

EGG 2014 Debrecen

The syntax of relative clauses

syllabus

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1 Course description

The syntax of relative clauses has been a hotly debated issue for many years. The major challenge posed by relative clauses is the fact that the head noun which is modified by the relative clause plays a double role: On the one hand, it is part of the matrix clause and bears the case according to its syntactic position. On the other hand, it also plays a role inside the relative clause (semantically and syntactically). Capturing the link between the two positions has led to the postulation of several distinct analyses of RCs, the classical Head External Analysis, the Head Raising Analysis and the Matching Analysis:

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|-----|----|--|-----|
| (1) | a. | [DP D [NP [NP N] [CP Op ₁ ... V <u>__</u> ₁]]] | HEA |
| | b. | [DP D [CP [DP N ₂ [D' Op <u>__</u> ₂]] ₁ ... V <u>__</u> ₁]] | HRA |
| | c. | [DP D [NP [NP N] [CP [DP Op NP] ₁ ... V <u>__</u> ₁]]] | MA |

In the first part of the course, we will cover in detail the various analyses of restrictive relative clauses that have been proposed in the history of generative grammar, including Head Raising (Kayne 1994, Bianchi 2000, de Vries 2002, Bhatt 2002, Henderson 2007, Donati and Cecchetto 2011) and versions of the Matching Analysis (Munn 1994, Sauerland 1998, Citko 2001, Salzmann 2006). Next to the general pros and cons of the competing analyses, we will discuss reconstruction in somewhat more detail as it has become perhaps the most crucial diagnostic in recent years.

In the second part of the course, we will look at other types of relative clauses, including free relatives, correlatives, appositive relatives, and head-internal relatives. Finally, time permitting, we will have a look at Prolepsis (Salzmann 2006), resumption, and the prospects of top-down derivation for case attraction and matching in relativization.

The course will be of interest to syntacticians with a solid background in minimalist syntax and an interest in the technical aspects of derivational syntax, locality, reconstruction, case. No prior specific knowledge of the syntax of relative clauses is required, though. The goal of the course will not be to convey a particular (subjective) view on the matter but rather to focus on what makes a good syntactic argument.

2 Readings: overviews and introductions

- Alexiadou, Artemis, Paul Law, André Meinunger & Chris Wilder (2000). Introduction. Artemis Alexiadou, Paul Law, André Meinunger & Chris Wilder (eds.). *The syntax of relative clauses*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 1–51.
- Bhatt, Rajesh. 2005. *Handouts from the LOT summer school*.
<http://people.umass.edu/bhatt/752-s05/>
- Bianchi, Valentina. 2002. Headed Relative Clauses in Generative Grammar - I. *Glott International* 6:197–204.
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- Salzmann, Martin. 2006. *Resumptive prolepsis: a study in indirect A'-dependencies*. Utrecht: LOT.
<http://www.lotpublications.nl/publish/articles/001910/bookpart.pdf>
- de Vries, Mark. 2002. *The Syntax of Relativization*. Utrecht: LOT.
<http://www.let.rug.nl/dvries/pdf/proefschrift-mdevries.pdf>

3 Schedule (tentative)

- 1: Intro: Definition, parameters of variation
- 2: Analyses of RCs in the history of Generative Grammar (part 1)
 - Head-external analysis: Where is the RC attached? N or D?
 - Is the RC a complement or an adjunct?
 - The internal structure of RCs: movement, left-periphery
 - The relationship between HN and the operator
 - The raising analysis: various implementations; arguments and problems
- 3: Analyses of RCs in the history of Generative Grammar (part 2)
 - The raising analysis: more implementations and problems
 - Matching Analysis
 - The relevance of reconstruction
- 4: Correlatives (case study by Bhatt 2003)
 - How is the CorCP connected to the demonstrative?
 - Reconstruction
 - Economy condition on Merge
- 5: Appositive RCs (case study by de Vries 2006)
 - Analyses of appositive RCs
 - A coordination analysis
 - ARCs as false free relatives
- 6: Head-internal RCs
 - Is there also an external head?
 - Is there LF-movement?
- 7: Free RCs
 - Category of the FRC
 - Internal structure: position of the pronoun, is there a D-head?
 - Matching + Attraction
- 8: Resumption
 - Movement or base-generation? – various implementations
 - Distribution of resumptives
 - Resumption in Swiss German
- 9: Prolepsis
 - (2) der Mann, von dem ich glaube, dass Maria **ihn** mag
 the man of whom I believe.1s that Mary him likes
 ‘the man who I believe Mary likes’ *Standard German*
 - Is the *of*-PP an argument?
 - Base-position of the *of*-PP?
 - Licensing by predication
 - Ellipsis accounts for partial reconstruction
- 10: Case attraction and Matching as evidence for top-down derivation
 - Problems for bottom up: activity, look-ahead
 - Case checking under matching
 - Hierarchy effects

References

- Bhatt, Rajesh (2002): 'The Raising Analysis of Relative Clauses: Evidence from Adjectival Modification', *Natural Language Semantics* **10**(1), 43–90.
- Bhatt, Rajesh (2003): 'Locality in Correlatives', *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory* **21**(3), 485–541.
- Bianchi, Valentina (2000): Some issues in the Syntax of Relative Determiners. In: A. Alexiadou, P. Law, A. Meinunger and C. Wilder, eds, *The syntax of relative clauses*. Linguistik Aktuell / Linguistics Today 32, John Benjamins, Amsterdam, pp. 53–81.
- Citko, Barbara (2001): 'Deletion under Identity in Relative Clauses', *Proceedings of NELS* **31**, 131–145.
- de Vries, Mark (2002): *The Syntax of Relativization*. LOT, Utrecht.
- de Vries, Mark (2006): 'The Syntax of Appositive Relativization: On Specifying Coordination, False Free Relatives, and Promotion', *Linguistic Inquiry* **37**(2), 229–270.
- Donati, Caterina and Carlo Cecchetto (2011): 'Relabeling Heads: A Unified Account for Relativization Structures', *Linguistic Inquiry* **42**(4), 519–560.
- Henderson, Brent (2007): 'Matching and Raising Unified', *Lingua: International Review of General Linguistics* **117**(1), 202–20.
- Kayne, Richard S. (1994): *The antisymmetry of syntax*. MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass.
- Munn, Alan (1994): 'A Minimalist Account of Reconstruction Asymmetries', *Proceedings of NELS* **24**, 397–410.
- Salzmann, Martin (2006): *Resumptive prolepsis: a study in indirect A'-dependencies*. LOT, Utrecht.
- Sauerland, Uli (1998): *The Meaning of Chains*. Doctoral dissertation, MIT.