Internally Headed Rel Clauses


(1) Navajo
   a. [ Ashkii lééchqą́ yitzal-ę́ nañółin.  
      boy dog 3.PERF.3.kick-REL IMP.3.bark
      ‘The dog that the boy kicked is barking.’
   b. [ Tl’édáá yashkii alháá-ą́ yádooltih.  
      last.night boy IMP.3.snore-REL FUT.3.speak
      ‘The boy who was snoring last night will speak.’

(2) Donno So
      today crazy.person yesterday woman large.OBJ hit.PST.DEF catch.PST.3PL
      ‘Today they caught the crazy person who hit a large woman.’
   b. [ Kandow nyan ge têgo] ne yu gaw to.  
      just fire granary burn.PSTNARR.3SG.DEF in millet a.lot exist.3SG
      ‘There was a lot of millet in the granary that the fire just burned.’

(3) Bambara
   Tyè be [n ye so min ye] dyo.  
   the.man PRES I PST house RELHEAD see build
   ‘The man is building the house that I saw.’

(4) Diegueño
   yesterday house I.saw-DEF LOC I.will.sing
   ‘I will sing in the house that I saw yesterday.’

(5) Imbabura Quechua
   a. [ Kan kwitsa- man kwintu- ta villa- shka]- ka sumaj- mi.  
      you girl- to story-ACC tell-NMNL-TOPIC pretty-FOC
      ‘The girl to whom you told the story is pretty.’
   b. [ Kan kwitsa- man kwintu- ta villa- shka]- ka sumaj- mi.  
      you girl- to story-ACC tell-NMNL-TOPIC pretty-FOC
      ‘The story that you told to the girl is pretty.’

Navajo is a language on the Athapaskan branch of the Na-Dene family. It has 149,000 speakers in southwestern United States (Arizona, New Mexico, Utah). Donno So, with 45,300 speakers in Mali, is a Dogon language (Niger-Congo). Bambara, with 2,700,000 speakers in Mali, is a Mande language (Niger-Congo). Diegueño is a language on the Yuman branch of the Hokan family with 330 speakers in Baja California (México) and southern California (United States). Imbabura Quechua is a Quechua language with 300,000 speakers in Imbabura Province, Ecuador.