SQUIBS AND DISCUSSION

(3) The flowers will bloom if spring comes and when spring comes.

ruling out conjunction reduction as a source. (4) and (5) do seem to paraphrase it, however:

(4) If spring comes, the flowers will bloom then.
(5) The flowers will bloom when spring comes, if spring comes.

Where does the and in (1) come from?

Usually in The children are usually noisy is a sentence adverbial, but unusually in The children are unusually noisy is a degree adverbial associated with noisy. The contrast is not a peculiarity of the pair usually-unusually, but is a property of a large class of positive-negative pairs: typically-atypically, normally-abnormally, characteristically-uncharacteristically, possibly-impossibly, probably-improbably, commonly-uncommonly, naturally-unnaturally, ordinarily-extraordinarily, etc.; even generally versus particularly and especially. Adverbs derived from psychological predicates act as degree adverbials, like unusually: surprisingly, amazingly, disgustingly, alarmingly, bothersomely, shamefully, fantastically, incredibly, unbelievably, marvelously, dreadfully, awfully, preposterously, terribly, etc.

What is the explanation for this assignment of forms?

A PROBLEM OF ADVERB PREPOSING
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If there is a rule which preposes adverbs, as has often been assumed, why is it that its operation is restricted by the tense on higher verbs? That is, while (1a) can be converted into (1b),

(1) a. I expect him to be there at midnight.
   b. At midnight I expect him to be there.

(2a) cannot be converted into (2b), unless the preposed adverb is contrastively stressed.

(2) a. I expected him to [be there at midnight].
   b. *At midnight I expected him to be there.

We have bracketed the adverb and the embedded VP in (2a) to indicate that we are focussing here only upon that sense of (2a) in which at midnight modifies be there. It is only in this sense that (2b) is impossible; if at midnight is taken to modify expected in (2b), the string is, of course, perfectly grammatical.

Sentences paralleling (2b) can, however, be constructed in such a way that they are totally ungrammatical, not only ungrammatical on one reading. Thus tomorrow in (3a) cannot be taken to modify expected, and correspondingly,