

Clause combining: Parameters, Continua

Nicole Nau (UAM Poznań)
Academia Grammaticorum
Salensis Sexta, Salos August 2009

Formal aspects of clause linkage

- integration into one structure,
(in)dependency of the clauses
- presence or absence of a linking
element, and its characteristics
- word order in each clause, and
order of the clause
- finiteness, deranking of predicate
- interlacing

Integration, (in)dependency: illocutionary force

- Parataxis: both clauses have independent illocutionary force:
[John is in Vilnius] and / but / so [Jim is in Riga].
[John is in Vilnius] and / but / so [where is Jim?]
- Embedding: complex has 1 illocutionary force
I know [John is in Vilnius] .
Do you know [Jim is in Riga] ?

- Hypotaxis

John is in Vilnius [because he works there].

Is Jim in Riga [because he works there]?

compare:

Does Jim live in Riga? Because he works there.

John lives in Vilnius, [where [he is working at a bank].

Jim lives in Riga, [where [he is doing what?]

No linking morpheme

- Parataxis
Trade is expanded to all corners of the world: Latvian pines become masts for English warships. (23)
- Embedding: with gap (shared participant)
This is [the one beer garden [] we would whole-heartedly recommend to families]]. (24)
- Hypotaxis: with non-finite verb
Commerce and industry develop rapidly in Riga, making it the third most vital industrial city in Tsarist Russia. (5)

Semantic linker: adverbs, particles

It's no longer a state secret how much Eastern Europe's pristine environment has been polluted over the past half century as a result of negligent Soviet industrialisation policies. Latvia is by no means an exception. **However**, this devastating blow to the country's rivers, streams, and coastlines had a silver lining. Grassroots organisations, such as the Environmental Protection Club (VAK), protested against these policies in the 1980s and put the first dent in the Soviet wall of oppression. Most of the polluted areas of Latvia have been effectively cleaned up and are now safe for the public to enjoy.

Unfortunately, air quality in Riga is still not the best. (25)

Correlative connectives

- If you're looking for a hip eatery/bar serving pastas, a dozen or so wraps, pizza, breakfast served all day and even baked potatoes with various toppings **then** pay a visit to John Lemon.
- This centrally located hostel is run by an expat tour operator, so **not only** will you have a comfortable bed, **but** you'll **also** be able to book activities on the spot [...].

Word order in linked clauses: German

- Clause combining with V2

Er war reich, deshalb heiratete sie ihn.

'He was rich, therefore she married him.'

Er war reich, und sie heiratete ihn.

'He was rich, and she married him'

Sie heiratete ihn, denn er war reich.

'She married him, for he was rich.'

Word order in linked clauses: German

- Clause combining and embedding with VL

Er war reich, weswegen sie ihn heiratete.
'He was rich, wherefore she married him.'

Sie heiratete ihn, weil er reich war.
'She married him because he was rich.'

Sie wusste, dass er reich war.
'She knew that he was rich'

Word order in linked clauses: German

- "**Normal**" relative clauses: VL

Sie heiratete einen Mann, der sehr reich war.

'She married a man who was very rich'

Sie heiratete Peter, der sehr reich war.

'She married Peter, who was very rich.'

- "**Loose**" relative clause: V2

Sie heiratete einen Mann, der war sehr reich.

Sie heiratete Peter, der war sehr reich.

Order of combined clauses

- *He was rich, she married him.*
She married him, he was rich.
- *He was rich **and** she married him.*
***And** *she married him, he was rich.*
? *She married him **and** he was rich.*
- ***Therefore** *she married him, he was rich.*
- *She married him, **although** he didn't have a penny.*
Although *he didn't have a penny, she married him.*

"Deranking" (Croft 2001)

"Verb forms found in complex sentences are classified in terms of their relation to verb forms found in simple main clauses [...]. Verb forms in complex sentences are found to differ from those in main clauses in a limited number of ways [...]:

- a. Elimination of tense, mood, and aspect markings, or use of special forms distinct from those used on simple main clause verbs
- b. Elimination of agreement markings used on simple main clause verbs, or use of special forms distinct from those used on simple main clause verbs
- c. Overt morpheme attached to verb form"

Clause chaining (in languages not allowing co-ranking)

Selepet (Papua New Guinea), Longacre 2007

Independent clauses (2 sentences):

Kawa ari-op. 'Kawa left.'

Kiap ya taka-op. 'That patrol officer arrived.'

-op = third person singular, remote past tense

Clause chaining, 1 sentence:

*Kawa ari-**mu** kiap ya taka-op.* 'Kawa left and that patrol officer arrived.'

-mu = third person singular, subject switch.

(50) *Maricopa* (Yuman, southwestern United States)

- a. Nyaa 'ashvar-k' -iimə-k.
I 1-sing-SS 1-dance-ASPECT
"I sang and I danced."
- b. Bonnie-sh ə-ashvar-?M' -iimə-k.
Bonnie-SUB 3-sing-DS 1-dance-ASPECT
"Bonnie sang and I danced."

(Payne 1997: 322)

SS = same subject, DS = different subject

Clause chaining in a broader view

"the use of non-finite forms not headed by a conjunction with temporal or circumstantial meaning"

(Myhill & Hibiya 1988: 363)

English:

Sitting down, taking out a pencil, he began to write.

"Interlacing"

- "The semantic aspect of interlacing is that the two propositions share some elements of their meanings. Its syntactic correlate are the non-specification of the common elements in one of the propositions and/or the syntagmatic interweaving of the two propositions." (Lehmann 1988: 204)

Croft 2001: contrasts

coordination

adverbial clauses

complements

relative clauses

Croft 2001: continua

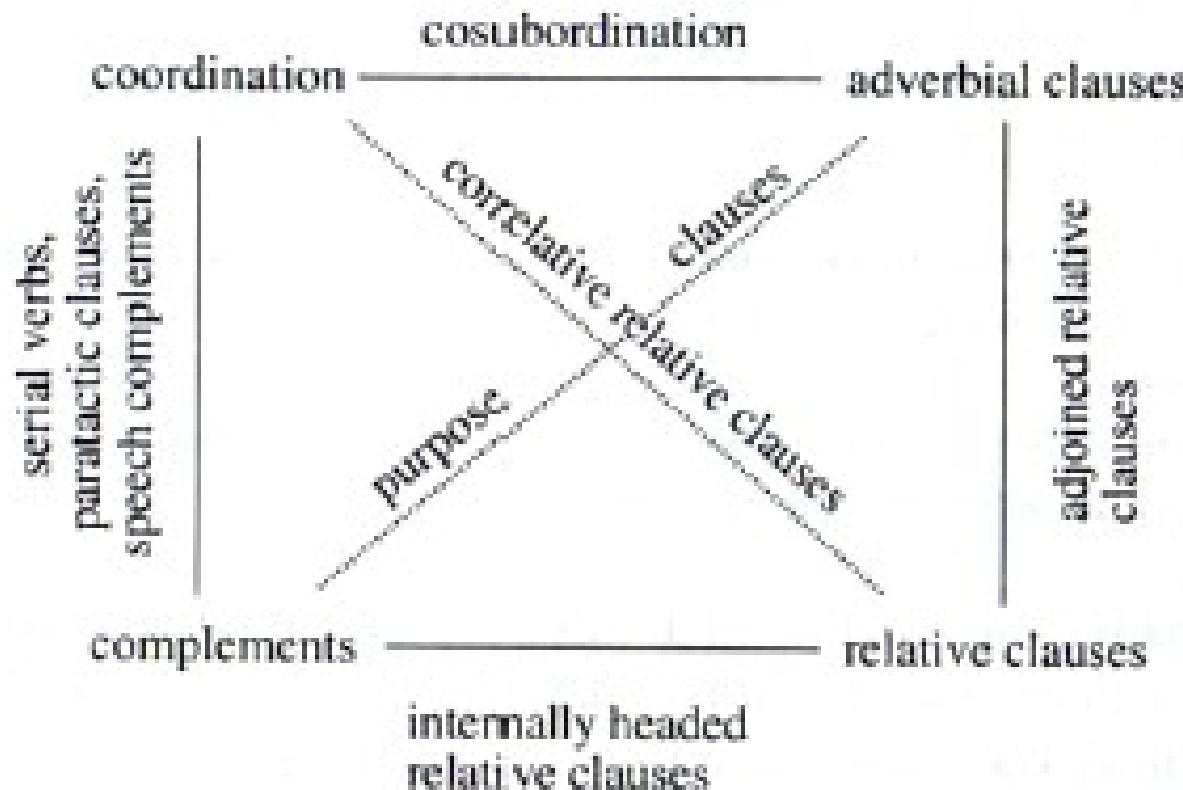


Figure 9.1. The continuum of complex sentence types

Croft 2001:Cognitive background

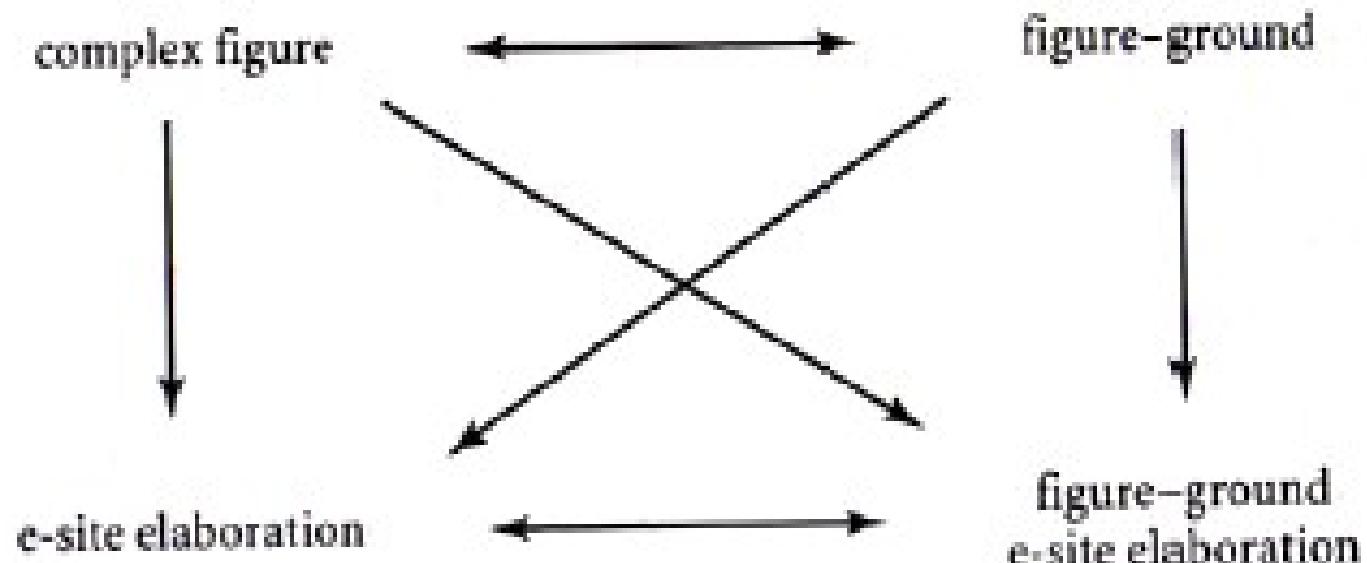


Figure 9.2. The conceptual space of complex sentence types