

RANDOLPH QUIRK

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SIDNEY GREENBAUM

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GEOFFREY LEECH

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JAN SVARTVIK

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(d) Premodification by nouns

13.57

While certain postmodifying *of*-phrases correspond, as we have seen, to premodifying genitives, others, in common with prepositional phrase postmodifiers generally, correspond to noun premodifiers, often becoming so closely associated with the head as to be regarded as part of a compound noun (App I.44 ff):

The question of partition ~ The partition question
 A rod of iron ~ An iron 'rod
 The door of the cupboard ~ The cupboard 'door
 The shooting of tigers ~ 'Tiger shooting
 The story of his life ~ His 'life story
 A story about the war ~ A 'war story
 A chair with arms ~ An 'arm chair or An arm 'chair
 A cloth for dishes ~ A 'dish cloth
 A village in Sussex ~ A Sussex 'village
 A man from Sussex ~ A 'Sussex man

Prepositional phrases will not serve, however, to explain all premodification by nouns. There are coordinations and appositions also:

The plane is both a fighter and a bomber ~ A fighter-'bomber
 Bernard Miles was both actor and producer ~ The actor-'producer
 Smith is a sergeant ~ Sergeant 'Smith

However, the kind of apposition found in titles of this kind (9.166 ff) is severely restricted by convention and style.

13.58

Attention must be drawn to three notable features in the various noun premodifications illustrated above. One is that plural nouns usually become singular (cf 4.52d):

A chair with arms ~ An 'arm chair

This holds even for nouns that otherwise have no singular form:

A sharpener for scissors ~ A 'scissor sharpener

The leg of the trousers ~ The 'trouser leg

But while singularization is normal it is by no means universal, especially with noun premodification that is not hardening into a fixed phrase or compound:

The committee on promotions ~ The pro'motions committee

Cf also *the arms race*. The second important point is the relationship of the determiner. It will be observed that the normal situation is for the de-

terminer to be related to the head identically in the post- and premodified noun phrases. Two exceptions are illustrated:

The shooting of tigers ~ 'Tiger shooting
The story of his life ~ His 'life story

The second of these examples conceals a difference in assumption of the sentential context: the postmodified form is neutral as to the subject of a narrating verb, the premodified form is biased towards a subject coreferential with *his*. Thus

He	}	told the story of his life
She		
I		
He	}	told his life story
?She		
?I		

The third significant point concerns accentuation: according to the relationship between the two nouns, the accent will fall on the premodifier or the head; for example, *An iron 'rod* but *A 'war story*. The conditions under which the latter stress pattern is adopted are by no means wholly clear but are connected with the conventionalizing of a sequence in the direction of compounding. See further App I.44 ff and App II.6.

13.59

Although we have said that prepositional phrases 'generally' can yield noun premodifiers, this applies in fact only to the most central prepositions:

Work in the docks is arduous ~ 'Dock work . . .

but

Work near the docks is arduous ~ *Dock work . . .

Indeed precisely this point was an issue in the London law courts in 1970, and the Court of Appeal rightly upheld the linguistic statement made above and *The Times* law report had the following headline (7 May 1970):

Work near docks is not dock work

A further noteworthy constraint against using nouns from postmodifying phrases as premodifiers is the relative impermanence of the modification in question. Thus while

The table in the corner was laid for dinner