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LINGUIST 752  
The Syntax and Semantics of Nominal Modification  
Spring 2005, TBA, W 2.30-5.00  
<http://www-unix.oit.umass.edu/~bhatt/752-s05/>

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### Topics:

In this course, we will explore topics pertaining to the syntax and semantics of nominal modification. In its simplest form - restrictive modification of an NP by a full relative clause - we have a certain understanding of how things work though several important questions remain undecided. Starting from such cases, we will move on to other less well understood structures that involve modification such as correlatives, reduced relatives, and adjectives. We will examine the modifiers along two dimensions: their size, which seems to roughly correlate with the independence of their spatiotemporal variables, and how they combine with the NP they modify. Thus we will be interested in both their internal syntax and their external syntax.

Relative clauses in many languages resemble interrogatives closely. Chomsky (1977) analyzes both as involving *A'*-movement. Nevertheless the resemblance is not complete - interrogatives and relative clauses differ in what material is allowed to appear in their respective CP-domains. There seems to be much crosslinguistic variation here and many questions remain unresolved - why do some languages allow null operators in relative clauses but not in questions while other languages forbid null operators altogether, do relative clauses constructed with a relative pronoun have the same structure as relative clauses without relative pronouns, how is case attraction to be handled, among others.

The head of a relative clause seems to do double duty - it is a part of the matrix clause but for certain syntactic and semantic purposes it seems to be internal to the relative clause. This dual nature of the relative clause head has led to at least three distinct analyses of relative clauses - the head external analysis, the head raising analysis, and the matching analysis. We will spend some time examining various arguments that have been put forward in support of these proposals.

Interpretively, it seems that relative clauses can be grouped into restrictive relatives, appositive relatives, and maximalizing relatives. Appositives and maximalizing relatives seem to also differ in their syntax from restrictive relatives. For example it has been argued that appositives attach higher than restrictive relatives. We will re-examine the classic debate concerning the attachment height of relative clauses and consider in particular cases where a putatively restrictive modifier seems to precede a demonstrative and hence be DP-external.

Maximalization is also found with another relativization strategy - correlativization/free relatives. Correlatives in particular seem to lend themselves to a range of constructions that seem

to go beyond garden variety nominal modification such as conditionals, comparatives, and *until*-clauses. One line of exploration will be the extent that a common semantic analysis can be constructed that handles all correlatives irrespective of what variable is being abstracted over.

Certain nominal modifiers seem to be more independent in terms of their spatiotemporal reference and illocutionary force - consider for example the differences between adjectives, reduced relatives, and full relative clauses in this regard. In this context, we can examine proposals concerning the derivation of reduced relatives and the question of whether adjective are best treated as preposed reduced relatives.

The above outline admits of a vast number of potential topics. Some of these are listed below along with associated readings.

**Typological Surveys** : Peranteau et al. (1972), Keenan and Comrie (1977), Keenan (1985), de Vries (2002)

**Headed Relative Clauses** :

**Historical Background** : Kuroda (1968), Schachter (1973), Vergnaud (1974)

**Survey** : Alexiadou et al. (2000), Bianchi (2002a), Bianchi (2002b)

**Pied-piping and the syntax of the left edge** : Kayne (1976), Pesetsky (1997), Law (2000), Zwart (2000)

**The resurrection of the Raising Analysis** : Kayne (1994), Borsley (1997), Bianchi (1999), Bianchi (2000)

**Amount Relatives** : Carlson (1977), Heim (1987), Grosu and Landman (1998), Grosu (2002)

**The Matching Analysis** : Sauerland (2003)

**Superlatives and Headed Relative Clauses** : Bhatt (2002), Heycock (2003), Hulsey and Sauerland (to appear)

**Internally Headed Relative Clauses** : Shimoyama (1999), Hastings (2004), Kim (2004)

**The Correlative Structure** :

**Free Relatives** : Bresnan and Grimshaw (1978), Groos and van Riemsdijk (1981), among many others

**Case Attraction** : McCreight (1988), Bianchi (1999)

**Correlatives and Free Relatives** : Srivastav (1991), Jacobson (1995), Dayal (1995), Dayal (1996), Mahajan (2000), Bhatt (2003)

**Conditionals** : Geis and Lycan (1989), Izvorski (1996)

***until* clauses** : Hook (1974), Bhatt and Liptak (2005)

**Appositive Relative Clauses** : Potts (2002), Del Gobbo (2003), Potts (2004)

**Other Relative Clauses** :

**Infinitival Relatives** : Dubinsky (1997), Bhatt (1999)

**Reduced Relatives** : Iatridou et al. (2000), Alexiadou (2001), Krause (2001),

**Adjectives** :

**Historical Background** : Bolinger (1967), Dixon (1982)

**Syntax** : Sproat and Shih (1988), Corver (1997), Alexiadou (2001), Matushansky (2002)

**Interpretation** : Stump (1981), Larson (1998),

**Temporal Interpretation and Modifiers** : Larson and Cho (2003), Ogihara (2003), Ogihara (2004)

**Extrapolation** : Guéron and May (1984), Beerman et al. (1997), Bayer (1997), Fox and Nissenbaum (1999),  
Fox (2002)

### Requirements

Active participation in class, readings, two class presentations, a two page abstract for the term paper, and the term paper itself. The abstract will be due on April 6 and the paper on May 11, the day of the last class. The second presentation should ideally be used to develop and get feedback on your term paper.

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