

V2 in German

Prerna Nadathur, Ling 121B Section 9

May 26, 2016

1 Phrase structure rules for German

German PSRs:

$CP \rightarrow C'$
 $C' \rightarrow C MP$

$MP \rightarrow NP M'$
 $M' \rightarrow VP M$

$VP \rightarrow V'$
 $V' \rightarrow (NP) (PP) V$

$NP \rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} (DP) N' \\ \text{Pronoun} \\ \text{Name} \end{array} \right\}$
 $N' \rightarrow N$
 $N' \rightarrow AP N'$

$DP \rightarrow D'$
 $D' \rightarrow D$

$AP \rightarrow A'$
 $A' \rightarrow A$

$PP \rightarrow P'$
 $P' \rightarrow P$

German transformations (ordered):

1. V to M

SD: M is null (PAST or PRES)

SC: Move the head of M's complement to M, leaving a trace. ("M attracts the closest verb")

2. M to C

SD: C is null, M is not null

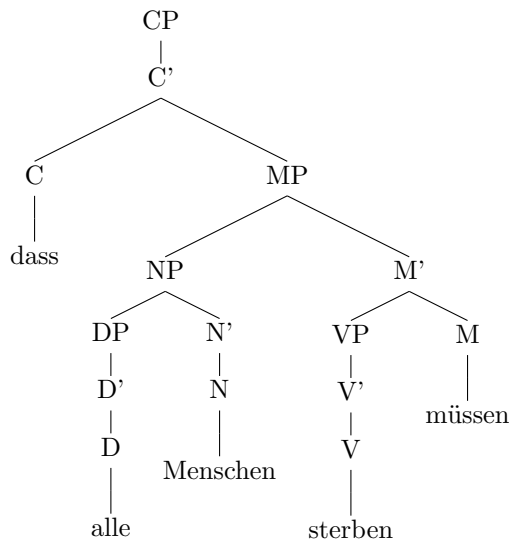
SC: Move M to C

3. XP to Spec-CP

SD: C dominates M and is [-Q]

SC: Move either spec-MP or the NP/PP complement of V to Spec-CP

Example: ... dass alle Menschen sterben müssen



2 Practice

For each of the examples, specify the rules that are active. Show the transition from deep structure to surface structure; remember that each transformation generates a new tree.

- (1) a. Die Kinder haben den Film gesehen.
the children have the movie seen
The children have seen the movie.
- b. Den Film haben die Kinder gesehen.
the movie have the children seen.
Translation:

As discussed in class, “bridge verbs” like glauben (‘believe’), wissen (‘know’), and sagen (‘say’) allow both root and embedded clause patterns.

- (2) Sie glauben dass die Kinder den Film gesehen haben.
they believe that the children the film seen have.
Translation:
- (3) a. Sie glauben die Kinder haben den Film gesehen.
they believe the children have the film seen.
Translation:
- b. Sie glauben den Film haben die Kinder gesehen.
they believe the movie have the children seen.
Translation:

Do you need to make any changes/additions to account for these sentences?

- (4) a. Weisst du, dass die Kinder den Film gesehen haben?
know you that the children the movie seen have
Translation:
- b. Weisst du, die Kinder haben den Film gesehen?
know you the children have the movie seen
Translation:

Bonus: *How would you account for the following data?*

- (5) Wer hat den Film gesehen?
who has the movie seen?
- (6) Was haben die Kinder gesehen?
what have the children seen?