

April 11, 2006

CLASS 24: RELATIVE CLAUSES

N-MODIFIERS

In general, relative clauses modify *nouns*; they can appear as *wh-* or *non-wh-*RCs.

- (1) a. [_{NP} The film [*which* I wanted]] doesn't exist.
b. [_{NP} The film [*that* I wanted]] doesn't exist.
c. [_{NP} The film [\emptyset I wanted]] doesn't exist.

The *relativized element* can have a range of functions:

- subject
- object
- complement of P
- adjunct of time / place / reason

But the relativized part can be a full *relative phrase* as well:

- (2) a. She hasn't been able to contact [_{NP} the people [*whose house* she's renting]].
b. This is [_{NP} the article [*from which* they were quoting]].
c. He set us [_{NP} a problem [*the answer to which* can be found in the textbook]].

INTEGRATED VS SUPPLEMENTARY

- (3) a. Politicians *who make extravagant promises* aren't trusted. *integrated*
b. Politicians, *who make extravagant promises*, aren't trusted. *supplementary*

- intonation / punctuation
- interpretation
- syntax

The *antecedent of supplementary RCs* doesn't have to be a noun (it can be a clause), and *which* can act as a *determinative* (whereas in integrated RCs it's always a pronominal):

- (4) a. Max arrived late, *which* caused some delay.
b. This will keep us busy until Friday, *by which* time the boss will be back.

