Relative clauses in Kazakh as spoken in China
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Abstract

Turkic languages are characterized by left-branching syntax structures. Subordinate clauses predominantly use the clause linking strategy of deranking, i.e., they are based on non-finite predicates. The constituent coding in subordinate clauses differs from that in independent finite clauses. The differences between finite and non-finite clauses are shown by two major parameters.

The first parameter is the formation of the dependent predicate. In particular, the predicates of subordinate clauses are deranked verb forms such as participant nominals, action nominals, verbal nominals of the infinitive type, and converbs. Some deranked forms can take possessive suffixes and/or case markers. Deranked verb forms are not able to manifest all the categorical distinctions, such as person-number agreement, interrogation, mood, tense, viewpoint-aspect, modality, negation, voice and valency, as finite verbs do. However, certain non-finite verb forms can express viewpoint-aspect and modality distinctions. Nonetheless, expression of interrogation or illocutionary force is restricted in subordinate clauses. The second parameter is the coding of the first argument. Usually, first arguments of subordinate clauses are in the genitive or nominative. In some cases, they may be not expressed overtly, and their first argument is controlled by an argument of the superordinate clause (Johanson 2021; 2022).

The notion of the relative clauses refers that a subordinate clause provides a specification on the participant of the main clause, which plays a role in both relative and main clauses. Generally, the relative clauses in Kazakh are expressed with the participant nominal markers in $\{-G^4A^2n\}$ and $\{-A^2t!^2n//-yt!^2n\}$ and their frequency of use is relatively high. Moreover, the relative clauses also can be marked by the participant nominals in $\{-(A^2)r\}$, $\{-M^3A^2K^2\}/\{-M^3A^2K^2\check{s}!^2\}$, $\{-A^2/-yt!^2ndA^2y\}/\{-(A^2)rL^2!^2K^2D^2A^2y\}$. Such participant nominals can take nominal suffixes of plural, case, and possessive markers and thus they display full deranking within complex sentences (Stassen 1985).

In the present paper three different deranking within various relative clauses will be distinguished: (i) syntactic deranking; (ii) semantic deranking; (iii) prosodic deranking. The syntactic deranking investigates the different types of structural deranking within relative clauses focusing on the voice, actionality, aspect-viewpoint, tense, mood or modality and person-number agreement marking in various types of relative clauses. Furthermore, the first argument expression in relative clauses is considered as syntactic deranking. The semantic deranking concerns the capacity of expressing the notions of illocutionary force, proposition or truth-value, predication (state of affairs) within relative clauses. The prosodic deranking refers the relative clauses having independent intonation and without independent intonation in complex sentences.

With respect to the degree of syntactic deranking participant nominals can vary. Some of them can convey actionality, viewpoint-aspect, modality values, and take negational operators. For example, the deranked verbal nominal in $\{-G^4A^2n\}$ denotes post-terminal viewpoint-aspect. The verbal nominal in $\{-A^2t!^2n//-yt!^2n\}$ marks intra-terminal viewpoint-aspect. Both forms can be attached to postverbal constructions which convey actionality modification. They can take negational markers, voice markers and tend to be followed by possessive suffixes. See:

Bựł	ret-kị	ḳiymịḷ-ɣa	universitet-te	ʷok-ịp
this	time-GI	event-DAT	university-LOC	steady-IP.CONV

jat-ḳan		student-ter	kel-ịp	ḳatịnas-tị̈.
LIE.POSTV-GAN.PN	student-PL		come-IP.CONV	participate-PAST

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'The students who studies at the university came and participated this event.'

The relative clauses coded by the participant nominals {-(A^2)r}, {-M^{3}A^{2}K^2}/{-M^{3}A^{2}K^{2}šI^2}, {-A^2/-ytI^{2}ndA^{2}y}/{-(A^2)rL^{2}I^{2}K^{2}D^{2}A^{2}y}, on the other hand, are restricted to express modality notions denoting prospectivity, intention and probability or possibility, and therefore, the notions of actionality, aspect-viewpoint, tense, mood and person-number agreement marking are lacking from such relative clauses.

Depending on the non-finite verb forms, the relative clauses can have truth-value denoting proposition or possible fact, they cannot express the notion of illocutionary force though. Concerning the prosodic deranking, the relative clauses cannot have independent intonation pattern, it falls under the intonation of main clauses. The present paper will explore the different deranking level of relative clauses within their types and the specific outcomes will be arranged in a hierarchy scheme.

Key words: relative clauses; deranking; Kazakh

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