

# CASE COMPETITION IN HEADLESS RELATIVES

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# List of abbreviations

<b>ACC</b>	accusative
<b>AN</b>	animate
<b>DAT</b>	dative
<b>DEM</b>	demonstrative
<b>GEN</b>	genitive
<b>INF</b>	infinitive
<b>M</b>	masculine
<b>NOM</b>	nominative
<b>N</b>	neuter
<b>PL</b>	plural
<b>PRES</b>	present tense
<b>PST</b>	past tense
<b>PTCP</b>	participle
<b>REL</b>	relative
<b>SG</b>	singular



## **Part I**

### **The case**



## **Part II**

# **The base**



# Chapter 1

## Constituent containment

In Chapter ?? I introduced two descriptive parameters that generate the attested languages, as shown in Figure 1.1. The first parameter concerns whether the external case is allowed to surface when it wins the case competition (allow EXT?). This parameter distinguishes between unrestricted languages (e.g. Old High German) on the one hand and internal-only languages (e.g. Modern German) and matching languages (e.g. Polish) on the other hand. The second parameter concerns whether the internal case is allowed to surface when it wins the case competition (allow INT?). This parameter distinguishes between internal-only languages (e.g. as Modern German) on the one hand and unrestricted languages (e.g. Old High German) on the other hand.

“A natural question at this point is whether this typology needs to be fully stipulative, or is to some extent derivable from independent properties of individual languages” Grosu (2003)<sup>147</sup>

In this chapter I show how the typology can be derived from the morphology of the languages.

This chapter is structured as follows.

### 1.1 The basic idea

This section gives the basic idea behind my proposal. Throughout the rest of the chapter I motivate the proposal, and I illustrate it with examples.

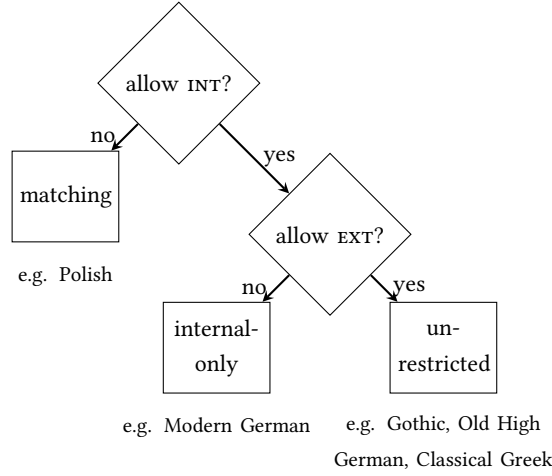


Figure 1.1: Two descriptive parameters generate three language types

### 1.1.1 Underlying assumptions

I start with my assumption that headless relatives are derived from light-headed relatives.<sup>1</sup> The light head bears the external case, and the relative pronoun bears the internal case, as illustrated in (1).

- (1) light head<sub>EXT</sub> [relative pronoun<sub>INT</sub> ... ]

In a headless relative, either the light head or the relative pronoun is absent. This happens under the following condition: a light head or a relative pronoun is absent when each of its constituents is contained in a constituent of the other element (i.e. the light head or the relative pronoun).

To see what a light-headed relative looks like, consider the light-headed relative in (2). *Thér* ‘DEM.SG.M.NOM’ is the light head of the relative clause. This is the element

<sup>1</sup>The same is argued for headless relatives with D-pronouns in Modern German by Fuß and Grewendorf 2014; Hanink 2018 and for Polish by Citko 2004. A difference with Modern German and Polish is that one of the elements can only be absent when the cases match. In Section ?? I return to the point why Modern German does not have unrestricted headless relatives that look like Old High German, although it still has syncretic light heads and relative pronouns.

Several others claim that headless relatives have a head, but that it is phonologically empty, cf. Bresnan and Grimshaw 1978; Groos and van Riemsdijk 1981; Himmelreich 2017.



that appears in the external case, the case that reflects the grammatical role in the main clause. *Then* ‘REL.SG.M.ACC’ is the relative pronoun in the relative clause. This is the element that appears in the internal case, the case that reflects the grammatical role within the relative clause.

- (2) eno nist          thiz          thér          **then**          **ir**  
 now not be.3SG DEM.SG.N.NOM DEM.SG.M.NOM REL.SG.M.ACC 2PL.NOM  
**suochet zi arslahanne?**  
 seek.2PL to kill.INF.SG.DAT  
 ‘Isn’t this now the one, who you seek to kill?’

The difference between a light-headed relative and a headless relative is that in a headless relative either the light head or the relative pronoun does not surface. The surfacing element is the one that bears the winning case, and the absent element is the one that bears the losing case. This means that what I have so far been glossing as and calling the relative pronoun is actually sometimes the light head and sometimes the relative pronoun. To reflect that, I call the surfacing element from now on the surface pronoun.

Table 1.1 lists the two options that I just laid out plus an additional one. The first option is that the relative pronoun, which bears the internal case, can appear as the surface pronoun. The second option is that the light head, which bears the external case, can appear as the surface pronoun. The third option is that there is no grammatical form for the surface pronoun.

Table 1.1: Options for the surface pronoun

surface pronoun
light head <sub>EXT</sub>
relative pronoun <sub>INT</sub>
*

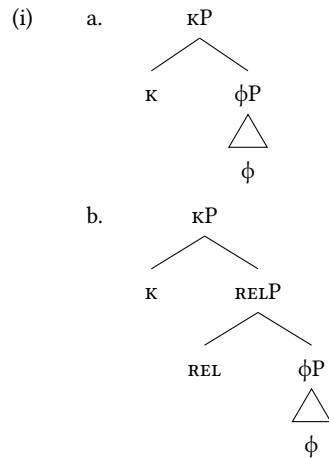
I propose that whether or the surface pronoun is the light head, the relative pronoun or none of them depends on whether one of the elements (i.e. the light

head or the relative pronoun) can delete the other. The light head appears as the surface pronoun when the light head can delete the relative pronoun. The relative pronoun appears as the surface pronoun when the relative pronoun can delete the light head. There is no grammatical surface pronoun possible when neither of them can delete the other one.

Whether or not one element can delete the other depends on the comparison between the two. Specifically, I compare the constituents within light heads and relative pronouns to each other. Light heads and relative pronouns do not only correspond to case features, but also to other features (having to do with number, gender, etc.). It differs per language how language organize these features into constituents. In this chapter, I illustrate how these different constituents within light heads and relative pronouns lead to the differences in whether or not the light head and the relative pronoun can be deleted, and therefore to different language types.

In order to be able to compare the light head and the relative pronoun, I zoom in on their syntactic structures. In Section 1.2 to 1.4 I give arguments to support the structures I am assuming here. Figure 1.2 gives a simplified representation of them.<sup>2</sup> The light head and the relative pronoun partly contain the same syntactic

<sup>2</sup>The structures in Figure 1.2 are not base structures but derived ones. I assume the base structure of the light head to be as in (ia) and the base structure of the relative pronoun to be as in (ib).



The structure for the relative pronoun in Figure 1.2 cannot be derived from the base structures in (ib). It is a simplification of a more complex situation for which I only give the intuition here.

features. The features they have in common are case ( $\kappa$ ) and what I here simplify as phi-features ( $\phi$ ). The light head and the relative pronoun differ from each other in that the relative pronoun in addition has a relative feature ( $\text{REL}$ ).

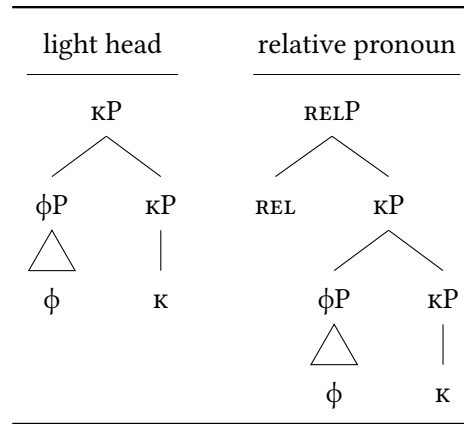


Figure 1.2: Light head and relative pronoun

I compare the light head and the relative pronoun in terms of containment. The relative pronoun can delete the light head because the relative pronoun contains all constituents the light head contains. I illustrate this in Figure 1.3. I draw a dashed circle around the constituent that is a constituent in both the light head and the relative pronoun. The  $\text{KP}$  is contained in the  $\text{RELP}$ , so the relative pronoun can delete the light head. I illustrate this by marking the content of the dashed circle for the  $\text{KP}$  gray.

The light head cannot delete the relative pronoun, because it does not contain all constituents of the relative pronoun. The light head has a constituent  $\text{KP}$ , but it does not contain the feature  $\text{REL}$  to make it an  $\text{RELP}$ .

With the set of assumptions I introduced in this section, I can account for the internal-only type of language. Moreover, the system I set up excludes the external-only type of language. An external-only type of language would be one in which the light head can delete the relative pronoun, but the relative pronoun cannot delete the light head. In my proposal, an element can delete the other one if it contains

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In Section 1.2 I show the actual decomposition of the light head and the relative pronoun and how I reach the derived structure. I work with the derived structure in the main text because this is the configuration in which the containment relations under discussion hold.

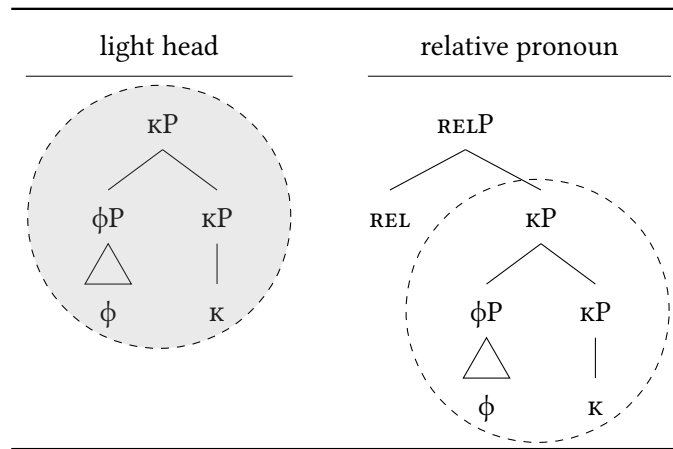


Figure 1.3: Light head and relative pronoun

all of the other's constituents. Relative pronouns always contain one more feature than light heads: *REL*. From that it follows that the light head does not contain all features that the relative pronoun contains. Therefore, it is impossible for a light head to contain all constituents of the relative pronoun.

However, not all languages are of the internal-only type. I argue that the other two attested languages differ from the internal-only type in how light heads and relative pronouns are spelled out. Before I come back to how the different spell-out leads to different language types, I show how the internal-only type fares with differing internal and external cases.

### 1.1.2 The internal-only type

I start with the example in Figure 1.4, in which the relative pronoun bears a more complex case than the light head.

I draw a dashed circle around each constituent that is a constituent in both the light head and the relative pronoun. There are two separate constituents. I start with the right-most constituent of the light head: *NOMP*. This constituent is also a constituent in the relative pronoun, contained in the lower *ACCP*. I continue with the left-most constituent of the light head: the *φP*. This constituent is also a constituent in the relative pronoun, contained in the higher *ACCP*. As each constituent of the light head is also a constituent within the relative pronoun, the light head can be

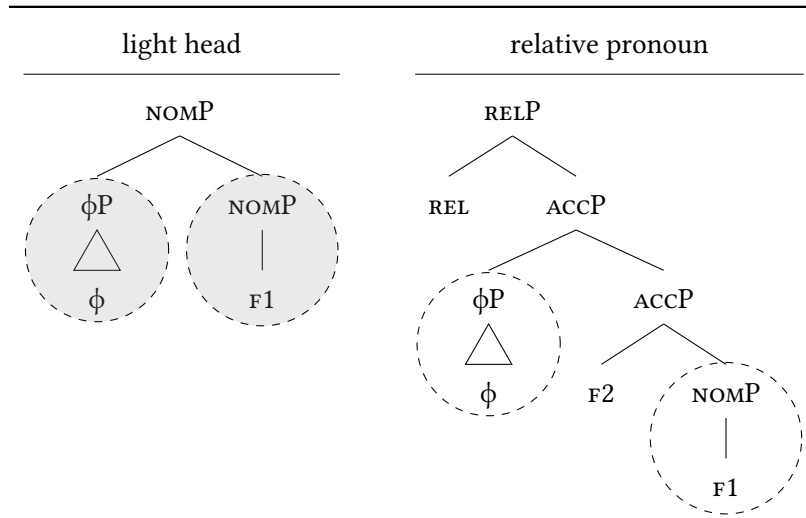


Figure 1.4: NOM light head and ACC relative pronoun

absent. I illustrate this by marking the content of the dashed circles for the light head gray.

I continue with the example in Figure 1.5, in which the light head bears a more complex case than the relative pronoun.

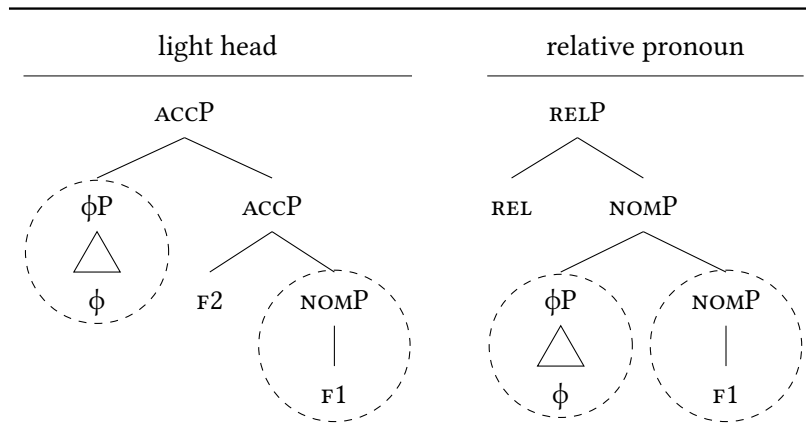


Figure 1.5: NOM relative pronoun and ACC light head

I draw a dashed circle around each constituent that is a constituent in both the light head and the relative pronoun. Different from the example in Figure 1.4,

neither of the elements contains all of the other's constituents. The relative pronoun has a constituent *NOMP*, but it lacks the *F2* to make it an *ACCP*. The light head has a constituent that is not a constituent in the relative pronoun, so the light head cannot be absent. The light head has a constituent *NOMP*, but it does not contain *REL* to make it a *RELP*. The relative pronoun has a constituent that is not a constituent in the light head, so the relative pronoun cannot be absent. As a result, none of the elements can be absent.

Now I return to the other two attested language types. The differences between the languages do not arise from changing the feature content of the light head and relative pronoun per language.<sup>3</sup> Instead, the differences come from how the light heads and relative pronouns are spelled out.

### 1.1.3 The matching type

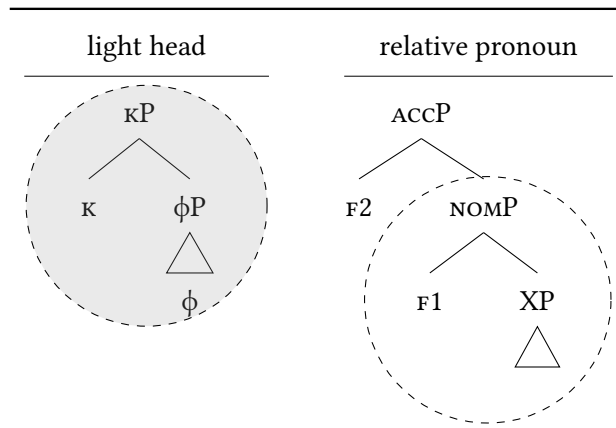
In matching languages like Polish, the light head cannot delete the relative pronoun and the relative pronoun cannot delete the light head. The intuition for this type of language is that they package their features together differently from internal-only languages like Modern German. The packaging happens in such a way that the constituents of the relative pronoun do not contain the constituents of the light head. As a result, the relative pronoun cannot delete the light head anymore. This account crucially relies on constituent containment being the containment requirement that needs to be fulfilled. Feature containment is too weak of a requirement.

I illustrate the difference between feature and constituent containment with two structures. In Figure 1.6, I repeated the light head and relative pronoun from Figure 1.4.

In Figure 1.6, two different types of containment hold: feature containment and constituent containment. I start with feature containment. Each feature of the *κP* (i.e.  $\phi$  and  $\kappa$ ) is also a feature within the *RELP*, so the *RELP* contains the *κP*. Constituent containment works as follows. Each constituent of the *κP* (i.e.  $\phi P$  and  $\kappa P$

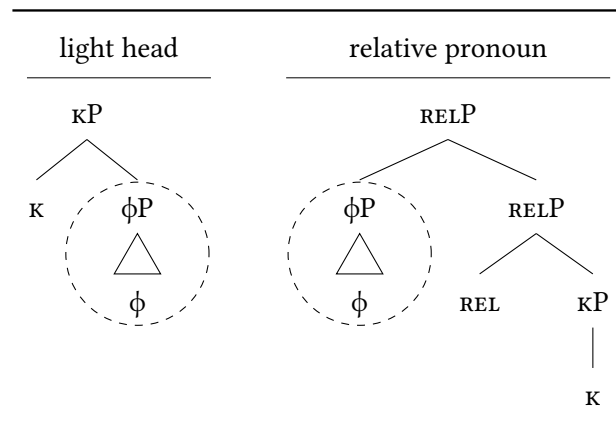
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<sup>3</sup>The feature content of the unrestricted languages differs slightly from that of the internal-only and matching languages. This is due to the fact that this language type uses a different type of relative pronoun. The basic idea of the relative pronoun having at least one more feature than the light head remains the same.

Figure 1.6: LH vs. REL  $\rightarrow$  REL (repeated)

that contains  $\kappa$  and  $\phi P$ ) is also a constituent of the  $\kappa P$ . Therefore, RELP contains contains the  $\kappa P$ .

Constituent containment is a stronger requirement than feature containment. In Figure 1.7 I show a situation in which the feature containment requirement holds but the constituent containment requirement does not. It is the same picture as in Figure 1.6 except for that the  $\phi P$  has moved out of the RELP.

Figure 1.7: LH vs. REL after extraction  $\rightarrow$  REL

There is still feature containment: the  $\kappa P$  contains  $\phi$  and  $\kappa$  and so does the RELP. However, there is no longer constituent containment: the  $\kappa P$  constituent containing

$\phi P$  and  $\kappa P$  that contains  $\kappa$  and  $\phi P$  is no longer a constituent within the RELP.

In Section 1.3 I show that only the stronger requirement of constituent containment is able to distinguish the internal-only from the matching type of language, and that the weaker requirement of feature containment is not.

Constituent containment is also what seems to be crucial in the deletion of nominal modifiers. Cinque argues that nominal modifiers can only be absent if they form a constituent with the NP (Cinque, 2020). If they are not, they can also not be interpreted.

In (3), I give an example of a conjunction with two noun phrases in Dutch. The first conjunct consists of a demonstrative, an adjective and a noun, and the second one only of a demonstrative.

- (3)    *deze witte huizen en die*  
          these white houses and those  
          ‘these white houses and those white houses’ (Dutch)

The adjective *witte* ‘white’ forms a constituent with *huizen* ‘houses’. I showed this in Figure 1.8 under first conjunct. In the second conjunct, the constituent with the adjective and the noun in it is deleted. The adjective can still be interpreted in (3), because it forms a constituent with the noun.

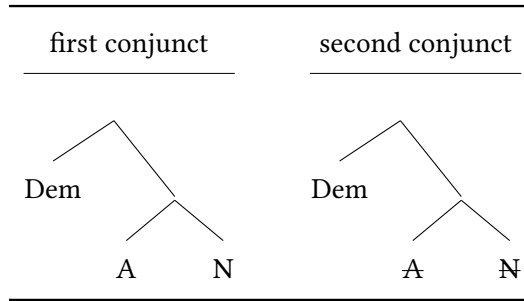


Figure 1.8: Nominal ellipsis in Dutch

The situation is different in Kipsigis, a Nilotic Kalenjin language spoken in Kenya. In (4), I give an example of a conjunction of two noun phrases in Kipsigis. The first conjunct consists of a noun, a demonstrative and an adjective, and the second one only of a demonstrative (Cinque, 2020).



- (4) kaarii-chuun leel-ach ak chu  
 houses-those white-PL and these  
 ‘those white houses and these houses’  
 not: ‘those white houses and these white houses’ (Kipsigis, Cinque 2020: 24)

The adjective *leel* ‘white’ does not form a constituent with *kaarii* ‘houses’. I showed this in Figure 1.9 under first conjunct. In the second conjunct, the adjective and the noun are deleted. Different from the Dutch example in 1.8, this is not a single constituent. The adjective cannot be interpreted in (4), because it does not form a constituent with the noun.

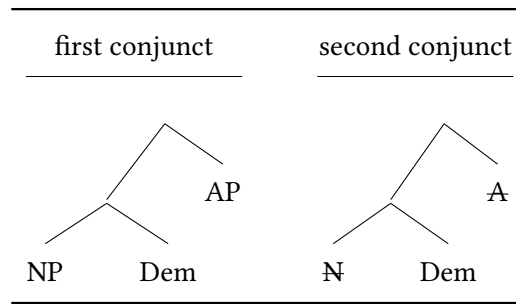


Figure 1.9: Nominal ellipsis in Kipsigis

To sum up, the comparison between light heads requires constituent containment. Feature containment is not enough.

#### 1.1.4 The unrestricted type

In unrestricted languages like Old High German, the light head can delete the relative pronoun and the relative pronoun can delete the light head. The property of unrestricted languages that I connect to this behavior is that their light heads and relative pronoun are syncretic. I suggest that if there is no constituent containment, but the two forms are spelled out by the same morpheme, one element can still delete the other. Consider Figure 1.10, in which the relative pronoun deletes the light head.

The  $\phi$ P in the light head is spelled out as  $\alpha$ , illustrated by the circle around the  $\phi$ P and the  $\alpha$  under it. The RELP in the relative pronoun is spelled out as  $\alpha$  too,

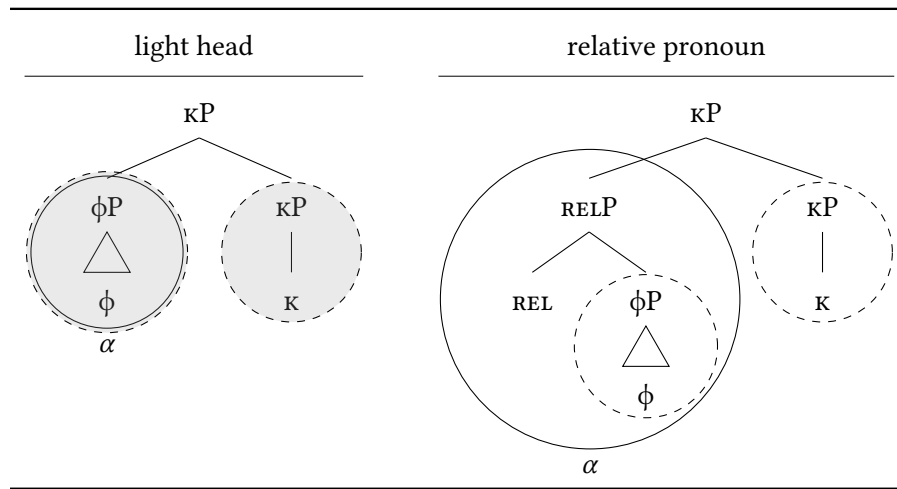


Figure 1.10: Syncretism: relative pronoun deletes light head

illustrated in the same way. I draw a dashed circle around each constituent that is a constituent in both the light head and the relative pronoun.

I start with the right-most constituent of the light head:  $\kappa P$ . This constituent is also a constituent in the relative pronoun. I continue with the left-most constituent of the light head: the  $\phi P$ . This constituent is also a constituent in the relative pronoun, contained in the RELP. As each constituent of the light head is also a constituent within the relative pronoun, the light head can be absent. I illustrate this by marking the content of the dashed circles for the light head gray.

Consider Figure 1.11, in which the light head deletes the relative pronoun.

Just as in Figure 1.10, the  $\phi P$  in the light head is spelled out as  $\alpha$  and the RELP in the relative pronoun is spelled out as  $\alpha$  too. I draw a dashed circle around each constituent that is a constituent in both the light head and the relative pronoun.

I start with the right-most constituent of the relative pronoun:  $\kappa P$ . This constituent is also a constituent in the relative pronoun. I continue with the left-most constituent of the relative pronoun: the RELP. This constituent is not contained in the light head. The  $\phi P$  lacks the REL to make it a RELP. However, the two constituents are syncretic: the  $\phi P$  is also spelled out as  $\alpha$ . I suggest that this syncretism is also enough to license the deletion. I illustrate this by marking the content of the dashed circles for the relative pronoun gray and the portion that is deleted by syncretism

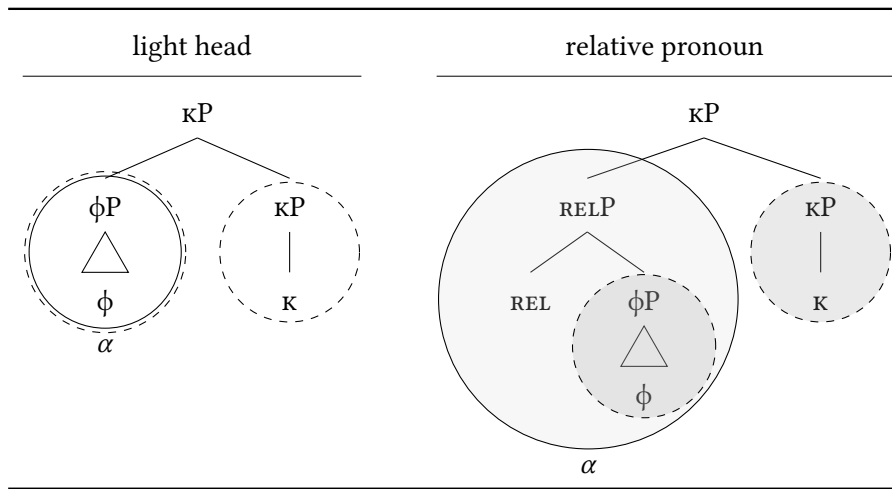


Figure 1.11: Syncretism: light head deletes relative pronoun

in a lighter shade of gray.

To sum up, each constituent of the relative pronoun is either also a constituent within the light head or it is syncretic with a constituent within the light head. Therefore, the relative pronoun can be absent. The fact that syncretism licenses deletion is not specific to the portion of the structure that corresponds to  $\phi$  and REL. Syncretic cases can have the same effect, the inanimate nominative and inanimate accusative singular in Modern German being an instance of it. I give examples of this in Section 1.4.

### 1.1.5 Everything is constituent containment

In summing up this section, I return to the metaphor with the committee that I introduced in Chapter ?? . I wrote that first case competition takes place, in which a more complex case wins over a less complex case. This case competition can now be reformulated into a more general mechanism, namely constituent comparison. A more complex case corresponds to a constituent that contains the constituent of a less complex case.

Subsequently, I noted that there is a committee that can either approve the winning case or not approve it. In Chapter ?? I wrote that the approval happens based on where the winning case comes from: from inside of the relative clause (inter-

nal) or from outside of the relative clause (external). I argued in this section that headless relatives are derived from light-headed relatives. The light head bears that external case and the relative pronoun bears the internal case. The ‘approval’ of an internal or external case relies on the same mechanism as case competition, namely constituent comparison. If each constituent of the light head is contained in a constituent of the relative pronoun, the relative pronoun can delete the light head. The light head with its external case is absent, and the relative pronoun with its internal case surfaces. This is what corresponds to the the internal case ‘being allowed to surface’. If each constituent of the relative pronoun is contained in a constituent of the light head, the light head can delete the relative pronoun. The relative pronoun with its internal case is absent, and the light head with its external case surfaces. This is what corresponds to the the external case ‘being allowed to surface’.

In other words, the grammaticality of a headless relative depends on several instances of constituent comparison. The constituents that are compared are those of the light head and the relative pronoun, which both bear their own case. Case is special in that it can differ from sentence to sentence within a language. Therefore, the grammaticality of a sentence can differ within a language depending on the internal and external case. The part of the light head and relative pronoun that does not involve case features is stable within a language. Therefore, whether the internal or external case is ‘allowed to surface’ does not differ within a language.

In this dissertation I describe different language types in case competition in headless relatives. In my account, the different language types are a result of a comparison of the light head and the relative pronoun in the language. The larger syntactic context in which this takes place should be kept stable. The operation that deletes the light head or the relative pronoun is the same for all language types. In this work, I do not specify on which larger syntactic structure and which deletion operation should be used. In Section 1.6 I discuss existing proposals on these topics and to what extent they are compatible with my account.

To conclude, in this section I introduced the assumptions that headless relatives are derived from light-headed relatives and that relative pronouns contain at least one more feature than light heads. A headless relative is grammatical when either the light head or the relative pronoun contains all constituents of the other element. This set of assumptions derives that only the most complex case can surface and that

there is no language of the external-only type.

## 1.2 Deriving the internal-only type

Internal-only languages can be summarized as in Table 1.2.

Table 1.2: The surface pronoun with differing cases in Modern German

	$K_{INT} > K_{EXT}$	$K_{EXT} > K_{INT}$	
internal-only	relative pronoun <sub>INT</sub>	*	Modern German

A language of the internal-only type (like Modern German) allows only the internal case to surface when it wins the case competition. This means that the relative pronoun with its internal case can be the surface pronoun. A language of this type does not allow the external case to surface when it wins the case competition. This means that the light head with its external case cannot be the surface pronoun. The goal of this section is to derive these properties from the way light heads and relative pronouns are spelled out in Modern German.

The section is structured as follows. First, I discuss the relative pronoun. According to my assumptions in Section 1.1, relative pronouns are part of the relative clause. I confirm this independently for Modern German with data from extraposition. I decompose the relative pronouns into three morphemes, and I show which features each of the morphemes corresponds to. Then I discuss the light head. I argue that Modern German headless relatives are derived from a light-headed relative clause that does not surface in the language. I show that the light head corresponds to one of the morphemes of the relative pronoun. Finally, I compare the constituents of the light head and the relative pronoun. When the internal and the external case match, the relative pronoun can delete the light head, because it contains all its constituents. When the internal case is more complex than the external case, the relative pronoun can still delete the light head, for the same reason: the relative pronoun contains all constituents of the light head. This is no longer the case when the external case is more complex than the internal case. The light head does not contain all constituents of the relative pronoun, and the relative pronoun does not

contain all constituents of the light head. As a result, there is no grammatical form to surface when the external case is more complex.

### 1.2.1 The relative pronoun

In this section I discuss the relative pronoun in Modern German headless relatives. First, I show, independent from case facts, that the surface pronoun is the relative pronoun. The evidence comes from extraposition data.

The sentences in (5) show that it is possible to extrapose a CP. In (5a), the clausal object *wie es dir geht* ‘how you are doing’, marked here in bold, appears in its base position. It can be extraposed to the right edge of the clause, shown in (5b).

- (5) a. Mir ist **wie es dir geht** egal.  
 1SG.DAT is how it 2SG.DAT goes the same  
 ‘I don’t care how you are doing.’  
 b. Mir ist egal **wie es dir geht**.  
 1SG.DAT is the same how it 2SG.DAT goes  
 ‘I don’t care how you are doing.’ (Modern German)

(6) illustrates that it is impossible to extrapose a DP. The clausal object of (5) is replaced by the simplex noun phrase *die Sache* ‘that matter’. In (6a) the object, marked in bold, appears in its base position. In (6b) it is extraposed, and the sentence is no longer grammatical.

- (6) a. Mir ist **die Sache** egal.  
 1SG.DAT is that matter the same  
 ‘I don’t care about that matter.’  
 b. \*Mir ist egal **die Sache**.  
 1SG.DAT is the same that matter  
 ‘I don’t care about that matter.’ (Modern German)

The same asymmetry between CPs and DPs can be observed with relative clauses. A relative clause is a CP, and the head of a relative clause is a DP. The sentences in (7) contain the relative clause *was er gekocht hat* ‘what he has stolen’. This is

marked in bold in the examples. The (light) head of the relative clause is *das*.<sup>4</sup> In (7a), the relative clause and its head appear in base position. In (7b), the relative clause is extraposed. This is grammatical, because it is possible to extrapose CPs in Modern German. In (7c), the relative clause and the head are extraposed. This is ungrammatical, because it is possible to extrapose DPs.

- (7) a. Jan hat **das, was er gekocht hat**, aufgegessen.  
 Jan has that what he cooked has eaten  
 'Jan has eaten what he cooked.'
- b. Jan hat **das** aufgegessen, **was er gekocht hat**.  
 Jan has that eaten what he cooked has  
 'Jan has eaten what he cooked.'
- c. \*Jan hat aufgegessen, **das, was er gekocht hat**.  
 Jan has eaten that what he cooked has  
 'Jan has eaten what he cooked.' (Modern German)

The same can be observed in relative clauses without a head. (8) is the same sentence as in (7) only without the overt head. The relative clause is marked in bold again. In (8a), the relative clause appears in base position. In (8b), the relative clause is extraposed. This is grammatical, because it is possible to extrapose CPs in Modern German. In (8c), the relative clause is extraposed without the relative pronouns. This is ungrammatical, because the relative pronoun is part of the CP. This shows that the relative pronoun in headless relatives in Modern German are necessarily part of a CP, which is here a relative clause.

- (8) a. Jan hat **was er gekocht hat** aufgegessen.  
 Jan has what he cooked has eaten  
 'Jan has eaten what he cooked.'
- b. Jan hat aufgegessen **was er gekocht hat**.  
 Jan has eaten what he cooked has  
 'Jan has eaten what he cooked.'

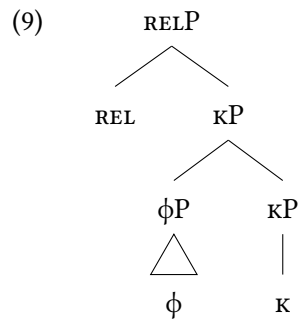
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<sup>4</sup>Not all speakers of Modern German accept the combination of *das* as a light head and *was* as a relative pronoun and prefer *das* as a relative pronoun instead. I use the combination of *das* and *was* to have a more minimal pair with the headless relatives (that uses the relative pronoun *was*).

- c. \*Jan hat **was** aufgegessen **er gekocht hat**.  
 Jan has what eaten he cooked has  
 ‘Jan has eaten what he cooked.’ (Modern German)

In conclusion, extraposition facts show that the surface pronoun in Modern German headless relatives is the relative pronoun.

Now I turn to the internal structure of the relative pronoun. In Section 1.1 I gave the structure in (9) as a simplified representation of the relative pronoun.



In what follows, I give the non-simplified representation. It is important to carefully establish the feature content of the relative pronoun. This constituents that it forms are namely determining whether the relative pronoun can delete the light head or not. Moreover, the features that I introduce for Modern German are present in the same way in the other two language types.

I discuss two relative pronouns: the animate nominative singular and in the animate accusative singular. These are the two forms that I compare the constituents of in Section 1.2.3. I show them in (10).

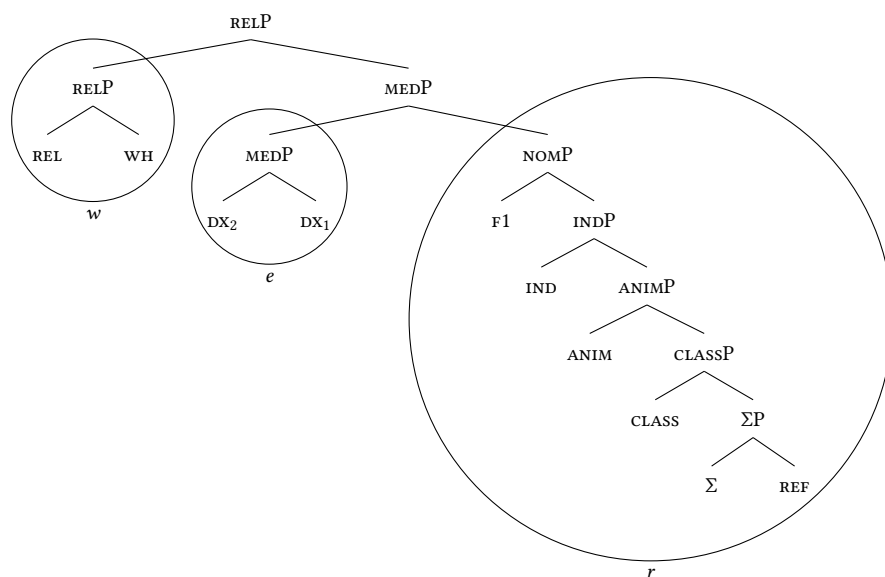
- (10) a. w-e-r  
           ‘REL.AN.SG.NOM’  
       b. w-e-n  
           ‘REL.AN.SG.ACC’

I decompose the relative pronouns in three morphemes: the *w*, the *e* and the final consonant. For each morpheme, I discuss which features they spell out, and I give their lexical entries. In the end, I derive the relative pronouns, given here in (11)

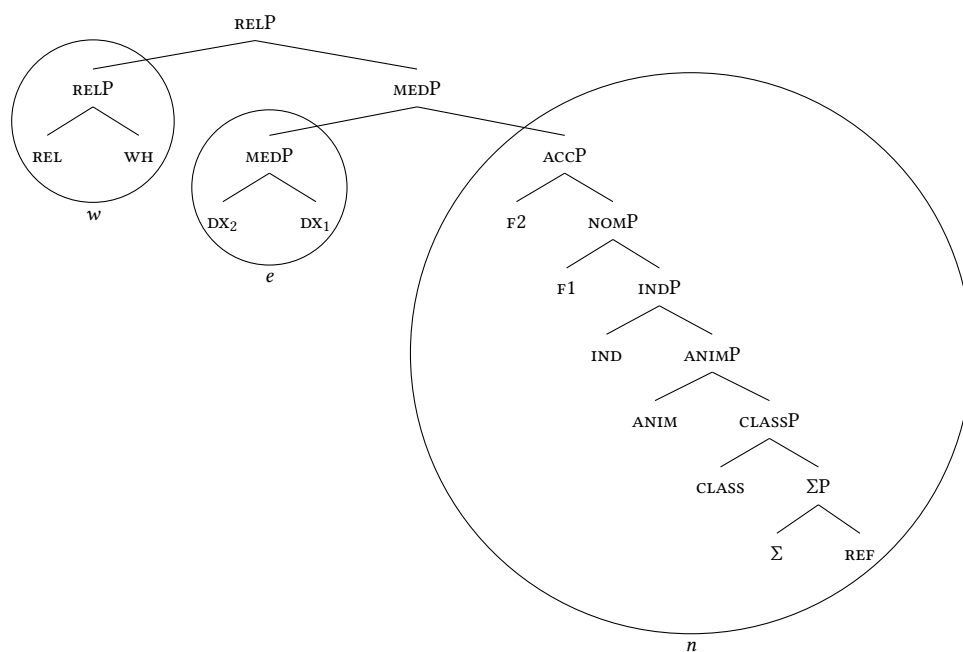


and (12).

(11)



(12)



I start with the morpheme *w* of the relative pronoun. Compare Table 1.3 and Table 1.4. The *w* combines with the same endings as the *d* does in demonstratives (or

relative pronouns in headed relatives).<sup>5</sup>

Table 1.3: Modern German relative pronouns (Durrell 2011: 5.3.3)

	AN	INAN
NOM	w-er	w-as
ACC	w-en	w-as
DAT	w-em	(w-em)

Table 1.4: Modern German demonstrative pronouns (Durrell 2011: 5.4.1)

	M	N	F
NOM	d-er	d-as	d-ie
ACC	d-en	d-as	d-ie
DAT	d-em	d-em	d-er

This identifies the *d* and, more importantly for the discussion here, the *w* as a separate morpheme. Two features that *w* spells out are important for the discussion here.

The first feature I refer to as *WH*. This is a feature that *WH*-pronouns, such as *WH*-relative pronouns and interrogatives, share. The *WH*-element triggers the construction of a set of alternatives in the sense of Rooth (1985, 1992) (Hachem, 2015). This contrasts with the *D* in Table 1.4, which is responsible for establishing a definite reference.

<sup>5</sup>Note here that the *WH*-relative pronouns, unlike the demonstratives, do not have a feminine form for the relative pronouns in Table 1.3. Demonstratives also have plural forms (which are not given here), and *WH*-relative pronouns do not. As far as I know, this holds for all relative pronouns in languages of the internal-only type (cf. also for Finnish, even though it makes a lot of morphological distinctions) and of the matching type. Relative pronouns in languages of the unrestricted type do inflect for feminine, as well as always-external languages. In Chapter ?? I return to this observation in relation with the always-external languages.

The second relevant feature is REL, which establishes a relation. A language that overtly shows that WH-relative pronouns consist of two features is Hungarian. (13) gives three examples of WH-pronouns that combine with the marker *a* to become a WH-relative pronoun.

- (13)    *a-mi,*     *a-ki,*     *a-melyik*  
          REL-what REL-who REL-which

(Kenesei et al. 1998: 40)

In sum, the *w* spells out the features WH and REL, shown in (14).

- (14)            RELP  $\Leftrightarrow$  *w*  
                     /        \  
                   REL       WH

I continue with the final consonants: *r* and *n*. They can be observed in several contexts besides relative pronouns. Table 1.5 gives an overview of the demonstrative *dieser* ‘this’ in Modern German in two numbers, three genders and three cases.<sup>6</sup> Compare the final consonants in Table 1.6 and Table 1.5 (repeated from Table 1.3).

Table 1.5: Modern German demonstrative *dieser* ‘this’ (Durrell 2011: Table 5.2)

	M.SG	N.SG	F.SG	PL
NOM	dies-ə-r	dies-ə-s	dies-ə	dies-ə
ACC	dies-ə-n	dies-ə-s	dies-ə	dies-ə
DAT	dies-ə-m	dies-ə-m	dies-ə-r	dies-ə-n

Table 1.5 and 1.6 show that the final consonants take different shapes depending on gender, number and case. I conclude from that that the consonant realizes features having to do with these three aspects.

<sup>6</sup>The vowel preceding the final consonant is written as *e*. I write it as *ə*, because this is how it is pronounced. I make this distinction to emphasize that this differs from the vowel used in the relative pronouns.

Table 1.6: Modern German relative pronouns (Durrell 2011: 5.3.3) (repeated)

	AN	INAN
NOM	w-e-r	w-a-s
ACC	w-e-n	w-a-s
DAT	w-e-m	(w-e-m)

Another context in which this consonant appears is in their use as a pronoun. More specifically, the final consonant corresponds to the weak pronoun in Modern German, which I illustrate in the following examples. I only give examples of the nominative and accusative masculine singular, because these are the forms used in the relative pronoun.

First, I show that the consonant is not a strong pronoun. The example in (15) illustrates this by showing that the weak pronoun cannot be coordinated.

- (15) a. Jan und er/ \*r essen gerne Dampfnudeln.  
 Jan und he.STR/ he.WK eat with pleasure *Dampfnudeln*  
 ‘Jan and he like to eat *Dampfnudeln*.’  
 b. Ich habe Jan und ihn/ n gesehen.  
 I have Jan and him.STR/ him.WK seen  
 ‘I saw Jan and him.’

The example in (16) illustrates the same point by showing that the weak pronoun cannot be focused.

- (16) a. Nur er/ \*r isst gerne Saumagen.  
 only he.STR/ he.WK eats with pleasure *Saumagen*  
 ‘Only he likes *Saumagen*.’  
 b. Ich habe nur ihn/\*n gesehen.  
 I have only him.STR/ him.WK seen  
 ‘I saw only him.’

Second, I show that the consonant is not a clitic. The example in (17) illustrates this

by showing that the weak pronoun obligatorily follows dative objects.

- (17) a. .. dass Jan Ursel ihn/        n        empfohlen    hat.  
           that Jan Ursel him.STR/ him.WK recommended has  
           ‘that Jan recommended him to Ursel.’  
       b. \*.. dass Jan ihn/        n        Ursel empfohlen    hat.  
           that Jan him.STR/ him.WK Ursel recommended has  
           ‘that Jan recommended him to Ursel.’

The example in (18) illustrates the same point by showing that the weak pronoun can appear after prepositions (which clitics cannot).

- (18) a. Ich habe schon    ein Geschenk für n        gekauft.  
           I    have already a    gift        for him.WK bought  
           ‘I already bought a gift for him.’  
       b. Ich habe gestern    gegen n        gespielt.  
           I    have yesterday against him.WK played  
           ‘Yesterday I played against him.’  
       c. Ich habe ein schönen Brief an n        geschrieben.  
           I    have a    nice        letter to him.WK written  
           ‘I wrote a nice letter to him.’  
       d. Ich bin schnell auf n        zu gelaufen.  
           I    am fast        on him.WK to walked  
           ‘I walked toward him fast.’

In sum, besides gender, number and case features, the final consonant of relative pronoun spell out pronominal features.

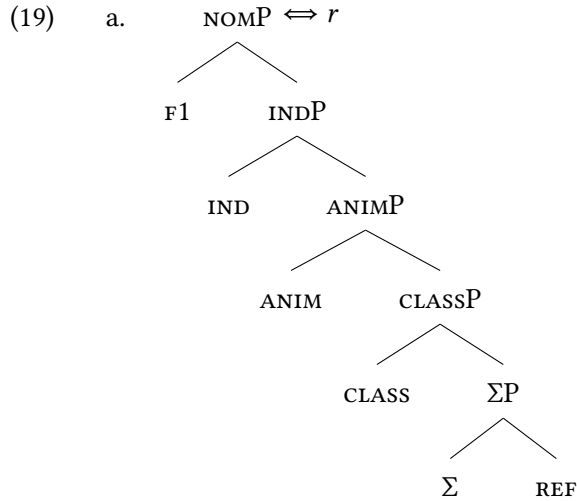
Since I discuss the animate nominative singular and in the animate accusative singular, I only introduce features that are realized by these morphemes. For case, I adopt the features of Caha (2009), already introduced in Chapter ???. The feature F1 corresponds to the nominative, and the features F1 and F2 correspond to the accusative.

For number and gender, I adopt the features that are distinguished by Harley and Ritter (2002) for pronouns. The feature CLASS corresponds to a gender feature, which

is inanimate or neuter if it is not combined with any other features. Combining CLASS with the feature INAM gives the animate or masculine gender.<sup>7</sup> The feature IND corresponds to number, which is singular if it is not combined with any other features.

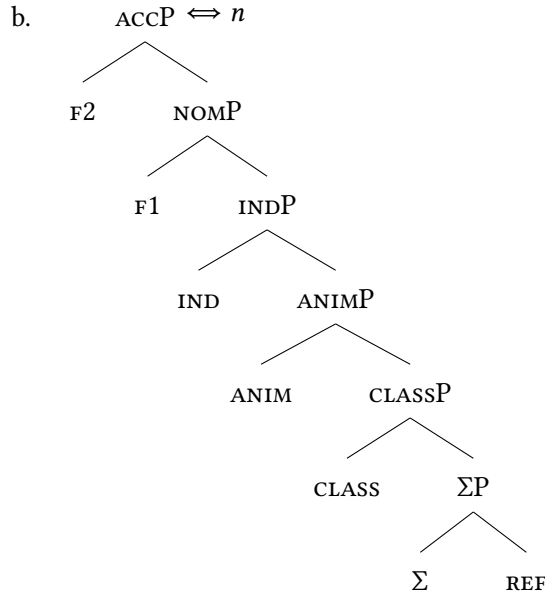
Regarding pronominal features, I assume the feature REF to be present. Harley and Ritter (2002) claim that all pronouns contain this feature, because they are referential expressions. In addition, the feature  $\Sigma$  is present because it is a weak pronoun (Cardinaletti and Starke, 1994).<sup>8</sup>

I give the lexical entries for *r* and *n* in (19a) and (19b). The *r* is the nominative masculine singular, so it spells out the features REF,  $\Sigma$ , CLASS, ANIM, IND and F1. The *n* is the accusative masculine singular, so it spells out the features that the *r* spells out plus F2.



<sup>7</sup>If the features CLASS and ANIM are combined with the feature FEM, it becomes the feminine gender.

<sup>8</sup>I assume that clitics lack the features REF (which corresponds to the LP in Cardinaletti and Starke 1994: 61) and the feature  $\Sigma$ . Strong pronouns have, in addition to REF and  $\Sigma$ , another feature (C in terms of Cardinaletti and Starke 1994: 61).



Note that the ordering of the features here is not random. I motivate this later on in this section.

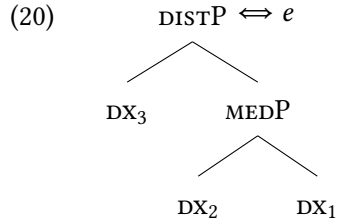
This leaves the *e* in the relative pronoun. This morpheme is present in elements such as demonstratives and (WH-)relative pronouns. It spells out features regarding deixis. In relative pronouns it does not express spatial deixis, but discourse deixis: it establishes a relation with an antecedent.

I assume that the WH-relative pronoun combines with the medial or the distal (when distinguishing between proximal, medial and distal). English has morphological evidence for this claim. Demonstratives in English can combine with either the proximal (*this*) or this medial/distal (*that*). WH-pronouns combine with the medial/distal (*what*) and are ungrammatical when combined with the proximal (\**whis*).

The use of the medial in WH-pronouns can be understood conceptually if one connects spatial deixis to discourse deixis (cf. Colasanti and Wiltschko, 2019). The proximal is spatially near the speaker, and it refers to knowledge that the speaker possesses. The medial is spatially near the hearer, and it refers to knowledge that the hearer possesses. The distal is spatially away from the speaker and the hearer, and refers to knowledge that neither of them possess. In WH-pronouns, the speaker is not aware of the knowledge, so the use of the proximal is excluded. Since I do not

have explicit evidence for the presence of the distal, I assume that it is the medial that combines with the WH-pronoun.

I adopt the features for deixis distinguished by Lander and Haegeman (2018). The feature  $DX_1$  corresponds to the proximal, the features  $DX_1$  and  $DX_2$  correspond to the medial, and the features  $DX_1$ ,  $DX_2$  and  $DX_3$  correspond to the distal. The difference between the proximal, the medial and the distal cannot be observed in Modern German, because it is syncretic all of them (Lander and Haegeman 2018: 387), see Table 1.4.



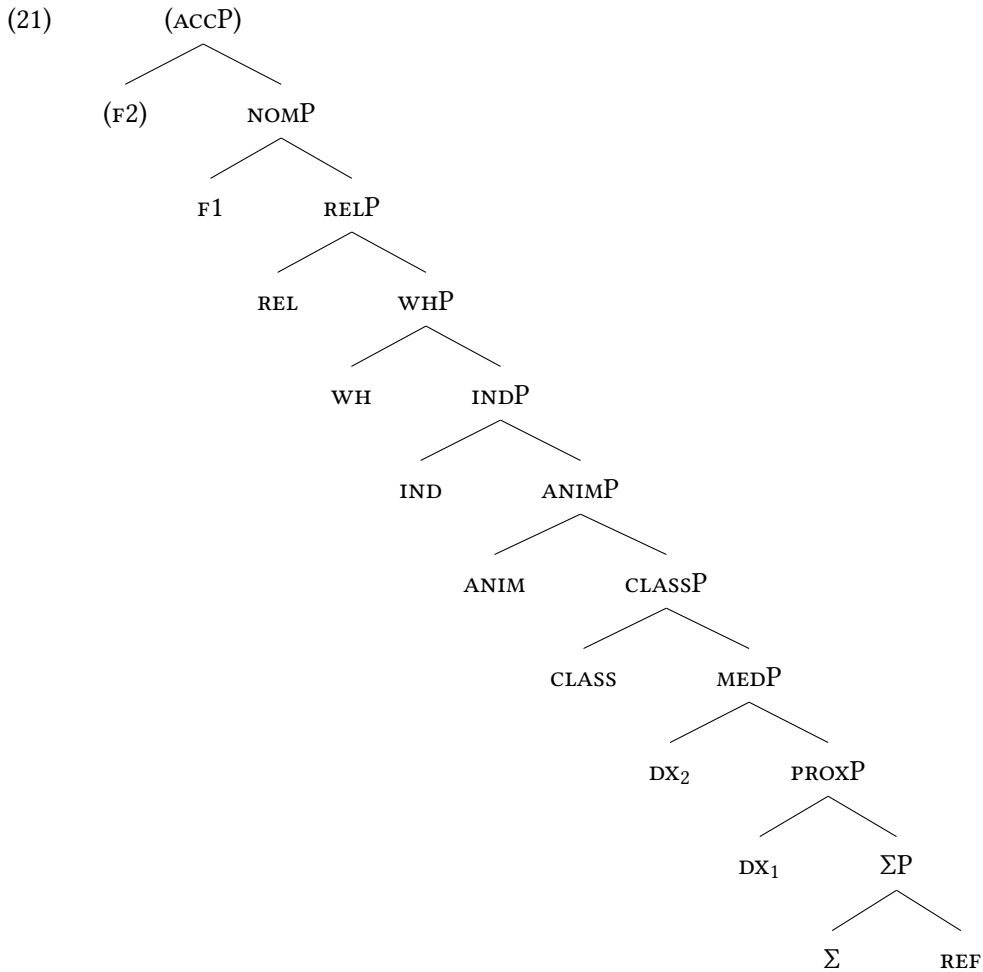
At this point, I gave lexical entries for each of the morphemes (in (14), (19a), (19b) and (20)) and I showed what the relative pronouns as a whole look like (in ?? and ??). What is still needed, is a theory for combining these morphemes into a relative pronoun. This theory should determine which morphemes should be combined with each other in which order. Ideally, the theory is not language-specific, but the same for all languages. In what follows I show how this is accomplished in Nanosyntax. Readers who are not interested in the precise mechanics can proceed directly to Section 1.2.2.

The way Nanosyntax combines different morphemes is not by glueing them together directly from the lexicon. Instead, features are merged one by one using two components that drive the derivation. These two components are (1) a functional sequence, in which the features that need to be merged and their order in which they are merged are specified, and (2) the spellout algorithm, which describes the spellout procedure. The lexical entries that are available within a language interact with the derivation in such a way that the morphemes get combined in the right way. Note that the functional sequence and the spellout algorithm are stable across languages. The only difference between languages lies in their lexical entries.

(21) shows the functional sequence for relative pronouns. It gives all features it



contains and their hierarchical ordering.



Starting from the bottom, these are pronominal features (REF and  $\Sigma$ ) and features having to do with deixis (DX<sub>1</sub> and DX<sub>2</sub>), gender features (CLASS and ANIM), number features (IND), ?? features (WH and REL) and case features (F1 and F2). This order is independently supported by work in the literature. Both Picallo and Kramer argue that number is hierarchically higher than gender. Case is agreed to be higher than number (cf. Bittner and Hale).

REF,  $\Sigma$ , DEIX, WH/REL?

Features are merged one by one according to the functional sequence, starting

from the bottom. Spellout is cyclic, as stated in (22).

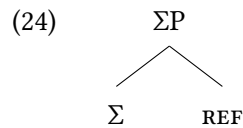
- (22) Cyclic phrasal spellout. Caha:declension  
 Spellout must successfully apply to the output of every Merge F operation.  
 After successful spellout, the derivation may terminate, or proceed to another round of Merge F.

After each instance of merge, the constructed phrase must be spelled out. Spellout happens according to the spellout algorithm, given in (23).

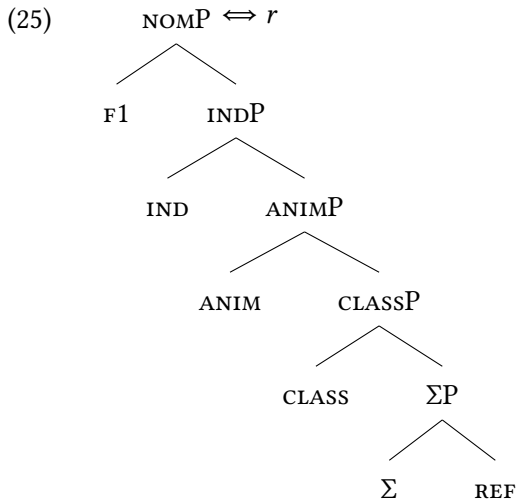
- (23) **Spellout Algorithm:**
- a. Merge F and spell out.
  - b. If (23a) fails, move the Spec of the complement and spell out.
  - c. If (23b) fails, move the complement of F and spell out.

I informally reformulate what is in (23). I start with the first line in (23a). This says that a feature F is merged, and the newly created phrase FP is attempted to spell out. The next two lines, (23b) and (23c), describe two types of rescue movements that take place when the spellout in (23a) fails (i.e. when there is no match in the lexicon). In the discussion about Modern German, only the first line leads to matching lexical entries. The second and third line do not lead to a match in the Modern German derivations I run. I introduce these two steps here anyway, because they will lead to successful matched in Polish.

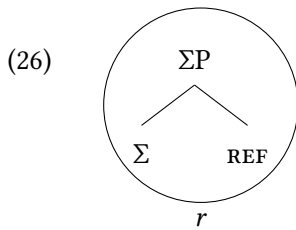
I illustrate this by merging REF and  $\Sigma$ , creating a  $\Sigma P$ .



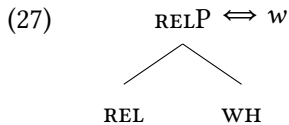
The syntactic structure is contained in the lexical tree in ??, repeated from (19a), which corresponds to the *r*.



Therefore, the  $\Sigma P$  is spelled out as  $r$ . As usual, I mark this by circling the part of the structure that corresponds to the lexical entry, and placing the corresponding phonology under it.



The next point of interest arises when the feature  $DX_1$  is merged. This feature cannot spell out together with all features merged so far (as the option in (23a)). There is no spec, so the second option is impossible. Finally, it is impossible for  $WH$  to be spelled out as part of a suffix (as the option in (23b)). This last option is impossible, because the lexical entry that contains the feature  $WH$  has a binary bottom. I repeat the lexical entry from (14) in (27).



The derivation turns to the last resort option, which is to build a complex left branch.

(28) **Spec Formation** (Starke, 2018):

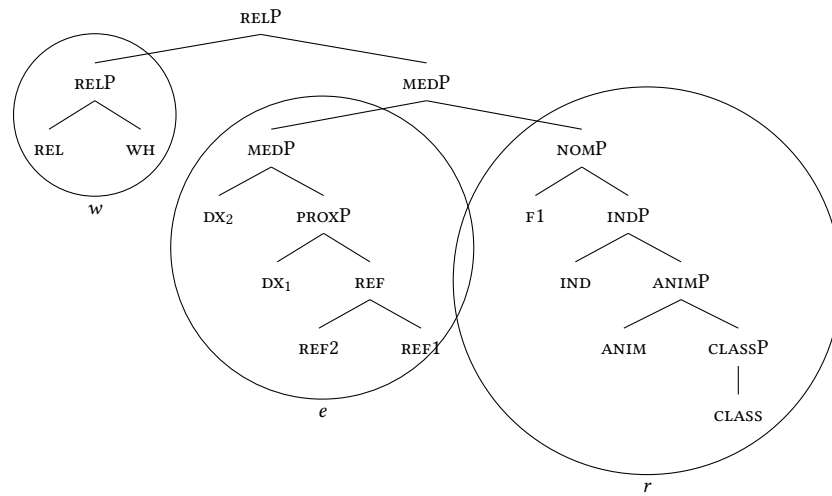
If Merge F has failed to spell out, try to spawn a new derivation providing the feature F and merge that with the current derivation, projecting the feature F at the top node.

.. but the WH is on its own.. is REL merged right away?

The last problem is the case feature. What happens then is backtracking + elements are split up, merged onto both of them, case can be spelled out with suffix.

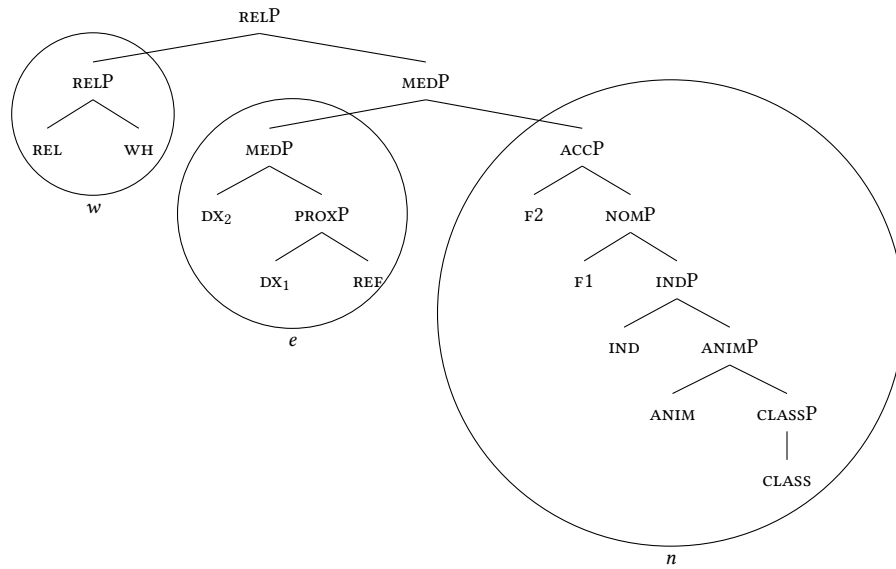
The final result is given in (29).

## (29)



The final result is given in (30).

(30)



To summarize, I showed independent evidence that the surface pronoun in Modern German is the relative pronoun. I decomposed the relative pronoun into the three morphemes *w*, *e* and the final consonant (*r* and *n*). I showed which features each of the morphemes spells out, and in which constituents the features are combined. It is these constituency that determine whether the relative pronoun can delete the light head or not.

### 1.2.2 The light head

In Section 1.1, I argued that headless relatives are derived from light-headed relatives. The relative pronoun can delete the light head when the relative contains all constituents of the light head. I suggested that this holds in Modern German, as long as the external case is not more complex than the internal case. In the previous section, I gave the internal structure of the relative pronoun, i.e. which constituents the relative pronoun consists of. In this section, I first need to identify the light head, as it does not surface in headless relatives. Then I show what its internal structure looks like: it is a constituent within the relative pronoun.

In this section, I consider two kinds of light-headed relatives as the source of the headless relative. There are two options. First, the light-headed relative is derived from an existing light-headed relative, and the deletion of the light head is optional.

Second, the light-headed relative is derived from a light-headed relative that does not surface in Modern German, and the deletion of the light head is obligatory. I consider the first option first, and I give two reasons against it. I take the light head from the existing light-headed relative as a point of departure, and I modify it in such a way that it is appropriate as a light head for a headless relative.

I give an example of a Modern German light-headed relative in (31).<sup>9</sup>

- (31) Jan umarmt den                **wen**                **er mag.**  
 Jan hugs     DEM.M.SG.ACC REL.ANIM.ACC he likes  
 ‘Jan hugs the man that he likes.’

In (31), the relative pronoun is the WH-pronoun *wen* ‘REL.AN.ACC’, and the light head is the D-pronoun *den* ‘DEM.M.SG.ACC’. For easy reference, I call this light-headed relative the *den-wen* relative.

One hypothesis is that the demonstrative *den* ‘DEM.M.SG.ACC’ is deleted from the light-headed relative in (31) and that the headless relative in (32) remains.<sup>10</sup> For easy reference, I call this headless relative the *wen* relative.

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<sup>9</sup>Modern German also has another light-headed relative, in which the relative pronoun is the D-pronoun. I give an example in (i).

- (i) Jan umarmt den                **den**                **er mag.**  
 Jan hugs     D.M.SG.ACC REL.M.SG.ACC he likes  
 ‘Jan hugs the man that he likes.’

This relative pronoun generally appears in headed relatives, shown in (ii).

- (ii) Jan umarmt den                Mann **den**                **er mag.**  
 Jan hugs     D.M.SG.ACC man   REL.M.SG.ACC he likes  
 ‘Jan hugs the man that he likes.’

I directly exclude the possibility that Modern German headless relatives are derived from these light-headed relatives, because they appear with the incorrect relative pronoun.

<sup>10</sup>This is exactly what Hanink (2018) argues for. She claims that the feature content of the light head matches the feature content of the relative pronoun. Therefore, the light head is by default deleted. Only if the light head carries an extra focus feature it surfaces.

- (32) Jan umarmt **wen**            **er** mag.  
 Jan hugs    REL.AN.ACC he likes  
 ‘Jan hugs who he likes.’

I give two arguments against this hypothesis. First, in headless relatives the morpheme *auch immer* ‘ever’ can appear, as shown in (33).

- (33) Jan unarmt **wen**            **auch immer er** mag.  
 Jan hugs    REL.AN.ACC ever            he likes  
 ‘Jan hugs whoever he likes.’

Light-headed relatives do not allow this morpheme to be inserted, illustrated in (34).

- (34) \*Jan unarmt den            **wen**            **auch immer er** mag.  
 Jan hugs    DEM.M.SG.ACC REL.AN.ACC ever            he likes  
 ‘Jan hugs him whoever he likes.’

I assume that the headless relative is not derived from an ungrammatical structure.<sup>11</sup>

The second argument against the *den-wen* relative being the source of the *wen* relative comes from the interpretation differences between the two. Broadly speaking, the *wen* relative has two interpretations (see Šimík 2020 for a recent elaborate overview on the semantics of free relatives). The *den-wen* has only one of them. I show this schematically in Table 1.7.

Table 1.7: Interpretations of *wen* and *den-wen* relatives

	<i>wen</i>	<i>den-wen</i>
definite-like	✓	✓
universal-like	✓	*

The first interpretation of the *wen* relative is a definite-like one. This interpretation corresponds to a definite description: Jan hugs the person that he likes. The interpretation is available for the *wen* relative and for the *den-wen* relative. The

<sup>11</sup>I am aware that such an analysis is common for sluicing.

second interpretation of the *wen* relative is a universal-like one. This interpretation corresponds to a universal quantifier: Jan hugs everybody that he likes. This interpretation is available for the *wen* relative, but not for the *den-wen* relative.

There are some indications that the universal-like interpretation of headless relatives is the main interpretation that should be accounted for. First, informants have reported to me that headless relatives with case mismatches become more acceptable in the universal-like interpretation compared to the definite-like interpretation. Second, Šimík (2020: 4) notes that some languages do not easily allow for the definite-like interpretation of headless relatives with an *ever*-morpheme. There is no language documented that does not allow for the universal-like interpretation, but does allow the definite-like interpretation.

In sum, there are two arguments against the *den-wen* relative being the source of the *wen* relative. In what follows, I show how the presence of *den* leads to having only the definite-like interpretation. I suggest that the problem lies in the feature content of the light head *den*. I point out how the feature content should be modified such that it is a suitable light head.

The light head in the *den-wen* relative is a demonstrative. A demonstrative refers back to a linguistic or extra-linguistic antecedent. Consider the context which facilitates a definite-interpretation and the repeated *den-wen* relative in (35a).

- (35) a. Context: Yesterday Jan met with two friends. He likes one of them.  
The other one he does not like so much.
- b. Jan umarmt den                    **wen**                    **er mag**.  
Jan hugs      DEM.M.SG.ACC REL.ANIM.ACC he likes  
'Jan hugs the man that he likes.'

The demonstrative *den* in the *den-wen* relative refers back to the friend of Jan that he likes.

Consider the context which facilitates a universal-interpretation and the repeated *den-wen* relative in (36a).

- (36) a. Jan has a general habit of hugging everybody that he likes.



- b. #Jan umarmt den **wen** **er** mag.  
 Jan hugs DEM.M.SG.ACC REL.ANIM.ACC he likes  
 ‘Jan hugs the man that he likes.’

In this case, there is no antecedent for the demonstrative *den* to refer back to.

I zoom in on the internal structure of the demonstrative *den* to investigate what it is about the demonstrative that forces the definite-like interpretation. The demonstrative consists of the three morphemes *d*, *e* and *n*. Two of its morphemes are identical to the WH-relative pronoun: (1) *n*, which spells out pronominal, number, gender and case features, and (2) the *e* which spells out deictic features. One morpheme differs: the *d*, which establishes a definite reference. The two morphemes that force the definite-interpretation are the *d* and the *e*. The *e* establishes a reference, and the *d* makes this reference a definite one.

I propose that the light head is the element that is left once the morphemes *d* and *e* are abandoned. This is the morpheme that is the final consonant of the relative pronoun.<sup>12</sup> I give the light-headed relative from which the *wen*-relative is derived

<sup>12</sup>The two light heads I discuss resemble the strong and weak definite in Schwarz (2009), at least morphologically (although my light head is always obligatorily deleted). Schwarz’s (2009) strong definite is anaphoric in nature, and the weak definite encodes uniqueness. I give an example of a strong definite in (i). The strong definite is *dem* that precedes *Freund* ‘friend’. It refers back to the linguistic antecedent *einen Freund* ‘a friend’.

- (i) Hans hat heute einen Freund zum Essen mit nach Hause gebracht. Er hat uns  
 Hans has today a friend to the dinner with to home brought he has us  
 vorher ein Foto von dem Freund gezeigt.  
 beforehand a photo of the<sub>STRONG</sub> friend shown  
 ‘Hans brought a friend home for dinner today. He had shown us a photo of the friend beforehand.’

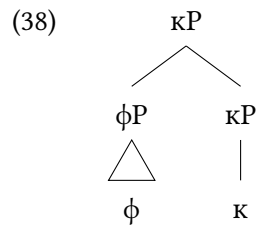
Weak definites are used when situational uniqueness is involved. This uniqueness can be global or within a restricted domain. I give two examples in (ii). In (iia), the dog is unique in this specific situation of the break-in. In (iib), the moon is unique for us people on the planet.

- (ii) a. Der Einbrecher ist zum Glück vom Hund verjagt worden.  
 the burglar is luckily by the<sub>WEAK</sub> dog chased away been  
 ‘Luckily, the burglar was chased away by the dog.’

in (37). The brackets around the light head indicate that it is obligatorily deleted.

- (37) Jan umarmt [n]            **wen**        **er mag**.  
 Jan hugs        LH.AN.ACC REL.AN.ACC he likes  
 ‘Jan hugs who he likes.’

In Section 1.1, I gave the simplified structure of the light head, repeated here in (38).



The idea was that the structures of the relative pronoun and the light heads match, but that the relative pronoun contains at least one feature more. I just argued that the light head has four feature less: WH, REL, DX<sub>1</sub> and DX<sub>2</sub>.

I discuss two light heads: the animate nominative singular and in the animate accusative singular. These are the two forms that I compare the constituents of in Section 1.2.3. I show them in (39).

- (39) a. r  
           ‘LH.AN.SG.NOM’  
       b. n  
           ‘LH.AN.SG.ACC’

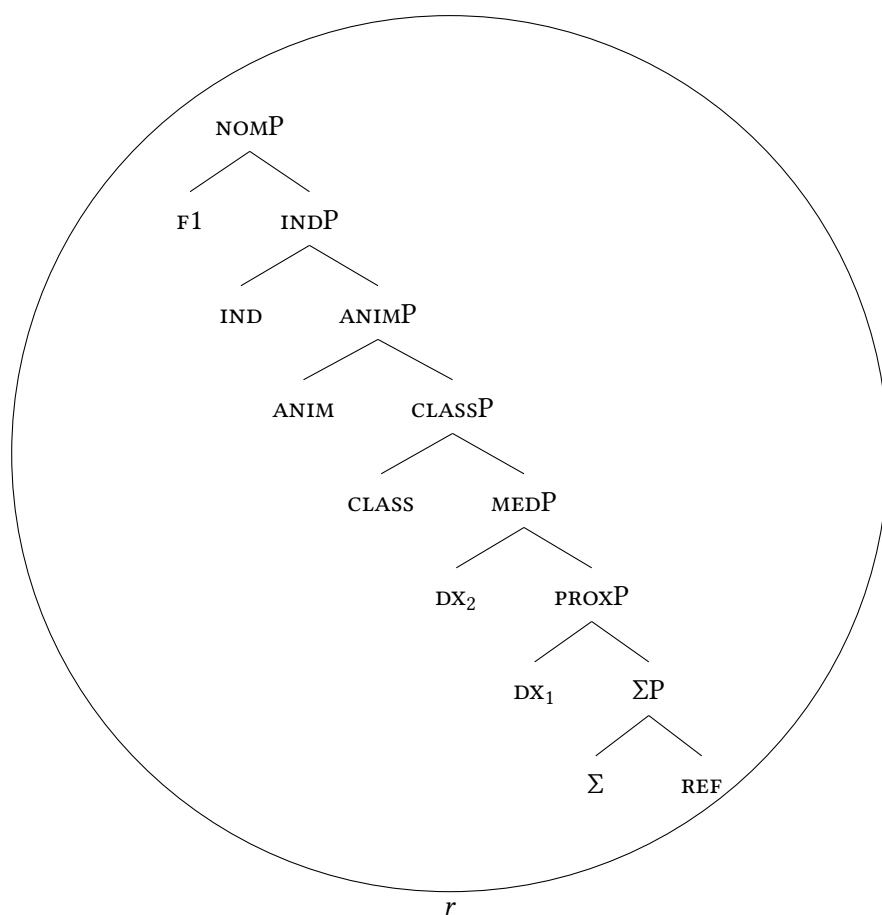
- 
- b. Armstrong flog als erster    zum    Mond.  
 Armstrong flew as first one to the<sub>WEAK</sub> moon  
 ‘Armstrong was the first one to fly to the moon.’ (Modern German, Schwarz 2009: 40)

The meaning of Schwarz’s (2009) strong definite seems similar to the meaning of the light head in the *den-wen* relative. I do not see right away how the light head in headless relatives could encode uniqueness. One possibility is that the feature content of his and my form differs slightly after all. Another possibility is that the fact that his form combines with a preposition and an overt nouns leads to a change in interpretation.

The derivations of the light heads are simple ones. The features are merged one by one, and after each new phrase is created, it is spelled out as a whole.

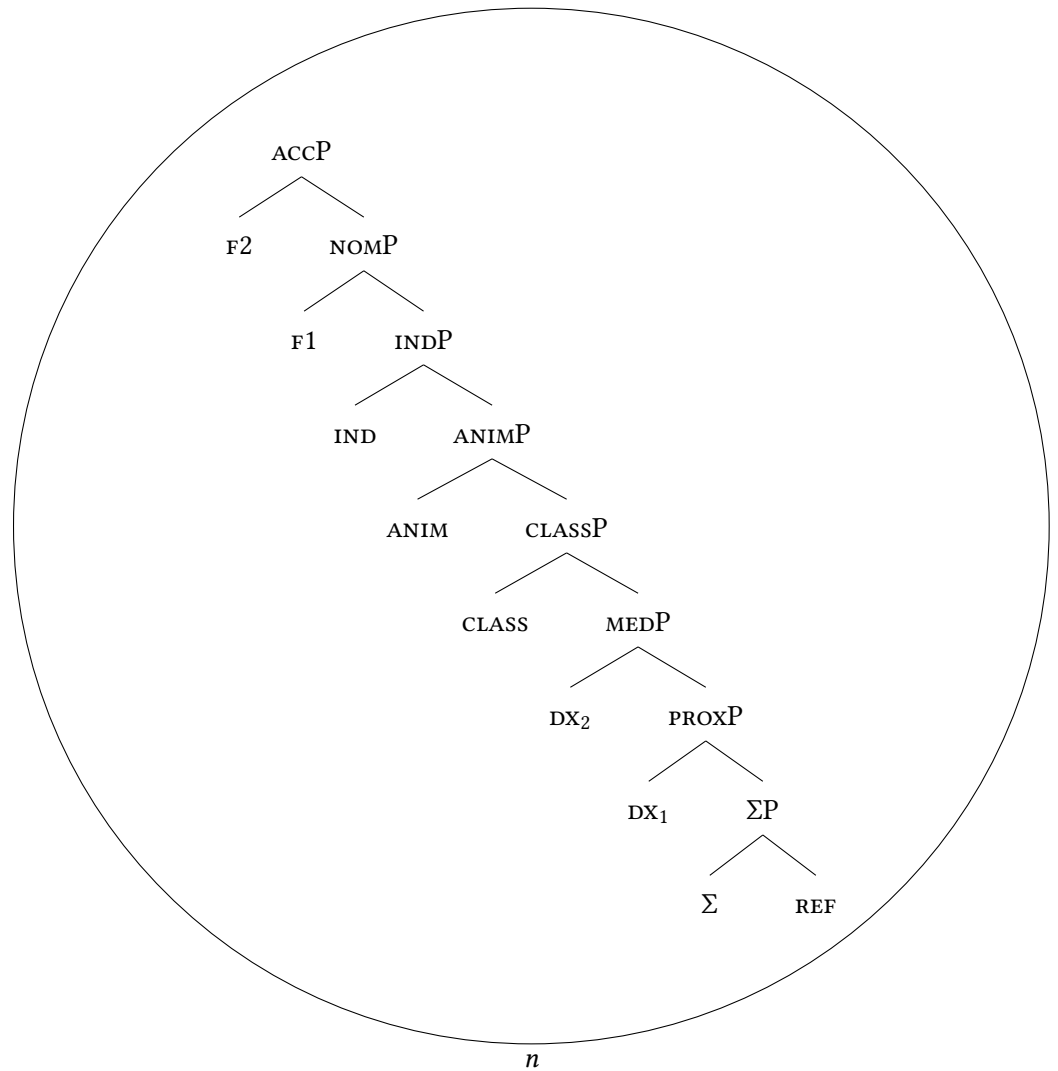
I give the structures of the animate nominative singular light head in (40).

(40)



I give the structures of the animate accusative singular light head in (41).

(41)



### 1.2.3 Comparing constituents

Consider the example in (42), in which the internal nominative case competes against the external nominative case. The relative clause is marked in bold, and the light head and the relative pronoun are underlined. The internal case is nominative, as the predicate *mögen* ‘to like’ takes nominative subjects. The relative pronoun *wer* ‘REL.AN.NOM’ appears in the nominative case. This is the element that surfaces. The

external case is nominative as well, as the predicate *besuchen* ‘to visit’ also takes nominative subjects. The light head *ər* ‘DEM.AN.NOM’ appears in the nominative case. It is placed between square brackets because it does not surface.

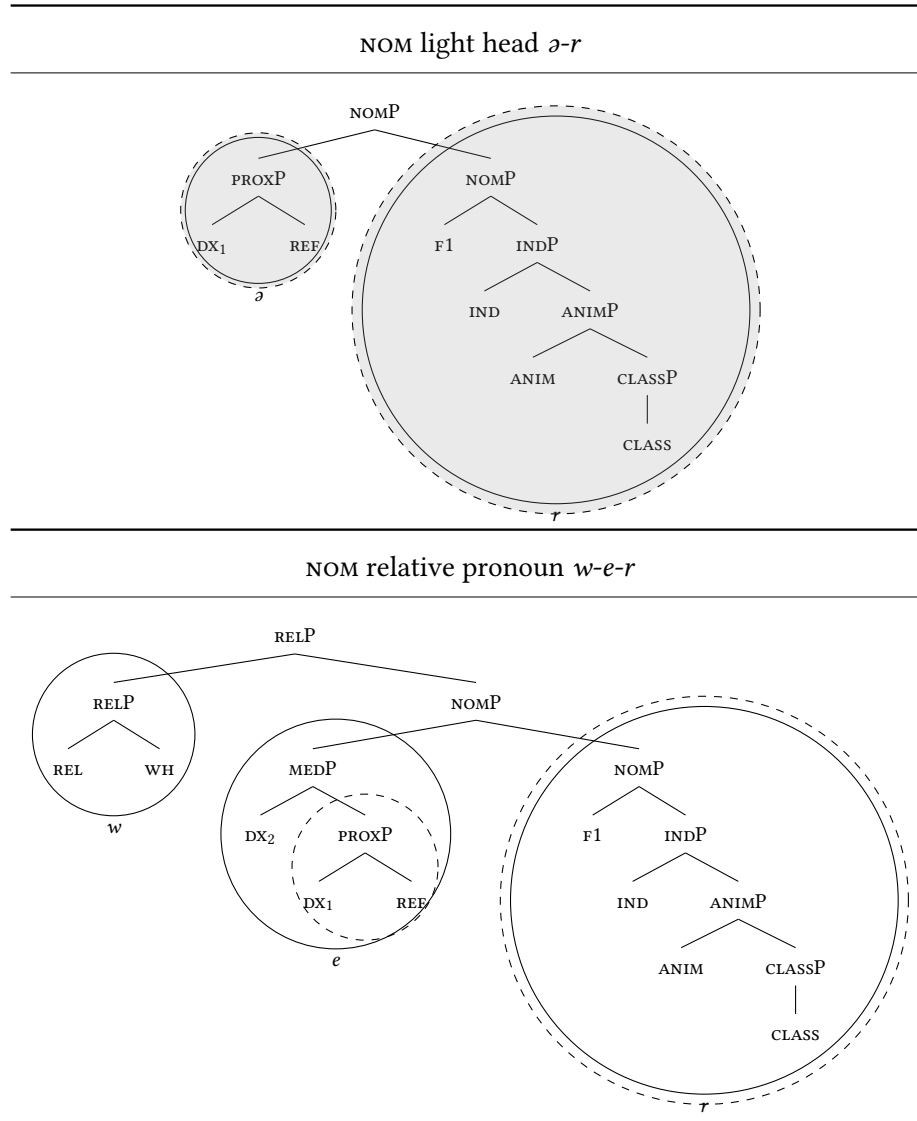
- (42) Uns besucht [ər], wer **Maria**  
 2PL.ACC visit.PRES.3SG[NOM] DEM.AN.NOM REL.AN.NOM Maria.ACC  
**mag.**  
 like.PRES.3SG[NOM]  
 ‘Who visits us likes Maria.’  
 (Modern German, adapted from Vogel 2001: 343)

In Figure 1.12, I give the syntactic structure of the light head at the top and the syntactic structure of the relative pronoun at the bottom.

The relative pronoun consists of three morphemes: *w*, *e* and *r*. The light head consists of two morphemes: *ə* and *r*. As usual, I circle the part of the structure that corresponds to a particular lexical entry, and I place the corresponding phonology under it. I draw a dashed circle around each constituent that is a constituent in both the light head and the relative pronoun. As each constituent of the light head is also a constituent within the relative pronoun, the light head can be absent. I illustrate this by marking the content of the dashed circles for the light head gray.

I explain this constituent by constituent. I start with the right-most constituent of the light head that spells out as *r* (NOMP). This constituent is also a constituent in the relative pronoun. I continue with the left-most constituent of the light head that spells out as *ə* (PROXP). This constituent is also a constituent in the relative pronoun, contained in MEDP. Both constituent of the light head are also a constituent within the relative pronoun, and the light head can be absent.

Consider the example in (43), in which the internal accusative case competes against the external nominative case. The relative clause is marked in bold, and the light head and the relative pronoun are underlined. The internal case is accusative, as the predicate *mögen* ‘to like’ takes accusative objects. The relative pronoun *wen* ‘REL.AN.ACC’ appears in the accusative case. This is the element that surfaces. The external case is nominative, as the predicate *besuchen* ‘to visit’ takes nominative subjects. The light head *ər* ‘DEM.AN.NOM’ appears in the nominative case. It is placed

Figure 1.12: Modern German EXT<sub>NOM</sub> vs. INT<sub>NOM</sub>  $\rightarrow$  *wer*

between square brackets because it does not surface.

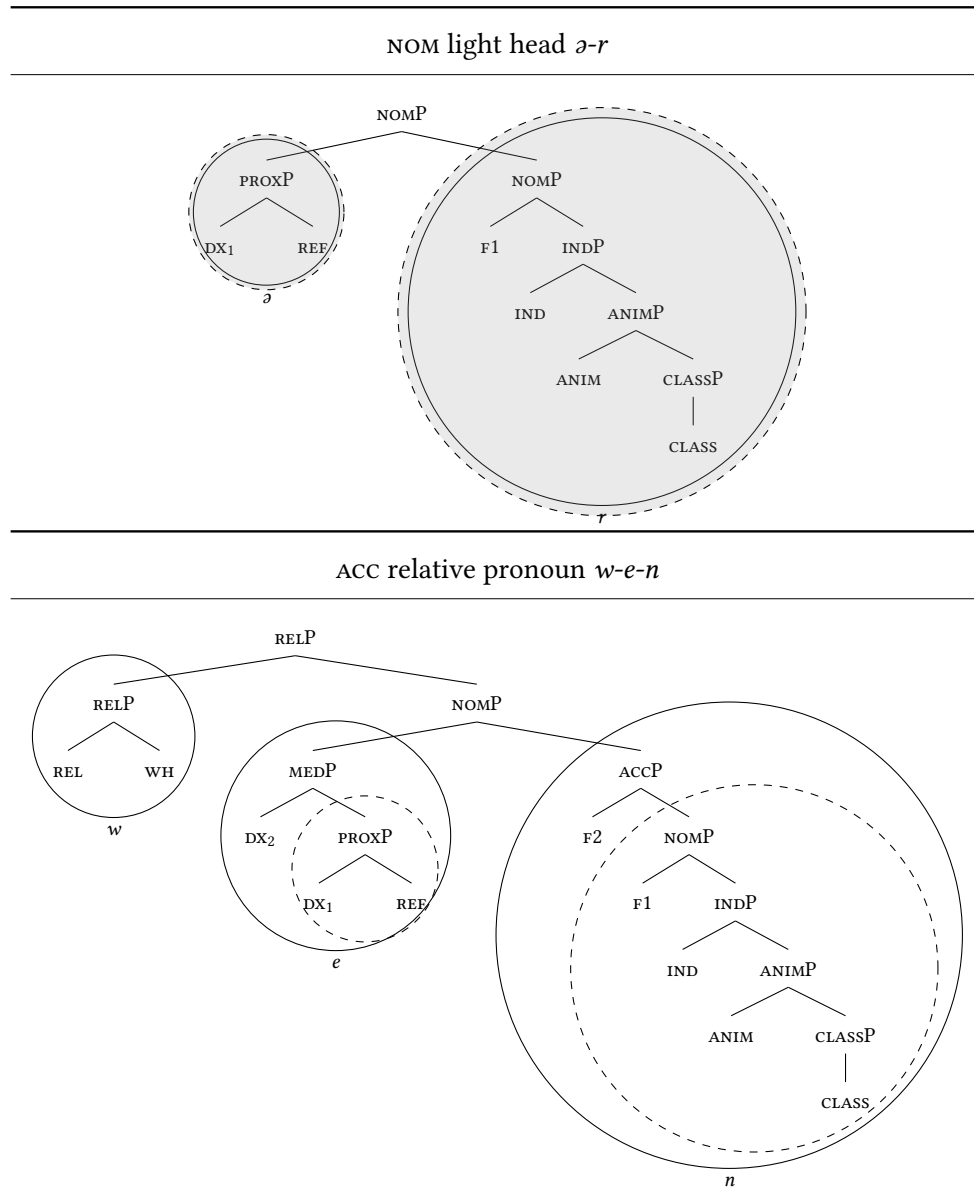
- (43) Uns besucht [ər] wen **Maria** **mag**.  
 we.ACC visit.3SG<sub>[NOM]</sub> DEM.NOM.AN REL.ACC.AN Maria.NOM like.3SG<sub>[ACC]</sub>  
 ‘Who visits us, Maria likes.’ (adapted from Vogel 2001: 343)

In Figure 1.13, I give the syntactic structure of the light head at the top and the syntactic structure of the relative pronoun at the bottom.

The relative pronoun consists of three morphemes: *w*, *e* and *n*. The light head consists of two morphemes: *ə* and *r*. Again, I circle the part of the structure that corresponds to a particular lexical entry, and I place the corresponding phonology under it. I draw a dashed circle around each constituent that is a constituent in both the light head and the relative pronoun. As each constituent of the light head is also a constituent within the relative pronoun, the light head can be absent. I illustrate this by marking the content of the dashed circles for the light head gray.

I explain this constituent by constituent. I start with the right-most constituent of the light head that spells out as *r* (NOMP). This constituent is also a constituent in the relative pronoun, contained in ACCP. I continue with the left-most constituent of the light head that spells out as *ə* (PROXP). This constituent is also a constituent in the relative pronoun, contained in MEDP. Both constituent of the light head are also a constituent within the relative pronoun, and the light head can be absent.

Consider the examples in (44), in which the internal nominative case competes against the external accusative case. The relative clauses are marked in bold, and the light heads and the relative pronouns are underlined. It is not possible to make a grammatical headless relative in this situation. The internal case is nominative, as the predicate *sein* ‘to be’ takes nominative subjects. The relative pronoun *wer* ‘REL.AN.NOM’ appears in the nominative case. The external case is accusative, as the predicate *einladen* ‘to invite’ takes accusative objects. The light head *ən* ‘DEM.AN.ACC’ appears in the accusative case. (44a) is the variant of the sentence in which the light head is absent (indicated by the square brackets) and the relative pronoun surfaces, and it is ungrammatical. (44b) is the variant of the sentence in which the relative pronoun is absent (indicated by the square brackets) and the light head surfaces, and it is ungrammatical too.

Figure 1.13: Modern German  $\text{EXT}_{\text{NOM}}$  vs.  $\text{INT}_{\text{ACC}} \rightarrow \text{wen}$



- (44) a. \*Ich lade ein, [ən] **wer** **mir**  
 1SG.NOM invite.PRES.1SG<sub>[ACC]</sub> REL.AN.NOM 1SG.DAT nice  
**sympathisch ist.**  
 be.PRES.3SG<sub>[NOM]</sub>  
 ‘I invite who I like.’ (Modern German, adapted from Vogel 2001: 344)
- b. \*Ich lade ein, ən **[wer]** **mir**  
 1SG.NOM invite.PRES.1SG<sub>[ACC]</sub> REL.AN.NOM 1SG.DAT nice  
**sympathisch ist.**  
 be.PRES.3SG<sub>[NOM]</sub>  
 ‘I invite who I like.’ (Modern German, adapted from Vogel 2001: 344)

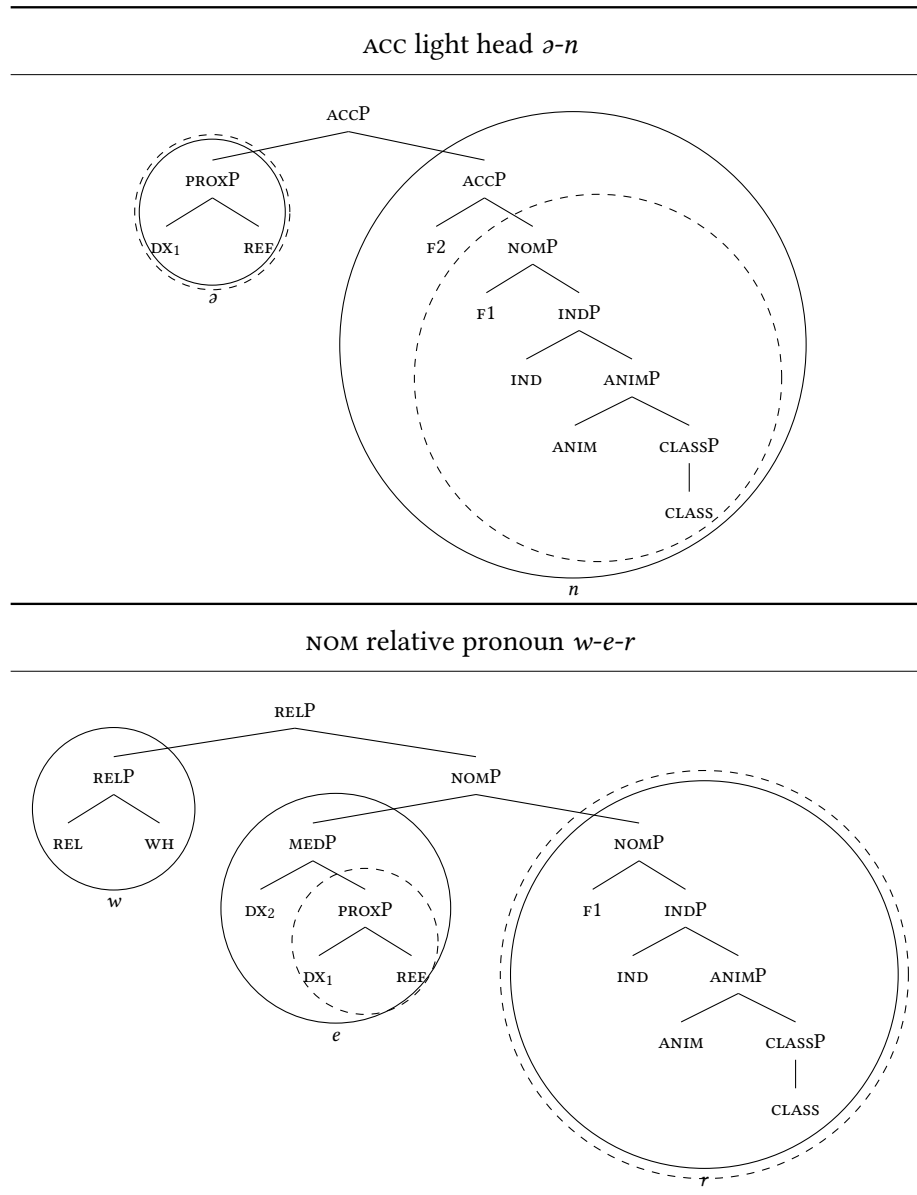
In Figure 1.14, I give the syntactic structure of the light head at the top and the syntactic structure of the relative pronoun at the bottom.

The relative pronoun consists of three morphemes: *w*, *e* and *r*. The light head consists of two morphemes: *ə* and *n*. Again, I circle the part of the structure that corresponds to a particular lexical entry, and I place the corresponding phonology under it. I draw a dashed circle around each constituent that is a constituent in both the light head and the relative pronoun. Neither of the elements contains all constituents that the other element contains. The relative pronoun does not contain all constituents that the light head contains, and the light head does not contain all constituents that the relative pronoun contains. As a result, none of the elements can be absent.<sup>13</sup>

I explain this constituent by constituent. I start by showing that the light head cannot be absent. Consider the right-most constituent of the light head that spells out as *n* (ACCP). This constituent is not a constituent in the relative pronoun: the relative pronoun has a constituent *NOMP*, but it does not contain *F2* to make it an *ACCP*. The light head has a constituent that is not a constituent in the relative pronoun, so the light head cannot be absent.

The relative pronoun can also not be absent. Consider the middle constituent of the relative pronoun that spells out as *e* (*MEDP*). This constituent is not a constituent in the light head: the light head has a constituent *MEDP*, but it does not contain

<sup>13</sup>Why do we not see this result surface? Very good question.

Figure 1.14: Modern German  $\text{EXT}_{\text{ACC}}$  vs.  $\text{INT}_{\text{NOM}} \rightarrow w\text{-}e\text{-}r/\partial\text{-}n$

$DX_3$  to make it an MEDP. The same hold for the left-most constituent of the relative pronoun that spells out as  $w$  (REL $P$ ). The light head lacks the features  $WH$  and  $REL$  that form the REL $P$ . The relative pronoun has constituents that are not constituents in the light head, so the relative pronoun cannot be absent. In sum, neither of the elements contains all constituents that the other element contains, and none of the elements can be absent, so none of them is marked gray.

### 1.3 Deriving the matching type

Matching languages can be summarized as in Table 1.8.

Table 1.8: The surface pronoun with differing cases in Polish

	$K_{INT} > K_{EXT}$	$K_{EXT} > K_{INT}$	
matching	*	*	Polish

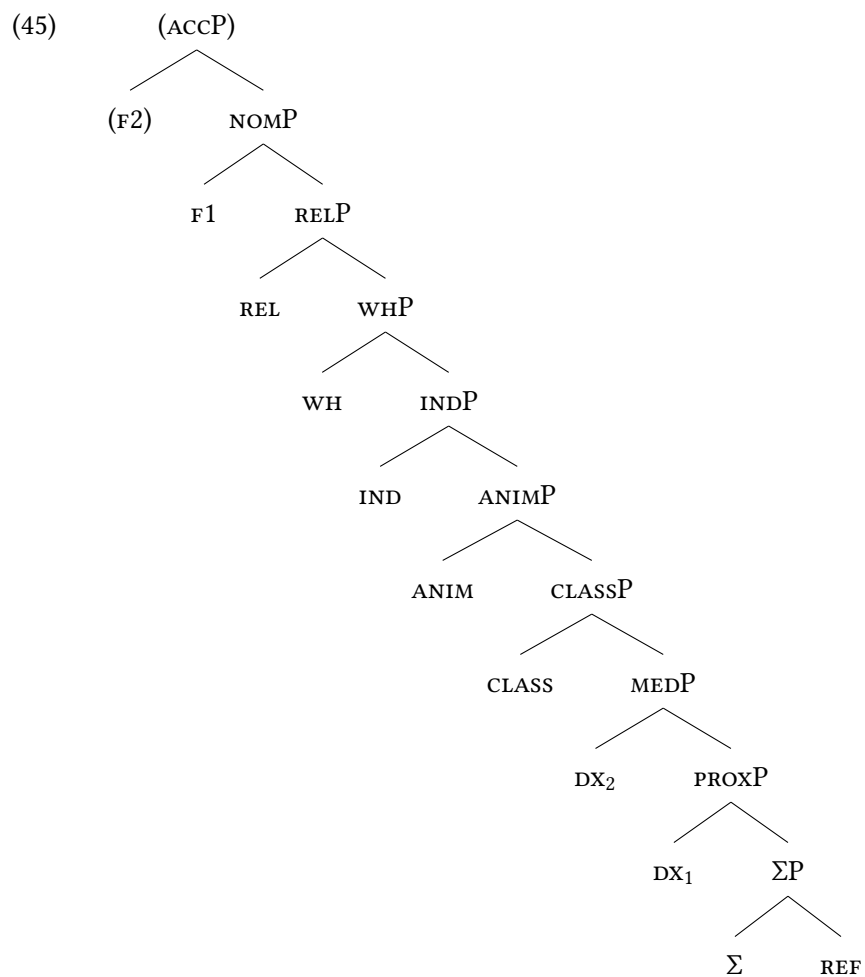
A language of the matching type (like Polish) allows neither the internal nor the external case to surface when either of them wins the case competition. Neither the relative pronoun with its internal case nor the light head with its external case can be the surface pronoun. The goal of this section is to derive this from the way light heads and relative pronouns are spelled out in Polish.

I argue that Polish headless relatives are derived from regular light-headed relatives. I decompose the light heads and relative pronouns into smaller morphemes, and I show which features each of the morphemes corresponds to. Finally, I compare the constituents of the light head and the relative pronoun. When the internal and the external case match, the relative pronoun can delete the light head, because it contains all its constituents. This does not work when the internal case is more complex than the external case. The relative pronoun does not contain all constituents of the light head, and the light head does not contain all constituents of the relative pronoun. As a result, there is no grammatical form to surface when the external case is more complex. The same holds when the external case is more complex than the internal case. The light head does not contain all constituents of the relative pronoun, and the relative pronoun does not contain all constituents

of the light head. As a result, there is no grammatical form to surface when the external case is more complex.

### 1.3.1 The relative pronoun

The fseq



kogo komu

I start with *go* and *mu*.

te-go = masculine + neuter te-mu = masculine + neuter

modelled by letting *te* spell out until masc so that it can shrink and become a neuter one

this leaves *ko*

now consider

*cze-go ko-go*

*cze-mu ko-mu*

we know that a vowel changes between *e* and *o* after hard and soft consonants.

*k* is hard, so *o*. *cz* is soft, so *e*, just like what we saw in *te-go*, the *t* is soft, so *e*.

change in vowel is a consequence of the change in the consonant

that means that *k* spells out masculine, but *cz* does not

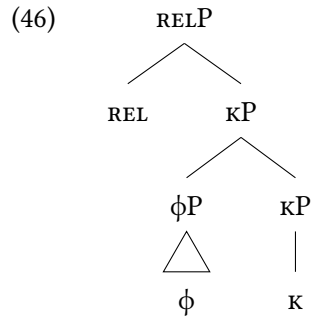
so, *k* spells out anim, class, rel and wh

what about *dxs*, *ref* and *sigma*?

*bartosz* has arguments for *dx* being the *t* and that *c* overrides *t*

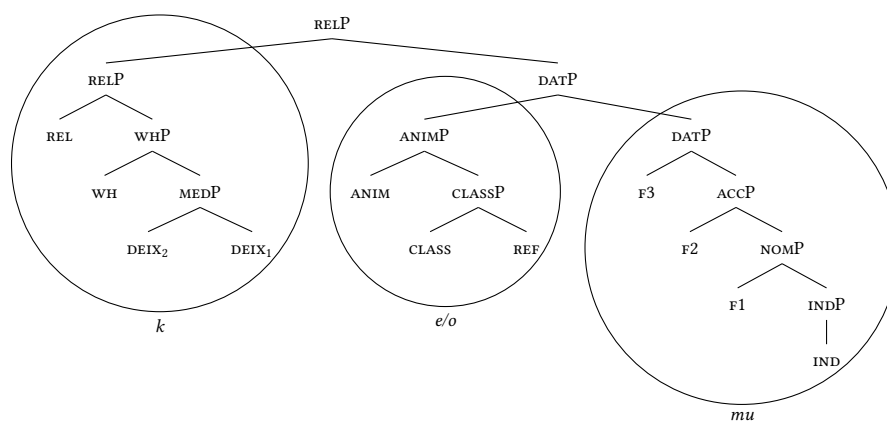
*jego* is evidence for *sigma* and *ref* being in the vowel

In Section 1.1 I gave the structure in (46) as a simplified representation of the relative pronoun.

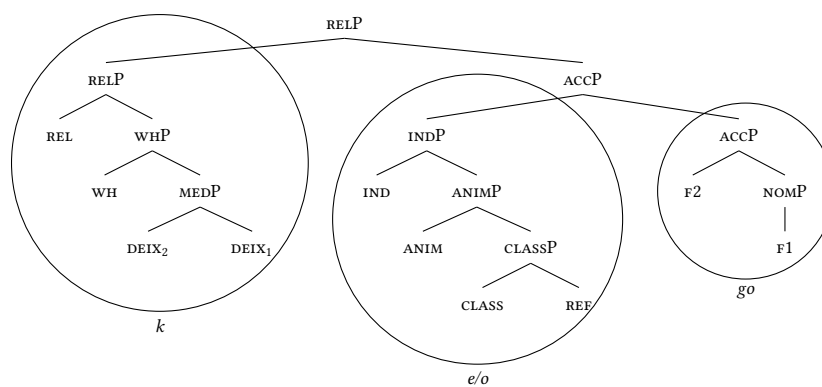


I explained that matching languages like Polish package their languages together differently than internal-only languages like Modern German. That is why I cannot give a single structure for different cases. *mu* starts at *IND* and *go* starts at *f1*. This is going to be crucial in deriving the difference between Polish and Modern German. In this section I decompose the morphemes of the relative pronoun, and connect lexical entries to them.

(47)



(48)



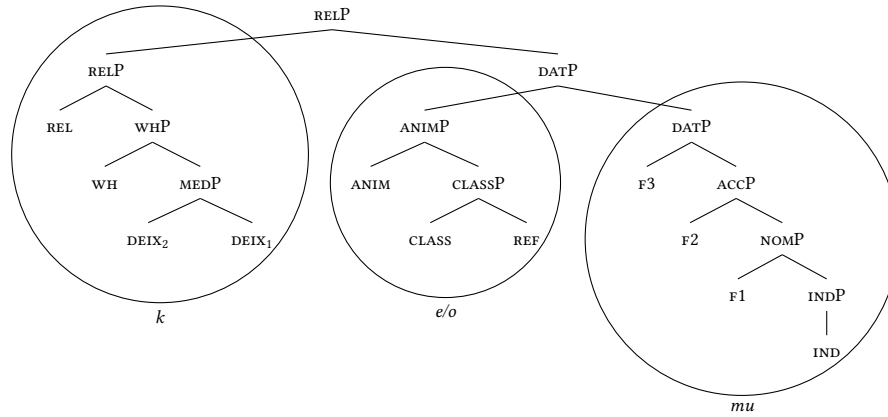
Important is here, the fseq is identical to Modern German!

*mu, go, e/o, k*

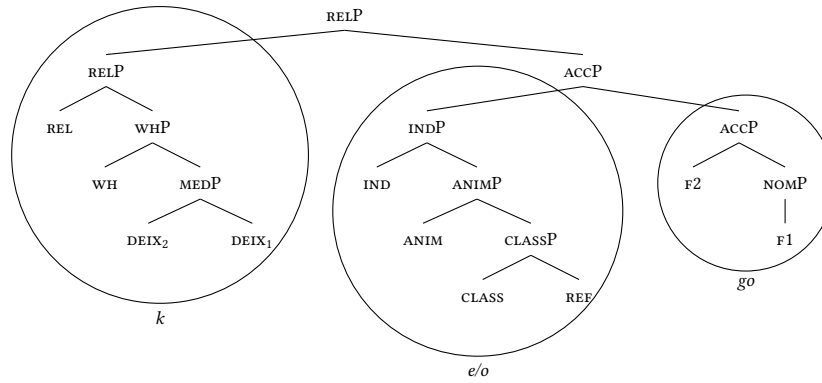
(49) **Backtracking** (Starke, 2018):

When spellout fails, go back to the previous cycle, and try the next option for that cycle.

(50)



(51)



### 1.3.2 The light head

- (52) a. Jan lubi tego kogo Maria lubi.  
 Jan like.3SG<sub>[ACC]</sub> DEM.ACC.AN.SG REL.ACC.AN.SG Maria like.3SG<sub>[ACC]</sub>  
 ‘Jan likes whoever Maria likes.’  
 (Polish, adapted from Citko 2013 after Himmelreich 2017: 17)
- b. \*Jan lubi tego kogo -kolkwiek Maria  
 Jan like.3SG<sub>[ACC]</sub> DEM.ACC.AN.SG REL.ACC.AN.SG ever Maria  
 lubi.  
 like.3SG<sub>[ACC]</sub>  
 ‘Jan likes whoever Maria likes.’  
 (Polish, adapted from Citko 2013 after Himmelreich 2017: 17)

- c. Jan lubi [ego] kogo -kolkwiek Maria  
 Jan like.3SG<sub>[ACC]</sub> LH.ACC.AN.SG REL.ACC.AN.SG ever Maria  
**lubi.**  
 like.3SG<sub>[ACC]</sub>  
 ‘Jan likes whoever Maria likes.’

(Polish, adapted from Citko 2013 after Himmelreich 2017: 17)

The Polish *to* describes closeness to speaker and hearer, while *tamto* univocally describes remoteness from both speaker and hearer, as seen in (26).

*to* / *tamto* prox/med dist auto car.neu.nom bartosz, p.93

MASC *t-e-n t-e-go t-e-mu t-y-m*

ANIM *kto k-o-go k-o-mu k-i-m*

*ni*-forms follow prepositions

clitics	<i>je</i> -form	<i>n</i> -form
go	je-go	ni-e-go
mu	je-mu	ni-e-mu
-	-	ni-m

*Jego* jednego nie widzę. Him, alone I don't see.

*je* makes something a strong pronoun.

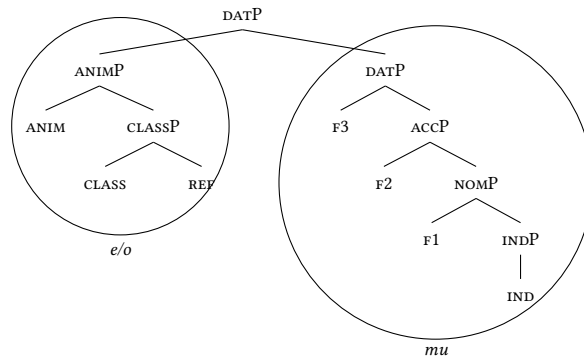
Same fseq as Modern German

Difference between *ego* and *tego* is only the feature *DX*, so that's why people say it has the same meaning.

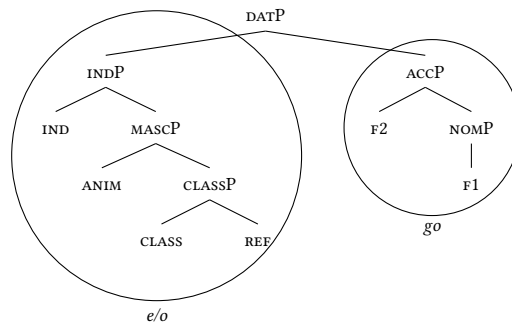
when *je* combines with *c*, we get *cz*



(53)



(54)



### 1.3.3 Comparing constituents

Consider the example in (55), in which the internal accusative case competes against the external accusative case. The relative clause is marked in bold, and the light head and the relative pronoun are underlined. The internal case is accusative, as the predicate *lubić* ‘to like’ takes accusative objects. The relative pronoun *kogo* ‘REL.AN.ACC’ appears in the accusative case. This is the element that surfaces. The external case is accusative as well, as the predicate *lubić* ‘to like’ also takes accusative objects. The light head *tego* ‘DEM.AN.ACC’ appears in the accusative case. It is placed between square brackets because it does not surface.

- (55) Jan lubi            [tego]            kogo            -kolkwiek Maria  
 Jan like.3SG<sub>[ACC]</sub> DEM.ACC.AN.SG REL.ACC.AN.SG ever Maria  
**lubi.**  
 like.3SG<sub>[ACC]</sub>  
 ‘Jan likes whoever Maria likes.’

(Polish, adapted from Citko 2013 after Himmelreich 2017: 17)

In Figure 1.15, I give the syntactic structure of the light head at the top and the syntactic structure of the relative pronoun at the bottom.

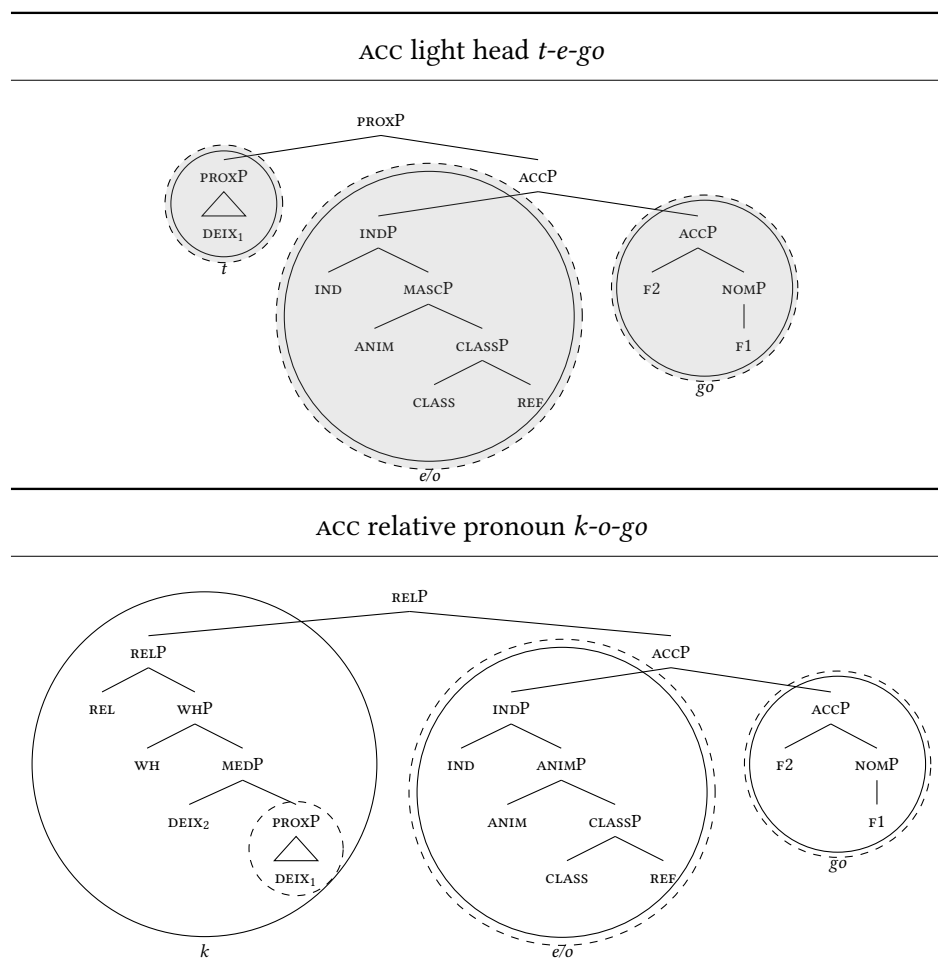


Figure 1.15: Polish EXT<sub>ACC</sub> vs. INT<sub>ACC</sub> → *kogo*

The relative pronoun consists of three morphemes: *k*, *o* and *go*. The light head consists of three morphemes: *t*, *e* and *go*. As usual, I circle the part of the structure that corresponds to a particular lexical entry, and I place the corresponding phonology under it. I draw a dashed circle around each constituent that is a constituent in both the light head and the relative pronoun. As each constituent of the light

head is also a constituent within the relative pronoun, the light head can be absent. I illustrate this by marking the content of the dashed circles for the light head gray.

I explain this constituent by constituent. I start with the right-most constituent of the light head that spells out as *go* (ACCP). This constituent is also a constituent in the relative pronoun. I continue with the middle constituent of the light head that spells out as *e* (INDP). This constituent is also a constituent in the relative pronoun. I continue with the left-most constituent of the light head that spells out as *t* (MEDP). This constituent is also a constituent in the relative pronoun, contained in RELP. All three constituent of the light head are also a constituent within the relative pronoun, and the light head can be absent.

Consider the examples in ??, in which the internal dative case competes against the external accusative case. The relative clauses are marked in bold, and the light heads and the relative pronouns are underlined. It is not possible to make a grammatical headless relative in this situation. The internal case is dative, as the predicate *dokuczać* ‘to tease’ takes dative objects. The relative pronoun *komu* ‘REL.AN.DAT’ appears in the nominative case. The external case is accusative, as the predicate *lubić* ‘to like’ takes accusative objects. The light head *tego* ‘DEM.AN.ACC’ appears in the accusative case. ?? is the variant of the sentence in which the light head is absent (indicated by the square brackets) and the relative pronoun surfaces, and it is ungrammatical. ?? is the variant of the sentence in which the relative pronoun is absent (indicated by the square brackets) and the light head surfaces, and it is ungrammatical too.

- (56) a. \*Jan lubi            [tego]            komu            -kolkwiek  
          Jan like.3SG<sub>[ACC]</sub> DEM.ACC.AN.SG REL.DAT.AN.SG ever  
          **dokucza.**  
          tease.3SG<sub>[DAT]</sub>  
          ‘Jan likes whoever he teases.’  
          (Polish, adapted from Citko 2013 after Himmelreich 2017: 17)
- b. \*Jan lubi            tego            [komu]            -kolkwiek  
          Jan like.3SG<sub>[ACC]</sub> DEM.ACC.AN.SG REL.DAT.AN.SG ever

**dokucza.**

tease.3SG<sub>[DAT]</sub>

‘Jan likes whoever he teases.’

(Polish, adapted from Citko 2013 after Himmelreich 2017: 17)

In Figure 1.16, I give the syntactic structure of the light head at the top and the syntactic structure of the relative pronoun at the bottom.

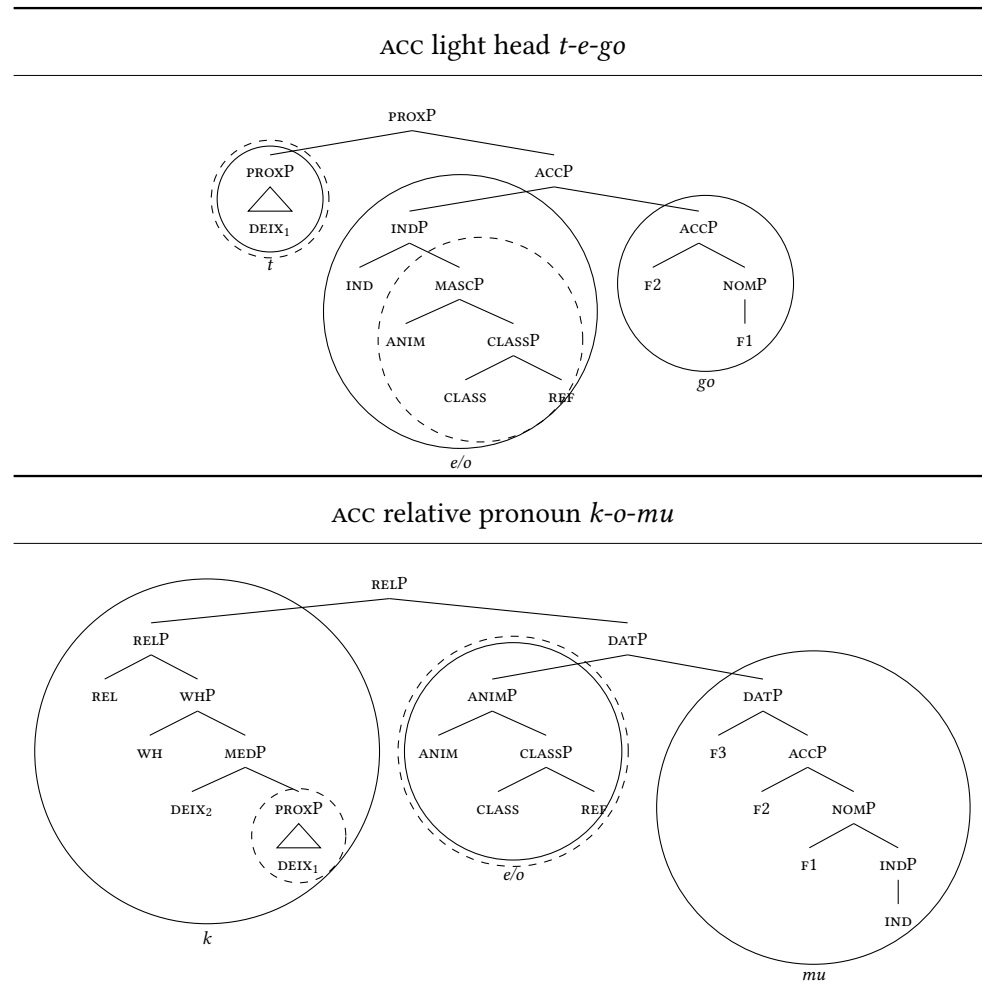


Figure 1.16: Polish EXT<sub>ACC</sub> vs. INT<sub>DAT</sub> → *tego/komu*

The relative pronoun consists of three morphemes: *k*, *o* and *mu*. The light head

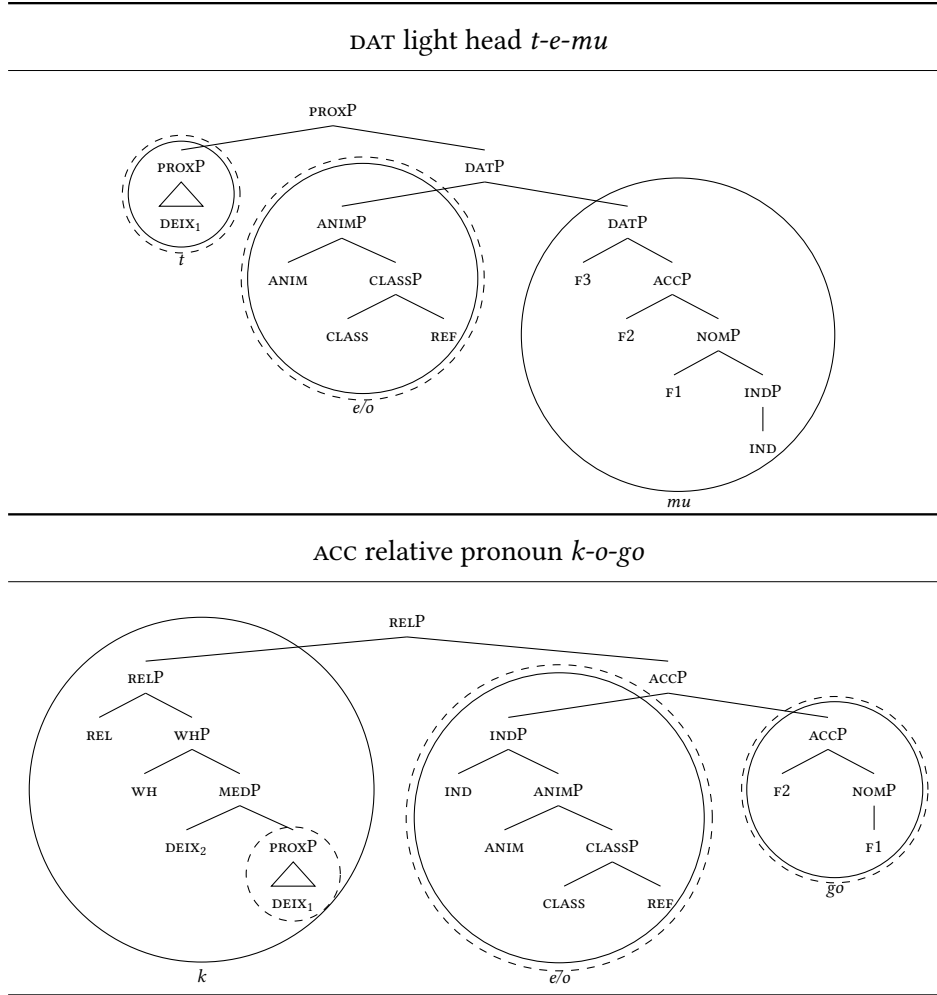
consists of three morphemes: *t*, *e* and *go*. Again, I circle the part of the structure that corresponds to a particular lexical entry, and I place the corresponding phonology under it. I draw a dashed circle around each constituent that is a constituent in both the light head and the relative pronoun. Neither of the elements contains all constituents that the other element contains. The relative pronoun does not contain all constituents that the light head contains, and the light head does not contain all constituents that the relative pronoun contains. As a result, none of the elements can be absent.

I explain this constituent by constituent. I start by showing that the light head cannot be absent. Consider the right-most constituent of the light head that spells out as *go* (ACCP). This constituent is not a constituent in the relative pronoun: the relative pronoun has a constituent ACCP, contained in DATP, but that constituent also contains *indP*. Consider the middle constituent of the light head that spells out as *e* (INDP). This constituent is not a constituent in the relative pronoun: the relative pronoun has a constituent INDP, contained in DATP, but that constituent does not contain REF, CLASS and ANIM. Note here that there is feature containment: the relative pronoun contains all features that the light head contains. It is here crucial to use the stronger constituent containment requirement. The light head has a constituent that is not a constituent in the relative pronoun, so the light head cannot be absent.

The relative pronoun can also not be absent. Consider the right-most constituent of the relative pronoun that spells out as *mu* (DATP). This constituent is not a constituent in the light head: the light head has a constituent ACCP, but it does not contain INDP and also not F3 to make it a DATP. The same hold for the left-most constituent of the relative pronoun that spells out as *k* (RELP). The light head lacks the features MED, WH and REL that form the RELP. The relative pronoun has constituents that are not constituents in the light head, so the relative pronoun cannot be absent. In sum, neither of the elements contains all constituents that the other element contains, and none of the elements can be absent, so none of them is marked gray.

Consider the examples in ??, in which the internal dative case competes against the external accusative case. The relative clauses are marked in bold, and the light heads and the relative pronouns are underlined. It is not possible to make



Figure 1.17: Polish  $\text{EXT}_{\text{DAT}}$  vs.  $\text{INT}_{\text{ACC}} \rightarrow \text{temu/kogo}$

can be absent.

I explain this constituent by constituent. I start by showing that the light head cannot be absent. Consider the right-most constituent of the light head that spells out as *mu* (DATP). This constituent is not a constituent in the relative pronoun: the relative pronoun has a constituent ACCP, but it does not contain INDP and also not F3 to make it a DATP. Consider the middle constituent of the light head that spells out as *e* (INDP). This constituent is not a constituent in the relative pronoun: the relative pronoun has a constituent INDP, contained in DATP, but that constituent does not contain REF, CLASS and ANIM. The light head has a constituent that is not a constituent in the relative pronoun, so the light head cannot be absent.

The relative pronoun can also not be absent. Consider the right-most constituent of the relative pronoun that spells out as *go* (ACCP). This constituent is not a constituent in the light head: the light head has a constituent ACCP, contained in DATP, but that constituent also contains *indP*. Consider left-most constituent of the relative pronoun that spells out as *k* (RELP). The light head lacks the features MED, WH and REL that form the RELP. The relative pronoun has constituents that are not constituents in the light head, so the relative pronoun cannot be absent. In sum, neither of the elements contains all constituents that the other element contains, and none of the elements can be absent, so none of them is marked gray.

## 1.4 Deriving the unrestricted type

Internal-only languages can be summarized as in Table 1.9.

Table 1.9: The surface pronoun with differing cases in Polish

	<hr/>		
	$K_{INT} > K_{EXT}$	$K_{EXT} > K_{INT}$	
unrestricted	relative pronoun <sub>INT</sub>	light head <sub>EXT</sub>	Old High German

A language of the unrestricted type (like Old High German) allows both the internal case and the external case to surface when either of them wins the case competition. Either the light head with its external case or the relative pronoun with its internal case can be the surface pronoun. The goal of this section is to



derive this from the way light heads and relative pronouns are spelled out in Old High German.

The section is structured as follows. Old High German differs from the other two languages I discussed in that its headless relatives have a different interpretation: they have a individuating or definite reading. This leads me to argue for slightly different functional sequences in Old High German. I argue that Old High German headless relatives are derived from regular light-headed relatives. I decompose the light heads and relative pronouns into smaller morphemes, and I show which features each of the morphemes corresponds to. Then I compare the constituents of the light head and the relative pronoun. When the internal and the external case match, the relative pronoun can delete the light head, because it contains all its constituents. When the internal case is more complex than the external case, the relative pronoun can still delete the light head, for the same reason: the relative pronoun contains all constituents of the light head. The situation becomes a bit more complicated when the external case is more complex than the internal case. The light head does not contain all constituents of the relative pronoun. However, the constituent that is not contained in a constituent of the light head is syncretic with a constituent of the light head. I suggest that this syncretism is also enough to license the deletion of the relative pronoun. Finally, I show that the effect of syncretism is not limited to Old High German and the part of the light head and relative pronoun that does not involve case. I give examples from Modern German that show that syncretism can also license the deletion of a more complex case by a less complex case.

### 1.4.1 The relative pronoun

What is different here, is that the relative pronoun is a D-pronoun instead of a WH.

Relative and demonstrative pronouns are syncretic in Old High German (Braune 2018: 338). Table 1.10 gives an overview of the forms in singular and plural, neuter, masculine and feminine and nominative, accusative and dative. The pronouns consist of two morphemes: a *d* and suffix that differs per number, gender and case.<sup>14,15</sup>

<sup>14</sup>*d* can also be written as *dh* and *th*, *ē* and *ē* can also be *e* and *é* (Braune 2018: 339).

<sup>15</sup>The suffix could also be further divided into a vowel and a suffix. As this is not relevant for the

Table 1.10: Relative/demonstrative pronouns in Old High German (Braune 2018: 339)

	N.SG	M.SG	feminine.SG
NOM	d-az	d-ēr	d-iu
ACC	d-az	d-ēn	d-ea/d-ia
DAT	d-ēmu/d-ēmo	d-ēmu/d-ēmo	d-ēru/d-ēro
	N.PL	M.PL	feminine.PL
NOM	d-iu	d-ē/d-ea/d-ia/d-ie	d-eo/-io
ACC	d-iu	d-ē/d-ea/d-ia/d-ie	d-eo/-io
DAT	d-ēm/d-ēn	d-ēm/d-ēn	d-ēm/d-ēn

The suffixes that combine with the *d* in demonstrative and relative pronouns also appear on adjectives. This is illustrated in Table 1.11.

Table 1.11: Adjectives on *-a/-ō-* in Old High German Braune 2018: 300

	N.SG	M.SG	feminine.SG
NOM	jung, jung-az	jung, jung-ēr	jung, jung-iu
ACC	jung, jung-az	jung-an	jung-a
DAT	jung-emu/jung-emo	jung-emu/jung-emo	jung-eru/jung-ero
	N.PL	M.PL	feminine.PL
NOM	jung-iu	jung-e	jung-o
ACC	jung-iu	jung-e	jung-o
DAT	jung-ēm/jung-ēn	jung-ēm/jung-ēn	jung-ēm/jung-ēn

I conclude from this that the suffix expresses features that are specific to being nominal, like number, gender and case. Not part of the suffix are features that are

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discussion here, I refrain from doing that.

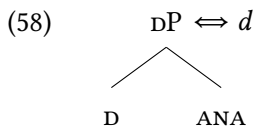
specific to being a demonstrative or relative pronoun, like anaphoricity and definiteness. I assume that these are expressed by the morpheme *d*.

split the suffix up in two morphemes

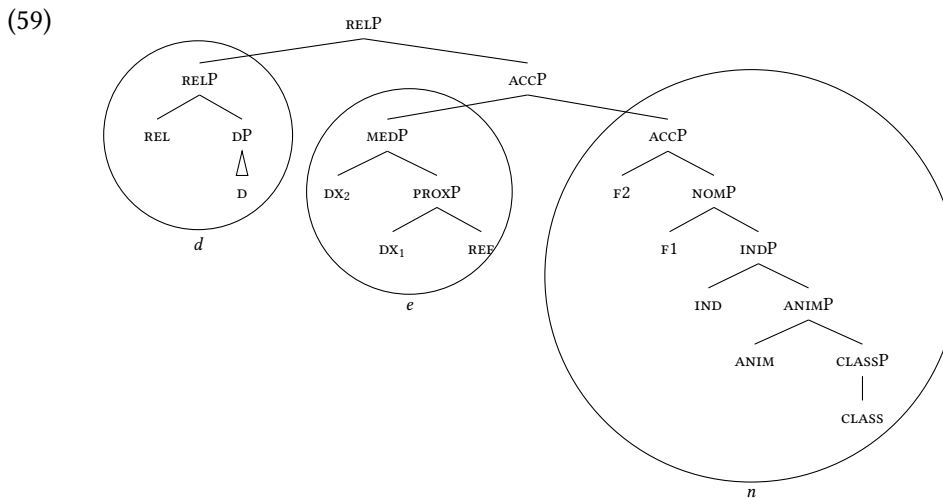
In this section, I only discuss two forms: the nominative and accusative masculine singular relative and demonstrative pronoun. The nominative is *dēr* and the accusative is *dēn*. In what follows, I discuss the feature content of the morphemes *d*, *ēr* and *ēn*. I start with the features that are expressed by the suffixes *ēr* and *ēn*.

This allows me to propose the following lexical entries for the two suffixes.

The *d* morpheme corresponds to definiteness and anaphoricity. Anaphoricity establishes a relation with another element in the (linguistic) discourse. Definiteness encodes that the referent is specific.

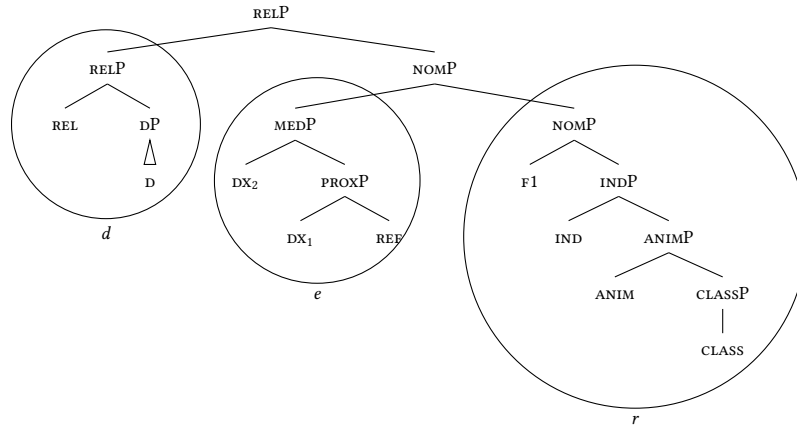


So, the two relative pronouns look like this.<sup>16</sup>



(60) Old High German: INT NOM

<sup>16</sup>A question that arises here is how the case features can form a constituent to the exclusion of definiteness and anaphoricity. I come back to this issue in Chapter ??.



### 1.4.2 The light head

Headless relatives in which the relative pronoun starts with a *d*, such as in Old High German, seem to be linked to individuating or definite readings and not to generalizing or indefinite readings (cf. Fuß, n.d.). I illustrate this with the two examples I repeat from Chapter ??.

Consider the example in (61), repeated from Chapter ?. In this example, the author refers to the specific person which was talked about, and not to any or every person that was talked about.

- (61) Thíz            ist                    **then**            **sie**            **zëllent**  
 DEM.SG.N.NOM be.PRES.3SG<sub>[NOM]</sub> REL.SG.M.ACC 3PL.M.NOM tell.PRES.3PL<sub>[ACC]</sub>  
 ‘this is the one whom they talk about’  
 not: ‘this is whoever they talk about’ (Old High German, Otfrid III 16:50)

Consider also the example in (61), repeated from Chapter ?. In this example, the author refers to the specific person who spoke to someone, and not to any or every person who spoke to someone.

- (62) enti aer            ant uurta            demo            **zaimo**  
 and 3SG.M.NOM reply.PST.3SG<sub>[DAT]</sub> REL.SG.M.DAT to 3SG.M.DAT

**sprah**speak.PST.3SG<sub>[NOM]</sub>

‘and he replied to the one who spoke to him’

not: ‘and he replied to whoever spoke to him’

(Old High German, Mons. 7:24, adapted from Pittner 1995: 199)

Consider the light-headed relative in (63). *Thér* ‘DEM.SG.M.NOM’ is the head of the relative clause, which is the external element. *Then* ‘REL.SG.M.ACC’ is the relative pronoun in the relative clause, which is the internal element.

- (63)    eno   nist            thiz            thér            then            ir  
           now not be.3SG DEM.SG.N.NOM DEM.SG.M.NOM REL.SG.M.ACC 2PL.NOM  
           suochet   zi   arslahanne?  
           seek.2PL to kill.INF.SG.DAT  
           ‘Isn’t this now the one, who you seek to kill?’

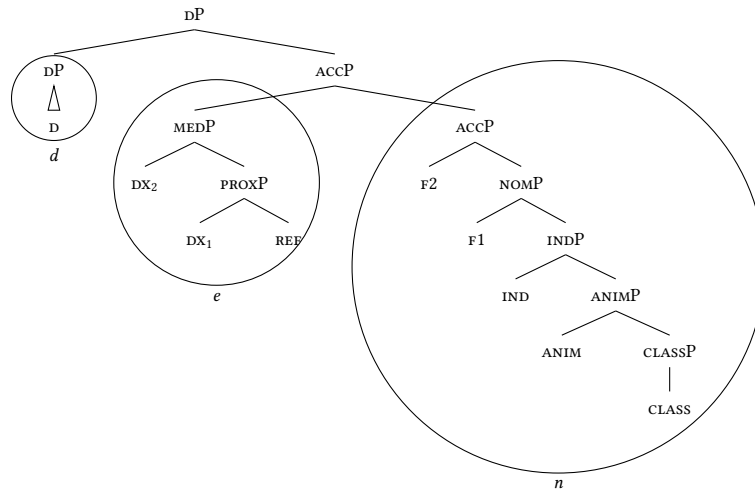
The difference between a light-headed relative and a headless relative is that in headless relatives, either the internal or the external is absent. The absent element is the one that has the least complex case. This shows the presence of two elements in Old High German is optional.<sup>17</sup> In Old High German, there are three possible constructions: the internal and external element can both surface, only the internal element can surface and only the external element can surface. If only one of the two elements surfaces, this is the element that bears the most complex case, which is either the internal or the external one, as I have shown in Chapter ???. I assume that whether both or only one of the elements surfaces is determined by information structure. In (63), the external element *thér* ‘DEM.SG.M.NOM’ is the candidate to be absent. However, it seems plausible that this is emphasized in this sentence and that it, therefore, cannot be absent.

The light head in a light-headed relative is a demonstrative pronoun.

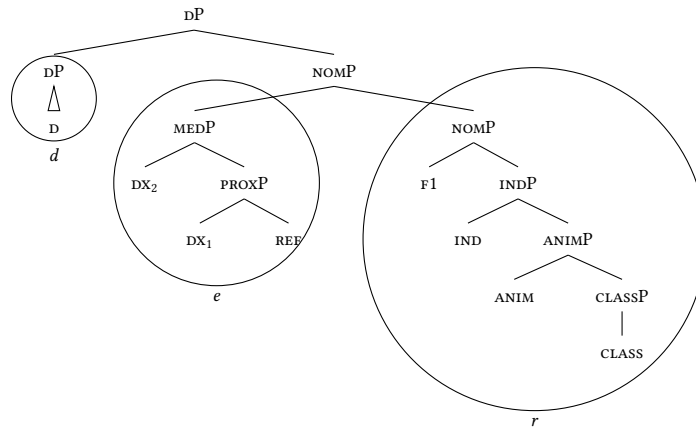
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<sup>17</sup>This sharply contrasts with headless relatives in Modern German, which are always ungrammatical when both the internal and external elements surface. I come back to this in Section 1.2.

(64)



(65) Old High German: EXT NOM



### 1.4.3 Comparing constituents

Consider the examples in (66), in which the internal nominative case competes against the external nominative case. The relative clauses are marked in **bold**, and the light heads and the relative pronouns are underlined. As the light head and the relative pronoun are identical it is impossible to see which of them surfaces. The internal case is nominative, as the predicate *senten* ‘to send’ takes nominative subjects. The relative pronoun *dher* ‘REL.SG.M.NOM’ appears in the nominative case. The external case is nominative as well, as the predicate *queman* ‘to come’ also takes nominative subjects. The light head *dher* ‘DEM.SG.M.NOM’ appears in the nominative

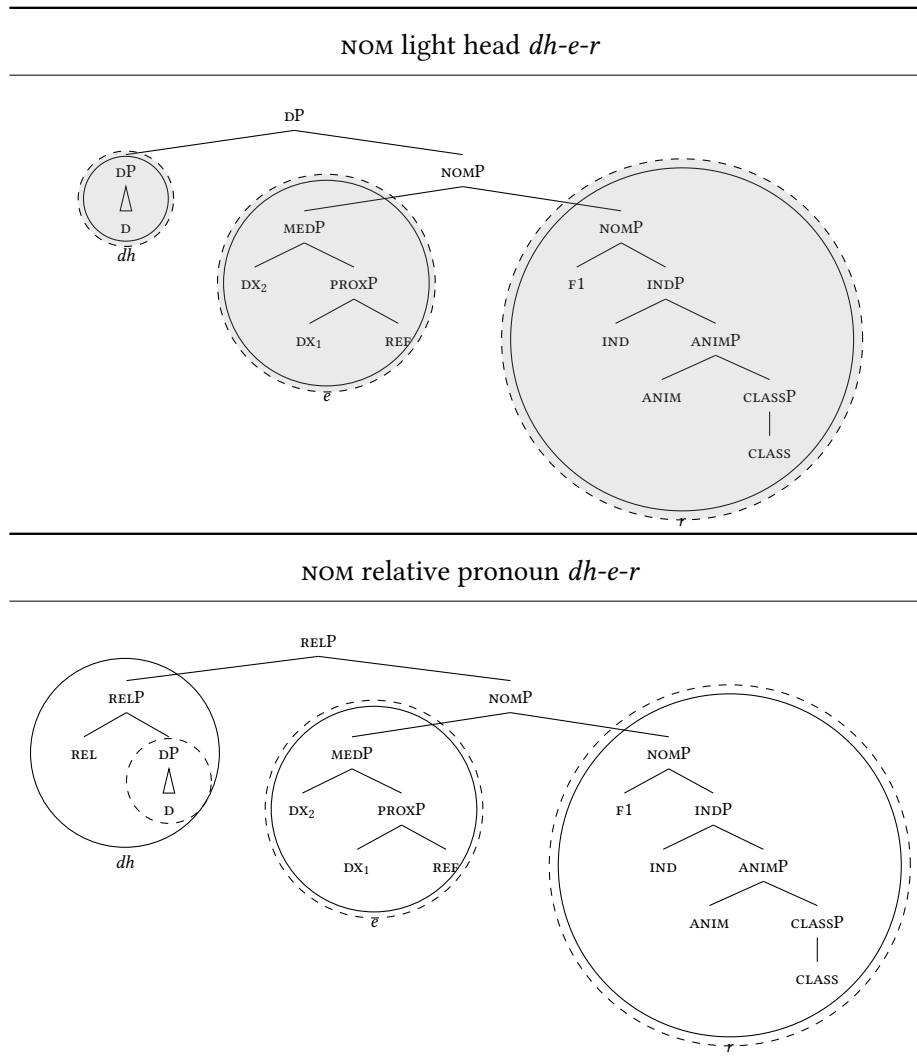
case. (66a) is the variant of the sentence in which the light head is absent (indicated by the square brackets) and the relative pronoun surfaces. (66b) is the variant of the sentence in which the relative pronoun is absent (indicated by the square brackets) and the light head surfaces.

- (66) a. quham                      [dher]                      **dher**                      chisendit  
    come.PST.3SG<sub>[NOM]</sub> DEM.SG.M.NOM REL.SG.M.NOM send.PST.PTCP<sub>[NOM]</sub>  
    **scolda**                      **uuerdhan**  
    should.PST.3SG become.INF  
    ‘the one, who should have been sent, came’  
    (Old High German, Isid. 35:5)
- b. quham                      dher                      [dher]                      chisendit  
    come.PST.3SG<sub>[NOM]</sub> DEM.SG.M.NOM REL.SG.M.NOM send.PST.PTCP<sub>[NOM]</sub>  
    **scolda**                      **uuerdhan**  
    should.PST.3SG become.INF  
    ‘the one, who should have been sent, came’  
    (Old High German, Isid. 35:5)

In Figure 1.18, I give the syntactic structure of the light head at the top and the syntactic structure of the relative pronoun at the bottom.

The relative pronoun consists of three morphemes: *dh*, *e* and *r*. The light head consists of three morphemes: *dh*, *e* and *r*. As usual, I circle the part of the structure that corresponds to a particular lexical entry, and I place the corresponding phonology under it. I draw a dashed circle around each constituent that is a constituent in both the light head and the relative pronoun. As each constituent of the light head is also a constituent within the relative pronoun, the light head can be absent. I illustrate this by marking the content of the dashed circles for the light head gray.

I explain this constituent by constituent. I start with the right-most constituent of the light head that spells out as *r* (NOMP). This constituent is also a constituent in the relative pronoun. I continue with the middle constituent of the light head that spells out as *e* (MEDP). This constituent is also a constituent in the relative pronoun. I end with the left-most constituent of the light head that spells out as *d* DP. This constituent is also a constituent in the relative pronoun, contained in RELP. All three

Figure 1.18: Old High German  $\text{EXT}_{\text{NOM}}$  vs.  $\text{INT}_{\text{NOM}} \rightarrow \text{dher}$



constituent of the light head are also a constituent within the relative pronoun, and the light head can be absent.

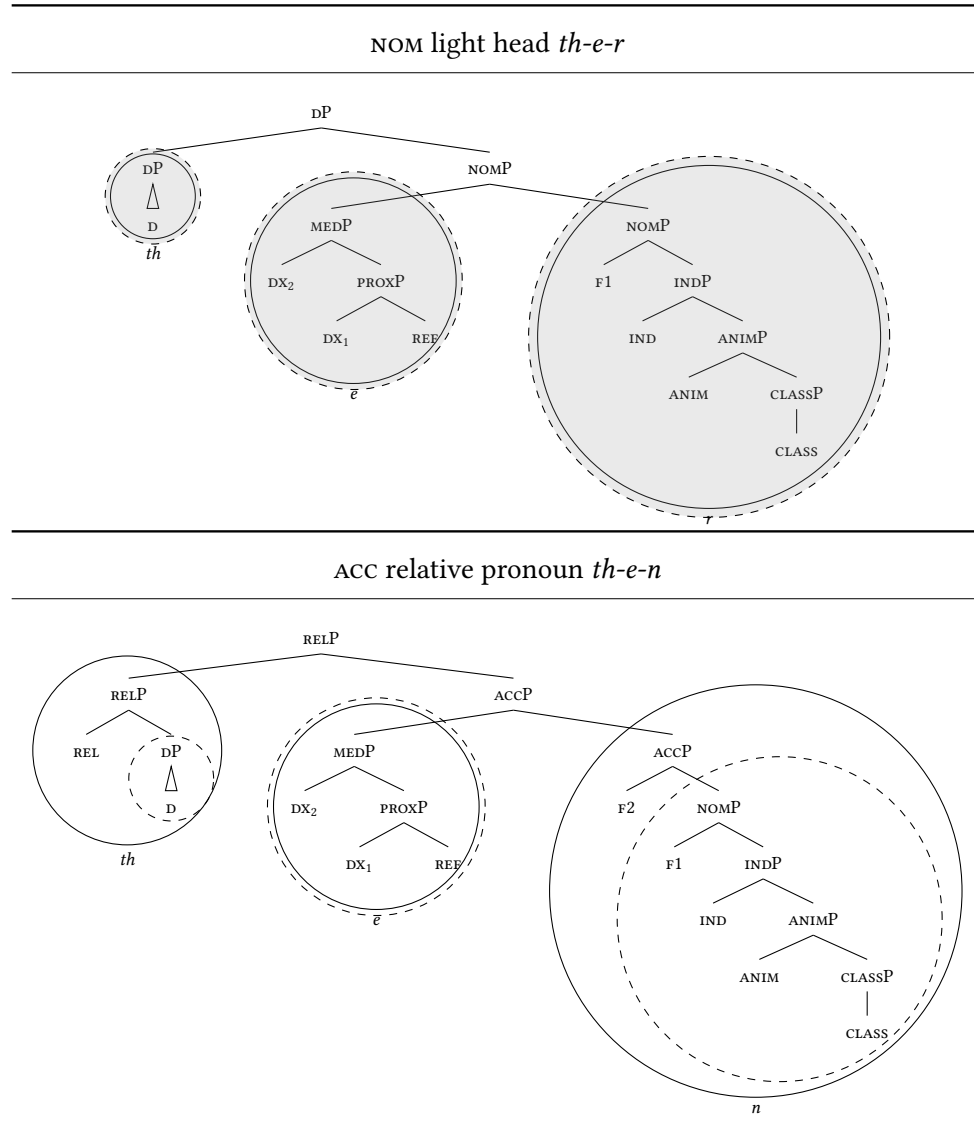
Consider the example in (67), in which the internal accusative case competes against the external nominative case. The relative clause is marked in bold, and the light head and the relative pronoun are underlined. The internal case is accusative, as the predicate *zellen* ‘to tell’ takes accusative objects. The relative pronoun *then* ‘REL.SG.M.ACC’ appears in the accusative case. This is the element that surfaces. The external case is nominative, as the predicate *sin* ‘to be’ takes nominative objects. The light head *ther* ‘DEM.SG.M.NOM’ appears in the nominative case. It is placed between square brackets because it does not surface.

- (67) Thíz                    ist                    [ther]                    [then]                    **sie**  
 DEM.SG.N.NOM be.PRES.3SG<sub>[NOM]</sub> DEM.SG.M.NOM REL.SG.M.ACC 3PL.M.NOM  
**zéllent**  
 tell.PRES.3PL<sub>[ACC]</sub>  
 ‘this is the one whom they talk about’ (Old High German, Otfrid III 16:50)

In Figure 1.19, I give the syntactic structure of the light head at the top and the syntactic structure of the relative pronoun at the bottom.

The relative pronoun consists of three morphemes: *th*, *e* and *n*. The light head consists of three morphemes: *th*, *e* and *r*. Again, I circle the part of the structure that corresponds to a particular lexical entry, and I place the corresponding phonology under it. I draw a dashed circle around each constituent that is a constituent in both the light head and the relative pronoun. As each constituent of the light head is also a constituent within the relative pronoun, the light head can be absent. I illustrate this by marking the content of the dashed circles for the light head gray.

I explain this constituent by constituent. I start with the right-most constituent of the light head that spells out as *r* (NOMP). This constituent is also a constituent in the relative pronoun, contained in ACCP. I continue with the middle constituent of the light head that spells out as *e* (MEDP). This constituent is also a constituent in the relative pronoun. I end with the left-most constituent of the light head that spells out as *d* DP. This constituent is also a constituent in the relative pronoun, contained in RELP. All three constituent of the light head are also a constituent within the

Figure 1.19: Old High German EXT<sub>NOM</sub> VS. INT<sub>ACC</sub> → *then*

relative pronoun, and the light head can be absent.

Consider the examples in (68), in which the internal nominative case competes against the external accusative case. The relative clauses are marked in bold, and the light heads and the relative pronouns are underlined. The internal case is nominative, as the predicate *gisizzen* ‘to possess’ takes nominative subjects. The relative pronoun *dher* ‘REL.SG.M.NOM’ appears in the nominative case. It is placed between square brackets because it does not surface. The external case is accusative, as the predicate *bibringan* ‘to create’ takes accusative objects. The light head *dhen* ‘DEM.SG.M.ACC’ appears in the accusative case. This is the element that surfaces.

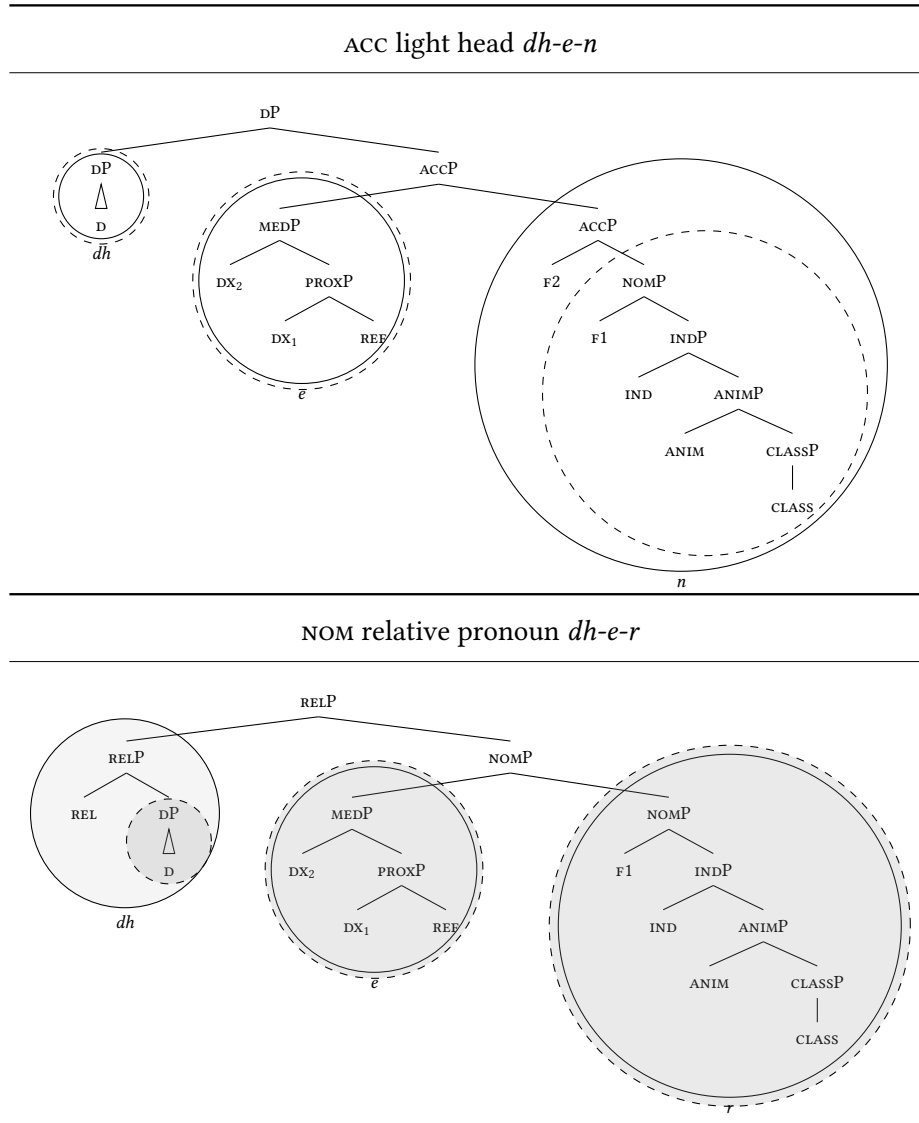
- (68)    ih            bibringu            fona iacobes    samin            endi fona  
           1SG.NOM create.PRES.1SG[ACC] of    Jakob.GEN seed.SG.DAT and of  
           iuda            dhen            [dher]            mina  
           Judah.DAT REL.SG.M.ACC my.ACC.M.PL mountain.ACC.PL  
           **berga**                            **chisitit**  
           possess.PRES.3SG[NOM]  
           ‘I create of the seed of Jacob and of Judah the one, who possess my mountains’

(Old High German, Isid. 34:3)

In Figure 1.20, I give the syntactic structure of the light head at the top and the syntactic structure of the relative pronoun at the bottom.

The relative pronoun consists of three morphemes: *dh*, *e* and *r*. The light head consists of three morphemes: *dh*, *e* and *n*. Again, I circle the part of the structure that corresponds to a particular lexical entry, and I place the corresponding phonology under it. I draw a dashed circle around each constituent that is a constituent in both the light head and the relative pronoun. As each constituent of the light head is also a constituent within the relative pronoun or is syncretic with one, the relative pronoun can be absent. I illustrate this by marking the content of the dashed circles for the relative pronoun gray.

I explain this constituent by constituent. I start with the right-most constituent of the relative pronoun head that spells out as *r* (NOMP). This constituent is also a constituent in the light head, contained in ACCP. I continue with the middle con-

Figure 1.20: Old High German EXT<sub>ACC</sub> vs. INT<sub>NOM</sub> → *dhen*

stituent of the relative pronoun that spells out as *e* (MEDP). This constituent is also a constituent in the light head. I end with the left-most constituent of the relative pronoun that spells out as *d* RELP. This constituent is not contained in the light head, but it is syncretic with it. The dP is also spelled out as *d*. All three constituent of the light head are also a constituent within the relative pronoun or are syncretic with them, and the relative pronoun can be absent.

## 1.5 Summary

Table 1.12 shows per language type which of the three options in Table 1.1 is chosen when the internal and external case differ.

Table 1.12: The surface pronoun with differing cases per language

	$K_{INT} > K_{EXT}$	$K_{EXT} > K_{INT}$	
unrestricted	relative pronoun <sub>INT</sub>	light head <sub>EXT</sub>	Old High German
internal-only	relative pronoun <sub>INT</sub>	*	Modern German
matching	*	*	Polish
external-only	*	light head <sub>EXT</sub>	not attested

The first column list the types of languages. The second column shows the situation in which the internal case is the most complex. The relative pronoun that bears the internal case is the potential surface pronoun. The third column shows the situation in which the external case is the most complex. The light head that bears the external case is the potential surface pronoun. The asterix (\*) indicates that there is no grammatical form for the surface pronoun. The fourth column gives the example of the language type that I discuss in this chapter. A language of the unrestricted type (like Old High German) allows both the internal case and the external case to surface when either of them wins the case competition. Either the light head with its external case or the relative pronoun with its internal case can be the surface pronoun. A language of the internal-only type (like Modern German) allows only the internal case to surface when it wins the case competition, and it does not allow

the external case to do so. The relative pronoun with its internal case can be the surface pronoun and the light head with its external case cannot. A language of the matching type (like Polish) allows neither the internal nor the external case to surface when either of them wins the case competition. Neither the relative pronoun with its internal case nor the light head with its external case can be the surface pronoun.<sup>18</sup> The language type that is not attested is the external-only type. That means that there is no language that allows only the external case to surface when it wins the case competition, and it does not allow the internal case to do so. In other words, there exist no language, in which the surface pronoun can only be the light head and not the relative pronoun.

What I have done in this section so far is reformulate the two descriptive parameters from Figure 1.1 into two other descriptive parameters. Whether the internal case is allowed to surface corresponds to whether the relative pronoun surfaces. That implicates that the light head has been deleted and is therefore absent. Similarly, whether the external case is allowed to surface corresponds to whether the light head surfaces. That implicates that the relative pronoun has been deleted and is therefore absent. I show this in Figure 1.21.

Reformulating these parameters is not just restating the generalization in different terms. With this new formulation, I am able to identify the elements (i.e. the light head and the relative pronoun) that bear the internal and external cases. The difference between languages lies in whether or not it is possible to delete the light head (and with it the external case) and the relative pronoun (and with it the internal case).

## 1.6 Aside: a larger syntactic context

If you talk about different patterns, there can be different locations to put your parameters. Himmelreich put her parameters in the structure. I put my parameters in the elements themselves. I show what an analysis like Himmelreich looks like, and I show then that it is difficult to reduce that then to differences in the lexicon (because it has to do with agree?).

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<sup>18</sup>This holds for the situation in which the internal and external case differ. In Section 1.3, I show that the relative pronoun surfaces in matching contexts.

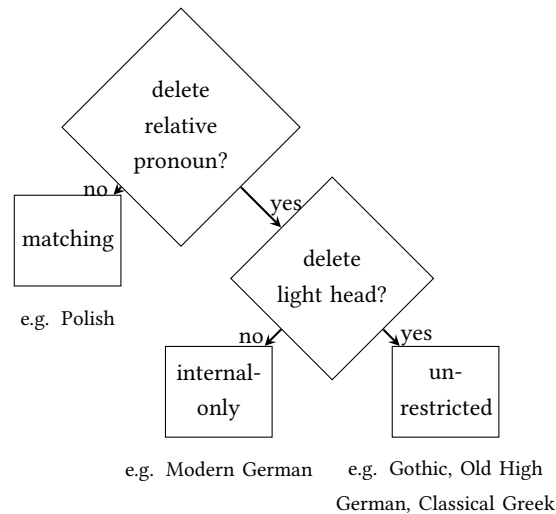


Figure 1.21: Delete relative pronoun/light head as parameters

So what I do is keep the parameters that she was differing stable. I change the things that she kept constant, the internal and external element. Does her structure then work with what I want? Not entirely, because I have to do a c-command that is going in the wrong direction. Then I show a syntactic structure that could be compatible with mine, and I show why a grafting one is not.

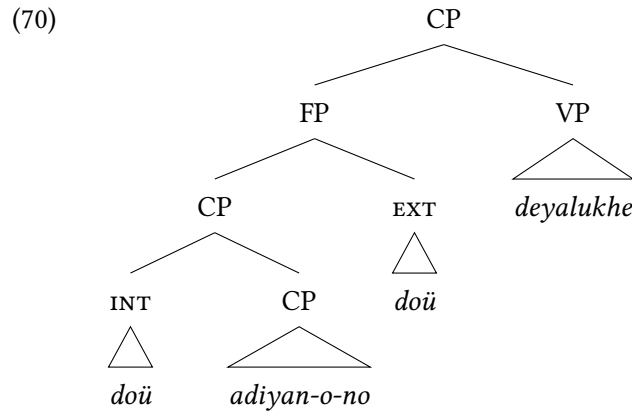
In this dissertation I focus on when languages allow the internal and external case to win the case competition. In my proposal, this depends on the comparison between the internal and external base. The larger syntactic context in which this takes place should be kept stable. For concreteness, I show a possible implementation in Cinque's double-headed analysis of relative clause. I do by no means claim that claim this is the only or even correct implementation.

According to Cinque, every type of relative clause in every language is underlyingly double-headed. Evidence for this claim comes from languages that show this morphologically. An example from Kombai is given in (69). The head of the relative clause is *doü* 'sago', and it appears inside the relative clause and outside.

- (69)    [**doü** adıyan-o-no]                      **doü** deyalukhe  
          sago   give.3PL.NONFUT-tr-CONN sago finished.ADJ  
          'The sago that they gave is finished.'                      (Kombai, Vries 1993: 78)

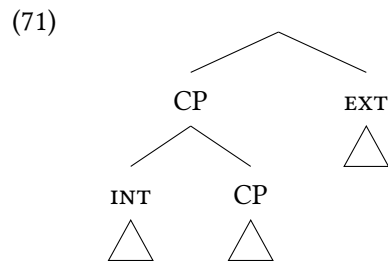
The internal and external instances of *doü* correspond to the internal and external element I assume to be there in the headless relatives.

(70) shows the syntactic structure of the sentence in (69).



In most languages one of the two heads is deleted throughout the derivation.

According to Cinque 2020, the internal element can delete the external element, because the internal element c-commands the external element. This is c-command according to Kayne's definition of it: the internal element is in the specifier of the specifier of the FP.



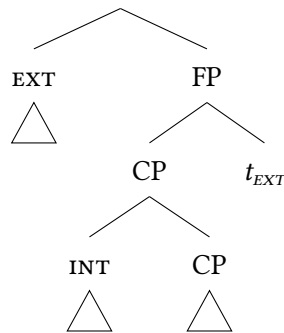
In order for the internal element to be able to delete the external element, a movement needs to take place. The external element moves over the relative clause.<sup>19</sup> From this position, the external element can delete the internal one, because the

<sup>19</sup>What remains unclear is what the trigger is for the movement of the external element over relative clause is.



external element c-commands the internal one.

(72)



Also talk about **ɒ** here, and that maybe Old High German deletes a thing without a **ɒ** when the internal thing wins. does that also have a not so definite interpretation?

What does not work:

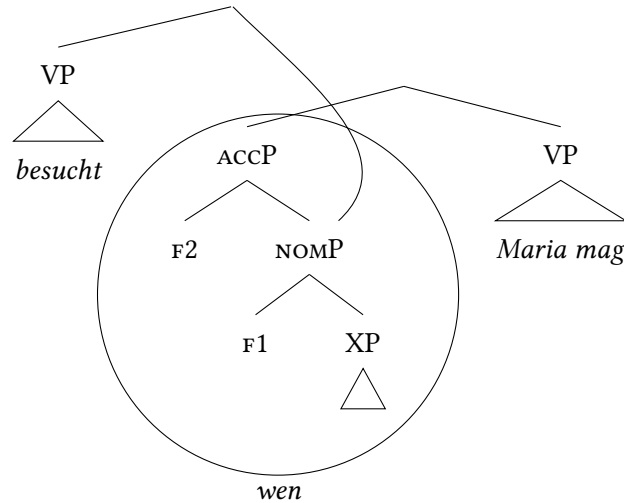
For this pattern a single element analysis seems intuitive, if you assume that case is complex and that syntax works bottom-up. First you build the relative clause, with the big case in there. Then you build the main clause and you let the more complex case in the embedded clause license the main clause predicate.

Consider the example in (73). Here the internal case is accusative and the external one nominative.

(73) Uns besucht **wen** **Maria** mag.  
 we.ACC visit.3SG<sub>[NOM]</sub> REL.ACC.AN Maria.NOM like.3SG<sub>[ACC]</sub>  
 ‘Who visits us, Maria likes.’ (adapted from Vogel 2001: 343)

The relative clause is built, including the accusative relative pronoun. Now the main clause predicate can merge with the nominative that is contained within the accusative.

(74)

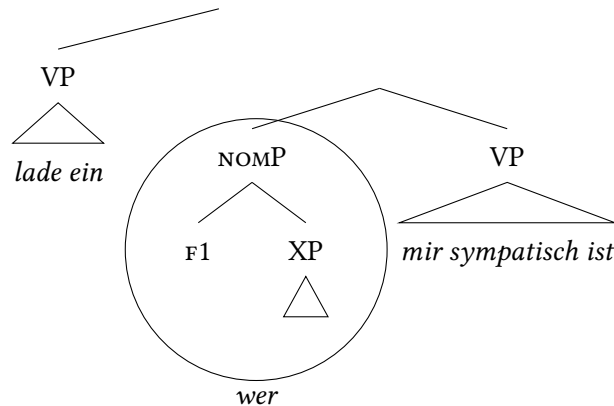


The other way around does not work. Consider (75). This is an example with nominative as internal case and accusative as external case.

- (75) \*Ich lade ein, wen **mir sympathisch** ist.  
 I.NOM invite.1SG<sub>[ACC]</sub> REL.ACC.AN I.DAT nice be.3SG<sub>[NOM]</sub>  
 'I invite who I like.' (adapted from Vogel 2001: 344)

Now the relative clause is built first again, this time only including the nominative case. There is no accusative node to merge with for the external predicate. Instead, the relative pronoun would need to grow to accusative somehow and then the merge could take place. This is the desired result, because the sentence is ungrammatical.

(76)



So, this seems to work fine. The assumptions you have to do in order to make this are the following. First, case is complex. Second, you can remerge an embedded node (grafting). For the first one I have argued in Chapter ???. The second one could use some additional argumentation. It is a mix between internal remerge (move) and external merge, namely external remerge. Other literature on multidominance and grafting, other phenomena. Problems: linearization, .. But even if fix all these theoretical problems, there is an empirical one.

That is, I want to connect this behavior of Modern German headless relatives to the shape of its relative pronouns. These pronouns are WH-elements. The OHG and Gothic ones are not WH, they are D. Their relative pronouns look different, and so their headless relatives can also behave differently.

Himmelreich

there are agree relations between -  $V_{EXT}$  and  $EXT - V_{INT}$  and  $INT - INT$  and  $EXT$   
 three parameters: 1 relation between  $V_{EXT}$  and  $EXT + V_{INT}$  and  $INT$  are symmetric or asymmetric 2 relation between  $EXT$  and  $INT$  are symmetric or asymmetric 3 if  $EXT - INT$  is asymmetric,  $EXT$  or  $INT$  probes

I keep the parameters she has stable, the bigger syntactic context is the same everywhere. I vary the content of  $EXT$



# Primary texts

**Isid.** Der althochdeutsche Isidor

**Mons.** The Monsee fragments

**Otfrid** Otfrid's Evangelienbuch



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