Invisible verb-final parsing in German V2-clauses: Uncovered by NPIs

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In theoretical Syntax (especially in the Generative tradition) it is widely accepted that the finite verb in German V2-clauses originates in a clause-final base position. Theoretical consideration also indicate that the base position is the relevant position for the interpretation of the verb. We present evidence from a self-paced reading (SPR) experiment that supports the psychological reality of the underlying head-final structure by means of the licensing of negative polarity items (NPIs).