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## Factors influencing non-canonical word order in German: a corpus study.

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Although routine in language often serves to ensure successful communication, creativity is also used by speakers, which raises the question under which circumstances it becomes necessary or at least preferred. In the present paper we present two case studies in which we investigate discourse factors influencing the choice of non-canonical, creative, word order patterns in German by looking at out of the laboratory production data, i.e. corpus data. In the first case study we look at the extraposition of phrasal arguments followed by a relative clause modifier in newspapers texts, as illustrated in (1). We claim that elements in the right sentence periphery not only serve as a discourse-topic reading orientation (Vinckel-Roisin 2011), but also lead to reduced working memory costs. Building on Hawkins' (2004) principle of minimizing domains, extraposition of the entire NP or PP in German reduces both the distance between antecedent and relative clause and the distance between the highly interdependent sentence brackets.

- (1) Es wird jedoch glänzend aufgewogen [PP durch die Rezepte, [RC die von  
*It will however brilliantly outweighed by the recipes that of*  
universaler Geschmackssicherheit zeugen]] [...].  
*universal taste.guaranty attest*  
'However, it is brilliantly outweighed by the recipes, which are of  
universal taste [...].' (TüBa-D/Z v11 DU, S. 5708.)

In the second case study we take a closer look at a pattern which is most often found in the spoken language, namely discontinuous infinitival complements, as illustrated in (2).

- (2) dann hab ich halt meiner mutter immer **versucht klarzumachen** dass [...]  
*then have I PART my.DAT mum always tried to.make.clear that*  
'Then I tried to make clear to my mum that [...]' (Folk E00048, 0533)

Building on Cook (2001), we propose that discontinuous infinitival complements signal narrow focus on the embedded verb and that arguments of this verb that are already given in the discourse are realized already in the midfield, in accordance with the *Easy First* production bias (MacDonald 2013).

**References:** Cook, P. (2001). *Coherence in German: An information structure approach*. PhD Thesis, University of Manchester. • Hawkins, J. A. (2004). *Efficiency and Complexity in Grammars*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. • MacDonald, M. C. (2013). How language production shapes language form and comprehension. *Frontiers in psychology* 4, 226. • Vinckel-Roisin, H. (2011). Wortstellungsvariation und Salienz von Diskursreferenten. *Zeitschrift für germanistische Linguistik*, 39(3), 377-404.