

On the Syntax of Aspectual Adverbs in Persian

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Integration of adverbs into clause structure has always been a challenging issue and occasionally adverbial position is discussed with regard to other syntactic categories (Austin et al. 2004, p. 17). Regardingly, linguists are divided in their approach toward the base position of adverbials in the clause. While Haider (2004), Costa (2004) and Ernst (2004), among others, have identified adverbs as adjuncts, other scholars propose that adverbs are merged in the specifier position of the projections dominating the VP (Alexiadou 1997, Laenzlinger 1998, and Cinque 1999, 2004; amongst others). Cinque (1999) introduces some dedicated functional projections, and claims that adverbs are placed in the specifier position of these functional projections and emphasizes on a fixed universal hierarchy of clausal functional projections.

The present study sets out to investigate the syntactic position and distribution of aspectual adverbials in Persian, e.g. *dobâre* 'again' *hamiše* 'always' *zud* 'soon' *kâmelan* 'completely'. The main stream of the investigation aims to account for the Persian adverbs, whether they should be treated as the adjuncts adjoined to the sentence structure or base-generated as the specifier of functional projections. It is shown that if the aspectual adverbs in Persian occupy the specifier position of dedicated functional projections, the rigid order of such projections as assumed by Cinque (1999) falls short to account for the distribution of the adverbs in question. Therefore, in this study it is claimed that Persian aspectual adverbs can be subsumed into two, namely event-internal and event-related, and their relative order is accounted with regard to the present proposed categorization. While the event-internal adverbs represent a rigid relative order occurring with the event-related ones, the event-related adverbs show a less strict distribution.

Keywords: adjunct, event-internal adverb, event-related adverb, specifier

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