

Introduction

25th LIPP Symposium

Language Variation: Research, Models, and Perspectives

Variation is a key concept in sociolinguistics. Not only can members of a speech community influence their use of language intentionally, but a single speaker's unconscious idiosyncrasies may also show significant variation when compared to other individuals in the community. Further, groups within communities, as well as whole communities, commonly share a large set of variants, that set them apart from other groups of speakers sharing the same language. The languages of the world are therefore not each a uniform entity but instead exhibit multifaceted patterns of internal variation. In general, four types of variation are defined: diatopic (based upon geographical location), diastratic (describing the language of a specific sub-set of a society), diachronic (comparing different stages of languages throughout history) and diaphasic/functional (register, based upon specific settings and pragmatics).

The 25th LIPP symposium provided a forum to discuss these patterns of variation across a wide range of languages using various disciplines and methodologies, including synchronic and diachronic approaches to variation as well as quantitative and qualitative research. We saw a plethora of original research on language-variation phenomena at various linguistic levels (phonology, morphosyntax, vocabulary etc.) and in relation to regional, social, stylistic, and medial factors, as well as combinations of these. In addition, papers were presented which explored the perception of, and attitudes towards, variation as well as the construction of identity through linguistic variants. Finally, the symposium investigated the implications of research findings for existing theoretical models and concepts and for the development of new frameworks that enable us to describe and categorize language variation.

The 25th LIPP symposium *Language Variation: Research, Models, and Perspectives* took place June 20–22 2018 and was organized by Michael Breyll, Carolin Harthan, Christoph Hauf, Yossef Pinhas and Elizabeth Stadtmiller of the *Graduate School Language & Literature Munich - Class of Language*.

Contributions

The first contribution is by **Juan Manuel Hernández-Campoy**. In this keynote paper, the author examines five stylistic paradigms as they pertain to sociolinguistics and, in a broader sense, social philosophy. By connecting and rooting each model in its own “long background in social philosophy,” Hernández-Campoy offers insight into style change as a “complex, multidimensional phenomenon” that permeates stylistic, linguistic and social components of sociolinguistic variation to respond, to as well as project meaning and identity into, social discourse.

Delving from models into research on specific variation phenomena, the second keynote contribution by **Lars Bülow** considers the case of diatopic dialectal variation in the plural forms of the German verb *sein* (Engl. ‘to be’) in the region of Salzburg, Austria. By closely examining specific phenomena in *real* and *apparent* time, Bülow shows a tendency toward advergence into a supra-regional, near-standard variety of Bavarian dialects in Austria. [This paper is in German.]

Continuing in the trend of single-variety, **Philipp Striedl**'s paper deals with the diastratic *Zahalit* language of Israeli soldiers. Using data from written and oral sources, the author illustrates both the linguistic characteristics and the social function of the *Zahalit* variation of Modern Hebrew. Striedl goes on to discuss the prevalence of the military variety and, by extension, the relevance of the army, to modern Israeli society.

The next contribution is by **Martin Eberl**, who studies social identities as a basis for linguistic variation. More specifically, the author concerns himself with Twitter data from two subsets – supporters of the 2016 presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump versus Russian online operatives (a.k.a. trolls). Eberl's analysis of lexical variation, hashtags and emojis finds high similarity between the opposing political groups within the US but distinctive differences between this group and the inflammatory Russian tweets.

Alexandra Chудар's article considers diatopic variation, this time in the English-speaking world, examining diminutive forms in Southern Hemisphere Englishes. Comparing diminutives ending on *-ie*, the author describes similarities and differences, the latter arising from language contact and extralinguistic environmental factors, both geographical and social.

Once again considering varieties of English, **Laetitia Van Driessche** and **Hubert Cuyckens** combine diachronic and synchronic perspectives in considering clausal verb complementation. Using various statistical analyses to dissect their data on finite complementation involving *that-clauses* and non-finite complementation comprised of gerundial and infinitival clauses with the words *expect* and *suggest*, the authors' corpora-based study reveals an increase in non-finite use along with a second learner effect in *expect*, but not in *suggest*. For both verbs, *variety* is an influential factor.

The final paper of this journal is a third study on English, contributed by **Monika Pukli**. Closely considering derhotacization in Scottish English and taking into account individual as well as diastratic and diachronic differences, Pukli shows that derhotacization is not necessarily linked to socio-economic factors or speakers' age. The author makes a case that there is a high tolerance for variation within phonological systems without necessarily giving rise to new standards or effecting "any final change."

Thank you

First and foremost, we would like to thank everyone who took part in the 25th LIPP symposium, most especially the contributors of talks and posters. Special thanks go to the Conference's keynote speakers, **Stephan Elspaß** and **Lars Bülow** (University of Salzburg), **Juan Manuel Hernández-Campoy** (University of Murcia), **Daniel Schreier** (University of Zurich) and **Elisabeth Stark** (University of Zurich), whose talks and research helped shape our conference.

In addition, we would like to thank **Andreas Dufter**, **Stephanie Hackert** and **Anthony Rowley**, all of the University of Munich, for their patronage and support throughout.

No journal can be published without a board of reviewers with a wealth of scientific expertise who are willing to take the time to read, comment, re-read and advise on a wide range of papers. We feel deeply grateful that so many highly-qualified individuals were able to support our journal and would like to thank our reviewers for their effort and anonymous but immeasurable contributions.

Finally, none of this would have been possible without our co-organizers **Carolin Harthan** and **Christoph Hauf**, as well the support of the former academic coordinators of the Graduate School Language & Literature, **Daniel Holl** and **Katharina Jakob**, the current academic coordinator **Teresa Barberio** and the student assistants at the time of the symposium, **Christiane Bayer** and **Amina Wittmann**. Thank you!

The editors: Michael Breyll, Yossef Pinhas & Elizabeth Stadtmiller