

On the syntactic dynamics of a transboundary dialect group

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The focus of the paper is on the syntax of a transboundary dialect group in its variation and change. For this purpose, the Bavarian area (which includes most of Austria, larger parts of south eastern Germany and smaller border regions in northern Italy; cf. Wiesinger 1983) can be viewed as the ideal research laboratory. On the basis of currently surveyed dialect data (by means of questionnaires à la SADS and SyHD) the following two research questions will guide the discussion:

1. How do the syntactically constituted areal patterns correspond to "traditional" dialect-geographic areas defined mainly on the basis of phonetic/phonological data? How do these linguistic areas correspond to other "extralinguistic" (e.g. geographic, political or social) areas?

2. On the basis of the "apparent-time-hypothesis": What does intergenerational, interregional and other synchronic variation tell us about current dynamics in areal syntax? What phenomena show which degree of stability and sensitivity to change? How do syntactic variation and change parallel what we find for phonetic/phonological structures?