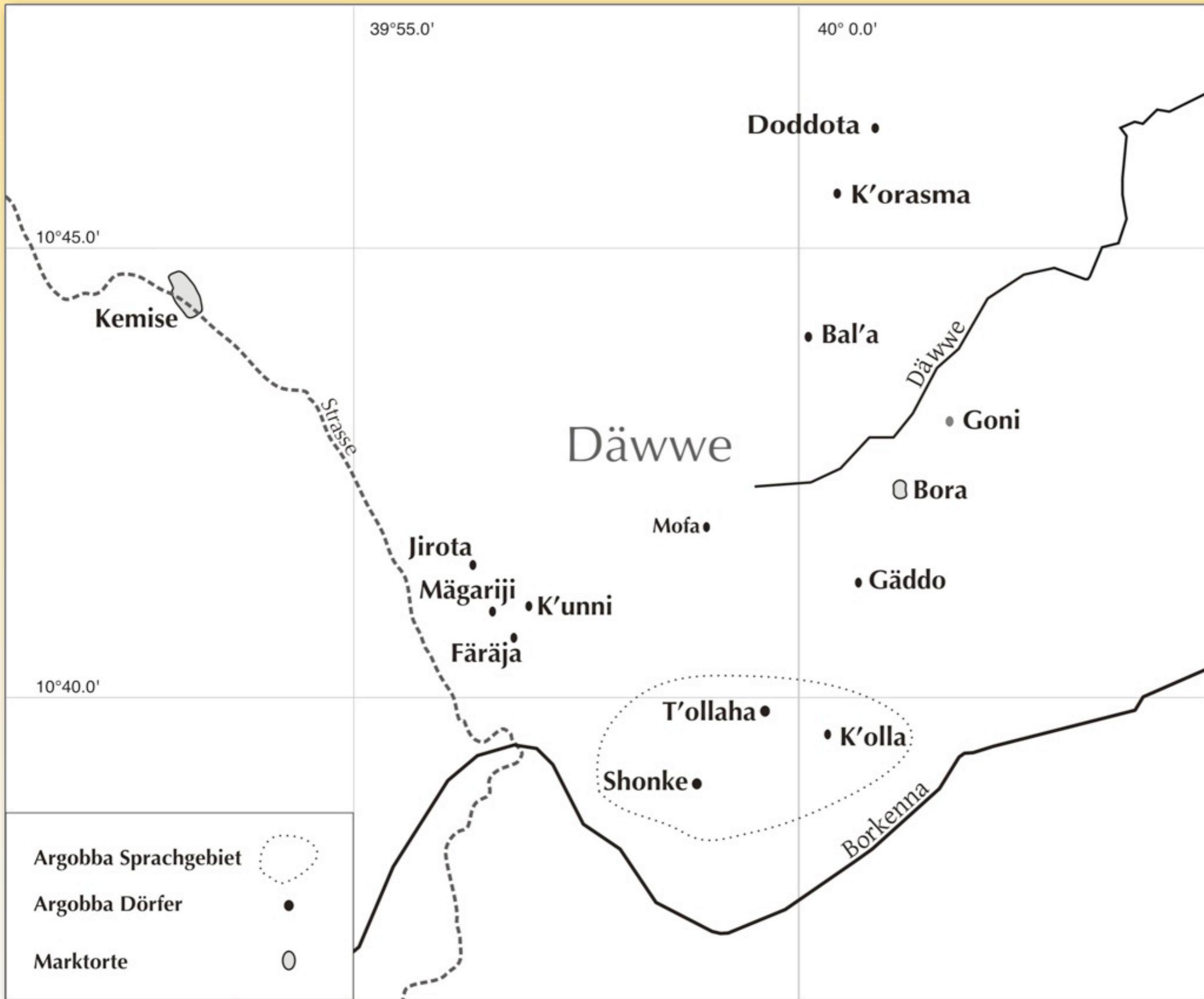


The relative clause in Argobba and its functions

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Shonke



T'ollaña

Typological properties of Argobba

- ▶ two types of roots, fixed roots and consonant based roots
- ▶ nonlinear morphology (root based)
- ▶ grammatical information (gram. role, subordination, etc.)
marked by affixes
- ▶ OV word order: modifiers precede head nouns and
subordinated clauses precede main clauses

Definition and structure

▶ Definition

- ▶ a relative clause (rc) modifies a head noun, which is (at least) semantically referred to in the rc

▶ Structure

- ▶ rc precedes head noun and is marked by relativizer
- ▶ relativizer is a prefix with two allomorphs
 - perfective *i-*
 - imperfective *imm-*

A relative clause



Relative clause

head noun

[girgira immihak']

sɛw

girgira imm-y-ħak'

sɛw

wall REL-3SM-know.IPV man

'a man, who knows (how to build) walls'

Aspect in relative clauses

- ▶ Two basic aspect forms:
 - ▶ Perfective: suffixed subject agreement markers
 - ▶ Imperfective: prefixe subject agreement markers
- ▶ Different morphological patterns or templates:
'to pour', root k' - d - ħ
perf. *k'εddεħ-*
imperf. *-k'εdħ*

[imɛtt'ɪyyu] sɛw k'ɛtʃ'in nɛy

i-mɛtt'-ø-yyu *sɛw* *k'ɛtʃ'in* *nɛ-i*

REL-come.PER-3SM-ART.M man thin COP-3SM

‘The man, who came, is thin.’

[ɪmmimɛt'ɪyyu] sɛwɪtʃtʃi k'ɛtʃ'in nɛy

ɪmm-y-mɛt'-yyu *sɛw-tʃtʃi* *k'ɛtʃ'in* *nɛ-i*

REL-3SM-come.IPV-ART.M man-ART.M thin COP-3SM

‘The man, who comes, is thin.’

Negation in relative clauses

perfective

[alʰendʒ] sɛw

∅-al-ʰendʒ-∅ sɛw

REL-N-take.PER-3SM man

the man, who didn't take'

imperfective

[immaykessib] sɛw

imm-al-y-kessib sɛw

REL-N-3SM-work.IPV man

'a man, who doesn't work'

Syntactic features of relative clauses

- ▶ Relative clauses behave more like (modifying) noun phrases
- ▶ The relative verb carries the syntactic markers of the modified noun phrase because these are attached to the modifier in complex NPs
 - ▶ Article
 - ▶ Accusative marker

Relative clause with article

[ixwa iʃɛtʃɛtʃtʃiyya]	lamitti	leħam	neʃtʃ
<i>ixwa i-ʃɛtʃ-ɛtʃtʃ-yya</i>	<i>lam-tti</i>	<i>leħam</i>	<i>ne-tʃtʃ</i>
water	REL-drink.PER-3SF-ART.F	COW-ART.F	big COP-3SF

‘The cow, that drunk water, is big.’

[ik’errɪyyu]	dɛrrek’
<i>i-k’err-ø-yyu</i>	<i>dɛrrek’-ø</i>
REL-remain.PER-3SM-ART.M	dry(itr).PER-3SM

‘That, which remained, became dry.’

Relative clause with accusative marker

[bɛmulibam ɪmmikkessɛbɪn] kɛsbɪnna

bɛ-muli-ba-m ɪmm-y-kkessɛb-n kɛsb-nna

PRP-all-thing-FOC REL-3sm-be.done.IPV-ACC work-and

tarikɪn maɪɔʒid ɡiddetano nɛy

tarik-n maɪɔʒit ɡiddeta-no nɛ-i

history-ACC pass.on.VN obligation-POS.1P COP-3SM

‘It is our obligation to pass on the history and all the work that has been done.’

Restricting and non-restricting rc

restricting rc

[k'ulfo iɛɣay] sɛwatʃtʃ

k'uflo i-ɛɣ-ɛy sɛw-atʃtʃ

bride.house REL-eat.PER-3P man-PL

‘the people, who ate in the bride-house’

non-restricting rc

[ʔayye mɛsgid immitibbehal] hiɪɛtʃtʃ

ʔayye mɛsgid imm-t-bbehal hiɪɪ-tʃtʃ

Ayye mosque REL-3SF-be.called.IPV EX-3SF

‘There is one, which is called Ayye Mosque.’

Headless relative clauses

[*mihzey immibbehal*] *hall*
mihzey imm-y-bbehal *hall-∅*
mihzey REL-3SM-be.called.IPV EX-3SM

‘There is something which is called *mihzey*.’

[*rεkεbot biyyo malit inteduro imett’*] *nεy*
rεkεbot biyy-o malit inte-duro *i-mett’-∅* *nε-i*

judgeship say.CV-3SM say.VN PRP-former.times REL-come.PER-3SM COP-3SM

‘The judgeship is something which existed for a long time (came from former times).’

Syntactic functions of relative clauses

head noun is subject in rc

[immikk'ebbɛlɛna] sɛw ɣɛɲɲɛna

imm-y-kk'ebbɛl-ɛna **sɛw** *ɣɛɲɲ-ɛna*

REL-3SM-receive.IPV-OBJ.1P man miss.PER-1P

‘We miss someone who receives us.’

head noun is object in rc

[ingure ini immitawɛrɛbb] misin

ingure *ini* *imm-t-awɛr-ɛbb* **misi-n**

now DEM REL-3SF-tell.IPV-OBJ.3SM matter-ACC

‘that matter which she is telling at the moment’

Head noun referring to other syn. roles

- ▶ peripheral participants are marked by the applicative

Goal	[imɪnniweʔawo]	betitʃi		
	imm-inn-weʔ-εw-o	bet-tʃi		
	REL-1P-enter.IPV-APP-OBJ.3SM	house-ART.M		
	‘the house that we are entering’			
Cause	[intɛwanʃa itt’ebbo]		seβebu	
	intɛ-wanʃa i-tt’-εy-bb-o		seβeb-u	
	PRP-cave	REL-come.out.PER-3P(RES)-APP-OBJ.3SM	reason-POS.3SM	
	‘the reason why he _{RES} came out of the cave’			
Time	[immitimɛt’ubbo]	ʔayyam	eddo	nɛy
	imm-t-mɛt’-u-bb-o	ʔayyam	eddo	nɛ-i
	REL-2-come.IPV-P-APP-OBJ.3SM	day	Monday	COP-3SM
	‘The day you will come is Monday.’			

Cleft sentences

tɛħaddʒa mɛsgid nɛy [ikk'emmɛt'ɛy]

tɛ-ħaddʒa mɛsgid nɛ-i i-kk'emmɛt'-ɛy

PRP-down mosque COP-3SM REL-sit.down.PER-3P

‘It is the lower mosque in which he_{RES} settled down.’

man nɛy [ʔimmihawiyyu] sɛwitʃtʃi

man nɛ-i imm-y-haw-yyu sɛw-tʃtʃi

who COP-3SM REL-3SM-give.IPV-ART.M man-ART.M

‘Who is the man who gives (it)?’

Pseudo cleft sentences

[borkennan hema ihaweyy]

borkenna-n hema i-haw-ey-y

Borkenna-ACC way REL-give.PER-3P-OBJ.3SM

abbayye kulubas neym

abbayye kulubas ne-yem

Abbayye Kulubas COP-3P

‘The one who pave the way for the Borkenna(-river), is_{RES}
Abbayye Kulubas.’

Complex sentences

Periphrastic temporal clauses

head noun with meaning ‘time, day’

[soʔost weriḥ iderres]

ziḡe tattitti

imɛt'inna

soʔost weriḥ i-derres-∅

ziḡe tatt-tti

t-mɛt'-nna

three month REL-arrive.PER-3SM day mother-ART.F 3SF-come.IPV-and

‘The day when (the period of) three months has arrived the mother comes and ...’

Expressing locality

relational prefix + relative verb + gi

[hɪntʃ'et wɛyɾa tihalligi]

ħatatillena innask'omit'inna

ħintʃ'et wɛyɾa tɛ-i-hall-∅ = gi

ħatatill-ena inn-ask'omit'-nna

wood Wäyɾa PRP-REL-EX-3SM = **place** search.CV-1P 1P-cut.IPV-AUX.1P

‘We search for a place where there is Wäyɾa wood and cut (it).’

Complemente clauses

ama + relative verb

utterance verb in matrix sentence

ih̄iyye [bet mɛʃɛrriḥ amiḥatattɛl] awidɛɲ

ih̄-iyye bet mɛʃɛrriḥ **ama-i-ḥatattɛl-∅** awid-ɛ-ɲ

brother-POS.1S house buy.VN SIM-REL-want.PER-3SM tell.PER-3SM-OBJ.1S

‘My brother told me that he wants to buy a house.’

Temporal clauses I: anteriority

intε + relative verb + *amotʃe*

<i>nɪʃtʃitti</i>	[<i>dorɪʃtʃin</i>	<i>intiʃerrɛħɛtʃtʃ</i>]	<i>amotʃe</i>	<i>lɛħita</i>	<i>hawɛtʃtʃɛya</i>
<i>nɪʃtʃa-tti</i>	<i>doro-tʃtʃi-n</i>	<i>intε-i-ʃerrɛħ-ɛtʃtʃ</i>	<i>amotʃe</i>	<i>lɛ-ħit-a</i>	<i>haw-ɛtʃtʃ-ɛya</i>
woman-ART.F	chicken-ART.M -ACC	PRP-REL-buy.PER-3SF	after	for-sister -POS.3SF	give.PER-3SF -OBJ.3SF

‘After the woman had bought the chicken she gave it to her sister.’

temporal adverbial phrase:

<i>ɪhu</i>	<i>intεɪid</i>	<i>amotʃe</i>	<i>mɛt'ɛll</i>
<i>ɪh-u</i>	<i>intε-ɪid</i>	<i>amotʃe</i>	<i>∅-mɛt'-ɛll-∅</i>
brother-POS.3SM	PRP-Id.feast	after	3SM-come.IPV-AUX-3SM

‘His brother will come after the Id(-feast).’

Temp. clauses II: immediate sequentiality

ama + relative verb

[tɛbet amidɛrrɛsew]

tɛ-bet ama-i-dɛrrɛs-ew

PRP-house SIM-REL-arrive.PER.1S

dɛbdabe t'ɛɣiffɛ liʔixilɛxillɛw

dɛbdabe t'ɛɣiff-e ø-liʔix-l-ɛx-ll-ɛw

letter write.CV-1S 1S-send.IPV-APP-OBJ.2SM-AUX-1S

‘As soon as I will arrive at home, I write a letter to you and send it..’

Causal clauses

silɛ + relative verb

[liɖatʃtʃ bun siliʃɛtʃtʃɛy] mɛttɛʃayem

liɖ-atʃtʃ bun silɛ-i-ʃɛtʃtʃ-ɛy mɛttɛʃ-ɛ-em

child-PL coffee CON-REL-drink.PER-3P hit.PER-3SM-OBJ.3P

‘He hit the children because they had drunk coffee.’

[amarɪŋna silemmiwadʒɔɔu] illemikkul amarɪŋna inniwudʒedʒɔɔ

amarɪŋna silɛ-mm-y-wwadʒɔɔ-u illem-kkul amarɪŋna inn-wwudʒedʒɔɔ

Amharic CON-REL-3-speak.IPV-P they-with Amharic 1P-talk.with.IPV

‘Because they speak Amharic, we talk Amharic with them ...’

Conditional clauses

protatis:

intε + relative verb

[*intimεtt'ex*]

intε-i-mεtt'ex

PRP-REL-COME.PER-2SM 1P-go.IPV-AUX.1P

apodosis:

finite verb

innixedinna

inn-xed-nna

1P-go.IPV-AUX.1P

‘When you come we will go (together).’

[*legan intazzinεw*]

legan

intε-al-∅-zinεw-∅

bεhart'umma mεddi

bε-hart'umma mεddi

innixedinna

inn-xed-nna

tomorrow PRP-N-REL-rain.PER-3SM PRP-Hart'umma direction 1P-go.IPV-AUX.1P

‘If it doesn’t rain tomorrow we will go to Hart’umma.’

Abbreviations



ACC	accusative	M	masculine
APP	applicative	N	negative marker
ART	article	P	plural
AUX	auxiliary	PER	perfective
COMP	complementizer	PL	plural marker
CON	conjunction	POS	possessive agreement marker
COP	copular	PRP	preposition
CV	converb	REL	relativizer
DEM	demonstrative	RES	respect form
EX	existence verb	S	singular
F	feminine	SIM	similative marker
FOC	focus marker	VN	verbal noun
IPV	imperfective		