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FEATURES OF ATTRIBUTIVE CLAUSES IN GERMAN

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Summary
The article analyzes the sources of linguistics and the opinions of linguists in connection with the attributive clause in linguistics. Here, at the same time, information is given about those conjunctions that are used in the construction of attributive clauses in German. In particular, it is noted that "the attributive clause, due to its ability to provide extensive information, is compared to other subordinate clauses in terms of its content". Additionally, the article examines various approaches by linguists to the classification of attributive clauses based on their syntactic structure and semantic content. Attention is also focused on the differences in the use of determinative pronouns in different historical periods, which confirms the dynamism of the language. An important aspect of the study is the analysis of stylistic preferences of linguists in the choice of conjunctions and pronouns, which affects the quality of expression and the accuracy of information in sentences. In addition, the role of context in the interpretation of attributive clauses and their importance for creating a coherent text is discussed. In conclusion, the authors emphasize that further study of attributive clauses may lead to a deeper understanding of their function in language. Thus, the article makes a significant contribution to the study of syntax and semantics in the German language, opening new perspectives for future research.
Key words: complex sentence, subordinate complex sentence, main sentence, attributive clause, unions, relative pronouns.

1. Introduction

Subordinate clauses, from the point of view of the nature of semantic syntactic relations between the main subordinate clauses in the linguistic literature, are divided into two groups: "subordinate clauses related to the general content of the main sentences" and "subordinate clauses related to one member of the main sentence". At the same time, it is believed that this position is inherently correct, because in subordinate clauses related to one member of the main sentence, unlike subordinate clauses related to the general content of the main sentence, the structural syntactic connection is more than strong. In the second case, the syntactic semantics and the logical syntactic connection between the components of subordinate complex sentences are of decisive importance.

2. Main part

Attributive clauses have been extensively studied in the German language (L.R.Zinder, V. Admoni, E.Schendels, K.Lechman, K.E.Sommerfeld, G.Stark, U.Engels, and others). L.R.Zinder emphasizes that relative clauses function to provide exact identification of any component in the main clause *(Zinder, Stroyeva-Sokolskaya,1941, 268)*.

The conjunctive means of attributive clauses are pronouns such as, *der, die, das; welcher, welche, welches; wer, was.*

The primary meaning of the pronouns *der, die, das* and the pronouns *welcher, welche, welches* used in the 16th- 18th centuries differed to a certain extent, whereas in modern language their semantics are the same and in order to avoid repetition, one or the other pronoun is used *(Zinder, Stroyeva-Sokolskaya, 1941, 268; Schendels, 1988, 373).* Linguists such as L.R.Zinder, T.V.Stroyeva, and E.Schendels note that the use of one pronoun or another is stylistically determined. In the subordinate clause, when using the correlatives *der, derjenige,* or *solcher*, the pronoun *welcher* is used. For example, /*Derjenige Fluß, welcher sich in einen anderen ergießt, wird Nebenfluß genannt*/. Relative pronouns such as *der, die, das* are primarily used to specify nouns and personal pronouns *(Schendels, 1988, 374).* For example, /*Er, der hinten stand, sah nichts/, /Wir suchen ein Landhaus, das näher am Bahnhof liege*/, etc.

E.Schendels notes that the use of the sentence /*Starke Verben nennt man die, die eine Veränderung des Wurzelvokals aufweisen*/ as /*Starke Verben nennt man die, welche eine Veränderung des Wurzelvokals aufweisen*/ is more correct from a stylistic point of view. E.Schendels notes that if the main clause uses such correlates as *nichts, dieses, solches, etwas, viel, manches,* then at this point the attributive subordinate clause is formed from *was* and circumstantial pronouns (*worüber,* etc.) *(Schendels, 1988, 374).*

The fact that attributives as members of a sentence are dependent in nature, in fact, is the opinion that attributives are not independent members of a sentence and that an attributive is a "member of a member of a sentence" allows us to create new forms of attributive clauses. "As attributives relate to any element of the sentence expressed by a noun, relative clauses serve to expand or supplement the meaning, clarifying any element of the sentence expressed by a noun or a pronoun". It is no coincidence that linguists such as E.Schendels and others refer to relative clauses as Teilgliedsätze. As is known, according to another division, subordinate clauses are divided into two groups – subordinate clauses related to the entire content of the main sentence and subordinate clauses related to each member of the main sentence. Attributive clauses stand at the bottom of the second row and in their semantic grammatical content are not independent, and as already noted, they serve to define and characterize any member of the main sentence, which is expressed by a noun, whereas attributive clauses related to pronouns occupy a specific place in this system.

Linguistic facts confirm that in modern German, each type of subordinate clause, in terms of its functional development, cannot be compared to attributive clauses. Attributive clauses provide essential information for further communication about objects, events, and things that they define. They characterize these entities based on external and internal features, interpret them, and explain their placement in space and time, considering causal relationships. In modern German, attributive clauses, in comparison with other attributive clauses, necessarily prevail in terms of quantity and are used in speech in a broad form.

The semantic and syntactic content of attributive clauses establishes the nature of the means by which they are formed and arise in the language. They are associated with a certain word with a member of a specific sentence expressed by a noun, are connected in close and

dynamic intonation unity with the main sentence for their expansion, addition and isolation, are prone to conditionality by syntactic means to a large extent, the words to which they relate, while maintaining their dependence, cannot outrun the main sentence, as well as in conditions of close connection with the component to which they relate, either they are located between the sides of the main proposal, or between the main proposals – after the words they directly relate to.

Linguists distinguishe three types of subordinate clauses motivated by the relationships between the elements of the sentence and the subordinate clause—two functional synonyms and one type that is not a synonym at all. In their opinion, the first type is based on the possibility of replacing a subordinate clause with a part of sentence. The second type of functional synonyms includes subordinate clauses that perform the function of a sentence element but, for certain reasons, are not subject to direct replacement. The third type, which is not a synonym, includes subordinate clauses that do not have functional synonyms as a part of the sentence.

A definition, being a member of a sentence, is not independent, which is why attributive subordinate clauses do not have an independent character, but also serve to interpret, expand from the point of view of the content and structure of any member of the main sentence expressed by a noun. From this point of view, the name of subordinate clauses "attributive subordinate clauses" has an absolutely relative character of definition. It is no coincidence that linguists call attributive clauses "relative clauses".

Studies in German syntax, such as those by Eisenberg (2020) and Haider (2010), note that subordinate clauses often depend on nouns, including pronouns and nominal phrases, and serve to define them. Relative clauses in German are formed using relative pronouns with roots like d- and w-, relative adverbial pronouns also rooted in w-, and conjunctions such as dass, als ob, and als. These patterns are further expanded upon in works on comparative syntax, such as Haspelmath (2019), which explore the formation and syntactic behavior of relative clauses in German.

They note that relative pronouns with the root d can appear in all case forms, depending on the syntactic functions they perform in subordinate clauses. These subordinate clauses with relative pronouns usually occupy a postposition relative to nouns, pronouns, and nominal phrases. As relative clauses, the relative pronouns can function as adjectives as synonyms, broad constructions of verbal modifiers, verbal modifiers themselves, and modifiers used in the genitive case. For example:

/Er erblickte die Stadt, die grau war/ – /Er erblickte die graue Stadt/ /Da lag das Buch, das sie suchte/ – / Da lag das von ihr gesuchte Buch/ – / Da lag das Buch von ihr gesucht/.

Studies in German syntax, such as those by Eisenberg (2020) and Pasch (2002), note that in the case of the 1st and 2nd persons, relative pronouns often appear accompanied by corresponding pronouns, forming pleonastic structures that emphasize the syntactic relationship within subordinate complex sentences. For example,

/ich, der ich dir das sage.../

Furthermore, Eisenberg (2020) and Haspelmath (2019) describe the systematic use of relative pronouns with roots such as w, which are categorized into functional groups based on their syntactic and semantic roles. 1) The relative pronoun *welcher*, which is little used and coincides with the relative pronoun *der* from the point of view of its use. This linguist notes that the relative pronoun *welcher* is mainly used to prevent collisions between the article *der* of the relative pronoun *der*. For example, *....der Mann, der der Frau noch Geld schuldet.*

2) The relative pronouns *wer* and *was*, which are connected by words expressing generalization or uncertainty. In this case, words that are attributive are qualitative adjectives with the character of a noun or become a negative word *nichts*. For example,

/Das ist alles, was ich weiß//

/Das ist etwas, was ich nicht vestehe//

According to studies in German syntax by Eisenberg (2020) and Pasch (2002), relative clauses of explanatory meaning are often employed when referring to abstract nouns, such as those expressing opinion, perception, speech, or desire. These studies highlight that such relative clauses are typically used in cases where the defining noun is not explicitly repeated within the subordinate clause, allowing the relative clause to serve as a broader explanatory extension. Furthermore, Eisenberg (2020) emphasizes that relative clauses expressing unreal or hypothetical comparisons are rare in usage and are primarily employed when the content is given an unreal or speculative interpretation in modal contexts. For example,

/Es entstand die Frage, ob er schlafe/ /Die Empfindung, als ob er schlafe, war wieder da//

In the case when the defined words act as components of verbal phraseological units, subordinate clauses depending on the verb and noun, the features turn out to be close to each other. For example,

/Er fühlte, daß er wieder gesund war/ – /Er hatte das Gefühl, daß er wieder gesund war //

Studies in German syntax, such as those by Eisenberg (2020) and Haider (2010), note that attributive subordinate clauses constructed with relative pronouns like der and welcher exhibit significant semantic variation. These pronouns often form clauses that introduce new semantic content distinct from the main clause, creating a clear division between "non-functional" relative clauses, which add independent communicative value, and "functional" relative clauses, which directly support the informational structure of the main clause. Furthermore, Eisenberg (2020) emphasizes that relative clauses, like attributive clauses, are positioned adjacent to the nouns they define, reflecting their syntactic dependency and shared grammatical function.

Haider (2010) also highlights that restrictive attributive clauses in German often involve relative pronouns with roots like w- and their combinations with prefixes, as well as pronouns like der and welcher. These restrictive clauses serve to differentiate a specific referent from a broader set, making them essential in defining the syntactic and semantic framework of complex sentences.

In line with comparative analyses by Pasch (2002), determinative subordinate clauses are characterized by their one-sided dependency on the main clause. Unlike circumstantial or additional subordinate clauses, determinative clauses function primarily as noun or pronominal definitions, emphasizing their integrative role within the main sentence structure. According to Pasch, these clauses form specialized sentence models that combine syntactic precision with semantic depth, reflecting the unique characteristics of German syntax.

For example: Ich kenne nicht die Frau, die diesen Brief gebracht hat// – /Kennst du das Land, wo die Zitronen blühn?// (Goethe)

2. The definitive subordinate clause provides additional information about a particular subject. Explanatory attributive organizes the foundation of the connection between the defined noun and the relative clause. For example,

/Ich sah einen Mann, der ganz in Schwarz gekleidet war//

3. A relative clause can characterize the modified noun through comparison. The comparative attributive forms the basis of the subordinate clause and the connection between the word being defined. In this case, the attributive subordinate clause is constructed by the pronoun *wie*. For example,

/ich möchte ein (solches) Kleid, wie meine Freundin tragt//

E.Schendels notes that relative clauses in German have numerous functional synonyms. It relates the following here *(Schendels, 1988, 375).*

1. An extended adjective used before or after the word to which it refers. For example, /Die Berge, die mit hohen Tannen bewachsen sind// – /Die mit hohen Tannen bewachsenen Berge// – /Die Berge? Mit hohen Tannen bewachsen.....// – / Bewachsen mit hohen Tannen, erhoben sich ringsum die Berge//

2. The definition expressed by the adjective. For example, /die Blume, die schön ist//-/ die schöne Blume/

/das Auto, das vorüberfahrt/ – /das vorüberfahrende Auto/

3. The definition used by the prefix. For example,
/das Buch, dessen Einband zerrisen ist// – /das Buch mit dem zerrissenen Einband/

4. The definition expressed in the genitive case. For example,
/das Buch, das dem Studenten gehört//-/das Buch des Studenten /

5. The definition expressed by an adverb. For example,
/das Bemerkung die vorhin fiel///die Bemerkung vorhin/

6. The definition expressed by the infinitive. For example, /der Wunsch, daß ihn alle bewunderten// – /der Wunsch, bewundert zu werden/

7. All types of emphasis arise as corresponding forms of attributive clauses (Konkurrenzformen). They oppress the content of the opinion. For example,
/ Es waren starre Augen, glanzlos und in die Ferne gerichtet //(F, Fühmann. Böhmen am Meer)

E.Schendels notes that replacement always leads to communicative changes in style *(Schendels, 1988, 376).* This is possible only if the attribute subordinate clause refers to the noun. In the case where the word being defined is a pronoun, other corresponding forms arise. According to E.Schendels, no subordinate clause is as diverse in type as the attributive subordinate clause. These sentences can provide any additional information about the subject, which is more clearly interpreted from the point of view of the internal or external character of the word being defined, which expresses spatial, temporal and causal relations, has a comparative concept and means the immediate meaning of speech. That is why attributive subordinate clauses prevail in the language due to their large number.

3. Conclusions

Thus, in the course of analyzing the considerations related to this topic, we can come to the conclusion that attributive subordinate clauses in German have a wider possibility of use in contrast to other subordinate clauses. And this, in turn, determines itself with the originality and peculiarities of the widespread use of attributive subordinate clauses.

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