

TITLE: Adverbs in interaction
SWEDISH TITLE: Adverb i interaktion
LANGUAGE: Swedish (English Summary)
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Abstract

This thesis is an empirical study of Swedish adverbs, previously described as *sentence adverbs*, *stance adverbs* and *linking adverbs*, in spoken language interaction. The aim of the study is to find and describe what functions adverbs have in interaction and, after that, to describe the factors in the utterance and the interactional context that determine the functions of the adverbs. A third aim is to describe the sequences in which the adverbs appear.

The adverbs are analysed in authentic spoken data from a corpus consisting of 27 group interviews, where Swedish teenagers discuss music. The data comprises 20 hours of conversation and approximately 205 000 words.

The theoretical and methodological framework for this thesis is mainly *interactional linguistics*, where both functional grammar and the method of *conversational analysis* are used.

The study focuses on 48 adverbs, which occur approximately 4700 times in the data. In analysing these adverbs from an interactional perspective, it has become clear that adverbs do not only determine the interpretation of elements within an utterance. They also determine or comment on previous utterances made by the speaker or previous utterances made by another speaker.

The adverbs can realise at least 30 different functions and it is common that one adverb has several functions. Mostly, the adverbs modify and hedge utterances, mark agreement or show how utterances in conversations should be understood in relation to each other.

The factors that mainly influence the functions are position, semantic context and interactional context (*i.e.* the sequence of turns). The adverbs often appear in (for example) agreeing sequences, objections, after objections and after other types of interactional trouble such as no response or misunderstandings. In the sequences the adverbs display what is treated as preferred and dispreferred by the speakers. In other words, the adverbs do not only operate on a linguistic level, but also display social actions.

KEY WORDS: Adverbs, interactional linguistics, conversation analysis, functional grammar, preference organisation, Swedish.

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