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## Changing Gender: variation and change in gender marking in Brabantish dialects

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This poster presentation addresses variation and change in gender marking, i.e. the morphological marking of masculine, feminine and neuter gender in the NP-domain, in Brabantish dialects. Brabantish dialects originally had a coherent three-gender system, where there is now an abundance of variation in present-day varieties. In this presentation, the following research question will be addressed: which intra- and extra-linguistic factors trigger the emergence of variation and change in gender marking in Brabantish dialects? The focus will be on the Eindhoven region, where language contact is due to long term societal tendencies of globalisation, urbanisation and increased mobility and immigration.

In this study data from questionnaires on dialect knowledge were combined with interaction recordings of adolescent speakers in secondary education institutes, to investigate the variation ranges of gender marking. The results show three varieties: 1) omissions of gender marking, 2) over-generalizations of gender marking (hyperdialectisms), and 3) the use of innovative new markers (hypermarkings). These variation patterns seem to be triggered by language internal factors (such as the violation of phonosyntactic constraints and a general process of deflection in Dutch and its dialects) that go together with stylistic and social orientations. In fact, variation can only be fully explained by taking language external factors, social dynamics and identity formation, into account.