

October 13, 2003

CLASS 22: CLAUSAL PHRASE STRUCTURE

CLAUSAL STUFF AROUND NON-VERBS

No big surprise: verbs aren't the only guys around that take clausal complements!

- (1) a. [NP The *student* [S, who drew the tree correctly]] wants to do more syntax.
b. Another student is [AdjP *happy* [S, to learn more about poetry]] .
- (2) a. All students rely / *insist [PP on [S, what somebody writes about syntax]] .
b. All students *rely / insist [PP on [S, somebody writing something about syntax]] .
c. *All students rely / insist [PP on [S, that somebody writes something about syntax]] .

RELATIVE VS. COMPLEMENT CLAUSES WITHIN NP

Clauses around a noun may be **modifiers (relative clauses)** or **complement clauses**.

- (2) a. [NP The *fact* [S, **that** syntax is fun]] is not know by everyone.
b. [NP The *structures* [S, **which/that** the instructor discusses]] are well known.
c. [NP The *students* [S, **who/that** the instructor teaches]] enjoy syntax very much.

We typically distinguish **restrictive** relative clauses from **non-restrictive** ones.

- (3) a. [NP The *students* [S, **who** passed the exam]] are relieved.
b. [NP The *students* , [S, **who** passed the exam]] , are relieved.

In class we also discuss the **optionality/obligatoriness of a relative pronoun/complementizer**.

COMPLEMENT CLAUSES WITHIN AdjP

As we saw last class, **adjectives may take complements** — no surprise: these can be **clauses**.

- (4) a. The students were [AdjP *sure* [S, what to do]] .
b. The students were [AdjP *unhappy* [S, that class finished early]] .
c. The instructor is [AdjP *proud* [S, to have passed so many students]] .

Further readings:

More extensive discussion can be found in Brinton 2000: Ch. 9 (pp. 216-224, 229-236, 239-255).

Readings for next class:

📖 van Gelderen 2002: Ch. 11 plus Review (pp. 181-194) — think about question/review period