

**Between inflection and derivation: Adverbial suffixes in English and German**

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Traditionally it has been assumed that adverbial suffixes are derivational elements. Some authors, however, argue that they behave like inflectional elements. The main argument for a derivational status is the category change taking place. Thus, the question is closely connected to the issue whether adverbs and adjectives belong to one category. If one assumes that adverbs and adjectives belong to one category because of many similarities, an inflectional analysis is possible.

Starting from general differences between inflection and derivation, first the status of English –*ly* is dealt with which has been controversially discussed. Taking diachronic developments into account, it is shown how adverbial suffixes developed out of case endings and lexical elements. English –*ly*, which is a cognate of German –*lich*, was originally an adjectival suffix which was later used to differentiate adverbs from adjectives and developed into a nearly uniform adverb marker in present-day English.

German, on the contrary, has not developed a uniform adverb marker. A possible candidate for this was –*(er)weise*, which was used from the 19th c. onwards for a differentiation between sentence adverbs and modal adverbs.

German differs from English and Romance languages in that it has no uniform adverb marker. It is argued that this difference can be related to differences in sentence structure: Whereas English and Romance languages can differentiate between sentence adverbs and modal adverbs by their positions in the sentence, German needs lexical means for this differentiation.