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Subclauses IV

Relative Clauses and Indirect Question Clauses

Recall: Indirect Question Clauses

- Indirect question clauses are subclauses.
- They start with a question word.
- The most frequent question words are

  wer, was, wo, wann, wie, warum, welches, weshalb, ...

- More question words can be build by *wo* (+ r) + preposition.
- The question words *wer* and *welche* are declinated. The forms of *wer* are as follows, they don't differ in genter and number:

case	form
Nominativ	*wer*
Genitiv	*wessen*
Dativ	*wem*
Akkusativ	*wen*

The forms of *welches* are sensitive with respect to both genter, and number:

	singular			plural		
case	male	female	neutral	male	female	neutral
Nominativ	*welcher*	*welche*	*welches*	*welche*	*welche*	*welche*
Genitiv	*welchen*	*welcher*	*welches*	*welcher*	*welcher*	*welcher*
Dativ	*welchem*	*welcher*	*welchem*	*welchen*	*welchen*	*welchen*
Akusativ	*welchen*	*welche*	*welches*	*welche*	*welche*	*welche*

- Examples:

Er fragt mich, welcher Bus nach Linz fährt.
Er fragt mich, welchen Bus er nehmen muß.
Er fragt mich, mit welchem Bus er nach Linz fahren kann.
Er fragt mich, welche Busse nach Linz fahren.
Er fragt mich, mit welchen Bussen er nach Linz fahren kann.

Exercise

- The following holes are supposed to be filled in by an appropriate form of *wer*.

Ich weiß nicht, [ ] *Stift das ist.*

Ich weiß nicht, [ ] *heute kommt.*

Susanne weiß, mit [ ] *sie zur Uni fahren kann.*

Peter weiß, [ ] *er mit dem Auto zur Uni mitnehmen kann.*

der Stift – pencil
einladen – invite
mitnehmen – to take with

- Indirect question clauses are also used for reported speach, if you want to quote a question. Consider the following short dialog between you (Y) and your supervisor (S):

S: Wann willst Du Dich zum Rigorosum anmelden?
Y: Das will ich schon im nächsten Jahr tun.
Y: Welche Themen schlägst Du für das Rigorosum vor?
S: Das entscheiden wir, wenn Du Dich anmeldest.

anmelden – to apply
vorschlagen – to suggest
tun – to do
entscheiden – to decide

You want to report this short discussion to your colleague. Complete the following skeleton accordingly. Use indirect question clauses to convert the questions, and *daß* clauses to convert ordinary sentences. You can leave the *wenn* clause as it is.

der Betreuer – supervisor
gefragt – asked
geantwortet – answered

Mein Betreuer hat mich heute gefragt, ...

....

Ich habe ihm geantwortet, ...

....

Dann habe ich ihn gefragt,..

....,

und er hat mir geantwortet,...

....

Recall: Relative Clauses

- Relative clauses serve to add information to a noun.
- The are introduced by a relative pronoun whose gender and number is according to the gender and number of the clarified noun, and whose case is according to the grammatical function in the relative clause.

- Here are the relative pronouns; they are similar to the articles.

	singular			plural		
Nominative	*der*	*die*	*das*	*die*	*die*	*die*
Gentive	*dessen*	*deren*	*dessen*	*deren*	*deren*	*deren*
Dative	*dem*	*der*	*dem*	*denen*	*denen*	*denen*
Akkusative	*den*	*die*	*das*	*die*	*die*	*die*

- Relative clauses are placed directly after the noun which is clarified.
- A relative clause clarifying a noun X may be postponed to the end of the clause in which X lives, if this simplifies the construction.
- Example:

Peter nimmt Susanne in dem Auto, das ihm gehört, mit.
Peter nimmt Susanne in dem Auto mit, das ihm gehört.

Exercise

- Fill in the relative pronouns in the following sentences.

Ein Auto, $\boxed{}$ *Schlüssel in der Ablage vor dem Sekretariat liegt, gehört dem Institut. Das Auto gehört dem Institut,* $\boxed{}$ *über Symbolisches Rechnen forscht. Das Institut gehört zur Universität,* $\boxed{}$ *Hauptstelle in Linz ist. Mehrere Professoren,* $\boxed{}$ *im Institut arbeiten, wohnen in Linz. Sie kommen aber nicht mit dem Auto,* $\boxed{}$ *dem Institut gehört, in das Dorf, in* $\boxed{}$ *das Institut ist, sondern sie haben ihr eigenes Auto. Das Auto des Instituts ist für die Studenten da,* $\boxed{}$ *kein eigenes Auto haben.*

die Ablage – phys. maibox
das Sekretariat – secretarie's room
gehören – belong to
Symbolisches Rechnen – symbolic computation
forschen – doing research
die Hauptstelle – "main location"
mehrere – several
das Dorf – village
sondern – but
eigenes – own

What's the difference?

- There is no formal distiction between indirect question clauses and relative clauses in English.
- What is their difference in German?
- Indirect question clauses are building blocks of the surrounding clause. There is nothing in the surrounding clause to which they refer.
- Relative clauses are no building blocks themselves. They are part of the building block of the noun or pronoun to which they refer.
- Example:

Wer kein eigenes Auto hat, kann das RISC-Auto benutzen.
Studenten, die kein eigenes Auto haben, können das RISC-Auto benutzen.

eigen – own
benutzen – to use

Exercise

- Translate the following sentences to German. Pay special attention to the distinction between question clauses and relative clauses.

Do you know whose key this is?
Do you know anybody who is looking for his key? —
I don't know to whom the key belongs which you are showing me.
Bring it to Betina whose office is over there.
She is anyway asking who could go to the bank.

know – wissen
anybody – jemand
to look for – suchen
key – der Schlüssel
belong to – gehören (+ Dat)
show – zeigen
over there – dort
anyway – sowieso
could go – könnte gehen
bank – die Bank