

**Paul Elbourne**  
University of Oxford

**Title:** The conjunction of predicates and modifiers in a Meaning-Dependent Grammar

**Abstract:** In recent work ('A program for eliminating syntactic categories', Linguistic Inquiry, Online First) I have advocated eliminating syntactic categories like Noun and Verb Phrase from linguistic theory and letting their work in structuring sentences be carried out by semantic categories, most prominently by semantic types. So nouns might be conceived of as functions from objects to truth values; Verb Phrases might be conceived of as functions from events to truth values; and so on. In this talk, after an introduction to the programme as a whole, I apply it to the case of conjunctions of predicates and verbal modifiers whose traditional syntactic categories are unlike: 'a Republican and proud of it' seems to be a conjunction of a noun phrase and an adjective phrase; 'slowly and with great care' looks like a conjunction of an adverb and a prepositional phrase. Examples like these cause difficulties for traditional theories of conjunction, which are based on identity of syntactic category; but in the current framework I claim that the possibility of conjunction is based on the conjuncts being of the same semantic type, and that this condition holds in the case of examples like these.