
Postnominal temporal adverbs in the German prefield

Donnerstag
09.03.2017
11:45 – 12:45
B4 1, 0.06

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Temporal adverbs like *gestern* ('yesterday') can occur post-nominally in the German prefield (e.g. Alexiadou et al. 2007, Bücking 2012, Gunkel & Schlotthauer 2012). Adverbs in this position are nominal modifiers and do not temporally locate the event described by the verbal predicate. Hence, sentences with postposed temporal adverbs in the prefield (1a) and sentences with the adverb in the middle field (1b) are not synonymous.

AG11

- (1) a. {Das Mädchen / der Unfall} **gestern** war schlimm.
 the girl the accident yesterday was awful
 b. {Das Mädchen / der Unfall} war **gestern** schlimm.
 the girl the accident was yesterday awful

In (1a), *gestern* locates times associated with the individuals/events that are described by *girl/accident*. Hence, it functions as a restrictive modifier of the noun. In (1b), *gestern* locates the state of being awful; the girl and the accident are uniquely identified independently.

Temporal adverbs are lexically specified as modifiers of the temporal domain and, hence, combine freely with temporal nouns (e.g., *der Nachmittag gestern*, 'yesterday afternoon'). With individual nouns and event nouns, we argue, temporal adverbs can only combine via coercion. To capture this combinatoric flexibility, we adopt the system developed in Asher 2011. Hence, temporal adverbs, like *gestern* in (2), license dependent types.

- (2) $\lambda P. \lambda t. \lambda \pi. \text{yesterday}(t, \pi * \text{ARG}_1^{\text{yesterday}} : \text{TIME} - \epsilon(\text{HD}(P))) \wedge P(\pi)(t)$

The times that are inferred with individual and event nouns need to be intimately connected to the individuals/events that are described by that noun. For events, these are their run-times ($\tau(e)$). For individuals, we coerce the run-times of events in which the individual participated.

References: • Alexiadou, A. L. Haegeman & M. Stavrou (2007): *Noun Phrase in the Generative Perspective*. De Gruyter. • Asher, N. (2011): *Lexical meaning in context: a web of words*. Cambridge University Press. • Bücking, S. (2012): *Kompositional flexibel*. Stauffenburg. • Gunkel & Schlotthauer (2012): Adnominale Adverbien im europäischen Vergleich. In: *Deutsch im Sprachvergleich*, 273–300.