

Anastrophe of Relative Clause Constructions in Cato

Cato's *De Agri Cultura* provides many instances of anastrophe in the word order of subordinating clauses, especially relative clauses. The first position of the clause, in which the relative constituent, or "qu- word," most commonly occurs, sometimes contains constituents other than the expected relative pronoun. In Probert's work on Ancient Greek relative clauses, she carefully points out that there is a gap in the research regarding the syntax of relative clauses in Latin and their relation to the antecedent (Probert, 31). My research aims to narrow that gap through a study of the displacement of qu-words in the clause structure. Early Latin exhibits more instances of relative displacements, as well as displacement of most subordinating conjunctions, compared to Classical Latin. This may be because of its basis in Indo-European clause structure, but much of our comparative evidence is difficult to ascertain. The more common relative-correlative structure in Latin and Hittite is not attested in the same formation in Ancient Greek and other more robust literary traditions for which we have evidence. A study of Latin relative clause information structures and word order trends will help to move towards a goal of complete analysis of the word order of Latin, for which we have a very basic understanding in comparison to the scholarly work on other languages.

Through the use of corpus linguistics and digitized textual and data analysis, my research will aim to explain the frequency of anastrophe in relative clauses in Cato's *De Agri Cultura*, as well as the maximal number of constituents that can appear before a qu- word in the clause. My work will include data analysis and representation through the programming language R, as well as a semantic and syntactic analysis of the resulting conclusions. This work involves an understanding of the definition of displacement as the 'discrepancy between the syntactic and

semantic roles of elements and their linear ordering' (Ross, 4-5). It also depends upon the basic linguistic idea that all movement in a clause occurs from right to left.

This study will provide a much-needed understanding of the interclausal and intraclausal relationships within Latin pragmatics and syntax for disambiguation of texts. With the continuation of work like this, we will understand Latin word order through clear stimuli and motivations.

Bibliography

Probert, Philomen. *Early Greek Relative Clauses*. Oxford University Press, 2015.

Ross, Deborah. *The Order of Words in Latin Subordinate Clauses (Functional Grammar)*, 1987, ProQuest Dissertations and Theses.