

# A frame-based analysis of agent-oriented manner adverbials in German

Ekaterina Gabrovskaja

## Abstract

The class of agent-oriented manner adverbials (henceforth, AOMA), like *sorgfältig* ('carefully'), has been scarcely discussed in the linguistic literature. Some suggestions treating these adverbials as manner adverbials, like *zügig* ('fast') or *laut* ('loudly'), can be found in Schäfer (2013) a.o. Nevertheless, none of the existing suggestions capture the agent-orientation of these adverbials beyond the mere assumption that they might state something about the character of the agent.

The exact exploration of the agent-orientation of this class, together with the investigation of their impact on the manner of an event, can provide us with new insights on the nature of manners of events as well as the role of the agent. These insights then can be further used for the analysis of the meaning contribution of other agent-oriented adverbial classes and verbs which lexicalize intentionality (cf. Gabrovskaja and Geuder 2019, Gabrovskaja 2019).

In my work I explore in detail the meaning contribution of AOMAs and propose that they demand for the participation of an agent who acts intentionally and has control over the action. The agent acts with a goal she wants to realize, i.e. a farther-reaching purpose and has beliefs about suitable ways/methods to realize her goal. The manner component is captured by the method of realization of the goal.

The proposed analysis makes use of philosophical views concerning intentional action and intention, like Goldman (1970) and Pacherie (2008). I adopt and adapt the notion of *action-plans* which terms a mechanism to capture the intentionality of the agent as well as her control over the event. The mechanism is then formalized in Frame Semantics, as proposed by Petersen (2015) and Löbner (2017), and Cascade Theory, as in Löbner (2019) (cf. Gabrovskaja and Geuder 2019) and is central for the analysis of AMOAs and intentionality as a whole.

## References

- [1] Gabrovskaja, E. and Geuder, W. (2019). Adverbs of intentionality. in revision.
- [2] Gabrovskaja, E. (2019). A frame-based analysis of agent-oriented manner adverbials in German. Dissertation, Heinrich-Heine Universität Düsseldorf, Germany.
- [3] Goldman, A. I. 1970. A theory of human action. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall INC.
- [4] Löbner, S. 2017. Frame theory with first-order comparators: modeling the lexical meaning of punctual verbs of change with frames. In H. H. Hansen, S. E. Murray, M. Sadrzadeh, H. Zeevat (eds.),

Logic, Language, and Computation. 11th International Tbilisi Symposium, pp. 98–117. Heidelberg, New York: Springer.

- [5] Löbner, S. acc. Cascades. Goldman’s level-generation, multilevel categorization of action, and verb semantics. [https://sfb991.uni-duesseldorf.de/fileadmin/Vhosts/SFB991/b09/Loebner\\_Cascades\\_July\\_2018.pdf](https://sfb991.uni-duesseldorf.de/fileadmin/Vhosts/SFB991/b09/Loebner_Cascades_July_2018.pdf)
- [6] Pacherie, E. (2008). The phenomenology of action: A conceptual framework. *Cognition*, 107(1):179–217.
- [7] Petersen, W. 2007. Representation of Concepts as Frames. In: *Complex Cognition and Qualitative Science*, Jurgis Skilters, Fiorenza Toccafondi and Gerhard Stemberger (eds.), The Baltic International Yearbook of Cognition, Logic and Communication, 2, p. 151–170. University of Latvia.
- [8] Schäfer, M. (2013). Positions and interpretations. German adverbial adjectives at the syntax-semantics interface. Mouton de Gruyter, Berlin.