

## **Syntactic variation in the German minority dialect Riograndese Hunsrik. Recipient passive and final infinitive constructions: Methodology (and results)**

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The presented poster can be located between the two poles of variationist linguistics and (modern) language abroad/linguistic ‘islands’/minority language research. This paper presents the experience obtained by (dissertation) project aimed at describing the syntax of a genuine German minority language overseas in its substructure, and analyzing its areal-horizontal and socio-vertical dimensions of variation. The specific object of investigation is the “Riograndese Hunsrik” spoken in Southern Brazil.

The paper in Tachikawa will focus from the methodological and structural point of view on two syntactic phenomena, namely recipient passive with *kriegen/bekommen* ‘to get’ (*Ti kriecht en klas waser inkeschut* ‘She is getting a glass of water poured’), and final infinitive constructions with *fa (se)* ‘for zu’ (*Te tuut fil schafe, fa se viagiere* ‘He works a lot [in order] to travel’). On the one hand, these grammatical phenomena are (partially) shared with West Middle German varieties spoken in the European region of origin, i.e. in the Moselle Franconian and Rhine Franconian dialects, as well as in the national language Luxembourgish. On the other hand, they shed light on divergences/changes that have been underway since at least the first wave of German immigration to Brazil, i.e. the first half of the nineteenth century.

For the purposes of the project, a multivariate setting of methods with a combination of different ways of data collection was chosen: questionnaire with multiple choice questions and image (sequence) descriptions, translation from Brazilian Portuguese into German, interview, informal talk amongst friends, as well as experiment/‘speech production test’ based on visual material. For the first time deep insights in the (syntactic) variation of the Riograndese Hunsrik, and in general (German) minority language, can be given due to the combination of these diverse research methods. The PhD project uses data from 190 speakers of Riograndese Hunsrik representing three different social categories and age groups, collected in 2016. The aim of the poster is not merely to present the results of the analysis, but also, or above all, to examine the validity of the applied methods and reflect their implementation and execution in the (syntactic) minority language research studies.