

Avoiding Adjuncts

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There are three types of adjuncts, those that are adjoined inside the VP, through adjunction/pair-merge, those that merge in the specifier of a functional category above the VP, and those that are housed in the heads of those functional categories. Diachronically, pair-merged VP adjuncts reanalyze as higher specifiers and heads: manner adverbs in the VP (e.g. *already*) reanalyze as specifiers of aspectual categories, locational/causal adverbs reanalyze as specifiers of CPs, and the specifiers reanalyze as heads. I argue these changes are due to the Adjunct Incorporation Principle, i.e. to avoid pair-merge, reanalysis takes place as a higher specifier and, for other reasons, these specifiers become heads.