
Grammar and phonetic detail in spoken German The case of *haben*

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In contemporary spoken German, the wordform *haben* is frequently phonetically reduced (Wesener 1999; Lanwer 2015; Droste *fc.*), which is linked to the irregularization of the verb (Nübling 2001). Against a backdrop of a present tense paradigm that may show (i) vowel shortening and (ii) syllabic reduction this leads to homophones for the infinitive, 1.Pl and 3.Pl that show substantial loss of phonological material and softened morphologic boundaries. However, it remains still unclear if the variation between more and less reduced forms is random or systematic.

In this paper, I present the results of a corpus-analysis of conversational speech exploring the effects of known and supposed factors on the reduction of *haben*. The data is taken from the whole German language area covering *Deutsch heute* corpus. Mixed-effects models were used to bring other known or suspected determinants of word duration and reduction forms under statistical control. I find that the degree of reduction is systematically structured by the position within the verbal brace. However, the effect is gradual (i) as it is bounded to regional provenance and (ii) since the reduction is marginally co-determined by prosodic and cognitive factors.

I conclude by discussing how the patterns observed in this study reflect the utilization of morphophonological variants for syntax and discourse organization.

References: • Droste, P. (*fc.*): Voll- und Reduktionsformen im Dienst der Klammer. • Lanwer, J. (2015): Allegro oder usuell? Zum Status sogenannter ‚Allegroformen‘ aus Sicht einer gebrauchsbasierten Linguistik. In: Deutsche Dialekte. Konzepte, Probleme, Handlungsfelder. Steiner, 169–190. • Nübling, D. (2001): The development of “junk”. Irregularization strategies of HAVE and SAY in the Germanic languages. In: Yearbook of Morphology 1999. Kluwer, 53–74. • Wesener, Th. (1999): The phonetics of function words in German spontaneous speech. AIPUK 34, 327–377.