

SOME RELATIVE CLAUSE TYPES III

C. The Japanese Headed Relative Clause

(sources: Kuno, The Structure of the Japanese Language, MIT Press, 1976;  
McCawley, in The Chicago Which Hunt, 1972)

- (1) Watakushi ga hon o kai-ta.  
(I SUBJ book OBJ write-PAST)  
'I wrote the/a book.'
- (2) Kore wa hon desu.  
(this TOP book is)  
'This is a book.'
- (3) Kore wa watakushi ga kai-ta hon desu.  
(this TOP I SUBJ write-PAST book is)  
'This is a book that I have written.'
- (4) (a) watakushi ni eigo o oshiete-iru Mary (nonrestrictive)  
(me DAT English OBJ teaching-is Mary)  
'Mary, who is teaching me English ...'  
(b) watakushi ga sitte-iru Mary (restrictive)  
(I SUBJ knowing-am Mary)  
'the Mary that I know ...'
- (5) (a) honyuu-dobutu de aru kuzira (nonrestrictive)  
(mammal is whale)  
'the whale, which is a mammal ...'  
(b) nihon-kai ni sunde iru kuzira (restrictive)  
(Japan-sea in living is whale)  
'whales that live in the Japan Sea ...'
- (6) (a) anata no koto o itumo kangaete-iru watakushi (nonrestrictive)  
(you GEN affair OBJ always thinking-am I)  
'I, who am thinking about you all the time ...'  
(b) watakushi o nikunde-iru anata (restrictive)  
(me OBJ hating-are you)  
'You who hate me...'
- (7) watakushi ga sono hito no namae o wasurete-simatta okyaku-san)  
(I SUBJ that person GEN name OBJ forgotten-'have' guest)  
'a guest whose name I have forgotten ...'  
(also with /kare/ 'he', or /so/ 'that' in place of /sono-hito/)
- (8) sinda no de minna ga kanasinda hito  
(died because everyone grieved person)  
'a person who, because he died, everyone was saddened...'

- (9) kawaigatte-iba inu ga sinda-simatta kodomo  
(fond:of-was dog SUBJ dying-ended:up child)  
'the child that the dog he was fond of died ...'
- (10) kits-iru yochuku ga yogorete-iru sinsi  
(wearing-is suit SUBJ dirty-is gentleman)  
'a gentleman who the suit that (he) is wearing is dirty ...'
- (11) osiate-ita seito ga rakudaisita sensei  
(teaching-was student SUBJ flunked teacher)  
'the teacher that the students (he) was teaching flunked ...'
- (12) oosente-ita team ga maketa hitotati  
(backing-were team SUBJ lost people)  
'people who the team they were backing lost ...'
- (13) daaita tegami ga todokanakatta hito  
(mailed letter SUBJ reach:not person)  
'persons who the letters they mailed failed to get through ...'
- (14) (a) Taroo wa uisikii o nonde-ita hito ni hanasi-kaketa  
(Taroo TOP whiskey OBJ drinking-was person DAT speak-hung)  
'Taroo spoke to a man who was drinking whiskey.'
- (b) \*Nonde-ita hito ni Taroo ga hanasi-kaketa nomimono  
(drinking-was person DAT Taroo SUBJ speak-hung beverage)  
'the beverage which Taroo spoke to a man who was drinking ...'  
(McCawley's star)
- (15) ?Bill ga korosita to-yuu zihaku o keisatu ga made urazukesite-imai onna  
(Bill SUBJ killed G-say confession OBJ police SUBJ yet substantiating-isn't woman)  
'the woman who the police have not substantiated yet Bill's confession that he killed her ...' (Kuno's ?)
- (16) ?John o korosita zisitu o watakusi ga tukitometa onna  
(John OBJ killed fact OBJ I SUBJ ascertained woman)  
'the woman who I have ascertained the fact that she killed John ...' (Kuno's ?)
- (17) (a) Mitiko wa zibun ga Hiroshi o korosita yume o mita.  
(Michiko TOP self SUBJ Hiroshi OBJ killed dream OBJ saw)  
'Michiko dreamt that she had killed Hiroshi.'
- (b) \*Mitiko ga zibun ga korosita yume o mita hito  
(Michiko SUBJ self SUBJ killed dream OBJ saw person)  
'the person who Michiko dreamt that she had killed...'
- (18) Sikakui to-yuu uwasa o sinzite-ita tikyuu wa zissai wa marukatta.  
(square G-say rumor OBJ believing-were world TOP round CONTRAST really:was)  
'The world, which they believed the rumor that it was square, was really round.'

- (19) watakusi ga au koto/no ga muzukasii hito  
(I SUBJ meet NOM/NOM SUBJ difficult person)  
'the person whom that I meet (him) is difficult ...'
- (20) kare ga kaita koto ga yoku sirarete-iru bun  
(he SUBJ wrote NOM SUBJ well known-is article)  
'the article which that he wrote it is well known ...'
- (21) gasu ga moreru nioi  
(gas SUBJ leaks smell)  
'the smell of gas leaking ...'
- (22) sanma o yaite-iru nioi  
(sanma OBJ frying-is smell)  
'the smell of someone frying sanma (fish sp.) ...'
- (23) piano o hiku oto  
(piano OBJ play sound)  
'the sound of someone playing the piano ...'
- (24) Kare ga Tookyoo e itta yokunen ano dai-zisin ga atta.  
(he SUBJ Tokyo ALLATIVE went next:year that big-earthquake  
SUBJ was)  
'The year after he went to Tokyo, there was that big quake.'  
(cf. tsunami no yokunen 'the year after the tidal wave')
- (25) (a) Sakana wa tai ga ii.  
(fish TOP red-snapper SUBJ good)  
'Speaking of fish, red snapper is the best.'
- (b) itai ga ii sakana  
'fish, as for which red snapper is the best ...' (Kuno's star)
- (26) (a) Mary ga sono naihū de John o sasita.  
(Mary SUBJ that knife INST John OBJ stabbed)  
'Mary stabbed John with that knife.'
- (b) Sono naihū de wa Mary ga John o sasita.  
(that knife INST TOP Mary SUBJ John OBJ stabbed)  
'With that knife, Mary stabbed John.'
- (c) \*Sono naihū wa Mary ga John o sasita.
- (d) Mary ga John o sasita naihū  
'the knife with which Mary stabbed John ...'
- (27) (a) Kono cake o sono ondo de yaita.  
'I baked this cake at that temperature.'
- (b) ?Sono ondo de wa kono cake o yaita.  
(c) \*Sono ondo wa kono cake o yaita.  
(d) kono cake o yaita ondo  
'the temperature at which I baked this cake ...'

- (28) (a) John ga sono riyuu de kessekisita.  
'John absented himself for that reason.'
- (b) ?Sono riyuu de wa John ga kessekisita.
- (c) \*Sono riyuu wa John ga kessekisita.
- (d) John ga kessekisita riyuu.  
'the reason for which John absented himself ...'
- (29) (a) John ga Tookyoo de Mary ni atta.  
'John met Mary in Tokyo.'
- (b) Tookyoo de wa John ga Mary ni atta.
- (c) \*Tookyoo wa John ga Mary ni atta.
- (d) John ga Mary ni atta Tookyoo  
'Tokyo, where John met Mary ...'
- (30) (a) John ga Mary o sono isya ni syookaisita.  
'John introduced Mary to that doctor.'
- (b) Sono isya ni wa John ga Mary o syookaisita.
- (c) \*Sono isya wa John ga Mary o syookaisita.
- (d) John ga Mary o syookaisita isya  
'the doctor John introduced Mary to ...'
- (31) (a) Ano basyo de wa Yamada-san ga sinda.  
'At that place Mr. Yamada died.'
- (b) Yamada-san ga sinda basyo  
'the place where Mr. Yamada died ...'
- (32) (a) Yamada-sensei ni wa syatyoo ga butyoo o syookaisita.  
'To Mr. Yamada the president introduced the manager.'
- (b) Syatyoo ga butyoo o syookaisita gakusya  
'the scholar to whom the president introduced the manager ...'