

ON EXHAUSTIVE CONDITIONAL CLAUSES IN MODERN STANDARD ARABIC

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1. Introduction

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There is a semantic distinction between universal ECs and alternative ECs.

Universal ECs refer to all conditions of a certain form.

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- (1) a. whatever you read (all conditions of the form *you read x*)
- b. wherever you go (all conditions of the form *you go to x*)

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- (2) a. whether you go or not
- b. whether you go to Paris or to Berlin
- c. whether you go to Paris or to Berlin or Rome

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- (3) a. wherever you go (ungoverned EC)
- b. no matter where you go (governed EC)

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- Ungoverned alternative ECs
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The two distinctions seem relevant to many languages (Haspelmath & König 1998), and this includes Modern Standard Arabic (MSA).

In MSA it is not just the internal structure of ECs that is of interest but also their distribution.

This is more like that of simple conditionals than their English counterparts.

Aim – To explore both the internal structure and the distribution of MSA ECs, and develop analyses within HPSG.

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MSA has **ungoverned universal ECs**, involving just a clause and referring to all conditions of a certain form, which are broadly similar to their English counterparts:

- (5) [mahma faʕala-t l-llajnat-u] sa-taḏʕallu
whatever do.PST.3SGF DEF-committee-NOM] will-continue
l-ʔintiqa:dat-u tuwajjah ʔilay-ha
DEF-criticisms-NOM directed.PASS to-it.3SGF
‘Whatever the committee does, criticism will be directed at it.’

The initial constituent may be nominal or adverbial:

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- (6) [matama takun l-ħaflat-u] ʔaǰhab
whenever be.JUSS.3SGM the-party-NOM go.JUSS.1SG
ʔilay-haa
to-3SGF
'Whenever the party is, I'm going to it.'

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ʔilay-haa
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Like their English counterparts, they appear to be head-filler phrases with one of a small set of lexical items in the filler.

In addition to the items already illustrated, they may contain the following:

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- (7) *ʔayy* 'whoever'
ʔaynama 'wherever'
ħayθuma 'wherever'
kullama 'whenever'
kayfama: 'however'

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- (8) a. [[min ʔayy-i dawlat-in] qadim-ta] ʔanta
 from whichever-GEN country-GEN came-2SGM 2SGM
 muraħab-un bi-ka
 welcome-NOM with-2SGM
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 welcome-NOM with-2SGM
 ‘Whichever country you come from; you are welcome.’
- b. [[ʔayy-a kita:b-in] taqraʔ] lan tastafi:da
 whichever-ACC book-GEN read.2SGM NEG benefit.2SGM
 min-hu
 from-it
 ‘Whichever book you read; you won't benefit from it.’

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In MSA, they sometimes look like free relatives:

- (9) [mahmaq: tured] ʔaʃtar-hu
whatever want.JUSS.2SGM buy.JUSS.1SG.M/F-it.3SGM
la-ka
for-2SGM
'Whatever you want, I will buy it for you.'

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(10) saʔaxta:ru [ʔallað turi:du / turi:du-hu].
will-choose.1SGM COMP want.2SGM / want.2SGM-it
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The free relative in (10) is identical to an ordinary relative clause.

(11) saʔaxta:ru 1-kita:b-a [ʔallað turi:du /
will-choose.1SGM DEF-book-ACC COMP want.2SGM
turi:du-hu]
want.2SGM-it
‘I will choose the book you want.’

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Thus, there is no reason to consider a free relative analysis for ungoverned universal ECs in MSA.

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In MSA, ungoverned universal ECs cannot be *wh*-interrogatives because they have a different set of lexical items in the filler. The following are not possible interrogatives:

- (12) a. *mahma faʕala-t l-llajnat-u
 whatever do.PAST.3SGF DEF-committee-NOM
 ‘Whatever does the committee do?’
- b. *matama takunu l-ḥaflat-u
 whenever be.3SGM DEF-party-NOM
 ‘Whenever is the party?’

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- (13) a. maḥ: faʿala-t l-llajnat-u
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But although MSA ungoverned universal ECs are not *wh*-interrogatives, they are like *wh*-interrogatives in identifying a set of possible situations.

They indicate that all the situations are ones in which the modified clause is true.

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- (14) a. [ʔa-ðahab-ta ʔilac: baris ʔam lam taðhab]
 (Q)-go.PAST-2SGM to Paris or not go.PRES.2SGM
 sa-taqdʕii: waqt-an mumtiʕ-an
 will-have.2SGM time-ACC good-ACC
 ‘Whether you go to Paris or not, you’ll have a good time.’

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 sa-taqdʕii: waqt-an mumtiʕ-an
 will-have.2SGM time-ACC good-ACC
 ‘Whether you go to Paris or not, you’ll have a good time.’
- b. [ʔa-ðahab-ta ʔilac: baris ʔam ʔilac: ru:ma:]
 (Q)-go.PAST-2SGM to Paris or to Rome
 sa-taqdʕii: waqt-an mumtiʕ-an
 will-have.2SGM time.ACC good-ACC
 ‘Whether you go to Paris or Rome, you’ll have a good time.’

c. [ʔa-ðahab-ta ʔilac: baris ʔam ʔilac: ru:mc: ʔam
(Q)-go.PAST-2SGM to Paris or to Rome or
ʔilac: berli:n] sa-taqd^{ʕii}: waqt-an mumtiʕ-an
to Berlin will-have.2SGM time.ACC good-ACC
‘Whether you go to Paris or Rome or Berlin, you’ll have a good
time.’

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- (15) a. (ʔa)-ðahab-ta ʔilɑː baris ʔam lam taðhab
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 (Q)-go.PAST.2SGM to Paris or not go.PRES.2SGM
 ‘Did you go to Paris or not?’
- b. sa?aluu:n-i: [(?a)-ðahab-ta ?ilac: baris ?am
 ask.PAST.3PLM-1SGM/F Q-go.PAST-2SGM to Paris or
 lam taðhab]
 not go.PRES.2SGM
 ‘They asked me whether you went to Paris or not.’

Ungoverned alternative ECs identify two or more possible situations in the same way as alternative interrogatives and indicate that all the situations are ones that make the modified clause true.

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- (16) a. [sawa:ʔ-un [(ʔa)-ðahab-ta ʔilac: baris ʔam lam
same-NOM Q-go.PAST-2SGM to Paris or not
taðhab]] sa-taqd^{ʕii}: waqt-an mumtiʕ-an
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- (16) a. [sawa:ʔ-un [(ʔa)-ðahab-ta ʔilac: baris ʔam lam
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go.PRES.2SGM will-have.2SGM time-ACC good-ACC
‘No matter whether you go to Paris or not, you’ll have a good
time.’
- b. [sawa:ʔ-un [(ʔa)-ðahab-ta ʔilac: baris ʔam ʔilac:
same-NOM (Q)-go.PAST-2SGM to Paris or to
ru:ma:]] sa-taqd^{ʕii}: waqt-an mumtiʕ-an
Rome will-have.2SGM time.ACC good-ACC
‘No matter whether you go to Paris or Rome, you’ll have
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(17) [Ihan sama [mitä hän sanoo]], mies psyy vaiti.
quite same what she says man stays silent
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The appearance of a word meaning ‘same’ clearly reflects the fact that the main clause is true in all of the situations identified by the EC. Hence, they are all equally good, or the same.

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Thus, the following are ungrammatical:

(18) a. *[sawɑ:ʔ-un [maɑ: faʕala-ta]], sa-taqd^{ʕii}: waqt-an
same-NOM what do.PAST-2SGM will-have.2SGM time.ACC
mumtiʕ-an]
good-ACC

‘No matter what you do, you will have a good time.’

b. *[sawɑ:ʔ-un [mata: ʕahab-ta]], sa-taqd^{ʕii}:
same-NOM when go.PAST-2SGM will-have.2SGM
waqt-an mumtiʕ-an]
time.ACC good-ACC

‘No matter whenever you go, you will have a good time.’

It seems, then, that MSA has no governed universal ECs.

The distribution of ECs

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- (19) ʔiðɑ: ʔaxtʰaʔa -t $\text{l-llajnat-u]$
if makes a mistake.PAST.3SGF DEF-committee-NOM
 sa-tuwajjah l-ʔintiqɑ:dat-u ʔilay-hɑ
will-directed.PASS DEF-criticisms-NOM to-it.3SGF
'If the committee makes mistake, criticisms will be directed at it.'

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 sa-tuwajjah l-ʔintiqa:dat-u ʔilay-ha
will-directed.PASS DEF-criticisms-NOM to-it.3SGF
'If the committee makes mistake, criticisms will be directed at it.'
- (20) $[\text{hi:na/ hi:nama: tuxtʰiʔu}$ l-llajnat-u
when makes a mistake.PRES.3SGF DEF-committee-NOM
 tuwajjahu l-ʔintiqa:dat-u ʔilay-ha
directed.PASS DEF-criticisms-NOM to-it.3SGF
'When the committee makes a mistake, criticism is directed at it.'

The adjunct clause can precede or follow the clause it modifies:

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- (21) sa-taḏʿallu l-ʔintiqa:dat-u tuwajjah ʔila
will-continue DEF-criticisms-NOM directed.PASS to
l-llajnat-i [mahma faʕala-t]
DEF-committee-GEN whatever do.PAST.3SGF
‘Criticism will be directed at the committee, whatever it does.’

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(21) sa-taḏ^ʕallu l-ʔintiqa:dat-u tuwajjah ʔila
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l-llajnat-i [mahma faʕala-t]
DEF-committee-GEN whatever do.PAST.3SGF
‘Criticism will be directed at the committee, whatever it does.’

(22) sa-taḏ^ʕallu l-ʔintiqa:dat-u tuwajjah ʔila
will-continue DEF-criticisms-NOM directed.PASS to
l-llajnat-i [ʔiḏa: ʔaxt^ʕaʔa -t]
DEF-committee-GEN if makes a mistake.PAST.3SGF
‘Criticism will be directed at the committee, if it makes a mistake.’

(23) tuwajjahu l-ʔintiqɑ:dat-u ʔila l-llajnat-i
 directed.PASS DEF-criticisms-NOM to DEF-committee-GEN
 [ħi:na/ ħi:nama: tuχtʰiʔu]
 when makes a mistake.PRES.3SGF
 ‘Criticism is directed at the committee, when it makes a mistake.’

In MSA, as in English, simple conditionals can also modify a clause with a special marking which cannot stand alone. Thus, the following is possible:

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- (24) $\text{ʔið}\alpha$: $\text{ʔaxt}^{\text{f}}\text{aʔa -t}$ $\text{l-llajnat-u]$
if makes a mistake.PAST.3SGF DEF-committee-NOM
 fa-sa-tuwajjah $\text{l-ʔintiq}\alpha$: dat-u $\text{ʔilay-h}\alpha$
then-will-directed.PASS DEF-criticisms-NOM to-it.3SGF
'If the committee makes mistake, then criticisms will be directed at it.'

In MSA, ECs too can modify a marked clause. This illustrates for ungoverned universal ECs:

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(25) [mahmaq: faʕala-t l-llajnat-u]
whatever do.PAST-3SGF DEF-committee-NOM
fa-sa-taðʕallu l-ʔintiqa:dat-u tuwajjah
then-will-continue DEF-criticisms-NOM directed.PASS
ʔilay-ha.
to-it.3SGF

‘Whatever the committee does, criticisms will be directed at it.’

Other types of EC are the same.

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- (26) [ʔa-ðahab-ta ʔilaa: baris ʔam lam taðhab]
(Q)-go.PAST-2SGM to Paris or not go.PRES.2SGM
fa-sa-taqdʿii: waqt-an mumtiʃ-an
then-will-have.2SGM time-ACC good-ACC
‘Whether you go to Paris or not, you’ll have a good time.’

Other types of EC are the same.

(26) [ʔa-ðahab-ta ʔilaa: baris ʔam lam taðhab]
(Q)-go.PAST-2SGM to Paris or not go.PRES.2SGM
fa-sa-taqdʿii: waqt-an mumtiʃ-an
then-will-have.2SGM time-ACC good-ACC

‘Whether you go to Paris or not, you’ll have a good time.’

(27) [sawa:ʔ-un [(ʔa)-ðahab-ta ʔilaa: baris ʔam lam taðhab]]
same-NOM Q-go.PAST-2SGM to Paris or not go.PRES.2SGM
fa-sa-taqdʿii: waqt-an mumtiʃ-an
then-will-have.2SGM time-ACC good-ACC
‘No matter whether you go to Paris or not, you’ll have a good time.’

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- (28) *fa-sa-taḏʿallu l-ʔintiqɑ:dat-u tuwajjah ʔila
then-will-continue DEF-criticisms-NOM directed.PASS to
l-llajnat-i [ʔiḏɑ: ʔaxtʿaʔa-t]
DEF-committee-GEN if makes a mistake.PAST.3SGF
'Criticism will be directed at the committee, if it makes a mistake.'

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- (28) *fa-sa-taḏʿallu l-ʔintiqa:dat-u tuwajjah ʔila
 then-will-continue DEF-criticisms-NOM directed.PASS to
 l-llajnat-i [ʔiḏa: ʔaxtʿaʔa-t]
 DEF-committee-GEN if makes a mistake.PAST.3SGF
 ‘Criticism will be directed at the committee, if it makes a mistake.’
- (29) *fa-sa-taḏʿallu l-ʔintiqa:dat-u tuwajjah ʔilay
 then-will-continue DEF-criticisms-NOM directed.PASS to-it
 l-llajnat-i [mahma faʕala-t]
 DEF-committee-GEN whatever do.PST.3SGF
 ‘Criticisms will be directed at the committee, whatever it does.’

3. Analyses

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$$(30) \quad hd-adj-ph \Rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{l} DTRS < [1][SS [2]], [HEAD [MOD [2]]] > \\ HD-DTR [1] \end{array} \right]$$

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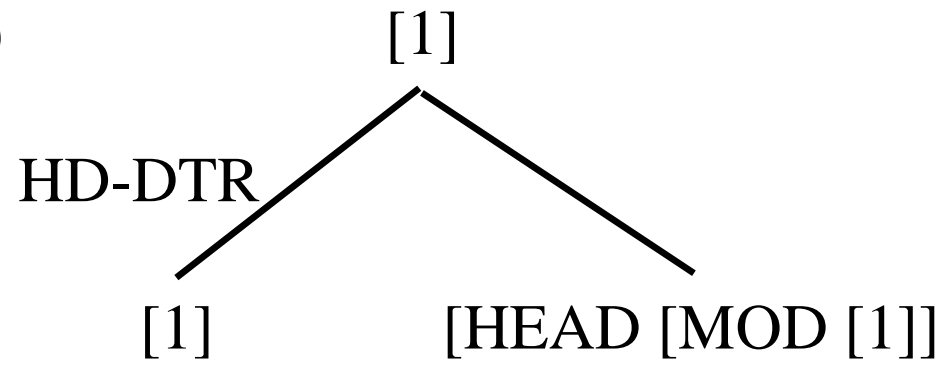
The distribution of ECs.

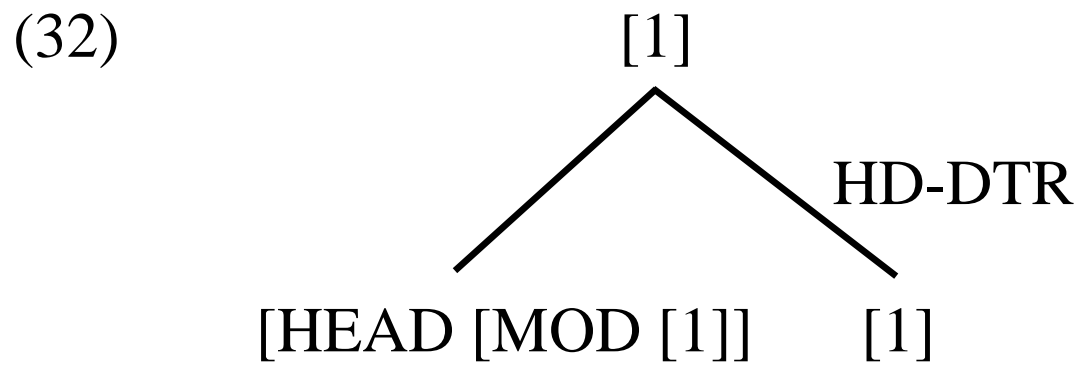
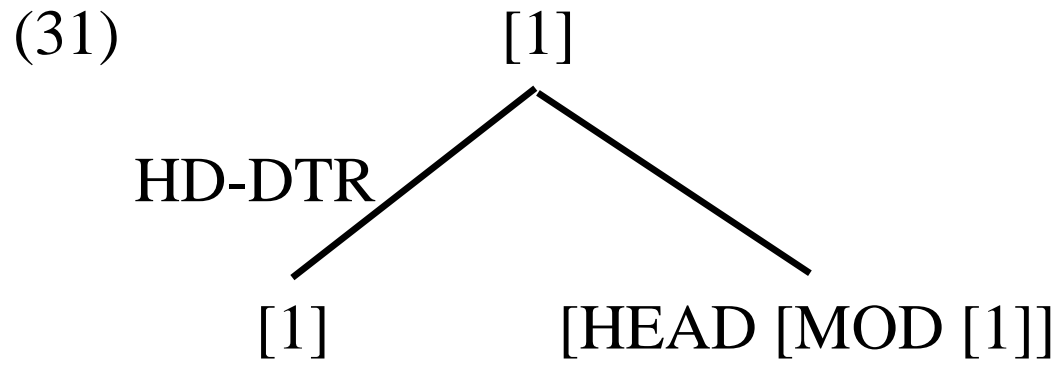
Combinations of simple conditional or EC and an ordinary clause can be analysed as head-adjunct structures similar to other combinations of adverbial clause and main clause.

$$(30) \quad hd-adj-ph \Rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{l} DTRS < [1][SS [2]], [HEAD [MOD [2]]] > \\ HD-DTR [1] \end{array} \right]$$

Assuming some general constraint, e.g. the Generalized Head Feature Principle of Ginzburg & Sag (2000), requires a phrase and its head to normally have the same syntactic and semantic properties, this will give structures of the following form (where the daughters may appear in either order):

(31)





Combinations of simple conditional or EC and a clause marked by *fa-* are more challenging.

Combinations of simple conditional or EC and a clause marked by *fa*- are more challenging.

If they were analysed as ordinary head-adjunct structures, they would have the same SYNSEM value as the *fa*-clause, which would leave us without an explanation for the fact that such combinations are ordinary main clauses which can stand on their own but *fa*-clauses are not.

Alqurashi & Borsley (2014) show that MSA simple conditionals are one of a number of types of correlative clause, in which an adverbial clause and main clause and both have some distinctive marking and that means that the main clause cannot appear on its own.

(33) [bimaa ʔannka taqraʔu ʔakθar] [ʔiðann
as/since COMP.2SGM read-IMPF.2SGM more so
sa-tafhamu ʔakθar]
will-understand.IMPF.2SGM more
‘As/since you read more, so you will understand more.’

(33) [bimaa ʔannka taqraʔu ʔakθar] [ʔiðann
 as/since COMP.2SGM read-IMPF.2SGM more so
 sa-tafhamu ʔakθar]
 will-understand.IMPF.2SGM more
 ‘As/since you read more, so you will understand more.’

(34) [kullamã qaraʔta ʔakθar] [kullamã
 whenever read.PERF.2SGM more whenever
 fahimta ʔakθar]
 understand.PERF.2SGM more
 ‘Whenever you read more, you understood more.’
 ‘The more you read, the more you understood.’

Such examples need not be a problem if general constraints can be overridden by more specific constraints since this means a constraint can require a phrase and its head to differ in some respects.

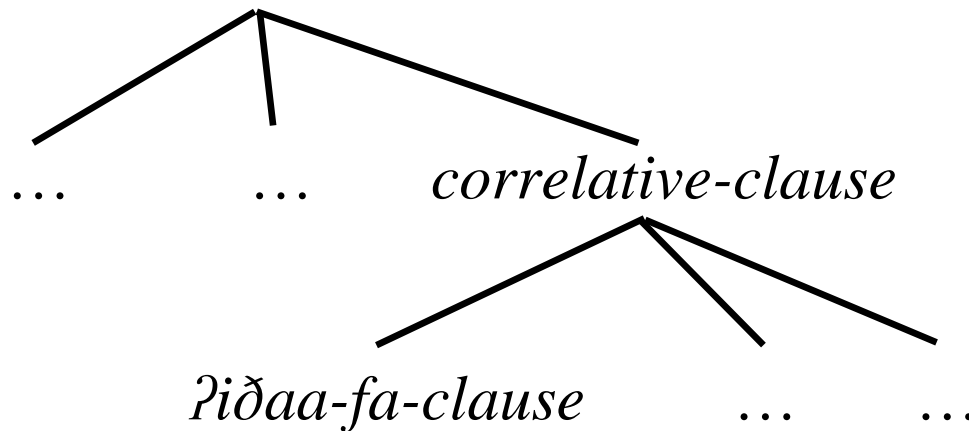
Such examples need not be a problem if general constraints can be overridden by more specific constraints since this means a constraint can require a phrase and its head to differ in some respects.

Following e.g. Alqurashi & Borsley (2014) (cf. also Abeillé & Chaves 2021: 3.3), we assume that a number of types of clause with a distinctive form have a value other than *none* for a feature a CORREL, while ordinary clauses which can stand alone are [CORREL *none*].

We propose that there is a subtype of *head-adjunct-phrase* called *correlative-clause*, and that it has a number of subtypes, including *ʔiðaa-fa-clause*:

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(35) *head-adjunct-phrase*



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(36) *correlative-cl* \Rightarrow

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{CORREL } none \\ \text{DTRS } < [\text{CORREL } \neg none], [\text{CORREL } \neg none] > \end{array} \right]$$

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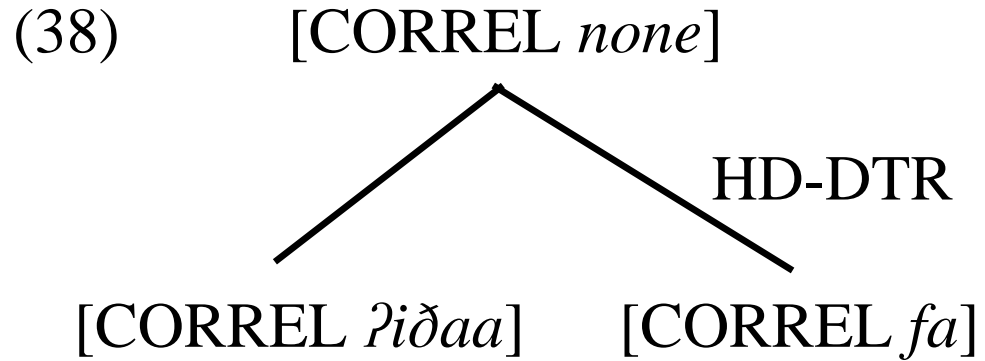
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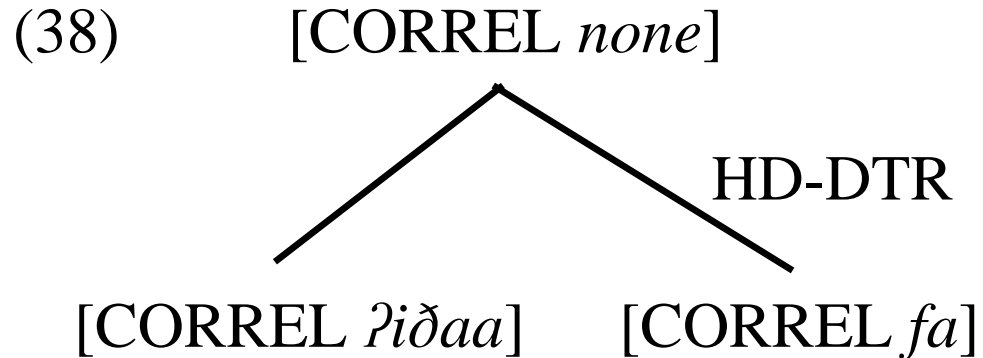
(37) *ʔiðaa-fa-cl* \Rightarrow [DTRS \langle [CORREL *fa*], [CORREL *ʔiðaa*] \rangle]

Together they give clauses with structures with following form:

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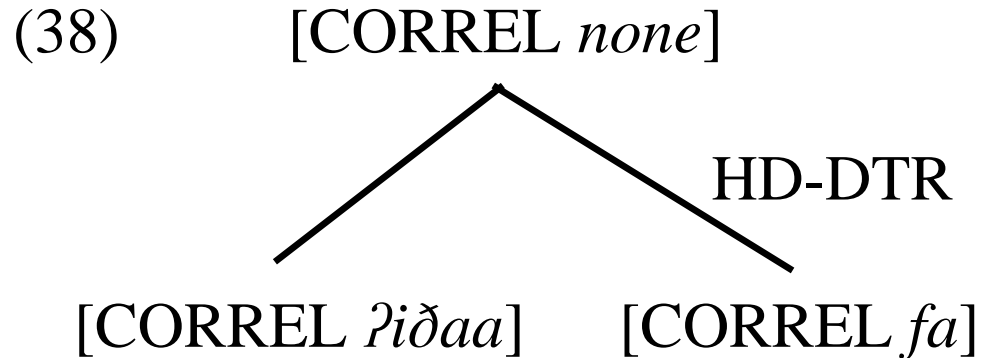


Together they give clauses with structures with following form:



If both simple conditionals and ECs are [CORREL *?iðaa*], they will appear in these clauses.

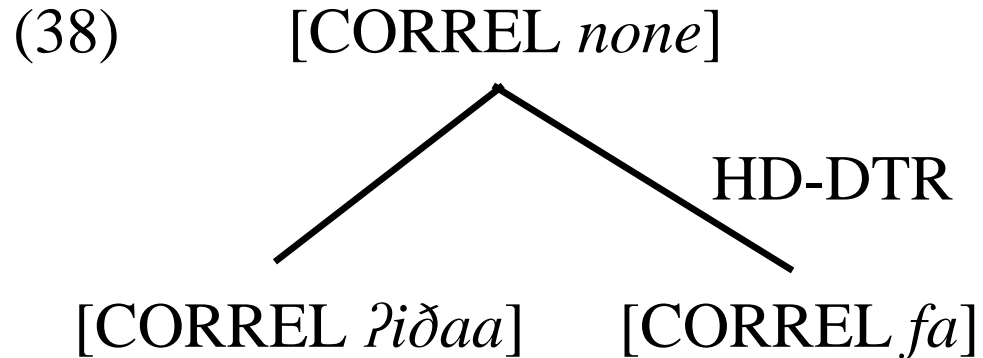
Together they give clauses with structures with following form:



If both simple conditionals and ECs are [CORREL *ʔiðaa*], they will appear in these clauses.

This means that [CORREL *ʔiðaa*] clauses do not always contain the lexeme *ʔiðaa*, but the following suggests that [CORREL *if*] clauses do not always contain the lexeme *if*:

Together they give clauses with structures with following form:



If both simple conditionals and ECs are [CORREL *ʔiǰaa*], they will appear in these clauses.

This means that [CORREL *ʔiǰaa*] clauses do not always contain the lexeme *ʔiǰaa*, but the following suggests that [CORREL *if*] clauses do not always contain the lexeme *if*:

(39) Had I been there, then I would have seen you.

The following constraint will ensure that the main clause, marked with *fa-*, comes second in correlative clauses, including *ʔiðaa-fa* clauses:

The following constraint will ensure that the main clause, marked with *fa-*, comes second in correlative clauses, including *ʔiðaa-fa* clauses:

$$(40) \quad \textit{correlative-cl} \Rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{PHON [1] } \oplus \text{ [2]} \\ \text{DTRS } < \text{ [PHON [2]]}, \text{ [PHON [1] } > \end{array} \right]$$

The internal structure of ECs

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Governed alternative ECs.

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Like *no matter*, as discussed in Arnold and Borsley (2014), *sawa:ʔ-un* can be analysed as a head which takes an interrogative and derives a conditional meaning from it, but unlike *no matter*, it only takes an alternative interrogative.

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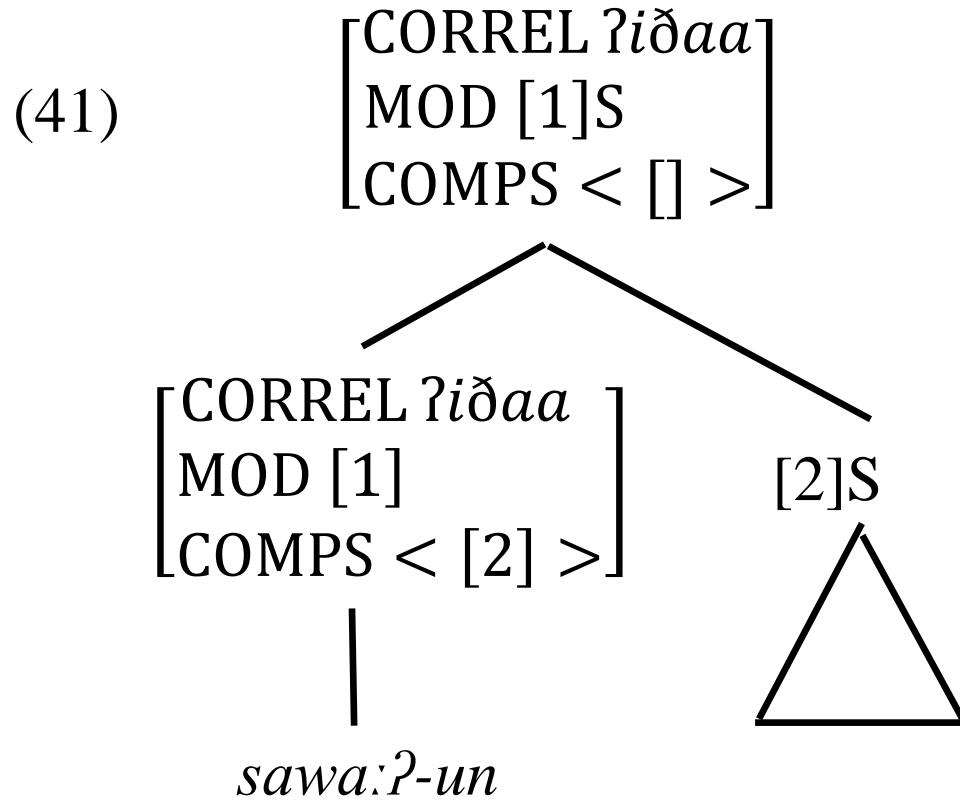
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Given the approach just proposed, ECs and hence *sawa:ʔ-un*, must be [CORREL *ʔiðaa*].

This means structures of the following form:

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It means an analysis of the following form for *sawa:ʔ-un*:

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$$(42) \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{SS|LOC} \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{CAT} \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{HEAD} \left[\begin{array}{l} \textit{noun} \\ \text{MOD S: [1]} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{CORREL } \textit{ʔi\text{d}aa} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{CONT } \textit{ex-cond} ([2], [1]) \end{array} \right] \\ \text{ARG-ST} \langle \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{LOC} \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{CAT S} \\ \text{CONT [2]} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right] \rangle \end{array} \right]$$

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Following Arnold and Borsley (2014), *ex-cond* ([2], [1]) is a condition which holds just in case [1] holds in every situation identified by [2].

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Following Arnold and Borsley (2014), *ex-cond* ([2], [1]) is a condition which holds just in case [1] holds in every situation identified by [2].

Nothing here ensures that the complement is an alternative interrogative. This should probably be done with an appropriate CONT value, perhaps drawing on the analysis of Yoo (2000).

There is no need to specify what the modified S can be. The grammar will allow either an S[*CORREL none*] in an ordinary head-adjunct clause or a *fa*-clause in an *ʔidaa-fa* clause

Ungoverned alternative ECs

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One possibility for ungoverned alternative ECs would be an analysis involving a phonologically null counterpart of *sawa:ʔ-un*.

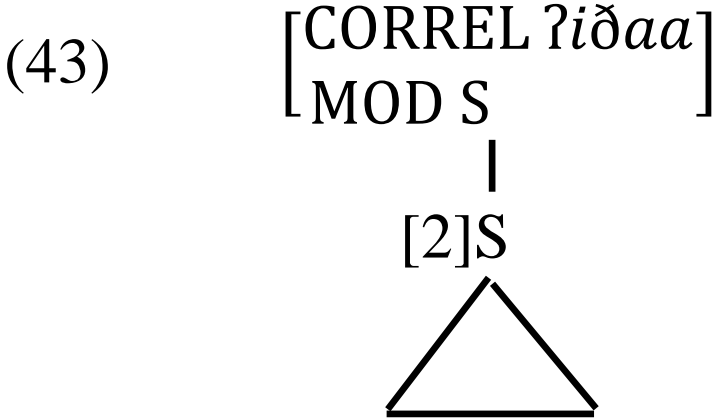
Ungoverned alternative ECs

One possibility for ungoverned alternative ECs would be an analysis involving a phonologically null counterpart of *sawa:ʔ-un*.

But if one prefers to avoid empty elements, the obvious alternative is a unary branching analysis in which the daughter has an interrogative meaning just like the complement of *sawa:ʔ-un* and the mother derives a conditional meaning from it in essentially the same way as *sawa:ʔ-un* does.

This means structures of the following form:

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To license such structures, we propose a phrase type *ungoverned-alternative-ec* subject to the following constraint:

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As with the complement in (42), it needs to be specified that the daughter is an alternative interrogative, probably with an appropriate CONT value.

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If they were *wh*-interrogatives like their English counterparts, it would be reasonable to propose a unary branching analysis like that proposed for ungoverned alternative ECs.

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If they were *wh*-interrogatives like their English counterparts, it would be reasonable to propose a unary branching analysis like that proposed for ungoverned alternative ECs.

It is clear that they are not *wh*-interrogatives. However, the analysis of *wh*-interrogatives is still of some relevance.

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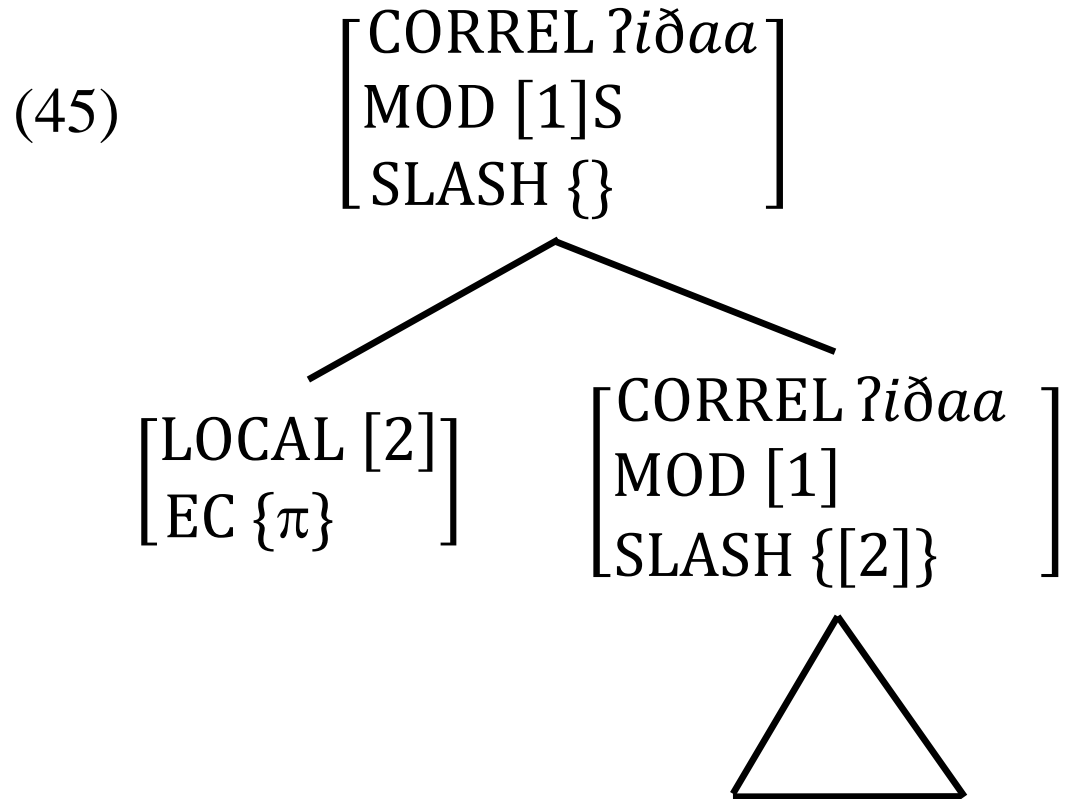
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We propose that they involve a special of *head-filler-phrase*, which we will call the subtype *universal-ec*, which has then following properties:

- It has a filler with one of a small number of EC words.
- It modifies a clause.
- It is [CORREL *ʔidaa*].
- It has conditional semantics.

This means structures of the following form:

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This has an EC feature where *wh*-interrogatives have WH.

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Like WH, its value is a set containing a single parameter, a combination of an index and a restriction.

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Building on Sag's (2010: 5.3) analysis of *wh*-interrogatives, the semantics involves a propositional abstract constructed from the semantics of the daughters.

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Building on Sag's (2010: 5.3) analysis of *wh*-interrogatives, the semantics involves a propositional abstract constructed from the semantics of the daughters.

But unlike with *wh*-interrogatives, this is the first argument of *ex-cond*, and the modified clause is the second argument as before.

This is also somewhat like Sag's (2010: 5.4) analysis of *wh*-relatives, in which a modifying semantics is based on a clausal semantics.

4. Conclusions

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- Ungoverned universal ECs involve a subtype of head-filler phrase, which derives a conditional meaning from its daughters.

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