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Talks

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David Britain (University of Bern, Switzerland)

David Britain is Professor and Chair of English Linguistics at the Department of English, University of Bern, Switzerland. His research is in language variation and change, English dialectology (esp. of Southern England, East Anglia and the Anglophone Southern Hemisphere), sociophonology, dialect contact, new dialect formation and second dialect acquisition, language and dialect obsolescence, the emergent dialects of diaspora communities, and the interface between dialectology and human geography.
Counterurbanisation, demographic churn and the erosion of traditional dialect in southern England

David Britain

University of Bern, Switzerland

In the developed and the developing world alike, we have become used to urbanisation as a demographic and socio-economic process. In the search for a better job, a better life, a better future, hundreds of millions of people around the world have left the countryside for the city. Urbanisation has been the dominant demographic trend of at least the past three or four hundred years. However, much more recently, over the past half century or so, many northern European and North American capitalist economies have been witnessing the reverse trend – counterurbanisation, with the largest cities shedding population in favour of (often relatively remote) rural areas. These migratory movements have gone hand in hand with the expansion of a range of other rather mundane mobilities that have also especially affected rural areas, such as commuting.

In my talk, I examine some of the linguistic consequences of counterurbanisation and other mundane mobilities for rural areas that are experiencing rapidly expanding populations. Two areas especially affected both by counterurbanisation and by the linguistic consequences of it are the South-West of England and East Anglia in Eastern England. I report some recent research on the South-West, before focussing on a variationist examination of language change in a number of rural and urban locations in East Anglia. In both the South-West and East Anglia, traditional dialect features have experienced considerably levelling as a result of counterurbanisation and other localised mobilities.

I argue that these demographic developments force us firstly to take more seriously the fact that mobilities are socially differentiated, secondly to deconstruct established models of the geographical spread of linguistic innovations, and finally to question some of the urbanist assumptions about language variation and change that have emerged in sociolinguistics over the past half-century.
Barbara Johnstone (Carnegie Mellon University, USA)

The Sociolinguistic City

Barbara Johnstone

Carnegie Mellon University, United States of America

Variationist sociolinguists have long been associated with cities: Labov with New York, Trudgill with Norwich, for example. But their research is actually about a subset of a city's population: New Yorkers from the Lower East Side, long-time residents of Norwich, and so on. Contemporary urban sociolinguistics likewise typically takes a subset of a city's population as its object of study: inner-city youth in London and elsewhere; heritage-language speakers in Toronto. The city is the context for the research, but the research is not about the city as such.

What if sociolinguists' object of study actually were cities? What could a sociolinguistic description of New York or Vienna look like? One possibility would be a blind-men-and-elephant account, resulting, say, in an edited volume with chapters about various aspects of the urban sociolinguistic world, each written by someone working on a different project with different goals and methods. What if, instead, we all started out with the same set of goals and methods, asking the same questions about as many sociolinguistic subsets of a city's population as possible?

First, we would be forced to confront heterogeneity. We would have to pay attention to the fact that different people have different semiotic resources, different worlds of experience, and different ways of evaluating speech. How and when do disparate resources, worlds, and ideas bump up against each other, and how do they impinge on each other? Second, we would have to consider mobility of all kinds. What could we learn by studying newcomers as well as old-timers, the downwardly mobile as well as the upwardly mobile? Third, we would need to rethink how sociolinguistic practices circulate. Traditional speech-community- or community-of-practice-based sociolinguistics locates circulation primarily in face-to-face interaction. In a city, people may come to share ideas and habits in other ways, including via material artifacts and broadcast media.
Paul Kerswill (University of York, United Kingdom)

Paul Kerswill is Professor at the Department of Language and Linguistic Science at the University of York. His research is in language variation and change, with an emphasis on phonetic but also grammatical and discourse variation. It is largely focused on dialect contact – the long-term linguistic consequences that ensue when speakers of different accents or dialects come together through migration and mobility.

A consequence of dialect contact is dialect levelling – the overall reduction in linguistic diversity across a dialect area. He worked on a speech community in which there has been 'extreme' levelling - the New Town of Milton Keynes. With colleagues at Queen Mary, University of London, he has also worked extensively on Multicultural London English, a new 'contact variety' which has emerged in London's East End and elsewhere in the capital. This has led to his growing interest in new youth language varieties, particularly in Northern Europe, where he maintain contacts with scholars in several countries.
Demography vs. identity in the formation of new urban contact dialects

Paul Kerswill

University of York, United Kingdom

In North-west Europe, new varieties of established languages have rapidly emerged following particularly intense periods of migration (Wiese 2017). Recent arrivals acquire the local languages with varying levels of fluency, while the second generation acquire native competence. To varying degrees, the new varieties differ structurally from the established varieties, and the obvious question arises as to the mechanisms behind these changes.

I will explore the origins of these innovative features, which have variously been ascribed to learner varieties, other varieties of the language, and (where relevant) formal education. All of these factors are facilitated by the relative unavailability of a ‘native’ local dialect, both in the home and in the community; in this respect only, the new urban contact dialects resemble koines. Grammatical and phonological restructuring have free rein.

These insights do not in themselves predict which features will dominate in the new dialect. A possible framework is Trudgill’s (2004) deterministic model of new-dialect formation, by which, where the migrants establish entirely new settlements, the outcomes are predictable from the frequency with which particular dialect features are heard in the initial mix. The problem with this is that the new contact dialects of this type can only be formed after language shift has taken place. A broader model is therefore needed. A candidate is the Founder Principle as applied by Mufwene (1996) to explain the differences between African American English and Caribbean Creoles. This model is highly sensitive to demography and changes in demography, but also social relations among the different population groups represented.

Taking Multicultural London English as a case study (Cheshire et al. 2011) and tracing immigration patterns in the post-World War II period, I will investigate the extent to which the Founder Principle is able to account for the features in this variety. However, such a mechanistic approach obscures linguistic usage and subjective factors. Speakers use the contact dialect as part of a linguistic repertoire (Sharma 2011), which is sensitive to context and speaker’s stance, as well as being used more or less proactively for broader identity purposes.
Sali A. Tagliamonte (University of Toronto, Canada)

Sali A. Tagliamonte is Canada Research Chair in Language Variation and Change and a Full Professor in the Linguistics Department at the University of Toronto, Canada. She has published six books on her research and many articles on African American varieties, British, Irish and Canadian dialects, teen language and television across the major journals of the field. Her research has been funded by agencies in Canada, the US and UK. Her most recent research is the Ontario Dialects Project, which focuses on cross-community and apparent time comparisons in corpora of spoken vernacular dialects to explore linguistic change.
“Toronto the good” vs. North country “vice”: Spatial and social linguistic patterns in the cities and towns of Ontario

Sali A. Tagliamonte
University of Toronto, Canada

In the presentation, examine large data sets of vernacular spoken English across a range of different cities, towns and villages within a large territory in Canada, the province of Ontario, as in Figure 1.

Within this broad expanse, the largest urban centre of the province, Toronto, sits at the far south. Into the north, small sparsely distributed communities are scattered for hundreds of kilometers. Taken together this situation offers multiple tests for probing questions urban to rural transmission and diffusion, obsolescence and innovation. What can a comparative variationist sociolinguistic methods and quantitative analyses contribute to probing such questions and offering insights?

A key component of the Ontario Dialects project (Tagliamonte, 2013-2018) is to examine a range of changes in progress in terms of the nature of the linguistic system of which they are a part as well a spectrum of extra-linguistic factors. In addition to the critical dimension of urban vs. rural, is the relative proximity of localities to the core areas of the region. This provides a continuum that can be taken as a proxy for time depth. Moreover, the communities represent key contrasts across salient sociolinguistic dimensions: population size, type of social networks, and nature of the founding language contact situations (Trudgill, 2011), offering nuanced set of hypotheses for testing competing synchronic influences.

To illustrate, I will use case studies of choice linguistic features and use a quantitative approach and statistical modeling techniques to permit the study of multiple influences that can be compared both within and across communities. Interpretation of the results offers insights into the driving forces of linguistic change in the complex situation of large vs. small populations. The historical embedding of forms within the linguistic system is critical; however, there are demonstrable geographic, social and cultural

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1 One of Toronto’s early mayor’s was the Reforming social crusader and Board of Trade President William Howland (1886–87). He was an anti-vice, anti-gambling, anti-liquor, Bible-thumping mayor who coined “Toronto the Good.” With evangelical zeal he set up a new Police squad to root out corruption, close dens of gambling, drugs and prostitution, and stop the “desecration” of the Sabbath.
influences. I will argue that research that taps both the diachrony and synchrony of multiple locally situated cities and towns is an ideal means to understand modern society.

Selected References:


Evelyn Ziegler (University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany)

Evelyn Ziegler is Professor of German Linguistics with a focus on sociolinguistics at the University of Duisburg-Essen. From October 2015 to March 2018 she held the function of the University’s Vice-Rector for Diversity Management. Her conducted research projects include *Signs of the Metropolises: Visual multilingualism in the Ruhr-Area/Germany* (MERCUR, 2013-2018), *MoCoDa: Mobile Communication Database* (2017) and *SDiv: Standardization in Diversity. The Case of German in Luxembourg (1795-1920)* (2013-2016). Her key research interests lie in language variation, multilingualism, attitudes and perceptions, communication in the new media and language history.
The Linguistic Landscape of The Ruhr Area / Germany: Language choices and language ideologies

Evelyn Ziegler
University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany

This presentation presents findings from the interdisciplinary research-project Signs of the Metropolises: Visual multilingualism in the Ruhr Area/Germany, which investigates the occurrence, regional distribution, function, production and perception of visual multilingualism in representative neighbourhoods of the cities Essen, Dortmund, Bochum and Duisburg (Ziegler et al. forthc.). According to the general theme of the conference I will focus on aspects of language management (mono- and multilingual) in urban neighbourhoods and how it is grounded on language attitudes and ideologies.

In a multi-method approach that combines data of visual multilingualism (N= 25,504) with meta-linguistic data concerning language attitudes and language management decisions collected in semi-standardized interviews (N= 120, 60) and in telephone interviews (N= 1,000), the following issues will be addressed:

1. How do official and private language management practices differ?
2. What are the dominant patterns of argumentation used by informants in favor of and against visual multilingualism and how are they ideologically underpinned?
3. How are the languages and varieties perceived and evaluated by majority and minority groups?
4. Which motives shape the language choices of private and official agents?
5. How does the A 40 motorway, the so-called 'social equator' (Kersting et al. 2009), which divides the cities into ethnically diverse and less diverse, poor and less poor, educated and less educated (Kersting et al. 2009) impact on language management and language attitudes?

References


Talks
Linguistic Challenges of Leaving the Hasidic Fold

Gabi Abramac

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Hasidim or Hasidic Jews are a group of pietistic orthodox Jews who trace their origins to the movement that started among Yiddish-speaking Ashkenazi Jews in eighteenth century Eastern Europe. Following WWII, Hasidic survivors of the Holocaust rebuilt not only their personal lives in New York, but also their communal institutions, preserving their social, cultural, and linguistic distinctiveness. At the core of Hasidic seclusion is the idea of sheltering oneself from the contamination of the secular world, and they tend to fend off influences that they perceive as potentially dangerous to their way of life. The Hasidic community in New York continues to use triglossic linguistic repertoire: loshn koydesh (Hebrew-Aramaic) is used for prayers and religious texts, Yiddish is the spoken vernacular, and a co-territorial language (English) is used in communication with gentiles. Hasidic society also displays gendered diglossia; Hasidic women in New York tend to use English among themselves, while Yiddish is the main language of communication for men. In this gender-segregated society, males attend schools focused solely on religious education. Their curriculum contains a bare minimum of legally-required secular studies conducted in English. As a result, Hasidic boys speak and read poor English, with limited writing competency. This paper explores linguistic and cultural challenges that Hasidic Jews face when they decide to leave their Yiddish-speaking religious communities. The internal term used to denote the defectors from religious observance is Off the Derech (off the path). The methodology of the research is based on extensive ethnographic fieldwork (2012-2018), participant observation, narrative interviewing, and on textual analysis of OTD blogs and social media groups. I analyze the trajectories of OTDs with a particular focus on identity reconstruction through language acquisition and language use. I show how OTDs creatively restructure their social practices and adapt to new and overlapping linguistic spaces. Narrative accounts also reveal how the speakers evaluate and negotiate their identities, and how they position themselves against the background of both Hasidic community, and world at large.
Verbal Morphology of Palestinian Arabic of Gaza City: Internal or Contact-Induced Change?

Duaa AbuAmsha

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Introduction: This research concerns contact-induced changes in the verbal inflectional systems of Palestinian Arabic urban dialects, mainly Tense and Aspect. My goal is to establish where urban Palestinian refugee dialects stand today after 70 years of mobility, migration, and contact with urban Palestinian indigenous dialects. The dialects in question are the Gazan dialect spoken in Gaza City and the Jaffan dialect, originally spoken in the city of Jaffa and introduced to the Gazan context by Palestinian refugees who moved to Gaza city following the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. The project aims to answer the following research questions: does the variation in the expression of Tense/Aspect represent a case of ongoing change in PA? If so, what are the factors involved in the change? To do this, I interviewed 48 speakers, both Gazan and Jaffan speakers from four different age groups in Gaza: 8-17, 18-39, 40-65, and > 66 and 16 speakers still living in Jaffa, serving as the control group. I prepared an interview script of 12 questions to stimulate participants to use whatever structures encoding Tense/Aspect.

Findings: Preliminary findings show that the Jaffan and Gazan dialects were different from each other at the early time of contact, which is still reflected in the older speakers’ speech. However, later codes are more levelled and homogeneous (Trudgill 1986, Kerswill 1994, 2002) as evident in the speech of middle-aged and young speakers of both dialects who exhibit the same use patterns. One variable is the way PA speakers mark ‘future’. Data from all Jaffan speakers still living in Jaffa and older ones in Gaza show that the ‘future’ is expressed outside the verbal paradigm by means of a particle ṭaḥ. However, both middle-aged and younger Gazans and Jaffans living in Gaza primarily express ‘future’ within the verbal paradigm by means of a prefix ḥa- attached to the non-past stem. These results and the distribution of variation across three generations of speakers may resemble what Trudgill (1986: 96) notes about the formation of a focused dialect in the space of three generations in intensive dialect contact situations.

References:


Mobility and dialect identity as factors in language change: Findings from a 35-year panel and trend study in Swabia

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Traditional dialectologists have concentrated on homogeneous groups of speakers – typically elderly, rural men, who have spent their entire lives in a single location – as the ‘true dialect speakers’. Sociolinguists have sought orderly heterogeneity and the ‘authentic speaker’ – “the ‘ideal’ informant with all of the ‘right’ social characteristics that suit the analysis to be conducted” (Britain 2016:217). Britain goes on to lament “how sedentarism and nomadism have shaped dialectological practice .... mobility is either ignored, seen as peripheral to models of linguistic change, or positively shunned and treated as suspect” (Britain 2016:220).

Recent research has shown that mobility and identity construction influence dialect performance and play a critical role in language change (Blommaert 2016, Britain 2016, Coupland 2001, Johnstone 2011). ‘Dialect identity’ – the “positioning as a user or non-user of the local dialect” (Johnstone 2016:51) – and ‘place identity’ – the use of local/regional dialect forms in innovative and strategic ways (Coupland 2001) – have been shown to be pivotal factors in dialect usage.

This paper presents the preliminary results from a 35-year panel study, in combination with an apparent-time trend study, of 50 Swabian speakers from two communities: the urban towns surrounding Stuttgart and the semi-rural villages neighbouring Schwäbisch Gmünd. Ten linguistic variables, five phonological and five morphosyntactic, have been chosen to investigate the changing dialect situation in Swabia. Measures of dialect density, along with indices of orientation and mobility, have been developed to show how Swabian identity and workplace and residential mobility influence speakers’ choice of dialect variants.

The findings show that, over time, speakers with high Swabian orientation retain more dialect variants, while those with high mobility scores lose more variants. Yet Swabian women are strategically holding on to even more dialect variants, signalling their dialect identity and reinforcing Heim ‘home’ and Heimat ‘homeland’ in the face of increasing mobility, education, and standardization pressures. The results offer new insights in how dialect identity and differing mobilities, in both rural and urban communities, play a vital role in dialect usage and hence language change.

References:


Urbanisation and morphosyntactic variation in Twitter data

Tam Blaxter, Deepthi Gopal, David Willis
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How do large centres of population affect the geographical distribution of linguistic innovations? The trajectories predicted by established models of spatial diffusion vary. In the traditional ‘wave’-like models (Schmidt 1872), changes spread evenly outward from their source with no dependence on any non-geographical quantity, resulting ultimately in regional boundaries where waves cross. In the ‘gravity’ models (Trudgill 1974; also Labov’s (2001) ‘cascade’), the probability of change is instead heavily determined by population density; novel forms are predicted to spread from high-population area to high-population area, while bypassing geographically-intermediate but thinly-populated sites. Testing these predictions on a large geographical scale rapidly demands large quantities of well-dispersed data that cannot easily be produced via traditional dialectological data collection, which typically samples very few informants per site; nor is this problem amenable to the methods of variationist sociolinguistics, in which relatively small numbers of distinct geographical positions are covered. The results that we present here are based on data from a localised, geographically balanced corpus of Twitter data in British English, covering the time period between October 2017 and May 2018; this consists of all tweets posted by a spatially uniformly-distributed set of users for whom profile metadata and keyword analysis allow localisation to within a civil parish (or smaller administrative unit). Using these data, we illustrate the current distribution of a set of syntactic and morphological variables in British English, and argue that we see little direct dependence of feature value on population density: boundaries between competing variants fail to correspond to population density, with high-density urban areas not substantially or consistently distinguishable from their immediate lower-density environments. We link both this absence of significant urban exceptionality and the presence of distortions in apparent regionally-bounded patterns to geographical mobility and long-distance communication: the interaction of rapid urbanisation and de-urbanisation drives both levelling across lines of population density, and the discontinuous transmission of features at a distance.

References:
Vertikale syntaktische Variation in Wien. Ergebnisse aus spontansprachlichen Erhebungen und computergestützten Sprachproduktionstests

Ludwig Maximilian Breuer
 Universität Wien, Österreich


Literaturnachweis:


Der Konjunktiv II in Stadt und Land – Zur vertikalen und horizontalen syntaktischen Variation

Ludwig Maximilian Breuer, Anja Wittibschläger  
*Universität Wien, Österreich*


Das Ziel des Vortrags ist es, ein empirisch fundiertes Bild der syntaktischen Variation anhand des Konjunktiv II in der österreichischen Sprachlandschaft zu präsentieren und dabei Antworten auf folgende Forschungsfragen zu geben:


**Literaturnachweis:**


Lenz, Alexandra N. / Breuer, Ludwig Maximilian / Fingerhuth, Matthias / Wittibschläger, Anja (i.V.): Exploring syntactic variation by means of “Language Production Experiments” Methods from and analyses on German in Austria.


Wo Wien anderst ist – und wo nicht: Kontrastierung von Spracheinstellungsdaten aus Wien mit ruralen Regionen Österreichs

Ludwig Breuer, Wolfgang Koppensteiner

*Universität Wien, Österreich*


*Literaturnachweis:*


Perzeption von und Attitüden zu Varietäten und Sprachen an österreichischen Schulen unter besonderer Berücksichtigung von Stadt-Land-Differenzen

Elisabeth Buchner¹, Stephan Elspaß¹, Peter Mauser¹, Monika Dannerer²

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Literaturnachweis:


Urban/Suburban Contact as Stylized Social Practice

Daniel Alexander Duncan  
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American metropolitan areas are complex sites characterized in part by long journeys-to-work from suburbs to the central city, and migration in the opposite direction (Jackson 1985). These characteristics highlight the prevalence of urban/suburban contact that is rather understudied in the sociolinguistic literature. This study contributes to urban language research by exploring two case studies of intra-metropolitan contact and their effect on language variation in the English of St. Louis, Missouri, USA (STL).

Fourteen white women aged 26-46 from STL’s outer-ring suburbs in St. Charles County (SCC) and twelve white women aged 65-82 from the City of St. Louis participated in sociolinguistic interviews that included a recorded conversation and questionnaire designed for participants to evaluate opinions toward suburbs and cities. SCC speakers differ in OCCUPATION; nine work close to home while five commute closer to the city. STL speakers differ in RESIDENCE; six moved to the suburbs in adulthood, while six remain in the city.

STL has historically been distinguished from the surrounding Midland by a mid-low NORTH vowel, raised TRAP, and fronted LOT (Labov et al. 2006). Formants for these vowels were measured using a Praat script and subsequently analyzed using linear mixed effects regression, in which speaker and lexical item were random effects, and occupation/residence and language-internal factors were fixed effects.

We find bidirectional contact effects and connections between the questionnaire data and occupation/residence. SCC speakers who commute evaluate suburbs as worse than those who work near home, and additionally have a lower NORTH and higher pre-stop TRAP (more STL-like). STL speakers who moved to the suburbs evaluate cities as worse than those who remained in the city, and additionally have a higher NORTH and backer LOT (less STL-like).

The results suggest that in contact situations, the city and suburb accommodate to one another: commuting towards the city yields more city-like speech, while moving away from the city yields more suburb-like speech. I argue that identity mediates these contact situations. Although the contact effects themselves are not due to stylistic practice (Eckert 2008) by speakers, placing oneself in the position to engage in contact is itself stylized social practice.

**References:**


Media perception of transformations in the commemorative cityscape

Malgorzata Fabiszak¹, Isabelle Buchstaller², Anna Weronika Brzezińska¹, Seraphim Alvanides³

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This paper is a part of a project "Memory and ideology in the linguistic landscape: Commemorative (re)naming in East Germany and Poland 1916-2016". By integrating insights from linguistic landscape research and collective memory studies we propose the concept of the commemorative cityscape, understood as a constantly negotiated and renegotiated spatial expression of the collective memory and identity of the city inhabitants that is influenced by the socio-political and ideological factors at the national level. Commemorative renaming can thus be treated as a “battle for representation” (Trumper-Hecht 2009:238), a “barometer” of political changes and a ‘tool’ for creating social identity (Kaltenberg-Kwiatkowska 2011:165; Moszberger, Rieger, Daul 2002:5; Azaryahu 1986, 1996, 1997, 2011a,b). In our talk, we focus on the instrumentalisation of the commemorative cityscape as an exercise in active forgetting (A. Assman 2010) or repressive erasure (Connerton 2008).

Our project takes a perspective of historical socio-linguistics by focusing on the public perception of the changes in street names in three Polish and three German cities (Poznań, Zbąszyń, Leipzig, Annabel-Bucholtz, Frankfurt(Oder)/Slubice) as represented in the regional newspapers and the associated internet information sites. The pivotal years of 1919, 1939, 1945 and 1989 mark historical turning points for street renaming in Polish cities. Within the last 70 years, a more detailed division is possible: 1948-1949 (Stalinist era), 1956 (Khrushchev's Thaw), and then 2007 and 2015 when Law and Justice governments came to power and promoted their own historical policy. For Germany, the crucial threshold years are 1933, 1947, 1989 and street renaming – as well as discussions about commemorative semiotic practices continue to take place.

The collected articles will be analysed within a Discourse Historical Approach (DHA, Wodak & Meyer 2009, Wodak & Forchtner 2014), which views texts as connected to discourses and interpreted within their socio-historical and current contexts. The identification of the recurrent themes in the argumentation strategies (= topoi) as well as the positioning of the social agents revealed through the analysis of the strategies of nomination, predication, intensification, mitigation and framing allows us to reconstruct the media debates concerning the transformations of the commemorative cityscape in ideology-driven attempts at revising social identities.

References:


Border cities: appropriation, hybridization, or compromise? Different tendencies in linguistic landscape transformations in the cities on the borders of Russia

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Border cities where communication between different cultures is a part of everyday reality differ in many ways from cities with similar population and geographical location but not belonging to border areas. State borders and related cross-border practices and economic and symbolic resources provided by them (Donnan & Wilson 1999) change both urban landscapes and perceptions of cities’ dwellers about themselves and their neighbours from the other side of the border. Border cities are important migration points, they function as crossroads where constant flows of goods, people, practices, and ideas intersect and influence each other. Linguistic, or rather sociolinguistic, aspects of such influence can reveal a lot about these processes: through studying linguistic landscapes (Gorter 2006; Blommaert 2013; Blackwood et al. 2016) and discovering strategies of different actors involved in their creation researches can better understand other – non-verbal – aspects of cultural interaction.

The proposed paper aims at analyzing linguistic landscapes of several cities situated in close proximity to the borders of Russia: Zabaikalsk (Russia) and Manzhouli (China); Ivangoerod (Russia) and Narva (Estonia); Vyborg (Russia) and Lappeenranta (Finland). All these cities are places of constant migration flows between bordering countries, and small-scale trade and shopping tourism play an important role in respective regional economies; and for residents of these regions communication with people from the other side of the borders are quite common. Linguistic landscapes of these border cities reflect these interethnic contacts but only to a certain extent: Russian cities tend to demonstrate mere partial compromise with linguistic needs of non-Russian speakers, and using other languages than Russian, especially in public places, is often limited and emblematic. At the same time non-Russian bordering cities demonstrate different levels of presence of the Russian language in their linguistic landscapes. Manzhouli presents especially interesting case since Russian, or some hybridized version of it, actually dominates the city center making it a space virtually appropriated by Russian speakers. Russian dominance in Narva though has different character since its population is mainly Russian-speaking (and ethnically Russian). Comparing these different cases help to understand how linguistic landscapes are created through the process of interethnic communication.

References:


Graffiti as ideology: A comparison of graffiti writings in two districts of Leipzig, Germany

Roswitha Fischer
University of Regensburg, Germany

Leipzig is a lively and thriving East German city with more than half a million inhabitants. The city is well-known for its creative and diverse subcultures and scenes, ranging, inter alia, from the far left to the far right ends of the political spectrum. In this respect, two districts stand out: Connewitz in the south, with a militant far-left scene, called "die Anarchos" (the anarchists) or "die Antifa" (the anti-fascists); and Gohlis in the north, with a militant far-right scene, called "die Glatzen" (the bald heads) or "die Neonazis". Apart from violence and arson attacks, the political orientation of the groups is apparent in Graffiti writings in the two districts, bearing also witness to the active street art scene throughout Leipzig. This unique situation calls for a detailed investigation in the field of linguistic landscape studies.

The following study will therefore compare language usage in the graffiti of Connewitz and Gohlis.

The data collected consists of photographs of walls, sidewalks, fences, and utility boxes. Apart from investigating linguistic and informational features and political functions, the use of the English language will be examined in particular. Both the Anarchos and the Glatzen denounce globalization and transnationalism, albeit from different viewpoints. As the language of globalization, English has high symbolic value, and it could be suggested that the two groups avoid using English in their writings. Nevertheless, English is also the world's Lingua Franca, and the number one in foreign language learning. In addition, using English is considered modern and cool among Germany's youth. The study wants to examine whether, and to what extent, various localized communities construct and reinforce political ideologies through the amount and kind of languages being used. It thus contributes to a greater understanding of the motives and functions of multilingual urban signage.

References:


A sociolinguistic view on older people’s interaction in urban Austria

Ann Kathrin Fischer
University of Graz, Austria

Almost 25 years ago, Nussbaum stated that “[…] though much is known concerning communication patterns and perceptions of children and college-aged adults, very little is known concerning communicative patterns or the functions of communication for individuals entering their sixth decade of life.” (1983: 262) Even if primarily neurolinguistics and psycholinguistics deal with the elderly and more research is gradually being carried out in other fields of linguistics, sociolinguistics still lags behind, especially in the German speaking area. Attributing more importance to ageist communication, this talk focuses on the communication practices between older people living in and around the Austrian cities Vienna and Graz. In this talk, referencing techniques and forms of identity construction as well as syntactic phenomena depicting age will be addressed. The corpus data consists of recordings of spoken language of 80 informants, all older than 65 years and living in the urban area and stems from the on-going special research programme ‘German in Austria. Variation – Contact – Perception’. The spoken data is supplemented by social data collected via questionnaires and interviews which allow combinatory and comparative analyses. Based on preliminary sample analyses, first insight into some observed tendencies will be offered, arguing that more socially integrated and mobile older urban informants show different strategies interactively as well as syntactically than more isolated and immobile ones. Finally, the depicted tendencies will be compared to a smaller set of speech data of younger informants to support the outcomes.

References:


"There’s no Society of Cockneys" – The Enregisterment of London English in the 19th century

Johanna Gerwin
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The study of enregisterment examines the social and cultural processes which turn structural varieties into emblematic registers and lead to linguistic features becoming ‘indexical of’ (cf. Silverstein (2003)) socially relevant values and meanings such as ‘place’, ‘authenticity’, ‘street-credibility’, or ‘politeness’ (cf. Agha 2003, Johnstone 2004, Johnstone et al. 2007).

This study focuses on the enregisterment of the historical London variety Cockney in the 19th century, during which this dialect became explicitly represented in literary works and thus attracted much metalinguistic discourse. In this discourse, Cockney is generally cast as “vulgar speech”, diametrically opposed to the “quaint and rustic” country dialects on the one hand, and “respectable language”, a budding RP-norm, on the other (cf. Matthews 1938, Mugglestone 2003). In his much-cited work Cockney Past and Present (1938), Matthews muses that “there is no Society of Cockneys” (p. x), referring to the lack of dialect societies celebrating the historical language of several million speakers, while societies devoted to preserving country dialects flourished. At the same time, there is an emerging lay interest in and a change of perception, also in more scientific accounts, of Cockney. This is established in dialect (speaker) descriptions, such as in Tuer (1887), and the creation of ‘characterological figures’ (cf. Agha 2003), such as the street-smart Sam Weller in Dickens’ Pickwick Papers, or more general city personae: the ‘dandy crook’, the ‘city merchant’, or the ‘real/country-life idiot’. This study establishes defining linguistic features of a Cockney register in the 19th century, and examines the metalinguistic discourse by writers, such as Walker (1791), Pegge (1803), Smart (1836), and Ellis (1889), which led to the emergence of an ideology of Cockney as a ‘foil’ to “rustic” or “respectable” speech, as well as its development into a register in its own right. The analysis thus sheds light on the apparent paradox that is ‘language change from below’ (cf. Labov 2001) that a dialect can be strongly stigmatized and, at the same time, serve as the main source of innovation in the standard language, in this case RP (cf. Wells 1982).

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Linguistic escapism and symbolic value of signs of (good) times

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Symbolic value of linguistic signs is nowhere so obvious as in signs found in commercial areas across various urban landscapes. Shop and bank signs, hotel and restaurant names, street advertisements usually boast a distinguishing labels which set them apart from the rest of their competition. The name itself becomes a part of the marketing strategy that sets that particular toponym from the rest of the subjects operating in the same commercial field. Unlike shop signs which may contain text with trademark names in foreign languages as a simple necessity to advertise the wares sold, cafes and bars are not conditioned in this way but strive to advertise only themselves as places of leisure. Their names and signs containing them may indicate associations connected to the concept encoded in the linguistic sign but usually do not provide a direct access to the content itself.

Our research dealt with the symbolic value of signs in foreign languages in three Croatian towns where we examined the status of signs on cafes and bars in reference to the symbolic function of foreign languages used on them when compared to the mostly informative value of signs in Croatian. The sampling method applied was Cook’s and Campbell’s Diversity or Heterogeneity Sampling(1979:75–77) as ‘deliberate sampling for heterogeneity’ where the survey areas are illustrative, and not representative examples of the linguistic landscape of the city.

The results indicate that the higher percentage of signs in a foreign language (English, French, Italian, German) may be seen as an instantiation of processes related to economic and cultural globalization in a multilingual world (Graddol 2006) when foreign language signs are used in order to achieve the sense of prestige and positive connotations. In areas burdened by the politically charged atmosphere, however, such as, e.g. the town of Vukovar in the former war-struck part of Croatia, foreign language signs are seen as a form of escapism from the implications the use of any of the minority of majority language signs may cause.

References:


Matching the evaluation and stratification of migrant-flavoured standard language

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Since Labov's (1963) iconic Martha's Vineyard study, some sociolinguists claim that prestige evaluations stratify patterns of speech, while others maintain that there is no causal relation between accent evaluation and the stratification of speech. The case of ethnic accent variation by speakers with migration backgrounds in modern Netherlandic Standard Dutch (NSD) seems to constitute evidence for the second camp: it is difficult to construe any causal relation between the harsh and global downgrading of Moroccan-flavored Dutch (Grondelaers et al. 2015) and the noticeably increasing tolerance for the Moroccan accent in (urban) youth entertainment, but even in traditional status sectors (a Moroccan accent no longer is an impediment to becoming mayor of large Dutch cities or president of the House of Representatives).

In this paper, we argue that the failure to find a causal relation between evaluations of the Moroccan accent and the growing tolerance for that accent, is largely due to problems in the methodology of Grondelaers et al. (2015). We report on an improved design to investigate the evaluation of (sub)urban, rural, and Moroccan-accented NSD. As in Grondelaers et al. (2015), both traditional superiority evaluations (pertaining to high birth, fine education, high income, ...) and modern dynamism considerations (pertaining to media cool) were extracted, but in the new experiment we validated adjectival scales in a pre-test. In addition, we implemented an accent strength dimension in the speech stimuli, including broad, mild, and zero accent guises. Crucially, weakly-accented Moroccan-Dutch speech was deemed more superior than its strongly-accented counterpart (though not as superior as any indigenous speech), and Moroccan-flavoured speech was found to be the most dynamic of all. It is argued that the new data stratify the increasing vitality of, and tolerance for Moroccan-Dutch accented speech much better than the findings in Grondelaers et al. (2015).

References:
How does your city speak? A citizen science approach to German studies in Austria

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Societal relevance and impact of academic research are gaining importance. Therefore, it is necessary that research takes into consideration public concerns. One way of doing so is citizen science, which allows researchers to involve the public in academic research. However, citizen science is a rather new approach in linguistics. In its most comprehensive form, the so-called ‘extreme’ or ‘co-created’ citizen science, volunteer citizens not only collect or analyse data but also raise and select research questions, apply methods, disseminate findings and take part in discussions. However, involving the general public in academic research also poses various challenges, ranging from the adaptation of methods, explanation of research processes to the introduction to research ethics.

In the citizen science project „On everyone’s mind and lips - German in Austria“ we invite the public to share topical questions on everyone’s mind and lips regarding the German language use in general, and in Austria, in particular. This project addresses German as a pluricentric language with three different standard varieties. Within these varieties we find many variations. Cities, in particular are drivers of language standardisation and language change. However, speakers are not always aware of this.

During several public citizen science events, our study analysed the perception of language usage in Austria. Furthermore, participants were asked to identify the most pressing issues which, in their opinion, academic research in the field of German studies and linguistics should address in the future.

The study's findings, the citizen's ideas and interests can bring new impulses for further research on multilingualism in Austria and its cities as well as for research on the perception and attitudes towards the German standard varieties as well as linguistic differences between urban and rural areas in the field of German in Austria. In addition, this study also develops and tries new approaches of public involvement in academic research and aims at finding ways to respond to challenges present in extreme citizen science.
Language and Identity. 
Socio-situational aspects of urban communication in Graz

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The city, as a complex economic, social and cultural structure bears a particular configuration of social relations, which yields specific interactional characteristics. Within the city's communicative structures and dynamics, linguistic identities are shaped by the ways speakers express themselves. As means of indexing the speakers' perspectives (cf. Athanasiadou 2007; Tagliamonte 2006), certain strategies (linguistic intensification, intonation/stress, politeness, etc.) are used to position individuals in accordance with their perception of themselves within a concrete interaction situation and - on a more general level - within a social group. In our talk, we will focus on selected grammatical phenomena and explore how they are used to index and negotiate the speaker's identity.

The findings presented in our talk originate from our long-term project 'Vienna and Graz – Cities and their influential force', a subproject of the special research programme 'German in Austria', which aims at examining the variation of urban language use on the dialect/standard axis. Our analyses are based on a framework consisting of various elicitation methods, designed to cover a spectrum of settings ranging from formal to informal, where different degrees of formality are understood as correlating with corresponding levels on the dialect/standard continuum.

The talk will tackle the following questions:
- Do various groups of speakers (e.g. different age groups) make use of different linguistic structures with respect to stance taking?
- Can the use of certain linguistic procedures and forms be linked to particular social and situational factors?
- How is identity indexed with respect to the vertical spectrum - can correlations between different interactional contexts and certain linguistic behavioural patterns be identified?
- By which means do speakers position themselves affectively within concrete interactional situations and how can their language use be assessed with respect to social convergence and divergence?

References:
Article usage patterns in urban spaces: New digital methodologies in non-native English grammar

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The problems of non-native English speakers whose first language does not use an article system to express definiteness to acquire native-like English article usage are well known in linguistic research. The present study investigates determiner usage by urban Chinese learners of English, combining a traditional investigation of 200 randomly chosen sentences from the Sun Yat-sen University Corpus (SYSU-C; Küchler 2015) with the investigation of born-digital data derived from eye-tracking experiments with urban Chinese and Russian students of English at Chemnitz University.

The randomly chosen sentences were manually coded for definiteness, specificity, substitution errors and omission. The approximately 50 eye-tracking participants were presented 21 slides with one sentence each, some containing multiple article errors (approximately 1,500 tokens). The initial instructions were limited to reading the sentences silently. Social variables investigated in the study are age, gender, first language, years of exposure to English, and education.

Although the grammaticalization process of articles in Mandarin is ongoing (cf. e.g. Li and Bisang 2012), the results of the qualitative corpus analysis suggest increased article substitution error rates with non-specific and specific definites. These findings can be partially triangulated with the quantitative analysis of the eye-tracking data, as for example fixation durations and regressions do not support detection and/or cognitive processes taking place at or around substitution errors or omissions. The corpus data also show that omission is generally infrequent in the data, which is in line with previous studies on determiner usage in Chinese, Russian, and Korean English (cf. e.g. Snape 2009; Chrabaszcz and Jiang 2014; Crosthwaite 2014).

While article choice in English is governed by definiteness, ANOVAs and logistic regression models have shown that specificity exerts an additional influence in the eye-tracking data. In terms of the social variables investigated, first language and “years of exposure to English” exert a significant influence, among others.

References:


Supra regionalism in Cork

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The city of Cork in the West of Ireland is the second largest in the Republic. It is home to four tertiary-level education institutions, the main being University College Cork; there are an international airport, a sea port, an Apple HQ for Europe, an army base and numerous other establishments of national and regional importance. Despite its scholarly and economic significance, Cork has largely remained under the sociolinguistic radar. Like much of Ireland, it is now largely monoglot English, with a few thousand native Irish speakers in the Gaeltacht areas in Cork County, and several thousand children attending Irish-language schools. The shift from Irish to English happened over the course of a few centuries and was complete by the early 1800s. The substratal influence is still acutely heard in all of the accents of Ireland, but this is not to say they are held back by history. Precisely the trajectory of language variation and change is the purpose of this study. Understanding the role of female speakers as linguistic innovators and their preference for the socially prestigious pronunciation, this sociophonetic study addresses the gender component of language change. Hickey (2003) proposes that throughout the Republic, socially-conscious young women have the New Pronunciation, which he dubs Supra regional Irish English. I test this suggestion, bearing in mind Trudgill’s Gravity Model (1974) which elegantly primes Cork for receiving linguistic trends originated in Dublin. Four female and four male speakers of the same age group, all students at UCC, were recorded in interview, reading passage and wordlist speech events, and their phonetic performance compared using narrow transcription and binary coding. I consider the incidence of 'traditional' and 'advanced' phonetic values across the range of four sound sets chosen for their salience for Irish English, and the prevalence of contrastive values across three speech events. The analysis of digitally recorded data shows that women's frequency of advanced forms associated with SIE is indeed higher than men's, but not uniformly so. This has implications for the notion of free variation and its meaning within the Irish sociolinguistic context.

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Daily Irish Speakers by Electoral Division: Irish Census 2016, http://census.cso.ie/p10map51/, accessed on 31.01.2018


Conceptualisation of urban and rural dialects in dictionaries: 
Dynamics and language contact

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This presentation addresses similarities and differences in the conceptualisation of the object varieties in small-scale dictionaries of urban and rural dialects, the majority of which have been compiled by laymen for a primarily non-scientific use. Theoretically, it treats such dictionaries as "treasures" of the object varieties, which similar to early modern dictionaries record the cultural heritage of the language community by "by collecting the names of all the distinctive institutions of a culture" (cf. Considine 2008: 13-15). Thus, they fulfil the community's wish to document, legitimate or preserve their dialect as a distinct language variety (cf. Hausmann 2008: 1). In the compilation of the dictionary, the author and his/her explicit and implicit conceptualisations of the object variety determine, which words are to be included into the dictionary and thus belong to the distinctive cultural heritage, and which do not. Thus, these conceptualisations are both overtly represented in the dictionaries' forewords, and covertly encoded into the body of the dictionary and each single article as well.

Methodically, this presentation utilises various metalexicographical methods, reaching from structural dictionary analyses to discursive and semantical analyses, to reconstruct the underlying conceptualisations on various layers and thus to eventually detect inconsistencies and language myths. In its foreword, the most comprehensive dictionary of the Viennese urbolect (Hornung/Grüner 2002: 9), for example, describes its object variety as very open towards and at the same time resilient against influences from other languages, especially from Czech: "The Viennese dialect absorbs everything foreign and transforms it into something more or less Viennese." However, in the body of the dictionary, only approximately 0.9% (148) of the articles include a reference to Czech. The number of alleged loanwords is even lower (130).

At the same time, Hornung/Grüner (2002) describe Viennese to be very diverse and dynamic. In comparing several dictionaries of Viennese with dictionaries of Austrian rural dialects, we assume, that the latter conceptualise their object varieties as rather consistent, stable and less open towards loanwords. However, we hypothesise that with respect to the latter, the dictionary bodies do not significantly differ from those of Viennese dictionaries.
Ellipsen und kompakte Strukturen im Kontext von sozialer Nähe und Distanz im urbanen Raum

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Literaturhinweise:
Personal names in the linguistic landscape – multilingual layers and traces of past migration in the contemporary cemetery namescape

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This paper approaches cemeteries as linguistic landscapes. The focus is on the visually most dominating part of this landscape, namely the personal names of the deceased on the gravestones. By combining onomastics with the study of linguistic landscapes, we describe the cemetery namescape as a linguistic landscape and investigate the question what the cemetery namescape reveals about past migration and multilingualism in the given locality. In previous studies on linguistic landscape, proper names, personal names included, have turned out to be challenging, since their language is difficult to determine (Edelman 2009). Migration and its effects have been examined in earlier studies on the cemetery linguistic landscape (Eckert 1998, Graves 1983, 1988, Pavlenko 2010, Piller 2016, Tamosiunaite 2012, VanDam 2007), but to our knowledge, the cemetery namescape has not been investigated.

The data of this study come from Varkaus, a small industrial town (population 21500) located in Eastern Finland. The data consist of 1400 photographs of gravestones, with 544 personal names on them. The photos were taken in 2009–2011 in the two oldest cemeteries of Varkaus. Varkaus cannot be characterized as a super-diverse community as many metropoles discussed in linguistic landscape studies, but it has been described as “a melting pot on a Finnish scale” (Soikkanen 1963). This characterization refers to the labour migration to Varkaus caused by industrialization especially in the beginning of the 20th century. Varkaus turned into a “reception village” of new migrants (Itkonen 2004) who were looking for jobs, and to a multilingual meeting point of speakers with varying linguistic resources (especially Finnish, Finnish dialects, Swedish and German). Traces of this past multilingualism are still visible in the oldest cemeteries.

Our presentation, which focuses on the surnames of the deceased, deals with the problems of classification of names by language. In addition, we present the results of our analysis according to which the investigated multilingual cemetery namescape is a complex mixture that not only reflects the town’s geographical location and migration both from the surrounding region and from more distant areas, but also the multilingual layers in the formation system of Finnish surnames.

References:


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Translanguaging and metalanguaging in adolescents' conversations in Haparanda, Helsinki and Stockholm

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The aim of the study is to investigate Finland-Swedish and Sweden-Finnish bilingual adolescents' metalanguage in the sense of communication strategies and linguistic practices with which the speakers comment on their own or their interlocutors' bilingual language use. Metalanguage, i.e. "flagged" switching draws attention to itself, that is code-switching and language use. Metalinguistic comments are expressions of bilingual speakers' metalinguistic awareness. According to García (2011), bilingual children tend to have metalinguistic skills that can contribute to mutual understanding in a group of interlocutors with different language profiles. The theoretical framework is found in the field of translanguaging, which aims to describe bilingual language use and interactional practices rather than focusing on the languages themselves. The analysis of the collected conversation data is qualitative. This study works mainly "backwards" from examples where bilinguals make comments on their own or their interlocutor's language use to explore what in the code-switching and bilingual language use drive them to make a metalinguistic comment.

The primary data was collected in 2014–2017 among bilingual adolescents at three junior high schools in Haparanda. The secondary data was collected in 2014 at a Swedish junior high school in Helsinki and two Sweden Finnish high schools in Stockholm in 2015-2016. The data consists of video- and audio-recorded group and pair conversations. All the recordings were made outside the lessons.

As expected the bilingual adolescents comment on their language use particularly when there are problems in communication. The interlocutors mainly negotiate about the word meanings. Metalinguistic comments also shows that grammatical rules are present in the mind of code-switchers, as the rules may be something bilinguals have to skirt around when code-switching.

References:
The use of two-way prepositions in Vienna and rural regions of Austria: Evidence from adult-adult and adult-child conversation

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The prestige of perceived standard and dialectal varieties of German in Austria differs in urban and rural areas. These differences affect language choice and may be crucial regarding speech directed towards young children: Adults (especially from urban areas) rather tend to choose standard-like features in child-directed speech than in adult-directed speech (Wiesinger 2008: 44).

Prepositional phrases (PPs) are a particularly interesting phenomenon for examining this tendency. In Standard German, so-called two-way prepositions (*Wechselpräpositionen*, i.e., *an* 'at', *auf* 'on', *in* 'in', *hinter* 'behind', *neben* 'beside', *über* 'above', *unter* 'under', *vor* 'in front of', *zwischen* 'between') may either govern a dative or an accusative case depending on their semantic meaning (Duden 2016: 620): The dative expresses a static location, the accusative indicates a dynamic and directional change of location.

However, in regional varieties of Upper German, this distinction may be less pronounced: Some varieties do not always distinguish between accusatives and datives (e.g., Zehetner 1978, Weiss 1998 for Bavarian) or use constructions that are fundamentally different from those in Standard German (e.g., Seiler 2002 for specific prepositional constructions in Bavarian and Alemannic varieties). Other constructions have (allegedly) resulted from intense contact with Slavic languages throughout the Habsburg monarchy (cf. Schuchardt 1884: 115ff., Newerkla 2007). For instance, constructions such as *auf/an etwas vergessen* (Standard German: *etwas vergessen* 'to forget [about] something') are structurally and semantically equivalent to constructions in neighboring Slavic languages (e.g., *zapomínat/zapomenout na něco* 'to forget [about] something'). Due to their frequent use in different varieties of German in Austria for many generations they are (often) no longer perceived as being particularly dialectal.

We investigate PPs with two-way prepositions in adverbial and argument function from three Austrian corpora—two from the urban area of Vienna (adult-adult and adult-child conversation) and one from small rural localities (adult-adult conversation). We assume that adults from urban areas use most standard-like PPs when talking to children, followed by adults from urban areas in adult-directed speech. The least standard-like use of PPs is expected in adult-adult speech in rural areas. Results will be discussed in the light of variationist sociolinguistics, contact linguistics and language acquisition research.

References:


The Realization of Voicing Contrast in Austrian German and English Plosives: A Pilot Study

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When investigating influences of the first language (L1) on the acquisition of a second language (L2), the phenomenon of ‘partielle muttersprachliche Mehrsprachigkeit’ [1], i.e. partial bilingualism in the L1, plays a significant role. This phenomenon refers to L1 speakers who speak two or more varieties of their L1, namely a standard variety and a non-standard variety. Accordingly, the basis for L2 learning is not the standard, but the non-standard variety of the L1 [2].

Based on this, the present study examined the realization of voicing contrast in Austrian German (AG; Experiment 1) and English (Experiment 2) word-initial plosives produced by young learners of English as a foreign language (EFL). The realization of voicing contrast was assessed on the basis of voice onset time (VOT), which is a reliable acoustic cue for measuring phonetic differences in plosives [3]. While standard German (SG) and English both distinguish between short versus long-lag plosives [4], speakers of AG varieties tend to neutralize voicing contrast in word-initial bilabial and alveolar plosives in conversational speech and produce both voiced and voiceless targets with short-lag VOT [5].

For the purpose of this study, ten native AG speakers from the urban center of Graz who learn EFL in school were tested on their production of AG and English plosives. Against expectations, the findings of Experiment 1 revealed that not all participants neutralized voicing contrast in bilabial and alveolar plosives but produced a significant VOT difference for all AG plosives. These findings can be partly explained by transfer processes between AG and SG, triggered by, among other factors, the prevalence of TV series and films presented in SG [6], i.e. AG speakers are confronted with SG on a regular basis. Therefore, it can be claimed that a language shift towards a more German standard takes place.

The analysis of speech data in Experiment 2 showed a significant amount of intra- and inter-subject variability, i.e. the majority of speakers produced inconsistent VOT values. These findings were interpreted to represent an intermedia stage to acquiring an L2 voicing contrast which is – at least to some extent – non-existent in the L1.

References:
Relevance of ‘urban’ and ‘rural’ in analysis of linguistic variation

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In my paper, I will consider the relevance of distinction between ‘urban’ and ‘rural’ in the study of linguistic variation. This perspective is especially relevant in a new research project in which hundred Finnish linguistic life stories have been and will be collected by interviewing informants who live in both urban and rural environments. The interviewees represent different social and age groups from different parts of Finland. In addition to native Finnish-speaking informants, linguistic and ethnic minorities are represented in the corpus.

In my case study, I will analyze the language use of the informants born, on the one hand, in the 1950's and, on the other hand, in the 1990's, altogether 20 individuals. Part of them live in rural environment, whereas the other come from more urban context. I will focus on two variables. One of them, the use of quotatives equivalent of English be like, is not saliently related to any dialects, whereas another one, the assimilation of the final -iA > -ii (e.g. leikkitä > leikkii 'to play') is mainly used in Southern Finland and seems to have social meaning related to urbanness. It has generally been assumed that the use of these kinds of new quotatives has increased during the last decades and it has spread through globalization. What comes to the assimilated variant -ii, it is not obvious, if it is spreading or not. In my paper, I will consider if an informant’s urban or rural background has any significance when comparing their linguistic variation in the use of these two variables.
Why do urban vernaculars leave their original habitat? Evidence from attitude research on Citétaal in Flanders

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Production research (Marzo, Zenner & Van De Mieroop Forthc.) has shown that features of Citétaal, an urban vernacular that emerged in the mining areas in the Easternmost province of Belgian Limburg, are presently spreading beyond their original habitat. Most notoriously, the palatalized pronunciation of [s] as [ʃ] in words such as stijl ‘style’ no longer correlates with a Cité-background, but rather with interactional factors: Limburgian speakers from all social backgrounds now palatalize words to express intensity in emotionally loaded interactions, and there is evidence that the palatalization at issue is spreading beyond the province of Limburg to affect the usage of large groups of (young) Flemings. We hypothesize that the vitality of this feature is due to its social meaning of “young, cool, and slightly provocative”, a form of modern prestige which has been shown to sustain the production popularity of other (non-standard) variants (Grondelaers & Speelman 2013). Can we attest this social meaning experimentally in Flemish listener attitudes?

To answer this question, we designed a speaker evaluation experiment in which 169 listener-judges from four Flemish provinces rated six clips of spontaneous speech which illustrated the continuum from indigenous Limburgian speech, over an intermediate contact variety (Italian and Turkish-flavoured Limburgian), to strongly accented Citétaal produced by Turkish and Italian speakers. These clips were rated on 17 measures selected in function of traditional prestige (Superiority), modern prestige (Dynamism), and Integrity. Crucially, all speech produced by Limburgians with a migrant background was systematically downgraded on superiority. However, Citétaal was deemed significantly more dynamic than all other varieties, which may explain why it is spreading beyond the region of Limburg. We theorize our findings in terms of language ideology change, viz. the emergence of covert value systems which lend prestige to variants which are deemed inferior.
Dialect contact and change in a postcolonial Japanese variety: 
A comparative study of an urban city and rural village in Palau

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This study investigates Japanese dialect contact and a new dialect formation in the Republic of Palau in the Western Pacific. In 1914, the Japanese took control of the Palauan islands, and established the headquarters for their Pacific colonies there. Not only did Palau host the colonial administration, but also many thousands of Japanese from different parts of Japan moved there to farm, fish and work as labourers. Many local Palauans acquired Japanese, and a distinctive Palauan Japanese emerged.

As a case study, this paper compares those Palauans who spent their critical period in the urban city of Koror, where Japanese settlers concentrated during the Japanese colonial period, with those who lived in rural villages on jungle-covered Babeldaob Island, where only a limited number of Japanese were stationed. Recordings of spontaneous speech collected from elderly Palauans in each island are qualitatively and quantitatively analysed. Furthermore, in order to see the linguistic consequences of mixing of the strikingly different dialect inputs transferred to Palau by Japanese settlers from across Japan, we supplementarily examine the very early twentieth century atlases of Japanese dialect as well as recordings of elderly Japanese speakers who lived in those prefectures which sent the largest number of migrants to Palau and who were in a similar age range to those who emigrated to Palau.

The results suggest that the Japanese spoken in urban Koror is a koine which shows many of the characteristics of contact varieties (i.e., levelling, simplification, reallocation, interdialect) demonstrated by Trudgill (1986) and Britain (2018), whereas that of villages in Babeldaob displays either a formally learnt variety (in the case of less fluent speakers) or a variety with traces of dialect features from a specific variety of Japanese in Japan transferred by specific Japanese migrants who settled locally.

This paper concludes by emphasising the importance of understanding the social and demographic conditions conducive to koineisation (whether markedly distinct dialects were in intensive contact and mixed, rather than one specific dialect being simply transferred to another location), while calling for caution over the automatic assumption that koineisation is specifically an urban phenomenon (Britain et al. 2017).

References:


The influence of foreign languages on the urban vernacular of Osijek

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The adjustment of language to the needs of the urban culture, i.e. the capacity of language to keep pace with changes in the speech community using it, commonly presupposes its opening towards influences of prestigious foreign languages and activation of its own expressive potential, which adds to the speed and ease of communication. Such circumstances give rise to urban vernaculars marked by lexical productivity and innovation, semantic expressivity, metaphoricity and association, as well as a ludic play with meaning. This makes urban vernaculars very complex idioms which are both lexically and stylistically complex, and varied in their grammatical structure, since they arise through an interrelation of regional, i.e. dialectal characteristics with the elements of both the standard language and other foreign languages, as well as under the influence of social factors.

Given the specific geographical position of Osijek, with her proximity to as many as three national borders, but also considering the historical heritage, i.e. the influence of foreign languages due to socio-political circumstances, viz. German, Turkish, Hungarian, this paper aims to investigate the extent to which the elements of foreign languages on the one hand and regional, i.e. dialectal elements on the other hand are represented in the contemporary urban vernacular of the City of Osijek.

To this end, research was conducted on 50 participants who have lived in Osijek since birth, classified into two age groups: 25 participants aged from 15 to 25, and as many participants aged 45 to 55.

The analysis aims to show the prevalent influences prevail in the urban vernacular of Osijek, as well as determine if there is an age difference in its use.
Linguistic Landscapes als Kommunikationsform – Eine empirische Analyse des Stadtzentrums von Minsk

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Der Ansatz über kommunikative Genres in der LL hilft bei der Lösung vieler Probleme der LL-Forschung wie der Definition der Analyseeinheit oder sinnvoller Analysekriterien (Backhaus 2007, S. 61; Pavlenko 2009, S. 250). Gleichzeitig schärft er den Blick dafür, welche Fragestellungen überhaupt sinnvoll an die LL herangetragen werden können.

Literaturnachweis:


Sprachliche Identitätskonstruktion in der multilingualen Provinzmetropole Czernowitz. Am Beispiel von Sprachkontakt und Sprachvariation in der Czernowitzer deutsch-jüdischen Presse der 1930er Jahre

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Der Vortrag setzt sich zum Ziel, eine historische urbane Sprachvarietät Czernowitzer (Bukowiner) Juden aufgrund ihrer Manifestationsform in Czernowitzer deutsch-jüdischen humoristischen Zeitschriften der 1930er Jahre zu untersuchen. Der Akzent liegt dabei auf Sprachkontakt (jiddische und rumänische Kontaktphänomene) und Sprachvariation (bairisch-österreichische Elemente).


Literaturnachweis:
Public bilingual signs in Tokyo metropolitan area – What is or is not translated in warnings, cautions and attentions of English signs

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We will examine bilingual signs written both in Japanese and in English in public space in Tokyo metropolitan area. This area is not a traditionally bilingual area, though “visibility of multilingualism is highly appreciated” according to Backhaus (2007) who observes that multilingual signs in Tokyo are destined not only for a growing number of non-Japanese speakers, but also for symbolic use targeted at Japanese public showing preference to the visibility of foreign languages, particularly English. Our corpus consists of signs that indicate warnings, bans, cautions or attentions written in the two languages within the same frame. These texts indicating what to do or not to do are imperatives, and therefore constitute important messages also for non-Japanese population. Some are official signs put up by the authorities such as government, ward administrations, or public transport companies, and others are non-official signs by hotels, shops or historical monuments where foreign people pass by frequently. Our main problems are: 1) if English text is a complete translation, a fragmentary translation (providing only some information) or, instead of a translation, a complementary text completely independent of Japanese one in content. 2) what is omitted and what is added in English text 3) why some complete translations sound strange and unnatural in spite of their grammaticality.

We will show that some pieces of information tend to be clearly specified in Japanese texts even if, being most evident, it looks needless to say (ex. English translation is ‘This hot spring is not suitable for drink’, whereas its Japanese original text is ‘This hot spring is not suitable for drink. Please do not drink’), and others, on the contrary, are heavily implied and tend not to be worded clearly in Japanese, which will eventually lead to the oddness observed on some English complete translations of bilingual signs(ex. A water absorption is in the wall side of a bathtub. Please don’t lean. Moreover be careful of a child). We will also show that short messages such as public bilingual warnings discussed here depend largely on usual discourse patterns of each language and its cultural knowledge.

References:
A dialect island in a city in the 2010s: Szeged-Kiskundorozsma, Hungary

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Kiskundorozsma is a dialect island in southern Hungary; its population moved from Northern Hungary to the Szeged dialect territory in the early 18th century. The dialect traditionally used around Kiskundorozsma is a nationally conspicuous one, using the front mid round ö [Ø] in place of Standard Hungarian e [ɛ] in certain syllables as in szöm [sØm] vs. Standard szem [sɛm] 'eye'. In contrast to this, the original dialect of the inhabitant of Kiskundorozsma is Palóc, which is an e-dialect, thus it is sharply different phonetically from the surrounding dialect in regard to labialisation.

The sociodialectal situation of Kiskundorozsma is specific, because it was annexed to the city of Szeged in 1973, and there were also other organic processes which led to the integration of Kiskundorozsma to the city. Today, the population of Szeged is 165,000, from which Kiskundorozsma has 11,000 inhabitants.

In my paper I analyse 30 interviews from the Szeged Sociolinguistic Survey (Kontra – Németh – Sinkovics 2016) made with respondents over 60 (74 hrs and 35 min). The detailed analysis is based on 8 interviews which were made with the informants in Kiskundorozsma. These interviews last 21 hrs and 51 min. I will examine the e : ø variation, as a main distinctive feature of the Szeged and Palóc dialects.

My research questions are the following:
Are there any differences between the speech of the respondents in Kiskundorozsma over 60 and the other respondents in Szeged with regard to the aspect of the e : ø variation, that is: is dialect assimilation or dialect isolation stronger in this case?
Is there any provable connection in the speakers’ attitudes toward their own and the Szeged dialect, their local identity, and the e : ø variation in their speech?
Is the e : ø variation a marker of identity in the local speech community?

This paper provides some further data to the research of dialect islands incorporated into urban centers, and demonstrates the importance of the identity marking role of a dialect in maintaining the original dialect markers.

References:
The loss of an urban-rural distinction in Michigan

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This paper examines the social motivations for the loss of dialect distinction between urban and rural speakers in the dialect area surrounding the great lakes of the US – the Inland North. Inland Northern speakers are often labeled as linguistically secure - they believe they speak 'standard' American English and are presumed to be under no social pressure to change their dialect (cf. Preston 1999; Niedzielski 1999). According to previous studies in the dialect area, /ae/-raising, one of the characteristic components of this dialect, is conditioned by urban-ness, such that speakers from cities have higher realizations of /ae/ in phonetic space than their rural counterparts (Gordon 2000; Ito 2001).

Recently, this urban distinction has declined (Nesbitt 2017), as /ae/ is lowering in urban communities (cf Wagner et al. 2016, Thiel and Dinkin 2017). For Lansing, MI area natives born in the 1990s, F1 measurements are not significantly different between urban dwellers and their rural counterparts. Nesbitt (2017) hypothesized that raised /ae/ is no longer evaluated as 'standard' in the community, likely prompting urban speakers in the community to adopt the less marked features of the surrounding community, though there is no evidence to support this theory yet.

Using matched-guise (Campbell-Kibler 2007) and dialect recognition techniques (Williams et al. 1999), we are investigating whether evaluations of /ae/-raising have changed in urban Lansing. For this task, listeners rate a speaker on 7 affective Likert scales and identify the speaker's regional origin. The stimuli belong to one of two matched guises, which have been acoustically altered to differ only in whether /ae/ is raised or not.

A preliminary analysis of data from 18 Lansingites born 1992-2000 (10 female) reveals that raised /ae/ is being rejected for overt social reasons, i.e. it is no longer considered 'standard' in the urban community. Raised TRAP is rated as significantly more uneducated, incorrect, and accented, than lowered TRAP. We find that in Lansing, as in other US cities (see Villarreal et al. 2017), local pronunciations have become socially marked. This has likely prompted young urban Lansingites to adopt the unmarked pattern once only characteristic of its rural towns.

References:


The Onomastic Landscapes of Uppsala

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Proper names are a prominent feature in all linguistic landscapes (LL). Not only do they have an identifying function (monoreferential reference), names also have the ability to turn space into place. A given name is the result of a choice among linguistic possibilities. For example, the choice between the official and the unofficial name variant for a central square in the city is an ideological statement, as is the choice between a Swedish or an Arabic name for the same location.

In this paper we present the tentative results from a study of the onomastic landscapes of Uppsala. That is the linguistic landscape constituted by the toponyms and commercial names in the cityscape. We discuss which signs in the LL, that have the identifying function of a name, which ones do not, and why and how these signs fit into the grammatical category of names. In our paper we also discuss by what means names are used to create an identity in different parts of Uppsala, and what the onomastic landscapes thus can tell us about the character of the various neighbourhoods that are being investigated.

The study is based on empirical data collected in field studies and from photos of LL. We have asked an informant group to take pictures of the names in the LL, and by interviewing the informants and discussing their photos with them, we aim to reach a greater understanding of what the name users consider to be proper names, as well as of the role played by minority languages in the onomastic landscapes. We relate these results and observations to established theories of proper names and multilingualism, and test hypotheses of discourse and geosemiotics.

References:


Syrrjäälä, Väinö. [forthcoming]. Ungdomar observerar lingvistiska landskap. In: Svenskan i Finland 17. (Nordica Helsingiensia.)
New and old social meanings in urbanized Sweden – the changing indexicalities of damped /i/

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_Uppsala University, Sweden;

In this study, we focus on damped /i/ which has different connotations in different parts of Sweden. In some rural areas, it has traditionally indexed place and locality, whereas it has indexed class and gender in urban Stockholm and Gothenburg (Elert 1995, Bruce 2010, Svahn & Nilsson 2014). Previous studies have shown that in the urbanization of Sweden, the urban variant damped /i/ has spread from city centers to other locations in Sweden. In the process it has begun to index urbanity and modernity (Svahn & Nilsson 2014). But what happens to this feature in areas where it has traditionally indexed place and locality? And how does the changing social meaning affect the indexicality of damped /i/ in urban centers?

In this paper we discuss and problematize processes behind changes in social meaning for a linguistic form (see also Johnstone et al 2006, Johnstone & Kiesling 2008). We investigate the use and perception of the feature in urban Gothenburg, where it at least in the mid-20th century indexed social class and gender, and in rural Skärhamn (65 kilometers away), where it has been part of the traditional dialect system indexing place. We also investigate the feature in a small town (Stenungsund) located in between Skärhamn and Gothenburg, where it has traditionally indexed place, but where the Gothenburg variety is rapidly gaining ground.

In order to investigate the change in the variant’s separate social meanings we have approached the phenomenon from three angles. First, we have investigated the use of the variant in recorded data. Second, we have made interviews about speakers’ more or less conscious attitudes towards damped /i/. Finally, we have conducted an IAT experiment (Campbell-Kibler 2012) in order to test to what extent damped /i/ is associated with urbanity/rurality. By approaching the phenomenon with these methods, we can discuss the relationship between conscious and unconscious attitudes on the one hand, and use of linguistic form on the other. Our results indicate that damped /i/ has a more prominent position in today’s speech community than to ‘only’ index place, and that the social meaning is changing in all locations.
Loanword as a Marker of Movement in a Space – The Case of Špancirfest

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The concept of space has intrigued scholars working in different fields, and it has become a matter of growing interest for linguists as well. Communication is not only a matter of using linguistic signs or gestures, as it represents a process that goes on in a particular sociocultural environment. It is conditioned by the physical surroundings of the interlocutors, but is also confined by the physical constraints of the individuals engaged in a conversation, i.e., their physical bodies. Thus, it is possible to analyze different types of spaces created and modified by the positioning of the interlocutors in different surroundings.

This paper presents the analysis of the relationship between the basic spatio-temporal and cultural characteristics of Špancirfest, a street festival traditionally held in Varaždin (Northern Croatia) and the lexical item that the name of the festival is made from – ‘špancir’. After the theoretical basis related to the possibilities of investigating different types of spaces relevant for sociolinguistic analysis, the paper provides an overview of street festivals as particular types of public space, as well as an insight into the German language influence in Northwestern Croatia, as this represents the basis for analyzing ‘špancir’ as a German loanword. The research includes the application of a questionnaire carried out among natives of Varaždin who were asked to provide answers with regard to the evaluation of semantic and pragmatic differences between the loanword ‘špancir’ (as well as the lexical items derived from the word) and the native, Croatian equivalents. The results of the conducted research confirm the hypothesis that the underlying spatio-temporal and cultural characteristics of Špancirfest as a particular type of space can be regarded as significant factors in evaluating the choice, as well as semantic and pragmatic differences between loanwords and native words.

References:


On the social dynamics of English-sourced swearwords among Finnish speakers

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Earlier research has indicated that swearing fulfills a set of interpersonal and psycho-social functions not easily achieved through other linguistic means (Beers Fägersten & Stapleton 2017, Stapleton 2010). Our current study builds on the initial findings from a CMC corpus (Peterson & Biri 2017) on the level of integration of English-sourced swear words into Finnish discourse. In order to explore social meaning potentials and motivations for the use of English-sourced swear words in Finnish discourse, we designed an attitude survey to gain quantitative research data from different parts of the country and different social groups.

Making use of an audio-based matched guise experiment, we explore if the (1) gender, (2) age and (3) variety (vernacular variant) of the voice affects the results with regard to acceptability and social evaluations of the English-sourced swear words shit, oumaigaad 'Oh My God', damn and fuck in Finnish. Through an online survey (currently in distribution) we are collecting data across different age groups and from rural and urban areas of Finland to test how the social properties of the respondents affect their responses to the different voices. The test utterances are based on authentic samples pulled from the Suomi24 corpus. Both quantitative multivariate analysis and qualitative methods will be used to account for the data.

This paper presents the main results of the survey and focuses particularly on the results concerning possible rural/urban distinctions. Based on our previous research of borrowed discourse items in Finnish (e.g. Peterson & Vaattovaara 2014), we hypothesize that the English-sourced swear words are assessed differently by different social and regional groups, and that they are more accepted and familiar in urban contexts - both regional and linguistic. On the basis of the results we hope to be able to reflect on the current (social) change in progress and develop further studies involving ethnographic data.

References:


„Sie spricht wie man mit einem Deutschen spricht... unter Freunden ist es anders“: Kiezdeutsch vs. Standardsprache in der internen Wahrnehmung Jugendlicher

Maria Pohle

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Literaturnachweis:


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Soukup, Barbara. 2013. On matching speaker (dis)guises-revisiting a methodological tradition. Language (De) standardisation in Late Modern Europe: Experimental Studies. 267–285


Areal microvariation in German-speaking conurbations

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³University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

While many studies on areal variation focus on large regions of countries, research on areal variation on a geographically smaller scale is rare. In this talk, we investigate areal small-scale variation in German-speaking conurbations. By applying quantitative methods to fine-grained data from surveys on colloquial German, we examine the small-scale spatial variation in densely populated urban areas (with a focus on Berlin, the Ruhr region, and Vienna).

Small-scale dialectometrical studies (< 20 km) are rare, and the few studies in this field (see especially Stanford 2012) have mostly been limited to cases of strong base-dialectal variation and/or geographic obstacles (e.g. Jeszenszky et al. forthcoming), where substantial systemic differences were to be expected. In our study, however, we employ methods originating in data mining, suitable to detect relatively small amounts of variation (see Pröll et al. 2015).

Based on these purely empirical / descriptive results of our study, we will then discuss the issues that arise from them: Do these findings point to the existence of small-scale linguistic areas in urban spaces, or is there no evidence for spatial structures in the linguistic variation in cities? Our concluding remarks will link these results to theoretical models of cities as loci and sources of language variation and change.

References:


Ethnolectal features in children's vernacular in urban and rural German-speaking Switzerland: An exploratory case study

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This preliminary study investigates the extent to which ethnolectal features traditionally associated with the language of Swiss-German adolescent speakers with a migrant background (see, for instance, 1-2) have spread to the vernacular speech of children below the age of 12 in urban and rural areas. Typically, ethnolectal features as in (1) - (2) are used by Swiss-German adolescents for stylistic and indexical purposes (see Dürscheid & Spitzmüller 2006; Schmid 2017). Anecdotal and preliminary empirical evidence suggests that ethnolectal features are spreading to the spoken vernacular of Swiss-German children.

Pragmatic expressions, e.g. *weisch?* (as a pragmatic marker), *Alter*
Syntactic expressions, e.g. omission of prepositions, articles, pronouns or auxiliaries, as in *Chani bleistift?* <Can I pen?> for *Chani en bleistift ha?* <Can I have a pen?>

The present study makes use of data collected through sociolinguistic interviews in a traditional Labovian approach (e.g. Labov 1972). Ethnolectal and other youth linguistic features are defined and extracted from the data following previous studies and on the basis of anecdotal evidence provided by the caregivers, peers and the interviewees themselves. Interviewees are (primary) school children between the ages of 6 and 12 who live in the city of or the region around Winterthur, an urban area in Switzerland with roughly 100,000 inhabitants. Interviewees are found through their social networks and by visiting primary schools in the city and in the villages surrounding it.

Preliminary analysis of the data indicates that children below the age of 12 use ethnolectal features, e.g. familiarisers (see Leech 1999) such as ‘brä’ or ‘digger’ to enhance solidarity of the speakers’ relationship with the hearer, comparatively more often in Winterthur than in the surrounding rural areas. A set of factors that potentially influence this urban-rural difference are discussed, such as mobility, number of and contact with speakers of migrant backgrounds, age and gender of speaker.

References:


Linguistic Landscapes & Soundscapes auf einem Berliner Wochenmarkt - Mehrsprachige Praktiken im multilingualen urbanen Raum

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Die Mehrsprachigkeit prägt auch die Linguistic Landscape. Auf Verkaufsschildern nutzen Verkäufer*innen verschiedene linguistische Ressourcen, mischen sie und schaffen so mitunter neue Wörter und Wortkombinationen, die typisch für diese Sprachlandschaft sind und möglicherweise ein neues Register formen, das die Verkäufer*innen zur Kommunikation in diesem multilingualen Raum nutzen.


**Literaturnachweis:**

Multilinguale urbane Räume. Die Mehrsprachigkeit des “Kiezdeutsch”

Gabriella Sgambati
Univ. L’Orientale, Italien


Pinyin or English on Road Signs in China: Practice, Ideology and Management of Code Choice in Linguistic Landscape

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Road signs are an essential component of the linguistic landscape (LL) in urban space (Landry & Bourhis, 1997, Gorter, 2006; Shohamy & Gorter, 2009). As an archetypal type of top-down signs, the language use on road signs has always been a sector of central planning by the official authorities. However, the code choice on road signs can be at stake when two or more competing languages/varieties are available for selection in the society. In different administrative regions, there may be disparate practices of marking urban road names. In this paper, we examine the annotation of road name signs in China's cities in order to reveal the tension between the promulgation of national language ideology and the aspiration of internationalization and world recognition. In P.R. China, the government has been promoting Hanyu Pinyin (i.e. Romanized phonetic system) as the exceptional norm for the alphabetic inscription of geographical names alongside Chinese characters. On the other hand, in the era of globalization, English is becoming a putative marker of internationalization and modernization, and it is increasingly pervasive on signs in metropolitan cities. Given that, the call for presenting English on road name signs in mega-cities is constantly echoed. In practice, the mixed use and contestation between Pinyin and English have caused much confusion on urban road signs. In this paper, we use Spolsky’s (2004, 2009) tripartite language policy model (i.e. language belief, language practice and language management) to expound and analyse the problems posed by the implementation of differing sign systems in road nameplates in China. Photographs of road name signs from over 30 capital cities have been collected as the database for analysis. The study is intended to show how the language ideology conflicts in official domain can inform policy change in a highly regulated polity like China.
Attitudes toward standardisation and local dialect use in Szeged, Hungary

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Szeged is the third largest city (c. 160,000) with one of the most distinguished universities in Hungary. The dialect traditionally used in and around the city in South Eastern Hungary is a nationally conspicuous one, using the front mid round ö [Ø] in place of Standard Hungarian e [ɛ] in certain syllables as in tösz [tØs] vs. Standard tesz [tɛs] ‘put’. The dialect seems to disappear fast in the city, because about one-third of the city’s residents are in-migrants, many from non-ö dialect regions. Another important factor in dialect loss is the strong standard ideology in Hungary.
In our Szeged Sociolinguistic Survey (2012–2016) we made 165 interviews with local residents (Kontra–Németh–Sinkovics 2016). The interview has a fair number of conversational modules, and includes many questions about language use and attitudes. In this paper I will present two topics on the basis of this survey: standardization in Szeged and attitudes toward dialect speaking people.
I will analyse the respondents’ answers to the following questions:
Is there a Szeged dialect according to our respondents? Who speak the Szeged dialect in the city?
Why do our respondents change to the standard variety in certain situations (stigmatisation, standard language ideology in schools, and accommodation to others)?
If they can speak the local dialect, when and with whom do they speak it?
Have they ever been stigmatized because of their dialect?
What do they think about local dialect speaking people?
The goal of this talk is to present the beliefs and attitudes of people in Szeged (15–32-year-olds and those over 60). Then, I examine, what sort of motives influence their attitudes and their language use beside their own experiences.

References:
Zur Konstruktion sozialer Identitäten im Kontext sprachideologischer Äußerungen über sprachliche Variation in städtischer Umgebung am Beispiel des Wiener Deutsch

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Universität Graz, Österreich


Literaturhinweis:

Social change in the Finnish society as evidenced through the case of 'Helsinki s'

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It has been argued (in Coupland 2014: 76) that “in the study of [sociolinguistic] change the most basic challenge is to establish when any specific change has occurred, how and from whose perspective, and how change comes to be acknowledged as such in particular sociocultural environment”. The present paper introduces an ongoing cross-disciplinary project which seeks to explore sociocultural change in the Finnish society over the past 150 years through investigating the emergence, manifestations and dynamics of an ideological construct of the so-called Helsinki s or Stadiässä (e.g. Halonen & Vaattovaara 2017).

By exploring a variety of naturally occurring historical data (such as newspapers, theater reviews, guidebooks on 'proper language' for schools) it is possible to gain insights into how the ideological link between (any) socially meaningful /s/ pronunciation and the city of Helsinki as a place has first emerged in the late 1900s Finnish society. The nation building of Finland, negotiations of the Finnish language standards as well as the rapid modernisation and industrialization of the multilingual capital of Helsinki play a central role here. The paper addresses the cornerstones of the process of Helsinki s. How has it first developed as an ideological construct in the processes of Urbanization and, along the decades, how has it developed and transmitted through the rise of popular culture and mediatisation of the 2000s in the way that today allows any /s/ pronunciations to be perceived as indexing "Helsinki", whenever other cues support this indexical relation.

References:


Codeswitching im multilingualen hochdiversen Raum Berlin

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Multilinguale urbane Räume werden in der Linguistik aus unterschiedlichen Perspektiven beleuchtet, wie z.B. aus den Blickwinkeln von Polylanguaging oder Metrolingualism. Aus einer Perspektive stand die multilinguale Vielfalt in städtischen Umgebungen allerdings bislang weniger stark im Fokus: Codeswitching. Die Forschung zu Codeswitching (CS) konzentriert sich bislang eher auf homogene Umgebungen mit lediglich zwei Sprachen (vgl. Poplack [2015: 921]: „The data on which theories of CS have been built […] may be […] observed during regular interactions among bilinguals in a bilingual speech community.“; Hervorhebung von mir). In meinem Vortrag möchte ich CS in einem umfassenderen Zusammenhang untersuchen: in einem heterogenen urbanen Setting mit soziolinguistisch diverser Beschaffenheit, wo mehrere Sprachen zusammentreffen. Für ein solches Setting bietet Berlin mit seinen ethnisch diversen EinwohnerInnen und TouristInnen ein optimales Untersuchungsumfeld.

In meinem Beitrag werde ich die Frage diskutieren, welche Merkmale CS in solchen sprachlich diversen Umgebungen aufweist und ob sich diese Merkmale von denen unterscheiden, die zu den bislang vorrangig untersuchten, rein bilingualen CS-Situationen bekannt sind. Hierzu verwende ich Daten, die im Rahmen eines Forschungsprojekts auf einem Berliner Straßenmarkt in Form von Ton- und Videoaufnahmen erhoben wurden. Diese können ein neues Licht auf aktuelle CS-Forschung werfen, die sich mit der Kombinierbarkeit von sogenannten multword fragments beschäftigen, da es sich nicht nur um bilinguale, sondern um vielfältig multilinguale Kontexte handelt. In meinem Vortrag analysiere ich diese Daten und diskutiere systematische Unterschiede zum CS in homogenen Räumen. Das Beispiel in (1) illustriert den Sprachgebrauch in solchen Kontexten (tr=Türkisch, kr=Kurdisch, CL=Klassifizierer). Der Verkäufer greift hier mit unterschiedlichen GesprächspartnerInnen auf verschiedene Sprachen zu und integriert diese intrasentenziell in Form von multword fragments. Im Gegensatz zu homogenen Umgebungen herrscht ein dynamischer Wechsel zwischen Sprachen, die unterschiedlich gut beherrscht werden.

(1)
Verkäufer (zu PassantInnen): [Karpuz!]tr Melone, Gurken!
Wassermelone
(zu ital. Touristen): One Stück fünfzig Cent. Fifty cent.
Ein CL fünfzig
zwei CL
Verkäufer (zum Mitarbeiter): [BADINCAN!]kr
Aubergine
Der Vortrag wird einen Beitrag für die CS- und urbane Sprachforschung leisten.

Literaturnachweis:
‘What do you want you’ – grammaticalised use of personal pronouns

Ditte Zachariassen

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Based on a corpus of natural interaction among young people in multiethnic residence areas in Aarhus, Denmark, I present examples of a new application of the personal pronoun ‘dig’ (second person singular, oblique case) exemplified in sentences such as ‘hvad vil du dig’ (Eng. ‘what do you want you’) and ‘dig du har også noget flot hår’ (Eng. ‘you you also have beautiful hair’). This construction is not found — at least not in the same form or function — in standard Danish, nor in any local dialect. Providing a grammatical analysis and a conversational analytic description of how the new constructions are used in interaction, I will argue that this new syntactic construction may reflect a grammaticalisation of personal pronouns in this particular dialect of Danish.

Previous studies of other multiethnic youth varieties in urban settings in Scandinavia has provided thorough descriptions of syntactic and morphological phenomena that differ from the relevant standard languages (see i.e. Svendsen & Røyneland 2008, Ganuza 2010, Freywald et. al 2015) but have not shown examples of this particular phenomenon. Data from one previous study carried out in the same geographical area (Christensen 2012) show examples of formally similar use of ‘dig’, however the use seems to be less grammaticalised. Following the development of the phenomena in three datasets from 2003, 2012, and 2017, I aim at describing the diachronic perspective of the grammaticalisation of the personal pronoun.

References:


Wiese, Heike. 2009. Grammatical innovation in multiethnic urban Europe. Lingua vol. 119:5. 782–806
Posters
A prosodic analysis of successive generations of Greek speakers in Austria: the timing of prenuclear rising accents in first-generation immigrants and 2nd generation heritage speakers

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Recent research has illustrated that the second language (L2) learning experience can affect the pronunciation of the first language (L1) to the extent that individuals sound foreign in their L1 [1]. While such effects on L1 pronunciation have been observed in both first-generation immigrants and 2nd generation heritage learners, little is known about the similarities or differences between the non-native features observed in the L1 of these successive generations (but see [2] and [3]; for exceptions). This study investigates the timing of prenuclear rises in the Greek and German of successive generations of Greek speakers in Austria, to determine the extent to which successive generations show similarities or differences in this prosodic feature. Greek and German rising prenuclear pitch accents differ in the timing of the start of the rise, which is considerably later in German [4] than in Greek [5].

We collected data for 14 speakers: six first-generation Greek immigrants to Austria (FG); four second-generation adult heritage speakers (SG); two monolingual Greek controls (GC); and two monolingual Austrian controls (AC). Participants in group FG were born in Greece and moved to Austria in adulthood. Participants in group SG were born in Austria as children of Greek immigrants and grew up in Graz. Participants read two sets of 20 sentences (one Greek, one German) designed to elicit prenuclear rises. We measured the timing of the start of the rise from the onset consonant of the prenuclear target word’s stressed syllable.

Preliminary results for the Greek set in a subset of the data (6 FG, 4 SG, 2 GC, and 2 AC speakers) show that GC speakers start prenuclear rises significantly earlier than the AC speakers. All speakers in the FG group show evidence of L1 attrition, with a later alignment of the start of the rise compared to the GC group. The SG speakers show a similar alignment pattern to the FG group, with intermediate values between the GC and AC groups. Data analysis for the other participants is ongoing. We expect to present for the whole group and both languages at the time of the conference.

References:
Dialect contact in a Basque "town cluster"

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Recent dialectological work on southern (Spanish side) Basque suggests that a series of isoglosses in the central Basque Country is moving eastward. Over the last few centuries, several features of western Gipuzkoan (G) dialects have encroached on neighboring eastern High Navarrese (HN) varieties (Hualde 1991, Hualde & Ortiz de Urbina 2003). This poster presents speech data collected in sociolinguistic interviews in the Southern Basque valley of Bidasoa-Txingudi, traditionally a geographical and cultural unit or "town cluster" located in the border with France. The primary goal of this study is to determine whether quantitative apparent-time evidence exists for changes in progress (Trudgill 1974, Labov 1994, Chambers 2002) and, if so, who is in the vanguard of these changes.

The poster will describe a series of dialect-based changes in progress in this Basque valley, based on data collected in sociolinguistic interviews with twenty local Basque L1 speakers. Dialectal variation in elements chosen from different parts of the grammar will be examined: two lexical items, two morphosyntactic alternations on auxiliary verbs, and a phonological process. In particular, several claims are made about dialect contact in Bidasoa-Txingudi. Strong apparent-time evidence exists that four out of five of these elements are undergoing change. What the relevant age limits are remains to be investigated, but older speakers tend toward forms characteristic of the traditional dialect of the valley (mostly eastern), whereas younger speakers prefer western forms.

These preliminary results suggest three main directions for further research. First, a more thorough understanding is needed of speakers’ attitudes toward these varieties in order to understand all processes of change and dialect contact. Second, much more research is needed into the historical context underlying the gendered distribution of G and HN forms. Finally, an examination of a broader range of linguistic features is needed to gauge the effects of standardization on the local vernacular (Aurrekoetxea 2004).
Verwendung von dialektalen Lokaladverbien durch Grazer Sprecher in der Quasi-Spontansprache

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Die Forschungsfrage der vorgestellten Arbeit lautet, ob auch diese Sprecher und Sprecherinnen, die von sich selbst behaupten, “keinen Dialekt“ zu sprechen, in dieser Sprechsituation dialektale Lokaladverbien wie „auffi“ („hinauf“), „umi“ („hinüber“), „owi“ („hinunter“), „eini“ („hinein“) etc. produzieren, oder ob diese nicht vorkommen und stattdessen die standardsprachlichen Lokaladverbien verwendet werden.

Die Datenerhebung und die Datenanalyse werden in den kommenden Wochen durchgeführt. Pilotdaten deuten allerdings bereits darauf hin, dass die Verwendung der interaktiven Bildbeschreibungsaufgabe durchaus dazu geeignet scheint, eine möglichst ungezwungene Sprachproduktion sowie die gehäufte Verwendung von Lokaladverbien zu elizitieren.
Fricative Timing in two varieties of Vienna

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Timing relations in (East) Middle Bavarian have been investigated since 1913, when Anton Pfalz described a specific relation of vowel and consonant sequences for East Middle Bavarian (EMB) dialects, located in the eastern parts of Austria. In his study he stated that a long vowel is always followed by a lenis consonant (Vː+L), and a short vowel is always followed by a fortis consonant (V+F). Other combinations of vowel + consonant sequences are not allowed in EMB. Phonetic analyses of what became to be known as the Pfalz' Law yielded different results. Specifically, the occurrence of a third category, namely a long vowel followed by a fortis consonant (Vː+F), seems to be firmly embedded in EMB. Most studies (like Moosmüller and Brandstätter (2014), and Scheutz (1984)) tested these distributions of V+C by investigating plosives. In the current contribution, we examined stimuli with lenis and fortis fricatives. The participants were 11 younger (ø24 years) and 12 older (ø57 years) speakers of the Viennese Standard (VS) variety and the Viennese dialect (VD) (both EMB varieties) who read the stimuli in two speech rates, five times per stimulus. The results suggest that the speakers of the Viennese standard variety incorporate the third category phonemes (Vː+F) into the duration patterns of the other categories, resulting in longer V+C sequences, and severely disturbing the timing patterns described by Pfalz 1913. Preliminary results of the VD show a rather different pattern: There it seems as if the phonemes in the Vː+F sequences are shorter than the phonemes in V+F sequences, implicating a shortening of both the consonants and the vowels to accommodate them in the direction of the timing pattern described by Pfalz. As shown by Moosmüller and Brandstätter (2014) for plosives, our results concerning vowel+fricative timing equally disprove the Pfalz' Law for speakers of VS. Furthermore we propose that the younger speakers of VD might also incorporate the Vː+F sequences in the same way as the speakers of VS, due to the influence of the more prestigious standard variety, as indicated by preliminary results.

References:
Reflecting challenges of data collecting as part of new kind of research project

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Our poster presentation discusses collecting data for a research project of linguistic life stories. In the project, hundred Finnish linguistic life stories have been and will be collected through interviews during the academic year 2017–2018. Unlike in most sociolinguistic studies, various kinds of informants are studied under the same project. The interviewees represent different social and age groups, as well as inhabitants of both urban and rural environments. In addition to native Finnish-speaking informants, linguistic and ethnic minorities are represented in the corpus. The majority of data have been collected by students of different universities in Finland as part of their studies. In addition to data collection, they have been asked to reflect their experiences and feelings related to interviewing. Our main database for this study consists of the learning diaries of these students (c. 70).

In our poster, we will present some observations based on students’ reflections and discuss what their notes reveal about the nature of the interviews and linguistic ideologies among the students. We will also pay attention to other issues, e.g. advice and orientation given during the course, which can have an impact on the reflections.

The aim of our study is to discuss the significance of the data collection for sociolinguistic research and to make visible linguistic ideologies which influence behind the research process, also taking into account selecting the informants. At the same time, we will present an overview of a new kind of research project and discuss challenges in collecting these kinds of data from varying areas in Finland, including individuals with different cultural background. The database collected in the project offers possibilities to study e.g. new stratification of linguistic variables in modern society.
Sprachliche Variabilität im hochdiversen urbanen Raum: Anything goes?

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Einen Schwerpunkt unserer Analysen bildet die Frage, inwiefern der hohen beobachtbaren Variabilität sprachlicher Strukturen in solch einem Kontext tatsächlich noch Grenzen gesetzt sind. Hierzu betrachten wir exemplarisch die (morpho-)syntaktische Variation bei Determiniererphasen (DPs). Die Datengrundlage bilden Videoaufnahmen von Verkaufsinteraktionen an unterschiedlichen Marktständen.

Im Posterbeitrag stellen wir neben Projektzielen und -methoden erste qualitative Ergebnisse zu den folgenden Aspekten von Variation innerhalb von DPs vor ((1)-(4) sind Originalbelege, Transkription: GAT):

- Kasus-/Numerusmarkierung
  (1) Verkäufer (Türkisch/Deutsch) zu Kundin (Deutsch):
    mit drei jahre garanTIE

- Sprachmischung; Verwendung von Numeralklassifikatoren und Numerusmarkierung
  (2) Kunde (Deutsch) zu Verkäufer (Kurdisch/Türkisch/Deutsch):
    iki tane auberGine, bitte

- Realisierung von Funktionswörtern (z.B. Determinierer, Klassifikatoren)
  (3) Kunde (Arabisch/Deutsch) zu Verkäufer (Türkisch/Deutsch):
    wieviel KOST aubergine?

- Pronominale DPs: Objekt-Drop
  (4) Verkäufer (Türkisch/Deutsch) zu Kundin (Deutsch):
    ich MACH Ø für sie
Wir diskutieren, inwieweit solche nicht-kanonischen Muster regelmäßig auftreten, an welchen Stellen systematische Beschränkungen bestehen und welche Herausforderungen dies für die grammatische Modellierung darstellt.