

SAL Taxonomy for English Adjectives

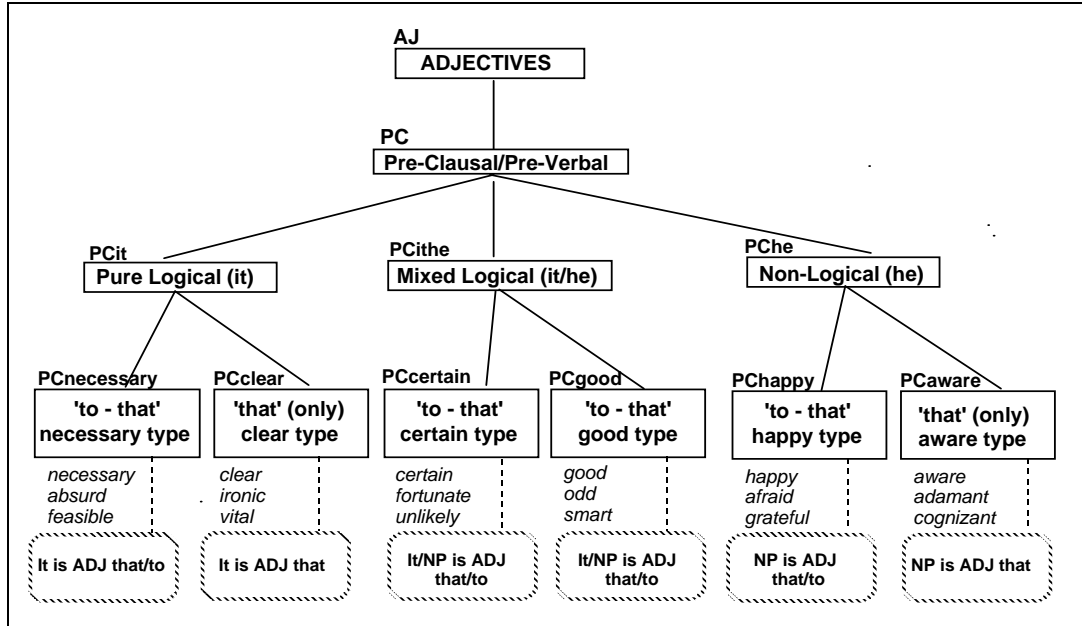


Fig. 19. Pre-Clausal/Pre-Verbal Adjectives. The organization of adjectives into the semantico-syntactic supersets and sets shown in Figs. 19-22 has been dictated by the syntactic implications associated with each such grouping. If an adjective can belong to more than one such grouping, it is assigned to the more complex of the groups.

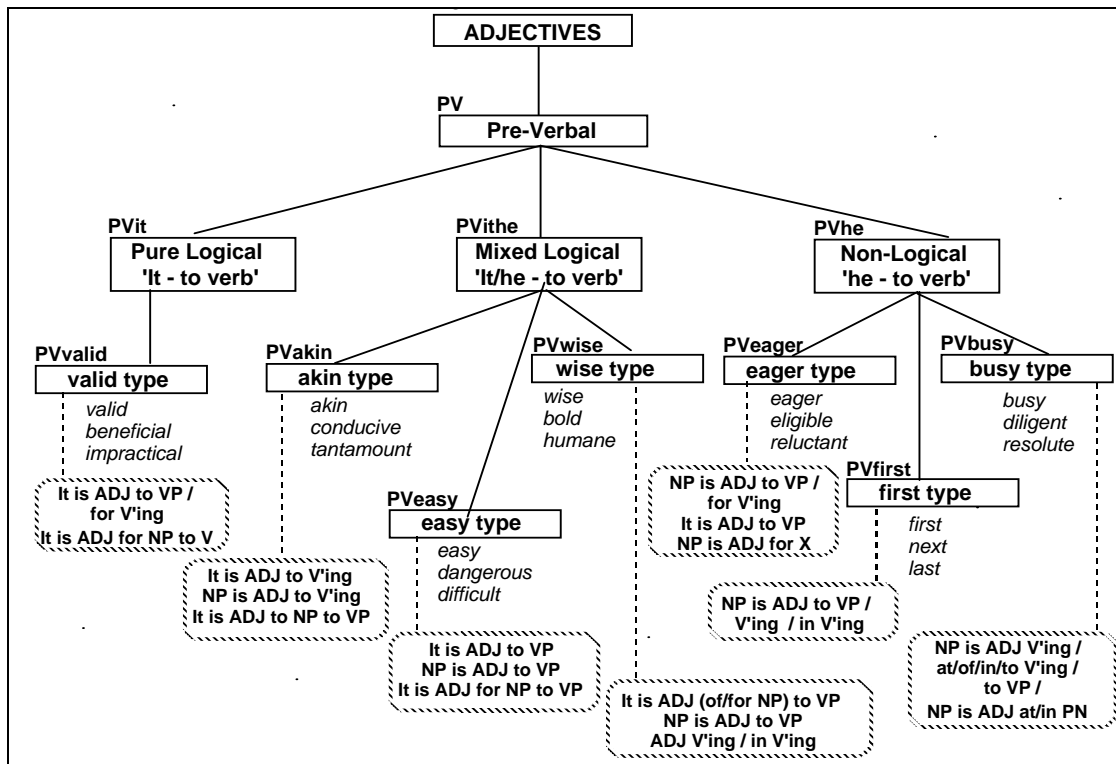


Fig. 20. Pre-Verbal Adjectives. The distinctions here enable resolution of Chomsky's classic *John is easy to please* versus *John is eager to please*: *pleasing John is easy* versus **pleasing John is eager*. Chiefly, however, these adjectival sets enable analysis to distinguish when the verb particle *to* has and does not have the sense of *in order to*.

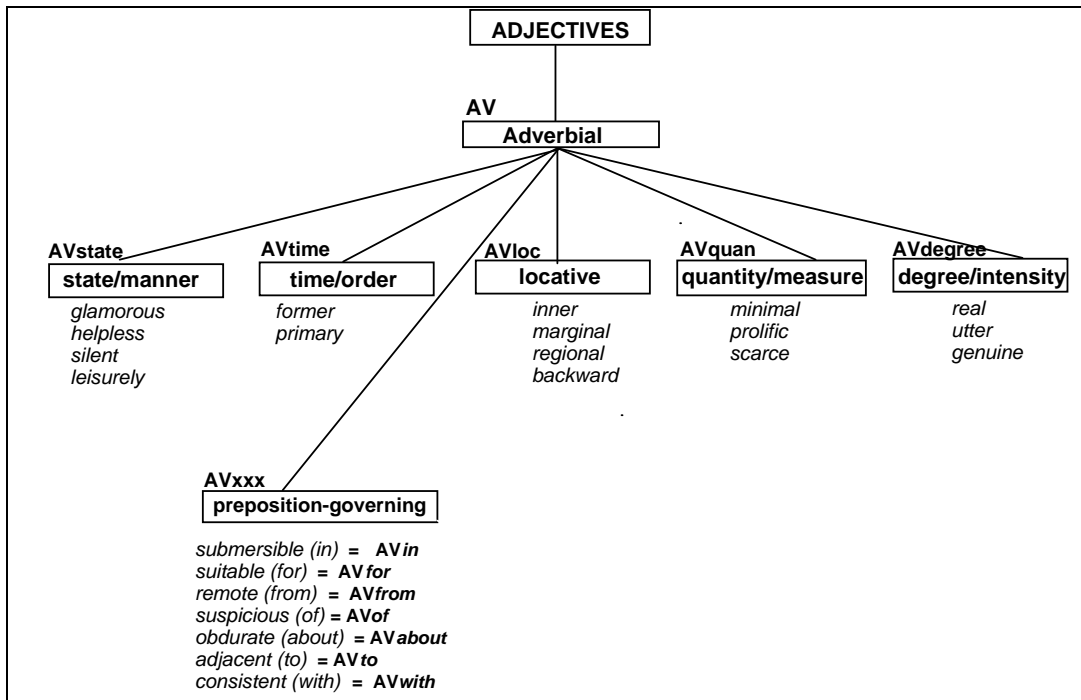


Fig. 21 Adverbial Adjectives. With some few exceptions, most adverbial adjectives can be converted to adverbs. The distinctions also allow for stylistic transformations such as *silent movement* → *move silently*, versus *naval movement* → **move navally*.

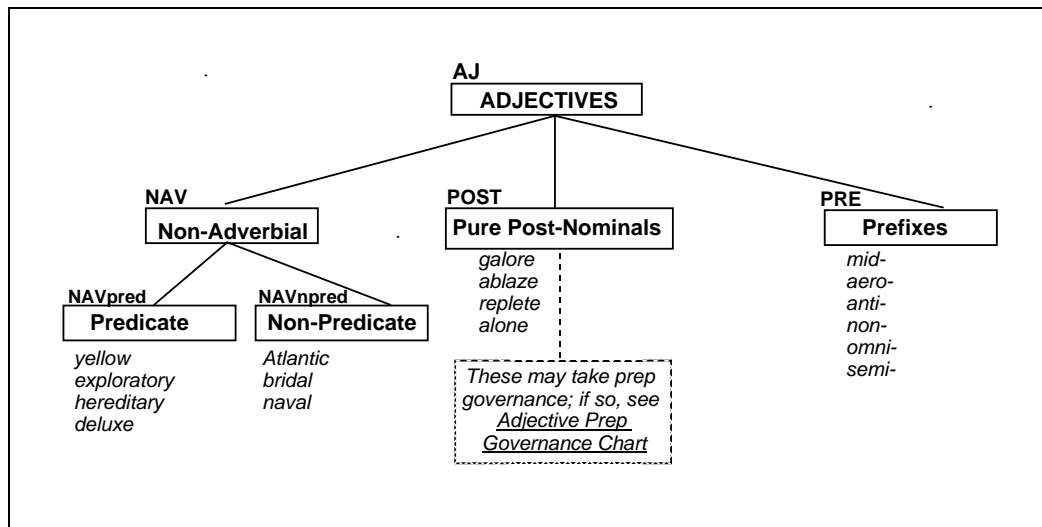


Fig. 22 - All Other Adjectives. The distinctions here preclude converting adjectives to adverbs, and allow, for example, the inclusion of adjectives like *alone* to be seen as part of a simple NP, as in *syntax alone*.