**SynALM – a new project on Alemannic dialect syntax**

*Ellen Brandner, University of Wuppertal/University of Konstanz*

*eleonore.brandner@uni-konstanz.de*

SynALM is a new project on the syntax of Alemannic dialects, funded by the DFG (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft). It is hosted and supported by the University of Konstanz and will start in Fall 2011.

The project is partially based on work that was carried out by a small project that focused on infinitival syntax and doubly filled Comp phenomena in Alemannic and Bavarian (researchers: Josef Bayer and Ellen Brandner, Konstanz).

The new project aims to enlarge the data base on Alemannic syntax by systematic investigation of the South West part of Germany - a dialect area that is well documented in its phonology and lexicon but less so in its syntax. There will be a strong connection to the results of SADS – a project on Alemannic variants spoken in Switzerland. The aim is to find out about the fine grained differences between variants of Alemannic in Switzerland and Germany - which arguably exist.

In the context of the dialect syntax projects connected via Edisyn, SynALM will focus on doubling phenomena and more generally on apparent 'redundancies', in the area of functional categories.

Among the phenomena to be investigated more closely are:

**DP**: use of indefinite article with mass nouns:

 a. hesch mer en zucker

 have.you me a.Mask.SG sugar.Mask.SG
 b. hesch mer a meel
 have.you me a.Neut.SG flour.Neut.SG

As one can see, the article agrees with the gender/number values of the noun;
this shows that there is no elliptical (measure) noun as in '*a (glass of) beer'.* This raises questions about the general functional structure within DPs.
**Infinitives**: it has been observed in former work, that ALM allows wh-
infinitivals quite readily. The first goal is to get a firm data basis on the distribution and the properties of them; the second step is to bring that in line with the observation that the inventory of infinitival markers in ALM is different from that of Standard German, which does crucially not allow wh-infinitivals, see Brandner (2006).

**Left Periphery**: One core area of this project will be the investigation of the multi functional element '*wo*' in Alemannic. It can serve as a relativizer and as a complementizer-like element in adverbial clauses. Since it seems to be a rather recent development in the history of Alemannic, its close investigation will eventually also reveal new insights about language change and its mechanisms.

**PPs**: Alemannic is interesting insofar as it uses (post-nominal) prepositional adverbs nearly obligatorily with directional and locational PPs in addition to the 'normal' preposition, as in '*er isch im Huus (d)inne*' (he is in the house inside). A close investigation of this phenomenon might give us new insights into the fine (functional) structure of PPs.

As such, the project is in line with other recent syntactic dialect projects in that it combines traditional dialectology via exploring the spatial dimension of syntactic variation and at the same time to consider theoretical questions about microvariation and its place in an overall theory about the human language faculty.