

beitet Atayan drei Basistypen von Argumentationsstrukturen heraus: Subordination, Koordination und Gegenargumentation. Hinzu kommen die Unstrittigkeit und die argumentative Stärke, also insgesamt fünf Analysekatoren.

Im dritten Kapitel geht der Autor auf den Begriff der sprachlichen Handlung in seiner Interrelation mit dem Argumentationsbegriff ein. Den einzelsprachlichen wie sprachübergreifenden Ausprägungen der im zweiten Kapitel erarbeiteten Analysekatoren sind dann die Kapitel 4 bis 6 gewidmet. Dabei geht Atayan zunächst auf „koordinierte argumentative Makrostrukturen“ (207–314) ein und wendet sich den Verfahren expliziter Markierung solcher Relationen zu, die er in fünf Klassen unterteilt: die *(et)-même-*, die *(et)-surtout-*, die *en-tout-cas-*, die *d'ailleurs-*, und die *de-plus*-Klasse. Ausgehend von dieser am Französischen orientierten Klassifikation werden dann die entsprechenden Verfahren für das Französische, aber auch für das Italienische und das Deutsche herausgearbeitet. Dabei sieht Atayan auf der Ebene der Markerklassifikation keine „sprachspezifischen Abweichungen“ (314). Das fünfte Kapitel ist dann den sprachlichen Mitteln gewidmet, die zur argumentativen Verstärkung und Abschwächung sowie für die Gegenargumentation (315–434) zur Verfügung stehen. Hier setzt sich Atayan u. a. mit Ducrots Ansatz der *modificateurs réalisants* und *déréalisans* auseinander. Schließlich beschreibt der Autor die sprachlichen Mittel der Suggestion von Unstrittigkeit in der Argumentation (435–515), die in großer Fülle vor dem Leser ausgebreitet werden. Dabei geht er u. a. auch auf rhetorische Fragen sowie auf subordinierte Argumentationsstrukturen ein.

Insgesamt handelt es sich um ein imposantes Werk, das in der Argumentationsforschung Maßstäbe setzt. In diesem Sinne äußert sich auch der renommierte französische Argumentationsforscher Oswald Ducrot, der für das Vorwort sowie für das Koreferat im Dissertationsverfahren gewonnen werden konnte.

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Benedikt Szmrecsanyi: Morphosyntactic persistence in spoken English. A corpus study at the intersection of variationist sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, and discourse analysis. Berlin, New York: Mouton de Gruyter 2006 (Trends in Linguistics. Studies and Monographs 177).

INGO PLAG

This is a book about ‘morphosyntactic persistence’, a phenomenon that is not widely known, at least not under this name. Couched in probably

more familiar terms, it deals with priming effects in everyday spoken language. The author investigates five areas of grammatical variation in English to see whether and how previous mentioning of one of the variants, or previous mentioning of a formally related linguistic expression, influences the choice of that variant in a new environment. This is a most welcome contribution to the field, since the investigation and detection of priming effects has been largely restricted to the laboratory, and the degree of its influence on grammatical construction in normal online speech is underexplored. Priming seems to be of interest primarily for psycholinguists, but recent approaches to language change have shown its significance also for the theoretical linguist (e. g. Jäger & Rosenbach to appear). The present book opens up a new dimension, namely that of grammatical variation.

The variables investigated are the usual English suspects, for which a great deal of literature is already available: comparative formation (*-er* vs. *more*), genitive choice (*'s* vs. *of*), future marking (GOING TO vs. WILL), particle placement (before vs. after the object), and verb complementation (*to*-infinitive vs. *gerund*). The analysis is based on four different corpora of spoken English from different varieties, and the overall findings clearly and convincingly indicate that there are interesting and important effects of morphosyntactic persistence.

Szmrecsanyi distinguishes between two kinds of persistence. What he labels α -persistence indicates the effect of a previously mentioned exponent of one of the variants of a given construction, while β -persistence refers to the effect of a formally similar linguistic expression that is not an exponent of the construction in question. For example, a previously used future marker *gonna* influencing the choice of *going to* over *will* in the next instance of future marking would be a case of α -persistence, while the influence of the non-genitive marking preposition *of* (as in *She got rid of him*) on the choice of the *of*-genitive (instead of the *'s*-genitive) in a neighbouring noun phrase would be a case of β -persistence. Interestingly, both kinds of effect are observable (on top of the grammatical and lexical effects already known from the literature), though in different degrees across constructions and across corpora. In his discussion of his findings (chapter 9), Szmrecsanyi can show in addition that persistence declines significantly after a short time span but is fairly long-lived before the effect dissipates entirely. This is modeled convincingly in a logarithmic 'forgetting function'. Furthermore, the effect is shown to be restricted to spoken (as against written) language. Both of these findings prove persistence to be a manifest online speech production effect.

The study is to be commended for both its breadth and its depth. The author uses large amounts of data and submits them to a very careful coding of relevant factors and a subsequent in-depth multivariate analy-

sis. The overall results are generally very convincing, but the details of interpretation are sometimes not entirely satisfactory due to some minor flaws in the statistical analysis and its presentation. Thus, the model summaries presented and interpreted still contain insignificant predictors, so that it is unclear what the effects and effect sizes would be after the step-wise removal of the insignificant predictors (according to standard practice in statistical modeling, e. g. Crawley 2005). Furthermore, I would have liked to see corpus and speaker effects (and also sometimes lexeme effects, as for the *tol-ing* alternation) modeled as random effects in mixed effect models. It should also be noted that, contra to what the author submits, the R^2 statistics documented for a logistic regression model does not represent the ‘percentage of variance explained’ (as it does for linear regression models).

In view of the great merits of this investigation, the shortcomings just mentioned are truly minor in nature. This is an extremely interesting and well-done study of an important phenomenon and a must read for everyone interested in grammatical variation. Why the reader is plagued with endnotes instead of footnotes will remain the publisher’s secret.

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Literatur

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Jäger, Gerhard & Annette Rosenbach (to appear). Priming as a driving force in grammaticalization: on the track of unidirectionality, *Theoretical Linguistics*.