

Main clause phenomena in adverbial clauses – the view from Scandinavian

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It has long been observed that adverbial clauses exhibit variable word order. For instance, in English, some adverbial clauses allow argument/adjunct fronting whereas others do not. In the Scandinavian verb-second languages, we find adverbial clauses that allow a non-subject XP-initial order whereas others seem to resist such. The framework adopted here is the typology of adverbial clauses set out in Haegeman (2012, and much previous work) where adverbial clauses are divided into two groups: those that permit main clause phenomena and those that prohibit such orders. Further, Haegeman distinguishes between adverbial clauses that she terms 'peripheral' or 'central' to capture the degree of integration of adverbial clauses with respect to the clause that they modify. For the Scandinavian languages, we might expect that adverbial clauses that are 'peripheral' in Haegeman's sense might allow main clause word order whereas such orders are resisted in central adverbial clauses.

The discussion here first presents an overview of the phenomena in question in English and then includes discussion of adverbial clauses in Scandinavian, mostly through data drawn from Icelandic.

References

Haegeman, Liliane. 2012. *Adverbial clauses, main clause phenomena, and the composition of the left periphery*. The cartography of syntactic structures, volume 8. Oxford, Oxford University Press.