposition { bā- }. Later the identical noun phrase of the embedded sentence / makina / is deleted leaving its copy { -t } on the verb of the embedded sentence.

When an adjective appears in a relative clause construction, the adjective is placed immediately before the qualified noun and after a relative clause.

14. Kabbada' ləj-u yā-gāzz-aw-n t'aru l'bs qaddāda'
 Kabbada boy-the rm-bought-he-it-acc good clothes tore-he
 'Kabbad tore the good clothes the boy bought.'

The phrase structure rule for noun phrases containing embedded sentences and noun phrases as in sentences (11) to (13) is:

$$\text{NP} \longrightarrow \text{S NP}$$

From what has been discussed the following phrase structure rule of the Amharic noun phrase is possible.

$$\text{NP} \longrightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} (\text{S})(\text{Art}) (\text{Num}) (\text{Adj})_c^n \bar{\text{N}} \\ \text{S NP} \end{array} \right\}$$

2.1. The Verb Phrase

As every noun phrase has to contain at least one constituent, a noun, every verb phrase must contain one constituent, a verb.

15. Lamma waddāq-a'
 Lamma fell-he
 'Lamma fell.'

16. anbāssa-w agāss -a
lion-the(m) roared-he
'The lion roared.'

In the sentences above the underlined verbs are the only constituents of each verb phrase. When a verb is the only member of a verb phrase as in sentences (15) and (16), the verb is known as an intransitive verb. Intransitive verbs don't take any objects.

The phrase structure rule for a verb phrase with only a verb is:



Amharic verb phrases may contain both a verb and a noun phrase like in sentences (17) and (18).

17. l₁j-očč-u w₁ss-očč-un gāddal-u
boy-s-the(m) dog-s-the(m)-acc killed-they
'The boys killed the dogs.'

18. tamari -w l₁bs-u-n gāddad-ā
student-the(m) cloth-(the) (his)-acc tore-he
'The student tore his clothes.'

When verb phrases consist noun phrases and verbs as in the examples above the verbs are referred to as transi-
tives. Transitive verbs take objects. The phrase

structure rule for verb phrases that contain noun phrases and verbs is:



Verb phrases may also have prepositional phrases and verbs as shown below:

19. lǝj-u wādā gābya hed-ā
 boy-the to market went-he
 'The boy went to the market.'

The rule here is:



Amharic verb phrases may include prepositional phrases, noun phrases and of course verbs as indicated below:

20. Kassa lā-lǝj-u māṣhaf sātt-ā-w
 Kassa to-boy-the book gave-he-him
 'Kassa gave a book to the boy.'

In the above sentence / lā-lǝju / is a prepositional phrase and / māṣhaf / 'a book' is a noun phrase.

The phrase structure rule for verb phrases with prepositional phrases direct objects and verbs is:



The foregoing phrase structure rule of Amharic verb phrases with intransitive and transitive verbs may be summarized as follows:

VP \longrightarrow (PP):(NP) V

The Amharic verb phrases may also have copulas which include subject complements. One of the copulas is verb of existence / all- / (/ nabbar- / in past tense):

21. lɨj-u izzih all -á
boy-the here exist-he
'The boy is here.'
22. lɨj-u izzia nábbár-á
boy-the there was -he
'The boy was there.'
23. lɨj-it-wa tíns nábbár-áčč
child-fem-the small was -she
'The girl was small.'
24. lɨj-u támari nábbár-á
boy-the student was -he
'The boy was a student.'
25. lɨj-u bá- bet wist all -á
boy-the in-house in exist-he
'The boy is in the house.'

In each of the sentences above the verb phrases contain the verb of existence / all- / or its past form / nabbar- / and locatives in sentences (21 and 22), an adjective in sentence (23), a noun phrase in sentence (24), and a prepositional phrase in sentence (25).

The phrase structure rule is:

VP \longrightarrow Pred + V Cop

Besides the verb of existence, the Amharic verb phrases may also include the copula / na- /. It's past tense / nabbar- / can replace / na- / in all the cases below:

26. lij-u izzih nä-w

boy-the loc be-he

'The boy is here.'

27. lij-u tämari nä-w

boy-the student be-he

'The boy is a student.'

28. lij-u rəjjim nä-w

boy-the tall be-he

'The boy is tall.'

29. lij -wa bä-bet-wäst' na-t

child-the (f) in-house-in be-she

'The girl is in the house.'

In each of the above sentences the verb phrases contain the copula / nā- / or its past form / nābbār- / and a locative in sentence (26), a noun phrase in sentence (27), an adjective in sentence (28) and a preposition phrase in sentence (29).

The phrase structure rule for the verb phrase with the copula / nā- / is:

$$VP \longrightarrow \text{Pred} + V \text{ Cop}$$

The constituent rules so far covered in the discussion on the Amharic verb phrase may be summarized as follows:

$$VP \longrightarrow \left(\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{Pred} \\ (PP) \quad (NP) \end{array} \right\} \right) V$$

Even though it is not the objective of this paper to deal with other linguistic features other than the constituent structures of the major parts of the Amharic sentences it seems very essential to introduce negation and interrogation into the phrase structure rules as optional in the base.

In Amharic negation is a morphological category. Negation is formed by prefixing {al-} and suffixing {-mm} to the verb of a sentence. {-mm} is later deleted if the verb is subordinate.

30. lǎj^Y-u al-hed-á-mm
boy-the neg-went-he-neg
'The boy didn't go.'

31. lǎj^Y-u a-y-mátt'-a-mm
boy-the neg-he (impf) come-he-neg
'The boy doesn't come.'

Amharic sentences may also contain question marks.
Question is marked by intonation or by the choice of
interrogative pronoun (question words).

32. lǎj^Y-u wádá' gábya hed-á'
boy-the to market went-he (rising tone on last word)
'Did the boy go to the market?'

33. lǎj^Y-u wádá' yet y-ǎ-hed-all
boy-the to where (Q) he-impf-go-nonpast
'Where does the boy go?'

34. lij-u-n man ayy-a-w?
boy-the-acc who saw-he-it?
'Who saw the boy?'

Besides negative and question markers, adverbs may
optionally be included in Amharic sentences.

35. lǎj^Y-u lǎ'-mǎn náǵá a-y-hed-mm
boy-the for-why(Qw) tomorrow (adv) neg-he(impf) go-neg
'Why doesn't the boy go tomorrow?'

The discussion in this chapter may be summarized as follows:

The Phrase Structure Rules of Amharic Sentences

1. S \longrightarrow (Q) (Neg) (Adv) NP VP
2. NP \longrightarrow $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} (S) \text{ (Art) (Num) (Adj)}_P^N \text{ N} \\ \text{S(NP)} \end{array} \right\}$
3. VP \longrightarrow $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Pred} \\ \text{(PP) (NP)} \end{array} \right\}^V$
4. V \longrightarrow $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Vi} \\ \text{Vt} \\ \text{V Cop} \end{array} \right\}$
5. Pred \longrightarrow $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{NP} \\ \text{Loc} \\ \text{PP} \\ \text{Adj} \end{array} \right\}$
6. V Cop \longrightarrow $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{V all-} \\ \text{V na-} \end{array} \right\}$
7. PP \longrightarrow Prep NP

From the foregoing description of Amharic sentences the following patterns of Amharic simple sentences may be identified using only the components of the verb phrases

covered
covered in this chapter.

The Patterns of Amharic Simple Sentences.

<u>Pattern</u>	<u>Examples</u>
1. NP V	lǎjju hedá'
2. NP NP V	lǎjju dǎbtǎrun wǎssǎdá''
3. NP PP V	lǎjju wǎdá'' bot hedá''
4. NP PP NP V	lǎjju lá-Kǎssa máǎsǎhaf sǎttǎw
5. NP Loc V Cop	lǎjju ǎzzǎh allá (or nǎw)
6. NP NP V Cop	lǎjju tǎmarǎ nǎw
7. NP Adj V Cop	lǎjju rájjǎm nǎw
8. NP PP V Cop	lǎjju bábet wǎst' allá (or nǎw)

CHAPTER III

3. Constituent Structures of English Sentences

It is the purpose of this chapter to identify and discuss the constituent structures of English sentences. The chief categories of the two major parts of English sentences along with examples will be presented. The basic structure of the English sentence is made up of a noun phrase followed by a verb phrase.

3.0. The Noun Phrase

A minimal form of English noun phrase is formed from a noun, or from an article followed by a noun, as in the following sentences:

3.0.0. Noun

1. Mary came.
2. The girls met a doctor.
3. The child bought an orange.

As can be noticed from the above sentences, the subject noun phrase of sentence (1) contains a noun while the subject and object noun phrases of sentences (2) and (3) have articles and nouns. In English there are two articles: definite (the) as in the subject noun phrase of sentence (1) and indefinite articles (a and an) as in the object noun phrases of sentences (2 and 3). In the sentences (1, 2 and 3) above two rules describe the English noun phrase. According to sentence (1) a noun phrase need only consist of a noun:

NP \longrightarrow N

The other two sentences indicate that noun phrases consist of articles and nouns:

NP \longrightarrow Art N

The two rules may be combined into one indicating both possibilities

NP \longrightarrow (Art) N

In English besides the article, numerals and adjectives may optionally occur to the left of the head nouns within noun phrases as shown below:

4. The tall man came yesterday.
5. The two tall men came yesterday.
6. The first two tall men came yesterday.

The underlined phrase in sentence (6) contains an article, a numeral, an adjective and a noun.

The summary of the phrase structure rule for the noun phrases in these sentences (4, 5 and 6) is:

NP \longrightarrow (Art) (Num) (Adj) N

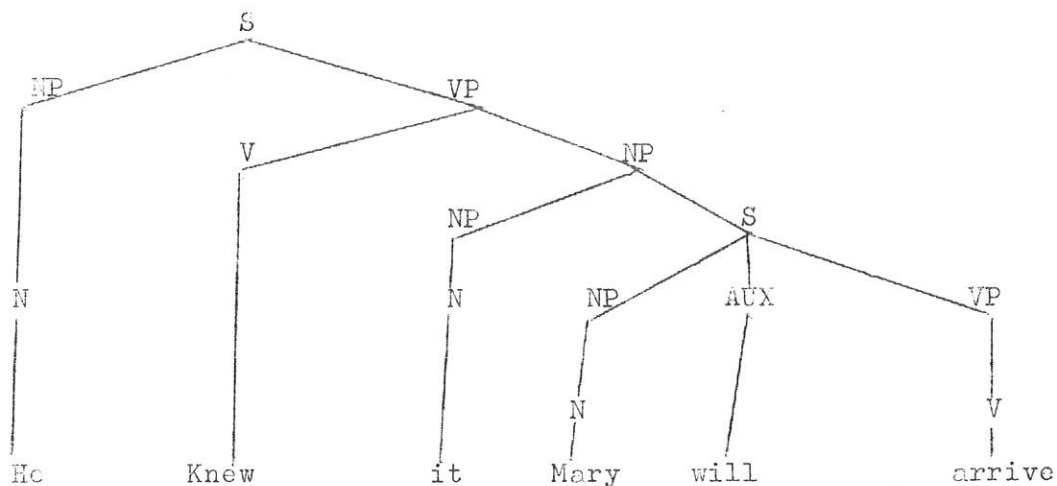
This phrase structure rule of noun phrase contains all the possibilities discussed in this section.

3.0.1 Noun Phrase Complement

Noun phrases in English may contain not only nouns but sentences as well. These kinds of construction contain embedded sentences as:

7. He knew that Mary will arrive.
8. I would hate to find the classroom empty.

The deep structure of sentence (7) appears as follows:



In the intermediate structure of sentence (7) the following changes are noted:

[He knew it] [Mary will come]
 [He knew it that Mary will come]
 [He knew~~it~~ that Mary will come]
 He knew that Mary will come.

'He knew it' is the matrix sentence while 'Mary will come' is the embedded sentence. The 'it' in the matrix sentence refers to the embedded sentence. 'that'¹² serves as the marker of the embedded sentence. The sentences combined in the example above have different subjects.

In sentence (8) the underlined part of the sentence is an infinitive clause. In the underlying structure the infinitive clause has a subject identical with the subject of the matrix sentence as indicated below:

9. I would hate it. I found the classroom empty.

When these two sentences are combined the subject of the embedded sentence is deleted. In English it is possible to construct sentences like:

10. I would hate for Mary to find the house empty.

But not sentences like:

*11. I would hate for me to find the house empty.

Sentence (11) is unacceptable because a for - to complement is never used when the embedded sentence contains an identical subject coreferential with the matrix subject.¹³

From the forgoing discussion it is clear that verbs such as 'know' have object noun phrases that contain sentences. Thus in order to produce sentence (7 and 8) an optional sentence may appear after the noun which is indicated in the phrase structure rule covered earlier.

NP \longrightarrow (Art) (Num) (Adj) N (S)

3.0.2. Sentence plus Noun Phrase-Relatives

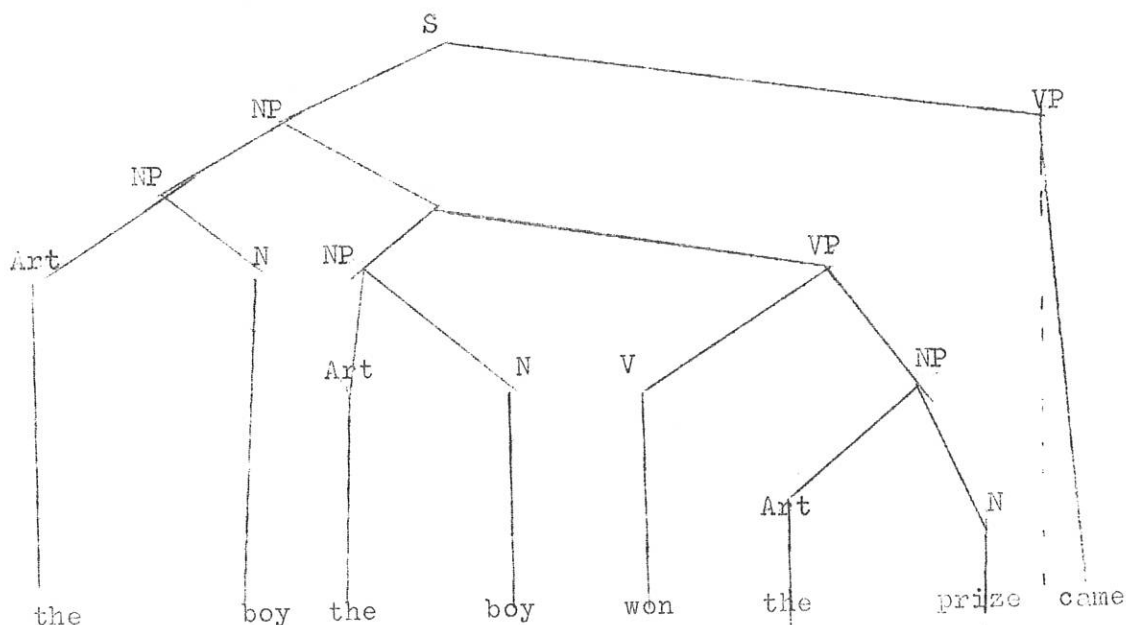
Noun phrases of English, may also possess noun phrases and sentences together. This kind of noun phrase is made up of what is called a relative clause construction.

The structural descriptions of English relativization rules specify certain noun phrase structure that include a noun (the head noun) and a sentence (the embedded sentence). The embedded sentence must include a noun that is identical with the head noun (the identical noun).

The structural changes of English relativization rules involve linking and the alteration of the identical noun.

In the following sentence "Who won the prize" is a relative clause.

12. The boy who won the prize came.



In the intermediate structure the following changes are noted:

[The boy [the boy won the prize] came]

[The boy woh the boy won the prize came]

[The boy who/won the prize came]

The boy who won the prize came.

As is clear from the derivation, the above sentence is constructed from the matrix sentence. 'the boy came' and the embedded sentence 'the boy won the prize.' The identical noun of the embedded sentence is deleted leaving its copy in the linking element /wh-/.

In English relativization rules there are no restrictions upon the syntactic role of the identical nouns within the embedded sentences.

13. The boy who won the prize came.

14. I called the boy whom I saw yesterday.

15. The pen with which I wrote costs one birr.

In each of the sentences above the sentence strings that start with the relative pronouns 'who', 'whom' and 'which' are all embedded sentences and modify their preceding nouns. The identical nouns can be the subject as in the deep structure underlying 'the boy who won the prize', the object as in the deep structure underlying 'the boy whom I saw', a prepositional object as in the deep structure underlying 'the pen with which I wrote'.

The relative pronouns 'who' 'whom' 'which' identified in the sentences above contain the pronominal replacements of the identical noun phrases and linking element 'wh-'.
The phrase structure rule of noun phrases containing noun phrases and sentences together can be shown as:

NP \longrightarrow NP S

The phrase structure, so far covered in relation to English noun phrases may be summarized by the following formula:

NP \longrightarrow { (Det) (Num) (Adj) N (S) }
NP S

3.1 The Verb Phrase

The minimal obligatory unit of the English verb phrases is a verb as shown below:

16. The horse galloped.

17. He walks slowly.

The verb phrase in sentence (16) contains only a verb 'galloped' while it contains a verb 'walks' and an optional adverb 'slowly' in sentence (17). These verbs don't take any object. Verbs that take null objects are called intransitive verbs. Sentences with intransitive verbs don't undergo the passive transformation. The phrase structure rule of verb phrases with only verbs as in the above sentences and without the adverb may be shown as follows:

$$VP \longrightarrow V$$

Verb phrases in English may have both verbs and nouns as in:

18. The boy read the letter.

19. Henry killed a mouse.

The verbs in the verb phrases of the above sentences are followed by object noun phrases 'the letter' and 'a mouse.' The verbs in the above sentences are called transitive verbs. Transitive verbs are verbs that take noun phrase objects. In these type of verbs the passive transformation is possible. The phrase structure rule for verb phrases with verbs and noun phrases is:

VP \longrightarrow V NP

Verb phrases may also contain verbs and prepositional phrases as in:

22. He went to the school.

23. Almaz stayed in the room.

The rule that describes the verb phrases in these sentences is:

VP \longrightarrow V PP

Verb phrases in English can be made to include verbs, noun phrases and prepositional phrases as in:

24. We sent a book to Mary

25. She told the story to us.

The verb 'sent' is followed by 'a book' (a noun phrase) and 'to Mary' (a prepositional phrase). Likewise 'told' is followed by 'the story' (a noun phrase) and 'to us' (a prepositional phrase).

The foregoing phrase structure rule with a verb and a noun phrase could be expanded to include a preposition phrase to give the following formula:

VP \longrightarrow V NP PP

The foregoing phrase structure rules of verb phrases discussed in this part can be summarized as:

VP \longrightarrow V (NP) (PP)

Besides the phrase structure rules mentioned so far with reference to intransitive and transitive verbs, other phrase structure rules may be provided with the English verb 'to be', as shown below:

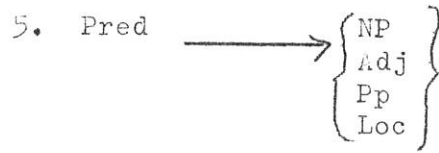
- 24. John is my friend.
- 25. Mary is clever.
- 26. The book is on the table.
- 27. The boy is here.

As can be seen from the above sentences, the verb 'to be' is completed by different grammatical structures: by a noun phrase in sentence (24) by an adjective in sentence (25) by a prepositional phrase in sentence (26) and a locative in sentence (27). The structure in these sentences is said to function as the subjective complement because of its close relationship to the subject. The phrase structure of the verb phrase with the verb 'to be' is therefore:

$$VP \longrightarrow Vbe \text{ Pred}$$

The phrase structure rule of the English verb phrases so far discussed could be summarized as:

$$VP \longrightarrow V \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Pred} \\ \text{(NP) (PP)} \end{array} \right\}$$



From the discussion so far covered on English sentences the following patterns of English simple sentences may be identified using only the components of the verb phrases discussed here.

The Patterns of English Simple Sentences

Pattern

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1. NP V | 1. Birds fly |
| 2. NP V NP | 2. The boy read the book. |
| 3. NP V PP | 3. The boy went to school. |
| 4. NP V NP PP | 4. John sent a letter to me. |
| 5. NP be NP | 5. Mr. Smith is a doctor. |
| 6. NP be Adj | 6. The girls are beautiful. |
| 7. NP be Loc | 7. The teacher is here. |
| 8. NP be PP | 8. The teacher is in the
classroom. |

CHAPTER IV

4. Some Differences Between the Details of the Constituent Structures of Amharic and English Sentences.

The purpose of this chapter is to contrast and identify the differences between the details of the constituent structures of Amharic and English sentences discussed in the previous chapters.

4.0 The Noun Phrases in Amharic and English

The constituent structures of Amharic and English noun phrases as indicated in chapter 2 and 3 contain the following categories shown in Table I.

TABLE I

The Noun Phrases in Amharic and English

Amharic	English
{ (S) (Art) (Num) (Adj) N }	{ (Det) (Num) (Adj) N (S) }
{ S NP }	{ NP S }

As can be seen from the above table the syntactic categories found in the noun phrases of Amharic and English are identical thereby supporting the idea that the deep structure of sentences in different languages are identical and that they have a universal set of the base rules.¹⁴ In spite of the

fact that the phrase structure rules of Amharic and English noun phrases contain common syntactic categories, they differ in their details as shown below:

4.0.0. Noun

Noun phrases in Amharic and English consist of nouns. Nouns in both languages are marked for numbers. In English, the morpheme { -s } is suffixed to most nouns to mark numbers while Amharic uses { -očč' }. The plural morpheme of English has irregular allomorphs which are used in nouns like men, children, sheep etc. The plural formation using irregular allomorphs in English is different from that of Amharic. This indicates one important difference between the two languages.

When nouns within noun phrases are preceded by numerals or quantity words like /bāzu/ 'much' or /sānt/ 'how much', 'how many' the Amharic plural morpheme /-očč'/ is not strictly used as in English.

4.0.1. Amharic

English

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <u>lājōčču hulātt wānbār (-očč') gazu</u> | 1. The boys bought <u>two chairs</u> . |
| 2. <u>sānt tāmari mātāa.</u> | 2. How <u>many students</u> came. |

As shown in the English column nouns with numerals or quantity words are always pluralized. This is also another area of differences between the two languages.

In Amharic, adjective may sometimes be marked for number in agreement with its noun and this is only essential where it also has to carry a definite article as in:

<u>Amharic</u>	<u>English</u>
3. <u>tänniŝ-očč-u lāj-očč</u> hedu	3. <u>The small boys</u> went.
4. <u>lājočč addis-očč-u-n kīfl-očč</u> ayy-u	4. The boys saw <u>the</u> <u>new rooms.</u>

On the other hand, adjective is never marked for number in agreement with its noun in English as indicated above in the English column.

Both languages have articles. Unlike in English the definite article in Amharic is a morphological and not a lexical category. Amharic has only definite articles for masculine and feminine while English has definite and indefinite articles the same for all genders. In Amharic the use of the article is more optional than in English for it is often omitted or left unexpressed ¹⁵ as in:

<u>Amharic</u>	<u>English</u>
5. <u>ine räjjim lāj</u> äyyahu.	5. I saw <u>a tall boy.</u>
6. <u>lājočču bābet wist</u> nābbāru.	6. The boys were <u>in the</u> <u>house.</u>

4.0.1 Noun Phrase Complement

In both languages noun phrases contain embedded sentences as complements as shown below:

<u>Amharic</u>	<u>English</u>
7. <u>ine lāju māhedun</u> awqallahu	7. I know <u>that the boy went.</u>
8. Kābbāda" <u>mānnibāb</u> yēwādall.	8. Kābbāda likes <u>to read.</u>

The above examples illustrate that the noun phrases in Amharic and English contain embedded sentences. Amharic uses infinitive clauses while English insert independent word 'that' ¹⁶ that marks the beginning of the embedded sentences.

4.0.2 Relative Clauses in Amharic and English

In Amharic and English the structural descriptions of relativation rules specify. ¹⁷

- a) certain noun phrase structures that include a noun /the head noun/ and a sentence /the embedded sentence/.
- b) that the embedded sentence must include a noun that is identical with the head noun /identical noun/.

The rules in the structural descriptions of Amharic and English relativizations may be illustrated with the following examples.

TABLE II

Relative Constructions in Amharic and English

Amharic	English
9. <u>yá-mátt'-a-w</u> lij hed-á [lij mátt'-a] [lij heda']	9. The boy <u>who came</u> went. [The boy [the boy came] went]

The above sentences justify that basically relative clause constructions in Amharic and English include embedded sentences which contain nouns which are identical with the head nouns.

The only difference is the position of the embedded sentences. In Amharic it comes before the head noun /lɛj/ 'boy' while it follows the head noun 'the boy' in English. In other words there is a move from Amharic S NP to English NP S.

In both languages there is no restriction upon the syntactic role of the identical nouns within the embedded sentences as shown below:

(a) Subject

Amharic

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|-----|----------------------------------|
| 10. | yāmāttaw <u>lɛj</u> hedā. | 10. | The boy who came went. |
| | <u>lɛju</u> matta (embedded S) | | <u>The boy</u> came (embedded S) |
| | <u>lɛju</u> heda (matrix S) | | <u>The boy</u> went (matrix S) |

(b) Object

- | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|---------------------------|
| 11. | Almaz ine yāyahutn <u>lɛj</u> tārraččiw | 11. | She called <u>the boy</u> |
| | ine <u>lɛjun</u> ayyāhu (embedded S.) | | whom I saw. |
| | Almaz <u>lɛjun</u> tārračč (matrix S.) | | She called <u>the boy</u> |
| | | | (matrix |
| | | | I saw <u>the boy</u> |
| | | | (embedded S.) |

(c) Prepositional Object

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|---------------------------------|
| 12. | ine yāṣafhubbat rāsas and bīrr | 12. | The pencil with which |
| | yawātall | | I wrote cost one birr. |
| | ine <u>bārīsas</u> ṣafhu (embedded S.) | | <u>The pencil</u> cost one birr |
| | <u>īrsasu</u> and bīrr yawātall (matrix S) | | (matrix S.) |
| | | | I wrote <u>with the pencil</u> |
| | | | (embedded S) |

As indicated in sentence (12) above both languages have identical nouns within the embedded sentences which function as prepositional objects. In Amharic, the verbs of the embedded sentences are infixed with { -bb- } or { --ll- } instead of the prepositions used with the deleted identical nouns while prepositions are put before the relative pronouns in English.

All modifiers in Amharic precede the head noun while some modifiers precede and some follow the head in English. In both languages adjectives precede head nouns but relatives precede head nouns in Amharic while they follow in English as shown in sentence (13).

<u>Amharic</u>	<u>English</u>
13. Kabbada' <u>liju yagazzawn taru</u> <u>libs qaddad</u>	16. Kabbada tore <u>the good</u> <u>clothes which the boy</u> <u>bought.</u>

4.1 The Verb Phrases in Amharic and English

The verb phrases of Amharic and English as discussed in chapter 2 and 3 contain the following categories:

TABLE III

The Verb Phrases in Amharic and English

Amharic	English
$\left(\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Pred} \\ \text{(PP) (NP)} \end{array} \right\} \right) V$	$V \left(\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Pred} \\ \text{(NP) (PP)} \end{array} \right\} \right)$

Similar to the constituent structures of Amharic and English noun phrases, the verb phrases of the two languages contain identical categories. The difference lies in that Amharic verb occurs sentence final while it appears sentence medial in English. However there are some differences when the aspect-tense schemes of the two languages are examined.

4.1.0 Aspect-Tense

The simplest form of the verb phrases of Amharic and English is the verb. Verbs in Amharic are marked for aspect, person, number and gender. In English verbs are marked for the third person singular /-s/, past tense /ed/, past participle /-en/ and present participle /-ing/. English also uses morphemes 'shall' and 'will' to express future time action. Amharic approximately expresses these semantic features morphologically through the perfect and imperfect aspect.

In the Amharic aspect-tense scheme, the first dividing line runs between perfect and imperfect action whereas in English it is divided primarily on the basis of time (past, present, and future).

Since the tense scheme of English is based on time, the verbs in English could be directed towards three axes of orientation: the retrospective, a recollecting moment of speaking (RP), the prime point, the instant of speaking (PP) and the anticipated, a time posterior to the moment of speaking (AP)¹⁸, as shown in the next table.

TABLE IV

English Verbs Axes of Orientation

RP	PP	AP
ate was/were eating	eats/eat	Will eat
was/were eating	is/are eating	will be eating
had eaten	has/have eaten	will have eaten
had been eating	has/have been eating	will have been eating
would be eaten		
would have eaten		
would have been eating		

It is clear from the above table that English verbs occurring at present axis of orientation contrast with those on the past axis. Thus 'eats' like 'has eaten' indicates orientation toward the present while 'ate' like 'had eaten' toward past.

In the following table the Amharic verb aspect-tense forms divided semantically are given together with their approximate equivalents in English.

TABLE V

Aspect-tense in Amharic and English Verbs.

Aspect	Amharic	English
Perfect	sabbera	he broke
	Sabro nabar	he had broken
	sabroall	he has broken
		he has broken
Imperfect	yisabrall	he breaks, he is breaking
		he will break
	yisabr nabar	he was breaking

The table above indicates that all the tenses in English AP¹⁹ are absent. One of the tenses in English RP /was/were breaking/ is indicated in the Amharic Imperfect aspect. Probably RP and PP axes of orientation in English may not be differentiated in Amharic easily. Some of the tenses in English RP and PP are also absent in Amharic.

CHAPTER V

Conclusions, Findings

Inferences and Recommendations

5.0. Conclusions

It is quite hard to give definitive conclusions for a study on the differences and similarities between the structures of Amharic and English, or any two languages for that matter. This is due the fact that no language can be adequately explored and explained since new explanations and findings on the structure of languages come up all the time. Lack of scholars, money, materials and time may be some of the sources for the lack of the thorough studies on languages. For instance, very little has been done on the phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics of Amharic. It is even very difficult to find a compiled complete description of English, which is one of the most thoroughly studied languages. Nevertheless, this does not mean that it is completely impossible to describe and contrast languages to arrive at a relatively valid conclusion. By using a grammatical theory such as transformational generative grammar, which can help to describe and explain the structure of languages satisfactorily, it is possible to analyse the structure of languages. It is with this understanding that the differences between the details of the constituent structures of Amharic and English sentences are described and analysed in the present study.

As indicated in Chapter I, the scope of this study is limited. It tries to examine the internal structures and distributions of the constituent structures of declarative Amharic and English sentences. It doesn't claim to give final description of all the sentence structures of the two languages. The aim, as cited earlier, is simply to describe contrast the constituent structures of Amharic and English sentences in order to identify their differences.

In this study the components of the noun and verb phrases of Amharic and English sentences are discussed. The phrase structure rules of the sentences of the two languages are provided in a summary form in Appendix VI. The basic sentence patterns of Amharic and English are also identified based on the constituents of Amharic and English verb phrases.

Eventhough, the present study shows that the categories found in the constituent structures of Amharic and English sentences are identical, it is concluded that a detailed examination of the constituent structures of the main parts of Amharic and English sentences reveals that some differences exist as enumerated in the findings section below.

5.1. Findings

The major findings of this study are two:

5:1:0 The details of the noun phrases of Amharic and English have differences.

5:1:1 The details of the verb phrases of Amharic and English have differences.

5:1:0 The Noun Phrases:- In Amharic there is only definite article {u} while there are definite and indefinite articles in English. Amharic has no indefinite article even though the numeral one in Amharic which is "and" may be used. Furthermore the articles in English are very strictly used while there is a possibility of omitting them in Amharic. In Amharic adjectives are marked for number in agreement with their head nouns while adjectives are never marked for number in agreement with their head nouns in English. Moreover head nouns within Amharic noun phrases that contain numerals and quantity words are not strictly marked for number as in English. Relative clauses in Amharic come before the head nouns while in English they come after the head nouns. Moreover the linking element {yá'-} in Amharic is prefixed to the verb of the relative clause while the linking element 'wh-' with the pronominal of the lost identical noun is assigned at the

beginning of relative clauses in English. Besides this, relative pronouns in English are used on the basis of the syntactic role and human and non-human nature of the head noun while this is not discriminated in Amharic. When relative clauses become prepositional phrases, the prepositions in the sentences are infixed in the verbs of the relative clauses in Amharic while they are put before the relative pronouns in English. Furthermore, the noun phrases which contain adjectives and relative clauses precede head nouns in Amharic while the adjectives precede and the relative clauses follow the head nouns in English.

5:1:1 The Verb Phrases:- Verbs in Amharic occur sentence - final while they appear sentence - medial in English. Besides this, Amharic verbs are marked morphologically for aspect, person, number and gender while they are marked for past tense/-ed/, past participle/-en/ and present participle

/-ing/ in English. The base of aspect - tense scheme in Amharic is action (perfect or imperfect) while it is mainly time (past, present, future) in English. Some tenses in English are either absent or don't have direct equivalent in Amharic. Furthermore, subject and object agreements of person, gender and number in English are not so fully marked as in Amharic. These require explicit pronouns in English when Amharic verbs can have implicit suffixes.

5.2. Inferences

The findings in this study have great implications on the teaching of English to Amharic speakers as indicated below:

5:2:0 The possibility of omitting the definite article within a noun phrase in Amharic may lead the Amharic speakers learning English sentences to omit the English articles as in *I saw tall boy.
*Sun is a star.

5:2:1 The marking of adjectives for number in agreement with head nouns in Amharic may result in error like *The tall boys came yesterday. Moreover, since head nouns within Amharic noun phrase that contain numbers and quantity words

are not strictly marked for number as in English, Amharic speakers learning English may produce sentences as *How many chair are there in the classroom? *There are ten chair in the classroom.

5:2:2. Since the relative marker of Amharic is not the same in usage like the relative pronouns of English, Amharic speakers may use the English relative pronouns indiscriminately as in *The boy which came yesterday went. *The chair who/whom I bought yesterday broke. It may also be possible to see errors like *The pen which I write is broken since prepositions which are in relative clauses construction are not put before the relative pronouns as in English. In Amharic relative clause constructions, prepositions are infixed in the verbs of the relative clauses.

5:2:3 As far as the verb phrases, Amharic verbs come at the end of sentences while they are sentence medial in English. Thus Amharic speakers learning English sentences may produce *They home go. English verbs are marked for past/-ed/, past participle/-en/ and present

participle/ing/while Amharic verbs are marked in other different ways to express these linguistic features. Thus it may be possible to see errors as in *He call me yesterday, *He learn English since 1973, and *He write letters now. Moreover since some of the tenses in English are either absent or don't have direct equivalent in Amharic, Amharic speaking students learning English may not differentiate English tenses. Thus it may be possible to notice sentences as *We sat here since morning, We may have to wait for another hour or so. Furthermore Amharic verbs can have implicit suffixes to indicate subject-object agreement of person, gender and number while explicit pronouns are used in English. The Amharic speakers learning English sentences may think of the implicit suffixes and may omit the explicit pronouns as in *He gave, *He wrote.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the conclusions and findings of this study it is recommended that:

- 5:3:0 A wide and exhaustive study be carried out on the structure of Amharic using sound grammatical theory such as transformational generative grammar.

- 5:3:1 Experimental studies be carried out to determine the degree or difficulties on the areas of differences between the structures of Amharic and English.
- 5:3:2 The description on the constituent structure of English sentences be used to revise and improve curriculums and text-books of English in the school and institutes of higher learning for teaching English better.

NOTES

¹M.L. Bender and Hailu Fulas, Amharic Verb Morphology: A Generative Approach (Michigan: African Studies Centre, 1979), p.5.

²Robert P. Stockwell, Foundation of Syntactic Theory (London: Prentice-Hall Inc., 1977), p.87.

³Hailu Fulas, Saratawi Yamarinna Sawassaw (mimeographed) Addis Ababa, 1966), p.84. The author believes that the definite article is not only a determiner but also a gender marker.

⁴Definite adjectives in agreement with head nouns are marked for number in Amharic.

⁵When head nouns within noun phrases are preceded by numerals or quantity words like /bazu / 'much', 'many' or / sint / 'how much', 'how many' they are not strictly marked for number.

⁶Hailu, Ibid, p.185. Hailu indicates that the conjunctions / lã- / and / indã / serve as markers of embedded sentence-complements.

⁷The whole ideas of relativization rules are taken from Paul Schachter, "Transformational Grammar and contrastive Analysis," in Allen & Compbell, (eds.), Teaching English as a Second Language (India: TATA McGraw-Hill Publishing Company, 1972, p.268.

⁸The / ya- / of the relative verb and the / ya- / of the possessive are identical.

⁹Hailu Fulas, "On Amharic Relative Clauses," Bulletin of the Oriental African Studies 35: 497-513.

¹⁰C.H. Dawkins, The Fundamentals of Amharic (Addis Ababa: Sudan Interior Mission, 1960), p. 118.

¹¹Hailu, Op.cit., p. 162.

¹²Adrain Akmajian and Fank Heny, An Introduction of the Principles of Transformational Syntax (London: The MIT Press, 1979), p. 286. Besides that, for-to and 's-ing ("possessive-ing" or "poss-ing") are also complementizers.

¹³Akmajian, Ibid, p. 300.

¹⁴Emmon W. Bac, "Nouns and Noun Phrases," Universals in Linguistic Theory (New York: Holt, Rinhart and Waston, 1968), p. 91.

¹⁵C.H. Dawkins, The Fundamentals of Amharic Addis Ababa:

¹⁶CF. Note 17

¹⁷CF. Note 7

¹⁸Elena V. Reyes, "Some Problems of Interference in the Use of English verbs by Native Tagalog Speaking," Language Learning 19: 87 (1973).

¹⁹/y~~s~~äbrall / can be used to express the idea of 'will break' but it needs a temporal adverb.

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Appendix - A

TABLE VI

The Phrase Structure Rules of Amharic and English Sentences

A M H A R I C		E N G L I S H	
1. S	→ (Q) (Neg) (Adv) NP VP	1. S	→ (Q) (Neg) NP VP (Adv)
2. NP	→ { (S) (Art) (Num) (Adj) N } S NP	2. NP	→ { (Det) (Num) (Adj) N (S) } NP S
3. VP	→ { Pred } V { (PP) (NP) }	3. VP	→ V { Pred (NP) (PP) }
4. V	→ { Vi Vt V Cop }	4. V	→ { Vi Vt V be }
5. Pred	→ { NP Adj PP Loc }	5. Pred	→ { NP Adj PP Loc }
6. V Cop	→ { V all- V na- }	6. PP	→ Prep NP
7. PP	→ Prep NP	7. Det	→ { Art Poss Dem }

Appendix - B

TABLE VII

The Patterns of Amharic and English Simple Sentences

A M H A R I C			E N G L I S H		
Pattern	Example Sentences	Symbols	Pattern	Example Sentences	Symbols
1	liju zallal	NP V	1	The boy jumped.	NP V
2	liju dābtarun wassada	NP NP V	2	The boy took the notebook.	NP V NP
3	liju wada gabaya heda	NP PP V	3	The boy went to the market place	NP V PP
4	liju la kablada mashaf sataw	NP PP NP V	4	The boy gave a book to Kebede.	NP V NP PP
5	liju tamari naw	NP NP Vcop	5	The boy is a student	NP be NP
6	liju rejjim naw	NP Adj Vcop	6	The boy is tall.	NP be Adj
7	liju bet wist naw ((or alla))	NP PP Vcop	7	The boy is in the house.	NP be PP
8	liju izzih raw ((or alla))	NP Loc Vcop	8	The boy is here.	NP be Loc

D E C L A R A T I O N

I, the undersigned, declare that this thesis is my work and that all sources of materials used for the thesis have been duly acknowledged.

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