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Post Modification in Iraqi ELLs Composition

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

(أَقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ * خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ * اقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ
الْأَكْرَمُ * الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ * عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ)

صدق الله العلي العظيم

سورة العلق الآية 1:5

*To Those Who Supported me Throughout my
Education*

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Abstract

This research paper deals with Post Modification in Iraqi ELLs Composition .It is divided into four Chapters , the first Chapter is called introduction about the subject, Chapter two is a literature review in which Definitions,uses, types and problem in using Post Modification in English.Chapter three is a test , while Chapter four is a conclusion about the subject.

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Chapter One : Introduction

In linguistics, a modifier is an optional element in phrase structure or clause structure which modifies the meaning of another element in the Structure. For instance, the adjective "red" acts as a modifier in the noun Phrase "red ball", providing extra detail about which particular ball is Under discussion. Similarly, the adverb "quickly" acts as a modifier in the Verb phrase "run quickly"(Huddleston:2002:67).

Modifiers may come either before or after the modified element (the Head), depending on the type of modifier and the rules of syntax for the Language in question. A modifier placed before the head is called a Premodifier; one placed after the head is called a postmodifier. For Example, in land mines, the word land is a premodifier of mines, whereas In the phrase mines in wartime, the phrase in wartime is a postmodifier of Mines. A head may have a number of modifiers, and these may include Both premodifiers and postmodifiers (Huddleston:2002:67).

1.1 Statement of The Problem

Sometimes the element which the modifier is intended to modify does not in fact appear in the sentence, or is not in an appropriate position to be associated with that modifier. This is often considered a grammatical error. The problem here is that to shed some light one using Postmodification in English composition. The questions which are raised here are :

1. What is the postmodification?
2. What are the types of postmodification?
3. What is the Function of postmodifiers in composition?
4. How are postmodifiers used in sentence?

1.2 Aims of The Study

The study aims to achieve the following aims :

1. Present a theoretical knowledge or frame work about postmodification in composition ,its definition, and its Types.
2. Identify the form and Function of postmodification in writing composition.

1.3 Hypothesis of The Study

It is hypothesised that postmodifications are used for some reasons in writing composition . In this research paper more light is shed on what are postmodifications , and how they can be used correctly in writing composition.

1.4 Procedures of The Study

1. Presenting a frame work about postmodification ,types of postmodification ,function of postmodification in composition.
2. Empirically, Investigating the performace of ELLs university learners in using postmodification in composition .
3. Presenting the findings of the research paper in the conclusion.

1.5 Value of The Study

This study is valuable for learners , teachers, and book designers.

1.6 Limits of The Study

This study is limited to the postmodification in composition in English language .The sample of the test is limited to some texts in English that contain postmodifiers.

Chapter Two : Literature Review

2.1 The Definition

A **modifier** is a word/phrase/clause which modifies other words in a sentence. To be specific, a modifier is either an adjective or an adverb. The adjectives modify the nouns, and the adverbs modify the verbs or the adjectives or the other adverbs. There are two types of modification pre-modification and post modification ,this study deals with post modification (Douglas,2002:50).

Post-modifications are the modifiers which come after the words they modify. Customarily, the adverbs come after the verbs and modify them. However, some adjectives also come after the nouns and modify them.

Most of the **adverbs of time, adverbs of manner, adverbs of place/direction** usually come after the verbs they modify.

Appositives, prepositional

phrases (adjectives/adverbs), **infinitives** (adverbs/adjectives), **dependent clause**, etc. usually come after the nouns they modify.

Example:

- a. Jason Roy, a cricketer,^(appositive) has been selected in the squad^(adverb).
- b. Stark, our teacher,^(appositive) gives us tasks to do^(infinitive - adjective) in the class^(adverb of place).
- c. Ronaldo, the captain of Portugal team,^(appositive) plays exceptionally^(adverb of manner) well(Douglas,2002:50).

2.2 Uses

There are two ways that post-modifications are used for in English:

A-Adding information:

Post-modification of noun phrases is a usually simple device to add information to the noun itself. Although we can say, e.g.:

1- The man is waving to me. The man is standing in the corner.

It is more elegant and natural to say, e.g.:

2- The man in the corner is waving to me.

3- The man who is standing in the corner is waving to me.

4- The man standing in the corner is waving to me.

There's nothing at all wrong with the first example but the second, third and fourth are simply more natural and precise.

B_Restricting the noun:

The second effect of post-modification is often (not always) to be restrictive or defining. The terms are often used to refer to the function of relative clauses, to which there is a guide on this site, linked below, but it applies frequently to noun modification of other sorts. For example, in:

5- My old computer

We have a simple case of noun pre-modification with an adjective telling us something about the computer. However, in:

6- My computer in the corner

We have a noun post-modified by the prepositional phrase which defines it rather than describing it.

It is not invariably the case that post-modification acts in this restrictive fashion but that is certainly the way to bet.

Nor is it the case that all pre-modification is non-restrictive because

7- My old computer

Could be intended to distinguish the computer from others in my possession and in that case it will be a restrictive use.

When post-modification is used non-restrictively in the examples which follow, it will be noted (Lock,1996,97).

2.3 Problems in Post Modification

Primarily because languages do things differently and some abjure post-modification altogether preferring something like:

The in-the-corner-standing-man is waving to me (other Germanic languages, for example)

or

8- The man is standing in the corner and waving to me (many other languages including Arabic).

Even when a language does use post-modification of noun phrases , the structures are often very different. Romance languages, such as French and Italian, for example, routinely position the adjective after the noun. This is a phenomenon that can occur in English but is quite rare and sometimes gives an unusual sense (www.eltconcourse.com).

2.4 Types of Post Modification

Postmodifiers are words that come after a noun and give information about it .There are 6 types of post-modifiers.They all are called postmodifiers as they come right after the noun they modify(Geoffrey ,2006).

2.4.1 Prepositional Phrase

A prepositional phrase starts with a preposition and is followed by the object of the preposition. When a preposition phrase comes right after a noun and modifies it, we call it a postmodifier, for example:

9-The house across the street is believed to be haunted.

Noun phrase = the house across the street

Premodifiers = the

Noun = house

Postmodifier = across the street (prepositional phrase)

Here, the prepositional phrase ‘across the street’ modifies the noun ‘house’ and tells us which house we are referring to in the sentence.

2.4.2 Present Participle Phrase

A present participle phrase starts with a present participle (a verb ending with ‘ING’), sits next to a noun, and modifies it.

10-I was talking about the man sitting next to your sister.

Noun phrase = the man sitting next to your sister

Premodifiers = the

Noun = man

Postmodifier = sitting next to your sister (present participle phrase)

The present participle phrase (in red) is coming next to and modifying the noun ‘man’. It is working as an adjective.

2.4.3 Past Participle Phrase

A past participle phrase starts with a past participle (V3), sits next to a noun, and modifies it.

11-We have come here to see the boy injured in the attack.

Noun phrase = the boy injured in the attack

Premodifier = the (article)

Noun = boy

Postmodifier = injured in the attack (past participle phrase)

Here, the past participle phrase is identifying the noun ‘boy’ and giving essential information for us to identify him.

2.4.4 Infinitive Phrases

A group of words that starts with an infinitive and works as a noun, adjective, or adverb is called an infinitive phrase. As a post modifier, it functions as an adjective; it comes right after a noun and modifies it.

12-The guy to learn SEO from is Mangesh Kumar Bhardwaj.

Noun phrase = the guy to learn SEO from

Premodifier = the

Noun = guy

Postmodifier = to learn SEO from (infinitive phrase)

‘To learn SEO from’ is an infinitive phrase that’s modifying the noun ‘guy’.

2.4.5 Adjective Clauses

An adjective clause is a dependent clause that sits next to a noun/pronoun and gives information about it.

13-I love the book that my father gifted me on my last birthday.

Noun phrase = the book that my father gifted me on my last birthday

Noun = book

Premodifier = the

Postmodifier = that my father gifted me on my last birthday (adjective clause)

‘That my father gifted me on my last birthday‘ is the adjective clause that’s sitting next to the noun book and modifying it. An adjective clause is also called a relative clause as it starts with a relative pronoun, for example:

30-I don’t know anyone who can teach you boxing.

2.4 .6 Appositives

An appositive is a noun or a noun phrase that comes after a noun and renames it.

14-Her roommate Sofia Charles does not talk to people politely.

Noun phrase = her roommate Sofia Charles

Noun = roommate

Postmodifier = Sofia Charles

‘Sofia Charles’ is the postmodifier (a noun) that’s coming next to the noun ‘roommate’ and renaming it.

Essential Appositives

Nonessential Appositives

Note that only essential appositives function as postmodifiers; nonessential appositives are offset using commas as they give extra information about the noun they come after.

Essential appositive: My history teacher Jon Morley is getting married next week.

Nonessential appositive: Jon Morley, my history teacher, is getting married next week.

2.5 Noun Phrases and Premodifiers and Postmodifiers

Premodifiers and postmodifiers are a part of a noun phrase; a noun phrase is formed using them

1. Noun phrases using premodifiers

15-Give me some fresh mangoes

Noun phrase = some fresh mangoes

Premodifiers = some, fresh

2. Noun phrases using postmodifiers

16-People protesting outside the house are not from this area.

Noun phrase = people protesting outside the house

Postmodifier = protesting outside the house (present participle phrase)

3. Noun phrases using both premodifiers and postmodifiers

17-The Chinese cupset that you gifted me last week has been broken.

Noun phrase = the Chinese cupset that you gifted me last week

Premodifier = the, Chinese

Postmodifier = that you gifted me last week

Chapter Three: The Test

3.1 Definition of The Test

It is a tool that measured the students' performance in the target language, the following test is designed to assess the learners' performance in using post modification. The test aims at investigating whether or not Iraqi EFL learners are able to use post modification in correct sentence. The items cover the whole of what has been mentioned in the theoretical part of the Study .

3.2 Test Design

The test consists of two questions that design to measure the students' performance in using post modification. The first question includes ten items; the students should state which sentence has a post modification. The second question also includes ten items; the students should form sentences that contain post modification .

3.3 The Results of The Test

3.3.1 Question (1)

Item number	Correct Answers	Incorrect Answers
1	4	26
2	9	21
3	13	17
4	8	22
5	5	25

6	4	26
7	1	29
8	6	24
9	4	26
10	13	17
Total	67	233

From the results of question one which measures students ability at the Recognition level we conclude that students need more information about Post modification and how to use them .

Item number(1,6, and 9):Only 4 students answer correctly and 26 students answer incorrectly .

Item number 2: 9 students were able to recognize the right answers , while 21 students face difficulties in recognizing the right answer.

Item number 3 and 10: 13 students face no difficulty in knowing the right answers and 17 students answer wrong answers.

Item number 4: only 8 students know to make the right answers while 22 students face difficulties in doing the right cleft sentence.

In item (5), the number of the correct responses are 5.This shows that only 5 of the students are able to recognizing whether the sentence has post modification or not . On the other hand, the number of the incorrect response are (25).

Item number 7: only one student makes it correctly since he has an idea about post modification while the other 29 students don't have any information about the subject.

Item number 8:6 students who answer correctly and 24 students face difficulty in making the right answers.

3.3.2 Question(2)

Item Number	Correct Answers	Incorrect Answers
1	11	19
2	9	21
3	17	13
4	10	20
5	10	20
6	9	21
7	7	23
8	2	28
9	11	19
10	9	21
Total	95	205

The results of the test of Question two at the production level denote that Iraqi EFL face difficulties in construction sentence that has post modification, since the total number of the correct answers is 95 while the incorrect responses is 205 .

Item number 1 and 9 : 11 students answer correctly and 19 students construct wrong answers.

Item number 2,6, and 10:9 students who have an information about the post modification so they know how to construct the correct answers, and 21 students give wrong sentences.

Item number 3: 17 students answer rightly while 13 students face difficulty in giving the right answers so they construct the incorrect answers.

Item number 4 and 5: 10 students who are familiar with post modification ,they answered correctly and those who are unfamiliar with post modification who are 20 students answered incorrectly.

Item number 7:7 students who answer correctly while the other who answer incorrectly are 23.

Item number 8: only two students who are familiar with the subject are able to doing the right answers and 28 students answer incorrectly.

Chapter Four : Conclusions

Post-modifications are the modifiers which come after the words they modify. The adverbs come after the verbs and modify them. However, some adjectives also come after the nouns and modify them.

There are two ways that post-modification works in English. Post-modification of noun phrases is a usually simple device to add information to the noun itself. The second effect of post-modification is often (not always) to be restrictive or defining.

There are six types of post-modifiers: prepositional phrases ,present participle phrases ,past participle phrases,infinitive phrases, relative/Adjective clauses , and appositives. They all are called postmodifiers as they come right after the noun they modify.

This subject has to be studied in focusing during the academic years since the results of the test show that students need more information about post modifications because the incorrect of the students who are unfamiliar with the subject are more than correct responses in the analysis of the two questions.

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[postmodification_nouns.html](https://www.eltconcourse.com/training/in-service/phrases_clauses_sentences/postmodification_nouns.html)

Appendix 1

Question 1// Answer with yes if the sentence has a Postmodification and with No if it isn't:

1. We had a very pleasant journey this time.
2. He had never seen a woman more lovely.
3. An old and gaunt woman stood at the door.
4. The flying clouds looked like the polished strokes of a gifted artist on a surface of shining blue.
5. They wanted to meet the boy going out with their daughter.
6. The parent wanted to meet the boy who was going but with their daughter.
7. The office has a group of hard –working executives.
8. A nice young woman in jeans was watching me.
9. We had a pleasant holiday last week.
10. A white woman in jeans was watching me.

Appendix 2

Question 2// Make sentences in which Postmodification as the following :

1. Prepositional phrase
2. Present participle phrase
3. Past participle phrase
4. Infinitive phrase
5. Relative/Adjective clause
6. Appositives
7. prepositional phrase
8. past participle phrase
9. Infinitive phrase
10. Present participle phrase

Appendix 2

Answers to Appendix 1

1.No

2.Yes

3.No

4.No

5.Yes

6.Yes

7.No

8.Yes

9.No

10.Yes

Answers to Appendix 2

1.They are writing a movie about his life.

2.I was talking about the man sitting next to your sister.

3.We have come here to see the boy injured in the attack.

4.The guy to learn SEO from is Mangesh Kumar Bhardwaj.

5.I love the book that my father gifted me on my last birthday.

6.Her roommate Sofia Charles does not talk to people politely.

7.The house across the street is believed to be haunted.

8.The man taken to the police station is a terrorist.

9.We are looking for a house to buy.

10.Nobody likes to talk with the man sitting on the rock alone.