

Lecture 13: Verb movement in German.

Andrei Antonenko

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Outline

- 1 Verb Movement in German
 - Embedded Clauses and Questions
 - Main clauses
 - Analysis of V2
- 2 Word Order: Summary

Verb Movement in German

Embedded clauses in German

Embedded clauses

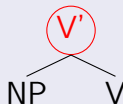
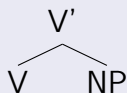
- (1) a. Marie denkt, [CP dass die Frau den Mann
 Mary thinks [that the_{SUBJ} woman the_{OBJ} man
 sieht.]
 sees]
 'Mary thinks that the woman sees the man.'
- b. Marie denkt, [CP dass Michael Fussball spielt.]
 Mary thinks [that Michael soccer plays]
 'Mary thinks that Michael plays soccer.'

- In **embedded clauses**, the verb is in the **final** position.

Verb-final order

Verb-final order in German is similar to Japanese:

- Among the two possible options for the complement rule:



German chooses the second one.

- German is a **head-final** language.

Yes/No-questions in German

Yes/No-questions

- (2) a. [CP **sieht** die Frau den Mann ___?]
 [**sees** the_{SUBJ} woman the_{OBJ} man]
 'Does the woman see the man?'
- b. [CP **spielt** Michael Fussball ___?]
 [**plays** Michael soccer]
 'Does Michael play soccer?'

- In **yes/no-questions**, the verb is in the **initial** position.
- Let's assume that verbs start at the end, as in embedded clauses.
- It looks like V **moved** somewhere. T? C? ...?

Verbs with prefixes

Separable prefixes

- Some German verbs have **separable prefixes**.
- The meaning often cannot be predicted based on its parts.

trinken	<i>to drink</i>	antrinken	<i>to start drinking</i>
rufen	<i>to call</i>	ausrufen	<i>to cry out</i>
machen	<i>to do</i>	mitmachen	<i>to participate</i>
		anmachen	<i>to turn on</i>
schreiben	<i>to write</i>	vorschreiben	<i>to stipulate</i>

- Prefix can be separated from the verb (examples — next slide!).

Verbs with prefixes

Separable prefixes

- (3) a. ... [CP **dass** der Mann das Licht **an-macht**.]
 ... [**that** the_{SUBJ} man the_{OBJ} light **on-makes**]
 '...that the man is turning on the light.'
- b. **Macht** der Mann das Licht **an** ___?
make the_{SUBJ} man the_{OBJ} light **on**
 'Is the man turning on the light?'
- (4) a. ... [CP **dass** die Frau den Brief **auf-gibt**.]
 ... [**that** the_{SUBJ} woman the_{OBJ} letter **up-gives**]
 '...that the woman is mailing the letter.'
- b. **Gibt** die Frau den Brief **auf** ___?
gives the_{SUBJ} woman the_{OBJ} letter **up**
 'Is the woman mailing the letter?'

Verbs with prefixes

Separable prefixes

Separable prefixes provide another **evidence for verb movement** in German:

- Assuming the prefix and verb start together,
- the fact that they are separated in questions indicates that the verb moved from the positions next to the prefix to the beginning of the clause.

German auxiliaries

Auxiliaries

- If there are **auxiliaries** and/or **modals**, the highest one moves, and the verb stays at the end:

(5) a. **Müssen** wir ___ das Licht **an-machen**?
must we ___ the_{OBJ} light **on-make**
 'Must we turn on the light?'

b. **Hat** die Frau ___ den Brief **auf-gegeben**?
has the_{SUBJ} woman ___ the_{OBJ} letter **up-given**
 'Has the woman mailed the letter?'

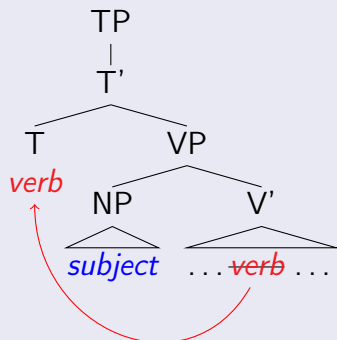
- Raising auxiliaries/modals** is similar to what we saw in English/French.

Verb movement

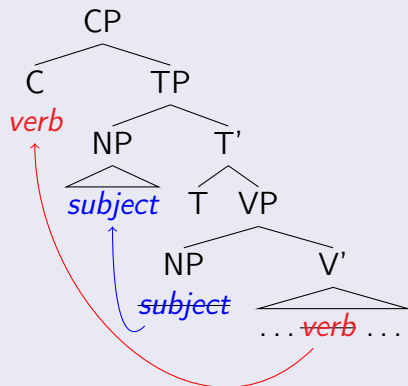
- German verb moves in questions, and stays *in-situ* (at the final position) in the embedded clauses.
- Where does it move in questions?
 - Option 1: Verb moves to T, subject stays in Spec,VP.
 - Option 2: Verb moves to C, subject moves to Spec,TP.

Verb movement alternatives

Option 1: V-to-T



Option 2: V-to-C



Option 2 is more plausible: remember that in English Y/N-questions modals/aux raise to C? But let's look at main clauses.

German main clauses

V2

- German main clauses (finally!) show **verb-second (V2)** order.
- **Verb** occurs in the **second position** (right after the first constituent) in the clause.
- The **first position** can be occupied by **any constituent**.

- (6)
- a. [Den Mann] **sieht** die Frau.
 [the_{OBJ} man] **sees** the_{SUBJ} woman
 'The woman sees the man.'
- b. [Jetzt] **sieht** die Frau den Mann.
 [now] **sees** the_{SUBJ} woman the_{OBJ} man
 'Now the woman sees the man.'

German main clauses

V2

- Verbs with **separable prefixes** behave as expected.
- **Verb** occurs in the **second position** (right after the first constituent) in the clause.
- **Prefix** stays at the final position.

- (7)
- a. [Das Licht] **macht** der Mann **an**.
 [the_{OBJ} light] **make** the_{SUBJ} man **on**
 'The man turns on the light.'
- b. [Den Brief] **gibt** die Frau **auf**.
 [the_{OBJ} letter] **gives** the_{SUBJ} woman **up**
 'The woman sends the letter.'

German main clauses

V2

- If there are **auxiliaries/modals**, they show up in the **second position**.

- (8)
- a. [Das Licht] müssen wir an-machen.
 [the_{OBJ} light] must we on-make
 'We must turn on the light.'
- b. [Jetzt] müssen wir das Licht an-machen.
 [now] must we the_{OBJ} light on-make
 'Now we must turn on the light.'

Potential analyses of V2

German main clauses: Two potential analyses

Option 1: **Verb** moves to **T**,
Subject stays in **Spec,VP**,
 any other constituent moves to **Spec,TP**.

Option 2: **Verb** moves to **C**,
Subject moves to **Spec,TP**,
 any other constituent moves to **Spec,CP**.

Predictions for the embedded clause

Option 1: If there is a complementizer, the order stays the same:
Complementizer – Any constituent – V – ... **V2**

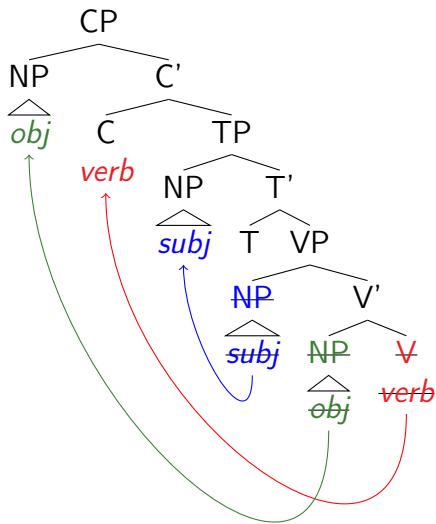
Option 2: If there is a complementizer, the verb will not be able to move to the second position, and will stay at the end:
Complementizer – Subject – ... – V **V-final**

Analysis of V2 in German

V2 analysis

German V2 is analyzed in the following way:

- **Verb** moves to **C**
- **Subject** moves to **Spec,TP**
- **some other constituent** moves to **Spec,CP**



Embedded clauses without complementizer

- Some clauses can have no complementizer.
 - Must be the complement of a special class of verbs (*verbs of saying and believing, mostly*) and must have a special *subjunctive* verb form.
 - Let us not bother about details of this. The important part is that some embedded clauses have no complementizer.
- V2 is only possible if there is no C — (9-a).
- If C is present, V-final — (10-a).

Embedded clauses without complementizer

- V2 is only possible if there is no C — (9-a).
- If C is present, V-final — (10-a).

V2/V-final in embedded clauses

- (9) a. Hans sagte, [_{CP} er sei glücklich]. (no dass, V2)
 Hans said [_{CP} he is happy]
 'Hans said that he is happy'
- b. *Hans sagte, [_{CP} er glücklich ist.] (no dass, *V-Final)
- (10) a. Hans sagte, [_{CP} dass er glücklich ist]. (dass, V-Final)
 Hans said [_{CP} that he happy is]
 'Hans said that he is happy'
- b. *Hans sagte, [_{CP} dass er sei glücklich]. (dass, *V2)

Summary of German verb movement

Clause	Complementizer	V-position	V-movement
Main clause	N/A	V-2	V → C XP → Spec,CP
Question	N/A	V-initial	V → C
Embedded	<i>dass</i>	V-final	no V-movement
Embedded	∅	V-2	V → C XP → Spec,CP

- Verbs always move to C if there is nothing blocking this movement, i.e. if there is no C.
- In addition, in non-questions, if V moves to C, some other constituent moves to Spec,CP (**Topicalization/Focus movement** — more on it from crosslinguistic perspective later).

Word Order: Summary

Summary of parameters

So far we have seen a number of parameters which are used to derive the word order:

- ① **V doesn't move**: The main verb stays inside the VP
 - ✓ : English
 - ② **V-to-T**: The main verb moves to T (if it's empty)
 - ✓ : French, Irish, Japanese (possibly)
 - ③ **V-to-C**: The main verb moves to C (if it's empty)
 - ✓ : German
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- ④ **Subject moves to Spec,TP**:
 - ✓ : English, French, German, Japanese
 - ⑤ **Subject stays in Spec,VP**:
 - ✓ : Irish

Summary of parameters

In addition, languages can be

- ① **Head-initial**: verb comes **before** its complement (and other heads come before their complements).
✓ : English, French, Irish
- ② **Head-final**: verb comes **after** its complement (and other heads come after their complements).
✓ : German, Japanese