



Reference No:

Revision History:

Name	Change Date	Version	Description of Changes
Zunaira Malik	13 th June, 05	0.1	Created

Rule ID: EGR227

Rule Syntax: Following is the constituent description of the rule.

ADJ_compP -> adj.

ADJ_compP -> adv adj.

Rule Functional Description: Following are the functional specifications of the rule.

1) ADJ_compP -> adj: ^ = !, !ADJ_FORM = c 2; CompP: ^COMPARITIVE = !;

2) ADJ_compP -> adv: ^ADJUNCT ADV = !, !ADV_TYPE = c ADJ_MOD, !SEM_TYPE = c COMPARITIVE; adj: ^ = !, ^ADJ_FORM = 2; CompP: ^COMPARITIVE = !;

Frequency: -

Description: This rule shows the Adjective Comparative Phrase production in English Grammar.

c-structure: The first production is for adjectives having intrinsically contained comparative form. The second production is for the adjective showing comparative sense through comparative adverb.

f-structure: The first rule takes the comparative adjective having intrinsically contained comparative sense. In the second one, the adverb is adding comparative sense to the adjective and is taken as an ADJUNCT of ADJ in f-structure. CompP is added to f-structure as COMPARITIVE structure.

Examples:

- 1) The cat quicker than the dog.
- 2) The cat more beautiful than the dog.

Rule Status: Active

Reference:

[1] Miriam Butt, Tracy Holloway King, "A Grammar Writer's Cookbook" ,

[2] Quirk, Greenbaum, Leech, Svartvik, " A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language"

Related Rules:

Related POS: EPOS200, EPOS014

Replaces:

Reason:

Replaced by: -

Reason: -



Analysis:

“more” is the comparative of the quantifiers “many” and “much”.

Morton has more expensive clothes than I have.

More modifies expensive here making the adjectival phrase a comparative one. This results in an adjectival comparative phrase.

Morton has [more expensive clothes than I have]. “more” cannot be used with definite NPs in a comparative construction. For e.g.

Sally has the better radio than Daniel (has). * [2, pg. 1135]

“more..than” is considered to be a comparative correlative since the second endorses the meaning of the first.

A cat more beautiful.... Although sounds alright but seems incomplete without a “than” clause.

A cat more beautiful than the dog. [2, pg. 999]

According to the cookbook by Miriam Butt, adjectival comparatives are analyzed in two main parts:

- 1) degree (more as a comparative)
- 2) comparative phrase it can license (“than a truck”)

The degree is treated like as an adjunct like all other adjectives, but a special one with special syntactic properties. It is called the ADJUNCT_COMP (indicates that it is an adjunct that specifies a degree of comparison). The comparative phrase is analyzed as an OBL argument of the adjective called the OBL_COMP.

“than” is also treated as a special type of conjunction as it may head complete clauses.

Example:

1) *It is more comfortable than a tractor.* [Adj_comp Phrase]

more comfortable [AP]

more [comparative] , *comfortable* [adjective]

than a tractor [obl_comp]

than [conj_comp]

[1, pg. 118, 119, 120, 121, 122]

Result: -

1) a beautiful cat (ADJ_FORM =1

2) a more beautiful cat (ADJ_FORM =2 due to presence of more) (comparative form)

3) a more beautiful cat than the dog.

More beautiful cat [ADJP]

Than the dog [COMP Phrase]

Than [comp_conj]

More beautiful cat than the dog [ADJ_COMP phrase]



Future Work: -

- 1) We shall cater to “times” phrases that use more than, for e.g. *five times more people came to the demonstration than (did) last time.*
- 2) Identification of “than” as a preposition, when it usually introduces Noun phrases.
For e.g. *I weigh more than 200 pounds.*
It goes faster than 100 miles per hour.
- 3) Identification of “than” as a relative pronoun, where there is an omission of the subject in the comparative clause.
For e.g. *you spent more money than was intended to be spent.*
- 4) Identification of “more than” as a subject pronoun.
For e.g. *more than a 1000 inhabitants have signed the petition.*
More than one member has protested against the proposal.
- 5) Usage as an adverb.
For e.g. *he likes her more than me.*
John , more than his brothers, was responsible for the loss.
She'll enjoy it more than last year.
- 6) Identification of “more of a “ phrases.
For e.g. *he is more of a fool than I thought he was.* (“more” here is used as an adverb)
- 7) Identification of “no more ...than” phrases.
For e.g. *I have no more money than you have.*
Rachel is no more competent than Saul (is).