
Analysis 2: Relative clauses in Italian

1. Student name: Bilge Sen
2. Student number: 12307858
3. Language: Italian

The language examples in this paper are provided by personal communication with a native speaker of Italian, Giovanni Legname, and Patota, G. (2014). *Grammatica di riferimento dell'Italiano contemporaneo*. Novara: De Agostini Scuola – Garzanti linguistica. The glossings and English translations are done by me, as the Italian grammar book is written in Italian. The square brackets in the language samples mark a relative clause.

According to Patota (2014), Italian always uses a relative pronoun when constructing relative clauses. However, according to the definitions used in syntax, Italian uses two forms of relativizations for the NP: gapping and relative pronouns. The relative pronouns used in relative clauses are divided into invariable and variable forms. These two groups are explained in (1).

(1) Italian relative pronouns

Invariable

When referring to a subject or object complement → *che* (what, that, which)

When referring to indirect complements → prepositions + *cui* (what, that, which, whom)

Variable

When referring to a subject or direct/indirect object complement → preposition + article + *quale* (which). The form of *quale* varies depending on number and gender, as does the necessary article.

Patota, G. (2014). *Grammatica di riferimento dell'Italiano contemporaneo*. Novara: De Agostini Scuola – Garzanti linguistica.

Examples of both types of relative pronouns are given in the following strategies.

4. Strategy 1 and its uses

- a. Finite
- b. Form of relativized NP: gapping
- c. Subordinate (**che**)
- d. Postnominal
- e. Subject (2), Patient/Not Subject (3)

- (2) Cerc-o un albergo [**che** non cost-a tropp-o]
Look-1SG INDF.SG.M hotel that NEG cost-3SG too.much-SG.M
'I'm looking for a hotel that doesn't cost too much.' (Patota, G. (2014). *Grammatica di riferimento dell'Italiano contemporaneo*. Novara: De Agostini Scuola – Garzanti linguistica.p.208)

- (3) Questo è l'albergo [che vole-vo]
 This be.3SG DEF.SG.M-hotel that want-1SG.PST
 'This is the hotel that I wanted.' (Patota, G. (2014). *Grammatica di riferimento dell'Italiano contemporaneo*. Novara: De Agostini Scuola – Garzanti linguistica.p.208)

Strategy 2 and its uses

- Finite
- Form of relativized NP: relative pronoun (preposition + cui, preposition + quale)
- No subordinate
- Postnominal
- Subject (4), Recipient (5), Oblique(/here:Instrument) (6), Possessor (7)

- (4) (5) La ragazza [di cui ti ho parla-to]
 DEF.SG.F girl of which REFL.2SG have.AUX.PST.1SG speak-PST.PRTCP
 'The girl of whom I talked to you (about).' (Patota, G. (2014). *Grammatica di riferimento dell'Italiano contemporaneo*. Novara: De Agostini Scuola – Garzanti linguistica.p.208)

- (5) La donna [a cui l'uomo ha dat-o il coltello]
 DEF.SG.F woman PREP whom DEF.SG.M-man have.AUX.PST.3SG give-PST.PRTCP DEF.SG.M knife
 'The woman that the man gave the knife to' (Legname, G. Personal Communication)

- (6) Il coltello [con cui l'uomo ha taglia-to il pomodoro]
 DEF.S.M knife with which DEF.SG.M-man have.AUX.PST.3SG cut-PST.PRTCP DEF.M tomato
 'The knife with which the man cut the tomato' (Legname,G. Personal Communication)

- (7) Pu-ò telefonare a un nostro funzionario [il numero
 able-3SG.FUT to.call PREP PREP INDF.SG.M our officer DEF.SG.M number
 del quale si trova su-lla rubrica dell-azienda]
 PREP.DEF.SG.M. which 3SG.REFL. find.3SG on-DEF.SG.F address.book DEF.PREP.F-company
 'You can call one of our officers, whose number can be found in the company's address book.' (Patota, G. (2014). *Grammatica di riferimento dell'Italiano contemporaneo*. Novara: De Agostini Scuola – Garzanti linguistica.p.209)

Strategy 3 and its uses

- a. Non-Finite
- b. Form of relativized NP: relative pronoun (preposition + cui, preposition + quale)
- c. No subordinate
- d. Postnominal
- e. Recipient (8), Oblique (9)

(8) Vo-glio una ragazza **a cui** fare regal-i
Want-1SG INDF.SG.F girlfriend PREP which to.do present-PL.M
'I want a girlfriend to whom give presents.' (Legname, G. Personal Communication)

(9) Non ho nessuno [**con cui** parlare]
NEG have.AUX.PST.1SG nobody with which to.talk
'I don't have anyone to talk with' (Patota, G. (2014). *Grammatica di riferimento dell'Italiano contemporaneo*. Novara: De Agostini Scuola – Garzanti linguistica.p.215)

REFERENCES

Legname, G. Personal Communication

Patota, G. (2014). *Grammatica di riferimento dell'Italiano contemporaneo*. Novara: De Agostini Scuola – Garzanti linguistica.