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Headless Relative Clauses in Mesoamerican Languages

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Preface

This volume is the result of a research project that started in May 2016, when two of the co-editors—Ivano Caponigro and Harold Torrence—were invited by the third co-editor—Roberto Zavala Maldonado—to teach a one-week seminar on free relative clauses at Centro de Investigación y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social (CIESAS) Sureste in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico. At CIESAS Sureste Roberto and his colleagues have created a unique team of graduate students and scholars working on Mesoamerican languages. Graduate students who are admitted to the program must already know the languages they want to investigate: almost all of them are native speakers or heritage speakers; the rest arrive with previously-acquired high-level knowledge of the languages. Ivano and Harold were amazed and excited by the fact that they could present a construction one day and have attendees present data about it from their own languages the following day.

Everybody enjoyed that intense and highly interactive experience so much that we decided to extend it and broaden its scope to cover other headless relative clauses besides free relative clauses, and to include further languages. We co-editors applied for grants to support the project and were awarded a UC MEXUS-CONACYT Collaborative Research Grant. Ivano was also awarded a grant from UC San Diego Social Sciences, Harold was awarded a grant from the UCLA Academic Senate, while Roberto secured additional funds from CIESAS. This support allowed us to carry out our project in two workshops, to ask Prof. Judith Aissen, Prof. Scott AnderBois, and Prof. Jessica Coon to join us in leading those workshops, and to invite a team of more than twenty-five graduate students and scholars. Both workshops were held at CIESAS Sureste and could have never happened without Roberto's commitment, organizational skills, and capacity to overcome any kind of last-minute obstacle.

The first workshop took place from November 27 to December 2, 2017. Together with Profs. Aissen, AnderBois, and Coon, we provided theoretical and methodological overviews of the main aspects and issues concerning the varieties of headless relative clauses at the center of our investigation—three kinds of free relative clauses, light-headed relative clauses and other headless relative clauses—and two related constructions—interrogative clauses and headed relative clauses. The discussion that followed the presentations allowed us to agree on the basic definitions, structure, and methodology to apply to the investigation of individual languages.

The second workshop was held six months later, from May 28 to June 2, 2018. Participants submitted a draft paper ahead of time and then gave a presentation at the workshop. The group discussion after each presentation and individual meetings throughout the workshop provided important additional insights and refinements and helped us ready each paper for the next step.

We editors made a preliminary evaluation of whether each submitted paper could be considered as a possible chapter for the current volume and could be sent to reviewers for evaluation. A team of sixteen reviewers together with us editors reviewed the papers and provided crucial feedback.

The editorial duties were divided as follows. Ivano was the sole editor for Chapters 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, and 15. Ivano was the primary editor for Chapters 5, 6, and 10, with help from Roberto. Ivano and Roberto shared editorial duties for Chapter 12. Harold was the primary editor for Chapter 7, with help from Ivano.

Further information about our project, our workshops, and their participants can be found on the project website:

https://sites.google.com/view/mesoamerican

This edited volume does not have a traditional introduction that summarizes the following chapters and highlights the main issues. This function is assumed by Chapter 1, which collects and compares some of the main findings from the subsequent chapters, which are all language specific, and highlights similarities and differences between our results and previous crosslinguistic findings. But Chapter 1 also defines all the constructions that are investigated in each chapter, provides arguments supporting conceptual distinctions between them, and introduces the methodology and tests that are used in the language-specific investigations in the other chapters. Last, Chapter 1 illustrates the uniform structure that every language-specific chapter follows and explains the reasons behind this choice of format. Chapter 1 should, therefore, be seen as complementary to the other chapters and as crucial to their full understanding and appreciation.

Ivano Caponigro

Harold Torrence

Roberto Zavala Maldonado

Acknowledgments

Many thanks to all the participants in this project who accepted the challenge of exploring a new and unusual topic and generously shared their language knowledge and linguistic skills.
We are extremely grateful to Judith Aissen, Scott AnderBois, and Jessica Coon for being willing to join our project, finding time and space for it, teaching and providing feedback at our workshops, and bringing so much knowledge, focus, and enthusiasm to the table. It wouldn't have been possible without them.

We are also grateful to our sixteen reviewers for their crucial contribution. We list them here and thank them warmly: Judith Aissen, Scott AnderBois, Heriberto Avelino, Jürgen Bohnemeyer, Una Canger, Jessica Coon, Nora England, John Foreman, Lilian Guerrero, Robert Henderson, Lynda de Jong, Danny Law, Enrique Palancar, Gilles Polian, Stavros Skopeteas, Fernando Zuñiga.

We would like to thank our research assistant September Cowley, who joined us in the second workshop, helped us translate some of the chapters from Spanish, and helped us with the preliminary editing and formatting. Special thanks to Christine Bartels for the precious, rich, multi-layered, and detailed final editing. Thanks to Hisako Noguchi for preparing the index.
We are extremely grateful to Luciano Caponigro, who offered his skills as a web designer and a video maker for free and designed a great website for our project with beautiful video clips as well:

https://sites.google.com/view/mesoamerican

Many thanks to Patricia Kat who prepared delicious homemade vegetarian Mexican food for our breakfasts and lunches at the workshops, and to the CIESAS Sureste staff, especially to Karla Thomas, Roberto Núñez, and José González, for all their help.

We thank the agencies that have supported this book and the project behind it: UC MEXUS-CONACYT for a Collaborative Research Grant to the co-editors, UC San Diego Social Sciences for a grant to Ivano, the UCLA Academic Senate for a grant to Harold, and CIESAS for a grant to Roberto.

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Abbreviations

From *The Leipzig Glossing Rules – List of Standard Abbreviations*, Updated on May 31, 2015 https://www.eva.mpg.de/lingua/pdf/Glossing-Rules.pdf (retrieved on June 2, 2019)
Additional abbreviations occur in individual chapters (and will be listed in an early footnote in the respective chapters).

1	first person
2	second person
3	third person
A	agent-like argument of canonical transitive verb
ABL	ablative
ABS	absolutive
ACC	accusative
ADJ	adjective
ADV	adverb(ial)
AGR	agreement
ALL	allative
ANTIP	antipassive
APPL	applicative
ART	article
AUX	auxiliary
BEN	benefactive
CAUS	causative
CLF	classifier
COM	comitative
COMP	complementizer
COMPL	completive
COND	conditional
COP	copula
CVB	converb
DAT	dative
DECL	declarative
DEF	definite
DEM	demonstrative
DET	determiner
DIST	distal
DISTR	distributive
DU	dual
DUR	durative

ERG	ergative
EXCL	exclusive
F	feminine
FOC	focus
FUT	future
GEN	genitive
IMP	imperative
INCL	inclusive
IND	indicative
INDF	indefinite
INF	infinitive
INS	instrumental
INTR	intransitive
IPFV	imperfective
IRR	irrealis
LOC	locative
M	masculine
N	neuter
N-	non- (e.g. NSG non-singular, NPST non-past)
NEG	negation, negative
NMLZ	nominalizer/nominalization
NOM	nominative
OBJ	object
OBL	oblique
P	patient-like argument of canonical transitive verb
PASS	passive
PFV	perfective
PL	plural
POSS	possessive
PRED	predicative
PRF	perfect
PRS	present
PROG	progressive
PROH	prohibitive
PROX	proximal/proximate
PST	past
PTCP	participle
PURP	purposive
Q	question particle/marker
QUOT	quotative

RECP	reciprocal
REFL	reflexive
REL	relative
RES	resultative
S	single argument of canonical intransitive verb
SBJ	subject
SBJV	subjunctive
SG	singular
TOP	topic
TR	transitive
VOC	vocative