

LANGUAGE IN INDIA
Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow
Volume 11 : 5 May 2011
ISSN 1930-2940

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**Substitution as a Feature of
Syntactic Nominalization in Bengali**

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1.0. Introduction

Regarding the syntactic analysis of nominalization grammarians are of different opinions. In generative grammar it is held that syntactically the process of nominalization have the internal structure of sentences¹ this is also the view of Lees who commented the nominals generated by the nominalization rules are not themselves sentences, but rather they are noun-like version of sentences. These nominals must occur as nominals within other sentences.²Whereas, Vendler defines nominalization as a means of joining sentences by applying a transformation which turns a sentence into a nominal embedded in an appropriate matrix sentence.³ These discussions are very much relevant in the present discussion.

The discussion on ‘Nominalization in Bengali’ requires syntactical approaches along with some lexical approaches. Thus far, in this section a study has been attempted to give a brief account of the syntactic nature of Bengali nominalization. It is true that a study on syntactic nominalization has been attempted but here the focus is mainly on the substitution feature of the noun.

1.1 Basic features of syntactical nominalization

1. Due to syntactical nominalization, the most noticeable change occurs to the verb because the verb takes the most important role in nominalizing a sentence. Generally the subject and the verb of a nominalized sentence change, the other parts of the sentence remain unchanged. It is also found that after nominalization, the nominalized verb show no tense distinction, i.e., they are without tense marker⁴.

E.g., se jaY
He goes.

Se jabe
He will go.

But after nominalization

- a. tar **jaWa** (deverbal nominalization)
his going.
- b. tar kOtha **bolte para**
his words speak can
‘His ability to speak.’

In these cases the nature and structure of the verbs change, as well as the pronominal subject takes the possessive genitive suffix ‘-r/-er’ after nominalization.

2. It is true that the nominalized verb cannot differentiate between tense but the noticeable fact is that if the nominalized sentence is embedded within another sentence then the embedding sentence show the tense distinction, i.e., the nominalized sentence depends on the head sentence.

e.g., tomar **jaWaTa** bhalo dEkhaba na.
your going good look not
‘Your going will not be liked.’

In the sentence the nominalized part is ‘tomar jaWaTa’ is embedded under the main clause ‘bhalo dEkha na’, where the main verb ‘dEkha’ conveys the tense distinction, which is here a future tense.

tomar thakaTa amar bhalo lagche na.
your stay my like not
‘I don’t like your staying over there.’

Here the nominalized verb **thakaTa** is embedded under the head sentence **amar bhalo lagche na**, which conveys the sense of present continuous tense. So the deverbial nominal **thakaTa** is in present continuous tense.

3. Syntactical analysis of nominalization requires the pattern of the sentence i.e., whether it is assertive or negative, whether it is descriptive, interrogative, or exclamatory. So in the discussion of nominalization at syntactical level it is important to know the sentence structure. Regarding the descriptive sentence, exclamatory sentence and interrogative sentence the treatment of nominalization is same. No major distinction is found in case of the difference in sentence type.

The most remarkable change is found in case of negative sentences. Negative sentences always play a vital role in the syntactical analysis at any level. Generally the negative element is placed after the verb in a Bengali sentence.

ami khabo na.
I eat not
‘I shall not eat.’

In few cases the negative element is also placed before a verb, in most cases it is found in case of emphatic sentences.

eTa na **khaWai** bhalo.
This not eat good
‘It is better not to eat this.’

In a nominalized sentence the negative element is placed before a verb and the negative verb is placed before a noun. The nominalized verb behaves similarly as in an assertive sentence. The position of the negative element changes after nominalization takes place, where as in case of emphatic sentences the ordering remains unchanged.

amar na **jaWa** ucit.
My not go should
‘I should not go there.’

In case of reduplicated verbs, both the verbs are nominalized and the negative element is inserted in between the two reduplicated verbs.

amar **jaWa na jaWa** Eki bEpar.
My go not go same thing
'It is the same thing whether I go or not.'

Now a deeper analysis is needed for the study of the nature of nominalized sentences. For this purpose and the proper analysis of the study we have sub-divided the chapter under two broad categories, namely:

1. Noun Phrase
2. Noun Clause and relative clause.

1.2. Noun Phrase

Noun phrase can be defined as a construction, which has a head noun. The noun with the help of some pre-nominal adjectives, or verbal bases form a unit which can be used and can be replaced by a single noun, with certain pre modifiers the whole chunk form a unit. Such phrases are called nominal phrases, as it can be replaced by a single noun and possesses the qualities of being a noun. Certain syntactical tests will prove them as a single unit of noun. Before going into the proper discussion of noun phrases, the structure of the noun phrases should be analyzed.

1.2.1. Structure of Noun phrase

1. A nominal phrase or nominal expression is analyzed in its smallest form as an obligatory stem optionally preceded or followed by suffixes including the case marker. The case markers are attached to the words.

E.g. lokTake khaTe bOsao
 Man bed sit
 'Let the man be sited on the bed.'

Here two nouns (lokTa and khaT) are placed side by side, both having different case markers, one is accusative (-ke) and another one is locative (-e) respectively. The case markers indicate the relationship of the nouns with other words in a sentence. Here these two case markers '-ke' and '-e' indicate the relationship between the nouns and the verb 'bOsao'. These nominal suffixes are the characteristics of a noun phrase.

2. A complex unit may consist of one, two or more nouns with or without immediate modifiers, where one noun acts as the head and others stand in some sort of relationship to the head noun. The markers indicate plurality. This is a broad category. According to the nature of intermediate words it can be sub-divided in the following way:

- a) Two or more nouns, (among which one is head) can be preceded by a possessive pronoun or noun in a nominal process. Many intermediate nouns can be inserted in between the initial pronoun and final noun or the head noun.

- E.g. i) tomar **ruper Ohonkari** tomaY Dobabe.
Your beauty pride you destroy
'Your proud sense of beauty will let you down.'
- ii) jotiner meyer **iskuler boigulo** Tebile ache.
Jatin daughter school book Table has
'The books of Jatin's daughter have been kept on the table.'
- iii) prothom jiboner **chobi tolbar nesa** Ekhon tar jibika.
First life picture take desire now his profession.
'The eagerness for taking picture has become his profession.'

In all the above mentioned cases, the head nouns like **Ohonkar**, **boigulo**, **nesa** are preceded by a possessive noun, pronoun and verbal noun respectively. The type of nominal expression formation is very productive in nature. Noun phrase is formed with the preceding words ended in "possessive" genitive marker '-er/ -r'. Both the subjects and the objects can become a nominal process. In example 2(i) '**ruper Ohonkar**' is the head phrase and it is preceded by a pronoun with a possessive marker '**tomar**', in case of 2(ii) the head phrase 'iskuler boigulo' is in close relation with the preceding adjunct 'jotiner meyer' again in example 2(iii) the head chunk 'chobi tolbar nesa' is preceded by a succession of pronoun and a noun i.e., 'prothom jiboner' and the possessive marker is attached to the noun jiboner, so the fact is that the possessive marker is attached to the immediately preceding noun or pronoun of the head phrase.

Some other cases are:

- (iv) tomar **dEkha paWa** bhar.
Your see get difficult.
'It is not easy to get your view.'
- (v) babar **gan gaWar nesa**Ta ajo ache.
Father song sing desire today has
'My father's desire for singing is still present.'

b. Between the initial possessive pronoun or noun and the head noun (i.e., the noun around which constitutes the phrase), adjectives or other modifiers can be inserted. They can be multiple in numbers. There is no limit to the insertion.

- i) tar **akossik bhaggo biporjOY** sotti-i dukkher.
his sudden fortune disaster really pathetic
'The sudden disaster of his fortune is really pathetic.'
- ii) gupto-juger **silpo kOla-sOmriiddho, saronath theke paWa belepathorer**
Gupta dynasty culture depicted Saronath from get alluvial stone .
buddho mOstok Sokese nei
Buddha Statue showcase not.
The beautifully depicted Buddha statue from Saronath is not in the show case.

3. If a head noun is preceded by multiple words belonging to similar or different parts of speeches then the ordering may be as follows:

- a. If multiple nouns precede the head noun like (2.a.ii) then the closely related noun i.e. the complements are placed side by side, like:

somirer jiboner **itihaser patagulo** pORa dOrkar.
Samir life history leaves read necessary.
'It is necessary to read the pages of history of Samir's life.'

- b. All the preceding nouns take possessive genitive marker and more closely related nouns are placed side by side as above. Case marker is added to each noun separately.
- c. On the other hand, if the head noun is preceded by words belonging to different parts of speeches, then the head noun is immediately preceded by a noun or by a verbal noun, which is again preceded by a noun or an adjective, or vice versa. A noun or pronoun can precede the adjective. The ordering continues.

kajol tar jiboner mulloban dhulo-poRe-jawa **chobir sOngroho** khuNje bERacche.
Kajol her life valuable dust ridden picture Collection looking for.
'Kajol is looking for her old and valuable dust covered collection of pictures.'

- In the above mentioned example the noun phrase **chobi-r sOngroho** is preceded by a group of words 'Kajol tar jiboner mulloban dhulo-poRe-jawa', so the phrase is immediately preceded by a verbal noun 'dhulo-poRe-jawa' which is again compound in nature. Other example of this kind:

chelebElar sei phele asa **dingulo** pichu Dake.
Childhood that left behind days back call
'Those old days of childhood call back.'

4. Negative element can also be inserted within the phrasal construction. This is a very productive process of forming negative sentences in Bengali. Generally the verbal noun

precedes the head noun and the negative element is placed before the verbal noun.

e.g. i) tini nirdes na mana **cheleder** marchen

he sales not obey boy beat
'He is beating the disobedient boys.'

ii) se tar jabotio na- parar **bojha** amar upor capiYe dilo.

He his all not can burden my on put on.
'To me he has given his entire burden which he can't do.'

- In the above mentioned two examples the negative element 'na' is placed before the verbal nouns 'mana' and 'para' respectively. These two verbal nouns immediately precede the head nouns 'cheleder' and 'bojha' respectively. Other instances are available under this category.

khuNje na paWa jiniser jonno mon kharap kOre

find not get object for mind bad do
'Our minds feel depressed for the lost things.'

- In case of compound verbs the negative element is inserted in between the two verbs i.e., pole and vector (generally in case of compound and composite verbs the first component is called pole and the second component is called a vector). Here the negative element 'na' is inserted within the compound verb 'khuNje paWa'.

na paWar bEtha monke aghat kOre.

Not get pain mind beat do
'The pain of unavailability beats our heart.'

- The negative element can be placed sentence initially in a nominalized sentence. The deverbal word immediately follows it.

1.2.2. Features of Noun Phrase

For being a nominalized phrase or noun phrase a phrase must possess some typical nominal features. There are also some special characteristics of Bengali nominalization.

Substitution feature: The whole unit should possess the quality of having replaced by a single noun, i.e. there is the feature of substitution. This can be clear from the following examples.

A) **amar mulloban pathorer sOngroho** sara bharot bOrse poricito.

My valuable stone collection all India known.
'My collection of valuable stones is known to all over the India.'

- In (A) the constructions **amar mulloban pathorer sOngroho** acts as single construction and can be replaced by a single name like '**Rabindranath**' and the sentence may be written thus **Rabindronath sara bharot bOrse poricito**. This is a case of nominalization.

B) ei **praibheTe chele pORanoi** take baNcabe.

This private.loc boys teach him save
'This private tuition will save him from poverty.'

- Again, in e.g. (B) the phrase 'praibheT-e chele pORanoi' is a noun phrase, because the head word is 'chele pORanoi', acts as a specifier of the phrase. So it is an incident of nominalization. Generally, the specifier help to form noun phrase. Usually such constructions include verbal nouns.

c) **amar beNce thakar rOsod** hariYe gEche.

My live stay resource lost
'The resource of living has lost from me.'

Here the whole nominal construction can be replaced by a simple pronoun 'se' (se hariye gEche 'he is lost'). So the construction is an instance of noun phrase.

Anaphoric relation: It should be noted that whether there is an anaphoric relation in the construction or not. Generally it has been found that a nominal anaphora in Bengali has either a covert or overt manifestation in the surface structure⁵. There may be complete deletion of the pronominal head with its pre-positioned modifier or a substitution in terms or overt 'pro-form' replacing the noun or the nominal group (which we have already discussed in 1.) So an elliptical test can be made in this context.

maer **ghum paRani ganer** sOnge karurTar tulona cOle na.
mother sleep to help song with other compare go not
'There cannot be any comparison of mother's lullaby with that of the others.'

- In this example, the whole phrase 'ghum paRani ganer' is ellipted with the help of a determiner '-Ta-r'. So the whole unit can be called a noun phrase, which has been nominalized. Such anaphoric expressions prove the nature of such phrases.

amar **babar rager sOnge** kichur tulona cOle na
my father anger with something comparison go not
'Nothing can be compared with the anger of my father.'

- Here the phrase **babar rager sOnge** is replaced by the determiner **kichu**. We know that only a noun phrase is replaced by a determiner. So again this is an instance of noun phrase.

Addition of classifiers: Another test can be made that whether the phrase is able to take the classifiers like ‘-Ta, -gulo, -khana’ etc; because such classifiers are directly added to the noun in the context of Bengali. In sec 1.2 it has already been discussed under lexical nominalization, now it is the syntactical nominalization, i.e., words will be analyzed at syntactical level.

i) **amader gramer bisal baRiTā** emnii poRe ache.
our village big house purposeless left
‘Our big village house is left deserted.’

ii) **choTobElar sei din-gulo** kothaY hariYe gEche.
childhood those day where lost gone.
‘Those days of childhood are gone forever.’

- In the above mentioned examples(i, ii) the constructions like **amader gramer bisal baRiTā** and **choTobElar sei dingulo** can take classifiers like –Ta, -gulo respectively. So, again they are noun phrases.

Addition of case Marker: Like the classifiers, case markers are also directly added to the nominal expressions. So, a test can also be made in this respect, i.e. whether the construction is able to take case markers or not. The similar scenario has already been presented in case of lexical nominalization in sec 1.2. Syntactically they can be analyzed thus.

iii) **haranoke phire paWar** uddom jagche.
Lost get back interest grow.
‘The interest is growing to get back the lost one.’

iv) **dirgho ei pOth cOlaY** amar anondo hOY.
Long that road walk my enjoyment he.
‘I enjoy overcoming a long distance.’

- In examples (iii) and (iv) we see that the phrases like **haranoke phire paWa** and **dirgho ei-pOth cOlaY** are able to take the case marker like a noun. They take the genitive case marker ‘-r’ and dative case marker ‘-y’ respectively. This only reinforces the qualities of a noun phrase.

Post-Position : It has been found that in a Bengali sentence postpositions are placed after a noun or a pronoun. So, it is a general assumption that they will also be placed after a noun phrases. The conclusion can be cleared from the following examples.

v) **oitijhoke bhule jaWar jonno** aj amader ei Obostha.
Tradition forget for today our this situation.
'Today we are in this situation just for forgetting our tradition.'

vi) **bidesider hate dhOra deWar theke** more jaWa bhalo.
Foreigner hand surrender from die go better.
'It is better to die than to surrender to the foreigners.'

- In example (v) and (vi) we see that post –position 'jonno' is placed after the phrase **oitijhoke bhule jaWa** and 'theke' is placed after **bidesider hate dhOra dewa**. This is only possible in case of noun.

Nature of Noun Phrase

Generally this kind of phrase ended in a genitive marker '-r'. Such markers can also be added with a pronoun. The units, which act as pre-nominal modifier, may be an adjective or a verbal noun, often the verbal noun acts as an adjective or itself as a noun.

sObkichu **bodle jaWa** bhalo nOY.
All change go good not.
'Changing everything is not always good.'

Here the unit **bodle jaWa** acts as a noun, there is no pre-modifier adjective. A quantifier 'sObkichu' is used to measure the unit 'bodle jaWa'

cupcap bose thaka amar EkdOm bhalo lage na.
still sit stay my at all like not
'I don't like sitting standstill by doing nothing.'

Here the word **cupcap** acts as a pre-modifier adjective of the verbal noun **bose thaka** and the unit **cupcap bose thaka** as a whole acts as a noun phrase.

NP – Movement

- (i) NP-Movement is the most important thing in the analysis of syntactic nominalization. In case of Bengali grammar it has been found that the movement is restricted in certain environment. If the noun phrase occupies the subject position then generally it is not moved. There the position of the phrase, rather than its function, is important.

amar jiboner itihis tomar Ojana nOY.
My life history your unknown not.
'The history of my life is not unknown to you.'

Generally it is not written as:

tomar Ojana nOY **amar jibOner itihās** (only Passive use)

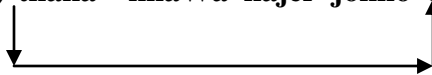
- Such movement is possible during focusing a particular segment for a particular purpose. Especially such situations are dramatic in nature.

(ii) On the other hand if we consider the sentences where it plays the role of a subject, but has not occupied the initial position then the phrase can be moved to some extent.

e.g.) barite **thaka – khaWa kajer jonno** EkTa lok dOrkar.
house be stay eat work for one person need.
'A whole – timer servant is needed at home.'

It can be moved to the sentence initial position:

(a) **thaka – khaWa kajer jonno** barite EkTa lok dOrkar.



Movement

(b) barite EkTa **thaka- khaWa kajer jonno** lok dOrkar.



Movement

- Here the phrase **thaka- khaWa kajer jonno** moved after the quantifier 'EkTa'. So if a deverbal noun phrase initiates a sentence then it can be moved sentence initially, medially and finally.

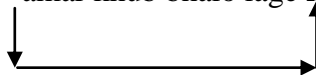
maer lal rOnger daeriTa amar khub bhālo lage.

Mother red colour diary my very like

'My mother's red coloured diary is very liked by me.'

The whole phrase **maer lal rOnger daeriTa** can be moved to some extent depending on the position of the subject.

amar khub bhālo lage **maer lal rOnger daeriTa**.



Movement

amar maer lal rOnger daeriTa khub bhalo lage

Movement

So the noun phrase can be moved to a certain degree

1.3. Noun clause

Noun clause is a construction, where there is a head noun and the unit acts as a small sentence with the presence of a finite verb. The construction can act as subject, object, complement, predicate etc. The expression is complete within itself. This is a case of nominalization as the whole unit acts as a noun and the process of forming new noun construction is called nominalization.

1.3.1. Structure of Noun Clause

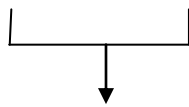
1. In the smallest expression it can be consisted of a subject and a verb.

e.g. (i) **se asbe** amar jana chilo na.
 he come my known had not.
 'It was not known to me that he would come.'

- In the above mentioned example the unit **se asbe** is a case of noun clause, it is replaced by a pronoun 'ta' (that) which is ellipted here (**se asbe ta** amar jana chilo na.). Due to the presence of a finite verb 'asbe' the unit is complete in itself.

Some immediate modifiers can be inserted between the subject and the verb under the construction of noun phrase.

ii) **Se amar kache asbe** jana chilo na.



(Insertion of words)

he my near come known had not.
 It was not known to me that he would come to me.

Here the noun clause has been expanded by the insertion of words like **amar kache** (to me).

2. Negative elements can also be inserted within a noun clause as stated in example (iii). Due to the presence of such element, the clause becomes a negative noun clause which is another important feature of noun clause.

iii) Se *kichu na bhebe ebhabe* asbe jana chilo na.

(Insertion of words)

he some not think this way come known had not.
It was not known that without thinking anything he would come in this way.

1.3.2. Features of Noun Clause

Like a phrase a noun clause possesses the same features and undergoes same syntactical test like substitution, movement.

Substitution Feature:

tumi amake manus bole bhabo na ami jani.
You me human being consider think not I know.
'I know that you don't consider me as a human being.'

Here the sentence **tumi amake manus bole bhabo na** can be replaced by a single word 'kOthaTa', i.e., kOthaTa ami jani (I know the fact). It is a feature of noun class so the example comes under noun clause.

tumi sotti-i kichu jano na ami bissas kori na.
you really anything know not I believe do not
'I don't believe that you know nothing.'

Here again the whole unit **tumi sotti-i kichu jano na** can be substituted by a single expression like **bhut** (ghost), then the sentence may be written thus:

bhut ami bissas kori na.
ghost I believe do not
'I do not believe in ghosts or supernaturalism.'

- Due to the presence of a finite verb sentence finally (Bengali is a SOV language) addition of classifiers and case markers is not possible in case of a noun clause. Some other tests are possible.

Pronominal Replacement:

porikkhaY fel korbe eTa se janto.
Examination fail do that he know
'He knew that he would fail in the examination.'

Here the phrase **porikkha-e fel korbe** is replaced by a pronoun 'eTa'. It is a known fact that only a noun is replaced by a pronoun, so the whole unit is a case of noun clause.

tumi kothaY jaccho seTa amar jana dOrkar
you where go that my know need
'I should know that where are you going.'

In a similar way in the above mentioned example the expression **tumi kothae jaccho** is replaced by a simple pronoun **seTa**.

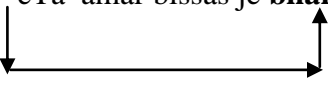
This feature of pronominal replacement can be well presented with the introduction of a discussion on relative clause (see sec. 1.4.).

Movement:

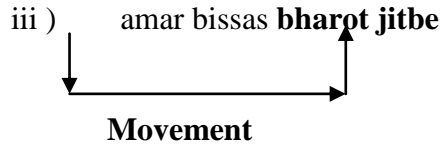
Like that of the noun phrase movement is an important feature of noun clause, there is no rigid or fixed rule for the movement of different elements within a noun clause. It is found that after the movement the presence of linkers can be omitted or inserted as Bengali does not support the presence of linkers always. It will be clear from the examples.

1 i) **bharot jitbe** eTa amar bissas
India win that my belief
'I believe that India will win.'

Here the noun clause **bharot jitbe** occupies the sentence initial position now it can be moved to a certain degree and can be placed sentence medially or sentence finally.

ii) eTa amar bissas je **bharot jitbe**.

Movement

Here the phrase is moved to the sentence final position and a linker 'je' is inserted before the phrase.

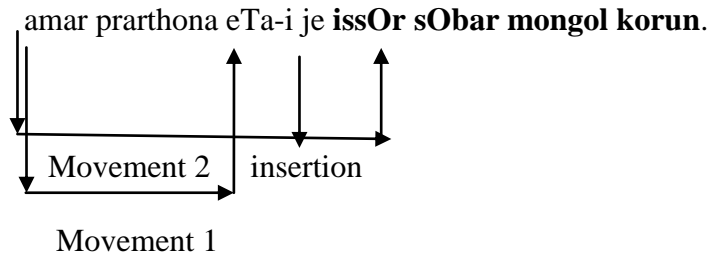


All the linkers (eTa, je) are ellipted here.

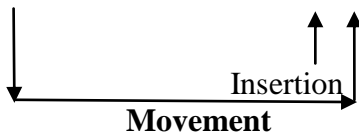
Another example can be cited thus:

issOr sObar mongol korun eTai amar prarthona.
 God all bless do that my prayer
 'I only pray that God blesses all.'

It can be moved like:



eTa-i amar prarthona je **issOr sObar mongol korun.**



Thus the elements can be moved.

1.4. Relative Clause

In some cases a linker may inserted and in between the two clauses. It is used to link between the two main clauses. If it replaces a noun then it is used in place of noun phrase. The clauses after which such linker is used are called relative clause.

1. In Bengali a relative clause is indicated by the use of the linkers like **je, se, seTa, jeTa, ja, ta** (who, which, that etc.) etc. Bengali is such a language where ellipsis is often found. So, the linkers are omitted frequently and the relative clauses take the shape of a simple noun clause. In case of a relative clause, one is principal clause and

the other one is a dependent clause. The relative clause can occur in the subject or in the predicate position.

From the following examples, the scenario will be clearer.

(i) **tumi je okhane jabe** eTa ami jani.
you that there go that I know.
'I know that you will go there.'

- Here the clause **tumi je okhane jabe** is replaced by a pronoun or a linker 'ta'. It is a well-known fact that pronoun replaces a noun. So the unit acts as noun, and consequently the process is included under the broad heading of nominalization.

Other examples are as follows:

etodur rel bhromon kOra se ei protham.
so far rail journey that this first.
'This is the first long distance rail journey.'

- Here the part of the sentence **etodur rel bhromon kOra** is replaced by the pronoun **se**. So again it is a noun clause.

2. As it has already been mentioned that there are certain cases, where the linker may be omitted or ellipted.

(i) **e laThite jadu nei** kew mantey caY na.
This stick magic not none believe want not.
No one wants to believe that this stick has no magical power.

Here there is no linker between the two clauses, namely **e laThite jadu nei** and **kew mantey caY na**, but still it is a relative clause.

Relative clause is only a part of nominal clause so the other features are similar that of a noun clause. The most important point is the pronominal replacement.

So, throughout the discussions on noun phrases and clauses, it is clear that they are part of the process of nominalization. And substitution is a major part in the discussion on syntactic nominalization. In Bengali, the aspects of syntactical nominalization has been presented thus through the characterization of noun phrase and noun clause. For this purpose the substitution feature has been highlighted.

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