Relational processes

3 types:
1) **Describing** things; Verb = "be" or "have" (+synonyms)
2) **Identifying** things; Verb = "be" or "have" (+synonyms)
3) Representing the existence of something; "be" (+synonyms)

Relational processes 1 – describing things

Linking a thing and its description

- a possession: Mr Piggott has a car
- a quality: The car is new
- a circumstance: It is in the garage

Participants in **Attributive** relational processes

- The daisy is a beautiful flower
- The book costs $30
Here and there

A Circumstantial Attribute may come first

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Here</th>
<th>are</th>
<th>his paw marks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attribute: Circumstance</td>
<td>Pro: Attributive</td>
<td>Carrier</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are paw marks here and there too.

Intensive (quality) and possessive Attributes generally do not come first

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a sore head</th>
<th>has</th>
<th>the bear</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attribute: possessive</td>
<td>Pro: Attributive</td>
<td>Carrier</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Here and there

relational processes 2: identifying things

Identifying a thing in terms of some identifying feature:

- Tom is the tallest
- Tom is the captain

Some verbs identifying form/function: become, equal, add up to; act as; call; mean; define; represent; spell; express; form; give; constitute; imply etc.

Identifying a thing in terms of some circumstance:
time, place, manner etc:

- Today is the 4th
- The best way to get there is by train

Some verbs identifying circumstances: takes up; follows; spans; crosses; accompany; resemble etc

The bridge spans the river

The bridge is over the river

Identifying a thing in terms of ownership:

- The book is mine
- The book is owned by me

Some verbs identifying possession: own; include/exclude; involve; contain; comprise; provide; deserve; owe; lack etc.
FAQ:

How can we distinguish between relational processes that:

1) link a thing and its descriptive attribute;

2) link a thing and its identifying feature.

identifying relational processes can be reversed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Her name is Alison</th>
<th>Alison is her name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Today is the 4th</td>
<td>The 4th is today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The book is mine</td>
<td>I own the book</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

describing relational processes cannot be reversed

That is a beautiful flower.
*A beautiful flower is that.

The car is new
*New is the car.

Participants in Identifying relational processes

2 sets of labels

Q: What is her name? 
A: Her name is Alison

Who is Alison?
The red head is Alison?

The thing about which the question is asked is labelled Identified
That which identifies the thing is labelled Identifier

Participants in Identifying relational processes

2 sets of labels

Q: What is today’s date?
A: Today is the 4th

Who is Alison?
The red head is Alison?

The thing about which the question is asked is labelled Identified
That which identifies the thing is labelled Identifier

Q: Whose book is that?
A: It’s mine
A: I own the book

Who is Alison?
The red head is Alison?

The thing about which the question is asked is labelled Identified
That which identifies the thing is labelled Identifier
Participants in Identifying relational processes

2 sets of labels

A red light signifies stop

Token Value

Token and Value labelling allow us to identify any form in terms of its function or any function in terms of its form.

How do we know which is Token and which is Value

- When the clause is in the active voice, the Token is mapped onto the Subject;
- When the clause is in the passive, the Value is mapped onto the Subject.

To work out whether the clause is active or passive, substitute a synonym of the verb “be”

A red light signifies stop doesn’t it

Token Value

Stop is signified by a red light isn’t it

Value Token

A 3rd use of the verb “to be”

to represent the fact that something exists or happens

e.g. There were many children in the street.

Existential processes are about existence

they usually follow the pattern: There + “be” + Thing

Existential ‘there’

the main participant is the thing that exists

There were many children in the street.

existential ‘there’

why?

it is non-referential

relational processes and participants

processes of being

material

process

relational

identifying

Value & Carrier

Token & Value

Identifier & Identified

Existential

Theme Predication

These are clauses which take the form “it” + a form of the verb “to be” + a nominal group (often with embedded clauses), e.g.

It was the dog [that died] not the cat

Such theme predicated clauses function to set up a contrast, e.g.
Theme Predication

It was the dog [[that died]]

Such clauses are related to a non-predicate experientially equivalent version, e.g.

The dog died

Clause-initial “it” in Theme Predicated clauses refers to the NG coming after the verb

It was the dog [[that died]]

Theme Predication

These clauses are rather common in academic writing, e.g.

It is the name of Lenin [[which remains as arguably the most significant in Russian history]].

Non-predicate equivalent:

The name of Lenin remains as arguably the most significant in Russian history.

Analysing Theme Predicated clauses

It is the name of Lenin [[which remains as arguably the most significant in Russian history]].

| It | is
|----|---
| the name of Lenin [[which remains as arguably the most significant in Russian history]].

Non-predicate equivalent:

The name of Lenin remains as arguably the most significant in Russian history.

On the global scale the Earth’s surface is a gigantic reflux distillation unit, powered by the Sun, in which water is continuously evaporated from the oceans and, on land, from the soil, vegetation, lakes and rivers. Only to be returned again as precipitation. In this hydrologic cycle the oceans lose more water by evaporation than they receive from precipitation while the reverse is true on the continents. This transfer of water from the oceans via the atmosphere is the source of the flow of rivers.

practice

Segment the following text into ranking clauses:

- Identify the verbs;
- Determine whether the verb is in a ranking clause or an embedded clause;
- Insert clause boundaries;
- Indicate any embedded clauses using [[]]]
On the global scale the Earth's surface is a gigantic reflux distillation unit, powered by the Sun. In which water is continuously evaporated from the oceans and, on land, from the soil, vegetation, lakes and rivers, only to be returned again as precipitation. In this hydrologic cycle the oceans lose more water by evaporation than they receive from precipitation, while the reverse is true on the continents. This transfer of water from the oceans via the atmosphere is the source of the flow of rivers.

In this hydrologic cycle the oceans lose more water by evaporation than they receive from precipitation, while the reverse is true on the continents. This transfer of water from the oceans, via the atmosphere, is the source of the flow of rivers. It is this transfer of water from the oceans, via the atmosphere, that is the source of the flow of rivers.
Further practice

For any given land area over a long period of time, precipitation is equal to evaporation + riverflow + ground water outflow. The hydrologic cycle is most vigorous in South America and is least vigorous in Australia. Europe, North America and Asia have roughly similar water balances. But these similarities mask a great diversity within the continents, from deserts with near-zero run-off, to mountain areas with more than two metres of run-off each year.

1. For any given land area over a long period of time, precipitation is equal to evaporation + riverflow + ground water outflow.
2. The hydrologic cycle is most vigorous in South America.
3. and is least vigorous in Australia.
4. Europe, North America and Asia have roughly similar water balances.
5. But these similarities mask a great diversity within the continents, from deserts with near-zero run-off, to mountain areas with more than two metres of run-off each year.