

MEETING 4

MULTIPLE CLAUSES: ADJECTIVE CLAUSE

A. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

At the end of the lesson, the students are able to:

1. Identify adjective clause;
2. Write sentences with adjective clause.

B. MATERIAL DESCRIPTION

In the previous meeting, we discussed the concept of sentence with multi-clauses and present one type of multi-clauses sentence—noun clause. In Meeting 7, we will discuss another type of multi-clauses sentence that functions to modify a noun—adjective clause. Delahunty and Garvey (2010) argue that Adjective Clause is a mislead name of Relative Clause. However, the name adjective clause is popular to the general public as it is more understandable.

1. Adjective clause connector as object

Adjective clause follows the head noun they modify and begin either with one of the three connectors of adjective clause. Below are the connectors used in adjective clause.

Table 1 Connectors for Adjective Clause

Whom (for people)	Which (for things)	That (for people & things)
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Example 1

<i>The woman</i>	<i>is filling</i>	<i>the bottle</i>	<i>that</i>	<i>she</i>	<i>put</i>	<i>on the table.</i>
Subject	Verb	Object	Connector	Subject	Verb	Preposition
			Adjective			
Main Clause			Adjective Clause			

The Example 1 above contains two clauses. In the main clause, “*The woman*” is the subject of the verb “*is filling*”. Meanwhile, in the Adjective clause, “*she*” is the subject of the

verb “is”. “That” is the adjective clause connector that joins these two clauses. The adjective clause “*that she put on the table*” modify the noun “*bottle*” of the first clause.

Example 2

<i>The bottle</i>	<i>that</i>	<i>she</i>	<i>put</i>	<i>on the table</i>	<i>contains</i>	<i>milk.</i>
Subject	Connector	Subject	Verb	Preposition	Verb	Object
	Adjective					
Main Clause	Adjective Clause				Main Clause	

The Example 2 above also contains two clauses. In the Main clause, “*The bottle*” is the subject of the verb “*contains*”. Meanwhile, in the Adjective clause, “*she*” is the subject of the verb “*put*”. In this sentence, the connector “*that*” joins these two clauses. The adjective clause “*that she put on the table*” describe the noun “*bottle*” of the first clause.

2. Adjective clause connectors as subject

The Example 1 and 2 above show how adjective clause connectors are used to introduce clause that describe a noun. In several cases, adjective clause connectors can also be the subject of an adjective clause. The adjective clause connectors that can be functioned as subject is different for people. The Table 4 below show the adjective connector clause that can be used as subject, follow by sentence samples.

Table 2 Connectors for Adjective Clause (Subject)

Who (for people)	Which (for things)	That (for people & things)
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Example 3

<i>The woman</i>	<i>is filling</i>	<i>the bottle</i>	<i>that</i>	<i>is</i>	<i>on the table.</i>
Subject	Verb	Object	Connector Subject	Verb	Preposition
			Adjective		
Main Clause			Adjective Clause		

In Example 3, there are two clauses. In the Main Clause, “*The woman*” is the subject of the verb “*is filling*”, while in the Adjective clause, the connector “*that*” is the subject of the verb “*is*”. The two clauses are joined with adjective clause connector *that*. The adjective clause describes the noun “*bottle*”. Notice that in this example, the connector *that* serves two functions: as subject of the verb “*is*”, as well as the connector which joins the two clauses.

Example 4

<i>The bottle</i>	<i>that</i>	<i>is</i>	<i>on the table</i>	<i>contains</i>	<i>milk.</i>
Subject	Connector	Verb	Preposition	Verb	Object
	Adjective				
Main Clause	Adjective Clause			Main Clause	

The Example 4 above also contains two clauses. In the Main clause, “*The bottle*” is the subject of the verb “*contains*”. Meanwhile, in the Adjective clause, the connector “*that*” is the subject of the verb “*is*”. In this sentence, the connector “*that*” joins these two clauses. The adjective clause “*that she put on the table*” describe the noun “*bottle*” of the first clause. Notice that in this example, the connector *that* serves two functions: as subject of the verb “*is*”, as well as the connector which joins the two clauses.

3. Usual patterns of adjective clause

In everyday informal usage, often one adjective clause pattern is used more commonly than another. For example, in Example 5 below, *who*, as a subject pronoun, is more common to be used than *that*.

Example 5

USUAL: *I like the people **who** live next to me.*

LESS USUAL: *I like the people **that** live next to me.*

Another example is the connector *that* is more common than *which*.

Example 6

USUAL: *I like books **that** have good plots.*

LESS USUAL: *I like books **which** have good plots.*

In addition, adjective clause connector for object are commonly omitted, especially when speaking.

Example 7

USUAL: I liked the people Ø I met last night.

USUAL: I liked the book Ø I read last week.

4. Using Whose

Another connector that can be used in introducing adjective clause is **Whose**. **Whose** functions to show possession. It carries the same meaning as other possessive pronouns used as adjectives such as *his*, *her*, *its*, and *their*. **Whose** should be connected to a noun. Both **whose** and the noun connected to it are placed at the beginning of the adjective clause.

Example

- *I know the man.*
- ***His bicycle** was stolen.*

*I know the man **whose bicycle** was stolen.*

Sentence Breakdown

<i>I</i>	<i>know</i>	<i>the man</i>	<i>whose</i>	<i>bicycle</i>	<i>was stolen.</i>
Subject	Verb	Object	Connector	Subject	Verb
			Adjective		
Main Clause			Adjective Clause		

Example

- *The student writes well.*
- *I read **her composition**.*

*The student **whose composition** I read writes well.*

Sentence Breakdown

<i>The students</i>	<i>whose</i>	<i>composition</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>read</i>	<i>writes</i>	<i>well.</i>
Subject	Connector	Object	Subject	Verb	Verb	Adverb
	Adjective					
Main Clause	Adjective Clause				Main Clause	

Whose usually modifies people, but it may also be used to modify things as shown below.

Example

- *Mr. John has a sculpture.*
- ***Its value** is inestimable.*

*Mr. John has a painting **whose value** is inestimable.*

Sentence Breakdown

<i>Mr. John</i>	<i>has</i>	<i>a sculpture</i>	<i>whose</i>	<i>value</i>	<i>is</i>	<i>inestimable</i>
Subject	Verb	Object	Connector	Subject	Verb	Adjective
			Adjective			
Main Clause			Adjective Clause			

C. EXERCISES

1. Identifying Adjective Clause

Directions: All of these sentences contain errors in adjective clause structures. Correct the errors.

1. In our village, there were many people didn't have much money.
2. I enjoyed the book that you told me to read it.
3. I still remember the man who he taught me to play the violin when I was a boy.
4. I showed my father a picture of the car I am going to buy it as soon as I save enough money.

5. The woman about who I was talking about suddenly walked into the room. I hope she didn't hear me.
6. Almost all of the people appear on television wear makeup.
7. I don't like to spend time with people which loses their temper easily.
8. The boy drew pictures of people at an airport which was waiting for their planes.
9. People who works in the hunger program they estimate that 3500 people in the world die from starvation every day of the year.
10. In one corner of the marketplace, an old man who was playing a violin.

2. Sentence Making

Exercise a: Adjective clause connector as the object of a verb

Directions: Combine the sentences, using the second sentence as an adjective clause. Give all the possible patterns.

1. The book was good. I read it.
2. I liked the woman. I met her at the party last night.
3. I liked the composition. You wrote it.
4. The people were very nice. We visited them yesterday.
5. The man is standing over there. Ann brought him to the party.

Exercise b: Adjective clause connector as subject

Directions: Combine the two sentences. Use the second sentence as an adjective clause.

1. I saw the man. He closed the door.

➔ I saw the man

who
that

 closed the door.

2. The girl is happy. She won the race.
3. The student is from China. He sits next to me.
4. The students are from China. They sit in the front row.
5. We are studying sentences. They contain adjective clauses.
6. I am using a sentence. It contains an adjective clause.
7. Algebra problems contain letters. They stand for unknown numbers.
8. The taxi driver was friendly. He took me to the airport.

Exercise c: Usual patterns of Adjective clause

Directions: Combine the sentences, using the second sentence as an adjective clause. Give all the possible adjective clause patterns. Discuss which patterns are used more commonly than others.

Example: The scientist is well known for her research. We met her yesterday.

The scientist

Ø
Who(m)
that

 that We met yesterday is well known for her research.

1. She lectured on a topic. I know very little about it.
2. The students missed the assignment. They were absent from class.
3. Yesterday I ran into an old friend. I hadn't seen him for years.
4. The young women are all from Japan. We met them at the meeting last night.
5. I am reading a book. It was written by Jane Austen.

Exercise d: Using WHOSE in adjective clauses

Directions: Combine the sentences, using the second sentence as an adjective clause.

1. I know a man. His last name is Groot.
→ I know a man **whose last name** is Groot.
2. I apologized to the woman. I spilled her coffee.
→
3. The man called the police. His wallet was stolen.
→
4. I met the woman. Her husband is the president of the company.
→
5. The professor is excellent. I am taking her course.
→
6. Mr. North teaches a class for students. Their native language is not English.
→
7. The people were nice. We visited their house.
→
8. I live in a dormitory. Its residents come from many countries.
→
9. I have to call the man. I accidentally picked up his umbrella after the meeting.
→
10. The man poured a glass of water on his face. His beard caught on fire when he lit a cigarette.
→

D. REFERENCES

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- Phillips, D. 2001. *Longman Complete Course for the TOEFL Test*. New York: Pearson Education.