



THERE ARE MORE PRONOUNS NEARBY – HOW TO COUNTERACT DATA BIAS IN MORPHOSYNTACTIC RESEARCH FOR PORTUGUESE AND SPANISH

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- Some more examples (in German)

2| Starting point & problems: What is this talk going to be about?

- **Starting point:** We find research on neopronouns and pronoun use that differs from the use described in traditional (prescriptive) grammars for a lot of languages (e.g. to go beyond “the binary”)
- **Problem:**
 - In many highly theoretical morphosyntactic texts, those forms stay unaccounted for (counterexample: Conrod 2019 for English singular ,they’)
- **Other problem:** There are linguistic programs that don’t include sociolinguistics or topics related to gender and sexuality in their classes. For students of those programs, it’s harder to get to know about the methodology around those topics and how to include this within their own morphosyntactic work.
- **So, what now?**
 - Let’s talk about methods in (theoretical) morphosyntactic work! And let’s drag neopronouns to syntax classes!

3 | Some background

It started with two small projects on the syntax of (object)pronouns in Spanish and Portuguese...

1) The interface between phonology and syntax of object clitics in Portuguese vs. Spanish (Gerdt 2021a)

- The data: Transcribed videos from TED and TEDx talks

2) The grammaticalization status of Past Participle Agreement (PPA) in Old Spanish vs. Clitic Doubling in Modern Spanish (in Argentina) (Gerdt 2021b)

- The data: Previous data from the literature (e.g. Macpherson 1967, Suñer 1988, Zdrojewski 2008, Zdrojewski & Sánchez 2014, Sánchez & Zdrojewski 2013).

The observation: There was nothing within the linguistic literature used for these topics that mentioned any kind of variation in pronouns wrt gender outside of the binary m/f.

>>>The underlying literature for both projects focused on language forms used to talk about people and still only mentioned binary forms: >>> **Marginalized groups stay marginalized.**

4 | ... And the lavender languages and linguistics side of things

In the same time, research on neopronouns and other kinds of language variation outside of the binary happens all the time! (**LavLang, yay!**)

Some examples:

López 2019 about direct and indirect non-binary inclusive language

Knisely 2020 about French non-binary language

Papadoupoulos 2019 about language use of genderqueer people in Spanish

Conrod 2019 about singular they

Obviously many more, e.g. other talks within this session and this conference!

5 | The mission: Methods & Data

So, What now?

Let's drag the methods and the data around neopronouns to the field of morphosyntactic theorybuilding!

Not every linguistics program has sociolinguistic classes

- Students that are interested in this field sometimes need some extra support to be able to include their interests in their morphosyntactic work

What do we need?

- Data!

Some possible ways to acquire data:

- Questionnaire (e.g. Knisely 2020 > non-binary inclusive French)
- Corpus analysis (e.g. neopronouns used in books or some other kind of media)
- Analysis of existing blogs/ self-disclosure online (see *Gender in Language* project; e.g. blog about *sistema elu* in Portuguese)

Object clitics in Portuguese and Spanish beyond the binary

Sistema Elu (Portuguese)

„Suavemente beijou-a na boca. → Suavemente beijou-**e** na boca.“

„Vi-os rapidamente. → Vi-**es** rapidamente.“

„Nós vamos amá-la com qualquer corpo. → Nós vamos amá-**le** com qualquer corpo.“

„Vou avisá-los sobre isto. → Vou avisá-**les** sobre isto.“

(<https://medium.com/@pedrosttv/sistema-elu-linguagem-neutra-em-g%C3%A9nero-pt-pt-9529ed3885cf>)

Gender in Language project (for Spanish)

„Por ahora, le gusta ser una buena tía a su sobrina y **le** cuida muy bien.“ (Papadopoulos et al. 2021)

7 | Analyzing the resources at hand: Language beyond the binary

Let's have a look at the resources at hand:

	Ressources	Use
binary forms	traditional (descriptive) grammars , e.g. Gramática descriptiva de la lengua española (Bosque & Demonte 1999), Gramática do Português (Raposo et al. 2013)	How to make language institutions like the RAE happy?
indirect non-binary inclusive language (see López 2019 for explanation)	- using impersonal forms to evade "the gender question", see López 2019, guidelines of institutions (see EU 2018 guideline) (staying within the language described by traditional grammars)	How can one include non-binary forms within language without differing from traditional grammars?
direct non-binary inclusive language (see López 2019 for explanation)	texts e.g. about forms like –e, -x in Spanish (e.g. López 2019) and sistema elu (-u/–e) in Portuguese	How can we explicitly include non-binary forms within our language?
referencing to individual people (individual choices)	Results of questionnaires (see Knisely 2020 and La Vie en Queer 2018 for French,) and blogs (see nibi-space for German), twitter bios & tumblr pages and Papadopoulos (2019) for Spanish	How do individual people use language beyond the binary for individual people?

8 | Outlook: How does this help?

Questions that should be answered for the research project:

- Which kind of language do we want to include in our analysis?
- How can we acquire the data that we need for this?
- **The categorization of language beyond the binary helps to answer these questions** and to get a step further into the direction of including language beyond the binary within morphosyntactic theory approaches.
- **The categorization helps to find ways to get to the pronouns nearby** that might not be described in traditional grammars and don't show up in many texts about morphosyntactic theories.

9 | Some other examples:

German list of neopronouns: <https://nibi.space/pronomen>

- ♦ Pronomen
 - ♦ A
 - ♦ as
 - ♦ bla
 - ♦ dey
 - ♦ die
 - ♦ el
 - ♦ em
 - ♦ en
 - ♦ eos
 - ♦ es
 - ♦ er_sie
 - ♦ ey/em
 - ♦ er und weibliche Beschreibung
 - ♦ et
 - ♦ fae
 - ♦ hän
 - ♦ hen
 - ♦ iks
 - ♦ ind
 - ♦ k
 - ♦ le
 - ♦ mensch
 - ♦ nin
 - ♦ per
 - ♦ sel
 - ♦ ser
 - ♦ sey
 - ♦ sie und männliche Beschreibung
 - ♦ sier
 - ♦ sif
 - ♦ sir
 - ♦ they
 - ♦ vii
 - ♦ Vorname
 - ♦ why
 - ♦ x
 - ♦ xe
 - ♦ xier
 - ♦ xie/xieren
 - ♦ zae

10 | „sier“ in German
(<https://nibi.space/pronomen>)

Personalpronomen

Nom	Wer?	sier	Sier hat eine Katze.
Gen	Wessen?	sies	Wir nahmen uns sieser an.
Dat	Wem?	siem	Bring siem die Jacke mit.
Akk	Wen?	sien	Ich mag sien.

Artikel/Relativpronomen

Nom	Wer?	dier	Dier Sasha hat eine Katze.
Gen	Wessen?	dies	Wir nahmen uns dies Sasha an.
Dat	Wem?	diem	Das ist Sasha, diem die Jacke gehört.
Akk	Wen?	dien	Das ist Sasha, dien ich noch holen muss.

Possessivpronomen

	Nom: Wer/was	Gen: Wessen	Dat: Wem	Akk: Wen
die Katze von siem	Das ist siese Katze.	Das ist die Schüssel sieser Katze.	Das gehört sieser Katze.	Ich streichle siese Katze.
der Hund von siem	Das ist sies Hund.	Das ist die Schüssel sieses Hundes.	Das gehört siesem Hund.	Ich streichle siesen Hund.
das Kaninchen von siem	Das ist sies Kaninchen.	Das ist die Schüssel sieses Kaninchens.	Das gehört siesem Kaninchen.	Ich streichle sies Kaninchen.
dier Freund*in von siem benutzt auch sier	Das ist siesar Freund*in.	Das ist das Buch siesas Freund*in.	Das gehört siesam Freund*in.	Ich treffe siesan Freund*in

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Dezanove-Blogartikel zu Sistema Elu (Portugiesisch): <https://dezanove.pt/sistema-elu-linguagem-neutra-em-genero-1317469>

Nibi Space (e.g. for German neopronouns): <https://nibi.space> , <https://nibi.space/pronomen>

Thank you for listening!

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