

SYNTACTIC UNIT OF RELATIVE PRONOUNS

Mansurova Shoxista Ismailovna
English Teacher Tashkent State Transport University
Department of Foreign Languages

Bekembetova Zuhra Bekpolat kizi
English Teacher Tashkent State Transport University
Department of Foreign Languages

Xusanova Indira Akbardjanovna
English Teacher Tashkent State Transport University
Department of Foreign Languages

Ishankulova Diyora Allovidinovna
English teacher Tashkent State Transport University
Department of Foreign Languages

Abstract

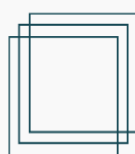
A detailed study of all kinds of interrogative syntaxes should be the task of a separate work, which can introduce significant clarifications into the interpretation of substantial interrogative syntaxes, which were discussed above. In particular, substantive interrogative syntaxemes, expressed by the pronouns *what* and *which*, require in-depth study due to differences in their compatibility with other syntaxemes. If, of these two pronouns, only *which* admits of compatibility with an elective whole syntaxeme expressed by a noun or a pronoun with the preposition *of*, then the question may arise whether these pronouns do not represent different substantive interrogative syntaxemes.

Keywords: compatibility, subordinate clauses, relative pronouns, syntaxemes.

In the colloquial style of the language, instead of *whom*, the pronoun *who* is often used, which forms, by itself and in combination with one or another postpositive distant preposition, stylistic variants of the interrogative object (or indirect-object) syntaxeme; cf.: *Who* do you want? *Who* were you talking *to*? etc. When it comes to choosing the pronouns *who* or *whom*, on the one hand, and *what* or *which*, on the other, as means of expressing one or another substantive interrogative syntaxeme, we are faced with connotative variants that are not capable of replacing each other, since they differ in semantic features, primarily in the designation of animate or inanimate objects. Only the pronoun *whose* seems to serve as the only means of expressing the substantial interrogative possessive syntaxe, i.e., it seems to be the only variant of this syntaxeme:

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Whose umbrella is this? Whose daughter are you? Whose book did you take? etc. As for interrogative syntaxes from the category of qualifications, they are represented only by the pronouns *what* and *which*; for example: 1) *What* papers do you read? *What* manner of man is he? *What* good is it? 2) *Which* book did you choose? *Which* boy won the prize? *Which* is the right road? I'm going with the girls. — *Which* girls? Let us leave open for now the question of whether these pronouns in these two groups of examples express the same qualifying interrogative syntaxeme (being its connotative variants) or two different interrogative syntaxemes from the category of qualifying ones, and note further that the pronoun *what*, apparently, is a means of expressing another qualifying interrogative syntaxeme endowed with the attribute of quantitativeity, as, for example, in the sentence *What* time is it? If this is so, then we need to study the pronoun *what* in relation to other possible variants of the same interrogative quantitative syntaxeme, together with *which* it forms an equivalence paradigmatic series, in particular in relation to the syntactically indivisible combination *how much* (cf. *How much* time did it take you?).

The peculiarity of the interrogative pronouns *who*, *whom*, *whose*, *what*, *which* lies in the fact that they introduce subordinate clauses, being means of expressing various substantive and qualifying syntaxes. So, among the substantial syntaxes expressed by one or another of the indicated pronouns are, for example: agentive (*Ask him who* found this), identifying (in combination with the link: *Did he know who* I was? I know *what* she *shall be*) possessive (*I wonder whose* house that is), objective (in positions dependent component : does not know what *he* wants. See *what* courage can do! I know *who* he is thinking of) object quantitative (*I'll ask him what* he paid) and others _ The object syntax is represented by a pronoun; *which* and as part of infinitive constructions in the following two cases: Of these two I do not know *which* to prefer. Will you advise me *which* to take? Defining all these substantial syntaxemes in subordinate clauses and infinitive constructions as agentive, identifying, possessive, object, etc., we must also take into account that they are not at all identical to substantial syntaxemes - agentive, identifying, possessive, object, etc., expressed by nouns or personal pronouns that cannot replace considered syntaxemes expressed by interrogative pronouns in subordinate clauses and infinitive constructions; cf. *John* found this. *I am John*. *She shall be a scholar*. That is *his* house, etc.

Consequently, in the syntactic semantics of interrogative pronouns in subordinate clauses and infinitive constructions, there must be a special syntactic-semantic feature that distinguishes them from other substantial agentive, identifying and other syntaxemes. This syntactic-semantic feature cannot be called interrogative, since these syntaxemes are not identical to the substantive interrogative syntaxemes considered above - agentive, identifying, object, etc., in accordance with the presence of which interrogative sentences are distinguished among sentences, called special questions.



These sentences lend themselves to transformations into general interrogative sentences, while subordinate clauses and infinitive constructions with the syntaxemes considered here are not directly amenable to such transformations.

However, the syntaxes represented by interrogative pronouns in subordinate clauses and infinitive constructions, turn out to be close to interrogative syntaxemes, and about evidenced by the possibility of transforming the corresponding subordinate clauses (when the main clause is omitted) into sentences with interrogative syntaxes expressed by the same pronouns: Ask him who found this → *Who* found this? Did he know *who* I was? → *Who* was I? I know *what* she shall he → *What* shall she be? He does not know *what* he wants → *What* does he want? See *what* courage can do! → *What* can courage do? I know *who* he is thinking of → *Who* is he thinking about? I'll ask him *what* he paid → *What* did he pay? Accordingly, the syntax expressed by the pronoun which in the given infinitives constructions, allows the transformation of the latter into special interrogative sentences, although here it may be necessary to first transform them into subordinate clauses: Of these two I do not know *which* to prefer → Of these two I do not know *which* I shall prefer → *Which* of these two shall I prefer? Will you advise me *which* to take? → (Will you advise me) *which* I must take → *Which* must I take?

Based on the evidence of these experiments-transformations, it is possible to determine the desired syntactic-semantic feature, specific for the syntaxes under consideration in subordinate clauses and infinitive constructions, as indirectly interrogative, and then the syntaxemes listed above, expressed by the pronouns who, whose, what, which, can be fully characterized in terms of their content as substantive indirectly interrogative agentive, identifying, possessive, objective and objective quantitative. In addition, the pronouns what and which serve as means of expressing qualifying indirect interrogative syntaxes, just as they are used to express qualifying interrogative syntaxes (unlike other interrogative pronouns): Not told me *what* book he needs. Say *which* chapter you prefer. She knew *which* were the best shops; and here like among the qualifying interrogative syntaxes, a syntaxeme stands out, endowed with a sign of quantitiveness, which is represented by the pronoun what: I know *what* money he paid (cf. another version of the same syntaxeme: I know *how much* money he paid). All these adjectives sentences with qualifying indirectly interrogative syntaxemes are also amenable to transformation - by discarding the main clause - into sentences with interrogative syntaxemes expressed by the same pronouns: Not told me *what* book he needs → *What* books does he need? Say *which* chapter do you prefer? → *Which* chapter do you prefer? She knew *which* were the best shops → *Which* were the best shops? I know *what* money he paid → *What* money did he pay?

On the material of interrogative pronouns, we are faced with the problem of homonymy.

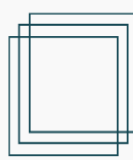


More precisely, we are talking about the homonymy of interrogative and relative pronouns, which in English in most cases outwardly coincide (the relative pronoun that does not have a homonym among interrogative pronouns). About the homonymy of those and others pronominal lexemes can be judged on the basis of lexical and syntactic facts. In lexical terms, it is noteworthy, for example, that the relative pronoun *whose*, in contrast to the interrogative *whose*, often denotes not only animate, o and inanimate objects (The *house whop* windows are broken. . . etc.), but the interrogative the pronoun *which*, in contrast to the relative *which*, often denotes animated objects (*Which* of you did that? *Which* of the members were present? it etc.).

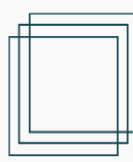
However, the main thing is that relative and interrogative pronouns form special groups of pronominal lexemes, which, according to their systemic relations, are exposed from each other. And in syntactical terms, one cannot but pay attention to some essential features of relative pronouns that distinguish them from interrogative pronouns. In terms of compatibility, relative pronouns differ from interrogative ones in that, being a means of expressing substantive relative syntaxes, they do not allow combinations with the above-mentioned prepositional groups and the adverbial particle *else*, which represent, respectively, the elective syntaxeme of the whole and the additive syntaxeme (cf. in relation to interrogative pronouns: *Who of us* can still remember his name? *Which of you* did that? *Who else* is coming? and t . p .). Therefore, if it were necessary to distinguish, with the help of experiments, relative pronouns from interrogative pronouns that externally coincide with them, which also introduce subordinate clauses, then we could test them for the indicated compatibility. It is also noteworthy that relative pronouns, unlike interrogative pronouns, do not allow or “avoid” combinations with syntaxemes not only on the basis of subordinate, but also on the basis of appositive syntactic connection (cf. on the material of interrogative pronouns: *Which* will you take, *milk* or *cream!* *Which* is more, *thirty* or *thirteen?*). Thus, relative and interrogative pronouns, which form special groups of pronominal lexemes, behave differently in sentences as means of expressing syntaxes.

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