

Appendix: Relative Clause Questionnaire*

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This questionnaire is intended as an aid to eliciting different relative clause types – restrictive, non-restrictive, free, cleft. We have taken care to include examples where the head plays a variety of grammatical functions in the relative clause (subject, object, indirect object, possessor, adjunct). We have also taken care to include examples where the relative clause is in different positions in the sentence: initial, medial and extraposed. The questionnaire is intended as a guide, only, as every language will have its own set of possibilities and complications. At the end of the questionnaire is a checklist, as well as some illustrative examples in English and Swahili of the basic relative clause types. While we had Bantu languages in mind in devising the questionnaire, we hope it could also be useful to linguists with an interest in other languages.

1 Head of RC is the subject of the RC

1.1 Restrictive relative

The girls who can swim are playing by the river.

We don't know who is playing by the river.

I told them what I like to eat.

The man whose daughter is sick is taking her to the clinic.

Men who enter politics become corrupt.

The woman who has bought the farm is planning to cultivate maize.

The woman who has bought the farm is planning to cultivate this season.

* While all project members contributed to the questionnaire, special thanks go to Cédric Patin and Kristina Riedel, who were mainly responsible for coordinating suggestions and developing the final version. We would also like to thank Muhsina Alleesaib, Frédéric Laurens, Thilo Schadeberg and Tonjes Veenstra for helpful suggestions.

1.2 Non-restrictive relative

Mary, who can swim well, is my friend.

1.3 Cleft

It's the girls who are playing by the river.

It's the girls who are playing the drums.

1.4 Free relative

The one who arrived late is the doctor.

I saw the one that was coming towards me.

Who(ever) has stolen my money will have to pay for it. [test for both human and animal subject]

2 Head of RC is direct object of RC

2.1 Restrictive relative

The girls who you saw are going swimming.

The girls who Mary saw are going swimming.

The things which I took are very heavy.

The book which Mary gave me is nice.

The book which Mary gave me bores me.

The books which Mary likes bore me.

2.2 Non-restrictive relative

My brother, who you saw at the house, is a teacher.

My brother, who Mary saw at the house, is a teacher.

My brother, who Mary saw at the house, teaches English.

2.3 Cleft

It's the girls that you saw.

It's the mangoes that the children ate up.

2.4 Free relative

I know who he likes.

I told them who Mary likes.

2.5 Head of the RC is the possessor of the object

The girl whose bicycle you borrowed is here.

The girl whose bicycle you borrowed just walked past.

3 Head of RC is indirect object of RC

3.1 Restrictive relative

The girl to who(m) he gave the book is nice.

The girl to who(m) Juma gave the book is nice.

The girl to who(m) Juma gave the book will come over later.

3.2 Non-restrictive relative

Mary, to who(m) he gave the book, is nice.

Mary, to who(m) Juma gave the book, is nice.

Mary, to who(m) Juma gave the book, loves reading.

3.3 Cleft

It's the girls that she sent the presents to.

It's the girls that Mary sent the presents to.

3.4 Free relative

I know who he showed the picture to.

I know who Mary showed the picture to.

3.5 Head of the RC is the possessor of the indirect object

The boy whose friend you introduced me to is here.

The boy whose friend you introduced me to brought bananas for us.

4 Head of RC is locative, temporal or other adjunct

4.1 Restrictive relative

The day my daughter was born was the happiest day of my life.

On the day my daughter was born I worked in the morning.

The way she sings this song is very traditional.

The way she sings this song reminds me of my home village.

The shop where you can buy books is next to the bus stop.

The shop where you can buy books also sells newspapers.

The reason that she came here for is to see her mother.
The reason that she came here for worries me.
The place where I met her is close to here.
The place where I met her has been turned into farmland.
The place where we like to go on weekends is by the sea.
Land which can be used for growing food has become expensive.
Land which can be used for cultivating has become scarce in this area.
The table on which you're writing is really dirty.
I would like to visit the country where you come from.

4.2 Non-restrictive relative

Sunday, when I arrived here, it was raining all day.
In Lushoto, where I used to live, it rains a lot.

4.3 Cleft

It's on Sunday that Mary will come here.
It's in Lushoto that it rains a lot.

4.4 Free relative

I don't know where she lives.
I don't know when they will arrive.
I don't know how they got here.

5 Head of RC is an Instrumental object

The knife with which we cut the bread has become blunt.
The bucket in which we fetch water has broken.
The pot with which we cook rice has split.
The pot with which we cook rice usually won't hold enough rice for all these guests.

6 Relative verb is potentially reciprocal in form

The friend who I met last year will visit us tomorrow.
The girl she fought with is still angry.
The friends who I studied with have all got married.

7 Negative relative clauses

The girls who can't swim are playing by the river.

It's not the heat which is making me sick.

It's the girls who can't swim.

The woman who I did not introduce you to works at the bank.

The book which I did not buy was too expensive.

8 Sentential head of the RC

He hasn't come, which bothers me a lot.

What bothers me is that she has left.

9 Constructions to test the prosody of relative clauses

9.1 Non-initial or non-subject relative clauses

I saw the friend whom you invited to the party.

The students met with the teacher who they like.

I brought the knife with which he likes to cut bread.

The one who arrived late is the doctor.

They are helping me carry the things which I took from the house.

9.2 Embedded and recursive relative clauses

I asked the students who are going to the meeting to excuse me.

I asked the students who are going to the meeting which is at the main hall to excuse me.

I asked the students who are going to the meeting what time it will start.

The teachers who are on strike who have met with the headmistress are returning to work tomorrow.

The person to whom I think she has spoken lied to me.

I remember the songs which we heard our parents sing.

Those that I have eaten yesterday that were good, I took them with me to the fields.

I promised her a letter that I must not forget to write.

The cat who chased the mouse who ate the rice caught it.

It's a big book, but one which can be read fast.

9.3 Relative clauses compared to other types of clauses

The girls who can swim are playing by the river.

The girls are playing by the river.

Mary, who can swim well, is my friend.

Mary is my friend.

The man whose daughter is sick is taking her to the clinic.

The father of the sick girl is taking her to the clinic.

9.4 Combining demonstratives, modifiers, colour verbs with RCs

Those two big girls who can swim are playing by the river.

The students like the long black skirts that we bought.

Large cities which are by the ocean usually have water problems.

I know a book on this subject that she will like.

I know a book on this subject that will please her.

10 Coordination

10.1 Coordinated heads

The girls or the boys who can swim are playing by the river.

Men and women who enter politics became corrupt.

I saw the girl and the boy whom you invited to the party.

10.2 Coordinated RCs

The students who have read the book and who have finished their homework can go home.

The patients who have received their medication or who have paid their bills should come back next week.

11 Extraposed RCs (these might not be possible in every language)

The man came into the room who we all knew.

The song was sung that we all hate.

Several ideas were proposed, that were divided into two groups.

I have eaten some yesterday that were delicious.

Several persons came, of which one (came) yesterday.

12 Dislocations

The friend whom you invited (to the party), I saw him.

The teacher who we like, the students met with him.

13 Checklist

- Pay special attention to the behaviour of an overt lexical subject in object relatives (such as 2a.ii). Does the word order of the subject and the verb change?
- Pay special attention to tense. Do only some tenses appear in relative clauses? Does the relativization strategy change depending on the tense? Is there any extra morphology?
- In object relatives, is object marking on the relative verb grammatical? If so, is it obligatory?
- When the relative clause is the object of the main verb, is object marking obligatory? Check for variation and the effect on interpretation.
- Is there a complementizer? Does it always appear? How are any relative complementizer or demonstratives different from complementizers or demonstratives used elsewhere?
- Is there any conjoint/disjoint morphology?
- Is there an augment on the relative head? Is it obligatory? Does it appear with both restrictive and non-restrictive relative clauses?

14 Illustrative examples in English and Swahili

Restrictive relative clause: The friends who are going to Tervuren with us go to our university.

Marafiki	wa-na-o-kuja	Tervuren	na	sisi	wa-na-hudhuria
6.friends	SM2-PRES-RM2-come	Tervuren	with	we	SM2-PRES-attend
chuo kikuu	chetu.				
7.university	7.our				

‘The friends who are going to Tervuren with us go to our university.’

Non-restrictive relative clause: The director, who is going to Tervuren with us, will give a speech.

Mkurugenzi, ambaye a-ta-kuja Tervuren na sisi,
1.director REL.1 SM1-FUT- come Tervuren with we
a-ta-toa hotuba.
SM1-FUT-give 9.lecture
'The director, who is going to Tervuren with us, will give a speech.'

Cleft: It's the director who is going to Tervuren with us.

Ni mkurugenzi a-na-ye-kuja Tervuren na sisi.
COP 1.director SM1-PRES-RM1-come Tervuren with we
'It's the director who is going to Tervuren with us.'

Headless (free) relative: We don't know who is going to Tervuren.

Ha-tu-m-jui a-na-ye-kwenda Tervuren.
NEG-SM1P-OM1-know SM1-PRES-RM1-go Tervuren
'We don't know who is going to Tervuren.'