

1 Preliminaries

This chapter continues the description of clause structure begun in Ch. 4. The latter introduced the primary functions of predicator, complement, and adjunct. The predicator is the head of the clause, the function realised by the verb. Within the category of complement we distinguished between core and non-core complements: characteristically core complements have the form of NPs while non-core ones are realised by PPs. The major focus of Ch. 4 was on the core complements, subjects, objects, and predicatives; predicatives are semantically comparable to predicators, while subject and object are associated with a fairly wide range of semantic roles such that the interpretation in particular cases is largely dependent on the semantic properties of the predicator. In this chapter, by contrast, our focus is on those elements (primarily adjuncts but also certain less central kinds of complement) that express relatively constant kinds of meaning, such as manner, spatial or temporal location, duration, condition, and so on. As explained in Ch. 15, §5, the term ‘adjunct’ covers modifiers in the VP or clause together with related supplements.

■ Semantic categories

The elements concerned express a very wide range of semantic categories, and we cannot hope to provide a fully comprehensive coverage. The following examples illustrate the main categories that will be dealt with in this chapter, with the annotation on the right giving the name and the section or subsection in which it is discussed:

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| [1] i | <i>She presented her case <u>very eloquently</u>.</i> | [manner: §2.1] |
| ii | <i>They opened it <u>with a tin-opener</u>.</i> | [instrument: §2.2] |
| iii | <i>We solved the problem <u>by omitting the section altogether</u>.</i> | [means: §2.2] |
| iv | <i>I <u>foolishly</u> omitted to lock the back-door.</i> | [act-related: §3] |
| v | <i>He slept <u>in the TV room</u>.</i> | [spatial location: §§4–5] |
| vi | <i>He hurried <u>from the scene</u>.</i> | [source: §4–5] |
| vii | <i>She went <u>to New York</u> for Christmas.</i> | [goal: §4–5] |
| viii | <i>We made the mistake of travelling <u>via Heathrow</u>.</i> | [path: §4–5] |
| ix | <i>I crawled <u>towards the door</u>.</i> | [direction: §4.4] |
| x | <i>They walked <u>five miles</u>.</i> | [extent: §5] |
| xi | <i>I woke up <u>at five</u>.</i> | [temporal location: §6] |
| xii | <i>Ken slept <u>for ten hours</u>.</i> | [duration: §7] |