

# Prototypical ING/ED subjectless supplements in Contemporary English

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Supplements are defined as “elements which occupy a position in linear sequence without being integrated into the syntactic structure of the sentence” (Huddleston and Pullum et al. 2002: 1350). The supplements under investigation (1) are nonfinite (ING/ED), subjectless, and with adverbial meaning. This meaning is context-dependent and it is sometimes underscored by the addition of a connector (Declerck 1991: 456-457), as in (2). These supplements are usually controlled by an element in the main clause as in (1) or (2), but they can remain totally uncontrolled (3). They might also occupy different positions in the structure of the clause most often without any change in their meaning.

- (1) I run through my dilemma again and again, *not getting anywhere*,... (ICE-GB:W1B-015 #097:5)
- (2) *When asked why*, inspectors said that there is usually little action an inspector can take following a finger amputation on woodworking machinery... (ICE-GB:W2A-018 #053:1)
- (3) *Using a range of climate scenarios for the USA*, it has been found that tick-borne diseases... would spread northwards... (ICE-GB:W2B-024 #023:1)

The aim of this presentation is to describe the prototypical subjectless nonfinite supplement from a syntactic and semantic perspective to distinguish between core and peripheral members of the category. Late Modern and Present-day English data has been retrieved from the Penn Parsed Corpus of Modern British English and from the British component of the International Corpus of English. Preliminary results show that there is a clear preference for ING (vs ED) supplements placed after the main clause. Most of the examples analysed are controlled by the main clause subject, although from Late to Present-day English there seems to be an increase of non-subject controlled and totally uncontrolled examples. Connectors are not the preferred option, and as regards their adverbial meaning, while most informative interpretations tend to appear in initial position serving a discourse-connective function to information in the previous clause or a frame-setting function for the information that is to come (Chafe 1984: 448), least informative meanings appear sentence-finally merely adding extra information to the main event (Kortmann 1995: 228).

## References

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