Syntactic microvariation in the two Limburgs

Marjo van Koppen[1,2] & Jeroen van Craenenbroeck[1,3]
Meertens Institute/LiME[1], Utrecht University[2], KU Leuven[3]

This presentation explores the syntactic diversity of Limburgian dialects using data from the Syntactic Atlas of the Dutch Dialects (SAND) (Barbiers et al. 2006). Employing computational quantitative methods such as correspondence analysis (Greenacre 2007), and nPMI analysis (Sung & Prokić 2024) combined with formal syntactic qualitative analysis (Van Craenenbroeck et al. 2019), we categorize and identify the distinct grammatical systems within the Limburgian dialects. We discuss the core grammatical features that define the syntactic dialect groups in Limburg and demonstrate how these groups align with traditional dialect areas, the Dutch/Belgian border, and the mining region.

Focusing on one particular aspect of Limburgian grammar, we investigate the pronominal system, specifically the second person singular and plural forms. Our analysis aims to uncover the internal structure of this system and its relationship with complementizer agreement patterns. We examine how pronominal forms and their inflections interact with these agreement patterns, revealing the fundamental grammatical principles that govern these interactions.

Our study dissects the pronominal system into its constituent features, illustrating how each segment of a pronoun reflects specific grammatical structures. This approach provides a nuanced understanding of the pronominal system and its complex relationship with complementizer agreement, thereby contributing to the broader field of syntactic variation and dialectal analysis.

References

Barbiers, Sjef, et al. 2006. Dynamische syntactische atlas van de Nederlandse dialecten (dynasand). Meertens Institute. www.meertens.knaw.nl/sand/.

van Craenenbroeck, Jeroen, Marjo van Koppen, and Antal van den Bosch. 2019. A quantitative-theoretical analysis of syntactic microvariation: Word order in Dutch verb clusters. Language 95:333–370.

Greenacre, Michael. 2007. Correspondence analysis in practice. London & New York: Chapman & Hall, 2nd edition.

Sung, Matthew & Prokić, Jelena (2024). "Detecting Dialect Features Using Normalised Pointwise Information". Computational Linguistics in the Netherlands Journal.