

Chapter 2

Relative Clauses



2.1 Relative Clause Derivation in English

Jacobs and Rosenbaum, whose analysis of English is based on transformational grammar, claim that underlying all relative clauses are sentence structures¹ - that is, all relative clauses have sentences as their deep structures. Thus, the noun phrase with a modifying relative clause contains a noun phrase and an embedded sentence. For example, the following noun phrases:

(1) the storm which destroyed Montreal

(2) the child whom Carol punished

have, as their deep structures, the strings:

(3) storm storm destroy Montreal

(4) child Carol punish child

Jacobs and Rosenbaum have proposed a series of transformational rules which generate the surface structure of relative clauses as follows:

1. the relative clause transformation which adds the features $\langle + WH \rangle$ and $\langle + pronoun \rangle$ to the second identical noun segment² and gives:

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¹Jacobs and Rosenbaum, *op. cit.*, p. 200.

²If the second identical noun functions as the object of the sentence, this T-rule will also move it to the front of the sentence in order to establish the order of the parts of the relative clause.

(5) * storm $\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{storm} \\ + \text{ WH} \\ + \text{ pronoun} \end{array} \right]$ destroyed Montreal

(6) * child $\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{child} \\ + \text{ WH} \\ + \text{ pronoun} \end{array} \right]$ Carol punished

2. the article transformation which applies twice: the first article segment is replaced by "the" from the lexicon; the second, which contains a $\langle + \text{ WH} \rangle$, must be replaced by a WH word. This T-rule will give:

(7) * the storm which $\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{storm} \\ + \text{ WH} \\ + \text{ pronoun} \end{array} \right]$ destroyed Montreal

(8) * the child whom $\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{child} \\ + \text{ WH} \\ + \text{ pronoun} \end{array} \right]$ Carol punished

3. the relativized noun deletion transformation which deletes noun segments with the features $\langle + \text{ pronoun} \rangle$ and $\langle + \text{ WH} \rangle$ when they occur at the front of relative clauses and are preceded by an article segment with the features $\langle + \text{ pronoun} \rangle$, $\langle + \text{ definite} \rangle$ and $\langle + \text{ WH} \rangle$.³ This T-rule gives the final structure of the noun phrase containing the relative clause:

(9) the storm which destroyed Montreal

(10) the child whom Carol punished

³Jacobs and Rosenbaum, op. cit., pp. 200-2.

2.2 Relative Clause Derivation in Thai

In Thai, there is a kind of clause which functions as a modifier of nouns in a complex sentence with thîi, sŷn or ?an as linkers.⁴ For example:

- (11) dèg thîi thág khun pen khraj
 child greet you be who
 Who is the child who greeted you ?
- (12) chán māj chōḥb khon sŷn māj thamṇaan
 I not like person not work
 I don't like the person who does not work.
- (13) nîi khyy khwaam-sāmphan ?an jūṅṅǎṅ
 this be relationship complicated
 This is a complicated relationship.

These clauses are like relative clauses in English and thîi, sŷn, ?an also function like English relative pronouns. In this study, the term 'relative clause' will refer to clauses of this type. The following surface structures of noun phrases with relative clauses in Thai:

- (14) a. phaajú? thîi thamlaj myan
 storm r-pron destroy town
 the storm which destroyed the town

⁴Phya Upakit calls this kind of clause khúnaanúprajōog; in lāgphasāathaj: wāgkajāsāmphan (Bangkok: Thaiwatanapanich, 1971), p. 266 and Panupong 'downgraded sentence' in Inter-Sentence Relations in Modern Conversational Thai (Bangkok: The Siam Society, 1970), p. 5.

- b. phaajú[?] thîi man thamlaaj myaŋ
 storm r.pron.it destroy town
 the storm which destroyed the town
- (15) a. dèg thîi suda tii
 child r.pron. Suda spank
 the child whom Suda spanked
- b. dèg thîi suda tii kɛɛ⁵
 child r.pron. Suda spank {him
 her}
 the child whom Suda spanked

have the following strings as their deep structures:

- (17) phaajú[?] phaajú[?] thamlaaj myaŋ
 storm storm destroy town
- (18) dèg suda tii dèg
 child Suda spank child

The transformational rules involved in generating the surface structures of relative clauses in Thai apply in a particular order:

1. the relative pronoun addition transformation. This T-rule inserts the relative pronoun between the noun phrase and the embedded sentence and thus gives:

⁵The type of noun phrase with a relative clause as (14 b) and (15 b) is mostly found in modern conversational Thai, for example:

- (16) rág khon thîi kháw rág raw diikwàa
 love person r.pron. {he
 she} love us better
 It is better to love the person who loves us.

(19) * phaajú? thîi phaajú? thamlaj myaŋ
 storm r.pron. storm destroy town

(20) * dèg thîi suda tii dèg
 child r.pron. Suda spank child



2. the second identical noun deletion transformation. This T-rule will delete the second identical noun and give the surface strings:

(14) a. phaajú? thîi thamlaj myaŋ
 storm r.pron. destroy town
 the storm which destroyed the town

(15) a. dèg thîi suda tii
 child r.pron. Suda spank
 the child whom Suda spanked

3. the second identical noun pronominalization transformation which will pronominalize the second identical noun in (19), (20) and generates the following surface strings:

(14) b. phaajú? thîi man thamlaj myaŋ
 storm r.pron. it destroy town
 the storm which destroyed the town

(15) b. dèg thîi suda tii kɛɛ
 child r.pron. Suda spank {him
 her}
 the child whom Suda spanked

2.3 Similarities and Differences between Relative Clauses in English and in Thai

The derivation of relative clauses in English and in Thai requires different sets of transformational rules. In English, the

T-rules which generate relative clauses are 1) the relative clause transformation; 2) the article transformation; and 3) the relativized noun deletion transformation. These T-rules are obligatory. In Thai, the relative pronoun addition transformation, which is obligatory, the second identical noun deletion transformation and the second identical noun pronominalization transformation, which are optional, apply in order to give relative clauses. The T-rules involved in generating relative clauses in English and Thai are compared in the following chart:

English	Thai
<p>1. (T-obl) <u>the relative clause transformation</u> which gives:</p> <p>(5)* storm $\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{storm} \\ + \text{WH} \\ + \text{pronoun} \end{array} \right]$ destroyed Montreal.</p> <p>(6)* child $\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{child} \\ + \text{WH} \\ + \text{pronoun} \end{array} \right]$ Carol punished</p> <p>2. (T-obl) <u>the article transformation</u>, which gives</p> <p>(7)* the storm which $\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{storm} \\ + \text{WH} \\ + \text{pronoun} \end{array} \right]$ destroyed Montreal</p> <p>(8)* the child whom $\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{child} \\ + \text{WH} \\ + \text{pronoun} \end{array} \right]$ Carol punished</p> <p>3. (T-obl) <u>the relativized noun deletion transformation</u>, which gives:</p>	<p>1. (T-obl) <u>the relative pronoun addition transformation</u> which gives</p> <p>(19)* phaajú? thîi phaajú? storm r.pron. storm thamlaaj myaŋ</p> <p>(20)* dèg thîi suda tii dèg child r.pron. Suda spank child</p> <p>2. (T-opt) <u>the second identical noun deletion transformation</u> which gives:</p> <p>(14 a)* phaajú? thîi thamlaaj myaŋ storm r.pron. destroy town the storm which destroyed the town</p>

English	Thai
(9) the storm which destroyed Montreal	(15a) dèg thîi sudaá tii child r.pron. Suda spank
(10) the child whom Carol punished	the child whom Suda spanked 3. (F-opt) <u>the second identical</u>
	<u>noun pronominalization transformation</u> <u>tion</u> which gives: (14b) phaa jú? thîi man storm r.pron. it thamlaaj myaŋ destroy town the storm which destroyed the town (15b) dèg thîi sudaá tii kîi child r.pron.Suda spank {him her} the child whom Suda spanked

The fact that Thai requires a different set of T-rules means that Thai students are likely to apply the Thai T-rules to English and make mistakes. The following mistakes made by Thai students could be seen as surface structures derived from the application of a Thai obligatory transformational rule—the relative pronoun addition transformation.

- (21) * I saw a dog in a movie which my mother took me to see that movie.
- (22) * He get little money from salary which the money is not enough to pay for my family.
- (23) * He stopped to talk to a workman whom he suspected the workman of being a criminal in disguise.

If Thai students apply the first two T-rules in Thai, i.e. the relative pronoun addition transformation and the second identical noun deletion transformation, to English, they will not make any mistake since these T-rules can generate the grammatically correct surface structures of relative clauses in English. However, if they apply the first and the third T-rules in Thai, i.e. the relative pronoun addition transformation and the second identical noun pronominalization transformation to English they will produce the following unacceptable sentences where the relative clause contains two subjects or objects having the same referent:

- (24) * The Punch and Judy Show is an old puppet show which it is loved by children.
- (25) * My favorite person is my friend that I have met her since I came in the University.
- (26) * This is an unfortunate experience of mine that I can't forget it until this time.