

Lesson 7 / Slide

The Semantics and Grammar of Adverbials (Greenbaum and Quirk 1990: chapter 8)

*Next Friday, I will probably visit my father in San Francisco for an hour or so to see if he's feeling better, unless he calls me before that.*

1. **How many ADVERBIALS (A-elements)** does the sentence consist of?

*Next Friday [A1], I will probably [A2] visit my father in San Francisco [A3] for an hour or so [A4] to see if he's feeling better [A5], unless he calls me before that [A6].*

-> multiple occurrence of adverbials within a single sentence

2. **Which structures (forms)** are the individual adverbials realized by?

*next Friday* – NP

*probably* – AdvP

*in San Francisco* – PP

*for an hour or so* – PP

*to see if he's feeling better* – **nonfinite clause**

*unless he calls me before that* – **finite clause**

-> adverbial can be realized by a wide range of linguistic structures (phrases as well as clauses)

3. **Which semantic roles** do the individual adverbials have?

*next Friday* – **time** (position)

*probably* – **modality** (approximation)

*in San Francisco* – **space** (position)

*for an hour or so* – **time** (duration)

*to see if he's feeling better* – contingency (**purpose**)

*unless he calls me before that* – contingency (**condition**)

-> adverbials can have a variety of meanings

4. **Which positions** in a sentence do adverbials normally take?

*By then* the book should have been returned to the library. **I**

The book *by then* should have been returned to the library. **iM**

The book should *by then* have been returned to the library. **M**

The book should have *by then* been returned to the library. **mM**

The book should have been *by then* returned to the library. **eM**

The book should have been returned *by then* to the library. **iE**

The book should have been returned to the library *by then*. **E**

-> there are 3 main positions of adverbials in a sentence:

**I = initial**

**M = medial**

**E = end**

**Medial position** may further be subdivided into:

**initial Medial = iM**

**primary Medial = M**

**medial Medial = mM**

**end Medial = eM**

**The primary Medial position** is the position immediately following the operator or the copula *be*.

*She has **always** loved him.*

*She is **always** in a good mood.*

Where no operator is present, **the primary Medial position** is simply the position **between S and V**:

*She **always** comes on time.*

Note:

manner -> place -> time

*Lucy read / **quietly** [A of manner] / **in the library** [A of place] / **all afternoon** [A of time].*