
Introduction: The role of polysemy and coercion in clause-embedding predicates

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In our introduction we will address some cases that highlight the role of polysemy and coercion for the complementation patterns of clause-embedding predicates (CEPs).

We will exemplify the role of the complementation type with vague or polysemous predicates in languages with small inventories of clause-embedding predicates and contrast these data with German.

We will discuss the role of coercion for the syntactic flexibility of CEPs. In particular, we will demonstrate how coercion feeds the licensing of V2 complements in German. Unlike infinitival complements whose licensing is often modulated via modals, modal expressions and aspectual markers in the infinitival complement, V2 licensing is frequently enhanced via coercion of the matrix predicate (e.g., establishing a speech act predicate reading). This coercion mechanism is related to the fact that German allows the conflation of a manner component (e.g., sound emission) with other meaning aspects (e.g., movement, speech act). Based on Troyke-Lekschas' (2013) study we will show that the usualization of coerced predicates paves the way from less integrated clausal complements (direct speech, V2) to more integrated structures.

Based on a small-scale cross-linguistic study of NEG-raising predicates (Popp 2016) we will demonstrate that predicates that exhibit a 'hope'/'expect' polysemy (e.g., Spanish, Lithuanian or Swahili), only the 'expect' reading allows NEG raising; 'expect' predicates in other languages function as "strong" NEG raisers, whereas 'hope' predicates only function in some languages as NEG raisers.

References: • Popp, M.-L. (2016): *NEG-raising in cross-linguistic perspective*. MA thesis. University of Leipzig. • Troyke-Lekschas, S. (2013): *Korpuslinguistische Untersuchungen zum Phänomen der Satzsetzung bei deutschen Geräuschverben*. MA thesis, HU Berlin.