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Insights into the processing of non-canonical sentence structures in German: The case of V3 matrix declaratives in informal Standard German

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German matrix declaratives are usually considered to be V2 structures. Exceptions from this V2 constraint have been analyzed in different contexts, e.g. left dislocation, free topics, topic drop or V1 declaratives. In this paper I investigate the processing of non-canonical sentences displaying the structure adverbial – subject – finite verb (cf. 1).

- (1) Jetzt wir fahren zurück. (KiDKo: Mo05WD)
 now we drive back
 'Now we drive back.'

While these sentences have been discussed in terms of usage and structure in corpus studies (cf. Schalowski to appear; Wiese & Rehbein 2015), I present data from a self-paced reading experiment. The data shows that variables such as frequency have similar effects on the processing of Adv-S_{fin} sentences, like they have been observed in other processing experiments concerning non-canonical word order phenomena (e.g. Kaiser & Trueswell 2004). Therefore I argue that Adv-S-V_{fin} must not be treated as an ungrammatical structure that is prohibited by the language system but as a structure that has specific properties and a full syntactic representation.

References: • Kaiser, E. & Trueswell, J. (2004): The role of discourse context in the processing of a flexible word-order language. *Cognition* 94.2. 113–147. • Schalowski, S. (to appear): From an adverbial to a discourse connective. The function of 'dann' and 'danach' in non-canonical prefields of German. In: Fried, M. & Leheckova, E. (eds.), *Connectives as a functional category: between clauses and discourse units*, Amsterdam: John Benjamins. • Wiese, H. & Rehbein, I. (2015): Coherence in new urban dialects: A case study. *Lingua* 172–173. 45–61.