

Phonetic features of multiethnolectal Zurich German

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Multiethnolectal ways of speaking have been emerging for at least 30 years in culturally and linguistically diverse neighborhoods of European cities, including Zurich (Switzerland). Pronunciation in such ways of speaking differs sometimes significantly from more traditional forms of the dialects (see Tissot, Schmid & Galliker 2011). Similar phenomena have been investigated in various other European countries (see Cheshire et al. 2011 for their project on *Multicultural London English*). In Switzerland, however, a quantitative sociophonetic investigation of multiethnolectal features was still lacking. Therefore, we used the example of Zurich German within the research project *Phonetic features of (multi-)ethnic urban vernaculars in German-speaking Switzerland* that was funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (<https://data.snf.ch/grants/grant/165798>) to investigate various phonetic features of these new ways of speaking. We examined phonetic features and their social interpretation. We were able to show that both segmental and suprasegmental features of adolescents who are perceived as speaking rather multiethnolectal Zurich German differ significantly from adolescents who are perceived as speaking rather traditional Zurich German. In addition, our results suggest that there is a causal relationship between individual phonetic features and adolescents' speech evaluation.

References

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