

Adverbial classes and adjective classes

Wilhelm Geuder (Heinrich-Heine-Universität)

This talk examines the role that lexical classifications of adjectives may play in explaining different classes of adverbial modifiers. From the literature on adverb classification, a three-way distinction emerges between manner modifiers, non-manner modifiers which are still event-related, and propositional modifiers. The group of "other" event modifiers clearly reflects lexical classes of adjectives, and all of them seem to have a second use as a manner modifier. Hence, the study of non-manner modifiers may shed light also on the functioning of the manner uses. In the talk, I specifically discuss the behaviour of state-denoting adjectives vis-à-vis adjectives denoting more permanent properties and dispositions, and also the role of evaluative predication for adverb classification. Another point of interest is the behaviour of the German affix "-erweise" which is usually thought to mark sentential adverbs. On closer inspection, however, affixation of "-erweise" can also be shown to discriminate different lexical classes of its adjectival base, resulting in different interpretations of the adverb or a ban on forming such an adverb.