A Typology of Clause Combining

(1) a. He came in, b. locking the door behind him.

One verb Compound verbs Serial verbs Clausal arguments Relative clauses Adverbial clauses Coordination

Two separate clauses

High degree of grammatical integration ('tight')

No grammatical Integration ('loose')

Compound verbs:

(2) a. to stir fry We stir fried the tofu.
b. to push start Frank had to push start his old Volvo.

Serial Verbs:

(3) Run go get me a newspaper.

• Expresses one complex idea.
• No independent expression of the subject of the second verb.
• No independent tense/aspect/negation of the second verb.
• Monoclausal (syntactic processes treat the serial construction as one clause).
• Intonation is characteristic of a single clause.

A Typology of Dependent Clauses

The structural typology:

Finite clauses: When he arrived, we had already eaten.
Lucretia boycotted the party because she wasn't invited.
The study suggests that people who smoke are more likely to die early.

Semi-finite clauses: If I were a rich man, I would wear diamond rings.
The woman sleeping under that tree is my mother.
Whenever you be afraid, call on me (archaic).

Non-finite clauses: To throw a log of that size requires great strength.
They were looking for someone to be their king.
She made me wash my car.

The functional typology:

- Clausal arguments: Function as an argument of another clause.
- Relative clauses: Function within a noun phrase to "modify" the phrase.
- Adverbal clauses: Serve an "adverbal" function, where, when, why, etc.
Clausal arguments

(4) **SUBJECT:**

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
A & V & P \\
[ [ That Lady Lucretia ate all those turnips] stunned the Duke of Wimple]. \\
\end{array}
\]

\[←\]

Clausal argument

\[→\]

Main (matrix) clause

(5) **OBJECT:**

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
A & V & P \\
[ Lady Lucretia wants [ to eat all those turnips] ]. \\
\end{array}
\]

\[←\]

Clausal argument

\[→\]

Main (matrix) clause

(6) **POST-POSED** subject clausal argument:

It stunned the Duke of Wimple that Lady Lucretia trod on his toe.

(7) A Clausal argument that is also a matrix clause:

[Lucretia wants [to believe [that that oaf is the Duke of Wimple]]].

\[←\]

Clausal object of **believe**

\[→\]

Clausal object of **want**

\[←\]

Matrix clause for **that oaf is . . .**

\[→\]

Main clause

Clause as Object of a Preposition (if the clause is "optional" its probably an adverbial clause – remember that adverbial clauses are "adjuncts." If not optional, it is probably a kind of clausal argument.)

I credit my success to my father always encouraging me.

For Marilyn to eat that turnip in half a second is unbelievable.

My days are filled with meeting clients and eating turnips.

It was a long time before I could face a bowl of mashed turnips again.

Clause as a subject complement:

It wasn't until Lucretia ate those turnips that I fell in love with her.

The reason I want to marry Lucretia is that she eats turnips so quickly.

My favorite pastime is eating turnips quickly.

Her greatest joy has become eating turnips in the front seat of her Volvo.

The duty of every good husband is to eat turnips, whether he likes them or not.

Clause as an object of a preposition:
“Equi” (equivalent subject omission)

When the subject of a non-finite or participial clausal object is the same as the subject of the “matrix” verb, the subject of the clausal object is omitted (manipulation and modality verbs):

I want X + X = I eat those turnips == “I want to eat those turnips.”

Matilde expects + Matilde passes the exam == “Matilde expects to pass the exam.”

Brunhilde asked X + X = Brunhilde eats the turnips == “Brunhilde asked to eat the turnips.”

Zarina tried X + X = Zarina eats the turnips. == ”Zarina tried to eat the turnips.”

“Raising”

When the subject of a non-finite or participial clausal object is different than the subject of the “matrix” verb, the subject of the clausal object becomes a nominal object of the matrix verb. These tend to be manipulation verbs (and some modality verbs):

Slumbat made X + X = She ate the turnips == “Slumbat made her eat the turnips.”

Matilde wants X + X = He eats the turnips == “Matilde wants him to eat the turnips.”

Brunhilde asked X + X = He eats the turnips == “Brunhilde asked him to eat the turnips.”

Note that not all matrix verbs allow the clausal object to have a different subject:

*Brunhilde tried Matilde to eat/eating the turnips.

*Matilde started Brunhilde to eat/eating the turnips.

These are all phasal, or modality verbs: finish, continue, keep on, regret, manage, try, fail,

**Practice:** Identify the types of clausal arguments in the following sentences:

1. I know that Miyoko ate turnips yesterday.
2. I knew that Miyoko had been eating turnips.
3. I saw at once who had been eating turnips.
4. I saw Miyoko eating turnips on the back porch.
5. Miyoko stopped eating turnips when I came in.
6. Miyoko badly wanted to eat turnips.
7. I want Miyoko to eat her turnips.
8. I made Miyoko eat just one more turnip.
9. I helped Miyoko eat her turnips.
10. Miyoko planned to eat turnips for twenty years.
11. Miyoko succeeded in eating 500 turnips at the fair.
12. Miyoko tried to eat a turnip, but it stuck in her throat.
14. That Miyoko ate so many turnips bothered her friends.
15. I let Miyoko eat turnips to her heart's content.
16. I told Miyoko to eat every turnip in the house.
English finite clausal arguments:
(8)  
a. I know **that turnips are delicious**.
b. I emphasized **that turnips are good for you**.

(9)  
a. **That Morgan refused to eat his turnips** surprised me.
b. It is well known **that she loves turnips**.

English non-finite clausal arguments:
(10)  
a. I saw her **eating turnips**.  
b. She made them **eat turnips**.

(11)  
a. **Eating turnips** is a blast.  
b. **To eat 100 turnips** requires great strength.

Semi-finite Clausal arguments (often called "subjunctive"):
(12)  
I wish **I were a rich man**.

Relative Clauses
(13)  
We despise the oaf that [ 0 trod on Lady Lucretia's toe ].

**Head.** The noun that is modified by the clause. In 13 the head is 'the oaf'.

**Restricting clause.** The clause itself. In 13 the restricting clause is indicated in brackets.

**R-element** (or NP_rel). The element within the restricting clause that is coreferential with the head noun. In 13 the R-element is 0 (a gap). IMPORTANT: The R-element has a semantic role and a grammatical relation in the restricting clause. This is independent of the semantic role and grammatical relation of the HEAD within the main clause. Referentially, the head and the R-element refer to the same discourse-world entity, but structurally they are two different things.

**Relativizer.** A morpheme or particle that sets off the restricting clause as a relative clause. In 13 the relativizer is *that* (unstressed).

**Relative pronoun.** If the relativizer agrees with the R-element, e.g. in humanness, case, etc., then it can be termed a relative pronoun.

**Resumptive pronoun.** A pronoun that occurs within a relative clause and which refers to the R-element. Use of a resumptive pronoun is sometimes called "pronoun retention."

Typological parameters

A. **The position of the head**

POST-NOMINAL (English):

PRE NOMINAL (Japanese):
(14)  
a. [ Yamada-san ga ka'tte iru ] sa'ru  
    'The monkey that Mr. Yamada is keeping'

b. [ sa'ru o ka'tte iru ] Yamada-san  
    'the Mr. Yamada who is keeping a monkey'

HEADLESS:
(15)  
[ Whenever I'm afraid ], I call her.  
    (c.f. 'Any time that I am afraid . . .')

B. **The expression of the R-element**
GAP:
(16) a. The alligator that saw me ate Lucretia.  b. The alligator that I saw ate Lucretia.

(17) a. The alligator that [ the alligator saw me ] ate Lucretia.
   HEAD  R-element
   b. The alligator that [ I saw the alligator ] ate Lucretia.
   HEAD  R-element

RELATIVE PRONOUN:
(18) a. Rel Pro: The man who saw me
   b. Rel + gap: The man that saw me
   c. No Rel: *The man [ 0 saw me ]

RESUMPTIVE PRONOUN:
(19) That's the guy who [ I can never remember his name ].

(20) We've got 1,600 drums here that we don't even know what's in them.
     (Heard on a television news interview).

Adverbal Clauses

(21) a. He ran to get help. (purpose)
    b. We're sorry that you feel that way. (reason)
    c. She went out, locking the door behind her. (sequence)

1. Time: We'll go when Sandy gets here. (also 'before,' 'after' etc.)

2. Location: I'll meet you where the statue used to be.

3. Manner: a. She talks like she has a cold.  b. Carry this as I told you,

4. Purpose: He stood on his tiptoes in order to see better.

5. Reason: He got here early because he wanted to get a good seat.

6. simultaneous: a. While (we were) eating, we heard a noise outside the window.
    b. He woke up crying.

7. Conditional:
   Simple: If it's raining outside, then my car is getting wet.
   Hypothetical: If I (were to see/saw) David, I would speak Quechua with him.
   Counterfactual: If you had been at the concert, you would have seen Yanni.
   Concessive conditional: Even if it rains, we'll have our picnic.

8. 'Speech act':  If you're thirsty there's coke in the refrigerator.

9. Negative conditional: Unless it rains, we'll have our picnic. (i.e., If and only if it does not rain, we will have our picnic).

10. Concessive clause: a. Although she hates Bartok, she agreed to go to the concert.
      b. Even though it's still early, we'd better find our seats.