

On the use of possessive markers in the dialect of young people in the south of Norway, Kristiansand and Arendal

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The focus of the current paper is on the use of possessive markers in 3rd person NPs (both nouns and pronouns as possessors) in the dialect of young people in the south of Norway, Kristiansand and Arendal. The background for this paper is research results from a field work where I've interviewed seventy 18 years old pupils and 21 of them have also played a game which is developed for this purpose. The data is based on about 20 taped hours of dialect where several thousand possessive constructions appear. In my presentation I would like to give insight in and describe the variation in the use of several different types of markers of prototypical possession (i.e. possessive NPs with animate possessor and inanimate possessum) in Norwegian dialects such as genitive- *s* (*Jons bil*, eng. *John's car*), *ses*-genitive (*Jonses bil*), *sin*-genitive (*naboen sin bil*, ger. *dem Nachbar sein Auto*) and prepositional phrase with *til* (*bilen til naboen*, eng. *of-phrases*). The research results show some interesting tendencies which I will emphasize in this paper and I'll try to categorize the variation of possessive markers in different types such as 1) geographical, 2) syntactic, 3) phonological and 4) individual founded speech variation.

Type 1) will for example show that the traditional possessive forms (*ses*-genitive) are challenged by new possessive productive *sin*-genitives in both areas which means that *hans bil* (*his car*) now most often has the linguistic form *han sin bil*, but the results will also show that although the tendencies are the same in both research areas there are some considerable differences in the geographical extent of the linguistic changes. There also are some other tendencies towards using analogical short forms of the possessive pronouns which appear in the dialect of young people only in one of the towns. Type 2) will show that the *sin*-genitive (like in *Peter sin bil*) is much more often used when the possessive phrase is placed at the end of the sentence. Type 3) shows that the use of possessive markers varies with the final sound of the possessor. For example is the *sin*-genitive more often used when the possessor noun is *Jens* than when it is *Kari*. The tendencies in type 2 and 3 are the same in both research areas. The individual variation (type 4) seems to be based on topicalisation strategies which means that some speakers have a tendency to emphasize the possessum in the linguistic possessive phrase.

My presentation at the PLM conference will give more insight in the use of these possessive constructions and will try to point out some factors, both internal and external linguistic ones, that may be of significance in the speakers' choice of linguistic construction.