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Two perspectives on V2

The invited talks of the DGfS 2016 workshop

“V2 in grammar and processing: Its causes and its consequences”
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Preface

The workshop V2 in grammar and processing: Its causes and its consequences was part of the 38th annual DGfS meeting 2016, which was held between February 24th and 26th at the University of Konstanz. During the three-day workshop twelve submitted papers were presented as talks besides two invited talks. The workshop program clearly demonstrates that verb second (V2) is still a ‘hot topic’ in theoretical linguistics, but also that there is a growing body of psycholinguistic work addressing its acquisition and processing. The proceedings present the two invited papers by Sten Vikner (Aarhus University) and by Markus Bader (Goethe University Frankfurt). These contributions provide two perspectives on V2 from different angles, and can be considered to be representative of the workshop that brought together state of the art research on V2 from theoretical linguistics and psycholinguistics. Sten Vikner’s paper, CP-recursion and the derivation of verb second in Germanic main and embedded clauses, provides an overview of the V2 phenomenon in Germanic languages both in main and embedded clauses. Above that the paper explores a derivation of embedded V2 in terms of a cP/CP-distinction, an alternative to the split-CP in the spirit of Rizzi (1997), thereby investigating the causes of V2. Markus Bader’s paper, Filling the prefield: Findings and challenges, presents joint work with his collaborators Emilia Ellsiepen, Vasiliki Koukoulioti and Yvonne Portele (also from the Goethe University Frankfurt) and investigates one of the consequences of V2 in German. The paper addresses the question which factors govern the selection of a constituent to be moved to the Spec-CP position using evidence from language production, acceptability rating studies and corpus analysis. The two papers thus nicely complement each other, the first contributing the grammatical mechanisms to derive V2, and the second providing data on how this system is used during actual communication. Originally, the present online proceedings were intended to include more of the workshop’s contributions. However a larger publication project emerged from another workshop on V2, which was held at the University of Cambridge one month later in March 2016. Since the goal of that project is to provide a state-of-the-art volume on V2, we decided to pool the contributions of the workshops. We would therefore like to mention the volume Biberauer et al. (in preparation) and refer the interested reader to the papers therein among which also several contributions of the DGfS workshop can be found.

The Konstanz workshop brought together original research on V2 of very high quality. We, the organizers, would like to thank the participants for submitting their inspiring work to the workshop. We would also like thank the program committee consisting of experts in relevant research fields: Mailin Antomo, Liesbeth Augustinus, Josef Bayer, Molly Diesing, Gisbert Fanselow, Sam Featherston, Claudia Felser, Julie Franck, Ulrike Freywald, Edward Gibson, Hans-Martin Gärtner, Hubert Haider, Jana Häussler, Lars Konieczny, Andreas Konietzko, Winfried Lechner, Andre Meinunger, Gereon Müller, Stefan Müller, Manfred Pienemann, Cecilia Poletto, Marga Reis, Ian Roberts, Christoph Scheepers, Tatjana Scheffler, Sarah Schimke, Manuela Schönemberger, Halldór Sigurðsson, Torgrim Solstad, Markus Steinbach, Wolfgang
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The editors

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References


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