SYNTAX
14.00 Noun Phrase

Noun phrase is a syntactic constituent with at least one noun as the head (with or without a modifier or modifiers) functioning as a subject or object or noun complement. Nouns can function as subjects or objects without modifiers within the noun phrases e.g.

(1) /bapui bhat khae
    
    Bapu rice eats
    
    S NP VP

(2) /rame baghtu mallak/
    
    Ram the tiger killed
    
    S NP VP

(3) /daijarok manba lage/
    
    Superiors respected should be
    
    O NP VP

(4) /solituk kuboise/
    
    the boy has been beaten
    
    O NP VP

In the sentences above the words 'bapui' and 'rame' function as subject nouns whereas 'daijarok' and 'solituk' function as object nouns.
14.01 Modifiers in Noun phrases.

In the Barpeta dialect classifiers, quantifiers, nouns and adjectives can modify nouns within noun phrases. A modifier can precede or follow the head word.

14.01.1 Classifiers or quantifiers as modifiers.

In a noun phrase the classifier or quantifier can modify noun, e.g.

(1) /xitu manuh kolikatat thake/

that man in Calcutta lives

cl. NP N VP

(2) /xikhen kapur bør xundor/

that cloth very nice

cl. NP N VP

(3) /sta ḫathi manuh mallak/

an elephant man killed

Q NP N VP

(4) /duta soli take geisil/

two boys there went

Q NP N VP
In the sentences above the classifiers 'xitu' and 'xikhen' modify the nouns 'manuh' and 'kapur' whereas the quantifiers 'sta' and 'duta' modify the nouns 'hathi' and 'soli' respectively.

14.01.2 Nouns as modifiers.

Nouns can precede or follow the modifying nouns. Nouns can occur as modifiers of nouns when the modifying nouns function as complements, e.g;

(1) /ami sobe bhat khalu/
    we all rice eat
    N NP com. VP

(2) /xi daktar nohoi/
    com. NP N VP

In the first sentence the modifier 'ami' precedes the modifying noun 'sobe' whereas in the second sentence the modifier 'daktar' follows the modifying noun 'xi'. Here both the modifying nouns function as complements.

14.01.3 Adjectives as modifiers.

The Adjectives may precede the modifying nouns. When they precede the modifying nouns the modifiers can be attributive, e.g;
Adjectives can occur as modifiers of nouns when modifying nouns are subjects or objects, e.g;

(1) /bura manufitu mφha kirpin/

old the man very miser

(2) /b£K)a solitu xuiase/

dumb the boy sleeping

(3) /duikha manφok xφhai korba lage/

poor men hel epd should be

(4) /koli gaituk kh£d/

black the cow drive

In the sentences above the adjectives 'bura', 'b£K)a', 'duikha' and 'koli' modify the nouns 'manφtu',
'gaituk'
'solitu', 'manñok' and, respectively where 'manñitu' and 'solitu' function as subjects and 'manñok' and 'gaituk' function as objects.

Adjectives modify nouns is concordial relationship in terms of gender within noun phrases. It is partially grammatical, e.g:

(1) /boga apa /
    | white    boy |
    | Aj       NP  N |

(2) /bogi api
    | White    girl |
    | Aj       NP  N |

(3) /kërä apa/
    | squint-eyed boy |

(4) /keri api/
    | squint-eyed girl |

'Adjectives are often interchangeable depending on the writers wishes'¹. If more than one adjectives are used the

writer usually arranges them willingly. For instance we can show the following sentences -----

(1) /mada boga sapar kamruipa manuh/
   \[\text{fat white short kamrupi} \quad \text{man}\]
   \[\text{modifiers} \quad \text{head word}\]

(2) /boga sapar mada kamruipa manuh/
   \[\text{white short fat kamrupi} \quad \text{man}\]
   \[\text{modifiers} \quad \text{head word}\]

(3) /sapar mada boga kamruipa manuh/
   \[\text{short fat white kamrupi} \quad \text{man}\]
   \[\text{modifiers} \quad \text{head word}\]

If there is a series of modifiers each or only one may be modified, e.g.

/xei tinta mada saro boga soli/
   \[\text{that three fat tall white boys}\]
   \[\text{modifiers} \quad \text{head word}\]
Noun functional adjectives modify nouns. e.g.:

(1) /বার্পেতা কিটাঙ্গহার /
    Barpeta Kirtanghar
    NP

(2) /বাঞ্জালি মনুন্ন মন্দা সালাক /
    Bengali people very clever
    NP VP

In the sentences above the words '바르пе타' and '바�자리' are noun functional adjective modifiers. They modify the head nouns 'কিটাঙ্গহার' and 'মনুন্ন' within the noun phrases.

(1) /হাতে বুয়া কাপুর /
    by hand woven the cloth
    NP

(2) /লাহে লাহে সুলা গারি /
    slowly driven cart
    NP

In the sentences mentioned above the nouns 'কাপুর' and 'গারি' are modified by the modifiers 'বুয়া' and 'সুলা' respectively.