



Constructional pejoration in a language-contact situation: *m*-doublets in urban German

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ZENTRUM „SPRACHE,
VARIATION UND
MIGRATION“

SFB 632 “Information Structure”

B6 Kiezdeutsch

T1 Urbane Language Variation

Denkwerk-Project (with C. Schroeder)

“Let’s do language” – Kiez goes Uni

Three examples

Er kommt schon wieder mit **Fahrrad-Mahrrad**

he comes yet again with bike mike

‘He comes by bike yet again.’

Die sind immer mit der letzten Minute. Ey, diese **Schissermitter**

they are always with the last minute man these shitter.mitter

‘They always come in the last minute. Man, these scaredycats.’

Lassma **U-Bahn Mu-Bahn!**

let.MP subway mubway

‘Let’s take the subway!’

*How come?
What about it?*

Background:

urban German in a contact situation - Kiezdeutsch

A possible source:

m-doublets in Turkish

Pejorative incorporations:

Yiddish/English (*shm-*)

Kiezdeutsch (*m-*)

Pejorative support:

lexicalised *m*-doublets in German

Suggestion for a developmental path:

from amplification to pejoration: The 'whatever' effect

Constructional pejoration:

grammatical vs. pragmatic contributions

Kiezdeutsch – a new urban dialect



- Multiethnic and multilingual urban settings in Europe
- Rise of new linguistic practices, incl. new variants of majority languages, in particular among adolescents

- Speakers from different ethnic backgrounds, including the majority one

e.g. Sweden: *Bijvoet, Bodén, Boyd, Ekberg, Fraurud, Kotsinas*; Denmark: *Madsen, Quist*; Netherlands: *Cornips, Dorleijn, Hinskens, Hout, Muysken, Nortier, van de Rooij*; UK: *Cheshire, Kerswill, Rampton*; Norway: *Nistov, Opsahl, Svendson, Røyneland*; Germany: *Androutsopoulos, Auer, Bahlo, Dirim, Hinnenkamp, Kallmeyer, Keim, Kern, Selting, Şimşek, Wiese*

– *multiethnolects*

Clyne 2000; Quist 2008; Wiese et al. 2009

– *new dialects*

Wiese 2009, 2012; Kerswill 2010; Cheshire et al. 2011;

– *urban vernaculars*

Rampton 2010, 2012

Kiezdeutsch – a new urban dialect



- $\approx 1/5$ of the population in Germany has a “migrant background”
- higher proportion of younger people in this population
- higher in urban areas:
about $\frac{1}{2}$ of under 18 year olds

→ Emergence of multiethnic and multilingual contexts that foster a special linguistic dynamics for new developments in the majority language





Kiezdeutsch – a new urban dialect



Interesting convergence of findings in different countries / languages at levels of

- **Language system**
- **Language use**
- **Language attitudes**

m-doublets in Turkish

Bahçede ağaç mağaç yok.
garden.LOK tree mee is.not

Lewis 2000

‘There are not trees or shrubs or bushes in the garden.’

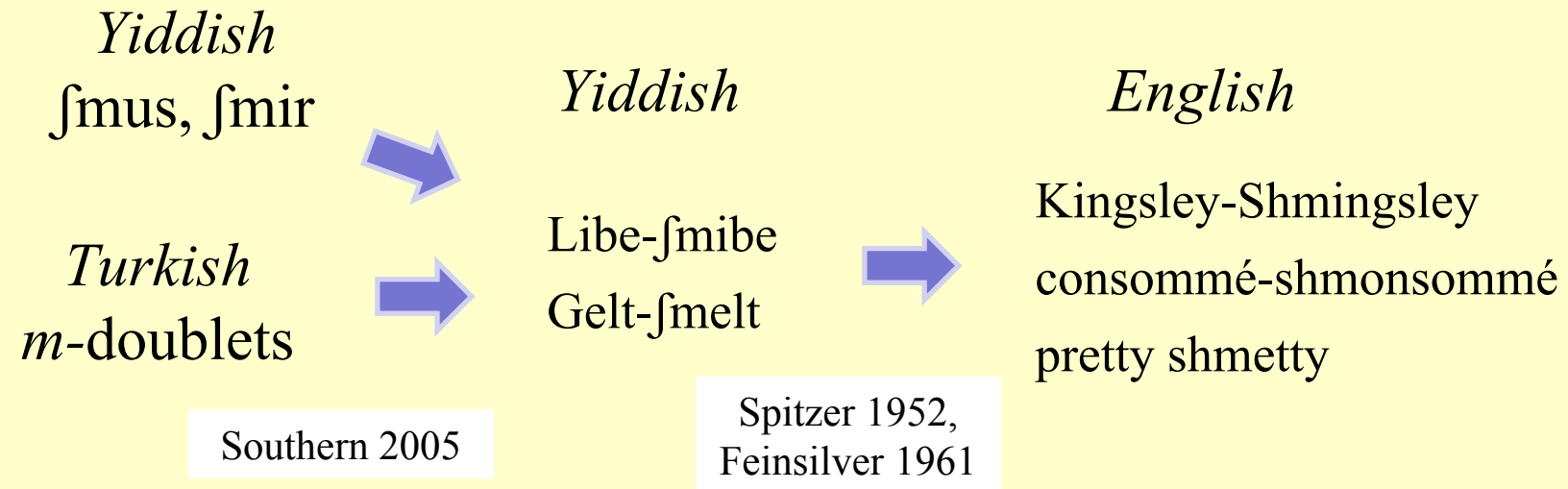
Doktor hastanın gözüne mözüne baktı.
doctor patient's eyes meyes checked

Göksel & Kerslake 2005

‘The doctor checked the patient’s eyes etc.’

- **SEM:** amplification/generalisation (‘and so on’)
- **SYN:** syntactically integrated;
base mostly nouns, but also poss. for verbs
- *colloquial*

shm-doublets in Yiddish & English



- **pejoration** (‘ironical dismissal’)
- not syntactically integrated;
base mostly nouns, but also possible with adjectives; can be metalinguistic
- *colloquial*

m-doublets in urban German

Er kommt schon wieder mit **Fahrrad-Mahrrad**.
he comes yet again with bike mike

Lassma **U-Bahn Mu-Bahn!**
let.MP subway mubway

Die essen **Chips Mips**.
they eat crisps misps

*“Could be he does not like it
that they eat crisps,
or he’s just cool.”*
- devaluation, dismissal
- “cool”, “chilled”, “easy”

- **pejoration** (dismissal, devaluation) *or casual* / ‘cool’ marker

m-doublets in urban German

“sounds youthful”

“vernacular that young people use”

“more for young people”

“when we are among ourselves”

- **pejoration** (dismissal, devaluation) *or casual* / ‘cool’ marker
- *colloquial*: youth language / peer group situations

m-doublets in urban German

Er kommt schon wieder mit **Fahrrad-Mahrrad**.
he comes yet again with bike mike

Declarative

Lassma **U-Bahn Mu-Bahn!**
let.MP subway mubway

Imperative

Kommt der **U-Bahn Mu-Bahn?**
comes he subway mubway

Interrogative

- **pejoration** (dismissal, devaluation) *or* **casual** / ‘cool’ marker
- *colloquial*: youth language / peer group situations
- possible in different sentence types / speech acts

m-doublets in urban German

Lassma **U-Bahn** **Mu-Bahn** fahren!
let.MP subway mubway go

Ich will mir noch **Kleid** **Meid** kaufen.
I want myself still dress mess buy

- **pejoration** (dismissal, devaluation) *or* **casual** / ‘cool’ marker
- *colloquial*: youth language / peer group situations
- possible in different sentence types / speech acts
- syntactic integration: continuation possible

m-doublets in urban German

Die sind immer mit der letzten Minute. Ey, diese **Schissermisser**
they are always with the last minute man these shitter.mitter

Ich kauf mir noch *das **Kleid Meid** dahinten.
I buy myself still a dress mess

- **pejoration** (dismissal, devaluation) *or casual* / ‘cool’ marker
- *colloquial*: youth language / peer group situations
- possible in different sentence types / speech acts
- syntactic integration: continuation possible
with Det??

m-doublets in urban German

Ich will mir noch *neues **Kleid Meid** kaufen.
I buy myself still new dress mess buy

- **pejoration** (dismissal, devaluation) *or* **casual** / ‘cool’ marker
- *colloquial*: youth language / peer group situations
- possible in different sentence types / speech acts
- syntactic integration: continuation possible
with Det??
no modification
base: N, rather than Adj, V

Lexicalised *m*-doublets in German



‘rhyme duplication’:

Heckmeck, Kuddelmuddel, Techtelmechtel, Schickimicki
hassle jumble-bumble hanky-panky fancy-pancy

Lexicalised *m*-doublets in German



‘rhyme duplication’:

Heck**m**eck, Kuddel**m**uddel, Techtel**m**echtel, Schicki**m**icki
hassle jumble-bumble hanky-panky fancy-pancy

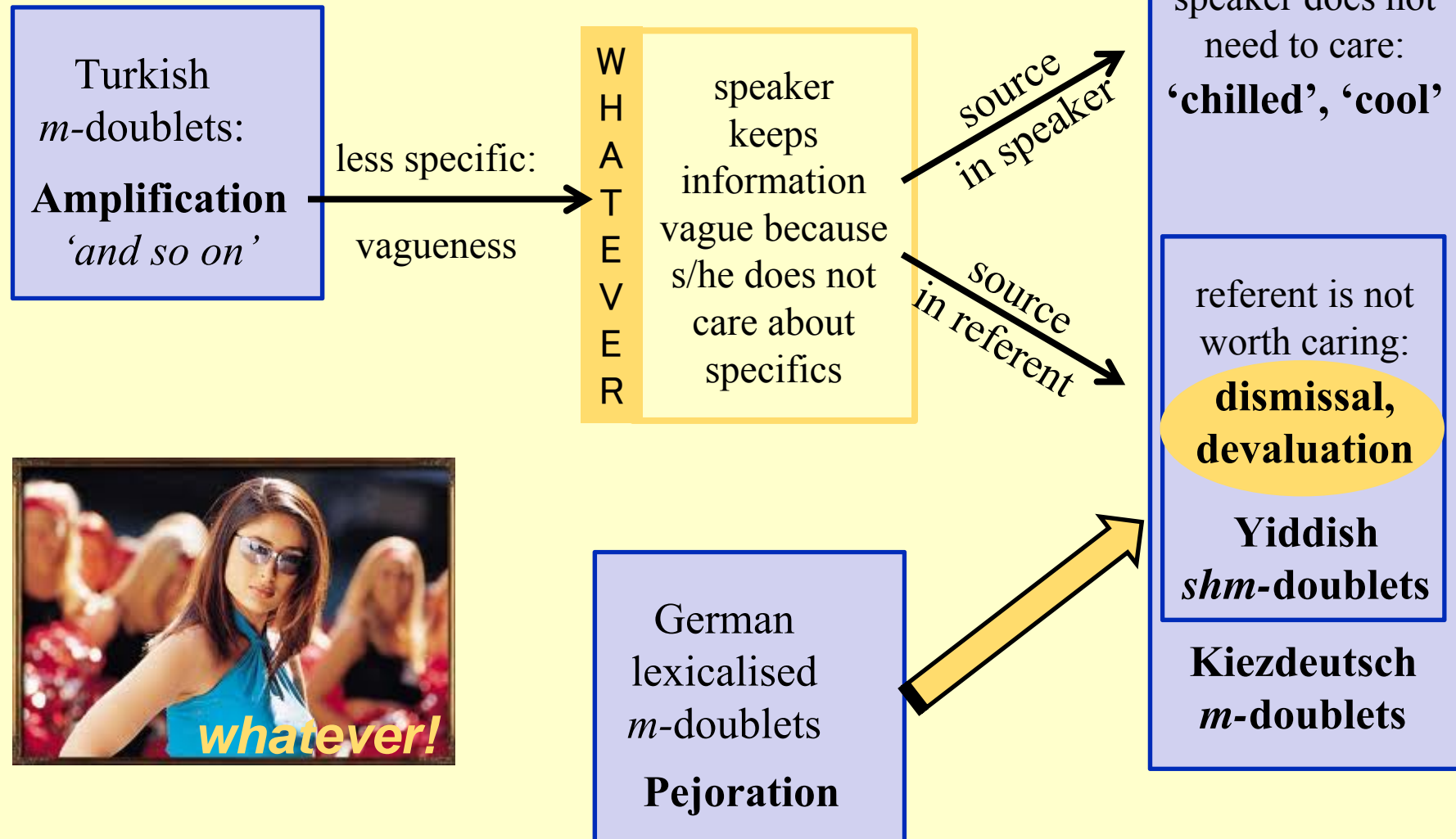
other consonants: Remmi**d**emmi, Larif**a**ri, ratz**f**atz
racket airy-fairy in a jiffy

similar: ‘ablaut duplication’:

Sings**a**ng, Wirrw**a**rr, Mischma**a**sch Krimskra**a**ms Wischiw**a**schi Tingelt**a**ngel
singsong hurly-burly mishmash hotchpotch wishy-washy honky-tonk

- **mostly pejorative** ————— *Bzdęga 1965: 2nd most “accompanying feeling” for word formation by reduplication in German*
- *m*-doublets: base is usually no lexeme
- not productive, lexicalised as one unit
- both components semantically void

A developmental path: The 'whatever' effect



Constructional pejoration



PHON:	P	P [ONSET := /m/]
SYN:	N	N
SEM:	S	●
<hr/>		
PRAG:	●	WE(S)

*phrasal integration
expansion*

Constructional pejoration in a language contact situation

- New, productive *m*-doublets in German, similar to Yiddish *shm*-doublets
- Dynamics of a multilingual speech community: language-contact (Turkish) + internal support (lexicalised rhyme-doublets)
- Amplification as a basis for pejoration;
- Association of ‘cool’ / ‘chilled’ in youth language with pejoration via ‘whatever’ effect
- Pejoration through construction: semantic void + pragmatic ‘whatever’