

Relatives in scientific English: Variation across time and space

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Abstract

Relative clauses have been studied from various perspectives, including their historical development from contact clauses (e.g. Suárez-Gómez 2006), changes in the inventory and choice of relative pronouns as well as different types of relative clause (e.g. Mustanoja 1960). Variationist studies have looked at relative clauses in regional varieties (see Sigley 1997), spoken and written language (e.g. Ball 1996) and different text types (e.g. Biber et al. 2009 or Johansson 2006). Linguists interested in the study of grammatical complexity have investigated the role that relative clauses play in the diachronic change of modification patterns in the noun phrase (e.g. Biber et al. 2009). The choice of the 'correct' relative pronoun has also been the topic of debate in prescriptivism, with interesting differences in the focus of attention on both sides of the Atlantic (e.g. Fowler 1926 and Strunk&White 1999).

Previous research on differential change in national varieties of English has had to focus on the lead varieties, BrE and AmE. Diachronic corpora of other varieties [Read more ...](#)

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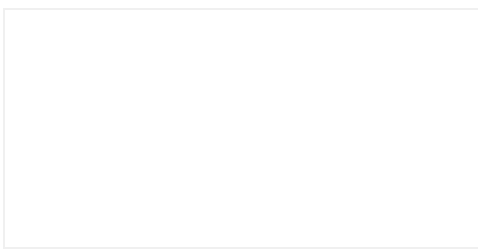
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Special attention is paid to the regional variation between European French and Quebec French. A variationist analysis reveals the relevant sociolinguistic factors conditioning variant choice. On the basis of the results obtained, the syntax of the different variants is modeled within the framework of generative grammar. In particular, the progressive diachronic decline and restriction of subject-verb inversion is argued to mirror the loss of verb movement. This book is of interest to anyone concerned with syntactic variation and change. ...more. Get A Copy. Amazon. To ask other readers questions about Grammatical Variation Across Space and Time, please sign up. Be the first to ask a question about Grammatical Variation Across Space and Time. Lists with This Book. Request PDF | Relatives in scientific English: Variation across time and space | Relative clauses have been studied from various perspectives, including their historical development from contact clauses (e.g. Suárez-Gómez | Find, read and cite all the research you need on ResearchGate. Previous research on differential change in national varieties of English has had to focus on the lead varieties, BrE and AmE. Diachronic corpora of other varieties are a new development. New Zealand English is initially ahead of AmE in the development towards greater use of restrictive that in the twentieth century. At the end of the century, however, BrE catches up with New Zealand English and the two varieties display the same kind of preference in academic writing. The concept

of language variation is central in sociolinguistics. The English language varies on individual, regional, national and global levels. Unfortunately, some people are unaware of various social and regional dialects, and different varieties of English in the world. Understanding variation within a language is important for every member of our community, and especially for those who receive a college education. Sociolinguistics investigates all these language variations. Different factors affect how a language is spoken within a country. They can be regional (geographical), ethnic (na