

EXPANSION OF QUANTIFYING STRUCTURES IN SUBORDINATE CLAUSES

Laura IONICĂ
University of Pitești

Abstract: The semantic class of the quantitative has relevance not only at morphological and syntactical level, but also in terms of phrases. The present research aims to highlight the role of quantifying phrases in subordinate clauses, expressed through a rich inventory of connectives. It is necessary to deepen the analysis of the quantitative in subordinate clauses due to the complexity of connectives operating at this level. Since there is no clear delimitation of the subordinate clauses which strictly express the quantitative, their constituent elements are placed at the limit of other types of clauses. In order to clearly emphasize the characteristics of the quantitative in terms of phrases, a separate approach of each clause is being required, taking into account the introductory elements and the classes of specific verbs. A special attention has also been paid to quantitative connectives and their meanings and role in subordinate clauses.

Key words: expansion, inventory, connective, subordinate clause, quantitative connective.

The comparison between the parts of a sentence and their corresponding subordinate clauses is revealed by the presence of certain common connectives (prepositions, prepositional phrases, conjunctions etc.); in other words, some connectives specific to the sintagmatic level are constitutive elements in the structure of connectives at the sentence level.

At the phrase level, the quantitative is expressed by a series of subordinate clauses having a poorer or richer inventory of connectives. The subordinates that incorporate quantitative elements are analyzed differently due to the phenomenon of interference. Since there is no clear delimitation of the subordinates that strictly express the quantitative, each of them requires a special analysis, starting from their constitutive elements and the specific classes of verbs.

The subject clause

It can be introduced by the relative pronoun *cât*: *Câte făcuse până atunci, nu mai conta*; certain indefinite pronouns (*orice, oricât*): *Oricât i se dă, nu-i convine*; interrogative pronouns (*câți, al cătelea*), when the subject clause is indirect-interrogative: *Nu se știe căți vor veni la petrecere, Nu s-a aflat al cătelea e pe listă*.

Among the connectives that introduce a subject clause, *cum de* which expresses the speaker's disapproval towards an action that already occurred, can be replaced by an adjectival or adverbial equivalent of the type *ce de, cât de* in exclamatory structures: *Se miră cât de mult s-a furat din acea companie, Mă surprinde ce de studenți au venit la festivitate!*

The predicative clause discharges the same function in complx sentences as that of the predicative and can be introduced by a relative pronoun that replaces a numeral (cardinal, ordinal, adverbial):

Problema		câți vor veni.
Întrebarea	este	cu câți va concura.
Chestiunea		al cătelea apare pe listă.
Nedumerirea		a câta oară a greșit.

The direct object clause is marked by the relative pronoun *câți*: *Nu știu câți elevi au venit la petrecere*, the interrogative pronoun *câți*: *Se întreabă câți au obținut burse*, the indefinite pronoun *oricât*: *Măncărnică oricât i se dă, Ajută pe oricâți îi cere ajutorul*.

The relative-interrogative direct object clauses are characterized by subordination to a verb that expresses information (*a ghici, a povesti, a spune* etc.): *Spune cât timp a lipsit*. Some verbs select inanimate relative pronouns (*a mâncă, a întreba, a lua, a spune*): *Spune căte știe, Măncărnică căt vrea*, while others accompany inanimate personal pronouns: *Ceartă pe câți îl supără*.

The infinitival relative clause is expressed by a short infinitive and limited syntactically and lexically and uses the same connectives as the relative clause itself. In certain contexts, the verb *a avea* is only used in the negative: *Nu are cât /oricât dorește, Nu are cât ar trebui*. Doubling the direct object clause is compulsory when the subordinate is used in anteposition: *Pe câți i-am văzut i-am salutat, Pe oricare vedea îl întreba ceva*. Doubling is optional or impossible, when the direct object clause is used in postposition: *Vorbește căte prostii îi trec prin cap, Îl saluta pe oricare trecea pe lângă el*.

The indirect object clause is as well represented at the phrase level as the indirect object at the sentence level. It can be expressed by relative pronouns in the dative without preposition: *Se adresează la câți are nevoie*, accusative with preposition: *E sensibil la orice îi spui* or genitive with preposition: *Se revoltă împotriva oricui are ceva de spus*.

It can also be introduced by indefinite pronouns in the dative usually without preposition (*oricare, oricine, oricâți*): *Se adresează oricui este prezent*; accusative with preposition: *Mă adresez la oricâți sunt atenți la mine*; genitive with preposition: *Vorbește împotriva oricărui lider nu este prezent* or the relative adverb *cât* with or without preposition: *Nu-mi aduc aminte cât mi-a cerut, Se folosește de cât are nevoie*.

The adverbial clause of place is usually marked by relative connectives such as in definite pronouns in the accusative with preposition (*oricine, oricare, orice*) or the genitive with preposition and in very rare cases it is used with the relative adverb *cât* which expresses the space dimension. In this context, the sentence has a quantitative meaning, rendering the measure of the space: *Soldații se risipiseră cât vedeai cu ochii*.

The same quantitative meaning is revealed when the subordinate is introduced by an adverb accompanied by the preposition *până unde*, suggesting an abstract possibility: *Lungește-te până unde poți*.

The adverbial clause of time

The subordination relation between the adverbial clause of time and the main clause is usually marked by indefinite adverbs (*oricât, de câte ori, ori de câte ori*): *Stai la noi oricât vrei, Mă bucur de câte ori îl văd*; conjunctional phrases (*câtă vreme, cât timp*): *Vizitam toate locurile cunoscute cât timp stăteam la bunici*; adverbs of time and adverbial phrases (*cât ce, atât, de atâtea ori*): *Cât a stat aici, atâtă s-a simțit bine, De câte ori te văd, de atâtea ori mi-aduc aminte de copilarie*.

In spoken language, the adverb *cât* with a quantitative meaning, preceded or not by the preposition *pe* becomes the equivalent of *cât timp*, so that it is said to introduce an adverbial clause of time: *Cât vei fi tu plecat, eu mă voi ocupa de casă*.

Temporal clauses of simultaneity expresses the limited or unlimited duration of the action and selects the connectives (*cât, câtă vreme, cât timp*): *Lucrează cât e vremea bună, Cât timp au avut cele necesare, nu au cerut de la nimeni*.

Temporal clauses of iterative simultaneity can be

introduced by (*de câte ori, ori de câte ori*): *Îi cer sfatul ori de câte ori vorbesc cu el, Pleacă în concediu de câte ori are timp liber.*

The adverbial clause of measure, quantity and approximation

It is the subordinate which expresses categories such as *proportion, time, space, value*. This clause cannot be regarded as a whole, due to its characteristics of content and form which establish its classification into proper quantity clause and progressive quantity clause. The first type expresses the measure or quantity of the action: *Vorbește cât vrea, Curtea e mare cât o arată împrejurimile* and it is usually introduced by the adverb *cât* preceded by the prepositions *după* and *pe*: *Ajută-l după /pe cât poți.*

The progressive quantity clause has no equivalent at the sentence level and can be introduced by correlative conjunctions (*cu cât...cu atât, pe cât...pe atât, de ce...de ce*): *Cu cât pleci mai repede, cu atât e mai bine, De ce înaintau, de ce le era mai teamă.*

The quantity clause can be introduced by conjunctions: *de ce, cu cât, pe cât*, conjunctival phrases and adverbs: *până să, pe măsură ce*. In certain contexts, both the action in the subordinate and that in the main clause are simultaneous: *Cu cât trecea mai mult timp, cu atât se simțea mai îngrijorat.*

In other cases, the action in the subordinate is previous to the one in the main clause, which involves the use of different tenses: *Căștigă cât nu-și închipuise*. When the action in the main clause expresses a wish, it is preferable to use the conditional mood: *De ce mânâncă, d-aia ar mai mânca*. When present and future tenses are used in the subordinate clause, the main clause uses the subjunctive mood to express a piece of advice: *Să trăim cât va vrea Dumnezeu.*

In certain contexts, the absence of the quantity clauses generates ungrammatical sentences: *Cu cât înainta cu atât se simțea mai neliniștit*, as compared to **Cu cât se simțea mai neliniștit*. Other quantity clauses only introduce additional information, the sentence undergoing no changes: *Fratele ei își făcea gânduri tot mai sinistre cu cât treceau zilele.*

The adverbial clause of cause shows the same relation as that expressed by adverbial modifiers of cause at the level of the simple sentence, its value being established by the nature of the introductory elements and the semantic content of the whole subordinate. The connectives specific to this clause are not relevant in terms of quantitative meaning, still we can encounter a special situation of communication made up of *de + noun / adjective / adverb + ce + a fi* in structures such as: *crapă pământul de secetă ce e, o sorbi din priviri de atrăgătoare ce e, femeia era epuizată de mult ce muncise* which was highly discussed by the grammarians. The most widespread idea is that the already mentioned succession should be split up into *de + noun / adjective / adverb* which makes up an adverbial of cause and *ce + a fi / another verb* which is an attributive clause.

Many authors disagreed, claiming that structures of this type develop different interpretations (the main clauses with an adverbial of cause in the form a noun or an adjective: *crapă pământul de secetă, o sorbi din priviri de frumoasă* are more stable and have meaning even if the verb *a fi* is missing, unlike the main clause with an adverbial of cause in the form of an adverb, which makes no sense if the subordinate is missing: **femeia era epuizată de mult.*

On the other hand, the idea is also inconvenient through its strictly formal character which disregards that the Romanian speakers interpret the succession *de + noun / adjective / adverb + ce+ a fi / another verb* as a single syntactic unit that expresses the determined action. The authors recommend that the structure should be analyzed as an adverbial clause of cause in which the noun, adjective or adverb shifts

the elements *de...ce*: *crapă pământul de secetă ce e* – *crapă pământul de...ce este secetă, o sorbi din priviri de...ce este frumoasă*.

Under the circumstances, the noun, adjective or adverb develops different syntactic functions: a component element of the verbal periphrasis which is the predicate of the sentence: *de...ce este secetă*; predicative: *de...ce era frumoasă*; adverbial modifier of quantity: *de...ce muncise mult*. The whole structure expresses the idea of superlative: *crapă pământul numai când este secetă mare, cineva o soarbe din priviri numai când ea este extraordinar de frumoasă, o persoană este epuizată numai când muncește prea mult*.

The adverbial clause of result is related to the main clause through subordinating conjunctions (*cât de, ca, să, cât să*) synonyms with the specialized conjunction *încât*: *Atâta a învățat, încât a obosit peste măsură, Sunt atâtea stele că nu mai vezi cerul*; specific or non-specific conjunctival phrases (*aşa, astfel că, astfel încât*): *Mi-a adus atâtea haine, astfel că nu mai am nevoie de altele*.

It is also introduced by correlative connectives: adverbs of manner (*atât, aşa, prea, destul*): *Atâta s-a plimbat prin oraş, încât a obosit*; adverbial phrases of manner (*în aşa fel, într-un asemenea mod, într-o asemenea măsură*): *A mințit într-o asemenea măsură, că nici el nu mai știa*; indefinite pronouns (*atât, destul*): *Atâta lume participa la eveniment, că nu mai avea loc*.

The adverbial clause of result with superlative meaning shows that an action or a quality is expressed in such a high degree, that it develops unusual consequences: *Plâng ea sărea cămeșa de pe dânsa*. Most clauses of result with superlative meaning are introduced by the conjunction *de* (*E aşa de frumos, de n-ai văzut, Îl doare spatele de nu mai poate*). Since they express the idea of superlative indirectly, they are felt as exclamatory sentences. They maintain their exclamatory character even in the absence of the subordinate, by using exclamatory means: phonetic, lexical or special syntactic structures with a characteristic intonation (*Mi-e un rău!*).

The adverbial clause of relation is usually introduced by indefinite pronouns accompanied by prepositions or prepositional phrases (*oricare, oricine, orice*) and *câte* preceded by the prepositions *din, după* or *pe*: *Are căte ceva de adăugat referitor la orice, După căte văd te-ai schimbă foarte mult*.

The adverbial clause of concession are usually introduced by an indefinite pronoun or adverb: *Să plece oricăti, tot nu mă deranjează, Să-i dea oricăte cadouri nu le apreciază*; relative adverbs (*cât, oricât*): *Oricăti ar încerca, nu-l pot mișca*. In certain contexts, these connectives accompany gradable adjectives or adverbs of the type: *cât / oricât de + adjective / adverb + a fi / alt verb*: *Oricât de mulți s-ar aduna, tot n-ar reuși să-l învingă*.

The adverbial clause of exception has specific quantitative correlatives: *toți...în afara de, nimeni / nimic...în afara de* (*Toți au rezistat tentației, în afara de cei din casa alăturată, Nimic nu se păstrează decât ceea ce este strict necesar*).

The attributive clause is introduced by the relative indefinite pronoun *cât / căți* (*A luat cu el cătă mâncare i-a trebuit, I-am trimis bani căji i-au trebuit*) or the relative adverb *cât* (*În perioada cât durează conferința o să stau la hotel*). In certain cases, the attributive clause introduced by the relative pronoun *cât / cătă* is easily confused with the subordinate introduced by the adverb *cât*. The former is followed by a mass noun or a noun with quantitative meaning, while the latter is followed by a noun that expresses the idea of time or manner. If we compare the structures: *Ulei căt ne trebuie pentru salată avem, O asemenea mulțime cătă se strânsese în oraș m-a uimit*, it can be noticed

that *cât* is a relative pronoun, unlike *A lucrat toată ziua cât eu m-am odihnit, Era o tristețe cât n-am mai văzut niciodată*, where *cât* is a relative adverb.

The analysis of quantitative connectives at the phrase level has highlighted a small number of elements marked by the presence of the relative and indefinite pronoun *cât* accompanied by prepositions in the accusative or genitive and also the quantitative correlatives *toți...în afara de, nimeni / nimic...în afara de*.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cardinaletti A. & Starke M, *The typology of structural deficiency: A case study of the three classes of pronouns*, Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter, 1999;

Diaconescu I., *Probleme de sintaxă a limbii române actuale*, București, Editura Științifică și Enciclopedică, 1989;

Dimitriu C., *Tratat de gramatică a limbii române*, Iași, Editura Institutul European, 2000;

Gramatica limbii române, I, *Cuvântul*; II, *Enunțul*, București, Editura Academiei Române, 2005;

Guțu Romalo V., *Sintaxa limbii române. Probleme și interpretări*, București, Editura Didactică și Pedagogică, 1973;

Ivănuș D., „Statutul morfosintactic al grupului de cuvinte *de câte ori*”, *Analele Universității din Craiova – Seria Științe Filologice, Lingvistică*, nr. 1-2, 1998;

Pană Dindelegan G., „Structura adverb + *de* + adjecțiv (sau adverb): descriere și interpretare semantică,” *SCL*, XXXII, nr. 6, p. 593-610, 1981.