
EXPLORATION OF THE FUNCTION AND POSITION OF ADJUNCTS IN ENGLISH SENTENCES

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ABSTRACT

This study presents a comprehensive exploration of the function and position of adjuncts within English sentences. Adjuncts, which serve to provide additional information concerning time, place, manner, and other contextual details, are essential elements that contribute to the syntactic complexity and semantic nuance of sentences. The research employs a syntactic analysis to investigate various types of adjuncts and their syntactic roles across different sentence structures. By examining both written and spoken English contexts, the study elucidates the diverse syntactic positions of adjuncts and their implications for sentence meaning and discourse coherence. Furthermore, the research explores how adjuncts interact with other grammatical components, shedding light on their syntactic integration and communicative effectiveness. Through empirical examples and theoretical insights, this study aims to deepen our understanding of adjuncts' syntactic functions and their pivotal role in shaping English language expression.

Keywords: Definition, functions in a sentence, position, improve grammatical competence.

INTRODUCTION

Sentence is a device which is used by people to utter their thought. In order to transfer messages from one person to the others, a sentence must be conveyed either verbally or in writing. A sentence is built from a group of words and of course it must have complete meaning. In a sentence, adjuncts can be either optional or obligatory. An adjunct can be a single word, a phrase, or an entire clause (Spasić, Babić-Antić, & Spasić-Stojković, 2015). Adjunct is a word or phrase used to amplify or modify the meaning of another word or words in a sentence. However, most adjuncts are realized by adverb and prepositional phrases and this makes them difficult to be distinguished from the other types of adverbials. Not only are adjuncts built by those mentioned phrases, but also by noun phrases, adverb phrases, and even clauses.

The realization of adjunct itself must be the same as adverbials. Syntactically, adjuncts may appear in initial, medial, or even final position of a sentence. Meanwhile, semantically, they express a wide range of ideas, depending on what they refer to. There are three main types of adjuncts; adverbial adjuncts, noun adjuncts, and adjectival adjunct. The adverbial adjuncts can have different functional meanings that they contribute to a phrase or sentence. When used for this purpose, an adjunct can indicate place, time, manner, degree, frequency, or reason. A noun adjunct is an optional noun that modifies another noun. This is called a compound noun. Again, in order for a word, phrase or clause to be a noun adjunct, the sentence must still be grammatically correct when the noun adjunct is removed. Adjective adjuncts, also known as adjectival adjuncts, are words or groups of words that modify or characterize a noun (a person, place, object, or concept) in a phrase. The common meanings carried by adjuncts can be related to place, time and process. They can also be referred to as attributive adjectives. Its removal from the sentence will not compromise the grammatical correctness of the sentence.

Adjuncts may show position, direction and distance, in reference to spatial aspect. Position is associated with static condition, where it denotes certain point of location. Simply, it can be said to answer the question where, and then will be respectively elicited by the questions where to/from. Finally, the only adjunct representing place which can be measured is known as distance. It is elicited by question how far, and most of adjuncts indicating distance are realized by noun phrases. Regarding to time aspect, there are time position, duration, frequency and time relation. Adjuncts of time may indicate a temporal scale, where it is considered static because it explains the time when an action takes place, or the time to which a state applies. This kind of adjunct conveys the meaning of position. Then the meaning of every position can be related to one another as participate in the sentences as a position in the beginning, in the middle of the sentences and at the end of each sentences, so to know where the adjuncts place in the sentences look forward to the position of it, where the parts of adverb types places in a sentences. As an essential part of sentences adjunct must be controlled by rules and characterized in grammar English: 1. Optional: Adjuncts are not necessary for the grammatical structure of a sentence. They can be removed without making the sentence ungrammatical. 2. Modifier: Adjuncts function as modifiers, adding specificity or meaning to a sentence. They provide extra information about the verb, such as time, place, manner, frequency, reason, or degree. 3. Can be varied: Adjuncts can appear in different positions within a clause, depending on the sentence structure. They can come at the beginning, in the middle, or at the end of a sentence. 4. Not part of the core structure: Adjuncts are not part of the core structure of a clause. They are additional elements that add extra meaning to the sentence. 5. Can be adverbs or phrases: Adjuncts can be adverbs, adverbial phrases, or even whole clauses. They provide additional information about the verb and can be used to modify other forms, words, phrases, or clauses. It's important to note that the terminology used to denote arguments and adjuncts can vary depending on the theory of

syntax and semantics being used. The distinction between arguments and adjuncts is central to most theories of syntax and grammar, and the study of predicates, their arguments, and adjuncts is known as valency theory. An adjunct in grammar serves several functions within a sentence. It adds extra information, modifying the verb by providing details about how an action is performed, when it takes place, or where it occurs. Adjuncts contribute to a better understanding of a sentence by providing descriptive details and enhancing the context. They are not essential to the core structure of a sentence and can be removed without making the sentence ungrammatical. However, their presence adds additional information and nuance. The specific function of an adjunct may vary depending on the linguistic theory used, but these general functions are widely recognized.

METHOD

The research approach applied in this study was qualitative approach because the data were shown descriptively by using words rather than showing numeric analysis. There are four steps which were conducted in writing this meaning cle: determining the data source, collecting the data, analyzing the data and presenting the results of analysis.

It is necessary to consider the sources on which to base and confirm the research and findings. In this article, the novel entitled *Fifty Shades of Grey* by Erika Leonard Mitchell (also known as E.L. James) was used as the data source. The data are sentences which contain adverbials functioning as adjuncts. This novel was released in 2012 and it has 579 pages. This novel was selected because there are various kinds and forms of adjuncts to be analyzed. Moreover, the language used in this novel is formal English and this novel also becomes New York Times Bestseller.

After determining the data source, the next step was collecting the data. Collecting data means putting all the data together in one place in such a way that they can be easily analyzed and interpreted. Library research was the method used to collect the data in this study. It was done through reading the novels first and marking the sentences which contain adverbials functioning as adjuncts. The next step was note-taking where the sentences which contain adverbials functioning as adjuncts were written down into a list, and then they were categorized based on their forms and meanings.

After all the data were collected and classified, then they were analyzed one by one based on the theories applied. There were at least two examples for each category found. Some elaborations on each example were also given to analyze the data. The last step was presenting the results of the analysis. Since the data analysis in this study was presented by using sentences, the presenting method applied was informal method.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The term 'adjunct' is actually very complex because it can be constructed by various forms. As what has been stated previously, the realizations of adjuncts are similar as adverbials. It means that adjuncts in the forms of phrases do exist. Even, certain clauses are also able to realize them. The meanings carried by adjuncts can be much more specific than what is commonly known.

Adjuncts in linguistics serve several important functions within sentences. These functions include:

- 1) 1)Providing Additional Information: Adjuncts typically convey supplementary details that expand upon or modify the main clause of a sentence. They can describe when, where, how, why, or under what conditions something occurs.
- 2) 2)Enhancing Sentence Clarity and Precision: By specifying temporal, spatial, modal, or other contextual information, adjuncts help to clarify the meaning and intent of the sentence, making communication more precise.

- 3) 3) Adding Nuance and Emphasis: Adjuncts contribute to the stylistic and rhetorical aspects of language by adding nuance, emphasis, or perspective to the information conveyed in the sentence.
- 4) 4) Modifying Verb Phrases or Clauses: They often modify entire verb phrases or clauses, indicating aspects such as time (e.g., "yesterday"), place (e.g., "in the park"), manner (e.g., "carefully"), or condition (e.g., "if necessary").
- 5) 5) Offering Flexibility in Sentence Structure : Adjuncts provide flexibility in how information is organized within sentences, allowing for varied syntactic structures without altering the core meaning of the sentence.
- 6) 6) Contributing to Discourse Coherence: By linking sentences and paragraphs through cohesive ties, adjuncts contribute to maintaining coherence and flow in discourse.
- 7) 7) Supporting Sentence Variety: They play a role in creating diverse sentence structures, which is crucial for effective writing and oral communication.

Adjuncts can be categorized into different types based on their grammatical function and the parts of speech they modify:

- 1) Adverbial Adjuncts: These modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs, providing additional information about time, place, manner, frequency, degree, etc. They typically answer questions like "when?", "where?", "how?", "how often?", "to what degree?", etc.

Examples include:

a. Place

Place adjuncts can provide context as to where something being described in a sentence is occurring, (ex: in the garden).

b. Time

Time adjuncts can provide context about when something being described in a sentence is occurring. (ex: yesterday).

c. Manner

Manner adjuncts can provide context about how something being described in a sentence is occurring, (ex: Carefully).

d. Degree

Degree adjuncts can provide context about the extent of an action or event, (ex: very quickly).

e. Frequency

Frequency adjuncts can provide context as to how frequently something being described in a sentence is occurring, (ex: every day).

f. Reason

Reason adjuncts can provide context as to why something being described in a sentence is occurring, (ex: because of the rain).

- 2) Noun Adjuncts : A noun adjunct is an optional noun that modifies another noun. This is called a compound noun. Again, in order for a word, phrase or clause to be a noun adjunct, the sentence must still be grammatically correct when the noun adjunct is removed.

Some examples of noun adjuncts are as follows:

- a. In the word 'farmhouse', the noun 'farm' is an adjunct, as it modifies 'house' - farmhouse is a single-word compound noun.
- b. In the phrase 'chicken soup', the noun 'chicken' is the adjunct, as it modifies 'soup'.
- c. In the phrase 'toy soldier', the noun 'toy' is the adjunct, as it modifies 'soldier'. The only reason toy is included is to add context to the noun 'soldier', it is thus not necessary to the phrase.

In the sentence 'He was chased by the policeman', the word 'policeman' is a single-word compound noun. Removing the noun adjunct 'police' does change the meaning of the sentence, but does not make it grammatically incorrect.

- 3) **Adjectival Adjuncts** : An adjectival adjunct is simply an adjective that comes immediately before the noun it describes in a sentence. They can also be referred to as attributive adjectives. Its removal from the sentence will not compromise the grammatical correctness of the sentence.

Take the following sentence: The red door would not close.

The adjectival adjunct here is 'red'.

However, if the sentence was 'The door that is red would close', red is no longer an adjectival adjunct as its removal from the sentence would make the sentence grammatically incorrect.

A few more examples of adjectival adjuncts are:

- a. The fluffy white rabbit hid under the bed.
- b. Her dark eyes connected with mine.
- c. He threw his sharpened spear.

The position of an adjunct in a sentence can vary depending on the type of adjunct and the context of the sentence. Here are some common positions in which adjuncts can be placed:

- 1) **Start of Sentence**: Adjuncts are often placed at the beginning of a sentence to provide additional context or background before the main information.

Example: "In the morning, he reads the newspaper." (Adjunct of Time)

- 2) **Middle of Sentence**: Adjuncts can be placed in the middle of a sentence, usually between the subject and the verb, or between the verb and the object.

Example: She went to the store yesterday, after finishing her work. (Adjunct of Time)

- 3) **End of Sentence**: Adjuncts are also often placed at the end of a sentence to add additional information after the main statement has been made.

Example: "She sings beautifully." (Adjunct of Manner)

So, the position of an adjunct can be at the beginning, middle, or end of a sentence depending on the type of additional information provided and the focus of the sentence.

Adjuncts in sentence patterns refer to additional elements that provide additional information such as time, place, manner, reason, or condition. They are not necessary to establish the basic structure of the sentence but add additional details or context that enrich the overall meaning of the sentence. Here are some examples of common sentence patterns that include the use of adjuncts:

- 1) **Subject + Verb + Adjunct**

(Amy laughed loudly)

S v a

- 2) **Subject + Verb + Subject Complement + Adjunct**

(My tea is cold as usual)

S v sc a

- 3) **Subject + Verb + Direct Object + Adjunct**

(The soldiers destroyed the village deliberately)

S v do a

- 4) **Subject + Verb + Indirect Object + Direct Object + Adjunct**

(We gave David the prize in the end)

S v io do a

- 5) **Subject + Verb + Direct Object + Object Complement + Adjunct**

(The dye turned the water blue in just a few seconds)

S v do oc a

CONCLUSION

In grammar, an adjunct is a word, phrase, or clause that modifies or provides additional information based on the form that structurally affect the remainder of the sentence. In another sight to identify the adjunct more clearly to understand and the reason why is it so important to added the phrase because adjunct are not essential for the basic grammatical structure of a sentence. However, they do contribute to the overall meaning and clarity of a sentence. Some adjuncts, such as adverbial phrases or clauses, can be crucial for conveying specific information like time, place, manner, frequency, reason, degree, or condition. To proved that removing certain adjuncts may result in a sentence that lacks important details or becomes ambiguous. For example, consider the sentence "She danced." Adding an adjunct like "brilliantly" provides crucial information about the manner in which she danced. Without the adjunct, the sentence becomes less informative and may not convey the intended meaning. In summary, while adjuncts are not always necessary for the grammatical structure of a sentence, they play a significant role in providing additional details and enhancing the overall meaning and clarity of a sentence. Therefore an Adjuncts can be adverbs, prepositional phrases, or subordinate clauses, and they typically appear after the main verb or within a sentence to enhance its meaning. In grammar, an adjunct is a versatile linguistic element that modifies or provides additional information about another element in a sentence. They are optional components that enrich the meaning and context of a sentence without being essential to its grammatical structure. For instance, time adjuncts like "yesterday" or "last week" provide temporal information, while place adjuncts such as "on the table" or "in the park" specify a location. Manner adjuncts like "loudly" or "carefully" describe how an action is performed, while frequency adjuncts such as "twice a week" indicate how often something occurs. Reason adjuncts, such as subordinate clauses like "because she had an appointment," explain the motive behind an action. Degree adjuncts like "very" intensify the level or extent of something, and condition adjuncts, like conditional clauses starting with "if," introduce a condition for a specific outcome. Adjuncts can be positioned after the main verb or appear within a sentence, enhancing its meaning and providing a deeper understanding of the context.

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