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Verb position and speech acts in German

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The talk discusses developments on unembedded German V-final clauses and postulated semantic correlates of V-to-C movement in German.

An analysis of unembedded V-final clauses (e.g. *Ob es regnet?, Wenn ich das wüsste!*) is motivated, which builds on Oppenrieder (1989) and Truckenbrodt (2013a,b): The left periphery here specifies kinds of embedded clauses (e.g. interrogative CP_Q, *dass-/wenn*-sentence), but no speech act potential. A series of restrictions on these sentence types can be derived from the hypothesis that the content of unembedded V-final clauses is interpreted anaphorically/factive. The speech act proper seems to be constituted by the intonational and gestural accompaniments that these clauses specifically require. In this analysis, intonation and gestures take a propositional argument, the content of the sentence.

The discussion of V-in-C-clauses is based on joint work with Frank Sode and includes development of Lohnstein (2000), Truckenbrodt (2006a,b), and Sode (2014). Using the root phenomenon of V1-parentheticals (Steinbach 2007), a representation of root-clauses at the syntax-semantics interface is first hypothesized. In this representation, root clauses carry a semantically interpreted perspective index in C and V1-parentheticals employ this index as a docking site. In addition, the index seems to carry a semantically interpreted feature that interacts directly with verbal mood (Sode 2014) and it seems to interact with V-to-C movement in V2-clauses. These hypotheses represent a partial understanding of the role of V-to-C in the speech acts of V2-clauses.

References: • Lohnstein, H. (2000): *Satzmodus kompositionell*. Akademie-V. • Oppenrieder, W. (1989): *Selbständige Verb-letzt-Sätze*, in *Zur Intonation von Modus und Fokus im Deutschen*, H. Altmann (ed.). • Sode, F. (2014): *Zur Semantik und Pragmatik des Konjunktivs der Indirektheit im Deutschen*, Doktorarbeit, HU Berlin. • Steinbach, M. (2007) *Integrated parentheticals as assertional complements*, in *Parentheticals*, N. Dehé & Y. Kavalova (eds.) • Truckenbrodt, H. (2006a,b) in *Theoretical Linguistics* 32. • Truckenbrodt, H. (2013a,b) in *Satztypen des Deutschen*, J. Maibauer, M. Steinbach & H. Altmann (eds.).