

Do repetitional responses boost the transmission of linguistic innovations? Evidence from agent-based modelling

Peter Dekker (Vrije Universiteit Brussel), Sonja Gipper (Universität zu Köln)

In this paper, we use agent-based modelling to investigate whether repetitional responses facilitate the transmission of innovative linguistic items (Gipper 2020) across a population of agents. For this purpose, we compare the results of two models, one where the agents always use repetitional responses as answers to questions, one where they always use interjections such as ‘yes’ and ‘no’. As a case study, we investigate the spread of an innovative regularized third person form of the verb *eĩti* ‘go’ in the Lithuanian island dialect of Lazunai (Vidugiris 2014: 198–200), using as a starting point the island dialect of Zietela which retains the irregular form (Rozwadowski 1995: 136). We predict that the innovation will be able to spread faster in the population of agents that use repetitional responses.

References

- Gipper, Sonja. 2020. Repeating responses as a conversational affordance for linguistic transmission: Evidence from Yurakaré conversations. *Studies in Language* 44(2). 281-326.
- Rozwadowski, Jan. 1995. Litewska gwara okolic Zdzięcioła na Nowogródzczyźnie, Dzieło pośmiertne, opracowanie Adam Gregorski. Kraków: Polska Akademia Nauk.
- Vidugiris, Aloyzas. 2014. *Lazūnų šnektas*. Vilnius: Lietuvių Kalbos Institutas.