

Syntax of Relative Clauses. Syllabus

SoSe 2026, Universität Potsdam

Thursday, 12:15-14:45, Golm, Haus 14, room 0.35

Mariia Privizentseva (*mariia.privizentseva@uni-potsdam.de*)

Office hours: by appointment

Description

- This course explores the syntax of relative clauses, covering key types such as internally-headed, externally-headed, and correlative constructions. It introduces major theoretical analyses—including head-external, matching, and raising approaches—and examines connectivity diagnostics used to determine underlying syntactic structure. The course provides an introduction into \bar{A} syntax and the interaction between case and movement.

Requirements

- To pass the class you need to fulfill the following requirements:
 1. Do the readings and actively participate in a discussion! This is a seminar, not a lecture.
 2. Present one of the papers from the syllabus in a class, presentation should take ca. 45-50 mins and will be followed by the discussion.
 - Pick the paper you will present as soon as possible and sign in the google sheet available on Moodle.
 - Make sure you understood the paper before doing a presentation, figure out what are the most important points and summarize them.
 - Practice your presentation at home before doing it in class!
 3. Submit the home assignments.
 - The assignment will be released on June 15 and you will have time until July 20 to complete it. The correct answers will be discussed in the final class of the semester.
- If you want to take an exam in this class, you need to write a 10 page research paper that relates to one of the topics we will be discussing. You will have to register for the exam on the Puls platform by September 30.

Program

Date	Topic	Reading
Apr 16	<i>no class</i>	
Apr 23	<i>no class</i>	
Apr 30	Introduction	
May 7	Raising derivation	Bianchi 2000, pp. 33-54, 108-130
May 14	<i>no class – Ascension</i>	
May 21	Raising and matching	Sauerland 1998, ch. 1-2
May 28	Raising by reprojection	Donati & Cecchetto 2011
June 04	Raising only	Sportiche 2017
June 11	Matching only	Salzmann 2018
June 18	Raising and locality	Sichel 2018; Hulsey & Sauerland 2006, sec. 1-2
June 25	Internally-headed relatives	Hiraiwa et al. 2017
July 2	Correlatives	Srivastav 1991
July 9	Correlatives and locality	Bhatt 2003
July 16	Matching in free relatives	Himmelreich 2017, parts of ch. 1-3
July 23	Free relatives plus nanosyntax	Bergsma 2019
make-up class	Home assignment review	

References

- Bergsma, Fenna (2019): Mismatches in Free Relatives – Grafting Nanosyntactic Trees, *Glossa: A Journal of General Linguistics* 4(1), 119.
- Bhatt, Rajesh (2003): Locality in Correlatives, *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory* 21(3), 485–541.
- Bianchi, Valentina (2000): *Consequences of Antisymmetry: Headed Relative Clauses*. Mouton de Gruyter, Berlin.
- Deal, Amy Rose (2016): Cyclicity and Connectivity in Nez Perce Relative Clauses, *Linguistic Inquiry* 47(3), 427–470.
- Donati, Caterina & Carlo Cecchetto (2011): Relabeling Heads: A Unified Account for Relativization Structures, *Linguistic Inquiry* 42(4), 519–560.
- Himmelreich, Anke (2017): Case Matching Effects in Free Relatives and Parasitic Gaps: A Study on the Properties of Agree. PhD thesis, Universität Leipzig, Leipzig.
- Hiraiwa, Ken, George Akanlig-Pare, Samuel Atintono, Adams Bodomo, Komi Essizewa & Fusheini Hudu (2017): A Comparative Syntax of Internally-Headed Relative Clauses in Gur, *Glossa: A Journal of General Linguistics* 2(1), 27.
- Hulsey, Sarah & Uli Sauerland (2006): Sorting Out Relative Clauses, *Natural Language Semantics* 14, 111–137.
- Salzmann, Martin (2018): A New Version of the Matching Analysis: Combining Deletion under

- Recoverability with Vehicle Change. In: M. Krifka & M. Schenner, eds., *Reconstruction Effects in Relative Clauses*. Vol. 75 of *Studia Grammatica*, Mouton de Gruyter, Berlin, pp. 187–223.
- Sauerland, Uli (1998): The Meaning of Chains. PhD thesis, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- Sichel, Ivy (2018): Anatomy of a Counterexample: Extraction from Relative Clauses, *Linguistic Inquiry* 49, 335–378.
- Sportiche, Dominique (2017): Relative Clauses. Manuscript, University of California, Los Angeles.
- Srivastav, Veneeta (1991): The Syntax and Semantics of Correlatives, *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory* 9, 637–686.