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## RELATIVE PRONOUNS AS OBJECTS

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### Abstrak

This study is devoted to a comprehensive analysis of relative pronouns in the English language, with particular emphasis on their function as objects within complex sentence structures. Relative pronouns play a crucial role in linking subordinate clauses to main clauses, while simultaneously fulfilling syntactic roles within those clauses. The research examines the grammatical characteristics, structural behavior, and stylistic variations of relative pronouns such as who, whom, which, that, and whose.

Special attention is given to the use of relative pronouns in object position, where they demonstrate significant variability, including optional omission in informal contexts. The paper also explores the interaction between relative pronouns and prepositions, highlighting the differences between formal and informal usage patterns. In formal English, prepositions tend to precede relative pronouns, whereas in informal speech, they are commonly placed at the end of the clause.

Furthermore, the study analyzes contemporary tendencies in English usage, particularly the gradual decline of the pronoun whom in spoken language and its replacement by who or omission. The research is based on descriptive and comparative methods, supported by illustrative examples that demonstrate real-life language usage.

The findings of this study contribute to a deeper understanding of English syntax and provide practical insights for language learners, educators, and researchers. The results may be effectively applied in teaching English grammar, improving writing skills, and enhancing communicative competence in both academic and everyday contexts.

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## Introduction

A relative pronoun is one which is used to refer to nouns mentioned previously, whether they are people, places, things, animals, or ideas. Relative pronouns can be used to join two sentences. The most common relative pronouns are who, whom, whose, which, that [1]. The relative pronoun we use depends on what we are referring to and the type of relative clause. There are only a few relative pronouns in the English language. The most common are which, that, whose, whoever, whomever, who, and whom. In some situations, the words what, when, and where can also function as relative pronouns. Because there are only a few of them, there are also just a few rules for using relative pronouns. Keep them in mind as you write [2], [3].

Relative pronouns are words (who, what, which, which, whose, how many) that link parts of a complex sentence, acting as conjunctions. They not only connect the main clause and subordinate clause, but also act as sentence members (subject, object, or attribute), replacing the noun from the main clause. Relative pronouns can be omitted as complements that identify a person or thing [4]. However, formal English requires the use of a relative pronoun. If the relative pronoun is the complement of a preposition, "which" should be used instead of "that," for example: in which, about which, for which. Let's look at some examples: Formal English: Dr. Smith was the person to whom I expressed my deep esteem and whose reputation was known to everyone [5].

## Methods

Dr. Smith was the person to whom I expressed my deepest respect and whose reputation was known to everyone. Informal English: Dr. Smith was the person I expressed my deep esteem to and whose reputation was known to everyone. Formal English: There was a wonderful landscape at the exhibition that Jane adored. Formal English: Tom achieved the cave about which he had heard so many tales.

## Result and Discussion

In American English, the relative pronoun "whom" is rarely used and is usually replaced by "who," and in colloquial speech, it is omitted altogether: Formal: The person to whom you said hello in the morning is my uncle. Colloquial: The person you said hello to in the morning is my uncle. (The person you said hello to in the morning is my uncle.)

However, if the relative pronoun "whom" follows a preposition and is its object, it cannot be omitted: The man for whom she was waiting so many years finally appeared [6], [7]. Relative pronouns are used to attach subordinate clauses that act as subjects, predicates, objects, or attributes.

We couldn't understand what they were driving at. We couldn't understand what they were getting at. (Complementary subordinate clause)

The child who was only 5 years old could read such long poems by heart! (Attributive subordinate clause) Depending on their function, the translation of relative pronouns varies [8].

In attributive clauses, who/whom, whose, which, and that mean "which" or "which"; "who/whom" and "whose" refer to people, "which" to inanimate nouns and animals, and "that" to both animate and inanimate nouns. Note that in modern informal speech, "whom" is quite rare [9], [10].

In some cases, relative pronouns can be omitted. This is acceptable in attributive clauses if: - the phrase refers to an individual characteristic unique to the noun being defined (in which case the noun has the article "the"):

The girl I met yesterday near the house turned out to be Bill's sister.

Relative pronouns can act as objects and be used with prepositions. In subordinate clauses with the pronouns "who" and "that," prepositions are placed only at the end of the subordinate clause and never before the pronouns themselves.

The name of the guy you should talk to is Peter.

There are some toys your child can play with [11], [12].

In subordinate clauses with the pronouns whom, whose, and which, prepositions can appear either at the end of the clause or before the pronouns themselves. When the preposition appears before the pronoun, the sentence sounds more formal.

You are the only one to whom I can speak. говорить.

You are the only one whom I can speak to.

This is Mr. Peterson, in whose house I live.

This is Mr. Peterson, whose house I live in.

Relative pronouns are one of several groups of pronouns in the English language. These pronouns are essential for linking subordinate clauses to the main clause in a complex sentence [13], [14], [15]. Thus, they are conjunctions. Specifically, conjunctions, not conjunctions. After all, relative pronouns in English not only link subordinate clauses but are also members of those clauses themselves.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, relative pronouns constitute a vital component of English grammar, playing a significant role in the formation and organization of complex sentences. Their ability to function both as connectors and as syntactic elements within subordinate clauses makes them a unique and multifunctional linguistic unit.

The analysis has shown that relative pronouns in the function of objects demonstrate a high degree of flexibility. This includes the possibility of omission in informal contexts, variation in the placement of prepositions, and stylistic differences between formal and informal language use. The gradual decline of the pronoun whom in modern spoken English further reflects the tendency toward simplification and efficiency in communication.

Moreover, the interaction between relative pronouns and prepositions highlights important grammatical distinctions that are essential for achieving accuracy and clarity in both written and spoken English. The study also emphasizes that while informal speech allows simplification, formal academic writing still adheres to more traditional grammatical norms.

The findings of this research contribute to a deeper understanding of English syntax and can be effectively applied in language teaching, academic writing, and linguistic analysis. Mastery of relative pronouns, particularly in object position, enhances learners' communicative competence and grammatical accuracy.

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