

## The nanosyntax and semantics of relative pronouns

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Relative pronouns are often identical with or based on their interrogative kin. A detailed cross-linguistic investigation reveals a more complex morphological pattern whereby correlative (CoR) pronouns are based on interrogative (INT) ones, free/light-headed relative (FR/LHR) pronouns on CoR ones, and headed relative (HR) pronouns on FR/LHR ones. The hierarchy in (1), supported by independent syntactic, typological, and diachronic evidence, lends itself to a nanosyntactic treatment, sketched in a simplified form in (2).

(1) INT < CoR < FR/LHR < HR

(2) [Rel [Top [Foc XP]<sub>INT pronoun</sub> ]<sub>CoR pronoun</sub> ]<sub>FR/(L)HR pronoun</sub>

I will provide compositional semantics for (2) and discuss its implications for the syntactic and semantic analysis of *wh*-based (cor)relative clauses.