

RELATIVE SYNTAX IN DIFFERENT REGISTERS AND GENRES

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Abstract:

This article analyzes the features of the use of relative sentence structures (relative syntax) in different registers and genres. It shows how contextual differences between register (informal, semi-formal, formal) and genre (scientific article, newspaper text, fiction, conversation) change with the forms of relative sentences, connecting words (relative pronouns), as well as their stylistic functions in the sentence structure. The article is based on observations and case analyses conducted on the basis of the corpus-style method, and pragmatic and semantic factors of the language unit are also taken into account. The results obtained provide analytical conclusions and guidelines for the development of register- and genre-appropriate language materials in linguistic practice.

Keywords: relative sentence structure, register, genre, relative pronoun, pragmatics, corpus-style analysis.

INTRODUCTION

In modern linguistics, the study of relative sentence structures (relative syntax) is one of the important directions that combines syntactic and stylistic aspects. Relative sentences are a separate syntactic unit that provides a certain fraction or additional information in the main sentence, and their form and method of use differ significantly in the context of register and genre. Language units change in register ranges such as “informal - semi-formal - formal” depending on different social situations, audience characteristics and text purposes; also, genres such as scientific articles, newspaper texts, fiction or conversations also affect the functional and formal characteristics of relative sentences.

In this article, a corpus-methodological method was used to analyze relative sentence structures based on register and genre criteria. In the course of the research, a collection of texts of different registers and genres was formed, and the relative

pronouns, sentence connecting structures and stylistic strategies used in them were studied comparatively. The article presents case studies aimed at identifying syntactic variants of relative clauses, their semantic and pragmatic role. This approach also serves to improve the theory of linguistics and stylistic applications in the fields of practical translation, language teaching and text writing.

The following chapters will examine in detail the formal features of relative clauses, functional changes that occur depending on the register, and genre-specific stylistic models.

Methodology

Research material and corpus structure

Corpus structure: A total of 120 text samples were selected for the study, including:

- 30 scientific articles (formal register)
- 30 newspaper texts (semi-formal register)
- 30 pieces of fiction (informal–free register)
- 30 interview transcripts (informal register)

Language and sources: The texts were in modern (2018–2024) Uzbek literary language and international English, and the main sources were National Corpus data, online newspapers (Kun.uz, Gazeta.uz), selected novels and stories, and transcripts of speech recordings.

Corpus-methodological approach

Quantitative analysis: The relative number of sentences in each corpus group and their types (introductory vs. restrictive) were determined using the AntConc program for automated analysis.

Qualitative analysis: From the selected samples, 15 random examples from each register and genre category were selected and their syntactic structure, linking words, and stylistic functions were analyzed in-depth semantic-pragmatic.

Analysis methods

Tagging and coding: Relative pronouns and their functional categories (subject, object, possession, place, and time) were identified and coding was performed in an Excel spreadsheet.

Statistical analysis: We used the χ^2 -test to determine the frequencies of relative clauses by R-register and genre to determine significant differences between groups.

Stylistic analysis: For each example, the discourse context and stylistic strategies (redundancy, focalization, marking) based on the pragmatic task were analyzed.

Workflow

Corpus collection: Selected sources were collected from online and printed texts.

Pre-processing: The texts were cleaned, tokenized, and sentence-split.

Automated reading: Identification of relative clauses using AntConc.

Manual checking and coding: The identified examples were linguistically checked and correctly tagged.

Statistical calculations: χ^2 -test, frequency analysis and correlation analysis were performed in SPSS.

Interpretation of results: Syntactic-stylistic differences and their pragmatic functions were summarized for each register and genre.

Tools and software

- AntConc – for corpus checking and quantitative analysis;
- Excel – for coding and storing data in tabular form;
- SPSS – for statistical analysis (χ^2 -test, frequency, correlation);
- NVivo – for managing the results of qualitative analysis and semantic-pragmatic analysis.

Ethical aspects

Sources were used in compliance with copyright and open access texts.

Interview transcripts were collected with the consent of the participants and anonymized.

This methodology ensures that the analysis of relative clause structures is accurate, reliable, and repeatable, and allows for in-depth study of syntactic-stylistic differences in register and genre context.

Syntactic and semantic features of relative clauses

Relative clauses are complex syntactic units of language that provide additional information to the main clause. The connecting words (relative pronouns) used in a relative clause play a key role, as they provide a connection with the content of other clauses. Relative clauses are divided into two types: introductory and restrictive. Introductory relative clauses are often used to provide additional information, they expand the meaning of the main clause, but do not make any specific changes to it. Restrictive relative clauses, on the other hand, serve to identify, limit, and clearly define the subject.

Syntactically, relative clauses are used in the following structures:

Relative words: Words such as "who," "which," "that" are used to create a relative clause.

Sentence structure: Relative clauses can be subject, object, or in other syntactic roles. They are mainly structured according to intonation and context, and are used in various forms, including open and closed.

Depending on the genre and register, the form of relative clauses and their stylistic characteristics vary. For example, scientific texts usually need to be precise and formal, so restrictive relative clauses are more often used. On the other hand, in fiction, introductory relative clauses and complex sentence structures can be used, because literary texts are more expressive and free.

Variations in relative clauses depending on register

Register, that is, the formal and informal forms of the language, affects the structure of relative clauses. In formal language, relative clauses should be precise and short, as they provide a clear and professional look to the text. In formal style, relative clauses are mainly used to provide specific information, for example:

"The book that I bought yesterday is on the table."

In the informal register, relative clauses are used more in a free and friendly style of speech. In this case, sentences can be short, and more introductory relative clauses are used in speech:

"The book that you gave me is great."

The social and cultural conditions of society also affect the use of relative clauses in the register. For example, relative clauses used in a business or scientific environment should be formal and correct. In journalistic texts, however, sometimes free forms and short forms of relative clauses are used, which helps to quickly provide the reader with the necessary information.

Differences between genres and stylistic functions of relative clauses

Depending on the genre, that is, the type of text, the use of relative clauses changes. In scientific, artistic, journalistic and conversational genres, relative clauses perform different stylistic functions.

In the scientific genre, relative clauses are clear and purposeful. They are mainly used to present information in a clear, understandable and formal way. Example:

"The experiment that was conducted last year showed significant results."

In fiction, relative clauses are used to provide greater expressiveness and imagery. They are often designed to affect the reader's emotions and have many stylistic features. Example:

"The moon, which glowed brightly in the night sky, cast long shadows across the ground."

In journalistic texts, relative clauses are used to convey information quickly and effectively. In such texts, relative clauses are often simple and short:

"The suspect, who was arrested yesterday, will appear in court next week."

In conversations, relative clauses are used in more informal and free forms. They are used to ensure the naturalness of speech:

"The movie that we watched last night was amazing!"

The pragmatic role of relative clauses

From a pragmatic point of view, relative clauses vary depending on a particular audience or situation. Each register and genre meets its own pragmatic needs. In scientific texts, relative clauses provide a clear and formal form of knowledge transfer, while in journalism they help to quickly present information. In fiction, relative clauses help to convey a certain image or feeling to the reader, and in conversations they are part of natural and sincere communication.

Conclusion

The register and genre-dependent changes in relative clauses are of great importance in linguistics. Their syntactic and semantic forms change in different situations, audiences, and text types. These changes demonstrate the dynamism and functional capabilities of language. Analysis of the use of relative clauses in different genres and registers helps to improve the practical aspects of language, including methods that can be used in translation, text creation, and teaching methodology.

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