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UHG1003 German 1

Topic 6
Wortstellung I

by

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Communitising Technology

- The aim of the sixth topic is to introduce students to the word order of declarative sentences in German.

- Expected Outcome
  - At the end of the sixth topic, students will know and be able to use the word order constraints of declarative sentences in German.

The German sentence **must** contain a verb; there is no complete German sentence without a verb – unlike in Malay, for instance:

[Ich$_{[I]}$]^1 [**bin$_{[am]}$**]^2 [Lehrer$_{[teacher]}$]^3.
[Saya$_{[I]}$]^1 [guru$_{[teacher]}$]^2.

In declaratives, the verb comes to the **second position** as it can be seen in the sentences above. It is mostly preceded by the subject (a noun) and other parts of the sentence come after it:

[Ich$_{[I]}$]^1 [**lerne$_{[have\ been\ learning]}$**]^2 [Deutsch$_{[German]}$ seit$_{[since]}$
zwei$_{[two]}$Jahren$_{[years]}$]^{rest}.

However, if we would like to emphasize something, we can move it to the first position, followed by the verb, and the subject becomes the third element with everything else after it:

[*Deutsch*][1]   [lerne][2]   [ich][3]   [seit zwei Jahren][rest].

(I have been learning *German* for two years [and, let us say, French for three years].)

Wortstellung I – Word order I

We can also move a complete phrase (one logical unit) to the first place; then the subject becomes the third with everything else after it again:

[*Vor der Garage*[in front of the garage]][1]   [steht[stands]][2] [das Auto[the car]][3].

(The car is *in front of the garage* [and, let us say, not in the gate].)

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DAS IST
DAS ENDE

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