



## HOW STANCE ADVERBIALS ADJUSTED IN EDGAR ALLAN POE'S "THE TELL-TALE HEART"

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**Abstract:** Literary authors, poets, dramatists and novelists often use all structural means in order to meet their needs in their works. One best example is Edgar Allan Poe, a famous American novelist, who often resorts to certain structural forms in order to attain his messages through his writings. On sentence level, he employs all parts of speech which serve his purpose, express his ideas and show the aesthetic values of his work. Among these parts of speeches, stance manner adverbials are often noticeable in his "The Tell-Tale Heart". Based on Quirk et al. (1985) and Biber's et al. (1999) treatments of stance manner adverbials, a survey of the use of these adverbials in Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart" focusing on the functions that these constructions exhibit is made. The study concludes that Poe affectedly manipulates these adverbials to contribute in developing the events in the story and making the readers more easily conceive what is going on in the story. They exhibit evaluative comments on clauses they are inserted into, whether employed as adjuncts or disjuncts, and thus have touching effects on the readers to sense the ongoing events in the story. For Poe, they play an important role in conveying the narrator's attitudes and purposes.

Key words: Stance adverbials, Manner adverbials, Edgar Allan Poe, "The Tell-Tale Heart", story

### INTRODUCTION

Literary writers practice a certain form of language in order to influence, convince, enlighten or transport experience. Perhaps, the use of adverbials seems the most dynamic elements in a sentence, due to the significance of their distribution. This may be the main reason behind Edgar Allan Poe's intentionally use of various forms to express his messages. In "The Tell-Tale Heart", in particular, he utilizes stance manner adverbials in his panic story to create a horrifying atmosphere. Specifically, an adverbial designates the situations in a certain linguistic context (Simpson, 2004, p. 14). Besides, adverbials have no fixed distribution as they come "in the beginning, middle, or end of a sentence." Subsequently, owing to their important roles in sentential constructions, they are worth-investigating.

Additionally, Poe is famed with his consternation manner of writing. This consternation is illustrated by Poe via the influence of adverbs of manner whether used as adjuncts or disjuncts. In most cases, they help to create an appropriate atmosphere for horrible context. They provide more elaborated details for designating horror in readers' minds. In this respect, Wiratningsih (2013, p. 2) contends that "when Poe tells the reader what happens, he will describe event in clear, reportorial style". Put differently, it is imperative to investigate how manner adverbials contribute to the variation of lexical classes and consequently develop the event in "The Tell-Tale Heart".

In any literary text, one should put in mind the essential components of the text, including "settings, plot, and characters". To define these components, manner adverbials may play an essential role in illuminating the details of the components. In "The Tell-Tale Heart", manner adverbials give rise to the existence of anonymous through the independence of Poe's characters. In other words, "the creation of uniqueness and strangeness and his characterization is supported by point of view, setting, plot, foreshadowing and diction." This creation is accomplished by manner adverbials stemming from "derivational adjective + suffix -ly which can be paraphrased by in a ... manner or in a ... way where the adjective fill the blank position". Manner adverbials provide an

answer to a “How question” (ibid).

Complying with the aforementioned discussion, this paper endeavors to identify the manipulation of stance manner adverbials by Edgar Allan Poe in his horror short story, “The Tell-Tale Heart” focusing on the functions these adverbials envisage in this story, that is, how Poe manipulates these adverbials to serve his aims and purposes in conveying his messages in an elaborated manner. Now, before embarking on this topic, it is necessary to give some theoretical review of the syntactic and semantic behavior of manner adverbials as found in grammar books.

## Manner Adverbials in General

Before indulging in the details of manner adverbials, it is important to account for “what an adverb is”. Generally, the term adverb is typically used to refer to “a word used to modify a verb, adjective, preposition or another adverb” (Delahunty and Garvey, 2010, p. 178) such as, fast, happily, quickly and well. Relationally, Frank (1992, p.20) expounds that an adverb of manner possesses “the most characteristic adverb form (an -ly ending added to a descriptive adjective).” In fact, manner adverbial is a word used to indicate “an element of a clause in form of phrase with major functions: to add circumstantial information about the proposition, to express writer stance towards the clause, or to link the clause to some other unit” (Biber et al., 1999, p. 762). Hence, manner adverbial is seen as a multipurpose element in the clause since it can be used to serve various purposes. To wit, Biber, et al. (ibid, p. 538) expound that “an adverb can either be integrated into an element of the clause or function themselves as an element of the clause” (ibid). This means that an adverb may have several existences in a clause as it can function “as modifiers of other elements of the clause.”

## Syntax of Manner Adverbials

Normally, manner adverbials are used to modify the “process/event” denoted by the verb; they reveal how a certain action/process is performed by an agent. Yet, in certain cases, they are employed to identify “the state of the agent”. For this reason, some grammarians generally describe manner adverbial as “subject adverb or subject adjunct” (Quirk et al. 1985, p.556). They cite the following examples in which manner adverbials are used to modify “process/event” designated by the verbs:

- “They began arguing **loudly**.”

- “She does her work **carefully**.”

Contrariwise, “subject-oriented” adverbials are mainly linked to the “state of the agent”. Consider:

- “**Manfully**, they insisted the situation was too bad” (i.e. ... manful of them to insist ...)

- “He slept **comfortably**” ( i.e. he was comfortable while sleeping ... )

(Quirk, et. al., 1972, p. 466)

In addition to the two above cases, there are certain cases in which it is not easy to determine the orientation of the manner adverbial. Examine this example:

- They spoke to me **honestly**.

Here, the word honestly can be construed in two different senses, though related. Either, the agent (they) were honest when they spoke to me or the agent spoke to me in an honest manner (honestly). That is, this adverbial (honestly) is either subject-oriented or action-oriented. However, this use of manner adverbials is somehow common in English language:

- “My father deals with the children **gently**.”

- “He talks to his students **kindly**”

(ibid)

For Biber et al. (1999, p. 209) manner adverbial is employed to offer “information on how

someone does something”, i.e., it articulates how an event or action is made. Manner adverbials are usually made by adding -ly to adjectives, it stems its meaning from the adjective it is derived from (e.g. sweet/sweetly, nice/nicely, public/publicly). They are typically located before the main verb or at the end of the sentence. Alwi (2008, p. 205) illustrates that manner adverbial is “an adverb that describes the meaning related with how the event described by the adverb occurs.” Consider these examples

- The researcher **explicitly** explained the results he arrived at.
- They left the city **happily**.

These manner adverbials are concerned with “style of the utterance and how the message is put across”. Besides, by reason of their nature, these adverbials are “more focused on the speaker than are epistemic and attitude adverbials, although all three convey a speaker’s or writer’s stance” (Biber et al., 1999, p. 857). Syntactically, Quirk et al. (1985, p. 615) use the term style disjuncts to refer to these adverbial as they express “speakers comment on the manner of speaking”. Functionally, they are used to “draw attention not only to what is said but to how it is being said, the style disjunct is often an implicit comment on language itself” (ibid). For instance, the manner adverbial frankly in “Frankly, I am tired, can be rephrased into “I tell you frankly” or “I say frankly”. Manner Adverbials signifying style may comprise “frankly, honestly, simply, truthfully etc.”

For Katz (2008, p. 221), manner adverbials must be analyzed as “events predicates” as they are manipulated to influence the “events described”. For him, the most common adverbials are “implicitly, individually, intimately, privately and publicly”. Katz (ibid) adds that “the nature of these adverbs is not homogeneous, and so they may have different pragmatic interpretations”. They are often used to designate “a more impressionistic view of how facts have been done, e.g. implicitly, and to a more descriptive report of facts, e.g. individually, intimately, privately and publicly”. The importance of these adverbials emanates from the fact that they are valuable to the extent that they offer “more accurate information of state of affairs”. Their use appears to be essential in “scientific writing, in general, and, consequently in history texts, as the main objective of this type of writing is to offer detailed technical evidence of the research conducted” (Katz, ibid).

By the same token, manner adverbials “willingly and judiciously” are given to stipulate “the actor’s stance concerning the predicate, simply because they are “similar to manner and judgement adverbs, and the difference lies in the semantics of the words”. Elaborately, these adverbials are manipulated in various texts to expose “the mental state of the actor at the moment of doing the action or stance to perform that action” (ibid).

Huddleston and Pullum (2002, p. 767ff) propose a somehow different characterization of manner adverbials; they consider an adverbial as “a clause as an anchor which is supplemented or modified” by what they normally nominate as ‘adjuncts’. They elaborate that manner adverbials semantically accomplish several functions. For instance “modal adjuncts can be paralleled to content disjuncts expressing degree of truth”, “speech-act related adjuncts” can be associated with the style disjuncts, “evaluative adjuncts to content disjuncts conveying value judgement” (ibid). In this respect manner adverbials reveal rather a complicated linguistic aspect. In the sentence “Jessica outfitted **elegantly**”, the adverbial elegantly can be either resultative or manner. It expresses two interpretations; either “Jessica got outfitted and as a result of getting outfitted” or “Jessica looked elegant”

Strikingly important, Jackendoff (1972, p. 42) affirms that manner adverbials “do not appear to change in meaning”. He expounds that adverbials (e.g. “quickly, slowly, reluctantly, sadly, quietly, indolently, frequently, immediately, often, and soon” do not show an obvious change in meaning. Ernest (2002, p.87) affirms that even when used in different positions, manner adverbials do not alter their meanings and that the most important thing is that they “often require an event specified as involving a physical stimulus, such as volume of sound”.

- "Ken had **loudly** spoken."

- "Ken had spoken **loudly**." (ibid)

It is clear that the manner adverbial loudly preserves its meaning whether located before the main verb or at the end of the sentence.

### **Semantics of Manner Adverbials**

Sine manner adverbials are generally used to express speakers' or writer's attitude or stance towards the proposition expressed in the sentence, they are semantically known as stance adverbials. Based on semantic principles, stance adverbials can be classified into three main kinds "epistemic, attitudinal and stylistic" adverbials.

### **Epistemic Adverbials**

Biber et al. (1999: 854) contend that epistemic adverbials "express meanings associated with the speaker's or writer's attitude, or stance towards what s/he is saying". In other words, they offer "speakers comment on the status of the information presented in the main clause". They are associated with adverbials expressing: (1) "Certainty (doubt)", (2) "Actuality", (3) "Source of information" and (4) "Limitation of a proposition".

### **Certainty/ Doubt**

Certainty/ doubt adverbials display "the speaker's certainty or doubt about the proposition in the clause". They involve both total judgments of conviction and sign of belief in different stages of possibility (Biber et al., 1999, p. 854). Stance adverbials expressing certainty are "probably, perhaps, undoubtedly, allegedly, certainly, clearly, evidently, obviously reportedly, seemingly, supposedly, surely, certainly, surely, allegedly, reportedly and supposedly, apparently and presumably"; they often provide cues to "the writer's certainty or assessment of the truth of a statement and qualify a writer's attitude towards expressed knowledge" (Coates, 1983, p.127) (cf. Sanders and Spooren, 1997, p. 96, Biber et al., 1999, p. 854). Further, Quirk et al. (1985) and Biber et al. (1999) come to an agreement that "certainly, clearly, obviously, surely, and evidently" point out strong belief, whereas "allegedly, reportedly, seemingly, and supposedly" specify some degree of disbelief (or doubt).

### **Actuality**

Adverbials of actuality and reality are employed to provide "comment on the status of the proposition as real life fact" (Biber et al., 1999, p.854). In Quirk et al.'s (1985, p.621) words, they reflect "a comment on the truth-value of what is said" and thus they imply adverbials which "state the sense in which the speaker judges what he says to be true". Common examples of stance adverbials of actuality and reality are "basically, essentially, formally, fundamentally, ideally, nominally, ostensibly, outwardly, superficially, technically, theoretically, actually, factually, really, and nominally" Sinclair (1996, p.180) expounds that adverbials such as "officially, theoretically, aesthetically, linguistically, logically, and morally" can be listed in this group since they seemingly indicate "reality or possibility".

### **Source of Knowledge**

Adverbials of "source of knowledge" are used to refer to "the source of the information



reported in the associated proposition" (e.g. "evidently, apparently, reputedly, reportedly"). They are linked to proof backing up the proposition (Biber et al., 1999, p. 855). Actually, these adverbials exhibit "the source of the information or the evidence of what the writer proposes, which offers the reader high reliability and objectivity". They are typically concerned with the writer or speaker's articulated "attitudes towards knowledge, more specifically, to how they obtain and evaluate knowledge" (Marin-Arrese et al., 2004, p. 123).

### **Limitation**

Some stance adverbials are manipulated to signal mark the "limitation of the proposition" such as "generally, largely, mainly, typically" (Biber et al., 1999, p. 855).

### **Attitudinal Adverbials**

The second type of epistemic adverbials is known as attitudinal adverbials which often specify "feelings or judgments about what is said or written"; they transport "the speaker's attitude, feelings, or value judgments" toward the given proposition (e.g. "fortunately, happily, interestingly, oddly, strangely, unfortunately") (Biber et al., 1999, p. 856). Adverbials like "foolishly, rightly, wisely, reasonably, sensibly, cleverly" also belong to this group. Greenbaum (1969, p.75) adds that this group of adverbials can include adverbials such as "conveniently, curiously, fortunately, happily, interestingly, ironically, luckily, oddly, paradoxically, regrettably, sadly, surprisingly, unfortunately." Additionally, Huddleston and Pullum (2002, p.588) include other attitudinal adverbials under this group (i.e. "curiously, disappointingly, fortunately, funnily, happily, luckily, oddly, regrettably, sadly, strangely, surprisingly, cleverly, foolishly, rudely, accidentally, deliberately, intentionally, knowingly and willingly").

### **Stylistic Stance Adverbials**

Stylistic adverbials show "how something is said or written" (Hunston and Thompson, 2003, p.59), i.e. they identify the manner in which the information is being presented (Biber et al., 1999, p. 854). They provide remark on the manner in which information is conveyed ("frankly, honestly, truthfully") (Biber and Conrad, 2000, p. 60); they are used to show "how something is said or written" (Hunston and Thompson, 2003, p.56). Fraser (1999, p. 933) and Quirk et al. (1985, p. 615) include other stance adverbials in this group ("broadly, confidentially, frankly, generally, honestly, roughly, seriously, simply, truly and briefly").

## **METHODOLOGY**

Methodology in this paper is executed on the basis of three phases: method followed in data gathering, data analysis and results analysis, sample selected, and model of analysis which revolves round the application of stance adverbials in Edgar Allan Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart".

### **Method**

In fulfilling the aim of this paper, the researchers utilize a mixed method based on a qualitative and quantitative means in their investigation of the manipulation of stance adverbials in the selected Poe's short story. Elaborately Creswell (2014, p. 32) reveals the profitability of a mixed method as he defines it as "an approach to inquiry involving collecting both quantitative and qualitative data, integrating the two forms of data, and using distinct designs that may involve

philosophical assumptions and theoretical frameworks."

The qualitative survey is made use of to come out with a more considerate knowledge of the central incentives, reasons, interpretations and justifications. Mainly, it purports to build up ideas and schemes leading to answers to the keynote question "how can Poe virtually exploit stance manner adverbials in his horror story", i.e. "how does he manipulate these adverbials to develop horrible situations in the story?"

For the quantitative part, Tavakoli (2012, p. 33) explicates that researchers should focus on with how the findings embody the overall population. Further, quantitative process is concerned with "measurement or sampling bias ". For this reason, quantitative data are regularly offered in "the form of numbers that researchers analyze using various statistical procedures".

### Sample

An identification of the frequency of stance manner adverbials used in Poe's short story is made by the researchers with the aim of syntactically and semantically classifying them and specifying the function of each adverbial as manipulated by Poe. Then, justifications for the use of these adverbials are given with reference to the developments of horrifying events in Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart". Here, it seems necessary to give a summary of this short story before embarking on the investigation of stance adverbials in the story.

Poe's short story "The Tell-Tale Heart" was first published in 1843. This story is recited by an anonymous narrator who attempts to persuade readers of his rationality while narrating a murder he committed upon "an old man with a filmy pale blue". The narrator stresses the watchful scheming of the murder, endeavoring the faultless crime which often ends with dissecting "the body in the bathtub and hiding it under the floorboards". Eventually, the narrator's activities bring about "hearing a thumping sound", which he infers as the deceased "man's beating heart" (Kennedy, 1987, p. 132).

### Model of Analysis

With reference to the syntactic and semantic behavior of manner adverbials, Quirk et al. (1985) and Biber's et al. (1999) treatments of manner adverbials will be adopted as the model of the analysis of stance adverbials in Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart". To practically account for the application of this model to the selected data, it is necessary to illustrate its component in the following figure:

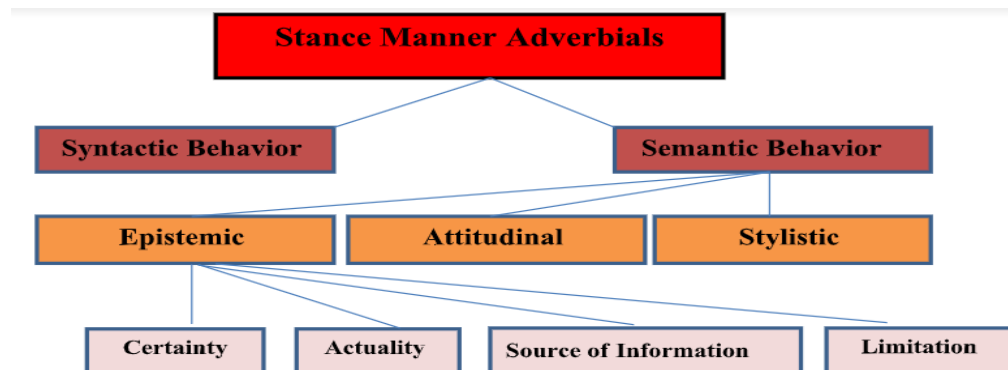


Figure 1: Model of Analysis

### Data Analysis

The investigation of the occurrence of stance adverbials in “The Tell-Tale Heart” reveals that Poe utilizes only two main types of stance adverbials, namely, epistemic stance adverbials of certainty and attitudinal adverbials. This use of such manner adverbials may be justified by the fact that Poe uses these adverbials to provide comment on the existence of events and processes in the story. Further, these adverbials, in most cases, give value judgment on the content of the truth value expressed in the concerned sentences, and in certain cases, they offer clues towards the narrator’s certainty or estimation of the actuality of the information given in the clause.

Five examples of epistemic stance manner adverbials and twenty-one examples of attitudinal stance adverbials of certainty are observed in Poe’s short story (which consists of 1441 words).

**Table 1:** Frequency and Function of Stance Adverbials

Stance Adverbials	Frequency	Function
<b>Certainty</b> Indeed Just Especially	<b>5</b> 2 2 1	They display “the speaker’s certainty or doubt about the proposition in the clause”. They involve both total judgments of conviction and sign of belief in different stages of possibility and provide cues to “the writer’s certainty or assessment of the truth of a statement and qualify a writer’s attitude towards expressed knowledge”
<b>Attitudinal</b> Carefully Quickly Slowly Quietly Well Suddenly Forever Always Usually Strongly Little by little Unusually Loudly Tightly	<b>21</b> 3 2 2 2 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	They specify “feelings or judgments about what is said or written”; they transport “the speaker’s attitude, feelings, or value judgments” toward the given proposition; they offer comment on the manner in which the information is presented in the given sentence. They give shades of attribute to the information presented in the clause. They help the narrator to express his stance towards the said messages.
	<b>26</b>	

To ensure the conviction of the subject matter of the message conveyed, consider the employment of stance adverbials in these five examples in the following box.

1. **Indeed**, the illness only made my mind, my feelings, my senses stronger, more powerful.
2. The old man's fear must have been great **indeed**.
3. He could not guess that every night, **just** at twelve, I looked in at him as he slept.
4. He **just** sat there, listening.
5. My sense of hearing **especially** became more powerful.

In the first and the second, the stance adverbial indeed is used as disjunct and adjunct respectively. It is used as a disjunct to give a type of comment ensuring the truth condition of the content of the message conveyed in the clause (illustrating the strong power of the narrator's illness, feelings and senses). It is used as an adjunct to ascertain the entirely irritated state of the old man. Just is employed as an adjunct in examples 3 and 4 to specify the exactness of time by which the event is taken place in the first sentence while it describes the manner of the old man's instantaneous sitting to listen. Especially is utilized in the last example to specify the truthfulness of the changing state of the narrator's sense of hearing.

Attitudinal manner adverbials are more employed in "The Tell-Tale Heart", as they provide the narrator's attitude and judgements about what has been said, i.e. the proposition implied in the conveyed message. Twenty-one cases of attitudinal adverbials are detected, as shown in the box below:

1. **Carefully**, I lifted the cloth, just a little, so that a single, thin, small light fell across that eye
2. I put the boards down again, **carefully**, so **carefully** that no human eye could see ...
3. The hands of a clock move more **quickly** than did my hand.
4. Louder, louder. I stood up and walked **quickly** around the room.
5. Every night about twelve o'clock I **slowly** opened his door.
6. **Slowly, little by little**, I lifted the cloth, until a small, small light escaped from under it...
7. And I stood there **quietly**.
8. I tried to stand **quietly**.
9. I took them through the whole house, telling them to search it all, to search **well**.
10. It was a quick, low, soft sound, like the sound of a clock heard through a wall, a sound I knew **well**.
11. **Suddenly**, I knew that the sound was not in my ears, it was not just inside my head.
12. Louder, louder, louder! **Suddenly** I could bear it no longer.
13. I finally decided I had to kill the old man and close that eye **forever!**
14. **Always** the eye was closed, so it was impossible for me to do the work.
15. Never before had I felt so **strongly** my own power; I was now sure of success.
16. ... for the heart was beating so **loudly** that I was sure someone must hear.
17. The old man gave a loud cry of fear as I fell upon him and held the bedcovers **tightly** over his head.

The attitudinal stance adverbial carefully has been used three times in the story to give a certain modification to the existing clause. The disjunct adverbial is manipulated in example 1 to modify the whole clause denoted by the action of lifting the cloth, while in example 2, carefully is used twice as an adjunct expressing the narrator's stance towards the careful manner of putting the boards down. Quickly is manipulated as an adjunct giving shades of meaning to the clauses



involved, performed by the actions of moving the hands of in the first clause and walking around the room. Slowly is used differently in examples 5 and 6 . In the former, it is an adjunct which is meant to describe the action of opening the door, while in the latter, it is a disjunct followed by the attitudinal adverbial little by little which both are manipulated to describe the action of lifting the cloth as slow and gradual. The adjunct Quietly is used in examples 7 and 8 to express the calmness of standing and trying to stand. The adjunct well comes finally in 9 and 10 to provide comment on the manner of performing the actions of searching and knowing a sound. Suddenly, a disjunct adverbial in 11 and 12, is used to give an attribute of rapidity and astonishment to the two clauses. The adjunct Forever, and the disjunct always are exploited in 13 and 14 to refer to the frequent closing of the eye. Strongly, an adjunct in 15, is used to express the state of the narrator (having powerful feeling). Loudly and tightly in 16 and 17 are used as adjuncts to reflect the manner of heart beating and holding the bedcovers.

### CONCLUSION

The investigation of the identification and the purposes of the use of stance manner adverbials in Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart" reveals that these adverbials pointedly contribute in growing actions and processes in the story. Specifically, they play great role in describing the surroundings, stipulating characters' goals and building up the hideous events in the story. They implicitly help narrator to convey his messages in a more elaborate manner. Poe makes use of stance adverbials to divulge the narrator's perceptual state at the time of performing an act or a stance towards executing an action. Put another way, the importance of these adverbials comes from the fact that they draw an obvious image in the readers' minds about how actions are progressed in the story. Further, in certain cases, Poe utilizes these adverbial as transitional devices by which a reader can move from one event into another smoothly. The happy selection of stance adverbials enables the narrator to add color to the language used and pull linguistic paintings by which he is able to convey his intentions and feelings. Briefly, these adverbials provide certain comments on the status of the information introduced in clauses.

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