

Preface

The purpose of this dissertation is to examine the valency of adjectives in modern standard Danish. The valency of adjectives is, as far as Danish is concerned, nearly uncharted land.

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The dissertation came into existence through an interplay of theory building and lexicographical work: Practical experience from the dictionary led to emendation of misconceptions in the dissertation, and a better theoretical underpinning in the dissertation led to revision of the dictionary. Both the dissertation and the dictionary are available as PDF files at <http://bach.arts.kuleuven.ac.be/PA/papers/daugaard/> and electronic copies have furthermore been deposited with *Dansk Data Arkiv* (Danish Data Archive) to ensure that the dissertation and the dictionary will be available in a distant future as a source of historical linguistics. *Det Kongelige Bibliotek* (The Royal Library) has received numerous printed copies of this dissertation. As an extra precaution and for the convenience of the buyer of this dissertation, the dictionary is also available on the enclosed diskette; see the file *readme.txt* for details. The dictionary has only been made available as a file as it would have been 914 pages long if reproduced here.

Data from a corpus have systematically been employed. Rather than just stating that Danish has adjectives with certain properties, the inventory of the adjectives in question has been adduced wherever feasible. The details of the corpus are found in „The Selection of Adjectives” p. 135. The corpus has also been used as a source of inspiration and as a test bed for assumptions about the properties of adjectives. The corpus has emphatically not — except for the selection of adjectives to be included in the dictionary — been used for frequency studies per se.

The corpus citations are presented and translated as follows: 1° The citation in Danish, 2° a verba verbis translation into English, and 3° an idiomatic translation into English. The latter translation is omitted for brevity, wherever possible. Justified critique can be levelled at the verba verbis translations; indeed, one way of viewing this dissertation is as an endeavour to overcome the shortcomings of such translations.

The dissertation is organized as follows. The 1st chapter, „The Inflectional Morphology”, is particularly useful to readers with no prior knowledge of Danish, but native readers, too, will find new observations in this chapter, particularly in the section on comparison. The first sections treat the comparatively rich inflectional morphology of adjectives, both preminally and predicatively, in an

otherwise inflectionally poor language. There are furthermore observations on analytic and synthetic comparison and the restrictions that the different degrees of comparison impose on the selection of valents.

The 2nd chapter, „The Valency Model”, defines the notion of proportionality and on that basis the declarative principles of sentence analysis with a view to the notions of predicator and valency. By implication, this also defines what parts of sentences are beyond the realm of valency. A hitherto neglected issue is then incorporated into the valency model, namely that it in certain cases is required that a sentence be interrogative or negated. On the basis thus established, the procedural definition of sentence analysis is expounded and applied to an example. This is followed by an exhaustive delineation of adjectival predicators which are composed of (at least) a verb providing tense and aspect and an adjective determining all valency properties of the sentence.

The 3rd chapter, „Other Valency Models”, discusses the merits and shortcomings of other valency models to the extent they have been applied to adjectives, in Danish as well as in other Indoeuropean languages.

The 4th chapter, „Absolute Constructions with Adjectives”, contains the inventory of absolute constructions with adjectives \mathfrak{C} : predicative use without a copula verb.

The 5th chapter, „Verbs in Constructions with Adjectives”, starts out with the definition and inventory of copula verbs in adjectival predicators and an elaborate analysis of the properties of these verbs. All other constructions in which adjectives are found are then analysed and categorized, and the inventory of verbs adduced, wherever feasible.

The 6th chapter, „The Selection of Adjectives”, discusses the lemma selection for the enclosed dictionary. The major Danish dictionaries contain about 10000 adjectives, but as compounding and derivation are active word formation devices, there is no practical limit to the number of adjectives and a selection had to be made. This chapter also treats the ancient problem of where to draw the line between participles and adjectives.

The 7th chapter, „The Order of Adjectives in Prenominal Position”, contains the layout of Danish noun phrases. The prenominal ordering of adjectives is related to their properties in other regards, e.g. to whether they have polyvalent formulations \mathfrak{C} : whether they can have 2 or more valents. The prenominal ordering of adjectives is also relevant to coordination of adjectives, both prenominally and predicatively.

The 8th chapter, „Subphrase Valency”, starts out by disposing with the widespread misconception that predicative adjectives are the transformational origin of prenominal adjectives. Certain quantifiers that have traditionally been classified as adjectives are then analysed and evicted from the valency dictionary. Finally, the different ways of realizing a polyvalent formulation in prenominal position are touched upon, including the borderland between compounding and valency.

The 9th chapter, „The Notions of Formulation and Formulation Sets”, deals with the potential of certain adjectives to enter into different formulations — or Satzbaupläne as it is called in German — in different sentences. In contradistinction, chapter 2, „The Valency Model”, dealt with valency in a specific sentence. This gives rise to the problem of defining the boundary between, on the one hand, adjective general constructions which belong in the grammar and, on the other hand, adjective specific constructions which belong in the dictionary. I.a. the status of *så ... at det lille hus rystede* (so ... that the little house shook) in *Braget var så kraftigt, at det lille hus rystede* (Explosion-the was so powerful, that the little house shook) is examined.

The 10th chapter, „Infinitive Clause Valents”, treats control with adjectival predicators which by and large is predictable on a formulation basis. The restrictions on verbs in infinitive clauses with regard to diathesis are then expounded, and the chapter is concluded with observations to the effect that control is just a special case among the restrictions that predicators exert on the choice of predicator and formulation in infinitive clause valents.

The 11th chapter, „Assertive Clause Valents”, treats the valency properties of finite clauses with the conjunction *at* (that) and 3 special cases, of which the 2 are compressed conditional and temporal clauses with the conjunctions *hvis* (if) and *når* (when), respectively, e.g. *Det er fint, hvis han er optaget af et eller andet* (It is fine, if he is preoccupied with something) and *Det er altid ærgerligt, når folk går* (It is always vexatious, when people leave). The 3rd special case of assertive clauses is sentences such as *det er dog forfærdeligt sådan, som du lugter* (it is really terrible so, like you smell) IT IS TERRIBLE THE WAY YOU SMELL which is the result of fronting *sådan* (so, like that) from the subordinate clause.

The 12th chapter, „Suspensive Clause Valents”, treats formulations of adjectives with *hv-* (wh-) or *om* (if) clauses, some borderline cases, and the hitherto neglected significance of interrogation, negation, and modality with regard to *om* (if) clause valents.

The 13th chapter, „The 16 Sets of Verbal Valents”, treats the sets of the 4 types of verbal valent, namely assertive clauses, *hv-* (wh-) and *om* (if) clauses, and infinitive clauses. It is a widespread misconception that verbal valents are equivalent to nominal valents ☉: that any of the 4 types of verbal valent can take the place of a nominal valent, and vice versa. It holds for the vast majority of adjectives in all their formulations that the valents have a proper subset of the 4 types of verbal valent. Several of the 16 different sets of the 4 types of verbal valent are in fact not found in any formulation of a Danish predicator.

The 14th chapter, „Formulations and Aspect”, treats another hitherto neglected issue, namely the role of aspect which extends to formulations of adjectives. The starting point is the copula verbs that complement each other aspectually, namely *forblive* (remain), *være* (be), and *blive* (become), as not just any combination of copula verb, adjective, and formulation is possible.

The 15th chapter, „The Valency of Nominalized Adjectives”, investigates the relationship between the valency of adjectives and their potential for nominalization, and it is for each nominalization type examined to what extent the deadjectival nouns possess the valency of their adjectival origin.

The 16th chapter, „Modal Adjectives”, treats constructions with adjectives that are traditionally considered within the realm of valency, but which elude description by the valency model elaborated in chapter 2, „The Valency Model”. Put differently, it is not the adjectives that determine the number and type of valents in the 2 types of modal construction treated in this chapter.

„Appendix A: Literature” lists the literature that has influenced this dissertation or been quoted here. No attempt has been made to take an inventory of the papers and monographs pertaining to adjectives.

„Appendix B: The Terminology of the Pronominal Approach” lists all terms specific to the Pronominal Approach with definitions and an index to the pages where they have been employed in this dissertation. There are also references to works with a more elaborate treatment of the terms.

„Appendix C: The Inventory of Formulation Sets” expounds the principles for the organization of the enclosed dictionary by formulation sets. That is, for every adjective, the set of formulations that it enters into and/or its subphrase valency is noted, and many such formulation sets are common to several adjectives. This is a concise overview of the adjectives and their combinatory potential which is often preferable to the alphabetical organization of the enclosed dictionary.

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Gammel Mønt, 4 April MMII

Jan Dugaard