



How German sentences begin

On an information-structural typology of multiple prefields in spoken German



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Outlook



The Phenomenon: AdvXV_{fin}

- The V2 constraint in German declaratives
- A violation of the V2 constraint: AdvXV_{fin}
- Grammatical characteristics of AdvXV_{fin}

The information-structural motivation

- AdvXV_{fin}: frame setter and topic
- AdvXV_{fin}: discourse connective

The syntactic/pragmatic analysis

- Frame setter and topic: the split CP approach
- Discourse connective: an orphan analysis

Conclusion

Future







Topological fields in German

 Depending on the position of the verb, a canonical German sentence can be divided into three topological fields (Drach 1937)

Prefield	Left sentence bracket	Middlefield	Right sentence bracket	Postfield		
(1) <i>die</i> They	werden will	wahrscheinlich probably	zuhaben close.have	am Abend. at.the evening		
'Probably they will be closed in the evening' [TüBa-D/S s102]						

Standard assumption for standard German declarative main clauses:

 Exactly one constituent can precede the finite verb, regardless of its syntactic function (Bierwisch 1963)

^{(2) * [}Am Abend] [die] werden wahrscheinlich zuhaben.
at.the evening they will probably close.have



The phenomenon: AdvXV_{fin}



Violation of V2 in spoken German: AdvXV_{fin}

- (1) [Gestern] [ich] war Ku'damm.

 yesterday I was Ku'damm

 'Yesterday I was at the Ku'damm [= street in Berlin].' [KiDKo, transcript: MuH9WT]
- (2) [In anderen Städten] [das] gibt es nicht.

 in other cities that give it not

 'In other cities that doesn't exist.' [RTL show "Extra", 15.10.2012]
- (3) Und [danach] [er] <u>sagt</u>zu meiner Cousineso: "Fettsack Mettsack.". and afterwards he says to my cousin like fatso matso 'And afterwards he said to my cousin like: "fatso matso!"' [KiDKo, transcr.: MuH27WT]
- (4) [dann] [ich] werde da um vier rum fertig sein, then I will there at four about done be 'Then I'll be done there at about four.' [TüBa-D/S, s. 2057]





Kiezdeutsch ('hood German) (Wiese 2009, 2012)

Everyday language spoken in a specific neighborhood ("Kiez")

Speakers

 Adolescents of various ethnicities (e.g., Turkish, Kurdish, Persian, Arabic), including the majority ethnicity, German

General Characteristics

- Association with a certain kind of "Kiez", not with a certain ethnicity
- Linguistic variation and emergence of new linguistic patterns at different grammatical levels
- Part of a larger linguistic repertoire

Distribution

 Urban areas with a large immigrant population (e.g., districts in Berlin: Kreuzberg, Neukölln)





KiezDeutsch Corpus (KiDKo) (Wiese et al. 2012)

Data

- Self recordings of every-day conversations between adolescents
- Current status: transcribed, aligned with audios, stored as .xml
- Further processing: orthographic normalization, PoS-Tagging, Parsing

Design

- Main corpus
 - 17 adolescents of various ethnicities in multiethnic Berlin-Kreuzberg
 - Approx. 48 hours of recordings
 - Approx. 228.00 tokens
- Supplementary corpus
 - 6 adolescents of German ethnicity in monoethnic Berlin-Hellersdorf
 - Approx. 18 hours of recordings
 - Approx. 105.000 tokens





Grammatical characteristics (Kern/Selting 2006; Wiese et al. 2012)

Prosody of the adverbial

Can be detached or fully integrated

Semantics of the adverbial

- Overwhelmingly temporal
- Very rarely local, modal or causal

Syntactic category of the adverbial

- Predominantly AdvP or PP
- Occasionally DP or CP
- (1) [Irgendwann in Schule] [ich] fang an zu schlafen, ich schwöre.

 sometime in school I start PTCL to sleep I swear

 'At some stage, I'll fall asleep at school, I swear.' [KiDKo, transcript: MuH9WT]





Grammatical characteristics (Wiese et al. 2012)

Syntactic category of the preverbal constituent

- Overwhelmingly a pronominal DP
- Rarely a full DP

Syntactic function of the preverbal constituent

- Predominantly subject of the clause
- Exceptions: object and expletive
- (1) [Dann] [sie] sagt so: "Ich schrei so, wie ich will.".

 then she says like I scream such as I want

 'Then she said like: "I scream as I want."' [KiDKo, transcript: MuH9WT]





Quantitative analysis (Schalowski et al. 2010)

 Comparison between the multiethnic main and the monoethnic supplementary corpus with respect to 3 adverbials: danach (afterwards), nachher (later on), gestern (yesterday)

multiethnic/main			monoethnic/supplementary		
<u>Adverbial</u>	<u>Tokens</u>	\underline{AdvXV}_{fin}	<u>Tokens</u>	\underline{AdvXV}_{fin}	
danach	41 (129)	7 (23)	17 (19)	0 (0)	
nachher	8 (25)	2 (5)	23 (25)	0 (0)	
gestern	38 (120)	1 (3)	23 (25)	0 (0)	

[Results normalized per 40 000 tokens, absolute numbers in parenthesis]

➤ With respect to the 3 adverbials: AdvXV_{fin} seems to be a construction of multiethnic language use



AdvXV_{fin} in other urban vernaculars of Europe



Denmark: multiethnic areas of Copenhagen

(1) [Normalt] [man] går på ungdomsskolen (Quist 2008: 47) normally one goes to youth.club = 'Normally you attend the youth club.'

Sweden: multiethnic areas of Stockholm

(2) [då] [alla] <u>börja(de)</u> hata henne (Ganuza 2008: 53) then everyone started hate her = 'Then everyone started hating her.'

Norway: multiethnic areas of Oslo

(3) [Eigentlig] [alle] <u>kan</u> bidra (Opsahl/Nistov 2010: 58) actually everyone can contribute = 'Actually everyone can contribute.'

Dutch: multiethnic areas of Utrecht (Freywald et al. [to appear] for a critical discussion)

(4) [daarom] [ik] <u>heb</u> dat probleem niet (Freywald et al. [to appear]) that's.why I have that problem not = 'That's why I don't have that problem.'







Informal spoken standard German

- (1) [jetzt] [ich] wollte Sie treffen, um mit Ihnen [...]temp. AdvP > pron. SUB now I wanted you meet for with you 'Now I wanted to meet you to [...] with you.' [TüBa-D/S, s159]
- (2) [Im Winter] [das] war der erste Baum, den [...] temp. PP > pron. SUB in.the winter that was the first tree, that 'During winter, that was the first tree that [...].' [KH, 05.2010]
- [Im Gehirn] [das Sprachverstehen] is wechselseitig organisiert. in the brain the language.understanding is bilaterally organized 'In the brain the understanding of language is bilaterally organized.' [IW, 05.06.2010]
- AdvXV_{fin} in informal spoken German: comparable grammatical characteristics like its usage in Kiezdeutsch
- > AdvXV_{fin} seems to be a general construction of informal spoken German



Used data: overview



KiezDeutsch-Korpus (KiDKo) (Wiese et al. 2012)

- Self-recordings of informal in-group conversations
- 17 adolescents of various ethnicities in multiethnic Berlin-Kreuzberg
- 6 adolescents of German ethnicity in monoethnic Berlin-Hellersdorf
- Main corpus (multiethnic):≈ 48h
- Supplementary corpus (monoethnic): ≈ 18h
- Current status: transcribed, aligned with audios
- To do: normalization, PoStagging, parsing

Tübinger Baumbank des Deutschen/Spontansprache (TüBa-D/S)

(Stegmann et al. 2000)

- Spontaneous dialogues based on role plays
- German speakers
- Domain: appointment scheduling (meetings, dinner etc.)
- **Size**: 38.000 sentences, 360.000 tokens
- Processing: transliterated, parsed

Every-day conversation

 Randomly collected from German native speakers



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The information-structural motivation



Information structure of AdvXV_{fin} in spoken German

- Left sentence periphery is sensitive to the assignment of informationstructural categories (Rizzi 1997; Grohmann 2003; Benincià/Poletto 2004 inter alia)
- Typically, topics (= what the utterance is about (Reinhart 1981)) tend to occur at the left periphery in German (Hocket 1958; Molnár 1993)
- Frame setters (= delimitation of the applicability of the main predication (Chafe 1976)) also prefer the leftmost position (Jacobs 2001; Maienborn 2001; Krifka 2007)
- > Conflict with the V2-constraint: only one preverbal constituent

topic	betrunken .	estern	<u>r</u> ge	wai	(1) [Ich]
= 'Yesterday I was drunk.'	drunk	sterday	s ye	was	1
frame setter	betrunken .	ich	<u>war</u>	rn]	(2) [Geste
= 'Yesterday I was drunk.'	drunk	1	was	lay	Yesterd



The information-structural motivation



Information structure of AdvXV_{fin} in Kiezdeutsch

- Analysis proposed for Kiezdeutsch: weakening of the V2 rule in a multilingual setting allows for a more liberal realization of informationstructural strategies (Wiese 2009; Wiese et al. 2009; Wiese 2011; Wiese et al. 2012)
- (1) Ich will nur nur Latschen, ich schwöre. frame > topic
 'I only want slippers, I swear.'

```
[Jedes Jahr] [ich] <u>kaufe</u> mir bei Deichmann.

every year I buy me at Deichmann

'Every year I buy them for me at Deichmann.' [KiDKo, transcript: MuH9WT]
```

(2) **A:** Ich warte noch bis Monatsende. **B:** Auf was? frame > topic 'I will wait untill the end of the month.' 'For what?'

A: [Ab jetzt] [ich] <u>krieg</u> immer zwanzig Euro. from now I get always twenty euros 'From now on, I'll always get 20 euros.' [KiDKo, transcript: MuH17MA]



The information-structural motivation



Information structure of AdvXV_{fin} in spoken German

- Extension to spoken German: interactive and time-constrained nature of spoken language, independent of a multilingual setting, allows for a more liberal expression of information structure
- (1) [Context: Interview with a taxi driver about the subject "tip"]

 [In anderen Städten] [das] gibt es nicht. frame > topic
 in other cities that give it not
 'In other cities it doesn't exist.' [RTL show "Extra", 15.10.2012]
- (2) **A:** Warum stellen sie ihr neues Buch in einer Flughafenbuchhandlug vor? 'Why do you present your new book at a book store at the airport?.'
 - [Immer wenn ich am Flughafen bin] [das erste , was **B**: the first always when I at.the airport am ich mache] ist in den Buchladen zu gehen. frame > topic make is in the book.store to go 'Every time I'm at the airport, the first thing I do is going to the book store.' [ZDFinfo, 14.08.2011]







Temporal frames

- Scope: limited to the predication of the subsequent utterance
- (1) [Irgendwann in Schule] [ich] fang an zu schlafen, ich schwöre.

 sometime in school I start PTCL to sleep I swear

 'At some stage, I'll fall asleep at school, I swear.' [KiDKo, transcript: MuH9WT]
- (2) [Im Winter] [du] <u>hast</u> ab drei Uhr kein Licht mehr. in.the winter you have from three o'clock no light more 'During winter, there is no light from 3 o'clock on.' [IR, 04.07.2012]
- (3) [jetzt] [ich] wollte Sie treffen , um mit Ihnen [...]

 now I wanted you meet for with you

 'Now I wanted to meet you to [...] with you.' [TüBa-D/S, s159]







Local frames

- Scope: limited to the predication of the subsequent utterance
- (1) [Zu Hause] [ich] <u>kann</u> nicht schlafen.

 at home I can't sleep.' [KiDKo, transcript: MuH9WT]
- (2) [In der Mitte des Zuges [...]][sie] können sie gerne benutzen .

 in the middle the train you can it gladly use

 'In the middle of the train [...] you're welcome to use it.' [announcement, 29.06.2011]
- (3) [Im Gehirn] [das Sprachverstehen] <u>ist</u> wechselseitig organisiert. in.the brain the language.understanding is bilaterally organized 'In the brain the understanding of language is bilaterally organized.' [IW, 05.06.2010]





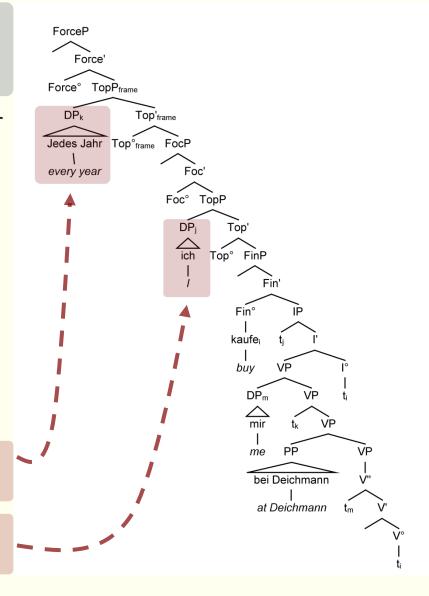


A cartographic approach to the left periphery (Rizzi 1997)

- Different functionally motivated Xbar projections within a split CP domain
- Movement to these projections is driven by information-structural features
- Observed variation can be analyzed according to the distribution of information-structural categories and their explicit marking

TopP_{frame}: host for frame setters

TopP: host for aboutness topics





Support from history I



Middle Low German (Petrova 2012)

- OV language with superficial V2 properties: inter alia root clauses
- Displays violations of the V2 constraint: inter alia AdvXV_{fin}
- Information-structural explanation of AdvXV_{fin}: frame setter > topic
- (1) [Nicht langhe darna] [der sone] <u>volghete</u> na vor ludeke not long after.that the son followed PTCL for Lubeck 'No long after that the son followed towards Lubeck.' (Petrova 2012: 174)

Early New High German (Speyer 2008)

- Asymmetric OV/V2-language
- Information-structurally licensed AdvXV_{fin}: frame setter > topic
- (2) [Jm 6886. Jar] [der Großfu^erst DEMETRI] <u>hat</u> den maechtigen [...] in.the 6886th year the grand.duke Demetri has the mighty 'In the 6886th year the grand duke Demetri has [...] the mighty [...]' (Speyer 2008: 479)



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Information-structural status of the adverbial I

Usage of adverbials as contextualizers (Schalowski 2011; Schalowski [in preparation])

- Connective adverbials like dann 'then' and danach 'afterwards' in AdvXV_{fin}
- Discourse-structuring function: chronologically connecting larger pieces of discourse explicitly (Roßdeutscher/Stutterheim 2006 for a canonical usage)
- Can be regarded as discourse markers
- (1) Ich habe gestern gesehen [...] was sie geschrieben haben. 'Yesterday I have seen what they have written.'

Ich meinte nur so: "Ach so! Dein Ernst?". 'I simply said like: "I see! Are you serious?"'

[Danach] [sie] <u>fängt</u> an zu schreien . Ich meinte zu ihr : "
then she starts on to shout I meant to her

Schrei nicht so!" und so. Ja?

'Don't scream like that. Okay?'

Und [dann] [sie] sagt so: "Ich schrei so, wie ich will.".

and then she says like I shout such as I want

[KiDKo, transcript: MuH9WT]





Temporal adverb dann 'then' in AdvXV_{fin} as a discourse marker

- Syntax of discourse markers: peripheral syntactic position = before or after independent syntagms (Auer/Günther 2005)
- Function: organization of texts, conjunction of utterances (Auer/Günther 2005)
- (1) Context: We have to buy lunch and dinner on our own. Only breakfast is included.

```
[Auf jeden Fall] [ich] <u>freue</u> mich schon.

on every case I got.excited me already
'In any case, I'm already excited.' [KiDKo, transcript: MuH1WD]
```

(2) Context: Yesterday I have seen what they have written. I simply said like: "I see! Are you serious?".

```
[Danach] [sie] <u>fängt</u> an zu schreien.
then she starts on to shout
```

'Then she starts shouting.' [KiDKo, transcript: MuH9WT]





Temporal adverb dann 'then' in AdvXV_{fin} as a discourse marker

- KiDKo: 1406 tokens, 26 uses in AdvXV_{fin}
 - Frequent in narrative contexts
- TüBa-D/S: 5903 tokens, 27 uses in AdvXV_{fin}
 - Also used in the narration of events
- (1) Context: Gestern waren wir schon voll drauf. Mann! 'Yesterday we've been totally on, man!'

```
[Dann] [die] <u>sind</u> weg.
then they are away
'Then they disappeared' [KiDKo, transcript: MuH11MD]
```

(2) [dann] [ich] <u>sehe</u> jetzt Don-Giovanni von Mozart then I see now Don-Giovanni from Mozart 'Then I'll see Don-Giovanni by Mozart.' [TüBa-D/S, s2852]





Temporal adverb danach 'afterwards' in AdvXV_{fin} as a discourse marker

- Comparable distribution to dann 'then': narration (of direct speech)
- KiDKo: 165 tokens, 47 uses in AdvXV_{fin}
- TüBa-D/S: 129 tokens, 0 uses in AdvXV_{fin}
- (1) Context: She makes friends with blablabla.

```
[Danach] [du] <u>hast</u> sie angeschrien .
afterwards vou have her on.shout
```

' Afterwards you shouted at her.'

```
und [danach] [sie]  hat  zurück  angeschrien .
and afterwards she has back on.shout
'And afterwards she shouted back at you.' [KiDKo, transcript: MuH11MD]
```

(2) Context: Soon, she will receive her degree.

```
[Danach] [ihr] Traum <u>ist</u> die Bühne. Afterwards her dream is the stage 'Afterwards her dream is the stage.' [ZDFinfo, 14.08.2011]
```





- Discourse marking connective adverbials tend to occupy the leftmost (peripheral) position
- Occurring between the two connected units marks the status as a discourse connective syntactically
- Discourse linkers differ from frame setters with respect to the degree of integration into the subsequent utterance
 - Frame setters: scope over an individual utterance/proposition
 - Discourse connectives: establish a relation between to contextual units
- Syntactic assumptions for discourse connectives:
 - Discourse connectives are outside the syntactic representation of a single sentence, like discourse markers
 - Their interpretation follows from general principles of utterance interpretation, here the temporal order of narrated events or event bundles





The orphanage approach (Haegeman 2009)

- Assumption: grammar provides a partial basis for determining the proposition of an uttered sentence and needs support from processing
- Adopted to model the interpretation of peripheral adverbial clauses
 - Peripheral adverbials that do not directly modify the clauses that they
 accompany are interpreted at the discourse level rather than in the syntax,
 - They are treated as orphans, associated with the core sentence on the processing level
- Syntax: Orphans not associated with the host, but contain an open variable to be bound at the post-syntactic level of discourse
- Discourse: Modifee of the Orphan is established at the level of utterance processing → contextualization
- (1) The talk will be cancelled if it rains.

central

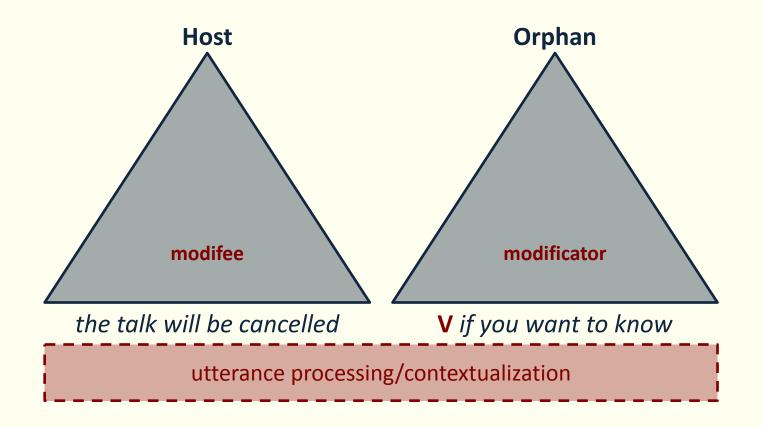
(2) The talk will be cancelled if you want to know.

peripheral





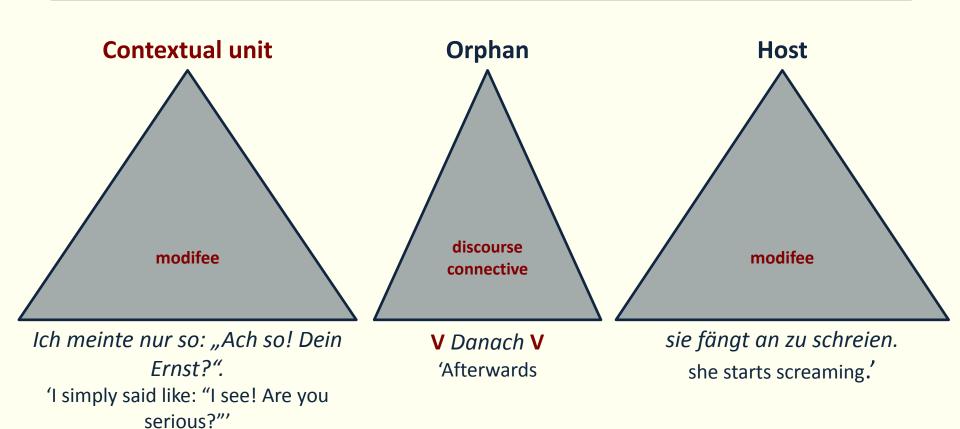
Syntax and discourse pragmatics of peripheral adverbials







Syntax and pragmatics of discourse connectives



utterance processing/contextualization







Connectives in AdvXV_{fin} in Middle Low German

- Asymmetric OV/V2-language
- (1) [Vortmer] [deme koninghe van bulgherien] deden se des geliken afterwards the-DAT king-DAT of Bulgaria did they the same 'Afterwards they did the same to the king.' [Petrova 2012: 171]



Conclusion



- Standard German adheres to the V2 constraint
- In informal spoken German, independent from a multilingual setting, it is possible do deviate from the V2 constraint and to place two discrete constituents before the finite verb
- Construction: Adverbial > preverbal constituent > finite verb (AdvXV_{fin})
- AdvXV_{fin} adheres to information-structural preferences
- AdvXV_{fin} can be separated into 2 different types of information packaging
 - AdvXV_{fin}: frame setting > topic
 - AdvXV_{fin}: explicit marking of a discourse connective
- Syntax of the frame-topic construction: functionally split CP
- Syntax of the connective construction: contextually bound orphan



The future: discussion



AdvXV_{fin}: frame setter > aboutness topic

Assuming that topics can be realized above sentence adverbials in the upper middlefield (Frey 2000), a multiple prefield is not the only option to mark a frame setter and an aboutness topic simultaneously. Under this assumption, how can the non-canonical variant be explained? IS still the driving force?

Context: What happens in winter?

- (1) [Im Winter] fängt [der Mann] wahrscheinlich Enten.
 in.the winter catches the man probably ducks
- (2) [Im Winter] [der Mann] <u>fängt</u> wahrscheinlich Enten. in.the winter the man catches probably ducks 'In winter, the man probably catches ducks.'

Do frame setter necessarily need access to the prefield to gain a frame-setting interpretation?

(3) [Der Mann] <u>fängt</u> [im Winter] wahrscheinlich Enten. the man catches in the winter probably ducks



The future: discussion



AdvXV_{fin}: discourse connective

Also in its canonical position, dann 'then' and danach 'afterwards' would appear in between two connected units and might function as a connective. Does the adverb occupy the orphan position in both cases?

Context: First I went to the supermarket.

```
(1) [Dann] \underline{bin} [ich] zum Bäcker gegangen.]<sub>thetic V1</sub> then am I to.the bakery went
```

Is it possible for the adverb to get the discourse connective function in both slots? How can we explain the variation?

(3)		 zum to.the	<i>gegangen.</i> went
(4) <i>[Dann]</i> then	<u>bin</u> am	zum to.the	 <i>gegangen.</i> went





Jetzt ich danke für ihre Aufmerksamkeit!

now I thank.you for your attention

'Thanks for your attention!'



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Expletives in AdvXV_{fin}

(1) [Bei mir] [es] gibt Abitur.

at me it gives diploma

'With me, there is a diploma.' [audio proof, 2009]

OV in embedded clauses

(2) Ich wusste ganz genau, dass er das <u>versteht</u>.

I knew quite accurate that he that understands
'I knew exactly that he understands that.' [KiDKo, transcript: MuH2WT]







Left dislocation and hanging topic construction (LD/HT)

- Topicalized (prosodically separated) constituent picked up by a resumptive in the subsequent sentence (Altmann 1981)
- (1) [Die Holländer], [die] <u>spielen</u> vor allem richtig ähm kräftig. the Dutch they play above all really PTCL heavy 'The Dutch, they especially play really physical.' [KiDKo, transcript: MuH13MT]

Apparent multiple fronting (AMF)

- Multiple preverbal non-subject arguments analyzed as part of a VP with an empty head (Müller 2005)
- (2) [[Kurz] [die Bestzeit]] <u>hatte</u> der Berliner [...] gehalten .
 short the best.time has the Berliner hold
 'The Berliner has held the best time shortly.' [Müller 2005: 300]







Connectives (CON)

- Elements connecting two propositions in "post-first" position (= after another initial constituent (Breindl 2008)
- (1) [Seinen Arbeitsplatz] [jedoch] <u>verlässt</u> er nicht.

 his workplace but leaves he not

 'But he doesn't leave his workplace.' [DeWaC, 90150093]

Speech-act adverbials and adjectives (SAAA)

- Metacommunicative speech-act oriented adverbials and adjectives in the leftmost position (Meinunger 2009; Heageman/Hill 2010 on West Flamish)
- (2) [Ehrlich], [mir] <u>ist</u> beinahe der Kragen geplatzt.

 honestly, I almost blew my top.' [DeWaC, 153672030]



Appendix II: AdvXV_{fin} vs. other V2 deviations



```
AdvXV<sub>fin</sub> is...
```

≠ LD/HT: no resumptive element

≠ AMF: not multiple arguments of the verb

≠ SAAA: no speech-act orientation

≠ DM: no metacommunicative properties

(1) [Gestern] [ich] war Ku'damm.

yesterday I was Ku'damm

'Yesterday I was at the Ku'damm [= street in Berlin].' [KiDKo, transcript: MuH9WT]

≈ CON: connectivity effects but not in post-first position

(2) Und [danach] [er] <u>sagt</u> zu meiner Cousine: "Fettsack Mettsack.". and afterwards he says to my cousin fatso matso 'And afterwards he said to my cousin: "fatso matso!".' [KiDKo, transcript: MuH27WT]







Data from field word in Izmir, Turkey 2010

- Rel. frequent occurrences of AdvXV_{fin} in spoken as well as in written data
- Often introduced by dann 'then' and danach 'afterwards'
- (1) [Dann] [sie] waren im Wald [...]
 then they were in the forest
 'Then they were in the forest.' [Ege16WT]
- But also violations of V2 that deviate from AdvXV_{fin} an cannot be attested for *Kiezdeutsch* as well as spoken German
- (2) [Mit diesem Hund] [sie] <u>laufen</u>.

 with this dog they run

 'They are running with this dog.' [Ege04WT/Ege05WT]



Appendix IV: dann 'then' in conditionals



dann 'then' in AdvXV_{fin} resulting in a conditional reading

Nearly exclusive usage of dann in the TüBa-D/S data, but also in KiDKo

```
(1)A: ja, dem steht nichts entgegen,
yes this stays nothing against

weil das ja die Firma trägt, die Kosten.
because this PTCL the company carries the costs
'Yes. Nothing preludes it because the company will bear the costs.'
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B: [dann] [wir] <u>reservieren</u> zwei Einzelzimmer
then we reserve two single.rooms
'Then we will reserve two single rooms' [TüBa-D/S, s2840]
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```
(2)A: ja, schlagen sie doch mal Hotel vor, das ihnen yes hit you PTCL PTCL hotel before that you 'Yes. Propose a hotel that you'
```

```
B: ja, [dann] [ich] <u>empfehle</u> ihnen das Hotel Loccumer-Hof. yes then I recommend you the hotel Loccumer-Hof 'Yes. Then I recommend the hotel Loccumer-Hof.' [TüBa-D/S, s2909]
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