



Keynote Speaker

NON-FINITE ADVERBIAL TYPES IN ENGLISH PROSE FICTION

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Abstract

This study undertakes to present a simple and accessible model of a few but frequent non-finite adverbial types occurring in English prose fiction. It recognizes that these non-finite adverbials are mostly 'elliptical', in the sense that there are some dependent-clause markers one can assume to be implicit in them when supplying those elements back into the clause complex. This account is intended to expedite the teaching and learning of these patterns for advanced students of English, especially those using literary texts as sources of learning and research. There are interfaces existing between these adverbials and other systems and forces in language. 'Rank-shifting', for instance, is argued to be a possible linguistic force pushing forward these adverbials. Also, even without pragmatic recourse to syntagmatic contextual parameters, the two chief meanings conveyed by these adverbials apply at the same time in one sentence, which might hold up a mainstay of literary text: necessary indeterminacy and ambiguity as an integral part of its semiosis. Systemically speaking, these simultaneous interpretations typical of systemic-functional readings can be looked at, alternatively, as manifesting stratal tension in the case of 'grammatical metaphor'. These adverbial patterns might also be considered part of 'figures of speech' as they seem to bring off most of the functions argued in the literature to be carried by figures of speech. These patterns also manifest themselves in the guise of 'parallelism', and might also constitute a cohesive device. Behind studies such as this, there would lie a considerable number of implications for advanced students of EFL and teachers of such advanced students and classrooms, program/syllabus designers and evaluators, linguists, applied linguists, and others, who would be afforded better and deeper insights into the nature of the clause and the creative verbal play brought off in natural situations of use.

Keywords: *non-finite, adverbial, elliptical, prose fiction.*



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