

## ABSTRACT

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Adverbs have been considered just like any other grammatical category (i.e. like nouns or adjectives) in traditional grammar (see, for example, Bosque & Demonte 1999 for Spanish; Huddleston & Pullum 2002 for English; Euskaltzaindia 1991, 2021; Hualde & Ortiz de Urbina 2003 for Basque). At the same time, the particular difficulties to define this category have often been recognised by authors of descriptive grammars and theoretical works alike (Jackendoff 1972; Bosque 1989; Huddleston & Pullum 2002; Delfitto 2007 a.o.), since so-called adverbs tend to form a most heterogeneous class.

In this talk, I will argue the reason for this confusion lies in the fact that these elements are the result of complex morphosyntactic structures. Following Rubin (1994, 2003), I will present the hypothesis that these elements are formed by a functional head (Modifier Phrase, ModP) combining with a lexical element. I will argue that this account may also contribute to a general theory of modification, since this functional head is common to all elements that act as modifiers. Throughout the talk, I will also precise the methodology that I expect use to undertake the study of these elements and to look for evidence in favor of my hypotheses.