
The interaction of morphological and phonological variation A case study on Zurich German

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Zurich German shows an interesting case of competing forms. The dative cell of the indefinite article exhibits several forms: masc./neutr. *eme* and *emene*, fem. *ere* and *enere*. These cell-mates, in turn, occur in several phonological variants. Besides the forms mentioned above, the forms can be reduced for instance by aphaeresis (e.g. fem. *nerē* as opposed to *enere*). Both the factors conditioning the morphological and the phonological variation are still largely unknown. Despite being considered rare and diachronically unstable, cf. Fehring (2004: 285–28–6), morphological doublets have been reported in several studies, cf. Fehring (*inter alia* 2004) on Standard German, Thornton (*inter alia* 2012) on Italian. While those studies are all based on written data, studies on spoken language are still widely missing. Thus, understanding the factors conditioning the preference of one form over another enables us not only to explain the distribution of these competing forms in Zurich German, but also to get an insight on overabundance in spoken language.

In my talk, I present results from a study on spontaneous spoken data of Zurich German and discuss to what extent the morphological and the phonological variation are governed by the same phonological and syntactic factors. In doing so, I compare overabundance, as a pure morphological phenomenon, to phonological variation.

References: • Fehring, C. (2004): How Stable are Morphological Doublets. A Case Study of $\emptyset \sim \emptyset$ Variants in Dutch and German. *Journal of Germanic Linguistics* 16(4), 285–329. • Thornton, A. (2011): Overabundance (Multiple Forms Realizing the Same Cell): A Non-canonical Phenomenon in Italian Verb Morphology. In: *Morphological Autonomy. Perspectives from Romance Inflectional Morphology*. OUP, 358–381. • Thornton, A. (2012): Reduction and maintenance of overabundance. A case study on Italian verb paradigms. *Word Structure* 5(2), 183–207.

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