

## **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 auxiliary autonomously expresses perfectivity, which is restricted to predicates that exhibit specific event-structural properties and in turn gives rise to the *sein*-perfect.