

Relative Clauses in Dutch

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1. Strategy 1: the use of a pronoun.

- (1) De broek die ik wil dragen.
DET.M trouser that 1SG want.1SG.PRES wear.INF
'The trousers that I want to wear.'

1a. The relative clause is finite. The verb form occurring in the relative clause may correctly occur in a main clause. Consider (2) for example:

- (2) Ik wil deze broek dragen.
1SG want.1SG.PRES DET.DEM trouser wear.INF
'I want to wear these trousers.'

1b. The relativized NP (hereafter, NP_{rel}) is expressed as a relative pronoun within the relative clause. For example, 'die' is used in (1).

1c. There is no subordinator used in this strategy.

1d. The position of the relative clause with respect to the head noun is post-nominal, as in (1). In Dutch, a relative clause always follows its antecedent [1].

1e. Broekhuis indicates that "noun phrases modified by a restrictive relative clause can fulfill a variety of syntactic functions in the clause: subject, (in-)direct object, PP-complement, predicate and adverbial phrase" [2]. I will, however, try and answer the question using the terminology given in the instructions for this exercise.

For this strategy, the head noun may occupy the function of Patient/Not Subject (1), subject (3), recipient (4), oblique (5), or possessor (6) in the relative clause.

- (3) De man die daar woon-t speel-t goed piano.
DET.M man who there live-3SG play-3SG good piano
'The man who lives there plays the piano well.'

- (4) Ik geef de prijs aan de persoon die de
wedstrijd heeft ge-wonnen.
1SG give.1SG.PRES DET.N prize DET.N person who DET.N competition
AUX-3SG PST.PTCP-win
'I will give the prize to the person who won the competition.'
- (5) De vrouw aan wie John het boek gaf.
DET.N woman to who John DET.M book give.3SG.PST
'The woman that John gave the book to.'
- (6) De vrouw wiens boek de man las.
DET.N woman whose book DET.M man read.3SG.PST
'The woman whose book the man read.'

Interestingly, there are also long-distance, or extraposition, of relative clauses in Dutch as seen in (7) [1]. According to our criteria this is not considered a separate strategy.

- (7) Ik heb gisteren de man ontmoet die naast me woon-t.
1SG have.AUX.1SG yesterday DET.M man meet.PST who next 1SG.DAT live-3.SG
'Yesterday I met the man who lives next to me.'

2. Strategy 2: the use of the present participle in *-end* (prenominal)

[3] [4].

2a. Non-finite.

2b. NP_{rel} is expressed by a gap.

2c. No subordinator is used.

2d. The relative clause is prenominal.

2e. The head noun may be the Subject/Agent within the relative clause (8) if the verb is intransitive or (di-)transitive, or Oblique (theme) if the verb is unaccusative (9) [3].

- (8) De lach-ende jongen.
DET.M laugh-PRS.PTCP boy
'The laughing boy.'
- (9) De vallen-de blader-en.
DET.M fall-PRS.PTCP leaf-PL
'The falling leaves.'

3. Strategy 3: the use of the present participle in *-end* (postnominal)
[5].

3a. Non-finite.

3b. NP_{rel} is expressed by a gap.

3c. This strategy does not make use of a subordinator.

3d. The relative clause is postnominal.

3e. The head noun may be the Subject/Agent within the relative clause (10) if the verb is intransitive or (di-)transitive, or Oblique (theme) if the verb is unaccusative [3].

- (10) Mensen werk-end voor hem zijn niet zeker van hun baan.
People work-PRS.PTCP for DAT.3SG be.3PL.PRS NEG sure for POSS.3PL job
'People working for him are not certain of their job.'

4. Strategy 4: past passive participle [3] [4].

- (11) De ge-vallen-e blader-en
DET PST.PTCP-fall-PTCP leaf-PL
'The fallen leaves.'

4a. The relative clause is non-finite.

4b. This strategy makes use of a gap.

4c. No subordinator is used.

4d. It is prenominal.

4e. Patient/Not Subject.

References

- [1] BROEKHUIS, H. DEN DIKKEN, M. (2012). Syntax of Dutch Nouns and Noun Phrases Volume 1. Amsterdam University Press. p.461.
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- [4] HENGELVELD, K. (2020). Comments on Questionnaire. Canvas Communication.
- [5] BROEKHUIS, H. DEN DIKKEN, M. (2012). Syntax of Dutch Nouns and Noun Phrases Volume 1. Amsterdam University Press. p.561.