The interviewer's role in socio-linguistic interviews regarding non-linguists' conceptualizations of speech repertoires

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It is a commonplace in linguistics that speakers adapt their utterances to their interaction partners both on the linguistic as well as on the content level. However, the (possible) effects of the interviewer on attitudinal expressions by the interviewee and what is actually (not) said in socio-linguistic interviews have not been subject to thorough investigations yet. This presentation addresses this research gap, focusing on the impact the interviewer's (country of) origin as an influencing factor for (meta-communicative) expressions of the interviewee's attitudinal utterances in socio-linguistic interviews (cf. Briggs 2005, Tagliamonte 2006, Deppermann 2013) in a pluricentric constellation. (That means in a context, in which various centres (regions, countries) share a common standard variety with linguistic peculiarities for each centre (cf. Clyne 1989, Ammon 1995). The interview data used for this presentation stems from the special research programme 'German in Austria. Variation – Contact – Perception', that conducted approx. 150 interviews with speakers in rural areas all over Austria. These interviews elicited the speakers' attitudes towards languages and German in Austria in general and towards individual conceptualizations of language variation and speech repertoires in particular (cf. Koppensteiner & Lenz 2017). All interviewers conducting these interviews were born and socialized in Austria. In a follow-up study using a sample of 10 interviewees, these interviews were 'repeated' varying only in one decisive parameter: This time, an interviewer from Germany replicated the elicitation approximately one year after the first interview. Major other parameters (e.g. interview guideline, setting, technical equipment and location) of these second interviews remained unchanged. The interviews were thoroughly processed, annotated and content-analytically investigated making use of CAQDAS tools. In addition to the comprehensive comparison of conceptualizations of individual speech repertoires, (incl. 'perceived' variational patterns) within both interview rounds, aspects of the interviewees' meta-linguistic and implicit reflections regarding the interviewer and the interview situation were thoroughly examined. Results provide evidence for a set of contextual layers co-determining attitudinal and other utterances within socio-linguistic interviews, driven by the following main research questions:

- Which impact does the interviewer have on the verbalization of language attitudinal utterances in general? In particular, which impact does the interviewer's (country of) origin have on such utterances with regard to aspects of pluricentricity?
- Do informants discuss the interviewers' (linguistic and socio-linguistic) background and if yes, how? Do they discuss the methodological approach, i.e. the (socio-linguistic) interview situation, per se and if yes, how?

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