

## **Dialect-standard variability in early childhood: Preliminary observations from a corpus study**

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We present work in progress from a project on phonological dialect-standard variability in young children who acquire two varieties of German, a High Alemannic dialect and standard German. Drawing on a longitudinal audiovisual corpus of spontaneous family interaction involving three children regularly recorded within the age span of approx. 1;6 to 4;0, the project's aim is to uncover the language-internal and language-external factors that constrain this variability and the way it develops over time. In our talk, we present preliminary results regarding one child's use of two phonological variables, [n]-apocope in unstressed final syllables (e.g. *mache* vs. *machen*, 'make') and velarization of the fricative after front vowels ([x] vs. [ç]). We show, firstly, that language-external factors, particularly the activity of pretend play, are powerful factors for explaining dialect-standard variability. However, in single lexemes, language-internal factors can play a central role, too. Secondly, regarding the longitudinal development, our analysis provides an initial indication that the greater extent of variability in the input when the child starts to go to kindergarten leads to more variability in the child's utterances. In this respect, one of the observations we will reflect on concerns the child's violation of co-occurrence restrictions (e.g. *suubermachen* 'to clean' instead of the target Alemannic form *suubermache*) not present in the parents' input.