

Relative clauses

Lehrkraft: Dr. Dr. Julia Bacskai-Atkari

Leistungspunkte: 6

Semester: Wintersemester 2020

Zeit: Dienstag 18.45–20.15

Ort: A703

Description

The aim of this course is to provide an overview of the morphological and syntactic properties of English relative clauses. We will discuss how relative clauses are formed and how they differ from other clause types, such as interrogatives. We will also examine the key historical developments behind the present-day pattern. Apart from Standard English, we will take a look at non-standard varieties as well. In this context, we will examine the role of language norms in the standard pattern. The main focus of this class is on English, but we will consider other languages (especially Germanic languages) for comparative purposes.

Languages

- classes: English
- assignments: English
- end-term test: English
- contact: English or German (please choose the language you are more competent in, i.e. *please write in German if your first language is German*)

Literature

There is no set textbook for the course, but students may find it useful to have access to the following book:

Radford, Andrew. 2019. *Relative clauses: Structure and variation in everyday English*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Requirement: there are four options, see below.

Note that the end-term test may give less than 100% of the grade for the course: this also means that receiving a 5.0 for the test does not automatically result in failing the course, in case other components with a valid grade have been taken. However, the end-term test **must** be taken: not taking the end-term test results in failing the course.

The final grade is given by the obligatory end-term test and two other, optional components. Depending on which option you choose, the final grade is calculated as follows:

- OPTION 1:
 - end-term test: 60%
 - mini-essay: 30%
 - reading assignment: 10%
- OPTION 2:
 - end-term test: 70%
 - mini-essay: 30%
- OPTION 3:
 - end-term test: 90%
 - reading assignment: 10%
- OPTION 4:
 - end-term test: 100%

Recommendation scale: Option 1 > Option 2 > Option 3 > Option 4

- Writing an essay is fun and so is a reading assignment!
- Relying on multiple components involves less risk than relying 100% on the result of the test.
- **You have nothing to lose:** in case you submit the mini-essay and/or the reading assignment but the calculation according to another option not involving these components would give you a better grade, you will automatically receive the better grade.

Below you find additional information on the individual requirements.

End-term test

- It **MUST** be taken, no matter which option you choose.
- Language: English
- Date: 9 February 2021, 18.45–20.15

Reading assignment

- It is based on the following article: Brandner, Ellen & Iris Bräuning (2013) The particle *wo* in Alemannic: Only a complementizer? *Linguistische Berichte* 234. 131–169.
- Language: English
- Deadline: 14 December 2020

Mini-essay

- Possible topics given in the relevant task sheet
- **NO** page limit (ideally it should be ca. 4–7 pages long)
- Language: English
- Deadline: 2 February 2021

Preliminary schedule:

03.11.2020	Introduction
10.11.2020	Operator movement
17.11.2020	Complementisers versus pronouns
24.11.2020	Resumptive pronouns
01.12.2020	The matching analysis
08.12.2020	Vertiefungswoche/Consolidation week: Revision of topics 1–5
15.12.2020	Relative clauses in the dialects of England
22.12.2020	Early Modern English relative clauses
12.01.2021	Changes in Middle English
19.01.2021	The relative cycle and Old English relative clauses
26.01.2021	Case and the pronominal system
02.02.2021	English versus other Germanic languages
09.02.2021	Test