

The Use of Adverbs as Modifiers in English

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Abstract

Adverbs are an essential part of grammar that function as modifiers in English language. As modifiers, adverbs provide additional information about verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs, indicating various aspects of a sentence, such as time, place, manner, degree, and frequency. This research paper explores the grammar of adverbs as modifiers, including their various types and functions.

The study examines the syntactical positions of adverbs in sentences and the different ways in which they modify the words they attach to. It also analyses the different forms of adverbs, such as simple and compound adverbs, and their functions in expressing different shades of meaning. Additionally, the research investigates the common errors in the use of adverbs, such as misplaced modifiers and dangling adverbs, and provides guidance on how to correct these errors.

1.1 Introduction

This research project is an attempt to study the major syntactic features of modifiers in English with special reference to those modifying elements which are used optionally to modify nouns and adverbs. Noun phrase (NP) in English might consist of Nouns alone or those closed system items accompanied by the basic (NP) and those open class items accompanied by the complex (NP). The basic (NP) and those open-class items accompanied by the complex (NP). Those which are used with the basic (NP) are called pre-modifiers and those which are used with the complex (NP) can precede or follow the (NH). The former is called pre-modification and the latter is termed post-modification. Adverbs in English might have two major syntactic types:

• **Function Adverbial:** which can be adjunct, disjunction and conjunct e.g.s? The second major function is:

* **Modifier** which is an adverb used optionally to modify another element in the sentence. These two types of modifiers, i.e. of (NH) and (adverbs) will be tackled in the following section.

1.2 The aim of the research:

The major aim of this research is to inform learners of English that certain structures in English have no independent function in the sentence, i.e. they function with other elements which are called modifiers.

1.3 The procedure used:

The analytical approach is the main procedure used in this research. This is because syntactic structures of any language are subjected to the grammatical rules of the target language. Therefore, the presentation of the material takes the form of description and analysis as well.

2.1 Adverbs as modifier of Adjectives.

An adverb may pre-modify an adjective as in the following: Examples:

- This is a very detective story.
- It was extremely cold yesterday.
- They have really beautiful faces.

Although these are pre-modifying adjectives, "enough" is an adverb that post rather than pre-modifies adjectives:

- He is old enough to go alone to school.

Most modifying adverbs are intensifiers "very" is the frequently used one some might express "viewpoint" as in.

- Politically, this is a good decision.
- The assumption theoretically sounds correct.

2.2 Adverbs as modifier of adverbs:

When an adverb pre-modifies another adverb, the former is considered as an intensifier, consider the following examples:

- She is smoking very heavily.
- It was raining very heavily.

Few intensifiers especially "right" and "well" pre-modify particles in phrasal verbs:

- They knocked the man right out.

2.3 Adverbs as modifiers of prepositional phrases:

There are few adverbs that pre-modify particles in phrasal verbs. They also pre-modify prepositions on prepositional phrases as in the following examples:

- The nail went right through the wall.**
- Her parents are dead against her the proposal.**

2.4 Adverbs as modifiers of such elements as:

Determiners, pre-determiners and post-determiners:

Nearly every student came to class. Over two hundred pens are broken. They paid more than ten dollars for t.

The indefinite article /a/ can be used instead of "one "as in. They will stay in Paris about a week.

2.5 Adverbs as modifiers of noun phrases:

A few intensifying adverbs may pre-modify noun phrases "quite" "rather" and the pre-determiner "such" and "what". The noun phrase is normally indefinite. Consider the following examples:

- She is telling such a funny tale.
- What a (big) fool he is!

It is worth mentioning that some adverbs which signify place and time might post-modify noun phrases; consider the following examples of place and time respectively:

- The man upstairs is John.
- The day before was hot.

Moreover some adverbs can post modify noun phrase as in the following examples:

- The above sentence is wrong.
- The then president is here.

2.6 Modification of noun phrases:

Modification of noun phrases can be divided into two major types depending on the nature of the noun phrase (NP), i.e. whether it is a basic (NP) or a complex (NP).

2.7 Modifiers in NP:

Modifiers that are used in the (NP) modify the noun head (NH). These modifiers of (NH) in the basic (NP) are called pre-modifiers because they normally occur before the (NH) rather than after it.

These can be:

A) Pre-determiners:

Can occur before the (NH) they are divided into three sub-sections.

A.1) All, both, half:

- All the students are present.
- Both Ali and John passed the test.

- Half of the pupils were going to the picnic.

A.2) Multipliers which include: (double, twice,)

Consider the following example:

- She received double of the salaries.

A.3) Fractions:

Pre-determiners of this type can be expressed by numbers less than one:

- One third of the students are here.
- She lost two fifth of her money

B) Post-determiners

Items that follow determiners are called post-determiners. They include.

– **Numerals and quantifiers:1) Numerals:**

Weather cardinal or ordinal numbers as in the following:

- Three cars are sold today.

- The third one is blue.

When the two types of numbers are used in one sentence, the ordinal numbers usually precede the cardinal ones:

- The first three cars are new.
- The second ten students are clever...

2) Quantifiers:

There are two small groups of closed system quantifiers.

* **Many, a few, few**, which are used before countable nouns:

- Many students are gathering in the yard.
- A few of them are absent (several).
- Few of them are absent (not many).

* **Much, a little, little**, which are used before uncountable nouns?

- Little information is obtained (some).
- A little information is obtained. (Not much).

The open-class quantifiers are.

*Those used before countable and uncountable nouns such as:

Modifiers in the complex (NP):

Modifiers in the complex (NP) can be divided into two major sub- classes: those which precede the (NH) are called pre-modifiers and those which follow the (NH) are called post-modifiers.

2.8 Pre-modification:

Pre-modification in the complex (NP) can be divided into:

A)) Adjectives:

The most common type of pre-modifiers is the adjective. We

can distinguish both subjective and objective adjectives. Although there is no clear cutline between the two types, the subjective usually expresses the opinion of the speaker as in "beautiful", "lazy", "wise clever", etc.

Objective adjectives usually indicate a quality or property of the head, they are therefore modifying. Consider the following examples:

- The tall man is there.
- The old pair of shoes belongs to John.

All these adjectives help to identify the (NH). The subtypes of objective adjectives are:

Colour-age-size-shape....

Usually objective adjectives follow the subjective ones in pre-modified structures:

- The beautiful red car.
- The clever young boy.

B)) Participles:

Present and past participles are commonly used as pre- modifiers.

They often indicate a permanent quality such as:

- An interesting story or a temporary quality as:
- A barking dog.
- A wounded animal.

Moreover, the past participle may indicate an active or passive sense but the active past participle is not commonly used as a pre-Modifier unless it is modified by an adverb; consider the following Examples:

- a newly - arrived couple.
- a recently - published magazine.

C)) 'S Genitive:

Pre- modification by /-S'/ genitive is often found with noun heads.

Which occur up the gender scale?

- Peter's father.
- John's car.

It is worth mentioning here that if an adjective is used between the determiner and the genitive, it may cause ambiguity, thus in the examples:

1. An old man's bicycle. May mean either:

- The man is old.
- The bicycle is old.

D)) Nouns:

Nouns which function as adjectives are used as pre-modifiers:

- A gold watch.

A stone dam.

These nouns are said to be partially converted into adjectives and differ from adjectives in two aspects:

- 1) They usually appear in the singular form even when the noun is normally used in the plural form, consider the following:
Trousers: trouser length. Scissors: a scissors factory
- 2) Although they function as adjectives they have no comparative or superlative form as compared with real adjectives:

a high wall - a higher wall (adjective)

- A stone wall- a stoner wall (noun). It is to be noted, that a few nouns are used in their plural forms:

These nouns may be considered exceptions to the rule mentioned above in which the noun is used in its singular form.

*The example is not acceptable

E) a noun head (NH):

May be pre-modified by more than one adjective. Consider the following examples:

An old American car.

There are stylistic and semantic factors which are involved in the arrangement of such adjectives:

Consider the order below.

- 1) The pre-modifiers occurring next to the head is the demonical adjective meaning "consisting of", "involving" or "relating". These adjectives are called classifiers:
 - Social life.
 - Economic solution.
- 2) These adjectives are preceded by style or provenance adjectives: (Russian, American).
- 3) The participles functioning as adjectives; as in:
→ An interesting Iraq Novel. A wounded German Citizen.
- 4) Adjectives of colour, size, age.
 - A large new red car.
 - A small old white house.
- 5) Subjective adjectives.
 - A clever young man.
 - An ugly black van.

2.9 Post-modification

The main types of post-modification in English are realized by:

- a. Finite clauses

- b. Non-finite clauses.
- c. Prepositional phrases and other minor types of modification below is a detailed discussion of such sub-classes.

A)) Modification by finite clauses:

Two kinds of finite clauses are used as post-modifiers:

- 1) Relative Clauses: They can be restrictive or non-restrictive consider the following:
 - The man who is sitting there is John (Restrictive)
 - The man, who is sitting there, is John. (non-restrictive)
- 2) Apposition is less frequent than relative clauses, they differ from relative clauses in that "that" is used in restrictive and non-restrictive clauses consider the following examples:
 - The fact that he wrote several books does not prove that he is a distinguished grammarian.
 - The assumption that things will improve is not certain.

B)) Modification by (Non-finite clauses)

This type of clause might be divided into:

- 1) Ing clauses.
 - The students reading in library are John and Peter. Where "reading" is equal to "who read"
- 2) Past participle clauses:
 - The house painted yellow is mine.
This might be equal to various forms such as:
 - The house which will be painted yellow.
 - The house which is painted yellow. The house which was painted yellow.
- 3) infinitive clauses:
 - The book to read is linguistics this is equal to.
 - The book which you should read.....
 - The man to consult is John.
 - The place to go to is Baghdad.

C) Modification by prepositional phrases.

One of the commonest prepositional phrases used as post modifiers is "of constructions":

- The door of the garden is white.
 - The man of the principles is Mr. Robinson.
- Other prepositional phrases are: "with", "in",
- The man with brown eyes is Ahmed.
 - The girl with black hair is Layla.

Yet the examples (The love of God) might mean:

- We love God. (objective)
- God loves us. (subjective)

D) Minor types of post-modification:

These can be divided into:

- 1) Adverbs:
 - The sentence below is wrong.
 - The picture above is new.
- 2) Certain adjectives derived from French.
 - The president elect.
 - The London proper.
- 3) **"a- adjectives"**
 - The man a broad is Ashraf.

Conclusions

The procedure used in this research project shows that:

- 1) Certain syntactic structures such as modifiers of adverbs and nouns have no independent function in English. Thus these modifiers as optional rather than obligatory elements.
- 2) It is worth mentioning here that modifiers can sometimes determine the type of NP in English. If the NH has been both pre- and post-modified by items it is called a complex NP.
When the NH is pre-modified only by that closed-system, pre-modifiers it is called a basic NP.
- 3) Determiners belong to both complex and basic NP since they are used with both as shown in the text earlier.
- 4) When a noun modifies another noun the former is usually considered as modifier. ((Having an adjectival function))

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