

Evidential *-ly* adverbs modifying attributive and predicative adjectives

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1. Introduction

While previous work has focused on evidential *-ly* adverbs in main clauses and in verbal complement clauses (Kemp 2018 and Kemp subm.), this work will move to the phrase level and in particular adjective phrases (AP). Using data from UK newspaper texts, we will now see whether evidential *-ly* adverbs emanate the same meaning(s) when modifying an adjective as they do when modifying clauses. The focus is set on the attributive and predicative use of adjectives as found in Keizer (2008). The attributive use focuses on adjectives in Noun Phrases (NPs) and those in predicative type where the adjective appears after a linking verb. We will also explore whether the type of adjective limits the category of modifying evidential *-ly* adverb used. This paper will, thus, further explore the semantics of evidential adverbs in addition to exploring the function of these adverbs at a level lower than the clause.

2. Method

Functional Discourse Grammar's (FDG) scopal hierarchy is adopted for analysis and conclusions will be drawn on the close analysis of recent data, which has been retrieved from the UK section of the NOW corpus ranging from 2010 to June 2018 (Davies 2010). All the meanings of the eleven evidential *-ly* adverbs that are indicated by pluses in Table 1 have been searched in the data for occurrence in attributive and predicative usage.

Table 1: *FDG classification of evidential -ly adverbs in main clauses.*

<i>FDG Levels:</i>	<i>Interpersonal Level</i>	<i>Representational Level</i>		
<i>Evidential -ly adverb</i>	<i>reportative</i>	<i>inference</i>	<i>deduction</i>	<i>event perception</i>
<i>reportedly</i>	+			
<i>purportedly</i>	+			
<i>allegedly</i>	+			
<i>supposedly</i>	+			
<i>evidently</i>	+	+		
<i>apparently</i>	+	+	+	
<i>presumably</i>		+		
<i>obviously</i>		+	+	
<i>seemingly</i>		+	+	
<i>clearly</i>		+	+	
<i>visibly</i>			+	+
FDG Layer	<i>Communicated Content</i>	<i>Propositional Content</i>	<i>Episode</i>	<i>State of Affairs</i>

Kemp (2018)

The examples of evidential adverbs were selected manually and classified into various categories for analysis, for example, modification of an attributive adjective, or modification of a predicative adjective. The adverbs with multiple meanings were then listed according to their meaning in terms of their FDG evidential category. As seen in Table 1, there are four categories: reportative, inference, deduction and event perception (Hengeveld & Hatthner 2015). The reportative indicates that the modified information comes from outside the present situation, from elsewhere, while inference and deduction show reliance on cognitive processes for the information modified by the adverb. The former is based on a person's stored information and the latter on perceptual observations. Event perception reflects a situation in the direct environment. For each occurrence of an evidential adverb, there is an anchor who is the intermediary between the information and the person who has access to the knowledge base from where the information comes.

The paper adopts the 7 categories of adjectives found in Dixon (1982: 16), and Farsi's (1968) distinction between descriptive and evaluative adjectives. Furthermore, the analysis will draw on the FDG analysis of APs including referent and ascription on the Interpersonal Level (IL) and the connection of the ascriptive act on the IL with properties (f) on the Representational Level (RL) (Hengeveld & Mackenzie 2008, Hengeveld & Keizer 2011; Keizer 2008; Keizer 2015: 87, 139, 227). The categories of adjective identified will be added as a superscript annotation to the (f) variable at this lowest layer of the Representational Level.

3. Preliminary observational results

All of the meanings of the eleven *-ly* adverbs identified in Kemp (2018) have been found to modify attributive adjectives within an NP. The following reports preliminary observations for each evidential FDG category found in attributive use within NPs and where possible in predicative position, which was not always attested in the data.

3.1 Reportative

Example (1) shows *allegedly*, a reportative evidential adverb that occurs within an NP, directly before the adjective. A question that needs to be addressed here is whether the adverb modifies the adjective and not the adjective and the noun. Following Hengeveld and Mackenzie's analysis (2008: 379), the interpersonal reportative *-ly* adverb *allegedly* falls within the adjective phrase.

- (1) *Some or all of the allegedly defamatory statements complained of by plaintiff (Greene) are true or substantially true,*

3.2 Inference

In Table 1 *presumably* is listed as an adverb that only represents the evidential category of inference. Example (2) shows that there is use of available non-perceptual information to create a conclusion, or an interpretation as seen in (2).

(2) *Yesterday's announcement by King of a share issue provoked groans among many Rangers fans, as they had been seeking new external investment, reckoning that the mysterious departure of directors Paul Murray and Barry Scott would allow new and **presumably** wealthy directors on to the board.*

3.3 Deduction

It has transpired from observation that adverbs of the second to lowest evidential category, deduction, which bases conclusions drawn on direct perception frequently occur with adjectives that express emotions and physical appearances. These are evaluative adjectives which describe a temporary property of an individual. In the data, adjectives expressing emotions and feelings modified by the deduction evidential adverb *visibly* are:

unnerved/angry/irate/(un)happy/stunned/dejected/agitated/frustrated/uncomfortable/nervous/distressed/upset/dejected/stressed/affected/awkward/sickened.

These adjectives expressing temporary states are referred to by Dixon (1982: 16) as adjectives expressing human propensity. They are used with a deductive adverb to ascribe an emotional state to someone other than the speaker as in (3). The adverb ensures that the emotion described is a conclusion drawn on the basis of observation and interpretation. The speaker or writer is not claiming knowledge about the other's actual state of mind but simply what has appeared to be the case. There may be an element of sympathetic attitude (Butler 2008: 249, Hengeveld and Mackenzie 2008: 121) involved here.

(3) *Bolton North Fire Station, Finlay walked over to greet his hero. # A **visibly** emotional Mick, who lives in Harwood, said he had no idea of the planned gesture.*

Furthermore, there are conclusions based on observations of physical state used to ascribe a physical condition to a person other than the speaker, see (4).

(4) *Lewis is seen in a Snapchat video hopping out of his car to confront the **seemingly** drunk driver. # Deandre Lewis, 20, filmed himself confronting a drunk driver .*

There were very few instances of evidential adverbs of deduction modifying an adjective in predicative position, that is, not within an NP. An issue here is the distinction between a participle and an adjective for example with *agitated* in (5).

(5) *The patient was still **visibly** agitated but was no longer shouting. The crew and police left, telling us to phone if we needed them.*

3.4 Event perception

An evidential *-ly* adverb of event perception is used with adjectives that reflect properties in the direct situation, such as a colour in (6) in a picture online that can be directly perceived.

(6) *Bliss shared a picture of herself nursing her child on Instagram with a **visibly** red breast. # 'When a good boob goes bad – again.'*

In the data, the Event Perception *visibly*, which is an adverb representing the very lowest evidential category, see Table 1, was not attested as modifying an adjective in predicative position. However, this usage would be acceptable: 'Her breast was visibly red.'

4. Proposal conclusion

The collection and organization of examples from NOW is complete but there is still a lot of work to be done on the analysis and translating the observations into an FDG analysis.

4.1 Remarks on the observation of the data so far.

- a. Of the near twelve thousand instances of the eleven evidential *-ly* adverbs noted in Table 1, there are just over five hundred occurrences that modify an attributive adjective, and 60 that modify a predicative adjective. A breakdown of the numbers into evidential *-ly* adverbs will be provided.
- b. In the case of adverbs of deduction, it does appear that these adverbs occur with types of adjectives that allow a conclusion to be drawn based on perception, such as adjectives used to ascribe emotions to others.
- c. The adverb *visibly* has not previously been seen used as an evidential of inference. However, in (7) it appears to be inferential because a conclusion is drawn on evidence that is not literally visible in the direct situation. The relevance of this occurrence at this low phrasal level is worthy of attention.

(7) *that promise. # Mr McGleenan, who described the RHI project as " a **visibly** dysfunctional scheme ", said that the changes had been made for the right reason*

4.2 Work to be done

- a. To see whether adjectives of a particular FDG layer can predict which type of evidential adverb will be used, and translate this into the FDG hierarchy.
- b. a. would lead on from observations of restrictions on the use of evidential adverbs (as described for adverbs of deduction) with various adjective category types.

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