



Appositive clauses

Relative vs. appositive clauses

The problem that now arises seems to be quite serious.

The problem that economics is getting worse seems to be quite serious.

□ *difference(s)?*

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[relative]

The problem that economics is getting worse seems to be quite serious.

[appositive]

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[relative]

The problem that economics is getting worse seems to be quite serious.
[appositive]

In appositive clauses:

- the pronoun *that* cannot be replaced by a wh-pronoun
- the N to which the clause is attached is not included in the internal structure of the clause

General properties (1)

- *that* (no matter whether restrictive or nonrestrictive) is not an element with a subject/object/etc. function but a conjunction
e.g.: *John didn't like Mary's suggestion, even her final one, that he should abandon his plans.*
- the head of the NP it modifies is an abstract noun
e.g.: *fact, idea, news, remark, suggestion*

General properties (2)

- in apposition **in general** the apposed units can be linked by *be*

e.g.: *Unfortunatly, the fact is that she doesn't like handball.*

- the antecedent of the appositive clause is often nominalization (in restrictive, and nonrestrictive cases, too)

e.g.:

The police reported that drugs had been found.

The police report that drugs had been found (appeared in the papers yesterday.)

General properties (3)

- examples of N heads with indefinite article exist
e.g.: *A message that he would be late arrived by special delivery.*
BUT: before *facts* the definite article is obligatory
- plural heads are uncommon
e.g.: *?Her mother was worried at the possibilities that her daughter was lazy and (that she) disliked school.*
BUT: examples with *facts*

General properties (4)

- nominalization of Vs that take that-clauses with putative *should* or mandative subjunctive
 - object clause → appositive clause
 - other properties (putative *should* or mandative subjunctive) are preserved

e.g.:

The suggestion that the new rule (should) be adopted came from the chairman.

OR (discontinuous NP)

The suggestion came from the chairman that the new rule (should) be adopted.

Questions related to ambiguity (1)

- difficulties when the appositive construction is seemingly similar to the relative construction
e.g.: *A report that he stole was ultimately sent to the police.*
- solution: appositive indicators like *namely* or *viz.*
e.g.: *This last fact, namely that ...*

Questions related to ambiguity (2)

- also:

- restrictive clause, nonrestrictive premodification of antecedent head N by adjective

e.g.: *The **ugly** fact that he was holding a gun indicated his guilt.*

- nonrestrictive clause, restrictive premodification of antecedent head N by adjective

e.g.: *The **more relevant** fact, that gun hadn't been fired, was curiously ignored.*



Postmodification by nonfinite clauses



Nonfinite clause types

- *-ing* participle clauses
- *-ed* participle clauses
- infinitive clauses

Postmodification by *-ing* participle clauses (1)

- correspondance with relative clauses where the relative pronoun is the subject

e.g.:

The person who will write / will be writing / writes / is writing / wrote / was writing reports is my colleague.



The person writing reports is my colleague.

Postmodification by *-ing* participle clauses (2)

- usually restrictive
- the antecedent head corresponds to the implicit subject of the nonfinite clause

e.g.:

Reports that my colleague is writing will be discussed tomorrow.



Reports being written by my colleague will be discussed tomorrow. (passive: report is the subject)

- *-ing* forms are not to be taken as abbreviated progressives in relative clauses: stative Vs can appear in participial form

e.g.: *It was a mixture consisting of oil and vinegar. [‘that consisted of’; ‘*that was consisting of’]*

Postmodification by *-ing* participle clauses (3)

- aspectual features:

- ☐ progressive: see above
- ☐ perfective: usually impossible to be represented by nonfinite clauses

e.g.: **The lady having cooked the cake is my aunt.*

BUT: indefinite Ns tend to be more acceptable with respect to these constructions

e.g.: *?Any person having witnessed the attack is under suspicion.*

Postmodification by *-ing* participle clauses (4)

- inferring tense

- from the finite clause

e.g.: *Did you know the man talking to my sister?* [*‘who was talking to my sister’*]

- from the context

e.g.: *The man sitting next to her on that occasion* [*‘who was sitting next to her’*] ...

NOTE: in the finite clause the past tense verb indicates the tense denoted by the nonfinite clause, e.g.:

The man being questioned by the police was my brother.

= *The man who was (being) questioned is my brother.*

Postmodification by -ed participle clauses (1)

- correspondance with relative clauses where the relative pronoun is the subject (just like in the case of -ing participles)

e.g.:

*The car that **will be repaired** / **is (being repaired)** / **was (being)** repaired by that mechanic ...*



The car (being) repaired by that mechanic ...

Postmodification by *-ed* participle clauses (2)

- usually restrictive (\rightarrow *-ing*)
- the antecedent head corresponds to the implicit subject of the nonfinite clause (\rightarrow *-ing*)
- unlike *-ing* participle clauses (which are linked with the active voice), *-ed* participle constructions are in connection with the passive voice

e.g.: *The train which arrived at platform 1 is from York.*
(arrive: intransitive \rightarrow no passivization \rightarrow *-ed* participle construction is not possible)

BUT: there are exception with certain adverbs

e.g.: *The train recently arrived at platform 1 is from York.*

Postmodification by -ed participle clauses (3)

- aspectual features:

- progressive aspect

e.g.:

*The food which **was** / **has been eaten** was meant for tomorrow.*



*The food **eaten** / **having been eaten** was meant for tomorrow.*

- perfective aspect is usually not possible

e.g.: ?**The food having been eaten was meant for tomorrow.*

Postmodification by infinitive clauses (1)

The man to help you is Mr Johnson.

The man (for you) to see is Mr Johnson.

The thing (for you) to be these days is a systems analyst.

The place (for you) to stay is the university guest house.

- correspondance with relative clauses in which the relative is subject / object / adverbial (or sometimes, complement)
- subject of the infinitive (for you) is optional

Postmodification by infinitive clauses (2)

- formal cases: preposition + relative pronoun + infinitive
The place at which to stay is ...
The way in which to do it is ...
**The way which to do it in ...*
**The way to do it in ...*
- ambiguity when the subject of the infinitive is omitted and the verb can be both transitive and intransitive
e.g.: *He is the best man to choose.* (man: subj / obj)

Postmodification by infinitive clauses (3)

- active and passive voice

- only one of them is possible

e.g.: *I've got letters to write tonight.*

The animals to be found in Kenya ...

- either of the is possible

e.g.: *Give me a list of people to invite / to be invited.*

cf.: there + be + N constructions

e.g.: *There are letters to write / to be written.*

- only active with expressed subjects

e.g.: *The man for you to consult is X*

**The man for you to be consulted is X*

Postmodification by infinitive clauses (4)

- modal vs. nonmodal sense
 - antecedent is subject and has a 'restrictive marker' → nonmodal
e.g.: *They were the last guests to arrive* ['who arrived'].
 - antecedent is object → modal
e.g.: *The things to do ...* ['that we should do']

Nonrestrictive postmodification by nonfinite clauses (1)

The scholar, to be found daily in the British Museum, has devoted his life to ...

**This scholar, to find ...*

**This place, to stay ...*

- in the corresponding relative clauses the relative pronoun is the subject (in all the cases (-ing, -ed, infinitive))

Nonrestrictive postmodification by nonfinite clauses (2)

- mobility: moving of nonrestrictive nonfinite clauses to sentence-initial position is possible

→ ambiguities:

The man, wearing such dark glasses, obviously couldn't see clearly. ['who was wearing ...' / 'because he was wearing ...' / 'whenever he wore ...']

Appositive postmodification by -ing and infinitive clauses

- appositive postmodification by -ed participle clauses is not possible
- appositive postmodification by infinitive clauses
 - subject of infinitive is to be derived from context
e.g.: *The appeal to us to give blood received strong support.*
- appositive postmodification by -ing clauses
e.g.: *I'm looking for a job driving cars.*
preposition + -ing also possible (but not in finite constructions, e.g.: *the hope of winning ...* vs. *I hope that X will win...*)



Pronouns



General properties, classifications

Personal pronouns (1)

- express definite meaning
- reference
 - anaphoric
 - cataphoric
 - situational

Personal pronouns (2)

- referring 'it'
 - inanimate objects
 - noncount substances
 - singular abstractions or collections of people
 - whole sentence(s)
- 'prop it'
 - to denote time, place of event, state

e.g.: *It is rainy; It is getting late.*
- special uses of *we*

inclusive authorial, editorial, rhetorical *we*; reference to hearer (e.g.:
How are we feeling today? (doctor to patient))

Personal pronouns (3)

■ anaphoric vs. cataphoric reference

- requirement: the constituent to which reference is made by the pronoun must have precedence over the pronoun
- if cataphoric possible, anaphoric is possible, too

■ modification, determination

- restrictive modification of pronouns works with:
 - he, she (but archaic)
 - plural demonstrative pronouns (*those who ...* vs. **they who ...*)
 - 1st and 2nd person pronouns: with rhetorical/emotive (*silly you; we doctors; you to whom I owe my happiness, you there, etc.*)
- personal pronouns do not occur with determiners (**the he*)

Personal pronouns (4)

- generic uses

- *he* in coreference with a singular generic NP
e.g.: *Ever since he found a need to communicate, man has been the ‘speaking animal’.*
- *one*, plural pronouns to refer to people in general
e.g.: *We live in fast world.*
You can never tell what will happen.

Personal pronouns (5)

- pronouns with coordinated antecedents

Mary and I have finished our work.

If you, Mary, and I have already finished, we can have lunch.

- order of precedence: 1st person, 2nd person, 3rd person

Reflexive pronouns (1)

- end in *-self*, *-selves*
- can function as (direct/indirect) object, (subject/prepositional) complement, appositional phrase
They helped themselves.
He is not himself today.
We couldn't come ourselves.

Reflexive pronouns (2)

■ basic use

He_i saw him_j / himself_i in the mirror.

*She_i asked him_j to introduce himself_j / *herself_i.*

*Help yourselves / *ourselves / themsleves.*

Reflexive pronouns (3)

- **obligatory reflexive pronoun** as object (when coreference applies)

- ☐ with reflexive verbs

e.g.: *She always prides herself.*

- ☐ with semi-reflexive verbs (i.e. the reflexive may be omitted)

e.g.: *Behave (yourself) now!*

- ☐ with nonreflexive verbs (i.e. transitives but do not require reflexives)

e.g.: *John blamed himself.*

but see: *Mary's mother gets her / herself up before 8.*

Reflexive pronouns (4)

- **obligatory reflexive pronoun** after preposition (when coreference applies)
 - with prepositional objects (with prepositional complements that have close relation to the preceding verb)
e.g.: *Mary stood looking at herself in the mirror.*
 - with prepositional phrases following a N which refers to a work of art, story, etc.
e.g.: *Do you have a recent photograph of yourself?*

Reflexive pronouns (5)

- **optional reflexive pronoun** (i.e. it can be replaced by the ordinary objective pronoun)
 - in some spatial prepositional phrases
e.g.: Mason stepped back, gently closed the door behind him(self), and walked down the corridor.
 - in semi-emphatic use

Reflexive pronouns (6)

- semi-emphatic reflexives

- after prepositions *like, than, (as...) as, but (for), except (for), and as for*

e.g.: *Except for us / ourselves, the whole dorm was asleep.*

- when the reflexive pronoun is coordinated with another phrase

e.g.: *They have never invited Margaret and me / myself to dinner.*

My sister and I / myself went sailing yesterday.

Reflexive pronouns (7)

- emphatic reflexives

e.g.: *I myself wouldn't go there.*

- ☐ mobility of positioning the reflexive pronoun
- ☐ to express 'speaking personally' or to show contrast with respect to other object/person

e.g.: *I'd prefer you to do the job yourself, rather than to leave it to John.*

Possessive pronouns

- determinative vs. independent possessives

(*my, your*, etc. vs. *mine, yours*, etc.)

- emphatic determinative *own*

possessives have no (modifiers or) determiners except for *own* (=determiner)

- ☐ disambiguating function

John_i cooks his_{i,j} dinner every day. vs. *John cooks his own dinner every day.*

- ☐ can be intensified by *very*

Reciprocal pronouns (1)

- *each other, one another*

John and Mary kissed themselves. vs. John and Mary kissed each other.

- correlative use possible

e.g.: They each blamed the other.

The passengers disembarked one after the other.

- *each other*: tend to refer to two, informal
- *one another*: tend to refer to more than two, formal

Reciprocal pronouns (2)

- verbs that are symmetrical and reciprocal do not necessarily require the reciprocal pronoun
e.g.: *John and Mary met (each other) in York.*
- while other verbs require the reciprocal pronoun to express reciprocity
e.g.: *John and Mary wrote letters to each other.*
≠ *John and Mary wrote letters.*

Reciprocal pronouns (3)

- reciprocal pronouns cannot be used in subject position, they must have coreference with an antecedent with genitive or possessive

e.g.:

**Each other's letter were delivered by the servant.*

vs.

Their letters to each other were delivered by the servant.

Relative pronouns

- they introduce relative clauses
- *wh*-pronouns, *that* and zero
 - no number or person contrast
 - gender contrast: *who* – *which* (personal – nonpersonal)
 - case construct: *who* – *whom* – *whose* (subjective – objective – genitive)
 - *whose*: can be nonpersonal as well
e.g.: *the house whose roof damaged*
~ *the house the roof of which damaged* OR *the house of which the roof damaged*
- *who* and *whom* (formal vs. informal uses, substitution of *whom*, *who* and *whom* as prepositional complements)

Interrogative pronouns (1)

- determinative function (*who, whom, what, which*),
pronoun function (*whose, what, which*)
- unlike relative *which*, interrogative *which* can be used for
personal reference (e.g.: see below)
- indefinite vs. definite reference

Who is your favourite composer? vs. *Which is your
favourite composer?*

which: choosing one from a defined 'set'

Interrogative pronouns (2)

- *who, whom, whose*

- ☐ personal-nonpersonal, formal-informal distinction
- ☐ *whose*: personal only, as interrogative
- ☐ prepositional complement only before *whom* (deferred is possible with both *who* and *whom*)

- *what, which*

- ☐ prepositional complement: initial (→formal) or deferred

Demonstrative pronouns

- 'near'
sg: *this* pl: *these*
- 'distant'
sg: *that* pl: *those*
- they all have definite meaning → anaphoric/cataphoric (except for *that* and *those*)/situational reference
- *all (of)* as predeterminer
e.g.: *All (of) those are sold.*