

She seldoms run:

An investigation into adverbial verbs in verb-initial languages

Victor Bogren Svensson
Lund University

The contents of this presentation are based on some of the findings from my MA paper, where I (among other things) explored the typologically rare phenomenon referred here to as adverbial verbs. Adverbial verbs are verbal constituents that possess the morphosyntactic properties of verbs but that encode manner and temporal information, instead of referring to states or events as verbs prototypically do. This typological study examined the properties and distribution of adverbial verbs in a language sample consisting of 60 verb-initial languages from 43 genera distributed throughout the world. Furthermore, predictions made by the theoretical explanation of adverbial verbs stating that they are derived from overtly realized heads in functional projections were tested against the language sample employed in this study.

The results of this study showed that adverbial verbs are found throughout the verb-initial languages of the world and that adverbial verbs ought to be recognized as a typologically valid linguistic category. Additionally, the proposal that languages with adverbial modifiers of manner realized as verbal affixes ought to be classified into the same category of languages with adverbial verbs was proposed and defended in this paper. The claim is based on the assertion that the underlying structure in both cases is the same, where adverbial modifiers of manner realized as verbal affixes are also derived from overtly realized heads in functional projections.

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