
Instructions Analysis 2: Relative clauses

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Introduction

This document describes five relativization strategies used in Italian (only restrictive, non-headless relative clauses were included). When taken together the following stands out:

- 1) all roles in the accessibility hierarchy (Hengeveld 2020: 39-45) are accessible to relativization;
- 2) the position of the relative clause with respect to the head is postnominal in all strategies;
- 3) no strategy combines a subordinator with a relative pronoun and strategy 5) uses neither;
- 4) the form of the relativized NP in the relative clause is either a gap (three strategies) or a relative pronoun (two strategies);¹
- 5) two strategies use a finite verb in the relative clause and three a non-finite verb.

No *Mouton grammar* is available for Italian. As an alternative two other grammars (as listed in the bibliography) were used for this analysis. All examples included in this document have either been taken from these grammars or have been checked by native speaker Mauro Scorretti. Since the grammars nor Scorretti provided glosses, the glosses in this document are mine. Please note that only information that was specifically relevant for the topic at hand was glossed, all other information was simply translated in English.

For ease of reading, the relative pronouns “*cui*” (typically preceded by a preposition) and “*il quale*” (always preceded by a preposition and inflected for number and gender of its antecedent) in the examples have been translated as “which” when their antecedent was non-human and as “whom/whose” when their antecedent was human, both in line with English grammar. However, in Italian these relative pronouns can refer to both humans and non-humans and therefore do not provide information on this aspect of their antecedent. Glossing these relative pronouns proved to be a challenge, in the first place because the two components of “*il quale*” must together be seen as the relative pronoun, while “*cui*” stands on its own, but most importantly because they commonly achieve their full meaning together with the prepositions that typically (“*cui*”) or always (“*il quale*”) precede them (in those cases neither the relative pronouns, nor the prepositions carry the relativization meaning on their own). This has led to somewhat complicated glosses, but they seem to do most justice to the meaning of these relative pronouns (in combination with their preceding prepositions).

Finally, in the examples the following abbreviations were introduced to complement the abbreviations included in the Leipzig Glossing Rules:

- MOD modal
- PREP preposition
- REC recipient
- RELPR relative pronoun

¹ Please note that pronoun retention is only used in informal colloquial (non-standard) Italian (Scorretti: personal communication) and is therefore not included in this document.

1) Strategy 1 and its uses

- a) *Is the relative clause finite or non-finite?*
Finite
- b) *What is the form of the relativized NP within the relative clause (gapping, pronoun retention, relative pronoun, non-reduction)?*
Gapping
- c) *Is a subordinator used? (NB a relative pronoun does not count as a subordinator!)*
Yes, the subordinator “che”
- d) *What is the position of the relative clause with respect to the head (prenominal, postnominal, circumnominal)?*
Postnominal
- e) *For this strategy, what are the functions the head noun may have within the relative clause?*
 - i) Subject yes
 - ii) Patient/Not Subject yes
 - iii) Recipient no
 - iv) Other Oblique no
 - v) Possessor no
- f) Examples

- i) Subject (Patota 2006: 208)

Cerco un albergo che non costi troppo
I look for a hotel REL not costs too much
“I look for a hotel that does not cost too much”

- ii) Patient/Not Subject (Patota 2006: 208)

Questo è l'albergo che volevo
this is the hotel REL I wanted
“This is the hotel that I wanted”

2) Strategy 2 and its uses

- a) *Is the relative clause finite or non-finite?*
Non-finite
- b) *What is the form of the relativized NP within the relative clause (gapping, pronoun retention, relative pronoun, non-reduction)?*
Gapping
- c) *Is a subordinator used? (NB a relative pronoun does not count as a subordinator!)*
Yes, the subordinator “da” or “a”
- d) *What is the position of the relative clause with respect to the head (prenominal, postnominal, circumnominal)?*
Postnominal
- e) *For this strategy, what are the functions the head noun may have within the relative clause?*
 - i) Subject yes
 - ii) Patient/Not Subject yes (with “da”)
 - iii) Recipient no
 - iv) Other Oblique no
 - v) Possessor no

f) Examples

i) Subject (Scorretti, personal communication)

(1) *Le persone da invitare sono già andate a casa*
the persons REL.MOD to invite are already gone to house
“The persons (that have) to be invited have already gone home”

(2) *Federico è stato il primo di noi a partire*
Federico was the first of us REL to leave
“Federico was the first of us to leave”

ii) Patient/Not Subject (Scorretti, personal communication)

Ho trovato qualcosa da mangiare
I have found something REL.MOD to eat
“I have found something to eat”

3) Strategy 3 and its uses

a) *Is the relative clause finite or non-finite?*

Finite

b) *What is the form of the relativized NP within the relative clause (gapping, pronoun retention, relative pronoun, non-reduction)?*

Relative pronoun; in this strategy the following relative pronouns (the first one typically and the second one always preceded by a preposition) are used: “cui”, “il quale”, “dove” (= “ove”)

c) *Is a subordinator used? (NB a relative pronoun does not count as a subordinator!)*

No

d) *What is the position of the relative clause with respect to the head (prenominal, postnominal, circumnominal)?*

Postnominal

e) *For this strategy, what are the functions the head noun may have within the relative clause?*

i) Subject no

ii) Patient/Not Subject no

iii) Recipient yes (with “cui”, “preposition + cui”, “preposition + il quale”)

iv) Other Oblique yes (with “cui”, “preposition + cui”, “preposition + il quale”, “dove”)

v) Possessor yes (with “cui”, “preposition + il quale”)

f) Examples

i) Recipient (Patota 2006: 208)

(1) (Scorretti, personal communication)

La ragazza cui ho prestato i libri
the girl RELPR.REC I have lent the books
“The girl to whom I have lent the books”

(2) (Patota 2006: 208)

La ragazza [a cui] ho prestato i libri
the girl PREP.REC RELPR I have lent the books
“The girl to whom I have lent the books”

(3) (Scorretti, personal communication)

La ragazza al-[la quale]RELPR ho prestato i libri
the girl.F.SG PREP.REC-DEF.F.SG whom.SG I have lent the books
“The girl to whom I have lent the books”

ii) Other oblique

(1) (Patota 2006: 208)

Diamo l'elenco delle associazioni cui ci si rivolgere
we give the list of the associations RELPR.OBL you yourself turn
“We give the list of the associations to which you (should) turn”

(2) (Patota 2006: 208)

Diamo l'elenco delle associazioni [a cui] ci si rivolgere
we give the list of the associations PREP.OBL RELPR you yourself turn
“We give the list of the associations to which you (should) turn”

(3) (Patota 2006: 208)

Sarebbe questo il ristorante elegante [di cui] mi
would be this the restaurant elegant PREP.OBL RELPR to me

hai parlato?
you have spoken

“Would this be / is this the elegant restaurant of which you have spoken to me?”

(4) (Scorretti, personal communication)

L'albero de-[l quale]RELPR ti ho parlato
the tree.M.SG PREP.OBL-DEF.M.SG which.SG to you I have spoken
“The tree of which I have spoken to you”

(5) (Patota 2006: 213)

Non voglio vivere in una casa dove non c'è luce
not I want to live in a house RELPR.OBL not there is light
“I do not want to live in a house where there is no light”

iii) Possessor

(1) (Edström et al. 2003: 86)

Le signore al-la cui beneficenza facciamo appello
the women PREP-DEF.F.SG RELPR.POSS beneficence.F.SG we do appeal
“The women to whose beneficence we appeal”²

(2) Edström et al. 2003: 86)

Le signore alla beneficenza del-[le quali]RELPR facciamo
the women.F.PL on the beneficence PREP.POSS-DEF.F.PL whom.PL we do

appello
appeal

“The women to whose beneficence we appeal”

² Please note that in this possessive construction the article is not part of the relative pronoun and agrees with the noun following the relative pronoun, not with the antecedent of the relative pronoun.

(3) (Patota 2006: 209)

Può telefonare a un nostro funzionario, il numero
 you can call a our officer.M.SG the number

de-[/ quale] RELPR si trova sulla rubrica dell' azienda
 PREP.POSS-DEF.M.SG whose itself find in the list of the company

"You can call one of our officers, whose number is included in the list of the company"

4) Strategy 4 and its uses

a) *Is the relative clause finite or non-finite?*

Non-finite

b) *What is the form of the relativized NP within the relative clause (gapping, pronoun retention, relative pronoun, non-reduction)?*

Relative pronoun; in this strategy the following relative pronouns are used: "*cui*" (preceded by a preposition), "*il quale*" (preceded by a preposition)

c) *Is a subordinator used? (NB a relative pronoun does not count as a subordinator!)*

No

d) *What is the position of the relative clause with respect to the head (prenominal, postnominal, circumnominal)?*

Postnominal

e) *For this strategy, what are the functions the head noun may have within the relative clause?*

- i) *Subject* no
- ii) *Patient/Not Subject* no
- iii) *Recipient* yes
- iv) *Other Oblique* yes
- v) *Possessor* no

f) Examples (Patota 2006: 215)

i) Recipient (Scoretti, personal communication)

Non vedo nessuno [a cui] dare il libro
 not I see no one PREP.REC RELPR to give the book
 "I do not see anyone to whom [I can] give the book"

Non vedo nessuno a-[/ quale] RELPR dare il libro
 not I see no one.M.SG PREP.REC-DEF.M.SG whom.SG to give the book
 "I do not see anyone to whom [I can] give the book"

ii) Other oblique

(1) (Patota 2006: 215)

Non ho nessuno [con cui] parlare
 not I have no one PREP.OBL RELPR to talk
 "I do not have anyone to talk with"

(2) (Scoretti, personal communication)

Qualcuno co-[/ quale] RELPR scambiare due parole
 someone.M.SG PREP.OBL-DEF.M.SG whom.SG exchange two words
 "Someone with whom I can have a quick chat"

5) **Strategy 5 and its uses**

- a) *Is the relative clause finite or non-finite?*
Non-finite
- b) *What is the form of the relativized NP within the relative clause (gapping, pronoun retention, relative pronoun, non-reduction)?*
Gapping
- c) *Is a subordinator used? (NB a relative pronoun does not count as a subordinator!)*
No
- d) *What is the position of the relative clause with respect to the head (prenominal, postnominal, circumnominal)?*
Postnominal
- e) *For this strategy, what are the functions the head noun may have within the relative clause?*
 - i) *Subject* yes
 - ii) *Patient/Not Subject* no
 - iii) *Recipient* no
 - iv) *Other Oblique* no
 - v) *Possessor* no
- f) *Examples*

- i) Subject (of an implicit passive sentence, therefore also patient or theme) (Patota 2006: 113)

Il pacco spedito da Palermo non è ancora arrivato
the package sent from Palermo not is yet arrived
“The package sent from Palermo has not yet arrived”

- ii) Subject (in an active sentence with unaccusative verb) (Scorretti, personal communication)

Le persone arrivate da poco possono rivolgersi alla segretaria
the persons arrived just they can turn to to the secretary
“The persons that have just arrived can turn to the secretary”

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