
Manners and proforms: processing ambiguous adverbials

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Anderson & Morzycki (2015) analyze manner adverbials as predicates of event kinds. One important piece of evidence they present is the observation that German *so* (and also Polish *tak*) serve as proforms for kinds as well as manner. The example in (1a) illustrates this observation, namely that the German demonstrative *so* serves as a manner proform.

- (1) a. Gestern hat Ulf das Gedicht *laut* rezitiert,
b. Gestern hat Ulf das Gedicht *sicher* rezitiert,
Yesterday has Ulf the poem loud/secure recited
und Peter hat es auch *so* rezitiert.
and Peter has it also SO recited.
'Yesterday, Ulf recited the poem loudly/confidently, and Peter recited it like this, too.'

The example in (1b) illustrates that German adjectives like *sicher* (*secure*) in their adverbial use, which are ambiguous between a manner and a speaker-oriented interpretation, are disambiguated by *so*, since it can only refer back to a manner modifier, but not to a speaker-oriented one. The study I will present is concerned with the question whether the position of an ambiguous modifier determines its interpretation. With different experimental methods, I investigated whether the interpretation of ambiguous modifiers and the use of the proform *so* are influenced by the syntactic position of the modifier. The results reveal that position indeed is an important factor. Furthermore, the data show that the manner interpretation clearly prefers the assumed base position for manner adverbials below the direct object (see e.g., Frey, 2003).

References: • Anderson, C., & Morzycki, M. (2015): *Degrees as kinds*. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 33(3), 791-828. • Frey, W. (2003): Syntactic conditions on adjunct classes. In: Lang, Fabricius-Hansen & Maienborn (eds.): *Modifying Adjuncts*. Berlin, New York: Mouton de Gruyter: 261-306.