

# Areal Variation in Case Government

## of the German verb *vergessen* 'to forget'

## in contrast with Czech *zapomínat/zapomenout* 'to forget'

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This handout complements the poster with the same title, that was presented on April, 28<sup>th</sup> 2017 at the *Linguist(ic)s Prague 2017* (<http://linguisticsprague.ff.cuni.cz/>). It adds a bibliography and gives examples for the meanings.

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## Meanings

cf. meaning 1 on the poster (CONTINUUM)	to not think	<b>to not think about something accidentally/at a certain point in time</b>	activity	+ cognition-oriented
			object	+ accessible
		<b>German example</b> (BVZ, 13. 01. 2010)	<b>Czech example</b> (Sedmíčka, 42/2010)	
		<i>Man schiebt das Problem so lange vor sich her, bis man es vergisst.</i>	<i>Po nějaké době jsem na to ale zapomněl a vzpomněl jsem si na to až docela nedávno.</i>	
		‘You keep putting off that problem until you forget about it.’	‘After a while I forgot about it and I was not able to remember it until a while ago.’	
	to not consider	<b>to not consider something (information) in the context of/with regard to another action</b>	activity	+ cognition-oriented
			object	+ accessible
		<b>German example</b> (Profil, 28. 06. 2010)	<b>Czech example</b> (Hospodářské noviny, 28. 05. 2010)	
		<i>Man darf nicht vergessen, dass Kindern oft die Fähigkeit fehlt zu artikulieren, was sie erleben.</i>	<i>Řekl bych, že na tuto úroveň se dostaneme za dalších dvanáct měsíců, ale nesmíme zapomínat, že trh se mění.</i>	
		‘One should not forget that children are often not capable of expressing what they have experienced.’	‘I would say, that at this level we will make through another twelve months, but we must not forget, that the market changes.’	
	to not commemorate	<b>to not commemorate a (important) person or event</b>	activity	+ cognition-oriented
			object	+ accessible
<b>German example</b> (Falter, 13. 01. 2010)		<b>Czech example</b> (Právo, 07. 04. 2010)		
<i>Der Komponist Eric Zeisl (1905-1959) ist im Grunde vergessen.</i>		<i>Na italského komunistu se totiž zapomnělo.</i>		
	‘The composer Eric Zeisl (1905-1959) is basically forgotten.’	‘The Italian communist is actually forgotten.’		
to miss to do something	<b>to accidentally miss to do something that should be done</b>	activity	- cognition-oriented	
		object	+ accessible	
	<b>German example</b> (Falter, 13. 01. 2010)	<b>Czech example</b> (Maminka, 5/2010)		
	<i>Beinahe hätte das Paar wegen des ganzen Trubels die Unterschrift im Ehebuch vergessen.</i>	<i>Dělají chyby z nepozornosti – v diktátech zapomínají na háčky a čáčky.</i>		
	‘The married couple would have almost forgotten about the signature in the book.’	‘They make mistakes due to carelessness – in dictations, they forget about the carons and acutes.’		

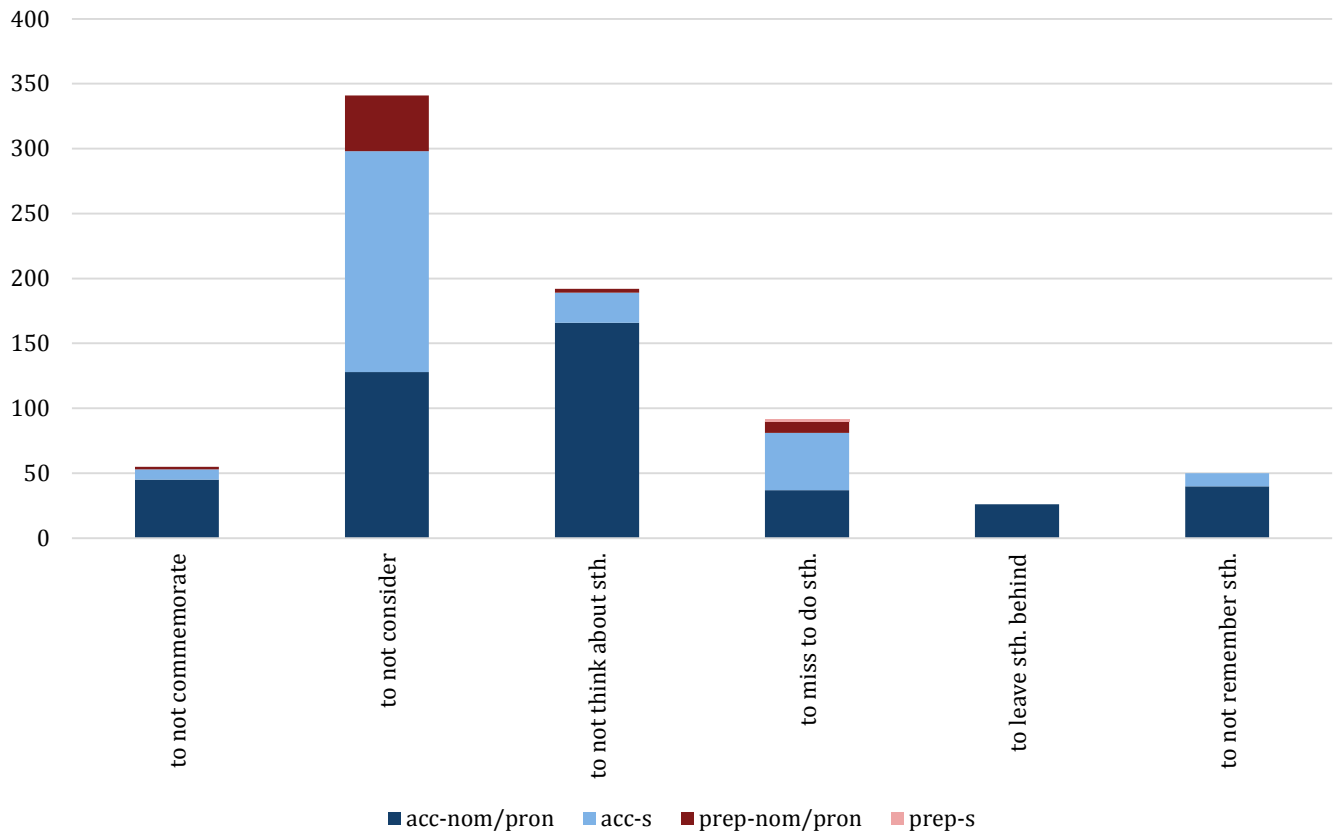
cf. meaning 1 on the poster (CONTINUUM)	to let be	<b>to let something be/to generally not do something</b>	activity	- cognition-oriented	
		<b>German example</b>	object	+ accessible	
		<i>not classified</i>	<b>Czech example</b> (Elle, 2/2010)	<i>Letos tedy zapomeňte na francouzskou manikúru.</i> 'Forget about French nails this season.'	
	to not happen	<b>to not happen in the future (anymore)/to happen with a very low probability</b>	activity	- cognition-oriented	
		<b>German example</b>	object	+ accessible	
		<i>not classified</i>	<b>Czech example</b> (Mladá fronta dnes, 27. 09. 2010)	<i>[...] protože cestu vám bude otevírat zelená vlna na semaforech? Zapomeňte!</i> '[...] because you will encounter a green wave on your way (i. e. all traffic lights will be green)? Forget about it! (i. e. That's not going to happen!).'	
cf. meaning 2 on the poster	to not remember	<b>to not remember a piece of information in a context, in which it is needed</b>	activity	+ cognition-oriented	
		<b>German example</b> (Falter, 10. 03. 2010)	object	- accessible	
		<i>Als ob man den Namen seines Babys vergessen würde.</i>	<b>Czech example</b> (Reflex, 24./2010)	<i>Když se vám to podaří, rychle si sen zapište, než ho zapomenete.</i>	
		'As if you forgot your baby's name.'	'If you manage to do so, write down your dream quickly, before you forget it.'		
cf. meaning 3 on the poster	to leave	<b>to leave something behind</b>	activity	- cognition-oriented	
		<b>German example</b> (Profil, 26 04. 2010)	object	- accessible	
		<i>Angeblich wurde das Handy in einer Bar vergessen.</i>	<b>Czech example</b> (Praktická moderní žena, 3/2010)	<i>EXTRA VELKÝ DISPLEJ! I KDYŽ SI ZAPOMENETE BRÝLE, VŽDYCKY BUDETE VĚDĚT, KOLIK VÁŽÍTE...</i>	
		'Allegedly the mobile phone was forgotten in a bar.'	'Extra-large display! Even if you forget your glasses, you will still always know, how much you weigh...'		

The following two categories are not included in the statistics presented on the poster:

	<b>to loose control</b>	<b>to not be able to control oneself</b>	activity		
			object		
		<b>German example</b> (Profil, 25. 10. 2010)	<b>Czech example</b> (Mladá fronta Dnes, 27. 09. 2010)		
		<i>Bitte, Herr Direktor, jetzt vergessen Sie sich.</i>	<i>Hráči vpředu se proti Liberci zapomínali.</i>		
		'I beg your pardon, Sir, you are losing control.'	'The players in the front lost control against Liberec.'		
	<b>to not forgive/to thank</b>	<b>to not forgive somebody something / to (repeatedly) thank somebody for something</b>	activity		
			object		
		<b>German example</b> (Profil, 06. 09. 2010)	<b>Czech example</b> (Blesk pro ženy, 38/2010)		
		<i>Das vergesse ich ihm nie, weil es mir sehr geholfen hat...</i>	<i>Já už jsem stará a občas mu je zapomenu druhý den.</i>		
		'I will never forget [what he has done for me], because it has been a great help...'	'I am old already and every so often will forgive him right on the next day.'		

Please note, that these semantic categories were developed during the classification process as prototypical categories with fuzzy edges. Therefore, many examples could not easily be classified. Especially those summarized as “meaning 1” on the poster form a continuum. Therefore, the proportions in the two corpora should not be compared against each other. We currently consider developing a test design in order to delimit the categories. The following diagrams depict the total distribution of the constructions in our corpora.

## Constructions in C2 (German in Austria)



## Constructions in C3 (Czech)

