A Comparison of Relative Clauses in English and Persian and the Usage of the Results in Teaching

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In transformational grammar, a relative clause is a surface structure realization of an embedded sentence following a definite or an indefinite head noun phrase called an antecedent and containing an NP coreferential with this antecedent. In fact, a relative clause gives further information about a nominal element. The relative clause formation rule involves the deletion of the second identical NP, i.e., the NP of the embedded sentence, and its replacement by the appropriate relative pronoun. A comparison of the relative clause construction in both languages reveals that despite some similarities, relative clauses are different from each other. That’s why many Persian speaking learners of English, especially beginners, have some difficulty in learning English grammar and this is the specialists’ duty to find out similarities and differences between these two languages and see whether learners’ mistakes in second/foreign language learning is due to transferring their first language habits to the new situation or not. In fact by comparing and contrasting these two languages, material developers can decide upon the best and most useful methods of language teaching; therefore, they can reach their desired goals in the field of teaching.