16. Clause combinations

In this section we will discuss a few of the grammaticalized multi-verb construction types of English.

16.1. Relative clauses

Relative clauses are clauses that are syntactically embedded within a noun phrase and which function to restrict the reference of the noun phrase (Keenan 1985). In English, relative clauses are formed by placing the restricting clause following the head, and separated from it by a relative pronoun, or the complementizer *that* 'que'.[5] Determiners precede the head, since they apply to the whole noun phrase. The restricting clause contains a gap in the position of the relativized element ("R-element").[6] The relative pronoun or complementizer is obligatory only when the R-element is the grammatical subject of the relative clause; cf. 117 and 119. In the following examples, the head will be underlined, the restricting clause will be bracketed, and the gap will be indicated by the symbol $\varnothing$:

(117)   DET HEAD RELPRO RESTRICTING CLAUSE

The <u>man</u>   who   [$\varnothing$ went to Springfield   ]

DEF   hombre REL:HUM   ir:PAS a Springfield

'el hombre que fué a Springfield'

(118)   DET HEAD   (REL PRO)   RESTRICTING CLAUSE

a   <u>woman</u> (who(-m)[6]) [I   know $\varnothing$]

INDEF mujer   REL:HUM-NS   1SG conocer

'una mujer a quien conozco'

(119)   DET   HEAD   COMP RESTRICTING CLAUSE

Some   <u>people</u>   that [$\varnothing$ live   here]

algunas persona:PL que   vivir:PL:NOPAS aquí

'algunas personas que viven aquí.'

When the R-element is an oblique argument within the restricting clause, the preposition that heads the R-element may optionally occur after the head rather than before the gap; e.g., compare 120a and b.:

(120)   a. The <u>house</u> in which I   live $\varnothing$.   'La casa donde vivo.'

DEF casa   en que   1SG vivir

b. The <u>house</u> (which) I   live   in ∅.   'La casa donde vivo.'

    DEF casa   que   1SG vivir en

      The following positions are accessible to relativization: Subject (e.g., 117, 119), direct object (e.g., 118), indirect objects (e.g., 121 below), obliques (e.g., 120), possessor (e.g., 122) and the object of a comparative (e.g., 123):

(121)   the <u>girl</u> (who(m)) [I   gave   the book to ∅].

       DEF niña   REL:HUM 1SG dar:PAS DEF libro   a

       'La niña a quien le dí el libro'

(122)   the   <u>boy</u> whose   house [I   saw   ∅]

       DEF niño REL:GEN casa   1SG ver:PAS

       'El niño cuya casa ví'

(123)   the <u>boy</u> who   [John is bigger   than ∅]

       DEF niño REL:HUM Juán es mas:grande que

       'el niño de lo cual Juán es más grande'

      English thus allows relativization using the gap strategy for all positions on the noun phrase accessibility hierarchy of Keenan and Comrie (1977). This fact is consistent with the claim made by Keenan and Comrie that a language will allow relativization along a continuous segment of the hierarchy, beginning with the most relativizable grammatical role.

16.2. Serial verbs

      English marginally employs serial verbs. All of the serial verb expressions in English involve a motion verb in the first position. Most serial verb constructions are fixed expressions:

(124)   Run   go   get   me   a   newspaper.

       correr:IMP ir:IMP buscar:IMP 1SG:NN INDEF periódico

       'Váyase rápido y búscame un periódico.'

      This construction clearly involves serial verbs because: a) each verb must be of the same tense/aspect/mode and b) no adverbial or other elements can intervene between the verb stems:

(125)   a. *Run went got me a newspaper.

       b. *Run quickly go get me a newspaper.

       c. *Run go to the store get me a newspaper.

16.3. Complement clauses

English exhibits several formally distinct tyoes of complement clauses. We will describe three of these in terms of a continuum of finiteness. These three types along with a summary of their characteristic functions are the following:

Types of Complement Clauses in English		
Complement type:	**Finiteness:**	**Function:**
bare stem complements	Least finite	Highly manipulative
to complements		
that complements	Most finite	Highly independent

This correlation between formal finiteness and functional independence is consistent with the observation made by Givón (1990:516) that complement clauses that are highly conceptually integrated with their matrix clauses tend to be formally dependent (non-finite), whereas those that are conceptually independent of their matrix verbs tend to be formally independent (finite).

English allows both subject and object complement clauses. *to* complements and *that* complements can function in the subject or object position. These will be illustrated in subsections 16.3.2 and 16.3.3 respectively. However, the emphasis in the following discussion will be on object complements.

16.3.1. Bare stem complements

Bare stem complements are used for highly manipulative verbs only. These normally cannot have the same subject as the matrix clause. This fact is understandable insofar as the notion of strong manipulation is not pragmatically compatible with self-directed activity (one normally does not 'manipulate' oneself). Also, bare stem complements have no independent tense/aspect (see the ungrammatical examples below). Because the reference of the subject and tense/aspect is so restricted, bare stem complements represent the least finite complement type of English. In the following examples the complement is underlined:

(126)   They made   him   <u>dance</u>.   'Le obligaron bailar.'

   3PL hacer:PAS 3SG:MASC:NN bailar

   *They made him will dance. (Independent tense disallowed)

   *They made dance. (Same subject as matrix verb disallowed)

(127)   Williams has   Joseph <u>sing   the benediction</u>.

   Williams tener:NOPAS José   cantar DEF bendición

   'Williams hace que José cante la bendición.'

*Williams has Joseph sang the benediction. (Independent tense)

*Williams has sing the benediction. (Same subject)

If the subject of the complement verb is the same as that of the matrix verb, a reflexive pronoun must be used (see section 11):

(128)   They made   them-selves dance.   'Ellos se hicieron bailar.'

     3PL   hace:PAS 3PL-REFL   bailar

16.3.2. *To* complements

Complements which we will term '*to* complements' consist of the particle *to* plus the bare verb stem. This complement type is often used in the subject position:

(129)   **To**   <u>err</u>   is   human;   **to**   <u>forgive</u>   is   divine.

     PART errar ser:NOPAS humano PART perdonar ser:NOPAS divino

     'Errar es humano; perdonar es divino.'

Subject complements are often post-posed, with the dummy pronoun *it* 'INAN' remaining in the preverbal position:

(130)   **It**   bothers   me   **to**   <u>see</u> <u>him</u>   so <u>upset</u>.

     INAN molestar-NOPAS:3SG 1SG:NN PART ver   3SG:MASC:NN tan ancioso

     'Me molesta verlo tan ancioso.'

In object position, *to* complements are used with matrix verbs of manipulation that have a weaker conceptual bond to the complement, i.e., the manipulative act may be removed in physical or psychological space from the event expressed in the complement (Givón 1984:517), e.g., *compel* 'obligar', *urge* 'impulsar', and *force* 'forzar'. Complements of these verbs are just as non-finite as bare stem complements, since the subject cannot be the same as that of the matrix verb, and the complement cannot have independent tense/aspect:

(131)   They force-d   Tyler **to**   <u>resign</u>   <u>his</u>   <u>position</u>.

     3PL forzar-PAS Tyler PART renunciar 3SG:MASC:GEN puesto

     'Forzaron a Tyler renunciar su puesto.'

*They forced Tyler to will resign his position. (Independent tense disallowed)

*They forced to resign their position (Same subject disallowed)

(132)   Jenkins urge-d   the Chaldean-s **to**   <u>depart</u>.

Jenkins impulsar-PAS DEF Caldeo-PL   PART partir

'Jenkins impulsó a los Caldeos partir.'

*Jenkins urged the Chaldeans to have appeared. (Indep. aspect)

*Jenkins urged to appear. (Same subject)

To complements are also used with cognition, emotion and utterance verbs that imply that the subject has a strong intentional/emotive commitment to the realization of the event expressed in the complement, *e.g., want* 'querer', and *hope* 'esperar'. Complements of these verbs may have the same or a different subject from that of the matrix verb. Hence, we can say that the reference of the subject for *to* complements as a whole is less restricted than that of bare stem complements, and thus *to* complements are quantitatively more finite than bare stem complements.

In the following examples, the first member of each pair illustrates a construction in which the subject of the complement is the same as the subject of the matrix verb, while the second illustrates a construction in which the subjects are different:

(133)   a. They want   **to**   <u>eat   cheerio-s</u>.

3PL   querer:NOPAS:PL PART comer cheerio-PL

'Quieren comer los "cheerios".'

b. They want   Herman **to**   <u>eat   cheerio-s</u>.

3PL   querer:NOPAS:PL Hernán PART comer cheerio-PL

'Quieren que Hernán come los "cheerios".'

(134)   a. We expect **to**   <u>return   someday</u>.

1PL esperar PART volver algún.día

'Esperamos volver algún día.'

b. We expect Nicolas **to**   <u>return someday</u>.

1PL esperar Nicolás PART volver algún.día

'Esperamos que Nicolas volviera algún día.'

Sometimes, additional morphology is needed when the subjects are different (exs. 135b and 136b):

(135) a. We are   happy **to**   announce our   engagement.

      1PL ser:NOPAS:PL feliz   PART anunciar 1PL:GEN compromiso

      'Nos alegra anunciar nuestro compromiso.'

     b. We are   happy **for**   John **to**   announce our engagement.

      1PL ser:NOPAS:PL feliz   para Juán PART anunciar 1PL:GEN compromiso

      'Nos alegra que Juán anuncie nuestro compromiso.'

(136) a. Mary is   eager   **to**   please.

      María ser:NOPAS:SG apremiante PART complacer

      'María se apremia complacer.'

     b.   Mary is   eager   **for** John **to**   please   her.
María ser:NOPAS:SG apremiante para Juán PART complacer 3SG:F:NN
'María apremia que Juán le complazca.'

16.3.3. *That* complements

That complements are the most finite complements of English. They are used with cognitive and emotive complement-taking verbs in which the subject exerts less intentional/emotional commitment to the realization of the event expressed in the complement, whether or not the two subjects are different. *That* complements are fully finite in that subject and tense/aspect are made explicit within the complement. This distinctive property of *that* complements often renders the presence of the complementizer, *that*, redundant, hence it is often omitted in discourse:

(137) I   believe   (**that**) he did   it.

      1SG creer:NOPAS COMP 3SG hacer:PAS INAN

      'Creo que él lo hizo.'

(138) We suspect   (**that**) they had   arrive-d.

      1PL sospechar:NOPAS COMP 3PL AUX:PERF llegar-PPAS

      'Sospechamos que ellos habían llegado.'

(139) Harrison expect-s   (**that**) he will   win.

      Harrison esperar:NOPAS-3SG COMP 3SG AUX:FUT ganar

      'Harrison espera ganar.'

These examples illustrate that tense/aspect and subject reference within the complement is independent of that of the matrix verb. In each example the tense/aspect

in the complement is different from that of the matrix verb. In 137 and 138 the subjects are different, whereas in 139 the subjects are the same.

That complements are also used with complement-taking verbs of utterance. Again, their finiteness renders the complementizer redundant:

(140) He   said   (**that**) <u>he   would come</u>.

       3SG decir:PAS COMP 3SG AUX   venir

       'Dijo que iba a venir.' (Same subject)

(141) Fritzi suggest-ed (**that**) <u>we arrive early</u>.

       Fritzi sugerir-PAS COMP 1PL llegar temprano

       'Fritzi sugirió que llegaramos temprano.' (Different subject)

16.4. Adverbial clauses

Adverbial clauses in English are normally introduced by one of a special set of adverbial clause introducers. The most common of these introducers are the following:

Some adverbial clause introducers of English					
Logical relations			**Temporal relations**		
because	porque	CAUSE	*after*	después	POSTERIORITY
although	aunque	CONCESION	*before*	antes	ANTERIORITY
to	para	PURPOSE	*while*	mientras	SIMULTANEITY
if	si	CONDITION	*when*	cuando	OVERLAP

In addition to these simple introducers there exists a potentially open class of complex adverbial clause introducers. Some common ones include:

(142) *even though*   aunque

      in order to   con el propósito de . . .

      in spite of the fact that   no importa que . . .

      etc.

Some adverbial clauses are not finite, but instead take non-finite verbs with the suffix -*ing* 'participio presente'. These adverbial clauses can either appear without an introducer (exs. 143 and 144) or they may be introduced by one of a limited set of prepositions (exs. 145 and 146) or adverbial clause introducers (exs. 147 and 148):

(143) She   left,   [clos-ing   the   door   behind her.]

       3SG:F salir:PAS   cerrar-PPRES DEF puerta atrás   3SG:F:NN

       'Ella salió, cerrando la puerta atrás.'

(144) [Look-ing   up,] I   notice-d   I   was   late.

      mirar-PPRES arriba 1SG notar-PAS 1SG ser:PAS:SG tarde

      'Mirando arriba, noté que estaba tarde.'

(145) **Upon** look-ing   up,   I   notice-d   I   was   late.

      al   mirar-PPRES arriba 1SG notar-PAS 1SG ser:PAS:SG tarde

      'Al mirar arriba, noté que estaba tarde.'

(146) **In** prepar-ing   these   word-s,   I   ran   across this   article.

      en preparar-PPRES DEMO1:PL palabra-PL 1SG correr:PAS tras   DEMO1 artículo

      'Al preparar estas palabras, encontré este artículo.'

(147) **While**   prepar-ing   these   word-s,   I   ran   across this   article.

      mientras preparar-PPRES DEMO1:PL palabra-PL 1SG correr:PAS tras   DEMO1 artículo

      'Mientras estaba preparando estas palabras, encontré este artículo.'

(148) **After**   prepar-ing   these   words,   I   ran   across this   article.

      después preparar-PPRES DEMO1:PL palabra-PL 1SG correr:PAS tras   DEMO1 artículo

      'Después de preparar estas palabras, encontré este artículo.'

16.5. Coordination

Coordination is accomplished by juxtaposing two fully independent clauses with one of a small set of conjunctive particles interposed. The conjunctive particles are *and* 'y', *but* 'pero' and *or* 'o':

(149) John made   the salad   **and** Sally made   the desert.

      Juán hacer:PAS DEF ensalada y   Saly hacer:PAS DEF postre

      'Juán hizo la ensalada y Saly hizo el postre.'

(150) John made   the salad   **but** Sally made   the desert.

      Juán hacer:PAS DEF ensalada pero Saly hacer:PAS DEF postre

      'Juán hizo la ensalada pero Saly hizo el postre.'

Both examples 149 and 150 have the same propositional semantics – each conjoined clause is equally asserted to be true. The difference between the use of *and* vs. *but* may be dialectal or conditioned by discourse considerations. In any case, this is a matter for future investigation.

When conjoining clauses, *or* indicates that one clause is asserted to be true and the other one possibly not true. It does not indicate which of the two clauses is asserted to be true:

(151)   John made   the salad   **or** Sally made   the desert.

Juán hacer:PAS DEF ensalada o Saly hacer:PAS DEF postre

'Juán hizo la ensalada o sea Saly hizo el postre.'

The adverbial *either* reinforces the interpretation that only one of the conjoined clauses may be true:

(152)   **Either** John made   the salad   **or** Sally made   the desert.

o   Juán hacer:PAS DEF ensalada o Saly hacer:PAS DEF postre

'Juán hizo la ensalada o sea Saly hizo el postre.'