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THE SYNTAX OF ADJUNCTS

This book proposes a theory of the distribution of adverbial adjuncts in a Principles and Parameters framework, claiming that there are few syntactic principles specific to adverbials; rather, for the most part, adverbials adjoin freely to any projection. Adjuncts' possible hierarchical positions are determined by whether they can receive a proper interpretation, according to their selectional (including scope) requirements and general compositional rules, whereas linear order is determined by hierarchical position along with a system of directionality principles and morphological weight, both of which apply generally to adjuncts and all other syntactic elements. A wide range of adverbial types is analyzed: predicational adverbs (such as manner and modal adverbs), domain expressions like *financially*, temporal, frequency, duration, and focusing adverbials; participant PPs (e.g., locatives and benefactives); resultative and conditional clauses, and others, taken primarily from English, Chinese, French, and Italian, with occasional reference to others (such as German and Japanese).

Thomas Ernst, who has lectured widely in East Asia, Western Europe, and the United States, is currently a visiting scholar at the University of Massachusetts–Amherst. His many published articles have appeared in, among other journals, *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* and *Linguistic Inquiry*.

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Acknowledgments

This is the book I would have written as my dissertation in 1983, had my and the field's state of knowledge permitted it. Alas, we were both far from it. In writing it 17 years later, I had help not only from the excellent work in syntactic and semantic theory published in the interim but also from many valued colleagues and friends.

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