

Help with German

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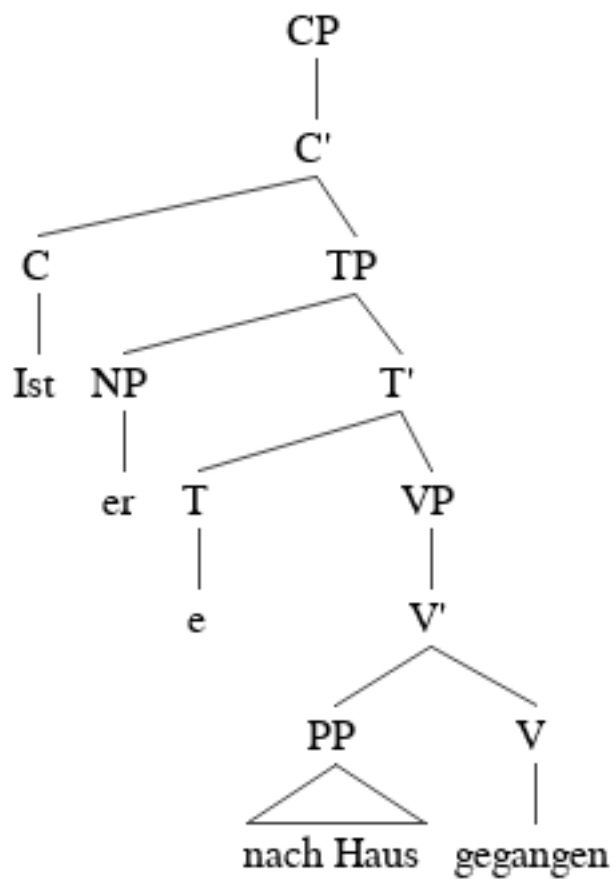
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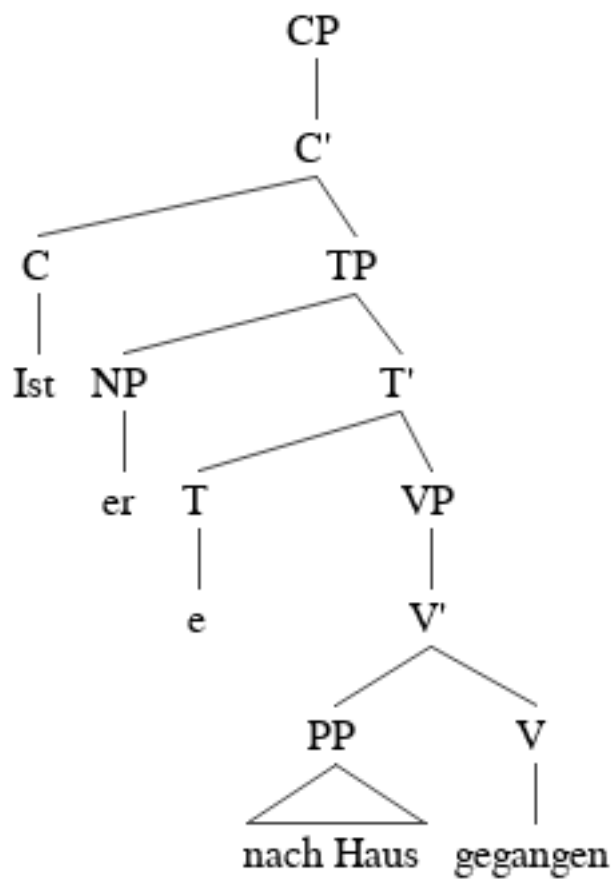
Abstract

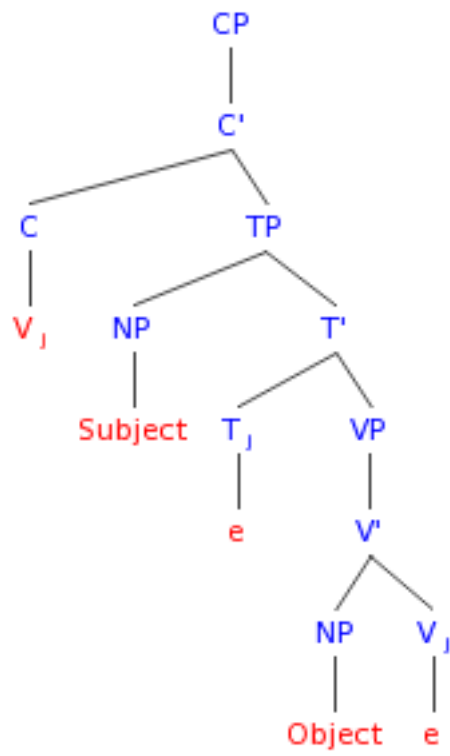
This is the paper's abstract . . .

1 First problem

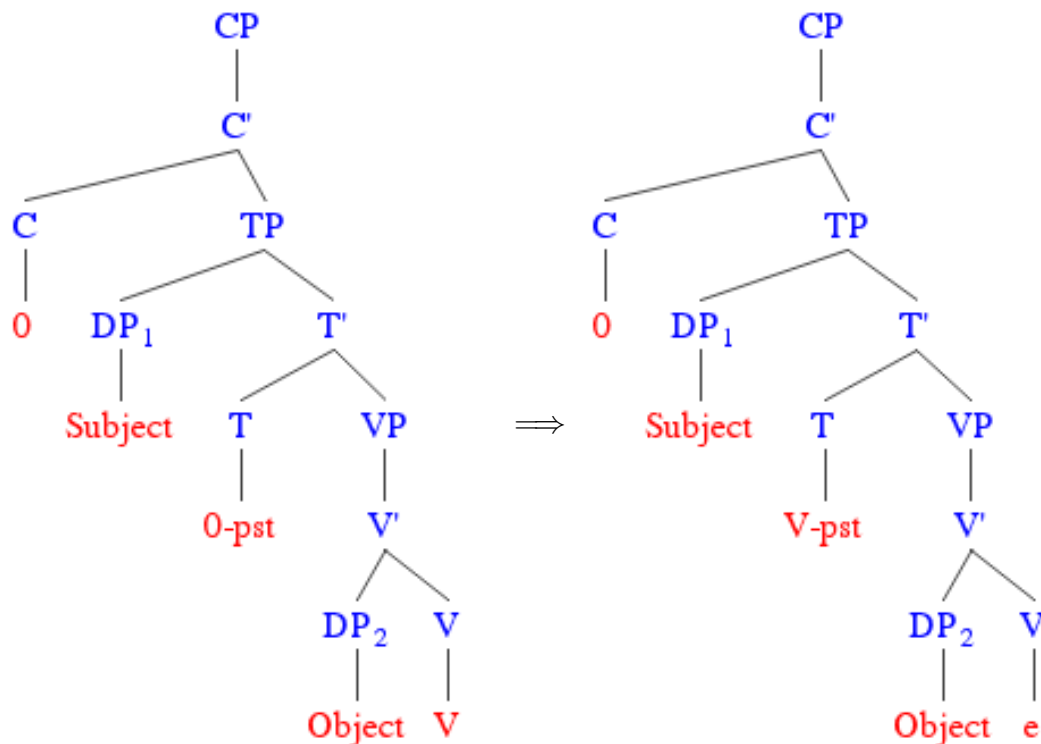
1. Sprechen Sie Deutsch?
soeak you-Fml German
“Do you speak German?”
2. Ist er nach Haus gegangen
Is he to house go-pprt
“Did he go home?”
3. Er sitzt nicht auf diesem Tisch
He sit-3rd-sg not on this table
“Did he go home?”
4. Er soll nicht auf diesem Tisch sitzen
He should not on this table sit
“Did he go home?”
5. Based on this data, does German appear to be a verb-raising language?







So here is our present account of German second position (V2). It is T position, which comes right after the subject.



2 German: Second problem

In the questions in this section we will assume the following **V2 analysis** for German and Dutch:

1. Second position in the clause is C, not T (as it was in the previous section)
2. First position (topic position) is now Spec of CP. First position must always be filled in non yes-no questions. Perhaps this is due to a EPP-like principle which simply requires, structurally, that topic-position is never empty. Movements that satisfy this requirement are called **Topicalizations**.

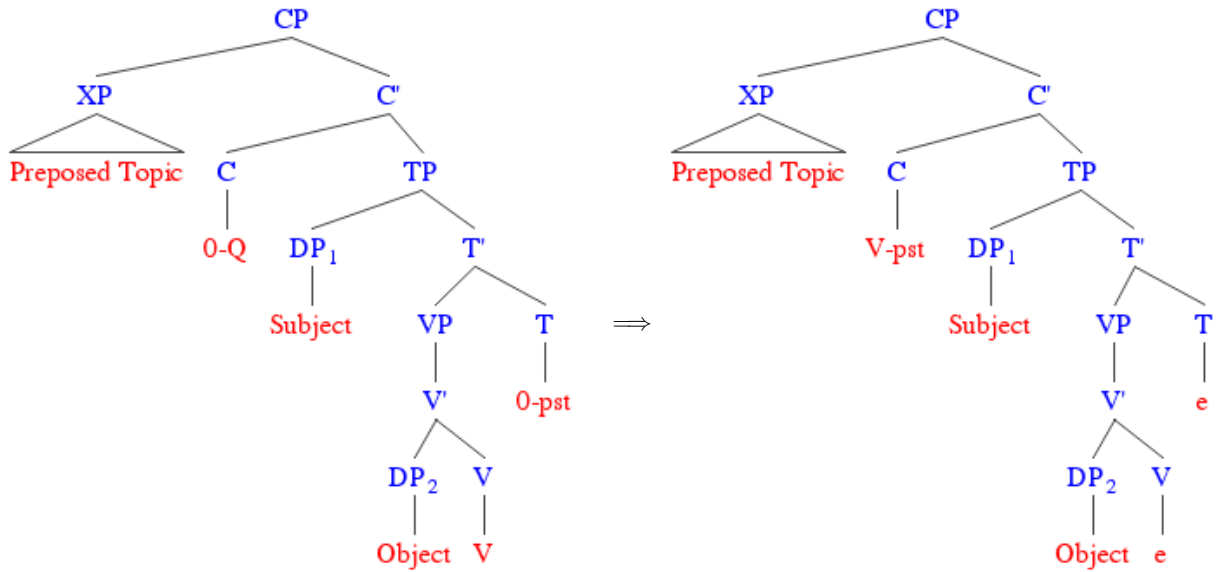


Figure 1: The general schema for the German main clause under the topic analysis. Second position (V2) on this account is C position.

3. T→C movement is obligatory when C is unfilled. Perhaps this is to express (or check) mood/force features in C, although they would seem to already have been expressed by the movement.

The tree in Figure 1 illustrates the general form of the German main clause under this analysis. The trees in Figures 2 and 3 represent a couple of example sentences, illustrating both topicalization and T→C:

1. He should not sit on this table.
2. On this table he should not sit.

Notice that the trees differ in what is in topic position. In both cases second position in the sentence is filled with a tensed verbal element.

This analysis captures two basic facts about German word order in main clauses:

1. The tensed verbal element (either an Aux or a Main verb) is always in second position.

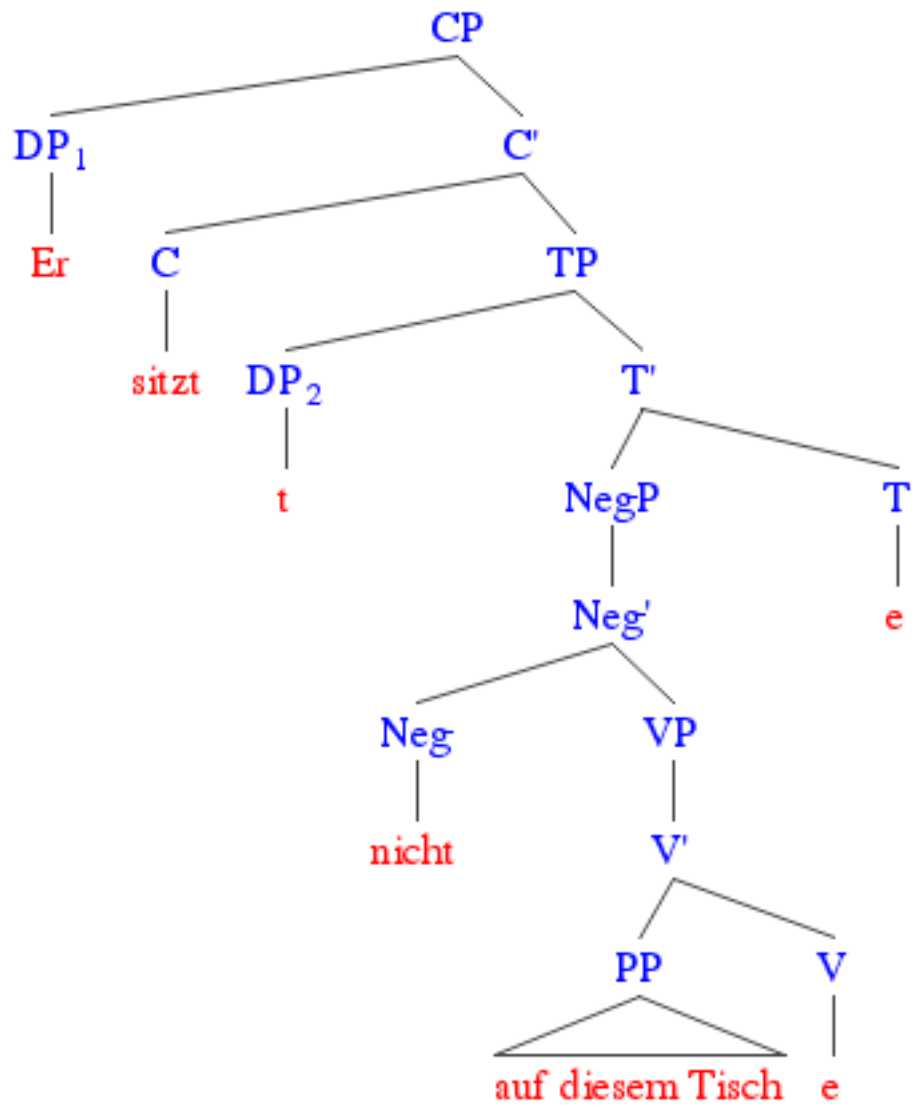


Figure 2: Topicalized subject

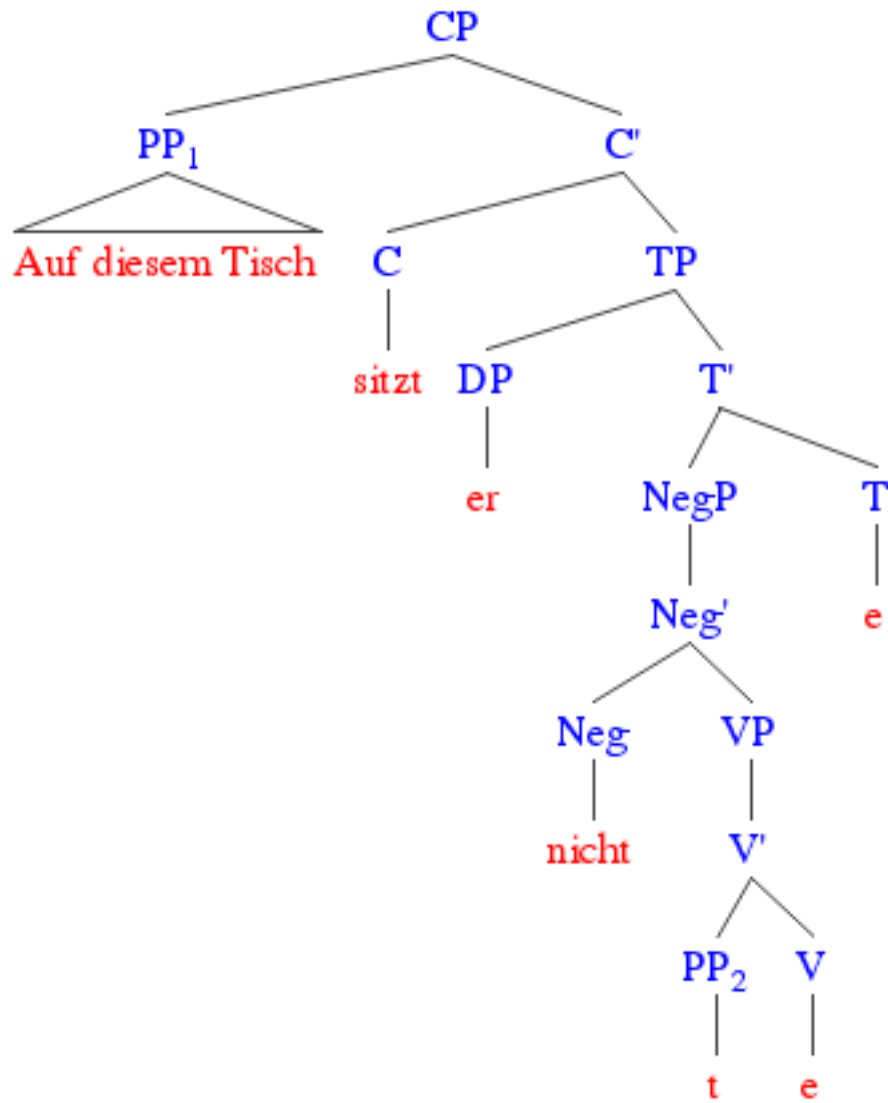
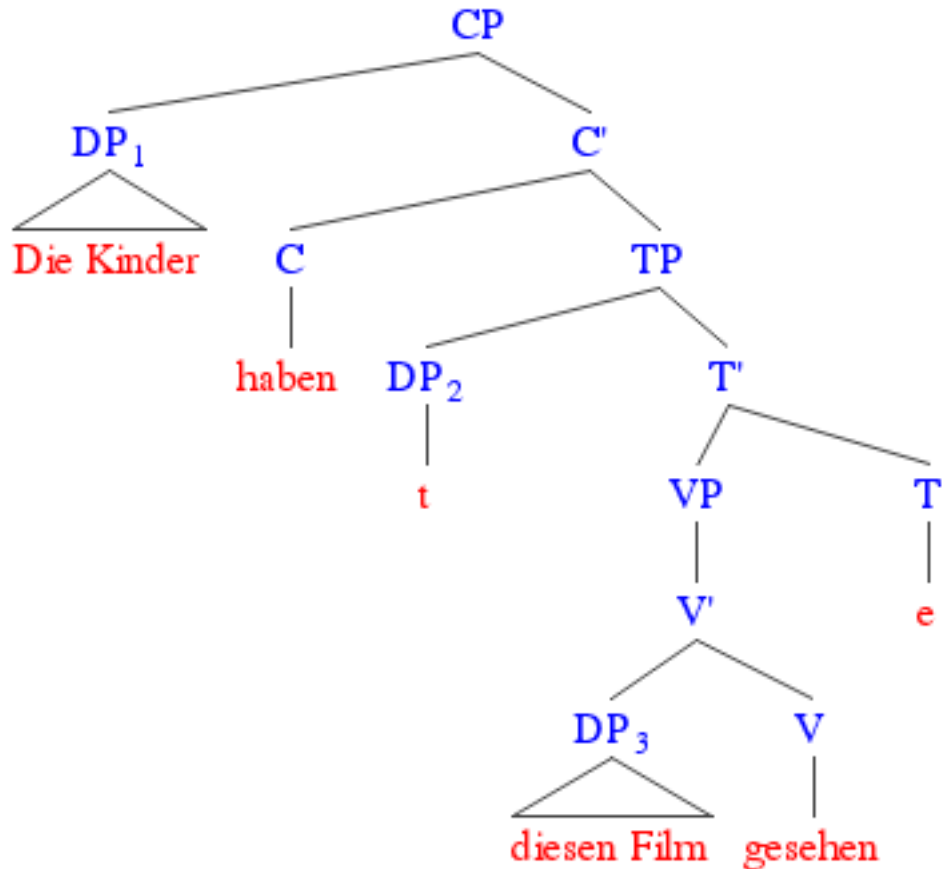


Figure 3: Topicalized oblique (PP)

Figure 4: Topicalized subject in transitive clause



2. A variety of phrasal elements, not just clauses, can appear in first position (topic position). The trees in Figures 4 and 5 represent a couple of other examples to give you the idea. In Figure 4 the subject of a transitive clause has been topicalized, and SVO order is achieved by placing the Subject in topic position in a transitive clause. In Figure 5 the order is OSV, achieved by topicalizing the object in a transitive clause. Both orders are quite natural.

The examples in Figures 6 and 7 show what happens when an Aux is present. The main verb is blocked from moving to T, the Aux undergoes T→C movement. The operation of topicalization is unaffected, and again, different elements are eligible to be moved to Topic position. In Figure 6 we

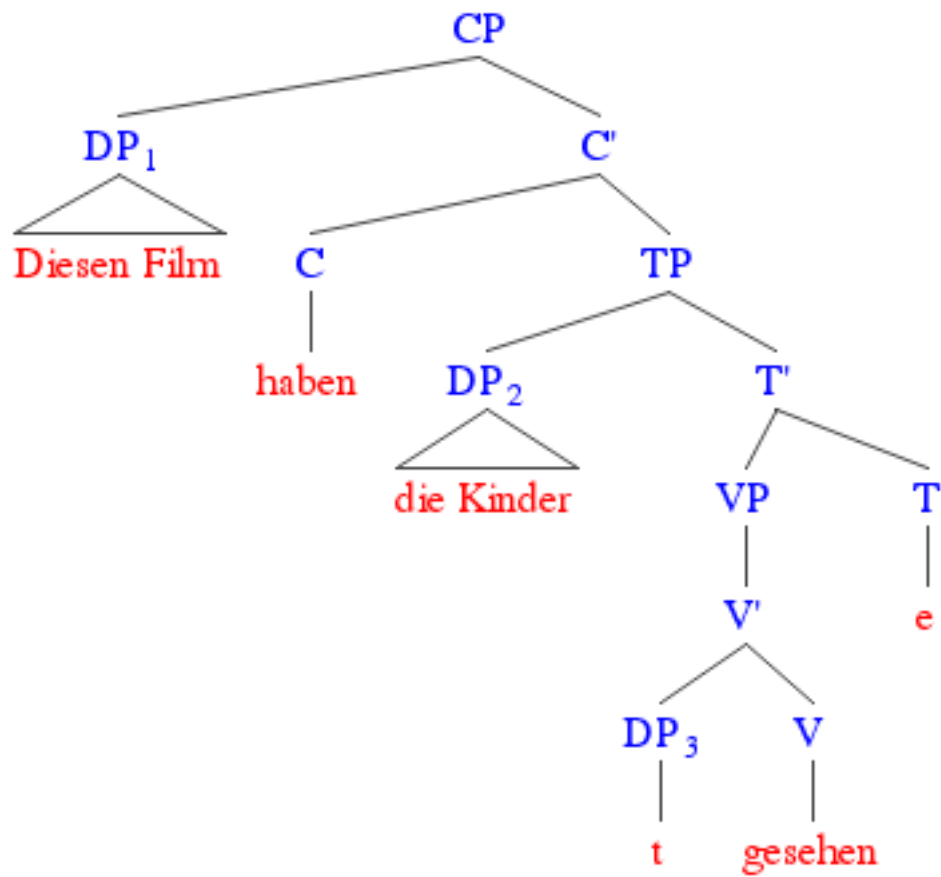


Figure 5: Topicalized object in transitive clause

see a subject topicalize, and in Figure 7, we see a PP topicalized.

All this leaves one interesting question. What happens when C position is filled. If $T \rightarrow C$ movement has the same sort of constraints as $V \rightarrow T$ movement, it should be blocked when C is filled. In fact, this can happen in embedded clauses, and this is one of the chief attractions of the V2 topic analysis. It explains the different word order that German has in embedded clauses. Figure 8 shows what this looks like.

3 Questions

- (1) Draw a tree for the following sentence:

Gestern sahen die Kinder den Film
Yesterday see-pst the children the movie
“Yesterday the children saw the movie.”

- (2) Using the German data shown in the previous sections, explain the motivation for making the T' rule be

$$T' \rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{c} VP \\ NegP \end{array} \right\} T$$

rather than

$$T' \rightarrow T \left\{ \begin{array}{c} VP \\ NegP \end{array} \right\}$$

Note: the answer consists in finding data that wouldn't come out right if we assumed the second version of the T' rule. Use the assumptions of the V2 topic analysis.

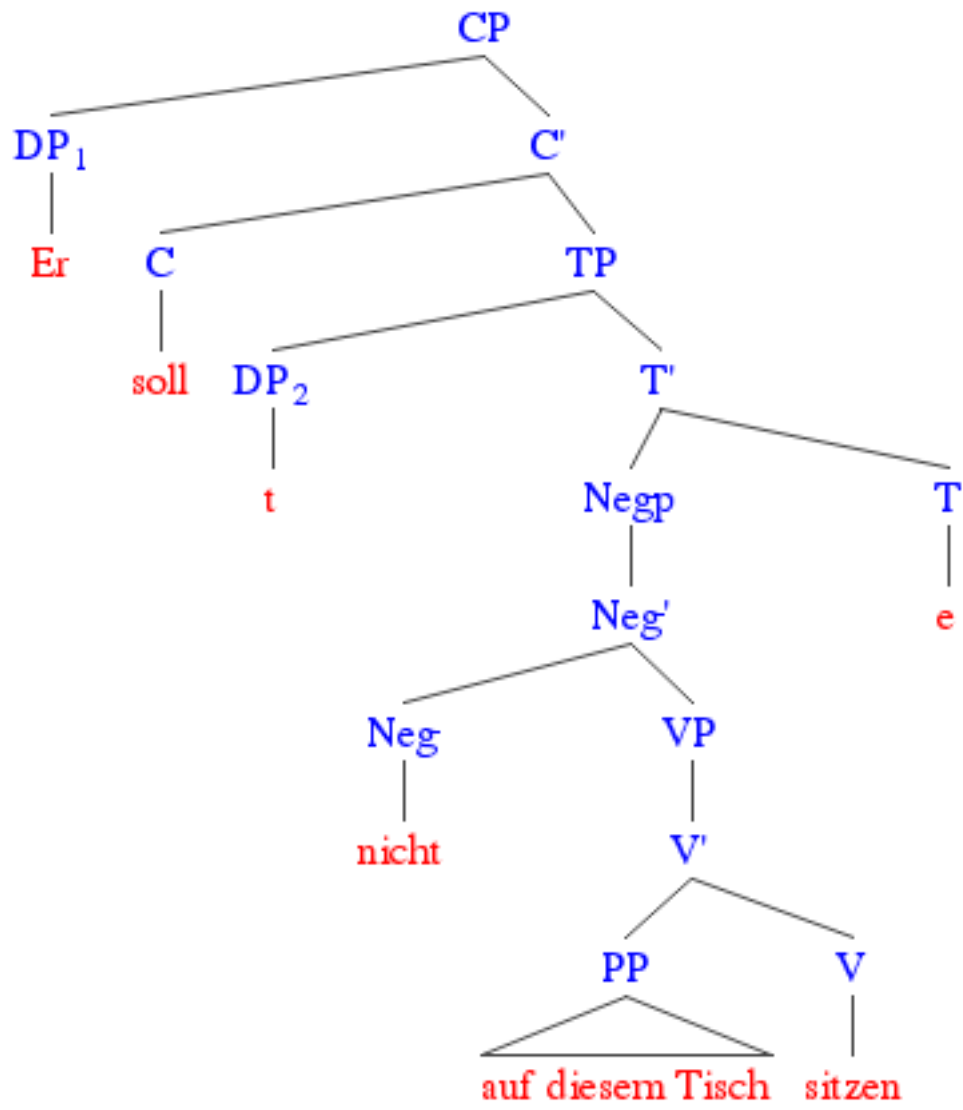


Figure 6: Topicalized subject with Aux

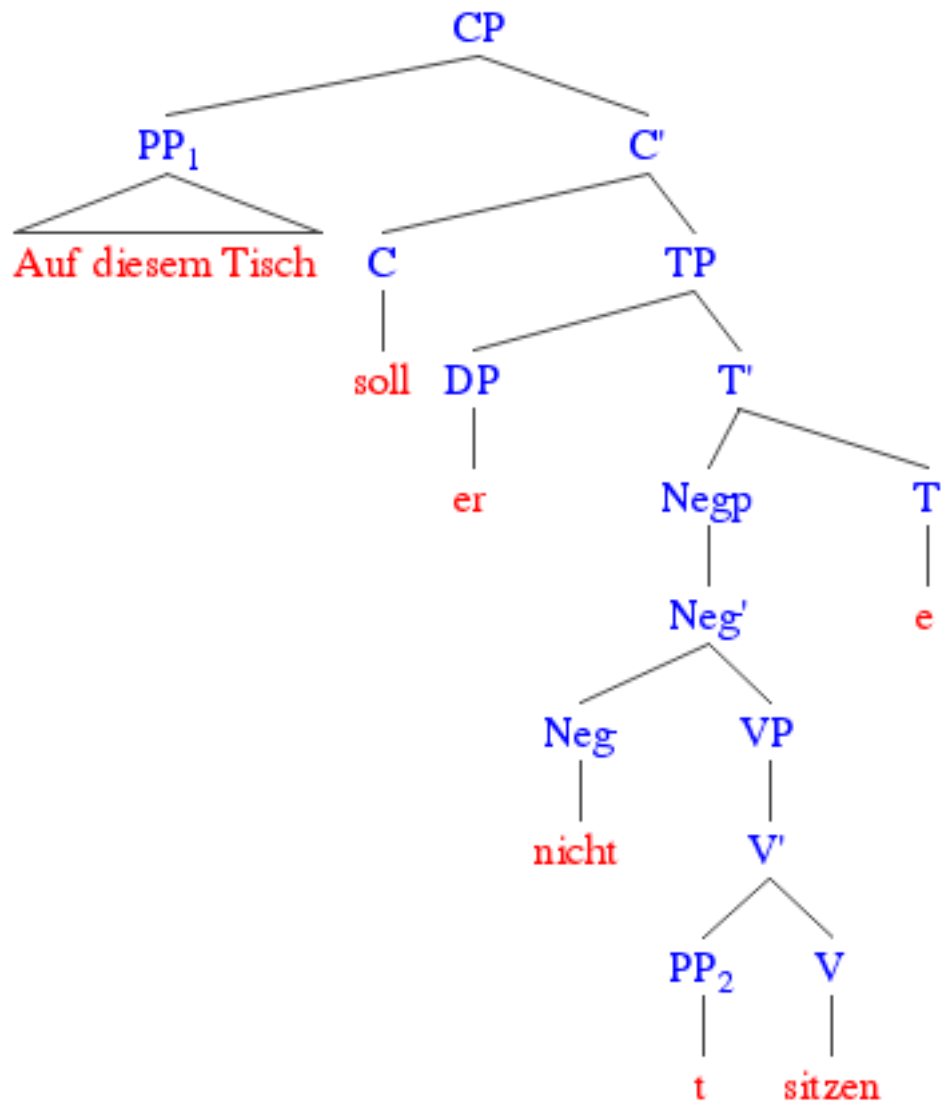


Figure 7: Topicalized PP with Aux

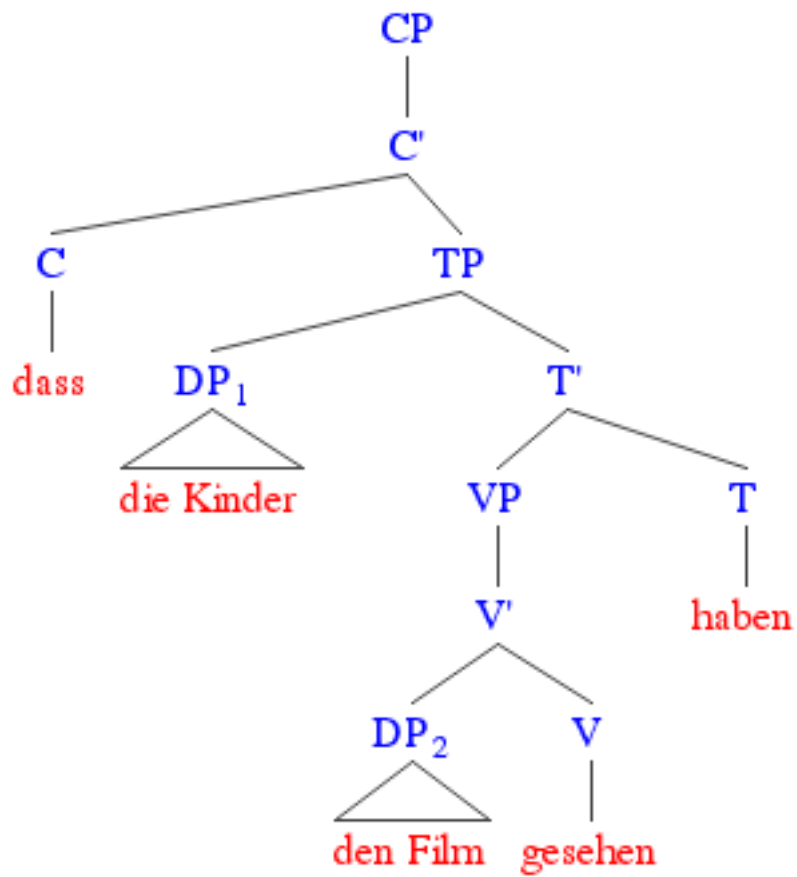


Figure 8: Embedded clause word order under the Topic analysis: C filled