

Selectional Relations in Adverb Syntax: Manner and Intensifier Adverbs

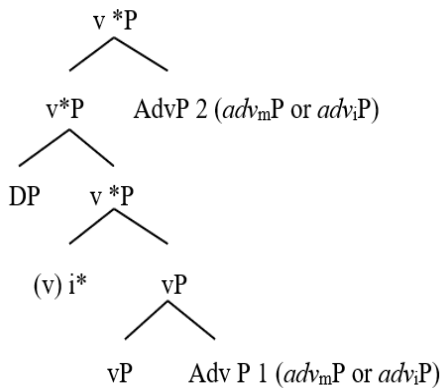
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In (1a), an intensifier adverb *badly* expresses that the subject is in need of money to a great extent, but in (1b), *badly* is a manner adverb, expressing that the subject draws horses in an unskilled manner. It is also observed that *need money* is a predicate that denotes stative eventualities, and its subject is assigned an experiencer role; *draw horses* is an eventive predicate that denotes activities, and its subject receives an agent role.

- (1) (a) Jane needs money *badly* (b) Jane draws horses *badly*.

This study argues that there is a selectional relation between predicates and adverbs in English, specifically manner and intensifier adverbs. I propose that interpretations of the adverbs correspond to the theta role of the external argument or the types of aspectual classes: stative and eventive vP. Kratzer's (1996) *Voice* and Wood and Marantz's (2017) *i** head are the theoretical framework of this study. Kratzer (1996) proposes that the verb phrase is dominated by a functional category *Voice* (v) that introduces the external argument. *Voice* assigns the DP in spec-Voice P a thematic role and assigns accusative case to the direct object. An external argument receives different thematic roles depending on the type of eventuality predicates denote. An external argument receives, for example, an agent role with an eventive predicate (*draw horses*). Wood and Marantz propose a single head (*i**) to replace *Voice*. The function of the *i** head is to merge with a constituent X, and then another constituent Y, and then to assign Y the semantic role implied by X. For example, in (1b), the *i** merges with the vP *draw horses*, valuing its own categorial feature as v*, and projects a v*P that requires a DP.



I propose that a category-neutral lexical root combines with an *adv* head with two possible type features, manner 'm-type' and intensifier 'i-type'. There are two projections in the left tree: in the event-based approach (AdvP1), *advmP* combines with an eventive vP, and *adv_iP* combines with a stative vP; in the theta-based approach (AdvP2), *advmP* adjoins to an agent-assigning v*P; *adv_iP* adjoins to an experiencer-assigning v*P. In analysis, in transitive and unaccusative clauses, *advmP* only combines with an eventive vP (e.g., She plays piano *beautifully* / The train departed *slowly* from the station); *adv_iP* only combines with a stative vP (e.g., My friend *completely*

forgot her name / These shoes fit *completely*). *adv_iP* also adjoin to a result vP (a stative vP) contained within the eventive vP of an accomplishment predicate (e.g., Phil *fully* read the course policy). The theta-based approach makes the same predictions, but unaccusatives provide evidence against the theta-based analysis because they have no theta-role assigning v*P. Interestingly, without theta-role assigning v*P, intensifier adverbs are restricted to a post-verbal position in unaccusative clauses (e.g., *My legs *badly* hurt / My legs hurt *badly*). This suggests that *adv_iP* interacts with both the theta-role assigning v*P and the type of eventuality denoted by the vP. Overall, my study demonstrates that there is a semantic relation between verb phrases and intensifier and manner adverbs.

References

- Kratzer, A. 1996. Severing the external arguments from its verb. In *Phrase structure and the lexicon*, 109-137. Springer, Dordrecht.
- Wood, J., & Marantz, A. 2017. The interpretation of external arguments. *The verbal domain*, 255-278.