

A Corpus-Based Study on the Variation of German Adverbs in South Tyrol

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Based on the research project *Variantengrammatik des Standarddeutschen* (cf. Dürscheid & Elspaß 2015), which has already identified lexical and grammatical variation in the German standard language in South Tyrol (as well as in other German-speaking countries), the present paper compares the language data from the *Variantengrammatik* corpus with data from the KOMMA corpus (cf. Glück & Leonardi 2019). Focusing on German adverbs, the aim of this paper is to investigate empirically the variability as well as the number of frequency of German adverbs with and without suffixes in written and spoken South Tyrolean Standard German.

The purpose of this study is to examine the variation of specially selected adverbs in South Tyrol, Northern Italy. In the *Variantengrammatik* corpus, the following adverbs are listed with and without suffix: *durchweg/durchwegs* ('consistently'), *nochmal/nochmals* ('again'), *öfter/öfters* ('more often/frequently') and *weiter/weiters* ('further'). Even though in German they can be used side by side without any differences in meaning, there is geographical variation in their usage: variants without suffix are mainly used in the northern German-speaking area, whereas those with -s are more common in the southern German-speaking area. According to the *Variantengrammatik* corpus, the following relative frequencies can be observed in South Tyrol: 86% with suffix and 14% without suffix (http://mediawiki.ids-mannheim.de/VarGra/index.php/Adverben_mit_-s/_ohne_Suffix).

After having investigated whether this geographical diversity is also mentioned in other dictionaries, such as the National Austrian Dictionary (*Österreichisches Wörterbuch*), the German *Duden* dictionary or the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* (Ammon et al. 2004; Ammon, Bickel & Lenz 2016), frequencies as well as regional distribution within the written and oral data sets of the KOMMA corpus will be examined. The KOMMA corpus contains 430 authentic written text productions, which were produced in a school context at different German-language high schools in South Tyrol, as well as 43 hours of audio recordings (431,963 tokens), which were specifically elicited for the KOMMA project.

References: Ammon et al. (2004). *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen*. Die Standardsprache in Österreich, der Schweiz und Deutschland sowie in Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, Ostbelgien und Südtirol. Berlin, New York: de Gruyter. Ammon, U.; Bickel, H. & Lenz, A.N. (2016). *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen*. Die Standardsprache in Österreich, der Schweiz, Deutschland, Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, Ostbelgien und Südtirol sowie Rumänien, Namibia und Mennonitensiedlungen. (2nd Edition). Berlin, New York: de Gruyter. Dürscheid, C. & Elspaß, S. (2015). *Variantengrammatik des Standarddeutschen*. In R. Kehrein; A. Lameli & S. Rabanus (eds.), *Regionale Variation des Deutschen*. Projekte und Perspektiven. Berlin, Boston: de Gruyter, 563–584. Glück, A., Leonardi, M.M.V. (2019). Zur Verwendung von Präpositionen in Texten und Diskursen von Südtiroler Maturanten. In: S. Kürschner, M. Habermann & P.O. Müller (eds.), *Methodik moderner Dialektforschung*. Erhebung, Aufbereitung und Auswertung von Daten am Beispiel des Oberdeutschen. (Germanistische Linguistik, 241–243/2019). Hildesheim, Zürich, New York: Olms, 445–470.

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