Evidence in support of the light verb analysis comes from the two thee different positions of *gradually* in the following sentences:

(i) He had *gradually* reduced his speed to 30 mph.
(ii) He had reduced his speed *gradually* to 30 mph.

In the first sentence, *gradually* is an adjunct that merges with v-bar ;but in the second sentence, *gradually* is an adjunct that merges with V-bar.