Relative clauses

Relative clauses are available in Arabic and English. In English, relative clauses are introduced by relative pronouns, but in Arabic they are introduced by what is called relative nouns. English relative pronouns include (who, whom, which, whose, that, where, why, and when); on the other hand, Arabic ones vary according to person, number and gender. To show the differences, let's consider the following examples:

1. The man <u>who stole the money</u> must be punished.

The underlined clause is the relative one. We can translate this example as follows: (الرجل الذي سرق المال لابد ان يعاقب). Now, let's consider the following:

2. The two men who stole the money must be punished.
   (الرجلان اللذان سرقا المال لابد ان يعاقبا)

We can see that the dual number has an effect on the form of the relative noun and its clause, but in English it does not change.

3. The men who stole the money must be punished.
   (الرجال الذين سرقوا المال لابد ان يعاقبوا)

Now, the number is plural in Arabic and English, but the form of the relative pronoun does not change in English, unlike Arabic.

4. The woman who stole the money must be punished.
   (المرأة التي سرقت المال لابد ان تعاقب)

Now, the gender of the antecedent is feminine. The English relative pronoun remain the same as in the above examples, but in Arabic its form differs. If this feminine noun is dual, the relative noun is (اللتان), and if it is plural, it is (اللواتي).

The role of the relative clause in both languages is adjectival as it modifies the antecedent.