

# RESTRICTIVE RELATIVE CLAUSES IN ACADIAN FRENCH

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**Abstract:** Restricted relatives in Acadian French display the following peculiarities: generalization of *que* ‘that’ as the relative complementizer; deletion of *que* ‘that’; orphaned prepositions; failure of subject-verb agreement between the relative noun and the embedded verb. This paper argues that such peculiarities arise from the tendency of Acadian French to use a matching rather than a raising pattern of derivation in restrictive relatives, which further involves non-quantificational chains. This parametric setting contrasts with the systematically raising pattern in the restrictive relative of Standard French.

**Keywords:** Acadian French, restrictive relatives, raising and matching derivation

## 1. Introduction

*Acadian French* (henceforth, AF) is an umbrella term for several varieties of French spoken in Canada (in New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta) and in the USA (Louisiana, Maine). There is a slight variation in grammar according to the geographical area (especially in the lexicon and phonology), but most syntactic features are shared (see Wiesmath 2007 for comparative paradigms). New Brunswick has the highest number of AF speakers, so this paper relies on data collected from that region.

This paper aims to account for the peculiarities of restrictive relatives in AF from a formal perspective, a task that has not been undertaken so far. These peculiarities involve the generalization of *que* ‘that’ as the relative complementizer; deletion of *que* ‘that’; orphaned prepositions; failure of subject-verb agreement between the relative noun and the embedded verb.

First, the analysis has to sort out the derivational pattern that underlies the restrictive relatives in AF. In this respect, starting from the observation that AF has a drastically reduced inventory of relative pronouns compared to Standard French (henceforth SF), the question is how this inventory is exploited to attain the entire range of relative clauses (i.e. relativization from any argumental or non-argumental positions). The answer we provide is that SF displays only a raising mechanism in restrictive relatives (as in Cecchetto and Donati 2015), whereas AF resorts to both raising and matching (as in Bhatt 2002) for the same purpose. In other words, AF provides a case study where raising and matching derivations can occur side by side in a language, as predicted in Hulsey and Sauerland (2006).

Second, we derive some of the AF peculiarities listed above from the matching option.

The inventory of relative pronouns is much reduced in AF compared to SF. The data and tests allow us to argue that the elimination of relative pronouns is compensated by the spreading of the complementizer *que* ‘that’ to relative C, and that this phenomenon

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has syntactic consequences, as, for example, the rise of agreement failure upon relativization (i.e. relativization from subject position may result in a phi-feature mismatch between the relative DP and the verb of the relative clause), which alternates with the equivalent full agreement option. Furthermore, the preferential option for *que* ‘that’ led to the bleaching of this element, with non-trivial syntactic consequences, such as “doubly filled Comp” and *que* ‘that’ deletion in relative CPs.

The paper is organized as follows: Section 2 introduces the main properties of AF restrictive relatives, which are analyzed within the theoretical framework presented in section 3 (i.e. the raising and the matching analyses). Section 4 provides an overview of relativization in SF, for a comparative angle. AF restrictive relatives are analyzed in section 5, where they are divided according to the spell out of the CP (i.e. *wh*-phrases or *que* ‘that’). Relativization from the subject position is discussed in a separate sub-section. The conclusions follow in section 6, presenting the generalizations arising from our analysis.

## 2. Data and methodology

The AF data discussed in this paper come from the varieties spoken in New Brunswick, Canada. The main sources of examples are (i) the data in Wiesmath (2007) and (ii) a sample of the FANENB (1990-1991) corpus developed by Louise Beaulieu. These sources provide naturalistic data obtained from hundreds of speakers in the case of Wiesmath (2007). Beside these two main sources, we also use examples of naturalistic data from other previous studies on AF. The exact source is indicated in brackets on the last line of each example.

AF is compared to SF in this paper, so we must specify what we take to be the *standard* register of French. For this analysis, SF covers the language register described in teaching grammars. This register is relevant because it is taught in Canadian schools and colleges, to Acadian and English speakers alike, as being the second official language of the country. Educated AF speakers often opt for standard syntax even in informal contexts.

As this paper proposes a formal analysis, diagnostic tests are also needed, for which we elicited data from five speakers who have the same level of education (i.e. high school plus one or two years of vocational training). They come from different parts of New Brunswick, but work in the same health care institution in Fredericton. The age bracket is 25-40. The grammatical judgments I obtained from these speakers appear in the examples that have the AT label in brackets (standing for Authors’ Tests).

As a point of methodology, we are not interested in how many speakers use one or another type of derivational patterns. In this respect, there are many variations in AF, depending on the language register (i.e. more educated speakers tend to use more SF constructions), or the geographical area. Crucially for us, as long as a certain pattern is routinely present in a speaker’s grammar, that pattern qualifies as a valid option in AF and we must account for it.

The properties that stand out in AF restrictive relatives are as follow:

- (3) j'avais tout le temps deux trois personnes **que** j'étais en  
I=had all the=time two three people that I=was in  
recherches avec  
research with  
'I always had two-three people with whom I was doing research'  
(Wiesmath 2007: 207/13, H307)

<sup>1</sup> The use of *que* ‘that’ instead of *wh*-phrases in restrictive relatives is also a property of the spoken varieties of continental French (Guiraud 1966: 43 Auger 1993, a.o.), but in AF it became the default option and had more serious morphosyntactic consequences (see the agreement failure in section 5.3 below).

- Agreement failure.<sup>2</sup> The relativization from the subject position may or may not maintain the subject-verb agreement inflection on the embedded verb, as shown in (4a) and (4b) respectively, in the presence of *qui/qu*. When the agreement fails, an expletive *ça* ‘this’ may fill the subject position, as shown in (4c, d).

- (4) a. **ceuses-là** **qui** runiont le factory aviont pas  
 those there who run.3PL the=factory had.3PL not  
 d’argent  
 of=money  
 ‘those who ran the factory did not have money’  
 (Wiesmath 2007: 192/3, D86)
- b. la machine elle a produit **des zones** électromagnétiques  
 the engine she has=produced fields electromagnetic  
**qu’** est transmis dans le fil  
 that=is transmitted in the wire  
 ‘the engine, it produced electromagnetic fields that were transmitted through the wire’  
 (Wiesmath 2007: 191/12, J159)
- c. tu te dégrades, parce que t’as été entreprendre  
 you REFL.2SG degrade because that you=have been undertake  
**des choses** **que** c’était pas pour toi  
 things that this=was not for you  
 ‘you degrade yourself because you’ve got to undertake tasks that are not for you’  
 (Wiesmath 2007: 190/10, X61)
- d. [des figurines] j’**en** ai **que** ça fait rire  
 sculptures I=of.these=have that it makes laugh  
 ‘[sculptures], I have some that make you laugh’  
 (Wiesmath 2007: 190/3, D210)

The properties illustrated in (1) to (4) signal a different pattern of relativization in AF compared to SF (see section 4 for more details), where *que* ‘that’ relativization does not apply (Sportiche 2011 contra Kayne 1976), or is limited to extraction from the subject position (Kayne 1976). The immediate question is what happens in a grammar where *que* ‘that’ becomes the main means for spelling out relative C.

<sup>2</sup> Agreement also fails upon relativization from the direct object position. In (i) for example, the AF form *appris* ‘learned’ is uninflected for object agreement, while SF would have *appries* ‘learned.FEM.PL’ for similar contexts. However, lack of object agreement is a general property of AF, so this is not informative regarding the relativization mechanism.

(i) i y a beacoup de choses que j’ai **appris**  
 it=here=has many of thingsFEM.PL that I=have learned  
 ‘there are many things I learned’

(Wiesmath 2007: 194/12, J131)

### 3. Theoretical framework

For the raising analysis of restrictive relatives, we adopt the derivational mechanism proposed in Donati and Cecchetto (2011: 530) and reproduced in (5)<sup>3</sup>:

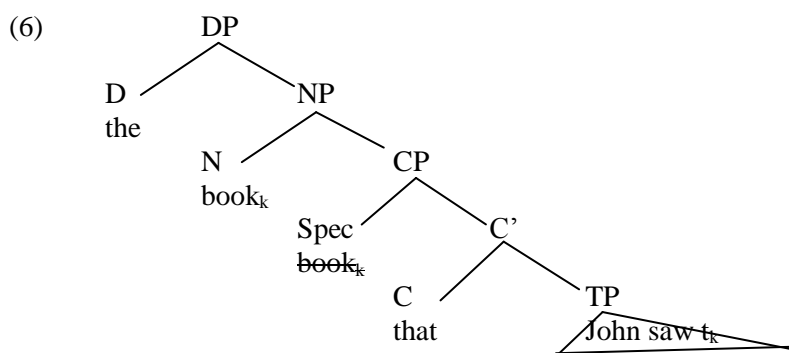
- (5) a. *wh*-relative  
The book which John saw.
- 
- b. *that*-relative  
The book that John saw.
- 
- c. *that*-relative with resumptive pronouns  
L'uomo che l'ho visto (Italian)  
the=man that him=have.1SG seen  
'The man I've seen...'
- 

The derivational pattern in (5) relies on the idea initially developed in Kayne (1994: 87) that restrictive relatives are complements to D. The mechanism captured in (5) can be summed up as follows: a relative DP moves to an edge position within CP, from which the noun can move to the N position of a matrix DP. The trigger for this movement lies in the features of the selecting D that acts as a probe on the relevant DP in the relative

<sup>3</sup> We refer the reader to Donati and Cecchetto (2011), Cecchetto and Donati (2015) for clarifications on the relabeling of the CP and the possibility of moving N out of a DP already moved to a non-argumental position.

clause. If the relative DP contains a *wh*-element, as in (5a), this element remains stranded in Spec, DP at the CP edge, only N undergoing further movement. If the relative DP contains an empty D, as in (5b), then C is spelled out as *that*, and N-movement follows on the same grounds as in (5a). Alternatively, D of the relative DP may be spelled out as a clitic pronoun/article, if that is available in the language, as shown in (5c). N-movement follows as predicted for (5b), by leaving the clitic in situ. As clitic pronouns are V-oriented in most Romance languages, clitic movement to a verb-adjacent position will follow.

In the alternative view, the relative DP is directly merged in the matrix clause, but it is identical to an elided DP within the relative clause, as in (6), adapted from Hulsey and Sauerland (2006). The elided DP moves to the edge position, Spec, CP, to be visible to matrix elements.<sup>4</sup> The strikethrough in (6) indicates ellipsis.



The same derivation applies to *wh*-phrases (e.g. *The book which John saw*), with the provision for the movement of the *which book* to Spec, CP and the deletion of *book* under identity with the matrix N. Bhatt (2002) and Hulsey and Sauerland (2006) point out that the derivational patterns in (5) and (6) may occur side by side in a given language.

When it comes to intra-linguistic variation, as is the case for our data, a more detailed configuration of the relative CP field in either approach is needed in order to capture certain peculiarities that cannot straightforwardly follow from (5) or (6), e.g. the grammaticality of the doubly filled Comp. In this sense, we adopt the articulation of the CP field over several functional projections, such as proposed in Rizzi (1997). That is, we consider that CP projects from Force to Fin and has the C features distributed as in (7).

- (7) ForceP[clause typing] > TopP [topics] > FocusP[operator] > FinP[finite/modal]  
> TP

In Rizzi's (1997) system, the relative/interrogative operators merge in FocusP and trigger *wh*-movement of compatible phrases. A *wh*-phrase moved to Spec, FocusP for this purpose checks the [operator] feature. In view of Donati and Cecchetto (2011), the

<sup>4</sup> We refer the reader to Hulsey and Sauerland (2006) for clarifications on how the matching analysis avoids the violation of Principle C and why an ellipsis analysis yields better results for this structure than an (empty) operator analysis, such as proposed in Chomsky (1981).

*wh*-phrase continues to move to Spec, ForceP, by responding to a higher probe, which is the nominal feature of the selecting D. In this way, the [clause typing] feature of Force is checked through free-ride. We can thus consider that Spec, ForceP is the edge position from which N-movement in (5) takes place (see also Sevcenco 2015), or where the *wh*-phrase/elided DP resides in (6). This analysis renders *que* ‘that’ redundant in the presence of *wh*-phrases, since *que* spells out [clause typing], a feature that is already checked by the *wh*-phrase in Spec, ForceP; this amounts to compliance with the ban on doubly filled Comp. Alternatively, *que* spells out Force[clause typing] and Fin[finite/modal], while DP/NP with no *wh*-element moves from Spec to Spec to Spec, ForceP, responding to the probes in Focus and D but being pre-empted from checking Force [clause typing]. In such configurations, Fin features are checked through long distance Agree with the verb in T. This again amounts to compliance with the ban on doubly filled Comp. In the hierarchy in (7), *que* ‘that’ is in Force, which explains why topic constituents follow but do not precede this complementizer in restrictive relatives in standard French or standard Italian.

Basically, the analysis in (5) predicts that resumptive pronouns in restrictive relatives occur in complementary distribution with *wh*-phrases, and that they must be clitics or else they should remain stranded in the (post-verbal) in-situ position. Furthermore, when the relative DP moves from a subject position, subject-verb agreement is obligatory on the verb of the relative clause, due to the Spec-head local configuration in which the relative DP and the verb find themselves within TP (prior to extraction).

Some of these predictions are confirmed in AF, while others are not, and would rather indicate a derivational pattern as in (6).

#### 4. Standard French

Sportiche (2011) argues that all the restrictive relatives of SF display *wh*-phrases and that relativization with *que* ‘that’ as proposed in Kayne (1976 and subsequent work) does not apply. The inventory of *wh*-phrases is provided in (8).

- (8) The complex ones: *lequel* (*laquelle*, *lesquels*, *lesquelles*), lit. ‘the.which’  
 The simple(r) ones: *qui*, *que*, *quoi*, ‘which’  
 (Sportiche 2011: 85)

The difference between Kayne’s and Sportiche’s analyses concerns relativization from the subject position, as in (9):

- (9) la table **qui** est tombée  
 the table which/that is fallen  
 ‘the table that fell’

In (9), *qui* is homophonous to the interrogative pronoun that is restricted for use with [+human] subjects. The fact that it appears with a [−human] subject in relatives such as (9) indicates, for Kayne, that we are dealing with an allomorph of the complementizer



Accordingly, the pattern of relativization in SF is limited to (5a), and variation arises mainly from the options for one *wh*-phrase or another in (8). As all relative clauses show strong island constraints (Kayne 1976), the inference is that the matching pattern in (6) is also unobtainable. An example of strong island in SF is shown in (10), translated through an equivalent strong island violation in English.

- ## 5. Acadian French

In particular, starting from the assumption that relative C involves three feature sets (i.e. [clause typing], [operator] and [finite/modal]; Rizzi 1997 – see section 3 above), this section argues that three types of C-elements must be distinguished in AF: (i) *wh*-phrases, which check Focus [operator] and Force [clause typing]; (ii) strong *que* ‘that’, which checks Force [clause typing] and Fin [finite/modal]; (iii) weak *que* ‘that’, which checks

<sup>5</sup> The option *quoi* ‘which/what’ is used in free relatives but not in restricted relatives.



only Fin [finite/modal]<sup>6</sup>. For any class of C mentioned above, AF allows for derivations either through raising or matching, mostly reflected through the possibility of having or not having a deictic XP at the relativization gap.

### 5.1 *Wh*-relatives

The *wh*-phrases that qualify for relativization in AF are also used in interrogatives (i.e. *qui* ‘which/who’, *que* ‘which’, (*i*)*où* ‘where’), so they have quantificational properties. Hence, we expect them to behave as in SF: when these items undergo A’ movement, they form licit operator-variable chains, which exclude double extraction or the presence of intervening resumptive pronouns. This prediction is borne out in AF, as we do not find any exception to this rule in our data<sup>7</sup>. Accordingly, it is safe to assume that restrictive relatives as in (11) have the underlying pattern in (5a).

- (11) a. C’est des gens **qui** sont vraiment pas éduqués  
 it=is people who are really not educated  
 ‘These are people who are not really educated.’  
 (Péronnet 1989: 88, j43)
- b. je suis sûr vous avez ça aussi, des puits d’eau-là, tu sais-là,  
 I=am sure you have this too wells of.water you=know  
 avec des roches-là **où** c’est creux  
 with stones where it=is hollow  
 ‘I’m sure you also have this, water wells, you know, with stones where there’s a hollow space’  
 (Wiesmath 2007: 216/1, B394)

Confirmation for the raising analysis comes from the strong island effect that, as shown in (12a, b), arises when the relative DP originates in a relative clause (headed by *qui* ‘who’) but not when it originates in a complement clause (headed by *que* ‘that’). More precisely, *où* ‘where’ can be construed with *travaillait* ‘worked’ in (12b), but not in (12a). However, the AF pattern diverges from the SF one insofar as the strong island effect can be avoided by the insertion of *là* ‘there’ in (12c).

- (12) a. \*La maison<sub>k</sub> **où** je t’ai montré la fille **qui**  
 the house where I to.you=have shown the girl who  
 travaillait e<sub>k</sub>  
 worked  
 Intended: ‘The house where the girl I showed you was working...’  
 (AT)

<sup>6</sup> Note that *que* ‘that’ can never be in the Focus head because the [focus/op] feature is checked by the *wh*-phrase in raising configurations, so it cannot also probe *que*; whereas in matching configurations, there is no [focus/op] probe at all.

<sup>7</sup> This restriction may not hold for other languages: Sevcenco (2015) points out that *wh*-relatives display resumptive clitics in Romanian, contrary to the prediction in (5).

- b. La maison<sub>k</sub> où je t'ai dis **que** la fille travaillait e<sub>k</sub>  
 the house where I to.you=have told that the girl worked  
 'The house in which I told you the girl was working...'  
 (AT)
- c. La maison<sub>k</sub> où je t'ai montré la fille **qui**  
 the house where I to.you=have shown the girl who  
 travaillait là<sub>k</sub>  
 worked there  
 'The house where the girl I showed you was working...'  
 (AT)

The ungrammaticality of (12a) indicates competition between two *wh*-phrases for binding the post-verbal variable, which is an effect arising from movement. Hence, the pattern in (5a) is at work here, as well as in (11b). The strong island effect does not arise in (12b), where extraction is possible across the CP with a non-quantifier *que* 'that'. Furthermore, (12a) can be rescued by inserting a resumptive adverb at the gap site, as in (12c). Here, *qui* is accepted in the CP relative (it has no competition), while referential identity applies between the highest relative DP and the deictic adverb *là*. Lack of strong island effects indicates that the relative DP in this construction is merged directly in the matrix clause, not moved across *qui* 'who'. Therefore, this is a matching structure as in (6).

Accordingly, we conclude that relativization through *wh*-phrases may proceed in two ways in AF: through DP raising and quantificational chains, as in (11), or through a matching structure, where the relative gap is spelled out by a deictic phrase, as in (12c).

## 5.2 *Que* relatives

In AF, *wh*-relatives alternate with *que* 'that' relatives as in example (1). Notably, there is variation in the way *que* 'that' relatives are constructed, since, in the same context, some involve resumptive pronouns while others do not, or some display doubly filled Comp while others do not. The way we propose to tackle this variation is by focusing on the featural make-up of *que* 'that'. This is achieved within the framework of the articulated CP field provided in (7).

### 5.2.1 *Que* in Force

The derivation in (5b), showing the complementizer *que* 'that' in a restrictive relative, can be converted to the split representation in (7) as follows: *que* 'that' is in Force, where it checks [clause typing], in addition to the features of Fin [finite/modal]. The operator, in Focus, is checked by the relative DP on its way to Spec, ForceP (probed by matrix D). Alternatively, *wh*-phrases may check [operator] and [clause typing], on their way to Spec, ForceP, hence the complementary distribution between *wh*-phrases and the complementizer *que* 'that' in the CP of restrictive relatives.

Note that *wh*-phrases have no properties that would allow them to check Fin [finite/modal], this task being left to the embedded verb in T. Thus, the [+/-finite] values

Hence, we consider that, within the hierarchy in (7), *que* merges in Fin to check and value [finite/modal] and moves to Force to check [clause typing], so that *que* ‘that’ ends up in the highest functional head of the clause. This hierarchy is confirmed for AF by constructions as in (13), where the constituent *des fois* ‘sometimes’ fronted to Spec, TopP follows *que* instead of preceding it.

- Again, following the pattern in (5b), as justified in Donati and Cecchetto (2011), we expect that the relative DP raises to Spec, ForceP. A typical test for DP raising involves the binding relation between the raised DP and coreferential anaphors or variables. This is tested for AF in (14).

- In (14a), *son* ‘her’ receives its referential interpretation from the subject *alle* ‘elle’, linearized lower, which means that a copy of *son oncle* ‘her uncle’ is present in the c-

<sup>8</sup> The [modal] in Fin is not discussed here as it makes no difference to the tests. However, the assumption is that finite *que* 'that' does not value [modal], this feature being underspecified for realis or irrealis. Thus, although the embedded verb is always finite, it may come either in the indicative or in the subjunctive.

Further confirmation for the raising analysis comes from strong island effects, as shown in (15a). As with *wh*-relatives, the strong island effect can be avoided by spelling out the gap through a deictic element, as in (15b).

- The examples in (15) indicate again that two derivational patterns are available for restrictive relatives: one involving a raising structure in (15a), and one involving a matching structure in (15b).

(16) alors s'i y a quelque chose<sub>k</sub> **qu'**on veut que  
 then if=it=there=has any thing that=we want that  
 le gouvernement s'**en**<sub>k</sub> occupe...  
 the government REFL=of.it take.care  
 'then if there is anything we want the government to take care of'  
 (Wiesmath 2007: 211/14, Y28)

In (16), *en* rescues the partitive interpretation of the relative DP, which is otherwise lexically unmarked through the use of *que* ‘that’ instead of an inflected relative pronoun (i.e. SF *dont*, which was dropped from the paradigm of relative pronouns). Taking into account that constructions as in (14) and (16) occur in free alternation (i.e. the presence of *en* in (16) is optional), it means that the underlying structure of (16) is the one in (5c) in the absence of deictics at the gap site.

The conclusion of this sub-section is that *que* ‘that’ in the restrictive relatives of AF checks two sets of features (i.e. [clause typing], [+finite/modal]), which account for its syntactic behavior. For that, *que* ‘that’ is merged in Fin and moves to Force, yielding the

linearization in (13). Restrictive relatives with *que* ‘that’ may be derived either through DP raising or DP matching, the latter becoming visible when a deictic element appears at the relative gap.

### 5.2.2 *Que* in Fin

Peculiar to AF is the variation in the location of *que* ‘that’: while (13) indicates its location in Force, (17) shows that it can also be left in Fin. That is, in (17a) the topic item, [*moi*] precedes (instead of following) *que*. Furthermore, *wh*-phrases (i.e. *ioù* ‘where’), considered to move to Spec, FocusP and further to Spec, ForcP, also precede *que* ‘that’, see (17b).

- (17) a. c’est ça la vie [*moi*] **que** j’ai fait  
 it=is this the life I that I=have=made  
 ‘this is the life I personally lived’  
 (Wiesmath 2007: 194/4, M351)
- b. la grande depression américaine [*ioù*] **que** douze photographes  
 the big depression American where that twelve photographers  
 avaient fait des milliers d’images  
 had made thousands images  
 ‘the big American depression in which twelve photographers had taken  
 thousands of pictures...’  
 (Pusch 2012: 3)

In (17), *que* in Fin checks and values [+finite/modal]. Since *que* does not move to Force, [clause typing] may or may not be checked by *que* in Fin. The checking may be implemented through long distance Agree, in which case we have (17a). If the Agree relation weakens and disappears, [clause typing] is checked by a *wh*-phrase, as in (17b).

One may relate the Fin reanalysis of *que* to its occurrence in conjunction with *wh*-idioms, e.g. (*ioù-ce que* in (18), where it occurs in free variation with single *que* ‘that’.

- (18) c’est les endroits **que** les enfants vont le plus dehors, c’est vraiment  
 it=is the places that the children go the most outside it=is really  
 là, les deux extrémités **où-ce que** les enfants  
 there the two extremities where that the children  
 sont le plus dehors  
 are the most outside  
 ‘these are the places where the children go outside, it is really there, the two  
 extremities where the children go the most when outside’  
 (Pusch 2012: 6)

*Où-ce que* arises from the reanalysis of the clausal unit *où c’est que* ‘where it is that’, which can still be seen in more archaic registers, such as illustrated in Maillet’s *La Sagouine* (1974: 60). In such formations, *que* is part and parcel of the reanalyzed complex that counts as one item for the spelling of C (i.e. it could be a complex head).

However, in our data, *que* ‘that’ occurs in Fin independently of *wh*-idioms, as seen in (17a, b). Note that the *wh*-phrase in (17b) does not contain *ce* ‘this’, so the *wh*-phrase is not reanalyzed as a unit with *que*, as it is in (18). Hence, AF relatives display a bleached form of *que* ‘that’ in Fin, independently of *wh*-idioms.

In a strictly minimalist hierarchy, (17b) qualifies as a construction with doubly filled Comp. However, in cartography, that is not the case: in the hierarchy in (7), *ioù* and *que* are in different functional projections, that is, ForceP and FinP, respectively, so we do not have a local Spec-head relation (which would be problematic since it entails double feature checking).

The main point is that our investigation reveals variations in the status of *que* ‘that’ in the restrictive relatives of AF: there is a “strong” *que* (in Force) and a “weak” *que* (in Fin). The consequences are: (i) There is variation in the number of C features *que* has the (in)ability to check. (ii) *Que* in Fin becomes disconnected from Force[clause typing], which is unsurprising giving the long distance Agree for which the learners have no visible evidence. (iii) The checking of C features is assigned to the relative phrase (with or without a *wh*-element) in the presence of weak *que* in Fin<sup>9</sup>.

### 5.2.3 The spreading of *que* ‘that’

The use of *que* ‘that’ to spell out relative C is very productive in AF, and counteracts the reduced paradigm of relative pronouns and the absence of their derivatives (e.g. *dont* ‘of.which.GEN’; *à/de qui* ‘to.DAT/about who’)<sup>10</sup>. The syntactic function indicated by inflection (such as possessive Genitives) or by prepositions is recovered at the semantic level (through the principle of compositionality), as in (1), or through the insertion of a resumptive pronoun like *en*, which makes up for the lack of inflectional information, as in (16), and further in (19).

- (19) c’était une bête **que** j’en avais presque peur  
 it=was a gismo that I=of.it had almost fear  
 ‘it was a gismo of which I was almost afraid’

(Wiesmath 2007: 212/6, L43)

The spreading of *que* ‘that’ is especially productive in contexts with what looks like preposition stranding (Roberge and Rosen 1999), as seen in (3) and further in (20):

<sup>9</sup> The cooccurrence of *wh*-phrases with *que* ‘that’ routinely arises in other types of relatives as well, where English borrowings may also appear, as in (i). For the use of *which que* in AF, see Petras (2015) for the variety spoken in Nova Scotia, and King (1991) for the variety of Prince Edward Island.

(i) c’était tout fait à la main **which que** je l’ai fait itou  
 this=was all made by the hand which that I=it=have=made here  
 ‘what I made here was all made by hand’

(Wiesmath 2007: 201/1, B635)

<sup>10</sup> Note however that such *wh*-phrases are still used by speakers who prefer a more SF related register.

- (20) a. i aiment pas que tu dises des prières **que** le mot enfer  
 they=like not that you say prayers that the word hell  
 est dedans  
 is in  
 ‘they don’t like you to say prayers that have the word “hell” in them’  
 (Wiesmath 2007: 207/7, O708)
- b. alors i y a trois pôles, le pôle **qu’**on va axer dessus  
 so it=there=has three poles the pole that=we will focus on  
 c’est le pôle du marché libre  
 it=is the pole of market free  
 ‘so there are three poles, the pole we are going to focus on is the pole of  
 the free market’  
 (Wiesmath 2007: 208/14, Y, not in the corpus)

One would be tempted to assume that the underlying structure of (20) corresponds to (5b), where the relative phrase is a PP instead of a DP. DP raising would then proceed through Spec, PP. However, complications arise from the observation that extraction from constructions as in (20) does not trigger strong island effects, as also observed in Bouchard (1982) and Vinet (1984) for Québec French, with cross-linguistic confirmation in Roberge and Rosen (1999). This is shown in (21) for AF:

- (21) C’est la boule **qu’**elle t’a montré le fil qui va dedans.  
 it=is the ball that=she to.you=has shown the wire which goes in  
 ‘This is the ball for which she showed you the thread which goes inside it.’  
 (AT)

Bouchard (1982) and Vinet (1984) argue that what looks like stranded prepositions in such constructions are actually PP structures with a resumptive null *pro* DP; that is, French has “orphan” P, not “stranded” P. So there is a structural contrast between English and French, as the former strands the preposition upon extraction of the DP, whereas the latter has null *pro* as the object of P. Accordingly, the relative DP in (21) does not move out of PP, but it is base generated in the matrix clause and its referential properties are matched by *pro* in PP. Therefore, (21) relies on a matching structure as in (6), so the succession of two *wh*-phrases below the relative DP does not rule out the sentence.

Related to orphan PPs but deviating from their derivational pattern are constructions displaying stranded *de* and *à*, as in (22):

- (22) a. pour expliquer aux gens un petit peu le PH **qu’**on parle  
 for explain to people a little bit the PH that=we talk  
de aujourd’hui  
 of today  
 ‘to explain to people, a little bit, the PH of which we are talking today’  
 (Wiesmath 2007: 212/12, N24)



- b. c'est pas le même fer **qu'**on parle de à Moncton  
 it=is not the same iron that=they talk of in Moncton  
 'this is not the same iron of which they are talking in Moncton'  
 (Wiesmath 2007: 212/12, N113)
- c. moi j'aime la musique **que** tu peux danser à pasque j'aime  
 I I=like the music that you can dance to because I=like  
 danser  
 dance  
 'I like the music to which you can dance because I like dancing'  
 (Wiesmath 2007: 213, Chiac variety)

*De* and *à* are not lexical prepositions but inflectional/Case markers, generated as D rather than P (the D/P in Kayne 1994). Hence, the examples in (22) give the false impression of orphan PPs, when in fact, the derivational mechanism is the one that works for resumptive pronouns, as in (16), and formally represented in (5c). That is, the relative D in (5c) is *de* or *à* instead of a clitic pronoun. The non-clitic property of these items forces their linearization in situ. Hence, (22) brings independent confirmation for the analysis in (5c), by actually realizing D in situ (versus the moved clitic pronouns).

Further evidence comes from the strong island constraint in (23), indicating that *de* and *à* are contained in constructions with DP raising, as in (5c), and thus, their underlying derivation is different from the matching structures with orphan PPs in (20).

- (23) \*c'est pour expliquer aux gens le PH **que** je connais un prof  
 it=is for explain to people the PH that I=know a professor  
 qui parle de.  
 who speaks of  
 Intended: 'This is to explain to people about the PH of which a professor I know is speaking.'  
 (AT)

It is probable that the position of *de* and *à* may lead the learners to a reanalysis in terms of orphan PPs, by analogy with the constructions in (20). In other words, *de* and *à* may eventually enrich their featural make-up and project a PP. However, at this time, the status of *de* and *à* is still functional (versus lexical), so their syntactic behavior is different from that of orphan PPs.

#### 5.2.4 *Que* deletion

The unstable featural make-up of *que* 'that' and its bleaching coincides with the increasing tendency noticed in Wiesmath (2007) to drop this complementizer. There is no interpretive impact arising from the deletion of *que* 'that'. In fact, free alternation is available among four possible spellouts for CP in the same type of restrictive relative in AF, as shown in (24): *wh*-phrase only, as in (24a); *que* 'that' only, as in (24b); a combination of the above, as in (24c); and null CP, as in (24d), where the relative DP does not contain a *wh*-element.

- (24) a. l'endroit **où** avaient habité quelques familles acadiennes  
 the place where had lived some families Acadian  
 'the place where some Acadian families had lived'  
 (<http://www.bouctouche.ca/visiteurs/>)
- b. pis i y a une place **qu'**on a sorti au bout du Cabot Trail  
 then it=there=has a place that=we has got at.the end of Cabot Trail  
 Trail  
 'then there is a place where we could come out at the end of Cabot Trail'  
 (Wiesmath 2007: 216/2, E116)
- c. ça fait que le jour **où-ce que** j'ai compris ça...  
 it does that the day when I=have understood this  
 'it comes to the fact that the day when I understood this....'  
 (AT)
- d. j'avais ben vingt-cinq ans la première fois **0** j'ai mangé....  
 I=had well twenty-five years the first time I=have eaten  
 'the first time I ate [this] I was twenty-five'  
 (Wiesmath 2007: 217/4, M228)

For all the constructions in (24), SF would have the relative *où* in CP. The variation we see in AF (24) reflect social register differences, which we did not quantify in this paper.

In terms of derivational patterns, *que* 'that' deletion (in the absence of orphan PP) involves DP raising, since strong island effects may arise. This is shown by the contrast between (25a) and (25b) for extractions from adjunct positions; and the contrast between (25c) and (25d) for extractions from the direct object position.

- (25) a. la seule manière **0** tu vas pouvoir vivre  
 the only way you will be.able live  
 'the only way in which you will be able live'  
 (AT)
- b. \*la seule manière **0** je t'ai montré la fille  
 the only way I=to.you=have shown the girl  
 qui va pouvoir vivre  
 who will be.able live  
 Intended: 'The only way in which the girl I showed you will be able to live'  
 (AT)
- c. le bateau **0** vous voyez en arrière de lui  
 the boat you see in behind of him  
 'the boat (that) you see behind him'  
 (Wiesmath 2007: 195)
- d. \*le bateau **qu'** il m'a dit **0** vous voyez en arrière  
 the boat which he to.me has said you see in behind  
 de lui  
 of him

In (25a), the raising DP checks [operator] and [clause typing]. For [finite/modal], one may suppose that checking is implemented by long distance Agree with the verb in T. However, if that were the case, (25a) should have an infinitive version, as seen in the presence of *wh*-phrases (see discussion above example [13]), but that is not possible. Thus, a non-lexical counterpart of *que* holds Fin in (25a) and imposes a finite inflection on the embedded T. Incidentally, since part of C feature checking depends on the raising DP when *que* is deleted, it means that *que* deletion does not occur with orphan PPs in restrictive relatives (i.e. no DP raising), which is indeed what we found in the AF data<sup>11</sup>.

### 5.3 Subjects

Relativization from the subject position is a sensitive issue, not only because of the contradicting analyses in Kayne (1976) and Sportiche (2011) (see section 4 above), but also because it may trigger subject-verb agreement failure in AF restrictive relatives. The main argument in this section is that relativization from the subject position in AF involves two patterns: either a *wh*-relative, in which the embedded verb obligatorily agrees with the relative DP; or a *que* ‘that’ relative, in which the embedded verb does not agree with the relative DP but with an expletive. The former involves DP raising, the latter DP matching.

Before focusing on restrictive relatives, we must point out that AF and SF share two parametric settings: they are both non-null subject languages (Beaulieu and Balcom [1998]) and they both observe the *that*-trace effect (i.e. extraction of subjects proceeds from Spec, TP, not from Spec, vP; Rizzi [1990]). Accordingly, relativization from the subject position must ensure the spell out of the subject and avoid short *wh*-movement across *que* ‘that’.

Relativization of subjects in AF involves the alternation between *qui/qu*’, as in (26):

- (26) j’ai mon frère **qu’a** une machine **qui** coupe le bois pis  
 I=have my brother that=has an engine which cuts the wood and  
**qu’enlève** toutes les branches  
 that=removes all the branches  
 ‘I have a brother who has an engine that cuts the wood and removes all the  
 branches’

(Wiesmath 2007:195/7, O243)

This alternation is not predictable under Kayne’s analysis, but may be motivated by a language internal rule at PF: [i] is obligatorily dropped in front of a vowel initial word<sup>12</sup>. The unambiguous presence of *que* ‘that’ in contexts with *ça* subjects, as in (27), may further prove that the relative C is ‘that’.

<sup>11</sup> Such constructions occur, however, in Quebec French (see Roberge and Rosen 1999), which means that long distance Agree between C and T takes place in that dialect.

<sup>12</sup> Phonological analyses indicate a systematic alternation according to whether the syllable following *qui/qu*’ has a consonant onset (in which case the spell out is *qui*) or has only a vocalic nucleus (in which case the spell out is *qu*’; Wiesmath 2007: 188). For our analysis this is not helpful since *qu*’ may arise from the loss of either [i] or [ə] in front of a vowel.

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- b. I y a des affaires **qu'** est méchantes  
 it=there=has dealings which is nasty  
 'There are dealings that are nasty.'  
 (Beaulieu and Cichocki, 2002: 133)
- c. I y a ben des femmes **qu'** a déjà dis ça  
 it=there=has many women who has already said this  
 'There are many women who have already said this'  
 (Beaulieu and Cichocki 2002: 133)
- d. Il y a certaines personnes, certaines femmes **qu[i]** va  
 it=there=has some persons some women who will  
 y aller pis **qu[i]** va dire  
 there go and who will say  
 'There are some persons, some women who will go and say....'  
 (FANENB 2: 578)
- (30) nous a fait imaginer plein d'affaires **que ça** pourrait être  
 us=has made imagine many of=deals that it could be  
 'he made us imagine many deals that could have happened'  
 (AT)

Notably, the dropping of the segment [i] in front of vowels is optional in these contexts, as shown in (29), indicating that the morphosyntactic distinction between the complementizer and the pronominal *i* can override phonological rules. The obligatory loss of [i] in constructions as in (26) is thus another indication that in those contexts (i.e. with subject-verb agreement) *qui* is different from the *qui* of (29).

The important point is that *i* is an expletive that triggers agreement failure and occurs only in connection with a DP with generic reading<sup>13</sup>. The intrinsic [+/-human] or phi features of the relative DP are irrelevant. This is illustrated again in (31): when the antecedent DP is referential, the resumptive pronoun is referential *i*, so the verb agrees with the phi-features of the DP, as in (31a); when the antecedent DP has a generic reading, the resumptive is the expletive *i*, and the verb fails to agree with the DP, as in (31b)<sup>14</sup>.

- (31) a. Pis mes deux autres sœurs i prenient un cours d'infirmière.  
 and my two other sisters they took a course of nursing  
 'And my two other sisters took a nursing course.'  
 (FANENB 2: 089)

<sup>13</sup> The reverse is not obligatory: relative DPs with generic reading may also occur with *qui* 'who/which' and involve regular subject-verb agreement.

<sup>14</sup> For further clarification, the absence of agreement endings on the relevant verbs in (29) and (31b) does not concern the morphology. The verbs illustrated (i.e. 'be', 'go' and auxiliary 'have') are irregular and display person/number contrast even in SF. Thus, in AF, there is a possible double paradigm for 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural: *étiont/sont* 'they are'; *allont/vont* 'go'; *avont/ont* 'they have' (Beaulieu and Cichocki 2002: 124)].

- b. Il y a certaines personnes, certaines femmes **qu[i]** va y  
 it=there=has some persons some women who goes there  
 aller pis **qu[i]** va dire...  
 go and who goes say  
 ‘There are some persons, some women who will go and say...’  
 (FANENB 2: 578)

The data presented in this section allow us to conclude that agreement failure in restrictive relatives signal the option for *que* ‘that’ in C.

- (32) [DP *femmes* [CP *que* [TP *i/ça* [T *va* [...]]]]

The configuration in (32) conforms to the parametric settings in the language, since it ensures a lexical subject and avoids extraction across ‘that’.

Therefore, there is no DP raising in (32), but matching between the relative DP in the matrix and the expletive at the relativization site. The matching concerns the obligatory generic reading. Thus, relative *que* ‘that’ allows for concurrent relativization from another position, as in (33a), whereas relative *qui* ‘which’ does not, as in (33b):

- (33) a. L’endroit **que** je t’ai dis (qu’) i y a des femmes **qui**  
 the.place that I you=have told that there are women that  
 va y aller <endroit>  
 goes there go place  
 ‘The place where I told you there are women who go there.’  
 (AT)
- b. \*L’endroit **que** je t’ai dis (qu’) j’ai mon frère **qu’**  
 the.place that I you=have told that I=have my brother who  
 a allé <endroit>  
 has gone place  
 Intended: ‘The place where I told you my brother went there.’  
 (AT)

In (33), the relativization gap for *l’endroit* ‘the place’ is after the verb *aller* ‘go’, and the extraction of this element is meant to follow the pattern in (5c), that is, DP raising across *que* ‘that’ allowing for a resumptive clitic on the relevant verb. The intended reading is possible in (33a), but not in (33b). Hence, (33a) provides only *que* ‘that’ Cs, whereas (33b) has a competing *wh*-element, which is *qui* ‘who/which’. The ungrammaticality of (33b) disappears if the relativization gap is moved after the highest verb, since there is no extraction across *qui* ‘who/which’.

This analysis supports the approach in Sportiche (2011) insofar as *qui* in (26) does not qualify as an allomorph of *que* ‘that’ in AF. While this conclusion may or may not be true for equivalent constructions in SF, it does, at least, indicate the need for further inquiries in the status of expletives and their behavior in relative clauses in this language.

## 6. Conclusions

One outcome of this paper is that the variation in the spellout of CPs in the restrictive relatives of AF has been sorted out with respect to the status of the lexical elements involved: these can be *wh*-phrases in Spec,ForceP; strong *que* ‘that’ (in Force); or weak *que* ‘that’ (in Fin). In addition, the relative CP may remain null (*que*-deletion). The feature checking process is detailed in Table 1. The options in (iii), (iv), (v) have the [operator] and [clause typing] checked by a raising DP.

**Table 1.** Spellout of C in restrictive relatives/Acadian French

	Lexical item	[clause typing]	[operator]	[finite]
(i)	<i>wh</i> -phrases	+	+	–
(ii)	<i>wh</i> -phrase+ <i>que</i> ‘that’	+	+	+
(iii)	strong <i>que</i> ‘that’	+	–	+
(iv)	weak <i>que</i> ‘that’	–/+ (long distance Agree)	–	+
(v)	0 (‘that’)	–	–	+

A second outcome is the identification of the derivational mechanism at work in the restrictive relatives of AF. We showed that the raising and the matching patterns of relativization occur side by side. The the matching pattern obligatorily arises in the following contexts:

- (i) with deictic XPs (e.g. *là*, *ça*) merged at the gap site, which enter an identity relation with the relative DP in the matrix;
- (ii) with expletive subjects upon relativization from the subject position;
- (iii) with orphan PPs at the gap site.

From a theoretical perspective, the AF data bring further confirmation and clarification for current analyses of relativization. In particular, the stranding of the determiners *de/à* upon DP raising confirms the pattern of relativization proposed in Donati and Cecchetto (2011) and represented in (5c), where extraction takes place from complex DPs, containing clitics or other D elements (e.g. *de/à*) in local relation with the relative DP. Furthermore, the restrictions arising upon relativization from the subject position in AF throw new light on the debate regarding the analysis of *qui* in these contexts: is it a relative pronoun (Sportiche [2011]) or an allomorph of *que* ‘that’ (Kayne [1976])? In AF, it can be either of them, but with predictable consequences: the relative pronoun allows for subject-verb agreement between the relative DP and the embedded verb, whereas *que* ‘that’ does not. Also, the former involves DP raising and does not restrict the semantic type of the relevant DP, whereas the latter involves a matching structure and restricts the class of relative DPs to those with generic reading.

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