



Universität Hamburg

Sonderforschungsbereich  
Mehrsprachigkeit



International Colloquium on

# **Convergence and Divergence in Language Contact Situations**

18–20 October 2007

University of Hamburg  
Research Centre on Multilingualism



## Welcome

On behalf of our Research Centre on Multilingualism (*Sonderforschungsbereich Mehrsprachigkeit*), generously supported by the German Research Foundation (*Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft*) and the University of Hamburg, we would like to welcome you all here in Hamburg.

This colloquium deals with issues related to convergence and divergence in language contact situations, issues which had been rather neglected in the past but have received much more attention in recent years.

Five speakers from different countries have kindly accepted our invitation to share their expertise with us by presenting their research related to the theme of this colloquium. (One colleague from the US fell seriously ill and deeply regrets not being able to join us. Unfortunately, another invited speaker cancelled his talk only two weeks ago.) All the other presentations are reports from ongoing work in the (now altogether 18) research projects in our centre.

We hope that the three conference days will be informative and stimulating for all of us, and that the colloquium will be remembered for both its friendly atmosphere and its lively, controversial discussions. The organising committee has done its best to ensure that this meeting with renowned colleagues from abroad will be a good place to make new friends or reinforce long-standing professional contacts. There will be many opportunities for doing that – during the coffee breaks and especially during the conference dinner at an excellent French restaurant on Thursday evening.

Once again, welcome to Hamburg!

*The organising committee*

Kurt Braunmüller (chair)

Javier Arias Navarro, Steffen Höder, Juliane House

## **International Colloquium on Convergence and Divergence in Language Contact Situations**

18–20 October 2007

University of Hamburg

Research Centre on Multilingualism

University of Hamburg, Main Building West, 2nd floor, auditorium 221

Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1, 20146 Hamburg

### **Organising committee**

Kurt Braunmüller (chair):	braunmueller@uni-hamburg.de
Javier Arias Navarro:	javier.arias@uni-hamburg.de
Steffen Höder:	steffen.hoeder@uni-hamburg.de
Juliane House:	jhouse@uni-hamburg.de

### **Conference fee**

15 €, reduced 7 €

### **Address**

Universität Hamburg

Sonderforschungsbereich 538 Mehrsprachigkeit

Max-Brauer-Allee 60

22765 Hamburg

Germany

sfb538@uni-hamburg.de

(+49 40) 428 38-6432

## Contents

Programme.....	7
<i>Javier Arias &amp; Conxita Lleó</i> Different paths to trochaic prominence by German-Spanish monolingual and bilingual children.....	8
<i>Ezel Babur, Solveig Kroffke &amp; Monika Rothweiler</i> Convergence of grammatical deficits in SLI across languages? Case morphology in Turkish-German bilingual children.....	10
<i>Peter Bakker</i> Convergence without intensive contact.....	11
<i>Viktor Becher, Juliane House &amp; Svenja Kranich</i> Divergence and convergence of communicative norms through language contact in translation.....	12
<i>Ariadna Benet, Susana Cortés &amp; Conxita Lleó</i> Gradient merging of vowels in Barcelona Catalan under the influence of Spanish.....	13
<i>Georg Bossong</i> Contact-induced convergence and divergence in lexicon and grammar: a challenge for genealogical linguistics.....	14
<i>Kurt Braunmüller</i> Converging genetically related languages: Endstation <i>code mixing</i> ?.....	16
<i>Christian Büchel &amp; Frédéric Isel</i> The role of the age of onset of acquisition on the conceptual representation of words in French-German bilingual adults as revealed by functional magnetic resonance adaptation .....	18
<i>Östen Dahl</i> Changes in complexity as a result of language contact.....	20
<i>Julia Davydova</i> Preterite and present perfect in Irish English: determinants of variation.....	21

<i>Martin Elsig</i>	
Divergence between two diatopic varieties of French: the case of interrogatives.....	22
<i>Barbara Hänel &amp; Monique Kügow</i>	
Sentence processing of German and German Sign Language (DGS) in different learner groups.....	24
<i>Steffen Höder</i>	
Converging languages, diverging varieties: the emergence of written Old Swedish.....	25
<i>Paul Kerswill</i>	
Dialect levelling and dialect divergence in south-east England: the role of minority ethnic Englishes in phonetic innovation in London.....	26
<i>Bernd Meyer &amp; Demet Özçetin</i>	
Parenthetical constructions in oral and written translation.....	28
<i>Lukas Pietsch</i>	
Irish English – paths of contact, paths of transmission.....	29
<i>Claudia Stöber</i>	
Crosslinguistic influence in bilingual language acquisition? The case of Brazilian Portuguese and German.....	30
<i>Robert Vann</i>	
Language contact, language change, spontaneous speech innovation, and why we need more digital archives of spoken language corpora from contact dialects.....	32
Useful Information.....	34

# Programme

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:45–10:00 Monika Rothweiler & Kurt Braunnmüller: <i>Welcome address</i>		
10:00–11:00 Peter Bakker: <i>Convergence without intensive contact</i>	10:00–11:00 Georg Bossong: <i>Contact-induced convergence and divergence in lexicon and grammar ...</i>	10:00–11:00 Östen Dahl <i>Changes in complexity as a result of language contact</i>
11:00–11:30 Kurt Braunnmüller: <i>Converging genetically related languages ...</i>	11:00–11:30 Martin Elsig: <i>Divergence between two diatopic varieties of French ...</i>	11:00–11:30 Steffen Höder: <i>Converging languages, diverging varieties ...</i>
11:30–11:45 <i>Coffee break</i>	11:30–11:45 <i>Coffee break</i>	11:30–11:45 <i>Coffee break</i>
11:45–12:15 Lukas Pietsch: <i>Irish English - paths of contact, paths of transmission</i>	11:45–12:15 Claudia Stöber: <i>Crosslinguistic influence in bilingual language acquisition? ...</i>	11:45–12:45 Paul Kerswill: <i>Dialect levelling and dialect divergence in south-east England ...</i>
12:15–12:45 Julia Davydova: <i>Preterite and present perfect in Irish English ...</i>	12:15–12:45 Javier Arias & Conxita Lleó: <i>Different paths to trochaic prominence ...</i>	
12:45–14:30 <i>Lunch</i>	12:45–14:30 <i>Lunch</i>	12:45–13:00 Juliane House: <i>Closing remarks</i>
14:30–15:30 Robert Vann: <i>Language contact, language change, spontaneous speech innovation ...</i>	14:30–15:00 Ezel Babur, Solveig Kroffke & Monika Rothweiler: <i>Convergence of grammatical deficits in SLI ...</i>	
	15:00–15:30 Barbara Hänel & Monique Kügow: <i>Sentence processing of German and German Sign Language (DGS) ...</i>	
15:30–15:45 <i>Coffee break</i>	15:30–15:45 <i>Coffee break</i>	
15:45–16:15 Ariadna Benet, Susana Cortés & Conxita Lleó: <i>Gradient merging of vowels in Barcelona Catalan ...</i>	15:45–16:15 Christian Büchel & Frédéric Isel: <i>The role of the age of onset of acquisition on the conceptual representation ...</i>	
16:15–16:45 Viktor Becher, Juliane House & Svenja Kranich: <i>Divergence and convergence of communicative norms ...</i>		
16:45–17:15 Bernd Meyer & Demet Özçetin: <i>Par-enthetical constructions in oral and written translation</i>		
	19:00– <i>Conference dinner</i>	

## **Different paths to trochaic prominence by German-Spanish monolingual and bilingual children**

Javier Arias & Conxita Lleó

*Sonderforschungsbereich Mehrsprachigkeit*

Both German and Spanish show a preference for trochaic feet, many differences notwithstanding. Most descriptions of German consider it a weight-sensitive language, with an active Weight-to-Stress Principle, which assigns primary stress to heavy syllables. As for Spanish, Weight-to-Stress does not play any significant role. A further important distinction concerns the preference for syllabic trochees in Spanish and moraic trochees in German. The two languages crucially differ with regard to the phonetic implementation of stress, the differences in prominence between stressed and unstressed vowels being larger in German, a stress-timed language, than in Spanish, a syllable-timed language. Hence, mean differences in length, amplitude and pitch are greater in German than in Spanish. This paper concentrates primarily on duration.

While the vocabularies of young children contain many monosyllables in German, in Spanish disyllables outnumber all other word forms. In this paper we focus on comparable forms, namely disyllables. The data have been drawn from two Spanish and two German monolingual children, as well as from two German-Spanish bilingual children, aged between 1;3 and 2;5; vowel and syllable duration has been measured with the help of Praat for the MacIntosh.

All children produce target-like trochaic-shaped words from very early on, i.e. the first syllable is more prominent than the second one. However, in Spanish a certain percentage of words show a clear effect of final lengthening in the second syllable of isolated trochees. Interestingly, for a few months the monolingual Spanish children lengthen the stressed syllable by resorting to a glide or an approximant. That is, when the prominence of the stressed vowel comes into conflict with final lengthening, the stressed syllable is provided with an additional element – a glide or an approximant – which we analyze as an effect of Stress-to-Weight, i.e. ‘if stressed, then heavy.’ In the case of the German data, both monolingual children exhibit a similar treatment of the prominent syllable of trochees: only a few syllables with target long vowels are rendered longer than the final unstressed syllables, with the adequate duration of most stressed syllables being realized by means of a coda. As for the bilinguals, they follow different paths in each language in order to achieve



stress prominence. Thus, in German they do it by resorting to a coda in the stressed syllable, since the second vowel of the trochee is very often longer than the first one. Regarding Spanish, no effect of Stress-to-Weight is found among the bilinguals, who seem to achieve prominence through vowel duration alone. They lack the phenomenon of glide or approximant codas in target stressed syllables, which was attested in monolinguals for a certain period of time. It is still an open question whether some effects of compensatory lengthening can be attested. Both the Spanish and German data thus demonstrate that binarity at the level of the syllable can be at first reached either by means of a branching rhyme or a branching nucleus, the latter taking place only under specific strict conditions.

## **Convergence of grammatical deficits in SLI across languages? Case morphology in Turkish-German bilingual children**

Ezel Babur, Solveig Kroffke & Monika Rothweiler  
*Sonderforschungsbereich Mehrsprachigkeit*

SLI is a genuine language disorder affecting the acquisition of language, especially grammar, whereas other cognitive domains remain unaffected (Leonard 1998). The grammatical deficits caused by SLI predominantly refer to tense and/or agreement (morphology), but case and/or case morphology have also often been discussed as being vulnerable in SLI.

SLI is language-specific. The notion of language specificity is ambiguous and may either be referred to the disorder affecting language only or to the observation that SLI affects different grammatical aspects in different languages. This ambiguity is of special interest in cases in which the outcome of SLI in two languages is investigated within one individual subject. Thus, the study of SLI in bilinguals offers not only the opportunity of controlled and constant factors but also the possibility to investigate the language specificity for selected grammatical domains, e.g. morphology in both the children's languages.

Considering the acquisition of case marking by SLI children, the findings as to whether case marking is affected in German SLI children are still under discussion (see Clahsen et al. 2006). For Turkish, SLI has not been studied so far.

In our paper, we are going to present data from six successive-bilingual Turkish-German children with and without SLI, focusing on the acquisition of case morphology in both the children's languages. The data reveal that the acquisition of Turkish case morphology is affected by SLI. While unimpaired successive-bilingual children master the inflectional system at the age of approx. 3 years, SLI children still produce deviations from the target system at the age of 5 to 6 (Babur et al. 2007). Considering the German data, our findings lead to the impression that, after 24 months of exposure to German, unimpaired successive-bilingual children (age of onset 3) acquire the German case marking system comparable to monolingual children. The data of the bilingual SLI children, however, at least give evidence for a vast delay in the acquisition of case morphology.

## Convergence without intensive contact

Peter Bakker

*Aarhus universitet*

It is often assumed that intensive contact between large groups of speakers of different languages is a prerequisite for the spread of features from one language to another. Sometimes also multilingualism rather than bilingualism is mentioned as a condition.

In my presentation I will attempt to show that these assumptions are wrong. There are many examples of the spread of features from one language to another despite the presence of geographical barriers such as mountain ranges and bodies of water, or of social barriers. Most of these are found in the phonology and lexicon. My examples will be both from Scandinavia and from other parts of the world.

I will discuss among other things pulmonic ingressive speech and possession in Nordic languages, some consonant changes in Scandinavian, bilabial /w/ in Northwest Europe, so-called Polder Dutch in the Netherlands, some traits from the Northwest coast of North America and others from around the Mediterranean and the Pacific.

The conclusion that casual contact between speakers of languages, or even a single encounter between two individuals, can be responsible for the spread of linguistic features, is unavoidable. Furthermore, there is no need for speakers of more than two languages to spread features, or to form a Sprachbund.

## **Divergence and convergence of communicative norms through language contact in translation**

Viktor Becher, Juliane House & Svenja Kranich  
*Sonderforschungsbereich Mehrsprachigkeit*

In this paper, we examine whether and how translation as a classic case of language contact can act as a trigger for divergence or convergence phenomena between two languages. Our qualitative and quantitative diachronic corpus analyses of English originals, German translations and German parallel texts in two genres suggest that earlier consistent divergence of English and German communicative preferences through cultural filtering may now be in a process of change. This change, propelled by the dominant status of the English language as a global lingua franca, was shown to involve a convergence of German textual norms with English ones in terms of the linguistic realization of subjectivity and addressee-orientation.

We will show how certain phenomena that express subjectivity and addressee-orientation – such as markers of personal deixis and connectivity – have not only increased in German translations, German parallel texts or both over time, they also tend to be used in a new and different way, while others such as expressions of modality do not seem to be affected by the impact of Anglophone norms. The question whether it is in fact translation which triggers the convergence of communicative norms can however not be answered conclusively. Rather, a number of alternative explanatory hypotheses will be proposed.

## Gradient merging of vowels in Barcelona Catalan under the influence of Spanish

Ariadna Benet, Susana Cortés & Conxita Lleó  
*Sonderforschungsbereich Mehrsprachigkeit*

The phonology of Catalan in Barcelona seems to be developing towards the loss of some of its phonemes. This change affects Catalan segments that do not exist in the language it is in contact with, namely Spanish. Those segments that only occur in one of the languages are more vulnerable to this change due to frequency effects, both in the bilingual input Catalan speakers in Barcelona receive and in the system itself. An example of such segments are the vowels /ɛ/, /ɔ/ and [ə]. The pronunciation of these vowels by Barcelona Catalan speakers seems to be diverging from what has generally been considered the norm, as they are being merged with /e/, /o/ and /a/, respectively.

In order to describe and try to explain such a behavior, the speech of three age groups, namely G1 (children between 3 and 5 years old), G2 (young adults between 19 and 23 years old) and G3 (adults between 32 and 40 years old) from three different districts in Barcelona was recorded and analysed. The three districts, in order of increasing degree of Spanish usage, are: Gràcia, Eixample and Nou Barris. A district like Gràcia is expected to show influence from Spanish to a lesser degree than a district like Nou Barris. This would show in a stronger maintenance of the traditional Catalan vowel quality in Gràcia than in Nou Barris. Eixample should be somewhere in between.

A combination of an auditory and an acoustic analysis was used to explore the data. First, the data was transcribed by two Catalan speakers. The transcriptions allowed us to know whether target /ɛ/, /e/, /ɔ/, /o/, [ə] and /a/ were perceived as such by native listeners. Those cases were kept for the acoustic analysis. Then, the formant values of the open /ɛ/ words were compared to the values of the closed /e/, those of the open /ɔ/ with those of the closed /o/, and those of [ə] with those of /a/. These comparisons were made within each age group in each district in order to check their qualitative differences between the mid-open and mid-closed vowels as well as between [ə] and /a/.

## Contact-induced convergence and divergence in lexicon and grammar: a challenge for genealogical linguistics

Georg Bossong  
*Universität Zürich*

Traditional historical-comparative linguistics aims at establishing a genealogical tree where every language occupies one and only one place; the Schleicherian paradigm, reaffirmed by Meillet, reigns until today: the latest editions of the *Ethnologue* are constructed according to these principles, and intense, sometimes bitter polemics are still being fought about the genealogical classification of languages in many 'difficult' parts of the world. The genealogical tree is a biological metaphor; it was invented when linguists tried to apply Darwinism to language evolution. It is too easily forgotten that this metaphor, although undoubtedly useful, has its limits: intraspecific differentiation inside the human species (Ericson's and Lorenz' 'pseudo-speciation') is not the same thing as extraspecific differentiation in biology. Biological species, once separated, will never merge again, but languages can do so. Biological consanguinity is fundamentally different from linguistic connectedness. Language varieties will drift apart when separated, but they will meet again and influence each other when reunited. The genealogical tree works perfectly well wherever there are migrations out of an original area without subsequent contact, (older) Indo-European or Austronesian being prototypical instances. But in areas with complex merging over long periods of time the genealogical paradigm seems to face unsurmountable difficulties (e.g. South America). Language contact often blurs the results of 'natural evolution': related languages diverge, but on the other hand unrelated languages converge all over human history.

According to the genealogical paradigm still in vigour, there should be no such thing as a 'mixed language': double or multiple descent is excluded. However, such a view is one-sided and unnecessarily aprioristic. It would be sufficient to quote examples such as Michif or Media Lengua, or to discuss the genetic affiliation of Creole languages to show how unfounded such an aprioristic claim is. However, in this contribution I propose myself to go a step farther and to show that a 'multiple descent approach' is more appropriate for a satisfying classification of a huge number of languages than a dogmatic 'unique descent approach'. In particular, some examples of complex divergence/convergence patterns will be discussed: structural convergence without genetic relatedness by prolonged bilingualism (Japanese-Korean,

Quechua-Aymara); profound relexification under the influence of dominating languages of culture (Japanese-Chinese, Persian-Arabic). Cases of true language mixing are far more widespread than admitted by traditional genealogical linguistics. Well-known cases like Judeo-Spanish, Romanian – or English! – can be discussed in this perspective. Taking into account convergence as a universal principle of language change which is not less important than divergence, language relatedness should be redefined in a more rigorous and a more realistic manner.

## Converging genetically related languages: Endstation *code mixing*?\*

Kurt Braunmüller

*Sonderforschungsbereich Mehrsprachigkeit*

The investigation into contact phenomena between genetically related languages has been a stepchild within contact linguistics and research on bilingualism in general, even though some very special types of convergence and mixing occur which cannot be found elsewhere – at least not to a comparable extent. Some of these contact phenomena have been classified as ‘congruent lexicalisation’ (Pieter Muysken) or as ‘composite matrix languages’ (Carol Myers-Scotton). But there are far more forms of code mixing. For instance, covert code mixing may even occur in cases in which the impact from the (non-dominant) linguistic variety in contact does not show up and remains invisible as far as only surface structures are concerned. Since both the typological and systemic structures between genetically related languages are quite similar due to their genetic relationship, the first step towards code mixing between related languages affects not only the lexicon but also the societal linguistic norm and makes extensive use of all, esp. currently not activated, systemic possibilities inherent in all linguistic systems involved. However, the acceptance of convergence varieties is high in fully bilingual communities, such as between speakers of dialects and the (roofing) standard language or in societies in which both languages have coexisted and been used side by side for centuries such as on the Faroe Islands between Faroese and Danish, in Norway between the local (rural) dialects and the H-variety Danish and Norwegian Riksmål, respectively, or, in the German-Danish border region, between the standard varieties of German and Danish on the one hand, and South Jutish, the local Danish dialect, on the other. Regionally restricted contact varieties have thus emerged, e.g. South Schleswig Danish, *Sydslavisk dansk*, or North Schleswig German, *Nordschleswigerdeutsch*. The situation on the Faroe Islands is more complicated due to the fact that there have been no monolinguals for more than half a millennium. Therefore, the underlying use of equivalent Danish structures in Faroese (or vice versa) often remains unobserved in conversations among Faroe Islanders since these convergences, in most cases, neither violate the basic linguistic structures in Faroese morphology nor in syntax but can only be considered as deviant when compared to Standard Danish in Denmark where we are confronted with monolinguals and a more or less stable linguistic norm. The range of the linguistic norm in

---

\* Cf. John R. Ross: „The category squish: Endstation Hauptwort“. In: Papers from the 8th Regional Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society (P. M. Peranteau, J. N. Levi, G. C. Phares, eds.). Chicago 1972, pp. 316-328.



Faroese is, however, not that clear-cut and causes problems when referring to a more genuine societal norm of this language. Purists often take the sister language Icelandic as a reference point.

It is the aim of this paper to outline a model of language mixing between (genetically) closely related varieties, among languages and dialects, and their conditions and restrictions. Such a model may be useful in understanding both the principles of (a) convergence, (b) standardisation and (c) mixing, and the mechanisms involved.

# **The role of the age of onset of acquisition on the conceptual representation of words in French-German bilingual adults as revealed by functional magnetic resonance adaptation**

Christian Büchel & Frédéric Isel  
*Sonderforschungsbereich Mehrsprachigkeit*

In the present study we investigate whether the visual processing of French and German concrete nouns involves overlapping neuronal networks at a fine-grained level in the bilingual brain. More precisely, we aim to examine to what extent the age of onset of acquisition (AoA) of a second language (L2) plays a role in the magnitude of a possible overlap between networks. We approached this issue by using the functional magnetic resonance adaptation paradigm in simultaneous (acquisition of both languages before the age of three years) and in successive (acquisition of the L2 after the age of ten years) French-German bilingual adults. Usually, the repeated visual presentation of a word results in reduced neuronal firing (i.e. repetition suppression effect) during the second and subsequent presentations of that word. Critically, if French and German word processing involves neuronal networks that largely overlap, then a reduced BOLD response should be observed for the presentation of word pairs consisting of a French concrete noun (i.e. prime word) and its German translation equivalent (i.e. target word; for example, valise<sup>(suitcase)</sup>–KOFFER<sup>(suitcase)</sup>). Here, the influence of the prime (e.g. valise) on the target (e.g. KOFFER) response was clearly demonstrated by both behavioral and imaging data. Throughout the subject groups there was a significant 32-ms repetition priming effect. At the neuronal level, responses in a bilateral fronto-temporal network mirrored the behavioral data but in the reverse direction. Repetition priming was associated with enhanced activation (i.e. repetition enhancement, RE) in the ventral part of the left inferior frontal gyrus (L IFG; BA 47/45), the left middle temporal gyrus (L MTG), the left and right superior temporal gyrus (L and R STG), and the left insula. The size of the repetition enhancement effect differed significantly across the groups in the multiple brain area. While simultaneous bilinguals showed more enhanced activation in the L IFG, successive bilinguals presented a larger RE effect in L STG and L insula. The variation of the RE effect as a function of the AoA suggests that AoA plays a determining role in the magnitude of the overlap between the

two fronto-temporal networks involved in first and second language word processing.

## Changes in complexity as a result of language contact

Östen Dahl

*Stockholms universitet*

Language contact can have many different effects. In this talk, I want to focus on situations where the effects go beyond what can be described as either convergence or divergence – where language contact leads to an increase in the complexity of a language system that is found in neither of the languages involved. This will happen when a borrowed item or construction does not simply replace something in the language undergoing change but is rather added to the repertoire. In such cases, a division of labour may be established between the new construction and its already existing counterparts. In fact, this is similar to what happens when a new construction arises in one language, without any external influence; but the process becomes more highlighted in situations of language contact. I shall illustrate it with the development of definite articles and Scandinavian and hopefully also some other examples from other languages. I will also discuss the tendency for ‘typological inconsistency’ to arise on the border of language convergence areas, or in what has been called ‘buffer zones’ (the term seems to have been introduced by Don Stilo).

## **Preterite and present perfect in Irish English: determinants of variation**

Julia Davydova

*Sonderforschungsbereich Mehrsprachigkeit*

Variation between the English present perfect and preterite in present perfect contexts is a hotly debated issue in variationist studies (cf. Tagliamonte 1991, Siemund 2004, van Herk 2007). It is attested in standard and non-standard varieties of English alike and seems to follow distinct patterns which may be argued to have a universal character.

This study principally aims at describing pervasive regularities attested in the distribution between the present perfect and preterite in present perfect contexts mainly in Irish English (IrE). I argue that in IrE and in Standard English (StE), the distributional mechanisms of these forms are subject to similar constraints, which can broadly be described as “current relevance”. While acquiring “superposed standard forms”, IrE speakers try to come to terms with these forms by reanalysing them according to their own communicative needs. Therefore, the distributional patterns of the perfect and preterite in IrE are not identical to those of StE, as we shall see. However, they are similar in many ways; this similarity is due to the fact that IrE speakers, just like StE speakers, seem to understand the principal difference between the perfect and preterite in terms of the cognitive concept of current relevance.

The discussion is organised as follows. First and foremost, I propose a model of linguistic parameters (the concept of current relevance) which will serve as a descriptive background for a comparison of perfect constructions and their ‘preterite’ competitors in the contact variety of IrE. I will then present specific distributional patterns of the perfect and preterite in IrE followed by a quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the corpus data. Finally, I shall interpret the results of the study and explain the nature of the variability of the perfect and preterite attested in the contact variety of IrE by taking recourse to the theoretical concepts developed in the first part of the paper as well as other useful techniques often employed within the variationist approach.

## Divergence between two diatopic varieties of French: the case of interrogatives

Martin Elsig

*Sonderforschungsbereich Mehrsprachigkeit*

In this paper, I will focus on divergences in the syntactic variation between the interrogative systems of two different geographical varieties of Modern French. More specifically, the study presented here provides both a variationist and a structural account for the coexistence of up to four different variants of yes/no-questions (exemplified in (1) to (4) below, taken from the *Ottawa-Hull French Corpus*) in contemporary vernacular French as spoken in Québec and in France.

- (1) Ah, toi *tu restes pas* (INT) avec tes parents? (XX.112.1819)  
'Oh, you don't live with your parents?'
- (2) Mes bombes *est-ce que* (ECQ) je les largue ici? (XX.078.1502)  
'My bombs, do I throw them here?'
- (3) *As-tu* (INV) déjà parlé avec un vrai Français de France là? (XX.105.2768)  
'Have you ever spoken to a real Frenchman from France?'
- (4) *Tu vas-tu* (TU) être plus marié oubedonc moins marié? (XX.079.1471)  
'Are you going to be more married or less married?'

While Québec French shows a productive usage of all of these variants (with *est-ce que*-questions (ECQ, cf. (2)) slightly falling behind), the European French interrogative system is nowadays restricted to intonation questions (INT, cf. (1)) with only a marginal use of ECQ and virtually no use at all of both the subject-verb inversion (INV, cf. (3)) and the grammaticalized postverbal particle *ti/tu* (TU, cf. (4)).

An empirical comparison between oral speech data by Québec French informants from the twentieth (*Ottawa-Hull French Corpus*, cf. Poplack 1989) and the nineteenth century (*Récits du français québécois d'autrefois*, cf. Poplack & St-Amand 2007) with Middle and Classical French literature and popular plays has been carried out as part of the research project *Multilingualism as Cause and Effect of Language Change: Historical Syntax of Romance Languages* (directed by Jürgen Meisel and established at the Research Centre on Multilingualism at the University of Hamburg), and in collaboration with the Sociolinguistics

Laboratory (directed by Shana Poplack and established at the University of Ottawa). Based on the findings, I propose a unified structural account for both INV and TU. It will be argued that the simultaneous presence of these two variants in vernacular Québec French is reducible to the phonetic expression of an interrogative feature exposed by the inflectional head,  $T^0$  (cf. also Noonan 1989, Rizzi 1996). The results suggest that the underlying mechanisms resulting in INV and TU are morphological in nature rather than syntactic. This entails that cases of subject-clitic inversion in contemporary Québec French, as in (3), are qualitatively distinct from structurally productive applications of this variant as in normative Standard French or as in earlier varieties of French.

A comparison of the twentieth and nineteenth century Québec French data with contemporary vernacular European French as instantiated by a French radio show provides evidence that the two geographical varieties have diverged from each other precisely with regard to their property of phonetically expressing (or not) the interrogative feature on  $T^0$ . A diachronic view on the matter is obtained by tracing back the development of the respective variants to the Middle and Classical French period. I will show that the variants used in Modern Québec and European French indeed stem from the same source variety.

## **Sentence processing of German and German Sign Language (DGS) in different learner groups**

Barbara Hänel & Monique Kügow  
*Sonderforschungsbereich Mehrsprachigkeit*

Most neurolinguistic studies have focused on oral languages. By contrast, the neural correlates in signed languages are hardly understood. The present project investigates how modality and age at acquisition affect the cerebral organization of language. The project will reveal similarities and differences in the functional organization of German (written language) and of German Sign Language (Deutsche Gebärdensprache, DGS) as well as possible critical periods for the acquisition of a first and second language.

Our talk will be based on the presentation of the current status of our project. In particular we will present event-related potential (ERPs) results from a study in which healthy (hearing) L1 and L2 learners of German read German sentences with either semantic or syntactic violations. The results demonstrate that ERPs allow for the separation of the neural correlates of semantic and syntactic functions. They further show that there are effects on the age of acquisition. The results of the Hearing serve as a basis for assessing German sentence processing in Deaf people.

Second, we will present first ERP results from Deaf participants. Correct and incorrect sentences in Written German and in German Sign Language with comparable morphosyntactic (verb agreement) and semantic violations (selectional restriction) were presented to Deaf people who have learned German and DGS at different ages. Therefore, we will be able to separate possible critical periods for the acquisition of a first and second language separately for syntactic and semantic language aspects. This approach will allow, to our knowledge for the first time, an assessment of a possible correlation between syntactic and semantic processing capabilities in German and DGS in the same individuals.



## **Converging languages, diverging varieties: the emergence of Written Old Swedish**

Steffen Höder

*Sonderforschungsbereich Mehrsprachigkeit*

Convergence is usually understood as a type of contact-induced language change whereby two or more languages borrow certain structural features from each other and thus become typologically more similar (cf. Weinreich 1953). In historical linguistics, research has concentrated in particular on the role of convergence phenomena in the origin of linguistic areas or sprachbund phenomena, while little attention has been paid to the role of intralinguistic variation in such processes. More recently, however, interest has increasingly centred on convergence (and divergence) phenomena in dialects or between dialects and standard languages (cf. Auer, Hinskens & Kerswill 2005). In addition, several publications (e.g. the papers in Kortmann 2004) have emphasised the general importance of dialect studies for typological research.

In my talk, I will focus on the contact between Old Swedish and Latin in the Late Middle Ages. This contact, which played a major role in the Late Old Swedish text production, led to several changes in Old Swedish morphology and syntax that can be regarded as instances of grammatical replication (in the sense of Heine & Kuteva 2006) as well as linguistic convergence. However, I will argue that this convergence process only affected one social and medial variety of Old Swedish, resulting in the divergence of the written language from other varieties of Old Swedish. This development can be interpreted as a first step towards medial diglossia between a standard written language and vernacular forms. In addition, it can also be viewed as a case of areal convergence between functionally similar varieties of different languages.

## **Dialect levelling and dialect divergence in south-east England: the role of minority ethnic Englishes in phonetic innovation in London**

Paul Kerswill

*Lancaster University*

The south-east of England has long been considered the most 'levelled' dialect region in Great Britain, with the fewest divergent features being registered here by the *Survey of English Dialects* (e.g. Shackleton 2007). Our work in the 1990s on the New Town of Milton Keynes and elsewhere in the south-east shows that, in the vowel system, there is rapid levelling towards regionally unmarked forms. These include phonetically intermediate forms and, for some vowels, forms which resemble those used by speakers of the Received Pronunciation prestige accent (Kerswill & Williams 2000; 2005). On the other hand, some but not all consonants move towards general non-standard forms which are thought to originate in London (Kerswill 2003). Coupled with these rather disparate trends is an anti-clockwise short vowel shift shared by all south-eastern accents. This shift has led to great uniformity in this subsystem over the past 50 years (Torgersen & Kerswill 2004).

Our most recent studies have investigated whether London, as a metropolis, is the origin of these changes. Based on a large ESRC-funded project *Linguistic innovators: the English of adolescents in London*, we have been able to confirm that London is the likely origin of a number of the 'levelling' changes noted above. This is most clearly true of the diphthong system, especially the vowels of PRICE and FACE, where young Londoners have more extreme changes (in both cases a clockwise shift and monophthongisation) than their counterparts in the towns in the south-east. However, in the vowels of MOUTH and GOAT we find innovative forms which diverge considerably both from older London pronunciations and from the 'levelled' variants of the south-eastern towns (Torgersen et al. *fc*). Our study shows that, for all the vowel changes, minority ethnic speakers are in the lead, with white 'Anglo' speakers with multiethnic friendship groups following close behind (Torgersen et al. 2006). We also find the minority ethnic speakers leading in the reinstatement of /h/ (the south-east including London being a traditional 'h-dropping' region). This leads to a surprising match between working-class minority ethnic youth and middle-class speakers.

We claim that, in the last 20 years, a new set of Englishes has emerged in London consisting of a menu of phonetic features which can be traced variously

to minority ethnic varieties of English, especially Caribbean, Subcontinental and second-language varieties, as well as 'native' varieties such as traditional 'Cockney'. These features are now available for use by young people of all ethnicities, and together form a spectrum of varieties which are only variably ethnically marked. We refer to these varieties collectively as Multicultural London English. We argue that, in contemporary metropolises but not necessarily in other towns and cities, we need to look to minority ethnic speech in order to locate the origin of many changes taking place at all linguistic levels of the 'host' language.

## Parenthetical constructions in oral and written translation

Bernd Meyer & Demet Özçetin  
*Sonderforschungsbereich Mehrsprachigkeit*

The research presented in this paper was carried out within the projects *Covert Translation* and *Coherence in interpreter-mediated discourse* of the Research Centre on Multilingualism at the University of Hamburg. Our common interest is to study the impact of oral and written translation on the functional and stylistic properties of the target text or discourse. One area of study is how translators and interpreters adapt their renditions to the stylistic norms and communicative demands of the target language community. In this paper, we look at parenthetical constructions and how they are rendered in oral and written translation between English-German and Portuguese-German. Parenthetical constructions are interesting because they contain propositional content which is not always integrated in the syntax of the carrier structure. Thus, both the function of the parenthetical construction as such and the relevance of its propositional content for the ongoing text or discourse are not easy to grasp. While some parentheticals seem to modify the illocutive force, others simply add information to specific elements (usually nouns) of the carrier structure.

We restrict our analysis to specific types of parentheticals and their renditions. Our results show that parenthetical constructions are handled differently in oral and written translation. While in written translation the handling of parentheticals seems to be triggered largely by stylistic norms of the target language community, in oral translation other facets, like processing problems, come into play.

## **Irish English – paths of transfer, paths of transmission**

Lukas Pietsch

*Sonderforschungsbereich Mehrsprachigkeit*

Irish English has long been recognised as a highly interesting test case of contact linguistics. Among the varieties of English spoken in the British Isles, it is probably the one with the highest degree of grammatical divergence from the standard language; at the same time it is among the oldest and historically best documented contact varieties of English. In contact linguistic terms it has usually been characterised as a typical language shift variety in the sense of Thomason & Kaufman (1988): its emergence is obviously linked to the fact that a large number of speakers of Irish shifted to English; and in keeping with Thomason & Kaufman's model, the contact effects manifest themselves mainly in the domains of syntax and of phonology, much less in the domain of lexis. Invoking the model by Thomason & Kaufman implies the hypothesis that the contact-induced changes in the grammar of Irish English ultimately go back to effects of structural interference (transfer) during imperfect second language acquisition. This assumption, however, needs to be investigated with more precision. The history of contact between the two languages spans several centuries, and during much of this time we must assume states of relatively stable societal bilingualism, in which large parts of the population would acquire English as a second L1 or early L2, long before Irish as an L1 was finally given up. This opens up the possibility of a much larger role played by processes located in the discourse behaviour of mature and relatively balanced bilingual speakers. This talk will explore how the overall picture of changes in Irish English fits various sets of predictions about what kinds of changes are to be expected in what kinds of bilingual situations. It will also open up some questions about the need for descriptively and explanatively adequate models of the grammatical domains involved in the contact-induced changes, and the implications for grammatical theory that can be derived from the various scenarios of contact-induced change.

## **Crosslinguistic influence in bilingual language acquisition? The case of Brazilian Portuguese and German**

Claudia Stöber

*Sonderforschungsbereich Mehrsprachigkeit*

In this paper I investigate the bilingual language acquisition of Brazilian Portuguese and German. The focus of my analysis lies on the acquisition of objects.

A number of authors, such as Meisel 1989, Genesee 1989, De Houwer 1990 and Köppe 1997, find clear evidence speaking in favour of an autonomous development in different syntactic domains in bilingual children. In this context, Meisel (2007) assumes that deviations from the target languages are of quantitative, not of qualitative nature. Other researchers find crosslinguistic influence in certain linguistic domains (see, for example, Hulk & Müller 2000, 2001, Platzack, 2001). These authors propose that the interface between syntax and pragmatics is vulnerable. They suggest that, since object-drop in German is linked to the C-domain and therefore to the syntax-pragmatic interface, these parts of grammar might be vulnerable to crosslinguistic influence (Hulk & Müller 2000, 2001, Platzack 2001).

To verify the possibility of crosslinguistic influence in this domain, I investigate the bilingual acquisition of Brazilian Portuguese and German. Brazilian Portuguese allows for referential null objects in discourse, whereas in German, objects can only be omitted as topic-drop, i.e. when they are moved to Spec CP. Therefore, the omission of objects in (adult and child) BP is much more frequent than (object) topic-drop in German. As a logical consequence of the results obtained by Hulk & Müller, language transfer should take place from the object drop language (Brazilian Portuguese) to the topic-drop language (German) – and hence, more “in-situ” object omissions should be produced in bilingual language acquisition than in comparison to monolingual German children. However, Serratrice, Sorace & Paoli (2004) find evidence for crosslinguistic influence only in the context of subjects, but not in the case of objects, in their data stemming from a bilingual English-Italian child and ten monolingual peers. My results confirm those of these authors: the number of omitted objects in the data of two children who were analyzed for this study aged between 2;10 and 4;0 is not higher than in comparable studies of the monolingual acquisition of German. One could now test the possibility of crosslinguistic influence from German on Brazilian Portuguese. In this case,

we should expect more (lexical and/or pronominal) objects in the Portuguese of bilingual children than in monolingual Portuguese children, since German requires the realization of objects in more contexts than Portuguese. Similar to the results above, my data do not show convincing evidence for this assumption.

Therefore, the data used in my analysis do not confirm the hypothesis of crosslinguistic influence in the acquisition of objects.

## **Language contact, language change, spontaneous speech innovation, and why we need more digital archives of spoken language corpora from contact dialects**

Robert Vann

*Western Michigan University*

For over half a century now, at least formally since Weinreich (1953), sociolinguists have concerned themselves with understanding and explaining the fundamental issues involved in language contact and language change. One of these issues concerns linguistic innovations that occur in language contact situations. The metalinguistic nomenclature in vogue to classify such innovations has come and gone throughout the years (cf. e.g. interference, transfer, transcodic markers, etc.), yet the basic facts of the matter remain mostly the same. Two such facts are that contact-related linguistic innovations occur both spontaneously and systematically, and usage of such innovations may be restricted or widespread. This investigation argues the linguistic, sociolinguistic, and ethnographic importance of spontaneous speech innovation in language contact situations, citing evidence from Spanish, and calls for stronger emphasis on the documentation and subsequent analysis of spontaneous speech innovation in research on language contact and change.

The analysis considers several aspects of spontaneous speech innovation in language contact situations involving Spanish in Europe and America. Aspects considered include: (1) the possibility that, over time, spontaneous speech innovation may lead to widespread systemic language change; (2) the potential role of such innovation as a pragmatic resource in discourse strategies that perform extralinguistic functions; and (3) the extent to which ways of speaking that exploit such innovation can be constitutive of culture-specific interactional styles that both contribute to and reflect ethnographic richness. Thus, in addition to highlighting the linguistic potential of spontaneous speech innovation in terms of language contact and change (Weinreich's interference in language), the analysis also underscores the sociolinguistic potential of such innovation in terms of individual speech play and verbal art (Weinreich's interference in speech).

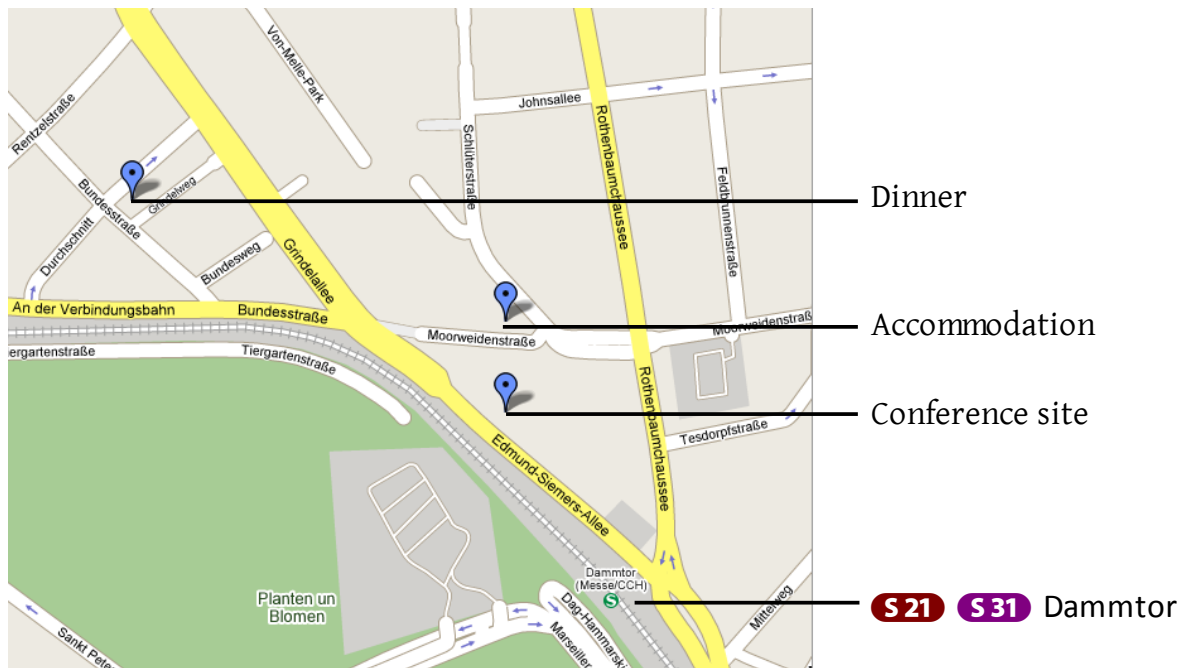
My investigation concludes that both language internal and language external analyses are crucial to a comprehensive phenomenological understanding of spontaneous speech innovation. To better identify and understand the many roles and meanings of spontaneous speech innovation in language contact



situations we need a closer integration and cross-fertilization of research in contact linguistics, sociolinguistics, linguistic anthropology, and crucially, documentary linguistics. Spoken language corpora represent our best hope of finding spontaneous speech innovation in contact dialects, as well as our best way to reference it. Sadly, accessible spoken language corpora that have been appropriately designed for interdisciplinary linguistic research are scarce and scattered. Therefore, my investigation ends with a call for the widespread establishment of freely accessible digital archives of spoken language corpora dedicated to documenting contact dialects in various languages for the purposes of linguistic and social analysis. It is essential that researchers of contact dialects publish and archive their corpora, no matter how small, if the international academic community is to make the most of our limited resources.

# Useful Information

## Addresses



### Conference site

University of Hamburg, Main Building West, 2nd floor, auditorium 221  
Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1, 20146 Hamburg

**S21** or **S31** Dammtor

(5 minutes walking distance from the hotel)

### Accommodation

Hotel Wagner, Dammtorpalais, Moorweidenstraße 34, 20146 Hamburg

**S21** or **S31** Dammtor

(5 minutes walking distance from the conference site)

### Dinner

Restaurant La Mirabelle, Bundesstraße 15, 20146 Hamburg

(5–10 minutes walking distance from the hotel/conference site)

## Public Transport

Further information on public transport in Hamburg can be found on [www.hvv.de](http://www.hvv.de).

### Airport → Accommodation/Conference Site

1. Take the Airport Shuttle Bus **110** to Ohlsdorf.
2. Change to the railway line **S1** (green sign, direction Wedel/Blankenese).
3. Change at Hauptbahnhof (9th stop) to the railway line **S21** (brown sign, direction Elbgaustraße) or **S31** (purple sign, direction Altona).
4. Get off at Dammtor (next stop).
5. Leave the station in direction of the University and walk about 5 minutes to the hotel or the conference site (see map).

*About 45 minutes. Fare € 2.60. Tickets can be bought with cash on board the bus.*

### Accommodation/Conference Site → Airport

1. From Dammtor take the railway line **S21** (brown sign, direction Aumühle/Bergedorf) or **S31** (purple sign, direction Neugraben/Harburg Rathaus).
2. Change at Hauptbahnhof (next stop) to the railway line **S1** (green sign, direction Poppenbüttel/Ohlsdorf).
3. Change at Ohlsdorf (9th stop) to the Airport Shuttle Bus **110**.
4. Get off at Hamburg Airport (last stop).

*About 45 minutes. Fare € 2.60. Tickets can be bought with cash at orange ticket machines within the station. Choose **3**. No validation required.*

### Central Railway Station → Accommodation/Conference Site

1. Take the railway line **S21** (brown sign, direction Elbgaustraße) or **S31** (purple sign, direction Altona).
2. Get off at Dammtor (next stop).
3. Leave the station in direction of the University and walk about 5 minutes to the hotel or the conference site (see map).

*About 10 minutes. Fare € 1.30. Tickets can be bought with cash at orange ticket machines within the station. Choose **1**. No validation required.*

### Accommodation/Conference Site → Central Railway Station

1. From Dammtor take the railway line **S21** (brown sign, direction Aumühle/Bergedorf) or **S31** (purple sign, direction Neugraben/Harburg Rathaus).
2. Get off at Hauptbahnhof (next stop).
3. *About 10 minutes. Fare € 1.30. Tickets can be bought with cash at orange ticket machines within the station. Choose **1**. No validation required.*

## **Research Centre on Multilingualism**

All important addresses, information about services, and a list of the *Working Papers in Multilingualism* edited by the Centre can be found on our website:

[www.uni-hamburg.de/fachbereiche-einrichtungen/sfb538](http://www.uni-hamburg.de/fachbereiche-einrichtungen/sfb538)

### **Project Areas**

#### **K ('Kommunikation') – Multilingual Communication**

Projects in this area investigate the production and comprehension of multilingual language use in various social, cultural and institutional contexts.

Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Juliane House

#### **E ('Erwerb') – Acquisition of Multilingualism**

Projects in this area investigate the simultaneous acquisition of more than one first language and the successive acquisition of several languages, contrasting both to monolingual first language development. Research is also conducted on acquisition impairments in bilinguals and complemented with neuro-scientific studies, and with studies on the acquisition of German Sign Language.

Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Conxita Lleó

#### **H ('historische Aspekte') – Historical Aspects of Multilingualism**

Projects in this area deal with the historical origins of multilingual settings and with language change under the influence of multilingualism.

Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Kurt Braunmüller

#### **T ('Transferprojekte') – Transfer Group**

The projects in this area are concerned with developing practical applications based on the research results achieved in the Centre.

Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Peter Siemund

#### **Z ('zentrale Aufgaben') – Central Administration**

This project area deals with central administration and organization, and the development of a multilingual database.

### **Chairpersons of the Research Centre**

Chair:	Prof. Dr. Monika Rothweiler
Deputy Chair:	Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Juliane House
2nd Deputy Chair:	Prof. Dr. Peter Siemund

## Contributors

Javier Arias	Universität Hamburg: SFB Mehrsprachigkeit (E3)	javier.arias@uni-hamburg.de
Ezel Babur	Universität Hamburg: SFB Mehrsprachigkeit (E4)	ezel.babur@uni-hamburg.de
Peter Bakker	Aarhus universitet: Institut for antropologi, arkæologi og lingvistik	linpb@hum.au.dk
Viktor Becher	Universität Hamburg: SFB Mehrsprachigkeit (K4)	viktor.becher@uni-hamburg.de
Ariadna Benet	Universität Hamburg: SFB Mehrsprachigkeit (H6)	ariadna.benet@uni-hamburg.de
Georg Bossong	Universität Zürich: Romanisches Seminar	boss@rom.unizh.ch
Kurt Braunmüller	Universität Hamburg: SFB Mehrsprachigkeit (H3, K8), Institut für Germanistik I (Skandinavistik)	braunmueller@uni-hamburg.de
Christian Büchel	Universität Hamburg: SFB Mehrsprachigkeit (E8); Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf: Institut für Systemische Neurowissenschaften	buechel@uke.uni-hamburg.de
Susana Cortés	Universität Hamburg: SFB Mehrsprachigkeit (H6)	susana.cortes@uni-hamburg.de
Östen Dahl	Stockholms universitet: Institutionen för lingvistik	oesten@ling.su.se
Julia Davydova	Universität Hamburg: SFB Mehrsprachigkeit (T1)	julia.davydova@uni-hamburg.de
Martin Elsig	Universität Hamburg: SFB Mehrsprachigkeit (H1)	martin_elsig@msn.com
Barbara Hänel	Universität Hamburg: SFB Mehrsprachigkeit (E7)	barbara.haenel@uni-hamburg.de
Steffen Höder	Universität Hamburg: SFB Mehrsprachigkeit (H3)	steffen.hoeder@uni-hamburg.de
Juliane House	Universität Hamburg: SFB Mehrsprachigkeit (K4, K6, T3), Institut für Allgemeine und Angewandte Sprachwissenschaft (Sprachlehrforschung)	jhouse@uni-hamburg.de
Paul Kerswill	Lancaster University: Department of Linguistics and English Language	p.kerswill@lancaster.ac.uk
Svenja Kranich	Universität Hamburg: SFB Mehrsprachigkeit (K4)	svenja.kranich@uni-hamburg.de
Solveig Kroffke	Universität Hamburg: SFB Mehrsprachigkeit (E4)	solveig.kroffke@uni-hamburg.de
Monique Kügow	Universität Hamburg: SFB Mehrsprachigkeit (E7)	monique.kuegow@uni-hamburg.de
Conxita Lleó	Universität Hamburg: SFB Mehrsprachigkeit (E3, H6, T4), Institut für Romanistik	lleo@uni-hamburg.de
Bernd Meyer	Universität Hamburg: SFB Mehrsprachigkeit (K6)	bernd.meyer@uni-hamburg.de
Demet Özçetin	Universität Hamburg: SFB Mehrsprachigkeit (K4)	demet.oezcin@uni-hamburg.de
Lukas Pietsch	Universität Hamburg: SFB Mehrsprachigkeit (H5)	lukas.pietsch@uni-hamburg.de
Monika Rothweiler	Universität Hamburg: SFB Mehrsprachigkeit (E4, T2), Institut für Behindertenpädagogik	rothweiler@erzwiss.uni-hamburg.de
Claudia Stöber	Universität Hamburg: SFB Mehrsprachigkeit (E2)	claudia.stoerber@uni-hamburg.de
Robert Vann	Western Michigan University: Department of Spanish	robert.vann@wmich.edu