

## A reassessment of the typology of adverbial clauses

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**Overview** The presentation reassesses (i) Haegeman's original (1984, 1991) binary classification of adverbial clauses in terms of central vs. peripheral adverbial clauses and (ii) the syntactic analyses proposed. Among adverbial clauses introduced by the conjunction *while*, for instance, three readings can be readily distinguished, exemplified in (1): the *while* clause in (1) is a **temporal** modifier of the event (i.e. the announcement of the resignation) expressed in the host clause; the **concessive** *while* clause in (2) provides **background assumption** for the proposition encoded in the host clause; the *while* clause in (3) is a temporal modifier of speech act itself, providing a motivation for the utterance 'her proposals are very innovative'.

- (1) While we were talking about Theresa May, the BBC announced her resignation.
- (2) While the Prime Minister may be a conservative, her proposals are very innovative
- (3) While we are talking about Theresa May, her proposals are very innovative.

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Similar multiple readings also obtain for clauses introduced by the conjunctions *since* (tempo-aspectual vs rationale), *as* (a.o. tempo-aspectual vs rationale), *if* (event conditional vs conditional assertion). The phenomenon is of comparative interest as multivalent conjunctions are found cross-linguistically (e.g. Dutch *terwijl*, French *tandis que*, Italian *mentre*).

The presentation focusses on the impact of the distinct readings (if any) on the external syntax of adverbial clauses, that is the degree of integration with the host clause. Empirical evidence will be drawn from English supplemented with comparative evidence, including some drawn from the Germanic V2 languages (Dutch and Flemish).

**Goals** A reassessment (i) of the binary classification of adverbial clauses like those in (1–3) in terms of central (1) vs peripheral clauses (2+3), (ii) of two analyses for peripheral adverbial clauses: (iia) the non-integration or orphan analysis, (iib) the high adjunction analysis (to CP).

Following Frey (2016), I adopt the ternary classification in terms of (i) central adverbial clauses (CAC) (1), (ii) peripheral adverbial clauses (PAC) (2) and (iii) non-integrated adverbial clauses (1c) (NonIC) and I will further explore Frey's classification. A range of data discussed will corroborate Frey's intuition that peripheral adverbial clauses are associated with a high modal domain (Krifka's JudgeP). Time permitting I will also show that Frey's characterization of NonIC does not quite cover the properties of non-integrated clauses like those in (3).