

# Relative Clauses

Latin MILC – W2, MT 2012

October 16, 2012

## 1 General remarks

Relative clauses are subordinate clauses which further determine a constituent of a superordinate clause. They are dependent on either a word/phrase in that clause, or on the whole clause itself. The relative pronoun introducing such a clause agrees in genus and numerus with its correspondent in the superordinate clause; its casus, however, is determined by its syntactic/semantic function in the relative clause itself; the relative can specify (almost) any constituent of a sentence.

Relative clauses may be introduced by either pronouns (e.g. *qui*, *quantus*, *qualis*) or relative adverbs (e.g. *ubi*, *quo*, *quando*). These are in turn often (but by no means always) correlated to corresponding pronomina or adverbs in the superordinate clause (i.e. *is* - or *hic*, *ille*, *idem* - , *tantus*, *talis*; *ibi*, *eo*).

When referencing a whole clause, the relative clause is introduced by (*id*) *quod* or *quae res*.

1. *Magna totius exercitus perturbatio facta est, id quod necesse erat accidere.* BG 4.29,3  
The confusion in the whole army was great, which could not be avoided.

Generally, the mood of the relative clause will be the same as if it were an independent sentence (but see below). Its tense is generally determined by the rules of the *consecutio temporum*. The negation used is *non*.

NB 1- The correspondent antecedent in the superordinate clause may at times be omitted:

2. *Sunt quibus in satira videor nimis acer.* Hor.Sat.2.1,1  
There are those to whom I seem to keen in satire.

NB 2 - At times, these 'antecedents' may be drawn into the relative clause (esp. in poetry):

3. *Hoc non concedo, ut quibus rebus gloriemini in vobis, in aliis reprehendatis.* Cic.Lig.20  
I do not concede that you condemn others for things in which you pride yourselves.

NB 3 - Where the relative clause contains a copula and a complement to the antecedent, the relative pronoun will at times agree in genus and numerus with said complement. [This particular construction ought to be used with great care, if at all]:

4. *mare etiam quem Neptunum esse dicebas* Cic.Nat.deor. 3.52  
The sea which you said was Neptune.

## 2 Indicative relative clauses

If the expression contained within the relative clause is purely objective (i.e. does not have a secondary meaning), or if it is used to generalise, the *indicative* is used. Generalising relative clauses will be introduced by generalising relative pronomina, such as:

<i>quisquis</i> , <i>quicumque</i> – whoever		<i>ubicumque</i> – wherever
<i>quotquot</i> , <i>quotcumque</i> – however many		<i>qualiscumque</i> – of whatever quality
<i>utcumque</i> – however		<i>quantuscumque</i> – however large/small

5. *Enecas me odio, quisquis es.* Plaut.Rud.944  
Whoever you may be, you are killing me with hatred.
6. *Ubicumque hoc factum est, improbe factum est.* Cic.Verr. II 3,217  
Wherever this may have happened, it was done poorly.

### 3 Subjunctive relative clauses

#### 3.1 Final sense

Relative clauses may have a final sense (i.e. purpose), and will then take the *subjunctive*. Furthermore, those dependent on *dignus, indignus, idoneus, aptus* will do so, too.

7. *Varro frumenti magnum numerum coegit, quod Massiliensibus mitteret.* BC, 2.18,1  
Varro collected a great amount of grain, which (so that he may ...) he sent to the inhabitants of Marseille.
8. *Idonea Ciceroni Laeli persona visa est, quae de amicitia disserteret.* Cic.Lael.4  
To Cicero, the person of Laelius seemed suitable to (be the one who...) declaim the Treatise about Friendship.

#### 3.2 Qualitative & consecutive sense

Expressions containing quantitative or qualitative pronomina or adverbs, such as *tam, talis, tantus*, or *is* in the sense of *talis* take the subjunctive. They are akin in sense to consecutive clauses (i.e. result).

9. *Quae tam firma civitas est, quae non odiis funditus possit everti?* Cic.Lael.23  
Which community is so strong, that (it) cannot be overturned from its foundations by hatred.
10. *Non is sum, qui mortis periculo terrear.* BG 5.30,2  
I am not one who would be afraid of mortal peril.

The subjunctive also occurs in these clauses, if such adverbs/pronomina are only implied.

11. *Secutae sunt tempestates, quae nostros in castris continerent.* BG 4.34,4  
There followed tempests (viz. of such strength that ...) which kept our soldiers in the camps.

If the referenced word in the main clause is *indefinite, negated or in need of further determination*, the subjunctive appears, too.

12. *Pompeius unus inventus est, quem socii venisse gaudeant.* Cic.Man.68  
Pompeius was the found to be the only one about whose coming the allies were pleased.
13. *Duae res sunt, quae admirabilem eloquentiam faciant.* Cic.Orat.128  
There are two things which make eloquence admirable.

Further, the following common phrases may introduce such constructions:

<i>(non de-)sunt, qui dicant...</i>		There are people who say ...
<i>nemo est, qui putet ...</i>		There is no one who thinks ...
<i>Quis est, qui dicat ...</i>		Who would say/claim that ...
<i>(non) est/habeo, quod ...</i>		There is / I have no reason to ...

14. *Sunt, qui discessum animi a corpore putent mortem.* Cic.Tusc.1.18  
There are those who believe death to be the separation of body and soul.
15. *Quid est, quod deum veneremur?* Cic.Nat.deor.1.117  
Why is it that we venerate the gods?
16. *Hoc qui postulare, reperiebatur nemo.* BC 3.20,4  
No one was found, who would demand this.

NB: If the superordinate clause is negated, *quin* in the relative clause may be substituted for *qui non*.

17. *Hostium nulli ex itinere excedere licebat, quin ab equitatu exciperetur.* BC 1.79,5  
None of the enemies were able to leave the path without (=so that they would not) being apprehended by the cavalry.

### 3.3 Causal, concessive and adversative sense

When expressing causes, concessions or adversative statements, the mood employed in the relative clause is once more the subjunctive.

18. *Me caecum, qui haec ante non viderim!* Cic.Att.10.10,1  
I'm an idiot (who...) for not seeing this before!

19. *Quis est, qui non cum caritate aliqua benevola priscorum virorum illustrium memoriam colat, quos numquam viderit?* Cic.Lael.28  
Who does not, with a certain affectionate inclination, tend to the memory of illustrious gentlemen of yore, whom (although ... ) he has never seen them?

NB: If a causal nuance is to be emphasised, this may be signaled by *ut, quippe, praesertim* or rarely *utpote*.

20. *Tribunorum plebis potestas mihi quidem pestifera videtur, quippe quae in seditione et ad seditionem nata sit.* Cic.Leg.3.19  
The power of the tribunes of the plebs seems pernicious to me, since it is born in and for sedition.

## 4 Syntactic & Stylistic peculiarities

### 4.1 Repetition of antecedent & connexion of relative clauses

Especially in the writings of Caesar, the word referenced by the relative pronoun may be repeated within the relative clause (most commonly *bellum, dies, iter, locus, res*); it will usually agree in *casus*, etc. with the relative pronoun.

21. *Id bellum gerimus, quo bello de dignitate, de libertate, de vita decernamus.* Cic.Phil.11.21  
We fight a war in which we decide about dignity, liberty and life.

Relative clauses can be joined in two ways: if they are of equal rank, i.e. of equal relevance for determining the antecedent, they are joined by *-que*; if there is a difference in hierarchy, they will simply be *asyndetically* juxtaposed. The more prominent clause will stand first.

22. *Caritas, quae inter natos et parentes, quae dirimi nisi detestabili scelere non potest.* Cic.Lael.27  
The love (which exists) between parents and children, which can only be destroyed by an abominable crime.

23. *Ego, qui semper pacis auctor fui cuique pax in primis fuit optabilis.* Cic.Phil.7.7  
I, who has always been a peacemaker and for whom peace was particularly desirable.

### 4.2 Continuative relative clauses & embedding

Relative pronomina will at times introduce sentences which have a particularly strong connexion with the previous clause; in these cases, the relative will refer to an antecedent *in the previous sentence*; they may therefore be termed *continuative*.

24. *Caesar paulo post mediam noctem naves solvit. Quae omnes incolumes ad continentem pervenerunt.* BG 4.36,3  
Just after midnight, Caesar let the ships sail, all of which reached the mainland undamaged.

A similar usage can be observed when a second subordinate (i.e. conjunctive, interrogative or relative) clause is embedded within a relative clause; in these cases the relative pronoun may often be taken as a syntactic part of the other subordinate clause.

25. *Omnia erant suspensa propter expectationem legatorum, qui quid egissent, nihildum nuntiabatur.* Cic.Fam.11.8,1  
Everyone was in suspense in expectation of the legates; for what they had accomplished had not been announced yet.

## 5 References

For a concise overview of 'all things relative', cf. Kennedy §§330sq., 450sq.; for a more comprehensive account, cf. Gildersleeve/Lodge §§612sq. Note that the above list is *not* exhaustive! For a key to the sample sentences, please visit: <http://users.ox.ac.uk/~univ2665/>

## 6 Homework assignment

### 6.1 Translate the following sentences into *idiomatic* English

Where necessary/appropriate, briefly explain the usage of moods, and the divergence between Latin and English syntax.

1. *De principatu controversia est orta, quae res apud milites largitiones auxit.*
2. *Totum hoc leve est, qualecumque est.*
3. *Caesar cohortes reliquit, quae praesidio navibus essent.*
4. *Qui modeste paret, dignus est, qui aliquando imperet.*
5. *Non est, quod te pudeat sapienti assentiri.*
6. *Habetis eum consulem, qui parere vestris decretis non dubitet.*
7. *Pompei milites exercitui Caesaris luxuriam obiciebant, cui semper omnia ad necessarium usum defuis-  
sent.*
8. *Omnia, quae leget quaeque reiciet virtus, referuntur.*
9. *De civium Romanorum condicione disputo, qui quemadmodum essent accepti, audistis ex ipsis.*
10. *Pueri infici debet iis artibus, quas si, dum est tener, combiberit, ad maiora veniet paratior.*

### 6.2 Translate into Latin.

1. There was no community that did not obey Caesar.
2. You are the one who often has honoured me with his overtures.
3. The Helvetians set a date on which all should assemble at the bank of the river Rhône.
4. Whatever you will teach, let it be short!
5. Aristides alone - at least as far as I know - was given the byname 'the Just'.
6. The Gauls are the same today as they have ever been.
7. That expediency and honour are sometimes contrary to each other is a fact that all the world knows.
8. The waves were such as I had never seen before.
9. He died in the place where he had lived in boyhood.
10. There is no one but knows that the Gauls were conquered by Caesar.

### 6.3 Reading

For next week, please read as much as you can from the text below, ch. 2 of Sallust's *Bellum Catilinae*, and be prepared to translate it and discuss grammatical and stylistic points.

Igitur initio reges—nam in terris nomen imperi id primum fuit—divorsi pars ingenium, alii corpus exercebant: etiam tum vita hominum sine cupiditate agitabatur; sua cuique satis placebant. Postea vero quam in Asia Cyrus, in Graecia Lacedaemonii et Athenienses coepere urbis atque nationes subigere, lubidinem dominandi causam belli habere, maxumam gloriam in maximo imperio putare, tum demum periculo atque negotiis compertum est in bello plurimum ingenium posse. Quod si regum atque

imperatorum animi virtus in pace ita ut in bello valeret, aequabilius atque constanter sese res humanae haberent neque aliud alio ferri neque mutari ac misceri omnia cerneret. Nam imperium facile iis artibus retinetur, quibus initio partum est. Verum ubi pro labore desidia, pro continentia et aequitate libido atque superbia invasere, fortuna simul cum moribus inmutatur. Ita imperium semper ad optimum quemque a minus bono transfertur.

Quae homines arant, navigant, aedificant, virtuti omnia parent. Sed multi mortales, dediti ventri atque somno, indocti incultique vitam sicuti peregrinantes transiere; quibus profecto contra naturam corpus voluptati, anima oneri fuit. Eorum ego vitam mortemque iuxta aestumo, quoniam de utraque siletur. Verum enim vero is demum mihi vivere atque frui anima videtur, qui aliquo negotio intentus praeclari facinoris aut artis bonae famam quaerit.

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**Please hand in your homework by Friday 6pm, either by email to [robin.meyer@ling-phil.ox.ac.uk](mailto:robin.meyer@ling-phil.ox.ac.uk), or by pigeon post to *Robin Meyer, Wolfson College, Linton Rd.***