

Production of vocalized laterals in West Central Bavarian - an acoustic and articulatory analysis

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The present study is concerned with /l/-vocalization in West Central Bavarian (WCB), a German variety which may be increasingly influenced by Standard German (SG). We investigated words that have a post-vocalic clear /l/ in SG but a diphthong in WCB. The hypothesis was that shifts were more likely from WCB diphthongs to laterals in cases of ambiguity in the mapping from production to perception ([1], [2]). Thus, there might be a greater shift from the acoustically similar WCB /hoits/ and SG /hɔlts/ (*Holz*, 'wood') than between the acoustically more divergent WCB /bruin/ and SG /brɪlə/ (*Brille*, 'glasses'). Acoustic and ultrasound recordings of 9 WCB speaking primary school children (mean age: 7,5) were analysed. They each produced 4 repetitions of 5 isolated words with SG V+/l/ as target segments: *Holz*, *Stuhl* (acoustically similar between the two varieties) and *Brille*, *Geld*, *Spiel* (acoustically divergent).

The acoustic analysis of the first two formant frequencies suggests so far that there is continuous variation between WCB and SG forms in words like *Holz* but not in words like *Brille*. We are currently investigating the corresponding articulatory variation in order to test whether the children are beginning to show an SG-type lateral production in *Holz* words.

[1] Beddor, P. (2009). A coarticulatory path to sound change. *Language*, 85, 785-821.

[2] Ohala, J. (1993). The phonetics of sound change. In C. Jones (Ed.) *Historical Linguistics: Problems and Perspectives*. Longman: London. (p. 237–278).