The (early) availability of future and perfect information in verbal clusters: Implications for the compositional semantics of composite tenses

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German exhibits two configurations in which the canonical clause-final positioning of a finite element in embedded clauses may be disrupted: verbal clusters headed by future werden and perfect haben (dass Max den Vogel wird/hat singen hören). This correlation suggests that temporal auxiliaries may be preposed in order to reduce the processing load of a computationally challenging verbal structure by virtue of providing the relevant items as early as possible. The present paper discusses this hypothesis against the backdrop of evidence gained from a reading-time study which investigates the consequences of preposing for processing on the basis of a reaction-time-based forced-choice task. While the temporal relevance of the future auxiliary is trivial, our data show that something similar holds for the perfect auxiliary. In fact, the perfect auxiliary haben is bound to introduce relevant perfect semantics unless the auxiliar autonomously expresses perfectivity, which is restricted to predicates that exhibit specific event-structural properties and in turn gives rise to the sein-perfect.