Chapter Five

Conclusion

The paper has shown how Nominal Groups function in response to the concepts found in inspirational writings with Christian themes. The Nominal Groups are analysed both in their experiential and logical structures. The analysis shows that function cannot be separated from meaning encapsulated in the concepts found in the inspirational writings with Christian themes.

Although there is a thin line between the Classifier and Deictic elements, and an even thinner one between the Classifier and Epithet elements, the differentiation is made possible most of the time by close reference to the concepts found in such writings. When the concept is correctly applied and the term is not too abstract to be understood, it is easy to differentiate the function of the items used. Thus, to understand
the Nominal Group in its experiential structure, there is a need to know in depth the concepts found in inspirational writings with Christian themes.

The logical structure of the Nominal Group complements the meaning of the concepts by its simplified Nominal Group structure. Its logical structure shows that a large majority of the Nominal Groups do not have any Epithets or Classifiers to make the Thing more complex to understand. The concepts in inspirational writings are supposed to point towards transcendence and simplicity in a higher realm. Thus, the simple Nominal Group logical structures help to convey the simplicity that these concepts offer.

Consequently, for anyone who wishes to write or teach in this particular field, firstly the person must have an in-depth knowledge of the concepts. Not only that, the person must have experienced certain truths that the concepts propound. Both knowledge and experience are needed for the person to fully convey the message.

Secondly, the person must be adept at creating simplified Nominal Group structures, understanding that for an inspirational message of faith to be truly effective, it must not be complicated by Nominal Groups with complex structures. By simplified Nominal Groups, the persons must know how to rely on other linguistic devices apart from using too many Epithets and Classifiers to create meaning.

Though this paper does not cover the analysis of the embedded clause or phrase at length – due to its rank-shifted elements – in the Post-Modifier (/Qualifier) constituent, the person needs to understand how to create such structures to further elaborate on meaning within the sentence.
This paper has also focused primarily on the internal organisation of the elements within the Nominal Group and how its elements inter-relate with one another in function and meaning in inspirational writings with Christian themes. This limitation opens the path for further discussion and study in many other areas.

Firstly, the present data of the Nominal Group can be re-looked at but from a different perspective of cohesion, that is, how the Nominal Groups relate to one another as cohesive units of the text. This would give a picture of the kind of words used in such writings.

Secondly, in Halliday's perspective on the Nominal Group, the Qualifier of the experiential structure is not analysed due to its rank-shifted status. An analysis of the Qualifier would help to see how the Nominal Group is further enriched with experiential content.

Thirdly, further study can be conducted on the external organisation of the Nominal Group in relation to the clause, that is, how the Nominal Group is organised as an element of the clause in the Transitivity system. This would make an interesting and elaborate study because of the potential complexity of the Nominal Group structure, combined with its functional flexibility and frequency of occurrence, in the clause.

Fourthly, we can study the clause and how it expresses textual meaning in such writings: looking for a particular trend of Thematic organisation exhibited in such writings.

Consequently, using the systemic-functional approach, a comprehensive contrastive text analysis between lexico-grammatical and discourse-semantic analyses of such texts can be shown to see how the texts are alike and different. And to relate
those patterns to the cultural and situational context in which they are realised. This kind of research is very large and time-consuming, but the results might be very beneficial to the genre concerned.

On the whole, this paper has served to give a brief overview of the Nominal Groups in inspirational writings with Christian themes. In this concluding chapter, some recommendations have been listed for the interested parties to observe when writing or teaching inspirational writings with Christian themes. Finally, there are some suggestions for further study.