
A syntactic condition for supposed multiple fronting in German

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After sorting out the truly challenging cases of (supposed) multiple fronting (MF) in German, the talk will shortly discuss the two approaches available to account for them: (i) the V2-constraint for German is given up to allow for two and more independent constituents to appear in front of the finite verb in an independent clause, (ii) the V2-constraint is upheld, MF being analysed as a vp/VP constituent projected by an empty verb (e.g. Müller, G. 1998, Müller, S. 2015). The second approach is more plausible and will be the starting point. However, it still has severe shortcomings: for example, it highly overgenerates, the licensing of the empty verb remains unclear, and left dislocations involving MF show unexpected forms of the resumptive.

Independently from MF, Frey (2015) argues that more XPs are incorporated into the verbal complex in German than usually thought. Building on this work, I will propose the following syntactic MF constraint (MFC): the right-most constituent of a MF-construction has to be an incorporated XP. The talk will show that MFC significantly improves the empirical adequacy of approach (ii) above and that it refines our understanding of MF. I will also discuss why only an incorporated XP can licence the empty head which makes MF possible.

References: • Frey, W. (2015): NP-Incorporation in German. In: O. Borik & B. Gehrke (eds.): *The Syntax and Semantics of Pseudo-Incorporation*. Leiden: Brill, 227-263. • Müller, G. (1998) *Incomplete Category Fronting*. Dordrecht: Kluwer. • Müller, S. (2015): *German Clause Structure: An Analysis with Special Consideration of So-Called Multiple Frontings*. With Contributions by F. Bildhauer & P. Cook. Language Science Press, Berlin.