

## **A Study of Syntactic Functions of *More* in English**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*The major purpose of this study is to provide as clear as possible some related aspects concerning the syntactic function of more in English. Traditionally, more refers to a unique word which functions in the comparative degree of an adjective or an adverb. Beside, the word more also functions as a modifier and a general determiner. This article consists of a brief account of the word more with its subdivisions. The main analysis focused on syntactic functions of more in English. Some syntactic data show that the word more may function as general determiner, comparative quantifier, modifier of a noun group, modifier of an adjective, modifier of an adverb, modifier of a pre-modifying adverb, and in a comparative structure. Syntactically the word more may at least function as: general determiner, comparative quantifier, modifier of a noun group, head of a noun group, modifier of an adjective head of a pre-modifying adjective, modifier of an adverb, modifier of a pre-modifying adverb, and in comparative structures. The data obtained from references written by various outstanding linguists. Their explanation and analysis related to the topic has enriched the material required in this study. The data collection is conducted in several steps such as administering some sentences, checking, and verifying the data with the intuition of the writer herself and with theories given by various linguists.*

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Language is used to gain information and convey several kinds of messages like as thoughts, emotions and desires to the others. According to Risdianto (2013: 1), "Language is produced as a vital means to deliver messages or communicate messages by the use of speaking (the act of sound production), symbol, or symbol writing".

Symbol writing itself organized as sentences which consist of the smallest units in language (phonemes), afterward it forms words, clauses, phrases, then it goes together to form sentences. Each unit is learned in the different range of branches of linguistics, such as phonemes that is studied in Phonology, words that is explained in Morphology, and clauses, phrases, sentences Srijono ( that are learned in Syntax. Lehman (1976) cited in 2001: 65) asserted that "sentence is a sequence of selected syntactic items combined into a unit in accordance with certain patterns of agreement, modification, and intonation in any languages". Furthermore, there are two more branches of linguistics, which investigate sentences in its meanings, they are Semantics and Pragmatics. In addition, sentence is discussed structurally in Syntax.

Syntax is the study of the principles and processes by which sentences are constructed in particular language” (Chomsky, 2002: 1). Based on his book entitled (2002: xvi) *An Introduction to English Syntax*, Miller stated that: Language is at the center of the society, it plays crucial part in the organization of social activities, from the government through the workplace to the home. These complex tasks require complex language, and that requires syntax. With regard to syntax, this study explains several aspects of sentence, there are phrases and clauses. Clauses are composite of one or more phrases, while “a phrase can consist of one word or more words.

*More* is one of the significant words in English as it may carry a large number of functions in sentences. The word *more* is usually used as a general determiner, as a modifier of noun, an adjective, and an adverb. It may also function in the comparative structures.

Considering such complexities of the functions of *more*, the topic is so interesting and significant to analyze.

### More as the Comparative Form of Many

*More* is one of the significant words in English as it may carry a large number of functions in sentences. *More* is usually used in comparative adjective. We can describe something by saying that it has more of quality than something else. We can do this by using comparative adjectives. Only qualitative adjectives usually have comparative, but a few color adjectives also have them. Comparatives normally consist of the usual form of the adjectives with either ‘-er’ or ‘-r’ added to the end but some adjectives have their comparative degree by using *more* before the adjective.

The choice between inflectional and periphrastic comparison is largely determined by the length of the adjective.

- a. Monosyllabic. Adjective normally forms their comparison by inflection.

Positive	Comparative
- cheap	cheaper
- great	greater
- tall	taller
- grey	greyer
- clever	cleverer

We use *-er* for the comparative of short adjectives and adverbs.

1. This jacket is too small. I need a *larger* size.
  2. Ann works *harder* than most of his friends.
  3. It’s *cheaper* to go by car than to go by train
- Real, right, wrong*, and the preposition *like* takes only periphrastic forms:
4. She is (*more like*) her grandmother liker

However, most other monosyllabic adjectives can take either inflectional or periphrastic comparison.

- b. Many disyllabic adjectives can also take inflections, through they have the alternative of the periphrastic forms.

5. Her children are (politer/ more polite)

Disyllabic adjectives that can most readily take inflected forms are those ending in an unstressed vowel, // or //, for example:

- y : early, easy, funny, happy, noisy, wealthy, pretty
- ow : mellow, narrow, shallow
- le : able, feeble, gentle, noble, simple
- er, -ure : clever, mature, obscure

6. The examination was *easier* than we expected
7. The problem is not so complicated. It’s *simpler* than you think.

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- *Liker*

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- c. Many disyllabic adjectives can also take inflections, though they have the alternative of the periphrastic forms.

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Disyllabic adjectives that can most readily take inflected forms are those ending in an vowel / /or / /, for example:

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- re, -ure : clever, mature, obscure

(6) The examination was *easier* than we expected

(7) The problem is not so complicated. It's *simpler* than you think.

- d. Tri-syllabic or longer adjectives can only periphrastic forms:  
 beautiful

- *more* beautiful (BUT NOT) beautifuller

Positive	Comparative
- Modern	<i>more</i> modern
- Serious	<i>more</i> serious

(8) Her illness was *more serious* than we at first thought.

### **More as the Comparative Form of Much**

The indefinite or quantifier pronouns *many, more, and much* can all act as substitutes for noun phrases introduced by the corresponding determiners.

#### **1.1. More as an Adverb**

*More* is used in comparative form of adverb to say how something happens or is done in relation to how it happens on a different occasion, or how it was done by someone or something else.

Most adverbs of manner have comparatives. The forms and uses of comparative adverbs are generally similar to those of adjectives.

## **II. LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 As General Determiner**

In English, there are two main ways in which you can use a noun group. You can use it to refer to someone or something, knowing that the person you are speaking to understand which person or thing you are talking about. This can be called the specific way of referring to someone or something. *More* is used with plural count nouns to indicate that a number of people or things are being referred to.

- He does *more* hours than I do.
- His visit might do *more* harm than good.

But *more* is also often used to refer to an additional quantity of something rather than in comparisons.

- More officers will be brought in as and when circumstances dictate.
- They need *more* information.

We can use a noun group to refer to someone or something of particular type, without saying which person or thing you mean. This can be called the general way of referring to someone or something.

## 2.2 As Comparative Quantifier

Comparatives are often followed by *than* when you want to specify what the other thing involved in the comparison is. You say exactly what you are comparing by using one of number of structure after *than*.

- Charlie was *more honest than his predecessor*.

In comparative qualifier *of* is always need in every case. *More of* can be used with singular noun groups, uncountable noun groups, and with plural noun groups.

- She is far *more of* an artist now.

*More of* is sometimes used in front of a noun group to intensify.

- She could hardly have felt *more of* a fool *than* he did at that moment

## 2.3 As Modifier of a Noun Group

*More* is sometimes used in front of a whole noun group to indicate that something has more of the qualities of one thing than another, or is one thing rather than being another.

- Music is *more* a way of life *than* an interest
- His works is *more* a proof *than* a promise

## 2.4 As Head of Noun Group

*More* is used when you want to give further information about someone or something by using a noun group which describes or identifies them.

- *More* (of my books) are at home.
- She said *more than* we expected.

## 2.5 As Modifier of an Adjective Head

Most adjectives that are inflected for comparison can also take the periphrastic forms with *more*. With *more*, they seem to do so more easily when they are predicative and are followed by a *than*-clause.

- She is *more* beautiful
- The job was *more difficult* than I thought.

## 2.6 As a Modifier of a Pre-modifying Adjective

The noun is part of the comp-element and therefore is also implied in the comparative clause. By placing the comparative adjective after the noun we readily admit the more plausible interpretation.

- The rich had bought a *more expensive* car
- It was a *more heated discussion* than we thought it would be.

## 2.7 As Modifier of an Adverb

The comparative of an adverb usually consists of the normal form of the adverb preceded by *more*.

- People needed business skills so that they could manage themselves *more effectively*.
- I really need that job *more badly than* you.

## 2.8 As Modifier of a Pre-modifying Adverb

*More* may also modify another adverb which pre-modified a verb or an adverb in the sentence as given in the following:

- She is *more severely handicapped* than you are.
- The examination was *more surprisingly easy*.

## 2.9 In a Comparative Structure

You can describe something by saying that it has more of a quality than something else. Comparatives are often followed by *than* when you want to specify what the other involved in the comparison is. You are comparing by using one of a number of structures after *than*.

- Their life may be horribly dull, but they are *more than* satisfied.

*More* is usually used in comparative adjectives. When comparing with one-syllable, add “-er” to the end of adjective. Do not use *more*.

- This jacket is too small. I need a *larger* size.
- Ann works *harder* than most of his friends.

When comparing a two-syllable adjective, use the word *more* in addition to the adjective.

- I don't like this house. I prefer a *more* modern house

*More* is also used in comparative form of adverb to say how something happens or is done in relation to how it happens on a different occasion, or how it was done by someone or something else.

## III. METHODE OF THE RESEARCH

This study is based on the data obtained from references written by various outstanding linguists. Their explanation and analysis related to the topic has enriched the material required in this study.

The data collection is conducted in several steps such as administering some sentences, checking, and verifying the data with the intuition of the writer herself and with theories given by various linguists. Most sentences given as examples are devoured from the writer's invention on the basis of her comprehension.

## IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The functions of *more* are as a general determiner, as a modifier of a noun group, adjective, adverb, and it may also function in comparative structure.

As a general determiner, *more* is used with plural count nouns to indicate that a number of people or things are being referred to.

- He does *more* hours than I do.
- His visit might do *more* harm than good.

But *more* is also often used to refer to an additional quantity of something rather than in comparisons.

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We can use a noun group to refer to someone or something of particular type, without saying which person or thing you mean. This can be called the general way of referring to someone or something.

As a modifier of noun group, *more* is sometimes used in front of a whole noun group to indicate that something has more of the qualities of one thing than another, or is one thing rather than being another.

- Music is *more* a way of life *than* an interest
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Since this study only a brief discussion; therefore, some other grammatical aspects concerning this topic can still be attempted. However, it is hoped that this brief scientific work may be of some use for English learners as well as English users, particularly for those who are interested in attempting researches concerning grammatical aspects.

It is suggested to the learners of English should know what *more* is, and what the functions of the word *more* in English is, so that they can build effective communication by using perfect sentences. It is also suggested to another researcher to analyze this topic from different point of view in order to get a clearer description of syntactic functions of *more* in English.

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