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.