Markus Bieswanger / Amei Koll-Stobbe (eds.)

New Approaches to the Study of Linguistic Variability
## Contents

*Amel Koll-Stobbe:*
  Series editor’s introduction ................................................................. VII

*Markus Bieswanger:*
  New approaches to the analysis of linguistic variability ................................ IX

### I. Methodological issues in corpus linguistic analyses of variability

1. *Andrew Wilson:*
   Embracing Bayes Factors for key item analysis in corpus linguistics ............... 3

2. *Martin Schweinberger:*
   A sociolinguistic analysis of the discourse marker LIKE in Northern Irish English.
   A look behind the scenes of quantitative reasoning ..................................... 13

### II. Diversity and hybridization as contact-induced variability

3. *Lillian Kaviti:*
   The evolution of urban hybrid languages in Kenya: The case of Sheng and Engsh .... 43

4. *Melanie Burmeister:*
   Variability in death notices from Scotland, Wales and the Republic of Ireland:
   A comparative perspective ........................................................................... 65

### III. Approaches to the study of linguistic variability as a contextual and conceptual process

5. *Florian Dolberg:*
   Subject to change: Decay and mutation of linguistic memory ......................... 91

6. *Judith Rossow:*
   New contexts and new concepts: The use of German “alt” .............................. 117

### IV. Variability in electronically-mediated communication

7. *Jana Kiesendahl:*
   Apologies and excuses in academic e-mail communication: Differentiation and characterization from a pragmatic perspective ................................................. 141

8. *Caroline Schilling:*
   Assessing texting behaviour and language use in SMS communication: A survey on age differences .............................................................. 165

*Contributing Authors* ..................................................................................... 189