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13 Adverbs

Another lexical category—adverbs, describes the action of the clause, the clause predicate or the entire clause. There is a strong case for both adjectives and adverbs; different modifiers are normally used to describe verbs than those used to describe nouns. The adjective *wēḡán* ‘good.SG’ of (1a) cannot be used in (b) to describe the verb *fīḡ-ḡḡ* ‘hear’, and the adverb *māḡ* ‘well’ of (b) cannot be used to describe the noun *sālāām* ‘peace’ in (a). Furthermore, the adjective *wēḡán* agrees in number with the noun it modifies, whereas the adverb *māḡ* is unchangeable, and therefore not a noun or any other word category with number distinction.

- (1a) *sālāām* *é* *ṭél* ***wēḡán***
 peace GP God good.SG
 ‘The peace of God is good.’
- (b) *bù* *fīḡ-ḡḡ* *kōr=é* ***māḡ***
 let.IMP hear-SBJV.3pN word=RDM well
 ‘Let them hear this message well!’ (Womn25)

In this chapter, all attested words are presented which have the function of describing the action of the clause, the clause predicate or the entire clause. These words which are lexically categorized as adverbs can be grouped semantically according to manner, direction, place, time, or none of these. Adverbs of manner, direction, and place always follow the verb, whereas other adverbs are moveable outside of the verb phrase and may occur before the verb. When more than one kind of adverb is present, it is most common for manner and directional adverbs to precede adverbs of place, time, and other adverbs. The negative particle can also be analysed as an adverb since it has the same function as adverbs and always occurs clause-finally.

13.1 Adverbs of manner

Adverbs of manner, which describe how the action takes place, immediately follow the verb or any verb complements.

- (2a) *ā* *bā* *káḡ* *wāḡ-ḡá* ***bír***
 SBJV /bag/collect.SBJV multitude /waḡ/go-SBJV openly
 ‘. . . to gather the multitude (of people) scattered about.’
- (b) *ò* *ḡēn=á* . . . *bō=ì* ***ḡùùl***
 and person=DEF . . . send=3sAM difficult
 ‘The person . . . to send is difficult (to find).’ (Assa9-10)

A few attested adverbs of manner are given in (3).

- (3) **Adverbs of manner**
- | | | | |
|---------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| bír | ‘openly’ | sù | ‘deeply’ |
| rēggāād | ‘loudly’ | ṭifiṭṭ | ‘quickly’ |
| māṅ | ‘well’ | ǰáám | ‘wrongly’ |
| ḍùùl | ‘difficult’ | | |

13.2 Adverbs of direction

Adverbs of direction, indicating the direction of the action, may describe the verb without any further verb modifiers as in (4a). However, it is common for adverbs of direction to occur along with adverbs of place, which normally follow adverbs of direction as in (b).

- (4a) ēgg bōfō ēgg léē **ṭàḍ**
 3pN sing 3pN going up
 ‘They sang as they went up.’ (Fand25)
- (b) á wīr-ōn áfáḍ mān **ṭáḍ** ṭè
 1sN slaughter-CONT blood certain down here
 ‘I am making a sacrifice here (lit. slaughtering down a certain living creature here).’ (Jooj9)

A list of some adverbs of direction is provided in (5).

- (5) **Adverbs of direction**
- | | | | |
|--------|------------|-----|----------------------|
| ṭáḍ | ‘down’ | ṭàḍ | ‘up’ |
| sím | ‘in, down’ | ṭú | ‘out, away, through’ |
| cābb | ‘up’ | fān | ‘on, to’ |
| ḍūmùùn | ‘towards’ | | |

13.3 Adverbs of place

Adverbs of place can reference physical or figurative locations of verbs. They can describe the verb by themselves or along with another adverb. Other adverbs, such

- (6a) mósí néé nór-r-ōn **ṭè**
 insect this drools-CAUS-CONT.N here
 ‘This insect drools here.’ (Jooj10)
- (b) ḍ á ǰām ā ṭál kōr é mūn **ṭè** ǰō
 and 1sN want SBJV create speech GP time here only
 ‘And now I will stop talking here.’ (Tifa14)

- (c) gùrūūs-úgg = ú t̄ā t̄ù wá
 money-PL = DEF COP there not
 ‘There is no money.’ (Fand16)

as ʃō ‘only’ in (6b), follow adverbs of place.

Attested adverbs of place are listed in (7). The same three-way distinction as in demonstratives in 8.1.3—near a speaker, near an addressee, and away from both speaker and addressee—also occur in adverbs, as well as a presentational adverb as in (6c).

(7) **Adverbs of place**

Long	Short		
t̄èèðé	t̄è	‘here’	near speaker
t̄ààðá	t̄à	‘there’	near addressee
t̄ììðí	t̄ì	‘there’	away from both
	t̄ù	‘there’	presentational

13.4 Adverbs of time

Adverbs of time normally occur as part of the verb phrase as in (8a, b), but may precede the clause entirely as in (c).

- (8a) ò ú = ɲōm ɲíí **bārè** ā
 and 2sN = want what now QM
 ‘And what do you want now?’ (Jooj7)
- (b) āgg wāj-ʃā wāā = lg **fěédǎǎl** ʃō
 1pN went-COMP water = in early.morning only
 ‘We also went to the water valley early in the morning.’ (Thng17)
- (c) ò **bārè** ú = b̄ur ú-ə̀n = ī bà
 and now 2sN = remain.INCP 2sN = /an/live.INCP = IPF oh
 ‘And are you still living (with good health)?’

Attested adverbs of time are listed in (9).

(9) **Adverbs of time**

bārè	‘now’
kāēn	‘yesterday’
fěédǎǎl	‘early morning’

Prepositional phrases introduced with the general preposition *é, í* (GP) of 11.3 can be used as adjuncts indicating time. In (10a), the phrase *é nāāndá mán* ‘on a certain day’ describes the time of the verb *wāḥḥā* ‘went’. Such phrases are also common at the beginning of the clause as in (b).

- (10a) á wāḥḥā **é nāāndá=á mán** dūmùùn é dāàl.
 1sN went GP day=DEF certain towards GP (valley name)
 ‘One day I went to Dal Valley.’ (Thng1)
- (b) **é nāāndá=á yāàn,** āld=á ē áḍággā ē fáàm
 GP day=DEF other Fox=DEF 3sN came 3sN thought
 ‘Another day, Fox brought another idea . . .’ (Nyee30)

Attested prepositional phrases used as adjuncts indicating time are shown in (11).

- (11) **Prepositional phrases used as adjuncts indicating time**
- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| é fōgg | ‘tomorrow’ |
| é yāāgg | ‘a while’ |
| é kááy-ēēgg | ‘at night’ |
| é nāāndá yāàn | ‘another day’ |
| é gārāndá | ‘at that time’ |

13.5 Other adverbs

Other adverbs are found to modify verbs, verb predicates, or the entire clause. Although they most commonly occur following the verb, some precede the verb when emphasizing noun subjects or even introduce the clause. The adverbs in (12a, b) show the most typical position, following the verb. In (c), the adverb *ḵḵ* ‘just’,

- (12a) mōrāā ḵḵ=í **ḵḵān**
 government came=IPF again
 ‘The government came again.’ (Fand10)
- (b) ḵḵ, wéé dār **ḵḵ** ā gāḍ-dā īggó nālg=ān
 oh go hide only SBJV give-SBJV.1pN milk.DEF children=DAT
 ‘Let’s just go hide in order to give this milk to the children.’ (Nyee26)
- (c) ḵāfari=n é mánē **ḵḵ** ḵāḍ-sā càḍr-ēēgg=á yōōsá.
 Jafari=DEF alone just killed-COMP rabbits-PL=DEF four
 ‘Jafari, by himself, killed four rabbits.’ (Jafr7)
- (d) bēl-án gīrḵéēn **ḵḵ**.
 having-CONT.P two.piasters(Ar) only
 ‘He had only two piasters.’ (Fand1-2)

emphasizes the subject, whereas in (d), the adverb emphasizes the object.

The remaining attested adverbs are listed in (13).

(13) **Other adverbs**

đí	‘also, in addition to’	páđ	‘suddenly, always, forever’
jō	‘only, no more, just’	rē	‘very’
đēēnē	‘only’	ānà	‘like this’
ťáān	‘again, another time’	ánēén	‘like this’
mārèè	‘somehow’	gōl	‘just, in that way’
mā	‘even’		

13.6 Negation

The negative particle *wá* always occurs clause-finally and modifies or negates the preceding verb, verb predicate or clause. Since neither its position nor function differs from adverbs, the negative particle can also be analyzed as an adverb. As in (14a), the negative particle occurs as the last word of the verb phrase and may be separated from the verb by verb complements or adjuncts. The negative particle may also negate an adverb of manner as in (b) or a prepositional phrase functioning as an adverb as in (c).

(14) **Negative examples**

- (a) mōđđ kūūđ = ū đàđ-sā jèèm đéé **wá**
 old.man person.name = DEF kill-COMP thing any not
 ‘The old man Kuud didn’t kill anything.’ (Jafr8)
- (b) mássēē jìs-đn = ō māj **wá**
 sickness treating-CONT.N = 1sD carefully not
 ‘The massee sickness is not treating me well.’ (Assa2)
- (c) jèèm ār-s āān ánēén é nāānd-á māj **wá**
 something frightened-COMP 1sA like.this GP day-DEF certain not
 ‘There has never been a day I was as frightened as this.’ (Thng14)

