

C. Analyzing Modal Particle Usage

Answer Key 3: Analyzing Modal Particles in Context: *doch*

I. 1. The subject is expressed:

- a) in line 14 by a noun phrase (*Die Serie*)
- b) in all other lines by pronouns:
 - personal pronouns *du, ich* (lines 8, 10, 28, 29)
 - demonstrative pronoun *das* and *die* (lines 7, 9, 11, 12, 15)

2. The MP *doch* occurs in commands (line 13) and declaratives: assertions (lines 8-10, 12, 14, 15, 28, 29) and exclamations (lines 7, 11). In lines 15, 28, 29 declarative sentences are followed by a tag question “*oder?*”. In line 14, a tag question is implied.

3. The MP *doch* immediately follows:

- a) the subject in lines 8, 12
- b) the finite verb in lines 7, 9, 11, 14, 15, 28, 29

4. The word order in these clauses is:

- a) inverted (object – verb – subject)
- b) direct (subject – verb – object)

5. A general rule for the syntactic position of the modal particle *doch* based on 3 and 4 can be formulated as follows:

In clauses with a direct word order, the MP *doch* immediately follows the finite verb. In clauses with an inverted word order, the MP *doch* immediately follows the subject. This rule mirrors the rule for the syntactic position of the MP *ja* (cf. Answer Key #2).

6. Based on lines 10, the rule in 5 can be supplemented as follows:

The modal particle *doch* cannot precede pronouns. This rule mirrors the rule for the syntactic position of the MP *ja* (cf. Answer Key #2).

II. 1. The pattern can be completed as follows:

Das + ist + *doch* + Attribute

2. What function does this pattern perform in a conversation?

This pattern expresses an appraisal of a fact discussed in a preceding conversation and an assumption that the conversation partner agrees with the speaker. This function is similar to the function of the MP *ja* in patterns of appraisal (cf. Answer Key # 6a). However, the MP *doch* has an additional meaning of perceiving a difference of opinion between the speaker and the hearer and a desire to overcome this difference.