

*Workshop on Aspect and Argument Structure of Adjectives and Participles
(WAASAP III)*

Degree modified participles

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The literature on the interpretation, frequency, acceptability and processing of degree modifiers, such as *slightly*, *perfectly*, *a bit* and *much*, has focused mainly on modification of adjectives (Bierwisch 1989; Paradis 1997; Sevi 1998; Rothstein & Winter 2004; Kennedy & McNally 2005; Kennedy 2007; Syrett 2007; Frazier et al. 2008; van Rooij 2009, 2011; de Vries 2010; McNally 2011; Kagan and Alexeyenko 2011; Solt 2011, 2015; Toledo and Sassoon 2011; Bogal-Allbritten 2012; Bylinina and Zadorozhny 2012; Sassoon 2013; Bylinina 2014; Burnett 2014; Morzycki 2015, a.o.).

This literature has supported, empirically and experimentally, the role of factors such as the adjective's scale structure and type of classification criterion (standard), its polarity, its temporal and aspectual properties, the quantitative vs. qualitative nature of its interpretation, vagueness and multidimensionality. This talk presents corpus studies of degree-modified participles, bringing evidence for modifier sensitivity to the argument structure of their verbal bases – whether it assigns an experiencer role, and/or to temporal-aspectual properties of subject- vs. object-experiencer verbs.

Two challenging questions concern (i) the ways in which the different factors affecting the distribution of modifiers might be connected, and (ii) the consequences for cross-categorial accounts of degree modification. Of particular interest are findings pertaining to *much* in light of accounts postulating connections between the distribution of *much* and *more* across categories (Wellwood, Hacquard, & Pancheva 2012; Wellwood 2015; see also Bochnak 2010; Landman & Rothstein 2011a,b).

Selected references

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- Wellwood, Alexis, Valentine Hacquard and Roumyana Pancheva (2012) 'Measuring and Comparing Individuals and Events'. *Journal of Semantics* 29(2), pp. 207-228.
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