# Determinant Topic Phrase[*]

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Arabic shows two attested structures that relate QPs to NPs; namely QP-NP & NP-QP+Pro (the dash reveals structural precedence).The question that poses itself here is: what is the relationship between the two structures? Put in another way, are the two structures derived from the same underlying structure, or they are merely two different structures? This paper is meant to defend the last view, in doing so, we will prove that the initial NP is base generated under a functional projection that we claim to be a Determinant Topic Phrase.

## 1. QP's Distribution

In the light of a deconstructing approach to DP, *kull* (all) is a universal quantifier that belongs to the class of strong determiners. It heads its own projection within a structure that contains multi-functional projections. In order to see the scopal force  of  *kull*, within a series of  co-occurring DPs, let us have a look at the following Data:

(1) a. qara?-a  kull-u  n-na:s-i  l-kita:b-a.

   *Read-pst-acc all-acc the-people-gen the-book-nom*

   *" All the people read the book"*

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b. * qara?-a al-kull-u nna:s-i l-kitab-a

*Read-pst-acc the-all-acc the-people-gen the-book-nom*

*" the all the people read the book"*


(2) a. Kull-u ha:?ula:?-I l-?awla:du abna:?i:

*All-nom those the-boys children-my*

*"All those boys are my children"*

b.* ha:?ula:?-I Kull-u l-?awla:d-i abna:?i:

*those All-nom the-boys children-my*

*"those All boys are my children"*


(3)a. kullu ɵala:ɵat-i fitya:n yuhibu:n-a l-kurat-a.

*every-nom three-gen boys like the-ball*

*"every three boys like the ball"*

b.* ɵala:ɵat-u kullu fitya:n yuhibu:n-a l-kurat-a.

*three-nom every boys like the-ball*

*"three every boys like the ball"*


(4)a. kull-u Saʕb-i lmaɣ rib-i ðawwa:q

*All-nom people the-morocco-gen gourmet*

*"All the Moroccan people is gourmet"*

b.* Saʕb-u lmaɣ rib-i kull ðawwa:q

*people the-morocco-gen All-nom gourmet*

*"the people of Morocco All is gourmet"*


The data above show that whenever a determiner precedes the quantifier *Kull,* the resulting structure is an ungrammatical one; as is the case in the (b) examples such as: the definite article in (1b), Demonstrative in (2b), numeral in (3b), and the genitive

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construction in (4b), while the opposing examples in which *Kull* precedes the other determiners are well formed (see (1a), (2a), (3a), (4a)). Therefore, we assume the following generalization:

(5) ***QP is the highest functional projection within DP.***

According to (5), we can say that QP-XP-NP is the canonical order structure in Arabic.

## 2. Raising NP or Lowering QP?

Our claim that there is a determinant Topic phrase necessitates the presentation of a set of arguments that support it. Before doing so, we have to precise the projection that caused the difference between the two structures. Let us have a look at the following examples:

(6) a. kullu  l?atfa:li  bari:?u :na

    *All-nom the-children innocent-acc*

  b. al-atfa:lu  kulluhum  bari:?u :na

    *the-children all-nom-them innocent-acc*

If we assume that (6b) is derived from (6a) by moving some constituent (by virtue of the generalization in 5) then we are obliged to pose the following question: is (6a) subject to NP's raising or to QP's lowering?

The assumption that QP has undergone a lowering process violates a set of constraints on movement; the important one is counter cyclicity condition. As is well known, any moved

constituent leaves a trace or an empty category that must be licensed according to ECP. Therefore, if QP is lowered, it can not license its trace in the absence of C-command, hence, the violation of ECP. So we are left with the sole option that respects the conditions of movement; namely raising.

## 3. NP-QP

The assumption that NP is raised to a pre-QP position is a counter example to the generalization stated in (5). Especially that such an assumption means that there is some functional projection that heads the quantifier Phrase.

(7) a. anna:su kullu-hum qara?u : lkita :ba

*The –people-nom all-Pro read-pst-pl the book-acc*

" *All the people read the book* "

b. ?alma:?u kulluhu ʕaðb

*the water-nom all-pro-nom fresh*

*"all the water is fresh"*

c. ?almaɣribu kullu Šaʕbihi yuhibbu ssala:ma

*the morocco- nom all-nom nation-Pro-gen love-prst –nom*
*peace*

" *all the Moroccans love peace* "

The data in (7) above show that the NP precedes QP which is a counter evidence against the generalization in (5). However, in order to get rid of this dilemma, we can assume that the NP has moved to the specifier of the QP, which gives rise to Pro as a result to spec-head agreement.

## 4. Against movement

According to Chomsky (1995), movement of any constituent is a response to the last resort principle. Therefore, the assumption above faces other counter arguments proving that the NP is base generated under the Determinant Topic Phrase.

## 4.1 Case

Assuming that the initial NP has moved to spec of QP, this entails that the NP will retain its genitive Case, especially that Case assigns syntactic positions.

(8) a. kullu lmasa:bi:hi modi:ʔatun

   *All-nom the-lamps -gen light –nom*

   *" all the lamps are lightened"*

b-ʔalmasa:bi:hu kulluha: modi:ʔatun

   *Lamps-nom All-nom light –nom*

   *" The lamps all of them are lightened"*

(9) a. kullu lʕa:lami yabhaθu ʕan ssala:mi

   *All-nom  the-world look for  about peace-gen*

   b. ʔlʕa:lamu kulluhu yabhaθu:na ʕani ssala:mi

   *the-world All-nom  look for-Pro  about peace-gen*

The examples above reveal that the initial NP did not retain its genitive Case as it was expected. The same behavior is carried out by genitive structures in Hungarian Data:

(10) a. A Mari calap-ja

   *The Mari hat-3ʳᵈ prs poss*

b. Mari-nak a  calap-ja

   *Mari-dat   the hat- 3$^{rd}$ prs poss*

c. *Mari a kalap-ja

   *Mari  the hat- 3$^{rd}$ prs poss*

The Hungarian Data differentiates between two types of possessors within genitive constructions; namely the possessor that precedes the article *a* and the possessor that follows it. While the first type of possessors assign the dative Case as in (10b), the latter type assigns the nominative Case as in (10a), while we find that the genitive construction is ungrammatical when the initial possessor retains the nominative Case as in (10c).To account for this behavior, Szabolci (1994) said that the possessor was moved to the specifier of DP as the following representation shows:

(11)[$_{DP}$[$_{spec}$ Mari-nak][$_D$ a [$_{NP}$[t kalap-ja]]]

   *Mari-Dat  poss     hat -3$^{rd}$ prs poss*

If the possessor has really moved, how can we account for the two types of Case that it bears? How can we say that Hungarian and Arabic data can check Case twice?

## 4.2 Initial NP and Barriers

If we assume that the initial NP in (12) has moved, this means that ECP must be respected; this that Pro is licensed

(12) arrajulu kullu [$_{DP}$ kutubihi mufi:da]

   *The-man-nom all-nom  books-his-gen  fruitfull*

   *The man's books are fruitfull*

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What is interesting about the previous example is the grammaticality of the sentence and the licensing of Pro in the presence of barriers. According to Chomsky (1986), Genitive constructions form barriers that block the movement of any element outside the DP. With respect to Subjacency condition, we can cross over the blocking category; However, licensing a trace or a Pro can not be achieved unless there are no barriers. Therefore, in order to get rid of this dilemma, we claim that the noun phrase did not move, as a matter of fact, it is base generated under a DTP. the last assumption goes hand in hand with chomsky's (1977) assumption in which he considers that the Topic does not respect the constraints of movement. Hence, the structure of a deconstructed DP is as follows:

(13)
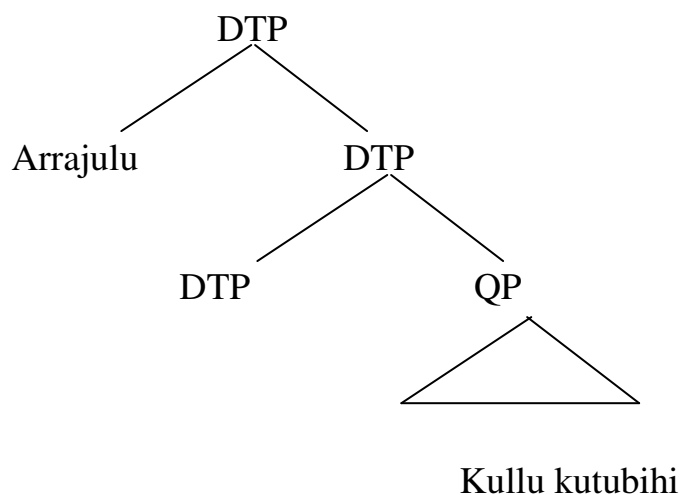


## 4.3 Casual Clash

According to the checking theory, Case can be checked only once. So let us check the examples in (14) to see to what extent do they respond to it.

(14)a. iŠtara:  kullu  l?a:ba:?i  xaru:fan

*Buy-pst  all   the- fathers      sheep-acc- indf*

*All the parents bought a sheep*

 b. iŠtara:  l?a:ba:?u kulluhum xaru:fan

*buy-pst   fathers-nom  all-them-nom  sheep-acc-indf*

*the parents all of them bought a sheep*

(15) a. attala:mi:ðu      fi: kulli   lmada:risi

*The- students-nom  in all-gen   schools-gen*

*The students  in all the schools*

   b. attala:mi:ðu  fi: lmada:risi  kulliha

*The- students-nom  in  schools-gen  all-pro-acc*

*The students  in the schools all of them*

(16) a. sallama  tta:libu  kulla  l?awra:ki

*Submit-pst  the student-nom  all the-acc  papers-gen*

*The student submitted all the papers*

  b.sallama   tta:libu  l?awra:ka   kullaha

*Submit-pst  the student-nom  papers-acc all-pro-acc*

*The student submitted the papers all of them*

As we have seen, the casual affix on the initial NPs change according to case assigner; nominative in subject position, accusative in the object position and the genitive Case in genitive structures, as opposed to the genitive Case assigned to post QP Noun Phrase. If post QP NPs are assigned the genitive case, then they must retain it when they move. This means that they will

resist any structural Case, a state that will cause a crash of the derivation because of double Case checking; thence casual clash. However, the examples above show no signs of casual clash an indication that the realized Case on these NPs is a default Case.

## Concluding Note:

In this paper, we have argued that QP-NP and NP-QP+Pro are two different structures. The latter is not derived from the first one by means of movement as they do not respect movement constraints. Therefore, we assumed that the initiale NP is base generated under a functional node namely; Topic Phrase. Accordingly, we have stipulated the following generalization:

(17) *Topic Phrase is the highest functional projection within a deconstructed DP.*

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