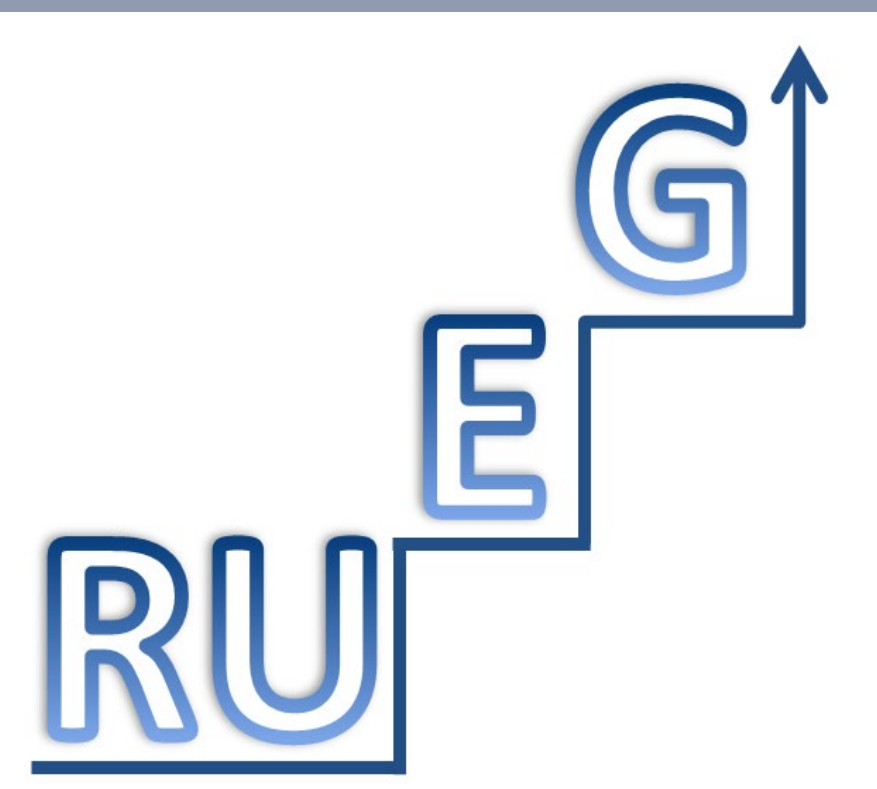


# Register Variation in Multi- and Monolingual Speakers of German

A case study of linguistic features across language situations and speaker groups

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## Research Questions

**RQ1** Does the co-occurrences of linguistic features reflect the different communicative situations with which the participants are confronted in the Language Situations set-up ([Wiese 2020](#))?

**RQ2** Are the co-occurrences of linguistic features the same or distinct for different speaker groups?

## Database

[RUEG-DE-0.3.0](#)

204 speaker of German as a majority language:

multilinguals:

49 heritage-Turkish, 32 heritage-Greek, 48 heritage-Russian

monolinguals:

64 mo-German

4 communicative situations:

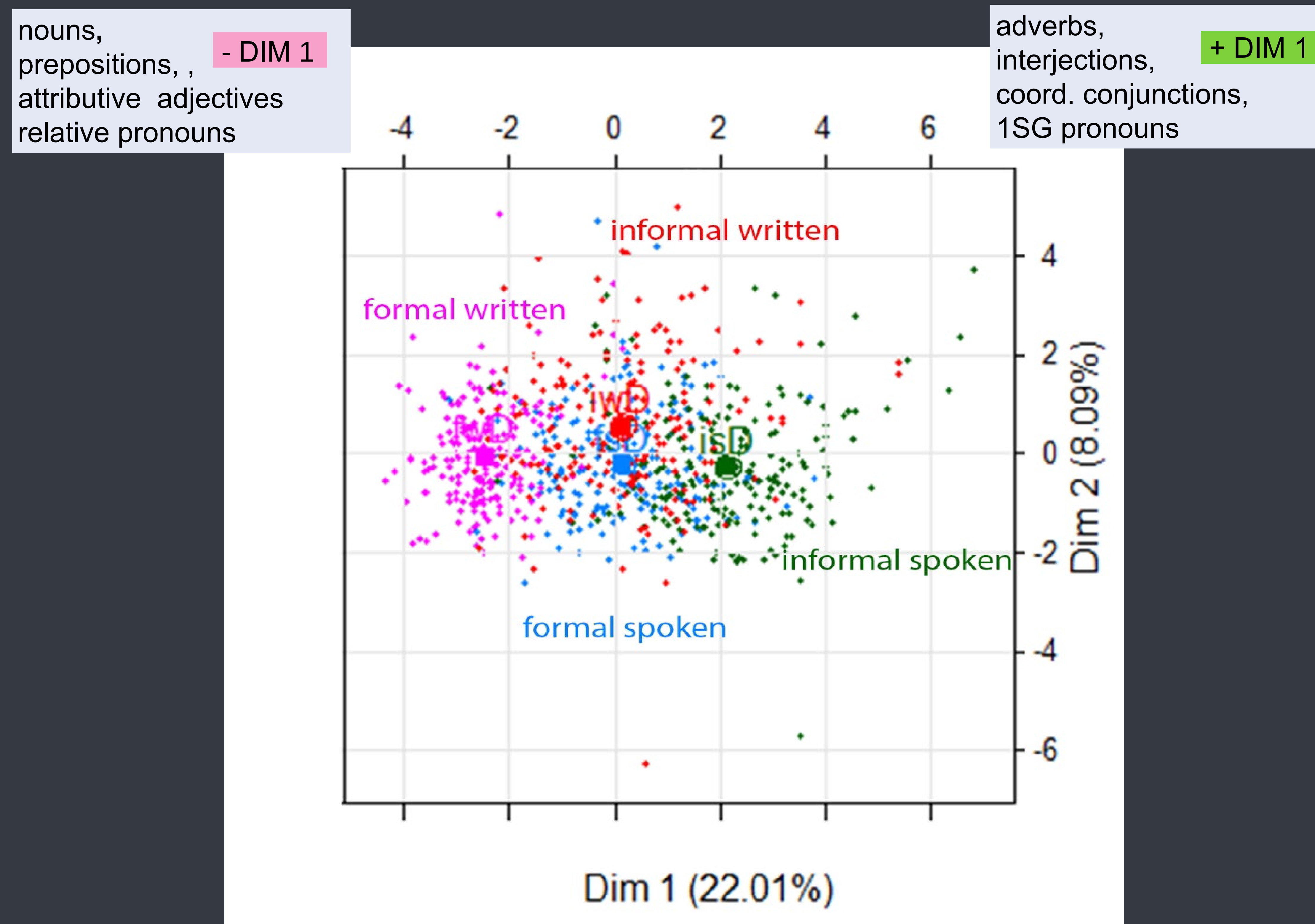
- WhatsApp to a friend: **informal written (iw)**
- Voice message to a friend: **informal spoken (is)**
- Written eye-witness report: **formal written (fw)**
- Eye-witness report to mail box: **formal spoken (fs)**

## Linguistic Features

• **first analysis** based on Part of Speech annotation (STTS 2.0, [Westpfahl et al. 2017](#)): nouns, adverbs, adjectives, prepositions, pronouns, demonstrative pronouns, articles, discourse markers, interjections, verbs, coordinating conjunctions, subordinating conjunctions

• **planned analysis** (annotation in progress): tense, passive constructions, phrasal structures vs. clausal structures, bare NPs, V3 constructions

Strong contrast of formal written vs. informal spoken on Dim 1: informational vs. involved discourse. Findings suggest individual differences rather than group differences.



Multidimensional analysis (e.g. [Biber 1988](#), [Levshina 2015](#)) based on PoS

## Results

Speakers adapt their linguistic behavior to the communicative situations (**formal written** <-> **informal spoken**)

Dimension 1:

- negative correlation values of nouns, prepositions, attributive adjectives and relative pronouns might point to **informational** density
- high positive correlation values of adverbs, interjections, coord. conjunctions, 1SG pronouns might point to **involved** discourse

A lot of individual variance (**informal written**)

Other linguistic features need to be included to get a more complete picture.

## Situational Characteristics

Speaker relation

is close  
iw close  
fs distant  
fw distant

Communicative purpose

is share experience  
iw share experience  
fs clarify facts  
fw clarify facts

Production circumstances

is real-time  
iw possibility for revision  
fs real-time  
fw revised

Medium/App

is instant messenger  
iw instant messenger  
fs phone call/mail box  
fw text editor