

# 全景英语 定语从句

A Panoramic Study of the  
English Attributive Clause

主编 陆开喜 张华涌

云南大学出版社

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## **全景英语定语从句**

**陆开喜 张华涌 主编**

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## 前 言

(1) It's quite clear where you are mistaken.

(2) The point is not where you aren't clear enough, but where you are mistaken.

(3) But I don't know where I am mistaken.

(4) I haven't solved the question where I am mistaken.

(5) That's where you are mistaken.

(6) It is in the factory where they talked about that the child was killed.

(7) It is in the factory where, they thought, the child was killed.

你能准确地区分和解释上面的七个句子吗?

如果你说(1)是主语从句,(2)(5)是表语从句,(3)是宾语从句,(4)是同位语从句,(6)(7)是定语从句,这种回答当然没有问题。但是,你如果读一下本书就会发现这种回答简单而肤浅,这样解释问题不到位且缺乏专业性。

本书基于现代英语语法学家语法著作中的前沿理论体系和当代语言学研究最新成果,从纵深和横向两个维度上对定语从句进行了全面、系统和科学的概括和总结。给出了定语从句的完整定义,提出了定语从句的三大要素,论述了次要先行词,

引入了零关系词和复合关系词之概念，详述了关系词的疑难用法。针对定语从句的疑点、难点、困惑、纠结问题，在限制性定语从句和非限制性定语从句经典分类基础之上，根据定语从句谓语动词的形式，将定语从句划分为非谓语性定语从句和谓语性定语从句；依据定语从句数量的多少及其结构形式，将定语从句分为简单定语从句、复杂定语从句、并列定语从句和多重定语从句，等等。阐述了一般性定语从句、名词性定语从句和副词性定语从句与名词从句、副词从句之间的相同点和不同点，详述了定语从句与其他语言现象的转换关系。能够很好地解决定语从句中出现的任何问题。

主编陆开喜校长，负责指导编书思想和原则，组织领导全书的编写和出版工作。

主编张华涌，重点编写第四、五、六章，并主持其他章节的编修任务以及全书最后的修改定稿工作。

李佳薇、张华涌负责编修第一章。曹芸花、袁红波、张华涌负责编修第二章。杨广寒、潘粉玉、张华涌负责编修第三章。晏联菊、王华、刘丽冬、张华涌负责编修第七章。赵所香、张华涌负责编修第八章。

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鉴于编者的水平，书中错误和不足在所难免，敬请专家学者和读者不吝赐教斧正。我们不胜感激荣幸之至！主编邮箱：  
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编 者

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# **Chapter One    Introduction**

## **1. 1    Background of the Study of the Attributive Clause**

The attributive clause is the most important one of the Top Three Clauses, the other two of which are the adverbial clause and the nominal clause that contains the clauses of the subject, the object, the predicative and the appositive. The attributive clause, as Marianne and Diane said, is a complicated adjectivalized postpositive nominal modifier that is applied to the written and spoken English language (Celce: 424) . It infiltrates into the other two clauses to engender the nominal attributive clause and the adverbial attributive clause, which makes the attributive clause the most abundant, the most flexible and the most intricate, and which incarnates the philosophy of the unity of opposites.

However, the attributive clause is not enough to be highlighted in reality and the study of it lags behind compared with that of the

other two clauses, which persuades us into thinking that it is worthwhile to explore the attributive clause more detailedly and more comprehensively.

Rummaged through all the grammar books, only Wang Shao-fang et al gave a definition of the attributive clause in the book *An English Grammar for Middle Schools* ( Wang S. F. 1995: 406 ) but no other books available at home supply a definition for the attributive clause. It is obvious that the definition is quite far from satisfactory nowadays. The *Grammar Posers' Study* ( 1995 ) by Zhang Xinyou has paid much great attention to the pronominal antecedents and the multiple attributive clause, but the descriptions are just parts of this knowledge. *The Universal Coursebook* ( 2005 ) by general editor in chief Liu Guoshan has discussed the independent relative words and their introduced nominal attributive clauses. Regrettably, their discussions are largely restricted to listing the functions of the independent relative words performing in the nominal attributive clauses without drawing a clear distinction between the nominal attributive clause and the nominal clause. In *A New English Grammar* ( Zhang K. L. 2003 ), Zhang, in the angle of viewpoint of modern English grammar, deals with many respects of the nominal attributive clause. The pity is that the analyses are to a large extent scattered

and loose.

The conventional explanations of the attributive clause are chiefly confined to the two points; one is to refer to the types of the attributive clause and the other is to list the relative words introducing the attributive clause. As for the rest perplexed, entangled and aporia questions, such the independent relative words, the nominal attributive clause, etc. , as are too entangled to answer, many books simply touch upon them, which is not good for Chinese students to learn and master the English attributive clause. The present situation suggests that it is necessary and urgent for us to wage a coherent and complete study of the attributive clause.

Owing to the role it plays in spoken and written English, the attributive clause is significant to be studied both in theory and in practice. The attributive clause penetrates into almost every aspects of the English grammar, covering the morphology of nouns, adjectives, adverbs, verbs, prepositions, pronouns and numerals and the syntax of compound sentences and complex sentences. The discussion of the attributive clause will hence work as a bridge between the analysis of the sentence elements and the complex sentences. The study of the attributive clause may help to provide new insights into the other English grammatical phenomena that are assumed to con-

tribute to the theoretical improvements in the English grammar as a whole.

In practice, the research into the attributive clause is expected to help English teachers save worry and time to consult many books to cope with the aporias of this respect. As is pointed out by Marianne Celce-Murcia et al in *The Grammar Book* (Celce: 424), an ESL/SFL teacher should qualify himself for rich knowledge of the attributive clause. Meanwhile, it is expected to provoke the attention of learners of the English language, thus enhancing the efficiency of their spoken and written English.

## 1.2 Purpose of the Study

This study is to give a comprehensive definition of the attributive clause, propose the concept of the Top Three Essential factors of the attributive clause, expound the special/uncommon antecedents, place the relative words into four classes and elaborate on their usages, discuss the manifestations of the attributive clause and non-attributive forms, expatiate upon the transformations between the attributive clause and the other linguistic phenomena. The purpose is to gather up the sporadic and scattered knowledge of the English attributive clause and systematize it, which will greatly enrich the expertise of the attributive clause knowledge treasure.

### 1.3 Scope of the Study

This paper is intended to perform a panoramic study of the attributive clause which includes the attributive clause's concepts, elements, manifestations and transformative relationships with other linguistic phenomena, and so on. Therefore, two methods are taken to reach the goal: One is to hunt for the knowledge of the English attributive clause as much as I can which is ignored by the authoritative grammar books but which is frequently seen and which requires explaining with grammatical rules in the reality of everyday English learning and teaching. The other is to gather up the knowledge of the English attributive clause that is sporadic and scattered in the present books available abroad and at home to form a book to save worry about consulting many books to solve some poser problems appearing in the attributive clause for learning and teaching English. Therefore the following research questions are to be put forward:

- (1) What is a comprehensive definition of the attributive clause?
- (2) What are the special/uncommon antecedents?
- (3) What are entangled relative words?
- (4) How does the attributive clause manifest its forms?
- (5) What are the transformative relationships between attribu-



tive clauses and other linguistic phenomena?

#### 1.4 Summary

The attributive clause has less materials at home and abroad compared with the other clauses and few people would like to do research in this field because it rumours that it should be put in much hard work, but gets very little result. Meanwhile, there are some paradox and contradictive terms in some books, which makes the English learning and teaching difficult to solve some problems of the attributive clause in the reality to reach a higher level. Owing to this, the paper tries to do some researches into the attributive clause to solve the problems of some contradictory terms and enrich the theoretical system of the English attributive clause.