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 (Nølke 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