Clausal complements in German can very often be realised as finite *dass*-clauses, as finite V2-clauses or as *zu*-infinitives:

(i) Paula gesteht, dass sie ihn kenne / sie kenne ihn / ihn zu kennen.
   ′Paula admits that she knows him / he knows him / him to know′

(ii) P. bittet mich, dass ich das Fenster schließen solle/ich solle das F. schließen/das F. zu schließen.
    ′P. asked me that I should/should the window shut/ the window to shut′

In my talk I will defend the following claims:
- There are specific preferences for complement selection.
- These preferences can be explained by the semantic properties of the embedding predicate. The relevant semantic criteria are assertivity, volitivity and factivity.
- Ambiguous verbs can be disambiguated by the choice of complement.