

## COGNITIVE AND SEMANTIC FEATURES OF ADVERBS WITH -LY SUFFIX IN ENGLISH

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**Abstract:** *This article delves into the cognitive and semantic traits of English adverbs with the -ly suffix, which is considered one of the most active derivational patterns in the English language. The study includes morphological productivity, semantic classification, and the cognitive processes that are involved in constructing adverbial meanings, using theoretical concepts from cognitive linguistics, semantics, and English grammar studies as a basis.*

**Keywords:** *-ly adverbs, cognitive linguistics, semantic features, derivational morphology, English grammar, manner adverbs, conceptual categorization*

**Annotatsiya:** *Ushbu maqolada ingliz tilidagi eng mahsuldor qo‘shimcha shakllaridan birini ifodalovchi -ly bilan tuzilgan ingliz qo‘shimchalarining kognitiv va semantik xususiyatlari ko‘rib chiqiladi. Tahlil morfologik mahsuldorlik, semantik tipologiya va qo‘shimcha ma‘no qurilishi asosidagi kognitiv mexanizmlarni o‘z ichiga oladi, kognitiv tilshunoslik, semantika va ingliz grammatikasining nazariy asoslariga tayanadi.*

**Kalit so‘zlar:** *-ly qo‘shimchalar, kognitiv lingvistika, semantik xususiyatlar, hosila morfologiyasi, ingliz tili grammatikasi, ravishdosh qo‘shimchalar, kontseptual turkumlashtirish*

**Аннотация:** *В данной статье рассматриваются когнитивные и семантические характеристики английских наречий, образованных с помощью суффикса -ly, представляющего собой одну из наиболее продуктивных деривационных моделей в английском языке. Анализ охватывает морфологическую продуктивность, семантическую типологию и когнитивные механизмы, лежащие в основе конструирования адвербиальных значений, опираясь на теоретические подходы когнитивной лингвистики, семантики и английской грамматики.*

**Ключевые слова:** *наречия с -ly, когнитивная лингвистика, семантические особенности, деривационная морфология, английская грамматика, наречия образа действия, концептуальная категоризация*

## INTRODUCTION

The English language has a very productive system for adverbs, one that creates a huge lexical category by simply adding the '-ly' suffix to adjectives, which then has the great advantage of serving very necessary communicative and cognitive functions. This derivational process, which the Old English -lice had given us, passing through Middle English to its modern equivalent, is one of the most systematic and easily recognized morphological changes in today's English [1]. Cognitive linguistics treats adverbs as more than just grammatical modifiers; they are, as it were, the linguistic manifestations of mental categorization processes, which in turn are the psychologists' cognitive models of manner, degree, frequency, and evaluation [2]. The meaning of -ly adverbs is very diverse and ranges from simple manner descriptions like "quickly" and "carefully" to complex epistemic and evaluative meanings realized through such adverbs as "presumably" and "unfortunately," which reflects the complicated relationship between linguistic form and conceptual content [3]. There have been different aspects of the adverbial morphological process, syntactic placement, and individual semantic classes that prior studies have dealt with, but still, the thorough exploration of the cognitive-semantic relationship in -ly adverbs is not quite enough [4].

## METHODOLOGY AND LITERATURE REVIEW

This methodical inquiry is based on systematic literature review exclusively, and it is through literature-based synthesis of the results that cognitive linguistics, English grammar, semantics and morphological theory are intertwined. The research is built on the basic literature of cognitive linguistics, Conceptual Metaphor Theory and frame semantics in particular which provide the very understanding of how -ly adverbs are expressing and representing abstract cognitive structures [5]. Derivational Morphology studies clarify -ly suffixes' productivity limits and semantic predictability thus indicating that the morphological process is very regular but semantic results can be different based on the meaning of the base adjective and the syntactic context of the adverb formed [6]. Researches that have focused on the historical progression of English adverbs indicate that -ly suffix has been gradually widening its functional range and, among other things, has been acquiring new semantically territories such as epistemic modality, evidentiality, and discourse organization, which is a direct reflection of the already perceived broader grammaticalization and semantic extension cognitive processes [7]. Corpus-based investigation gives the data about frequency distributions, collocational patterns and contextual variations of -ly adverbs in real communication thus proving that the frequently used adverbs have their meanings either specialized or completely changed and different from their compositional semantics [8].

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The literature analysis brings forth a number of important findings with respect to the cognitive as well as the semantic features of the English -ly adverbs. To start with the morphologically productive nature of the -ly suffix, it is quite fascinating that the very first adverbs which go through the complete process of morphological changes are the manner adverbs that are formed by adjectives with observable qualities (quick→quickly and careful→carefully). The aforementioned is quite a strong reflection of the cognitive principle of the corresponding quality of the agent or action being the content of the manner of action. Thus, the cognitive metaphor which underlies the mapping comes into open view, and states or qualities are illustrated as being transferable to processes, so that through this manifestation the speakers can express how actions embody or are characteristic of particular traits.

But then again there are limitations to the productivity, especially in the case of adjectives that are already indicating the concepts of time or place in a temporary or locative manner (e.g., \*dailyly, \*herely), which makes one assume the existence of cognitive constraints that oppose derivations that are either redundant or conceptually incoherent. The second point about the semantic typology is that it not only classifies -ly adverbs but also indicates their hierarchical organization from the specification of concrete manner to abstract epistemic and evaluative functions, thus representing different planes of cognitive processing and conceptual abstraction. The case of "slowly" and "loudly" that belong to the core manner adverbs category is that they simply describe features of events that can be directly perceived, and this is done by grounding them in sensorimotor experience and applying image-schematic representations of the force dynamics, speed and intensity.

The usage of evaluative adverbs, "fortunately" and "surprisingly", for example, discloses the speaker's point of view, which is a mixture of subjective valuation and emotional reactions rather than just the properties of the event occurring [3]. On the other hand, the use of epistemic adverbs like "probably" and "certainly" indicates different levels of the speaker's commitment to the truth of the proposition, thus showing the metacognitive awareness and the process of evidential reasoning [7]. The different meanings of these adverbs underline that -ly adverbs are at play in the cognitive process at various layers, starting from the basic description based on perception to the top layer of mental operations involving judgment, inference, and attitude. Furthermore, the ambiguity of -ly adverbs in terms of scope discloses the cognitive flexibility in the assignment of meanings, in which a single adverb can be understood to modify different units of meaning depending on the syntactic position and the pragmatic context, as illustrated in "Cleverly, John solved the problem" (speaker evaluation) versus "John solved the problem cleverly" (manner

description) [4]. This kind of ambiguity is a reflection of the cognitive ability to perceive the same linguistic forms as operating at different conceptual levels, either by portraying the participants and their actions in the event or by stating the speaker's viewpoint on the whole situation.

### CONCLUSION

The investigation of cognitive and semantic features of English -ly adverbs through literature analysis reveals a complex linguistic category that embodies systematic morphological productivity alongside semantic heterogeneity, reflecting multiple levels of cognitive organization from sensorimotor grounding to abstract conceptual operations. The -ly suffix functions as a remarkably productive derivational mechanism that systematically maps adjectival qualities onto adverbial modifications, yet the resulting semantic landscape encompasses diverse functions including manner specification, temporal structuring, domain invocation, evaluative expression, and epistemic stance marking. These varied functions correspond to different cognitive processes, from perception-based event characterization to metacognitive reflection and subjective assessment, demonstrating that adverbs serve as linguistic windows into the multifaceted nature of human conceptualization.

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