

Number between gender and declension: findings from Germanic non-standard varieties

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The interaction of number and gender in noun declension is well-researched when it comes to standard varieties of Germanic languages (cf. Dammel/Kürschner/Nübling 2010, Kürschner/Nübling 2011 for microtypological generalisations). In this context, young standard languages such as Luxemburgish and complex standard constellations as in Norwegian reorganize the relation of number and gender in interesting ways. This led us to look more thoroughly at the plural systems and the influence of gender on number allomorphy in some more "natural" (cf. Weiß 2001) varieties such as Bavarian and Westphalian and in "small" Germanic languages such as Luxembourgish and Frisian. Based on this richer evidence, we will present a typology of strategies in reorganizing the relation of number and gender in varieties of Germanic and discuss whether dialects and standard varieties differ systematically in number marking (as observed in other domains of grammar).

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