

Hundt, Marianne, Dirk Pijpops and Laetitia van Driessche: Approaching epicentral influence with agent-based modelling

Agent-based modelling provides a complementary methodology (Livet et al. 2014) to corpus data as an experimental approach to predicting variation in a speaker community (see Steels and Beuls & Steels 2013, Pijpops et al. 2015). It also offers a way to deal with one of the methodological challenges that purely corpus-based research is unable to address, namely the role that attitudes (in this case towards two ENL varieties) may play in the choice of variants in a pluricentric language like English (Hundt 2013). We build a model for a case study on the choice between bare-NP or PP complements for the verbs *protest* and *appeal* in two speaker communities where English is an institutionalised second language (Indian and Philippine English). The results of the case study are discussed in the wider context of the epicentre hypothesis (see e.g. Hoffmann et al. 2011 or Gries and Bernaisch 2016).

References

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