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Adverbial clauses

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Introduction

In this seminar paper I will be discussing the adverbial clauses. For the beginning of the paper I will explain what clauses are, the A element in the clause and then continue with explaining adverbial clauses, their positions, types and functions.

A d v e r b i a l c l a u s e s

The A element in the clause

According to Biber's "Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English" a clause is a unit structured around a verb phrase. Verb phrase together with other elements makes Adverbial clauses 3

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Internet; British National Corpus, www.natcorp.ox.ac.uk

Adverbial clauses

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Adverbial clauses

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Sawubona Magazine; August 2002, p.58

Adverbial clauses

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Semantic categories of adverbial clauses

According to Greenbaum and Quirk (1990, p.314-326) adverbial clauses fall into following semantic categories:

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Sawubona Magazine; August 2002, p.26 Sawubona Magazine; August 2002, p.82

Adverbial clauses

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1. Clauses of time-They are introduced by such subordinators as after, as, once, since, until, when, while, till, whenever, whilst, as soon as. It is desirable that such readers, for their own sakes, should not suffer the solitary word Poetry, a word of very disputed meaning, to stand in the way of their gratification; but that, while they are perusing this book, they should ask themselves if it contains a natural delineation of human passions, human characters, and human incidents.*

2. Clauses of place-They are introduced mainly by where or wherever.

An empty egg-basket was slung upon his arm, the nap of his hat was ruffled, a patch being quite worn away at its brim where his thumb came in taking it off.**

3. Clauses of condition, concession and contrast

a) Conditional clauses-They are commonly introduced by if and unless. Other subordinators that introduce conditional clauses are given (that), on condition (that), provided (that), providing (that), supposing (that).

It had walked for hundreds of years, if not as benefitclub, as votive sisterhood of some sort; and it walked still.*** b) Concessive clauses-They are introduced chiefly by although or it's more informal variant

though. Other subordinators include while, whereas, and even if. She had no spirit to dance again for a

long time, though she might have had plenty of partners.**** c) Clauses of contrast-They are introduced

by whereas, while, whilst. She talked so little, while the other maids talked so much that the babble did not strike him as possessing a new note, and he was ever in the habit of neglecting the

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