## *EXPANSION OF QUANTIFYING STRUCTURES IN SUBORDINATE CLAUSES*

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***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 hightlight 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 câtelea*), when the subject clause is indirect-interrogative: *Nu se ştie câţi vor veni la petrecere, Nu s-a aflat al câtelea 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 mira cât de mult s-a furat din acea companie, Mă surprinde ce de studenţi 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* | | *câţi vor veni.* |
| *Întrebarea* | *este* | *cu câţi va concura.* |
| *Chestiunea* | | *al câtelea apare pe listă.* |
| *Nedumerirea* | | *a câta oară a greşit.* |



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**The direct object clause** is marked by the relative pronoun *câţi*: *Nu ştiu câţi elevi au venit la petrecere*, the interrogative pronoun *câţi*: *Se întreabă câţi au obţinut burse*, the indefinite pronoun *oricât*: *Mănâncă oricât i se dă, Ajută pe oricâţi 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 mânca, a întreba, a lua, a spune*)*: Spune câte ştie, Mănâncă cât vrea*), while others accompany inanimate personal pronouns: *Ceartă pe câţi îl supără*.

The infinitival relative clause is expressed by a short infinitive and limited sintactically 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 doreşte, Nu are cât ar trebui*. Doubling the direct object clause is compulsory when the subordinate is used in anteposition: *Pe câţi i-am văzut i-am salutat, Pe oricare vedea îl întreba ceva*. Doubling is optional or impossible, when the direct object clause in used in postposition: *Vorbeşte câte 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 câţi 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, oricâţi*): *Se adresează oricui este prezent*; accusative with preposition: *Mă adresez la oricâţi sunt atenţi la mine*; genitive with preposition: *Vorbeşte împotriva oricărui lider nu este prezent* or the relative adverb *cât* with or without preposition: *Nu-mi aduc aminte cât mi-a cerut, Se foloseşte 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: *Soldaţii 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*: Lungeşte-te până unde poţi*.

**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, atâta s-a simţit bine, De câte ori te văd, de atâtea ori mi-aduc aminte de copilărie*.

In spoken language, the adverb *cât* with a quantitative meaning, preceeded 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



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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: *Vorbeşte cât vrea, Curtea e mare cât o arată împrejurimile* and it is usually introduced by the adverb *cât* preceeded by the prepositions *după* and *pe*: *Ajută-l după /pe cât poţi*.

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*, conjunctional 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 simţea 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: *Câştigă cât nu-şi 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 simţea mai neliniştit*, as compared to **Cu cât se simţea mai neliniştit*. Other quantity clauses only introduce additional information, the sentence undergoing no changes: *Fratele ei îşi 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 / adjectiv / 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 / adjectiv / 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



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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 epxresses 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 munceşte 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 învăţat, încât a obosit peste măsură, Sunt atâtea stele că nu mai vezi cerul*; specific or non-specific conjunctional 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 (*atat, asa, 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 minţit într-o asemenea măsură, că nici el nu mai ştia*; indefinite pronouns (*atât, destul*): *Atâta lume participa la eveniment, că nu mai avea loc.*

The advebial 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: *Plângea de sărea cămeşa 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* preceeded by the prepositions *din, după* or *pe*: *Are câte ceva de adăugat referitor la orice, După câte văd te-ai schimbat foarte mult.*

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

**The adverbial clause of exception** has specific quantitative correlatives: *toţi…în afară de, nimeni / nimic…în afară de* (*Toţi au rezistat tentaţiei, în afară 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 / câţi* (*A luat cu el câtă mâncare i-a trebuit, I-am trimis bani câţi i-au trebuit*) or the relative adverb *cât* (*În perioada cât durează conferinţa o să stau la hotel*). In certain cases, the attributive clause introduced by the relative pronoun *cât / câtă* 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 cât ne trebuie pentru salată avem, O asemenea mulţime câtă se strânsese în oraş m-a uimit*, it can be noticed



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that *cât* is a relative pronoun, unlike *A lucrat toată ziua cât eu m-am odihnit, Era o tristeţe 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 *toţi…în afară de, nimeni / nimic…în afară de*.

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