
Coexistence, competition, and change: Perspectives on structural borrowing and the dynamics of asymmetric language contact

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Typically, language contact situations are characterized by variation, competition, and coexistence of linguistic features at different levels of linguistic analysis and their interfaces. These dynamics become apparent not only in the linguistic behaviour of bilingual speakers and signers (code-switching, code-mixing, code-blending, and cross-linguistic influence), but also in the evolution of spoken and sign languages over time (language change, emergence of new varieties, mixed languages, pattern transfer or calque).

In this workshop we bring together various lines of research in the investigation of the dynamics of asymmetric language contact and change. In the introduction to this workshop, we will elaborate on our aim to contribute to a better understanding of the outcomes of language contact by approaching the dynamics of language contact from different empirical and theoretical perspectives.

After a brief sketch of the insights we have gathered in our different areas of expertise (contact-induced aspects of minority languages and areal linguistics, bimodal language acquisition and contact, and a constraint-based modelling of the interfaces of syntax, semantics, and pragmatics; <https://blog.studiumdigitale.uni-frankfurt.de/dalc/>) we will introduce the main topics focused in this workshop on structural borrowing and the dynamics of asymmetric language contact.