

October 13, 2003

## CLASS 21: NON-CLAUSAL PHRASE STRUCTURE

### THE FINER STRUCTURE SURROUNDING ADJECTIVES

By now it has become obvious (or at least it should!) that **intermediate projections** do play quite some role in determining the finer properties of structure —  $V'$ ,  $N'$ . It doesn't take much to take this one step further and revisit the structure of the three projections we have considered least so far: **AdjP** (complex adjectival structures), **AdvP** (adverbs proper), and **PP** (prepositions).

We have seen a quality of adjectives that is rather verb-like: they can function as **predicates**. As such, they should resemble verbal predicates in two aspects: **take complements** and allow **modifiers**. In fact, both do occur around adjectives, or within AdjP:

- (1) a. Joy [<sub>VP</sub> thoroughly [<sub>V'</sub> cares for Miss Emma ] ] .      *modifier — verb — complement*  
b. [<sub>AdjP</sub> thoroughly *careful* ]      *modifier — adjective*  
c. [<sub>AdjP</sub> *careful* about Miss Emma ]      *adjective — complement*

### THE FINER STRUCTURE OF NOUN PHRASES

Let's revisit the posited level of  $N'$  one more time. Not a last time, however: this afternoon we will be talking about **relative clauses**, for which a good analysis will assign  $N'$  an important role.

- (2) a. [<sub>NP</sub> this good *fruit* ]      *adjectival modifier — noun*  
b. [<sub>NP</sub> this *fruit* from Cyprus ]      *noun — prepositional modifier*
- (3) a. [<sub>NP</sub> the *teacher* [<sub>PP</sub> of linguistics ] ]      a'. He [<sub>VP</sub> *teaches* linguistics ] .  
b. [<sub>NP</sub> a *student* [<sub>PP</sub> of English ] ]      b'. She [<sub>VP</sub> *studies* English ] .  
c. [<sub>NP</sub> this *discussion* [<sub>PP</sub> about structure ] ]      c'. They [<sub>VP</sub> *discuss* structure ] .

### COMPLEMENTS VS. MODIFIERS, AGAIN

Finally, **complements are not always obligatory** — but **always different from modifiers!**

- (4) a. [<sub>NP</sub> the *student* [<sub>PP</sub> of linguistics ] [<sub>PP</sub> from Palestine ] ]  
b. \* [<sub>NP</sub> the *student* [<sub>PP</sub> from Palestine ] [<sub>PP</sub> of linguistics ] ]
- (5) a. [<sub>NP</sub> the [<sub>AdjP</sub> Palestinian ] [<sub>NP</sub> English ] *student* ]  
b. \* [<sub>NP</sub> the [<sub>NP</sub> English ] [<sub>AdjP</sub> Palestinian ] *student* ]

Favourite test: the **legendary one-substitution**...

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### Further readings:

You can find some basic discussion beyond van Gelderen's chapter in Brinton 2000: Ch. 7 (pp. 169-181).