

Relative pronoun pied-piping, the structure of which informs the analysis of relative clauses

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SuB 20

September 2015

English allows the construction of relative clauses (RC) which use *wh*-words as relative pronouns, fronted to the edge of the RC.

(1) **English relative pronoun RC:**

[_{DP} The person [_{RC} *who* John asked _____ for help]] thinks John is an idiot.  (McCawley, 1988, p. 417)

Today: We investigate the structure and interpretation of *relative pronoun pied-piping* (RPPP). (We do not discuss *that/∅* RC.)

(2) **The relative pronoun can pied-pipe material with it:**

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Roadmap

- §1 Background
- §2 New evidence from intervention effects
- §3 Proposal
- §4 Conclusion

§1 Background

- the interpretation of relative clauses
- the problem of pied-piping
- two syntactic approaches

§2 New evidence from intervention effects

§3 Proposal

§4 Conclusion

Interpreting restrictive RCs

English RCs come in **restrictive and non-restrictive** (appositive, supplemental) varieties.

Both can use relative pronouns with (some degree of) pied-piping.

Consider first a simple restrictive RC, as in (3).

- (3) Every semanticist [_{RC} who I met at SuB] gave a great presentation.

Following Quine (1960); Partee (1973), a.o., the restrictor of *every* is the set of individuals satisfying *semanticist* and “ $\lambda x . I \text{ met } x \text{ at SuB.}$ ”

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Interpreting non-restrictive RCs

Non-restrictive RCs have a very different semantics, **traditionally compared to an independent (conjoined) clause**: (Quine, 1960; Taglicht, 1972; Thorne, 1972; Emonds, 1979; McCawley, 1981; de Vries, 2006)

- (4) Mary, who I met at SuB, gave a great presentation.
≈ Mary gave a great presentation. (*And*) *I met Mary at SuB.*

(Following Potts (2005) and citations there, this meaning introduced by the non-restrictive RC is not part of the asserted content.)

☞ This meaning, “I met Mary at SuB,” is derived by combining the referent described, *Mary*, with the predicate “ $\lambda x . I \text{ met } x \text{ at SuB.}$ ”

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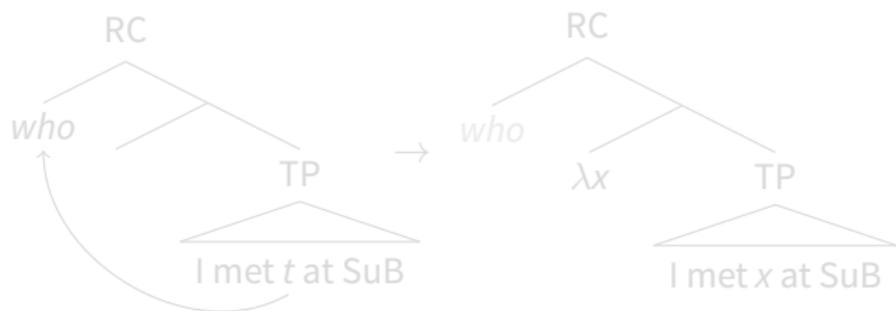
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The RC denotes a predicate

For both restrictive and non-restrictive RCs, then, we need the RC structure to yield the derived predicate “ λx . I met x at SuB.”

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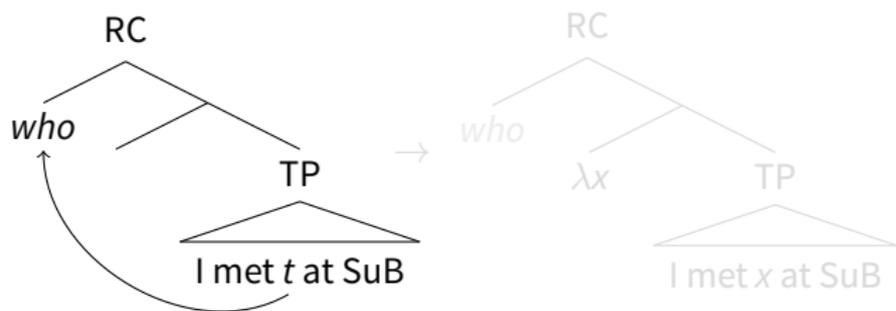


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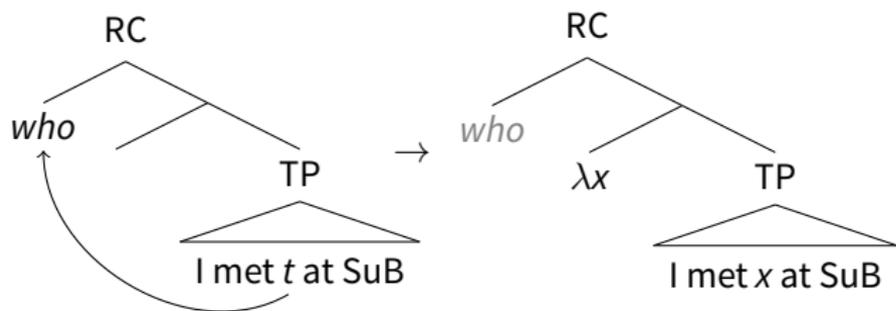


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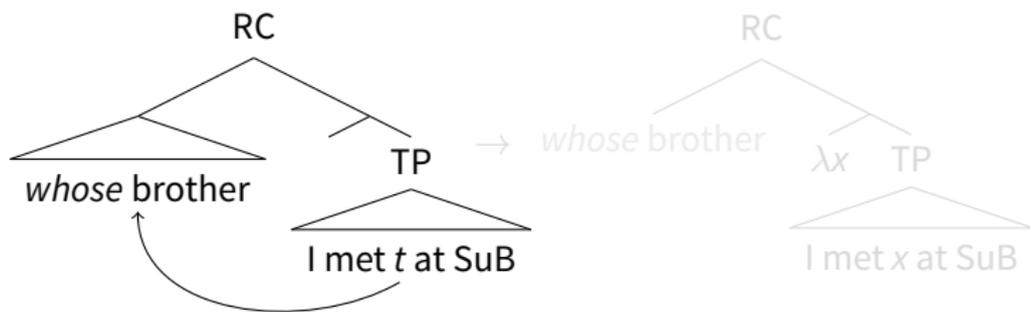


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The problem of pied-piping

This process is complicated with **relative pronoun pied-piping (RPPP)**:

- (5) The girl [_{RC} [_{RPPP} whose brother] I met at SuB]...



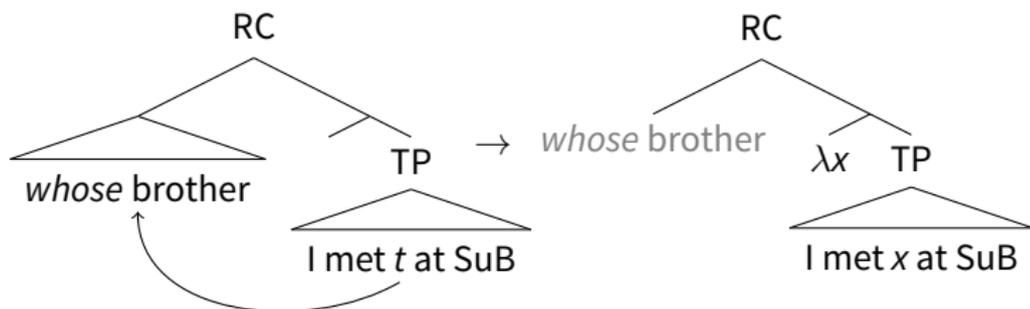
Again, movement and λ -abstraction gives us " $\lambda x . I \text{ met } x \text{ at SuB}$."

But this is not the predicate we want. For the correct interpretation, we need to somehow derive " $\lambda x . I \text{ met } [x\text{'s brother}] \text{ at SuB}$."

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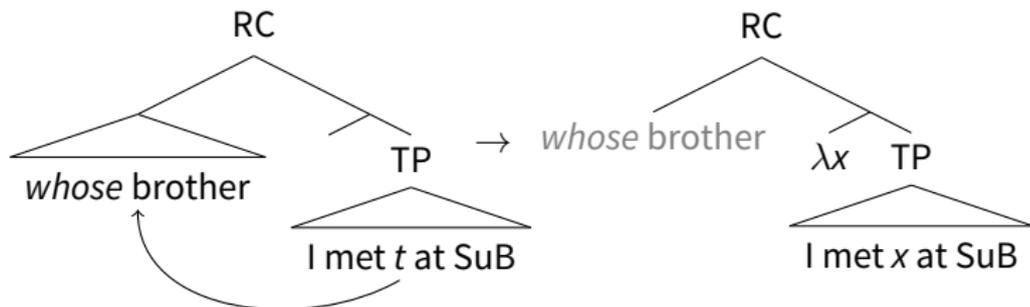
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The problem of pied-piping

Two ways to solve this problem of pied-piping:

- 1 Covert movement of the *wh*-pronoun out of the pied-piping

(6) [_{RC} *who* λ_Y [[_{RPPP} *who*'s brother] λ_X . I met x...]]

(Or similarly: movement of the head of the RC from the relative pronoun itself (Kayne, 1994).)

- 2 Interpret the pied-piping as is, with the relative pronoun *in-situ*
(See von Stechow (1996, 2000) for a similar discussion for *wh*-pied-piping.)

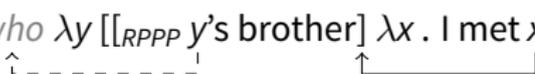
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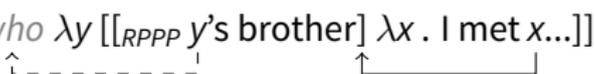
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§1 Background

§2 **New evidence from intervention effects**

- Intervention in *wh*-question pied-piping
- Intervention in relative clause pied-piping

§3 Proposal

§4 Conclusion and open questions

New evidence from intervention effects

Today: The *wh* relative pronoun in non-restrictive RCs is interpreted *in-situ* inside the pied-piping, specifically using **Rooth-Hamblin alternative computation** (squiggly arrow) (Hamblin, 1973; Rooth, 1985, a.o.).

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Alternative computation and intervention effects

Descriptively, in-situ *wh*-elements cannot be c-commanded by *interveners*: certain quantifiers, negative elements, ...

(8) Japanese: Intervention effects avoided through scrambling

- a. ✓ Hanako-ga nani-o yon-da-no?
Hanako-NOM what-ACC read-PAST-Q
'What did Hanako read?'
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Examples from Tomioka (2007).

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Intervention effects affect regions of alternative computation, but not (overt or covert) movement (Beck, 2006; Beck and Kim, 2006; Kotek and Erlewine, to appear; Kotek, 2014, 2015)

(9) **Intervention affects alternatives, not movement:**

- a. * [CP C ... **intervener** ... *wh*]

- b. ✓ [CP C ... *wh* **intervener** ... *t*]


Wh-pied-piping and intervention effects

We can also observe intervention effects in **wh-question pied-piping**.

- (10) Jim owns a picture of *which* president
- a. [*Which* president] does Jim own a picture of ____?
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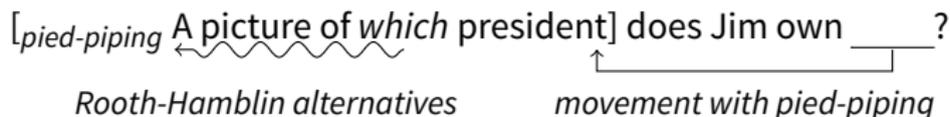
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Pied-piping and intervention effects

Cable (2007): In the derivation of a question like (10c), two steps occur:

- Movement of the pied-piping constituent to Spec,CP.
- Inside pied-piping, *wh* is interpreted via Rooth-Hamblin alternative computation between *wh* and the edge of pied-piping.

(11) **Interpreting (10c) via movement & alternative computation:**

[*pied-piping* A picture of *wh* president] does Jim own ____?


(A similar proposal has also been made for pied-piping in focus movement (Krifka, 2006; Wagner, 2006; Erlewine and Kotek, 2014).)

Wh-pied-piping and intervention effects

Sauerland and Heck (2003); Cable (2007); Kotek and Erlewine (to appear) show that *intervention effects* occur inside pied-piped constituents:

(12) **Intervention effect in English pied-piping:** (exx Cable, 2007)

- a. [A picture of *which* president] does Jim own ____?
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- c. * [Few pictures of *which* president] does Jim own ____?
- d. * [Only PICTURES of *which* president] does Jim own ____?

If an *intervener* is placed between the *wh*-word and the edge of its pied-piping constituent, it results in ungrammaticality.

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Predictions for Relative Pronoun Pied-Piping

Recall: Two theories for the interpretation of RPPP

- 1 Covert movement of the *wh*-pronoun out of the pied-piping

$$(14) \quad [_{RC} \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{-----}}}{wh} \lambda y \ [[_{RPPP} \dots y \dots] \lambda x . \dots x \dots]]$$

- 2 In-situ interpretation of the *wh*-pronoun using Rooth-Hamblin alternative computation

$$(15) \quad [_{RC} \ [[_{RPPP} \dots \underset{\substack{\leftarrow \\ \text{~~~~~}}}{wh} \dots] \lambda x . \dots x \dots]]$$

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- 👉 **Relative pronoun pied-piping (RPPP) in non-restrictive relatives is sensitive to this form of intervention:**

- (16) a. ✓ This is the unfortunate recipe, [[an ingredient for *which*] I am missing].
- b. * This is the unfortunate recipe, [[no ingredients for *which*] I have at home].

Intervention in RPPP

👉 **Relative pronoun pied-piping (RPPP) in non-restrictive relatives is sensitive to this form of intervention:**

- (16) a. ✓ This is the unfortunate recipe, [[an ingredient for *which*] I am missing].
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This pattern is not limited to *no*. It occurs with other known pied-piping interveners (Cable, 2007, 2010; Kotek and Erlewine, to appear; Erlewine and Kotek, 2014):

- (17) a. ✓ This recipe, [[three ingredients for *which*] I have...],
b. ?? This recipe, [[**only** [one]_F ingredient for *which*] I have...],
c. ?? This recipe, [[**very few** ingredients for *which*] I have...],

Intervention in RPPP

It is also not the case that these are strange meanings in some way...

👉 No intervention if smaller pied-piping is chosen:

- (18) a. * [_{RC} [_{RPPP} **no** ingredients for *which*] I have ___...] (=16b)
b. ✓ [_{RC} [_{RPPP} for *which*] I have **no** ingredients ___ at home]
c. ✓ [_{RC} [_{RP} *which*] I have **no** ingredients for ___ at home]

NB: This contrast shows that the pied-piping constituent is not uniformly *reconstructed* into its base position. That would predict no contrast between these pied-piping options.

(19) **Hypothetical LFs with reconstructed RPPP:**

[_{RC} I have no ingredients for *which* at home]

We observe intervention effects in RPPP whenever an intervener occurs **above the relative pronoun, inside its pied-piping.**

- 👉 This is explained if **RPPP in non-restrictive RCs is interpreted using Rooth-Hamblin alternative computation**, but not if RPPP is interpreted using (covert) movement of the relative pronoun.

Support from RPPP with islands

Further support against the movement approach comes from island diagnostics (Ross, 1967). (Covert) movement is island-sensitive.

☞ The relative pronoun can be inside a syntactic island, inside the RPPP.

- (20) a. This portrait, [[the background of *which*] is quite stunning],
b. ? This portrait, [[the background that was chosen for *which*] is quite stunning], is...

Intervention effects and restrictive RCs

- 👉 **Non-restrictive RCs allow for larger pied-piping than restrictives**
(Emonds, 1976, 1979; Jackendoff, 1977; Nanni and Stillings, 1978, a.o.).

- (21) **Larger pied-piping in non-restrictive relatives:** (exx Cable, 2010)
- This book, [_{RC} [_{RPPP} the reviews of *which*] were awful], is really quite nice.
 - * No book [_{RC} [_{RPPP} the reviews of *which*] are awful] is really quite nice.

Intervention effects and restrictive RCs

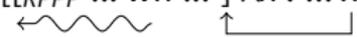
Hence we cannot test intervention effects in restrictive relatives:

- (22) a. * QR is one topic [[an/every/the/some article(s) about *which*]
the journal rejected].
- b. * QR is one topic [[**only one/no/very few** article(s) about
which] the journal rejected].

 **We will argue that this is not a coincidence, but points to a fundamental difference between restrictive and non-restrictive relatives.**

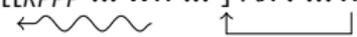
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We propose that Relative Pronoun Pied-Piping in English non-restrictive RCs is interpreted using **Rooth-Hamblin alternative computation**.

$$(23) \quad [_{RC} [[_{RPPP} \dots wh \dots] \lambda x . \dots x \dots]]$$


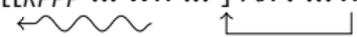
- Alternative computation is a method of semantic composition in another “dimension.”
- Alternative computation has been used for the interpretation of in-situ focus (Rooth, 1985, 1992), as well as for interrogative *wh*-words (Hamblin, 1973; Beck, 2006, a.o.).

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Alternative computation

For example, for a *wh*-in-situ question, alternatives are computed between the in-situ *wh*-word and C (Hamblin, 1973; Beck, 2006, a.o.).

(24) [C [_{TP} Alex likes *who*]]


Ordinary semantic values are computed using $[[\cdot]]^o$ and the alternatives (focus semantic values) using $[[\cdot]]^f$ (Rooth, 1992, a.o.).

(25) **The denotation of a *wh*-word:** (Beck, 2006)

a. $[[who]]^o$ undefined

b. $[[who]]^f$ = the set of human individuals = {Bobby, Chris, Dana...}

Alternative computation

For example, for a *wh*-in-situ question, alternatives are computed between the in-situ *wh*-word and C (Hamblin, 1973; Beck, 2006, a.o.).

(24) [C [_{TP} Alex likes *who*]]


Ordinary semantic values are computed using $[[\cdot]]^o$ and the alternatives (focus semantic values) using $[[\cdot]]^f$ (Rooth, 1992, a.o.).

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Alternative computation

$\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket^f$ is computed recursively, like $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket^o$, composing alternatives pointwise.

(26) a. $\llbracket \text{TP} \rrbracket^o$ undefined

$$\text{b. } \llbracket \text{TP} \rrbracket^f = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \lambda w . \text{Alex likes Bobby in } w, \\ \lambda w . \text{Alex likes Chris in } w, \\ \lambda w . \text{Alex likes Dana in } w, \dots \end{array} \right\}$$

C takes the alternatives in its complement ($\llbracket \text{TP} \rrbracket^f$) to form the question denotation (Beck and Kim, 2006; Kotek, 2014, a.o.). The alternatives in $\llbracket \text{TP} \rrbracket^f$ correspond to *possible answers* to the question.

Alternative computation

This works for the interpretation of *wh*-question pied-piping, too.

(27) $[[_{PP} \textit{whose brother}] [\lambda x [\textit{you like } x]]]$

(28) $[[\textit{whose brother}]]^f = \text{the set of brothers} =$
 $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Andrew (= Bobby's brother),} \\ \text{Bill (= Chris's brother),} \\ \text{Fred (= Dana's brother)} \end{array} \right\}$

(29) $[[[27]]]^f = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \lambda w . \textit{you like Andrew (= Bobby's brother) in } w, \\ \lambda w . \textit{you like Bill (= Chris's brother) in } w, \\ \lambda w . \textit{you like Fred (= Dana's brother) in } w \end{array} \right\}$

This combines the pied-piping constituent with the rest of the question to derive the correct set of possible answers.

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Alternative computation for RPPP

Now consider the RPPP. In order to construct the derived predicate “ $\lambda x . I$ met [x 's brother] at SuB,” we need the RPPP to provide **a function from individuals to their brothers**.

(30) Mary, [_{RC} [_{RPPP} *whose* brother] $\lambda x . I$ met x at SuB]],...



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(32) $[[RC]]^f = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \lambda w . \textit{I met John at SuB in } w, \\ \lambda w . \textit{I met Bill at SuB in } w, \\ \lambda w . \textit{I met Fred at SuB in } w \end{array} \right\}$

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Alternative computation for RPPP

The problem: this meaning of RC could be derived from the correct mapping: Mary \rightarrow John, Chris \rightarrow Bill, Dana \rightarrow Fred.

But it can also be obtained from other possible functions, e.g. Mary \rightarrow Fred, Chris \rightarrow John, Dana \rightarrow Bill.

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Once we compute the RC, the correct mapping between individuals and their brothers cannot be recovered.

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The antecedent of a non-restrictive relative

Important: Non-restrictive relatives require a referential antecedent (Thorne, 1972; Karttunen, 1976; McCawley, 1988; Potts, 2002, a.o.).

The antecedent of a non-restrictive relative is an E-type anaphor (Sells, 1985; Demirdache, 1991; Del Gobbo, 2007). This is motivated through parallels between non-restrictive RCs and cross-sentential anaphora.

The antecedent of a non-restrictive relative

Cross-sentential anaphora can pick out the correct referent for the antecedent of parallel non-restrictive RCs (Demirdache, 1991, p. 114–116).

(33) **Non-restrictive RCs and parallel cross-sentential anaphora:**

- a. i. I saw Mary, [_{RC} *who* was late].
ii. I saw Mary_i. She_{i/*j} was late.
- b. i. I go there [whenever I have time], [_{RC} *which* isn't actually very often].
ii. I go there [whenever I have time]_i. It/that_{i/*j} isn't actually very often. (Sells, 1985)

The antecedent of a non-restrictive relative

Non-restrictive relatives are only compatible with referring expressions. The availability of cross-sentential anaphora patterns with non-restrictive RCs:

- (34) **Limits on antecedents of non-restrictives, cross-sent. anaphora:**
- a. Indefinites: (Emonds, 1979, p. 236)
 - i. { \checkmark One, \checkmark some, *each, *no} student at this conference, [_{RC} *who* I talked to _____ on the phone], is happy.
 - ii. [{ \checkmark One, \checkmark some, *each, *no} student at this conference]_i is happy. I talked to him/her_i on the phone.
 - b. Non-specific indefinite under neg: (Demirdache, 1991, p. 134)
 - i. * I didn't see a donkey, [_{RC} *who/which* eats too much].
 - ii. * I didn't see a donkey_i. It_i eats too much.

Proposal: Following Sells (1985); Demirdache (1991); Del Gobbo (2007), we can dynamically refer to the E-type referent denoted by the antecedent of a non-restrictive RC.

For *Mary, whose brother I met at SuB*:

(35) $antecedent_{RC} = \text{Mary}$

Proposal

Proposal: We contextually restrict the alternative denotation of the relative pronoun. For *Mary, whose brother I met at SuB*:

(36) a. $\llbracket who \rrbracket^o$ undefined

b. $\llbracket who \rrbracket^f = \{antecedent_{RC}\} = \{Mary\}$

(37) a. $\llbracket whose\ brother \rrbracket^o$ undefined

b. $\llbracket whose\ brother \rrbracket^f = \{John (= Mary's\ brother)\}$

(38) a. $\llbracket RC \rrbracket^o$ undefined

b. $\llbracket RC \rrbracket^f = \{(\lambda x . I\ met\ x\ at\ SuB)(John)\}$
 $= \{I\ met\ John\ at\ SuB\}$

Notice that there is no step in this computation where we compute the property “ $\lambda x . I\ met\ x's\ brother\ at\ SuB.$ ”

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Proposal: An operator at the edge of the pied-piping introduces the projective meaning of the non-restrictive relative (cf Potts, 2005).

(39) [*Op* RC] : for $\phi \in \llbracket \text{RC} \rrbracket^f$, ϕ is true

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Non-singleton referents?

Q: Are there cases where the meaning of the non-restrictive RC ranges over a set of individuals?

A: Apparently no. Even if a plurality is described, it is described together as a single, plural individual.

- (41) a. Every mother whose son is in the army is concerned.
⇒ each (relevant) mother has her own son *restrictive*
- b. Mary and Sue, whose son is in the army, are concerned.
⇒ Mary and Sue have a son together. *non-restrictive*

☞ Non-restrictive RCs do not “distribute” over individuals; there is always a single referent (possibly a plurality) which is described.

(See also discussion of Weakest Crossover in Lasnik and Stowell (1991).)

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Note that because we contextually restrict $\llbracket wh \rrbracket^f$ to be a singleton set, this is in effect a lot like coindexation/binding.

(42) Mary_i, $\llbracket [\text{who}_i\text{'s brother}] \text{ I met at SuB} \rrbracket$,

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Non-restrictive relatives are proposition-denoting (Del Gobbo, 2007).

- ☞ The denotation of RC is constructed without first composing the corresponding predicate.
- This is crucially the case because we are able to restrict the denotation of the relative pronoun in the non-restrictive relative.

(43) **In-situ interpretation of RPPP in non-restrictive RCs:**

$$[RC \ [[RPPP \ \dots \ wh \ \dots] \ \lambda X . \ \dots \ X \ \dots]]$$

Such a solution *cannot* work for restrictive relatives, which modifies nominal domains, not entire referents.

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The current proposal **brings RPPP in line with other instances of pied-piping**, in questions and focus constructions.

- Pied-piping in all of these cases is interpreted through a combination of movement and Rooth-Hamblin alternative computation.
- All pied-piping constituents are sensitive to intervention effects.

This proposal helps explain why a *wh*-pronoun must be used with non-restrictive RCs, but a *that/∅* strategy is available to restrictive RCs.

(45) **Non-restrictive relatives can't be introduced by *that/∅*:**

- a. Every semanticist [_{RC} *that/∅* I met ___ at SuB] gave a great talk.
- b. * Mary, [_{RC} *that/∅* I met ___ at SuB], gave a great talk.

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This proposal explains why **relative pronoun pied-piping in non-restrictive RCs can be substantially larger** than in restrictive RCs.

- 👉 This is due to the semantics of Rooth-Hamblin alternatives.
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- §3 Proposal
- §4 **Conclusion**

Conclusion

Today we investigated the structure and interpretation of **English relatives with relative pronoun pied-piping (RPPP)**.

We argued that restrictive and non-restrictive relatives have fundamentally different semantic interpretations.

Restrictive-relatives are property-denoting, while non-restrictive relatives are proposition-denoting (Del Gobbo, 2007).

Conclusion

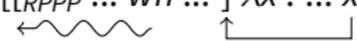
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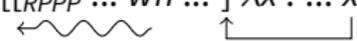
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Thank you! Questions?

For comments and discussion we would like to thank Martin Hackl, Danny Fox, David Pesetsky, Chris Kennedy, Gary Thoms, and audiences at CLS 51 and McGill. The second author is supported by a Mellon fellowship at McGill University. Errors are each other's.

Handouts and slides at <http://mitcho.com> and <http://hkotek.com>.

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Non-singleton referents?

Describing a plurality vs quantifying over individuals is a distinguishing characteristic between non-restrictive and restrictive RCs.

(48) Carlson (1977):

- a. The men, of whom all were astronauts, left.
- b. * The men of whom all were astronauts left.

(49) **Adding 'all' in the RC forces non-restrictive RC:**

- a. The linguists who chose not to go to SuB regretted their decision, because [the linguists(,) [_{RC} who went]](,) had fun.
 - i. ✓ restrictive: two sets of linguists
 - ii. # non-restrictive: infelicitous because of preceding context
- b. # The linguists who chose not to go to SuB regretted their decision, because the linguists(,) who **all** went(,) had fun.
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 - ii. # non-restrictive: infelicitous because of preceding

Reconstruction of the RPPP

Safir (1999) argues that R-expressions which are pied-piped trigger condition C just like they do in *wh*-questions:

(50) **Condition C in questions**

- a. ?? *Which* picture of John_i does he_i like?
- b. ✓ I bought the picture of John_i that he_i liked

(51) **Condition C in RPPP**

- a. * I always respect a journalist [*whose* depiction of Jesse_i]_j he_i objects to t_j
- b. ?? Max, [*whose* depiction of Jesse_i]_j he_i objects to t_j...
- c. ✓ I always respect a journalist [*whose* depiction of Jesse_i]_j t_j offends him_i
- d. ✓ Max, [*whose* depiction of Jesse_i]_j t_j offends him_i ...

Lasnik and Stowell (1991) notes that WCO seems to affect restrictive RCs but not non-restrictive RCs: (Judgments differ from Chomsky (1982).)

(52) **Restrictive RCs:**

- a. * the man_i who_i [his_i mother] loves t_i
- b. * the book_i which_i [its_i author] read t_i

(53) **Non-restrictive RCs:**

- a. Gerald_i, who_i [his_i mother] loves t_i], is a nice guy.
- b. This book_i, which_i [its_i author] wrote t_i last week, is a hit.

See also ?Safir (1986).

Intervention in RPPP

A similar pattern can be observed with other *wh*-words:

- (54) I hope to someday meet the President,
- a. ✓ [_{RC} [_{RPPP} a cousin of *whom*] I've met ___ before].
 - b. ✓ [_{RC} [_{RPPP} the supporters of *whom*] are ___ out of their minds].
 - c. * [_{RC} [_{RPPP} **no** supporters of *whom*] I've (ever) met ___ before].
 - d. * [_{RC} [_{RPPP} **only** [one]_F supporter of *whom*] I've (ever) met ___ before].
 - e. * [_{RC} [_{RPPP} **very few** supporters of *whom*] I've (ever) met ___ before].
- (55)
- a. ✓ [_{RC} [_{RPPP} of *whom*] I've met **no** supporters ___ before].
 - b. ✓ [_{RC} [_{RPPP} *who(m)*] I've met **no** supporters of ___ before].

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There is, however, more to this story. **The addition of a partitive layer allows us to get around intervention.** (Gary Thoms, p.c.)

- (56) **Avoiding intervention with a partitive (Gary Thoms, p.c.):**
- a. * This recipe, [[**no** ingredients for *which*] I have at home], is...
 - b. ✓ This recipe, [[**none** of the ingredients for *which*] I have at home], is...
 - c. ✓ This recipe, [[**only** some of the ingredients for *which*] I have at home], is...

☞ Perhaps the partitive structure allows for covert movement of a smaller *wh*-containing phrase, within the RPPP. Relative pronouns are susceptible to intervention only if they cannot be covertly moved to the edge.

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Pied-piping in overt focus movement

Erlewine and Kotek (2014) show that intervention effects also affect overt focus movement.

The pivot in English *it*-clefts can be considered to be a form of pied-piping movement (Krifka, 2006):

(57) **Pied-piping in *it*-clefts:**

John read a book from THIS_F library.

- a. It's [THIS_F library] that John read a book from ____.
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The *it*-cleft associates with focus inside the pivot (Jackendoff, 1972; Krifka, 2006). Therefore *it*-clefts are interpreted using both movement and alternative computation, much like *wh*-pied-piping:

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Rooth-Hamblin alternatives *movement*

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Rooth-Hamblin alternatives movement

Intervention in overt focus movement

There is intervention in focus pied-piping

(59) **Intervention in *it*-cleft pivots:**

- a. * It's [**no** book from THIS_F library] that John read _____.
- b. It's [from THIS_F library] that John read **no** book _____.
- c. It's [THIS_F library] that John read **no** book from _____.

- (60)
- a. * It's [**few** books from THIS_F library] that John read _____.
 - b. * It's [**only**_i BOOKS_{F,i} from THIS_F library] that John read _____.