

**The adnominal completive clause - propositional value, modality and grammaticalisation.  
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The adnominal completive clause has not been the object of many studies in linguistics, apart from a few scattered remarks concerning the status and function of the conjunction/complementizer - i.e. whether it functions like a relative pronoun or differently. Certain combinations of semantically bleached nouns like *fact* and *idea* and an adnominal completive clause have also been treated within the theories of grammaticalization.

Among the interesting questions concerning the adnominal completive phrase is the difference between this structure and a nominal group with an adnominal prepositional group - two constructions that by some have been viewed as practically equivalent :

- (1)           a.           The idea that George W. Bush conquered Iraq  
              b.           The idea of George W. Bush's conquest of Iraq

It seems, though, that there is a series of differences between these structures, and I will try to explain these differences systematically within the theoretical framework of the modular approach (Nølle 1994). My point of departure is the hypothesis that there is a semantic correlation linked to the propositionality of the noun as well as the adnominal completive clause.

Selected references

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