

**College of Languages  
Department of English Language**

**University of Baghdad**



## **Adverbs of Viewpoint in English : A Linguistic Study**

**Submitted by  
Nada Adel Mahmoud**

**Supervised by  
Assist. Lect. Dounia Emad Tareq**

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## **Acknowledgement**

The journey was neither short nor was it meant to be. The dream was not within easy reach, nor was the path paved with conveniences. Yet, I accomplished it, and all praise is due to Allah, who facilitated the beginnings and brought us to the end. I dedicate the humble fruit of my efforts to the one whose name I carry with pride, who supported me and taught me that life is a struggle, and its weapon is knowledge. He taught me patience and perseverance through hardships, and whose prayers have always surrounded me my beloved father. To the cherished one who was my hope, the tender heart, and the candle that illuminated my darkest nights. She supported me throughout my journey and made the path easier my beloved mother.

## **Abstract**

This brief research explores the function and forms of viewpoint adverbs, as well as their positioning in sentences and other definitions. Adverbs, in general, modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs, providing additional information about time, place, manner, degree, or frequency. Viewpoint adverbs, a specific category, express the speaker's perspective or attitude toward the information being conveyed. They often indicate the speaker's opinion, evaluation, or stance, such as "clearly," "obviously," or "surprisingly."

Viewpoint adverbs can take various forms, including single words (e.g., "fortunately"), phrases (e.g., "in my opinion"), or clauses (e.g., "as far as I know"). Their position in a sentence is flexible but typically occurs at the beginning or end of a clause to emphasize the speaker's perspective. For example, "Clearly, the results support the hypothesis" or "The results support the hypothesis, clearly." This positioning helps to frame the statement and guide the listener's interpretation. Understanding the function, forms, and placement of viewpoint adverbs is essential for effective communication and nuanced expression in both spoken and written language. Moreover, you can see and understand the (ly and wise) forms.

## **Introduction**

### **Section One**

## 1.1 Definitions of Adverbs

1.1.1 An adverb is a word used to describe or modify a verb, an adjective or another adverb. They tell us how (in what manner), how much (in what degree), how far (to what extent), when (in what time), and where (in what place). They are called 'adverb questions' ( Joshi, 2020, p.1)

For instance, mix the items carefully.

- She sings loudly.
- Kindly, she offered me a cup of tea.

1.1.2 Because of its difficulty, adverbs are the part of speech that has received the least attention in (computational) linguistics (Conlon and Evens, 1992). "The adverb is a residual category to which words are assigned if they do not satisfy the more specific criteria for nouns, verbs, adjectives, prepositions, and conjunctions," according to Huddleston and Pullum (2002, p.563). In terms of syntax, they alter a lot of parts of speech, except nouns (eat porridge fast, barely perceptible) and even whole sentences (Probably, I'll come tomorrow). According to Thomason and Stalnaker (1973), they are semantically different and include intensifiers and modifiers (absolutely, beautifully), temporal and spatial specifications (yesterday, forward), and so-called speaker-oriented adverbs that provide insights into the attitudes, beliefs, and evaluations of the speaker. Last but not least, adverbs can take up various positions within sentences, leading to intricate problems with scoping and ambiguity (Alexiadou, 2004, Payne et al., 2010).

Examples :

- 1- Happily, they watched TV until dinner.
- 2- They happily watched TV until dinner.
- 3- They watched TV happily until dinner

## 1.2 Functions of Adverbs

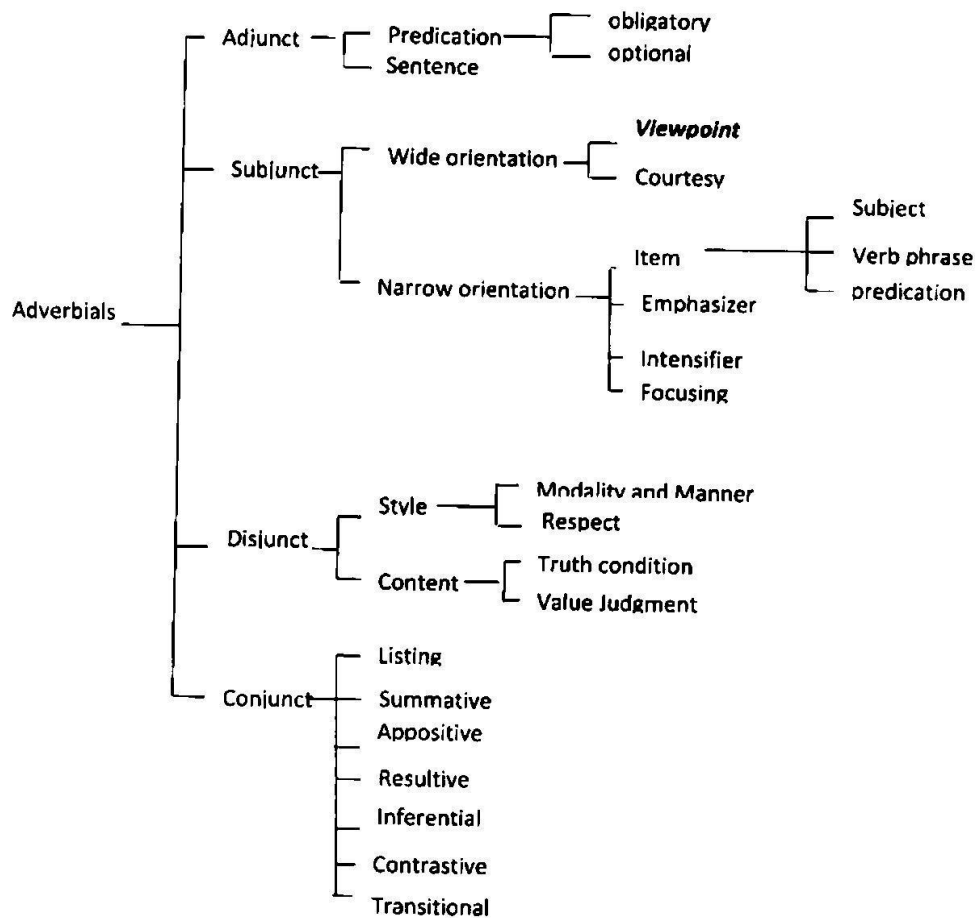
The main purpose of adverbs in the English language is to modify verbs, adjectives, other adverbs, or entire sentences. Their function is to give more details about the way, when, how often, where, how much, or how certain an action or condition is. The main purposes of adverbs are listed below (Leech, 1985)

1.2.1 Modifying Verbs: Adverbs are frequently used to explain how, when, where, or how much an action is carried out. In this sentence "He eats quickly," for instance, the adverb quickly indicates the manner of the action by modifying the verb eats.

1.2.2 Adverbs have the ability to qualify or intensify adjectives, giving additional information about the attributes being described. "She is extremely glowing," for instance, emphasizes the level of glow by modifying the adjective "glowing."

1.2.3 Modifying Other Adverbs: Adverbs have the ability to further refine the meaning of an action or description by modifying other adverbs. For example, in "Sara speaks very fluently," the adverb "fluently" is modified by the word "very," indicating the degree of fluency.

1.2.4 modifying Whole Sentences: Adverbs have the ability to change a whole sentence, frequently conveying the speaker's tone or attitude. "Unfortunately, we missed the party," for instance, expresses the speaker's regret by changing the entire sentence (Conrad, 2002).



**Figure (I): Classification of Adverbials after (Quirk et al, 1985, p.503).**

One of the four main types of adverbs is called a subjunctive. This term refers to a kind of adverb that plays a less important role in the sentence compared to other parts. Subjuncts can modify the entire sentence (called "wide orientation") or just one part, like a verb (called "narrow orientation") (p.566-567).

## 1.3 Viewpoint Adverbs

It is reported that viewpoint adverbs fall somewhere between adjuncts and disjuncts. These adverbs are categorized as subjuncts in Quirk et al.'s book (1985), but as adjuncts in Quirk and Greenbaum's (1973) work. They adhere to the Quirk et al. (1985, p.504) adjunct criteria syntactically. However, these adverbs were categorized as "epistemic stance adverbials" by Biber et al. (2007, p.855). According to this classification, they look like the disjuncts.

"If we consider what we are saying from an adjective phrase or noun phrase point of view," is the definition of a viewpoint adverb. These adverbs are frequently created by appending the suffix -ly to adjectives, like:

1-3.1 Mathematically, this equation is difficult.

'Mathematically' is an adverb of viewpoint that means from a mathematical perspective.

1-3-2 Other kinds of viewpoint adverbs exist, such as those that can be formed from nouns by appending the suffix "-wise" to the end of the noun.

- Weather-wise, today is going to be rainy.

1.3.3 Adverbs are those that convey how we think about our speech from a particular perspective. These adverbs fall into two categories. The first is made up of adjectives that have the suffix "-ly" added to them, like "visually, morally, geographically."

- Visually, this is a horrific play.

The second category consists of adverbs that are created by joining the suffix "-wise" to nouns (Quirk et al, 1985,p.p 429-430).

1.3.4 Another definition of adverbs of viewpoint is the way in which people use adverbs to illustrate their points of view. The meanings that those adverbs convey differ; for instance, "certainly," "really," and "honestly" all convey the idea that "I am sure."

1.3.5 Adverbs that indicate points of view and perspectives taken into consideration in the speech are known as viewpoint adverbs. Placing these adverbs in the initial, medial, or final positions is acceptable. Commas are used to separate them from the sentence if they are not in the final position.

It is important to distinguish viewpoint adverbs from comment adverbs, which sometimes overlap with them. Comment adverbs, on the other hand, are used to offer an opinion on what is stated, Viewpoint adverbs highlight a specific point or aspect from which the situation is examined ( Yule, 2012, p.275).

- Financially, things are a little challenging financially.

## **Section Two**

### **Grammatical Study of Viewpoint Adverbs**

#### **2.1 Forms of Viewpoint Adverbs**

Adverbs can take many forms to shape grammatical structure. Humans use language to introduce themselves and communicate. Language's symbol systems can take the shape of words or sounds. Since these symbols have meaning, they can be used as a form of idea, concept, or thought in communication. A language needs dynamically changing components. Phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics are those elements. Every part of speech, including nouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs, has a definition, usage, and purpose in morphology (Chaer, 2012).

##### **2.1.1 ( ly )Viewpoint Adverbs**

Adverbs in English can be easily divided into two groups: those that have the adverbial suffix "-ly" and those that do not. The majority of adverbs only belong to one of these categories, but some, referred to as "dual-form adverbs," can have two forms. Two groups of dual-form adverbs can be distinguished. In the first, the adverbs' meanings clearly differ depending on whether the suffix "-ly" is present or absent (for example, late/ly, hard/ly, and rare/ly); in the second, the meanings do not clearly differ ( Shimizu,2017,p.72).

##### **Examples :**

- Marry wrote her poem slowly/quickly/carefully.
- Marry wrote her poem slowly/quickly/carefully.

Adverbs in the LY- and Zero-form have been around since the time of Old English. Adjectives at this time were converted to adverbs by appending the suffix -e. The suffix -lic, which had originally meant "a body, dead or alive," was also added to adjectives, which were primarily derived from nouns or from other adjectives (Guimier, 1985,p. 155).

One significant factor influencing the syntactic and semantic elements of a sentence is the part of speech. Generally speaking, a root word + -ly is the morphological form of an adverb in a sentence (Quirk and Greenbaum, 1973).

**Some examples show the meaning shifting of -ly :**

- **The tiger in the green forest walks naturally.**
- **Naturally, the tiger walks in the green forest.**

When it comes to the morphological process, the word "naturally" in the two sentences changes from the adjective natural + -ly (suffix) to "naturally," but its position and meaning will differ. Although there appears to be no physical distinction between the two sentences, but their meanings are different. 'Naturally' means 'a natural way of walking' in the first sentence, but 'everyone knows that a lion can naturally walk' in the second sentence, and it depends upon the position ( Huda,2022,p.237).

If a sentence is used to make a statement, it is considered declarative. This could be any type of statement, from important general information to unimportant details. Compared to imperative, exclamatory, and interrogative sentences, declarative sentences are the most frequently used sentence type in English communication. This is due to the fact that a declarative statement merely expresses the truth. The adverbial suffix -ly can occur in a number of locations within a declarative sentence, for instance :

Beginning of sentence (before subject)

- Hurriedly, they do the essay for the final exam.

Mid-sentence (before the verb)

- They hurriedly do the essay for the final exam

End of sentence (after main clause)

- They do the essay for the final exam hurriedly ( Huda,2022,p.238).

### **2.1.2 ( wise) Viewpoint Adverbs**

It is widely acknowledged that viewpoint adverbs created with the suffix -wise first appeared in American English in the 1940s and have since flourished. There are numerous common manner adverbs from a previous era that contain -wise, such as otherwise, lengthwise, and clockwise, even though the creation of viewpoint adverbs with -wise is a relatively recent phenomenon. The Old English noun that meant "manner" or "fashion" is where the suffix "-wise" originates. Although this noun is no longer used in modern English as an independent noun, its meaning is preserved in words that end in -wise and in expressions like in no wise and in any wise. Although these kinds of expressions are not common, there are many commonly used adverbs that are formed with the suffix -wise, such as endwise, sidewise, and widthwise. These are termed manner adverbs since they indicate the direction or dimension of an action, or more generally, how an action is performed.

Linguists have become interested in viewpoint adverbs with the suffix "wise" in part due to their productivity. They are highly "freely productive," according to Quirk et al. (1985, p. 1557), particularly in American English, in that speakers can generate new words by appending -wise to noun base forms. In modern English, the suffix -wise is attached to nouns to form a sentence adverb meaning "concerning or with respect to," as in (confidence-wise, tax-wise, price-wise, time-wise), according to the online Oxford dictionary (Belder,2024,p.12).

Lindquist's (2007) analysis of wise viewpoint adverbs is the most comprehensive. Lindquist conducted a thorough analysis of the usage, morphological restrictions, and frequency of these adverbs in various English dialects and registers using a number of corpora. His research yielded a number of noteworthy conclusions. First, he discovered that despite being American English in origin and thought to be a characteristic of American English wise viewpoint, adverbs are actually frequently used in British English. Subsequent examination of the newspaper corpora revealed an attraction for the use of wise viewpoint adverbs in specific reporting domains, particularly in the areas of sports, entertainment, and living. According to Lindquist, the reason for their usage in these "less serious" domains is that wise viewpoint adverbs have "a strong element of informality," which makes them appropriate for them (p.147).

In addition, Lindquist offered some exciting research on the kinds of base words that have the suffix "-wise" attached to them. -wise viewpoint adverbs were more commonly employed with abstract base nouns than with concrete base nouns in the newspaper Corpora. Additionally, he gave examples of adjectives that had the suffix -wise attached ( cerebral-wise, academic-wise) when the -(al)ly form should have been used instead. Since there were few of these instances, they might be categorized as performance errors or instances where an adjective modified a noun, but Lindquist thinks that these instances "can be seen as signs that -wise is becoming more prone to affix generalization" (p.p,150-151).

## **2.2 The Position and Usage of Viewpoint Adverbs**

### **2.2.1 The Use of Viewpoint Adverbs**

Viewpoint adverbs are generally rare in written works. But the majority of them appear in academic writing, a genre of writing where it's critical to attribute viewpoints and opinions (Hasselgard, 2010, p.255). Also, (Biber, 2007) suggests this because stance adverbials are used more frequently than in any other type of text. Viewpoint adverbs are a subset of stance adverbs that are employed to indicate the point of view from which a statement or sentence is true (p.860). Scotland claims that the viewpoint adverbs are typically used to indicate the point of view from which something is true. They can serve as premodifying adverbs of other adjectives, such as technically feasible, ethically incorrect, economically weak, artistically justified, theoretically sound, or politically expedient, which denotes expediency from a political perspective.

In addition, since they indicate that what is said or written is an opinion rather than an objective fact, the majority of viewpoint adverbs are employed pragmatically as hedges of the matrix proposition. There is a slight distinction in meaning between statements like "honestly," "presumably," and "allegedly" and viewpoint adverbs like "in my opinion." Syntactically, these adverbs are disjuncts. As a result, viewpoint adverbs are considered a problematic kind of adverbials that fall somewhere in between adjuncts and disjuncts. Their

interpersonal discourse function involves expressing an opinion and accepting accountability for the propositions made (kahdhim,2018,p.p14-16).

### **2.2.2 The Position of Viewpoint Adverbs**

Regardless of their structure, the viewpoint adverbs are always positioned in the initial position. As a result, they can be placed in both initial and final positions. They are better suited for the first thematic position, though, because of their message. Clause-final occurrence will occur as they specify whose viewpoint the clause message represents (Quirk, 1985,p. 569).

When an adverb appears in the first position, it serves as the theme of the clause. Thus, a viewpoint adverb fulfills its thematic role as "an orienter to the idea" when it appears in initial position. It serves as an orienter in that it provides a framework for interpreting the message and clarifies it for the reader or listener who is about to perceive it. The viewpoint adverbs' thematic function provides crucial information regarding the message's validity, which is primarily subjective or related to specific situations, as in:

- In their own consideration, their rule rested on right and not on mere force.

It is possible to put viewpoint adverbs in the end position even though they contain information that should be considered when interpreting the rest of the sentence. Therefore, it is up to the author to choose whether to give these adverbs a focal prominence by placing them at the end of the sentence or a thematic prominence by placing them at the beginning (Hasselgard, 2010,p117).

## **Conclusion**

Adverbs are essential for forming a language's grammatical structure and communication. They fall into two categories: those that have the adverbial suffix "-ly" and those that don't. The presence or absence of the suffix determines the meaning of dual-form adverbs, which might have two forms. Since adjectives were changed to adverbs by adding the suffix -e in Old English, adverbs in the LY- and Zero-form have existed. The root word + -ly is often the morphological form of an adverb in a phrase. The most common sentence form in English communication is the declarative statement, which conveys the truth. There are several places in a declarative phrase where the adverbial suffix -ly can appear. In the example sentence "Marry wrote," the adverbs "late/ly" and "hard/ly" are examples.

The 1940s saw the emergence of viewpoint adverbs with the suffix -wise in American English, which have since changed. Originating from the Old English noun "manner" or "fashion," the suffix is still used in words that finish in -wise and in phrases like "no wise" and "any wise." Common way adverbs that describe the direction or dimension of an action are endwise, sidewise, and widthwise. Because they can create new words by adding -wise to noun base forms, viewpoint adverbs are of interest to linguists. In contemporary English, nouns are suffixed with -wise to create sentence adverbs, which signify "concerning or with respect to." Despite being of American English origin, Lindquist's (2007) study of wise viewpoint adverbs showed that they are commonly used in British English. They are particularly popular in sports, entertainment, and living, as they have a strong element of informality. Lindquist also found that -wise viewpoint adverbs are more commonly used with abstract base nouns than concrete base nouns in newspaper corpora.

Although they are uncommon in written works, viewpoint adverbs are frequently used in academic writing, where it is essential to express thoughts and points of view. They are a subclass of attitude adverbs that are employed to express the viewpoint that a sentence or statement is true from. Technically possible, ethically wrong, economically weak, artistically justifiable, theoretically sound, or politically advantageous are examples of adjectives that they can function as premodifying adverbs.

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