

Double Perfect Forms in German -- An Experimental Approach

Thomas Weskott and Tatjana Zybatow

German Perfect forms with a double perfect participle ('Das Brot ist geschnitten gewesen.' - The bread is cut.PART.PERF been.PART.PERF - "The bread has been cut.") have been the object of linguistic investigation for quite some time. Both their grammaticality status, as well as their semantic contribution to the tense/aspect system of German are currently the matter of dispute. In this talk, we want to shed some light on the (i) morphosyntactic behavior, (ii) information structure, and (iii) aspectual/temporal properties of German Double Perfect Forms. Our main source of evidence are experimental data, but some corpus evidence will also be reviewed. Given the data, we will argue for a multi-factorial scenario paving the way for the Double Perfect Form.