Additive and negative particles and finiteness in L2 Dutch and German

Josje VERHAGEN, Sarah SCHIMKE, Giusy TURCO, Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics

josje.verhagen@mpi.nl, sarah.schimke@mpi.nl, giusy.turco@mpi.nl

INTRODUCTION
Background
Previous research has shown an interaction between scope particles (‘also’, ‘again’) and finiteness: scope particles follow finite verb, but precede non-finite verb [1]. However, particle auch/ook ‘also’ can precede finite verb, even in relatively advanced L2 speech [1][4][5].

L2 German: Herr Rot auch schlief-t
Mister Red also sleep-3sg
Target: Herr Rot schlief auch

How should this be explained?

If due to scope properties of ‘also’, different pattern is expected for negation, that has different scope.

Scope properties of ‘also’ and negation

Herr Rot auch schlief-t Herr Rot nicht schlief-en
Mister Red also sleep-3sg Mister Red not sleep-INF

RESULTS FOR L2 GERMAN

• Results: AUCH

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<th>post-verbal</th>
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grüne man auch springt ‘green man also jump-fin’
rot auch schlafen ‘red also sleep-inf’

Results: NICHT

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nicht springen ‘not jump-inf’
herr grün springt nicht ‘Mr. green jump-fin not’

RESULTS FOR L2 DUTCH

• Results: OOK

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groene man ook slapen ‘green man also sleep-inf’
groen kind ook slaapt ‘the green kid also sleep-fin’

• Results: NIET

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blauwe man niet slapen ‘blue man not sleep-inf’

DISCUSSION:

Position of the particle:
Preverbal ‘also’: 89% (German) and 90% (Dutch)
Preverbal negation: 67% (German) and 87% (Dutch)

-> ‘also’ is more often preverbal than negation

Interaction with finiteness:
• Clearer interaction for negation than for ‘also’
• ‘Also’ may appear before finite verbs
• Learners produce ‘not – Vinf’ at the same time that they produce ‘also – Vinf’

WHY THIS FINDING?

[‘Herr Rot auch’] [sleep-3sg]

[‘Mister Red also’] [sleep-INF]

Particles that have scope over the predicate function as ‘linking elements’ [2]
- They specify the relation between the predicate and the topic
- Finiteness has the same function [2]
- Finiteness marking might be more redundant in utterances with linking elements

‘Also’ has scope over the topic and thus may be a less good linking element than negation

OPEN QUESTION

Overall percentage of finiteness marking:
‘Also’-sentences: 60% (German) / 39% (Dutch)
Negated sentences: 38% (German) / 13% (Dutch)

-> more finiteness marking in ‘also’ sentences

How do these findings relate to results for L1 that negated utterances are finite earlier than non-negated ones, including sentences containing ‘also’? [6] [7]

REFERENCES