

The PraProNE Project: A look at the interplay of quantitative and qualitative data analysis

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The DFG-funded research project “A Pragmatic Profile of Namibian English” (PraProNE) seeks to bridge the perspectives usually taken in World Englishes on the one hand and Variational Pragmatics on the other, in an ethnographically grounded and data-driven investigation of the pragmatic norms and tendencies of speakers of Namibian English (NameE). Also taking into account criticism voiced by proponents of Postcolonial Pragmatics (see e.g. Anchimbe 2018), we strive for combining large scale quantitative inquiry with in-depth qualitative research that focuses on the emic perspective of speakers of NameE. For one of the four speech acts extensively studied in the project, Responses to Thanks (for earlier research see Schröder & Schneider 2018, 2021), we will exemplarily demonstrate how the two research perspectives and modes of analysis interact in a systematic and synergistic fashion within the framework of our study. Findings from both Discourse Completion Task questionnaires and qualitative interviews will be presented for this purpose, and we would like to use this opportunity for an open discussion of the advantages and difficulties of this kind of methodological triangulation.

References

- Anchimbe, E.A. 2018. *Offers and Offer Refusals. A Postcolonial Pragmatics Perspective on World Englishes*. Amsterdam: Benjamins.
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- Schröder, A. & K.P. Schneider. 2021. A Variational Pragmatic Approach to Responses to Thanks in Namibian English: From quantitative to qualitative analysis. In *The Dynamics of English in Namibia: Perspectives on an Emerging Variety*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: Benjamins, 195–215.