

### The process of grammaticalisation in the adnominal possessive dative construction in the German dialect of the language island *Deutschpilsen* (Hungary)

Adnominal possessive datives occur in many Germanic languages and its German variants have been widely researched (e.g. Zifonun 2003, Ágel 2003). The present work explores this structure in a German dialect of Hungary, the dialect of *Deutschpilsen*, described by Márkus (2014). In the analysed dialect, three types of possessive constructions with fronted possessor can be distinguished: (i) possessive datives followed by a possessive pronoun of the possessum, as in example (1); (ii) adnominal possessives in nominative (as *nominativus pendens* in Ramat 1986), as in (2); (iii) adnominal possessives with the definite article of the type (3).

- (1) *in k<sup>c</sup>indən ir špiəl* (=die Kinder ihr Spiel)  
the<sub>dat</sub> children their toy  
'the children's toy'
- (2) *di tiər i(ə)r vailn* (=die Tür ihre Klinke)  
the<sub>nom</sub> door her handle  
'the handle of the door'
- (3) *idə tåšn də žēb* (=der Tasche die Tasche)  
the<sub>dat</sub> bag the pocket  
'the pocket of the bag'

Apart from the morphological analysis of the above types, the poster also focuses on cases of mismatch between grammatical and referential gender in the possessive construction of the type *in hoz iər gartn* (dem Haus ihr Garten = 'the garden of the house'). In such instances, the feminine possessive pronoun refers to masculine or neutral possessors. The data point to the fact that the process of grammaticalisation might be at work here.

A significant fact about the distribution of possessive constructions in the dialect is that other coexisting forms are also available and attested. If we maintain the principle that language is economical, these grammatical realisations must differ in certain aspects. It is argued that the trigger for the formation of the adnominal dative possessive construction lies in the realm of information structure: The construction is a means of grammatically separating the possessor to fulfil its discourse functional role as a topic or contrastive topic.

## References

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