



# **Linguistics Ph.D. students in NRW**

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Münster 2025

**Book of Abstracts**



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## Welcome!

We are excited to announce **LinPin 2025**, the next edition of our annual conference for Ph.D. students in linguistics across **Nordrhein-Westfalen**! This year, we are delighted to welcome you to Münster – a vibrant university city with a rich academic heritage and a lively atmosphere for collaboration and exchange. The event will take place on **September 2nd, 2025**.

LinPin is all about connecting **early-career researchers**, fostering **networking opportunities**, and sharing **cutting-edge research**. Following the success of previous LinPin events, we look forward to continuing to grow our community, providing a platform where **Ph.D. students can present their work, discuss ideas, and receive valuable feedback in a welcoming and supportive environment**.

Beyond academic discussions, LinPin is also a space for meeting fellow researchers, exchanging experiences, and building **connections**. We are committed to **diversity, equity, and respect**, and we strive to create an inclusive space where everyone feels valued and encouraged to participate.

Stay tuned for more details about the program, abstract submissions, and registration. In the meantime, feel free to reach out to us at [linpin@uni-muenster.de](mailto:linpin@uni-muenster.de).

We look forward to welcoming you to Münster for an inspiring and engaging LinPin 2025!

[The LinPin 2025 Organizing Team](#)

# Programme

## Short Version

Time	Programme		
9:30-10:00	Registration		
10:00-10:15	Welcome & Opening Session		
10:15-11:00	Keynote I		
11:00-11:15	Coffee Break		
11:15-12:15	Method Pitch & Presentation Session		
	<b>Session A</b> (BB 102) <b>(Critical) Discourse Analysis</b>	<b>Session B</b> (BB 103) <b>Multilingualism &amp; Metalinguistic Knowledge</b>	<b>Session C</b> (BB 107) <b>Language Change &amp; Processing</b>
12:30-14:00	Lunch Break		
14:00-15:00	Poster Presentations		
15:00-16:00	Method Pitch & Presentation Session		
	<b>Session A</b> (BB 102) <b>Computational Linguistics &amp; NLP</b>	<b>Session B</b> (BB 103) <b>Language Pedagogy &amp; Second Language Acquisition</b>	<b>Session C</b> (BB 107) <b>Historical Linguistics &amp; Pragmatics</b>
16:00-16:15	Coffee Break		
16:15-17:00	Keynote II		
17:00	Closing remarks		

## Long Version

Time	Programme		
9:30-10:00	Registration		
10:00-10:15	Welcome & Opening Session		
10:15-11:00	<p><b>Keynote</b></p> <p><u>Nantke Pecht (University of Münster)</u></p> <p><i>Navigating the academic system</i></p>		
11:00-11:15	Coffee Break		
11:15-12:15	Method Pitch & Presentation Session		
	<p><b>Session A</b> (BB 102) <b>(Critical) Discourse Analysis</b></p>	<p><b>Session B</b> (BB 103) <b>Multilingualism &amp; Metalinguistic Knowledge</b></p>	<p><b>Session C</b> (BB 107) <b>Language Change &amp; Processing</b></p>
11:15-11:45	<p><u>Xandra Knappe (Duisburg-Essen)</u></p> <p><i>Fighting the "Others": Implications of Good versus Evil in the Portrayal of Migrants by Populist Radical Right Members of European Parliament on X</i></p>	<p><u>Serkan Yüksel (Berlin/Dortmund)</u></p> <p><i>Commercial Motivations and Multilingual Practices: Code-Switching at a Berlin Street Market</i></p>	<p><u>Elena Panfilova (Dortmund)</u></p> <p><i>Time, Talk, and Gaze: Cross-Linguistic Perspectives on Time-Telling</i></p>
11:45-12:15	<p><u>Thi Phuong Anh Pham &amp; Thi Nhung Nguyen (Münster)</u></p> <p><i>Representation of Vietnamese youth identity through folktronica music videos</i></p>	<p><u>Eva Windbergs (Cologne)</u></p> <p><i>Native speaker transcripts as a source of metalinguistic knowledge – Introducing transcription experiments</i></p>	<p><u>Agnieszka Zawadzka (Bochum)</u></p> <p><i>Methoden zur Untersuchung sprachstruktureller Veränderungen im Bereich des Verbalaspekts im Kontext des Erwerbs und Erhalts von Herkunftssprachen</i></p>
12:30-14:00	Lunch Break		

14:00-15:00		Poster Presentations		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Joël Alipaß (Dortmund)</a>: <i>Individual differences in early pragmatic abilities: An online-study on figurative language</i></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Katrin Bohnenkamp (Bochum)</a>: <i>Multimodalität und Varietätenbewusstsein ante litteram: Ein Mixed-Methods-Ansatz zur sprachlichen Komplexität der Hypnerotomachia Poliphili</i></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Celina Brost (Aachen)</a>: <i>Transitivity in German and English: a systemic functional approach to inductive corpus analysis of transitivity in German</i></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Josephine B. Fisher (Paderborn)</a>: <i>Scaffolding in Game Explanations</i></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Zoë Miljanović (Aachen)</a>: <i>Variation in complexity across grammatical ranks</i></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Franziska Möller (Bochum)</a>: <i>From guided interviews to a sociolinguistic questionnaire: insights from a preliminary qualitative study on different types of heritage languages</i></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Anastasya Oberwies (Duisburg-Essen)</a>: <i>The grammaticalization of the indefinite article in West-Germanic languages</i></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Martin Schopen (Aachen)</a>: <i>Exploring Conversational Dominance</i></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Hannah Seemann (Bochum)</a>: <i>Pragmatic Markers as Signals in Discourse: The Case of German Modal Particles</i></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Erna Selmanovic (Dortmund)</a>: <i>Bi-/Trilingualism and Dialect Use in Cyprus: Language Use and Attitudes</i></li> </ul>		
15:00-16:00		Method Pitch & Presentation Session		
		<b>Session A</b> (BB 102) <b>Computational Linguistics &amp; NLP</b>	<b>Session B</b> (BB 103) <b>Language Pedagogy &amp; Second Language Acquisition</b>	<b>Session C</b> (BB 107) <b>Historical Linguistics &amp; Pragmatics</b>
15:00-15:30	<a href="#">Florian Frenken (Aachen)</a> <i>Rapid Text Segmentation: Crowd-sourcing Lay Intuition about Text Structure in the Browser</i>			<a href="#">Johannes Lässig (Wuppertal)</a> <i>Approaching Quantitative Historical Speech Act Analysis – Data Selection and Pragmatic Variables</i>
15:30-16:00	<a href="#">Carmen Schacht (Bochum)</a> <i>NLP Tools for the Automatic Splitting of Compound Words</i>	<a href="#">Bethany Stoddard (Bonn)</a> <i>Grammatical variation in young German learner English</i>		<a href="#">Maria den Hartog (Radboud)</a> <i>Uncovering hidden patterns in “messy” historical data using tree-based approaches</i>
16:00-16:15		Coffee Break		

<p><b>16:15-17:00</b></p>	<p><b>Keynote</b></p> <p><u>Lena Ackermann (Hannover, Zum Staunen*)</u></p> <p><i>Der versteckte rote Faden – Mein Karriereweg als Linguistin</i>  <i>The hidden common thread – My career path as a linguist</i></p>
<p><b>17:00</b></p>	<p><b>Closing remarks</b></p>

## Location & Public Transport

We are excited to welcome you to Münster for LinPin 2025!

Münster is not only one of Germany's most beautiful and bicycle-friendly cities, but also a vibrant academic hub. With its historical charm, lush green spaces, and vibrant student life, Münster offers the perfect backdrop for academic exchange and networking.

The conference will take place at the University of Münster, one of Germany's largest and most prestigious universities, with over 45,000 students. The University of Münster is renowned for its robust research profile, international collaborations, and its dedication to nurturing young scholars. Our Graduate School of Empirical and Applied Linguistics offers a rich environment for linguistic research and is delighted to host LinPin 2025.

### Getting to Münster

Münster is easily accessible by train from across North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) and Germany, with frequent connections from cities such as Düsseldorf, Cologne, and Dortmund. The city is also served by Münster/Osnabrück Airport (FMO) and is conveniently located near Düsseldorf and Dortmund international airports.

### Getting Around the City

Once in Münster, the most convenient ways to get around are by bike or bus. The compact layout also makes walking through the city easy and enjoyable.

### Venue

The event will take place at Bispinghof 2, room 104. This building is located in the city center and can be reached from Münster Central Station by walk (17 minutes), by bus (15 min), by car (7 min) or by bike (7 min).

Bispinghof 2, Haus B

48143 Münster

Lageplan-URL : <https://www.uni-muenster.de/uv/uniaz/lageplan/de/1432>

### By bus:

To reach the venue from Münster Hauptbahnhof, take one of the following buses from Stop C1:

- **Bus 2, Bus 10, or Bus 14** in the direction of the city center
- **Bus 11** in the direction of Dieckmansstrasse ü. Domplatz

Alternatively, you may take **Bus 4** from **Stop D1**.

Get off at “**Münster Aegidiimarkt / LWL-Museum**”. From there, it's a short **3-minute walk** to **Bispinghof**, where the conference venue is located.

### By bike/scooter:

This is by far the most comfortable and fastest way to get around the city. You can rent a bike from the Radstation Münster, located in the central station. Standard bikes cost €10



per day, e-bikes cost €25 per day, and tandems cost €22 per day. You may also rent a shared city bicycle through the Tretty app.

Similarly, you may rent an e-Scooter through Tier Mobility or SIXT Share. Don't forget to familiarize yourself with the regulations for the use of these vehicles, particularly the restrictions on parking.

## Keynotes

### **Dr. Nantke Pecht, Postdoctoral researcher at the University of Münster:** ***Navigating the academic system***

In this talk, I share my personal and professional journey and offer reflections and practical advice for emerging scholars navigating academic careers in linguistics. In the first part of the talk, I reflect on my academic journey in linguistics, tracing the path from my early interests and formative experiences to my current research and professional position as a postdoctoral researcher. I will discuss key moments that shaped my scholarly identity, including pivotal projects, institutional contexts, and intellectual influences that guided my development as a linguist. Emphasis will be placed on how personal, social, and disciplinary factors intersected in shaping my career trajectory, as well as the challenges and opportunities encountered along the way.

The second part of the talk offers practical insights for early career researchers seeking to establish themselves within academia. Drawing from both personal experience and broader structural observations, I will highlight strategies for navigating the academic system, such as building supportive networks, balancing research and teaching, and developing a coherent research agenda. The comparison between the German and Dutch academic contexts will serve as a springboard for discussing the varying expectations that early career scholars may face in different national settings. Ultimately, this talk also aims to open a space for dialogue about different trajectories and careers in linguistics and beyond.

#### **Short biography**

Dr. Nantke Pecht is a sociolinguist specializing in language variation and change, language-dialect contact and language attitudes, with a particular focus on workplace interactions (health care and industrial contexts). She is currently involved as a postdoctoral researcher in the SFB 1604 “Production of Migration” (IMIS Osnabrück and Münster University), and she is co-principal investigator of a DFG/AHRC-funded project on the linguistic practices of mining communities in the Ruhr Area and the East Midlands. Nantke completed her PhD dissertation at Maastricht University.

### **Dr. Lena Ackermann, Referentin beim Kreativstudio für Wissenschaftskommunikation Zum Staunen\* (Hannover): *Der versteckte rote Faden – Mein Karriereweg als Linguistin (ger.)***

Seit 2024 arbeite ich als Referentin für Wissenschaftskommunikation. Diesen Jobwechsel bezeichnete mein Vater als einen „weiteren Punkt auf [m]einem ohnehin schon bunten Lebenslauf“. Die letzten 15 Jahren haben mich von der Germanistik über die Linguistik in die Kognitionswissenschaft geführt, von der Promotion über das Wissenschaftsmanagement und die Wissenschaftskommunikation. Dieser Lebenslauf ist, wie der so vieler Akademiker:innen in unserer Generation, auf den ersten Blick tatsächlich „bunt“.

Bei näherem Hinsehen zieht sich aber durchaus ein roter Faden durch alle Stationen: meine Leidenschaft für Wissensvermittlung, die ich inzwischen zum Beruf machen konnte. In meinem Vortrag nehme ich euch mit auf eine Reise durch meine akademische und berufliche Vergangenheit, Gegenwart und Zukunft. Dabei zeige ich auf,

- (1) dass der rote Faden mal mehr, mal weniger deutlich sichtbar ist,
- (2) welche Kompetenzen ich aus der Linguistik im Berufsalltag einbringe und
- (3) dass es neben der „klassischen“ akademischen Karriere vielfältige Möglichkeiten für Linguist:innen gibt, von denen mein Karriereweg nur ein Beispiel darstellt.

Gleichzeitig soll euch der Vortrag dazu ermuntern und ermutigen, euren eigenen (versteckten) roten Faden zu finden und diesem zu folgen.

**Dr. Lena Ackermann, Science Communication Officer at Zum Staunen\*,  
Creative Studio for Science Communication (Hannover): *The hidden  
common thread – My career path as a linguist (eng.)***

I've been working as a science communication officer since 2024, a job change that my father described as "yet another dot on [my] already colourful CV". The past 15 years have taken me from German studies to linguistics to cognitive science, from getting a PhD to science management to science communication. This CV, like that of so many academics in our generation, is indeed "colourful" at first glance.

On closer inspection, however, a common thread runs through all stages of my CV: my passion for sharing knowledge which I was able to turn into a career. In my talk, I invite you to join me on a journey through my academic and professional past, present and future. I will show

- (1) that the common thread is sometimes more, sometimes less clearly visible,
- (2) which skills from linguistics I bring to my everyday professional life and
- (3) that there are many possible career paths for linguists aside from academia, of which mine is just one example.

At the same time, the talk is supposed to encourage and motivate you to find and follow your own (hidden) common thread.

## Participants' Abstracts

### **Joël Alipaß (Dortmund): *Individual differences in early pragmatic abilities: An online-study on figurative language***

Pragmatic language abilities have initially been believed to develop comparatively late, following a more “literal stage” of language comprehension in early childhood (e.g. Winner et al., 1988). It was thus implicitly conceived as an add-on to what is known as “core linguistic” areas such as syntax or the lexicon. Reconsidering a central feature of pragmatics – the inference process depending on intention-reading (Ariel, 2010; Sperber & Wilson, 1986; Bohn & Frank, 2019) – recent research has pointed towards a continuum of pragmatic development (Pouscoulous, 2023, see also Clark, 2020) relating back to precursors in infancy (Matthews, 2018; Mascaro & Sperber, 2016). For the comprehension of linguistic implicatures in a Gricean sense, recent findings provided evidence of inference skills as early as three years, e.g. for ad-hoc implicatures (Stiller et al., 2015), indirect requests (Schulze et al., 2013), scalar implicature (Panizza et al., 2021), but also comprehending figurative language (Falkum & Köder, 2020, Pouscoulous & Tomasello, 2020). Understanding figurative meanings such as metaphor, metonymy, hyperbole or irony requires children to recognize the violation of a Gricean maxim (e.g., of quality) and shift away from a more conventionalized meaning. Figurative language (i.e., novel rather than conventionalized, see Pouscoulous, 2023) thus appears to be a useful area for understanding the pragmatic inferencing process in early childhood. It is yet unclear, however, how understanding figurative language unfolds and what role different degrees of “non-literal” language play in development. Furthermore, it is open how cognitive and environmental factors account for individual differences in pragmatic processing.

The PhD study presented by the (work in progress) poster takes up these open questions for a better understanding of pragmatic development based on the acquisition of figurative language: the role of the degree of lexical modulation and cognitive and environmental factors. Addressing the desideratum by Falkum (2022) that the distance from conventional senses between metaphors and slighter lexical modulations such as hyperboles should be studied, the poster presents a research design incorporating a comparison of comprehension tasks for a non-literal continuum in 3–4-year-olds. A methodological innovation will be presented by reaction-time based picture-selection task, which allow for an online assessment beyond the usual percentage correct scores (as online methods have been shown to be more sensitive with regard to developmental trajectories, Falkum & Köder, 2020). To address the question of individual differences, the poster will further present a design to test associations with independent variables such as bilingualism, interactive input, inhibitory control, working memory and social cognition, including a critical look at each of their operationalization.

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## **Katrin Bohnenkamp (Bochum): Multimodalität und Varietätenbewusstsein *ante litteram*: Ein Mixed-Methods-Ansatz zur sprachlichen Komplexität der *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili***

Die *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili* von Francesco Colonna gilt als eines der sprachlich ambitioniertesten und zugleich am schwersten zugänglichen Werke des Renaissancehumanismus. Sie erschien 1499 bei Aldo Manuzio in Venedig und stellt durch die Kombination von literarischen, sprachlichen und bildlichen Elementen ein multimodales Gesamtkunstwerk dar. Ihr Autor schöpft aus zahlreichen Sprachen wie z.B. dem Griechischen oder dem Arabischen, den größten Anteil machen jedoch volkssprachliche und lateinische Elemente aus. Er kreiert so ein Labyrinth aus Neologismen, grapho-phonetischen Varianten und allegorischen Bezügen, das von seinen Lesern nur mithilfe eines reflektierten und analytischen Blicks durchdrungen und erfasst werden kann. Zudem veranschaulicht das Werk die Renaissance-Debatte um die Etablierung einer einheitlichen Literatursprache nicht nur *in nuce*, sondern überschreitet durch die gezielte Kombination flexibel eingesetzter diatopischer, diastratischer und diaphasischer Varianten die klassische *questione della lingua* sowohl auf der *discours*- als auch auf der Metaebene. So entsteht ein Idiolekt, der im Vergleich zu anderen eklektischen Varietäten jener Zeit durch seine exaltierte Heterogenität heraussticht.

Die literarischen und kunsthistorischen Dimensionen der *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili* haben in der Forschung besondere Beachtung gefunden, während eine Untersuchung ihrer sprachlichen Merkmale nur in begrenztem und fragmentarischem Umfang stattgefunden hat. Die systematische Analyse dieses facettenreichen Sprachengeflechts ist daher ein dringendes Forschungsdesiderat. Welche Sprachgebrauchsmuster lassen sich auf grapho-phonetischer und morphosyntaktischer Ebene ausmachen und inwieweit lassen sie auf das Sprachbewusstsein und Varietätenverständnis des Autors schließen?

Methodische Grundlage des Dissertationsprojektes ist ein Mixed-Methods-Ansatz, der eine qualitative Inhalts- und Sprachgebrauchsanalyse mit einer Frequenz- und Kookkurrenzanalyse kombiniert. Parallel dazu wird ein Vergleichskorpus ausgewählter Renaissance-texte erstellt, um die so identifizierten 2 Sprachgebrauchsmuster der *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili* qualitativ und quantitativ in einen zeitgenössischen Bezug setzen zu können. Im Fokus stehen dabei nicht nur das „Was“ und „Wie“ der Variation, sondern auch ihr „Warum“ sowie die Frage, wo sich das Werk in der *questione della lingua* verorten lässt.

## **Celina Brost (Aachen): *Transitivity in German and English: first steps towards an inductive corpus analysis of SFL based transitivity in German***

Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) is a widely recognized functional theory of language. It is mainly known for its analysis of English (Halliday and Matthiessen 2014), but can, and has been, applied to different languages as well (e.g. Kim et al. 2023, Teich 2003, Quiroz 2013). Most of these functional descriptions of a language system do not consult empirical data but rather rely on exemplary evidence or reference other theoretical theories. The present thesis plans on taking a different approach by conducting a mostly inductive, yet cyclic analysis of transitivity in German, similar to the one conducted by

Halliday (1968) for English. The procedure will be divided into three steps, the first of which entails an observational corpus analysis of emerging lexicogrammatical patterns. These will be reviewed during the second step when a further corpus analysis is conducted and quantitatively compared to the results of the tentatively proposed framework from the first analysis. Lastly, a contrastive comparison between the newly developed framework for German and the already existing English description will enable the evaluation of cross-linguistic comparability. Since the project is still in its beginning stages, this presentation will focus on the methodology that was developed for the first observational corpus analysis, possibly including some tentative findings.

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## **Maria den Hartog (Radboud): *Uncovering hidden patterns in "messy" historical data using tree-based approaches***

Historical data is typically "messy": historical corpora are not as well-balanced as contemporary corpora, since their content is dependent on what material happens to have survived through the years. For example, the Dutch Couranten Corpus (2022) contains transcriptions of newspapers from the 17th century, and it has significantly more material from the late 17th century than from the early 17th century. Such data sets present significant analytical challenges. Traditional parametric methods often stumble when faced with nonlinearity, complex interactions, and inherent irregularities in such data. In this talk, I will introduce tree-based methods, including conditional inference trees and random forests, as flexible and robust analytical tools for (historical) linguistics (following Levshina, 2020). These nonparametric techniques iteratively partition the data based on predictor variables and offer transparent, visual representations of linguistic variation and change. Drawing on examples from my own study of forms of address in 17th-century Dutch newspapers (de Vos & den Hartog, 2025), I will demonstrate how these methods can uncover previously hidden sociolinguistic patterns—for instance, shifts in epistolary and personal pronoun usage—by effectively handling (socio)linguistic variables such as the syntactic role of an address form, text type, and temporal trends. I will also introduce the practical implementation available via the *partykit* package (Hothorn & Zeileis, 2015) in R (R Core Team, 2021). I will show that tree-based methods can serve as a powerful complement to traditional approaches, and provide practical insights into adapting these

techniques for explorations of “messy” historical and non-historical data. Ultimately, this method pitch aims to support fellow PhD candidates with innovative methodological tools that complement more commonly used tools, and open up new avenues for investigating the dynamics of language.

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## Josephine B. Fisher (Paderborn, TRR 318 Constructing Explainability): *Scaffolding in Game Explanations*

Everyday explanations, such as game explanations, offer valuable insights into how conversational partners verbally adapt to one another. One specific aspect of the verbal adaptation, interactive adaptivity, can be examined through the scaffolding behaviour of the explainer. We propose that scaffolding is a means for adaptation (Buhl et al., 2025). Scaffolding, as described in the tutoring literature (Chi et al., 2001), is an interactive strategy aimed at guiding the tutee—here, the explainee. It reflects the explainer’s effort to tailor explanations to the needs of the explainee, thereby eliciting their active involvement.

To investigate this, we developed an interactive scaffolding score, which only considers scaffolding behaviours that triggered a verbal response from the explainee. In contrast to earlier research (e.g., Chi et al., 2001; Chi et al., 2008), which has largely concentrated on the explainer, we adopt a co-constructive perspective on explanations (Rohlfing et al., 2021) by considering the role and involvement of the explainee. This shift in focus acknowledges the explainee’s active contribution to the explanation process and underscores their importance in shaping the interaction. This approach is applied to the ADEX corpus, which includes 64 dyadic adult explanations of a board game.

To refine and substantiate our methodological approach, we compare the interactive scaffolding score with a measurement of general scaffolding behaviour from the explainer. This comparison involves analysing distinct scaffolding moves, contrasting those that elicit explainee involvement with those that capture both types, and identifying differences between these approaches. Through this, we aim to answer two key questions:

What scaffolding behaviours trigger explainee involvement, and how are these behaviours linked to the verbal behaviour of the explainer?

Research on adaptive strategies in everyday explanations remains underdeveloped, with limited focus on the explainee's in the interaction (Buhl et al. 2024). Even defining the term adaptation is problematic among researchers (van de Pol et al., 2023). To address these challenges, we present two methods for capturing scaffolding behaviours and evaluate their respective strengths and limitations.

Preliminary findings show that the interactive scaffolding score frequently captures behaviours such as decomposing game, engaging in meta-talk, and providing confirmatory feedback. While general scaffolding measures highlight more specific aspects of explainer scaffolding such as meta-talk, highlighting and reminding. These results emphasise the need for a nuanced exploration of scaffolding dynamics to better understand how specific behaviours elicit explainee involvement.

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## **Florian Frenken (Aachen): *Rapid Text Segmentation: Crowd-sourcing Lay Intuition about Text Structure in the Browser***

Segmenting text into meaningful (typically semantic) units is a common NLP task. However, current evaluation methods usually rely either on small datasets derived from subjective plausibility judgments of domain experts, or larger yet synthetic benchmarks, often based on formal properties like paragraphs (e.g., Koshorek et al., 2018). Given the questionable reliability of such proxies, not least resulting from the impossible issue of developing consistent theoretically-motivated criteria for an inherently variable perceptual phenomenon like coherence, these approaches raise concerns about reproducibility and psychological validity (see Glavaš et al., 2021).

This contribution embraces the uncertainty of such variability and presents a browser-based tool for crowd-sourcing text segmentations. Inspired by rapid prosody transcription (Cole et al., 2017), it aims to target the subconscious linguistic understanding of many untrained laypeople by providing an interface designed to encourage spontaneous decision-making. This is achieved, in particular, by presenting texts as a self-paced reading task with a limited context window and having participants mark perceived boundaries based on minimal instruction.

The purpose of this approach is to capture participants' intuitive sense of textual structure as it naturally develops in memory while reading (see Kintsch and Van Dijk, 1978), shaped by cultural knowledge of conventionally recognized genres and exposure to registers in recurring situational production contexts (Biber and Conrad, 2019, 23–24). As such, participants presumably identify segments not only based on coherence or cohesion but also the perceptual salience of functional linguistic indicators characteristic for the given text type in particular areas of transition.

Being intended for large-scale experiments, this work makes use of inter-annotator variability by conceptualizing responses as a statistical distribution where the relative frequency of occurrence indicates the level of a boundary in the hierarchy of text organization. As such, one can expect those boundaries relevant to the higher-level structure of the text to be the most perspicuous and accordingly marked in similar regions by the majority of annotators (levels effect, Kintsch and Van Dijk, 1978, 370).

In addition to recording boundary judgments, the tool collects descriptive labels for each segment and the text as a whole, together with response times and demographic information, to gain insights about the segmentation process and potential influencing factors. This contribution demonstrates a prototype implementation of the interface and reports on first experimental results not only compared to existing benchmarks but also in terms of user experience and the aforementioned supplementary data.

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**Xandra Knappe (Duisburg-Essen): *Fighting the "Others": Implications of Good versus Evil in the Portrayal of Migrants by Populist Radical Right Members of European Parliament on X***

Language not only conveys identity but also shapes how we perceive the world. In digital spaces, where words spread at unprecedented speed, rhetorical strategies - particularly those influencing political opinion - have gained significant traction. Populist radical right (PRR) actors have especially benefited from the affordances of social media, increasing political engagement and mobilisation across both national and transnational arenas. Understanding how ideology is communicated, identities are constructed, and polarisation is produced is vital to grasping the dynamics of contemporary political discourse.

This study investigates how members of the PRR in the European Parliament employ rhetorical strategies to shape public discourse and reinforce in-group identity. Building on Laclau's (2005) theory of populist antagonism and Hansen's (2018: 13) "boundary-drawing logic", the study explores how collective identities are discursively constructed through the exclusion of "the other". Right-wing populism, often centres on anti-immigration themes, invoking a nostalgic appeal to a traditional, stable past. In this context, political complexity of immigration is reduced to emotionally resonant binaries of "us" versus "them" and "good" versus "evil". Consequently, the out-group of the migrants is scapegoated and existing social anxieties, racism, and xenophobia are utilised to strengthen the in-group's identity against a perceived common enemy.

This research draws on a corpus of 492 English-language posts from PRR politicians from ten countries and their respective party accounts across the European Parliament. It was collected from X (formerly Twitter) during a month-long window surrounding the 2024 EU elections (22 May–23 June). A further 200 top comments were included to analyse user responses. The data was coded using MAXQDA and analysed through a combination of semiology, pragmatics and sociolinguistics in a Critical Discourse Analysis.

Findings reveal that PRR posts depict migrants negatively, associated terms distance and dehumanise the group and directly put them into relation to threat and danger. Metaphor and emotionally loaded language play a key role in fostering exclusionary identity politics. Emotional rhetoric - through invocations of fear, urgency, insecurity - is strategically

exploited, mobilising followers by tapping into shared anxieties and desires for protection and order. The emotional tone of original posts is frequently echoed and amplified by high-engagement user comments, creating a feedback loop that reinforces the discourse. This study offers a discourse-analytical perspective for understanding how right-wing populist rhetoric operates in multilingual digital environments.

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### **Johannes Lässig (Wuppertal): *Approaching Quantitative Historical Speech Act Analysis – Data Selection and Pragmatic Variables***

As the field of historical pragmatics has grown in the past decades, numerous studies have been published that put the analysis of speech acts and their role in organizing society into focus. Difficulties, however, seem to arise whenever objectifiable data are supposed to be presented and evaluated. As ad-hoc solutions, researchers have often either highly restricted their object of research (to accommodate only sub-types of the Searlian speech act categories, e.g. promises out of commissives) or opted for a purely qualitative approach (or both, resulting e.g. in the influential case studies by Arnovick, 1999).

The primary issue in historical pragmatics (as in other empirical disciplines) is that of data selection: What texts can constitute the diachronic corpus that has to be created for such a venture, and what criteria need be set up for this selective process? As the aim of the underlying PhD study is to enable a qualitative as well as a quantitative analysis of the development of conditioned commitments to harm, in short *threats*, in the English language, answers to these are to be sought in this method pitch.

The focus of this pitch, however questions, will lie on overcoming methodological difficulties that have so far made research on the development of speech acts difficult to compare to one another. Therefore, next to suggestions concerning data selection, parts of a refined terminology will be proposed, that might aid in objective, criteria-based speech act analysis. In addition, a model is proposed which enables the hierarchization of different illocutionary points present in threats, namely those from the domains of commissives, directives, and expressives.

Furthermore, this pitch proposes a methodology to identify and assess threatening speech acts. Identification of threats largely follows a semantic approach derived from Searle's proposed propositional content condition. Assessment of the speech acts is approached from formal, functional as well as discursive-contextual perspectives. These prompt the researcher to more closely investigate in variables such as the use of

performative verbs (or IFIDs), intensification, discursive function, and the relation between the speaker uttering the threat and its recipient, to name but a few. In the end, an outlook will be given on whether or how combined views on any of these variables in a diachronic environment might be able to serve as tests to various hypotheses that have accumulated within historical speech act analysis, such as those of de pragmaticization (or *discursivization*) or attenuation of certain illocutionary forces over time.

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## Zoë Miljanović (Aachen): *Variation in complexity across grammatical ranks*

Syntactic complexity occurs at different ranks of a language, such as clause or group/phrase rank, and its patterning is subject to diachronic change as well as variation due to the process of translation. Sentence length, for example, has been found to decrease over the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in English and German (Biber & Conrad 2019; Polenz 1999). In translation, complexity appears to decrease but also to shift between ranks, such that a reduction of original source text complexity on the clause rank is balanced out by an increase in phrasal complexity in the target text (Heilmann 2021). However, these trends can differ in the register of fiction, where syntactic complexity may even increase in translation, for example with regard to subordination (Liu & Afzaal 2021), or tendencies toward more complex nominal groups do not apply (Biber & Gray 2011). This study presents an investigation of shifts and variation in complexity across the clause and group/phrase ranks using a diachronic, bi-directional parallel corpus containing narrative fiction of various genres published over two centuries in the language pair English-German. In particular, clauses that combine with others to express the different logico-semantic relations of expansion, embedded clauses, as well as phrases expressing circumstantial meaning in the experiential system are analysed from a systemic functional perspective (Halliday & Matthiessen 2014), considering these formal realisations as functional choices from a cline of circumstances to cohesive sentences (Andersen & Holsting

2018, 12). First results from the corpus under analysis suggest that syntactic complexity is instantiated differently over time as well as in translation: Clause complexity in general and relations of expansion in particular decrease over time (cf. also He 2019), while the complexity of the source texts predicts changes in the use of circumstances in the target texts, with slight differences between the translation directions. At the same time, these prior analyses have revealed the need for a more exhaustive annotation to take into account complexity shifts across grammatical ranks. The poster focuses on the analysis of these opposing tendencies of phrasal condensation versus clausal elaboration and their function in the register of narrative fiction over time and in translation.

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## **Franziska Möller (Bochum): *From guided interviews to a sociolinguistic questionnaire: insights from a preliminary qualitative study on different types of heritage languages***

My research is part of a larger research project at the Ruhr-University Bochum in cooperation with the Sorbian Institute in Bautzen called "Types of heritage languages in comparison: Upper Sorbian and Polish in Germany (HOPoD)". The project aims at comparing two types of heritage languages in Germany on a structural linguistic as well as a sociolinguistic level. By doing so, we try to merge two formerly separate lines of research, namely contact linguistics and heritage linguistics.

Although there is a broad consensus that the languages of autochthonous minorities also fulfil the core definition of heritage languages (Aalberse et al. 2019, Brehmer & Mehlhorn

2018, Polinsky 2018), they have hardly been considered in heritage language research to date. Accordingly, there are hardly any studies that systematically contrast these two types of minority languages. However, this comparison offers great potential for testing assumptions about developmental regularities in heritage languages (Polinsky 2018, Yilmaz & Schmid 2019). Thus, we focus on both the autochthonous Upper Sorbian and the allochthonous Polish in Germany.

While the two heritage languages to be compared have fundamental similarities, there are also clear differences, particularly in terms of sociolinguistic circumstances (Radatz 2019). These are of great importance not only for the use and transmission of the heritage language, but also for developments within the language. The various relevant factors can be summarised as follows (Aalberse et al. 2019, Montrul 2016): the sociopolitical status of the heritage language, the language acquisition process and linguistic practices in different contexts, and the (individual) language attitudes.

In a mixed methods design, with the help of guided interviews and considering existing questionnaires in heritage language research, I am developing a sociolinguistic questionnaire tailored to these two language communities. Thus, I try to shed light on the details of the sociolinguistic situation for both heritage languages to find out how these circumstances influence a number of different parameters considered relevant for language acquisition and intergenerational transmission. I am going to present results of a qualitative content analysis (Kuckartz 2018) of the interview data of 12 speakers of Upper Sorbian and 12 speakers of Polish. Additionally, I will draw conclusions for the development of a sociolinguistic questionnaire tailored to these two different types of heritage languages.

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## **Anastasya Oberwies (Duisburg-Essen): *The grammaticalization of the indefinite article in West-Germanic languages***

Articles typically function as determiners in noun phrases (NP), expressing notions such as (in)definiteness, (non)specificity, (non)uniqueness, and (un)identifiability (Szczepaniak 2011: 79, Sommerer 2018: 7, Geist 2011: 2). While the definite article generally marks referents that are specific and identifiable within a discourse, the indefinite article is used to introduce new or non-identifiable referents (Szczepaniak 2011: 79, Raumolin-Brunberg & Kahlas-Tarkka 1997: 21), and can be used in specific contexts as in *I am going to visit a friend tomorrow* or in non-specific contexts as in *I need to buy a car. My old car was stolen*. Both, definite and indefinite articles are relatively recent developments in the German and English language history, and while the grammaticalization of the definite article has been subject to numerous studies and extensively studied (e.g., McColl Millar 2000, Sommerer 2018, Bauer 2007), the development of the indefinite article has received comparatively little attention. Some of the few notable contributions on the development of the indefinite article include the works of Weiss for Macedonian EDEN (2004) and Szczepaniak EIN/E (2016), who determine the following grammaticalization path for ‘one’:

NUMERAL > INDEFINITE PRONOUN (SINGULATIVE CONTEXT) > SPECIFIC DISCOURSE TOPIC MARKER > GENERIC & PREDICATIVE USE > NON-SPECIFIC USE

However, an extensive diachronic study and substantiation of this grammaticalization pathway is still missing. In my PhD project, I would like to address this research gap by examining the grammaticalization of A(N)<sup>1</sup> across the Old West-Germanic varieties Old English (OE), Old Saxon (OS), and Old High German (OHG), as well as their respective later stages Middle English (ME), Middle Low German (MLG), and Middle High German (MHG), based on the York Corpus, Referenzkorpus Altdeutsch, Referenzkorpus Mittelhochdeutsch, and Referenzkorpus Mittelniederdeutsch. In order to examine the emergence of the indefinite article and to identify different stages of its grammaticalization, I intend to analyze NPs across a range of texts to determine whether they appear with a definite or indefinite article, or with bare nouns, and to explore the functions that A(N) expresses in these contexts. The study aims to investigate if the grammaticalization path by Weiss (2004) and Szczepaniak (2016) provided above is applicable to the development in the Old West-Germanic languages, what factors led to the emergence (Sommerer 2018) and how the emergence of the indefinite article interacts with Information Structure (Krifka 2007, Prince 1981, Petrova & Hinterhölzl 2010).

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<sup>1</sup> A(N) refers to all variations of *a/n*.

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### **Elena Panfilova (Dortmund): *Time, Talk, and Gaze: Cross-Linguistic Perspectives on Time-Telling***

Linguistic preferences and sentence structure play a crucial role in guiding how speakers process visual information during language production tasks such as time-telling. Eye-tracking studies have consistently shown that gaze patterns align closely with linguistic elements being encoded into speech, reflecting an intricate relationship between perception, cognition, and language use (Bock et al., 2003; Gleitman et al., 2007; Griffin & Bock, 2000).

This study investigates cross-linguistic differences in visual attention and linguistic preferences during time-telling tasks across three languages: German, Czech, and Russian (N=117). Using eye-tracking data alongside questionnaire responses, we analyzed how initial fixations on analog clock regions (minute-hand or hour-hand) align with the production of relative and absolute time expressions.

Results revealed distinct linguistic preferences: Germans overwhelmingly favored relative expressions (84%), Russians exhibited a balanced use of relative (53%) and absolute (47%) forms, while Czechs produced nearly equal proportions of both types (48% relative; 52% absolute), potentially reflecting generational shifts influenced by increased reliance on digital devices.

Fixation patterns showed significant cross-linguistic similarities for relative expressions. Participants across all three groups tended to focus first on the minute-hand region. This finding supports theories linking gaze behavior to linguistic structure during speech production (Bock et al., 2003; Griffin & Bock, 2000; Brown-Schmidt & Tanenhaus, 2006). For absolute expressions, fixation behavior varied: Russian speakers predominantly fixated on the hour-hand region first, aligning closely with word order constraints in their language. In contrast, Czech and German participants distributed their fixations equally across both areas of interest (~50%), likely influenced by their overall preference for relative expressions. These results suggest that habitual linguistic practices shape attentional strategies when engaging with less familiar structures.

Our findings demonstrate that both linguistic structures and language-specific preferences influence visual processing during language production tasks involving temporal information. By highlighting cross-linguistic variability in attentional strategies shaped by cultural norms, technological influences, and structural conventions, this study

contributes new evidence to the understanding of temporal information processing across diverse populations.

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## **Thi Phuong Anh Pham & Thi Nhung Nguyen (Münster/Hanoi): *Representation of Vietnamese youth identity through folktronica music videos***

Folktronica, a hybrid genre blending folk music and electronic sounds (SoundBridge, 2023), has garnered notable attention worldwide in recent years. In Vietnam, this genre has gained increasing popularity among the youth since the mid-2010s, particularly through music videos (MV) that interweave traditional symbols with modern production. Existing studies mainly focus on the transformation and adaptation of folktronica within European contexts, involving the integration of Scandinavian folklore elements in the composition (Jurgita, 2024), and transformation of Arhai's musical identity in response to new cultural contexts and modern market's demands (Medic, 2015). However, scholarly attention to the representation of youth identities in folktronica MVs remains absent, including youth identities through folktronica music in the Vietnamese context. This research seeks to address that gap by investigating the question: *How is Vietnamese young identity represented in folktronica music videos?* Drawing on the frameworks of

Systemic Functional Linguistics (Halliday & Hasan, 1989) and Visual Grammar (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006), the study applied a qualitative content analysis of 18 representative MVs from the year of 2019 to 2024. Both linguistic (lyrics) and visual components were systematically analyzed to identify recurring themes of Vietnamese youth identities. The findings indicate that the identities of the Vietnamese young generation emerge with three themes, namely patriotism, collectivism, resilience and adaptation. These identities reflect a unique characteristic of the folktronica genre as it simultaneously safeguards cultural heritage and innovatively adapts it to globalized contexts. This study contributes to the existing literature of folktronica by offering deeper insight into this music genre within the Vietnamese context, particularly regarding the representation of Vietnamese youth identities.

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## Carmen Schacht (Bochum): *NLP Tools for the Automatic Splitting of Compound Words*

Compounding is a crucial morphological process unifying individual lexemes into new lexical units that often exceed the encoding of the meaning of the individual constituents. As a highly efficient way for speakers of a language to condensely fit a large amount of information into a small amount of language signal, creating informationally dense and compact structures, this can be considered one of the most productive word building processes. For example, the German compound 'Kompositumsbildungsprozess' ('compound formation process') conveys the same meaning as 'Die Prozesse der Bildung von Komposita' ('The process for the formation of compounds') but more compactly. Fitting the same amount of meaning into fewer words reduces the time it takes to articulate the encoded meaning and greatly improves the efficiency of the communication. German is especially apt for the linguistic research on compounding processes, as it displays vivid compounding behaviour in all domains. Compounding as one of the most frequent word formation processes in German is not only a highly efficient mechanism to package large quantities of information but also allows for a rather productive on-the-spot vocabulary

extension. German compounds have almost no limits in terms of length and constituent types, as can be observed in compounds like ‘Rindfleischetikettierungsüberwachungsaufgabenübertragungsgesetz’ (“Beef Labelling Monitoring Task Transfer Act”). Compounding processes – production as well as processing – are especially interesting for psycho- as well as for computational linguistics, as their processing depends largely on the speakers’ and audience’s context and prior knowledge (Kendou & Van den Broek, 2007) as well as linguistic (Meßmer et al., 2021) and communicative context (Gamboa et al., 2024, 2025).

Investigating compounds – particularly complex compounds like above - they often have to be split into their individual constituents to examine the underlying influences on their production. The manual annotation of compounds is costly in terms of time and personnel, which is giving rise to the necessity for the development of automatic annotation tools. Various tools exist to date, handling the various aspects of automatically processing compounds, which is not trivial. This method pitch will present a selection of state-of-the-art compound splitting tools, demonstrating the functionality of the compound-split tool of Tuggener (2016) in detail.

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## Martin Schopen (Aachen): *Exploring Conversational Dominance*

Research on conversational dominance, meaning who of the interlocutors in a conversation holds what amount of the interactional space, is grounded in work in Gender Studies in the 1980s (cf. Lakoff 1973, 1975). While conversational dominance research was somewhat prominent in the 1980s and 90s, scholars eventually turned more towards the related concept of power or politeness. The reasons for this are manifold.

Firstly, as conversational dominance has always been understood as a concept which is not directly measurable, a common method to study it has been to use linguistic conversational dominance indicators (CDIs) that are frequently used by individuals that are perceived as dominant in conversation, such as interruptions or topic initiations. Strikingly, there are major drawbacks to the few studies that have attempted to provide solid construct validity to CDIs (cf. Rienks & Heylen 2005; Nakano & Fukuhara 2012).

Secondly, the relationship between conversational dominance and power has often been described as complex (Linell et al. 1988, 416), resulting in most scholars in the field claiming that one should not attempt to draw conclusions about the power relations of a conversation based on the conversational dominance shown by the interlocutors (cf. Linell et al. 1988; Itakura 2001). Ideas on how to address this have been developed in Dyadic Power Theory (cf. Dunbar & Burgoon 2005) but they have so far been restricted to dyadic conversations and there is empirical evidence that indicates that conversational dominance behavior is expressed differently depending on group size (cf. Dunbar et al. 2021), making these claims not very generalizable.

Thirdly, even after conversational dominance research began to exit Gender Studies and overlap with pragmatics and sociolinguistics became more common, the role that register, i.e. recurring situations influencing how language is used (cf. Neumann 2014), plays still remains underresearched except for some efforts by Fay and colleagues (cf. Fay et al. 2000).

My work to address these criticisms is at an early stage but I plan to conduct three phases that further explore conversational dominance and CDIs. Firstly, I will run an experimental study to investigate which commonly used CDIs correlate with observer- and participant-rated dominance. Secondly, I will use this set of linguistic CDIs to investigate whether they follow Poynton's claims about reciprocity in power (cf. Poynton 1985), i.e. whether interlocutors in a relatively equal power relationship will use a similar amount of CDIs while interlocutors in a relatively unequal power relationship will use a differing amount of CDIs. Finally, in phase 3, I will attempt to see which combination of speaker and context variables best predicts conversational dominance behavior.

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### **Hannah Seemann (Bochum): *Pragmatic Markers as Signals in Discourse: The Case of German Modal Particles***

Discourse relations, as employed by models of discourse structure such as Rhetorical Structure Theory (Mann & Thompson, 1988), can be signaled by numerous elements. Prototypical markers of relations are connectives (*because*, etc.) and cue phrases (due to, etc.). Recent work also investigates the influence of non-connective signals on the perception and processing of discourse (Crible & Demberg, 2020; Marchal, 2024). One group of such nonconnective signals are modal particles: Pragmatic markers that indicate a speaker's knowledge and beliefs (Zimmermann, 2011):

- (1) *Didn't Marie want to join us today?*  
Nein, sie ist **doch** im Urlaub.  
'No, she is on vacation (**as you already knew.**)'
- (2) *After waiting for the bus for 10 minutes, Marie states:*  
Unser Bus kommt **wohl** nicht mehr.  
'(**I guess**) Our bus is not coming.'

Experimental evidence presented in Döring (2016) and Seemann & Scheffler (2025) on the German modal particle *ja* (typically indicating shared knowledge) shows that the particle influences which discourse relation is perceived by participants. Yet, it remains unclear

whether the reported effect is specific to this particle or generalizable for similar pragmatic markers.

Presenting results from two forced-choice experiments, we argue that the German particle *doch* (indicating shared knowledge and contrast (1)), but not the particle *wohl* (typically indicating speaker uncertainty (2)), serve as signals in discourse. In one experiment per particle, participants ( $n = 40$  each) were asked to insert the connective that matches the presented context best to indicate the discourse relation they perceive, as in (3).

- (3) Meine Schwester sagt, dass meine Eltern zwei Gänge vorbereiten, \_\_\_\_\_ [obwohl/und/weil] ich (**Ø/doch**) einen Nachtisch mitbringe. ‘My sister says that my parents are preparing two courses \_\_\_\_\_ [even though/and/because] I’ll bring (Ø/PART) a dessert.’

The output of a Bayesian mixed-effects multinomial logistic regression model fit with the R package *brms* (Bürkner, 2017) shows that presenting stimuli with *doch* leads to a significant increase in the choice of the concessive connective ( $\hat{\beta} = 1.82$ , 95% credible interval (CRI) = (1.28, 2.39)), while no clear trend could be observed for *wohl* (95% CRI centered around zero).

Based on this evidence, we consider the German modal particle *doch* to be a non-connective discourse signal for CONCESSION, similar to the signaling function previously observed for *ja*. No discourse signaling function could be observed for *wohl*. This difference suggests systematic heterogeneity in the group of modal particles.

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## **Erna Selmanovic (Dortmund): *Bi-/Trilingualism and Dialect Use in Cyprus: Language Use and Attitudes***

The linguistic situation in Cyprus is shaped by its political division, colonial history, and multilingual demographic. While Greek and Turkish are the official languages, local varieties – Cypriot Greek and Cypriot Turkish – as well as many other languages such as English, Russian, and Arabic contribute to Cyprus’ widespread individual bi- and trilingualism (Vida-Mannl, Buschfeld & Grohmann 2024: 170). The interplay of the different languages spoken in Cyprus in relation to individual bi-/trilingualism is one core objective of this project especially in regards to language use and attitudes.

Although Cyprus’ postcolonial history has influenced the widespread bilingualism in English and a native variety (either Cypriot Greek or Cypriot Turkish), English never attained the status of a lingua franca or became a means of intranational communication within Cyprus (Vida-Mannl, Buschfeld & Grohmann 2024: 175). Unlike other postcolonial contexts, the use of English in Cyprus appears to be influenced more by globalization than by colonial legacy and its use is limited to very few domains (Vida-Mannl, Buschfeld & Grohmann 2024: 177). Nevertheless, English remains an important language in Cyprus as it constitutes many individuals’ bi-/ trilingualism which is why research regarding the use and attitudes towards it is essential.

Another focus of this project is the dialect use in Cyprus. Most Cypriots are native speakers of Cypriot Greek but not Standard Modern Greek, indicating a non-typical differentiation between High and Low varieties. This is evident in the use of Cypriot Greek across different domains despite its status as a Low variety (Vida-Mannl, Buschfeld & Grohmann 2024: 177). This is also expected for the Turkish communities with Cypriot Turkish and Standard Turkish respectively. Thus, the dialectal situation in Cyprus has been described as a lectal continuum rather than a diglossic situation (Vida-Mannl, Buschfeld & Grohmann 2024: 178). According to Rowe and Grohmann many speakers in Cyprus are not considered bilingual, because monolingual Greek Cypriots are bilectal speakers of Cypriot Greek and Standard Modern Greek (2013: 138). However, the intersection of bi-/trilingualism and bilectalism remains underexplored. The aim of this project is to further investigate how speakers in Cyprus perceive the varieties spoken in the country and how attitudes towards those play a role in individual multilinguality in Cyprus.

Data for this project will be collected through an online questionnaire and semistructured interviews as part of a DFG-funded research project focusing on multilingual ecologies.

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## Bethany Stoddard (Bonn): *Grammatical variation in young German learner English*

The dative alternation (1) and the closely related benefactive alternation (2) are examples of grammatical variation in English, where two grammatical structures represent the same semantic content.

### (1) **Dative alternation** (*to*-dative)

- Prepositional construction (PC): John gave the book to Mary.
- Double object construction (DOC): John gave Mary the book.

### (2) **Benefactive alternation** (*for*-dative)

- Prepositional construction (PC): Emma bought a gift for her friend.
- Double object construction (DOC): Emma bought her friend a gift.

The acceptability of a particular form is influenced by a number of probabilistic constraints, including semantic properties of the recipient and theme, contextual factors, phonological factors, and processing-related factors (Bresnan & Ford 2010). Multifactorial analyses of the dative alternation in EFL suggest that advanced learners are sensitive to many of the same factors as native speakers, (e.g. Lee et al. 2015; Jäschke & Plag 2016), however, research is lacking on beginner/lower intermediate EFL learners.

For German EFL learners, two potentially key influences exist in tension: While the PC is said to be the easier form to process, the DOC is the most frequent form in the German dative alternation. Thus, the Developmentally Moderated Transfer Hypothesis (Håkansson et al. 2002; Pienemann & Håkansson 2007) would predict a preference for the PC, while Conceptualization Transfer (Jarvis 2007; Jarvis & Pavlenko 2008) would predict a DOC preference (Jäschke & Plag 2016). In my doctoral dissertation, I investigate the production of the dative and benefactive alternations in young German learner English to gain insight into the early stages of acquisition of probabilistic constraints.

Data will be extracted from the corpus of Young German Learner English (Bracke et al. 2024), which is currently being compiled. I will use the MuPDAR approach (Gries & Deshors 2014, Gries 2022) to compare learners' production to native speakers' predicted choices in the same context. This will allow for very fine-grained analyses, revealing which probabilistic constraints beginner/intermediate learners are sensitive to and whether either form of the alternations is overrepresented in their production.

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### **Eva Windbergs (Cologne): *Native speaker transcripts as a source of met-alinguistic knowledge – Introducing transcription experiments***

Discourse transcription, a well-established tool in language documentation, is often treated as an objective part of the research process, yet it requires interpretive and analytical decisions by transcribers (Himmelman 2018: 35). Choices such as the level of detail or the inclusion of multimodal features depend heavily on the current research question or documentation goal (Du Bois et al. 1992: 4; Edwards 1993: 12). Scholars have long called for more methodological reflections (e.g. Ochs 1979; Bucholtz 2000) as transcripts serve as the basis for most subsequent linguistic analyses.

Previous work (e.g. Dobrin 2021; Jung & Himmelman 2011; Bucholtz 2007; Urban 1996) shows that native speakers often prioritise meaning over form. Rather than transcribing exactly what was said, they may paraphrase, omit code-switching and repetitions, or add content they deem relevant. Simply put, transcripts of the same recording may vary substantially.

This method pitch introduces a series of *transcription experiments* designed to explore such variation systematically in the context of language documentation, thereby focusing on morphosyntax. One small experiment already carried out is presented: eight Bachelor linguistics students and (near-)native speakers of Catalan transcribed a pear story (monologue) in ELAN, already segmented into intonation units for comparability. Despite these controlled conditions, notable variation emerged – particularly in word segmentation (e.g. articles), as illustrated below:

(1)

- |     |     |                 |             |          |      |      |
|-----|-----|-----------------|-------------|----------|------|------|
| (a) | veu | la              | oportunitat | d'agafar | una  | pera |
| (b) | veu | la              | oportunitat | de gafar | una  | pera |
| (c) | veu | l'oportunitat   | d'agafar    | una      | pera |      |
| (d) | veu | l'oportunitat   | de gafar    | una      | pera |      |
|     | see | ART-opportunity | to-grab     | a        | pear |      |

‘(he) sees the opportunity to grab a pear’

Preliminary data from similar experiments in German reveal comparable patterns, suggesting that even in WEIRD and LOL languages with established writing systems and traditions, considerable morphosyntactic variation can be found.

The talk outlines the design of transcription experiments, including: comparing multiple native speaker transcripts of the same recording; tracking changes over time (e.g. re-transcription of a recording months later), and comparing transcripts across different communicative events (e.g. monologues vs. dialogues). Transcript variation is argued to be not just *noise* in the data but a valuable source of *metalinguistic knowledge* of native speakers, e.g. regarding wordhood status of particular items. This method pitch advocates for transcription experiments in documentary linguistics. It calls for more *transparent* transcription practices, including documenting transcription processes and incorporating detailed accounts of transcription choices into typological research. This may improve the reliability, interpretability and reproducibility of linguistic analyses, especially in typological and descriptive research.

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### **Serkan Yüksel (Dortmund/Berlin): *Commercial Motivations and Multilingual Practices: Code-Switching at a Berlin Street Market***

This paper examines code-switching practices on the Maybachufer Market in Berlin-Neukölln—a highly diverse street market often referred to as the “Türkenmarkt”. Based on over 80 hours of spontaneous speech recordings, ethnographic fieldnotes, and interviews with vendors and customers, the study explores how multilingual practices serve both communicative and commercial purposes.

The analysis draws on sociolinguistic and structural approaches to code-switching, with particular attention to market-specific interaction types such as sales talks and market crying. Vendors switch between German, Turkish, Arabic, English, and other languages to accommodate customers, establish rapport, and highlight multilingual identity. Quantitative data show that German-Turkish combinations dominate (66%), followed by Arabic-German (18%) and German-English (12%).

A key finding is that code-switching is often commercially motivated. Vendors address customers in languages aligned with their perceived background, or use lingua francas to ensure communication, especially with tourists. Multilingual phrases are also used to attract attention and promote inclusivity. For example, one vendor calls out: “hamse Euro, fünf Euro, five Euro, beş Euro, all Sprachen, all language”—a multilingual enumeration of “five Euro” in Arabic, German, English, and Turkish, emphasizing reach and diversity.

Structurally, market code-switching diverges from patterns in private bilingual speech. Instead of embedded clauses, many utterances feature coordinated, repetitive structures across languages. These forms are shaped less by grammatical constraints than by situational context and communicative function, aligning with a *com-sit* (*communicative situation*) approach to language use (Wiese 2023).

The study also highlights the agency of customers, who often switch into the vendor’s language to express politeness or alignment, which leads to better prices. These practices reveal how multilingualism is enacted not just for understanding, but as a strategy for building relational and commercial value.

This research contributes to our understanding of multilingual interaction in superdiverse urban spaces, showing how language choice becomes a dynamic tool in everyday economic and social exchange.

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### **Agnieszka Zawadzka (Bochum): *Methoden zur Untersuchung sprachstruktureller Veränderungen im Kontext des Erwerbs und Erhalts von Heritage Languages: Verbalaspekt im Polnischen in Deutschland***

Im Rahmen des DFG-Projekts „Typen von Herkunftssprachen im Vergleich: Obersorbisch und Polnisch in Deutschland“ (HOSPoD; <http://www.rub.de/hospod>) werden u. a. sprachstrukturelle Veränderungen bei den Sprecher:innen dieser beiden Idiome am Beispiel der grammatischen Kategorie Verbalaspekt untersucht.

Das speziell für das Projekt entwickelte Testdesign umfasst verschiedene Aufgabentypen zur Erhebung mündlicher Sprachdaten: Erzählung von Bildergeschichten, Reformulierung und Übersetzung. Es zielt auf die Erfassung von sprachlichen Realisierungen von Äußerungen im Präsens und Präteritum bei Taxisrelationen der Gleichzeitigkeit, Abfolge und Inzidenz ab.

Durch den Vergleich der obersorbischen Umgangssprache und des Polnischen in Deutschland soll herausgefunden werden, welche Formen und Funktionen des polnischen Verbalaspekts in der Situation des permanenten Kontakts mit der dominanten Umgebungssprache Deutsch und des ggf. unvollständigen Erwerbs der Herkunftssprache stabil bleiben und welche anfällig für Veränderungen sind.

In der Präsentation werden Erkenntnisse aus der Pilotierung der Testinstrumente diskutiert, der Prozess der Datenerhebung kritisch reflektiert und die geplanten Schritte der qualitativ-quantitativen Analyse geschildert.

## Team & Contact Information



[Laura Duve](#)



[Anila Nosheen](#)



[Constanza Quinteros Ortiz](#)



[Ghazi Mohammad Takal](#)



[Feixue Zhao](#)



[Sara Kristina Roters](#)

E-Mail: [linpin@uni-muenster.de](mailto:linpin@uni-muenster.de)

Website: [https://www.uni-muenster.de/Promotionskolleg-Sprachwissenschaft/en/events/linpin\\_2025/index.html](https://www.uni-muenster.de/Promotionskolleg-Sprachwissenschaft/en/events/linpin_2025/index.html)