Abstract  This paper deals with the adverbial verb construction (AVC) in Formosan languages. Three major issues concerning AVC are addressed: (i) What syntactic relationship is involved in AVC: Adjunction or complementation? (ii) What syntactic operation is taking place in AVC: Control or raising? (iii) What is the syntactic status of adverbial verbs: Do they occur as functional heads, lexical heads, or something inbetween? Our findings suggest that (a) the AVC involves complementation rather than adjunction; (b) the AVC typically involves raising rather than control; (c) adverbial verbs are semi-lexical or quasi-functional rather than simply functional or lexical in nature. (This paper is published in Austronesian and Theoretical Linguistics, eds. by Raphael Mercado, Eric Potsdam, and Lisa Travis, pp.183-211. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins; A full version of this paper is downloadable from http://idv.sinica.edu.tw/henryylc)