

MORPHOSYNTACTIC DOUBLING PHENOMENA IN NON-STANDARD VARIETIES OF ENGLISH BERND KORTMANN & BENEDIKT SZMRECSANYI

Syntactic doubling is not an established notion in English dialectology and sociolinguistics, not even in recent studies of comparative dialect grammar. This workshop thus offers the welcome opportunity to catalogue a set of relevant phenomena in largely non-standard varieties of English around the world. On the basis of the *Handbook of Varieties of English* (2004) and the *World Atlas of Morphosyntactic Variation in English*, which goes with the Handbook as a CD-ROM, we will therefore identify and discuss morpho-syntactic doubling phenomena in the more than 50 non-standard varieties of English covered in the Handbook. In particular, it will be interesting to see (a) the frequency of these doubling phenomena within the individual varieties, (b) how widespread they are across the anglophone world (and which of them qualify as candidates for what has recently been called *vernacular universals*), (c) whether the relevant phenomena and varieties yield interesting regional patterns (e.g. British Isles, North America, Africa, Australasia), or (d) whether they pattern, for example, according to whether the relevant non-standard varieties are L1-varieties, L2-varieties, or Pidgins or Creoles.

Relevant phenomena to be investigated will include the following:

- double comparatives and superlatives (e.g. *That is so much more easier to follow*)
- double modals (e.g. *I tell you what we might should do*)
- verb doubling, notably *do* as an unstressed tense marker (e.g. *This man what do own this...*)
- multiple negation / negative concord (e.g. *He won't do no harm*)
- resumptive / shadow pronouns (e.g. *This is the house which I painted it yesterday*)
- double conjunctions (e.g. *Suppose if he comes,...*)
- *as what / than what* in comparative clauses (e.g. *It's harder than what you think it is*)

REFERENCES

Kortmann, Bernd/Kate Burridge/Raj Mesthrie/Edgar W. Schneider/Clive Upton, eds. 2004. *A Handbook of Varieties of English*, Vol. 2: *Morphology and Syntax*. Berlin/New York: Mouton de Gruyter.