

Abstract

Dialects of the past? The competence of German dialects in Hungary among kindergarten children

Due to the growing status of the standard language, dialects have been lesser used, in conclusion of that more and more non-standard language varieties threatened with extinction, though there has been much discussion on the practical benefits of using of dialects. Obtaining documentation via data based observation, this study reports the change of the role of the German dialects in Hungary regarding the last decades. First, the reader gets on overview of the language using habits among members of the Hungarian German minority and the reasons for them in the past (and a short insight is given regarding the habits in the past decades). It shows that the older the person, there is more probability talking on his a dialect, whereas the younger the person, there is less probability using his German dialect, i.e. a typical example for a language change. The study focuses on the dialect knowledge among kindergarten children, because it gives an outlook to the future and it represents the use of language in the families. It also presents the results of a survey of Klein in 2007 (Klein, 2009) about the language competences of the children in kindergartens scrutinizing both the standard and dialectal German varieties. The language skills of 5600 children were examined using a questionnaire, filled out by kindergarten teachers in specific kindergartens for the Hungarian-German minority. After more than ten years, the survey was repeated by Klein-Márkus-Svraka (2021) with similar questions. The study deals with the partial results of a large-sample self-administered questionnaire survey, which were processed with the SPSS program. The authors show and compare the results of both surveys. In the concluding chapter, they argue for the importance of supporting the use of dialects as well as to address the local social, cultural and educational contexts since more and more schools and kindergartens are adopting and developing programmes for not only using, but also revitalising the dialects.

Key words

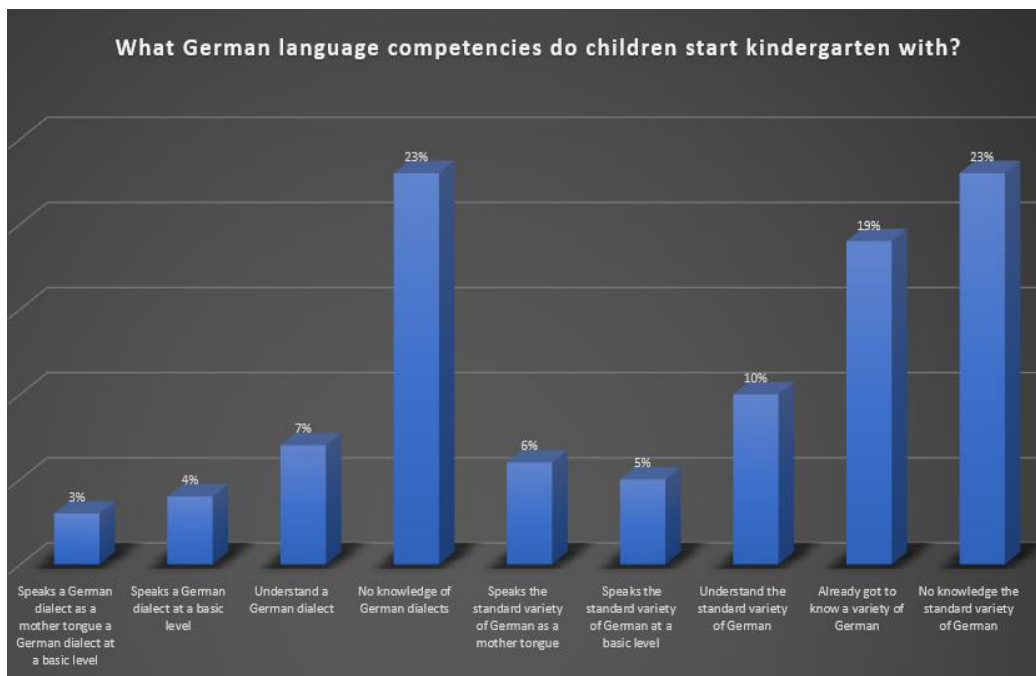
dialect, variety of languages, school regulation, language change, language-using habits

Surveillance



N. 1 What German Language Competences Do Children Start Kindergarten with? (2009)

N. 2 What German Language Competences Do Children Start Kindergarten with?



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