

Ling 503 Problem Set 2: German Word Order Parameters

A. Specify the parameter settings listed below for German:

Head Positions (left, right, or insufficient data):

C left ✓
 T left ✓
 V right ✓
 P insufficient data ✓
 D left ✓
 N insufficient data ✓

Movements (occur in the data, yes or no)

Head Movements:

V to T yes ✓
 T to C yes ✓

B. Draw a tree for each of the examples below and indicate any movements with arrows, and label the type of movement next to the arrow.

1. Max isst das Bröt.

Max eats the bread

2. Max wird das Bröt essen.

Max will the bread eat

3. Isst Max das Bröt?

Eats Max the bread

4. Wird Max das Brot essen?

Will Max the bread eat

C. Explain why the following version of sentence 4 is ungrammatical. (What does it violate? and in sufficient detail, How does it violate it?)

5. *Wird Max essen das Brot?

Will Max eat the bread

Essen has no way to be in that position in this sentence - it's moved to T, but T is already filled by wird, even though wird has moved to C. ✓

