



## Cross-Linguistic Comparisons of Noun Phrase Constructions in Khasi Varieties

Rymphang K. Rynjah \*, Saralin A. Lyngdoh



Department of Linguistics, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, 793022, India

\* Corresponding author Email: [rymphangrynjah@gmail.com](mailto:rymphangrynjah@gmail.com)

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**Abstract:** This research paper presents a detailed analysis of the noun phrases (NP) in War-Khasi and War-Jaiñtia, two varieties of the Khasi language spoken in north-eastern India. The study investigates the syntactic and morphological features of NPs, with a particular emphasis on the distinctions between pre-modifiers and post-modifiers. By comparing and contrasting the NPs of War-Khasi and War-Jaiñtia, the paper highlights the unique attributes and functions of these constructions in each variety. The research also explores the various constructions of NPs in both varieties and evaluates their syntactic and semantic roles. The findings demonstrate that while both varieties share similar NP constructions, there are notable differences in the functions and attributes of NPs in each variety. Furthermore, the paper elaborates on the different functions of NPs and their lexical elements, including the head noun and all of its accompanying modifiers. Overall, this study contributes to our understanding of the syntax and morphology of noun phrases in Khasi and provides insights into the unique linguistic features of these two varieties. The findings have important implications for cross-linguistic comparisons of NP constructions and for further research in the field of linguistics of the Khasi varieties.

**Keywords:** Cross-Linguistic Comparisons, Noun Phrases (NP), Khasi Language, War-Khasi, War-Jaiñtia

### 1. Introduction

Khasi is an Austro-Asiatic language spoken by the Khasi people in Meghalaya, a state in the northeastern region of India. The language has several dialects, including War-Khasi, War-Jaiñtia, and Lyngngam, among others. This research paper aims to contribute to the study of Khasi by examining the noun phrases in two varieties of the language, War-Khasi and War-Jaiñtia. Specifically, it will investigate the various constructions of noun phrases in these varieties and highlight the attributes and functions taking part in them.

Recent studies which include Jyrwa (1988), Buhphang (2013), Lyngdoh (2017) and Rynjah (2022) have shed light on various aspects of noun phrase construction in Khasi, ranging from the identification of constituent elements to the analysis of syntactic and semantic relationships within noun phrases. These investigations have employed diverse methodologies, including descriptive and theoretical experiments to uncover the intricate structure of noun phrase constructions in Khasi.

Through a cross-linguistic analysis, this study will offer insights into the unique linguistic features of the Khasi varieties and contribute to our understanding of the syntax and morphology of the noun phrases in these varieties. The findings of this study will have implications for language documentation, preservation, and revitalization efforts in the Khasi speaking regions.

### 2. Areas of Study

In this study, we examine the War-Khasi language, which includes the Mawlong and Umñiuh varieties, as well as the War-Jaiñtia language, which includes the Lamin and Trangblang varieties. The Mawlong variety is spoken in Mawlong village, located in the Shella Bholaganj Tehsil of the East Khasi Hills district adjacent to Bangladesh. It is approximately 30 km from the sub-district headquarters in Shella Bholaganj and 83 km from the district headquarters



in Shillong. The Umñiuh variety, on the other hand, is spoken in Umñiuh-Tmar village, situated in the Pynursla Tehsil of the East Khasi Hills district in Meghalaya, India. It is approximately 31 km from the Pynursla sub-district headquarters and 80 km from the Shillong district headquarters.

Moving to the War-Jaiñtia language, the Lamin variety is spoken in Lamin village, situated in the Amlarem Block of the Jaiñtia Hills District. It is approximately 24 km south of the district headquarters in Jowai and 44 km from the state capital, Shillong. It is worth noting that Trangblang, referred to as Tremblang in Daladier's (2007) classification of the War sub-dialect groups, will be referred to as "Trangblang" in this study as it is known by the native speakers. The Trangblang variety is spoken in Trangblang village, situated in Amlarem of Jaiñtia Hills District, approximately 25 km south of the district headquarters Jowai and 46 km from the state capital Shillong.



Figure 1. Map of Meghalaya showing War-Khasi and War-Jaintia<sup>1</sup>

### 3. Noun Phrase Constructions in War-Khasi and War-Jaiñtia

This section elaborates and explains the unique attributes and different functions of the noun phrase (NP) (Dixon, 2002) of War-Khasi and War-Jaiñtia and all the lexical elements that form the NP, that is, the head noun and all of its modifiers (Abney, 1987). This study also discusses the various constructions of NPs in both varieties and evaluates their syntactic and semantic roles (Van Valin Jr, 2005) to provide a comprehensive understanding of the NP and its significance in these varieties. Additionally, the study explores the relationship between NPs and other grammatical structures, such as phrases and clauses, to shed light on their interdependence in constructing meaning (Givón, 1979). The NPs of War-Khasi and War-Jaiñtia constitute a head noun, constituents occurring before the head noun are called pre-modifiers, and constituents occurring after the head noun are called post-modifiers, as discussed below.

#### • NPs as Subject

In War-Khasi, specifically the Mawlong Variety (MV) and Umñiuh Variety (UV), and in War-Jaiñtia, specifically the Lamin Variety (LV) and Trangblang Variety (TV), the noun phrases (NPs) can function as the subject of a sentence, as exemplified in the following sentences: 1(a) and (b), and 2(a) and (b).

In MV, the NP that functions as the subject of sentence 1(a) includes the pre-modifier /ka/ 'Third Singular Feminine', the head noun /kali/ 'car', a relativizer /ba/ which is used to

Introduce a clause that provides additional information about the head noun, and the post-modifier adjective /lo?/ 'white'. In UV, the NP functioning as the subject of sentence 1(b) includes the same pre-modifier and head noun, but a different adjective, /ʃia/ 'white', as the post-modifier. In LV, the NP that functions as the subject of

<sup>1</sup> Map from Reddy, B. M. et al. (2007). Austro- Asiatic tribes of Northeast India provide hitherto missing genetic link between South and Southeast Asia.

sentence 2(a) includes the pre-modifier /ke/ 'Third Singular Feminine', the head noun /metor/ 'car', and the post-modifier adjective /slaŋ/ 'white'. In TV, the NP functioning as the subject of sentence 2(b) includes the pre-modifier /ko/ 'Third Singular Feminine', the head noun /motor/ 'car', and the same adjective as the post-modifier. The relativizer is absent in both LV and TV.

### War-Khasi

#### MV

1. (a) <sub>NP</sub>[**ka kali ba lo?**] ba mut die  
3SF car REL white REL mean sell  
'The white car that is meant to be sold'

#### UV

- (b) <sub>NP</sub>[**ka kali fia**] ba mut do  
3SF car white REL mean sell  
'The white car that is meant to be sold'

### War-Jaiñtia

#### LV

2. (a) <sub>NP</sub>[**ke metor ke sla**] mut jiu dui  
3SF car 3SF white mean FUT sell  
'The white car that is meant to be sold'

#### TV

- (b) <sub>NP</sub>[**ko motor ro sla**] ko mu? ju dai  
3SF car colour white 3SF mean FUT sell  
'The white car that is meant to be sold'

### • NPs as Direct Object

Both War-Khasi and War-Jaiñtia allow for the use of noun phrases as direct objects in a sentence, as illustrated in the following examples: 3 (a) and (b) and 4 (a) and (b). In War-Khasi, the direct object NP is *ka kali* 'the car', in both MV and UV varieties. In War-Jaiñtia, the direct object NP differs between LV and TV varieties, with *ke metor* and *ko motor* respectively, both meaning 'the car'. These direct object NPs receive the action expressed by the verbs /b<sup>h</sup>o?/ in MV and /kwa?/ in UV, LV, and TV. The verbs /b<sup>h</sup>o?/ and /kwa?/ 'want', indicating that the direct object NP is the object of desire or intention in the sentence.

### War-Khasi

#### MV

3. (a) u ban b<sup>h</sup>o? u ya? <sub>NP</sub>[ka kali]  
3SM Ban want 3SM ACC 3SF car  
'Ban wants the car'

#### UV

- (b) u ban kwa? u ha <sub>NP</sub>[ka kali]  
3SM Ban want 3SM ACC 3SF car  
'Ban wants the car'

### War-Jaiñtia

#### LV

4. (a) u ban e kwa? he <sub>NP</sub>[ke metor]  
3SM Ban SAM want ACC 3SF car  
'Ban wants the car'



**TV**

(b) u ban kwa? u ho<sub>NP</sub>[ko motor]  
 3SM Ban want 3SM ACC 3SF car  
 'Ban wants the car'

### • NPs as Object of Preposition (Prepositional Complement)

In both War-Khasi and War-Jaiñtia, noun phrases (NPs) can function as objects of prepositions and typically follow the preposition immediately, as shown in sentences 5 (a) and (b) and 6 (a) and (b). In War-Khasi, both in MV and UV, the prepositional complement NP *ni yij ba lo?* 'a white house' in MV and *ka yij fia* 'a white house' in UV follows the preposition /ha/, as seen in sentences 5 (a) and (b). In War-Jaiñtia, LV has the prepositional complement NP *ke sni slan* 'a white house' following the preposition /te/, while TV has *ko sni slan* 'a white house' following the preposition /ti/, as shown in sentences 6 (a) and (b).

Additionally, the War-Khasi varieties use the same verb forms for /sa?/ 'stay' and /yij/ 'house', but different forms for the adjective 'white': /lo?/ in MV and /fia/ in UV, as seen in sentences 5 (a) and (b). On the other hand, the War-Jaiñtia varieties use the same verbs for /sni/ 'house' and /slan/ 'white', but different verb forms for 'stay': /fkia/ in LV and /ske/ in TV, as shown in sentences 6 (a) and (b).

**War-Khasi****MV**

5. (a) ka lin sa? ka **ha**<sub>NP</sub>[ni yij ba lo?]<sub>3SF</sub>  
 Lin stay 3SF PREP DUAL house REL white 'Lin  
 stays in a white house'

**UV**

(b) ka lin sa? ka **ha**<sub>NP</sub>[ka yij fia]<sub>3SF</sub>  
 Lin stay 3SF PREP 3SF house white 'Lin  
 stays in a white house'

**War-Jaiñtia****LV**

6. (a) ke lin fkia ke **te**<sub>NP</sub>[ke sni slan]  
 3SF Lin stay 3SF PREP 3SF house white  
 'Lin stays in a white house'

**TV**

(b) ko lin ske ko **ti**<sub>NP</sub>[ko sni slan]  
 3SF Lin stay 3SF PREP 3SF house white  
 'Lin stays in a white house'

### • NPs as Indirect Object

In both War-Khasi and War-Jaiñtia, the NP functioning as the indirect object is placed after the ditransitive verb /ai/ 'give' in MV and UV, and after /a:/ 'give' in LV and /eai/ 'give' in TV. The order is typically V IO DO in all these varieties, as seen in sentences 7 (a) and (b) and 8 (a) and (b). Comparing the sentences of both War-Khasi and War-Jaiñtia, we can see that only the MV form of War-Khasi uses the Accusative case /ya?/ before the indirect object NP, as seen in sentence 7 (a) below, while it is absent in the other varieties.

**War-Khasi****MV****IO****DO**

7. (a) u lam ai u ya?<sub>NP</sub>[ki jein] ya? u kit 3SM  
 Lam give 3SM ACC 3PL cloth DAT 3SM Kit 'Lam  
 gave his clothes to Kit'



**UV IO DO**

(b) u lam ai u<sub>NP</sub>[ki rad] ha u kit  
 3SM Lam give 3SM 3PL cloth DAT 3SM Kit  
 'Lam gave his clothes to Kit'

**War-Jaiñtia****LV IO DO**

8. (a) u lam e a: <sub>NP</sub>[i jiumiu] hu kit  
 3SM Lam SAM give 3PL cloth DAT Kit  
 'Lam gave his clothes to Kit'

**TV IO DO**

(b) u lam eai u<sub>NP</sub>[i jama] ho u kit  
 3SM Lam give 3SM 3PL cloth DAT 3SM Kit  
 'Lam gave his clothes to Kit'

- **NPs as Subject Complement**

The subject complement NPs 'u ba hiam' in War-Khasi, in both MV and UV immediately follows the VP /to?/ 'copula' and are co-referential with the subject 'u ban' as shown in the following sentences 9 (a) & (b) below, and in War-Jaiñtia, the subject complement NPs 'e diem u' in LV and 'u ryum' in TV immediately follows the VP /man/ 'copula' and are co-referential with the subject 'u ban' as shown in the following sentences, and 10 (a) & (b) below.

**War-Khasi****MV**

9. (a) u ban <sub>VP</sub>[to? <sub>NP</sub>[u ba hiam]]  
 3SM Ban COP 3SM REL good  
 'Ban is good'

**UV**

(b) u ban <sub>VP</sub>[dei <sub>NP</sub>[u ba hiam]]  
 3SM Ban COP 3SM REL good  
 'Ban is good'

**War-Jaiñtia****LV**

10. (a) u ban <sub>VP</sub>[man <sub>NP</sub>[e diem u]]  
 3SM Ban COP SAM good 3SM  
 'Ban is good'

**TV**

(b) u ban <sub>VP</sub>[man u <sub>NP</sub>[u ryum]]  
 3SM Ban COP 3SM 3SM good  
 'Ban is good'

- **NPs as Object Complement**

In both War-Khasi and War-Jaiñtia, the object complement NPs 'u tam' immediately follow the direct object to indicate a reference to or state something about the direct object. This is shown in sentences 11 (a) & (b), and 12 (a) & (b). When comparing the sentences of War-Khasi and War-Jaiñtia, it can be observed that only the UV form of War-Khasi uses the verb /ai/ 'give' in the initial position of the sentence. In contrast, in the other varieties, the subject 'u lam' is placed at the beginning of their sentences.



**War-Khasi****MV****DO**

11. (a) u lam ai kyrteŋ u yaʔ u **ksu** da<sub>NP</sub>[u tam]

3SM Lam give name 3SM ACC 3SM dog PREP 3SM Tam

'Lam named his dog (as) Tam'

**UV****DO**

(b) ai kyrteŋ u lam ha u **kʃu** di<sub>NP</sub>[u tam]

give name 3SM Lam ACC 3SM dog PREP 3SM Tam

'Lam named his dog (as) Tam'

**War-Jaiñtia****LV****DO**

12. (a) u lam a: twieŋ hu **ksua** u du<sub>NP</sub>[tam]

3SM Lam give name ACC dog 3SM PREP Tam

'Lam named his dog (as) Tam'

**TV****DO**

(b) u lam eai tawiaŋ u ho u **kse** di<sub>NP</sub>[u tam]

3SM Lam give name 3SM ACC 3SM dog PREP 3SM Tam

'Lam named his dog (as) Tam'

### • Adjectival Phrases as NP modifiers

In both War-Khasi and War-Jaiñtia, Adjectival Phrases that modify a noun immediately follow that noun. In War-Khasi MV, as seen in sentence 13 (a), the Adjectival Phrase modifying the noun /kɔʔ/ 'meat' consists of the adjective /baŋ/ 'tasty', with pre-modifiers including the dual marker /ŋi/ and the relativizer /ba/, and a post-modifier /hiam/, which is an intensifier. In UV, as seen in sentence 13 (b), the Adjectival Phrase modifying the noun /aʔ/ 'meat' consists of the adjective /baŋ/ 'tasty', with pre-modifiers including /ka/ (Third Singular Feminine) and the relativizer /ba/, and a post-modifier /hiam/, which is an intensifier. In War-Jaiñtia LV, as seen in sentence 14 (a), the Adjectival Phrase modifying the noun /dɔʔ/ 'meat' consists of the adjective /baŋ/ 'tasty', a pre-modifier /i/ (a dual marker), and a post-modifier /diem/, which is an intensifier. In TV, as seen in sentence 14 (b), the Adjectival Phrase modifying the noun /dɔʔ/ 'meat' consists of the adjective /baŋ/ 'tasty', a pre-modifier /ko/ (Third Singular Feminine), and a post-modifier /hiam/, which is an intensifier.

**War-Khasi****MV**

13. (a) ka lin ʃiat ka<sub>NP</sub>[ŋi koʔ AdjP[ŋi ba baŋ hiam]]

3SF Lin cook 3SF DUAL meat DUAL REL tasty INT

'Lin cooked very tasty meat'

**UV**

(b) ka lin ʃet<sub>NP</sub>[aʔ ka AdjP[ka ba baŋ hiam]]

3SF Lin cook meat 3SF 3SF REL tasty INT

'Lin cooked very tasty meat'

**War-Jaiñtia****LV**

14. (a) ke lin teŋ ke<sub>NP</sub>[i dɔʔ AdjP[baŋ diem]]

3SF Lin cook 3SF DUAL meat tasty INT

'Lin cooked very tasty meat'



## TV

(b) ko lin tej<sub>NP</sub>[do?<sub>AdjP</sub>[ko barj diam]]  
 3SF Lin cook meat 3SF tasty INT  
 'Lin cooked very tasty meat'

### • Prepositional Phrase as NP Modifiers

In both MV and UV varieties of War-Khasi, the Prepositional Phrase (PP) modifying the NP comes after the noun they modify, immediately following the copulas /dem/ and /em/, respectively. The object of the preposition (OP) follows the PP, as seen in sentences 15 (a) and (b) below. Similarly, in both LV and TV varieties of War-Jaiñtia, the PP modifying the NP comes after the noun they modify, immediately following the copulas /a?/. The OP also follows the PP, as seen in sentences 16 (a) and (b) below.

#### War-Khasi

## MV

15. (a) NP[u brew u ba dem PP[ha yij to? OP[u kfia u lam]]  
 3SM person 3SM REL COP PREP house COP 3SM father 3SM Lam  
 'The person who is inside the house is Lam's father'

## UV

(b) NP[u brew u ba em PP[ha yij dei OP[u kpa u lam]]  
 3SM person 3SM REL COP PREP house COP 3SM father 3SM Lam  
 'The person who is inside the house is Lam's father'

#### War-Jaiñtia

## LV

16. (a) NP[u jiu**prew** u aw? PP[ti sni to? OP[u paw u lam]]  
 3SM person 3SM COP PREP house COP 3SM father 3SM Lam  
 'The person who is inside the house is Lam's father'

## TV

(b) NP[u jip**raw** u a? PP[ti sni to? OP[u pa u lam]]  
 3SM person 3SM COP PREP house COP 3SM father 3SM Lam  
 'The person who is inside the house is Lam's father'

### • Verb Phrase as NP Modifiers

In both War-Khasi and War-Jaiñtia, the verb phrase can function as a post-modifier of a noun phrase and occur immediately after the head noun. In War-Khasi MV, the head noun is "ka k<sup>h</sup>yndia?" 'the girl', while in UV, it is "ka boit" and in War-Jaiñtia LV and TV, it is "ke hymbo" and "ko hymbo" respectively. The verb phrase, which is an embedded clause, modifies the head noun as a post-modifier in both languages. This is illustrated in sentences 17 (a) and (b) and 18 (a) and (b) below. However, a comparison between War-Khasi and War-Jaiñtia reveals that the latter does not use a relativizer before the verbs /sio/ 'give' and /sa:/ 'give' in LV and TV, respectively, while both varieties of War-Khasi do use a relativizer /ba/ before the verb /sa:m/ 'give' in sentences 17 (a) and (b).

#### War-Khasi

## MV

17. (a) ka k<sup>h</sup>yndia? VP[ka ba sa:m bam ya? ki k<sup>h</sup>yndia?] to? ka k<sup>h</sup>un u principal  
 3SF child 3SF REL give food ACC 3PL child COP 3SF child 3SM principal  
 'The (young) girl who is giving the food to the children is the Principal's daughter'

## UV

(b) ka boit VP[ka ba sa:m bam ha ki boit] dei ka k<sup>h</sup>on u principal



3SF child 3SF REL give food ACC 3PL child COP 3SF child 3SM principal

The (young) girl who is giving the food to the children is the Principal's daughter'

### War-Jaiñtia

#### LV

18. (a) ke hymbo vp[ke sio biu he i hymbo] to? ke hun u principal

3SF child 3SF give food ACC 3PL child COP 3SF child 3SM principal

'The (young) girl who is giving the food to the children is the Principal's daughter'

#### TV

(b) ko hymbo vp[ko sa: ba ho ki hymbo] to? ko hun u principal

3SF child 3SF give food ACC 3PL child COP 3SF child 3SM principal

'The (young) girl who is giving the food to the children is the Principal's daughter'

### • Relative Clause as NP Modifiers

In War-Khasi, Relative Clause as NP modifiers is subordinated to the main clause by the relativizer /**ba**/ in MV and UV, as seen in sentence 19 (a) and (b) below. These relativizers seem to be equivalent to the English 'who' and serve as the complement of the verb, thereby giving additional information as seen in the following sentences below. Whereas, in War-Jaiñtia, in both, LV and TV, as seen in sentence 20 (a) and (b) below the relativizer is absent and not overtly marked but is mutually understood among the native speakers of this variety when talking and involving relative clauses and to relate sentences. Comparing the corresponding sentences can also be seen that only UV of War-Khasi employs the pronominal subject /*ŋa*/ 'First Person Singular' after the verb /*jithu?*/ 'recognize' as seen in sentence 19 (b), while, the other varieties the pronominal subject 'First Person Singular' /*ŋa*/ in MV, /*nie*/ in LV and /*nio*/ in TV are placed at the beginning of the sentence preceding the verb 'recognize' /*it<sup>h</sup>u?*/ in MV, /*ma?t<sup>h</sup>u?*/ in LV and /*ma?mat*/ in TV as seen below.

### War-Khasi

#### MV

19. (a) *ŋa it<sup>h</sup>u? ŋa ya? u toa u brew* rc[ba wien mynnin]

1SG recognize 1SG ACC 3SM DEM 3SM person REL come yesterday

'I recognize the person who came yesterday'

#### UV

(b) *jithu? ŋa ha u to u brew* rc[ba iyia mynhynin]

recognize 1SG ACC 3SM DEM 3SM person REL come yesterday

'I recognize the person who came yesterday'

### War-Jaiñtia

#### LV

20. (a) *nie ma?t<sup>h</sup>u? (ŋe) u lew u jiuprew* rc[lew wan daŋ hymmit]

1SG recognize 1SG(ACC) 3SM DEM 3SM person DEM come PROG yesterday

'I know the person who came yesterday'

#### TV

(b) *nio ma?mat o ho u le u jipraw* rc[u la? dahamit]

1SG know 1SG(ACC) DAT 3SM DEM 3SM person 3SM come yesterday

'I know the person who came yesterday'

### • Possessive Determiners

In both War-Khasi and War- Jaiñtia, the NPs as determiners are in the possessive (Genitive) case. There is only one possessive modifying the head noun and they typically and immediately follow the head noun **ka kali** 'car' in MV and UV, and **ke motor** 'car' in LV and **ko motor** 'car' in TV and precede the noun **u Lit** as seen in sentence 21 (a) and (b) and 22 (a) and (b) below. In both the varieties of War-Jaiñtia, in LV and TV, the Genitive case is in





parentheses because in a fast speech to account for brevity they usually drop the genitive.

### War-Khasi

#### MV

21. (a) NP[ka kali ion] u lit ka ba wien mynnei 3SF  
car GEN 3SM Lit 3SF REL come earlier  
'Lit's car came earlier'

#### UV

(b) NP[ka kali jon] u lit ka ba iyia mynhyno  
3SF car GEN 3SM Lit 3SF REL come earlier  
'Lit's car came earlier'

### War-Jaiñtia

#### LV

22. (a) NP[ke metor (chuon)] u lit wan dan ie  
3SF car GEN 3SM Lit come earlier  
'Lit's car came earlier'

#### TV

(b) NP[ko motor (chon)] u lit la? dayo  
3SF car GEN 3SM Lit come earlier  
'Lit's car came earlier'

### • Appositive

In both War-Khasi and War Jaiñtia, the appositive NPs are co-referential, that is, they refer to the same individual **u Lam** and the appositive NPs follows the head noun as seen in the following sentences: 23 (a) and (b), and 24 (a) and (b).

### War-Khasi

#### MV

23. (a) u lam NP[u noŋ-hikai skul]  
3SM Lam 3SM NOMZ-teach school  
'Lam, the school teacher'

#### UV

(b) u lam NP[u noŋ-hikai skur]  
3SM Lam 3SM NOMZ-teach school  
'Lam, the school teacher'

### War-Jaiñtia

#### LV

24. (a) u lam NP[u noŋ-fika skur]  
3SM Lam 3SM NOMZ-teach school  
'Lam, the school teacher'

#### TV

(b) u lam NP[u noŋ-hikai skur]  
3SM Lam 3SM NOMZ-teach school  
'Lam, the school teacher'



### • Adverbial

In both War-Khasi and War-Jaiñtia, the adverbials /jian/ 'almost' in MV and /jan/ 'almost' in UV, LV and TV cover a much more restricted range of meanings. The adverbial NPs in both War-Khasi and War-Jaiñtia express time and spatial measures, as can be seen in the following sentences: 25 (a) and (b), and 26 (a) and (b) below.

#### War-Khasi

##### MV

25. (a) [jian manlonj snj] folea kot k<sup>h</sup>ubor ŋa  
almost every day read paper news 1SG  
'Almost every day, I read the newspaper'

##### UV

(b) [jan manla ka ŋŋi] pule kot k<sup>h</sup>ubor ŋa  
almost every day read paper news 1SG  
'Almost every day, I read the newspaper'

#### War-Jaiñtia

##### LV

26. (a) [jan man ke niu] ŋe e pure kot k<sup>h</sup>ubor e  
almost every day 1SG SAM read paper news SAM  
'Almost every day, I read the newspaper'

##### TV

(b) [jan man ko snj] pure kot k<sup>h</sup>ubor o  
almost every day read paper news 1SG(ACC)  
'Almost every day, I read the newspaper'

### • Adjectives as Verbs

Referring to Lyngdoh's work in 2013, both War-Khasi and War-Jaiñtia consider adjectives to form a subgroup of verbs. They share many characteristics of verbs; they can occur with copulas in sentences, and they can take tense, aspect markers, and negative particles as discussed. For example, The adjective 'short' expressed by /tbian/ in both MV and UV and by /chrit/ in both LV and TV can occur with the copulas /toʔ/ in MV, /dei/ in UV and /man/ in LV and TV as seen in sentences 27(a).(i) and (b).(i), and 28 (a).(i) and (b).(i) below. Similarly, the adjective 'damage' expressed by /snew/ in both MV and UV and by /kom/ in LV and /dkom/ in TV can take Tense and Aspect markers /laʔ/ in MV and UV and /da/ in LV and TV as seen in the following sentences 27 (a).(ii) and (b).(ii), and 28(a).(ii) and (b).(ii) below. Finally, the adjective 'beautiful' expressed by /iban/ in MV and /jitynad/ in UV and by /miet/ in LV and /maʔsuk/ in TV can occur with negative particles as seen in the following sentences 27(a).(iii) and (b).(iii), and 28 (a).(iii) and (b).(iii) below.

#### War-Khasi

##### MV

27. (a) (i) toʔ u ba tbian  
COP 3SM REL short  
'He is short'  
(ii) ŋi yij laʔ snew ŋi  
DUAL house PRF damage DUAL  
'The house is damaged'  
(iii) ki miaw mu lonj ki ba iban  
3PL cat NEG COP 3PL REL beautiful  
'Cats are not beautiful'



**UV**

(b) (i) dei u ba tbain

COP 3SM REL short

'He is short'

(ii) ka yinj la? snew

3SF house PRF damage

'The house is damaged'

(iii) ki miaw niu da jitynad ki

3PL cat NEG so beautiful 3PL

'Cats are not (so) beautiful'

**War-Jaiñtia****LV**

28. (a) (i) e man u chrit

SAM COP 3SM short

'He is short'

(ii) ke sni ke da kom

3SF house 3SF PRF damage

'The house is damaged'

(iii) i miaw jiu man i miet

3PL cat NEG COP 3PL beautiful

'Cats are not beautiful'

**TV**

(b) (i) man u u chrit

COP 3SM 3SM short

'He is short'

(ii) ko sni ko da dkom

3SF house 3SF PRF damage

'The house is damaged'

(iii) ki miaw aw to? ki ma? suk

3PL cat NEG COP 3PL beautiful

'Cats are not beautiful'

**4. Conclusion**

In conclusion, this research paper provides a comprehensive analysis of noun phrases in War-Khasi and War-Jaiñtia. The study focuses on the syntactic and morphological features of NPs, with a particular emphasis on the distinctions between pre-modifiers and post-modifiers. By comparing and contrasting the NPs of War-Khasi and War-Jaiñtia, the paper highlights the unique attributes and functions of these constructions in each variety. The research demonstrates that while both varieties share similar NP constructions, there are notable differences in the functions and attributes of NPs in each variety. These differences can be attributed to the influence of the respective languages spoken in the regions where War-Khasi and War-Jaiñtia are spoken, as well as historical and cultural factors that have shaped the development of each variety. Overall, the findings of this research provide valuable insights into the structure and usage of noun phrases in War-Khasi and War-Jaiñtia and contribute to our understanding of the Khasi language as a whole.



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### Does this article screened for similarity?

Yes

### Conflict of interest

The Authors have no conflicts of interest to declare that they are relevant to the content of this article.

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