

Haumann, Dagmar: *Adverb Licensing and Clause Structure in English*, Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins 2007

Eric Haeberli

The adequate syntactic representation of adjuncts has been a long-standing issue in generative grammar. The debate in this domain became particularly animated in the early 1990s when several authors independently (and in somewhat different ways) proposed to analyze adverbs as specifiers of functional projections and thus to derive their distributional properties from syntactic structure (cf. Alexiadou 1997, Cinque 1999, Laenzlinger 1998). In reaction to such approaches, other authors argued that the main syntactic properties of adverbs follow from semantic scope principles and that adverbs can therefore simply be represented in terms of adjunction rather than by means of a rich syntactic structure (cf. Ernst 2002 for the most elaborate version of this view). Haumann's *Adverb Licensing and Clause Structure in English* provides a valuable additional contribution to this debate. Taking into account both the adverbs-as-specifiers and the semantic scope analyses, Haumann argues that the former, with some modifications, fares better in the way it can handle the syntactic properties of adverbs in English.

The book is divided into six chapters. Chapter 1 provides a very brief overview of the main empirical and theoretical issues that are raised by the syntax and semantics of adverbs. Chapter 2 then examines in some detail the way adverbs have been treated within the generative framework. The chapter contains three main sections, one focusing on work within the Government and Binding framework of the 1980s, one presenting the adverbs-in-specifiers analyses and one dealing with the semantic scope approaches. Haumann discusses some merits and shortcomings of the various proposals. Particular attention is paid to criticisms that have been raised with respect to the most recent theoretical treatments, and some initial observations on how to address potentially problematic aspects of the adverbs-in-specifiers hypothesis are presented.

The core of the book is divided into three chapters, each of which focuses on a different domain of the syntactic structure where various types of adverbs are syntactically represented according to Haumann's analysis of English. Chapter 3 examines the VP layer. Haumann proposes that the basic VP shell structure is supplemented by various functional projections between vP and VP, in particular agreement projections (AgrP) triggering object movement for the purposes of Case checking and separate projections licensing spatial, agent-oriented, domain, manner, degree of perfection, means-oriented and completion adverbs in their specifier positions (in this hierarchical order from top to bottom). To this list of adverb licensing positions within the lexical layer, a further three for frequency, repetition and restitutive adverbs are added in later chapters (cf. p. 403 for a full overview). As for the distribution of lexical verbs, it is assumed that they undergo overt movement within the VP. Finally, an important additional ingredient of Haumann's analysis is the postulation of a semantically empty VP in the complement position of the lowest lexical V-head (typographically represented as