ROMANIAN FREE CHOICE FREE RELATIVES:
A COMPARISON WITH SUBTRIGGED FREE CHOICE SENTENCES

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Abstract: The present study focuses on the semantic and pragmatic properties of Romanian free choice free relatives (FC-FRs), with the following conclusions: the quantificational force of FC-FRs in Romanian is definite; the apparent universal force is the outcome of an evaluation constraint of the free choice particle: the syntax of FC-FRs in Romanian is the same as that of English *-ever* FRs; Romanian FC-FRs most closely resemble the semantics and pragmatics of subtrigged free choice determiners. The distribution and interpretation of Romanian FC-FRs is assumed to be of three main kinds: auto-licensing, on a par with subtrigging; licensing by a modal operator in a non-generic/non-habitual context on a par with FCI determiners licensed in the same environments; licensing by a generic or habitual operator (also on a par with determiner FCIs). As shown in Panaitescu (2022), the three types of contexts differ in the type of universality they display: serial universality, parallel universality (the apparent existential reading) and atemporal universality.

Keywords: free choice free relative, subtrigging, definiteness, universality effect, presumptive mood

1. Introduction

English free choice free relatives (FC-FRs) are represented by clauses introduced by *wh*-pronouns with the suffix *ever*, as illustrated in (1a) below. Romanian FC-FRs are clauses introduced by the free choice particle *ori-* plus a relative pronoun such as *what* in (1b) below:

(1)   a.   John grabbed whatever (dish) was on the breakfast table.

        b.   Orice   scrie are un nucleu emoțional extraordinar,
             FC-what writes has a nucleu emotional extraordinary
             dialogurile   lui au   umor, haos, violență, istețime.
             dialogues-the his have humor chaos violence wit
             'Whatever he writes has an extraordinary emotional core, his dialogues contain humor, chaos, violence, wit.'

The theoretical questions addressed by an examination of the distributional pattern of these constructions in these two languages are mainly:

(i)   what is the quantificational force of these clauses (definite or universal)?

(ii)   what is the semantic contribution of the free choice particle in this syntactic environment as opposed to, e.g. free choice determiners such as English *any* or Romanian *orice*?

The two questions are closely linked, since there has been a debate in the literature on free choice determiners regarding their status as either universal or indefinite (LeGrand 1975, Dayal 1998, 2013, Horn 2005, Chierchia 2013). Even though the general direction in the current research seems to be going towards the indefinite side, it is still of interest to answer the question how the universality effects intrinsically associated with free choice arise. On the other hand, with respect to the status of free relatives, it has been argued that they are definite (Jacobson 1995, Caponigro 2003, Tredinnick 2005 a.o.), but also possibly universal, especially those of the FC variety (Bresnan & Grimshaw 1978, Larson 1987, Iatridou & Varlokosta 1998 among others). It seems that free choice in general is what tends to be associated with universality.

Among the tests used for the universal status in the literature previous studies have proposed: paraphrase with a universal quantifier, NPI licensing and *almost* modification. The following sentences are an application of these tests to Romanian:

(2)   a.   Universal paraphrase for (1b)
                Tot ce   scrie are un nucleu emoțional extraordinary.
                all what writes has a nucleus emotional extraordinary
                'All that he writes has an extraordinary emotional core.'
        b.   NPI licensing
                E multă violență în orice   a   scris   vreodată.
                is much violence in FC-what has written ever
                'There is a lot of violence in whatever he has ever written.'
        c.   *Almost* modification
                E multă violență în aproape orice   scrie.
                is much violence in almost   FC-what writes
                'There is a lot of violence in almost whatever he writes.'

For the purpose of answering the two questions, it is useful to look at the pattern of free choice phenomena in Romanian[1], since Romanian FCI *orice* has two syntactic manifestations, as a determiner and as a relative pronoun introducing free relatives.

(3)   FCI determiner + restrictive relative clause
        Orice   roman pe   care îl scrie acest autor conține multă violență.
        FC-what novel ACC which it writes this   author contains much violence
        'Any novel that this author writes contains a lot of violence.'
(4)   Relative pronoun:
        a.   Simple *wh*-phrase (without NP):
                Orice   scrie acest autor conține multă violență.
                FC-what writes this   author contains much violence
                'Whatever this author writes contains a lot of violence.'
        b.   Complex *wh*-phrase (with NP in FC-FR):
                Orice   roman scrie acest autor conține multă violență.
                FC-what novel   writes this   author contains much violence
                'Whatever novel this author writes contains a lot of violence.'

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[1] Among the studies which have focused on Romanian FC-FRs see Grosu (2013) and Caponigro & Fălăuș (2018).

As can be seen in the translation of (4) above, English employs *wh-ever* relative pronouns in order to produce FC-FR structures.

The claim supported here is that, in apparently episodic contexts such as (5) and (6) below, where no licensing operator is present, FCIs require the presence of an event/ situation variable in their restriction.

(5)   Maria a   citit orice   carte pe care i-   a   recomandat- o
       Maria has read FC-what book ACC which i- to her has recommended it
       profesorul
       teacher-the
       'Mary read any book which the teacher recommended.'

(6)   Candidatul   a   dat   un răspuns la orice   i   s-   a   reproşat.
       candidate-the has given an answer to FC-what to him REFL has reproached.
       'The candidate gave an answer to whatever was reproached to him.'

The situations and individuals introduced by the FC description (be it a free choice DP headed by determiner *orice* as in (5) or a free choice free relative as in (6)) satisfy an evaluation constraint of the free choice morpheme, namely domain shift (see Jayez & Tovena 2005). In the case of determiner FCIs, the condition is met by subtrigging (LeGrand 1975). Subtrigging is a saving mechanism observed for free choice *any* in episodic contexts. The addition of a relative clause turns the sentence from unacceptable to perfectly acceptable (as in *The professor talked to any student *(who approached him)*). In the case of free relative uses, the requirement is met by default as long as the event is construed as dynamic, meaning that the event/ situation variable introduced by the relative clause enables the distribution of free choice alternatives.

The flavor of universality particular to subtrigged sentences containing a free choice determiner such as *orice* has been dubbed "serial universality" in Panaitescu (2019, 2022). Taking a sentence such as (5), the semantic contribution of the FC indefinite can be paraphrased as follows: during the past reference interval, in all events of a professor making a recommendation in which there was some instantiation of a book being recommended, Mary read that book. The interaction between reading and recommending events is manifested in two ways (following the terminology in Hinterwimmer 2008): temporal dependence (the recommendations precede the reading) and non-accidentality (there is a non-contingent relation between the pairs of events).

In the same vein, a sentence containing a FC-FR (6) is interpreted in a similar way (following Tredinnick 2005 and Hinterwimmer 2008). There was a past situation made up of possibly multiple subsituations which contain a unique reproach, and this reproach was followed by a response by the candidate. The difference between the indefinite status of the DP containing the head noun *book* in (5) as opposed to the definite status of the head of the free relative in (6) is therefore almost completely neutralized by the universality effect, which is obtained via quantification over situations/ events. As for environments such as (1b) and (4) above, the universality effect arises from two sources, one similar to the mechanism described above, and the second from a covert generic operator on the main verb (*writes*).

2. Previous accounts

2.1 Von Fintel (2000)

Von Fintel discusses three types of examples, (7a), (8a) and (9a), corresponding to three interpretations. The paraphrases in (b) and (c) are meant to capture the definite vs. universal observable quantificational force: ignorance and indifference FC-FRs[2].

(7)   Ignorance
        a.   There's a lot of garlic in whatever (it is that) Arlo is cooking.
        b.   There's a lot of garlic in what Arlo is cooking.
        c.   There's a lot of garlic in the dish Arlo is cooking.
(8)   Indifference
        a.   Zack simply voted for whoever was at the top of the ballot.
        b.   Zack simply voted for who was at the top of the ballot.
        c.   Zack simply voted for the candidate who was at the top of the ballot.
(9)   Universal
        a.   There's a lot of violence in whatever Parker writes.
        b.   There's a lot of violence in everything Parker writes.

The following analysis is proposed for ignorance interpretations, which is a modification of Dayal (1997) and assumes that FC-FRs are definite expressions whose presuppositional content is richer than that of a regular definite description. The presupposition is assumed to carry the FC semantic constraint of domain shift[3].

(10)   Analysis of ignorance
        whatever (w) (F) (P)
        a.   presupposes: $\exists w', w'' \in F: \iota x.\, P\,(w')\,(x) \neq \iota x.\, P\,(w'')\,(x)$
        b.   denotes: $\iota x.\, P\,(w)\,(x)$

Above, w is the world of evaluation, F is the modal base (here, epistemic, anchored to the speaker), and P is the expression obtained by abstracting over *whatever* in the free relative (*Arlo is cooking_*). Basically, an FC-FR has the same assertive content as a definite description (e.g. *the dish Arlo is cooking*) but presupposes fluctuation across epistemic worlds, which amounts to the speaker not being sure about the identity of the dish. The property P is required to remain constant.
        The analysis of indifference *ever-* free relatives is the following:

(11)   Analysis of indifference – conditional
        whatever (w) (F) (P) (Q)

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[2] The label "universal" in (9) is used for convenience even though von Fintel 2000 does not provide a label for this type of sentence; in later stages of the present article, I will argue in favor of Tredinnick's (2005) label of internal (8) and external (9) indifference.
[3] See also Abenina-Adar (2019) for a presupppositional account of ever-FRs.

a.   presupposes: $\forall w' \in \min_w [F \cap \lambda w'. \iota x. P(w')(x) \neq \iota x. (P)(w)(x)]$:
$Q(w')(\iota x. P(w')(x)) = Q(w)(\iota x. P(w)(x))$

b.   asserts: $Q(w)(\iota x. P(w)(x))$

Here, w is again the world of evaluation, F is the modal base (this time circumstantial[4]), P is the expression obtained by abstracting over whatever in the free relative (_*was at the top of the ballo*t), and Q is the expression obtained by abstracting over the entire free relative in the matrix clause (i.e. *Zack voted for* _). Von Fintel offers the following informal explanation (p.9): "all of the worlds in the modal base F that are minimally different from w but where the referent of the FR is different from that in w are such that the truth of the whole sentence that *whatever* operates on is still the same as in w". Therefore, in this case the matrix property is also present in the presupposition.

Taking (8) as an illustration[5]:

(8') $\lambda w.$ (whoever (w) ((f) (w) (s)) ($\lambda w'. \lambda x.$ x is at the top of the ballot in w')
($\lambda w'. \lambda x.$ Zack votes for x in w')

a.   Assertion: In w, Zack votes for the person at the top of the ballot in w.
b.   Presupposition: In all worlds w' minimally different from w in which someone different is at the top of the ballot, Zack votes for that person iff in w he votes for the person at the top of the ballot in w.

The interpretation is counterfactual: if somebody else had been on top of the ballot, Zack would still have voted with them.

As for so-called universal FC-FRs, von Fintel does not provide an analysis, but only mentions Dayal's (1997) solution:

(12)   a.   People usually honor whoever is elected.
b. $\lambda w.$ usually ($\lambda o.$ o is contextually relevant in w)
($\lambda o.$ people honor whoever (w) (f (o) (s)) ($\lambda o. \lambda x.$ x is elected in o)

2.2 Tredinnick (2005)

In her doctoral dissertation, Tredinnick builds on von Fintel's (2000) analysis. One of the important underlying assumptions in this work is that the so-called "indifference" and "universal" interpretations in (8) and (9) are actually both indifference, the distinction being made by the locus of indifference: internal (the subject, namely Zack in (8)) or external in (9). In the latter, there is no identifiable locus of indifference, and the interpretation is counterfactual. As Tredinnick explains, what is constant across "indifference" FRs is not an indifferent agent, but the counterfactual entailment, as in von Fintel's formal analysis. The modal flavor is the unifying factor.

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[4] It is not explicitly stated, but presumably, in the case of indifference, F is a circumstantial modal base.
[5] See Tredinnick (2005), chapter 1, section 1.2.1, for a detailed breakdown of the semantic composition of such examples.

A further observation is that the counterfactual interpretation of both types of indifference imply a causal link[6] between the matrix condition and the FC-FR description: Zack votes for x because he is on top of the ballot, the novels are violent because they were written by Parker. Any context that supplies multiple instantiations of the object described by the FR is considered a generic context (as in *John will read whatever Bill assigns*, which is most naturally interpreted as John reading all of the things Bill assigns)[7].

The ingredients required for the universal interpretation to surface are: indifference (i.e. counterfactual interpretation) and co-variation of situations and individuals due to a covert GEN operator.

2.3 Caponigro & Fălăuş (2018)

The authors assume that FC-FRs in Romanian and Italian have the same syntax as English *ever-* FRs but display semantic and pragmatic properties that more closely resemble headed relative clauses introduced by the free choice determiner *any* in English. Therefore, it is expected that FC-*any* headed relatives (HRs) are acceptable whenever FC-FRs are and are subject to the same kinds of semantic restrictions[8].

A central claim related to the pragmatics is that in episodic contexts, they are felicitous only if they obey the following constraint:

(13)   Constraint on acquaintance in episodic sentences
        Speakers cannot use a FC-FR (or a FC-any HR) in an episodic sentence if they
        are "acquainted" with the set that is associated with the FC-FR in the world of
        evaluation i.e. speakers have had a salient perceptual relationship with all the
        members of that set knowing that they and only they are members of that set.

Caponigro & Fălăuş (2018) assume that, like English *ever*-FRs, Italian and Romanian FC-FRs also display ignorance and indifference readings. The difference is to be seen in episodic contexts, where the latter are infelicitous if the constraint above is not met. Taking a scenario that elicits an ignorance meaning, Caponigro & Fălăuş (2018) present the following two contexts:

(14)   Context: The speaker can see that Bianca is cooking three dishes now. She
        doesn't know what they are, but saw Bianca pouring tons of garlic powder in
        each and can smell waves of garlic coming from the kitchen:
        (Nu ştiu   ce   găteşte Bianca, dar după cum miroase...)
         not know what cooks Bianca but after how smells
        *E usturoi în orice   mâncare găteşte Bianca acum.
         is garlic   in FC-what dish   cooks Bianca now

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[6] More precisely causal explanation as in Kratzer (1997).

[7] In my analysis in section 3.4, I will mention an exception. There are episodic iterated events readings, i.e. sentences containing expressions such as *yesterday, from 3 to 4 o'clock* and perfective aspect. Free choice expressions are allowed as long as the interpretation involves a time-bound regularity.

[8] This is an assumption I subscribe to: the parallel between the distribution of determiner and relative pronoun orice will be presented in more detail in section 3.1.

(15)   Context: Luca knows that Bianca always uses garlic for whatever she cooks.
        Luca is now upstairs and cannot see what Bianca is doing downstairs. Elena
        comes from downstairs and tells Luca that Bianca is cooking. Luca knows Elena
        hates garlic, so he warns her:
        E usturoi în orice   mâncare gătește Bianca acum.
        is garlic   in FC-what dish   cooks Bianca now
        'There's garlic in any dish/dishes Bianca is cooking now.'

The difference in acceptability is claimed to stem from the direct acquaintance in (14) vs.
the lack of direct acquaintance in (15). A second example is the following:

(16)   Poliția   a   arestat pe   oricine a   protestat aici în clădirea
        police-the has arrested ACC FC-who has protested here in building-the
        asta ieri.
        this yesterday
        'The police arrested anybody who protested here in this building yesterday.'

According to the authors, the sentence is acceptable out of the blue, but adding a context
as below renders it unacceptable:

(17)   Context: Yesterday, Luca saw four people he did not know protest in the building
        where he is now. He just heard that those people were all arrested. He says to
        Bianca. . .

The issue supposedly lies with the fact that the epistemic agent is directly acquainted with
the individuals.
        The following example is provided by Caponigro & Fălăuş (2017) to show that the
constraint on acquaintance is a necessary but not sufficient condition for the felicity of
FC-FRs:

(18)   Context: The speaker is aware that someone broke into the company last night
        but doesn't know who:
        *A fost oricine avea codul   de acces al clădirii   (deși   nu
         has been FC-who had code-the of access of building-the though not
        știu   cine a   fost.
        know who has been

The degraded status of (18) stems from a clash between the FC-FR and the QUD
(presumably *Who broke in last night?*), which requires identification.

2.4 Šimík (2018)

        Šimík (2018) proposes the following classification of English FC-FR
interpretations. There are two types of modalized FC-FRs: ignorance (with a subtype

irrelevance) and indifference. Following Lauer (2009) and Condoravdi (2015), Šimík assumes there are also non-modalized FC-FRs.

In the following, the two types of modalized FC-FRs according to Šimík's classification are discussed in more detail. Firstly, the ignorance reading comes with the inference that the Speaker has no settled belief about the identity of the referent of the FC-FR (in this case, the movie):

(19)   Whatever movie is now playing at the Avon is making a lot of money.

The sentence is assumed to involve covert modality, and has been interpreted in the literature as involving a doxastic modal base, i.e. the identity of the movie differs across doxastic worlds anchored to the speaker (Dayal 1997, von Fintel 2000). Crucially, many languages (for instance Greek, in Giannakidou & Cheng 2006) have been reported to lack this interpretation altogether.

The second type of interpretation is indifference, of the same kind as discussed in von Fintel (2000):

(20)   Zack simply voted for whoever was at the top of the ballot (namely Clinton).

As for third kind, Šimík takes the interpretations dubbed "universal" or "external indifference" to be unmodalized:

(21)   In those days, whatever Parker wrote was (always) violent.

This view is in agreement with Lauer (2009). Šimík (2018: 3) explains the reasoning as follows:

> "Lauer (2009) argues that this type of FR carries no conventional modal inference (whether ignorance or indifference) and that it is sufficient if (i) Parker wrote at least two different things in those days […] and (ii) that all the things that he wrote in those days were violent."

An important empirical result worth mentioning is the result of a cross-linguistic survey testing the availability of ignorance vs. indifference and of one instantiation vs. multiple instantiation FC-FRs across languages (where one instantiation involves a unique object referred to by the FC-FR, while multiple instantiations involve co-variation).

Romanian was included among the languages in the survey. Below are three examples of sentences tested for acceptability, with the "*" indicating a low score on a scale of 1 to 5.

(22)   *Ieri   la ora 8, David s- a   uitat   la orice   era pe HBO.
         yesterday at hour 8 D.   REFL has watched at FC-what was on HBO
         'Yesterday at 8, David was watching whatever they were showing on HBO.'
(23)   Diseară la 8, David se   va uita   la orice   va fi pe HBO.
         tonight at 8 D.   REFL will watch at FC-what will be on HBO
         'Tonight at 8, David will be watching whatever (≈ the thing) they will be showing on HBO.'

(24) La cină, David mănâncă întotdeauna ce   îi   gătește prietena lui.
      at dinner D.   eats   always   what to him cooks girlfriend his
      'For dinner, David (always) eats whatever his girlfriend cooks for him.'

The punctual past interpretation is excluded (on both ignorance and indifference interpretations), which was also reported for Romanian and Italian in Caponigro & Fălăuș (2018). The results are summarized in the following table (where eFRs are FC-FRs):

Table 1. Median ratings of eFRs per context and language (from Šimik 2018)

Context	Serbian n = 4	Polish n = 5	Hebrew n = 4	Greek n = 6	Russian n = 5	Czech n = 4	Romanian n = 4
habitual present	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.0	5.0	5.0
simple past	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.0	4.0	4.5	4.5
punctual future	5.0	5.0	4.5	4.5	4.0	4.0	5.0
punctual past	4.5	4.0	3.5	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0

3. Proposal: How many interpretations?

I propose the following classification of interpretations for Romanian FC-FRs:

(i)   Auto-licensed: external indifference
(ii)   Licensed by a modal operator (including ignorance)
(iii)   Generic atemporal universal

Regarding the first kind of FC-FR, it is taken here to be equivalent to subtrigged sentences such as the one below, employing FC determiner *orice*:

(25) Maria a   citit orice   carte pe care i-   a   recomandat -o
      Mary has read FC-what book ACC which to her has recommende it
      profesorul.
      teacher-the
      'Mary read any book which the teacher recommended.'

The parallel with determiner free choice expression has been hard to miss in the literature on FC-FRs (e.g. Dayal 1997, Giannakidou 1998, Tredinnick 2005, Caponigro & Fălăuș 2018 among others). This parallel is taken here more seriously than before: there is a wider variety of interpretations available to FC-FRs, which is the result of the semantic contribution of the modal operator which licenses them. The possibility of auto-licensing,

which is available for determiner FCIs only in (dynamic) eventive DPs (subtrigging) is satisfied in the case of FC-FRs almost for free: the only requirement is that the verb in the FC-FR should be eventive.

As for the examples of the second type (licensed by non-generic modal operators), the expectations are that the same modals that license FCI determiners also license the FC-FR. In the example provided below, the licensor is the possibility modal *may*:

(26)   Poți citi orice   carte dorești.
        may read FC-what book wish
        'You may read any book you like.'

Notice that the sentence is perfectly acceptable in a scenario in which the speaker requires the addressee to read only one book.

A point of departure from the parallel with determiner FCI *orice* is represented by the Romanian counterpart of ignorance interpretations. Crucially, as has been reported in Caponigro & Fălăuș (2018) and Šimík, R. (2018), the ignorance reading is not available if one simply tries to translate English *ever*-FR equivalents. Take for instance example (47c) in Caponigro & Fălăuș (2018):

(27)   *Este usturoi în orice   mâncare gătește Bianca acum.
         is   garlic in FC-what dish   cooks Bianca now
        Intended: 'There is garlic in whatever dish Bianca is cooking now.'

Nevertheless, changing the mood from indicative to presumptive in the free relative proves to be a saving mechanism.

(28)   Orice   (mâncare) o fi gătind Mircea conține mult usturoi.
        FC-what dish   aux be cooking Mircea contains much garlic
        'Whatever Mircea may be cooking contains a lot of garlic.'

This strategy is only available for FC-FRs, not for the minimally different FC determiner constructions:

(29)   *Orice   mâncare pe care o   fi gătind -o Mircea conține   mult
         FC-what dish   ACC which AUX be cooking it Mircea contains much
        usturoi.
        garlic.

The examples in (28), with or without a nominal head, are perfectly acceptable, while the example in (29) involving determiner *orice* introducing a DP which contains a relative clause in the presumptive mood (see Fălăuș 2014 on the Romanian presumptive).

3.1 Free choice as an evaluation constraint: A parallel between determiner and relative pronoun uses of Romanian *orice*

In semantics, free choice is a term which targets a very specific linguistic procedure: the step of determining a referent for a DP (see Farkas 2002, 2006, Chierchia 2013). The term "free choice" is not to be understood as a component of the asserted content, but as a component of the evaluation level (more particularly, determining a referent for the DP). Take a free choice item (FCI) such as *any*:

(30)   Karen may pick any present.

Here, the contribution of the determiner *any* is to preclude the assignment of a particular referent across the possible worlds introduced by the deontic modal *may* i.e. all presents in the domain are a possible referent for the DP, none is excluded. Compare with *Karen may pick a present, namely the one on the right*. Looking at (30), it also seems that "free choice" is taken literally, at the level of assertion, in this case as Karen's freedom to pick a present. But this is merely an effect of the semantics of the modal of permission *may*. Looking at (31), involving an epistemic modal, and (32), involving an ability modal, the paraphrase involving free choice is lost:

(31)   They may have talked to any of the students.
(32)   Any third-grader can solve this problem.

What is left is the evaluation constraint to cast all of the entities in the domain which satisfy the nominal properties (the students and the third-graders respectively) as referents of the free choice DPs in some possible world.

Unlike English, Spanish, Italian, etc. and as in Greek, the Romanian FC morpheme *ori-wh* has a double function: as a relative determiner and pronoun introducing free choice free relatives. English employs two different morphemes for the two uses: *any* as FC determiner and *wh-ever* relative pronouns for FC-FR uses. Italian, Spanish and Catalan only retain FC determiners formed with FC + *wh* morphology and simply lack a specialized relative pronoun with FC-FR uses.

The advantage of further looking into the behavior of the Romanian FC elements is that it invites a unified treatment of FC phenomena, one which describes FCIs as both determiners and relative pronouns. The line of reasoning followed here is that the basic observations made in the literature for determiner *orice* should be extendable to the field of FC-FRs. More specifically, the two types of universality proposed for FC determiners are expected to be present in FC-FRs in the same environments. The following sections are dedicated to further exploring this hypothesis.

3.2 Licensing FCIs and subtrigging

FCIs like *any* require to be in the scope of a licensing operator – *may* in (30) and (31), *can* in (32) or GEN in (33).

(33)   Any owl hunts mice.

An apparent exception is the episodic environment called *subtrigging*, a DP which contains an FCI and a relative clause:

(34)   a.   ?? Yesterday we spoke to any customer.
         b.   Yesterday we spoke to any customer who required assistance.

As already mentioned, Romanian[9] has a lexeme which doubles as an FC determiner and an FC relative pronoun introducing free choice free relatives. Both constructions allow for an interpretation in which: (i) there are two event descriptions; (ii) the events-individual pairs denoted by the FC constructions involve multiple instantiations; (iii) the connection between the two events is perceived as being non-accidental. In one word, both constructions display "subtrigging".

(35)   a.   Orice   persoană care   a   trişat   a   fost   eliminată   din
                  FC-what person   which has cheated has been   eliminated from
                  concurs.
                  contest
                  'Any person who cheated was eliminated from the contest.'
         b.   Oricine   a   trişat   a   fost   eliminat   din   concurs.
                  FC-who has cheated has been eliminated from contest
                  'Whoever cheated was eliminated from the contest.'

These types of sentences are exclusively interpreted as universals, even though they are here not assumed to be in any sense generic:

(36)   Ne-   a   pus la dispozitie orice   am   cerut.
         to us has put at disposal   FC-what have asked
         'He/she placed at our disposal almost anything we asked for.'

One test to prove this is modification by *almost*: Jacobson's (1995) example (37a) is perfectly acceptable in Romanian (37b):

(37)   a.   *For years, I did almost/ nearly whatever you told me to do.
         b.   Ani de zile, am   facut aproape orice   mi- ai   spus să   fac
                  years of days have done almost FC-what to me have told SBJV do
                  'For years, I have done almost anything you told me to do.'
(38)   Ne-a pus la dispoziție aproape orice am cerut.
         to us has put at disposal almost FC-what have asked
         'He/she placed at our disposal almost anything we asked for.'

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[9] On a par with Spanish, Catalan, French, Greek a.o. (see Chierchia 2013, etc.).

Another test is paraphrasing by using a universal quantifier. This is possible for the sentence above: *S/he provided all of the things we asked* (and if we had asked for other things, s/he would have provided those as well). Example (38) is an apparently unmodalized episodic context, associated with a short time span (this can be enforced by adding *for the duration of our visit*). According to Tredinnick (2005), such cases do involve some sort of genericity, with the generic operator quantifying over subparts of the episode:

(39)   Yesterday morning, John grabbed whatever dish was on the breakfast table.
   a.   'Yesterday morning, John grabbed **the dish** that was on the breakfast table.'
   b.   'Yesterday morning, John grabbed **every dish** that was on the breakfast table.'

The paraphrase in (39b) involves one layer of genericity:

(40) λs_0. $\exists s$[s is past with respect to s_0 & GENs'$\leq$s [C(j, s')] [grab (j, [whatever dish was on the breakfast table in s'], s')]]

In words, (40) says that there is a situation *s* in the past and every one of its subsituations of the appropriate type containing John (introduced by the contextual parameter C) is a situation in which John grabs whatever dish is on the table.

(41)   In those days, every morning, John grabbed whatever dish was on the breakfast table.
   a.   'In those days, every morning, John grabbed **the dish** that was on the breakfast table.'
   b.   'In those days, every morning, John grabbed **every dish** that was on the breakfast table.'

Reading (41b) involves two layers of genericity, one habitual, introduced by *in those days*, and another one operating on partitions of the habitual situations (subsituations of mornings). The question which remains to be answered is why for Romanian *ori-* FRs do not display the reading in (39a) and seem to accommodate a reading such as (39b) only under certain conditions, while (40b) is easily available. In section 3.4 I will extend the analysis in Panaitescu (2022) and propose that subtrigged cases such as (39b) are actually non-generic and rather involve an (iterated/ co-varying) interpretation against a metaphysical modal base. Informally, these sentences express a time-bound regularity.

3.3 Free choice free relatives (FC-FRs) in English and Romanian: Distribution and properties

As mentioned in the introduction to section 3 above, FC-FRs in Romanian are assumed in the present paper to come in three guises as far as their interpretation is

concerned: they may be auto-licensed, in which case they express a time-bound regularity, or they may be licensed by some compatible (non-)generic modal operator.

The second case displays a nice parallel to the behavior of determiner FCI *orice*. The determiner *orice* + relative clause and the FC-FR produce the same interpretations. I only mention a few examples, but the same contexts that were listed for the determiner FCI in Panaitescu (2022) are available here too.

(42)   Permission modal
      a.   O   poţi lua   pe   oricare   doreşti.
             it   may take ACC FC-which wish
             'You may take whichever you like.'
      b.   Oricine vine   la petrecere poate dansa.
             FC-who comes to party   may   dance
             'Whoever comes to the party may dance.'

In (42a), the D-linked FC-FR induces an interpretation in which one thing is taken, while (42b) most naturally means that one or more people can dance. The same ambiguity that exists for determiner uses is present.

(43)   Ability
          Oricine a   fost la curs   poate rezolva problema.
          FC-who has been at lecture may   solve   problem-the
          'Whoever attended the lecture can solve this problem.'
(44)   Generic
          Orice   rău   faci se   întoarce împotriva ta.
          FC-who harm do   REFL turns   against   you
          'Whatever harm you do turns against you.'

Here, just as in the case of determiner uses, the type of universality is atemporal.

A very intriguing case of non-generic licensing mechanism is represented by ignorance interpretations licensed by the presumptive mood. The construction is interesting for two reasons. Firstly, the licensor in this case is not to be found in the matrix clause but in the relative clause. Secondly, this kind of construction is possibly the best testing ground for definiteness. On a par with regular free relatives (*What Arlo is cooking contains a lot of garlic*), FC-FRs have been argued to be definites which can be paraphrased as *the thing/person/place that*. This carries over to the Romanian examples. The interpretation obligatorily involves a unique event of cooking.

(45)   a.   English
             Whatever Arlo is cooking contains a lot of garlic.
      b.   Romanian
             Orice   (mâncare) o   fi/ va   fi gătind   Arlo acum conţine
             FC-what dish   AUX be/AUX be cooking Arlo now   contains
             mult usturoi.
             much garlic
             'Whatever (dish) Arlo is cooking now contains a lot of garlic.'

Taking a context in which I do not know what he is cooking, but I can smell the garlic, the interpretation involves epistemic uncertainty on the part of the speaker. The FC-FR is definite and carries a presupposition of existence (it is presupposed that there exists something that Arlo is cooking). The FC-FR is interpreted against an epistemic modal base at the level of presupposition (von Fintel 2000). The relevant set of worlds contains epistemic variants of the actual world, from the point of view of an epistemic agent.

These worlds are minimally different from each other, varying only with respect to the identity of the individual satisfying the FR condition (the thing Arlo is cooking). The assertion is that, in each world, the unique thing Arlo is cooking satisfies the main clause condition, namely it contains a lot of garlic. Therefore, putting the assertion and presupposition together, the ignorance effect becomes evident: Arlo is cooking something (I do not know what) and, whether it is stew, tomato soup, etc., it contains a lot of garlic. Romanian FC-FRs are felicitous on this reading only if the verb in the FC-FR is in the presumptive mood, which is arguably responsible for the epistemic flavor.

3.4 A possible account

The fact that the same interpretation as (39b), but not (39a) arises for free choice determiners *orice* and *any* in subtrigged sentences suggests the existence of certain common factors in the semantics of these FC pronouns and determiners, while still maintaining the distinction which emerges from their syntax. An example of a subtrigged sentence containing an FC determiner is (46):

(46)   Maria a   citit orice   carte pe care i-   a   recomandat -o
        Mary has read FC-what book ACC which to her has recommended it
        profesorul.
        teacher-the
        'Mary read any book which the teacher recommended.'

Subtrigged sentences were analyzed in Panaitescu (2022) as involving what was called "serial universality". Serial universality involves a form of covert modality that is distinct from genericity. What (46) conveys is that during the reference interval, there was a regular pattern in the sense that whenever some book or other was recommended, it necessarily was also read by Mary. There is variation of individuals based on the entity variable introduced by the DP, but also times and worlds. This kind of variation was modeled following the time-world framework of Thomason (1984). The modal base is circumstantial (metaphysical). Serial universality is a type of universality effect in apparently episodic sentences that do not actually involve genericity. Genericity is **not** sensitive to the temporal ordering of situations, as assumed by Tredinnick (2005).

On the contrary, I have tried to show that both subtrigged *orice* and indifference FC-FRs obey certain temporal and aspectual constraints and will opt for the presence of an underlying conditional structure in these apparently episodic environments, in the spirit of Iatridou & Varlokosta (1998) and Baker (1995).

The following informal interpretation of FCI *orice* displaying a time-bound regularity was offered in Panaitescu (2022) for example (47). Notice that the free choice

determiner does not require a relative clause as long as the nominal it introduces is eventive, and the relation to the matrix clause event is not accidental.

(47)   După prezentare, Ion a   răspuns   bucuros la orice   întrebare.
        after   presentation Ion has answered gladly   to FC-what question
        'After the talk, John gladly answered any question.'

        a. After the talk, John gladly answered any question.
        b. Serial universality:
        w_1: question a asked & answered; question c asked & answered; no other question asked;
        w_2: question a asked & answered; no other question asked;
        w_3: question a asked & answered; question b asked & answered; no other question asked;
        w_4: question b asked & answered; ; no other question asked
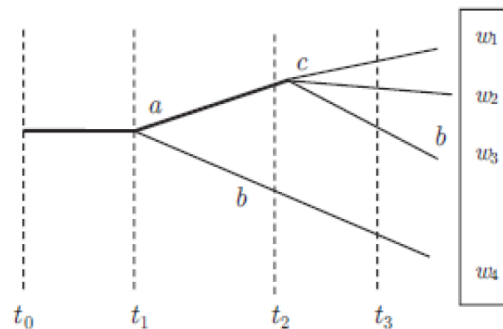

Figure 1: Serial universality in example (47)

      Non-accidentality here is understood as a relation of causal explanation between the events in the free choice DP (the questions) and the matrix events (the answers). The visual representation in Figure 1 above expresses the fact that, in the relevant time interval (here, $[t_0,t_3]$) a regularity was instantiated in the form of questions leading to answers. The toy model presented here contains four worlds, out of which one turned out to be the actual world. The other three are unactualizaed ways the world might have evolved (branched) out of t_0. Crucially, the questions asked must differ on these branches (with overlaps allowed; for instance, question a was asked in w_1, w_2 and w_3). It is important to point out that expressing epistemic possibility is compatible with such scenarios. It is possible to find examples of subtrigged sentences where the epistemic agent is not aware of the individuals actually involved in the causal relation between the FC and the matrix events. But it is also possible that there is no epistemic uncertainty about the actual turn of events whatsoever. For instance, if we take w_3 to be the way the actual world developed, then (47) is perfectly acceptable in a setting in which everybody is aware that questions a and b were asked (and answered), i.e. there is no epistemic

uncertainty. Of course, uttering (47) also conveys something about unrealized potentials (e.g. the asking of question c).

The same reasoning arguably applies to all FC-FRs without an obvious overt or covert (e.g. GEN or HAB) licensor, such as (48) below:

(48) După prezentare, Ion a   răspuns   bucuros la orice   întrebare i
      after presentation Ion has answered gladly   to FC-what question   to him
      s-   a   pus.
      REFL has put
      'After the talk, John gladly answered whatever question he was asked.'

These cases were subsumed to cases of subtrigged determiner FCIs *any* and *orice* in Panaitescu (2022). The following section discusses certain examples presented in the literature of FC-FRs from the perspective of the account presented here.

3.5 Application to examples

Extending work on English *-ever* FRs to other languages, many authors have discovered that ignorance and indifference are unavailable in many cases. Looking at the results provided by the survey in Šimík (2018) in Table 1, one can notice that sentences containing FC-FRs and punctual past (i.e. forcing a unique event interpretation) have very low scores in Greek, Russian, Czech and Romanian. These judgments apply irrespective of the ignorance/indifference interpretation prompted by the context. Based on the judgments provided in Caponigro & Fălăuş (2018), Italian can also be added to the list. The authors also stress that this observation holds only for past/present episodic sentences with a punctual interpretation. This pattern is indeed to be observed for determiner FCIs as well: only in the absence of a licensor is domain shift (co-variation of event-individual pairs) a requirement. If a modal licensor is present, the restriction against punctual interpretations is lost:

(49) Poate fi în orice   cameră a   fost deja   curățată.
      may   be in FC-what room   has been already cleaned
      'S/he may be in whichever room has already been cleaned.'

In (49) above, the epistemic possibility modal counts as a licensor for the FC-FR and corresponds to an interpretation of parallel universality (Panaitescu 2019, 2022). The subject is in one room, but the identity of this room varies across the worlds in the epistemic modal base.

Going back to cases that have been called auto-licensing here, it has been argued throughout the paper that epistemic uncertainty is in no way a necessary ingredient in their acceptability. If one were to accept the Constraint on Acquaintance formulated in Caponigro & Fălăuş (2018), it would also be left unexplained why there is a ban against punctual interpretations.

Still, two kinds of examples provided in Caponigro & Fălăuş (2018) seem to go against these observations. I will discuss them in turn. Firstly, it is claimed that if the

speaker does not have any direct acquaintance with the dish(es) in question, a sentence containing an FC-FR and a presumably punctual ignorance interpretation becomes available (see the contrast between the contexts in (15) and (16) above):

(50)   E usturoi în orice   mâncare gătește Bianca acum.
        is garlic in FC-what dish   cooks Bianca now
        'There's garlic in any dish/dishes Bianca is cooking now.'

A first observation is that the translation provided by the authors (with determiner *any* plus a restrictive relative clause) does not seem to be perfectly acceptable. Following my own judgments, the Romanian counterpart does not fare much better, no matter whether one chooses a context with or without direct acquaintance:

(51)   ??E usturoi în orice   mâncare pe   care   o gătește Bianca acum.
          is garlic in FC-what dish   ACC which it cooks Bianca now
        'There's garlic in any dish/dishes Bianca is cooking now.'

As for (50), the presumptive is I believe equally required no matter the context (an option that the determiner version of *orice* does not have). In any case, it would remain to be explained why there is a contrast between determiner and relative pronoun *orice*, assuming that the Constraint on Acquaintance operates on both constructions equally.

A second example discussed by the authors and presented in section 2.3, is repeated below:

(52)   Poliția   a arestat pe   oricine a   protestat aici în clădirea   asta
        police-the has arrested ACC FC-who has protested here in building-the this
        ieri.
        yesterday
        'The police arrested anybody who protested here in this building yesterday.'

According to the authors, the sentence becomes infelicitous in a scenario where the speaker has seen the people in question. From the perspective of the account presented here, the interpretation aimed for here is an auto-licensing one. The intended meaning is: in the relevant past interval, the police operated under the rule that, if someone protested, they would arrest them. A number of people happened to fall victim to this rule, but if other people had protested, they would also have got arrested. This meaning can be conveyed irrespective of what the epistemic agent has witnessed. Forcing the context (16) does not alter the felicity of the sentence but merely creates the impression that it is somehow inappropriate to discuss time-bound regularities when the question under discussion is *Who protested?*.

4. Conclusions

DPs headed by *orice* are indefinite and FC-FRs containing *orice* are definite. Both guises of *orice* come with an evaluation constraint which translates as a causal link

between two events. Romanian free choice item *orice* in its guise as a determiner (in which case the DP it is part of is an indefinite) and as a relative pronoun introducing FC-FRs (in which case it is definite) has been shown to display three sources of licensing: generic modal licensors, non-generic modal licensors and auto-licensing. The three types of licensors correspond to three types of universality effects: atemporal, parallel and serial respectively (as defined in Panaitescu 2019, 2022). Due to these universality effects, the definiteness of the relative pronoun is most of the times disguised by Quantificational Variability Effects patterns.

Thus, in the absence of FC licensing operators, (apparently) non-modalized episodic sentences with determiner and FR uses involve serial universality. The modal flavor of these contexts is counterfactual, and the FC and matrix events are temporally ordered. In order to best describe the phenomenon, I claimed in Panaitescu (2022) that the time-worlds branching universe account assumed for determiner *orice* applies to Romanian FC-FRs as well.

The account sketched so far might create the impression that determiner and relative pronoun *orice* are identical in distribution and interpretation. That is definitely not the case, a case in point being the availability of the presumptive mood acting as a licensor from inside the FC-FR, but not from inside a restrictive relative clause. Another point of divergence could be the definite vs. indefinite status of FC-FRs and free choice DPs containing determiner *orice* respectively. Yet another possible distinction in the semantics of the two constructions is the possible analysis of FC-FRs as unconditionals, a route which was taken in Šimík (2018) and Szabolcsi (2019) building on Rawlins (2013). This avenue is left open for further research.

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Guglielmo Cinque. 2020. *The Syntax of Relative Clauses: A Unified Approach*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 414 pp.

Reviewed by Deborah Foucault[*]

Guglielmo Cinque's monograph, *The Syntax of Relative Clauses: A Unified Analysis*, is a comprehensive examination of the structures of relative clause (RC) across languages, with the goal of elucidating the underlying foundation of all RCs through a unified analysis. His main proposal is that double-headed structures with an external head in the main clause and an internal head in the RC is the base structure for all RCs.

Cinque's detailed book is a valuable resource for both graduate linguists and experts in the field. He achieves this difficult undertaking by strategically weaving both cross-linguistic experimental and theoretical research to form the basis of the manuscript. That is, his strategic methodology is to demonstrate the applicability of his unified analysis through a multitude of RC structure examples. This is the meat of the text rather than solely focusing on detailed theoretical underpinnings that would leave many readers behind. None the less, Cinque does lay out some of the core theoretical issues in the beginning of the book (Introduction, Chapters 1-2) and the appendix to frame his argument, which may help novice linguists form a general understanding of the rationale behind his analysis. Additionally, seasoned linguists who are more familiar with the nuanced theoretical presuppositions can consider these as they ponder on the numerous examples. Both ends of the spectrum will have plenty to think about and can decide for themselves which area they may want to further research. Importantly, while Cinque's book focuses on uncovering the underlying base structure for all RCs, it is an excellent example at considering universal linguistic principles cross-linguistically that will provide linguistics with a deeper understanding of syntactic methods. Even those less familiar with research on relative clauses will benefit from the numerous examples as well as the rich appendix at the end that can be used to quickly reference RC types, various languages, and the many syntactic elements.

Throughout, various syntactic operations are employed skillfully for a unified analysis by Cinque: movement, deletion, pro-forms, matching, and raising in particular are all used to derive the different RC types that serve the intended semantics and the specific language properties / linear expression. Adding to the book's strength is the inclusion of diverse languages from fellow researchers. A key thread throughout the book's tapestry is Cinque's use of the Uniformity Principle that he uses to challenge Chomsky's copy theory of movement.

While a reviewer could note possible overgeneralizations, Cinque's work is inspiring in its ability to stimulate further research and debate within the linguistic community. Researchers interested in relative clauses, syntactic theory, and cross-linguistic typology should engage with Cinque's analysis, either to refine it further or to apply similar approaches to other syntactic phenomena. The book is a touchstone for discussions on universals and variation in syntax, and it will surely influence subsequent research in the field.

The book is organized as follows.

In Chapter 1, "Basis of the analysis" (pp. 4-19), Cinque challenges Kayne's claim that modifiers on the right of a head in head-initial languages always originate elsewhere. The chapter establishes the groundwork for postnominal base generation of RCs, challenging more conventional analyses.

Chapter 2, "Restrictive and maximalizing RCs" (pp. 20-142), focuses on different RC types, proposing that these structures derive from a single double-headed structure through

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operations like movement, deletion, and pro-form replacement. Raising and matching are introduced as distinct operations, with examples from various languages illustrating their differences.

Chapter 3, "Representation of various RC types" (pp. 143-241), expands the unified analysis to cover finite non-restrictive, infinitival, and participial RCs in languages like Italian, English, Bulgarian, German, and French. The chapter explores word and RC order variations in different languages, linking them to the proposed unified structure.

Chapter 4, "Realization of the Internal Head Parameter" (pp. 242-255), discusses the ways the internal head is realized, including the use of relativizers, relative pronouns, or adjectives. Cinque examines the techniques based on the size of external and internal heads, emphasizing the connection to the unified analysis.

Chapter 5, "Puzzling structures" (pp. 256-280), addresses peculiar structures by integrating insights from the unified analysis developed in the previous chapters. Here Cinque examines specific linguistic phenomena from various languages, offering a coherent explanation within the proposed framework.

In conclusion, Guglielmo Cinque's *The Syntax of Relative Clauses: A Unified Analysis* stands as an important contribution to the study of generative syntax. He builds on his previous research on Germanic and Romance languages by reviewing a comprehensive amount of cross-linguistic data gathered by other researchers. To be an expert in every language is not possible, and as such his methodology for relying on linguistic research by other researchers to explore a unified foundation for RCs is admirable and a fine example of the scientific enterprise. The examples utilized throughout the book, however, are mainly from Cinque's Germanic and Romance language research. As such, his methodology for weaving together cross-linguistic experimental and theoretical elements could be bolstered by extending the examples to RCs in many other languages. But perhaps this is too much to ask for such a great undertaking, which alone marks the work as a landmark in the field. Novice linguists should remember that many of the deeper theoretical assumptions are not discussed in the book and read the text with this in mind to avoid oversimplifications and to think carefully about presuppositions behind the analyses. This is more of a helpful reminder since readers may easily be swept up in Cinque's unified analysis that makes derivation of RCs look easy. However, Cinque is the linguistic ballerina who makes syntactic pirouettes look effortless.

The analysis's success lies in its ability to accommodate a broad range of RC structures, making it a valuable resource for researchers interested in Cartographic Generative approaches to syntax. Furthermore, the book's methodology includes an extensive literature review and cross-linguistic analysis. The manuscript provides linguists with material to explore and expand upon for many years to come, not only on the study of relative clauses but of syntactic universals. The book's enduring contributions lie in its analysis and in paving the way for future research and refinement of the proposed unified structure. This work will continue to shape and inspire research in generative syntax for many years to come.