



Log In Sign Up >

Complex Predicates  
Verbal Complexes, Resultative Constructions,  
and Particle Verbs in German  
Stefan Müller



# Complex Predicates

## Stefan Müller

2002

This book examines various linguistic phenomena and determines that certain constructions should be treated as complex predicates. Specifically, the book explores auxiliary and verb combinations in future, perfect, and passive constructions; causative constructions, verb complex constructions with raising and control verbs; subject and object predicatives; depictive secondary predicates (1); resultative constructions (2); and particle verb combinations. The properties of all these constructions are studied on a broad empirical basis, mainly with data from German.

- (1) **Er ißt das Fleisch roh.**  
he eats the meat raw
- (2) **Er fährt das Auto kaputt / zu Schrott.**  
he drives the car broken to junk

Scrambling and fronting data are used to argue that all these constructions—except the depictive secondary predicates, which are treated as adjunct—should be treated as complex predicates. The potential for a verb to enter a resultative construction or to form a particle verb that follows a productive pattern is licensed by lexical rules. Base verb and resultative predicate and base verb and particle are combined in syntax by the same rule that licences verbal complexes in German.

In the part about particle verbs it is argued that particles should be treated as parts of the predicate complex. They are serialized in the right sentence bracket (3)–(4) and they can be fronted like adjectives or verbs (5).

- (3) **Karl kommt abends in Berlin an.**  
Karl comes evening in Berlin PART  
`Karl arrives in Berlin in the evening.'
- (4) **Karl kommt abends in der Stadt an, in der ich wohne.**  
Karl comes evening in the city PART in which I live

- Login to Fave
- GoodReads
- LibraryThing

Download

Donate

Feedback