



Der Sonderforschungsbereich 991 "Die Struktur von Repräsentationen in Sprache, Kognition und Wissenschaft" lädt herzlich ein zum Vortrag von

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12:30 – 14 Uhr

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Weak definite articles with restrictive relative clauses

In this talk I will examine the interaction between modification by restrictive relative clauses and the choice of definite article on the head noun.

In the literature on weak definite determiners in Standard German and Austro-Bavarian it is claimed that restrictive relative clauses cannot combine with weak definite determiners on the head noun. For other West-Germanic languages, such as Fehring Frisian and a range of Swiss German varieties, this restriction does seem to hold, however.

In what follows I will show that these diverging conclusions are due to two interrelated factors. First, the studies that find an incompatibility between weak definite determiners and restrictive relative clauses rely on a notion of restrictive relative clause that I will argue to be too narrow. Secondly, the examples considered in the above studies are not of the same type.

The first aim of the study is therefore to examine the classification of relative clauses. I argue that we should recognise at least two sub-types of restrictive relatives depending on the nature of the restriction they introduce.

The second aim is to review the data concerning the interaction between relative clauses with the choice of definite article on the head noun in the Germanic dialects. Based on work on Haitian Creole, I will show that different studies rely on different types of examples. I defend the conclusion that the restriction on restrictive relative clauses claimed by some authors does not concern restrictive relatives in general but only one of the subtypes identified here.

Studierende und andere Interessierte sind herzlich willkommen.