THE ROLE OF ADVERBIALS IN NARRATIVE TEXT

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Annotation- This article discusses the role of adverbs in narrative text and the types of adverbs. The article also presents the opinions of various foreign scholars about adverbs and their functions. Examples are provided for each type of adverb and also analysis of adverbials are highlighted in this article.

Key words: Adverbials, temporal adverbials, adverbial phrases, narrative text.

Adverbials in a narrative text can appear in various positions depending on the perspective. This variation is influenced by the scope of meaning of the adverbs and the structure of the text. Temporal adverbials, in particular, often appear in different positions based on their referential functions within the text. For example, temporal phrases like "when she comes," "until I...," and "as soon as" serve to connect two or more events in the narrative and indicate the timing of their occurrence. The position of these adverbial phrases can shift depending on which event is emphasized. For example, here, narrow lanes and winding by-streets evoke in the visitor's mind the paintings of Jacob van Ruisdael. The houses are very old—some made of brown brick and worm-eaten gray-brown timber—built before the Wars of the Roses, or even, it is said, before Agincourt. Not all of them have owner-occupiers or steady tenants, as some have fallen into such disrepair and dismal decay that their owners cannot afford to restore them. Squatters have taken possession of these houses, secure in their ancient rights from police interference and safe from eviction because their 'landlords' are prevented by law from demolishing their property and lack the funds to repair it. (Ruth Rendell, p. 17). In the example above, the use of the Present Simple tense creates a descriptive tone. These narrative structures serve to reveal the characteristics of specific objects or places, presenting static realities. In this case, temporal and aspectual semantics play a minor role. The dynamism of the narrative—expressed

through the predicates—presents different perspectives of the events within the text's structure. Here, improper use of grammatical forms could also arise. The use of such devices helps to distinguish or emphasize specific events. For example, *"Once she faltered for a minute and stood still while a tear or two splashed on the worn red carpet. On went her old brown jacket; on went her old brown hat. With a whirl of skirts and with the brilliant sparkle still in her eyes, she fluttered out of the door and down the stairs to the street."*

In this passage, structures like *"On went her old brown jacket"* and *"On went her old brown hat"* present separate events. These phrases not only emphasize the actions but also highlight the passage of time and the continuity of the character's movements, which is a key element in narrative structure.

In a narrative text, the categorization of aspectual semantics helps fulfill a syntactic function and ensures the semantic cohesion of the text. In this case, attention is given to the time and aspect that are activated during the enumeration of events. For instance: *"We stopped and looked at our stockholders, some surprised. It wasn't quite the kind of gang we supposed had been investing. They all looked like poor people; there were plenty of old women and lots of young girls that you'd say worked in factories and mills. Some were old men who looked like war veterans, some were crippled, and many were just kids—bootblacks, newsboys, and messengers."*

In a general framework, adverbials and phrasal verbs, based on their activation within discourse, form a syntactic class, as pointed out by Dowty. Dowty emphasizes that there is no distinction between phrasal verbs and temporal adverbials in terms of their internal syntactic relations within the text when compared to other syntactic categories. Specifically, several adverbials in English, such as *after*, *before*, *since*, *during*, *while*, and *since*, stand out as belonging to different categories. They serve as connectors within a sentence and, along with prepositions, indicate a durative aspectual situation. Therefore, these adverbials

are studied at both the internal and external syntax levels. In external syntax, they carry temporal semantics, while in internal syntax, they function as deixis markers of temporality, ensuring textual coherence. Internal syntax often arises depending on the connection with syntactic categories. Let's focus on the following examples: The sentence *"She had given up hope"* has a different meaning from *"She had given up hope by now."* The latter introduces a temporal reference, altering the interpretation of the action's completion.

In the second sentence, the phrase *"by now"* consists of two syntactic categories, *by* and *now*, but it performs the same semantic function. Temporal adverbials can appear multiple times within a text. In a narrative text, deixis markers used to express additional factual meaning can be employed more freely. For example: *It was the first time he had ever been alone there, so he used the waiting time to survey the room. The furniture, which he had supposed to be Angela's and had therefore credited her with taste, was in fact Somerset's—the lifelong collection, perhaps, of Somerset's father. It was the prettiest kind of late-Victorian, with some earlier pieces: spindle-legged chairs, an elegant small oval table. By the window was a red and white Venetian glass oil-lamp that had never been converted to electricity.* (Ruth Rendell, p. 19)

The analysis of adverbials in the given text depends on syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic conditions. The use of one aspect is not possible without the others. Although there is considerable literature and analysis dedicated to the use of temporal adverbials, their syntactic roles and semantic-pragmatic characteristics within the text have not been comprehensively studied. This is primarily because the impact of temporal adverbials on the text's semantics can vary. They express different functions and semantic meanings depending on their syntactic structure and position in the text. In a narrative text, temporal indicators (present, future, past) serve as deixis markers and perform functions that ensure temporal coherence within the text. For example: *Some of the old women were crying. The factory girls were plumb distracted. They'd lost all their savings and would be*

docked for the time they lost coming to see about it. There was one girl—a pretty one in a red shawl—crying in a corner as though her heart would dissolve. Buck goes over and asks her about it. "It ain't so much losing the money, mister," says she, shaking all over, "though I've been two years saving it up; but Jakey won't marry me now. He'll take Rosa Steinfeld. I know J—J—Jakey. She's got $400 in the savings bank. Ai, ai, ai," she sings out (O'Henry, 248).

In the given example, the position of the speaker is naturally linked to the time of the event, ensuring the syntactic-semantic coherence of the text. However, the use of each predicate in the text is limited to certain contexts, and while they may be syntactically compatible, they do not align semantically. For instance, *"women was crying"* and *"girls was plumb distracted"* do not convey coherent meanings. Additionally, there is an inconsistency in temporal relations in sentences like *"there was one girl"* and *"Buck goes over and asks."*In the dynamism of a narrative text, the description of specific situations is commonly used. In such situations, the activation of aspectual semantics becomes evident.For example: *Hathall froze where he stood. Life seemed to have been driven out of him. It was as if he had suddenly been struck with a pain so great that it had paralyzed him or forced him to hold still for the protection of his heart and his whole nervous system. And yet, he said nothing; he made no sound. His self-control was magnificent. But his body, his physical self, was triumphing over his mental processes. It was as strong an example of matter over mind as Wexford had ever seen. The shock had come to Hathall at last—the stunning, with its attendant disbelief, terror, and realization of what the future must now be, which should have bludgeoned him when he first saw his wife's body, was taking effect five days later. He was pole-axed by it.* (Ruth Rundell, 68)

In this sentence, the predicate *"Hathall froze"* presents resultative semantics and functions as a proposition for the subsequent events. The other predicates also have certain limitations when used in these contexts, as they can only be employed in Past Perfect tense forms. The completed situations in the text are dependent on

the lexical meaning and grammar of the verbs, which are context-bound. For example, verbs like "stricken," "forced," and "made no sound" are used specifically to express sequentially completed events in a particular sense.

In a narrative text, temporal adverbs play an important role in the activation of aspectual semantics. For example: *Every spring, Navarro, senior partner, fifty-five, half Spanish, cosmopolitan, able, polished, had 'gone on' to New York to buy goods. This year, he shied away from taking up the long trail. He was undoubtedly growing older, and he looked at his watch several times a day before the hour came for his siesta.* (O'Henry, 143)

In this passage, the adverbs *"Every spring"* and *"several times"* are instrumental in generating the aspectual semantics of the events. They serve to express the repetition of actions indicated by the predicates and to unify completed events into a general reality. In a narrative text, these adverbs help establish the sense that certain events occur in a recurring or completed manner.

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